

Child Marriage Prevented in Tala Through Joint Action by CSO and Upazila Administration:

In Muragacha village of Tala Upazila, Satkhira district, the family of Riya, a seventh-grade student, arranged her child marriage. When the matter became known, both the girl and the groom's families were reportedly sent to the Satkhira District Judge Court to complete the marriage through a notary public. As a result, the education, health, and future prospects of the underage student were at serious risk. Upon learning about the incident, Mr. Jahidur Rahman, a teacher and Upazila CSO member, promptly informed the Upazila Women Affairs Officer and the Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO). Considering the urgency of the matter, the UNO immediately visited the location and held discussions with both families. During the discussion, the legal consequences of child marriage and its harmful impact on the girl's future were clearly explained. Through the strong intervention of the local administration and the active support of CSO members, the child marriage was stopped immediately. In addition, a written undertaking was obtained from the girl's father, Abdus Salam, stating that he would not arrange any child marriage in the future. As a result of this coordinated initiative, Riya's child marriage was successfully prevented, and her opportunity to continue her education was safeguarded. The incident also created a positive impact within the local community and increased awareness about the legal and social consequences of child marriage.

This case demonstrates that effective coordination among local CSO members, educational institutions, and the Upazila administration, combined with timely action, can successfully prevent child marriage and protect the rights and future of adolescent girls. It also serves as a strong example of community-based awareness and partnership for social protection.

