

# DADS TOO SOON: THE CHILD GROOMS OF NEPAL



## Child Grooms of Nepal



Boys forced to marry as young as 7 years old in Nepal endure psychological trauma, have children early and often drop out of school to support their new families, according to a report from the poverty-fighting group CARE. Titled “Dads Too Soon: The Child Grooms of Nepal,” the report sheds new light on an issue often seen through the eyes of girls, who suffer the most at the hands of child marriage. Through stories and statistics, the multimedia report details the forces pushing both girls and boys into early marriages in parts of western Nepal. The analysis comes amid fears that April’s deadly earthquake, which devastated the capital Kathmandu and surrounding areas, will further isolate rural communities and increase child marriage rates. But it offers hope, too. Through CARE’s Tipping Point program, former child grooms are emerging as key allies in the movement to strike at the roots of child marriage in Nepal. [View the report to learn more.](#)

*CARE is a leading humanitarian organization fighting global poverty. We place special focus on working alongside poor women because, equipped with the proper resources, women have the power to help whole families and entire communities escape poverty. In 2014, CARE touched the lives of 72 million people in 90 countries with over 880 poverty-fighting programs.*





**Child Grooms of Nepal**





**BUT IN NEPAL,  
THE FACE OF  
CHILD MARRIAGE  
ALSO LOOKS LIKE THIS.**



**Child Grooms of Nepal**





**AND THIS.  
THESE ARE BOYS FORCED TO BE MEN.  
AND FATHERS.  
THEY ARE CHILD GROOMS.**

**Child Grooms of Nepal**







**CHILD MARRIAGE TAKES ITS HEAVIEST TOLL ON GIRLS.**

**THEY ARE FORCED TO LIVE WITH THEIR HUSBANDS' FAMILY, SPEND THEIR DAYS DOING HOME CHORES, AND OFTEN ENDURE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND COMPLICATIONS FROM CHILDBIRTH.**

**Child Grooms of Nepal**







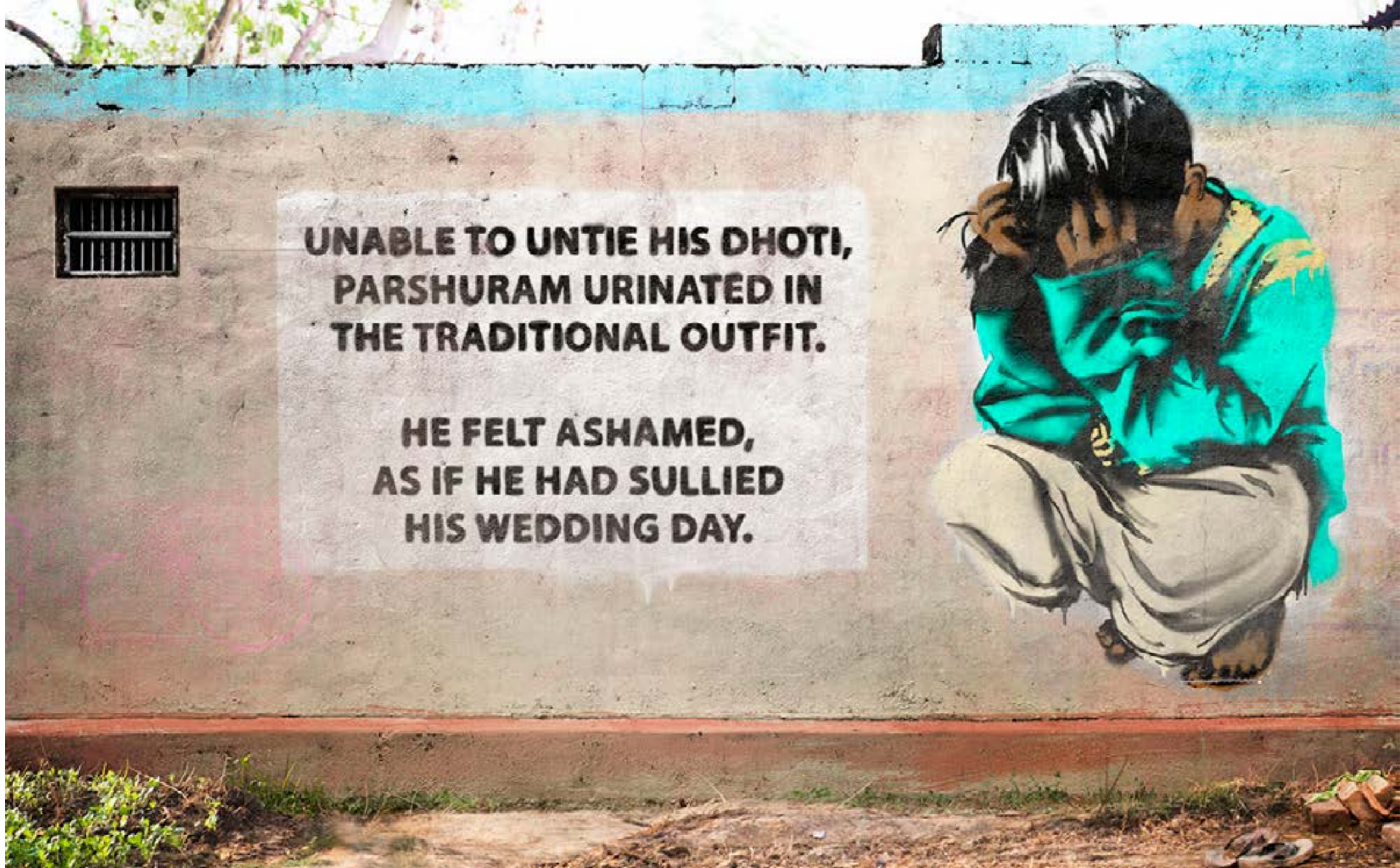
**AMONG THE POOR,  
MARGINALIZED COMMUNITIES  
OF WESTERN NEPAL,  
CHILD GROOMS SUFFER TOO.**

