

# SURVEY REPORT ON CHILD MARRIAGES

## IN FOUR DISTRICTS OF ANDHRA PRADESH

WITH REFERENCE TO GO MS.NO.13

(STATE ROLE OF CHILD MARRIAGE PROHIBITION ACT, 2006)





ALLIANCE FOR CHILD RIGHTS  
(A CIVIL SOCIETY NETWORK ON  
CHILD RIGHTS IN ANDHRA  
PRADESH & TELANGANA STATE)

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This study is part of "BALA YUVA MITHRA" – An Advocacy Campaign on Rights of Children and Youth in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana States, which is supported by UNICEF.

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## I EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

According to Art 1 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) marriage of a child younger than 18 years old is considered as child/early marriage. In keeping with the Indian laws however, a girl below 18 and a male below 21 are considered minors and a marriage wherein either party are below this stipulated age is considered as child marriage. Such a marriage is not only considered a social evil, but is also illegal and therefore a punishable offence.

Child marriage is a human rights violation and also amounts to violation of the children's rights. It adversely affects the overall development of both the boy and girl, however the girl is the more affected as it often leads to early pregnancy and high maternal and infant mortality. Inter-generational malnutrition is also the fallout of child marriage. It is an obstruction to the wholesome growth and sound physical, emotional and psychological well-being of a child.

Though India had been witness to child marriages for centuries, it was in 1929 that it came to be recognized as a social and legal violation with the Child Marriage Restraint Act (CMRA) popularly known as the Sharda Act and it prohibited child marriages of girls below the age of 15 years and of boys below the age 18. This law was amended in 1978 and it raised the minimum age of marriage by three years i.e. from 15 to 18 years in case of girls and from 18 to 21 years in case of boys. The amended law came to be known as the Child Marriage Restraint Act. Child marriages continued despite these laws being formulated and enforced. It was in 2006 that the shortcomings of this law were rectified by way of another amendment with more stringent punishments and fines. The law now called Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006, (PCMA, 2006).

As part of the measures taken by the Andhra Pradesh State Govt. to enforce the PCMA, the Andhra Pradesh Prohibition of Child Marriages Rules came into being in 2012. According to the rules, the state appointed Child Marriages Prohibition Officers (CMPOs) who are vested with powers of a police officer to prevent child marriages in the State. It also designated a Nodal Officer for the purpose of implementation of the Act and the Rules. Additionally, it provided for constituting a committee called Village Child Marriage Prohibition and Monitoring Committee in every village to monitor and supervise the implementation of the Act and the Rules within that village.

In AP, across all four districts, 30 CMPOs each were selected accounting to a total of 120 respondents each and interviewed.

Awareness About Child Marriage Act (CMPA), 2006: All 120 CMPOs across the four districts were asked about availability of relevant data on child marriages. The response rate was highly varied with no data available with CMPOs stationed at Kadapa district to 43% of them possessing data in Kurnool district. In Srikakulam district, although 60% of CMPOs were aware of CMP Act, only 20% of them were actually aware of their duties as CMPO. Guntur District performs fairly well with 96.67% of CMPOs aware of CMP Act and corresponding 90% of them also aware of their duties. Interestingly, in Kadapa district, although 60% CMPOs were aware of their duties, only 40% out of them actually knew about CMP Act.

Information About the Implementation of GO No. 13 in AP: Guntur has the highest percentage of CMPOs (63.33%) who possess knowledge of GO 13 in contrast with only 56.67% who have knowledge of powers of CMPOs prescribed in GO. Kurnool

presents another curious case. Although, only 10% of CMPOs have knowledge of GO but 26.67% of CMPOs have knowledge of powers of CMPOs prescribed in GO.

Child Marriage Cases in AP: CMPOs from Guntur reported the highest number of child marriages that were stopped (49), followed by Srikakulam (27), Kurnool (20) and Kadapa (6). CMPOs from Srikakulam and Kurnool also shared about cases wherein child marriages did happen in spite of efforts to stop the same. This was recorded as 20 and 12 respectively for both the districts.

Information on Child Marriages in AP: An exorbitantly high percentage of CMPOs across all four districts expressed need for training on issues and legislations related to child marriage. 96.67% of CMPOs expressed the need for the same in Kurnool and Kadapa districts while in Guntur it came out to be 93.1% followed by 90% in Srikakulam.

Reasons for Child Marriage in the Districts of AP: A mix of factors spanning across socio-cultural and economic domains which gave impetus to a high number of child marriages in the districts. Socio-cultural factors comprised of concern for social prestige, tradition and customs, nature of marriage alliance vis-a-vis maternal relatives, high dowry demands for grown up girls etc.

**The recommendations that emerged out of the findings of the survey were as follows:**

1. Drafting of a fresh State Rule and enforcement of the same for Telangana. Appointment of full-time CMPOs at the district level with both preventive and educative roles and responsibilities. Proper training of all CMPOs should be the part of the State rule.
2. State Plan of Action to prevent child marriage to be prepared and implemented, keeping in mind the gravity of the problem.
3. Promote linkage with ICPS service delivery structure and statutory bodies (for eg. CWC) to prevent child marriage and also to take care of rehabilitation part of the victims of child marriage.
4. Strict enforcement of Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2006 to ensure rehabilitative measure for the victims of child marriage.
5. Enforcement of the existing laws such as Right to Education and Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961. Stringent enforcement of the Right to Education

Act, 2009 to ensure all children have access to elementary education. Stringent enforcement of the Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961 as amended in 1986 to ensure that the fear of economic burden and perception of girls as an economic liability do not drive families to perform child marriage.

6. Ensure registration of all marriages at the panchayat level.
7. Strengthen childrens' governance from the micro (village/community level) to the macro-level (state and national level) and ensure child participation at every level.
8. Sensitization and enhancing the capacity of the enforcement personnel and field functionaries for effective implementation of the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006.
9. Aiding reach of the CHILDLINE network at the district level and the coverage of service to the remotest part of the districts through networking with local NGOs, Civil Society etc.
10. Linking the Village Level Child Marriage Prohibition and Monitoring Committee with Village level Child Protection Committee for identification of high risk families.
11. More engagement with police (especially SJPU under J.J. Act) and judiciary for more preventive and engagement role.
12. Accountability and social-audit mechanism to ensure greater investments in the girl children. Periodic review of the entitlements vis-à-vis accountability of the duty bearers is a mandatory requirement.
13. Area-specific plan for awareness generation to change the mindset and social norms.

This survey has two aspects in general. One is to figure out the level of awareness of the CMPOs on the Act and State rule. It also gives an estimate idea about the capacity building need for CMPOs. On the other hand the survey also focuses on the gravity and magnitude of the problem. Subsequently, it also highlights the number of child marriage cases (district-specific) and the reason for child marriage. As a whole, it gives an understanding on the status of implementation of the CMPA and the State rule by focusing on the field level reality. The data from various indicators vary from one district to another, thus showing that the nature of problem in the state is heterogeneous, although the respondent group for the study was homogeneous.

# I CHAPTER 1 INTRODUCTION

‘Premature pregnancy and motherhood are inevitable consequences of child marriage. Girls under 14 are five times more likely to die during pregnancy and childbirth than women in their twenties.’

– State of the World’s Children, 2007, UNICEF

Child/early marriage refers to any marriage of a child younger than 18 years old, in accordance to Article 1 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC). While child marriage affects both sexes, girls are disproportionately affected as they are the majority of the victims. Their overall development is compromised, leaving them socially isolated with little education, skills and opportunities for employment and self-realization. This leaves child brides more vulnerable to poverty, a consequence of child marriage as well as a cause. In India, it is a marriage to which either of the contracting party is a child. Child or minor under this law is defined as 18 years, in the case of girls, and 21 years in the case of boys (according to S2 (b) of The Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006).

