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Feature

Child Sexual Abuse

Child Sexual Abuse is any contact or interaction, which may be physical, visual, verbal or psychological, between a child/adolescent and an adult when the child/adolescent is being used for the sexual stimulation of the offender or any other person. Child Sexual Abuse includes asking or pressurizing a child to engage in sexual activities regardless of the outcome. It may be of various forms such as exposure of genitals to a child, displaying pornography, actual sexual contact against a child, physical contact with the child genitals, viewing of the child's genitalia, or using a child to produce child pornography.

Sexual Abuse on children may result to adverse effect on them which may be both long term and short term. Children might go in to depression, gain physical injuries, mental disorder among others. While some might come out of the trauma with the much support and care given to them by their families, others might not even with all the possible care and attentions till their adulthood. The form of abuse usually comes from known persons as well as strangers. The known persons might be from friend circle or relative who has easy access to the child. The results are often serious where they become mentally depressed often leading to cases such as suicide attempts and other serious consequences.

Basically, the forcing of unwanted sexual activity by an adult to a child, as by the use of threats or coercion is termed as Child Sexual Abuse.

The abuse of such kind does not affect child alone but all the other people associated to his/her life. The child who goes through such conditions needs more love, care and counseling than others. They must be given counseling on a regular basis so as to take them out from the trauma they recently went through.

Such cases of child being sexually abused are on a rapid rise nowadays all over the world, like in Zimbabwe where 50% of the girls have mentioned of them being forced by strangers for sexual contact. Every year almost 180 girls become victims of rape as per CWIN data. In the year 2009 alone 113 girls under the age of 16 were raped and 70 girls under the age of 11 were raped according to CWIN.

Facts on Sexual Abuse:

- ✦ The WHO report on Violence and Health (2002) states that about 20% of women and 5% of men have suffered sexual abuse as children.
- ✦ According to UNICEF reports, approximately 30% of sex workers in Indonesia are under 18. Some as young as 10 years.
- ✦ Nearly 70% of all reported sexual assaults occur to children ages 17 and under.
- ✦ Shockingly 50% of the predators sexually assaulting small children are close friends of the family.
- ✦ Only 10% of the abuse comes from strangers.

CWIN in Action

CWIN at CAN-Info Tech

The CAN Info Tech also participated by CWIN was held for six days from 1st February to 6th February, Tuesday to Sunday. CWIN in partnership with CAN Info Tech had an opportunity to disseminate information regarding protecting children from online harms. Brochures, posters, pamphlets and stickers regarding online harms, child helpline and anti-tobacco/alcohol were distributed in the program.



According to the press released by the CAN around 419180 people attended the technology fair. The visitors were school students, college students, parents, teachers, and people from different organizations from inside as well as outside the valley. People were found taking interest; especially the parents took the materials stating to share the information with their children. People from different schools and organizations from inside and outside the valley took huge number of copies of the materials to disseminate the materials in the respective places. The visitors trying to know more about online harms were responded simultaneously, the response of which was overwhelming. The major attraction for children in our information counter was the stickers.

Our prime focus was the school/college students and youths. We gave thorough information regarding the issues, suggested to go through them and share it with their friends, teachers and family members as well and also to put it on display for everyone's knowledge.

Orientation for Media Persons on Child Rights and Programs in Nepali Television

Kathmandu- Media bodies stated about the least preference given to issues concerning children by Nepali television channels. In an interaction program organized by CWIN on "Child Rights and Nepali T.V. Program" the journalist presented their views regarding this. Speaking at the program member of National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), Mr. Ram Nagina Singh said that the media personnel should always publish only truthful news following the ethics at any time.



Speaking at the program Executive Director of Nepal Television, Kundan Aryal said that currently Nepali T.V. is raising the issues of children in a simple manner rather than giving it a special preference. Thus, he emphasized on child issues to be given a priority by the Nepali T.V. channels. News Head of Image Channel, Mahendra Bista said that the program made on children must give positive news and information.

Kulchandra Bhattarai, News-Head of Terai

Television also emphasized on production of child oriented programs on television in the orientation program.

In the same program hundred episodes of Bal Sarokar, a weekly program being produced by CWIN, was summarized by Media person Prem Baniya.

CWIN in News

British pedophile remanded to custody

Kathmandu District Court today remanded an alleged British pedophile to seven-day custody as requested by Metropolitan Police Range, Hanumandhoka, for further investigation into his involvement in molesting children.

Metro police had arrested 74-year-old Peter James Sexton from Minar Guest House in Sundhara on the charge of molesting street children Anup Bhujel and Rajan Shrestha yesterday. They were below the age of 15.

