

LAAADO

2017-2020

*Leveraging and Advocating for Adolescent
Developmental Opportunities*



LAADO Impact Narrative

2017-2020

Urmul Trust would like to express our deep gratitude to UNICEF, India for the continued support for this programme.



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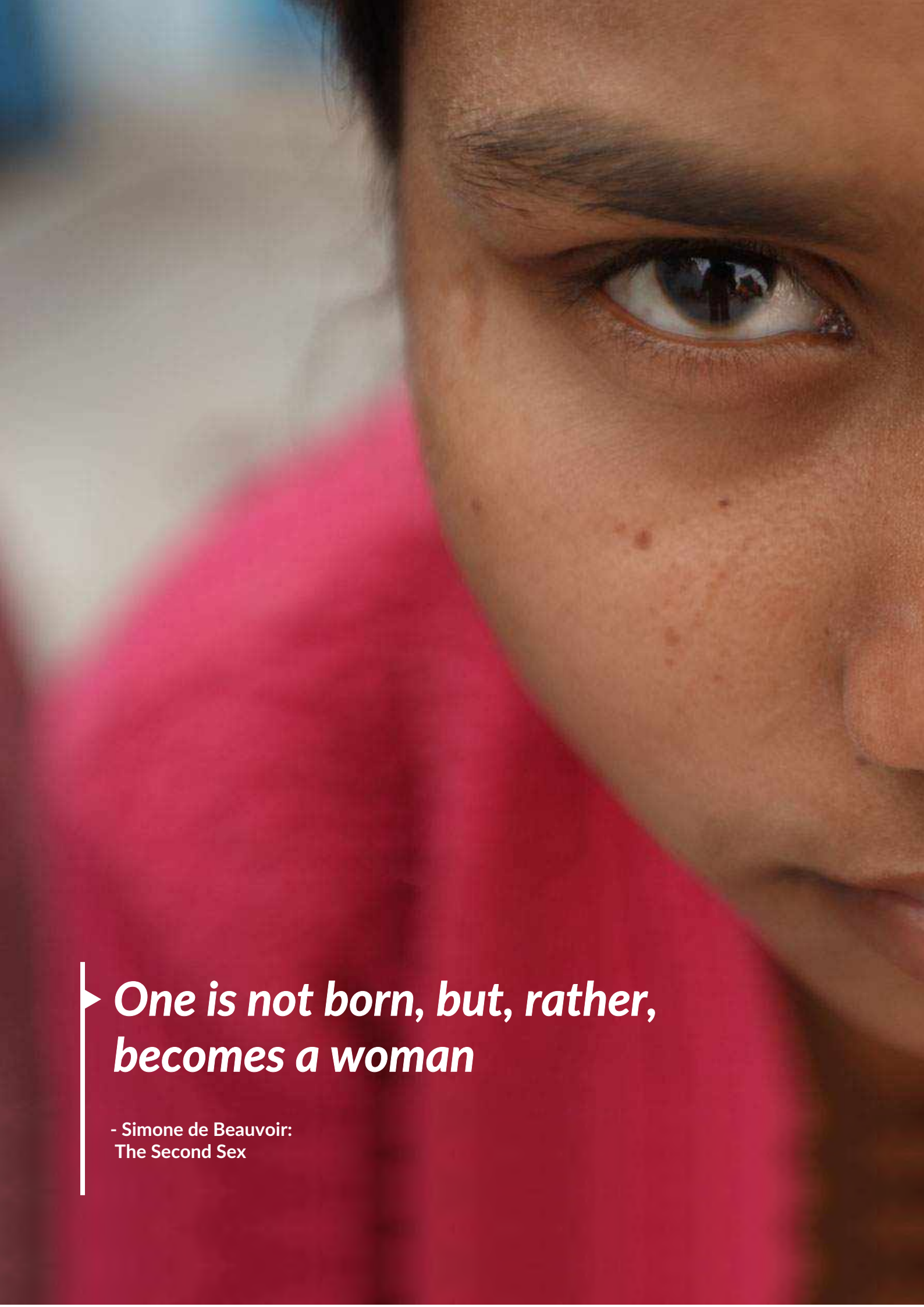
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▶ ***One is not born, but, rather,
becomes a woman***

- Simone de Beauvoir:
The Second Sex



Executive Summary

The Thar Desert boasts of unique geography, history, diverse people, and their culture. Historically, the landscape had to grapple with its challenges. The remoteness and isolation have resulted in its peripheral development of communities. The people have not been able to fully reap the benefits of modern India's growth story. The western region of Rajasthan fares poorly in all the Human Development indicators. However, these struggles and challenges should be looked at as opportunities that remain untapped and could be addressed through focused efforts. Through these harsh conditions, the land, life, and living of the desert remain invincible.

For decades, the practice of child marriage has ravaged childhoods and deprived young children of leading dignified lives. This practice adversely impacts the lives of young brides who are further exposed to sexual, psychological, and emotional violence. UNICEF and Urmul Trust, realising the violation of the well-being of children in the desert districts of Bikaner and Jodhpur, launched efforts under the Leveraging and Advocating for Adolescent Developmental Opportunities (LAADO) programme to effectively combat child marriage. Multi-pronged efforts in the programme focused on empowering adolescents, enhancing awareness levels of the community, and leveraging the support of state institutions to curb this practice.

This report captures the stories and impact of Urmul's work on preventing child marriages by empowering adolescents of the Thar Desert in western Rajasthan. This is an attempt to collate the experiences and challenges along this journey of collaboration, courage, and hope.

“Through the encouragement of the LAADO programme team, I began discussing with people in our village on how dangerous child marriage is for us.”

I have five sisters. My family is engaged in farming. My eldest sister was only allowed to continue her education till the eighth grade. She was forced to look after us and tend to other household chores. Back then I was in third grade and I did not understand the gravity of her abandoning her education for the sake of her family. Then when I was in fifth grade, Saraswati, a close friend of mine stopped coming to school and her parents made her help them in the farms. I discouraged her from giving up schooling and even I tried talking to her family to reverse their decision. But, they did not pay heed to my advice and I decided to stop speaking with her. I keep wondering what if when I was little I could have mustered the sense and the courage to convince my parents to not force my eldest sister to discontinue her education. Through the encouragement of the LAADO programme team, I began discussing with people in our village on how dangerous child marriage is for us. Recently, I helped a friend delay her wedding till the time she at least turned 18 years old.

Kavita Sharma
Thukuriyasar,
Sri Dungargarh district



Future of Rajasthan's Adolescents In Jeopardy

Adolescence, defined by the United Nations as the period between the ages of 10-19 years, ushers in the transition from childhood to adulthood – a period when many critical factors influence the foundations for adulthood. Rajasthan is home to 15.69 million people. Adolescents make up more than one-fourth of the state's population. However, there are enormous gaps in education, skills, freedom from violence, and opportunities to lead dignified lives. Most young people continue to be deprived of their basic rights and are exposed to exploitative conditions. On top of that, despite representing a large proportion of the population, adolescents are widely excluded from decisions that affect them and have poor access to information on issues affecting their lives. By further limiting the opportunities to acquire and share knowledge, they find it difficult to contribute as an informed citizenry.

Adolescence can be especially difficult for a variety of socio-economic, emotional, physical, cultural, religious, and psychological factors that are unique to adolescents in Rajasthan. This can have serious impacts on their physical health, education, social standing, and mental well-being. The failure to recognize and uphold their rights can occur at the peer, family, community, and government levels.

In Indian society, girls and boys experience adolescence differently. While boys tend to experience greater freedom, girls tend to face extensive limitations on their ability to move freely and to make decisions affecting their work, education, marriage, and social relationships.

With the prevalence of gender-discriminatory social norms and practices in the region, girls become exposed to the possibility of child marriage, teenage pregnancy, child domestic work, poor education and health, sexual abuse and exploitation, and violence.

There is a perceived lack of alternatives to marriage for a girl child. The ultimate goal of her life is still held to be marriage and



'reconciliation to her original home', i.e. of the in-laws. She is deprived of the means to fully develop her capabilities.

It is now more than ever important to invest in the growth of these adolescents because:

- Investment in adolescents can contribute towards a demographic dividend;
- Adolescence is a time when gendered roles emerge and are either consolidated

or challenged and transformed;

- Adolescence is considered as an opportunity to break intergenerational cycles of poverty by investing in skill development of adolescents;
- Investments in adolescent health and wellbeing bring a triple dividend of benefits for the adolescents themselves, into future adult life and the next generation of children.



