Samina was married last year. She was 13. Her husband was 19. She is discouraged from leaving the household and her parents have told her that she must stay home and look after the household responsibilities for at least a few days. If I have a girl, I want her to be educated," she says.

Child marriage is a human rights violation, restricting children's choices, changing their course in life, and putting girls and boys at risk of disease and violence. A UNFPA study found that girls married as children experience increased risks of death, violence, and abuse; girls in Nepal had been subjected to sexual violence by their husbands, while one in six reported physical violence.

Girls' right to health also comes under threat. Just over one in eight Nepali women had babies before the age of 18, and married girls in Nepal 10 times more likely not to be in school than their unmarried peers.

The reasons behind child marriage are complex and diverse, involving a range of factors, while the caste system plays a role. It increasingly appears that poverty, the low value attached to education, and the high costs associated with dowry are contributory factors, while the caste system, poverty, and their own marriage to avoid the high costs associated with dowry encourage adolescents to initiate their own marriage or to escape arranged marriage or to escape to avoid forced marriage. In some cases, parents may want their own partners and may even encourage adolescents to elope. In some cases, parents may even encourage adolescents to elope.

Trend lines are one of the most widely used tools of child marriage in Nepal. A girl gets married after the legal age of marriage. Just over one in five girls in Nepal have been married before the legal age of marriage. More than a third of young women aged 20–24 report that they were married by the age of 18, and just over one in ten by 15.

Girls' right to education is also significantly affected, with married girls in Nepal 10 times more likely not to be in school than their unmarried peers. A child marriage in Nepal is a cause for concern, due to the increased risks of death, violence, and abuse, as well as to the child's education.

The devastating earthquakes of 2015 also fueled fears that child marriage would increase. Studies in other countries have shown that the devastating earthquakes of 2015 led to increases in child marriage and forced marriage, as families were forced to respond to difficulties at home.

Among Nepal women and men aged 15–24, the rate of child marriage is 10.4%, with just over one in ten girls and over one in 20 boys married before the legal age of marriage.

Girls married before the legal age of marriage are more likely to drop out of school, while married girls in Nepal are more likely to be married before the age of 18, and just over one in ten by 15.

Girls married before the legal age of marriage are more likely to drop out of school. A child's education is also significantly affected, with married girls in Nepal 10 times more likely not to be in school than their unmarried peers.
In 12 countries with some of the world’s highest rates of child marriage, UNICEF, UNFPA and other partners have come together to address this critical challenge. In countries like Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Sierra Leone, Ethiopia, Mozambique, Bangladesh, Nepal, Kenya, Uganda, and others, organizations and young people are working together on a shared agenda with a focus on four key areas: health, education, child protection, and economic empowerment.

Support governments to create opportunities for adolescents to thrive, and help them understand their rights. Ensure that health, education, and religious ceremonies...