

Do you think that raising age of marriage for women guarantee favourable outcomes for the society? Critically analyse (200 words)

Cabinet has approved for raising marriage age of women equivalent to that of men from 18 to 21 this week. This law could bring changes in health and educational life of women says Central Government. This idea was a recommendation of Jaya Jaitley Committee on improving access to women's education.

Favourable outcomes for Society through this

1. Firstly it will ensure that women have extended opportunities in educational field and job aspects.

2. This will look in age of entering into motherhood which will try to ensure better health in women like low maternal mortality, improved nutritional levels (say reducing possibility of anaemia)

Why some people oppose?

1. A coercive law without wide spread support in society could be lethal

Eg: Prohibition of Child Marriage Act 2006, though it has widespread support, NFHS Report 2019 shows that there are around 23% of women in age of 20-24 who were married in age below 18.

2. Secondly women empowerment activist believe parents use these act only in case when daughters marry against their will (or) elope.

3. Thus changing the age limit will only increase the parent authority over adulthood of women

What could be better way?

Focus must be on creating awareness & on women reproductive health and education rather than making coercive law.

Eg: Increased awareness and incentives in schemes like Matri Vandhana Yojana, Janani Suraksha Yojana have decreased many health ailments like Stunting, Wasting and underweight and increased antenatal check up and institutional delivery. says National Family Health Survey-5