



### **CHILD MARRIAGES: My Saga – DrMamathaRaghuveer**

When I started my work in Warangal I had no idea that I will be dealing with Eight Decade old problem and the issue will change my life! I started teaching girls in Government run Girl's High schools in the Tri-cities of Warangal on Reproductive Health, Hygiene, Life Skills and Nutrition. I was worried about the discrimination they are being met at home and outside. After training about thousand girls in one year I felt that we should bring them to one place so that they can share their experiences and get inspiration from each other. So we had organized a 'BalikaMela' (Girls Event) and also planned lot of Speeches from different Experts and planned a Cultural Events where he Girls for the first time will have Forum to showcase their talents. During the preparations, I went to one of the schools, there I heard for the first time that a Child Marriage is going to happen. At that time, I had no idea that the girls drop out from school because of early marriages. The Principal showed me the wedding card of Rajeshwari who is studying 5<sup>th</sup> class in that school. She told me that they receive at least four to five wedding invitation cards every year from the girls and all of them drop out after marriage. This happened in 2002 February, I was very much worried about Rajeshwari, because she is very active and intelligent girl and if she stops her education, then she will have a bleak life ahead. I was so surprised that age old traditions still exist and so many Reformers like Sri VeeresalingamPantulu& Sri Raja Ram Mohan Roy fought against such social evils almost eight decades ago. We got Legislation in 1929, during the British

Rule against Child Marriages. But in this High tech Era such evils still persist hampering the development of girls and women.

The essence of marriage is companionship and mutual trust. It is a societal norm to get married. However when it comes to the girl child it becomes the sole mission of the parents right from her birth. Some Parents would like to get rid off her as quickly as possible. In the process they ignore the other dimensions – physical and psychological – which will have a negative emotional impact on the girl who gets married at an early age.

The news of Rajeshwari haunted me and I didn't know how to stop this child marriage. I met the Distict Collector, Warangal MrPrabhakar Reddy to invite him for the BalikaMela Program. Then I shared with him the news about Rajeshwari's marriage. He was also so shocked and immediately issued orders to stop the marriage. On the day of our program, i.e., 16/02/2002 we could stop the first child marriage. (Press Clips). Great ending to my trainings!

But the issue did not allow me to sleep. The next day I got information about a child marriage from other school. Again I had to request the district administration to stop the marriage. This did not stop here and I use to get at least two to three cases in a week. Then when I requested the District Collector to support a Campaign against this evil, he readily agreed. Then with the help of staff of a Telugu News Daily we conducted a rapid survey in the district. We could conclude from the survey that child marriages are rampant in 22 Mandals (Blocks) and 82 villages (List of villages). The statistics gathered from the 2001 Census showed that Warangal district is in Second position in the state as far as Child Marriages are concerned. A door-to-door survey by us in 10 villages revealed an astonishing 102 cases of child marriage. Incidences of girls dying during delivery due to complications, childlessness, and harassment for dowry, stillbirth and low birth weight, child widows, prevalence of sexually transmitted infections are seen commonly among couples here. Among the surveyed couples we found that:

- **3** girls died during delivery
- **2** girls committed suicide
- **2** girls were murdered by their in-laws – cases booked
- **3** boys committed suicide
- **25** families have no children at all
- Wherever children born they are low birth weight babies only

- **All** of them suffer from RTIs and STIs
- **All** the girls were either illiterate or school drop-outs

From all these surveys it is evident that almost all the parents who are marrying off their daughters are illiterate and belong to few backward/ Schedule castes. To sensitize these parents we needed a cultural troop who can go around all these targeted eighty villages. We could train a group of young girls from one of the Government School in cultural items and sent them to these villages accompanied by a dedicated teacher Ms Manga. I choose young girls instead of Adult Artists because I felt that these girls who are continuing their education can inspire other girls and also parents and make them rethink if they are marrying off their young girls. This idea worked so well that all the villagers who use to gather in the evenings to watch these Girl's shows were very much inspired. They could understand the message through these shows which are in the form of local village Art forms. (Photos)

