The marriage happened suddenly. The groom's family came to see me on that very same day. I was 13. I didn’t have any complications in my physical condition. I am worried about whether I will live or die during childbirth.

When I had a baby I didn’t know how to take care of a child. I am not ready for marriage, but I had to do it because it was my parents' wish.

A lot of boys had been harassing me and lively. Now I feel like I am a child myself. I used to be bright and I wish that I could have chosen to reject the proposal. I was forced to marry as child bride.

The reasons behind child marriage are different. Some parents believe that it is a social expectation. They want their children to get married and multiply their family. Some believe they are protecting their child. Others believe they are protecting their family's honor when they marry off their young children.

Bangladesh has the highest rate of child marriage in Asia and one of the countries with the fourth highest rate in the world. The rate of child marriage is the lowest in the rural areas. The rate of child marriage is higher in the poor households.

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In Bangladesh, UNFPA and UNICEF’s programme aims to reach more than 2.5 million girls over four years. As well as dropping out of school, and child marriage, which prohibits child marriage, girls receive unconditional cash transfers in the form of a conditional cash transfer, which allows children to continue their education. Children are given free education for 6 months. She received 6 months of support, which allowed her to stay in school. Happy, 14, is the top student in her class. Her family received 6 months of support, which allowed her to stay in school.

**POSITIVE LEGAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY**

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**CHILD HELPLINE**

The Child Helpline has received more than 400 calls about child marriages in the past year and has helped stop hundreds of ceremonies.

**EMPOWERING ADOLESCENT BOYS AND GIRLS**

We respect each other. Together we can change society. [Shima Akter, 17]

**WOMEN’S HELPLINE IN POLICE STATIONS**

I want to do everything I can in the future to stop child marriage for other girls.