Child marriage is not only a human rights violation, but it also hinders the achievement of Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and compromises the future of our children and our country. Child marriage is a major social concern and a violation of children’s rights – whether it happens to a girl or a boy as it denies basic rights to health, nutrition, education, freedom from violence, abuse and exploitation and also deprives the child from

his/her childhood. Child marriage has adverse effects for the child bride and bridegroom and for the society as a whole. For both girls and boys, marriage has profound physical, intellectual, psychological and emotional impacts, cutting off educational opportunities and chances of personal growth. For society as a whole, child marriage reinforces the cycle of poverty and perpetrates gender discrimination, illiteracy, domestic violence, as well as high infant and maternal mortality rates, neonatal deaths, mal-nourished children etc. Child marriage is detrimental to the physical, moral and social upbringing of a child denying a child his/her basic right to survival, protection, participation and development.

Child Marriage is a social sin in a civilized society. It is an obvious abuse of child rights as it hinders the child from developing into a fully empowered and a grown up individual. Child marriage is not only an evil practice but also harmful for the child. The obvious victim of this harmful practice is the child. The child falls into a vicious cycle of early marriage which leads to early pregnancy and finally to maternal and infant mortality. In fact, early marriage is one of the prime causes of high infant and maternal mortality in India. Child marriage also leads to inter-generational cycle of malnutrition. It denies a child the basic right to good health, nutrition and education. Evidence shows that early marriage make girls more vulnerable violence, abuse and exploitation. For both girls and boys, marriage



has a strong physical, intellectual, psychological and emotional impact, cutting off educational opportunities and chances of personal growth. While boys are affected by child marriage, this is an issue that impacts upon girls in far larger numbers and with high number intensity<sup>1</sup>.

In India, child marriage is defined as the marriage of males below the age of 21 years, and females below 18 years (The Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006). The practice of child marriage is an obstacle to nearly every developmental milestone: eradicating poverty and hunger (MDG 1); achieving universal primary education (MDG 2); promoting gender equality (MDG 3); protecting children’s lives (MDG 4); and improving women’s health (MDG 5, MDG6).

Child marriage in India has been practiced for centuries, with children married off before their physical and mental maturity. The problem of child marriage in India remains rooted in a complex matrix of religious traditions, social practices, economic factors and deeply rooted prejudices. Recognizing child marriage as a social evil, the Child Marriage Restraint Act (CMRA) 1929, popularly known as the Sharda Act, prohibited child marriages of girls below the age of 15 years and of boys below the age 18<sup>2</sup>.

This law applied to all citizens of India (universal and secular law). In 1978, the law was amended to make it more effective and it raised the minimum age of marriage by three years i.e. from 15 to 18 years in case of girls and from 18 to 21 years in case of boys. The amended law came to be known as the Child Marriage Restraint Act, 1929. However, despite the law, child marriages continued to take place<sup>3</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> National Strategy on Prevention of Child Marriage by MDCW,2/14/2013

<sup>2</sup> AshaBajpai Child Rights in India.Oxford University Press. New Delhi 2003. p.220

<sup>3</sup> HAQ Centre for Child Rights, New Delhi. Handbook on Prohibition of Child Marriage Act,2006, Ministry of Women and Child Development, GOI,INICEF

## 1.1 Incidences of Child Marriage (at national and state level)

Worldwide one of the key indicators to measure the incidence of child marriage is the percentage of currently married women in the age group 20–24 years who were married before the legal age of 18 years. As far as India is concerned, the data from three rounds of NFHS (Figure 1) portrays a declining trend, yet the rate of decline has been very slow, at less than one percentage points per year. As per the latest NFHS (2005–2006) data, the percentage of women getting married below 18 years continues to be very high. Overall, 47.4% or one in two women were child brides<sup>4</sup>.

**Figure 1: Trends in marriage below legal age for girls (NFHS)**



In India, child marriage occurs when girls below 18 years of age or boys below 21 years of age are being married. Despite existing legislation since 1929, prohibiting child marriages, the practice is still rampant. The total child population in India is approximately 428 million. It is estimated that, 40 per cent or 170 million children are vulnerable to or experiencing difficult circumstances. Nearly half (43%) of women aged between 20 to 24

<sup>4</sup> Child Marriage in India, An analysis of available data (2012) by UNICEF India

years are married before the age of 18 years. Of these, 10 percent are married before the age of 14 years, and 34 percent are married between 14 to 17 years of age. Child marriage continues to exist because of a combination of structural elements (poverty, limited education and other livelihood options) and social norms around gender and marriage. The states with the highest incidence of child marriage in the country are Bihar, Rajasthan, Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka. Child marriage is a common practice throughout the country but it affects girls in rural areas (48%) more than in urban regions (29%)<sup>5</sup>.

The latest round of DLHS (2007-2008) presents slightly different data, with the percentage of child brides being 42.9%. Over the last decade, the percentage of child brides in the age group of 20–24 years has decreased by a meagre 6.8 percentage points from 54.2% in 1992-1993 to 47.4% in 2005-2006. Given the trend over the last three rounds of NFHS, a linear projection of the percentage of child brides in 2011 would be 41.7%. In absolute numbers, out of the total number of women in the 20–24 year age group in India (Census 2011), more than 23 million continue to be child brides. With this figure, India contributes to 40% of the world’s child brides<sup>6</sup>.

There are more child marriages in rural areas than in urban areas. 52.5% of currently married women in the 20–24 year age group in rural areas and 28.2% in urban areas got married before 18 years of age. As per the latest DLHS (2007-2008) data, around 48% of currently married women in the 20–24 year age group got married before age 18 in rural areas compared to 29% in urban areas. Although the gap between urban and rural areas has almost halved from 30.2 percentage points in 1992-1993 (NFHS) to 18.6 percentage points in 2007-2008 (DLHS), currently married women in rural areas are twice more likely to be child brides than their urban counterparts.

**Figure 2: Child marriages in States of India**



## 1.2 State Profile of Andhra Pradesh

The state of Andhra Pradesh in many ways reflects the development crisis of the country at large. The agrarian distress and poor social indicators seemingly remain unaffected by the otherwise impressive growth vis-à-vis a growing IT industry and increasing private sector investments in power, road infrastructure and industry. Though, Andhra Pradesh has emerged as the IT hub in the country and all round development is visible, the state still lags behind more developed states in southern India in terms of development of children.

Evidence shows that child marriages result in perpetuating poverty. They tend to reinforce cycles of poverty, especially in rural areas. Child

<sup>5</sup> DLHS 3 (District Level Household Survey), 2007-2008

<sup>6</sup> UNICEF, 2007. “Progress of Children”.

brides lack independent income options and yet are likely to have a larger number of children. Therefore they face severe financial insecurity. This is rather ironic since parents tend to marry off their girl children at an early age in the hope that it will bring security to the family. It also has a negative implication on other factors, these include deprivation from educational facility, lost opportunity for employment, poor reproductive health, high IMR and MMR and ultimately all these factors result into very low quality of life.

In 2012, UNICEF India conducted an analysis of secondary data and published a report on 'Child Marriage in India'. The report gives a situational analysis of child marriage in India and it also highlighted state-specific situation along with the

impact of child marriage on other child rights issues including child education, child health, child protection etc.

According to the report in United Andhra Pradesh, 54.8% (as per NFHS 3) of women aged between 20 and -24 years said that they were married before the legal age of marriage. The report had shown evidence of an increased level of school dropout rate after marriage. According to NFHS 3, during 2005-06 in United Andhra Pradesh, 18.1% of women aged between 16 and 19 years had begun to bear children and 89% of infant mortality rate is of children borne by mother's age below 20 years of age.

**Table 1: Various Indicators of Population of Andhra**

S. No.	INDICATORS	ANDHRA	SOURCE
1	Population (millions)	49.3	Census, 2011
2	Population (males) - in millions	24.7	Census, 2011
3	Population (females)- in millions	24.6	Census, 2011
4	Child population (0-6) years in millions	5.2	Census, 2011
5	Sex ratio (females per 1000 males)	996	Census, 2011
6	Child sex ratio (girls per 1000 boys)	944	Census, 2011
7	SC population (%)	17.1	Census, 2011
8	ST population (%)	5.3	Census, 2011
7	Birth rate (per 1000 population)	12.9	CRS, 2010 & Census, 2011
8	Death rate (per 1000 population)	5	CRS, 2010 & Census, 2011
9	Natural growth rate (per 1000 population)	7.9	CRS, 2010 & Census, 2011
10	Literacy rate of population aged 7+ (%)	60.2	Census, 2011
11	Population below the poverty line (%)	11.1	NSS, 2011-12 (central & state NSS consumption survey)- combined sample
12	Percentage of marriages below legal age at marriage among girls (< 18 years), 2007-08	27.84	DLHS III

# CHAPTER 2 OBJECTIVES OF SURVEY

## 2.1 Background of the Study

The existing legal system in India with a special focus on State Rule on CMPA, 2006 in United Andhra Pradesh to prevent child marriage was the main background of the study.

