



GIRLS NOT BRIDES



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The National Network to End Child Marriage in Nepal : An Introduction

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**National Network to End Child
Marriage in Nepal**

Nepal: eighth highest in Child Marriage

- Nepal ranks 144th position on the 2009 Human Development Index.
- Thirty-one percent of the Nepali population lives below the poverty line.
- With 51% , Nepal ranks 8th among the top ten countries (UNICEF 2011);
- Despite the legal sanctions, the practice of girls marrying young and before or shortly after puberty is common.
- More prevalent in rural (54%) than in urban (41%):
- 40% of girls are married by age 15,
- Child marriage in Nepal is closely linked with traditions, religious beliefs and cultural practices



Balika Dulahi Hoinan: The National Network to End Child Marriage in Nepal

- *Balika Dulahi Hoinan (Girls Not Brides)* is a national network of the Nepalese non-governmental organizations (NGOs) committed to work together to End Child Marriage in Nepal.
- Discussion to form network started in Delhi meeting.
- Formally decided to launch on 10th February 2012.
- Formally launched the network on 23 March 2012 among various stakeholders including representatives from various Ministries, media, civil society and young people



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- The founding members of the national network are: Aama Milan Kendra, CREHPA, CWIN Nepal, Child Welfare Society, Janaki Mahila Jagaran Samaj, Samrakshaksha Samuha Nepal and SOLID Nepal. It's Secretariat is based at SOLID Nepal
- It has also developed directives for the governance of network which also clearly mentions membership criteria, design of logo, letterhead.
- It is in process of designing it's website.
- Network has also come up with a proposal for raising fund for its activities.



Governance of Network and its key goals and objectives

- Network is governed by its directives and all members have endorsed and signed the directive. Major decisions are made on the basis of Directives.
- **Goal of Network**
- Balika Dulahi Hoinan aims to pool resources, energy and experiences of its members to support equality and ensure rights of Nepalese girls and women in all aspects of life, strengthen and maximize their collective effort in ending child marriage and address those practices that perpetuate inequality in our society.

Governance of the network

- Its **key objective is**
- to raise awareness of the harmful traditional practice of child marriage in the country by encouraging open, inclusive and informed discussion at the community, local and national level.
- The Network currently functions with the voluntary contributions of its member organizations.
- The network membership is open to all Nepalese non-governmental organizations working against women violence and child marriage.

Key activities of network

- Sensitise about network to like-minded organisations and individuals
- Encourage to become members
- Policy dialogue with relevant stakeholders
- Media sensitization
- Joint advocacy with other networks
 - Harmonisation of activities of network members
 - Joint Advocacy and awareness campaigns such as Street art.
 - Celebration of day of girl child with many stakeholder and led discussion on child marriage and launched the report of child marriage.



Future Plans/Opportunities

- Mapping of organisation working on child marriage
- Expansion of membership
- Bring organisations working on child marriage together for harmonisation and resource generation.
- Advocacy and lobby for implementation of law
- Collaborate with other networks on children and girls issues for integration and joint lobby and advocacy
- Collaborate with Nepal government to meet country target on child marriage
- Collaborate with regional network such South Asian Initiative against violence against children (SAIVAC) which is apex body of SAARC. It has recently came up with regional action plan to end child marriage.
- Conduct debate and discussion to address manifestation of child marriage
- Empower girls and boys through members' intervention
- Identification and use of culturally appropriate advocacy and behavior change communication strategies to address child marriage practices in Nepal
- Harmonise and learn from each other's experiences
- Initiate debate and discussion on paradigm shifting and find solutions

Challenges/Lesson learnt

- Social norms/traditional practices/Patriarchy.
- High school drop out of girls
- Low birth registrations
- Poor implementation of laws
- Increase in self- initiated marriage
- Resource constraints
- Membership management (Global and National)
 - Assessment prior to accepting membership is also important.
- Engaging at individual, socio-cultural, institutional and civil society level is important
- Priorities of network members.

Thank you

बाल-विवाह गर्ने हरेक ।



