



Directorate of Students' Welfare

Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University
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GGSIU/DSW/19/22-1454

Dated: 14.10.2022

NOTICE

Subject: Child Marriage Free India- Safe Childhood Safe India Campaign Launch

Kailash Satyarthi Children's Foundation (KSCF) is launching the initiative titled as Child Marriage Free India- Safe Childhood Safe India on 16.10.2022 to make students and citizens aware of the prevention and prohibition of child marriage. A detailed communication received to this effect is attached herewith.

All the students are encouraged to take participation in the event as per the schedule mentioned in the communication.

Vandana
14/10/22
(Dr. Vandana Singh)
Associate Director (DSW)

Copy to: -

1. All Deans / Directors (USS & Affiliated Institutions) for information to circulate amongst the students
2. AR to Hon'ble Vice Chancellor-for kind information of Hon'ble Vice Chancellor
3. AR to Registrar-for kind information of the Registrar
4. In-charge, Server Room with a request to upload on University website for information of all concerned.
5. Guard File

Neeraj Pant
14/10/22
(Neeraj Pant)
Section Officer (SW)

बाल विवाह मुक्त भारत CHILD MARRIAGE FREE INDIA

सुरक्षित बचपन, सुरक्षित भारत | SAFE CHILDHOOD, SAFE INDIA

An Appeal by Shri Kailash Satyarthi

My dear sisters and brothers,

I write to you on the occasion of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, for us to come together to wipe off a social evil in our society. Since we have walked thousands of miles together to put an end to crimes and injustices against children, I have complete faith in you.

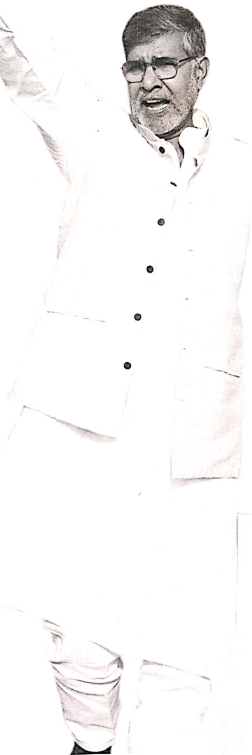
Child marriage is a stigma that needs to be eradicated from its roots. This evil custom has been in practice for centuries and it needs to be abolished from our modern-day lives. This custom is an immoral deed, which to our misfortune, still has social acceptance and it diminishes the essence of childhood innocence in our society. Our young daughters are made to work under servitude as domestic labourers under the guise of child marriage. We see a disheartening reality where our young daughters face grave sexual exploitation in the name of a social custom every other day. Many innocent girls are not even aware that the lively wedding costumes, and lovely designs painted on their hands and alta-coloured feet, are truly like a fire whose smoke will smother them for the rest of their lives and eventually shatter their souls.

When I was younger, there was a lady in my neighborhood. She wore a white sari daily, it was her only clothing to cover her shaven head. She was forbidden from attending any auspicious events in the neighborhood, such as weddings or birthday parties. Even on festivals like Teej which is typically observed by married women, she was forced to stay indoors. People despised her because her husband had passed away. She yearned to hear a few loving words from kids like us. Where are your kids. I once questioned her? She then responded, "Son, I was only eight or nine years old when I got married. Two years older than me, my husband passed away suddenly. Please tell me what was my fault in this?" Even today, I can clearly recall her words, the agony on her face, and the expressionless look in her eyes. A few years later, when I travelled to Mathura and Vrindavan, I witnessed innumerable mothers and sisters who were in poor shape and were merely waiting in silence for the end of their lives.

A few years ago, a young 16-17-year-old girl had been enticed from Assam and married off to a man who was not only three times her age but also of unsound mind. Eventually, she was rescued by us from a village in Haryana. The man had maintained her as his wife, as did his older brother. She served as a maid for the rest of the family all day long. We rescued her

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KAILASH SATYARTHI CHILDREN'S FOUNDATION



and set her free. She told me after being rescued, "My father is very poor and disabled. I didn't want to burden him. I was brought to Delhi by a man under the pretence of marriage. He did, however, sell me for 20,000 rupees. How will I show my face to my father when I go home?"

