



CWISH NEWS

12th of June 2010

Children-Women In Social Service and Human Rights Issue 8

PAST ACTIVITIES

Women's Day celebration

MayDay celebration

RECENT ACTIVITIES

12th of June, World Day
Against Child Labour

The Orientation Program
in the Outreach Centers

Programs by Child Clubs

The interaction program
organized by Child
Protection Committee

Awareness Program on
Child Sexual Abuse and
Child Labour

Municipality Level
Programs

A workshop by PTAN

FUTURE ACTIVITIES

19th of November, Day
Against Child Abuse

World Day Against Child Labour – 12th of June in Nepal

World Day Against Child Labour was celebrated globally on 12th of June and in Nepal as well. The purpose of the day is to raise people's awareness about child labour and its consequences for children and their future. The Day Against Child Labour brings many organizations, schools, women's groups, and media working together for a good cause.

CWISH has been working for eliminating worst forms of child labour and to promote child domestic workers rights since 1996 and it is a pivotal part of

CWISH's work. CWISH is working in many ways against child labour including free education, awareness raising programs and rescue, relief and care support. As said, part of the work is to make it seen and try to educate people about the importance of the issue. CWISH took part in organizing the World Day Against Child Labour in Kathmandu.

In this Newsletter you can read about the work that has been done to end the child labour and to promote children's rights. You also see how many different organizations and groups put their efforts together and created many events for World Day Against Child Labour and how CWISH participated in.

Goal: Ending Child Labor

This year the world day against child labour (12th of June) is marked globally with the slogan *Go for the Goal: End Child Labour*. The global community rose with the voice and solidarity against child labour and call for more strong and effective action as a striker kicking football in the world cup.

Eliminating child labour is to win another world cup. The world cup is on the fight against poverty, illiteracy, inequity and underdevelopment. Child labour is a strong defendant against the progress and prosperity of human society.

The Nepalese civil society rose together with all over national marking the world day against child labor having red card on their hand, shouting shame to the employers of child workers, marching together with the activists and celebrating the dream together with the working children. Government of Nepal, Trade Unions, Employers' Association, International Non Government Organizations, and International Labour Office in Nepal joined hand together with the NGOs for taking action against child labour. They reaffirm their commitment, expressed solidarity and exposed their dream of a child labour free society confirming their plan of action with children.

The National Labour Force Survey 2008, (Report published in 2010) has confirmed that the number of working children has reduced in Nepal, however the reduction ratio is not satisfactory as per the efforts made by civil society.

The fight against child labour demands coordinated and comprehensive action. It does not demand isolated project rather appeal for mainstreaming of child labor and vulnerability in all development interventions. It requires legal action and punishment against the abuse and exploitation of childhood. It should be base on the strong constitutional, legal and policy provision of the country.

Thus, with the goal ending child labour, we need to have a unified fight against child labour, against the impunity of having crime against childhood and the constitutional, legal and policy guidelines by the state and global solidarity and support.

Milan Dharel, Executive Director

Thought of the month:

"child is a father of the man"

-William Wordsworth The Rainbow -

...and child is a mother of the woman. By this we believe that the future of our society is in the well being of its children. We believe it is important to say our opinions now. We cannot just wait the future without doing something. According to Kumara (2009) it is necessary to groom children to adopt healthy attitudes and positive traits so that they grow up to be balanced individuals. We are working for a dream – no child labour. This may be difficult, but possible. Let's make it happen together!

World and Nepal Against Child Labour

The first World Day Against Child Labour was launched by The International Labour Organization (ILO) in 2002. The purpose of the day is to increase the worldwide knowledge and movement against child labour and raise world's knowledge about the plight of these children.

Hundreds of millions children worldwide are forced to work as a child labour. In Nepal many girls' and boys' rights are being violated as they engage child labour work. These children work in hazardous conditions.

Child labour does not only affect the child by denying education and skills to create a better future, it also affects the whole country's economy through losses in competitiveness, productivity and potential income. "Withdrawing children from child labour, providing them with education and assisting their families with training and employment opportunities contribute directly to creating decent work for adults".

