

## Sushila got a protected life

### A Case Study to Stop Child Marriage.

#### Introduction:

Keonjhar is a District of mine and minerals having dense forest with scattered settlement of the people situated in the Chhotnagpur plateau range. It is in the state of Odisha, India. Medinpur is a village having 10 kilometer distance from the District head quarter and 3 kilometers distance from the great waterfall sanaghagara and adjacent to the Badaghagara Dam. This Village is just 3 KMs away from NH-49. Forest & hill covered the Village. Only 16 households are living in the village, all are belonging from the Bhuyan & Muna tribe of Odisha, India. Total Population of the Village is 115 among them male 70, Female 45. Total Children Population is 38. This community is living with their traditional culture and practice. They do not care the law and the rules and regulations of the Government. They are the king of their own Kingdom. The village decision is guided by their sardar (The community leader). This particular community is not literate and not exposed to the outer world. The girls of the community normally marry at the age of 13 to 17 years of age which is called "KASI KANIA". Which means not old. So everybody in the caste preferred to marry the girl children in their immature age.

Sushila Naik, a 15 years girl, daughter of Kumar Naik & mother Samari Naik residing in village medinpur of Talakaisari Gram

Panchyat of Bansapal Block of Keonjhar District of Odisha state ,India. Susila is living with her father,mother, Grandmother & Elder sister Sumitra Naik. Susila was enrolled in the Ashram school but did not continued & drop out from school in class 5<sup>th</sup>.Her family Condition was not so good. Kumar Naik has sold fire wood in Keonjhar town & manage his family. The only earning member of the family is the Kumar Naik who is working as a daily wage labour. Therefore, the family has been facing financial problems like they do not get two times of meal in a day. He was not able to fulfill the bare necessities of family except one time meal and was unable to provide other things like dress, sleeper, education material etc

During the month of may 2016 a person named Indra Dehury,from Haladiapada village came to Kumar Naik's house & has proposed to take the little daughter sushila for marry his elder Son Pankaja Dehury . As per their tradition the would be in-laws of the daughter keep a stick in the berendha of sushila's house. The elder daughter of Kumar Dehury who is 17 years old also a minor girl but the both family fixed the marriage of Sushila with Pankaj. Because as per their tradition they are bound to give the younger girl shushila as they keep the stick.

The marriage date had finalized and scheduled to be held on dated 23.06.2016.Just day before there was a village meeting on child protection organized by the Ideal Development Agency. IDA has a village child Protection Committee who came to know the matter and

decided to stop the child marriage. United they (VCPC) went to the Kumar Naik Home and counselled the family members as well as the girl child to stop the marriage. The VCPC members called Mr Chandrakanta Baral Project Coordinator of IDA to help them. One village meeting had organized. People again sensitized against child marriage and the laws & act and rules and the punishment system. The parents of the girl child were counselled.

In spite of several efforts the parents and the girl child they were not following any counseling. Some of the senior orthodox leaders' denai to accept the decision, finally the village child protection committee remain silent and the marriage card has printed and distributed. The materials for the marriage has sold from the market. Goats purchased for killing in the marriage ceremony. But the VCPC has provided constant effort to stop the child marriage.

At last the VCPC Member informed to Sagar Palei, Project Associate of ACC project in charge of Banspal Block. On dated 17.06.2016 Sagar Palei with Chandra Kanta Baral, Project Coordinator went to village Medinpur at 2 PM & discussed with Susila Naik & her Parents. Verify the date of birth in School Certificate, Adhar Card. And again counselled the parents regarding the underage of their girl for marriage. Finally all the villagers pressurize the parents of the girl to stop the child marriage and immediately to inform the Indra Dehury the father of the bridegroom of village Haladiapada .

On dated 18.06.2016 at 9 AM Indra Dehury with his wife Sabi Dehury came to Kumar Naik's house with new Saree for Susila . Kumar Naik with all VCPC members denied the marriage & discussed the rules & regulation of early Child marriage. But Indra Dehury had forced to conduct the marriage, because he had already spent RS 50,000.00(Fifty Thousand) as advance for Tent, Vehicle, Cook, Sound & printing of marriage card etc. During discussion Indra Dehury aggressively demand Rs 50,000.00 from the girl's parent as Penalty for cancelling the marriage. A difficult situation has arised at that time. So to avoid the situation the VCPC members with the help of The project staffs called Child Line, CDPO, DCPO keonjhar. At 3 PM the staff of Child line came to the village and at 6 Pm the CDPO reached the village and have similar massage and counselled the people to cancel the marriage of the girl.

