Bengal school takes on child marriage — with a parent’s promise

Bengal school

“There is a trend of early marriages in these parts. Since the men remain outside for work for most of the year, the mothers take care of the girls. They find it convenient to get their daughters married early,” says Alam, the headmaster.

In Lalgorla, parents and guardians are slowly warming up to the initiative.

Beli Pramanik, whose husband runs a small electrical shop in Lashkarpur, says she has signed two undertakings — one each for her two school-going daughters. “It is a noble idea and like other parents, I support it. I will allow my daughters to study first. Their marriage will be held at an appropriate time,” she says.

“I have three sons who work outside as masons. I have five daughters, of whom four have been married off. But now, I have signed the document and support it totally. I will let my youngest daughter, who is in the high school, pursue higher studies. I had two offers for her marriage which I have rejected. Let her cross 18 now, we will think about it,” says Abdul Hai, from Shishra Ramzanpur village.

The Indian EXPRESS