

CREATING SPACES

COMMON CONTRIBUTORS TO CEFM

- » NOT ALL WOMEN have a role in decision making about their own lives
- » PATRIARCHAL GENDER NORMS that discriminate against women and discourage speaking out or seeking services
- » PERCEPTIONS OF FAMILY HONOUR and the desire to control women's sexuality
- » BELIEF that women and girls are the property of men
- » LACK OF ACCESS TO SUPPORT SERVICES
- » INCREASED VULNERABILITY of marginalized groups
- » LACK OF ACCESS to education

DIFFERING CONTRIBUTORS TO CHILD AND EARLY FORCED MARRIAGE BY COUNTRY

BANGLADESH

- Belief that early marriage will protect girls from harm
- Natural disasters exacerbate incidents of CEFM by increasing the vulnerability of populations, negatively impacting livelihoods and access to education
- Legislation inconsistent with rights of children and protection of girls
- Local government interference with manipulation of birth certificates

INDIA

- Financial pressure from dowry which increase with the girl's age
- Class and caste systems that reinforce the belief that women and girls are the property of men
- Lack of education increasing a girl's vulnerability to child marriage

INDONESIA

- Cultural and religious beliefs that allow girls to marry when they begin menstruation
- Belief that girls are a financial burden
- Legal frameworks that permit girls to marry at age 16

NEPAL

- High rates of child labour
- Limited information about contraception
- Circumvention of legal age to marry (20) in order to legitimize sexual relationships

PAKISTAN

- The cultural practice of claiming a woman without her consent
- The tradition of bride exchange where brother and sister pairs from two households are married
- Feudal practices that do not take a woman's permission into account

PHILIPPINES

- Code of Muslim Personal Law (CMPL) allows Muslim girls to be married at their first menstruation
- Increasingly conservative religious practices
- Limited rights of girls in Indigenous and Muslim communities to choose who or when they will marry
- Resistance to and potential backlash from religious leaders who are resistant to align the Code of Muslim Personal Law with ending CEFM

CREATING SPACES is an Oxfam Canada flagship project that works with local partners to take action to reduce violence against women and girls, including child, early and forced marriage in six countries: Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Nepal, Pakistan, and the Philippines.

Canada

CREATING SPACES IS UNDERTAKEN WITH THE FINANCIAL SUPPORT OF THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA, PROVIDED THROUGH GLOBAL AFFAIRS CANADA



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