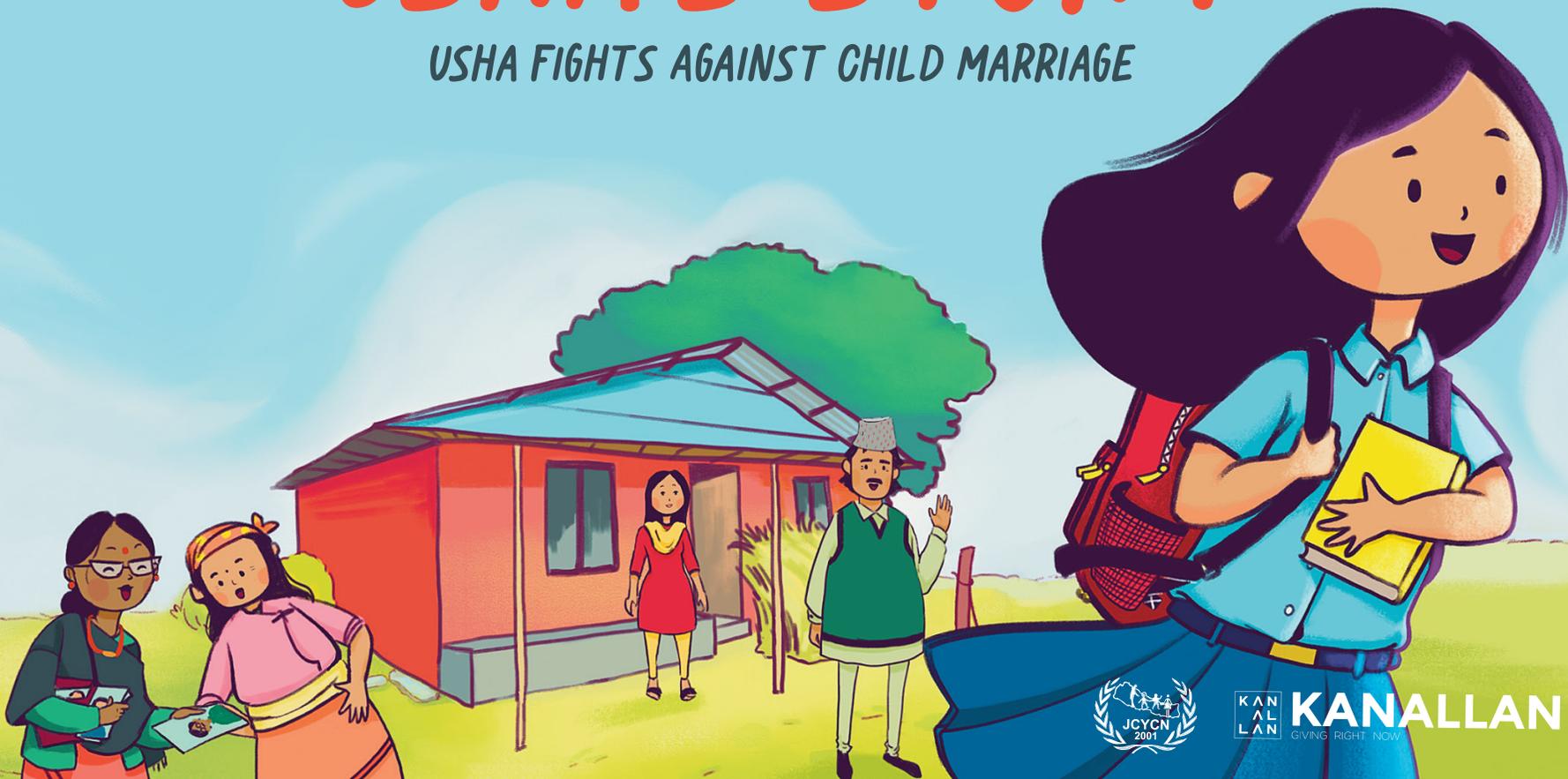


# USHA'S STORY

USHA FIGHTS AGAINST CHILD MARRIAGE



**KANALLAN**  
GIVING RIGHT NOW



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Usha Fights Against Child Marriage



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## PROLOGUE

Child marriage is a social evil that is punishable by the law of Nepal, and yet, year after year, children are forced into marriage. Nepal has the third highest rate of child marriage in the South Asian region.

