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# Young Wives Study

## National level Dissemination Workshop

**Factsheet: Mothers-in-Law**

# About the study

The Young Wives (YW) study examines the influence of socio-cultural and gender norms on Family Planning (FP) among rural couples living in areas with higher prevalence of underage marriages, by studying the cultural ecologies of health that encompasses the interaction between cultural beliefs, practices, and environments and how they influence modern contraceptive use and childbearing. Focusing on wives aged 15-19, married for at least a year, it combines qualitative and quantitative methods. The sample consists of 1100 Young wives (559 in Godda and 541 in Ujjain), 436 Husbands (219 in Godda and 217 in Ujjain), 473 Mothers-in-law (256 in Godda and 217 in Ujjain) and 448 frontline health workers/community influencers (220 in Godda and 228 in Ujjain), ensuring diverse perspectives. Further, the study employs a triad approach for gathering household level data from wives, husbands, and MILs. FLWs and community influencers' perspectives have also been taken enriching the findings. Overall, the study provides contextual evidence that can support design of norms shifting interventions aimed at avoiding teenage pregnancy.

**Table 1: Background characteristics of Mother-In-Law**

Variables	Godda (256)		Ujjain (217)		Total (N= 473)	
	n	%	n	%	n	%
<b>Age</b>						
<40 years	15	5.9	28	12.9	43	9.1
40-49 years	103	40.2	135	62.2	238	50.4
50-59 years	80	31.3	42	19.4	122	25.8
>60 years	58	22.6	12	5.5	70	14.7
<b>Can you read and write?</b>						
Yes	25	9.8	16	7.4	41	8.7
No	231	90.2	201	92.6	432	91.3
<b>Highest formal education</b>						
Primary	3	12	6	37.5	9	21.9
Secondary	17	68	9	56.3	26	63.4
Higher secondary	5	20	1	6.3	6	14.6
<b>Main occupation</b>						
Self-employed	230	89.8	191	88.02	421	89
Regular salaried	26	10.2	22	10.1	48	10.2
Casual labour	0	0	0	0	0	0
Unpaid family workers	0	0	4	1.8	4	0.9
Housewife	0	0	0	0	0	0
Unemployed	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Currently a member of SHG</b>						
Yes	131	51.2	36	16.6	167	35.3
No	125	48.8	181	83.4	306	64.7
<b>Age of MIL at time of marriage</b>						
<10 years	8	3.1	24	11.1	32	6.8
10-14 years	111	43.4	106	48.9	217	45.9
15-18 years	75	29.3	79	36.4	154	32.6
19-25 years	12	4.7	3	1.4	15	3.2
Don't know	50	19.5	5	2.3	55	11.6
<b>Age at first child</b>						
13-15 years	46	17.9	19	8.8	65	13.7
16-18 years	90	35.2	117	53.9	207	43.8
19-23 years	63	24.6	64	29.5	127	26.9
>24 years	13	5.1	11	5.1	24	5.1
Don't know	44	17.2	6	2.8	50	10.6

**Table 2: Decision making in the household**

Variables	Godda (256)		Ujjain (217)		Total (N= 473)	
	n	%	n	%	n	%
<b>Member of household who: Usually makes decisions about making large household purchases</b>						
You	79	30.9	37	17.1	116	24.5
Head of HH	151	58.9	154	70.9	305	64.5
Son/daughter	26	10.2	22	10.1	48	10.2
Someone else	0	0	4	1.8	4	0.9
<b>Usually makes decisions about making purchases for daily household needs</b>						
You	133	51.9	93	42.9	226	47.8
Head of HH	97	37.9	91	41.9	188	39.8
Son/daughter	22	8.6	28	12.9	50	10.6
Daughter-in-law	4	1.6	3	1.4	7	1.5
Someone else	0	0	2	0.9	2	0.4
<b>Usually makes decisions about visits to family or relatives</b>						
You	80	31.3	52	24	132	27.9
Head of HH	156	60.9	147	67.7	303	64.1
Son/daughter	20	7.8	13	6	33	6.9
Someone else	0	0	5	2.3	5	1.1

