

Action against Child Labor

National Symposium on Child Labor

National Symposium to End Child Labor in Nepal was held in 10-11 February 2022 at Kathmandu with an objective to advocate for policy and programmatic arrangements based on the knowledge from local levels to end child labor. With the participation of 150 participants from 80 organizations including government representatives, Civil Society Organizations, Development Partners, Provincial Partner Organizations, Child Right Networks, Trade Unions, Private Sectors, Academia and Media representatives.

The symposium consisted of following nine sessions: ***Child Labor, Local Child Rights and Child Protection System*** and the panelists



ts were Mr. Milan Dharel, Executive Director (National Child Right Council), Gurudatta, Subedi, Under Secretary (Ministry of Labor, Employment and Social Security) and Madhav Pradhan, Chairperson (CWIN). ***Child Labor, Prosecution and Case Management*** and the

panelists were Mr. Sujan Jo Ji Ju, Office Chief (labor and Employment office, Kathmandu), Ms. Namuna Bhusal (Council, National Child Rights Council) and Mr. Tarak Dhital (Child right advocate). ***Child Labor & Education*** and the panelists were Dr Hari Lamsal, Joint Secretary (Ministry of Education, Science and Technology), Mr. Raj Kumar Dhungana, Faculty member (University School of Education), Ms. Helen Sherpa, Country Director (World Education).

Child Labor & Occupational Health and Safety and the panelists were Ms. Roshni Karki, Undersecretary (Minister of Health and Population), Mr. Umesh Yadav, Center Head of Occupational Safety and Health Center Nepal, Mr. Dilip Giri, Portfolio Advisor (World Vision), Dr. Ramhari Chapagain, Associate Professor (National Academy of Medical Science). ***Child Labor, Livelihood and Social protection*** and the panelists were Dr. Kiran Rupakheti, (National Planning Commission), Mr. Balaram Bhattarai, (FLEAG Member), Mr. Bidhur Karki, (ITUC, NAC) and Mr. Uddhav Poudel, Civil Society Leader. ***Child Labor & Cross Border*** and the panelists were Mr. Tek Prasad Rai (TIP Bureau), Mr. Ram Prasad Gautam (UNICEF) and Ms. Chari Maya Tamang (Shakti Samuha).

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Situation of Girls Child Labor and the panelists were Shantiraj Prasai (Ministry of Women, Children and Senior Citizens), Sumnima Tuladhar (CWIN), Yagya Adhikari (National Human Rights Committee).

Responsible business for Ending Child Labor and the panelists were Mr. Prakash Sharma, National Project Coordinator (ILO), Mr. Suresh Upreti, General Secretary (NADA), Narayan Regmi, Joint Secretary (MCTCS).

Child Labor & Emergency Situation and the panelists were Ms. Indu Tuladhar, HIRD, Mr. Lacchindra Maharjan, Save the Children, Ms. Meena Sherchan, Director, Department of

At the end of the program, **declaration to end Child Labor** was developed and shared as follows:

- Expansion and strengthening of child rights and child protection system for ending child labor through formation of child labor monitoring, rescue and protection committee in accordance of child labor free local government procedure 2077 and manage rescue and protection of children who are engaged in labor against law and take initiative for legal actions.
- Conducting education, health, social security and preventive work to reduce child labor with alternative education, expansion of technical education and management of full



Women and Children, Ministry of Women Children and Senior Citizens.

free education (dress, lunch, books and stationeries) to reduce the risk of involvement in child labor.

- Promotion of systematic, dignified and safe workplace for the prevention of child labor through compulsory and effective labor audit including supply chain, registration of informal sector workers, with minimum wage and labor standard and bring them in social security system, implementation of code of conduct by every business personnel not to use child labor

High level Discussion on Child Labor



On 27th February, Swatantrata Abhiyan Nepal organized a high level discussion at Hotel Himalaya to discuss on

implementation of policy and plans on eliminating child labor under different ministries and developing an action plan. There was participation from Ministry of Labor, Employment and Social Security, Ministry of Women, Children and Senior Citizens, Labor and Employment Office, National Planning Commission, CWIN Nepal, Children and Women in Social Service and Human Rights, World

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Education, Education Watch, Aasman Nepal, National Child Rights Council, Social Protection Civil Society Network, Nepal Trade Union Congress and General Federation of Nepalese Trade Unions. There was discussion on child labor situation in Nepal, existing laws and policies available, implementation of National Master Plan to alleviate Child Labor, coordinating role of local, provincial and federal government to achieve the national goals set by 15th Periodic Plan. There were commitments from government



representatives, Trade Unions, Child Rights Networks to take actions to end all forms of child labor from Nepal.

