

Empowering Adolescents for Addressing Child Marriage in Madhesh Province Nepal

Nov 2023 to June 2024



Introduction

LIFE Nepal implemented the "Empowering Adolescents for Addressing Child Marriage" Programme in coordination with local and provincial government of Madhesh Province which played a significant role in advancing several of the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). These goals include SDG 3: Good Health and Well-being, SDG 4: Quality Education, SDG 5: Gender Equality, and SDG 10: Reduced Inequality.



Funding Agency
UNICEF



Locations
100 Schools

of 13 Palikas in 3 districts i.e.,
Dhanusha, Mahottari, and Saptari of
Madhesh Province, Nepal

Objective

OUTPUT 1

Improved knowledge, skills, attitudes and capacities of adolescent girls and boys for making informed choices and decision about their rights, relationships, sexual and reproductive health, and financial literacy through the implementation of Rupantaran social and financial skills package

OUTPUT 2

Improved awareness and skills among mothers and fathers, extended families, community members and teachers on negative consequences of child marriage, importance of education, psychosocial wellbeing and about alternatives to child marriage.

AIM

To empower and support adolescent to reach their full potentials.

Major Achievements

- The RUPANTARAN gallery was prepared, and RUPANTARAN sessions were facilitated by 400 peer leaders (192 boys and 208 girls). Through these sessions, 10,054 children (4,624 boys and 5,430 girls) were directly reached, while approximately an additional 35,000 children and parents were indirectly reached as the children further informed their parents and friends (child-to-child and child-to-parent knowledge transfer) about the lessons learned from the RUPANTARAN sessions.
- Out of 100 schools, 44 schools that did not have a Complaint Hearing Committee (CHC) formed a committee, and 56 schools re-activated previously formed CHCs. Additionally, 100 suggestion/complaint boxes have been placed at appropriate locations in each respective school. CHCs have started collecting and addressing complaints.
- Schools have been providing a communication charge of 1000 per month to the focal teacher for complaint hearing management from their own resources (e.g., Basahiya School, Dhanusha). 200 focal teachers (116 male and 84 female) oriented and served as champions, guiding peer leaders in conducting the RUPANTARAN sessions and supporting the establishment of suggestion boxes at schools.
- After the parent's sessions about 15,000 parents and community members now feel confident in their ability to provide an enabling and protective environment for children and adolescents.
- After the interaction meetings with religious leaders signed a seven-point declaration for addressing and responding to child marriage like "We will ask the age of boys or girls who are going to be married before fixing the day for marriage ceremony", "We will not attend the marriage ceremony if child marriage is going to place", "We will boycott child marriage", "We will boycott feast of child marriage", "We will work for establishing a positive social norms", and

PEOPLE BENEFITTED



10,054
Children



5,150
Parents



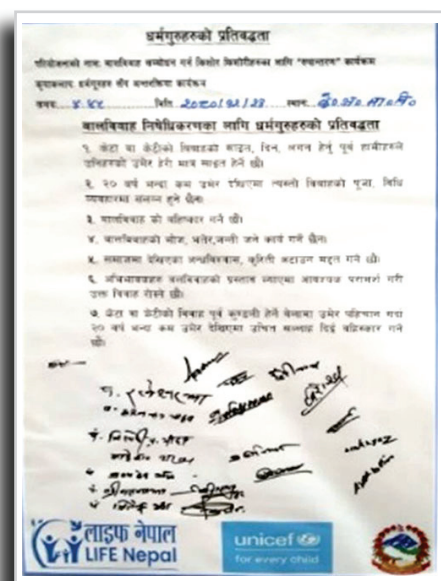
400
Peer Leaders



200
Teachers



298
Religious
Leaders



Religious leaders signed seven points declarations for addressing and responding to child marriage

"We will motivate and convince parents if they come up with the proposal of child marriage".

- Religious leaders disregarded four cases of child marriage.



