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Legal awareness meet on child marriage held in Sonitpur

CORRESPONDENT

TEZPUR, March 30: A daylong legal awareness programme was held at Puniani Gaon in Sonitpur district on Tuesday to make people aware of the evils of child marriage.

Over 200 villagers participated in the programme organised by the Department of Law, Tezpur University (TU), in collaboration with the Puniani Gram Panchayat.

Delivering a welcome speech, Debajit Kumar Sarmah, assistant professor of the Department of Law, TU, underscored the importance of awareness to prevent child marriage.

Madhumita Acharjee, assistant professor of the law department, highlighted the legal consequences of participating in or facilitating child marriage.

"It is important to recognise that child marriage is not about tradition or personal choice. It is a violation of children's rights and hence illegal," she said.

Marzina Begum, president of Puniani Gaon Panchayat, Ajar Ali, vice president of the GP, Jamsed Ali, village headman, and Muddassir Haque, gram pradhan, spoke about the

need to work together to create a safe and healthy environment for children to grow and thrive.

Dr Priya Ranjan Kumar, head of the Department of Law, provided statistical data and discussed the legal implications of child marriage. He laid stress on the need to empower girls and young women through education and support their right to choose their own future. Angel Habamon Syiem, assistant professor of the Department of Law, also attended the event.

Pamphlets were distributed among the villagers by the students to raise awareness, and there was a question-and-answer session as well.

Fourth-semester students of the law department Suparna Deka, Violeena Borah, Ankita Chakravarty and Achyut Arjun Barman made presentations through posters and placards on the definition, causes and negative effects of child marriage and the laws to prevent it.

The students also performed a skit. The event ended with a speech by Bornali Sharma Baruah, a former member of JJB and social worker.