During this three month campaign we could stop more than 40 child marriages with the help District Administration & Police. Strangely it had become a very important activity for Police and other Departments in the District because the District Collector had taken it up personally. It is very surprising that in almost all the child marriages stopped the girls were in the age group of 8 to 13 years. I even saw some marriages where the girls were only 6 yrs to 7 years. They were made to sit in the wedding Mandap by offering the children chocolates and ice cream! (Video with True stories – 'Chigurutakulu / Blooming Buds'). This massive campaign ended when the District Collector got transferred. The New Collector had not taken interest. But who ever worked in the District as Collectors in those received special mentions or Awards from the Chief Ministers for working on social evils and this credit definitely goes to Tharuni. Tharuni team had to spend hours together in explaining the implications of Child Marriages to all the officials at District, Mandal (Block) & Village level. It had become part of the duty of Tharuni to sensitize these officials when transfers took place and new officers joined. Fortunately Tharuni could depend on one officer from Police / Judiciary / other Departments who was sensitive enough to respond and cooperate in stopping child marriages.

People started looking at Tharuni as 'Saviour of Girls'. Tharuni started getting so many calls to stop child marriages. Some we could stop and some we could not. The parents became more vigilant started performing the marriages without any hungama – No wedding cards, no white wash to the house, no music and no

Shamiana. But having reliable information when we reached to the spot they use to fight with us. It was always like a battle scene and people use to curse, verbally abuse and throw sand on us saying we will die! But myself & our team were very determined and use to wait hours in the girl's house to see whether they are going with the marriage or not. Sometimes we had to sit entire night waiting and suddenly the parents use to make the boy tie the Mangalsutra to the girl in another room or place. All our waiting would go a waste. So many success stories to narrate along with so many failures – 50-50. Tharuni had become a Brand for stopping child marriages. Parents use to run away when they came to know that Tharuni team is coming to stop child marriage in their house. Many parents had to perform these child marriages in temples or churches far away from their villages. So we started sensitizing the Purohiths in the Temples & Pastors in churches. National Commission for Women supported Tharuni for conducting a Sensitization workshop for Purohiths. (Photo/ clipping).

Tharuni adopted Five Point Strategy to stop Child Marriages:

- 1) To sensitize Girls – We use to conduct trainings, Melas& Essay writing competitions in the schools to generate thinking among girls. Setting up of Girl Child Clubs (BalikaSanghams) to unite, mobilize, educate, inspire and motivate girls. (Photos)
- 2) Organizing Cultural Events / Kalajathas for Parents (who are mostly illiterate) – adopted novel methods like using Puppetry, local Folk Art Forms in these cultural events. (Video – Puppetry & Kalajatha Photos)
- 3) Organizing Training Workshops to Law Implementing officials at Village, Block (Mandal) & District level belonging to Five prime Departments like Police, Women & Child Welfare, Health, Education & Revenue on the Child Marriage Prevention Act, How to stop a child Marriage and the need for convergence between these departments. (Photos)
- 4) Filing Complaints with Police and Cases in different courts like District Legal Service Authority, State Human Rights Commission (SHRC), National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), High Court & Supreme Court. (Supportive Docs)
- 5) Using Media extensively in our campaign – Press Releases, Supplying stories for Press & Electronic Media focussing this issue of Child Marriages and

Focussing various Forums, Workshops (National & International) and discussing the its ill effects.

This strategy is still being followed by Tharuni. All the Government Departments scaled up these strategies in both the States of Telangana& Andhra Pradesh. These strategies showed lasting results and we could see lot of change in the mind set of parents & girls. A follow up survey conducted after three years by Department of Women & Child Welfare in Wardhannapet ICDS Project area showed 30% reduction in Child Marriages due to the efforts put in by Tharuni& district Administration.

It was in this context that Tharuni was chosen by the **National Commission for Women, New Delhi** to be associated with the state wide weeklong **campaign against child marriages** in Andhra Pradesh and was entrusted with the task in Warangal district.