We raise our voice to stop child marriage. I have refused to participate in a child marriage function. In Matihani, we have also stopped a child marriage," shared by one of the Muslim religious leaders Mr. Abdul Rahman Maulana of Rajaul, Madarsa during a province-level review meeting.

- The Mayor of Manara Sishwa Municipality promised to conduct differently.

 बास संरक्षण सम्बन्धि सेवा प्रदायकहरूको सूची, २०७३						
सेवाको विवरण	संस्था	स्थान	सम्पर्क व्यक्ति	सम्पर्क नं.	सेवाको अवधि	सेवा पाइने क्षेत्र
सम्बन्ध तथा सम्प्रेषण सहयोग	बर्दibas नगरपालिका	बर्दibas नगरपालिका	रेवती प्रसाद पराजुली	९८५२०५२५६०	निरन्तर	सबै वडाहरू
अल्पकालीन संरक्षण केन्द्र/स्थान	बास संरक्षण केन्द्र	बर्दibas नगरपालिका	सीता अधिकारी	९८४७९३५७८८	निरन्तर	सबै वडाहरू
	वैरवी भण्ड	बर्दibas नगरपालिका	नामेश्वर	९८५४०२२९९७	निरन्तर	सबै वडाहरू
बास कन्याश्रम गृह						
मनोसामाजिक परामर्श सेवा	बर्दibas नगरपालिका	बर्दibas नगरपालिका	पुष्पा कर्ण	९८०७९५५९८३	निरन्तर	सबै वडाहरू
	एकडार संकेत व्यवस्थापन केन्द्र	बर्दibas अस्पताल	पण्डित अधिकारी			
स्वास्थ्य सेवा	बर्दibas अस्पताल (जीपी)	बर्दibas नगरपालिका	कुष्ण भट्टराज	९८६००३०५५२	निरन्तर	सबै वडाहरू
सुरक्षा सेवा	नगर प्रहरी	बर्दibas नगरपालिका	मोहन्द थापा	९८४७७०४४२८	निरन्तर	सबै वडाहरूमा
कानुनी सहायता	न्यायिक समिति	बर्दibas नगरपालिका	सरस्वती महती	९८६३४३५८८९	निरन्तर	सबै वडाहरू
त्रिभुवन पार्क तथा व्यवसायिक तालिम	कुष्ण एकाड	बर्दibas नगरपालिका	विष्णुदेव साह		निरन्तर	सबै वडाहरूमा

Referral Pathway Mechanism

Milestone Accomplished



Conducted peer leader training to instruct peer leaders

400 peer leaders (192 boys and 208 girls) trained and enhanced their skills to conduct RUPANTARAN sessions among their peers (T: 400, A: 400, M: 192, F: 208). They delivered RUPANTARAN sessions covered ten sections like my world, self-awareness, rights and responsibilities, gender and social inclusion, age of adolescent, nutrition, livelihood, sexual and reproductive health, gender-based violence and disaster risk reduction with thirty-two sessions based on their daily life including communication skills.



Deliver RUPANTARAN package to peers by peer leaders

10054 (Boys-4624, Girls-5430) adolescents from schools reached through trained peer educators on RUPANTARAN social and financial skills (T: 10000, A: 10054, M: 4624, F: 5430 among them PWD: 5).



Orient to teachers

180 focal teachers (Male-116 and Female-64) from 100 schools oriented and serving as champions to support and guide the efforts of the peer leaders (T: 200, A: 180, M: 116, F: 64). They supported peer leaders in the coordination for class conduction



Orientation to complain hearing mechanism committee

298 members (Male-193 and Female-105) of 100 targeted schools orientated about complain hearing mechanism and referral pathway (T: 300, A: 298, M: 193, F: 105).



Suggestion/complain boxes support to schools

100 schools established suggestion box and complaint hearing mechanism (T:100, A: 100). Children are confident and dropping the cases in a suggestion box.



