

1. What measures have been taken to implement the recommendations of the last report of the Secretary General on the issue of child, early and forced marriage (A/73/257)?

- Child Marriage Restraint Act, 2017 has created the provisions of formation of child marriage prevention committees at national, district, upazila and union level that include government officials, local public representatives, non-government officials and civil society representatives. The act has empowered the government officials and local government representatives to prevent child marriage. It also enhanced the punishment for corroborating child marriage. The parents and legal guardians and marriage registrar are brought under legal provisions for organizing child marriage.
- Child Marriage Restraint Act, 2017 has been included in the schedule of Mobile Court Act.
- According to the Child Marriage Restraint Rules 2018, at the national, district, upazila and union level committees have been formed to prevent child marriage and a scrutiny committee has also been formed to review the best interest of underage. Formats for monthly reports and taking bonds are included in the schedule.
- Ministry of Women and Children Affairs and UNICEF jointly launched a National Multimedia Campaign for Ending Child Marriage on 31st July 2017 Campaign theme is Raise the Beat which is a symbol of garnering attention, and in voicing protection to end child marriage. This campaign are being carried out at divisional levels. Global awards have been given to Bangladesh for such outstanding efforts for making effective campaign towards ending child marriage.
- The significant decrease of the prevalence of child marriage due to the different initiatives by the government. The Bangladesh Bureau of Statics (BBS) conducted a survey in 2017 that shows the rates of child marriage before the age 15 and 18 were 10.7 percent and 47.0 percent respectively
- A National Action Plan to End Child Marriage (2018-2030) has been formulated.

2. What type of measures are in place to end child, early and forced marriage, including laws and policies as well as national and subnational action plans and

programmes? What measures have been taken to ensure adequate budget allocations or the implementation of these plans and programmes?

Ans. Different measures have been taken to end child, early and forced marriage such as:

- Formulate and enact Child Marriage Restraint Act 2017
- Formulate Child Marriage Restraint Rules 2018
- National Action Plan to End Child Marriage (2018-2030)
- Gender Responsive Budget has been introduced in ministries and divisions for women empowerment.

3. Please provide information on promising practices relating to the development and implementation of holistic, comprehensive and coordinated responses and strategies to prevent and eliminate child, early and forced marriage.

Ans. Following comprehensive and coordinated responses and strategies have been take to prevent and eliminated child, early and forced marriage:

- Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina made commitment in London Girl's Summit on 22 July, 2014 to eliminate the child marriage below the age of 15 by 2021, reduce by one third between 15 and 18 and eliminate child marriage below 18 years by 2041. Government of Bangladesh has undertaken a number of initiatives to prevent the child marriage.
- Child Marriage Prevention Day is being observed a day in Child Rights Weeks in every year from 2014. On the eve of the day various programmes were held throughout the country.
- A National Helpline Center for Violence Against Women and Children has been established using toll free number 109 for 24 hours 7 days a week to prevent violence against women and children and in particular child marriage. The government also promotes the NGO's and citizens groups to make similar initiatives for preventing child marriage.
- Ministry of Women and Children Affairs and Information and Communication Technology Division jointly developed a mobile apps "Joy" to combat violence against women and children in Bangladesh. The main objective of the Apps is to address violence against women and Children in emergency situations.

4. What measures are in place to support already married girls and women affected by child, early and forces marriage, including targeted programmes aiming at addressing their specific needs and promoting gender equality in all aspects of marriage and its dissolution?

Ans.

- National Action Plan to Prevent Violence against Women and Children (2018-2030) has been formulated which aim to develop a society without violence against women and children by 2030.
- National Children Policy 2011 emphasized for the necessary arrangement of the girl child about the regular attendance in educational institutions, proper development of their physical and mental health.

9. **What measures are taken to hold perpetrator accountable, to ensure access to justice and accountability mechanisms, and to implement violence prevention and response activities, including at school and community level, as well as to provide adequate victim reparation and assistance measures?**

- The High Court in its landmark judgment on 14 May 2009 for the writ petition of 5916/2008 gave some directives to prevent sexual harassment in the office, educational institutions in both public and private sectors.
- Government has formulated policy on prohibition of corporal punishment in educational institutions 2011.
- According to Child Marriage Restraint Act, 2017, the marriage registrar who solemnize to organize a child marriage, shall be punishable with imprisonment which may extend to 2 (two) years but not less than 6(six) months, or with fine which may extend to 50(fifty) thousand Taka, or with both and on default of payment of fine may be punishable with imprisonment which may extend to 3(three) months and his license or appointment will be cancelled.

10. **What progress is made to improve the collection and use of disaggregated quantitative, qualitative and comparable data on violence against women and girls and harmful practices in order to strengthen measures to prevent and eliminated child, early and forced marriage?**

Ans.

- Management Information System on Child Marriage has been developed under the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs which contains data and information on child marriage.