

Dhrobana GP: A society-wide initiative on child marriage prevention

Dhrobana Gram Panchayat (population as per 2011 Census: total 8,098, females 3,963, males 4,135) of Bhuj Block is located in Kutch district in the state of Gujarat, India. The village is located at about 86 KM from Bhuj, the nearest town and the district headquarters. Children's population below 6 years includes a total of 1,939 (female 947, male 992). The population also includes 252 persons (118 females, 134 males) from the SC community and 4 persons (1 females, 3 males) from the ST community. The village population is comprised mainly of Muslim community.

Child Marriage: Mr. Siddikbhai is the Sarpanch and he is also a leader of his community. The major challenge addressed by the Sarpanch includes child marriage. A marriage was taking place in the village during early 2020. The bride was ready with a bridal suit. At such a critical time, a neighbour informed the Sarpanch that the bride was below 18 years of age. In urgent consultation with the District Child Protection Officer, the marriage was stopped. Later on, all the villagers were informed to stop child marriage practice. Mr. Siddikbhai also took up the same issue in their broader community (involving multiple villages) and guided the people to stop the child marriage practice.