

→ You think raising age of marriage for women guarantee favourable outcomes for the Society? Critically Analyse.

Yes, in my view raising age of marriage for women guarantee favourable outcomes for the Society. Currently law

MALE - 21 yrs
FEMALE - 18 yrs

 is the age of marriage for by law. During 70's the age of women was raised to 18 from 15. Now, the raising of marriage age is based on Jaya Jaithey Task Force. This change will be backed by Restitution of Child Marriage Act, Special Marriage Act, Hindu Marriage Act. However it will not affect personal Marriage laws. Purpose of Raising age are as follows:-

- ① To lower maternal mortality rates.
- ② Improve Nutrition level of female.
- ③ Ensure opportunities for women to pursue higher Education & Careers.
- ④ To achieve SDG (Sustainable Development Goals).
- ⑤ Ensure Equality and women participation in Nation Building.
- ⑥ Multi-dimensional Growth

Physically → Improving Nutrition
Mentally → creating a sense of equality & responsibility
- ⑦ Lowering Rate of child marriage to zero, currently i.e. 47% in 2011.
- ⑧ Investing in Higher education, DBT for Girls & Scholarships should be done.

Will the new proposal still tackle the issue of child marriage & women development or may lead them making more vulnerable? On the other side of coin, According to NFHS-4, 56% of girls married below the Age of 21 and this figure was as high as 75% among the poorest category of population, it proves that poverty & lack of resources is reason for high child marriage. Further when one looks at evidence, PCMA is used largely by parents to punish their daughters who marry against their consent or slope to Evade forced Marriages. There is also a fear of use in women feticide & underground Marriages.

Ways forward

Government must work on factors like Poverty, Education, Livelihood, Health & Nutrition, to eliminate the social stigma of child marriage. Raising the age & making laws need to be backed in hand with Human development factors, so that laws are effective at large.