Society & Social Justice · GS - II

Despite the existence of legal safeguards, child marriage continues to threaten the rights and development of adolescent girls in India. Examine the socio-economic factors behind this practice and suggest measures to strengthen prevention and community-level intervention.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 11/11/2026	GS - II	Society & Social Justice

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Child marriage, gender inequality, poverty, education discontinuation, Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, POCSO Act, adolescent empowerment, helpline mechanisms, community participation, institutional coordination, rehabilitation and awareness.

Model Answer

Introduction

Child marriage is a violation of children's rights and undermines their education, health, autonomy and socio-economic development. Despite legal prohibition, social inequalities and economic vulnerabilities sustain the practice in several communities.

Underlying Factors

- **Gender discrimination:** Patriarchal norms often restrict girls' autonomy and prioritise early marriage over education.
- **Economic vulnerability:** Poverty and concerns about financial security can encourage families to arrange early marriages.
- **Educational barriers:** School dropouts, inadequate transport and limited access to secondary education increase vulnerability.
- **Social pressures:** Traditional practices and fear of social stigma can discourage families from reporting violations.

Measures to Strengthen Prevention

The Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006 should be effectively implemented through Child Marriage Prohibition Officers and local administration. Accessible helplines, school-based awareness and community vigilance can facilitate early intervention. Girls must receive quality education, scholarships, vocational opportunities and institutional support. Rescued minors also require counselling, rehabilitation and protection from coercion.

Conclusion

Legal enforcement must be complemented by education, economic empowerment and social transformation. Adolescent girls should be recognised as rights-bearing individuals capable of making informed choices about their futures.

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