

CAMPAIGN FOR ENDING GIRL CHILD MARRIAGES IN TAMILNADU (CECM-TN)

Vision

Ensure safety environment for girl children to live with their basic rights and dignity in their own community through Strengthen the community of rural poor in the target area providing unprecedented networking, information sharing , solutions, continuous resource support and capacity building opportunities.

Mission

HEALDS Working to ensure that girl children making responsible decision about their marriages, Education, Sexual and reproductive health rights through change the social norms and ending community acceptance of violence against child rights.

What are the effects of child marriage?

Child brides are more likely than unmarried girls to die younger, suffer from health problems, live in poverty and remain illiterate.

Premature Pregnancy: Child brides almost always bear children before they are physically - or emotionally - ready.

Maternal Mortality: Girls younger than 15 are five times more likely to die during child birth or pregnancy than older women. Pregnancy-related deaths are the leading cause of mortality for girls aged 15 to 19 worldwide.

Infant Mortality: Mortality rates for babies born to mothers under age 20 are almost 75% higher than for children born to older mothers. The children that survive are more likely to be premature, have a low birth weight, and are more at risk for contracting HIV/AIDS.

Health Problems: Premature childbirth can lead to a variety of health problems for mothers, including fistula, a debilitating condition that causes chronic incontinence. Girls with fistula are often abandoned by their husbands and ostracized by society.

HIV/AIDS: Married girls may be more likely to contract sexually transmitted disease, including HIV/AIDS, than unmarried girls. Young girls are more physically susceptible to STD's, have less access to reproductive education and health services and are often powerless to demand the use of contraception.

Illiteracy: Child brides are often pulled out of school and denied further education. Their children are also more likely to be illiterate.

Poverty: Child brides - already poor - are isolated and denied education and employment opportunities, making it difficult for them break out of the cycle of poverty.

Abuse and Violence: Child brides are more likely to experience domestic abuse, and violence than their peers who marry later.

Mental Health: Violence and abuse can lead to post-traumatic stress and depression.

Isolation and Abandonment: Child brides are often isolated from their peers and abandoned if they develop health problems like fistula.

Child marriage activities of HEALDS since 2000

- Provide awareness education on child rights and impact of child marriages to 1360 adolescent girls supported by Asha for education
- In 2004, HEALDS directly rescue 11 girls from forced marriages
- In 2006, HEALDS initiate HIV/AIDS awareness to 2220 young boys and girls in Namakkal district
- In 2007, HEALDS provide counseling to 203 young girls children on adolescent psychological problems
- In 2010, HEALDS take initiative with married girls or child mothers on prevention of HIV from mother to child transmission supported by PACF.
- In 2017, HEALDS prepare to involve in advocacy project to end girl child marriages in tamilnadu. It's a CSOs networking activities in state level to conduct workshops and digital media campaigns.

State Secretariat:

M.S.A. Satish Babu

HEALDS

Opposite sugar mills, Mohanur – 637015

Namakkal district

www.healdsindia.org.in