**PARSHURAM HARIJAN'S  
TRAUMA STARTED ON  
HIS WEDDING DAY.**

**Child Grooms of Nepal**







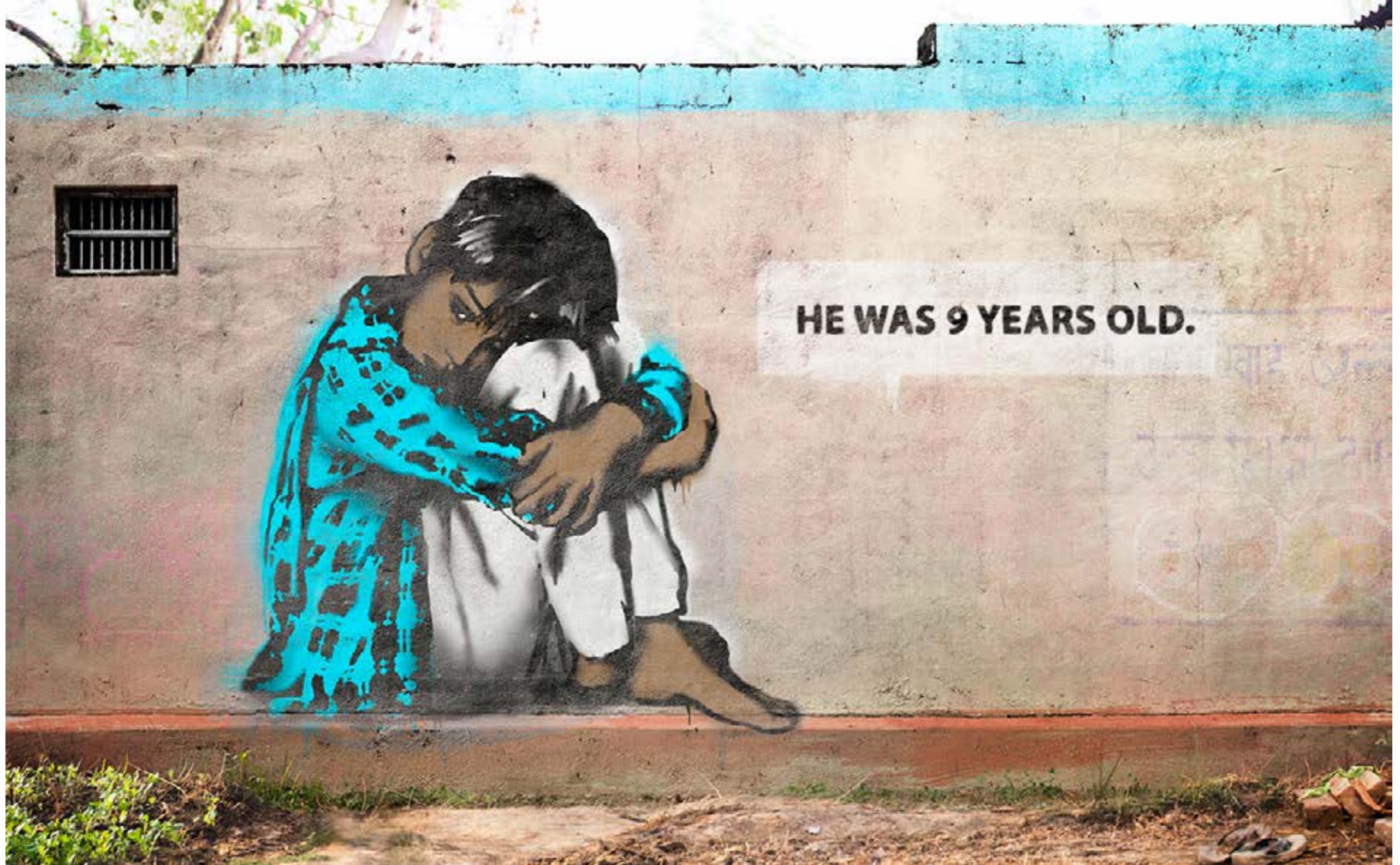
**UNABLE TO UNTIE HIS DHOTI,  
PARSHURAM URINATED IN  
THE TRADITIONAL OUTFIT.**

