

# बाल विवाह मुक्त भारत CHILD MARRIAGE FREE INDIA

सुरक्षित बचपन, सुरक्षित भारत | SAFE CHILDHOOD, SAFE INDIA

## About Our Organization

**PRASAR** is dedicated to the development of the deprived people (backward and poor rural women, people with disabilities, child labour, victims of trafficking and violence) of Assam. The organization is working on the following issue of Child Marriage, Child Trafficking, Child Labour and Child Sexual Abuse. The organization participated and organized Child Marriage Free India Campaign in **Ayodhya district of Uttar Pradesh covering over 5 Block and 50 Gram Panchayats under the project.**

### The Campaign Activities included:

**1. June Action Month - PRASAR** conducted the action month with the objective of Child Marriage Free Ayodhya and prevented **Child marriage**: one child marriage was being stopped in the district and FIR was lodged as well. **Child abuse**: 5 cases of abuse were identified and FIR was lodged by MAHILA SAHYOG department of government. **Child trafficking**: 6 cases of child labor/trafficking were recognized and FIR was lodged by the partner and also the children were rescued and among them against 3 FIR was lodged. For the first time in the district it has happened and was done rightly by a women partner and her news was also printed in the newspaper. The campaign was conducted in collaboration with AHTU, CWC, BDO, DM, CDO, DPO, BSA, Teachers, Gram Pradhan, ASHA, AWW, CDPO, ICDS, Youth Groups, Women Group, SHG, MOIC, CMO, Panchayat Secretary, Police, and child line departments and covered by outreach of 23,340 directly and 6278 through online.

**2. 16 October 2023 - Child Marriage Free India Campaign Event** - The campaign event was conducted in 20 Inter College, PG College locations of Ayodhya town covering Ayodhya 50 Gram Panchayats in collaboration all line departments (AHTU, CWC, BDO, DM, CDO, DPO, BSA, Teachers, Gram Pradhan, ASHA, AWW, CDPO, ICDS, Youth Groups, Women Group, SHG, MOIC, CMO, Panchayat Secretary, Police. The campaign was organized in Ayodhya district, municipalities and 32 Gram Panchayats and through campaign was carried out in Hanuman Gadhi Ayodhya region between several people those who were present in Temples, Ashrams, Flower Shops, Sweet Shops. Their, several interviews of the religious leaders and Pandits were taken in which they shared their views against the Child Marriage in Temples, Ashrams, and Near Saryu Nadi as well. The Child Marriage Free India Campaign took place in Colleges, Schools and University in the District Ayodhya as well as in Blocks and Villages with the help of the Staff of the NGO, volunteers, teachers and students, professors, and principals with an outreach of 2,62,878 members.

Campaign highlights: Torch Fire Rally in villages, Signature Campaign Gram Panchayat, Block Level to District Level covering all district offices, Candle Light Rallies in Inter Colleges and PG colleges and hostels. Poster, Pamphlets release and distribution, Book Release of "**When Children have Children.** distribution of Government Officers."

## Campaign Photos:







## Campaign Media Coverage:



## बाल श्रम को लेकर किया जागरूक

बाबाबाजार। मिशन शक्ति अभियान के अन्तर्गत बाल श्रम, लैंगिक अपराध, बाल तस्करी, बाल शोषण को लेकर बैठक में जागरूक किया गया। शुक्रवार को मवाई ब्लॉक सभागार में कैलाश सत्यार्थी चिल्ड्रेन फाउंडेशन की काउंसलर देवस्मिता दास गुप्ता ने आंगनबाड़ी, आशा व एएनएम कार्यकर्त्रियों से कहा कि बाल श्रम में लिप्त बच्चों का चिह्नांकन कर उन्हें सजग किया जाए। उनके मौलिक कर्तव्यों से उन्हें अवगत कराया। कोऑर्डिनेटर नीतू सिंह ने बेटी बचाओ बेटी पढ़ाओ, मुख्यमंत्री कन्या सुमंगला योजना व अन्य सरकारी योजनाओं को लोगों तक पहुंचाने की अपील की। इस मौके पर सामाजिक कार्यकर्ता साधना गुप्ता, एएनएम पूनम जायसवाल, ज्योति गुप्ता, आशा बहू सविता आदि मौजूद रहीं। संवाद

