Title: Rescuing Sita(Name changed) and Gita(Name changed): A Case Study of Child Marriage in Giridih, Jharkhand.



Background:

Sita(Name changed), 14, and Gita(Name changed), 17-year-old girls, belonged to a poverty-stricken family in a remote village in Giridih. Due to their financial struggles, Sita(Name changed) and Gita(Name changed)'s parents are ready to arrange their marriage with who are twice their age.

Rescue operation:

In early 2023, Banwasi Vikas Ashram NGO, known for its dedication towards eradicating child marriage. The community social worker got to know about the Sita(Name changed) only during an awareness program in Sita's community. The CSW immediately informed his higher authority in the organization. The organization quickly intervened by coordinating with local authorities and carrying out rescue operations.

Upon reaching home, the team faced opposition from families and community members, but the team made them aware of the impact of child marriage and the laws and penalties under the Child Marriage Prohibition Act 2006, they agreed to stop and signed the undertaking.

When Sita(Name changed)'s parents were signing the undertaking form, suddenly a woman came to the same premises and introduced herself as Gita(Name changed)'s mother and told the team that I have also fixed the marriage of my daughter, but she is also a minor, and I don't want any legal complications. So, I also want to sign the undertaking of Child marriage. I will marry my daughter after she turns 18. The team provided immediate psychological support to Sita(Name changed) and Gita(Name changed).

Rehabilitation and Support:

Banavasi Vikas Ashram NGO, is recognized for its comprehensive rehabilitation programmes. BVA assisted Sita(Name changed) and Gita(Name changed) in filling out the sponsorship scheme form and applying. Sita(Name changed) and Gita(Name changed) were enrolled in schools, where they continued their further education. Sita(Name changed) is continuing her study in class 9 at +2 High School Giridih and Gita(Name changed) is Preparing for Matric Exam.

Future prospects:

Sita(Name changed) and Gita(Name changed)'s educational journey began under the guidance of the NGO. He used to attend classes regularly. The organization ensured that they received proper schooling, opening doors to a brighter future.