Girls playfully enacting the wedding ceremony in an awareness meeting against the practice of child marriage in Bikaner district





Child marriage Snatching Away Childhoods

Child marriage is a complex issue with a myriad of implications from both the gender and the child rights perspectives. The latest National Census estimates nearly 17 million children in the age group of 10-19 years to be married. The Prohibition of Child Marriage Act introduced in 2006 defined child marriage as marriage in which either the girl or the boy is underage, i.e., the girl is under 18 years of age or the boy is younger than 21 years.

Child Marriage denies a child the basic rights to education, good health, and nutrition. Different studies have indicated that early marriage makes girls more vulnerable to sexual abuse, violence, and exploitation. For both girls and boys, marriage has a strong, physical, intellectual, psychological, and emotional impact, cutting off educational opportunities and chances of personal growth.

The impact of child marriage is adverse for both the sexes but it has been noted that its consequences are much more stark for girls as compared to boys. It curtails the freedom of choices and opportunities about their life. The reasons behind child marriage in India vary by region, caste, and tribe and require specific contextual analysis. Across the state, culturally and socially, the low value attached to daughters plays a significant role in this appalling practice.

Rajasthan's Struggle With Child Marriage

Rajasthan has been identified as a high prevalence state concerning the issue of child marriage. The practice of child marriage exists across the state with a large number of girls marrying below the legal age of 18 years. According to the Census 2011, Rajasthan has 32 percent of girls married under the age of 18 yrs in comparison to the national average of 17 percent. The different causes of child marriage are interlaced with each other.

1. Lack of access to decent schooling

Child marriage is strongly correlated with low levels of education as girls with a secondary school education or higher are much less likely to marry early than those with primary education or less. It has been noted that parents who believed that there is a lack of safe and affordable access to schools would discourage their girls to continue their secondary education and get them married away. Child marriage could be seen both as a cause and a consequence of the lack of adequate secondary schooling facilities within a reasonable distance and with adequate infrastructure.

2. Socially accepted practice

Widely accepted and sanctioned social norms encourage the practice of child marriage in Rajasthan. It is a common practice to get children married on auspicious days such as *Akshay Tritiya* /*Aakha Teej*, *Mahashivrathiri*, and *Peepal puniyo*. Even during *mrityu bhoj/mausar* (death feast organised when a family

member dies) there is pressure to link one wedding to another event. During these occasions, children often below the age of 18 years are forced to get married. Even the practice of *Atta-satta* that refers to one set of brothers and sisters being married to another set of brothers and sisters is another social practice that encourages child marriages. Although, there are stringent laws in place to curb child marriage it has been widely noted that the existence of laws does not play a major role in combating widely prevalent and acceptable social practices.

3. Poverty and other economic considerations

There is a strong correlation between poverty and child marriage as girls from the poorest households are much more likely to marry early than those from the richest families. However, in areas with child marriage rates of 50% and more, girls marry early regardless of their economic statuses. In certain areas, the prevalence of child marriage is determined by the high demand for labor and high female work participation.

4. Political patronage weakens enforcement

Politicians find it difficult to oppose the practice of child marriage as it may mean losing voter support. It makes strict law enforcement against child marriage difficult. The powerful members of the communities advocating in favor of practicing child marriage are numerically strong and often

well organized in groups such as caste panchayats and other similar bodies. The case of Bhanwari Devi, a grassroots worker who was raped because she tried to stop a child marriage is still fresh in the minds of frontline workers. Weak enforcement emboldens such groups to sustain these regressive practices.

5. Gender norms and prescriptions

Gender norms have emerged as the root cause of child marriage wherein it is believed that girls and women have an inferior position in society. These prescriptions are driven by regressive notions around virtue, family honor, fertility, preference for boys, arranged marriage, and caste endogamy. The girls are often referred to as *paraya dhan* which translates to someone else's property and it is considered that they belong to their husband's family and their main responsibility is to bear children.

It could be argued that the underlying reasons are being gradually addressed. But, we must beware that the change is not too gradual and snatches away the childhood of millions of girls across generations. To launch efforts in the two districts that remain severely impacted with the problem

of child marriage and violation of rights of children are the factors that led to the launching efforts under LAADO programme.

"I was selected to participate in the Rajasthan state-wide meet in Jhunjhunu district."

I come from a very humble background. I have three siblings. My father is a farmer and my mother takes care of the family. Since my childhood, I have been very excited about playing sports. It was only through the kishori groups that the LAADO team formed that I was able to go back to playing sports. Initially, there was strong opposition from my family. However, I was blessed with such a good support system of the girls from my kishori group. They visited my home and convinced my parents to let me continue with sports. I started taking part in 200 meters of track races. I was selected to participate in the Rajasthan state-wide meet in Jhunjhunu district. My parents were glad that I did them proud. Now, they no longer worry about my passion for sports and encourage me to train well to represent my state at the Nationals.

Mira Nayak
Adsar block, Sri Dungargarh district



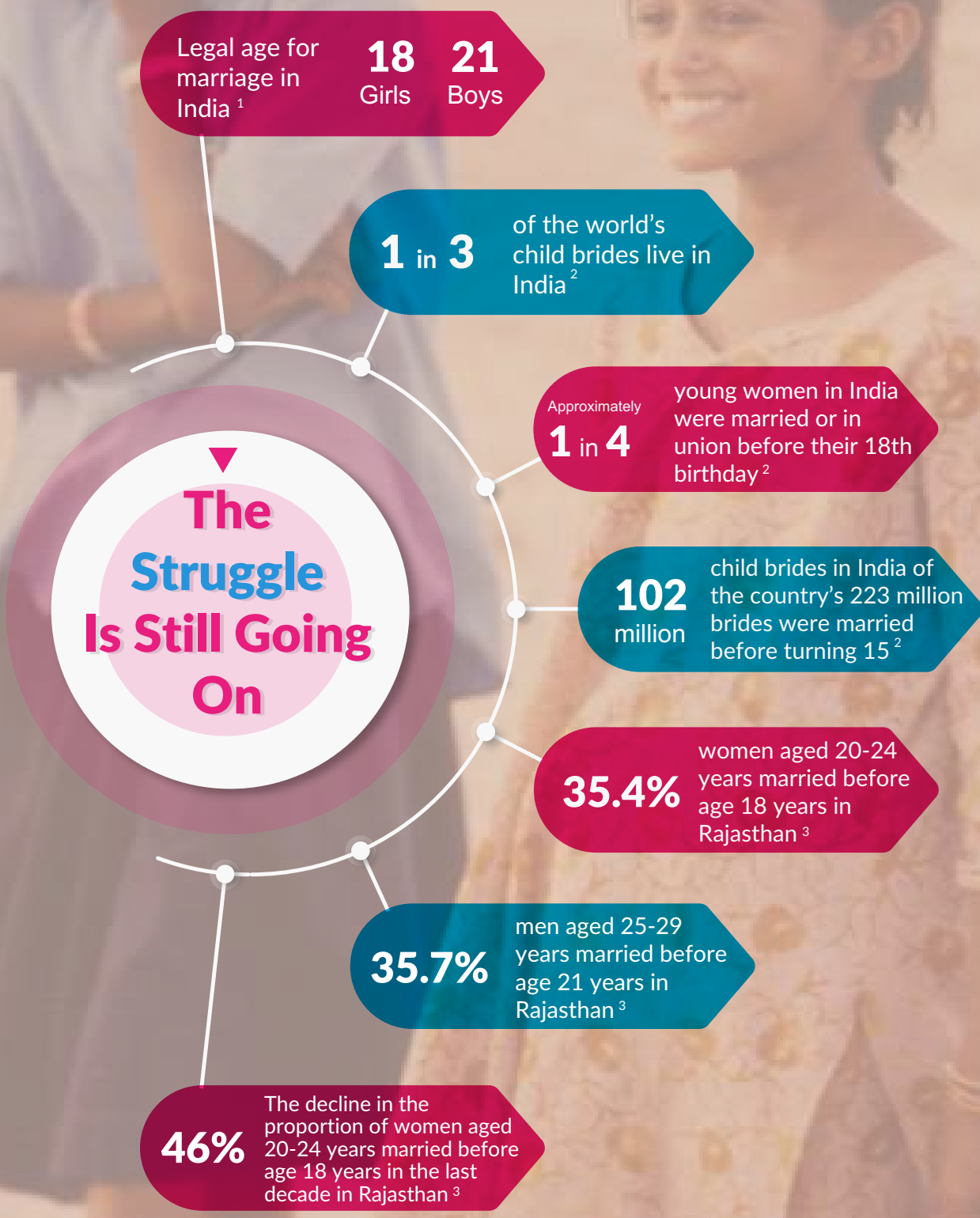
Sanjay Nirala, Child Protection Officer, UNICEF engaging in a discussion with adolescents in Jaisalsar village, Bikaner district

Theory of Change

Through using a multidisciplinary approach, preventing child marriage by empowering adolescents to act for their wellbeing and lead dignified lives in western Rajasthan.







1. Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, Sect 2 (a), 2006

2. Ending Child Marriage in India, UNICEF and UNFPA 2016

3. National Family Health Survey 4, State Fact Sheet Rajasthan 2015-16

Ending Child Marriage is critical to achieving half of the Sustainable Development Goals



Child marriage is a core development and human rights issue that hinders the adolescents especially girls in accessing opportunities. The progress on its elimination could only be accelerated by

adopting a holistic approach towards combating it. The drivers and effects of child marriage could be addressed by adopting an approach that responds to the priorities set in the Sustainable Development Goals.



Target 5.3 aims to “eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage” by 2030. This remains an important tool to drive action, hold governments accountable for their commitments, and track progress on ending child marriage globally.

Inception of LAADO

The growing proportion of youth in Rajasthan represents an immense opportunity for early investment in their future and in the overall development of the state. The social, cultural, and economic disparities in the opportunities for children in the state pose a significant barrier to their future. LAADO aims to

empower the youth by developing their capabilities and enhancing their awareness levels, sensitizing the communities about ensuring the rights of the adolescents, and working with local institutions so that the adolescents receive the necessary support under the child protection schemes.

▶ Using multidisciplinary strategies

Our long experience of three decades in working with desert communities on issues of education and healthcare delivery made us realise that all the societal issues are

interwoven with each other. To effectively address any single societal problem, multi-pronged efforts would have to be launched. Even in our efforts to prevent child



Girls busy playing handball in Plana village, Bikaner district



Kishori group members engaged in a discussion in Lohawat village, Jodhpur district

marriage in the region, we were aware that this issue is mired with another set of challenges around poverty, social hierarchy, and poor delivery of services.

At the outset of launching interventions under LAADO we had decided that our

efforts would combat the issue of child marriage by using multidisciplinary strategies and approaches. To lead our efforts to fruition, we ensured that all these relevant stakeholders were included in strategizing, implementing, and evaluating our endeavors.

► Our principles

Under LAADO, our key drivers of change towards creating an environment that does not support and tolerate child marriage were motivated by these principles:



Empowering adolescent girls and boys to become agents of change for themselves and communities. This would ensure they possess the information, skills, and support networks to express and make choices regarding their lives.



Strengthening information management systems by applying new technology for data and evidence to inform program design, track progress and document lessons.



Advocating for state legal and policy frameworks that protect the rights of adolescents with various partners.



Capacitating relevant service delivery professionals to scale up quality and effectively meet the needs of adolescent girls.



Creating a protective environment wherein parents and communities demonstrate positive attitudes and behaviors toward investing in and supporting girls and boys.

▶ Coming together for our adolescents

The efforts to prevent child marriage can never be effective if they are carried out in silos. The spirit of LAADO was defined by our conviction that only through

collaboration and partnership can we effectively address the missing links in the welfare of our adolescents.

Stakeholder	Role
Core Actors And Delivery Organizations	
Childline	Childline 1098 is a phone number that spells hope for millions of children across India. It is a 24-hour a day, 365 days a year, free, emergency phone service for children in need of aid and assistance. The children, through the programme activities, were constantly apprised of this helpline and how it offers care and protection.
Child Rights Club	As per the guidelines under the Integrated Child Protection Scheme, every secondary school must have the Child Rights Club. Children through the programme, were empowered with knowledge on child rights and with skills to assert their rights. Through these clubs, they were given a platform to organise themselves to ensure their rights are enforced and respected.
Adolescents-Boys And Girls	The programme interventions focused on empowering adolescents so that they gain agency to make their own decisions and live a dignified life. They were encouraged to organise themselves in clubs, engage in activities of child protection committees, take part in sports, and enhance their skills.
Youth Groups	Through the programme interventions, young people were empowered to become agents of change in their communities and carry the baton of mobilising the members against the practice of child marriage effectively.
Parents And Other Community Members	The parents and communities are primarily responsible for ensuring the well-being of the children. The team continuously worked to positively change their attitude towards adolescent girls and ensure they invest in the wellbeing of the girls.
School Administration-Principals, Teachers, Support Staff, Etc.	The school has the most significant role to ensure that the students enrolled finish their schooling and not get married at a tender age. The project team has been closely working with school administration in enhancing their awareness levels so that they encourage students to continue education and get married only after reaching the legal age.



Image Caption

1. Awareness meeting to prevent the practice of child marriage organized in Shobhasar village
2. Laado team holding an awareness meeting with school teachers in Upni village, Jodhpur district
3. Child rights club Celebration of International girls' day in a school in Jalwali village
4. Leaders from the kishori group attending five-days long residential awareness training in Dungargarh block, Bikaner district
5. Awareness meeting conducted by LAADO team against the practice of child practice organized with the youth from Dungargarh block, Bikaner district
6. Awareness meeting organised by LAADO team against the widespread incidents of child marriage on the occasion of akha teej in Dharmesh village, Bikaner district

Stakeholder	Role
Anganwadi Workers	The Anganwadi workers were involved to help form adolescent groups and enhance awareness around their rights. Since these workers closely worked with the community members, their aid in the programme efforts proved to be crucial.
Sathin	Sathin is the key duty bearer for the prevention of child marriage at the community level. The team worked with sathins to inform and create awareness among adolescents about the consequence of child marriage. The children at risk of child marriage within the community were tracked and counseled with their aid.
Auxiliary Nurse-Midwives	The Project team with the aid of these frontline workers provided training to enhance the capacities of the adolescents on health and related life skills.
PRI (Gram Sabha, Gram Panchayat, Block and District)	<p>Gram panchayat is one of the strongest elected organisation in the Panchayati Raj Institutions and play a key role in preventing child marriage. Through Gram Sabha and Panchayat's support, the community was mobilised in working towards creating child marriage free Gram Panchayats.</p> <p>All the Panchayati Raj Institutions were sensitised to ensure the children get the mandated benefits under varied social protection schemes such as <i>Palanhaar Yojana</i>, etc. They were encouraged to continuously ideate and work towards preventing child marriage in their area.</p>
School Management Committees	School management committees were strengthened to ensure that the community members ensure schools are safe and free from corporal punishment, verbal abuse, discrimination, bullying, and sexual abuse.
Panchayat Level Child Protection Committee	<p>As per the guidelines of the Integrated Child Protection Scheme, all the Panchayats are mandated to have a Panchayat Level Child Protection Committee to monitor the protection issues of children by primarily identifying the vulnerable children and plan for their development and protection.</p> <p>The Child Protection Committees were established as permanent structures to create safer communities and to increase the prospects of safe childhoods. The committees were set-up to create sustainable child protection mechanisms at the community level and to effectively link the children with government child protection structures.</p>

<p>Influencers- Religious Leaders And Community Elders</p>	<p>Although child marriage is not determined by any particular religion but with the majority of the population following a religious belief, the religious leaders do have immense potential to aid in preventing practices such as child marriage. The programme team ensured that they collaborated with the leaders to discourage this practice.</p>
<p>Professionals Providing Services During Weddings- Caterers, Photographers, Tents, Etc.</p>	<p>During a child marriage not only the families organising it are responsible for the practice but professionals who help in organising the wedding are at folly as well. The team ensured that they were well connected with the professionals to prevent child marriages. The network of these professionals has provided timely information to the programme team resulting in saving the lives of many young children.</p>



Image Caption

1. Laado team celebrating Aambasar gram panchayat in Bikaner district being declared as child marriage free

2. Awareness meeting organised by LAADO team against the practice of child marriage with the representatives from different panchayats in Sanwreej Gram Panchyat in Jodhpur district

Stakeholder	Role
Women SHGs	The women in each family are the primary care-givers. Since their interaction with the children is maximum, it became important for the programme team to ensure that they were an active part in these efforts and discussions. To combat child marriage issue in a structured manner, the team continuously collaborated with the women organised in self-help groups.
Media Platforms	The media informs the community about important issues and helps challenge the perception around child marriage and has the potential to hold decision-makers accountable. By leveraging their support, the team ensured that the community gets sensitised that the lives of children are at stake and all of us need to come together to fight it.