According to police, Sexton (passport number 094438610) from Isleworth of the UK had reportedly lured the street children into having 'unnatural sex' with him with the promise of money.

He had been staying in Kathmandu since October. Of late, he had got his tourist visa renewed till March 31. During interrogation, Sexton claimed he was just sheltering the children and had never molested them.

"But, the children have admitted to being repeatedly molested by the British national," said an official seeking anonymity.

Police have handed over Bhujel and Shrestha to the custody of CWIN Nepal. Nepal lacks solid law to take action against pedophiles.

Children's Act, 1992, has a provision for punishing a person found guilty of involving children in "immoral acts" with a fine of approximately US\$150, or imprisonment up to one year, or both.

Source: The Himalayan Times, 3rd February 2011

Docu-film narrates tale of kids in war

A documentary show that recaptures the stories of three poverty-ridden minors forced to join the insurgency, *Through Our Eyes*, was screened in the capital today.

The three of them were also the protagonists of the documentary.

They said poverty had forced them to join the war.

Nar Bahadur Sunuwar of Humla district said, "I joined the war expecting two square meals, opportunity to visit new places and was excited to know that I could also carry a gun. But to my dismay, I had to struggle hard and walk miles with pangs of hunger. My days were very difficult."

His family members did not recognize him when he returned home after a decade.

Likewise, Jay Bahadur Thapa of Giri Chauka village in Doti district dropped out of school and joined the then Maoist insurgents. In his case too, poverty had compelled him to become a child soldier.

Sukmaya Prapti, who witnessed the attack on Beni, Myagdi district, in 2004, in which 200 died, was forced to join the war as she had only her mother, who was promised better life after the revolution.

However, Prapti, then 11 years, gained nothing; 'republic' is a buzzword but there's nothing for children. "We, as children, fought the war, but we are useless today, leaders don't care about us." She vented her anger, "We don't have republic, we have hardship."

Around 9,000 children below the age of 15 were reportedly exploited during the civil war. Sunuwar, Thapa and Sukmaya worked with Tessia Kobylinska to produce and direct the film. Each recorded videos of their friends. The film was made with assistance of Child Workers in Nepal Concerned Center (CWIN).

Thapa and Sunuwar are studying in Kathmandu, while Prapti is working for a CWIN-run children's home in her hometown.

Source: The Himalayan Times, December 31, 2011

'TV should abide by media ethics'

Since the television is essential for the growth of society's awareness on the child issues, it should be sensitive and child friendly while broadcasting its products, different media experts said on Wednesday.

Speaking at an interaction entitled, "Child Rights and Programs in Nepali Television", hosted by CWIN, various experts stated that the television should abide by media ethics while covering the issues of and disseminating news, and views on children and should only broadcast such products which are child friendly.

Stating that though the first steps of human rights started with children's rights, Ram Nagina Singh, member of NHRC, said due to prevailing problems and circumstances many Nepali children were deprived of the basic rights.

The media should therefore be responsible for raising such issues before stakeholders to make them accountable towards their responsibilities.

During the program, Kundan Aryal, Executive Chairperson of Nepal Television, admitted that there was a lack of quality programs on children's issues in the Nepali televisions. It is mainly because of the confusion regarding to the policies and lack of sensitivity, he added.

He urged stakeholders and media persons to help Nepali televisions produce quality and child friendly products. The televisions should not involve in unhealthy competition, he said.

Stating that media's wrong portrayals have negative consequences in a child's psychology, Prem Baniya, senior journalist of News 24 Channel said that the media should be cautious while broadcasting any news and reports in their television channels.

During the program, media experts also reviewed the program called, "Bal Sarokar" being produced by Nepal Television with the support of CWIN.

Despite different positive aspects of the program, there is a need of improving some technical and presentation style of the program, said experts.

CHILDREN in News

Nepali Youth top in the world in viewing porn sites

If the number of hits on porn-sites is any indicators, Nepal is poised to set a record of sort, claim of official sources. The country is leading the rest in the world. If one goes by number of hits on pornographic websites claim Nepal Telecommunications Authority (NTA), Nepal Police (NP), Cyber Cafe owners and viewers as well. NTA recorded at least 114 pornographic websites within this month, which links with maximum Nepali women and children, and immediately instructed their closure. "NTA circulated this information to the Internet Service Providers (ISP) concerned on 17th January 2011 and stern instruction to block them instantly, "NTA Deputy Director Kailash Prasad Neupane told The Reporter.