Day after on 19<sup>th</sup> of May the Child Club of the village sitting together and called Sushila Naik. And shared their decision that not a single child of the village will marry before the age of 18 and 21. And the child club members decided to monitor the marriage cases regularly.

Finally with the effort of the child club, VCPC the marriage has stopped and it was decided to conduct the marriage of the elder sister of Shushila at first after the completion of her 18 years of age after seven months in which the administration, IDA, media people all will be involved and the marriage cost will be beared by local donors already they have committed their willingness to provide.

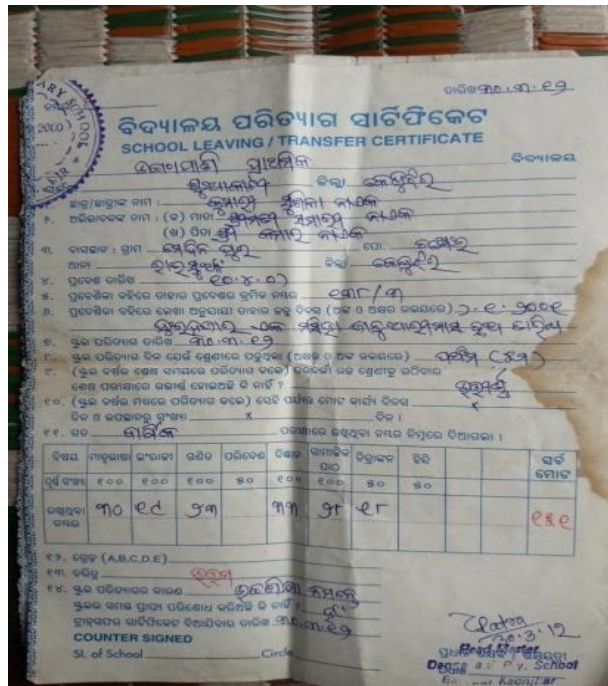
Media has published the news a number of resistance came from the orthodox Bhuyan society. In spite of the opposition the parent of Shushila are happy, they promised to continue his effort to stop child marriage. Besides a larger community of Odisha welcome the effort to stop child marriage.

A small effort may open the eye of the whole Bhuyan community to stop child marriage.

# PHOTOGRAPHS



Marriage Invitation Card.



