



Story from the Field

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

Speaking Out for Change

One Voice Reshaping the Community



Sushila Yadav participating the adolescent leadership club

In one of the communities where the Aba Mero Palo (Tipping Point) Project was running a discussion center, the center had been abruptly closed by community leaders because they became fearful of the influence the center was having on the adolescents. However, although the center had been shut down, the adolescents who had participated in the programs the center offered believed that the center did have a positive influence on them. Sushila Yadav was one of the adolescent girls who truly missed being able to go the center. She was the niece of one of the community leaders, and at 14 years old, she decided to mobilize other adolescents to help reopen the center.

After the center had been closed, Sushila secretly began talking to her peers who also used to go to the center. She realized that they missed having the center open as well. As a group, they decided that they would use discussions at their homes to change the perceptions and fears about the center. The adolescents felt the center was the only place that they could meet friends and work through challenges. For these

adolescents, being able to come to the center helped to grow their self-confidence and speaking skills.

Sushila used her influence at home to consistently question her uncle about why he closed the center. She began discussions with him about the benefits of the center and her future, and finally, after three months the community leaders decided to allow the center to reopen. When it was reopened, the adolescents in the community were thrilled that they had their center back, but they had also learned that working together to achieve a goal, and speaking out for change truly were effective ways to shape their own lives as well as their community.



Before the center closed, the girls were making a wall magazine;

This story was first documented by Karuna Thapa, CARE Nepal.