### 2.1.1 Child Marriage Restraint Act, 1929 (CMRA)

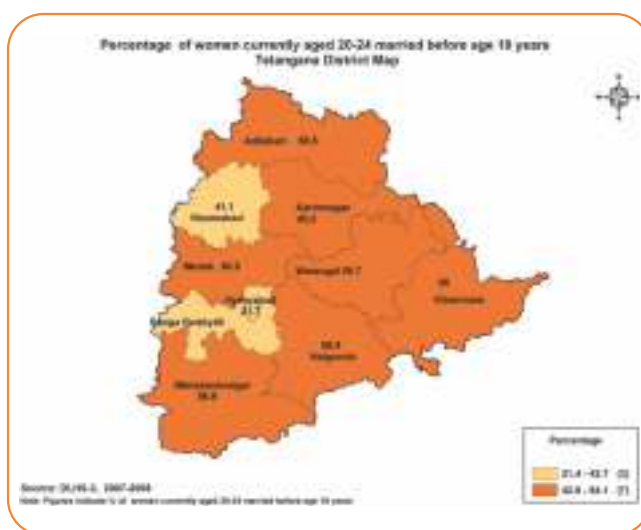
The Child Marriage Restraint Act (CMRA) 1929, popularly known as the Sharda Act, prohibited child marriages of girls below the age of 15 years and of boys below the age 18. This law applied to all citizens of India. In 1978, the law was amended to make it more effective and it raised the minimum age of marriage by three years i.e. from 15 to 18 years in case of girls and from 18 to 21 years in case of boys. The amended law came to be known as the Child Marriage Restraint Act, 1929. The Act held performing, conducting or directing any child marriage as punishable. However, despite the law, child marriages continued to take place.

To overcome the shortcomings of the Child Marriage Restraint Act, the Government of India enacted the Prohibition of Child Marriages Act, 2006 (PCMA), which received the assent of the President of India on 10 January, 2007. The Act came into effect from 1 November, 2007<sup>7</sup>.

### 2.1.2 The Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006

The Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006 (PCMA, 2006) was notified on 10 January 2007 to overcome the constraints of the former legislations in effectively dealing with the problem of child marriages in India and to put in place a comprehensive mechanism. It came into force on 1 November 2007.

**Figure 3: Percentage of Women Currently Aged Between 20 and 24 Married Before Age 18 years Telangana District Map**



### 2.1.3 The Andhra Pradesh Prohibition of Child Marriages Rules, 2012

Five years after the Central Government Act was passed, the AP state government framed State Rules for the prohibition of child marriages in Andhra Pradesh (GO Ms.No.13) on 13.09.12 and as an effect of the GO, the 'Andhra Pradesh Prohibition of Child Marriages Rules, 2012' came into existence. According to the rules, the state will appoint Child Marriages Prohibition Officers (CMPOs) who are vested with powers of police officer to prevent child marriages in the State.

<sup>7</sup> HAQ Centre for Child Rights, New Delhi. Handbook on Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006, Ministry of Women and Child Development, GOI, INICEF



<sup>8</sup>The State Govt. appointed the following officers as Child Marriage Prohibition Officers (herein after referred to as the CMPOs) for the whole State of Andhra Pradesh from the date of notification in the official Gazette/District Gazette:-

1. The District Collector of the concerned District is District CMPO.
2. Revenue Divisional Officer (RDO)/Sub-Collector at the divisional level.
3. The Child Development Project Officers (CDPOs) at the Project level covering 3-5 mandals which is under their jurisdiction.
4. The tehsildars at the mandal level for the villages which are under their jurisdiction.
5. The ICDS supervisors at the mandal level covering their respective villages under their jurisdiction.
6. The panchayat secretaries of the panchayat raj department and village administrative officers of revenue department at the village level.

The State Rule very clearly depicts the process for appointment of CMPOs, duties and powers of the CMPOs and disciplinary action against CMPOs. It also designated a Nodal Officer for the purpose of implementation of the Act and the Rules. One of the major components of the State Rule is <sup>9</sup>Village Child Marriage Prohibition and Monitoring Committees.

A committee shall be constituted in every village to monitor and supervise the implementation of the Act and the Rules within that village. The Committee shall comprise of the following persons:

1. Gram Panchayat Sarpanch - Chairperson
2. The Panchayat Secretary - Member
3. Village Administrative Officers of Revenue Dept., - Member
4. Local School Teacher - Member
5. Members of self-help group/Gram Samakhya - Members
6. Elected Panchayat Women Members - Members
7. ANM - Member
8. NGO functioning in the area - Member
9. A member from Youth Organization, preferably a woman - Members

10. Village Officers - Members

11. ASHA - Member

12. Anganwadi Worker -Convener

In the above background for effective implementation of the Act at various levels, APACR (Andhra Pradesh Alliance for Child Rights) felt that there is an emerging need for policy change to strengthen better implementation of the act and rule across the state. Hence, they planned a research study to highlight the gaps in implementation of CMPA and the State rule. They conducted rounds of discussions with the policy makers of WD&CW Department at Hyderabad to realize the loopholes in the Rule, and they also conducted field visits and interviewed a certain number of Child Marriage Prohibition Officers (CDPOs and Revenue Divisional Officers) from four district of Andhra Pradesh to understand the ground realities of implementation of the Act and Rule.

## 2.2 Objectives of the Survey

The objectives of the Research Study were as follows:

- To understand various bottle necks faced during implementation of the Act and incorporate stakeholder perspectives(service providers as well as the community),
- To impact conceptual clarity on the role of CMPOs in preventing early child marriages,
- To identify various gaps in the existing capacities of CMPOs and assess their training needs,
- To gain practical understanding regarding legal implications of booking the cases from the perspective of police personnel,
- To analyze the existing status of the Village Child Marriage Prohibition and Monitoring Committees,
- To give various recommendations to the concerned government body for effective implementation of the Act at the state level.

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<sup>8</sup> The Prohibition of Child Marriages Act, 2006 – Framing of Rules – Orders – Issued on G.O.Ms.No. 13 dated: 19-03-2012.

<sup>9</sup> The Prohibition of Child Marriages Act, 2006 – Framing of Rules – Orders – Issued on G.O.Ms.No. 13 dated: 19-03-2012.

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# CHAPTER 3 SURVEY PLANNING & IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

Based on the magnitude of the problem at the State level, ACR realized that there was an emerging need for district specific survey (high risk districts in terms of child marriage) to analyze the situation of child marriage with a special focus on implementation of State Rule. In the year 2013, ACR organized two regional consultations in Visakhapatnam (Andhra Region) and Tirupati (Rayalaseema Region). They invited multiple levels of stakeholders including Commissioner, CDPOs, PDs, RJD and JD of WD&CW, RDOs, ICPS team, police, CWC members and NGOs to participate in those consultations. As an outcome of the discussion in the consecutive consultations, ACR developed a plan of action for the state to tackle the child marriage and the study on State Rule on CMPA with reference to GO Ms.No.13 was a part of the plan of action along with other activities such as awareness generation in campaign mode, sensitization of official on child marriage and promoting Village Level Child Marriage Prohibition Committees. A list of high risk districts were also prepared in those consultations on the basis of the number of registered cases (as per information from DCRB) in the district and also firsthand information from CHILDLINE and other NGOs working on child marriage.

## 3.1 Developing the Sample Framework

In December, 2013 ACR started to plan the survey and in between, they also had a series of interactions with the Commissioner and Joint Director of WD & CW, ACR then decided to conduct the survey in the 4 districts (as discussed in the consultation) in the State (two districts per each region) where the magnitude of the issue was very high.