Capacity building training to Staffs & Outreach Workers

51 staffs (Male-30, Female-21) from LIFE Nepal and SODCC attended 3-days induction and planning workshop. They trained and enhanced skills about child rights and child protection. Also, they developed an overview and understanding of case management and referral pathways for dealing with child protection cases. LIFE Nepal developed work plan and carried out project activities accordingly.



Provincial level review meeting

Two events of the province level coordination meeting were jointly organized by Life Nepal and Social Organization District Coordination Committee (SODCC) with 64 participants (M-42, F -22)



Orientation to parents and community members

5150 parents (Male-2500, Female-2650) of adolescents residing in and around school catchment area oriented about child marriage, its causes and effects (T: 5000, A: 5150, M: 2500, F: 2650)



Palika level interaction meeting with religious leaders

298 religious' leaders-oriented child marriage and the issues they have been facing in addressing child marriage (T: 300, A: 298).



Establish links and a referral pathway

Links and a referral pathway established at 12 Palikas for accessing public and private services such as education, gender-based violence (GBV), sexual and reproductive health (SRH), and livelihood support in close cooperation with local governments (T: 12, A: 12).

Good Practices and Learning

Strengthened grievance hearing mechanism at schools

- A total of 1225 cases related with education, infrastructure and GBV recorded; all 1220 cases were responded by the Complaint Hearing Mechanism Committee, and five cases were referred to women cell or local governments.
- Three child marriage cases were stopped.
- One teacher was disciplined for inappropriate touching at school.



Ownership of province and local government improved for strengthening the child protection system

- Chhinmasta Municipality allocated 200000.00 for RUPANTARAN sessions.
- Laxminiya and Mithila in Dhanusha, and Manara Siswa in Mahottari appointed Child Welfare Officers.
- The provincial government circulated a letter to local governments for functional coordination and support for delivering RUPANATARAN
- Local governments put the delivery of RUPANTARAN sessions on priority by attending events and monitoring program activities.

Success Stories

Shikshya's Stand

Resisting Child Marriage and Advocating Education

Fifteen years old Shikshya (name changed) has said "No to her early marriage." She has continued her studies and is committed to stop child marriage in her community. Born to a family of five, Siksha lives with her parents in Janakpur sub-metropolitan city of Dhanusha district in Madhesh province of Nepal. Coming from a financially poor background, it has been challenging for Shikshya's parents to educate their children. Parents of two daughters, they find it difficult to cover household expenses. Understanding the need of giving dowry in daughter's marriage and fear of daughters eloping, they see daughters as a burden to their family. As a result, Shikshya's elder sister got married at an early age and has been struggling to survive for a living.

In a society where child marriage is prevailing, Rupantaran program has been implemented in Sakal Bhawan Kanya Secondary School for 6 months. Four peer leaders from this school have been trained to advocate for stopping child marriage in their school/community. Shikshya heard about ongoing Rupantaran program from her friend (a peer leader) at her school. Shikshya is a student of grade 9 in same School and is a member of child club as well. She shared about her ongoing marriage talks at home. Her parents had been talking about her marriage. During that time, one of her friends (a peer leader) told her about ongoing Rupantaran program at her school. She informed about gender-based violence and consequences of child marriage.

She had seen her elder sister suffering after marrying at an early age. She realized how risky it was to marry at an early age.

Finally, Shikshya strongly opposed her marriage in front of her parents. She is dedicated towards her higher studies and convinced her family not to marry her below 20 years of age. Though her parents did not agree with her decision in the beginning, however, they allowed daughter to continue her studies later on after frequent consultations and counselling. Shikshya believes in herself and wants to be financially independent before marriage. Currently, she is in touch with her elder sister and keeps sharing about her learning to her elder sister.

