

The State of the Rights of the Child in Nepal

Half-yearly Report Jan-June 2010

2417 cases of child abuse, child sex abuse, trafficking, child labour exploitation, child deaths, missing children and children in conflict with law were recorded, which is considerably less than the 3069 cases that were reported last year.

* References to last year are referring to cases in the period January-June 2009

SURVIVAL

HIV/AIDS

Although the growing global pandemic of HIV/Aids does not pose a large threat to Nepal, the country has not been unaffected. In the past year there have been 2197 more reported cases of the disease with a total of 15,460 reported cases of HIV/Aids. 213 of the newly reported cases were children under the age of 19 leaving a total of 1513 children in Nepal infected with the disease.

HIV/Aids is particularly prevalent amongst young adults in the 15-19 age group with 525 cases. However there are also a high number of reported cases amongst both the 5-9 years category with 455 cases, and the 0-4 years category with 375 cases respectively, whilst the 10-14 years category remains relatively unaffected with only 158 cases.

Young people engaged in sex work and intravenous drug usage are particularly at risk from the disease which may account for a number of the reported cases amongst the 15-19 age group. However many of the cases of HIV/Aids reported in children are as a result of pre-natal transmission.

Children may suffer directly from the debilitating effects of the disease, but also indirectly in the form of societal alienation as a result of the stigmatization of the disease.

Moreover many children are left destitute with the death or incapacitation of parents due to the disease. Despite various government and non-governmental programs to heighten public awareness of HIV/Aids – such as the current initiative in light of the forthcoming Nepal Tourism Year 2011 – there remains a lack of knowledge in regards to the risks and effects of HIV/Aids.

Immunisation

As carried out last year, 4.4 million children were immunized against polio under the National Polio Campaign to eliminate polio in 1st phase.

Similarly to previous years 3.7 million children under five were administered vitamin “A” capsules in 75 districts.

Child Health and Communicable Diseases

The susceptibility of young children to disease in Nepal poses a serious challenge to their welfare and development.

Hundreds of children suffer each year from easily curable diseases such as measles, diarrhea, pneumonia, swine flu and kalazar with 159 reported cases of such diseases since January. This resulted in the death of 21 children.

In light of last year's endemic in Jajarkot of particular concern is the spread and control of diarrhea which continues to claim many lives each year. Despite concerted efforts to resolve the problem of safe water and sanitation in Nepal following the diarrhea pandemic last year, 88% of the population still lacks access to clean water.

In addition to such curable diseases a number of children have died this year from food poisoning, rabies, malnutrition, medical mal-practice and unknown causes.

Many of these deaths could have been prevented with adequate medical attention which is often unavailable or of too great an expense.

Calamities

As in previous years many children have been killed or injured in various natural calamities. A total of 72 children were affected by natural disasters causing a total of 16 deaths.

Deaths of children occurred as a result of lightning strikes in Birgunj and wild fires in Kapilvastu in addition to other incidents.

Accidents

Since January 304 children have been injured or killed in various accidents which claimed the lives of 166 children. These figures have risen marginally from last year when only 269 children were involved in accidents and 154 lives were claimed.

These deaths are attributable to various incidents such as fires, freak explosions and road accidents.

Road safety is by far the most pressing concern in regards to the number of children fatalities via accidents. Road accidents may occur due to the driver's carelessness, drunkenness, lack of concentration or inexperience. Moreover when road accidents do occur they often cause a great deal of damage and claim many lives.

Children are said to be particularly vulnerable to road accidents because they are often unaware of the danger the road poses.

PROTECTION

Violence Against Children

CWIN recorded 187 cases of violence against children so far this year, a number similar to the 197 cases that were reported last year. 5 cases of domestic violence against children were recorded. Out of these 5 cases, 3 were girls and 2 were boys. 4 of the 5 cases were reported directly to the CWIN Helpline. 33 children were murdered this year, 16 girls and 17 boys, and there were 13 reported attempted murder cases. There have been 10 infant killings thus far, 4 of whom were boys, 3 were girls, and 3 were unidentified.