"We have recently blocked 53 widely used websites including utube.com, worldsex.com, pinkworld.com and many others. These websites were mostly used in cyber cafes and visited by school children as substantiated following police investigation and verification. The Police action follows its attempt to crack down on cyber related crimes that is taking a heavy toll on teenagers. Nepal Police has also asked the NTA to block 65 different websites. The Nepal Police's move followed the alerts it received from different countries including certain agencies from Nepal itself.

The government has formed a committee comprising experts from NP and the NTA-to curb cybercrimes from the society following some credible information that the cybercrime rate was going much higher than in China and Bangkok given the hits on the pornographic websites. The committee verifies the' existence and use of such websites and blocks them', official source said. "There are around 1,000 cybercafés in the capital that allow such websites being opened. But we still do not know which ones are legally registered and which are illegal", Neupane said, adding "this is time all such records are maintained."

"It's every Internet Service Provider (ISP)'s duty to record the details of the persons 'organization, his/her background, photo and other important information first before issuing internet connection. Had they been careful while over supplying the connection it would have been easier for the cops to track down such harmful websites informs." Officials say there are many instances in which an internet connection meant for personal use are being used as Cyber cafe or business purposes. "From now on, we have strictly directed the entire ISPs provider to check whether an individual wants internet connection to open cyber cafes or for personal use, "As complaints and cyber related crimes grew, the Nepal has also formed a cyber-cell in Metropolitan Crime division, Humandhoka with a full-fledged team. However, police complain that absence of effective laws related with cyber crimes and its network, across the border is causing lot of problems. "At times, dreadful crimes like kidnapping also occur due to unsystematic internet connection without proper verification", complain the police. As per the law, if anyone is found guilty of exposing harmful or illegal websites, the culprit can be punished with a jail term up to 5 years or a hundred thousand rupees as penalty or both. Under the new arrangement, the ISPs must also communicate with the police when in doubt about the veracity of the applications. "But people are ignoring this part. Cops are being called only after the crimes occur", Police said. NTA Chairperson Bhesh Raj Kandel said that NTA alone could not do much in this matter. Other parties also should be keenly involved for preventive as well as punishing the guilty once violations are reported.

Kandel connected this issue with the Voice over Internet Protocol (VOIP) and said, "The stakeholders woke up only after the case was reported. Why did not they anticipate such things or take enough precaution when so many mobile sim cards came out in the market? The country is paying for it today as we all can see", he said Pornographic websites are not

only used by youngsters but are also being used by the underage children, claim the investigating cops. This is one of the reasons for the growing crime rate among youngsters as at their growing age they are more curious and vulnerable than the adults. Cybercrimes do not end here. They can cause more harm than the pornographic websites. Kidnapping, extortion deals, money laundering, gambling, trade in weapons, internet. It is very hard for cops to trace the culprits at such times. "Technology, not used in a proper manner, can result to be dangerous," warn the police.

Source: The Reporter, 6th February 2011

Bajura Kids to be spared WFP diet

After the students started falling ill, authorities have decided to halt the distribution of "nutritious food" to the school children in the district.

World Food Programme (WFP) was providing the food under its Food for Education scheme. According to Acting District Education Officer Krishna Raj Kunwar, the decision to halt food distribution was made as the students started falling ill after eating WFP-funded food. The distribution will be halted until a report of the sample that the WFP representatives had collected for technical test comes out.

Local teachers and the guardians also pointed their fingers at the food quality after the students of Bhageshwori Primary School in Gudukhati VDC fell ill after taking the food. Meanwhile, two staffers of Niyutri Food Pvt Ltd, the manufacturer of the food, are in the district for monitoring.

WFP had been providing the food for 13,500 students of 150 schools in the district as lunch with a view to improving the health of primary level students, increasing school enrollment rate and regular attendance.

Source: The Himalayan Times, 14 January 2011

Hague invites Nepal to discuss adoption

The Hague Secretariat based in the Netherlands that monitors compliance with Hague Convention has written to the government of Nepal to participate in a meeting in Rome, Italy, to discuss the country's inter-country adoption process.

Nepal amended its inter-country adoption process in December 2010 amid allegations of widespread irregularities. The Hague Secretariat apparently maintains that Nepal hasn't done enough.

"The Hague Secretariat wrote to the Minister for Women, Children and Social Welfare on Monday saying it strongly desires that inter-country adoption of Nepali children resumes," said Sher Jung Karki, chief of the ministry's legal section.

"The secretariat has also invited ministry officials to Rome to discuss the amended adoption process and has asked us for a convenient date to meet there," he added.