Anupam's Transformation

From Shyness to Advocacy Against Child Marriage

Anupam Srivastav, 14-years old, is a Rupantaran Champion from Dhanusha district. He studies in grade 10 in Yagyabalkya Sanskrit Secondary Gyankup in Janakpur sub-metropolitan city. He has been selected as one of the peer leaders from his school who participated in peer leader training conducted by LIFE Nepal with the technical and financial assistance from UNICEF under "Empowering Adolescents for Addressing Child Marriage" program in the month of January 2024.

Born to a family of five, Anupam lives with his family in Janakpur sub-metropolitan city of Dhanusha district. He describes himself as a shy and introvert person from his early age. He could not

express himself to others. He was afraid of talking with girls. He was shy to talk to her sister. He could not share his views in front of many people. Anupam finds peer leader training very effective in bringing positive changes within himself. Learning the contents of Rupantaran package helped him to understand himself and people/society around him.

"Section 1 of Rupantaran package introduced us to "Mero Sansar" chapter really helped him understand himself. There were many sections in Rupantaran package that introduced them to adolescence, sexuality and social inclusion, gender-based violence, etc. He understood about changes that

comes in adolescence period, both in girls and boys. He bought sanitary pad for his sister after he came to know about her need. Now, he can express himself and speak in front of many people.

Anupam expressed interest to support during parent meeting conducted nearby school area. He actively participated & expressed his views during parents meeting. He wants to pursue his career as a software engineer in future and serve his society and people by participating in various awareness raising activities on ending child marriage.

Recommendations

The RUPANTARAN sessions conducted by peer leaders should be monitored by resource teachers, schools and municipalities.

The municipality should plan with budget for the effectiveness and sustainability of the RUPANTARAN program.

The RUPANTARAN package should be digitised (RUPANTARAN mobile based apps should be developed) to make it more effective and reach more adolescents and parents.

Programme Glimpse



Interaction meeting with parents



Rally demonstration against child marriage



Art by students during Rupantaran session



Toffy awarded for drawing



Rupantaran session materials



Distributing the Rupantaran materials and Complain Box



Mayor visited the Peer Leaders training



Joint programme monitoring by UNICEF



Programme monitoring by Provincial Government's representatives and UNICEF



Provincial coordination meeting



School level coordination meeting



Interaction with Religious Leaders



Rupantaran session



Parents interaction



Mayor/Deputy Mayor visiting



Secretary of MoSSW was reviewed the programme



Programme in a Media Coverage



गोरखापत्र

होमपेज राष्ट्रिय राजनीति प्रदेश अर्थ विचार टेलिकुट अजकडा समाज

बालविवाह न्यूनीकरणमा शिक्षक र विद्यार्थीको सहयोग



कार्यक्रममा जलेश्वर नगरपालिकाका उपमुख्य रौतन खालुनसहितका सहभागीहरू।

गोरखापत्र अनलाइन

४ माघ २०८०, विहिबार

५ मिनट पढिने

शेयर गर्नुहोस्:

फन्ट परिवर्तन गर्नुहोस्: अ अ अ

नागेन्द्रकुमार कर्ण

महोत्तरी, माघ ४ गते। जलेश्वर नगरपालिकाले बालविवाह न्यूनीकरणको लागि शिक्षक तथा विद्यार्थीहरूको सहयोग लिने भएको छ। बालविवाहमा अभिभावकहरूको मुख्य भूमिका रहेको ठम्याउँदै नगरपालिकाले छात्रछात्रा तथा शिक्षकलाई बालविवाह न्यूनीकरणको प्रशिक्षण दिएर अभिभावकहरूलाई जनचेतना जगाउने कार्यमा खटाउने जनाइएको छ।

बालविवाह न्यूनीकरणका लागि धर्मगुरुसँग अन्तरक्रिया कार्यक्रम



शान्ति केन्द्र सन्वदस्ता
०३/०४/२०८१ १३:०५:००

13 views



शान्ति केन्द्र सन्वदस्ता

सप्तरीको राजविराजमा बालविवाह न्यूनीकरणका लागि धर्मगुरु तथा सरोकारवालासँग अन्तरक्रिया कार्यक्रम गरिएको छ।