We managed to convince her and she eventually returned home with her brother. But under these circumstances, a lot of these girls even turn to suicide as an ultimate decision. Under the guise of marriage, trafficking forces a lot of girls into prostitution. Our organization has prevented numerous girls in South India from being trafficked by affluent Sheikhs from overseas under the pretence of performing nikah.

Only last week, our activists rescued a 14-year-old girl from Jaipur. In December last year, a friend of her mother had taken Rs 3 lakh from a man from Dholpur district in exchange for marriage to the girl. After being rescued, she said, "At my in-laws' house, throughout the day I was made to work like a slave. For the slightest mistake, I was beaten up badly. My husband sexually assaulted me several times, when I didn't conceive, I was subjected to various kinds of mental torture."

Friends, by attaining independence with significant sacrifices and renunciations, our forebearers propelled India to the forefront of the world in many fields in the past 75 years. They contributed to everything we are today. But many of their aspirations and works remain unfulfilled. Who will carry them out if not us?

For the past 42 years, we have fought against slavery and child labour to fulfil the aspirations of our martyrs, who sacrificed their lives fighting for independence. After decades of struggle, we were able to win children's Right to Education; this was our modest homage to the creators of our Constitution. We were aware that sexual exploitation and abuse of young children were on the rise. We started the "Safe Childhood - Safe India" campaign in response to this. This campaign attracted everybody's attention and as a result, grew in importance. As the country's population became more informed, several rules and stringent laws were implemented. The activism of the judiciary increased. It was an effort to uphold morality and character in society. The major concern right now is child abuse, harassment, and exploitation of children - all of which had decreased in the last few years but as a result of COVID19, it seems to have reversed and risen at an alarming rate. Child marriage is one of them. Our youth workers have prevented numerous child marriages in many villages over the past two and a half years.

Child marriage is prohibited by law in our country. Even after marriage, physical contact with a minor and child sexual assault are crimes that carry harsh punishments. In addition, many state governments have introduced favourable social security programmes for girls, allowing them to delay marriage until they are of legal age. In spite of this, 23 out of 100 girls marry before turning 18 years old.

My friends, whose children are these? They are Mother India's children. These are our daughters, our sisters. We also have a duty to ensure their safety, good health, and bright future.

The fact that so many of our daughters are not ready to endure this injustice is a source of pride and inspiration for us. They have armed themselves against it. They are protesting it by raising their voice. They are fighting against their parents, relatives and communities by not only opposing their marriage themselves but also supporting other girls. There are many such brave girls among them who have even reported their father and brothers to the authorities for forcing them into marriage. They are dismantling the long-standing web of misogynistic traditions, shame, and the dread of society and claiming their rights. Among them is Payal of Hansla village in Rajasthan, Neemdi's Tara Banjara, Kajal, Radha, Deepika, and Rajkumari from Jharkhand, as well as scores of other daughters who have made their villages example of social progress. I applaud their courage.

No matter how motivating these instances are, they cannot entirely eradicate this evil and criminality. Along with societal consciousness and awareness, fear of the law and widespread legal action is also required to end this evil. We have therefore made the decision to start a national campaign against child marriage. The campaign aims to reduce the country's statistics on child marriage from the current 23% to 10% by the end of 2025. It should be the biggest, most comprehensive, and most effective campaign in the history of the world.

Our hope is for one crore people across the nation to take part and support our campaign against child marriage. This effort will be promoted by thousands of our activists as well as social organizations, youth and women's groups, panch-sarpanches of village panchayats, local authorities, religious leaders, educators, child protection committees and institutions. The campaign will be flagged off on the historic evening of October 16, 2022. On that day, 50,000 women and girls in 10,000 villages will pledge to eradicate the shame associated with child marriage. They will make this pledge with torches, candles, or earthen lamps in their hands.

My sisters and brothers, visualize this moment when millions of people from thousands of towns around the nation walk side by side, step by step, carrying a flame of light in their hands and a fire burning inside their hearts. On that evening of October 16, one sun would be setting in the sky, but the other sun would be rising from the soil of India.

Remember, people who sit in the audience gallery to clap or to criticize, don't make history. The makers of history are those who jump into the ring with courage. Today, I call upon you to become a creator, to witness this golden chapter being written in the history of India.

