

## **“The Turning point of Purnima”**

### **Family background:**

Miss. Purnima Satnami age 16 years belongs to poor family background where one person is bread winner and 5 persons to eat. Purnima live with her parents at Biromal village of Nuapada Block which is 25km far away from block head quarter. She has 2 brothers and 1 sister, her father is Jiban Satnami working as daily labourer & her Mother Kalabati Satnami is house wife who supports husband in daily labour work when and as required. When Purnima completed matriculation her father said, no need to study further rather support in house cores, on the other hand online admission system and long distance kills the interest of higher education. Parents feel insecure for allowing her to collage and they are so called conservative family. Purnima is never allowed to meet or interact with own neibrghood or peer groups.

When Purnima remained at home people started saying something must have taken in the life of Purnima therefore she is not allowed to study further. The social stigma and bad name of daughter could not tolerate by the parent's, as the consequences entire family migrated to Andhra Pradesh to work in brick factory. In this way most of adolescents' life is ruins and destroyed. The contractor of the factory started sexual molestation with Purnima since her father had taken advance amount to work 6months but unfortunately her father get illness so the contractor was taking advantage of their situation. Most of the time the family of Purnima refused to do so with Purnima but the contractor could not listen to them rather tried time and again to abuse sexually. Finally they decided to report the police and they were rescued from them and left in their village. Few days later Purnima was left in her uncle's house and to continue her study but unfortunately could not study there, rather came back home. And finally parents decided for marriage when she was just 17years.

### **How has MNCP Project Contributed:**

In 2018 community level awareness programs were being organized and entire community stakeholders participated along with parents of Purnima. As usually project addressed the adverse effect of child marriage, SRHR, girl's education, child protection issues. Few days later the project staff visited their home and came to know Purnima's marriage is going to take place within few days. Initially the project staff tried to convince their parents and Purnima counseling them about the prevention of child marriage act 2006 and its legal provisions. Purnima had attended in sessions and program very few days when it was organized in her village. Repeatedly home visit was conducted to Purnima's house to prevent the marriage and convince her parents. After few days village meeting was conducted and discussed regarding the marriage of Purnima. From the beginning Purnima was not interested to marry at early age since she had heard the consequences of child marriage. The village leaders, PRI members and health were also imposed them to prevent the marriage and to continue her study after being heard of sexual abuse of Purnima at work place. Finally her parents convinced and the project staff suggested engaging her in skill development program especially tailoring. Within few days Purnima attended training that conducted by Jan Sikhsha Sanstha with the coordination of

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MNCP intervention. Side by side Purnima also took interested to participate LSE session, group meetings, adolescent exposure and village awareness programs. Her thought process was changed due to coming contact with peer group members, health workers and project staffs. Slowly her confident level grew and she also started teaching her parents about the LSE and menstrual health and hygiene. Even the attitude of parents turned into positive for the project and started supporting in all kinds of programs and activities. Really their parents acknowledged the important of project and the objective of intervention to empower the voice of adolescent girls for their rights and needs.

### **Present Situation:**

Purnima is now free bird to decide her life as per her choice and interest. After the training and engaging herself in many MNCP programs she was very confident enough to start her own entrepreneurship. She decided to support her family by establishing tailoring shop and stitching the cloths. Now Purnima is very efficient and active adolescent girls of Biromal village.