**HE FELT ASHAMED,  
AS IF HE HAD SULLIED  
HIS WEDDING DAY.**

**Child Grooms of Nepal**



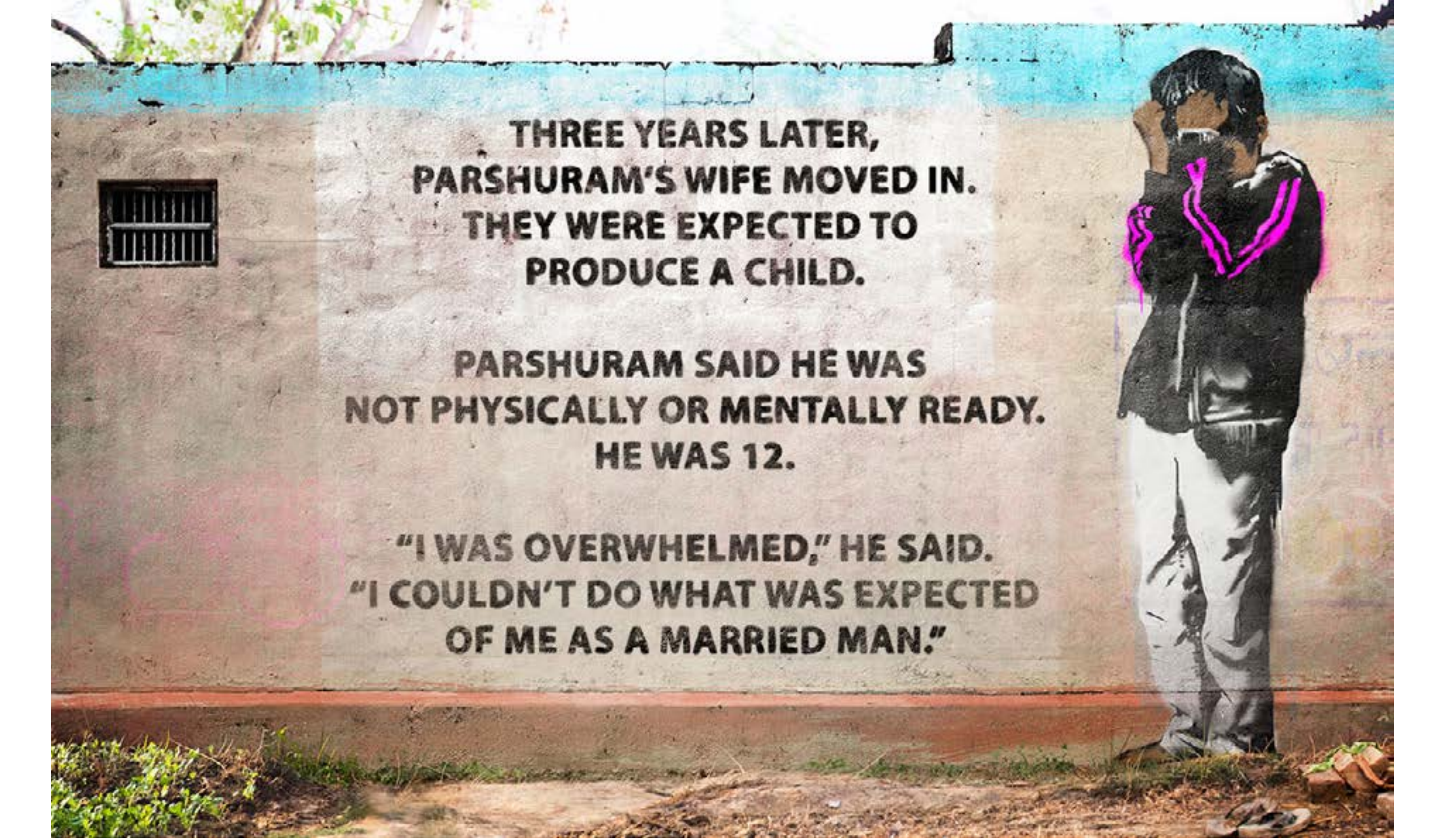




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**THREE YEARS LATER,  
PARSHURAM'S WIFE MOVED IN.  
THEY WERE EXPECTED TO  
PRODUCE A CHILD.**

**PARSHURAM SAID HE WAS  
NOT PHYSICALLY OR MENTALLY READY.  
HE WAS 12.**

**"I WAS OVERWHELMED," HE SAID.  
"I COULDN'T DO WHAT WAS EXPECTED  
OF ME AS A MARRIED MAN."**

**Child Grooms of Nepal**





**OFFICIALLY, THE LEGAL AGE OF MARRIAGE IN NEPAL IS 18.  
BUT THAT IS LARGELY IGNORED - FOR BOTH GIRLS AND BOYS - HERE AMONG  
THE RICE-FARMING VILLAGES OF WESTERN NEPAL, NEAR THE BORDER WITH INDIA.**



**Child Grooms of Nepal**





# AGE OF MARRIAGE IN NEPAL'S KAPILBASTU DISTRICT

IN MOST CHILD MARRIAGE HOT SPOTS AROUND THE WORLD,  
MEN WED GIRLS.

BUT IN WESTERN NEPAL, BOYS MARRY GIRLS.



