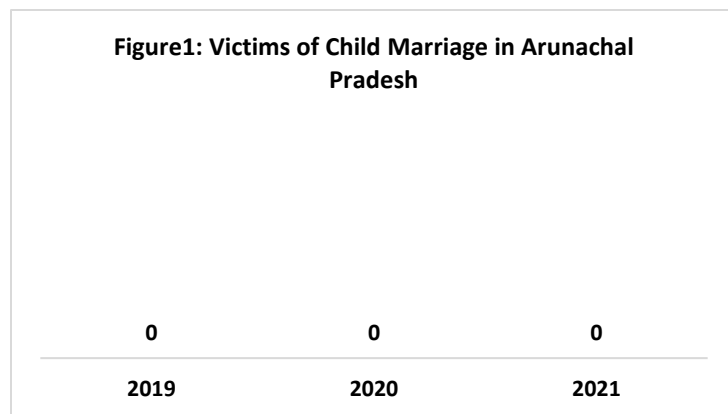


State Fact Sheet

Child Marriage and Other Crimes against Children in Arunachal Pradesh

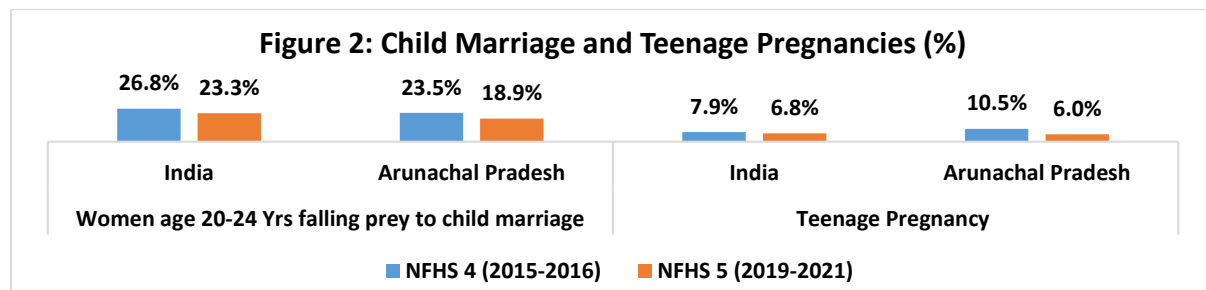
Child marriage (i.e., marriage of girls below the age of 18 and boys below the age of 21) in India is one of the most serious crimes committed against children. It is prevalent in most of the States/UTs despite a law (Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006) to root it out. Child marriage ends childhood and puts children at high risk of violence, exploitation, and abuse. It also adversely impacts their rights to education, health and protection.

A total of 1,49,404 crimes against children were recorded in India in 2021, indicating an average of 409 such cases reported each day during the year. This included a total of 1,050 cases registered under the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, victimising 1,062 children. Of all the registered crimes against children across the country in 2021, a minuscule proportion was from Arunachal Pradesh (162). The state stands at the 24th position, in terms of percentage share of the total crimes committed against children during 2021 in the country.



A comparison with last year's reported crimes in Arunachal Pradesh shows a 43 percent increase in the total number of crimes against children (from 113 in 2020). However, as per the record of reported crimes, no child marriage victims have been reported in Arunachal over the last three years (2019-2021).

Source: Crime in India (2019-2021), NCRB, Govt. of India



Source: NFHS-4 (2015-16) and NFHS-5 (2019-2021)

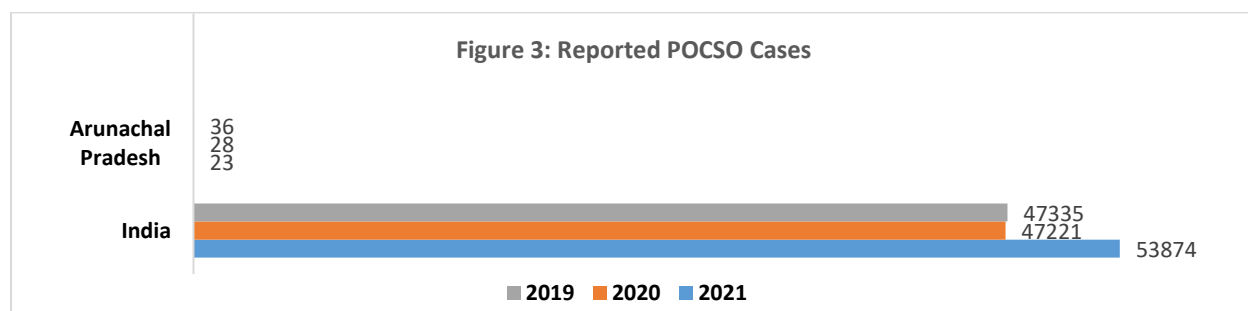
Child Marriage

- During the last 3 years, there has not been a single victim of child marriage in Arunachal Pradesh, between 2019 and 2021 (Figure-1). This is contrary to both Census and NFHS surveys which indicate prevalence of child marriages in the region.