As per 2074 Clause 173 nonconsensual marriage is prohibited. Forcing a child into marriage is a criminal offense and the offenders are liable to make legal amends through compensation to the victims. The offenders shall be fined up to Rs.75,000 and may face a prison time of 3 years. No person can or shall be forced to marry before the age of 20. Any such marriage shall be nullified by the state.

Despite the law enforcement in place, across all levels of governance, the problem of Child Marriage is still deeply rooted. While in most cases, the children are forced into marriage, in other adolescents choose the life for themselves due to lack of knowledge, education, and delusion of a better future. This also has a negative impact on the children's education, health, and overall growth.

This illustrated comic book is an attempt to make young readers understand the impact of child marriage and help them steer clear from it while strengthening the movement against it. We have attempted to make the language as easy to understand as possible. Our aspiration is for books like this to reach as many children and parents as possible to mitigate child marriage more efficiently.

Our sincere gratitude to the entire production team for bringing this book together.

**Jagriti Child and Youth Concern Nepal**



**Usha**

Usha is a bright student. She wants to become a computer engineer in the future. She is a member of the Child Club in her school.



**Uma**

Uma is Usha's older sister. She was married off at 13 years of age. Her life has been difficult because of child marriage



**Aama / Mother**

Aama is Usha's mother. She loves her daughters but is very stubborn. Her only dream is to see both of her daughters happily married



**Buwa / Father**

Buwa is Usha's father. He is a quiet, hard-working, and kind-hearted man. He loves his daughters and wants the best for them.



**Maili Aunty**

Maili Aunty lives in the same village as Usha. She works as a matchmaker. She was the one to find a groom for Uma. Now, she is looking for a groom for Usha.



**Doctor**

The doctor works at the community hospital. She promotes family planning and does not support child marriage.



**Gagan Sir**

Gagan Sir is Usha's teacher at school. He is also an advisor to the children at the Child Club. He wants the best for the students.



**Jyoti**

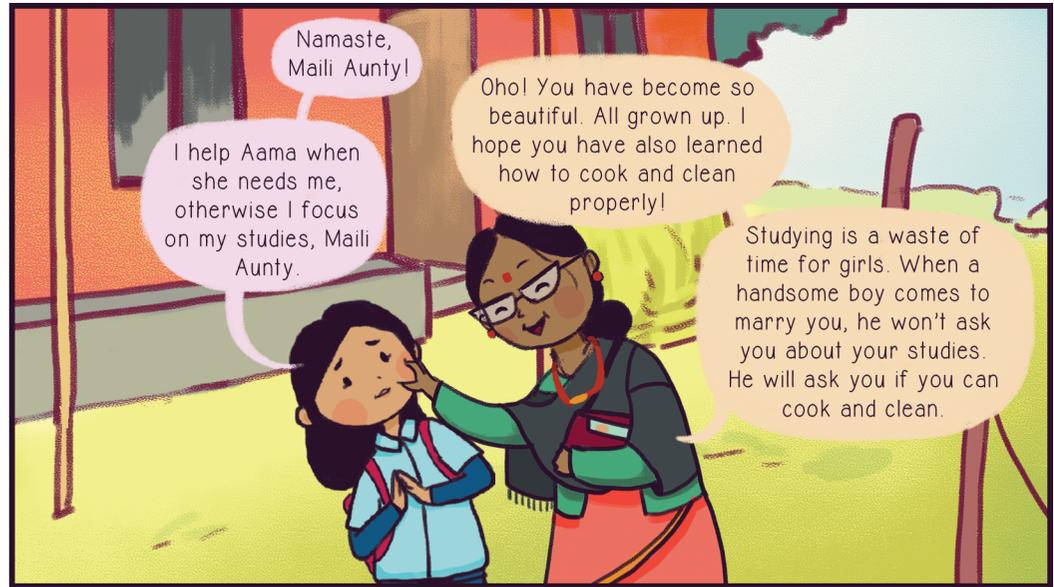
Jyoti is Usha's best friend and a member of the Child Club. She is bold and speaks her mind.

