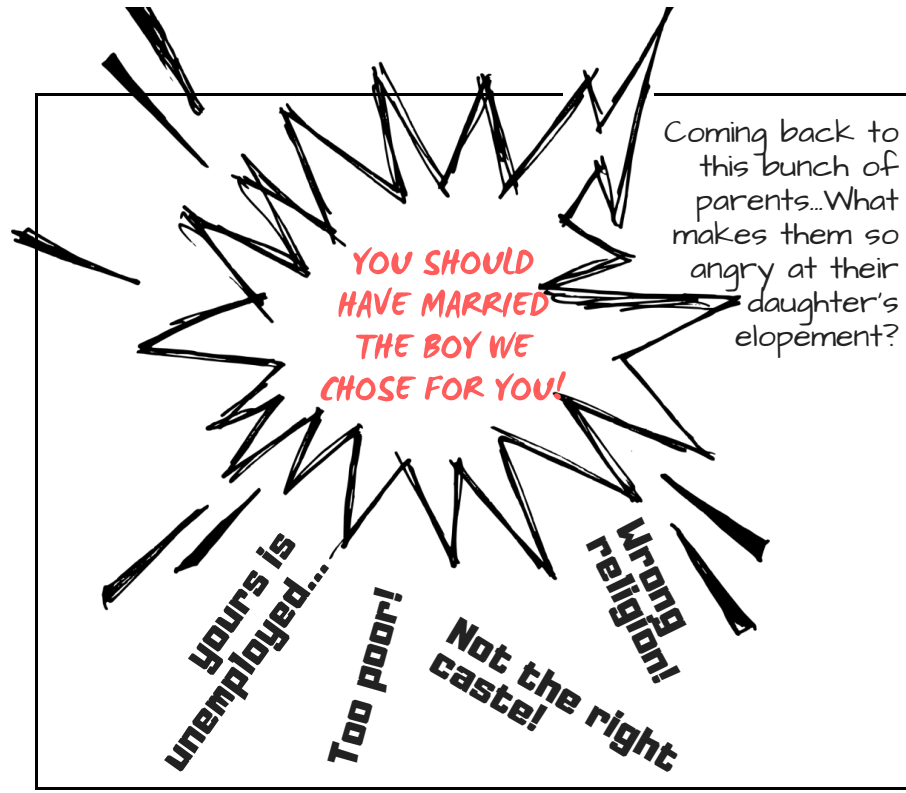
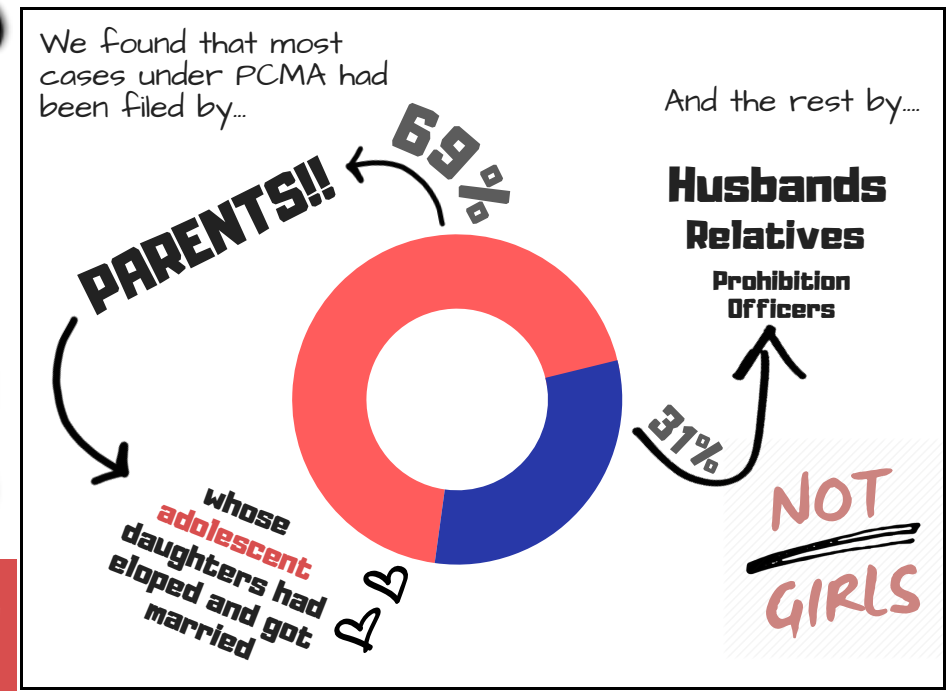


In 2006, Indian Parliamentarians enacted a new law called **PROHIBITION OF CHILD MARRIAGE ACT**

They hoped that it would help young girls who were forced into marriage, get justice.

