

# Title: Child marriage and Tripuri society in Tripura

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**Abstract:** Tripura is a small hill state in North-eastern India. There are 19 different tribal communities living in this state. These communities are: Tripuri, Reang, Jamatia, Uchmai, Noatia, Mog, Chakma, Kuki, Lushai, Munda, Halam, Kaur, Santal, Orang, Bhil, Bhutia, Chaimal, Garo, Khasis, and Lepcha. Tripuri communities are the largest tribal community of the state. The family is a small part of society and families are made up of people. As a part of it, people get married and form their families. Generally we know that for legal marriage men and women must be 21 and 18 years old. Now, to bring women on equal footing with men. NDA government has decided to raise the legal age of marriage of women to 21 from 18 years (2022). But many boys and girls get married before they are old enough. So we can call these marriages child marriages. Tripura ranks second in the list of states where child marriage among girls between the ages of below 18 performed.

**Keyword:** Social effect, Economic effect, Health effect.

**Introduction:** Marriage is a sacred social organization. Marriage at a suitable age between a woman and a man is legally recognized. But if you get married before the appropriate age, it is illegal in the eyes of law as well as in the case of society, harmful results are often seen. In 1929, child marriage was made against the Indian law. During the British rule, the legal Age of marriage for girls was 15 years and for boys 18 years. But child marriage was again approved in India in protest of Muslim organization. The child marriage act was amended in 1950, and in 1978 the legal age for girls was 18 and for boys 21. In the Tripuri society child marriage was in vogue long ago. A girl usually marries a boy before she reaches adulthood. This child marriage is not only according to the wishes of the boys and girls, but is also given according to the wishes of the parents. As a result of this child marriage, the society of Tripuri community has suffered in many ways. However, in the case of the state of Tripura, this child marriage is mostly seen in rural areas.

**Responsible for child marriage:** According to NFHS survey-4 report 33% girls in Tripura marry before 18 years old. There are many reasons responsible for child marriage in society, such as property of family, social insecurity; avoiding share in ancestral, avoiding expenditure on female education etc. child marriage in most cases is detrimental to society and the nation. As the economic decline of a society increases, so does the rate of population growth, but we cannot improve that from education, health, economic etc.

**Social effects:** marriage is needful in every man and woman's social life. The social system of Tripuri communities lags far behind other communities in the terms of social development. The main reason for this is the introduction of child marriage in Tripuri society. Child marriage negatively affects the social. Because girls and boys married as children more likely lack the skills, knowledge and job prospects needed to live their society. Child marriage ends childhood. These consequences impact not just the girls and boys directly, but also their family, society, community future etc. One of the major social effects of the child marriage is social insecurity. Nowadays child marriage results in differences between child girls and child boys in poor families. Child marriage stands in the way of many rights of women. Such as freedom of movement, right to education, gender and age equality etc. These barriers fall not only on women, it's also on their children and society at large.

**Economic effects:** In a society where the economic system is weak, the number of child marriages is higher. Especially in areas where economic benefits are low, almost all parents are willing to pay for child marriage. They use marriage as a way to make their daughter's future better. Tripuri communities' child marriage is seen as a way to get out of poor economic condition and reduce the expenses of poor families.

**Health effects:** child marriage is a threat to the health and life of girls. Maternal mortality in pregnant women under 18 years is twice as high as in pregnant women under 20 years. And pregnant mothers under the age of 15 are five to seven times more likely. Child marriage is not only a threat to the health of the mother but also to the health of the child. Because girls under the age of 18 have a 35-55 percent chance of giving birth prematurely or having a low

birth weight babies. Women who give birth at an early age have a weaker immune system and are more likely to be malnourished.

**Education effects:** we can directly notice the impact of child marriage in education. We can blame child marriage for increasing illiteracy in the country. They mostly have more children. Where the birth rate increases, it causes economic surprise and growth and its impact on education. In many cases due to having more children not all children can get equal education opportunities. Child marriage increases child illiteracy and increases school dropout rates.

**Conclusion:** Identifying child marriage as a degeneration of a society in a developed society. To curb this child marriage, the government and the private sector have been carrying out various positive programs. In this case, parents and have to educate their children well and we have to be very personally aware, only then will be able to reduce child marriage.

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