लाइफ नेपालको आयोजना तथा युनिसेफको आर्थिक सहयोगमा उक्त कार्यक्रम गरिएको हो।

कार्यक्रममा विभिन्न धर्मका गुरुहरू तथा सरोकारवाला गरी २५ जनाको सहभागिता रहेको लाइफ नेपालको सप्तरी जिल्ला संयोजक रुबी मिश्रले जानकारी दिए।

कार्यक्रममा बालविवाह सम्बन्धमा तालिम कुरा झल्के प्रस्तुती गरेका थिए।

बाल विवाहले हुने समस्या, यसको कानुनी व्यवस्था, यस्ताई न्यूनीकरणमा धर्मगुरुहरूको भूमिका सम्बन्धमा प्रस्तुती गरिएको थियो। सहभागीहरूले पनि आफ्नो सुझाव कार्यक्रममा तलेका थिए।

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मुख्य समाचार गर : स्थानीय पेय पदार्थको ब्राण्डिङ्ग

गृहपृष्ठ समाचार लेख अन्तरसंचार कला अर्थतन्त्र परिषद खे

रूपान्तरण कार्यक्रमको सप्तरी पालिकास्तरीय तिन समन्वय बैठक सम्पन्न।

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2626+ सम्बाधर

15

Shares



५ माघ २०८०

राजेन्द्र मिश्रा, सप्तरी। बालविवाह न्यूनीकरणका लागि रूपान्तरण कार्यक्रमको सप्तरी जिल्ला तिन पालिकास्तरीय समन्वय बैठक बिहिबार सम्पन्न भएको छ।

युनिसेफ नेपालको आर्थिक तथा प्राविधिक सहयोगमा लाइफ नेपाल जनकपुरधामले जिल्लाको राजबिराज, सुरुङ्गा नगरपालिका, छिन्नमस्ता, राजगढ र बिष्णुपुर गा.पा.गरी पाँच स्थानीय तहमा प्रारम्भिक चरणमा गर्न लागेको कार्यक्रम बारे पहिलो चरणमा राजबिराज नगरपालिका, राजगढ गा.पा.तथा बिष्णुपुर र छिन्नमस्ता गाउँपालिकामा सुरु गरि छुट्टा छुट्टै संचालन भएको समन्वय बैठकमा सहभागीहरूले यस कार्यक्रम अन्तर्गत बालविवाह विरुद्ध संयुक्त अभियानको खाचो रहेको आवश्यकता ओल्याए।

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रूपान्तरण कार्यक्रमको प्रदेशस्तरीय समन्वय बैठक सम्पन्न

जनकपुर संचार २०८० पुष १८, बुधबार १८:५१

14

Shares



लाइफ नेपाल बुटवल, सप्तरी र सप्तरी जिल्ला नरी १२ वटा पालिकाका रूपान्तरण कार्यक्रम संचालन गर्न लागेको हो। विभिन्न सुचकाङ्क तोकिएर समन्वय अग्रुप, धर्म गुरु, विधायक/विधायिकाहरूलाई बालविवाह विरुद्ध तालिम, अभिवृद्धिकरण लगायतका कार्यक्रमहरू संचालन गरिने लाइफ नेपालका अध्यक्ष डा.कुमारले बताए।

कार्यक्रममा लाइफ नेपालका अध्यक्ष कुमारीले प्रस्तुतिकरण प्रस्तुत गर्दै संघका प्रदेशका जिल्लाहरूमा बालविवाहको कमि गर्न आवश्यक प्रयास गरेका थिए। कार्यक्रममा सहभागीले रहेको छिन्नमस्ता युनिसेफ नेपाल बाल संरक्षण अधिकृत कामरेन खानसले जवाफ दिएका थिए। कार्यक्रममा सुझावहरू, मानवअधिकारकर्मी लगायत सरोकारवालाहरूको उपस्थिती रहेको थियो।