## MARRIED FEMALES IN KAPILBASTU DISTRICT



26%  
WED BY 14



86%  
WED BY 19



## MARRIED MALES IN KAPILBASTU DISTRICT



12%  
WED BY 14



62%  
WED BY 19



Source: National Population  
and Housing Census 2011





## Child Grooms of Nepal







**Child Grooms of Nepal**







**Child Grooms of Nepal**





**TO SUPPORT HIS FAMILY,  
MATHURA DROPPED OUT OF  
SCHOOL IN 8TH GRADE TO  
TOIL IN THE PADDY FIELDS.**

**Child Grooms of Nepal**





**ONCE A TOP STUDENT,  
MATHURA WONDERS  
WHAT LIFE WOULD  
HAVE BEEN LIKE HAD  
HE BEEN ABLE  
TO STAY IN SCHOOL.**



**CLICK HERE TO  
MEET MATHURA**

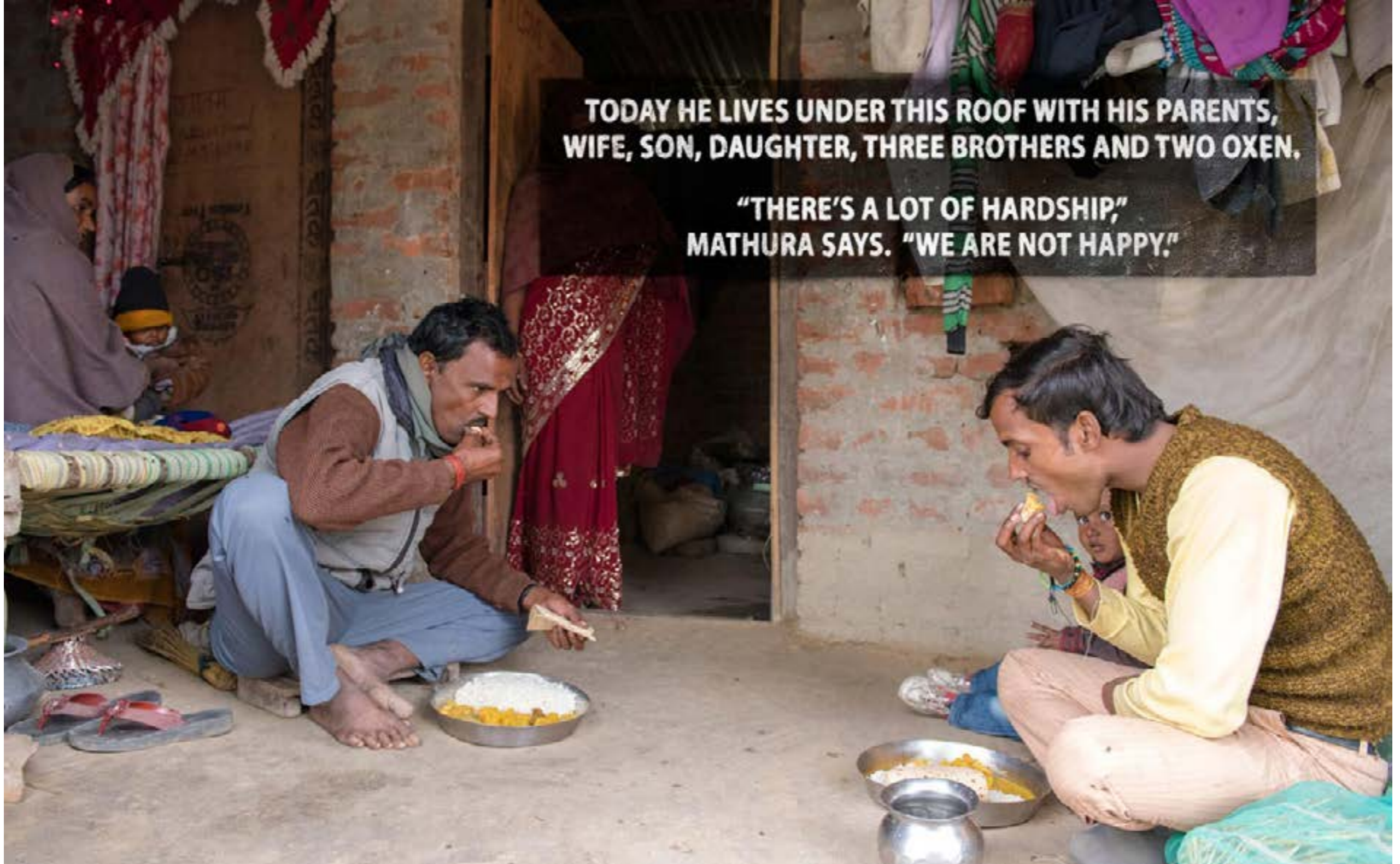
**Child Grooms of Nepal**





**TODAY HE LIVES UNDER THIS ROOF WITH HIS PARENTS,  
WIFE, SON, DAUGHTER, THREE BROTHERS AND TWO OXEN.**

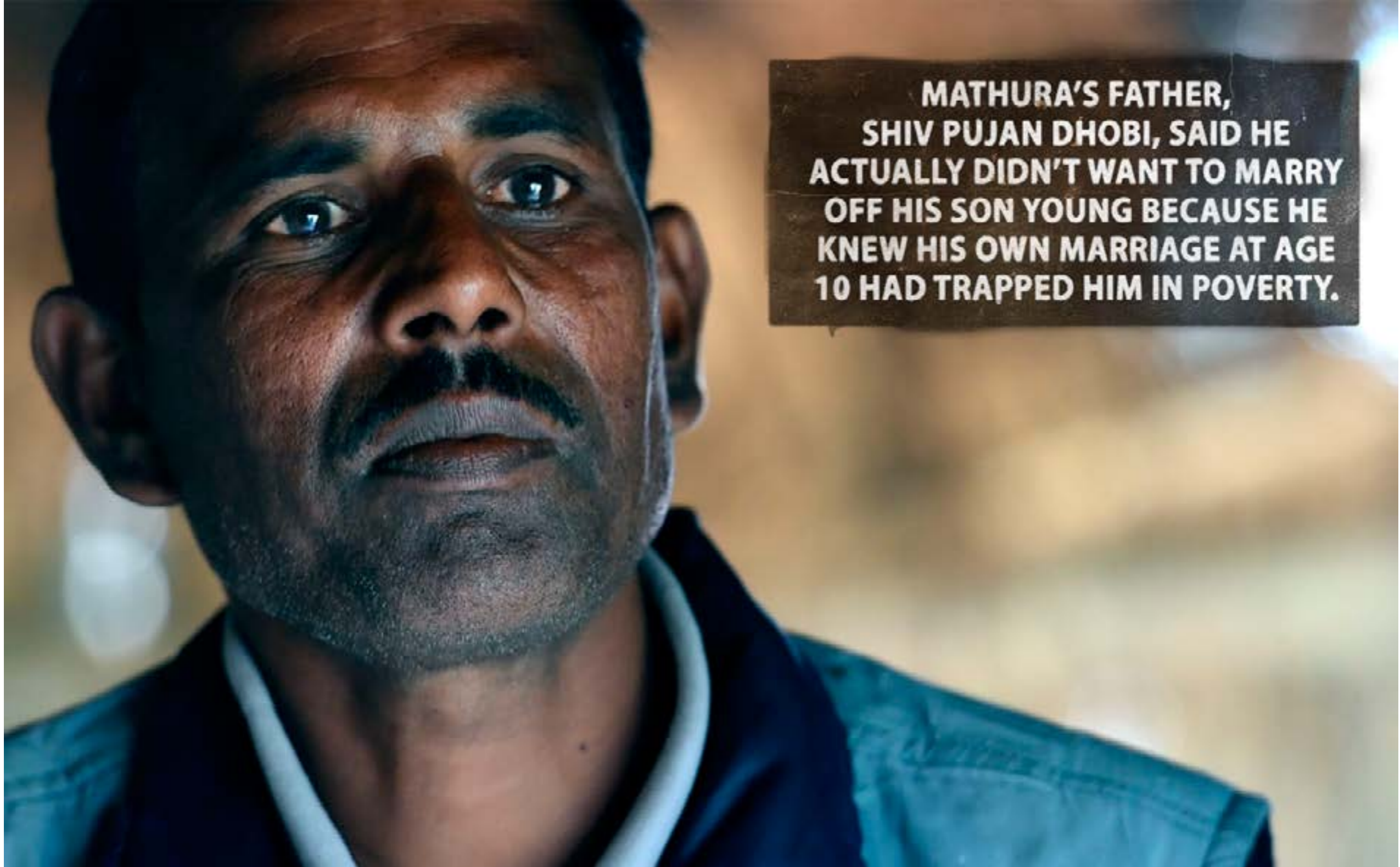
**"THERE'S A LOT OF HARDSHIP,"  
MATHURA SAYS. "WE ARE NOT HAPPY."**



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**MATHURA'S FATHER,  
SHIV PUJAN DHOBI, SAID HE  
ACTUALLY DIDN'T WANT TO MARRY  
OFF HIS SON YOUNG BECAUSE HE  
KNEW HIS OWN MARRIAGE AT AGE  
10 HAD TRAPPED HIM IN POVERTY.**