The targeted districts from Andhra Pradesh were Guntur, Srikakulam, Kadapa and Kurnool. Meanwhile ACR also entered into a joint collaboration with CESS as a technical agency to support them in the technical part (included

finalisation of sample framework and data collection tool, guide the team to collect the data from field, data cleaning and data analysis and drafting the report) to conduct the survey.

Simple random sampling was selected as a sampling method for the survey in the four districts of Andhra Pradesh depending on the availability of the survey subjects (CMPOs in district, mandal and village level).

## 3.2 Method for Data Collection

The interview method was selected as the data collection method for the survey and a list of indicators was decided on the survey subject. A draft questionnaire was developed by ACR. Then in a meeting, they shared the same questionnaire with CESS and WD & CW Dept. The questionnaire was finalised with the feedback from the other partners and then it was translated into the local language (Telugu) and again into English for eliminating any error in translation. The survey manager from ACR crosschecked the questionnaire and thereafter finalised the Telugu version for collecting information from the field.

## 3.3 Training to Field Investigators

ACR decided to conduct the survey by its partner NGO representatives from the respective districts for collecting the data through interaction with CMPOs. A total number of 20 field investigators were selected to conduct field-based interviews and a group of supervisors were part of the team for guiding and monitoring the investigators. Five members in each district (20) include one supervisor. The NGO head did over all supervision during the survey.

After translation of the questionnaire, an orientation programme was organized for the field investigators on the data collection tool in the month of March, 2014. The investigators were trained on each and every question in the questionnaire. They were also trained on the ethical aspect (do's and don'ts) for conducting this survey.

# CHAPTER 4 ANALYSIS OF DATA - AP

The United Andhra Pradesh (AP) state government had framed rules for the prohibition of child marriages in AP (GO Ms.NO.13), five years after the central Government Act was passed.

According to the rules, the state will appoint Child Marriages Prohibition Officers (CMPOs) who are vested with powers of a police officer to prevent child marriages across the state. Village Child Marriage Prohibition and Monitoring Committees will also be constituted with panchayat sarpanchas the Chairman, an Anganwadi worker as Convener and 10 other members. However, it was found out that there were many bottlenecks in the uniform implementation of the Act. A greater pressing need was felt for policy changes to ensure effective implementation of the act across the state.

The present chapter, endeavors to analyze data obtained from the four districts spanned across the state. The initial section gives an overview of the field area and details of respondents. This is followed by a detailed representation of data collected on various indicators used for the study in the state. A detailed analysis of data obtained on various reasons associated with child marriage has been presented with respective distribution of awareness of CMPA, 2006 among CMPOs in AP.

## 4.1 Overview of the Field Areas

The present study was devised across four districts of the state of AP, Srikakulam (six mandals), Kurnool (four mandals), Guntur (thirteen mandals) and Kadapa (nine mandals) districts were chosen.

## 4.2 Details of Respondents

Through this study, focus has been laid more on

analysis of implementation of the Act at various levels. To achieve this purpose, CMPOs positioned in various mandals of the selected districts were interviewed as per a structured interview schedule.

In AP, across all four districts, 30 CMPOs each were selected accounting to a total of 120 respondents each and, interviewed depending upon the availability of respondents.

## 4.3 Implementation of Child Marriage Act in AP: An Overview

This section presents data on the four major domains defined for data collection related to the study. CMPOs were interviewed to see the level of their awareness about the CMP Act 2006 and State rules, information about implementation of Government Order No.13, child marriage cases in the districts, and other relevant information on child marriage. Within each of these domains, a set of subsidiary questions were also asked data of which is presented below:

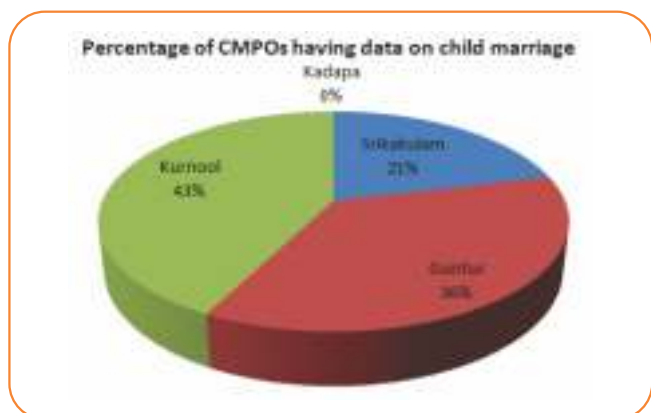
### 4.3.1 Awareness About Child Marriage Act(CMPA), 2006

Awareness of CMPOs about awareness about CMPA was checked in terms of availability of data on child marriages, awareness about the Act, awareness about duties covered under the purview of the Act, training imparted and awareness level of gram panchayats about CMPA.

All 120 CMPOs across the four districts were asked about availability of relevant data on child marriages. The response rate was highly varied with no data available with CMPOs stationed at

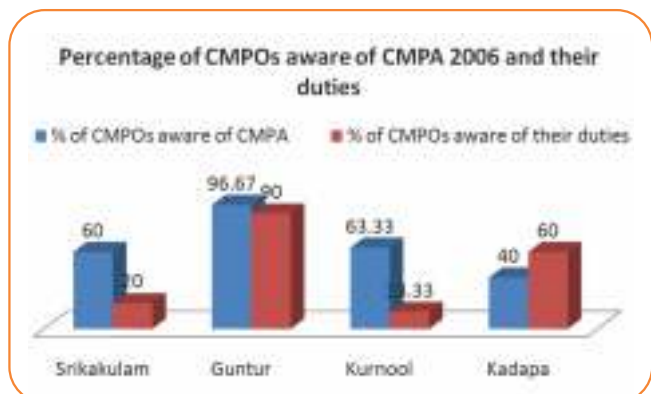
Kadapa district to 43% of them possessing data in Kurnool district (See Figure 4).

**Figure 4: Percentage of CMPO Having Data on Child Marriages**



It was quite interesting to note the stark variation in percentage of CMPOs aware of CMP Act and percentage of them aware of their duties. In Srikakulam district, although 60% of CMPOs were aware of CMP Act, only 20% of them were actually aware of their duties as CMPO. Guntur District performs fairly well with 96.67% of CMPOs aware of CMP Act and corresponding 90% of them also aware of their duties. Interestingly, in Kadapa district, although 60% CMPOs were aware of their duties, only 40% out of them actually knew about CMP Act (See Figure 5).

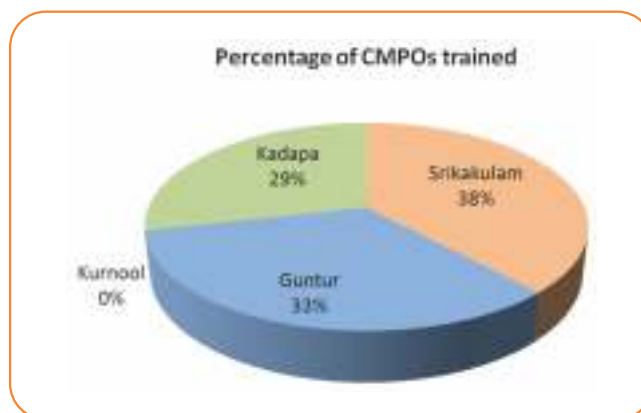
**Figure 5: Bar chart showing percentage of CMPOs aware of CMPA 2006 and their duties**



As shared by CMPOs across all mandals in the four study districts, very few of them were actually trained in relation with the CMP Act. This ranged between only 26.67% in Srikakulam District to none in Kurnool District. Interestingly, in Kurnool, 63.33% CMPOs had

reported to have awareness about CMPA Act which is 2nd highest after Guntur (96.97%). Figure 6 given below presents this distribution:

**Figure 6: Percentages of CMPOs Trained**



In three of the four districts, a high percentage of gram panchayat member's awareness in relation with CMPA 2006 was shared. Kurnool had 76.67% of members who were aware followed by Guntur (73.33%) and Srikakulam (66.67%). Kadapa account for the least percentage (23.33%).