Publicity

CWISH has been working in the field of child labour and other children issues since the beginning. It has

been implementing several programs on community as well as policy level in partnership with different international and national development agencies and also government agencies.

CWISH was one of the organizations arranging a press conference on 10th of June. The press conference was arranged to provide information on child labour issues, as well as publicize the upcoming week's events. Different medias and many organizations besides CWISH took part in the conference.

Main event

12th of June, World Day Against Child Labour was celebrated in many ways. Early in the morning a rally started from Bhadrakali Temple. Besides CWISH, many people from various organizations had participated and were shouting slogans and carrying banners. In those banners there were slogans, like "Go for the goal and end child labour!" The youths of CWISH also took part in the rally.



The air was full of red cards that people were holding up and they were shouting:

"Red card to child labor!" and "Say no to child labor!"



A march led to Pragya Bhavan where the talent show was held. The talent show and its content were about ending child labour. The participants were children from many schools, various organizations and media. The show started with welcome song by Balbyabasayi School. Child labourers lighted 9 candles for the 9th time when the day against child labour was celebrated.





Speeches were held by child domestic workers themselves and people from different organizations. The first speech was held by Surendra Dhakal from Bal Bikas Samaj from Child Development Society. He said that Nepal has signed Child Right Convention. In the constitution of Nepal there should be written the sight of the children. He demanded that government would increase its commitment to the issue. In his opinion the best way to end the child labour is to offer free education to all children.

Next speech was held by Milan Dharel from CWISH. He questioned child labour, and said that a child is a child and not a worker. He asked why one child of five will lose his or her rights. In his opinion the government has lost time and the number of child workers has not been decreased. He was happy of the cooperation between different organizations and demanded more attention to child labour issue from the government, trade unions and politicians. He pointed out that ministers were invited to 12th of June celebration but none of them showed up, which shows the lack of commitment.

Children had prepared songs and dramas. Some of them were so

moving that tears could be seen in the eyes of the audience. The performances by children showed the normal life of a child worker. There were feelings of sorrow and loneliness, lack of education, clothes, friends and love.



The program continued with speech held by Bhumika Subedi from Network organization. She spoke to promote education for child labour. Loud applauds were heard during and after the speech. The speech was followed a song by children from Bal Bikas Samaj.

Next speech was held by Shanta Chaudhary. Her speech was powerful and many showed their respect with loud applauds. She has also been a child labourer and free from that only four years. She was happy to see so many people and organizations celebrating the important day. She raised the question about media behaviour; when a dog is missing it's in the news papers, but when there is violation against child labourer it is not in the media. She emphasized that the change starts from the decision makers and got huge applauds, when she told people to go to politicians homes and search for a child worker. She will be working

with the new constitution and make Nepal a child labour free country. She promised to be the voice of the children and help with this issue as long as she lives.

"Freedom will come soon and I'll be there with you!", "Together we can do anything and our voices will be heard!"

The day continued with a speech from Milan Bhujel from Nepal Child Club telling his own realistic and emotional story. After the speech children performed a drama called "My voice will be listened". After that Helen Sherpa, from World Education told to raise a red card towards child labour influenced by football World Cup. She told people, when facing child labour, to give a red card and end it for good.

In addition Shaili Theatre played drama called "Kuri kuri" and after that there was a final song by the children from Balbargasi School. The day ended to the speeches of Udhav Poudel, from ILO and Arjun Thapa from Zalidpur municipality. Poudel told to say "Kuri kuri" to the house owners with child labourers and raise the red card to them. Thapa emphasized proper education to every child throughout the country!

Other events and activities

Orientation in the Outreach centers (ORC)

On the occasion of 12th of June, inauguration and orientation program for domestic child labours, employers and community people was successfully organized in ten different ORCs. The centers were from the four clusters (Bhaktapur, Lalitpur, Kathmandu I and Kathmandu II).

This program lasted three days; on the first day there were inauguration and orientation about domestic child labour, child rights, and child protection in the community. There were 349 participants from all the centers,



150 males and 199 females. On the second day there was orientation on the mentioned topics to the children, who are studying in the ORCs. Altogether 53 children, 16 males and 37 females, participated in the program. In the last day, the children wrote and drew about their understanding of children rights,



child labour, and protection.