The way forward from the high level meeting was to keep records of children working at local level and take action; commitment from employers for not using child labor in their product and services; develop implementation plan of Master Plan on Child Labor; encourage Trade Union's engagement for promoting decent work.

Provincial Policy to Dialogue to End Child Labor

With support of World Education, Provincial Dialogue to end child labor was held in Madhesh, Bagmati and Lumbini Provinces in the month of February in collaboration with provincial Partners, RDC, STS, SDC, Aasaman Nepal, and CPO Sarlahi of Madhesh province, MANK, CDS, UEMS, Prayas Nepal and GMSS from Bagmati Province and DHRWC, BUC, HURAC, TWUC and BASE from Lumbini Province. The objective of the event was to advocate for policy and programmatic arrangements based on the knowledge from local levels to end child labor at Province and Local Level.

There was the presence of Hon. Jayanul Rain, Chairperson of Women, Children and Social justice Committee, Hon. Pramila Singh, Member of Province Policy and Plann



ing Commission, Ms. Devi Kumari Khatri, Head of Division, Ministry of Women, Children, Youth & Sports, Rajendra Thapa (Provincial Ministry of law, women, children and senior citizen), Giriraj Gyawali (Labor and employment office), Bishnu Maya Thapa (Provincial Policy and Planning commission), Mr. Gopal Prasad Kandel, Under Secretary, Ministry of Social

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Development, Mr. Harihar Pokhrel, Under Secretary, Province Policy and Planning Commission, Mr. Chhanda Narayan Shrestha, Office Chief, Labour and Employment Office Mr. Ambhu Shah, Mr.

It was found that out of 5306 children working on Brick Klin, 92% had faced physical injuries, 45 percent had work place accidents, 9 percent had to work in chemical hazards and 78 percent had to work in dusty and polluted environment. In addition to that presentation and discussion was on available child labor policy and its implementation was also discussed. Based on the discussion among the participants, the way forward from the provincial dialogues were:

- Develop Provincial Data on Child Labor

Krishna Parsad Sharma, Mr. Jiwan Kaji, Makaju Shrestha members of Federation of Nepalese Chamber of Commerce and Industries, civil societies and media.

Presentations on the findings of child labor of PNGOs on their working district were shared. It was found that children working in bricklin, Zari and Carpet were 2283 in Madesh Province, 1535 in Bagmati Province and 2758 in Lumbini Province. Out of them girls 659, boys 1624 in Madhesh province, girl 803, boys 732 in Bagmati Province and girls 1084, boys 1674 in Lumbini Province.

- Develop Policy to End Child Labor
- Regular monitoring, rescue and reparation of child labor with reintegration support
- Making business responsible for ending child labor
- Coordination among Provincial and Local government for developing annual Plan and Program along with budget to end child labor
- Promoting decent job for adults.

Promoting 8.7 Alliance Activities to End Child Labor, Human Trafficking and Forced Labor

To strengthen provincial government efforts to eliminate child labor by developing policies, mechanisms, and programs, as well as to reinforce strong collaboration and coordination among government, non-governmental organizations, and the private sector, the Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Security conducted a Provincial Level Discussion to Eliminate Child Labor on March 20, 2022, at Hotel Eastern Star, Biratnagar,

There was the participation of Mr. Deepak Kafle, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Labor, Employment and Social Security, Mr. Kali Prasad Parajuli, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Internal Affairs and Law, Hon. Sabitri Kumari Regmi, Member, Social Development Committee and Hon. Bindiya Karki, Member, Industry, Tourism and Environment Committee, CSOs, private sectors and media.