But this did not satisfy me because the existing Law – Child Marriages Restraint Act, 1929 was toothless with a minimum punishment of 15 days to one month Jail & Rupees one thousand penalty for law violating parents & groom. Hence, police were not yet all interested in filling FIRs & charge sheets. Actually in all these 80 years after the Legislation was made by then British, no single penalization occurred. So I started concentrating in bringing change in the Law.

The Child Marriage Restraint Act was a social Act and the punishment was very less (up to 3 months punishment and Rs 1000/- penalty). Hence it could not been implemented effectively. I started advocating for the CMR act to be made a Criminal Act or an Act with severe punishment and wrote to Honorable Chief Justice of India, NHRC and Minister for Health, Govt. of India, Joint Secretary, WCD, Govt. of India. Then, a case was registered with NHRC (National Human Rights Commission) to stop about 65 Child Marriages which were to be held in our field area. The Government was forced to act, but could not stop more than 8 child marriages (Copy of the NHRC Orders).

Then, NHRC along with National Women's Commission asked the Govt. to bring changes in the age old Child Marriage Restraint Act. Accordingly, a Parliamentary Committee was formed to suggest changes in the CMR Act. Tharuni was also part of this Parliamentary Committee, where Tharuni's suggestions were included in the New Prohibition of Child Marriages Act, 2006. In this New Act, punishment was increased to two years of imprisonment

and penalty to one lakh Indian rupees. The Act also gave maintenance and rehabilitation to Child Bride until she re-marries again. If she asks for - she can make her child marriage a void one. The State Government of Andhra Pradesh was supposed to publish the Rules for New Prohibition of Child Marriage Act. I was part of the Committee for finalizing the Rules for this Act. But it took seven years to bring out these State Rules and I had to go pillar to post to follow the file. It was lying with High Court for many years. At last in 2013 the State Rules for Prohibition of Child Marriage Act had come making officials responsible to stop the Child Marriages at all levels from village to district. The State Government was approached to set up a District level Committee and I was made a Member in the committee in District Warangal. Further, to popularize the new Law, all the Police and ICDS officials were sensitized on the issue of Child Marriages & Compulsory Registration of Marriages through Mandal and District level workshops. We had taken up a campaign to bring effective implementation of compulsory Registration of Marriages by the Village Revenue officer and registering Births along with UNICEF which also helps in stopping child marriages during registration process.

Having a law is one thing and ensuring its effective enforcement is another thing. Sometimes we see that the people responsible for enacting law themselves promoting child marriages due to various compulsions which betrays their sincerity to the cause.

Every one considers that it is the privilege of the parents to decide when to get their daughters married and if they chose to do so even before the girl attain 18 years of age, it is **their choice** and there is nothing we can do about it. The reasons could be for security, economic stability, family compulsions from grandparents, further delay may result in losing the groom to someone else (this happens mostly in consanguinal marriages), etc.

This attitude of parents and Law enforcement officials may take generations of time to change. But we had adopted so many possible ways to bring in the required change. One is the Legal battles. As already said I had filled a PIL with NHRC. Similarly in many other courts, we filled many cases. We could stop a marriage by filling a complaint with District Legal Services Authority, Warangal. For the first time in history, the Hon'ble Secretary issued a Decree to stop this Child Marriage of 13 year old Swathi of Chilpurvillage who is completing her Engineering Degree this year.( Story of Swathi).











- Bringing Focus on the issue at State and National levels
- Awareness Campaigns
- Trainings for Enforcement Agencies and Peoples representatives
- Counseling the Parents
- Legislative Measures
- Framing of the rules
- Legal Battles
- Girl Empowerment through Balika Sanghas
- Nutrition and Reproductive Health Awareness for Girls
- Emphasizing on Registration of Marriages

The essence of marriage is companionship and mutual trust. It is a societal norm to get married. However when it comes to the girl child it becomes the sole mission of the parents right from her birth. Some Parents would like to get rid off her as quickly as possible. In the process they ignore the other dimensions – physical and psychological – which will have a negative emotional impact on the girl who gets married at an early age. The **Prohibition of Child Marriage Act 2006** stipulates that the minimum age for marriage for a girl is **18** years and that for a boy is 21 years.