## अभियान में बाल श्रम एवं बाल विवाह के प्रति किया जागरूक

बाबा बाजार, अयोध्या। शिक्षा क्षेत्र मवाई अंतर्गत कैलाश सत्यार्थी चिल्ड्रेन फाउंडेशन की ओर से मिशन शक्ति अभियान के अन्तर्गत बाल श्रम, लैंगिक अपराध, बाल तस्करी, बाल शोषण को लेकर बैठक में जागरूक किया गया। शुक्रवार को मवाई ब्लॉक परिसर में आंगनबाड़ी कार्यकर्त्री, ए०एन०एम० व आशा बहूओं के साथ बैठक कर जनजागरूकता कार्यक्रम आयोजित किया गया। जिसमें सामाजिक संस्था की काउंसलर देवस्मिता दास गुप्ता ने आंगनबाड़ी, आशा व ए०एन०एम० कार्यकर्त्रियों को उनके अधिकारों के प्रति जागरूक किया और कहा कि बाल श्रम में लिप्त बच्चों का चिह्नांकन कर उन्हें सजग किया जाए। उनके मौलिक कर्तव्यों से उन्हें अवगत कराया। सामाजिक कार्यकर्ता साधना गुप्ता ने मीटिंग के दौरान लोगों को

बताया सबको बेटी बचाओ बेटी पढ़ाओ, मुख्यमंत्री कन्या सुमंगला योजना व अन्य सरकार की योजनाओं को लोगों तक पहुंचाए जाने की अपील

लिए लोगों को जागरूक करें। जिससे इन सब पर नियंत्रण पाया जा सके। बाल विवाह की रोकथाम पर जागरूक कर उन्हें सजग किया। बाल विवाह न किये जाने हेतु जन जागरूकता कार्यक्रम के माध्यम से जानकारी उपलब्ध करायी। इस मौके पर कोऑर्डिनेटर नीतू सिंह, ए०एन०एम० पूनम



की जिनसे लोगों को योजनाओं का लाभ मिल सके। और कहा कि बाल विवाह, बाल श्रम, लैंगिक अपराध, बाल तस्करी जैसे अपराधों से बचने के

जायसवाल, ज्योती गुप्ता, आशा बहू सविता शुक्ला, रमिता शर्मा, आंगनबाड़ी कार्यकर्त्री मिथलेश कुमारी सहित सैंकड़ों महिलाएं उपस्थिति रहीं।

## बाल विवाह, बाल श्रम एवं बाल तस्करी रोकथाम पर आयोजित हुआ जागरूकता कार्यक्रम

अयोध्या। जिले में प्रसार संस्था एवं कैलाश सत्यार्थी चिल्ड्रेन फाउंडेशन यू एस दिल्ली के बैनर तले, ग्राम पंचायत रौनाही विकास खण्ड क्षेत्र सोहावल में अल जामे अतुल इस्लामिया मदरसे में बाल विवाह, बाल श्रम एवं बाल तस्करी की रोकथाम के विषय पर कार्यशाला का आयोजित कर बच्चों को उनके हक व अधिकार व शोषण की रोकथाम के प्रति जागरूकता व अवर्नेस प्रोग्राम का आयोजन किया गया। इस दौरान सैंकड़ों बच्चे सहित अभिवावकजन भी मौजूद रहे, इसके अलावा विद्यालय का स्टाफ भी भरपूर सहयोग किया। कार्यशाला में बाल विवाह, बाल श्रम एवं बाल तस्करी रोकथाम के विषय पर विस्तृत चर्चा करते हुए जागरूक किया गया साथ ही साथ उनको अधिनियम के बारे में भी अवगत कराया गया। बच्चों में पोस्टर, पंपलेट बाटकर नारे बुलवाये गए और उनसे उनके अधिकारों के बारे में भी चर्चा की गयी। इस मौके पर एनजीओ प्रसार संस्था सचिव शिशुपाल यादव, दीपक चौहान, काउंसलर देवेशमिता दास गुप्ता, कोऑर्डिनेटर नीतू सिंह, मदरसे के ऑल टीचर प्रिंसिपल, सहित दर्जन भर लोग रहें मौजूद।

