

# Preventing Child Marriage

## ***Building Safer Childhoods in North 24 Parganas***

The project “Strengthening Systems, Structures and Strategies for Preventing Child Marriage in Selective Districts of West Bengal”, supported by CEI (Italian Bishops’ Conference), advanced steadily in July 2025 across Swarupnagar and Habra-I blocks of North 24 Parganas. Activities included an orientation programme for staff, regular stakeholder meetings with Panchayat leaders, ICDS workers, ASHAs, SHGs, and schools, and community sensitization sessions with mothers, youth, and adolescents.

Baseline surveys were initiated, covering over 60 households, to identify vulnerable families. Awareness sessions with parents, adolescents, and SHG members focused on the definition of a child, legal age of marriage, risks of early marriage, child rights, and child protection systems. At the same time, the project engaged Kishori Samuh groups through story-telling and interactive sessions, strengthening their awareness of child rights and their role in preventing child marriage, trafficking, and gender discrimination.



# Justice & Hope in Five Settlements

## ***Empowering Families Through Rights & Entitlements***

The SAMRIDHHI Project, supported by the Azim Premji Philanthropic Foundation, continued its mission of advancing social justice across five informal settlements—Mazdoorpara, Kulia Tangra, Seal Lane, Khanaberia, and Uchupota. In July 2025, the team successfully completed a household survey of 1,457 families, identifying gaps in documentation, housing records, and legal needs. The Community Help Desk remained active, assisting over 100 people in accessing Aadhaar, voter IDs, ration cards, PAN cards, bank accounts, and pensions. Community governance and awareness were strengthened through CAG meetings, which addressed garbage management, substance abuse, TB prevention, and the importance of legal documents. Legal aid clinics connected residents with the District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), resolving multiple cases, including a major fraud case where a woman recovered ₹4.3 lakh through reconciliation. Health and hygiene awareness reached nearly 100 women and girls, while the project also networked with multiple government offices to ensure access to entitlements.