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**BUT HE FELT INTENSE  
PRESSURE FROM FAMILY  
AND NEIGHBORS.**



**CLICK TO HEAR FROM  
MATHURA'S FATHER**

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**MATHURA'S MOTHER,  
KAMALAWATI DHOBI,  
FEARED THE FAMILY  
WOULD BE STIGMATIZED  
IF HER ELDEST SON  
WASN'T MARRIED EARLY.  
SHE ALSO WANTED A  
DAUGHTER-IN-LAW WHO  
COULD HELP EASE THE  
BURDEN OF HOME CHORES.**



**CLICK TO HEAR FROM  
MATHURA'S MOTHER**

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**AND THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT SHIVNANDANI DHOBI DOES TODAY, FROM COOKING FOR THE FAMILY TO SWEEPING COW DUNG.**



**CLICK TO HEAR FROM MATHURA'S WIFE**

**Child Grooms of Nepal**





# SO WHAT ARE THE OTHER REASONS WHY BOYS MARRY YOUNG IN NEPAL?

AVOID A 'LOVE' MARRIAGE

*fear that good wives will be gone*

protect family honor

## CONTROL OF SEXUALITY

create new income-earner in family

COMMUNITY  
PRESSURE

Assure marriage within caste.





**SOME GRANDPARENTS BELIEVE THAT SEEING THEIR GRANDCHILDREN GET MARRIED BRINGS HINDU BLESSINGS AND INCREASES THEIR CHANCES AT AN AFTERLIFE.**



**FAMILIES OF YOUNG GIRLS OFTEN WANT TO MARRY THEM OFF, TOO, TO LOWER THE DOWRY PRICE AND HAVE ONE LESS MOUTH TO FEED.**



**FAMILIES STRUGGLING TO FEED THEMSELVES GET SONS MARRIED EARLY FOR A DOWRY OF LIVESTOCK, FURNITURE OR OTHER GOODS.**



**BOYS AND YOUNG MEN OFTEN TRAVEL TO INDIA OR THE MIDDLE EAST FOR WORK, AND FAMILIES BELIEVE A MARRIED SON IS MORE LIKELY TO SEND MONEY BACK HOME.**



**Child Grooms of Nepal**






**THERE IS A SILVER LINING EMERGING, HOWEVER,  
IN THE FOG THAT ENVELOPS THESE POOR COMMUNITIES  
DOTTING THE FLATLANDS ALONG NEPAL'S BORDER WITH INDIA.**



**Child Grooms of Nepal**







**FORMER CHILD GROOMS SUCH AS PANNILAL YADAV (FAR LEFT) HAVE BECOME KEY ALLIES IN A PROGRAM, CALLED THE TIPPING POINT, THAT STRIKES AT THE ROOT CAUSES OF CHILD MARRIAGE.**



**CLICK HERE TO READ  
MORE ABOUT CARE'S  
TIPPING POINT PROGRAM**

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**THE TIPPING POINT HAS  
STARTED AN IMPORTANT  
CONVERSATION ABOUT THE FORCES  
DRIVING CHILD MARRIAGE.**

**OPINIONS ARE STARTING TO CHANGE.**



**CLICK HERE TO READ  
ABOUT PANNILAL'S  
MARRIAGE AT AGE 8**



**CLICK HERE TO SEE  
PANNILAL'S PASSION FOR  
MAKING SURE BOYS DON'T HAVE  
TO GO THROUGH WHAT HE DID.**

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**THAT'S GOOD FOR BOYS.**

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**AND GIRLS.**



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REMEMBER  
PARSHURAM, WHO FELT  
PRESSURED TO BECOME A  
FATHER AT AGE 12?