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There were presentations on “National Master Plan and Government initiatives to end child labour”, “ILO and International Labour Standard on Child Labour and Forced Labour”, Concept of Alliance 8.7. The presentations were followed by open discussions where the participants raised concern regarding formalization of informal economy, absence of labor desk, less interventions to end child labor, economic empowerment of family under poverty which children are at work, Lengthy process of

declaring child labor free municipality, lack provincial data on child labor, forced labor and Human Trafficking.



As a way forward, Ministry of Labor, Employment and Social Security shall review the procedure for declaring child labor free local government and for its implementation at the local level, Interministerial coordination will be done at province level, Social Development Committee shall raise child labor issues in the parliament committee meeting to develop policies, develop program, raise awareness and allocate funds at provincial level to eliminate child labor.

Local Action against Child Labor

District Level Discussion to End Child Labor

District Level Discussion to End Child Labor was conducted on 22nd March at Hotel Vintuna in Bhojpur with the objective of strengthening the capacity and cooperation between local government, district coordination committee and civil society and also to highlight the roles of local level to eliminate child labor. The event observed the participation of Mr. Laxman

Khadka, chief of District Coordination Committee, Mr. Basu Prasad Koirala, CDO, mayor/ deputy mayor, chairperson/ vice-chairperson, head administrative officer, officer (women and children department), officer (Employment division) from two municipalities, seven rural, municipalities, organizations working on child labor and media personnel of Bhojpur.

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The event had presentations on “Understanding Child Labor”, “Constitutional and Legal Provision of Nepal and Activities conducted so far by Nepal Government to Eliminate Child Labor” and “The Role of Local level on Child Labor Elimination”. The presentations were followed by open floor discussions where the participants raised their concern regarding lack of budget and resources at local level, lack of awareness among local people regarding child labor to which Mr.

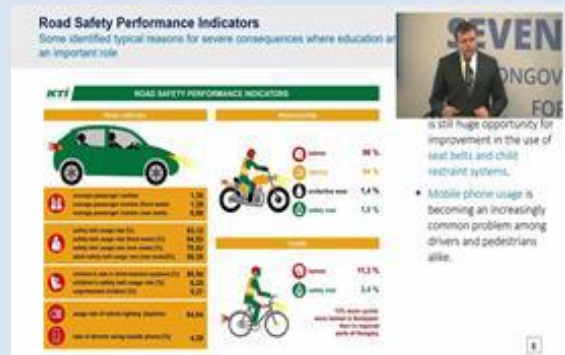


Laxman Khadka, chief (DCC) responded that each municipality should take the initiatives to address the issue of child labor in their respective municipality/ rural municipality even though the cases of child labor may be minimal in comparison to metropolitan city.

As a way forward it was decided that it is necessary to sensitize and spread awareness at local level, form committees at local level for capacity building and to strengthen the implementation of laws focusing on child right and child protection.

Action for Road Safety

Seventh Global Meeting on Road Safety



Swatantrata Abhiyan Nepal participated in the Seventh Global Meeting of Global Alliance for Road Safety on 23rd and 24th March 2022 which was held in Budapest, Hungary. It has come up with Asia Pacific Declaration to commit to act for People’s Right to Safe Mobility and a 50% reduction in road deaths and injuries by 2030. The Asia Pacific call for action ensured the

national and local road safety plans and aligns to the global plan for the decade of action 2021-2030 and addresses the 12 global voluntary performance target and their indicators. Furthermore, the call for action committed on stand up for people’s right to be safe, use data and evidence to show what needs to be done, hold the government’s accountability for people’s right to be safe on the road and for the 2030 target and partner with regional agencies and authorities, as well as governments to achieve the 2030 target.