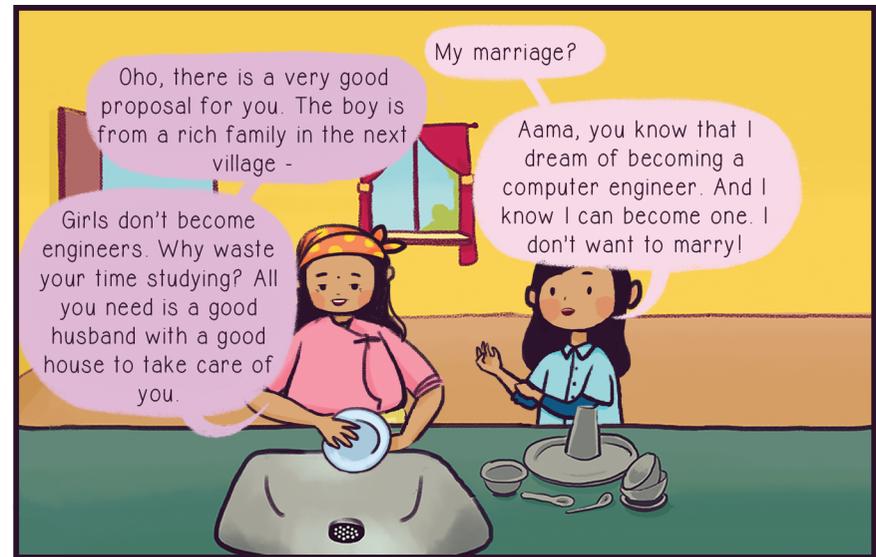
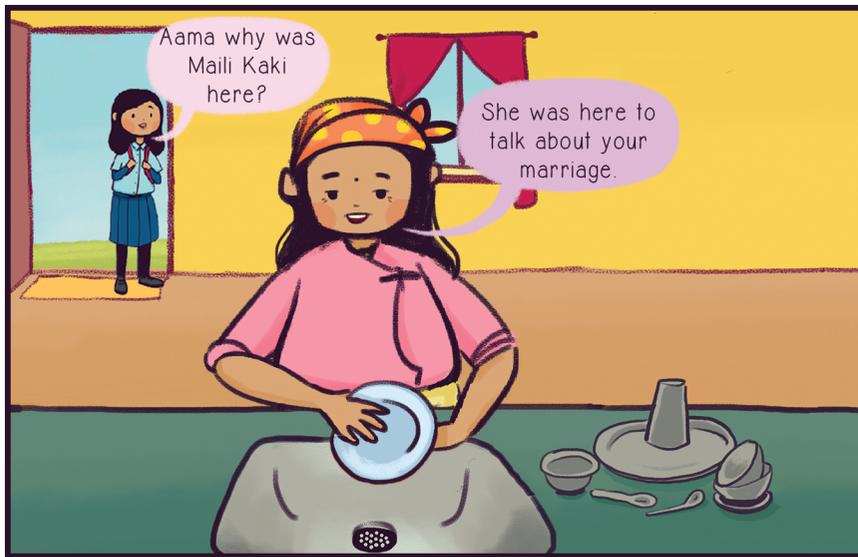


**Krishna**

Krishna is Usha's best friend and a member of the Child Club. He is a quiet boy but very aware of child rights and the law.









How was your day? \*cough\*



It was a long tiring day in the fields.

Proposal for whom? Our Usha?

You know who visited today? Maili Aunty ... with a marriage proposal.

