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Family planning vision 2030 to focus on men to check population

Synopsis

Strategies to overcome teenage childbearing, lack of male participation in awareness programmes, migration and lack of access to contraceptives have been identified as priorities in the Centre's family planning vision document 2030 unveiled on Wednesday "Focusing on addressing the teenage childbearing and early/child marriages remain a cause of concern for the country. Married adolescent girls and young women reported high unmet need for contraception," the vision document unveiled in New Delhi by minister of state for health ar family welfare Bharati Pravin Pawar said.



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"Focusing on addressing the teenage childbearing and early/child marriages remain a cause of concern for the country. From NFHS-4 to NFHS-5, <u>India</u> witnessed an impressive improvement in contraceptive use and unmet need, but decline in teenage childbearing was minimal - 7.9% in 2015-16 to 6.8% in 2019-21.

Although modern contraceptive use among married adolescents and young women have increased, it remains low. Married adolescent girls and young women reported high unmet need for contraception," the vision document unveiled in New Delhi by minister of state for health and family welfare **Bharati Pravin Pawar** said.

In several districts, more than 20% of women marry before they become adults. The districts are located in Bihar (17), West Bengal (8), Jharkhand (7), Assam (4) and two each in UP, Rajasthan and Maharashtra. The same districts have seen low use of modern contraceptives.

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The document said that the modern contraceptive prevalence rate was 35% in Bihar and 24% in UP among women with migrant husbands, while it was 47% in Bihar and 36% in UP among women who had resident husbands. "Non-use of contraceptives among women with migrant husbands was mostly driven by lack of contraceptive preparedness before husband's arrival, inability to procure contraceptives due to inaccessibility to health facilities and stigma around procuring contraceptives when the husband was away," the report said.

Male contraceptive methods were largely limited to condoms. Male sterilisation was at 0.3%. Overall male participation was also determined by perception towards women's contraceptive use. The vision also included a plan to use the private sector for providing modern contraceptives. "Private sector contributes 45% share of pills and 40% share of condoms. For

other reversible contraceptives like injectables, the share is 30% and 24% for IUCD." Sterilisation was mostly done by the government sector, the report said.

Pawar said 31 states/UTs have a total fertility rate of 2.1 or less and between 2012 and 2020, India added more than 1.5 crore more users of modern contraceptives. Health secretary Rajesh Bhushan said that although India has achieved replacement level fertility, there was still a significant population in the reproductive age group who required intervention. The government had recently said in Parliament that it sought to stabilise the population by 2045.

The document also said that extreme weather events, particularly recurring floods, compounded the impact of climate change.

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