HIS FIRST MARRIAGE ENDED

HE MARRIED AGAIN  
AT AGE 14, WEDDING  
MAYADEVI, WHO IS  
PICTURED HERE WITH  
THEIR SON SAKCHAM

TODAY, HE IS PART  
OF THE SOLUTION TOO,



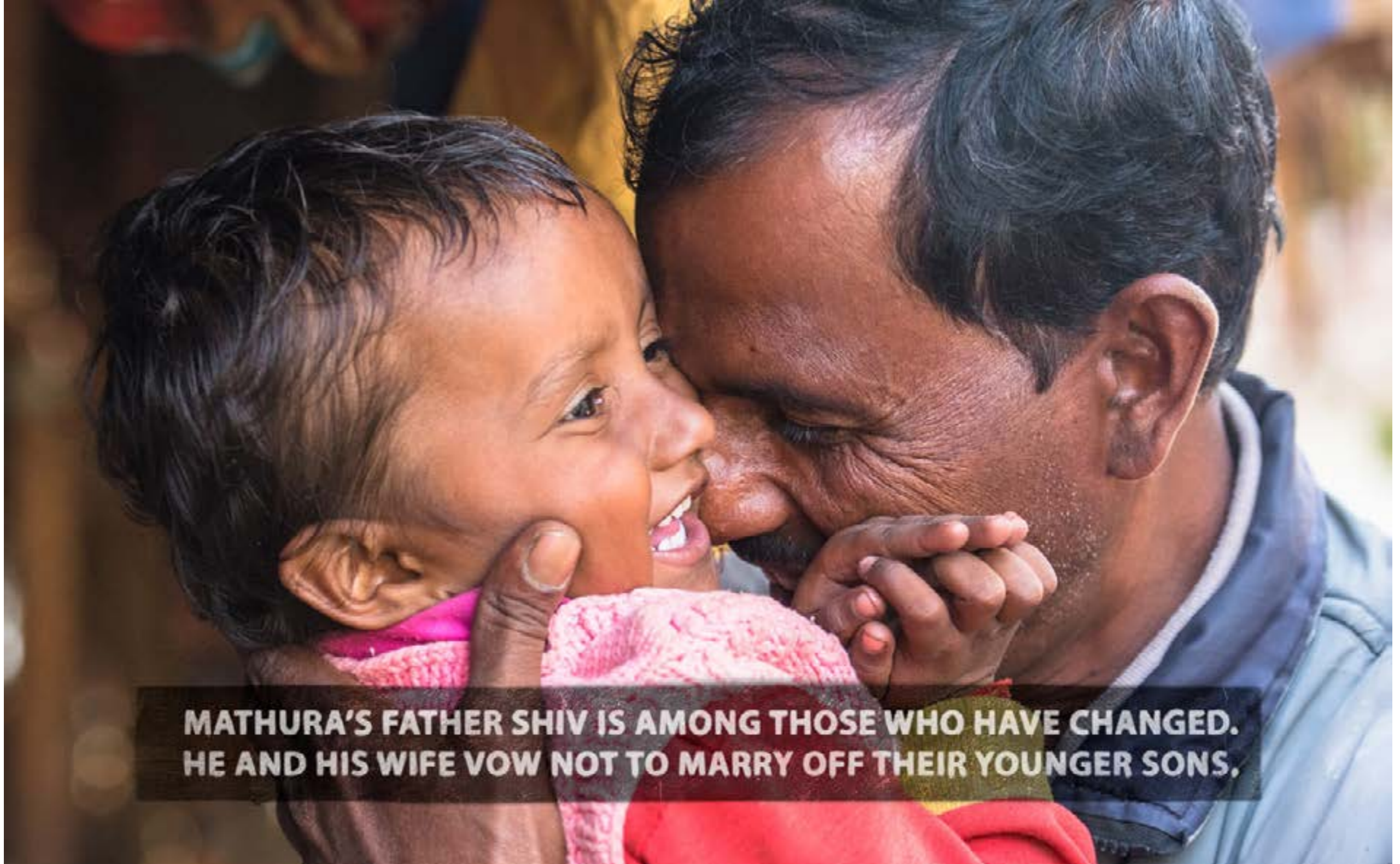
CLICK HERE TO READ  
HOW PARSHURAM  
FIGHTS CHILD  
MARRIAGE TODAY.



Child Grooms of Nepal







**MATHURA'S FATHER SHIV IS AMONG THOSE WHO HAVE CHANGED. HE AND HIS WIFE VOW NOT TO MARRY OFF THEIR YOUNGER SONS.**

**Child Grooms of Nepal**





**HE HOPES HIS GRANDCHILDREN GROW UP IN A WORLD WHERE  
BOYS AND GIRLS AREN'T FORCED TO TRADE CHILDHOOD FOR MARRIAGE.**



**Child Grooms of Nepal**