Having a law is one thing and ensuring its effective enforcement is another thing. Sometimes we see that the people responsible for enacting law themselves promoting child marriages due to various compulsions which betrays their sincerity to the cause. Every one considers that it is the privilege of the parents to decide when to get their daughters married and if they chose to do so even before the girl attain 18 years of age, it is **their choice** and there is nothing we can do about it. The reasons could be for security, economic stability, family compulsions from grand parents, further delay may result in losing the groom to someone else (this happens mostly in consangual marriages), etc.

Every Day 25,000 Child Marriages take place in the world. In the Next Decade about 100 million Girls will be married before they reach 18. More than 51 million girls between the ages of 15 to 19 are currently married. **India stands at 9th position** in the world with **57%** of girls getting married **before the age of 18 years**. Niger (82%), Bangladesh (75%) and Chad (73%) are the top three. The other Asian nation to figure in this dubious distinction list is Nepal with 63% placed at 6th position. (Demographic Health Survey 1996-2001).

If we look at the Indian scenario, Andhra Pradesh is **3rd** in India along with Rajasthan with **55%** of marriages being child marriages (NFHS – 2005-06).

**Andhra Pradesh** is **first** in respect of child marriages in **South India**, with 49%, followed by Karnataka with 29.6%, Tamilnadu 19.5% and Kerala 11.8%. Andhra Pradesh also accounts for the least Age at Marriage as **12 years**, which is the lowest in entire India. The prevalence of child marriages is quite rampant in Warangal district.

## District Warangal:

Warangal district, situated 130 km from the state capital Hyderabad is bounded on the North by Karimnagar district, on the West by Medak district, on the South by Nalgonda District and Khammam District on East and South - East. The Geographical area of the District is 12846 square km (7993 square miles). Warangal is a vast district with 52 revenue blocks, known as Mandals. The total rural population of the district is a little over two and half million (26.23 lakhs). There are five towns in the district viz., Warangal, Kadipikonda, Janagoan, Mahubabad and Dornakal. The total urban population is over half a million (6.2 lakhs), making the total population of the district a little over three million. The population density of the district is 406 persons per square mile.

While Warangal has a rich history and currently boasts of excellence, academia, and has seen significant agricultural and economic development, the district is a

contradiction in terms, and is characterized by dwindling gender indices, increasing marginalization, exclusion, and exploitation of women and children, especially from the socially and economically disadvantaged groups, and poor access to services for the socially marginalized communities.

### ***The girl child of Warangal- Areas of Major Concern:***

The percentage of literacy in the district is 49.26% and only 19.16% of the female population of the district is literate[1]. In terms of employment, girls and women, who form a significant part of the agricultural and non-agricultural labor force, fare even worse than men, with lower wages, unhygienic and unsafe working conditions, and reported abuse and exploitation at the worksite.

### ***Child Marriage- Getting Rid of the Burden:***

About 1500 child marriages, mostly of girl children take place every year in Warangal. A study conducted by Tharuni voluntary organization working in the district indicates that more than 66% of the girls get married before the age of 19 years, some even at the age of 12. A door-to-door survey by this organization in 10 villages revealed an astonishing 102 cases of child marriage. Incidences of girls dying during delivery due to complications, childlessness, and harassment for dowry, stillbirth and low birth weight, child widows, prevalence of sexually transmitted infections are seen commonly among couples here.

### **Status of Child Marriages in the District of Warangal**

**Child Marriages** are most prevalent in the District of Warangal. It is evident from the following Census 2001 Data that in **Warangal** about **40.2%** marriages among the girls of 15-19 years age group are child marriages. Warangal stands in **Second** position in the State of Andhra Pradesh in Child Marriages among 15 to 19 years age group Girls and **Third** among 10 to 14 years Girls with **2.26%**.

