

Awareness meet on child marriage held



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Shajid Khan 13 July 2016 13797 views

To rein in the widespread illegal practice, of child [marriage](#) an awareness meeting on child [marriage](#) and was held at the auditorium of Bordoloi Bhawan in [Tangla](#) on Wednesday. The awareness programme was held under joint collaboration of [Udalguri](#) district administration, District social [welfare](#) office and ROSS [NGO](#). [SDO Udalguri](#) Dithakananda Hazarika graced the event [as chief](#) guest.

An awareness rally was also taken out throughout the town which was flagged off by [SDO Udalguri](#) Dithakananda Hazarika. The purpose of the programme was elaborated by Dimple Baruah Assistant Commissioner [Udalguri](#). The programme was chaired by Manik Ch. Sarma which was addressed by Gautam Sahariah DCPO, Keshab Dutta [Udalguri](#) Bar [President](#), Manik Ch. Sarma DSWO member, CWC Chairman Binapani Devi, Udaiaditya Gogoi and [SDO](#) D. Hazarika .

Earlier Nilakshi Bordoloi DSWO felicitated the guests on the dice. Dimple Baruah Assistant Commissioner speaking on the occasion said " We all are aware of the fact that legal age of [marriage](#) for male is 21 years and for female is 18 years. Despite in backward places [girls](#) are pushed to [marriage](#) at the age of 14-16 years.

She exhort the ANM [workers](#) to organize awareness programmes on the same in monthly basis in remote areas and report the same with photographs to [Social](#) Welfare officer. Speaking on the occasion [as](#) resource person Keshab Dutta spoke on the prevalent laws of constitution which prevents and thereby penalizes child [marriage](#).

A street play was also staged by ANM [workers](#) which conveyed the message of curbing the [menace](#) of child [marriage](#).

Binoy Medhi educationist said " Ga-dhan a kind of dowry was prevalent

in earlier days where CWC Chairman Binapani Devi said primary reasons of child [marriage](#) is dowry, unawareness among masses. Young [girls](#) are exploited by in laws both physically and mentally. Laws have not been effective in curbing child [marriage](#), Devi added.

Manik Sarmah CWC member said " Since pre-independence days laws have not effective cause the people are unaware of the post [marriage](#) troubles faced by brides."

Binoy Medhi educationist observed that even matriarchal societies where the status of women such [as](#) in Assam "The tradition in earlier days was for the groom's family to give a compulsory brideprice called 'ga' which means body and 'dhan' or wealth. 'Gadhan' generally involved giving rice, silver or gold to the bride's family.

Karuna Kanta Ojha CWC member urge district authorities to curb the menace of child [marriage](#) by promoting and creating awareness and sensitising the [community](#) to the ill-effects of child marriages.

At the end the vote of thanks was conveyed by Lalit Boro ROSS [NGO](#) general secretary .



Shajid Khan

Recipient of The Annual Colosseum Awards 2014 & 2015 (by The Assam Tribune group), Shajid Khan is an Independent journalist based in Assam. He has contributed numerous political, socio-political stories for bountiful national, international as well as Assam based publications including The New York Times, Firstpost, The Telegraph. He also pens down analytic commentary on print and web based publications.

BY SHAJID KHAN

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