

KANYASHREE AND THE AGENDA 2030

Kanyashree goal is clear and focused: improvement in the status of girls and women in West Bengal through the prevention of child marriage and increase in educational attainment of girls till at least age 18.

These outcomes are likely to impact the following SDGs



Goal 1: No Poverty

- Child marriage perpetuates the cycle of poverty by cutting short girls' education, pushing them into early and repeated pregnancies, and limiting their opportunities for employment.
- Perpetuates generational cycles of poor health, illiteracy and deepening poverty.
- Lifetime of socio economic exclusion of child brides leads to feminization of poverty



Goal 3: Good health and well being

- Child marriages lead to teenage pregnancies and associated risks of mother-and-child ill health / mortality. When girls survive childbirth, they can be left with devastating injuries such as obstetric fistula.
- Marriage and early child bearing can also be emotionally challenging for girls who are still children themselves. Delaying marriage and pregnancy to an age at which girls are ready is better for their physical and psychological well-being as well as the health of their children.



Goal 4: Quality Education

- Child marriage usually means the end of a girl's education. Once married, girls are burdened with their new responsibilities as wives and mothers and often stay at home as a result. Their husband or in-laws may not be supportive of their education and in some countries laws don't allow married girls to return to school.
- Field studies show that most women have to take up some economic activity in later years, and that their lack of qualifications and work experience makes them ill-equipped for the labour market, and therefore susceptible to poverty and exploitation throughout life.
- However girls who have a secondary education are six times less likely to marry as children. Educated mothers are more likely to be able to provide for their children and less likely to marry them at a young age.



Goal 5: Gender equality

- Child marriage overwhelmingly happens to girls because they are girls. Discriminatory norms around girls' value, sexuality and role in society are strong drivers of the practice. In many communities where child marriage is practised, girls are not valued as much as boys – they are seen as a burden.
 - We know that marriage ends girls' opportunities for education, better paid work outside the home and leadership roles in their communities, and subjects them to violence.
 - Sexual activity with a minor, even if it is within marriage, can be termed as statutory rape Child brides are more susceptible to domestic violence throughout life.
 - Child marriages are used as a conduit for child trafficking.

SDG Indicator 5.3: Eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation makes explicit the global

community's acknowledgement of child marriage and other retrogressive practices on gender equality, and will ensure national accountability in ending such practices



Goal 8: Economic Growth

- When girls are able to go to school, learn the skills they need to secure a job, and have access to the same economic opportunities as boys, they will be able to support themselves and their families and help to break the cycle of intergenerational poverty.
- Current research shows that the costs of child marriage to national economies through the following pathways are very significant: increased population growth; reduced educational attainment, labour force participation; health, nutrition and violence, and reduced participation.



Goal 9: Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation

- Scheme's convergent implementation platform and decentralized implementation strategy strengthens government organizations from state to grassroots, and allows for localized innovations
- Empowering educational institutions to provide quality education and e-services for vulnerable girls
- Intensive capacity building in Train The Trainer mode



Goal 10: Reduced Inequalities within and amongst countries

The negative impact of child marriage on education, health, safety and economic productivity widens the gap between:

- Genders (significantly more girls are married than boys)
- Between communities (Some communities have significantly strong traditions of child marriage, while many do not, or have given up the practice)
- Between countries (Some countries have significantly strong traditions of child marriage, despite it being prohibited by law; in some countries, child marriage is not practiced at all)



Goal 16: Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels

- Scheme's purpose is social inclusion of vulnerable adolescent girls
- E-governance promotes the delivery of social protection measures ensuring transparency and accountability, including multiple means of grievance redressal.



Goal 17: Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development

- Convergent implementation & monitoring amongst 14 government departments promotes gender mainstreaming
 - Partnership between government, multi-lateral agencies and private institutions
 - Knowledge sharing and exchange of best practices through strategic national and international platforms
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