CHILD MARRIAGE S DATA IN THE DISTRICTS OF A. P.										
Name Of The Area	Total/	Age-group	Total	Marital status						
	Rural/					Married				
	Urban /		Persons	Males	Females	Persons	%	Male s	%	Female s %
	1		2	3	4	8	9	10	9	10

District - Waranga 1 09	Total	10-14	37848 6	19804 8	180438	5132	1.3 5	1049	0.5 2	4083	<b>2.2 6</b>
District - Waranga 1 09	Total	15-19	31459 5	16136 2	153233	69172	21. 9	7546	4.6 7	61626	<b>40. 2</b>
State - ANDHRA PRADESH 28	Total	10-14	873297 1	450772 2	422525	94966	1.08	21337	0.47	73629	<b>1.74</b>
State - ANDHRA PRADESH 28	Total	15-19	757996 4	395412 4	362584 0	126927 6	16.74	120063	3	114921 3	<b>31.6</b>

### A small study done by Tharuni:

A door to door survey in rural families in 10 problematic villages done by Tharuni covering 102 child marriage couples revealed that

- 3 girls died during delivery
- 2 girls committed suicide
- 2 girls were murdered by their in-laws – cases booked
- 3 boys committed suicide
- 25 families have no children at all
- Wherever children born they are low birth weight babies only
- All of them suffer from RTIs and STIs
- All the girls were either illiterate or school drop-outs
- 

### Tharuni's Work:

**Tharuni** is a voluntary organization working for the empowerment of Adolescent Girls, Women and the Aged. As a part of our endeavor to sensitize and educate Adolescent girls regarding various issues such as **Reproductive health, nutrition, personality development, etc** we have organized 40 workshops in 16 Government Girls High schools in Warangal, Hanamkonda, Kazipet and Wardhannapet mandal and imparted training to more than **1500 girls** studying in the **classes 6<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup>** in the past two years. During our interaction with the students we have observed that the **drop out rate** among the girls is quite alarming at **7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> class** levels and in most of the cases (80%), it was due to child marriages. Some of the Headmasters have reported that they receive at least **4 to 5 wedding invitations every year** from their girl students.

Tharuni has identified that the age old problem of **child marriages** still persists in this hi-tech era and is the main cause for the high frequency of dropping out of girl children in higher classes. There is a need to enlighten both the girls as well as their parents regarding the **adverse impact on the health** of the girl due to early marriages and the resultant problems in family.

Hence Tharuni started a Campaign against child marriages and its preliminary surveys showed that at least **1200** child marriages take place in **one year** in the district of Warangal alone. Tharuni organized **Kishora Balika Melas** for Adolescent Girls with the theme that ***in this 21<sup>st</sup> century, a girl's marriage should be performed only after she attains 21 years of age*** to bring awareness among them about the evil effects of child marriages. To enlighten the parents on this issue of Child Marriages, Tharuni went round 81 problematic Villages of Warangal district covering 22 Mandals. Tharuni organized meetings and Kalajathas (cultural events) which created a very good impact. As many as **40** child marriages were stopped in three months in the year 2003 with the help of **police/ICDS/teachers** and other Government functionaries and many more curtailed in the negotiation stage itself.

It was in this context that Tharuni was chosen by the **National Commission for Women, New Delhi** to be associated with the statewide weeklong **campaign against child marriages** in Andhra Pradesh and was entrusted with the task in Warangal district.

Tharuni also organized training program on **HIV/AIDS** for **out of school Adolescent Girls** in three Mandals of Warangal district. During this program, Tharuni realized that adolescents are more vulnerable to such diseases like HIV/AIDS (one reason being child marriages) and they need lot of counseling and support. Tharuni organized a UNICEF **pilot project** on **HIV/AIDS** for Self Help Group women, **Adolescent Girls and Youth** in 200 villages in Warangal District covering **90,000** people. The NACO and UNAIDS reports show that 50% of new infections occur among youth under the age group of 15 to 24 years. The risk of HIV/AIDS increases with child marriages.

