

## CHILD PROTECTION

Child protection (preventing and responding to violence, abuse and exploitation against children) should be an integral part of all programmes, plans and strategies to ensure achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) by 2015.

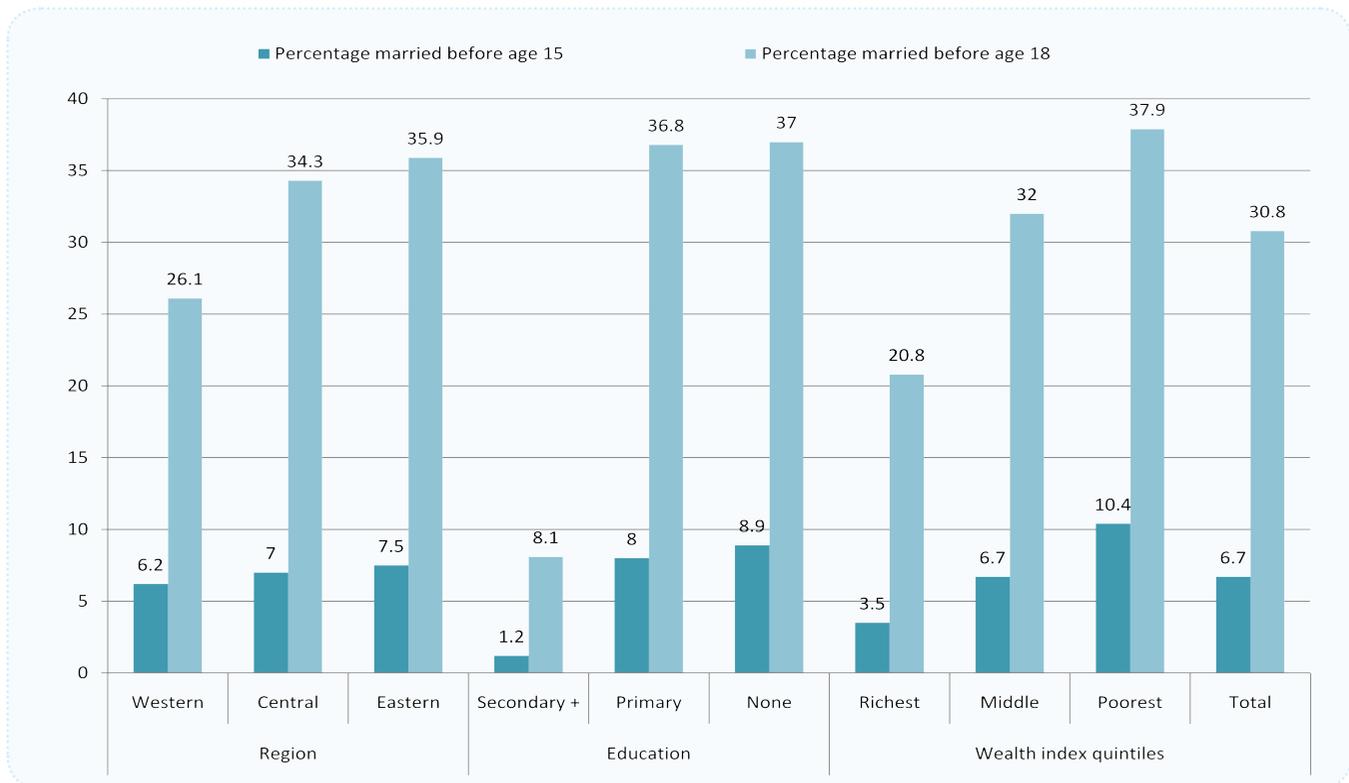
Despite the prohibition on marriage of minors under the Marriage Act, 1980, girls still marry at a young age.

Less than one in five young women between 15-19 years is currently married (15.2%). An estimate of 3.5% of young women between 15-24 years were in polygamous marriage/union.

About one in seven women aged 20-24 is currently married or in union with a man who is older by 10 years or more.

Child marriage is a violation of child rights compromising the development of girls and often resulting in premature pregnancy and social isolation.

### PERCENTAGE OF WOMEN MARRIED BEFORE THE AGE OF 15 AND 18



The national child labour prevalence was 18% with little gender variation (18% boys and 19% girls). Child labour is largely related with poverty. Poor parents send their children to work, not out of choice, but for economic reasons.

Prevalence of child labour decreases significantly with mother's education and household wealth. The poorest household is almost six times more likely to engage their children in child labour as compared to the richest household.

## DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Domestic violence not only affects women's health and safety and also the wellbeing and education of their children.

The overall attitudes towards acceptance of domestic violence among women age 15-49 years is 68% which is the second highest rate in South Asia. Attitudes towards Acceptance of domestic violence is highest among young women aged 15-24 years at 70%.

### PERCENTAGE OF WOMEN AGE 15-49 YEARS WHO BELIEVE A HUSBAND IS JUSTIFIED IN BEATING HIS WIFE/PARTNER FOR VARIOUS REASONS