There have been 39 cases of corporal punishment, 22 girls and 17 boys. 6 of these cases were reported to the CWIN Helpline, 5 boys and 1 girl. Last year there were 72 corporal punishment cases reported, so the number has decreased by almost 50%. There were 19 cases of physical/mental abuse/torture against children: 14 boys and 5 girls. There have been 30 cases of menstruation discrimination against girls. As a result of this discrimination one girl died of a snake bite whilst being forced to live outside of the home.

There were 17 cases of child sex abuse. 15 of these cases were girls, the other 2 were boys. 4 of the girl cases were reported directly to the CWIN Helpline. Last year, there were 3 cases of child sex abuse recorded.

Cases of Victim Children, due to the Political Disorder

There were 20 cases of victim children due to political disorder. 2 boys died and 15 children were injured, 5 girls and 10 boys. 11 children were injured from an explosion from a stray bomb that they were playing with. 2 children were injured by bullet, and 2 children were injured on Maoist movement. 3 boys were arrested. Last year, there were 41 children who became victims of the political disorder, thus there has been a dramatic decrease in the number of children affected by the disorder.

Rape

There were 92 cases of rape recorded so far this year, 7 of which were reported to the CWIN Helpline. 52 of these cases were children under the age of 16, and 9 cases were under the age of 10. 7 cases of rape were incest were recorded, out of which 3 were children under 16. Of the 92 reported rape cases, 56.52% were of minors. 9.78% were children below 10 years, the youngest being 1 and a half years old. 6.52% were murdered after rape. 19.56% of cases were gang rape and 7.6% were incest. Culprits were arrested in 52 cases. Last year there were 91 cases of rape reported.

Trafficking

There were 176 trafficking cases reported so far this year, 12 of which were reported to CWIN Helpline. 41 of the cases were children under the age of 16. 39 of the cases are returnees. 23.29% of trafficked children were under the age of 16, the youngest girls were 10 years old. Traffickers in 27 cases were arrested (amongst these 10 cases were in the under 16 age group) but in other cases the culprits remain at large. In 109 cases, traffickers were employed by Naike. Husbands were

traffickers in 2 cases, gangs in 4 cases, and in 7 cases, traffickers were women. Last year there were 194 cases reported of trafficking. The number has remained similar to previous years.

Missing Children

There have been 195 cases of missing children so far this year, 136 boys and 59 girls. 80 boys and 34 girls cases were reported to the CWIN Helpline. 105 of the children were found, 70 boys and 17 girls. Of these cases 86 were reported to CWIN Helpline. Last year, there were 112 cases of missing children, thus a significant increase in missing children has been recorded this year.

Abduction

There have been 17 recorded cases of abducted children so far this year. Last year there were 44 recorded cases of child abduction indicating a significant decrease. Of these cases 9 boys and 6 girls were abducted, and 6 of the children were found.

Abandonment and Destitution

There have been 22 cases of abandonment reported since January this year. 11 of the cases were girls and 11 were unidentified. 2 cases of neglected children were reported to the CWIN Helpline, 1 girl and 1 boy.

Child Labour Exploitation

There were 677 cases of child labour exploitation reported so far this year. 617 of the cases were bonded labor. Of the 677 cases, 23 were boys, 306 were girls, and 348 were unidentified. 16 girls and 12 boys' cases were reported to the CWIN Helpline. Last year, 491 child labour exploitation cases were recorded, showing a significant increase for this year.

Children in Adult Prisons

There were 10 children recorded in adult prisons, 9 boys and 1 girl.

Children in Conflict with Law

There were 21 cases recorded of children in conflict with the law. 21 children were detained or arrested, 20 boys and 1 girl. 1 case was reported to the CWIN Helpline. Children were arrested in various robbery, theft, and pick-pocketing cases. Last year, 91 cases were recorded, which indicates a large decrease in the number of children arrested.
