

Abha Mandal

Nepal – She teaches, We can choose

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She saves girls from child marriage. She teaches the dangers of early pregnancy to children and their families. She is Abha Mandal. #SheisWe #EDD18

👉 <https://eudevdays.eu/sheiswe/stories/abha-mandal>

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Story

“When I told them early pregnancy could kill Draupadi or ruin her health forever, they agreed to cancel the wedding,” Abha Mandal says. Abha is a social worker in the Nepalese region of Saptari. She committed to empowering adolescent girls so that they can realise their rights and bring change in their own communities.

Draupadi Kumari Sah was only 15 when Abha started working with her. She taught Draupadi and other girls about sexual and reproductive health and emphasized the dangerous consequences of child marriage. However, Draupadi’s family had already received a match from India – a boy seven years her senior. In her region, adolescent girls are usually married as soon as they leave school, so they won’t become a burden for their families.

When Draupadi heard that her mother accepted the wedding on her behalf, she sought Abha’s help to convince her otherwise. “Families here are so poor and don’t have access to information and knowledge about these issues,” Abha says. By raising awareness, Abha saves lives. #SheisWe.

Link: https://www.unicef.org/protection/57929_92681.html