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

Background:

Lali(Name changed), 12 year 6-month-old girl, belonged to a poverty-stricken family in a remote village in the Bengabad block of Giridih. Due to their financial struggles, Lali(Name changed)'s parents were ready to arrange their marriage with those who were 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 Lali(Name changed) during an awareness program in Lali(Name changed)'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.

Rehabilitation and Support:

Banawasi Vikas Ashram NGO, is recognized for its comprehensive rehabilitation programmes. BVA assisted Lali(Name changed) in filling out the sponsorship scheme form and applying. Lali(Name changed) were enrolled in Class 7 at Middle schools, Sonbad where she continued her further education.

Future prospects:

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

Conclusion:

Lali(Name changed)'s case serves as a poignant example of the prevalence of child marriage in rural areas. The intervention by the Banwasi Vikas Ashram NGO brought an end to her circumstances and provided her with hope for a better life. This case study highlights the crucial role NGOs play in rescuing and rehabilitating child marriage victims, ultimately helping them reclaim their childhood and secure a dignified future.