

# बाल विवाह मुक्त भारत CHILD MARRIAGE FREE INDIA

सुरक्षित बचपन, सुरक्षित भारत | SAFE CHILDHOOD, SAFE INDIA

Child marriage represents not just a deeply entrenched societal ill, but also a grave violation of human rights, particularly of the most vulnerable children. It robs them of their innocence and subjects them to a life of profound suffering, both mentally and physically. Forcing minor girls into marriage inflicts enduring trauma, perpetuating cycles of domestic violence, restricting educational opportunities, and severely compromising their health and well-being.

The consequences of child marriage are far-reaching and devastating. Early pregnancies often result in complications, contributing to alarmingly high rates of maternal mortality and infant deaths. Malnutrition plagues both mother and child, while reproductive health issues further compound their vulnerability. Disrupted education disrupts the path to personal and professional growth, limiting girls' ability to make informed decisions and assert themselves within their households. Moreover, the mental health toll is profound, with enduring psychological scars that can last a lifetime.

The stark reality revealed by India's 2011 Census is staggering, a staggering 12 million children married before reaching legal adulthood, with girls comprising a disproportionate 5.2 million of these cases. Globally, child marriage is recognized as a crime against humanity, warranting urgent action. Its inclusion in the UN Sustainable Development Goals, particularly target 5.3 of Goal 5, underscores the imperative to eliminate this scourge by 2025.

Despite efforts to curb its prevalence, the latest National Family Health Survey (2019-21) highlights a persistent challenge. While there has been a slight reduction in overall rates from NFHS 4 to NFHS-5, with rates declining from 26.8% to 23.3%, the numbers remain unacceptably high. This underscores the urgency of bolstering existing laws, programs, and schemes aimed at combating child marriage and safeguarding the rights of every child.

## **About Samvad Samajik Sansthan :**

Samvad Samajik Sansthan, popularly known as Samvad, is an organization committed to bring about social change through effective communication with the community to enhance the level of participation, in development, by organizing them to realize their rights.

Samvad was formed by a group of development workers and was established in 1998 (registered as a society under the Societies Registration Act, 1860).

The organization participated and organized Child Marriage Free India Campaign in the various districts of **Uttar Pradesh Lucknow, Barabanki, Pratapgarh, Unnao.**

## Initiatives Undertaken in the Campaign:

The Child Marriage Free India Campaign progressed through several phases-

- Commencing with the release of an inspirational song **“Har gaon se utho, Har sheher se utho”** on **October 2, 2023**. This anthem aimed to galvanize citizens nationwide, urging them to join the movement to eradicate child marriage in India. With its resonant message, the song resonated across the length and breadth of the nation, rallying people from every corner to actively engage in the campaign and drive meaningful change.
- On **October 8, 2023**, NDTV channel aired an interview featuring the renowned activist, advocate, and author **Bhuvan Ribhu**. During this insightful conversation, Bhuvan Ribhu shed light on the Child Marriage Free India Campaign, elucidating various dimensions of the issue of child marriage prevalent in India. Through the medium of television, Bhuvan Ribhu passionately appealed to viewers, urging them to join the campaign and collectively work towards liberating the nation from the scourge of child marriage.
- Continuing the momentum of the Child Marriage Free India campaign, activist Bhuvan Ribhu's book **"When Children Have Children"** was launched on **October 11, 2023**. The book release event, facilitated through Samvad, was held across various districts of Uttar Pradesh including Lucknow, Barabanki, Pratapgarh, and Unnao. This widespread distribution aimed to amplify awareness and engagement with the campaign, reaching communities at the grassroots level and fostering meaningful discussions on combating child marriage.





- On **October 16, 2023**, a significant milestone was reached as individuals from all across the nation united in support of the **Child Marriage Free India Campaign**. Across communities and schools, rallies, candlelight marches, and meetings were orchestrated with a singular aim to eradicate child marriage from the fabric of Indian society. Concurrently, a solemn oath was administered, underscoring the collective commitment to this cause. The success of this campaign within its intervention area can be credited to the dedicated efforts of Samvad Samaj Sansthan, whose strategic initiatives played a pivotal role in driving meaningful change and fostering a future free from the scourge of child marriage.





