

Gender Respect Project

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For further information see:
<http://www.decsy.org.uk>
OR
<http://genderrespect2013.wordpress.com>

A Global Case Study: Child Marriage

Age group: KS2 and KS3

Format: lesson plan and resource sheet

Main curriculum / subject area: PSHE

Other curriculum links: Geography

Objectives: To understand that action for change can come from children.
To learn about child marriage.

Teacher Information sheet

Name of country: Bangladesh

Name of community: Dhaka

Population of community: 6.97 million (2011)

Who was affected? Children campaigning for change for children's rights.

Was an NGO involved? Plan International.

How did the NGO work? 12 year old Oli has set up a group to campaign against child marriage with the help of the charity, Plan International. Oli started the group when a close friend of his was taken to her village and forced to marry. She never came back. He felt very angry and upset that she had to be married off so early.

What change has occurred? Oli and his friends go around the slum where they live, finding girls at risk. They stand up to their elders, warning parents not to marry them off. Oli has helped to reduce the dropout rate at his school and there are now half as many child marriages in his area. There are now child marriage-free zones all across Bangladesh, where communities are working together to prevent child marriages.

Teacher Information Sheet (continued)

Why is there action for change?

Bangladesh has one of the highest rates of child marriage worldwide and the highest rate of marriage involving girls under 15. 65% of girls are married by their 18th birthday and 29% by the age of 15. As well as deeply embedded cultural and religious beliefs, drivers of child marriage include poverty, parents' desire to secure economic and social security for their daughters, and the perceived need to protect girls from harm, including sexual harassment. Dowry is also a driving factor with prices often increasing the older a girl gets. This financial pressure often means that girls from poorer families are more likely to be child brides (source: www.girlsnotbrides.org).

What can we learn from this example?

- Child marriage is still an issue, despite being illegal in many countries.
- The effects of child marriage on a girl's future, including their physical health, their education and their rights.
- Action for change can come from the children themselves.

Follow up work:

- Research the country of Bangladesh, including physical and human characteristics.
- Research other countries where child marriage is common.
- Discuss the importance of young people taking action for change. Put yourself in the shoes of Oli and his friends. How would you feel?
- Action for change: are there any issues you'd like to take action on to help bring about gender equality?
- Learn about the Global Goals for Sustainable Development and organisations that are helping to bring about these changes. Focus on Quality Education and Gender Equality.

Further information and resources:

- Watch Oli's video: <https://schoolsonline.britishcouncil.org/classroom-resources/schools-world-service/resources/bangladesh-primary>
- Learn about Plan International's child marriage campaigns in other countries: <https://plan-international.org/7-child-marriage-films>
- Plan International's report on Child Marriage Free Unions 2013: <http://www.girlsnotbrides.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/04/Plan-Bangladesh-Report-on-Child-Marriage-Free-Unions.pdf>
- Global Goals for Sustainable Development: <http://www.globalgoals.org/>

Resource Sheet: Child Marriage

Case Study: Dhaka, Bangladesh

12 year old Oli lives in Bangladesh. One of his close friends was taken to her village and forced to marry. She never came back. Oli felt very angry and upset that she had to be married off so early so he started a group to campaign against child marriage with the help of the charity, Plan International.



www.youtube.com

Bangladesh has one of the highest rates of child marriage worldwide.

65% of girls are married by their 18th birthday and 29% by the age of 15.

The Campaign

Oli and his friends go around the slum where they live, finding girls at risk. They stand up to their elders, warning parents not to marry them off. Oli has helped to reduce the dropout rate at his school and there are now half as many child marriages in his area. There are child marriage-free zones all across Bangladesh, where communities are working together to prevent child marriages.

Reasons for Child Marriage

- Cultural and religious beliefs
- Poverty
- Parents wish to secure economic and social security for their daughters
- To protect girls from harm



en.wikipedia.org