Everyone below the age of 18 does not have the same capacities.

ARTICLE 5, CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD

In India, underage marriages increasingly involve adolescents rather than children.

Just like marriages of adults, early marriages are of different types, with the number of love marriages steadily growing.

MEDIAN AGE AT MARRIAGE OF GIRLS
NATIONAL FAMILY HEALTH SURVEY

1992 19.1
1998 16.7
2005 17.2
2015 19

And given the lack of employment opportunities, chronic economic dependence on male family members, and stigmatisation of non-marital sex, marriage is virtually a compulsory institution for women.

Women in work
25%

Unemployed women
75%

CENSUS 2011
In a context where...

...social pressure compels women to marry.

...adolescent sexual consent is criminalised,

...mixed marriages invite honour based retaliation,

...and access to legal justice is limited,

**WHICH STRATEGY SHOULD WE ADOPT?**

ADDRESS ROOT CAUSES OF EARLY MARRIAGE  or  CRIMINALISE EARLY MARRIAGE

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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.