With the collaboration of Andhra Mahila Sabha literacy house Tharuni produced a **puppet show “Bommala Pelli”** (marriage of dolls) and an intensive drive **against child marriages** was launched in **40** villages where this practice is prevalent. The shows were highly successful in generating awareness in the villagers about the issue. Recognizing the power of film media in influencing the society, Tharuni Conceptualized and produced a **documentary film Chigurutakulu** (Tender Leaves) on the problem of **child marriages** in Warangal district with the help of Chandana Art Creations, Hyderabad.



A two day **Regional Workshop** on “Combating Child Marriages” was organized by Tharuni at **Warangal** on 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> June 2004. About 180 stakeholders belonging to youth, parents, caste leaders, political leaders, Govt. officials, NGOs, legal experts and media actively participated in the workshop. Thirty NGOs from five Telengana Districts participated in the workshop.

Tharuni filled a case in National Human Resource Commission (NHRC) in 2005 giving the 60 instances of child marriages to be held within two months and could bring pressure on the State Government to stop these marriages. The case is still pending and Government could only stop 8 child marriages.

BBC (British Broadcasting Corporation), U.K. in 2006 recorded a short story of a child marriage victim Ms Jangri, who was given shelter by Tharuni and transformed her into a child campaigner against child marriages.

Tharuni could bring **30%** change in the occurrence of child marriages in Mandals where it has been working. That is the only reason why State Government identified Tharuni as the only Voluntary Organization to Frame the Rules for the new **Prohibition of Child Marriage Act 2006**. The New Act gives us more power to take action against the people who are encouraging Child Marriages with the weapon of severe punishment of two years and one Lakh penalty and appointment of Child Marriage Prevention Officers. Any Agency or individual can stop the child marriage by filling a Writ in the court. For the first time in Legal history, this Act gives relief to Child Marriage girl victims by in providing shelter to children born and maintenance to the girls until they marry again.

Tharuni stopped many Child Marriages in the past twelve years. Every marriage season is crucial for Tharuni. *Tharuni filled about 53 cases against parents, elders and purohiths who performed child marriages in the District of Warangal under PCMA 2006.* In the villages where ever cases were filled, people have stopped performing child marriages. But Hundreds of such marriages were stopped only through counselling. In few cases, Tharuni failed to stop the marriage, but could counsel the parents to continue the studies of their girls after the marriage.

### **Tharuni’s Interventions against Child Marriages:**

- Tharuni has been working for the empowerment of Adolescent girls, Women and the Aged in the district of Warangal since four years.
- Tharuni also works for eradicating social evils like Child Marriages, Child Labour, Human Trafficking and HIV/AIDS.
- Tharuni organizes **Kishora Balika Melas** for Adolescent Girls every year to bring awareness among them about the evil effects of Child Marriages.

