



बाल विवाह मुक्त भारत CHILD MARRIAGE FREE INDIA

सुरक्षित बचपन, सुरक्षित भारत | SAFE CHILDHOOD, SAFE INDIA

About your Organization

NAVACHAR SANSTHAN 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 Rajasthan. 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 **Bhilwara districts of Rajasthan covering over 150 villages under the project.**

The Campaign Activities included:

- 1. Dev Uthani Ekadashi Campaign** – NAVACHAR SANSTHAN campaign was organized during 01/11/23 to 25/11/23 .dates and conducted events in 87 places. The campaign reached out to 53 religious leaders to pledge to prevent and end child marriage in their villages, districts.
- 2. December Action Month** – NAVACHAR SANSTHAN conducted the action month with the objective of SAFE CHILDHOOD,SAFE INDIA and prevented 22 child marriages, 5 injunction orders and ,10 .FIRs got registered. The campaign was conducted in collaboration with ,AHTU CWC departments and covered by Local media with an outreach of Rajasthan State directly and X .through online.
- 3. 16 October 2023 - Child Marriage Free India Campaign Event** – The campaign event was conducted in Bhilwara District locations .covering 150 villages in collaboration RPF, Rural Development And Panchayti Raj ,Education Department , ICDS departments with notifications issued by All departments. The campaign was organized in Bhilwara districts, 150 village ,with an outreach of 8500 People.

Campaign highlights: During the 16th October campaign, discussions and proposals were given on making child friendly Gram Panchayat in the Gram Sabhas on 2nd October, Under Music for Change, the message of not doing child marriage was given to the society through melodious songs. Under the signature campaign, awareness programs were organized at the railway station in collaboration with RPF. programs in schools on 11th October International Girl Child Day and release of the book When Children Have Children, cultural activities and leadership night by women leaders on 16th October. Raised the flame of child marriage free India in

Campaign

Photos:



Campaign Media Coverage:

smarthalchal.com **स्मार्ट हलचल**

बाल विवाह के खिलाफ मशाल लेकर अलख जगाने उतरीं इससे पीड़ित महिलाएं

स्मार्ट जगाना - बीकानेर

‘ये घर में पढ़ाई का जवाब दिया’ ‘अच्छा की बच्चा का बच्चा किया’ ‘बच्चा बचाने के लिए मैं बच्चा बचाने का काम करूँगी’ 150 वर्ष में अलख जगाने का कार्यक्रम बीकानेर में आयोजित किया गया।

23.8 अक्टूबर को बीकानेर में आयोजित कार्यक्रम में महिलाएं मशालें लेकर अलख जगाने का कार्यक्रम किया।

कार्यक्रम में महिलाओं ने अलख जगाने का कार्यक्रम किया।

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स्मार्ट हलचल

म्यूजिक फॉर चेंज पहल के तहत बाल विवाह के खत्म के लिए सुरीले सुरों को बनाया औजार

कार्यक्रम में महिलाओं ने अलख जगाने का कार्यक्रम किया।

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स्मार्ट हलचल

ध्वन चिल्ड्रेन हैव चिल्ड्रेन, बाल विवाह मुक्त भारत का खाका पेश करने वाली पुस्तक - सुमन दाधीच

कार्यक्रम में महिलाओं ने अलख जगाने का कार्यक्रम किया।

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स्मार्ट हलचल

भीलवाड़ा भास्कर 14-10-2023

बाल विवाह मुक्त अभियान के समर्थन में हस्ताक्षर

कार्यक्रम में महिलाओं ने अलख जगाने का कार्यक्रम किया।

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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 in 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, 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

Tippling Point to end child marriage

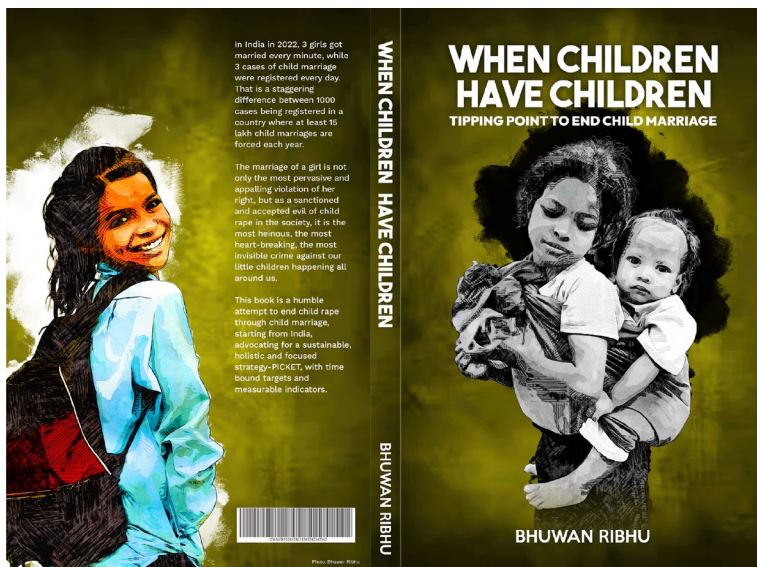
Noted child rights activist, author, Supreme Court lawyer and founder of CMFI campaign, Bhuwan Ribhu has authored a book - **'When Children Have Children: Tipping Point to End Child Marriage'** and put forth a framework advocating a sustainable, holistic and focused strategy with time-bound targets and measurable indicators to make India child marriage free by 2030. This book shows the path to eliminating child marriage in India within the next decade. As suggested by the author in the book, by adopting a systematic, highly focused, and intensive intervention model, over a phased timeline it is possible to reduce the national child marriage prevalence levels to 5.5% —the threshold, the tipping point, beyond which the prevalence is anticipated to diminish organically with reduced reliance on targeted interventions.

Tippling Point Methodology

The aim of reduction of 60% of child marriage (in each of the phases) is assumed to bring down the incidence of child marriage to 5.5% in the next 9 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. The tipping point analysis has been divided into two phases. The first phase will extend over a period of six years, starting in 2021. Subsequently, the second phase will span over a three-year period. It is expected that the national average for child marriage prevalence (percentage women aged 20-24 who were married before 18 years) would decline from 23.3% to 13.7% if the prevalence of child marriage is reduced by 60% in the 257 high-prevalence districts in the first phase followed by a further reduction of 60% in all districts across the country.

In order to reach the Tipping Point, the author has proposed a 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



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.