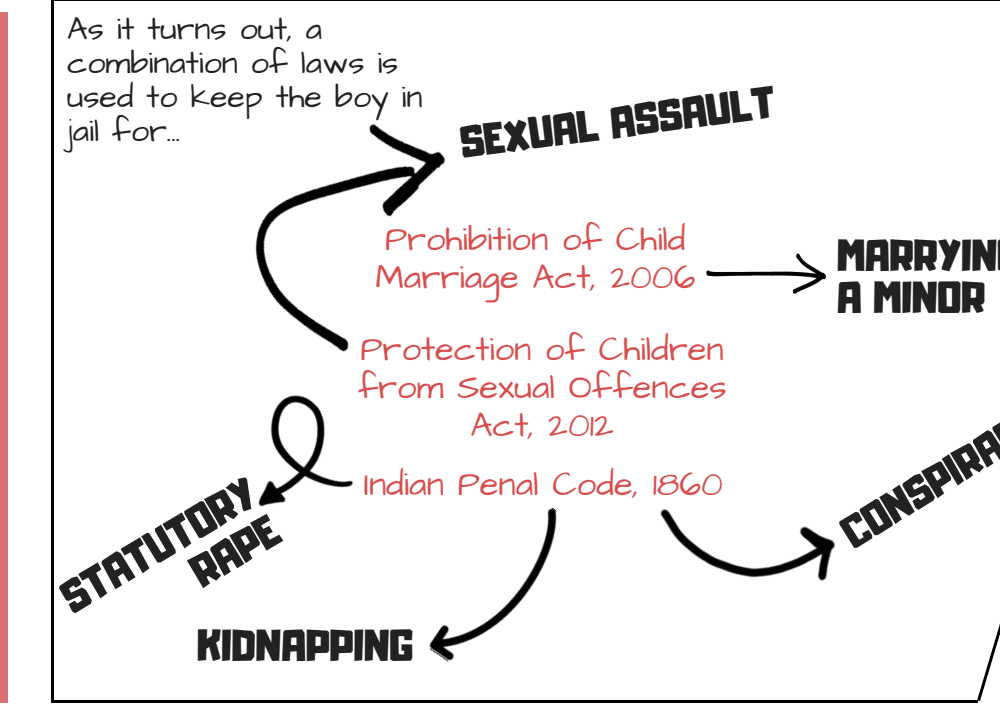
To find out if this law was working, we decided to conduct a study.



SO HAS THE LAW BECOME A TOOL FOR HONOUR BASED RETRIBUTION?

**SEEMS LIKE IT!**

...and that is not all...



SO AT A TIME WHEN THEY SHOULD BE GETTING COMPREHENSIVE SEXUAL EDUCATION AND SEXUAL HEALTH SERVICES...

...INSTEAD THEY GET...

**Prison  
time**



**Detention in  
a shelter  
home until  
adulthood**

Higher the minimum punishment for an offence, the more difficult it is to get bail, and the longer the boyfriend must stay in jail.

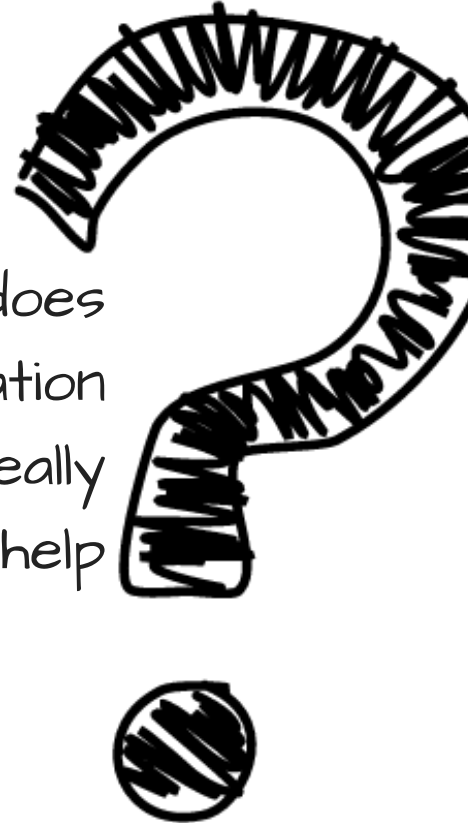
Because laws that are meant to

**EMPOWER  
& ENABLE**

are being used to exert parental and community control and

**STIGMATISE  
SEXUALITY**

Who does  
criminalisation  
really  
help



## What the evidence says

In the last three years, PLD has carried out field studies and analyses of judgments that point to a trend in the use laws on child sexual offences and child marriage prohibition law, by parents to incarcerate and punish boys or men who are in self arranged marriages with their daughters. This usually results in incarceration for the boy, with the girl having to live in a shelter home until she turns 18.

## About us

Partners for Law in Development (PLD) is a non-profit legal resource organization founded in 1998, working in the field of social justice and women's rights in India. We work towards advancing women's rights in contexts of sexuality, culture, caste, conflict, poverty and development.

Using the law to fix India's

# 'CHILD' MARRIAGE PROBLEM

Findings from an Indian research study



Partners for Law in Development