There were also participants from various important groups of the community such as women's group, representative of CPC, community police, local government representatives from local wards and municipals, local club representatives, local school teachers and Tole Sudhar Samiti members.



The whole program was led by the centre's facilitators and supported by the cluster's team leaders. The program was interactive and there were discussion about various important issues that could help in the sustainability of the ORC such as the suitable timing for the class, the perception of the employers towards educating the domestic child labours, conditions of the DCL etc.

Furthermore, the participants were given the quantitative data of the condition of domestic child labour in their community. This data included the total number of DCL, their education status, and other general information. A brief overview of CWISH and the project Naya Bato, Naya Paila was also given to the participants.

This program managed to introduce CWISH with its various aspects of target groups and activities. It also managed to give information about child labour issues and children's rights and protection and policies to the communities.



Furthermore, the community members agreed to support in establishing the classes and they agreed to help the CWISH staff working for the community by running programs such as Door to door visit. That would help in bringing more DCL to the ORCs by informing employers of the children's right to the education. In addition to this, the employers and community people were also informed about legal provision regarding child labour.

The participants agreed the fact that all the DCLs should be given an opportunity to education and the employers understood the importance of sending their DCL to the ORC.

The orientation given to the children was effective as well. The facilitators along with the team leaders managed to gain the support from the community which was a positive sign. More of such orientation especially for the employers is required to run the ORC effectively.



Child Clubs Programs

Shanti Bidyagriha Child Club

On the occasion of World Day Against Child Labour Shanti Bidyagriha Child Club of Shree Shanty Bidyagriha Boarding School of Lainchaur showed solidarity by doing essay writing competition. The participants of the program on 28th of Jestha gave their views against child labour.

Ranibari Child Club

Ranibari Child Club organized poem competition on 11th of June. In this program 9 students spelt poems on the topic 'Child Labour'. Winners were awarded by the Child Club.

Janasahayogi Child Club

Janasahayogi Child Club held essay and poem competition related to child labour. This competition was between the students of the school. To essay competition were participated students from 9th class to 10th class and students from 4th class to 7th class were participated in drawing competition. In this program students raised their voice against child labour by their talents.

Namuna Child Club

Namuna Child Club done drawing program about child labour. Before starting, the participants from class 3rd to 6th were made aware about child labour. The participants gave their views against child labour through their drawings. Before the closing of the program, the pictures were shown to all in the school.

Panchakanya Child Club

Panchakanya Child Club also organized essay writing on child labour on 11th of June on the occasion of World Day Against Child Labour.

Sunaulo Rudramati Child Club

On the occasion of World Day Against Child Labour Sunaulo Rudramati Child Club of Rudramati Primary School performed a drama. The children wrote and directed the drama with the main story "Child Labours should get opportunities and should get chance to live with their parents again". It was

performed on the 18th of June on school's field. In the audience there were students, teachers, position holders of "Parents-Teachers Association" and "School Management Committee".



Bal Shramik Samuha Child Club

Bal Shramik Samuha Child Club also held poem competitions on 11th of June. In this program participants were spelling poems about child labour.

Shanti Bal Child Club

Shanti Bal Child Club was holding speech competition on 7th of June by celebrating the World Day Against Child Labour.

The interaction program organized by CPC

On the occasion of World Day Against Child Labour, Child Protection Committee (CPC) organized a two days interaction program in four clusters (Kathmandu I, Kathmandu II, Lalitpur and Bhaktapur), in four schools. The main objective of this program was to celebrate the 12th of June and to understand the problems and needs of the child labourers, as well as to find, how the responsible people for these children view these problems and needs.

The idea was to discuss the remedies and to list the needs. There were two group discussions; in children group, there were two presentations made by child labourers from class 5-10. The other group discussion was held between employers, parents and teachers. The problems and needs of the children were listed after both days interaction program. There were

teachers, CPC chairperson and some students participating both of the days and 214 other participants in the interaction program of the second day. The teachers, who took psychosocial counselling training, organized by CWISH, also participated in the program.

