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Expected Effects of the Indian Decision in 2021 to Increase the Legal Age of Marriage for Girls: A Demographic Projection

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ABSTRACT The Government of India has recently increased the legal marriageable age of girls from eighteen to twenty-one years. While the Government has made justifications for its decision, the same is expected to affect the growth in India's population. To test this, the researchers have computer simulated the population growth of India until the year 2111 with and without this change in the legal marriageable age of girls. There is a substantial difference, showing the effect this decision will play on India's population growth. According to the researchers' simulation, raising the legal marriage age for girls would result in a decrease in net population with little or no effect on the total population dependency ratio. Thus, the researchers conclude that the decision of the Government of India, in the next century, will result in growth of per capita income, resulting from a fall in population, with no loss in productivity due to the constant total population dependency ratio.