



Child Marriage: A violation of Child Rights



Ashray team.

One of the latest trends in human trafficking is Bride Trafficking also called "Child Marriage" where minor girls are being married to men who are twice/thrice of their age and further sold into sex trafficking. Sadly, in the state of West Bengal, this trend has become very common, and is being practice by traffickers. Child Marriage in West Bengal: Key Insights from the NFHS-5 (2019-21)

marriages, which is leading to Human trafficking.

In the month of May, we successfully rescued Reshmi (name changed), a minor girl, who is a student of 10th grade. Reshmi was about to be sold by her father in the name of Child marriage. Reshmi's father was convinced by Raju (trafficker-name changed), aged 35 to

Ashray, in the state of West Bengal is actively engaged in rescuing girls from child

get his daughter married to him and the marriage would be financially beneficial for his family. Reshmi had no say in the forced marriage with a stranger who was twice her age, yet she had hope. Mustering up courage, Reshmi sought refuge with a friend, Riya, also a child marriage survivor through Ashray. On hearing her plight, Riya immediately contacted the

The Ashray Bengal team investigated the situation and informed the local police station. Soon, a joint rescue was conducted by the police officials from Berhampur along with Ashray team and rescued Reshmi from being a victim of Bride trafficking.

signed a bond, disallowing Reshmi's father to get his minor child married. Non-compliance of the bond would amount to strict legal ramifications.

A First Information Report (FIR) has been registered against the trafficker and the police

Today, Reshmi is with her family; enrolled in a school and completing her education. Ashray is continuously monitoring her situation.



Breaking the chains of bondage



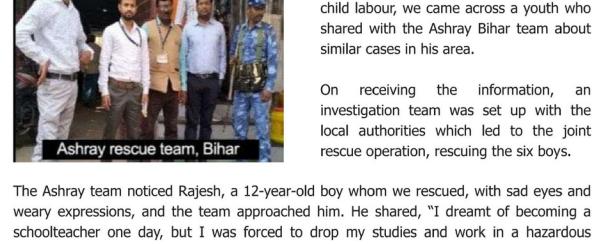
children between the ages from ten to fifteen who were trapped as bonded labour and were forced to repay their families' debt. The children were working under exploitative conditions. Child labor is a serious issue that violates the rights of children and hinders the overall

In the month of June 2023, we were able to rescue six

development of a child.

of Ashray's awareness During one programs, when we were talking about

Ashray has collaborated with Bihar government authorities to identify and are working together to combat child labour and rescue children from exploitative work conditions.



shared with the Ashray Bihar team about similar cases in his area. On receiving the information, investigation team was set up with the

local authorities which led to the joint

child labour, we came across a youth who

rescue operation, rescuing the six boys. condition every day." Rajesh was forced to work under the scorching sun, molding bricks,

The rescued children were brought to the government Shelter home and legal complaints against the employers have been filed at the local police station under the Child Labour ((Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986.

The children were sent to the Child Welfare Committee and have been restored to their families and Ashray is monitoring the children on regular basis, and we are trying to admit

carrying heavy loads, inhaling dusts which has led him to have difficulty breathing

condition so that he can repay his families' debt without being paid for his work.

Saving lives beyond borders

Human traffickers had been vulnerable

Ashray, in collaboration with the Border Security Forces' Anti - Human Trafficking Unit (AHTU) has come together and been has

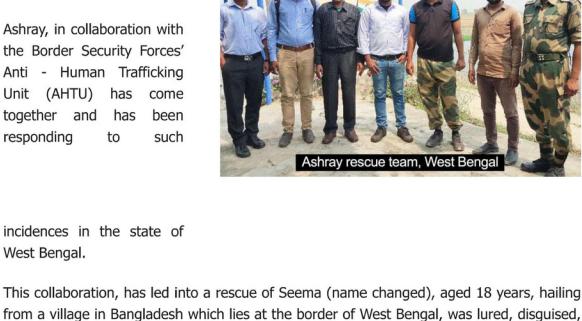
individuals across borders.

trafficking

them in the schools.

exploiting communities,

responding to such incidences in the state of West Bengal.



and trafficked in the name of a better job opportunities into India.



details about the incident with the Ashray team. During Ashray's investigation, we were able to identify the place where Seema was kept along with another girl, named Nisha who was trafficked as well. Knowing about the situation, our

Seema's parents were unable to reach the contact number that was shared by the trafficker. The parents panicked and filed a police complaint where the police further contacted the AHTU of the Indian BSF Border police. The BSF further shared the

team immediately informed the BSF Anti Human Trafficking Unit and the local police. Then a rescue operation was conducted where Seema and Nisha were rescued.

The police also arrested the trafficker and legal proceedings are being conducted against them. Today both the girls have been restored back to their families.



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