

**Theme: Safeguarding the Girls from Early Marriage and Teenage Pregnancy**

**Village: Bshnubati Adibasi para**

**Date: 24-01-2025**

**Description of the Activity:**

The community organization program was held on the topic “Safeguarding Girls from Early Marriage and Pregnancy” in a tribal village Bshnubati Adibasi para where child marriage is still a common issue. The student social worker noticed many young girls were getting married early and decided to take action. After discussing with the supervisor and getting permission, the worker started awareness campaigning in the village. The CO program was organized at the ICDS center, where around 21 adolescent girls and their guardians participated. The student social worker and the resource persons explained the legal age of marriage—18 for girls and 21 for boys—and talked about the serious health and emotional problems that girls face due to early marriage and teenage pregnancy. They also spoke about the importance of girls completing their education and being empowered with knowledge about reproductive health, life skills, and decision-making. A short awareness video was shown to make the message clearer. The girls actively took part in the discussion and shared their thoughts. Some villagers admitted they arrange early marriages due to safety concerns or social pressure. The worker explained that early marriage harms the girl's health and future. Many girls felt happy to speak openly and found the session helpful in understanding their rights. The program successfully raised awareness in the community and encouraged both girls and their families to stop child marriage and support girls' education and empowerment.

**Outcome of the Program:**

The Community Organization program successfully created awareness about the harmful effects of early marriage and teenage pregnancy. Many adolescent girls and their guardians took part in the session and showed interest in learning. The program helped them understand the legal age of marriage, the importance of education, and the health risks of early pregnancy. The resource persons and the student social worker explained the issues clearly, and a video was shown to make the message stronger. Some villagers admitted they were unaware of the long-term impact,

while others supported the idea of change. Overall, the program encouraged the community to protect girls' rights and support their education and personal development.

