

Poverty forces couple to sell child for Rs.12,000

Pushed to desperation by acute poverty, a Dalit couple in Bihar was forced to sell their toddler son for Rs.12,000 to raise money for another baby battling an unknown disease.

Ram Briksha Sada and his wife Punia Devi, residents of Khesrah village in Samastipur district, about 80 km from here, sold their two-and-a-half year old son Dipnesh Kumar to Baleshwar Sharma for Rs 12,000. Their one-year-old son had been sick for the last couple of months and they did not have enough money to even diagnose his illness.

Officials said Baleshwar Sharma, who works in Kolkata, had no children. A member of the village council tried to stop the deal but could not. Block development officer A.K. Arya said he had asked officials to probe into the matter and submit a report.

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