## स्वतंत्रता दिवस की पूर्व संध्या पर बाल विवाह के खिलाफ जगाई अलग

### विभिन्न कार्यक्रमों में लोगों ने बाल विवाह न करने और न होने देने के ली शपथ

ब्यूरो चीफ सतीश यादव परमार्थ आवाज अयोध्या अयोध्या! स्वतंत्रता दिवस की पूर्व संध्या पर गैर सरकारी संगठन कैलाश सत्याथी फाउंडेशन एवं प्रसार संस्था ने बाल विवाह के खिलाफ लोगों को जागरूक करने के लिए गनौली व रौजागांव में विभिन्न कार्यक्रमों का आयोजन किया इस दौरान गांव और स्कूलों में रैलियां निकाली गईं और लोगों को बाल विवाह के खिलाफ शपथ दिलाई गई इस अवसर पर रुदौली विधायक रामचंद्र यादव के पुत्र आलोक यादव और गनौली प्राथमिक विद्यालय के प्रधानाध्यापक अकील अहमद, श्री हंस इंटर कॉलेज के प्रधानाचार्य अमृत लाल यादव, पत्रकार कुलदीप वर्मा, प्रसार सीएसडब्ल्यू श्रीमती मंजू सामाजिक कार्यकर्ता अवधेश कुमार और अन्य गणमान्य लोग उपस्थित रहे। बाल विवाह के खिलाफ यह जागरूकता अभियान नोबेल शांति पुरस्कार से सम्मानित और विश्व प्रसिद्ध बाल अधिकार कार्यकर्ता कैलाश सत्याथी के आह्वान पर चलाया जा रहा है। जिन्होंने देशवासियों से एकजुट होकर बाल विवाह मुक्त भारत बनाने की अपील की है उनके इस आह्वान पर देश भर के गैर सरकारी संगठन एकजुट



होकर बाल विवाह के खिलाफ साझा अभियान चला रहे हैं भारत ने पिछले कुछ दशकों से बाल विवाह की बुराई को रोकने की दिशा में उल्लेखनीय प्रगति की है लेकिन आंकड़े बताते हैं कि स्थिति अभी भी गंभीर है नेशनल फैमिली हेल्थ सर्वे की 2019-21 की रिपोर्ट के अनुसार देश में 20 से 24 आयु वर्ग के आने वाली 23.3 फीसदी महिलाएं ऐसी हैं जिनका 18 साल पहले ही विवाह कर दिया जाता था आंकड़े बताते हैं कि बाल विवाह के मामले में पश्चिम बंगाल शेष पर है जबकि इसके बाद बिहार और त्रिपुरा का नंबर है गरीबी और

अशिक्षा इसके पीछे प्रमुख कारण है लेकिन जागरूकता की कमी और रूढ़वादी सोच भी काफी हद तक जिम्मेदार है। इस अवसर पर प्रसार के निदेशक शिशुपाल ने कहा आज हम आजादी का अमृत महोत्सव बना रहे हैं इन 75 वर्षों में हमने बहुत तरक्की की है और बहुत सारी उपलब्धियां हासिल की हैं लेकिन आज के बाल विवाह जैसी सामाजिक बुराई देश के माथे पर कलंक है देश को शक्तिशाली बनाने और तरक्की की राह पर ले जाने के लिए बेटियों की सुरक्षा जरूरी है पिछले कुछ वर्षों में केंद्र और राज्य सरकारों ने विभिन्न योजनाओं और नीतिगत बदलाव के माध्यम से बेटियों के सशक्तिकरण और बाल विवाह के खात्मे के लिए तमाम कदम उठाए हैं लेकिन आज समाज को भी उनकी भूमिका निभानी होगी सामाजिक जागरूकता और लोगों के सहयोग से ही बच्चों के बचपन को लील जाने वाली यह बुराई को खत्म किया जा सकता है। उन्होंने कहा कि बाल विवाह को खत्म करने के लिए स्थानीय प्रशासन भी काफी संवेदनशील है यही कारण है कि इसके खिलाफ अभियानों में स्थाई प्रशासन से भी काफी सहयोग मिल रहा है।



## Background

Child marriage is not just an age-old social evil, but also a heinous crime that robs children of their childhood. Child marriage is a “crime against children” that violates basic human rights, minor girls are forced to marry and live a life of mental trauma, physical and biological stress, domestic violence including limited access to education and increased vulnerability to domestic violence. The consequences of child marriage are severe and extensive. Some of the specific consequences include: early pregnancies leading to complications and higher rate of maternal mortality and death of infants, malnutrition among both the infant and the mother, increased vulnerability to reproductive health, disruption in girl’s education and thereby reduction in opportunities of her personal and professional development, domestic violence and abuse, limited decision making powers in the household, and mental health issues.

India’s Census 2011 revealed 12 million children were married before attaining the legal age, of which 5.2 million were girls. Globally, child marriage is identified as a crime and a menace that needs to be eliminated. It finds space in the UN Sustainable Development Goals, under target 5.3 of Goal 5 that states elimination of all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation by 2025.

The latest National Family Health Survey (2019-21) shows that although there is a drop in the overall rate of child marriages, from 26.8% in the National Family Health Survey (NFHS 4) to 23.3% in NFHS-5, it is still high despite laws, programmes and schemes in place to address the issue.