### 4.3.2 Information about the Implementation of GO No. 13 in AP

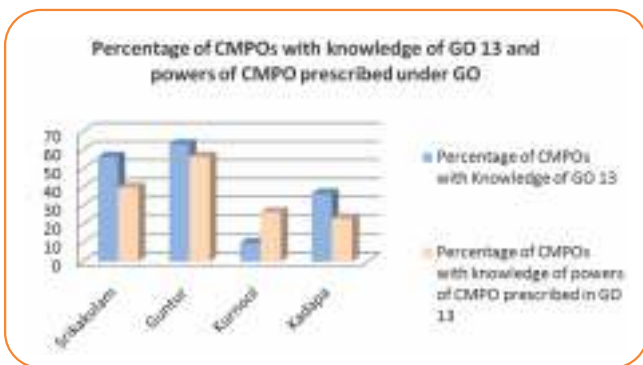
CMPOs were interviewed about information available in relation with GO No. 13 (CMPA). Various aspects were covered under the same such as knowledge about GO No. 13, knowledge about powers of CMPO prescribed in GO, confidence in exercising powers prescribed in GO, difficulties faced in performing duties as prescribed in GO, CMPOs getting support from anyone in preventing child marriages, awareness among CMPOs about Village Child Marriage Prohibition Committees, and work areas of CMPOs wherein the committees were constituted.

It will be interesting to note here that a stark contrast between percentage of CMPOs with knowledge of GO 13 and percentage of CMPOs with knowledge of powers of CMPOs as prescribed in GO 13 (Figure 7). Guntur has the highest percentage of CMPOs (63.33%) who possess knowledge of GO 13 in contrast with only 56.67% who have knowledge of powers of CMPOs prescribed in GO. Kurnool presents another curious case. Although, only 10% of CMPOs have knowledge of GO but 26.67% of CMPOs have knowledge of powers of CMPOs prescribed in GO.



This could be because of many reasons such as there might have been some existing powers of which they are aware about and possibly collusion of the same with the new GO order. Second, a situation wherein there is discrepancy in responses of two sets of questions. There is a third possibility also which is often encountered in the field wherein field level implementing authorities may be aware about the powers to be exercised but would be unable to correlate with rest of the aspects mentioned in the GO. This certainly calls for a more rigorous training component with focus on awareness related to all aspects of the GO.

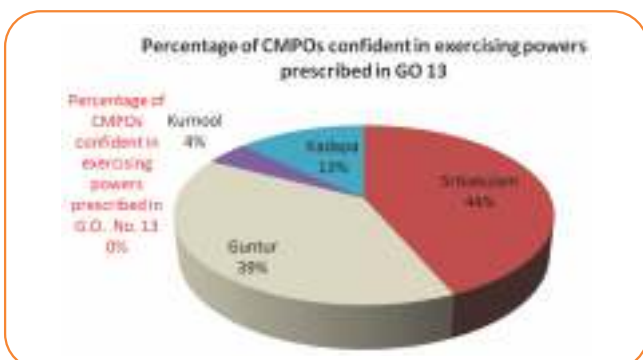
**Figure 7: Bar chart showing percentage of CMPOs with knowledge of GO 13 and knowledge of powers of CMPO prescribed in GO 13**



In terms of CMPOs being able to exercise powers confidently as described in GO 13, there was again a varied response (Figure 8). Srikakulam and Guntur had 66.67% and 60% of CMPOs respectively who responded affirmatively. Kurnool had the lowest percentage (6.67%) of CMPOs who affirmed to the ability to confidently exercise their powers.

Across all four districts, a large percentage of CMPOs

**Figure 8: CMPOs Confident in Exercising Powers Prescribed in GO 13**

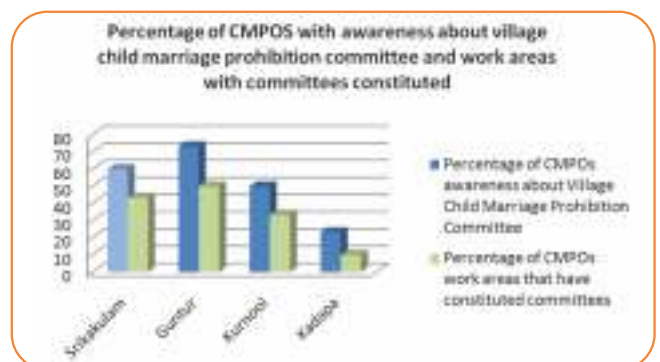


reported that they were facing difficulties in exercising powers as prescribed in GO 13 for various reasons. Kurnool had the highest percentage of such as CMPOs (76.67%), followed by Guntur (56.67%), Srikakulam (36.67%) and Kadapa (16.67%).

CMPOs were also interviewed in relation to the availability of any support in order to prevent child marriages in their respective districts. CMPOs from Kurnool reported to have received the highest support (93.33%). Srikakulam (86.67%) and Guntur (76.67%) also had fairly good percentage of CMPOs with support available. But, in Kadapa District, only 20% of CMPOs reported to have received support from anyone in preventing child marriages in their district.

Another aspect which was looked into through the survey was the percentage of CMPOs with awareness about Village Child Marriage Prohibition Committees and the percentage of them who have constituted committees in their respective areas. Awareness about something necessarily does not lead to acting upon the same. Data for the above two sub-domains is illustrated through Figure 9.

**Figure 9: Bar chart to Show Percentage of CMPOs with Awareness About Village Child Marriage Prohibition Committee and CMPOs with Work Areas Where Committees were Constituted**



### 4.3.3 Child Marriage Cases in AP

In order to assess the status of present child marriage cases, CMPOs were asked about the total number of child marriages cases stopped April 2014 onwards in their respective districts. CMPOs from Guntur reported the highest number (49), followed by Srikakulam (27), Kurnool (20) and Kadapa (6). CMPOs from Srikakulam and Kurnool also shared about cases wherein child marriages did happen in spite of efforts

to stop the same. This was recorded as 20 and 12 respectively for both the districts.

### 4.3.4 Information on Child Marriages in AP

CMPOs were inquired about a lot of concerns which are associated with child marriages in general in the state. Sub-domains such as complaints made against child marriages in the police station by CMPO, support received from police, maintenance of registers, conducting of meetings with government department or committees, support available from NGOs, need for training about issues and legislations and awareness about compulsory registration of marriages (2012).

CMPOs across the district did report to have made police complaints against child marriages but the percentages were very low. Guntur reported to have the highest percentage (23.33%) followed by Kadapa (10%), Srikakulam (6.67%) and Kurnool (6.67%). A number of them reported to have received support from police while making complaints. Guntur had the highest percentage (66.67%) of CMPOs who affirmed to the same, followed by Kurnool (53.33%), Srikakulam (33.33%) and Kadapa with 10%.

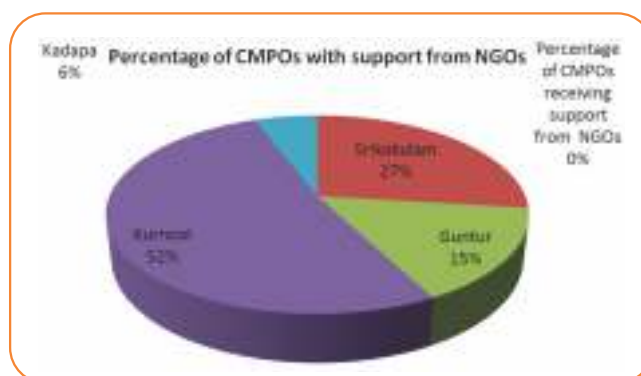
Maintenance of the data record registers fared quite poorly across all the four districts. 33.33% CMPOs from Guntur reported to have maintained the same which dipped down to just 23.33% in Srikakulam and Kurnool districts and none in Kadapa district.

CMPOs were also enquired about conducting meetings with government departments or committees. Guntur accounted for 46.67% of CMPOs affirming to the same followed by 40% in Kurnool and 30% in Srikakulam District. Interestingly, in Kadapa, none of the CMPOs reported to have conducted such meetings at any point in time since April 2014.