The ministry is set to reply to the secretariat on Wednesday. "The meeting will most probably be fixed for sometime in February," Karki said, adding that government officials from several recipient nations are expected to participate in the meeting.

Eleven countries suspended inter-country adoption from Nepal last year saying Nepal was not meeting international standards and practices determined by the Hague Convention that says adoption should take place in the best interest of the children.

Among countries that halted adoption from Nepal are the United States, Canada, Denmark, Germany, France, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, Spain, Italy and the United Kingdom.

Last month, the government announced a new set of inter-country adoption policies hoping to placate the international community.

Under the new process, for any children-related organization to be eligible to facilitate inter-country adoption, it should be engaged in child welfare for at least six years and should be registered as a placement agency.

Also, organizations must submit details of each orphan to a probe and recommendation committee within seven days and to a family selection committee within 14 days after the concerned district administration office verifies that the child is an orphan or a destitute.

Any organization found involved in suspicious practice will be barred from facilitating placement for five years.

The new set of policies allows local placement agencies to charge US\$5,000 to adopting parents, while the government charges US\$3,000.

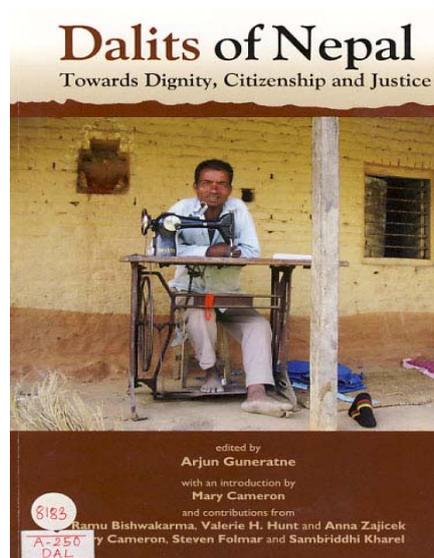
Any foreign placement agency must set up a liaison office in Nepal and pay the government US\$10,000 that will be handed over to an organization working for the welfare of children.

The new policy also says Nobel laureates, head of states/governments, foreign ministers, celebrities, or a couple with an annual income of over US\$300,000 can become foster parents, while others cannot.

Source: Republica, 19 January 2011

Book Review

Dalits of Nepal Towards Dignity, Citizenship and Justice



Dalits of Nepal: Towards Dignity, Citizenship and Justice is an interdisciplinary book that provides readers with a range of social science perspectives, from local in depth ethnographic detail and interpretation to summaries of national educational and other trends in citizen rights and social justice. The authors employ a mix of research methods to more fully describe the situation of Nepal's Dalits while arguing that Nepal is wasting its human resources by keeping Dalits poor and uneducated, and that the political will to change is weak. But as Dalits wait for the political transformation promised, they forge new organizations and relationships from the freer society around them. It tells us how Dalits, in spite of violations of human rights, seek ways to protect themselves and to live with dignity in an otherwise intolerable society. The authors suggest that there is still much more we need to learn about and from Dalits.

Press Release

Press Statement

Stop Promoting Alcohol through Music

The most awaited concert Bryan Adams Live Concert in Nepal held on 19th February in Kathmandu sponsored by alcohol companies has drawn the attention of NAPA.

Musical programs have always been an attraction for youths. We oppose such programs sponsored by Alcohol Company that promotes the use of alcohol. It is because it attracts them leading to addiction. In addition, such program seems to be effective for the promotion of alcohol which creates and increases the problems based on alcohol in the community. Thus, we urge all to be part and show solidarity towards the campaign, "**Stop Promoting Alcohol through Music**", coordinated by the NAPA.

NAPA (Nepal Alcohol Policy Alliance) a network established in 2009 by the effort of civil society organization working in human rights, social justice, and alcohol control, has been studying the impact of use of alcohol in community through research, discussing on existed rules and policies and campaigning against the harmful use of alcohol.

This network objects any such program that promotes use of alcohol but this does not mean that the network is against any of such programs. So, this network strongly rejects the use and promotion of alcohol in this mega event.

However, the government of Nepal seems unconcerned about the advertisements of the liquor company for the promotion of their business and profit. We would also like to draw the attention of the government of Nepal to implement the existing provisions strictly and demand new alcohol policies to control and regulate the alcohol production, promotion, consumption and distribution.

We heartily request you all to express solidarity in the campaign against alcohol.

Sumnima Tuladhar
National Coordinator
Nepal Alcohol Policy Alliance