## Child Marriage Free India Campaign

Understanding the seriousness of the issue, the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in W.P. Civil 382 of 2013 pronounced that the sexual intercourse committed by the husband upon his wife being under the age of 18 years with or without her consent can be constituted as rape. To address this, the most definitive and audacious commitment to end child marriage was made with the launch of [Child Marriage Free India campaign](#).

[Child Marriage Free India \(CMFI\)](#) is a nationwide campaign led by women leaders and a coalition of more than 160 NGOs spanning more than 300 districts working to eliminate child marriage in India. CMFI is working to attain the tipping point of child marriage, after which the society does not accept this evil practice and that will happen when the prevalence of child marriage is brought down to 5.5% by 2030, from the current national prevalence rate of 23.3%. This is being done by initially targeting 257 high-prevalence districts and gradually focusing on all the districts of the country.

Child marriage results in child rape, resulting in child pregnancy, and in a large number of cases, may lead to child deaths. For decades, we have been losing generations of our children to child marriage. The [Child Marriage Free India campaign](#) has received extended support from various Departments and Institutions of over 28 States. So far, across India more than 5 crore people have taken the pledge to end child marriage over the last one year through the efforts of the [Child Marriage Free India Campaign](#).

**Know more about the [Child Marriage Free India \(CMFI\) Campaign](#): <https://www.childmarriagefreeindia.org/>**



## THE GOAL

### Reduction of Child Marriage to 5.5% by 2030

as proposed in WHEN CHILDREN HAVE CHILDREN - TIPPING POINT TO END CHILD MARRIAGE (Ribhu, 2023)

## DEMANDS OF THE CAMPAIGN



Ensure **access to free and quality education** for all children till class 12 (or 18 years of age, whichever is later)



Dedicated **budgetary allocation** for schemes and infrastructure for education and vocational training till class 12



Enable **real-time attendance data analysis** and intervention when irregularities occur



Effective **implementation and enforcement of laws** against child marriage for all sections of society



## The Way Forward: PICKET Strategy to End Child Marriage

Addressing the issue of child marriage, requires a comprehensive and coordinated approach of different government departments, institutions, statutory bodies, and civil society organisations.

For India as a nation to end child marriage by 2030, the PICKET Strategy as proposed in WHEN CHILDREN HAVE CHILDREN - TIPPING POINT TO END CHILD MARRIAGE (Ribhu, 2023)



**Policy for prevention, protection, prosecution:** It is important to ensure parity in the enforcement of laws, and special laws must prevail over customary or personal laws.

The effective implementation and enforcement of existing laws and policies that prohibit child marriage along with swift and decisive justice delivery mechanism are most important steps in checking the prevalence of this crime against children. When prevention of crime is incorporated as a policy, it ensures that the state machinery as well as citizens feel responsible and accountable to prevent child marriage.



**Investment in infrastructure, incentivisation and institutions:** Investing in child protection institutions, education, healthcare, justice delivery, and rehabilitation framework builds layers which work to prevent and protect children from abuse and exploitation apart from providing legal and mental health support for girls in child marriages.

Infrastructure to support girls at imminent risks of marriages, like institutional alternative care and residential educational facilities are urgently needed to stop their marriages, abuse and exploitation, and provide them with resilient alternatives.

Incentives in the form of conditional cash transfers have shown impact in communities to keep girls in schools delaying marriage decisions. Universalization of these to at-risk families has the potential to stop child marriages and trafficking and abuse of girls for both labour and sexual exploitation.



**Convergence of departments, governments and stakeholders in the community:** All schemes and interventions geared towards the protection, prevention, education, health and awareness of children and adults affected by child marriage need to operate in sync with each other. Child participation and empowerment is at the core of such convergence aimed at child centric community development.



**Knowledge which equips all the stakeholders to combat child marriage:** Enhancing knowledge empowers children, especially boys, to say no to child marriage. When a young man refuses to marry a minor girl, he breaks the cycle of generations of conditioning. It also gives agency to girls to raise their voice and complain when they are forced for marriage against their will or in violation of law. When children, parents, community members and stakeholders participate in decision making equipped with correct and latest knowledge, it can lead to collective action to prevent child marriage.



**Ecosystem where child marriage does not thrive:** Central to the PICKET strategy is an ecosystem where child marriage is non-existent. In a society where child marriage is pervasive, multi-pronged intervention at all levels is required. To change the societal perception, behaviour and acceptance towards child marriage, the response at scale requires an ecosystem level retaliation.



**Technology for monitoring and deterrence to combat child marriage:** Enabling real-time attendance data analysis will help reduce child trafficking, child marriage and drop-out rate in schools. Different states are already using technology for awareness campaigns, supporting and monitoring programme interventions, augmenting education and skills outreach. The use of machine learning and artificial intelligence needs explorations in support of child protection and creating a safe and harm-free ecosystem for children.

