

《警察也阻止不了印度集体童婚》

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According to a local photojournalist, more than 20 children, aged between 7-16 years old, were married in front of their village community, in Kishangarh, Rajasthan, on May.

????????5????20?7-16????????????????



Shocking pictures have emerged of a mass children's wedding in India showing brides as young as seven years old dressed in the traditional red wedding sari as they were forced to marry boys of 16.

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More than 20 children, aged between 7-16 years old, were married in front of their village community, in Kishangarh, Rajasthan.

??20?7-16????????????????????

The youngsters were secretly photographed when they were on their way to a temple for the wedding ceremony last month.

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Local photojournalist, Shankar Puri, found out about the ceremony and attended but he couldn't do anything to help, as he feared for his safety if the huge number of families found out.

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Shankar said: "I was tipped off about the weddings that very morning. I informed the police immediately and then I rushed to the venue. When I arrived it looked like a village fair. Hordes of men and women in their best clothes had gathered to witness the marriages of innocent children. They were singing songs and celebrating and laughing and giggling. It was really disheartening. They had no idea that what they were doing was so wrong."

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Shankar said local police arrived but were unable to do anything to stop the weddings.

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He added: "The police couldn't do anything as they were outnumbered by the relatives. If they had done anything the villagers would've beaten them. Even the law of the land didn't have enough power to stop these child marriages taking place."

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Child marriage is an age-old custom in India and is still practiced by a majority of people both in rural and urban Rajasthan.

[illegible]