

CHILD MARRIAGE – A LOOSING GAME

School Student Helpline, OSEPA, Odisha.

Education is in the period when given as right of a child irrespective of sex, caste, religion etc. child marriage practice still continues which puts an end to the formal education of a girl child. It leads to drop out from school. One bright example is the case of . Jamuna Majhi, a student of class IX from Sabulia High School under the Rambha police station whose dream for higher education was about to be shattered when her parents fixed her marriage on 1st Feb 2017 overnight. In that crucial juncture, school student helpline of OSEPA came forward as a saviour to protect the ambition of the student, a minor girl and saved her by postponing/cancelling the marriage of under age. The case of jamuna is that, the marriage of jamuna's elder sister was finalised and scheduled to be held on 1st February 2017. But due to some reason she did not agree to marry and all of a sudden parents decided to get Jamuna married in place of her elder sister with the same groom. Jamuna raised voice against the decision of her parents but they did not listen to her. She went to the Head Master of her school for help who was reluctant to take any step on his own. Then the girl approached her friend's brother who informed the matter to student helpline team through toll free No 1800-3456722 on 28th January. Immediately the helpline team took up the issue with DCPO (District Child Protection Officer) as well as District Project Coordinator, Ganjam. Initially counselling was done on 28th January with the parents of the girl but it did not bring any concrete result. Again on 30th January a team including District Nodal Officer, School Student Helpline (SSH) of DPC office, CDPO of the block, Officers of child-line, inspector-in-charge of Rambha police station along with DCPO reached to the parents of both bride and groom. Both the parents were counselled and warned regarding legal implication of child marriage under the Juvenile Justice Act as well as child marriage Act. The parents realised their mistake and agreed to stop the marriage ceremony. The enquiring team lodged FIR against the family members of Jamuna to keep them kept under surveillance of the police to prevent any such attempt in near future. Besides the Nodal officer, School Student Helpline of DPC office

was in touch with the Head Master of the school to know the update status of the child from time to time.



Jamuna Majhi Felicitated In Suravi Programme

The district administration was pleased with the child for her bravery and the bold steps taken by her against such social stigma and felicitated her in the district level function “ SURAVI”. Now she has become a role model for other girls in society. Thus timely action of School Student Helpline as well as other officials could save the minor girl child from getting married.
