GROWING AWARENESS RELATED TO CHILD MARRIAGE IN RAJASTHAN

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ABSTRACT
In Rajasthan, child marriages have been part of lifestyle for centuries. Govt. is trying to create awareness through interactive sessions, messages and street plays. The instances of child marriages have definitely come down over the years and now only in 10-15% cases do such marriages take place. Present study is focused on finding of child marriage cases in research area.

KEYWORDS: Growing Awareness, Child Marriage

INTRODUCTION
National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) has revealed that Rajasthan has reported the highest incidence of child marriages. The study, based on the 2011 census, states that 2.5% of marriages of minor girls were reported in Rajasthan. The Annual Health Survey for 2012-13 shows 51.2 per cent of women in Rajasthan aged between 20-25 years were married off before the age of 18. Rajasthan also topped in the percentage (4.69%) of boys marrying below the legal age of 21 years. According to the Census study, 12.9% of girls got married in the age of 10-17 years. However, only 4.9% of boys got married in the 10-17 years age group and 11.2 % in the 18-below 21 age group.

The state government launched the campaign in 2014 to spread awareness against child marriage and encourage under-aged brides to resist gauna (the ceremony where the wedded woman enters her husband’s house) until they turn 18. In the past few years NGO has tackled many cases by maintaining good relations with the local community members. The percentage of child marriage is going down due to rising awareness levels. But the percentage is still high. Complete eradication of this illegal practice is required.
OBJECTIVE OF STUDY

1. Finding of child marriage cases belonging general category in rural Rajasthan
2. Finding of child marriage cases belonging OBC category in rural Rajasthan
3. Finding of child marriage cases belonging SC category in rural Rajasthan
4. Finding of child marriage cases belonging ST category in rural Rajasthan

HYPOTHESIS

1. There is no significant awareness related to child marriage belonging general category in rural Rajasthan.
2. There is no significant awareness related to child marriage belonging OBC category in rural Rajasthan.
3. There is no significant awareness related to child marriage belonging SC category in rural Rajasthan.
4. There is no significant awareness related to child marriage belonging ST category in rural Rajasthan.

METHODOLOGY

Descriptive survey method was adopted for present study. 20 villages of Rajasthan state were randomly selected for study. Child marriage cases in last 5 years were recorded. Villagers with age 30-45 years were interviewed using a self-prepared questionnaire. Questions were asked related to plan of their child marriage. Collected data was classified according to category, tabulated and comparatively analyzed using percentile tool.

FINDING AND ANALYSIS

Table: Status of Child Marriage Cases in Rural Rajasthan

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>No. of Child Marriage Cases</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Year 2014</td>
<td>Year 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OBC</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SC</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ST</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Chart: Status of Child Marriage Cases in Rural Rajasthan

Among general category 9% cases found in 2014 and 6% found in 2016. Hence hypothesis 1, there is no significant awareness related to child marriage in general category of rural Rajasthan is rejected.

Child marriage cases among OBC category reduced from 11% to 8% from 2014 to 2016. Thus hypothesis 2, there is no significant awareness related to child marriage in OBC category of rural Rajasthan is rejected.

In the year 2014, 16% cases were marked which minimized to 12% in 2016. Therefore hypothesis 3, there is no significant awareness related to child marriage in SC category of rural Rajasthan is rejected.

No. of child marriage cases is highest for ST category. For the year 2014 18% case of child marriage were searched while in 2016 only 14% case found. Therefore hypothesis 4, there is no significant awareness related to child marriage in ST category of rural Rajasthan is rejected.

CONCLUSION

Even though there has been a decline in child marriage across the state, a significant number of child still get married under the legal age. Govt. and NGOs are taking initiatives to prevent child marriage by increasing awareness. More awareness, more social support, govt. strictness required for complete eradication.
REFERENCES


2. Goswami, R., Child marriages in Rajasthan halved in 10 years, Hindustan Times, 22 Dec 2016.