

Satish Chandra Memorial School

Class XI

English

Case Study

1. Read the passage given below.

1. Roshni Bairwa remembers running all the way from her home in Tonk's Mahmoodnagar Dhani village to the room where the 'bal samoooh' (children's group) met. "My grandparents are getting me married, you have to do something," the then 12-year-old told the 20 or so children sitting there.

2. The children, all aged between eight and 16, trooped up to Roshni's house and urged her grandparents to stop the impending wedding. Others, including village elders and teachers, joined in. The wedding was stopped. She had discovered a way out of the quagmire with the help of a local NGO and the village children.

3. When she was in class XII, the pressure to get married returned. This time her uncle found a match for her. When she resisted, she was taunted and beaten. People would point to her as the girl who brought shame to her family and asked their children not to speak to her. "I was 16 years old and alone in the world. I walked to school with my eyes fixed to the ground. I would think sometimes, what have I done that is so terrible for everyone to hate me so much?

I would cry myself to sleep," recalls Roshni, who lost her father when she was two and had been abandoned by her mother shortly after. But even in those dark moments, Roshni didn't give up, moving out of the village to Peeplu tehsil in Rajasthan where she rented a room and attended college.

4. With education and independence came a sense of confidence. "I kept in touch with the children in the village. Every time there was child marriage, they would call me and I would go to stop it. I realised I had already been thrown out of the village, the worst had already happened, what else could the villagers do? So I went and fought with everyone who was getting their child married," she says with a laugh. So far she has stopped over a dozen marriages.

5. Even without the support of the law, young girls have been crusading against the practice. Earlier this month, 19-year-old Sushila Bishnoi from Barmer succeeded in getting her marriage annulled, submitting photographs, and congratulatory messages from her husband's Facebook account to the court. The court accepted these as evidence that the union took place when both the bride and groom were 12 years old and declared the marriage invalid.

6. Seema Bairwal (name changed) was 15 when she was married to a man a few years older. Later when she started attending 'bal samooch' meetings with NGO Shiv Shiksha Samiti and Save the Children, it dawned on her that she had a choice. "I learnt that my life is mine. I have the power to say no to marriage.

1.1 On the basis of your reading of the passage, answer the following questions by choosing the best of the given choices.

Question (a)

The brides mentioned in the passage are rebels against

- (i) the dowry system
- (ii) child marriage
- (iii) purdah system
- (iv) arranged marriages

Question (b)

When Roshni was twelve years old, she succeeded in her mission with the help of

- (i) 20 children aged between eight and sixteen
- (ii) her grandparents
- (iii) 20 children, her grandparents, village elders and teachers
- (iv) children and an NGO

Question (c)

When she was sixteen the people of the village

- (i) taunted her and beat her up
- (ii) boycotted her
- (iii) were angry with her
- (iv) were sympathetic and understanding

Question (d)

Roshni moved out of the village in order to

- (i) seek a job
- (ii) escape the villagers
- (iii) attend college
- (iv) marry a boy of her choice

Question (e)

'Give up' in para 3 means

- (i) stop attending classes
- (ii) stop doing something
- (iii) very eager
- (iv) voluntary help

Question (f)

'Annulled' in para 5 means

- (i) To state officially that something is not legally valid

- (ii) Help somebody
- (iii) impending doom
- (iv) social works

1.2 Answer the following.

- (a) The children, all aged between eight and 16, trapped to and urged her grandparents to stop the impending wedding.
- (b) Roshni lost her father when she was only years old.
- (c) Education and independence made Roshni confident. [True/False]
- (d) 'Bal Samooh' meetings with NGO Shiv Shiksha Samiti and 'Save the Children' encouraged child marriage. [True/False]

1.3 Find words/expressions from the passage that have a meaning similar to the following.

- (a) about to happen soon (paragraph 2)
- (b) realised (paragraph 6)