



Story from the Field

Tipping Point: Digging Up the Roots of Child Marriage to Replant the Future

SHIRIN'S STORY

This story was initially told to Suniti Neogy, Deputy Project Director, Tipping Point, by Shirin. The language has been translated and adapted.

I met Shirin, a 15-year-old girl, at her home on a Thursday afternoon after the Fun Center had closed for the day. Shirin had recently convinced her parents to cancel her marriage after her engagement. With her mother, aunt, younger sisters and friends huddled around her in her family's home, Shirin eagerly told me about how her association with the Fun Center changed her mind about marriage. After dropping out of school, Shirin enjoyed visiting the Fun Center where she was given the opportunity to read stories, play indoor and outdoor games, and participate in creative activities with her peers. At the Fun Center, Shirin learned that an early and fixed marriage was not the best next step for her future. After convincing her mother to delay her marriage, the two of them together spoke to Shirin's father and successfully convinced him to cancel the marriage and invest in his daughter's future.



As she shared her story with me, Shirin was very animated and exuded confidence. Even in front of a camera, Shirin happily agreed to share her story so other girls can learn and benefit from her experience. Shirin has even helped to convince friends of hers, like Taslima – pictured here – to re-enroll in school!

