

### Suggested questions/areas of inquiry

1. Does marriage of children below 18 years exist in your community? If yes, why do you think this practise exists? If not, why not?
  - If young people chose to marry (girls below 18 and boys below 21) why are they doing so?
  - If parents supporting child marriages, why do they do that?
  - Who else supports child marriages (for example money lenders, religious leaders, community leaders) and why do they do that?
2. You may know of some girls/boys or families who have managed to avoid child marriage. How did they manage to do that? What helped them to do that?
3. There is a law now that children below 18(girls) and 21(boys) should not get married.
  - a. Do you know about such a law?
  - b. Has the law brought about a change in the practice of child marriages? If yes, what change? How did that change come about?
  - c. If not, why not? What would have brought about a change, in that case?
  - d. What do you think the government needs to do, to bring this change?
4. What do you think is a good age (boys and girls) to get married, if they wish to marry?
5. Under what kinds of circumstances (other than age) is a good time for girls and boys to marry, if they wish to?
6. It is known that some young persons are sexually active, what kind of support, guidance or information is useful to them?
  - a. Do they get these now? If yes, where? From who? How?
  - b. If not, why not?
7. There is now a proposal to increase the age of marriage of girls to 21.
  - a. When considering a change in law, such as this one, do you think there should be consultations or not?
  - b. If yes, why? If not, why not?
  - c. If yes, who do you think should be consulted? Why?
8. What would increasing legal minimum age of marriage of girls to 21 do? Will it create more supportive situations or create new challenges for girls? (How does it help girls who desire to marry only after 21 and challenge those who desire to marry earlier?)
9. Is marriage the only way girls can feel secure?
  - a. Why?
  - b. If not, what are all the other requirements for girls to feel secure about their future?
10. What are the difficulties faced by girls/youth in the facing and living with the threat of Covid?
11. There is also a discussion about supporting health and safety of girls and young women. What kind of support would be useful for that – also keeping in mind Covid?
12. There is a discussion about providing ‘higher education to girls’.

- a. What kind of higher education is available now? What would be useful?
  - b. What kind of vocational education is available for you now? What would be useful?
13. There is a discussion about making young girls economically secure.
- a. What kinds of jobs are available to you now?
  - b. What kinds of benefits do they include?
  - c. What are the difficulties related to work you face?
  - d. What would be useful to have?
14. These issues you are raised, and recommendations you have given – who do you wish to share them with?
15. The Task Force set up by the government to review maternal health, age of marriage, higher education of girls etc.?
- a. Your gram panchayat?
  - b. Your District/state government?
  - c. Young persons in other districts? Other states?
  - d. NGOs?
  - e. Media persons?
  - f. Any others?