

# CHILD MARRIAGE: KEY FACTS

**CHILD MARRIAGE  
FREE WORLD**

- 1. Child marriage is much more likely to happen to girls than to boys.**
  - 640 million women and 115 million men alive today were married as a child.
- 2. Worldwide, one in five young women were married as children, many aged 12, 13, and 14.**
- 3. Child marriage is reducing slowly, but in some parts of the world, it is increasing among girls from poorer backgrounds.**
- 4. Child marriage is in every region of the world, but rates vary.**
  - In sub-Saharan Africa, 30% of young women were married as children. Some countries have much higher rates than others - Niger is 76%, Rwanda is 6%
  - India is home to a third of all women worldwide who were married as children.
- 5. Where you live in a country matters.**
  - Girls who live in rural areas are more likely to be married as children, compared to girls who live in towns and cities.

[childmarriagefree.world](http://childmarriagefree.world)

# CHILD MARRIAGE: IMPACT ON GIRLS

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1. Child marriage **usually ends a girl's formal education**, limiting her literacy, skills, and her ability to understand their rights.
2. When a girl enters a marriage, she often ends up taking on many hours of household chores for her husband's family **forcing her into child labour**.
3. When girls get married they are more likely **to be victims of domestic abuse** given the power dynamics between a girl and an older husband.
4. Often girls in child marriages are below the legal age of consent meaning the child marriage **results in child sexual abuse and child rape**.
5. When a married girl becomes pregnant, her body may not be developed enough to cope with pregnancy **risking her and her baby's life**.