It is also important to have NGO support if an endeavor is made towards stopping child marriages in the state. CMPOs across all four districts reported to have received varying degree of support from NGOs (Figure 10).

An exorbitantly high percentage of CMPOs across all four districts expressed need for training on issues and legislations related to child marriage. 96.67% of CMPOs expressed the need for the same in Kurnool and Kadapa districts while in Guntur it came out to be 93.1% followed by 90% in Srikakulam.

**Figure 10: Percentage of CMPOs with NGO Support**



In terms of awareness among CMPOs in relation to compulsory registration of marriages (2012) a very varied pattern was seen. There were districts such as Srikakulam and Guntur, wherein 76.67% and 66.67% of CMPOs respectively, shared affirmatively about their awareness level. In Kadapa, 46.67% of them accepted to being aware about the Act and in Kurnool this accounted to a mere 23.33%.

### 4.4 Reasons for Child Marriage in the Districts of AP

As revealed through interviews conducted with CMPOs in April 2014, across four districts of AP, it clearly emerged that there was a mix of responses in relation to different reasons being quoted. Various reasons were attributed and prioritized differently for early child marriages across the districts.

There was a mix of factors spanning across sociocultural and economic domains which gave impetus to a high number of child marriages in the districts. Sociocultural factors comprised of concern for social prestige, tradition and customs, nature of marriage alliance vise-a-visa maternal relatives, high dowry demand for grown-up girls etc. Financial situation was a constraint for many of the parents in getting their grown-up girls married off to a suitable match. There were also notions pertaining to gender such as discrimination, disrespect towards them which lead to fuelling up of child marriages. Notions around sexuality of young grown-up girls were also responsible in marrying off young girls before they attain maturity. Violence against young girls and the resultant insecurity also led to the notion of child marriage so that she is 'protected in the house and saved from atrocities'. There is also widespread illiteracy among parents which leads to an inability to

understand advantages of marrying girls at a later stage. Lack of awareness is another major constraint which emanates out of low levels of literacy in the districts. Interestingly, it was also articulated that, it is better to marry of children at an early age since delaying will lead to them falling in love with a person

who may not be the right match.

It is quite revealing to look at data obtained from the districts and priorities given to various reasons mentioned above by CMPOs. Table 2 given below respectively encapsulates the data across four districts of Andhra Pradesh.

**Table 2: Number of CMPOs Attributing Reasons for Child Marriage in the Districts of AP (with % in brackets)**

<b>SOCIAL PRESTIGE, TRADITIONS AND CUSTOMS</b>				
<b>Order of Priority</b>	<b>Srikakulam</b>	<b>Guntur</b>	<b>Kurnool</b>	<b>Kadapa</b>
First	2 (9.52)	4 (17.39)	3 (10.71)	0
Second	0	3 (13.64)	3 (11.54)	1 (5.56)
Third	0	4 (25)	2 (12.50)	2 (22.22)
<b>Marriage alliance and maternal relatives</b>				
First	2 (9.52)	2 (8.70)	0	3 (16.67)
Second	0	1 (4.55)	1 (3.85)	3 (16.67)
Third	0	1 (6.25)	2 (12.50)	0
<b>Beliefs pertaining to early marriage of girls before maturity</b>				
First	3 (14.29)	1 (4.35)	8 (28.57)	1 (5.56)
Second	0	0	12 (46.15)	0
Third	0	1 (6.25)	2 (12.50)	0
<b>Financial situation</b>				
First	10 (47.62)	7 (30.43)	5 (17.86)	8 (44.44)
Second	3 (16.67)	5 (22.73)	0	7 (38.89)
Third	0	4 (25)	4 (25)	3 (33.33)
<b>Illiteracy</b>				
First	2 (9.52)	5 (21.74)	10 (35.71)	3 (16.67)
Second	9 (50)	7 (31.82)	9 (34.62)	1 (5.56)
Third	2 (22.22)	0	1 (6.25)	0
<b>Gender discrimination/Disrespect towards girls</b>				
First	0	0	0	0
Second	0	1 (4.55)	1 (3.85)	0
Third	0	0	1 (6.25)	0

Fear of bigger dowry for older girls				
First	0	1 (4.35)	0	0
Second	0	0	0	1 (5.56)
Third	0	1 (6.25)	2 (12.50)	0
Lack of awareness among guardians				
First	1 (4.76)	2 (8.70)	2 (7.14)	1 (5.56)
Second	5 (27.78)	3 (13.64)	0	4 (22.22)
Third	6 (66.67)	1 (6.25)	0	2 (22.22)
Children falling in love				
First	1 (4.76)	1 (4.35)	0	1 (5.56)
Second	0	1 (4.55)	0	0
Third	0	0	2 (12.50)	0
Insecurity with regard to violence and atrocities				
First	0	0	0	1 (5.56)
Second	0	1 (4.55)	0	1 (5.56)
Third	0	1 (6.25)	0	1 (11.11)
Large number of children in the family				
First	0	0	0	0
Second	1 (5.56)	0	0	0
Third	0	1 (6.25)	0	1 (11.11)

Here, it is also important to look at the distribution of awareness of CMPA among CMPO across different mandals of the districts. In each of the districts, a total of 30 CMPOs were interviewed. Table 3 depicts the same across the state of AP. Figures given below represent the number of CMPOs interviewed with respective distribution of knowledge about CMPA, 2006 across different mandals. One must keep in consideration that these findings cannot be generalized at the universal level and represent respective situations of different mandals across the districts.

From the Table given above, one can clearly see that, there are stark variations even within a district across different mandals in terms of awareness level about CMPA, 2006. Availability of total number of respondents was one of the constraints which has limited interpretation and trend in a certain manner. There are two extremes across all the districts with the highest and lowest awareness with many other mandals across the spectrum. In the case of Srikakulam District, 75% of CMPOs interviewed in Srikakulam mandal were aware of the Act where as in Gara mandal this accounts for only 25% of the total. Peddakadaburmandal of Kurnool District has

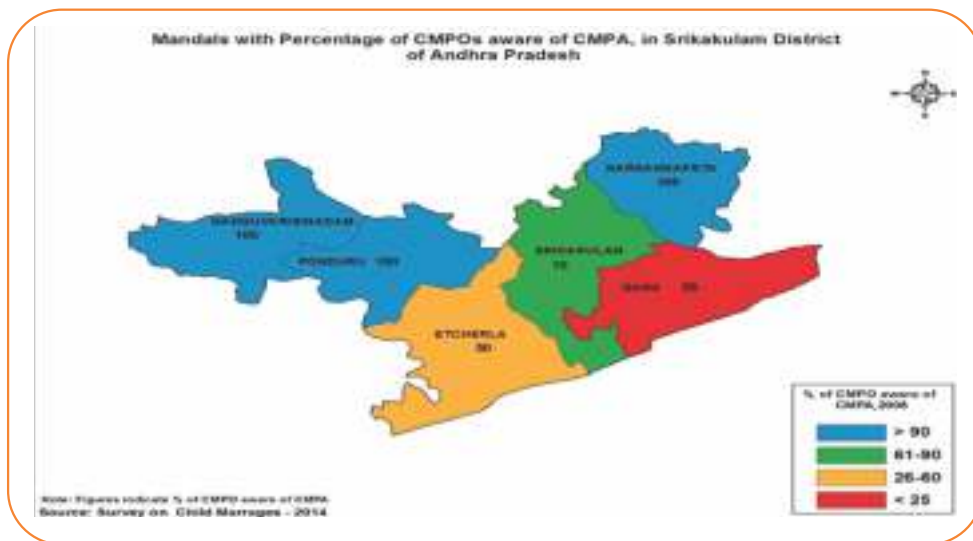
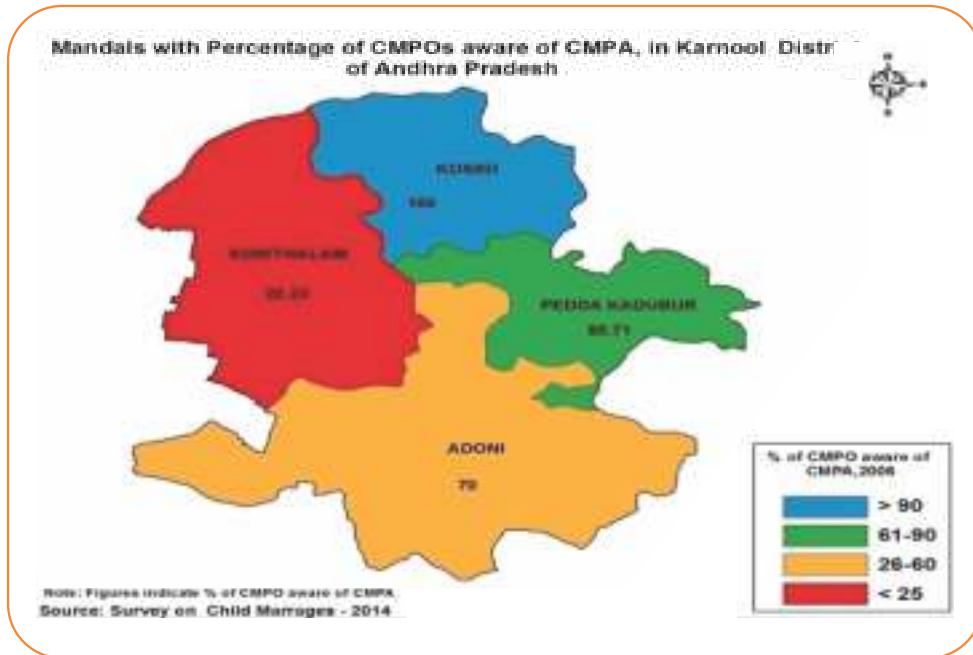
**Table 3: Distribution of Awareness of CMPA 2006 among CMPOs in AP**