The link for the declaration paper is provided below:

<https://www.roadsafetynegos.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/000-Global-Budapest-Declaration-Final.pdf>

Meeting with Ministry of Social Development & Education Watch Members

Education Watch Group in coordination with SAN and MoSD, Bagmati Province organized meeting among the Education Watch Group members on 23rd March 2022 via Zoom Application. The objective of the meeting was to discuss on the contingency plan on education of Bagmati Province. The meeting was chaired by Mr. Santaram Dangol, Chairperson, Education Watch Group. The chief guest of the meeting was Mr. Gopal Kandel, Department Head, Women and Children. 15 members of Education Watch Group joined the meeting. Mr. Kandel shared that the draft contingency plan have been

developed by MOSD and the plan needs to be discussed among the experts for its finalization. He proposed to create the expert team among the Education Watch group members to finalize the document. Participants suggested to first share the draft and then form the committee. As a way forward, it was decided that MOSD will share the draft plan to SAN and SAN will further coordinate among the members for seeking feedback. Also it was decided that the draft plan will be shared in another meeting of Education Watch Group members.

Publication of Policy Brief on Child Labor

With Support of World Education, Swatantrata Abhiyan Nepal developed and published three different policy briefs on child labor: Child Labor and Education, Child Labor and Occupational health and Safety, Child Labor and Monitoring, Rescue and Prosecution Mechanism. The policy brief on Child Labor and Education includes the information about situation of child labor in Nepal, relation between education and child labor, policy provisions regarding education, our experience and the role of local, provincial and federal government to end child labor in Nepal. Likewise, the policy brief on Occupational Health and Safety includes situation of child labor in Nepal, Policy and programmatic arrangements regarding occupational health security, our experience on the risk of occupational health and safety and child labor, recommendations from child laborers

and their guardians to make Legal provisions regarding child labor offenses and punishment, and recommendations for the federal, provincial and local government to implement occupational health and safety to end risky child labor. The policy Brief on Child labor and monitoring, rescue and prosecution mechanism includes the situation of child labor in Nepal, Legal provisions regarding child labor offences and punishments, Policy Commitment to Child Labor Rescue, Protection and Rehabilitation, what our experience says and what can



be done by the three tier government for effective child labor monitoring, rescue,

protection and Prosecution.

Publication of Provincial Factsheet on Child Labor

With support of World education and in coordination with 15 Partner Organizations of Madhesh, Bagmati and Lumbini Provinces, Swatantrata Abhiyan Nepal published three provincial factsheets on Child labor. As per the data from Community Based Action Research, the 15 Partner Organizations identified 6576 child laborers, 3733 parents/families in 220 Brick Kilns, 111 Carpet Industries and 1 Zari Industry of 45 Municipalities of three provinces.

The provincial data of Madhesh province through community based action research shows that 2283 child laborers, 1515 parents were identified from 84 brick kilns, 2 carpet industries and 1 zari industry by fand 73% child laborers work for more than ive partner organizations of Dhanusha, Sarlahi, Rautahat, Mahottarti and Saptari districts. The findings shows that 54.6% child laborers are of under age 14 which is prohibited by Nepal's Law. Similarly, 72% child laborers work more than 6 hours per day, 99% child laborers have no access to school, and 93.5% child laborers have experienced injuries at work place. Majority of the child laborers i.e 92% stated the reasons to be in child labor is due to poverty where as 81.47% child laborers mentioned about helping parents.

The provincial data of Bagmati province shows that five organizations of Kathmandu/Bhaktapur, Makwanpur,

Sindhupalchowk, Lalitpur and Dhading Districts identified 1535 child laborers and 629 parents from 31 brick kilns and 109 Carpet Industries. As per the data, 33% child laborers are of under age 14 years and 73% child laborers worked more than six hours per day. Among the identified child laborers, 76% mentioned about no access to health

facilities, where as 89% mentioned about experiencing physical injuries at work place. The majority of the child laborers i.e. 75% engaged in child labor because of poverty/family income.

Similarly, the provincial data of Lumbini province shows that five partner organizations of Kapilvastu, Dang, Banke, Bardiya and Rolpa districts identified 2758 child laborers and 1589 parents from 105 brick industries. As per the data 49 child laborers were found under 14 years which strictly prohibited by the Nepal's law. Out of 2758 child laborers, 83.6% worked for more than six hours per day and 96% have no access to school and health facilities and 91% faced physical injuries at work place. The reason to be in child labor is family income/poverty 986%) and helping parents at work (63%).