## Tipping Point to end child marriage

**WHEN CHILDREN HAVE CHILDREN - TIPPING POINT TO END CHILD MARRIAGE** Book authored by Mr Bhuwan Ribhu is an action plan to eliminate child marriage in India by 2030. It looks at the existing data on child marriage and lists 257 districts in India where the issue of child marriage is worst, which means where the occurrence of this evil practice is highest as compared to national numbers.

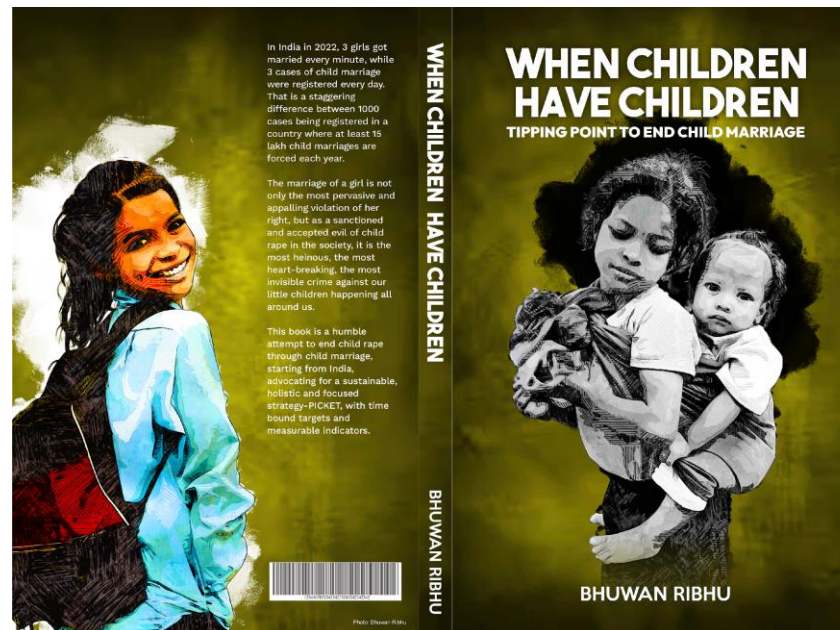
Tipping Point is the threshold required in an ecosystem needed to tilt the scale of the problem towards a point of no-return. The Tipping Point of Child Marriage is the critical point after which the society does not accept child marriage.

### Tipping Point Methodology

The aim of reduction of 60 percent of child marriage is assumed to bring down the incidence of child marriage to **5.5 percent** in the next nine years from 2021, from the last available estimates i.e., NFHS-5, till 2030. An additional assumption is that such a focused and elaborate intervention against child marriage would have a ripple effect.

**In order to reach the Tipping Point, the Author proposes strategy at national and district level.**

- a. **National Level strategy** where Governments, Institutions, statutory bodies, etc. work towards prevention, protection, increased investment, improved prosecution, convergence and use of technology for monitoring
- b. **District Level strategy** is similar to national level strategy but includes district administration, Panchayats, civil society, NGOs, other functionaries, parents and children who work collectively to prevent, report, and take action against child marriage



## **Case Study – Preventing Child Marriage**

### **[EXAMPLE] Entangled in the clutches of child marriage with the promise of love rescued**

Registered and FIR was lodged in the district Case was as such that parents of a minor were forcefully marrying her while she wanted to study therefore the police intervened and stopped the marriage and then Counselling was provided to both parents and the child and the marriage was successfully stopped.

### **Child Trafficking Case**

A minor girl, aged 15, of the village Barali under Mawai PS in Ayodhya district was abducted on 17<sup>th</sup> December, 2023 from a local village fair by a certain Vijai Kumar hailing from her own locality and community. He took her to a certain place and forcibly made her captive and continued assaulting her modesty until she succeeded in freeing herself after a long-drawn struggle of four hours.

The family was in touch with our counsellor, who, somehow, managed to get information and reached to the victim's family. The lady counsellor gave them support and made them to formally file a complaint in the police station.

The FIR thus lodged (GD Ref. 029) invoked three IPC Sections, namely, 363,366 and 354, largely due the efforts of our counsellor.

### **CASE: 2**

Case of a married man committing rape against his cousin sister who was a minor of 10 years old. He abducted her to Barabanki and raped her for 3 days and after that the family members of the girl lodged an FIR against him. His name is Phaggu Lal, charged with Sec 376,363,323 of IPC & 5/6 POCSO act. ST no: 125/2022, Crime no: 310/2023