



As far as awareness about the illegality of child marriages is concerned, respondents in UP showed only 12 per cent were aware of this fact.

In contrast, most of the people in Rajasthan (74 per cent in Tonk and 98 per cent in Jaipur district) were aware about the illegality of child marriage.

Also in MP, 71.2 per cent of respondents were aware about the illegality of the issue. More respondents in Shajapur (80 per cent) were aware of the

illegality than in Bhopal (62.4 per cent).

Poverty/economic compulsions, community practises, and family traditions have emerged as the major causes for continuation of this practice in all the study states.

The consequences of child marriage can have extreme manifestations on the entire life cycle of a woman. According to a recent Maternal Mortality report compiled by the WHO, Unicef, UNFPA, and the World Bank, the maternal mortality ratio in India is as

high as 450 deaths per 100,000 live births. The following recommendations have been suggested by Centre for Social Research to check the prevalence of child marriage in India — to create awareness, rectify the loopholes in the law, stringent punishment for the guilty, appointment of child marriage prevention officers, special cells to be set up and marriages to be registered and providing of security to young women and girls who escape from a forced and often violent marriage.