बाल विवाह को लेकर जागरूकता कार्यक्रम आयोजित

■ निज संवाददाता
 बीकानेर। ग्राम तेजपुर में उम्मेद डस्ट और युनिसेफ के सहयोग से संचालित लाडा परियोजना के तहत जागरूकता कार्यक्रम का आयोजन किया गया, जिसमें समन्वयक मनीष कुमार जनामल ने बताया कि बाल विवाह मनुष्य जाति के लिए एक अभिशाप है जो आज भी दुनिया के कई कोनों में फल-फूल रहा है। यह जीवन का एक कड़वा सच है कि आज भी छोटे-छोटे बच्चे इस प्रथा की भेंट चढ़े जा रहे हैं। भारत में ही नहीं बल्कि दुनिया के कई हिस्सों में बच्चे बाल-विवाह के बंधन में बांध दिए जाते हैं। भारत में यह प्रथा लम्बे समय से चली आ रही है, जिसके तहत छोटे बच्चों का



बताया कि 0 से 18 वर्ष तक के बच्चों की सेवा करना ही मुख्य उद्देश्य है। बच्चों की शारीरिक, मानसिक, शोषण करना अपराध है। बच्चे यदि कहीं खो गया हो या अन्यत्र बाल मजदूर के रूप में ले गया हो। इसके लिए 1098 में फोन कर शिकायत दर्ज कर सकते हैं। कार्यकर्ता माया

Image Caption

1. Awareness meeting to prevent the practice of child marriage organized in Plana village, Bikaner district

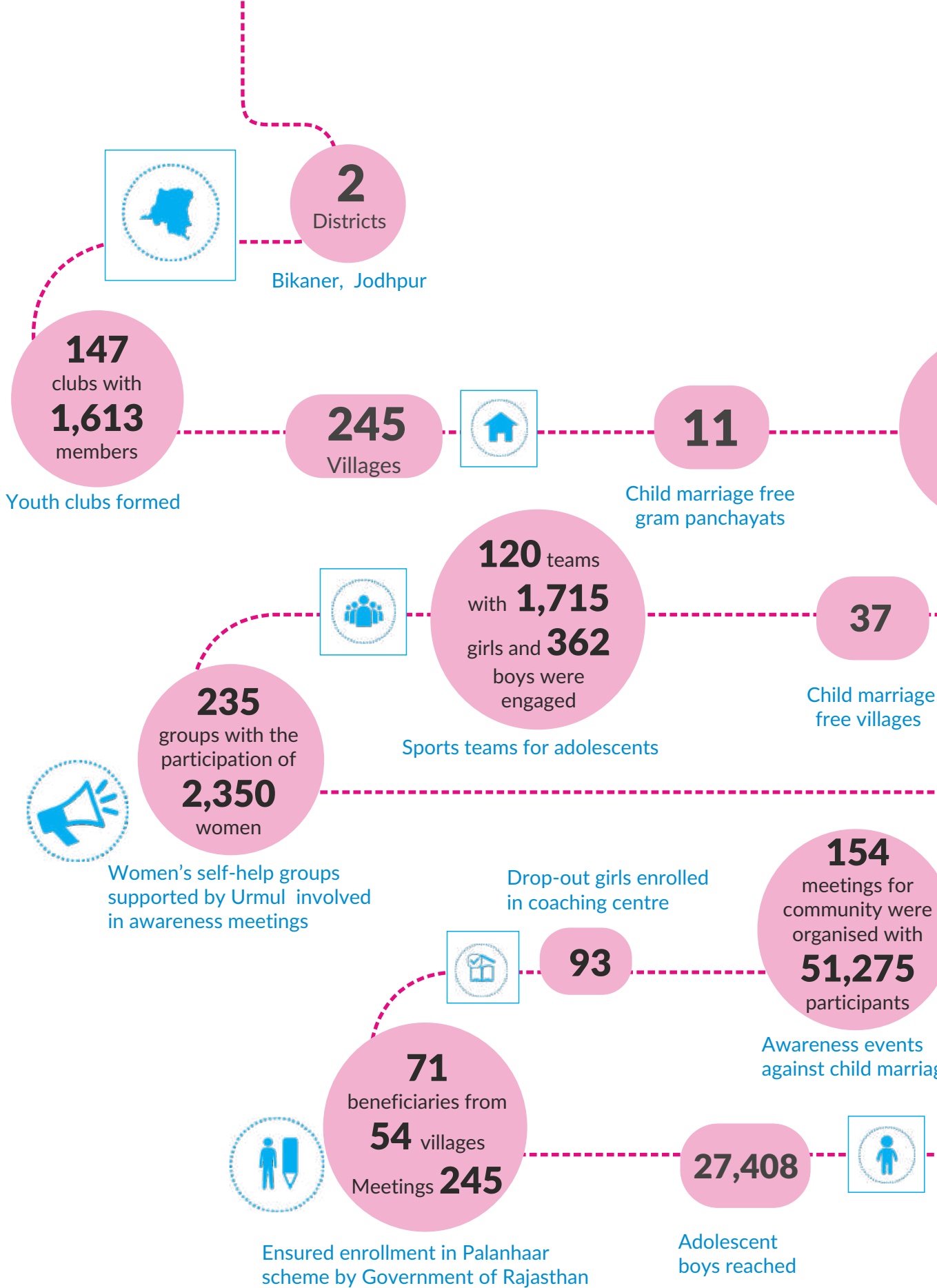
2. With the aid of our media partners we have been sharing updates on our interventions and leveraging their support

► Our interventions

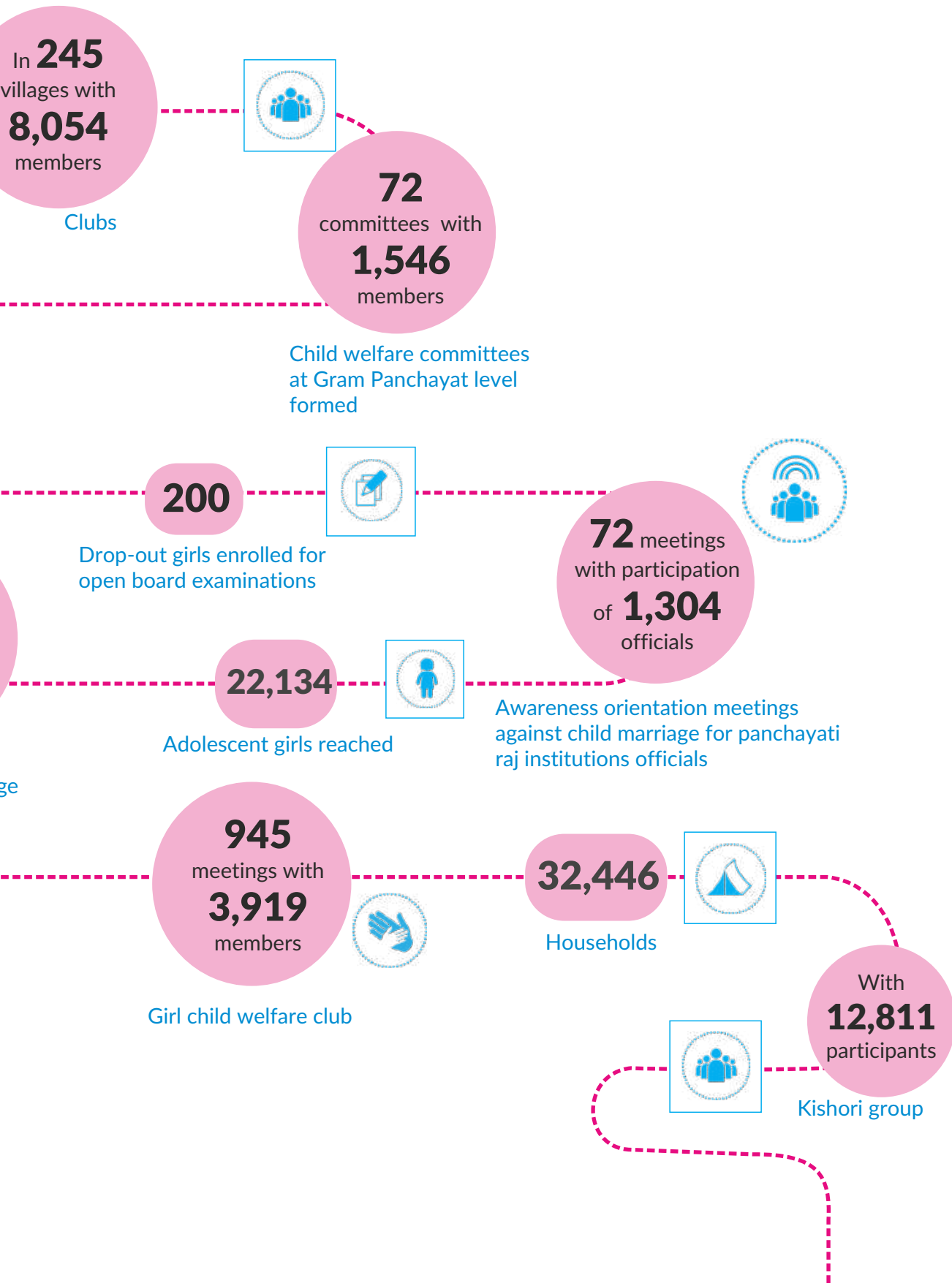
Consequences of child marriages seem to suggest that there is a need to combine both macro and micro-level factors in ways that would impact an adolescent's life. This can be done by giving them opportunities to

