

STOP CHILD MARRIAGES- an initiative of SSD Karauli, Rajasthan

One of the most important tenets of Child rights is ensuring their basic rights to good health, nutrition, education and freedom from violence, abuse and exploitation. Child marriage deprives the children of all these rights, denying them the opportunity to develop into fully empowered individuals. As Karauli has highest cases of Child marriage in Rajasthan due to lack of awareness among community and other reasons, this campaign which has been started from 2nd Oct will be extremely useful and help them in taking pro-active measures to eradicate the menace of child marriage in Rajasthan.

International day of Girl child: Theme for 2012: Ending Child marriage



Date-11 Oct 2012

Venue- Govt. Girls Senior Secondary School

Society for Sustainable Development (SSD) Ngo has celebrated International day of Girl child in Karauli district of Rajasthan, India with Govt. and local departments, staff, teachers along with more than 500 girls. The chief guest was District Magistrate of Karauli. Child Development Project Officer and Family counselor, Karauli was special guest of the event. Child right volunteer from SSD's Rohit Bijalwan started the programme by welcoming chief guest, School staff and other officials. He spoke on the agenda of this event, objective of our campaign which has been already started and the importance of this day among girls.



The Chief Guest of the event District Magistrate Mr. R.S Jakhar addressed young girls' child on their rights and says to take care of personal hygiene. He said education will play a key role to stop child marriages in Karauli and also promised that if any one found involved in such child marriages or promoting it in our district, administration



will take severe actions towards it. He also discussed what are the obstacles in achieving Millennium Development Goal (MDG) and in development of healthy communities.

Mrs. Meena (CDPO, Karauli) interacted with girls and shared her own experience. She discussed the negative effects and the risks associated with child marriages among adolescent's girls' i.e. unwanted pregnancies, HIV, disconnect from basic education. She said pregnancy complications



are the leading cause of death for girls in the age group of 15-19. She attracted everyone attention on making education one of the best strategies for protecting girls and combating child marriage. She also spoke on what are the prerequisite precautions during menstruation and emphasized on regular visit to Aanganwari Kendra.

Mrs. Sunita Sharma who is well known family counselor in Karauli also discussed issues related to domestic and sexual violence in young couple. She says, more than 5 cases comes per day of domestic and sexual violence to her and early child marriage is the only reason for it.

Finally SSD's Director discussed children rights and said there are problems especially related to child marriage in our district but there is again an opportunities to work on it. He said by educating and creating awareness to stop child marriage will not serve purpose. We also need to make joint efforts with Govt and other NGOs not to work in isolation.

**SOCIETY FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
WORKING TOWARDS A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE**

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