During the course of interaction, the students expressed their problems and needs such as need of more play materials in the school, need of more stationary and problems such as they get mental stress from their employers, when they are surrounded with domestic work that leaves them very less time to study. They also said that their parents do not believe and support them and it is difficult to express own feelings. They also are not able to contact with their family, they face violence from the employer's children and are unable to reach school on time.

Still this program managed to build trust among the children and responsible people, such as teachers, parents and CPC and also helped them to identify these problems and needs. Participants were made aware of the fact that using child labour is illegal. This helps in changing attitudes and behaviour of employers.

The important achievements of this program were that the relationships between children and various people, who affect their life, improved and also the needs of children were identified. This program also boosted children's confidence and leadership skills. Children learned to tell about their problems and needs and adults learned how important role they have improving these children's lives and how important is to listen to these children.

The biggest challenge was the lack of employers, but still the program was successful. It brought the real picture of the feelings, problems and needs of the children and helped in building interaction between the participants. These kind of programs are needed more.

A workshop by PTAN

A workshop was organized by Parents Teachers Association Network (PTAN) on 12th of June concerning about children's educational problems in government schools, policy provisions and our role. 51 people including parents, employers and teachers participated in the workshop identifying problems faced by children and recommending possible solutions from different sides.

Besides this, participants were also informed on policy provisions especially in School Sector Reform Plan (SSRP). Based on their recommendation and SSRP provisions, a list has been prepared to share with concerned agencies like District Education offices (DEOs), Department of Education (DoE) and Ministry of Education (MoE). 4 groups including parents, employers and teachers have been formed for lobbying in these mentioned agencies.

Awareness Program on Child Sexual Abuse and Child Labour

Because a huge amount of Nepalese children are suffering from Child Labour and Sexual Abuse, there is an urgent need to educate the young generations on these topics in order to decrease the number of Child Abuse cases in the future.

In cooperation with different private and public schools from Kathmandu, Lalitpur and Bhaktapur, CWISH had therefore organized a youth mobilization program to raise young peoples' awareness on Child Abuse issues. With the help of trained youths and CWISH's financial and technical support, two orientation programs for students were held on the topics of Child Sexual Abuse (CSA) and Child Labour (CL). 206 boys and 187 girls were educated on CSA as well as 178 boy and 217 girls on CL issues - all together from eight different schools.

The objectives of the programs were to raise youth awareness on the urgent problems of CSA and CL and to encourage the youth to raise their voice against CA and to pass on the

received knowledge about it. During the program, the youths were educated on the definitions of CSA, CL and Child Rights. Furthermore, they discussed how and where Child Abuse can appear, and how to protect children against it.

Municipality Level

Hetauda Municipality

Hetauda municipality has been working in cooperation with PLAN NEPAL, Bal Kalyan Samaj and other NGOs to promote child rights. In Hetauda municipality of Makwanpur district many programs were organized to tell children about their child rights, child labour and about ways to avoid harms of labour to mark the World Day Against Child Labour. The children were given knowledge about where to go and what to do in case of an assault. Similarly, various playing materials like, balls, chess games etc. were distributed in to two Bal clubs. Also a poem recitation program was conducted and Mr. Dhruva Bhujel distributed prize to the children. To promote the education of children in need Bal kalyan samaj in association with PLAN NEPAL Makwanpur gave scholarship and additional stationery items to deserving 50 children. Part of the 12th of June program was also to distribute the Red Cards.

Madhyapur Municipality

A program Against Child Labour was organized in Madhyapur municipality, Thimi, Bhaktapur. The program included the challenges, possibilities and achievements of organizations like CWISH who are involved in minimizing child labour. Moreover, the program focused on raising awareness of child rights among the people. This program was called "Madhyapur Thimi, Hamro Sampati" and it was telecasted on Bhaktapur FM from 7 p.m till 8 p.m on 27th of Jestha, 2067. In this program, Yuvraj Ghimire, who works for CWISH, was interviewed about child labour, child rights and the different measures taken by CWISH to decrease child labour.