make informed choices and operate within a safe environment free from violence. Our interventions under LAADO programme leveraged the same principles and revolved around the following 4 pillars:

   	<p>1. Strengthening platforms & mechanisms</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Supporting adolescents and youth-friendly social platforms (school clubs, peer networks), cultural platforms (sport/art clubs)• Strengthening capacities for adolescents and youth-friendly media (mass and participatory), social media, and digital data• Developing support mechanisms for interacting with local and central authorities• Facilitating community engagement <p>2. Strengthening systems, schemes and services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Providing information to adolescents (rights, opportunities, and status of adolescents).• Building adolescents' skills, agency, and competencies (cognitive, emotional and social)• Building capacities of service providers and authorities to work with adolescents <p>3. Strengthening data, data systems, monitoring</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Focusing on improved quality of data collation related to adolescent programmes.• Conducting frequent impact evaluation of the programme outputs and outcomes. <p>4. Advocacy for convergence and scale-up of models</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Developing different strategies to engage with different influencers (media, private sector, teachers, parents, community members, religious and faith-based organizations, and champions).• Seeking opinions of adolescents on issues through initiatives, and promotion of citizen engagement in policy making and in holding public servants to account.• Using mass media and edutainment approaches to inform and engage primary stakeholders (adolescents, parents, community influencers), to increase knowledge, influence changes in attitude and social norms on adolescent issues.• Planning and executing mass media and social media campaigns to amplify public discourse on adolescent issues.
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LAADO's Impact



Case Stories



Sushila
20 years
Chittar Bera block,
Jodhpur district

Towards an equitable world

As per the social customs, Sushila was made to marry young. But, she never let that come in between her passion to actively advocate for the prevention of this social practice. Sushila completed her schooling and since then she has been actively collaborating with the LAADO team. She enjoys taking part in sports activities. She wishes there were skill training for the girls of the region so that they would be able to earn a decent income for themselves. She understands that by completing their schooling, the girls would be empowered to have the choice of not getting married early.



Amalkharam
Priest,
Sanwarij village

Religious leaders safeguarding interests of our adolescents

Priests play a vital role in all the functions of marriage or even naming a newborn child. The programme team was aware of the pivotal role they play in religious practices and actively worked towards involving them in awareness activities. When the team first approached Amalkharam he was reluctant to support the cause and said he could do little in preventing the practice. But, the LAADO programme team consistently worked towards convincing him about the perils of child marriage on the lives of young children and the legal provisions that ban this practice. Through the course of the discussions, he publicly vowed to never conduct weddings of any underage children and encouraged girls to complete their schooling.



Bhanwati
18 years old
Rajeevnagar village

Together we can overcome

When she passed class eight examinations, Bhanwati's family refused to teach her further. She was joined by a few other girls from the same village to explain to their parents the importance of education and request them to allow them to continue their education. For this, we continued our efforts to convince our family members for two-three months continuously by taking the help of LAADO team, nurses, Anganwadi workers and teachers. In the end, they won the fight. Their family agreed to their education. At present, she is a member of her village's LAADO Balika Manch. On receiving information about the marriage of a girl in the village, Bhanwati along with the other members of Balika Manch prevented a child marriage by convincing the family members.



Kavita
18 years old
Bhojasar village

Ensuring right to play for girls

Kavita hails from a family with meagre means of resources. Due to rampant poverty, most of the girls in the village are married off at a tender age. Kavita had to go through a similar challenge. With the initiation of the LAADO project, her courage got a new impetus and she decided that she would not allow any girl in her village to go through the same experience. Realizing the importance of sports with education, Kavita discussed with the Sarpanch to prepare a ground for girls' games in the locality and motivated all the girls of the group to play the game. Today, 30 girls in her village are regularly playing regular sports like Kabbadi, Kho-Kho, and Volleyball. Kavita's dream is to organize sports competitions for the girls of her village so that girls get equal rights. Kavita took the path of making the lives of other girls better.



Maya Balian
15 years
Pabunagar village

Changing Destinies

Maya, is a resident of Gawan Pabunagar of Munjasar village. Maya is the eldest among her brothers and sisters. Despite the passion to continue studies, her parents asked her to discontinue her studies. She vowed that she would not allow this to happen to her siblings. Meanwhile, since the inception of the Laado project, Maya has pledged to promote girl child education and child marriage prevention. Maya is participating in regular meetings of Balika Manch and motivating other girls of the village to join the group. Maya has convinced her parents to allow her to complete her education and she has registered for tenth class from the Rajasthan State Open School Board. Through her persistent efforts, all of Maya's brothers and sisters are studying regularly.



Jaisalsar gram
panchayat
Sri Dungargarh
block, Bikaner district

Ensuring last-mile opportunities for our adolescents

In 2015, Sushma Barupal was the first female Sarpanch of the newly formed Jaisalsar Gram Panchayat. She had completed her educational training in Bachelor's in Education and was amongst the first female Sarpanch to gain such a high level of education. Since her election, she was passionate about working towards enhancing the education levels of girls, preventing child marriages, and motivating children to complete their schooling. Within her panchayat, there was only one school with provision for classes only up to the eighth grade. Through her efforts, she was able to extend the schooling till twelfth grade in that school. Urmul Trust by collaborating with Sushma under the LAADO programme was able to work towards the prevention of child marriages in her panchayat. Her efforts were lauded by national media and by UNICEF as well. The combined efforts of all the agencies involved are a testament to how the persistence of motivated individuals could save the childhood of so many young children.

Learnings

The LAADO programme team was aware that the success of an initiative against the practice of child marriage depends on the leadership, commitment, and capacity of the team as well as the community. Since the inception, the focus remained on ensuring that all stakeholders remained committed to the cause.

- The continuous dialogues with Panchayati Raj Institution officials and other partner organisations in the Urmul

network ensured that the programme efforts could be eventually streamlined in building an inclusive and sustainable state-wide movement to end child marriage.

- The team was cognizant that child marriage cannot be addressed in silos and is interwoven with problems of how girls are viewed in the social hierarchy, poverty and poor education and awareness levels.
- To end the multidimensional problem of child marriage, the adoption of integrated and multi-disciplinary approaches are required. The LAADO programme team focused on locally tailoring the interventions to address this problem in the desert districts of Thar.
- The interventions focused on bringing behavioral changes in the community. The team understood that it was



“Our girls are excitedly taking part in the sports and cultural activities that are organised.”

I was lucky enough to be appointed as the Headmaster of a school with 700 girls. I believe that the state is heading in the right direction by focusing on the education of girls. I even think that it is good that at a societal level we have started having discussions about their education, skilling them, and job opportunities. However, presently, the practice of child marriage still deprives our young children of these opportunities. I am really happy that Urmul Trust under the LAADO programme in our desert region has started initiating these conversations through interactive activities. Our girls are excitedly taking part in the sports and cultural activities that are organised. I am grateful for the commendable efforts of the programme team.

Ajay Kumar Puniya,
Head Master,
Government Girls' Medium School,
Palana village, Bikaner district



important to not adopt a didactic approach and be patient in sensitizing the community. Through the course of prolonged interactions, the community members overcame their resistance and were more receptive to delve deeper into these issues.