Never forget that history isn't made by spectators. History is created by those who bravely enter the fray. As this glorious chapter in India's history is being written, I urge you to participate in its creation rather than simply observe it.

Your friend,



Kailash Satyarthi

बाल विवाह मुक्त भारत CHILD MARRIAGE FREE INDIA

सुरक्षित बचपन, सुरक्षित भारत | SAFE CHILDHOOD, SAFE INDIA

**"In the age to study, grow and shine,
child marriage is a crime"**

- Nobel Peace Laureate Kailash Satyarthi

Child Marriage is a crime which is rooted in gender inequality and has strong linkages to sexual abuse, trafficking, child labour, including health hazards etc. It denies girls their rights, choice, participation and undermines numerous development priorities hindering progress towards a more equal, healthy and prosperous world.

Child marriage is an age-old social evil, which is prevalent in our society since times immemorial. It has no barriers of caste, culture or religion. India is home to the largest number of child brides in the world with girls as young as 8 years old are married off to men much older to them. The Covid 19 pandemic further exacerbated the problem with increased instances of adolescent girls being married off.

Child marriage brings an abrupt end to a girl's childhood on one hand and threatens her health on the other, it triggers the vicious cycle of inter-generational poor

health, thus affecting the economic development of the country.

In the year 2017, Bharat Yatra, a Pan-India march was called by Kailash Satyarthi Children's Foundation (KSCF) under the leadership of the Nobel Peace Laureate Kailash Satyarthi on the issue of ending sexual violence against children. The March aimed to bring about institutional, legal and policy changes for prevention of exploitation of children and ensuring time bound justice for the child victims of crime. While there has been substantial change in laws, policies, implementations post Bharat Yatra, yet the fight against violence against children continues, as the age old crime of child marriage is still posing a threat and needs to be addressed at all level for creating a safe childhood.

WHY CHILD MARRIAGE FREE INDIA - SAFE CHILDHOOD SAFE INDIA NOW?

Child Marriage is an age old social evil which needs urgent attention by the stakeholders including decision-makers, youth, civil society, media and the citizens of the country. Now is the time to act and come together to eradicate this offence and prevent children to falling prey to this crime.

Kailash Satyarthi Children's Foundation (KSCF), founded by the Nobel Peace Laureate Kailash Satyarthi will launch a Pan-India campaign on creating Child Marriage Free India. The campaign will be covering 5,000 villages and engaging more than 10 million citizens across the country to spread the message on prevention and prohibition of child marriage. The primary objective of the campaign is to reduce child marriages by 10% from the current level of 23.3% by end of the campaign in 2025.

Social Awareness through Marches has been a successful strategy of KSCF in addressing issues and through the awareness campaigns have managed to highlight the issue of violence against children to the fore front.

CHILD MARRIAGE STATUS IN INDIA

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. Today, every fourth woman surveyed in the age group of 20 to 24 was married before they turned 18.

As per the Census of India in 2011, 51,57,863 girls were found married before attainment of the legal age of marriage which constitutes 2.4 percent of the total minor girls (Below 18 Years) in the country.



THE GOAL

To create a Child Marriage Free India

THE OBJECTIVES

- Decrease in child marriage instances from 23.3% (NFHS 5) to 10% by 2025 through the sustained engagement of women and community leaders in the villages
- Strengthened community and village level institutions (Sarpanch, religious leaders, local authorities) for creating Child Marriage Free India
- 50,000 women leaders sensitised and equipped to work on the prevention of child marriage
- Prevention through immediate reporting and legal action in cases of child marriage

STRATEGY TO ADDRESS CHILD MARRIAGE WITH SUSTAINED ACTION

- Women leadership and community participation from the villages
- Bring focus on girls' health and nutrition
- Developing local leadership through children, women and youth groups
- Legal action against child marriage
- SDG Target 5.3: Eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation

THE IMPACT

Child Marriage Free India initiative with its pan India outreach and sustained engagement with panchayat and women leaders will help decrease child marriage instances from 23.3% in 2019-21 (NFHS 5) to 10% by 2025