Campaign media coverage:

# दैनिक जागर

## 'द्वेन चिल्ड्रेन हेव चिल्ड्रेन' का विमोचन



वर्तमान में दुनिया पर विवाह करने (द्वार में पार) अभिव्यक्ति प्रयोग करणया पुनीत मिश्र का नया पुस्तक 'द्वेन चिल्ड्रेन हेव चिल्ड्रेन' का विमोचन किया।

जयपुर, 12 अक्टूबर 2023

जयपुर, 12 अक्टूबर 2023: अंतरराष्ट्रीय बालिका दिवस पर बुधवार को लखनऊ में 'द्वेन चिल्ड्रेन हेव चिल्ड्रेन' (द्वेन चिल्ड्रेन हेव चिल्ड्रेन) नाम का पुस्तक का विमोचन किया गया। पुस्तक के विमोचन के अवसर पर अंतरराष्ट्रीय बालिका दिवस पर बुधवार को लखनऊ में 'द्वेन चिल्ड्रेन हेव चिल्ड्रेन' नाम का पुस्तक का विमोचन किया गया। पुस्तक के विमोचन के अवसर पर अंतरराष्ट्रीय बालिका दिवस पर बुधवार को लखनऊ में 'द्वेन चिल्ड्रेन हेव चिल्ड्रेन' नाम का पुस्तक का विमोचन किया गया।

अखबार का नाम: **अमृत विचार**

एक सम्पूर्ण अखबार

वर्ष 33, अंक 255, पृष्ठ 16, मूल्य: 5 रुपये

लखनऊ, बुधवार, 12 अक्टूबर 2023

www.amrutvichar.com

### बाल विवाह को रोकना हमारी प्राथमिकता : पुनीत मिश्र

कार्यालय इलाहाबाद, लखनऊ

अमृत विचार। अंतरराष्ट्रीय बालिका दिवस पर 'द्वेन चिल्ड्रेन हेव चिल्ड्रेन' नाम का पुस्तक का विमोचन किया गया। पुस्तक के विमोचन के अवसर पर अंतरराष्ट्रीय बालिका दिवस पर बुधवार को लखनऊ में 'द्वेन चिल्ड्रेन हेव चिल्ड्रेन' नाम का पुस्तक का विमोचन किया गया। पुस्तक के विमोचन के अवसर पर अंतरराष्ट्रीय बालिका दिवस पर बुधवार को लखनऊ में 'द्वेन चिल्ड्रेन हेव चिल्ड्रेन' नाम का पुस्तक का विमोचन किया गया।

# आज

Online Edition: www.ajhindidaily.com

## अंतरराष्ट्रीय बालिका दिवस पुस्तक 'द्वेन चिल्ड्रेन हेव चिल्ड्रेन' का विमोचन



वर्तमान में दुनिया पर विवाह करने (द्वार में पार) अभिव्यक्ति प्रयोग करणया पुनीत मिश्र का नया पुस्तक 'द्वेन चिल्ड्रेन हेव चिल्ड्रेन' का विमोचन किया।

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## अंतरराष्ट्रीय बालिका दिवस के अवसर पर श्री भुवन रिभु की पुस्तक "द्वेन चिल्ड्रेन हेव चिल्ड्रेन" का विमोचन

Author: Socialist Prayog, Editor: October 11, 2023 11:04 AM



17 अक्टूबर 2023, अंतरराष्ट्रीय बालिका दिवस के अवसर पर संवाद सामाजिक संस्थान द्वारा देश भर में जा रहे बाल विवाह अभियान के प्रतिबद्ध आल अखबार कार्यालयों लेखक, श्री भुवन रिभु द्वारा लिखित पुस्तक 'द्वेन चिल्ड्रेन हेव चिल्ड्रेन' (द्वेन चिल्ड्रेन हेव चिल्ड्रेन) नामक पुस्तक का अनावरण किया गया। भुवन रिभु महिलाओं और बच्चों को दुर्दशा के शिकार करने वाले भारत के सबसे प्रतिष्ठित पत्रिका में रहें हैं। श्री भुवन रिभु संवाद सामाजिक संस्थान के संचालक हैं जो लखनऊ, उत्तर प्रदेश में आस-अधिकारों संस्था और संस्थाओं के लिए काम करता है। यह पुस्तक भारत में बाल विवाह को खत्म करने के लिए है।