- Cooperation, partnership, and communication were ensured with diverse stakeholders to maximise collective impact.
- Strong emphasis was placed on gathering evidence to capture the efficacy of the interventions. The data gathering exercises ensured that critical decisions on programme interventions were made through leveraging objective information.
- The civil society organisations have a very crucial role to play in design, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of ensuring prevention of child marriage. They should be continuously holding governments and Panchayati raj institutions accountable to their commitments.

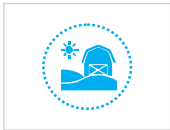




Challenges



Our biggest challenge has been to connect well with the children and set expectations. They have noticed a series of empty promises being made to them. It was important for the team to understand the concerns of the locals and ensure that the team sets the right set of expectations and delivers on them.



The programme surey activities were conducted in the harvesting months of kharif crops. Due to the then-ongoing season, the locals preferred, the locals preferred residing in areas adjacent to their farmlands. It became challenging for the team members to travel to those remote areas for dialogues.



Mobilising the young children towards engaging in programme activities was initially challenging. The team's efforts were at first met with suspicion by the young members. Building credibility in front of the children was a gradual and rewarding process.



The journey to preventing a widely prevalent social practice such as child marriage is arduous and gradual. Initially, the efforts were met by resistance from the community members. There are still people with rudimentary thinking and this still remains a challenge that needs to be wholly tackled.



The problem of child marriage is deeply rooted in the minds of people. They believe that the responsibility for the safety of the girl lies in the hands of her husband. The majority of the programme interventions were specifically around exposing women and girls to newer ideas. Battling the patriarchal mindset of the community remains an uphill task.



It is challenging to demand accountability from the government. Continuous successful efforts to collaborate with them and prevent child marriage together aided in overcoming this barrier.



“But, after discussions with the LAADO programme team, my parents have vowed to not send me to my in-law’s house till the time I turn eighteen.”

I am eleven years old. My parents have bare minimum resources to get by. My parents got my two elder sisters married at a tender age. My two sisters were forced to go live with their in-laws early and both of them conceived children within the first few years of their marriage. The health of my sisters and their children is poor. My parents have gotten me married as well and my in-laws live in Churu district. But, after discussions with the LAADO programme team, my parents have vowed to not send me to my in-laws’ house till the time I turn eighteen. Even my in-laws have supported this decision and are encouraging me to not give up my education. At present, I am in eighth grade and I wish to complete my schooling.

Roshni Nayak

Rajedu village, Sri Dungargarh block, Bikaner district



**Way
Forward**



Urmul has been working towards strengthening the status of the child in the society. It understands the onus on progression and development lies on children and all efforts need to be focused on these founding pillars of the society. It has been engaging systematically with the communities, the local authorities, as well as policy-makers to strengthen opportunities and ensure survival for children in the desert.

It has been working with various women's self-help groups and adolescent girls' forums and groups in the villages to strengthen them through capacity building and community mobilisation.

In 2011, Urmul became the Founding Member of Girls Not Brides global alliance. Presently, it is the Host Chair of Rajasthan chapter of Partnership of Girls Not Brides. Urmul would continue in its endeavor to ensure the dignity of the girl child is maintained in the Desert.



Leading The Efforts Of COVID-19

Our team spearheading COVID-19 awareness interventions

Under the LAADO program, the Urmul team has been tirelessly working with adolescents, communities and other stakeholders to prevent child marriage in Bikaner and Jodhpur districts. The team has come a long way in this journey to ensure that the rights of children are not compromised and that they receive opportunities to lead dignified lives. Even as the current pandemic poses challenges to the progress achieved by our team, we are now more than ever motivated to convert these bottlenecks into endless opportunities for our young minds. Since

the beginning of the pandemic, we have remained connected with our community members and guided them to follow hygienic practices. We even distributed masks to the adolescents who came from families with scarce resources.

The team through continuous efforts, identified children who had dropped out of school with the aid of community members. They were motivated to register for the Rajasthan State Open School so they could complete their schooling.



▶ Using technology to combat child marriage

“Are you continuing with your studies during lockdown?”, asked Bhanwari on a Zoom call that she and her team had organised for ten teenage girls. Her question was met with reluctant affirmations. Bhanwari is a block coordinator in Lohawat block, Jodhpur district and has been working on preventing child marriage in western Rajasthan for the last few years. In her experience, the strongest measure to do this is to ensure that children are enrolled in school and that they do not drop-out.

With the shutting down of schools due to the nationwide lockdown, Bhanwari was scared the number of cases of child marriage would increase, more than ever

before. Worried that they would lose out on all the progress they had achieved, Bhanwari and her three colleagues—Jyoti, Parveen, and Pramila—decided to quickly revise their community mobilisation strategy.

A few weeks into the lockdown, they started organising conference calls with the children from the districts of Bikaner and Jodhpur. Soon, they decided to move to video calls via Zoom, since they found that the children were less engaged in discussions via conference calls. The team felt that using video would ensure that the children—who were used to in-person discussions—did not feel distant.



Image Caption

1. Member of LAADO team in discussions with a girl motivating her to register for the Rajasthan State Open School Board in Ridmalsar Sipahiyan, Bikaner district
2. During COVID-19, members of LAADO team have been discussing the importance of social distancing and hygiene practices such as wearing masks in Noorsar village, Bikaner district
3. Members of LAADO team engaged in a community mobilisation meeting with adolescents over a video call using zoom application



बाल विवाह जागरूकता कार्यक्रम आयोजित

श्रीकानेर। ग्राम पंचायत कालासर के पंचायत भवन में ड्रमूल ट्रस्ट और युनिसेफ के सहयोग से संचालित लाइव परियोजना के तहत जागरूकता कार्यक्रम का आयोजन रखा गया, जिसमें लाइव समन्वयक मनोज कुमार जनावाल ने बताया कि बाल विवाह को शुरू करने का कारण यह है कि बड़े चुनौतियों को अपने पोत्रों को देखने का चाह ज्यादा होती है इसलिए वो कम आयु में ही बच्चों को शादी कर देते हैं जिससे कि मरने से पहले वो अपने पोत्रों के साथ कुछ समय बीता सके। बाल विवाह का सबसे बड़ा प्रभाव यह होता है कि इससे लड़कियों को जो अधिकार मिलने चाहिए उन से खचित कर दिया जाता है उन्हें छोटी उम्र में ही घर के कामों को सीखने के लिए मजबूर किया जाता है 21 वर्ष से कम उम्र के लड़के की एवं 18 वर्ष से कम उम्र की लड़कों को शादी करवाना कानूनी ज़ुम है और इसमें सहयोग करने वाले को सजा और जुर्माना दोनों हो सकते हैं। कार्यकर्ता परवीन चौहान ने



बताया कि आज के इस पढ़े लिखे समाज में भी यह प्रथा अपना स्थान बनाये हुए है जो बच्चे अभी अपने आप को समझ ही नहीं पाये, जिसको जीवन के बारे में कुछ भी पता नहीं और जिस की उम्र पढ़ने और लिखने की है उन्हें बाल विवाह के बंधन से जोड़ कर उनका जीवन बर्बाद कर कर दिया जाता है। चहलूड लाइन टीम से सरिता राठौर ने बताया कि यह सुनौती की बात है कि बाल विवाह रोकने इस अभियान के तहत 1098 पर नाबालिक बालिकाएँ खुद फोन करने अपना बाल विवाह रोकने के लिए चहलूड लाइन पर फोन करती हैं 1098 एक हेल्पलाइन नंबर है जिस पर कोई भी बच्चा मुरीबत के समय फोन कर के मदद ले सकता है। लाइव कार्यक्रमों मध्या मेघवाल, अंतुराम शर्मा, रेखाम मेघवाल, देवचंद, मानक राय आदि मौजूद थे। सभी ने बाल विवाह रोकथाम कानून 2006 के तहत बाल विवाह नहीं करने की शपथ ली।

बाल विवाह रोकथाम के लिये तमाम बंदोबशतों की कलक्टर खुद कर रहे निगरानी



श्रीकानेर। अग्रज तृतीया के अग्रज राधे पर सात मई को बाल विवाह रोकने के लिए जिला प्रशासन ने फिर कसर कम ली है। इसके लिए महिला समूह, स्वाम्भ्य कार्यकर्ता, आंगनवाड़ी कार्यकर्ता, माधिन व अग्रज सहयोगीने के कोर ग्रुप बनाने के साथ ही राठौर, बौद्धबदक, हलवाई व मैरिज होम संचालक आदि को 18 मई की घोषण पूर्णिमा तक चर्च कर दिया गया है। घोषण पूर्णिमा पर भी बड़े पैमाने पर बाल विवाह होने हैं। आधिकारिक जानकारी के अनुसार जिले में 7 मई को अग्रज तृतीया पर फिर से बाल विवाह होने की आशंका है। गौरवलय है कि राज्य सरकार ने श्रीकानेर समेत 12 जिलों को बाल विवाह के निरोध से संबन्धित घोषित किया हुआ है। ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में अधिकतर बाल विवाह अग्रज तृतीया व घोषण पूर्णिमा के अवसर पर होते हैं। इस दिन ग्रामीण इलाकों में एक ही परिवार के कई सदस्य-बालिकाओं का विवाह