SCHOOL CERTIFICATE

## Family Counseling by IDA staffs & the Stakeholders



**Sushila with Child Club Members**



News covered by leading Odiya News paper THE PRAMEYA



*22/6/2016 Medinipur Chitramarriage*

## କେନ୍ଦୁଝର

# ବାଲ୍ୟ ବିବାହ ବନ୍ଦ କଲା ପ୍ରଶାସନ

କେନ୍ଦୁଝର/ଖିରିକୋଟାଜାରି, ୨୧।୬(ଆ.ପ୍ର.): କେନ୍ଦୁଝର ଜିଲ୍ଲା ବାଂଞ୍ଚପାଳ ଦୁଇ ଅଞ୍ଚଳର ମେଦିନପୁର ଗାଁରେ ବାଲ୍ୟ ବିବାହ ବନ୍ଦ କରିଛି ପ୍ରଶାସନ। ବହୁ ଚଣାପଚରା ମଧ୍ୟରେ ବିବାହ ବନ୍ଦ କରାଯାଇଛି। ପ୍ରତ୍ୟକ୍ଷ ସେ, ମେଦିନପୁର ଗାଁରେ ଆଦିବାସୀ ସଂପ୍ରଦାୟ ଭୂୟାଁ ଜାତିର ୧୬ଟି ପରିବାର ବସବସ କରିଆଣି। ପୁରାତନ ପ୍ରଥାକୁ କାବୁଟି ଧରି ବଞ୍ଚି ରହିଛନ୍ତି। ସେମାନଙ୍କୁ ଆଇନ କ'ଣ ଜଣାନାହିଁ। ନିରକ୍ଷର ଏହି ଆଦିବାସୀ ଗ୍ରାମରେ ଆଦିମ କାଳରୁ କନ୍ଧି କନ୍ଧିଆଁ ବାହାଘର(୧୫ ବର୍ଷରୁ କମ) ପ୍ରଚଳିତ। ଇକ୍ଷ ସ୍ତ୍ରୀମାନେ ଏକ ସ୍ୱେଚ୍ଛାସେବୀ ସଂଗଠନ ଆଇଡିଆଲ ଡେଭଲପମେଣ୍ଟ ଏଜେନ୍ସି ଶିଶୁ ସୁରକ୍ଷା ଦାୟିତ୍ୱରେ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟରତ। ଗତ ୧୦ ତାରିଖ ଆଇଡିଆଲର କର୍ମୀ ଗ୍ରାମ ପରିଦର୍ଶନ ସମୟରେ ଗ୍ରାମ ଶିଶୁ ସୁରକ୍ଷା କମିଟିର ଠାରୁ ଆକାସ ପାଇଲେ କି, ଗ୍ରାମର ୧୫ ବର୍ଷର ଏକ ନାବାଳିକା ଚିକିନା(ଛତୁନାମ)ର ଆସରା ହୁଏ ୨ ମାସେ ବାହାଘର ହେବ। କାରଣ କରଘର ତାଙ୍କ ବାଉଣାରେ ବାଡ଼ି ରଖି ଯାଇଛନ୍ତି। ଇକ୍ଷ ପରିବାରର ଆର୍ଥିକ ପରିସ୍ଥିତି ଖୁବ୍ ଖୋଟନାହିଁ। ପରିବାରରେ ଦାସୀ ମା' ପୁତ୍ର ଜନ୍ମଣୀ ଓ କେବେମା ରୁହନ୍ତି। ବଡ଼ଝିଅର ବାହାଘର ହୋଇନି। ତାକୁ ୧୬ ବର୍ଷ ମାତ୍ର। କିନ୍ତୁ ବାଳିକା(୧୫)ର ବାହାଘର ହଳଦିଆପଦା କର୍ମିଗାରେ ଜଣେ ୨୫ ବର୍ଷର ଯୁବକ ସହିତ ଠିକ୍ ହୋଇଛି। ଯୁବକ ଜଣକ ଭାଇଜର ଭାବେ କାମ କରିଆଣି। ବିବାହ ପାଇଁ କାଚି ବନ୍ଧା ପରିଥିଲା। ସମସ୍ତ ଜାଣା ଯୋଗୁଁକ ମଧ୍ୟ କିଣା ଯାଇ ପାରିଥିଲା। ଏହି ଖବରପାଇ ସ୍ୱେଚ୍ଛାସେବୀ ସଂଗଠନର ପ୍ରକଟ ସଂଯୋଜକ ଚନ୍ଦ୍ରକାନ୍ତ ଦତ୍ତାଙ୍କ, କର୍ମୀ ସରଳ ପରେଇ, ସ୍ୱେଚ୍ଛାସ୍ତ୍ରୀ ଆନାଦି ସେହି ଗ୍ରାମ ଶିଶୁ ସୁରକ୍ଷା ବିଦାହ ଚୋକିଆ ପାଇଁ ଗ୍ରାମ ଶିଶୁ ସୁରକ୍ଷା କମିଟି ତଥା କନ୍ଧା ବିଦାହୀନାଙ୍କୁ ଏହି ବାଲ୍ୟ ବିବାହ ନିରୋଧ ଆଇନ ସଂପର୍କରେ ବୁଝାଇଥିଲେ। ତଥା ବାଲ୍ୟ ବିବାହ କଟକ ନିର୍ବାହକାର କ'ଣ କ୍ଷତି ହେବ ଅବଗତ କରିଥିଲେ। ପରେ ଆଇଡିଏ ତରଫରୁ ବିଦକୁସି ସଦସ୍ୟ କିଶୋର ଗାଠୋଇ, ଚାଲକର ଭାନନର କର୍ମକର୍ତ୍ତା ଶିଶୁ ପ୍ରକଟ ଅଧିକାରଣୀ ବାଂଞ୍ଚପାଳକୁ ଗ୍ରାମକୁ ବଜା ଯାଇ ଆଲୋଚନା କରାଗଲା। ବହୁତ ଗୋଟେରା ମଧ୍ୟରେ ବିବାହ ବନ୍ଦ କରାଗଲା। ମାତ୍ର ବରପକ୍ଷ ନିକ ବିଧେର ଅଟକ। ବିଦାହ ପାଇଁ ବ୍ୟୟ ହୋଇଥିବା ୫୦ ହଜାର ଟଙ୍କା ଦେବାକୁ ସ୍ୱେଚ୍ଛାସେବୀମାନ କର୍ମକର୍ତ୍ତାଙ୍କୁ ଦାବି କଲେ। ମାତ୍ର ପ୍ରଶାସନର ଚାକିର ପରେ ଘଟଣାର ସମାଧାନ କରାଗଲା। ଏହା ମଧ୍ୟ ବିଦାହ ପାଇଁ ଗାଳି ହୋଇନଥିଲା। କନ୍ଧା ପିତା ଗାଁ ଗାଁ ବୁଲି ଭୂୟାଁ ସମାଜର ଦୁପ୍ରଥା ଚୋକିଆ ପାଇଁ ସଚେତନତା କରିବେ ଚୋକି ପ୍ରତିଶ୍ରୁତି ଦେଇଥିଲେ। ଏହି ଘଟଣା ସମଗ୍ର ଅଞ୍ଚଳରେ ଚର୍ଚ୍ଚା ବିଷୟ ହୋଇଛି।

