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.

Who does criminalisation really help?

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.

About us

Partners for Law in Development (PLD) is a non-profit legal resource organization founded in 1992 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