<b>SRIKAKULAM DISATRICT</b>				
<b>Name of Mandal</b>	<b>Not Aware</b>	<b>Aware</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>% of CMPO aware of CMPA 2006</b>
Etcherla	1	1	2	50.00
G.Sigadam	0	2	2	100.00
Ponduru	0	2	2	100.00
Narsannapeta	0	4	4	100.00
Srikakulam	2	6	8	75.00
Gara	9	3	12	25.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>60.00</b>
<b>KURNOOL DISTRICT</b>				
Kosigi	0	4	4	100.00
Peddakadabur	1	6	7	85.71
Kowtalam	7	2	9	22.22
Adoni	3	7	10	70.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>63.33</b>
<b>KADAPA DISTRICT</b>				
Veeraballi	1	3	4	75.00
LR Palle	1	3	4	75.00
Rayachoti	4	0	4	0.00
Chinnamudium	2	3	5	60.00
Galiveedu	3	1	4	25.00
Samchepalli	3	0	3	0.00
T Sundupally	2	1	3	33.33
Kadapa	2	0	2	0.00
Ramapuram	0	1	1	100.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>40.00</b>

apparently the highest percentage (85.71%) of CMPOs who were aware about the CMPAct in contrast to Kowtalam where there is a sharp drop to 22.22%. Likewise, in Kadapa District; Veeraballi and LR Palle are two mandals where 75% of CMPOs were aware about the CMPAct, in contrast with

Galiveedumandal(25%). Guntur District has been absolute across all 13 mandals wherein one CMPO per mandal was interviewed and was found to be aware about the CMPAct. Figure 11 given below graphically captures the above mentioned results across all the districts sampled for the study.:

**Figure 11: Percentage Distribution of Awareness about CMPact among CMPOs Across Districts in AP**





# RECOMMENDATIONS AND CONCLUSIONS:

## Recommendations

1. Amendment in the State Rule for appointment of full-time CMPOs at the district level with a clear set of roles and responsibility (both preventive and educative role) and to ensure proper training of all CMPOs at various levels.
2. State Plan of Action to prevent child marriage can be prepared and implemented, keeping in mind the gravity of the problem.
3. Promote linkage with ICPS service delivery structure and statutory bodies (for e.g. CWC) to prevent child marriage and also to take care of rehabilitation part (focus on the alternative care mechanism of ICPS foster care and sponsorship) of the victims of child marriage.
4. Strict enforcement of Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2006 to ensure the rehabilitative measure for the victims of child marriage.
5. Enforcement of the existing laws such as Right to Education and Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961 will help to abolish child marriage. Stringent enforcement of the Right to Education Act, 2009 to ensure all children have access to elementary education, whereby teachers; SDMC and panchayat members actively monitor access of children to schooling and prevent dropouts. Special attention should be given on priority basis to children who are vulnerable to drop out, such as girls, migrant families, nomadic communities etc. Stringent enforcement of the Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961 as amended in 1986 to ensure that the fear of economic burden and perception of girls as an economic liability do not drive families to perform child marriage.
6. Ensure registration of all marriages at the panchayat level.
7. Strengthen children s' governance from the micro (village/community level) to the macro-level (state and national level) and representation of children's voices at the National level for prevention of child marriages through ensuring child participation at every level.
8. Sensitization and enhancing the capacity of the enforcement personnel and field functionaries therefore are prerequisites for effective implementation of the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006.
9. Strengthen the CHILDLINE network at the district level and the coverage of service must be reached to the remotest part of the districts through networking with local NGOs, Civil Society etc.
10. Link the Village Level Child Marriage Prohibition and Monitoring Committee with Village level Child Protection Committee for identification of high risk families as well as recommendation of counseling and preventive sponsorship (if required) for these families.
11. More engagement with police (especially SJPU under J.J..Act) and judiciary for more preventive and engagement role.
12. Accountability and social-audit mechanism to ensure greater investments in the girl children. Periodic review of the entitlements vis-à-vis accountability of the duty bearers is a mandatory requirement.

13. Area-specific plan for awareness generation to change the mindset and social norms

### Conclusion:

Child marriage is a major social concern and a violation of children's rights – whether it happens to a girl or a boy – as it denies the basic rights to health, nutrition, education, freedom from violence, abuse and exploitation and deprives the child of his/her childhood. Child marriage in India has been practiced for centuries, with children married off before their physical and mental maturity. The problem of child marriage in India remains rooted in a complex matrix of religious traditions, social practices, economic factors and deeply rooted prejudices. Child marriage is a big hindrance in ensuring child protection for all children. CMPOs under CMPA and State Rule are the main instruments for the state to tackle this serious concern.

This survey is having two aspects in general. One of the findings of the study is the level of awareness of

the CMPOs on the Act and State rule. It also gives an estimate about the capacity building need for CMPOs. On the other hand the survey also focuses on the gravity and magnitude of the problem. Subsequently, it also highlights the number of child marriage cases (district specific) and the reason for child marriage. As a whole, it gives an understanding on the status of implementation of the CMPA and the state rule by focusing on the field level reality. The data from various indicators vary from one district to another, thus showing that the nature of problem in the state is heterogeneous, although the respondent group for the study was homogeneous. The policy makers must give greater level of attention to address the heterogeneity of the problem and since the issue of child marriage is strongly rooted in the socio-cultural aspects of the society, so it should be the responsibility of every citizen to raise their voice and ensure that the necessary action is taken against the problem.