THE OUTCOME

1. 50,000 women leader's active participation to end child marriage
2. 30 million girls at high risk of getting married before the legal age to be protected from the social evil by sensitizing the family members and strengthening the intitutional framework.
3. Increase in number of registered child marriage cases by 300%
4. 50,000 Panchayats sensitized to work towards eliminating child marriage in their villages.
5. 50 million girls to get free and compulsory education up to 18 years of age
6. Strong monitoring mechanism institutionalized at the district level

STAKEHOLDERS

- Aanganwadi Sevika
- Asha worker
- Women Self-help Groups
- Health care workers
- Sarpanch/Mukhiya
- Survivors
- Teachers
- Representatives of School Management Committee
- Village Ward members
- Para-legal volunteers
- Child protection committees
- Community members
- Representatives of Bal Sansad /children/youth group
- Block Development Officer
- NGOs

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KARLASHI SATYARTHI CHILDREN'S FOUNDATION

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To report, call the complaint cell number 1800 102 7222

बाल विवाह मुक्त भारत CHILD MARRIAGE FREE INDIA

सुरक्षित बचपन, सुरक्षित भारत | SAFE CHILDHOOD, SAFE INDIA

16 अक्टूबर 2022 | समय - शाम 5 बजे

"बाल-विवाह मुक्त भारत" अभियान का उद्देश्य देश में ऐसे समाज का निर्माण करना है जहाँ बाल-विवाह को सिर्फ एक सामाजिक कुरीति के रूप में नहीं देखा जाये बल्कि, इसे कानूनन अपराध माना जाए। हमारा उद्देश्य है कि सम्पूर्ण भारतीय समाज बाल-विवाह जैसे अपराध के खिलाफ संगठित रूप से खड़ा हो, जहाँ कहीं भी बाल-विवाह हो उसके ज़िम्मेदार लोगों पर कानूनी कार्यवाही हो। प्रत्येक बच्चे को ऐसा जीवन जीने को मिले जिसमें वह एक स्वस्थ समाज में रहकर अच्छी शिक्षा, अच्छे स्वास्थ्य के साथ बेहतर समाज का नागरिक बने।

हमें क्या करना है?



अपने गांव, टोला, मोहल्ला में
मोमबत्ती/दीया जलाएं



साथ में अभियान का गीत गाते
हुए बैनर/प्लेकार्ड्स लेकर चलें

बाल विवाह मुक्त भारत
CHILD MARRIAGE FREE INDIA

शपथ-पत्र

आज हम सब एक संकल्प लेते हैं
कि; हम बाल विवाह नहीं करेंगे
व हम ऐसे किसी आयोजन में
शामिल नहीं होंगे,

जहाँ बाल विवाह हो रहा हो
और हम यह प्रण करते हैं
कि इसकी रोकथाम के लिए
हर संभव प्रयास करेंगे,
जिससे हर बच्चा सुरक्षित,
मुक्त और शिक्षित हो सके

अगर ऐसे कोई भी जानबूझी विपत्ती है
तो हम अपने प्रुतिपा/परंपरा
व मुक्ति को भुंजित करेंगे

आवश्यक सामग्री



6x4 का बैनर



तख्ते पर
हस्तलिखित संदेश



मोमबत्ती/दीया/
मशाल/मोबाइल टॉर्च

कार्यक्रम में किसको जोड़ना है ?

महिला लीडर (स्कूल टीचर,
आशा वर्कर, आंगनवाड़ी
कार्यकर्ता, आदि)

मुखिया/सरपंच/
ग्राम प्रधान

पंचायत प्रतिनिधि

ग्रामवासी

अपने गांव को पूरे देश से जोड़े

यह अभियान पूरे भारतवर्ष में हो रहा है

आप कार्यक्रम का फोटो और वीडियो इस नंबर 9205128697 पर भेजें अथवा
एन.जी.ओ. के साथी इस ईमेल nochildmarriage@satyarthi.org पर फोटो/वीडियो भेजें

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KARLISHI-SATYARTHI CHILDREN'S FOUNDATION

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KSCFIndia KSCFIndia KSCFIndia www.satyarthi.org.in

बच्चों के शोषण के खिलाफ शिकायत के लिए कॉल करें - 1800-102-7222