

#### REPORT

ON

# AWARENESS PROGRAMME AGAINST GENDER INEQUALITY AND CHILD MARRIAGE

Organized by

# DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE & IQAC, BILASIPARA COLLEGE

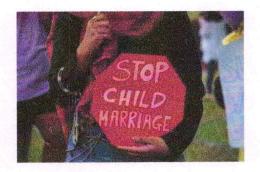
IN COLLBORATION WITH

RANIGANJ H.S. SCHOOL

Dhubri, Assam

18/09/2023





## Awareness Programme Against Gender Inequality and Child Marriage at Raniganj H.S. School

#### **Event Organized by**

Department of Political Science & IQAC

Bilasipara College

In collaboration with

Raniganj H.S. School.

Date: 18/09/2023

Time: 11 am onwards

Venue: Raniganj H.S. School, Raniganj (Dhubri), Assam.

Beneficiaries: Class 9 and 10 students of Raniganj H.S. School, Assam.



#### **Schedule of events:**

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- Describing the
  - "objective of the event"
- Introductory speech by
  - Principal, Ranigani H.S. School
- Welcome address by
  - Subject teacher of Economics, Raniganj H.S. School
- Speech by Sunil Kumar Sharma, HoD, Political Science, Bilasipara College
- Speech by Namrata Sen, Assistant Professor, Political Science, Bilasipara College
- Interactive session with the students
- Concluding remarks by the Principal Raniganj H.S. School.

# Significance of awareness programme against Gender Inequality and Child marriage

Gender inequality is like a chronic disease of which most societies are victims. Simply put gender equality stands for discrimination, partiality, biasness towards one gender at the expense of the other. The base of these is 'gender' of a person which again is a creation of the society or in other words is a social creation. As far as India is concerned the majority of the victims of gender inequality are women owing obviously to the parochial society based mainly on patriarchy. As a result of this women have to overcome inequalities in almost all spheres of their lives- economic, social, cultural, political, biological spheres to name a few. Hence, it is the need of the hour to address the issue with immediacy.

As far as child marriage is concerned it is one of the most gruesome manifestation of gender inequality leaving a permanent imprint not only on the lives of the victims but the society as a

whole. The relevance or the urgent need to eradicate it needs no second thought. Despite the recognition of this by governments around the globe, human society has not yet been able to get rid of it completely. In fact the situation is more adverse in South Asian countries including India which stands at the fourth rank amongst 8 countries in this region. And the majority of the victims of this vicious practice are without any doubt the girls. It thus emanates from various related issues that haunts the Indian society till date and hence cannot be expected to be solved solely by laws and regulations. Because as regards legal infrastructure in place for the prevention of child marriage and the related issues like dowry, domestic violence, sexual violence etc Indian government has made major strides. To name a few there is the "Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006", "Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act (POCSO), 2012", schemes like "Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao, 2015", "the National Commission for the Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) etc. The presence of the above-mentioned protections in place and the simultaneous presence the practice of child marriage indicate towards the fact that it is deep rooted in the society and hence societal transformation is the key assisted with the infrastructural aids.

#### Awareness Programme against Child Marriage at Udmari High School

The aforesaid programme was organized by the Department of Political Science and IQAC Bilasipara College, in collaboration with Raniganj H.S. School. The awareness programme was conducted on 18<sup>th</sup> of September, 2023 aimed particularly for the students of class 9 and 10 given their vulnerability in this matter.

The programme was commenced by an introductory speech by Principal, Raniganj H.S. School. It was then followed by a welcome speech by the subject teacher of economics from Raniganj H.S. School.

The programme then proceeded with the speech was by Sunil Kumar Sharma, HoD, Political Science. He focused on the respect for girls which is rooted in the Indian culture and the need to understand the true essence of it. He also pondered on the fact that without the development of this section of the population, real development is impossible. He also informed the students about the legal protections in place and the ways they can avail it. He strongly opposed this parochial and gruesome practice of child marriage which still haunts the lives of many girls in this region.

The last speech of the programme was given Namrata Sen, Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science. She addressed the target population on one of the most recurrent and deeply entrenched issue, that is, patriarchy, which can be said to be one of the major reasons for the continuance of child marriage. She used instances of gender based discrimination, sometimes in very subtle and on others in a more explicit form in daily lives of girls. Focussing on these daily and subtle instances of gender inequality she sought to draw the attention of the students as to how deep rooted this problem of gender inequality even in this contemporary times. She then concluded the speech by urging the girl students to become economically independent which can act as a very effective antidote to the ill called child marriage and any other form in which gender inequality springs its head.

After this, a short interactive session was held with the students where they cleared their doubts, speculations and their experiences and their opinion on the effectiveness of the programme.

Lastly, a concluding speech was given by the Raniganj H.S. School and with this the programme formally came to an end.

Signature of the Principal principal Bilasipara College



### Some glimpses of the Programme