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## We are gratefully acknowledge ACR Partner NGOs who were part of Field investigations at District level

Srikakulam – Mahila Margadarshi

Guntur – SEEDS

Kadapa – DROPS

Kurnool - Sadhana



# PART II

## ANNEXURE

### I) List of Abbreviations

**MDG:** Millennium Development Goal  
**NFHS:** National Family Health Survey  
**DLHS:** District Level Health Survey  
**IMR:** Infant Mortality Rate  
**MMR:** Maternal Mortality Rate  
**CDPO:** Child Development Project Officer  
**PD:** Project Director  
**RDO:** Revenue Divisional Officer  
**JD:** Joint Director  
**J. J. Act:** Juvenile Justice Act  
**WD&CW:** Women Development and Child Welfare  
**ANM:** Auxiliary Nurse Midwife  
**ASHA:** Accredited Social Health Activist  
**ICPS:** Integrated Child Protection Scheme  
**CWC:** Child Welfare Committee  
**ACR:** Alliance for Child Rights  
**AP:** Andhra Pradesh  
**DCRB:** District Crime Record Bureau  
**CMPO:** Child Marriage Prohibition Officer  
**CESS:** Centre for Economic and Social Studies  
**CMPA:** Child Marriage Prohibition Act  
**GO:** Government Order  
**SJPU:** Special Juvenile Police Unit  
**NGO:** Non-Governmental Organization

**UNICEF:** United Nations Children's Fund

**VLCPC:** Village Level Child Protection Committee

### ii) GLOSSARY

**Child Marriage Prohibition Officer:** Child Marriage Prohibition Officers (CMPOs) are to be appointed in every state to prevent child marriages, ensure protection of the victims as well as prosecution of the offenders (Section 16, PCMA 2006). The Child Marriage Prohibition Officers are responsible for reporting and preventing child marriages.

**Child Protection:** Child Protection is about protecting children from or against any perceived or real danger or risk to their life, their personhood and childhood. It is about reducing their vulnerability to any kind of harm and protecting them in harmful situations.

**Alliance for Child Rights:** ACR is a network of child rights organization in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana.

**Child Welfare Committee:** The Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act 2000 and Amendment Act 2006 make it mandatory to establish one Child Welfare Committee in each district as the final authority to dispose of cases for care, protection, treatment, development and rehabilitation of children in need of care and protection.

**District Child Protection Society:** ICPS envisages setting up a District Child Protection Society in each district as a fundamental unit for the implementation of the scheme.

**Integrated Child Protection Scheme:** The

Integrated Child Protection Scheme (ICPS) is a centrally sponsored scheme aimed at building a protective environment for children in difficult circumstances, as well as other vulnerable children, through Government-Civil Society Partnership. In 2009, the central government takes the scheme its approval and has begun the extensive task of providing children with a protection and safe environment to develop and flourish. The purpose of the scheme is to provide for children in difficult circumstances, as well as to reduce the risks and vulnerabilities children have in various situations and actions that lead to abuse, neglect, exploitation, abandonment and separation of children.

**Millennium Development Goals:** The United Nations Millennium Development Goals are eight goals that all 191 UN Member States have agreed to try to achieve by the year 2015. The United Nations Millennium Declaration, signed in September 2000 commits world leaders to combat poverty, hunger, disease, illiteracy, environmental degradation, and discrimination against women. The MDGs are derived from this Declaration, and all have specific targets and indicators.

**Special Juvenile Police Unit:** As per the provisions

(Section 63) of Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2000 and Amendment Act, 2006, one Special Juvenile Police Unit will be establish in a district or city to co-ordinate and upgrade the police treatment of juveniles and the children. All the police officers, designated as CWO in the district or city, are member of SJPU.

**Centre for Economic and Social Studies:** Centre for Economic and Social Studies (CESS) has made significant contribution to Social and Economic research on different issues including Poverty and Women & Child Development since its establishment in 1980. The research outcomes of CESS are advocated with the government departments, civil society and national and international donor organizations for better policy initiatives. CESS has made significant contribution to the policy with evidence-based research and is strongly positioned in State and Central Government.

# TOOLS FOR THE STUDY ON CHILD MARRIAGES

A study on the implementation of Child Marriages Act, 2006 and state rules GO.No.13

## Interview schedule for CMPOs

### Interview schedule for CMPOs

Name of the Field Investigator	
Date of the interview	
Signature	

### Details of the CMPO

S.No	Identification	Details
1.a	Name of the district/mandal	
1. b.	Name of the CMPO	
1. c	Designation/position of CMPO	
1.d	Education qualification	
1. e	Duration of the CMPO Since how long he is working as CMPO.	

### Details of the CMPO

Questions/Information about the CMP Act, 2006			
S.No	Particulars (Put appropriate code in the box)	Details	Remarks
1	What is the intensity of the issue of child marriages in your working area limits/ mandal/ division?		

S.No	Particulars (Put appropriate code in the box)	Details	Remarks
1.a	Are there any specific reasons for the early marriage? Social reasons/ caste system etc.		
1.b	Do you have any data regarding child marriages in your working area?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	
1.c	If yes, how do you get the data		
2	Do you know the causes and consequences of child marriages?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	
3	Are you aware of the Child Marriage Prohibition Act 2006?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	
4	If yes, do you know the duties of CMPO prescribed by the act?	Fully aware <input type="checkbox"/> Not sure <input type="checkbox"/> Not aware <input type="checkbox"/>	
5	Was there any training programs conducted for the CMPO's?		
5.a	Do you participate in the training? What issues covered in the training?		
<b>Questions / Information about the Implementation of GO.No.13</b>			
6	Do you Know G.O No 13.	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	
7	If yes, Who are CMPOs designated by the GO? Listed out	1. 2. 3. 4. 5. 6.	
8	Do you know the powers of the CMPO prescribed by the GO.13	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	
8.a	If yes, how do you know?		
8.b	Are confidently able to exercise the powers of CMPO prescribed by the GO.		
8.c	Are there any difficulties facing while performing the powers as CMPO.		
9	Do you get any support in preventing child marriages from any one? Either individuals or from any other departments	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	

9.a	If yes kindly mention those		
10	What are the issues faced when action is taken to stop the child marriage?		
11	Are you aware about the committee?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	
12	If yes, how many members exist in the committee as per GO? And who are they?		
13	Is the committee constituted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	
12	If yes, how many members exist in the committee as per GO? And who are they?		
13	Is the committee constituted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	
14	If yes, who are the members in the committee?		
15	What are the issues discussed in the committee?	1. 2. 3. 4. 5. 6.	
16	What is the frequency of the committee meeting?		
17	How many marriages have ? been stopped till now?		
17.a	What is the status of the cases?		
17.b	What are the rehabilitation measures provided for the girls rescued?		
17.c	Are the girls got any help and support to continue their education?		
18	How do you get the information about the early marriages to be performed?	1. From Children <input type="checkbox"/> 2. Community <input type="checkbox"/> 3. Childline <input type="checkbox"/> 4. NGOs/CBOs <input type="checkbox"/> 5. Others <input type="checkbox"/>	
19	Any problems in getting information related to child marriages?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	

20	If yes, how do you manage those problems?		
21	What are measures have to be taken when child marriages ? have to be stop?	1 2 3 4 5	
22	How do the CMPO's take up the cases for the investigation?		
23	Are there any registers maintained? (if yes, check the registers)	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	
24	Do the CMPO's conduct meetings with the government department? Or committee	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	
25	If yes, what is the agenda of the meeting and how often meetings are done?		
26	Are you aware about the scheme and programs implementing for girl child like "bangaru talli"?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	
27	What is the role of Gram Panchayat in preventing early marriages?		
28	Are the gram panchayat's aware of the Child Marriage Prohibition Act 2006?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	
29	Are the Gram Panchayat's are maintaining the registration of child marriages apart from birth and death registration officially?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	
30	What are the roles and responsibilities of NGO's in the implementation of Child marriage prohibition act?		
31	Do you get any support from NGOs in preventing early marriages in your operational area?		
32	If yes what kind of support you get?		
<b>Awareness about the issue, CMP Act and state rules GO.13 among various stakeholders in the community</b>			
33	Do the CMPO's require training on the issues and legislation?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	
33.a	If yes, on what the specific issues they require trainings?		

34	Any successfully transitioned from a service delivery to a rights-based approach?		
35	What are the steps taken by you in preventing child marriages? Any awareness programs conducted for the community?		
36	Any awareness programs conducted for the children especially for adolescent girls and youth about the issue?		
37	Any awareness increased regarding child marriage laws and the consequences of child marriage among individuals, families and the community?		
38	Any Increased negotiation skills among children and empowered them to prevent child marriage?		
39	Any best practices in preventing child marriages?		
40	Any Successful events in awareness generation and action by local and state institutions to prevent child marriage?		
41	Do you Know which other departments play an important role in the implementation of this Act?		

Signature of the Investigator \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

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**ALLIANCE FOR CHILD RIGHTS**

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