कर दिया जाता है। जिले के ग्रामीण अंचल में अस्थिर व गरीबी और विवाहों में होने वाला खर्च बचाने के लिए एक-एक परिवार में कई-कई बालक बालिकाओं का एक साथ बाल विवाह कर दिया जाता है। लेकिन इस बार बाल विवाहों की रोकथाम के लिये जिला कलक्टर कुमारपाल गौतम ने कड़े बंदोबस्त किये हैं, अधिकारियों की जिम्मेदारियाँ तय की गई हैं। विशेष कंट्रोल रूम बनाया गया है। बाल विवाह की सूचनाएं जुटाने के लिये मुखविर तंत्र को सक्रिय किया गया है। तमाम बंदोबशतों की निगरानी खुद जिला कलक्टर ने संभाल रखी है।

'किशोरियों को बताए जीवन कौशल के गुरु'



श्रीकानेर। श्रीकानेर में बाल विवाह रोकथाम के तहत जागरूकता कार्यक्रम का आयोजन रखा गया, जिसमें लाइव समन्वयक मनोज कुमार जनावाल ने बताया कि बाल विवाह को शुरू करने का कारण यह है कि बड़े चुनौतियों को अपने पोत्रों को देखने का चाह ज्यादा होती है इसलिए वो कम आयु में ही बच्चों को शादी कर देते हैं जिससे कि मरने से पहले वो अपने पोत्रों के साथ कुछ समय बीता सके। बाल विवाह का सबसे बड़ा प्रभाव यह होता है कि इससे लड़कियों को जो अधिकार मिलने चाहिए उन से खचित कर दिया जाता है उन्हें छोटी उम्र में ही घर के कामों को सीखने के लिए मजबूर किया जाता है 21 वर्ष से कम उम्र के लड़के की एवं 18 वर्ष से कम उम्र की लड़कों को शादी करवाना कानूनी ज़ुम है और इसमें सहयोग करने वाले को सजा और जुर्माना दोनों हो सकते हैं। कार्यकर्ता परवीन चौहान ने

जागरूकता : लाइव परियोजना के तहत लोगों को कर रहे जागरूक

बाल विवाह से बच्चों का मानसिक और शारीरिक विकास होता अवरूद्ध

पत्रिका न्यून नेटवर्क

श्रीकानेर। ग्राम पंचायत कालासर के पंचायत भवन में ड्रमूल ट्रस्ट और युनिसेफ के सहयोग से संचालित लाइव परियोजना के तहत जागरूकता कार्यक्रम का आयोजन रखा गया।



कार्यक्रम में समन्वयक मनोज कुमार जनावाल ने बताया कि बाल विवाह बच्चे की मानसिक व शारीरिक विकास को रोकता है। छोटी-छोटी बच्चों को बाल विवाह के बंधन से जोड़ कर उनका जीवन बर्बाद कर दिया जाता है। चहलूड लाइन टीम से सरिता राठौर ने बताया कि यह सुनौती की बात है कि बाल विवाह रोकने इस अभियान के तहत 1098 पर नाबालिक बालिकाएँ खुद फोन करने अपना बाल विवाह रोकने के लिए चहलूड लाइन पर फोन करती हैं 1098 एक हेल्पलाइन नंबर है जिस पर कोई भी बच्चा मुरीबत के समय फोन कर के मदद ले सकता है। लाइव कार्यक्रमों मध्या मेघवाल, अंतुराम शर्मा, रेखाम मेघवाल, देवचंद, मानक राय आदि मौजूद थे। सभी ने बाल विवाह रोकथाम कानून 2006 के तहत बाल विवाह नहीं करने की शपथ ली।

बाल विवाह से बच्चों का मानसिक और शारीरिक विकास होता अवरूद्ध। बाल विवाह बच्चे की मानसिक व शारीरिक विकास को रोकता है। छोटी-छोटी बच्चों को बाल विवाह के बंधन से जोड़ कर उनका जीवन बर्बाद कर दिया जाता है। चहलूड लाइन टीम से सरिता राठौर ने बताया कि यह सुनौती की बात है कि बाल विवाह रोकने इस अभियान के तहत 1098 पर नाबालिक बालिकाएँ खुद फोन करने अपना बाल विवाह रोकने के लिए चहलूड लाइन पर फोन करती हैं 1098 एक हेल्पलाइन नंबर है जिस पर कोई भी बच्चा मुरीबत के समय फोन कर के मदद ले सकता है। लाइव कार्यक्रमों मध्या मेघवाल, अंतुराम शर्मा, रेखाम मेघवाल, देवचंद, मानक राय आदि मौजूद थे। सभी ने बाल विवाह रोकथाम कानून 2006 के तहत बाल विवाह नहीं करने की शपथ ली।

बाल विवाह रोकथाम जागरूकता अभियान शुरू, बीस दिन तक चलेगा अभियान

नवयौति/देव। ड्रमूल ट्रस्ट व युनिसेफ के सहयोग से संचालित लाइव परियोजना अंतर्गत 20 दिवसीय बाल विवाह रोकथाम जागरूकता अभियान का शुभारंभ शुभवार को फलोरीदा जलदंड की ग्राम पंचायत मोरिया मुख्यालय पर क्षेत्र आंगनवाड़ी कार्यकर्ताओं, आशा, महिलाओं व बालिका मंच की बालिकाओं की बैठक एवं राजकीय उच्च माध्यमिक विद्यालय मोरिया में आयोजित बच्चों के आयुश्रीकरण से किया गया। प्रारंभ में ब्लॉक समन्वयक भंवरि शिरनेई ने बताया कि हमारे क्षेत्र में आज भी अशिक्षित व पीछे पड़े परिवारों को अनुचित रूप से बाल विवाह होते हैं इसलिए इस अभियान के माध्यम से हरकाली बच्चों, जन प्रतिनिधियों, सीटिया कमिटी, किशोर-किशोरी समूहों के सहयोग से संचालित व लोहावट पंचायत समिति क्षेत्र के 40 गांवों में बाल विवाह रोकथाम हेतु विभिन्न मातृशिक्षण

जैसे रानी, डाटक, चाणन आदि किए जाएंगे। लाइव परियोजना के जिला समन्वयक दीनदयाल अरोड़ा व ब्लॉक समन्वयक भंवरि, देनाना

ने सभी आंगनवाड़ी कार्यकर्ताओं से अपने-अपने क्षेत्र में बाल विवाह रोकथाम की प्रमोटी मातृशिक्षण करने तथा लाइव टीम का जागरूकता अभियान में सहयोग करने का आह्वान किया।



जगजल द्वारा बाल विवाह प्रतिषेध अभियान 2006 के विभिन्न शुभारंभ, बाल विवाह के दुष्परिणाम, रोकथाम हेतु सूचना देने के प्रक्रिया, बाल विवाह रोकथाम में हमारी भूमिका, बालिका शिक्षा को बढ़ावा देने तथा बच्चों के विभिन्न अधिकारों के बारे में जानकारी दी गई। कार्यक्रम में अर्धदिवसीय के पत्रिका न्यून नेटवर्क

अभियान में सहयोग करने का आह्वान किया। (राज्याभि मोरिया के प्रधानाचार्यक ने कहा कि शिक्षा, स्वास्थ्य व जागरूकता से बाल विवाह एवं बच्चों के प्रभावित करने वाले सभी प्रकार की कुटिलियों को जड़ से समाप्त किया जा सकता है।) अपने बालक-बालिकाओं से कहा कि आप लोग नियमित पढ़ाई से बंदि अपने मातृ-पिता को विश्वास दिला देंगे की अग्रजि कालक उनको नुक़ाने पहुँकती नहीं पहुँकेंगे। आपको बाल विवाह जैसी कुटिलि को प्रेरणा नहीं पहुँकेंगे। इसलिए आप पढ़ लिख कर स्वाफलमयी बनकर स्वयं का विकास करें साथ ही गाँव के अन्य बच्चों को भी इसके लिए प्रेरित करें। जागरूकता अभियान कार्यक्रमों में बहिता, केलाताम, पूर्ण देवी व भीषारम ने भी विभिन्न जानकारी दी। इसके साथ ही पैम्फलेट्स व पोस्टर भी वितरित किये गये। दोनो कार्यक्रमों में 300 से अधिक बच्चों, महिला व पुरुषों ने भाग लिया।

