

**MINUTES OF MEETING ON PREVENTION AND REPORTING OF CHILD MARRIAGES IN THE DISTRICT HELD ON 19/7/2022 AT 3:00 P.M IN THE CONFERENCE HALL, OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY COMMISSIONER, SOUTH SALMARA MANKACHAR.**

The meeting was chaired by Smt. Pallavi Sarkar, IAS, Deputy Commissioner, and South Salmara Mankachar District. The Chair welcomed the members present in the meeting and apprised them on the rampant practice of child marriage in the district.

Thereafter, Shri Bonny Inam Shadab, ACS, ADC (Social Welfare) briefed the members present on the agenda of the meeting and asked them to take the social responsibility of preventing child marriages in the district. He then requested DPO, SSA, to convey a presentation on child marriage prevention.


After a threadbare of discussion, the following resolutions were adopted:-

SI No	Topic of discussion	Elaborate discussion	Action to be taken	Persons concerned
1	Solemnization of minor child marriages by Kazis and their agents / Emam and Private Kazi	As per the NFHS -5 (2019-20) survey, 44.5% of women of the district were married prior to attaining 18 years of age. In addition, as per a two-monthly survey conducted by the PMMVY Cell, 24% adolescent pregnancies were found. The DC presented the facts before the House and asked everybody to take cognizance regarding gravity of the matter.  Thereafter, the Deputy Commissioner addressed the Kazis and President of District Markaz Committee regarding public complaints received from time to time, on their alleged involvement in conducting child marriages.  During many instances, she informed that the Kazis and their agents were found to be participating and holding preliminary meetings between the families prior to conducting child marriage. Thus, the Chair has directed for the Kazis to properly verify the age of bride and groom before conducting any marriage in the district.	1. In the event of reporting of Child Marriage, which has taken place or is in the process of taking final shape, legal action will be initiated against the Kazis and their agents / Emam and Private Kazi under the Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006.  2. Only Govt. Kazi's of the district shall solemnize and organize marriages, as per procedure after due verification of age of both bride and groom. No other Emam / Private Kazi or agents of Govt. Kazi's shall solemnize Muslim Marriages in the district.	Superintendent of Police, South Salmara Mankachar, Officer in charges of all police stations, i/c DCPO, Kazis (all) and President, District Markaz Committee.

2	<p>Role of BLCPC and VLCPC reporting mechanism</p>	<p>The Chair informed the members on the reporting mechanism for Child Marriages in the district. The Block Level Child Protection Committees (BLCPC) and Village Level Child Protection Committees (VLCPC) are constituted in the three nos. of Blocks whose members shall exercise strict vigilance at the grass-root level for prevention of Child Marriages.</p> <p>The Deputy Commissioner also shared the toll-free number 1077 for reporting Child Marriage in the district and informed that there is a designated i/c DCPO, Shri Tulashi Ranjan Kalita, ACS (9859261795) in the district. All members were asked to report to DCPO, either over call or text, if any information on child marriage is received.</p>	<p>1. The Committees shall ensure that no Child Marriages take place in the villages.</p> <p>2. The members shall reach the spot immediately on receiving a complaint or information on Child Marriage and prevent the same.</p> <p>3. <b>If any Child Marriage is conducted, the VLCPC members and all attendees shall be held responsible for inaction.</b></p> <p>Awareness and sensitization shall be carried out to send the girls regularly to school.</p>	<p>i/c DCPO and members of Block Level Child Protection Committees (BLCPC) and Village Level Child Protection Committees (VLCPC)</p>
3	<p>Registration of Marriage at Office of the Sub-Registrar, Hatsingimari</p>	<p>It is noticed that registration of marriage at Office of the Sub-Registrar, Hatsingimari is very poor. This indicates that majority of marriages are conducted by the Kazis and their agents / Emam and Private Kazi.</p>	<p>The Kazis shall produce the groom and bride before the Office of the Sub-Registrar, Hatsingimari and ensure that Government Marriage Registration is completed.</p>	<p>Kazis</p>
4	<p>Issuance of Marriage Agreements and Affidavits by Advocates</p>	<p>The Chair informed the house that no marriage held on the ground of an Affidavit may be held valid. It is found that Minor Marriages are held in the district on the basis of affidavit wherein the age of groom and bride appears to be forged.</p>	<p>1. The President of Bar, Association, Hatsingimari shall ascertain that no such affidavits are issued from the notaries / Advocates.</p> <p>2. If any such report of issuance of such Agreements/ Affidavits by Advocates is received, <b>proper action shall be taken to ensure the cancellation of their practices licence.</b></p>	<p>President of Bar, Association and concerned notaries of the district.</p>


Awareness and sensitization	The members were informed and asked to contact on the toll free number 1077 and emergency helpline numbers 9954853411/6026029526, as and when any information on occurrences of Child Marriage is received.	The Chair then informed that since Anganwadi Workers are members of VLCPCs, they shall remain alert and vigil at village level. During home visits to adolescent girls, the AWWs shall keep close track of them. In case, any child marriage is reported to the District Administration, the concerned AWW shall be held legally responsible.	The DI & PRO shall publicize the numbers on district website.	DI & PRO, South Salmara Mankachar
5			Project level meetings with all the Anganwadi Workers shall be conducted and active participation in reporting shall be taken care of. GP and village level miking on prevention of child marriage shall be done.	i/c DSWO, South Salmara Mankachar.

The Meeting ended with a vote of thanks from the Chair.

  
 Deputy Commissioner  
 South Salmara Mankachar  
 Hatingimari  
 Dated Hatingimari the 22<sup>nd</sup> July, 2022

Memo No. HAA-08/2021/MMR/Complaint/68 - A  
 Copy forwarded for information to:-

1. The Chairperson, Assam State Commission for Protection of Child Rights Survey, Beltola, Guwahati-28.
2. The Inspector General of Registration, Assam, Rupnagar, Guwahati-32.
3. The Secretary to the Govt. of Assam, Revenue & D.M (Registration) Department, Dispur, Guwahati -6.
4. The Joint Legal Remembrancer & Joint Secretary to the Govt. of Assam, Judicial Department, Dispur, Guwahati-6.
5. The Deputy Secretary to the Govt. of Assam, Judicial Department, Dispur, Guwahati-6.
6. The District & Session Judge, South Salmara Mankachar, Fekamari.
7. The Director, Social Welfare, Assam, M.G Road, Uzanbazar, Guwahati-1.
8. The DIO, NIC, South Salmara Mankachar. He is requested to upload the order in the district Website.
9. Members Present for information and necessary action.

  
 Deputy Commissioner  
 South Salmara Mankachar  
 Hatingimari