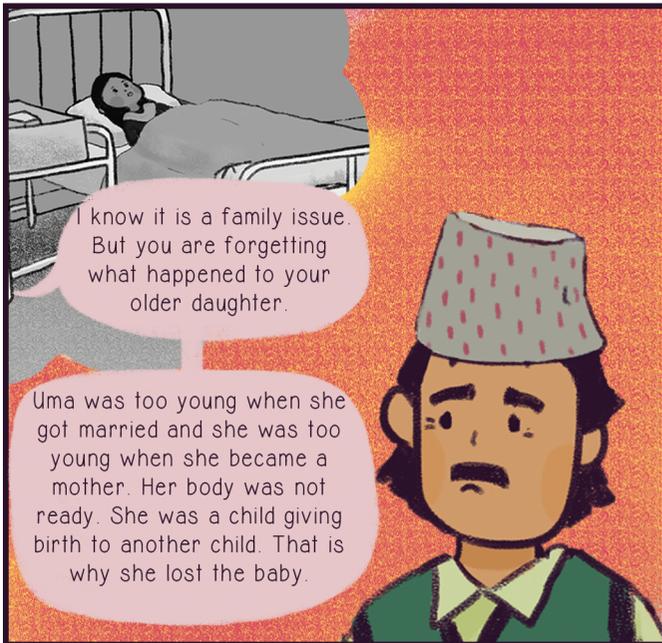
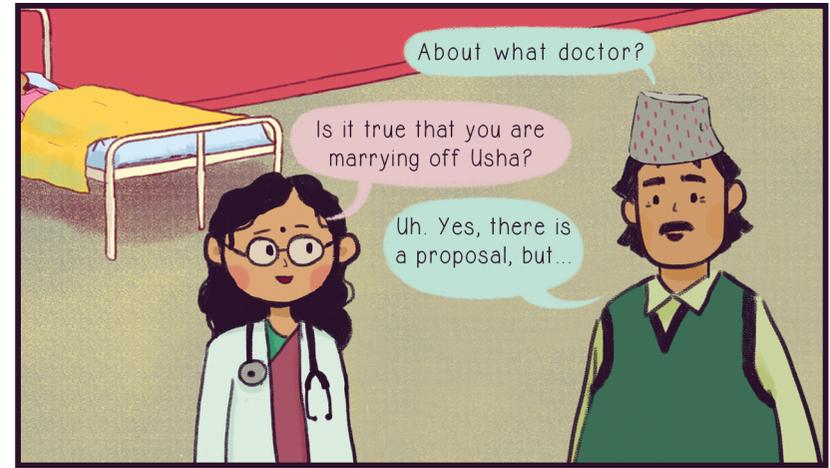
Yes! Usha is 14 now. It is time. I already had her sister at that age. \*cough\*



Times were different. Usha is very young. We can't repeat the same mistake...that we made with Uma.

We will talk about this. But first, I need to take you to see the doctor. You have been coughing for six days.

Am I the only wise person in this house? This is a really good proposal. We can't refuse it. I won't hear another word. \* cough\*





Can you go to Usha's school today?

Yes, I'll go pick up her report cards. You rest up.



Congratulations dail Your daughter is so smart! You should be so proud of her. Mark my words, her future is very bright.



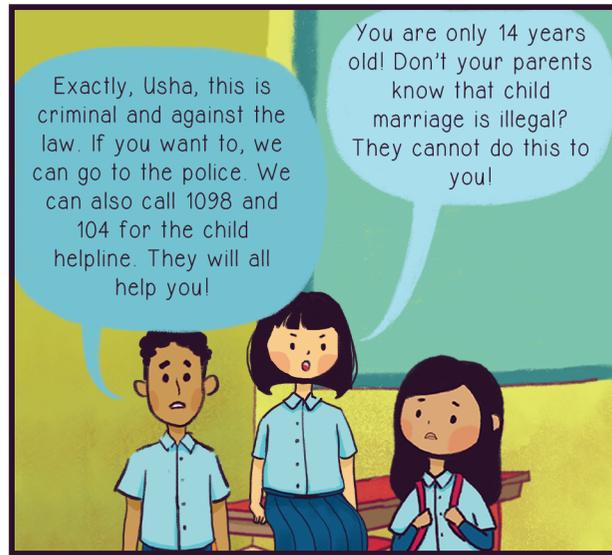
If she gets married, this will be the end of her studies.



Is something wrong? Why do you look so sad?

Usha! Where were you? You are late.

I don't know what to do. My parents are fixing my marriage.



Exactly, Usha, this is criminal and against the law. If you want to, we can go to the police. We can also call 1098 and 104 for the child helpline. They will all help you!

You are only 14 years old! Don't your parents know that child marriage is illegal? They cannot do this to you!



We will come with you!

My mother won't listen to me but maybe she will listen, if you come to talk to her with me.

Should we come to your house tomorrow?



CHILD CLUB

Sir! Usha's parents are getting her married!

Why do you all look so sad?

What? When?



Soon, sir. Please do something about this.

Oh! I should meet the doctor, and go to Usha's sister. Only Uma can stop this.