On 28th of Jestha the ward secretaries and school inspectors were oriented about the different

programs that were being conducted in an effort to minimize child labour. The ward secretaries were briefed about the different programs conducted by the municipalities. They also discussed the national child labour policies, laws on child rights and the budget allocated to conduct programs to eradicate child labour. The campaign against child labour was also discussed with a committee that included ward members and school personnel. A total of 12 participants were involved in the orientation program.



On 29th of Jestha there was a program in an effort to raise public awareness among the general public organizations like CWISH, also the community service centre, community police and the Madhyapur Thimi municipality were involved. They talked about child rights and child labour and in Ghatthaagar, Ram Prasad Pathak, an officer of Bhaktapur municipality gave school materials to children, who were enrolled in the informal classes.



Lalitpur Municipality

In Lalitpur municipality there was arranged a program on the occasion of 12th of June. The program included distribution of red cards and pamphlets to all the households in that area.

Banke District

In Banke district in Nepalgunj 12th of June was celebrated by organizing an interactive program to make Banke

district free from Child labour. The program was held on 26th of Ashad, 2067 and 81 participants took part in the program.



An information session was held to inform people about the efforts made by NGOs and the government bodies in order to minimize child labour in Banke District. Studies and reports made by different NGOs were presented to participants. Main stakeholders were identified to successfully declare Banke as being free from domestic child labour. The stakeholders will be responsible to advocate and to do lobbying about the laws against child labour. They are also responsible for ensuring that child rights will not be violated by any of the stakeholders. They will work to make sure that participants would not employ children to work and will encourage their neighbours not to do so as well. They will also ask the concerned unit to be involved in ensuring that working children have access to education and to put pressure on the district level committee and the municipality to allocate a budget for the education of the working children. They will hold regular meetings, discussions, and interactive sessions about child labour in order to increase the understanding of child labour.

With this program information about child rights was exchanged between the various stakeholders and different strategies were talked about. The program made everybody to understand the fact that minimization of child labour depended on each stakeholder and the role they play. The information session increased the level of understanding about child rights.

Picture gallery



Story of the month:
Radhika Chaudhary, 15



Radhika is a 15-year-old, beautiful, friendly girl who has not had an easy start to her life. She comes from a big family with economical problems. She has five sisters and two brothers and that is why her parents couldn't support them all, so Radhika had to begin to work as a domestic worker. Now she has been working for her employer family for two years.

When she started working she was very sad and lonely. She missed her family and cried often when going to sleep. She is living with her employer family and she told they treat her well. She said they love her and never beat, but still she can see her own family only once in a year and she really misses them.

Her usual day starts at 5 am when she gets up and makes some tea to the family. After that she cleans a little and makes breakfast. Then she has to do the dishes and took her employer's children to school. She is very happy that then she has the opportunity to study by herself. She goes to the nearby outreach centre (OCR), which is run by CWISH to offer child labourers a chance to join formal education, like any other children. She is very good in English and very fast learner. Still her days does not continue by doing homework because she has to hurry back home to do the laundry, look after children and make dinner, only at night time she has time to study.

She sees her future open and she does not know, what will it bring, but she has a dream. She dreams to become a teacher and this is a possible goal to reach!

Story of the month:
Rabina Lama, 13



Rabina Lama is a beautiful 13-year-old girl, who is always smiling and helping others in CWISH's Outreach Centre's classes. She was forced to go to work after her father and brother both died and her mother couldn't take care of her and her sister. She now has to live at her employer's house away from her family. After the death of her father she was only 11 years old when she went to work. Since that time she has not seen her mother and elder sister.

She is happy to go to Outreach Centre's classes, because she is not allowed to go to school. Actually her employer doesn't even know that once a week she takes time for herself and goes to English classes. English is her favourite subject and when ever she's got spare time she studies. Other hobbies she doesn't have because she is working from 5am to 10pm.

The work she does is hard and not suitable for a small girl. Her usual tasks include taking care of a baby, cleaning, doing laundry and cooking. She says that even her employer is treating her well, the work is hard and days are long. Because of the long days she has no friends and no time to play. She is missing her family a lot.

Despite the hard reality, she sees a bright future. She wants to be a beautician and own her own beauty parlour. With her motivation to study, this is not an impossible goal and there is a good chance for this to happen!