**Table 3: Opinion on fertility and marriage**

Variables	Godda (256)		Ujjain (217)		Total (N= 473)	
	n	%	n	%	n	%
<b>Opinion regarding age at which a girl nowadays should be married</b>						
11-17 years	15	5.9	12	5.5	27	5.7
18 years	154	60.4	126	58.1	280	59.3
19-21 years	73	28.6	70	32.3	143	30.3
>22 years	13	5.1	9	4.2	22	4.7
<b>Opinion regarding age at which a woman should deliver her first baby</b>						
15- 16 years	3	1.2	2	0.9	5	1.1
17-18 years	16	6.3	4	1.9	20	4.24
19-21 years	171	67.1	146	67.6	317	67.3
22-24 years	54	21.2	52	24.1	106	22.5
25-27 years	8	3.1	12	5.5	20	4.3
Don't know	3	1.2	0	0	3	0.6
<b>Story: Rani and Raju got married. She is 18 and wants to study further, in-laws want children</b>						
Why do you think Rani's in-laws want her to become a mother soon after marriage?						
In-laws want to ensure that Rani is not infertile	66	25.8	35	16.1	101	21.4
In-laws are worried about others who may not like the delay	56	21.9	34	15.7	90	19.03
In-laws are worried late motherhood may create problem later in conception	88	34.4	78	35.9	166	35.1
Some elderly members may die before seeing their grandchild	130	50.8	143	65.9	273	57.7
If Rani becomes mother, she will have more attachment to the family	62	24.2	56	25.8	118	24.9
Rani will be more faithful to her husband	26	10.2	18	8.3	44	9.3
Others	26	10.2	5	2.3	31	6.6
Rani should						
Honor her in-law's wish and try to become a mother	104	40.6	57	26.3	161	34.1
Talk to them and convince them to complete her study	152	59.4	160	73.7	312	65.9
Thoughts on if Rani's husband will support her decision to complete her studies and delay in pregnancy						
Yes	202	78.9	179	82.5	381	80.5
No	54	21.1	38	17.5	92	19.5

<b>Thoughts on what Rani's own mother will ask Rani to do</b>						
Ask her to follow her in-laws wish	116	45.3	70	32.3	186	39.3
Encourage her to delay her first pregnancy	140	54.7	147	67.7	287	60.7
<b>Type of family planning method Rani should use if she wants to delay her pregnancy and her in-laws agree to support her decision</b>						
Traditional	89	34.8	101	46.5	190	40.2
Modern	167	65.2	116	53.5	283	59.8
<b>Modern methods of contraceptives are much better than traditional contraceptives</b>						
Agree	95	37.1	39	17.9	134	28.3
Disagree	161	62.9	178	82.1	339	71.7
<b>Reasons to agree</b>						
Provide more protection	61	64.2	27	69.2	88	65.7
Easily available	19	20	11	28.2	30	22.4
Easy to use	25	26.3	8	20.5	33	24.6
One can use intermittently as per the need/ fashionable to use	25	26.3	7	17.9	32	23.9
Health workers and doctors always talk about it	10	10.5	4	10.3	14	10.5
ASHAs offer them for free	4	4.2	2	5.1	6	4.5
Others	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Reasons to disagree</b>						
Difficult to use	22	13.7	16	9	38	11.2
Not available easily	6	3.7	6	3.4	12	3.5
It has side effects	149	92.6	173	97.2	322	95
Very few in our community use modern method	12	7.5	3	1.7	15	4.4
Others	6	3.7	3	1.7	9	2.7

**Table 4: Opinion about family planning of her son and DIL**

Variables	Godda (256)		Ujjain (217)		Total (N= 473)	
	n	%	n	%	n	%
<b>MIL talked to DIL about</b>						
How many children they should have?	42	16.4	24	11.1	66	14
When they should have their first child?	30	11.7	16	7.4	46	9.7
How many years of gap they should have between two children if they want more children?	34	13.3	15	6.9	49	10.4
None of the issues were discussed	190	74.2	177	81.6	367	77.6
<b>Number of children does she want them to have</b>						
1 child	0	0	14	6.5	14	2.9
2 children	111	43.4	188	86.6	299	63.2
3 children	92	35.9	11	5.1	103	21.8
4-7 children	39	15.2	3	1.4	42	8.9
Don't know	14	5.5	1	0.5	15	3.2
<b>Number of male children she wants them to have</b>						
No boy	0	0	2	0.9	2	0.4
1 boy	92	35.9	175	80.7	267	56.5
2 boys	109	42.6	10	4.6	119	25.2
3-4 boys	6	2.4	0	0	6	1.3
No preference	49	19.1	30	13.8	79	16.7
<b>Number of female children she wants them to have</b>						
No girl	4	1.6	5	2.3	9	1.9
1 girl	167	65.2	179	82.5	346	73.2
2-3 girls	35	13.7	1	0.5	36	7.6
No preference	50	19.5	32	14.8	82	17.3
<b>When she would like them to have a child</b>						
Within a year of marriage	37	14.5	37	17.1	74	15.6
After 1 year	33	12.9	48	22.1	81	17.1
After 2 years or more	108	42.2	94	43.3	202	42.7
I had no preference, it was up to them	78	30.5	38	17.5	116	24.5
<b>She spoke to her son and DIL if she wanted a child after a year</b>						
Yes	21	14.9	7	4.9	28	9.9
No	120	85.1	135	95.1	255	90.1
<b>If yes, method suggested</b>						
Standard day	7	33.3	2	28.6	9	32.1
Withdrawal	1	4.8	1	14.3	2	7.1
Oral pills	5	23.8	3	42.9	8	28.6
Emergency contraceptive	0	0	0	0	0	0
Implant	0	0	0	0	0	0
Injectables	5	23.8	0	0	5	17.9

