

# SUMANGALI SYSTEM

Thousands of minor girls are getting trapped!

Blatant violation of Bonded Labour System Abolition Act (1976) and other laws!

Where is the Government?



Sumangali system is widely practiced in garment and textile production units of South India. The name was cautiously given to colonize the minds of parents, who were under social pressure to get their daughters married, and of the girls who were still too young to dream of a married life.

Retrenching all the permanent workers, Sumangalis are recruited on contract basis. They get no weekly holidays, work extra hours without compensation, get less than the prescribed minimum wage, are denied statutory benefits, and face restrictions on collective bargaining. Sumangalis are forced to stay inside factory premises; their mobility is restricted and monitored; they are forced to work day and night; and their wages are withheld. Above all, the majority of the workers who are subjected to these humiliations are girls below 18.

**Can the Sumangali system be justified?**

**Sumangalis: The Contemporary  
Faces of Bonded Labourers**

**"Abolish this modern form of slavery. Ensure Labour Rights."**