स्कूल में बाल अधिकार क्लब का किया गठन



फारोवी, आधुनिकता का संस्करण में शामिल प्रतिभागी।

काठमांडू। उच्चतर व कृषिसेवा के सहयोग से संचालित लाडो परियोजना के तहत स्कूलों में बाल अधिकार क्लब का गठन किया गया। इस कार्यक्रम का आयोजन लाडो परियोजना के तहत किया गया। इस कार्यक्रम में बाल अधिकार क्लब का गठन किया गया। इस कार्यक्रम में बाल अधिकार क्लब का गठन किया गया।

बाल विवाह के प्रति जागरूकता जरूरी

बीकानेर (सीमा सन्देश संवाददाता)। बीकानेर के ग्राम सूर्यना चौहान में उरमूल ट्रस्ट और यूनिसेफ के सहयोग से संचालित लाडो परियोजना के तहत बाल विवाह रोको अभियान कार्यक्रम किया गया। अध्यक्षता करते हुए सुपरवाइजर सुनीता वर्मा ने कहा कि बाल विवाह समाज के लिए कलंक, अभिशाप एवं सामाजिक कुर्बानि है, इसे मिटाने के लिए क्षेत्रीय जनप्रतिनिधि व आमजन का सहयोग भी बहुत जरूरी है।



अ.उ.ट. उष ने कहा कि बाल-विवाह से समाज अंदर के चक्कर में पड़कर स्त्री-पुरुष दोनों की शिक्षा में बाधा पहुंचती है। कार्यक्रम समन्वक महेजकुमार जनागल ने बहुरंग कि लक्ष्मिणी कि शादी कम उम्र में विरत इवेलिएर कर देते हैं कि उनके समुदाज चले जाने से दो जुन की रोटी ही बचेगी। देश में बालविवाह रोकने के लिए काम चल रहा है, लेकिन इसे कामना से रोकना नहीं जा सकता। वह एक सामाजिक समस्या है जिसके लिए सामाजिक जागरूकता जरूरी है। कार्यक्रम परवीन चौहान ने कहा कि बाल विवाह को रोकने के लिए समाज की मानसिकता एवं सोच में सकारात्मक परिवर्तन लाना आवश्यक है। चाइल्ड लाइन से सलता राठी ने कहा कि बेटे और बेटे के बीच समानता का अधिकार, बाल विवाह, बलाश्रम, बाल तस्करी जैसे कुर्बानियों को समाप्त करने के लिए बेटियों को सम्मान देना होगा। शिक्षा और समानता से ही बच्चों को सशक्त बनाया जा सकता है। साथ ही साथ ही बाल विवाह बन्धन 2006 के तहत बाल विवाह नहीं करने और बालिका शिक्षा को बढ़ावा देने की शपथ ली।

जागरूकता कार्यक्रम का आयोजन

बीकानेर, (कासं)। उरमूल ट्रस्ट व यूनिसेफ राजस्थान की ओर से संचालित लाडो परियोजना के संयुक्त तत्वाधान में ग्राम रायसर में बाल विवाह रोको अभियान के तहत जागरूकता कार्यक्रम का आयोजन किया गया।

इस अवसर पर ब्लाक समन्वयक मनोज कुमार जनागल ने बताया कि अक्षय तृतीय और पीपल पुर्णिमा खुशहाली का त्योहार है पौराणिक ग्रन्थों के अनुसार इस दिन शुभ कार्य किया जाता है इस अवसर पर घर परिवार कि समृद्धि कि दुआ करनी चाहिये इस दिन होने वाले बाल विवाह से हमको दुर रहना चाहिये क्योके यह एक सामाजिक बुराई है इसे तुरन्त बन्द करना चाहिए एक बार शादी होने के बाद बेटे को अपना घर छोडना पडता है और दुसरे के साथ रहने के लिए मजबुर होना पडता है जहा उसे सभी भूमिकाओ का निर्वहान करना पडता इस प्रकिया मे बचपन खो जाता है साथ हि खेलने और सिखने की स्वतंत्रता छीन ली जाती है बाल विवाह रोकने मे अभिभावको को आगे आना होगा इस प्रकार के निणय से बालिकाओं को आगे बढने का अवसर मिलेगा और बालिकाओं का विकास होगा।

बालक और बालिका में भेदभाव नहीं होना चाहिए : गौतम



बीकानेर, (कासं)। विवेक कलेक्टर कुमरवर्त शैलम के द्वारा बालक और बालिका के बीच भेदभाव को खत्म करने के लिए एक कार्यक्रम का आयोजन किया गया। इस कार्यक्रम में बालक और बालिका के बीच भेदभाव को खत्म करने के लिए एक कार्यक्रम का आयोजन किया गया। इस कार्यक्रम में बालक और बालिका के बीच भेदभाव को खत्म करने के लिए एक कार्यक्रम का आयोजन किया गया।

LAADO In Media

शिक्षा से जोड़ने के लिए आए आगे

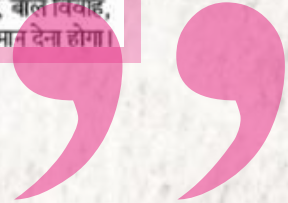


बीकानेर। यूनिसेफ की ओर से चल रही लाडो परियोजना के तहत मंगलवार को शोभासर पंचायत मुख्यालय पर संपन्न चुन्नी लाल की अध्यक्षता बाल संरक्षण समिति को बैठक सम्पन्न हुई। इस मौके पर सरपंच ने कहा कि आज बच्चों का समूह समाज का सबसे असुरक्षित तबका बन चुका है। अच्छे देश का भविष्य है, लेकिन जब बच्चे ही खतरे में हों तो आप खुद सोच सकते हैं उस देश का आने वाला भविष्य कैसा होगा?

बाल विवाह रोको कार्यक्रम



बीकानेर (सीमा सन्देश डेस्क)। ग्राम पंचायत शोभासर में उरमूल ट्रस्ट और यूनिसेफ के सहयोग से संचालित लाडो परियोजना के तहत बाल विवाह रोको अभियान के तहत कार्यक्रम किया गया। अध्यक्षता कर रही उपसरपंच आरती देवी ने कहा कि बाल विवाह समाज के लिए अभिशाप एवं सामाजिक कुर्बानि है। इसमें क्षेत्रीय जनप्रतिनिधि व आमजन का सहयोग भी बहुत जरूरी है। कार्यक्रम समन्वक मनोजकुमार जनागल ने जनप्रतिनिधियों से आह्वान किया कि वे इस सामाजिक कुर्बानि को मिटाने में पूरा सहयोग दें। कार्यक्रम परवीन चौहान ने कहा कि बाल विवाह रोकने के लिए समाज की मानसिकता एवं सोच में सकारात्मक परिवर्तन लाना आवश्यक है। चाइल्ड लाइन से सलता राठी ने कहा कि बेटे और बेटे के बीच समानता का अधिकार, बाल विवाह, बलाश्रम जैसे कुर्बानियों को समाप्त करने के लिए बेटियों को सम्मान देना होगा।



About Urmul

In the harsh and inhospitable regions of rural Rajasthan in the Thar Desert, Urmul Trust has been innovating models for inducing community-driven social developmental changes by devising programmes, strengthening them, and finally handing them over to communities. With the understanding that no intervention could be successful unless the community ensures the rights of children are protected, Urmul has endeavored to improve opportunities for adolescents in the region.

About UNICEF India

UNICEF India is committed in its continued support to the Government in this extraordinary journey of development to reach every child everywhere in India. Our goal is to enable every child born in India to have the best start in life, to thrive and to develop to her or his full potential. To achieve this we use our technical expertise together with partners to tackle the root of several, deeply entrenched structural challenges.

We have been present in India for 70 years. UNICEF's key strength lies in our evidence-based technical expertise that informs policy action and implementation, while at the same time building the capacity of partners. With some 450 staff members working in 17 states that together cover 90% of India's child population - largest field presence among UN agencies - we are well positioned to reach the country's most vulnerable children.



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