Condom	5	23.8	1	14.3	6	21.4
IUD	1	4.8	0	0	1	3.6
Other	5	23.8	1	14.3	6	21.4
<b>If no, why?</b>						
She is/was well aware of FP	15	12.5	23	17.1	38	14.9
this is their private matter	71	59.2	84	62.2	155	60.8
I know/knew my son will advise her	6	5	12	8.9	18	7.1
Even if I told her, She would not have listened to me	17	14.2	8	5.9	25	9.8
Other	11	9.2	8	5.9	19	7.5
<b>DIL listened to her suggestion</b>						
Yes	13	61.9	6	85.7	19	67.9
No	5	23.8	0	0	5	17.9
Don't know/don't remember	3	14.3	1	14.3	4	14.3
<b>In your opinion, how many years of gap a couple should have between two births</b>						
One year	6	2.3	3	1.4	9	1.9
Two years	54	21.1	58	26.7	112	23.7
Three years	138	53.9	115	53	253	53.5
More than three year	58	22.7	41	18.9	99	20.9
<b>Number of times a pregnant woman should go for ANC checkup during pregnancy</b>						
Once	2	0.8	0	0	2	0.4
Twice	36	14.1	9	4.2	45	9.5
Thrice	134	52.3	85	39.2	219	46.3
Four times	41	16	49	22.6	90	19.03
More than 4 times	40	15.6	67	30.9	107	22.6
No need to go for ANC check up	3	1.2	7	3.2	10	2.1
<b>Has your DIL ever sought your advice on family planning</b>						
Yes	13	5.1	5	2.3	18	3.8
No	243	94.9	212	97.7	455	96.2
<b>What do you like most in your DIL</b>						
She is obedient	91	35.6	141	64.9	232	49.1
She never does anything without my permission	64	25	76	35.02	140	29.6
She takes care of everyone at home	182	71.1	151	69.6	333	70.4
She never fights with other members	75	29.3	79	36.4	154	32.6
She has adopted our family values	30	11.7	23	10.6	53	11.2
She supports me in my household chores	200	78.1	176	81.1	376	79.5
She is modern and helps me in many ways	9	3.5	5	2.3	14	2.9
She keeps tab of the household expenses	14	5.5	1	0.5	15	3.2
She understands my son well	29	11.3	22	10.1	51	10.8



**Table 5: Social norms around marriage and fertility**

Variables	Godda (256)		Ujjain (217)		Total (N= 473)	
	n	%	n	%	n	%
<b>Proportion of MILs who agree with the following statements:</b>						
Newlywed couples with no children should use family planning to avoid or delay a pregnancy	166	64.8	133	61.3	299	63.2
Women should not visit a health facility without their husband's permission	204	79.7	190	87.6	394	83.3
Women should never use family planning without their husband's permission	209	81.6	193	88.9	402	85
A man who lets his wife use contraception will lose control over her	100	39.1	71	32.7	171	36.2
A newlywed couple that does not want children right away is not normal	150	58.6	100	46.1	250	52.9
Only when a woman has a child, she becomes a real woman	220	85.9	194	89.4	414	87.5
If a woman wants to avoid pregnancy, it is her responsibility alone to prevent the pregnancy	46	17.9	43	19.8	89	18.8
Pregnancy at young age (before 18 years) may lead to several health complications	244	95.3	208	95.9	452	95.6
It is better to have more sons than daughters in a family	175	68.4	110	50.7	285	60.3
A couple should decide together how many children to have	252	98.4	217	100	469	99.2
It is okay if a married woman never wants to have a child	20	7.8	12	5.5	32	6.8
<b>Proportion of MILs agree with the following statements:</b>						
<b>Contraceptives may cause disabilities/birth defects in children</b>						
Agree	83	32.4	92	42.4	175	37
Disagree	110	43	62	28.6	172	36.4
Don't know/Cant say	60	23.4	59	27.2	119	25.2
Never heard about contraceptive	3	1.2	4	1.8	7	1.5
<b>Using contraceptives can cause a woman to be infertile</b>						
Agree	92	35.9	116	53.5	208	43.9
Disagree	117	45.7	57	26.3	174	36.8
Don't know/Cant say	44	17.2	40	18.4	84	17.8
Never heard about contraceptive	3	1.2	4	1.8	7	1.5
<b>An IUCD can move deep inside a woman and may hurt her</b>						
Agree	172	67.2	171	78.8	343	72.5
Disagree	36	14.1	12	5.5	48	10.2
Don't know/Cant say	42	16.4	30	13.8	72	15.2
Never heard about contraceptive	6	2.3	4	1.8	10	2.1