# News Covered By the Odisha Largest Selling Media THE SAMBAD

SAMBAD

# ସମ୍ବାଦ

PRINTED AT BHUBANESWAR BALASORE JEYPORE BARGARH

୨୨ ଜୁନ ୨୦୧୬

*Praveen Chub*

## ବାଡ଼ି ପଡ଼ିଲା..., ତଥାପି ଭାଙ୍ଗିଲା ବାହାଘର

କେନ୍ଦୁଝର, ୨୧।୬ (ଭମିସ): କେନ୍ଦୁଝର ଜିଲ୍ଲାର ଆଦିବାସୀବନ୍ଧୁଙ୍କ ବାଂଶପାଳ ଦୁଇ ମନଦପୁର ଗ୍ରାମର କୁମାର ନାଏକଙ୍କ ଘର ପିଣ୍ଡାରେ ବରଘର ପକ୍ଷରୁ ବାଡ଼ି ଗଣ୍ଡାଯାଇଥିଲା। ବାଡ଼ି ଦେଖିବା ପରେ କନ୍ୟାଘର ପକ୍ଷରୁ ଆରମ୍ଭ ହୋଇଥିଲା ବାହାଘର ପାଇଁ ଚପୁରତା। ତିନୁ ସିର ଭୋଇଥିଲା, ଗୋଟିକାଟ ପାଇଁ ଆୟୋଜନ ବି କରିଥିଲା। ତିନୁ କନ୍ୟା ଥିଲା ନାବାଳିକା। କୁମାରୀ ବାଂସୁଦାସରେ କନ୍ୟା ବାହାଘର ବାଂସୁଦାସ ଶବ୍ଦର ପାଇ କେତେକ ସ୍ୱେଚ୍ଛାସେବୀ, ଶିଶୁ ସୁରକ୍ଷା କମିଟି ସଦସ୍ୟମାନେ ସଂଗ୍ରାହକରେ ପହଞ୍ଚି ନାବାଳିକା ବାହାଘରକୁ ରାକିଦାରେ ସଫଳ ହୋଇଥିଲେ। ଶେଷରେ କୁମାରୀ