# इन्फ्लेन्सिबल नज़र

### पुस्तक 'द्वेन चिल्ड्रेन हेव चिल्ड्रेन' का लोकार्पण

लखनऊ, बुधवार, 12 अक्टूबर 2023

लखनऊ (सी)। बालिका दिवस के तहत संवाद सामाजिक संस्थान की ओर से देश भर में चलाने जा रहे बाल विवाह अभियान के तहत अधिकार कार्यकर्ता भुवन रिभु की पुस्तक 'द्वेन चिल्ड्रेन हेव चिल्ड्रेन' (द्वेन चिल्ड्रेन हेव चिल्ड्रेन) नामक पुस्तक का अनावरण किया गया। पुस्तक के विमोचन के अवसर पर अंतरराष्ट्रीय बालिका दिवस पर बुधवार को लखनऊ में 'द्वेन चिल्ड्रेन हेव चिल्ड्रेन' नाम का पुस्तक का विमोचन किया गया। पुस्तक के विमोचन के अवसर पर अंतरराष्ट्रीय बालिका दिवस पर बुधवार को लखनऊ में 'द्वेन चिल्ड्रेन हेव चिल्ड्रेन' नाम का पुस्तक का विमोचन किया गया।

# पैगाम-ए-दिल

### अंतरराष्ट्रीय बालिका दिवस के अवसर पर भुवन रिभु की पुस्तक 'द्वेन चिल्ड्रेन हेव चिल्ड्रेन' का विमोचन

लखनऊ, बुधवार, 12 अक्टूबर 2023

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## द्वेन चिल्ड्रेन हेव चिल्ड्रेन पुस्तक का विमोचन



PUR अंतरराष्ट्रीय बालिका दिवस के अवसर पर भुवन रिभु द्वारा 'द्वेन चिल्ड्रेन हेव चिल्ड्रेन' नामक पुस्तक का विमोचन बुधवार को डीपी देविय कुमार पाण्डेय ने सिविल लाइन स्थित शाकुन्तला सेंट्रल एकेडमी में बताया कि यह पुस्तक बालकों के जीवन के लिए मिल का पत्र है। इस मीके पर संवाद संस्थान में रजय मिश्रा, धर्मराज विद्यालय के भ्रव-नीश शुक्ला, प्रधानाचार्य विजय शंकर दुबे, अजना श्रीवास्तव, अंज बुरी सिंह, अशोक शुक्ला व चंद्र प्रताप यादव उपस्थित रहे।



## 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 organizations.

**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**



## **Defying Destiny: How Community Action Rescued a Girl from Child Marriage in Nindura Barabanki**

In the heart of Nindura Barabanki, a battle against an age-old tradition unfolded, revealing the power of collective action to thwart injustice. This is the story of a 16-year-old girl, whose dreams were almost eclipsed by the looming shadow of child marriage, until a beacon of hope emerged in the form of dedicated activists.

It all began on a brisk November morning in 2023, when a concerned citizen bravely stepped forward, breaking the silence surrounding a planned child marriage. Their anonymous call to Samvad Samajik Sansthan ignited a chain of events that would alter the course of a young girl's life forever.

Ramsagar, a relentless warrior for justice and a beacon of hope from Samvad Samajik Sansthan, answered the call with unwavering determination. Venturing into the heart of Sarsendu village, he confronted the stark reality: a 16-year-old girl, on the cusp of womanhood, forced into the shackles of matrimony by her own father's hand.

Undeterred by the daunting task ahead, Ramsagar embarked on a mission to challenge the status quo. Armed with knowledge and compassion, he stood firm in the face of opposition, resolutely advocating for the girl's right to education and freedom.

Despite initial resistance from the girl's father, Ramsagar's unwavering resolve prevailed. Through tireless persuasion and unwavering commitment, he shattered the barriers of ignorance and tradition, paving the way for a brighter future.

With legal measures and solemn oaths, the family's pledge to renounce child marriage echoed through the village, resonating with newfound clarity and purpose. Two witnesses stood as testament to their solemn vow, symbolizing a community united in its determination to break the cycle of oppression.

As the sun set on Sarsendu village, a triumph of justice and humanity illuminated the horizon. The successful prevention of the child marriage was not just a victory for one girl but a testament to the indomitable spirit of a community united in its resolve to defy destiny.

In the annals of Nindura Barabanki, this tale will endure as a beacon of hope and inspiration, a testament to the transformative power of collective action in the fight against child marriage. And as the echoes of victory fade into the night, they leave behind a legacy of courage, compassion, and unwavering determination to build a Child Marriage-Free India.