

## **Report on Training of Village Council Development Committee (VCDC) Members and Stakeholders On Ending Child Marriages Through Social Mobilisation**

**Date:** 13 December 2024

**Target Audience:** Village Council Development Committee (VCDC) members, Civil Society Organisation (CSO) partners and Community Leaders

**Total No of Participants:** 305

### **Objectives:**

- Enhance the capacity of VCDCs to create child-friendly spaces in the Bodoland Territorial Region (BTR).
- Develop community-based strategies for addressing child marriage, child abuse, and child labor.
- Empower participants with skills in child protection, legal frameworks, and social behavior change communication (SBC).

### **Program Highlights:**

The sessions, delivered by subject experts, covered critical topics such as child rights, care and protection frameworks, relevant legal provisions including the Juvenile Justice Act, Schemes of Govt. of India (GoI) for Child welfare and effective tools for community engagement. Employing interactive methods like case studies, role-playing, and multimedia resources, the sessions were designed to be both engaging and practical. A key focus was placed on understanding and addressing social norms through the socio-ecological model, particularly in the context of harmful practices like child marriage. The workshop culminated in collaborative action planning, where participants developed localized strategies to raise awareness and prevent child marriage within their communities.



### **Outcomes:**

- Increased awareness among participants about legal and social frameworks.



- Strengthened skills in advocacy, interpersonal communication, and facilitation.
- Commitment to implement tailored action plans at the community level, including awareness campaigns, reporting mechanisms, and partnerships with schools and local organizations.

**Way Forward:**

- Conduct follow-up sessions to assess progress and provide additional guidance.
- Strengthen collaboration with local leaders, NGOs, and schools for sustained impact.
- Advocate for policy improvements and address systemic gaps in education and child protection.
- Develop monitoring and evaluation mechanisms to track the effectiveness of interventions.