ବାଂସୁଦାସର ସମସ୍ତେ ମିଳିତ ଭାବେ ଶପଥ ନେଇଥିଲେ ଆଉ କେବେ ଶାଁରେ ଏମିତି ବାଡ଼ି ପକାଇ କରି କିଛି ବାହାଘର କରିବେ ନାହିଁ। କେନ୍ଦୁଝର ବାଂଶପାଳ ଅଞ୍ଚଳରେ ଉତ୍ତୁପୁରା କୁମାରୀ ବାଂସୁଦାସର ଝିଅମାନଙ୍କର ବାହାଘର କେବେ ଏକ ପ୍ରଥା ରହିଛି। ଏହି ପ୍ରଥା ଅନୁସାରେ, ଯଦି କୌଣସି ପୁଅ ଦେଇ ବାଂସୁଦାସର ଝିଅ ଥିବା ଘର ପିଣ୍ଡାରେ ବାଡ଼ି ଉଠି ଦେଖିଯାଏ ତତ୍ତଳେ ଝିଅ ଘର ପକ୍ଷରୁ ବାହାଘର ସିର କରାଯାଇଥାଏ। ଏହି ବାହାଘର ସାଧାରଣତଃ କରି କିମିଆ ବା ନାବାଳିକା ସହିତ ହୋଇଥାଏ। ଗତ ଡିସେମ୍ବର ତଳେ ବାଂଶପାଳ ଦୁଇ ମନଦପୁର ଗ୍ରାମରେ ତିନି ନାଏକ

(ଛବୁନାମ, ୧୩ ବର୍ଷ) ନାମ୍ନୀ ଜଣେ ନାବାଳିକାର ଘର ପିଣ୍ଡାରେ ହରିତକନପୁର ଦୁଇ କର୍ମଚାର ଜଣେ ଯୁବକ ବାଡ଼ି ପକାଇ ଦେଇ ଯାଇଥିଲା। ଏହା ପରେ କନ୍ୟାଘର ପକ୍ଷରୁ ବାହାଘର ପାଇଁ ପ୍ରସ୍ତୁତି ହୋଇଥିଲା। ଏମିତି ଗୋଟିକାଟ ପାଇଁ ଆୟୋଜନ ବି କରିଥିଲା। ତିନୁ ଶିଶୁ ସୁରକ୍ଷା ଉପରେ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟ କରୁଥିବା ଆଇଡିଏ କମିଟି ଏକ ସ୍ୱେଚ୍ଛାସେବୀ ସଂଘର ଆଇଡିଏ ଏହା ଜାଣିବା ପରେ ଗ୍ରାମ ଶିଶୁ ସୁରକ୍ଷା କମିଟି ସଦସ୍ୟମାନଙ୍କୁ ଜଣାଇ ବାଂସୁଦା କନ୍ୟାପକ୍ଷରୁ ସୁରକ୍ଷାଦାୟକ ଉଦ୍ଦାନ କରାଥିଲେ। ତିନୁ ବରପକ୍ଷ ଏବଂ କନ୍ୟାପକ୍ଷ ବିବାହ ତିନିଦିନ ଅଟକ ଥିଲେ। ଏମିତି ଆସନ୍ତା ୨୩ ତାରିଖରେ

### ବାଡ଼ି ପଡ଼ିଲା.....



ମନଦପୁର ଗ୍ରାମରେ କନ୍ୟାପକ୍ଷଙ୍କୁ ସ୍ୱେଚ୍ଛାସେବୀ ବୁଝାଇଛନ୍ତି

ବିବାହ ତିନୁ ସିର ହୋଇଥିଲା। ତିନୁ ସ୍ୱେଚ୍ଛାସେବୀ, ଗ୍ରାମର ମୁରବୀ ଦ୍ୟତି, ଶିଶୁ ସୁରକ୍ଷା ଏମିତି ସଦସ୍ୟଙ୍କ ଆଡ଼ିବିକ ଉଦ୍ୟମ ପକ୍ଷରେ ବାହାଘର ଭାଙ୍ଗିଥିଲା। ପରିସ୍ଥିତି ଏମିତି ହୋଇଥିଲା ଯେ, ବାଂସୁଦା ନାବାଳିକା କନ୍ୟା ମଧ୍ୟ ଏକାକି ଉତ୍ତୁପୁରା ଉତ୍ତୁପୁର ପାଇଁ ଉଦ୍ୟମ କରିବ ବୋଲି ଶପଥ ନେଇଥିଲା ଏବଂ ଗ୍ରାମବାସୀ ନାବାଳିକା ବା କରି କିଛି ବିବାହ ନ କରିବାକୁ ନିଷିଦ୍ଧି ନେଇଥିଲେ।