- To enlighten the parents on this issue of Child Marriages, Tharuni with the financial assistance from the District Administration went round **81** problematic **villages** of Warangal District spread over **22 Mandals**. Tharuni organized meetings and **Kalajathas** (Street Theatre & Puppet Shows) in these villages which created a very good impact.
- As many as **30** child marriages were stopped in the first 3 months of campaign itself and many more curtailed in the negotiation stage itself. In the last Twelve years, Tharuni could stop hundreds of Child Marriages. According to a study by District Women & Child Welfare Department, Tharuni could bring 30% change in the status of Child Marriages in the area where Tharuni is working.
- Tharuni organized Mandal level **Sensitization workshops** for all Government and Political functionaries in four problematic Mandals in Warangal District under UNICEF supported Child Protection Project.
- With the collaboration of Andhra Mahila Sabha puppetry house Tharuni produced a **puppet show** “Bommala Pelli” (Marriage of Dolls) and an intensive drive against child marriages was launched in 40 villages where this practice is prevalent. The shows were highly successful in generating awareness in the villagers.
- Tharuni conceptualized and produced a **documentary film** – “Blooming Buds” on the problem of child marriages in Warangal district with the help of Chandana Art Creations, Hyderabad.
- Tharuni adopted problematic Mandals and started Balika Sanghams to promote Education and skill training for Adolescent Girls in order to abstain from marrying early. In four Mandals viz., Dharmasagar, Geesukonda, Devaruppula and Station Ghanpur, about **500 Balika Sanghams** were established.
- A puppet show called “**Malli**” has been produced with the help of **UNICEF**, Hyderabad and shows were organized in all the villages in three Mandals.
- An **Exhibition** was organized in all the High schools and Upper Primary Schools narrating the Problems of Child Marriages and the Acts prohibiting it. Later an Essay Writing Competition was held for the girl students and prizes were distributed. The 26 Flexi chart exhibition produced by **Kadalika** in collaboration with UNICEF generated awareness among the students and teachers.
- Tharuni filed a Public Interest Litigation in NHRC in 2005 challenging the Government to stop 60 Child Marriages in the District of Warangal. But, they could stop only 8 marriages. NHRC along with National Commission for Women could pressurize the Government to bring changes in the Law and hence, came a new Law – Prohibition of Child Marriages Act 2006. Tharuni was part of Parliamentary Committee when this new enactment was made. Tharuni’s suggestions were adopted by the

Committee. Tharuni was also part of State level Committee to prepare Rules for PCMA – 2006.

- Tharuni filled many cases against erring elders in various courts – from NHRC to regular Magistrate Court. Tharuni filled cases in the court of District Legal Services Authority, State Human Rights Commission, District Magistrate Courts in Warangal. A total of 53 cases were registered under Prohibition of Child Marriage Act 2006 and could save many girls from the evils of Child Marriages in the District of Warangal.



Assistant Registrar(LAW)  
Tel. No.: 011-2338 5368  
Fax No.: 011-2338 6521  
Telegraphic Add.: "HUMANRIGHTS"  
Home Page : <http://nhrc.nic.in>

Case No. 781/1/2004-2005/UC  
**NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION**  
(LAW DIVISION)  
\* \* \*  
FARIDKOT HOUSE  
COPERNICUS MARG, NEW DELHI - 110 001

Dated 20/01/2005  
20 JAN 2005

To  
THE CHIEF SECRETARY  
GOVT. OF ANDHRA PRADESH, HYDERABAD

Sub : Complaint from

DR. MAMTHA RAGHUVVEER DIRECTOR THARUNI  
27, NAGARJUNA COLONY, NEAR CHAMPAPETS  
CORSS ROAD NAGAR GUINA SAGAR ROAD  
HYDERABAD, ANDHRA PRADESH.


Sir,

The complaint dated 16/01/2005, was placed before the Commission on 18/01/2005. Upon perusing the complaint, the Commission directed as follows.

*Transmit the copy of the complaint to the Chief Secretary, Govt. of Andhra Pradesh, Hyderabad for a report within four weeks. DG(I) be requested to collect the facts and to take up the matter with the D.G. Police, Andhra Pradesh to ensure that Child Marriages, stated in the complaint to take place in the coming month, are prevented.*

2. Accordingly, I am forwarding herewith a copy of the complaint for taking appropriate action in the matter as per the directions of the Commission. It is requested that an Action Taken Report be sent to the Commission within 4 weeks from the date of receipt of this letter.

Yours faithfully,


  
ASSISTANT REGISTRAR (LAW)

Encls: As above

CC to:

The Home Secretary  
THE GOVT. OF ANDHRA PRADESH, HYDERABAD

✓ DR. MAMTHA RAGHUVVEER DIRECTOR THARUNI  
27, NAGARJUNA COLONY, NEAR CHAMPAPETS CORSS  
ROAD NAGAR GUINA SAGAR ROAD  
HYDERABAD, ANDHRA PRADESH.

  
ASSISTANT REGISTRAR (LAW)

Case Filled in NHRC on Child Marriages by Tharuni