- While there is a 3.5 percentage point decrease in women aged 20-24 years falling prey to child marriage between 2015-16 and 2019-21 (from 26.8% to 23.3%) in India, there has been a greater fall by 4.6 percentage points in Arunachal Pradesh (from 23.5% to 18.9%) during the same period.
- As per the Census 2011, in Arunachal Pradesh a little over 13.5 thousand children were married off before the attainment of the legal age of marriage, which constituted a minuscule percent of all married children in the country. However, NCRB data suggests that no case of child marriage was registered in the state under the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act during 2019-21.
- Court disposal of cases under Prohibition of Child Marriage Act:
 - The conviction rate in child marriage cases in India is extremely poor at a mere 10 percent, the lowest conviction rate of all types of crimes committed against children. In 2019, 2020 and 2021 the number of cases which ended with conviction was only 12 (out of 1,640), 6 (out of 2,092) and 10 (out of 2,865) respectively.
 - At the end of 2021, a mounting 96 percent child marriage cases in the country were pending trial (2761 cases pending out of 2865 cases).

Teenage Pregnancy

Teenage pregnancy¹, which is primarily a consequence of child marriage, has come down from 7.9 percent in 2015-16 to 6.8 percent in 2019-21 at the all-India level. The corresponding decrease in Arunachal Pradesh has been greater, from 10.5 percent to 6 percent (Figure-2).



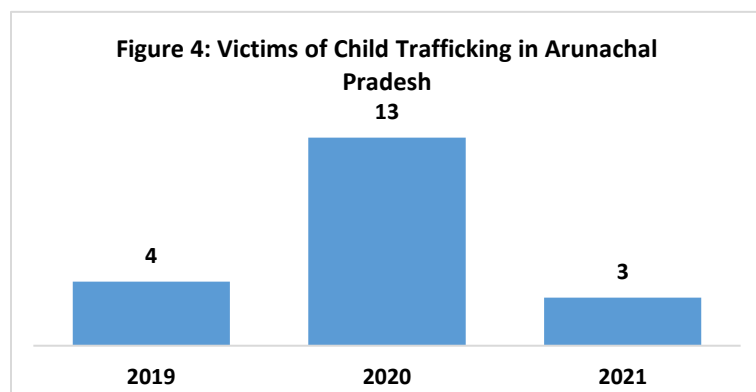
Source: Crime in India (2019-2021), NCRB, Govt. of India

Sexual Violence

- The total number of POCSO cases in the state decreased by 36 percent during 2019 to 2021 (from 36 in 2019 to 23 in 2021), as compared to a 14 percent increase (from 47,335 in 2019 to 53,874 in 2021) at the national level. The trend of continuous decrease in the numbers in the state is an encouraging sign, and highlights the efficiency of the concerned departments.

¹ Women aged 15-19 who were already mothers or pregnant at the time of the NFHS-5 survey

- The percentage share of child rape cases to the total POCSO cases stands at 62 percent at the national level in 2021. In Arunachal Pradesh, the same is higher (70%) than the national average in 2021.
- Court disposal of POCSO cases:
 - The conviction in POCSO cases in terms of absolute numbers increased from 3,686 (out of 9,316 cases in which trial was completed) in 2020 to 5,156 (out of 15,989 cases in which trial was completed) in 2021.
 - In Arunachal Pradesh, trials were not completed in any POCSO case in 2020, thus leading to a compounding of cases year after year².
 - At the end of January 2022, a total of 2,26,728 POCSO cases were pending trial in the country, of which 282 cases were from Arunachal Pradesh³. FTSCs are not functional in Arunachal Pradesh.



Child Trafficking

- In Arunachal Pradesh, all the victims of trafficking (3) were children as compared to 44 percent (2,877 out of 6,533) at the national level in 2021.
- The total number of victims of child trafficking in Arunachal Pradesh increased from 4 in 2019 (3 girls and 1 boy) to 13 (9 girls and 4 boys) in 2020 (increase by 225%) and again decreased to 3 (1 girl and 2 boys) in 2021. Girls constituted 33 percent of all trafficked children from Arunachal Pradesh in 2021.

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Missing Children

- The total number of missing children in the state remained the same in 2019 and 2021 (44) after an intermediate decrease in 2020 (13), as compared to a six percent increase at the all-India level (from 73,138 in 2019 to 77,535 in 2021).

² State-wise information on conviction in POCSO cases is not available for 2021. Relevant information for 2020 sourced from Lok Sabha Starred Question No. *294 dt.05 Aug 2022. Ministry of Women and Child Development, Government of India.

³ Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 3843 dt. 25th March 2022. Ministry Of Law And Justice, Government of India.