<b>Contraceptives are dangerous to women's health</b>						
Agree	181	70.7	175	80.7	356	75.3
Disagree	47	18.4	28	12.9	75	15.9
Don't know/Cant say	25	9.8	13	6	38	8.03
Never heard about contraceptive	3	1.2	1	0.5	4	0.9
<b>Using contraceptives before first birth causes infertility</b>						
Agree	121	47.3	139	64.1	260	<b>54.9</b>
Disagree	91	35.6	38	17.5	129	27.3
Don't know/Cant say	42	16.4	39	17.9	81	17.1
Never heard about contraceptive	2	0.8	1	0.5	3	0.6
<b>Regular contraceptives use can make men impotent</b>						
Agree	87	33.9	76	35.02	163	34.5
Disagree	93	36.3	53	24.4	146	30.9
Don't know/Cant say	73	28.5	83	38.3	156	32.9
Never heard about contraceptive	3	1.2	5	2.3	8	1.7
<b>Proportion of married women in their community who they think:</b>						
<b>~ use a modern contraceptive</b>						
None	34	13.3	32	14.8	66	13.9
Some	64	25	39	17.9	103	21.8
Many	35	13.7	22	10.1	57	12.1
Most	2	0.8	2	0.9	4	0.9
No idea	121	47.3	122	56.2	243	51.4
<b>~ can decide when they want to use contraception</b>						
None	56	21.9	39	17.9	95	20.1
Some	55	21.5	52	23.9	107	22.6
Many	27	10.6	8	3.7	35	7.4
Most	2	0.8	2	0.9	4	0.9
No idea	116	45.3	116	53.5	232	49.1
<b>~use a traditional contraceptive</b>						
None	16	6.3	15	6.9	31	6.6
Some	67	26.2	44	20.3	111	23.5
Many	39	15.2	25	11.5	64	13.5
Most	1	0.4	6	2.8	7	1.5
No idea	133	51.9	127	58.5	260	54.9
<b>Proportion of newlywed couples in their community who they think use a modern contraceptive</b>						
None	69	26.9	33	15.2	102	21.6
Some	39	15.2	37	17.1	76	16.1
Many	2	0.8	7	3.2	9	1.9
Most	0	0	1	0.5	1	0.2
No idea	146	57.1	139	64.1	285	60.3

<b>Proportion of MILs in their community who they think encourage young and newlywed couples to use a modern contraceptive</b>						
None	105	41	71	32.7	176	37.2
Some	51	19.9	36	16.6	87	18.4
Many	5	2	6	2.8	11	2.3
Most	0	0	1	0.5	1	0.2
No idea	95	37.1	103	47.5	198	41.9
<b>Proportion of MILs who agree with the following statements about their community</b>						
It is expected for newly married couples to have a child soon after marriage	219	85.6	176	81.1	395	83.5
It is expected for all married couples to have children	244	95.3	211	97.2	455	96.2
People feel a lot of pity for married couples who are unable to have children	244	95.3	211	97.2	455	96.2
People speak badly of married men who have not had a child after two or more years of marriage	216	84.4	166	76.5	382	80.8
People speak badly of married women who have not had a child after two or more years of marriage	248	96.9	193	88.9	441	93.2
People will think there are marital or health problems if a couple has not had a child after two or more years of marriage	248	96.9	205	94.5	453	95.8
It is unacceptable for couples to choose not to have child	237	92.6	202	93.1	439	92.8
It is common to ask married couples without a child when they will have children	224	87.5	190	87.6	414	87.5
Those women who do not give birth to a son are humiliated/disrespected	229	89.5	175	80.7	404	85.4



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