

## **PROCEEDING REPORT ON**



# ATIONAL CONFERENCE OF CHILD CLUB GRADUATES

5-6 December, 2023 | Kathmandu, Nepal

In Coordination with



Publication	Proceeding report on the Second National Conference of Child Club Graduates	
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Publication	Jagriti Child and Youth Concern Nepal	
Publication Support	ChridFund Japan KANALLAN	
Publication no	500	
Publication date	2024 March	
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Supporters	UNICEF, Care, World Vision International Nepal, Child Fund Japan, KANALLAN, Save the Children	
Collaborators	WOREC, VoC, ADARA, National CFLG Forum, SPCSN, Saathi, Looniva, CWIN Nepal, Swatantrata Abhiyan, KIRDARC, WSM, Nepal Youth Network, TDH Germany	

## Acknowledgment

After ratifying the Convention on the Rights of the Child in 1990, Nepal has witnessed steep progress in safeguarding and promoting children's rights, based on progressive constitutional provisions and various relevant laws enacted by the government. Child clubs have been established, promoted, and mobilized as a formal institution for meaningful child participation. The Supreme Court's decision in the Case of Jagriti Child Clubs against the Government of Nepal was pivotal in acknowledging children's rights to participate and associate freely through registered associations since 2000. This has led to the extensive promotion of child clubs, and their recognition at all three levels of the government. According to the Children's Status Report, 2023 published by the National Child Rights Council, at present, more than 19,904 school-based child clubs are actively functioning in Nepal. Moreover, millions of children have graduated as advocates for child rights.

Though there is no formal graduation ceremony from the child clubs, the term Child Club Graduates (hereinafter referred to as CCGs) has unofficially emerged, and now has been officially accepted in the development sector. As the child clubs provide a sense of rights and responsibilities since childhood, CCGs have developed as skilled, aware, and empowered leaders, excelling in various sectors. Though a considerable organization has prioritized the engagement of CCGs, their integration into Nepal's youth movement has been insufficient. The immense potential and capabilities of these graduates necessitate organized efforts to empower them as champions for child rights.

In light of this context, civil society organizations led by CCGs including Changa Foundation, Yuwalaya, Jagriti Child and Youth Concern Nepal, and Creative Society Nepal, conceptualized a National conference of CCGs and organized it with the support from the then Ministry of Federal Affairs and Local Development, and UNICEF Nepal on 1–2 July 2017. This conference was the first of its kind in the history of Nepal's child club movement. It proved successful in assembling child club graduates, assessing their contributions, and discovering ways to leverage their strengths. Additionally, it inspired and encouraged numerous CCGs working nationwide to persist in their involvement in the youth movements despite the prevailing challenges in youth participation.

After a six-year gap, the second conference of CCGs has been jointly organized by Jagriti Child and Youth Concern Nepal, Hami DajuVai, Creation Society Nepal, Changa Foundation, Yuwalaya, Concern Society Nepal, and Youth Along Voice Nepal, from 5-6 December 2023, at Alfa House, Baneshwor, Kathmandu. The event provided an opportunity for 252 CCGs, representing more than 60 districts across all seven provinces of Nepal, to participate in discussions and exchange viewpoints on nine different thematic issues including Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights (SRHR), GEDSI (Gender Equality, Disability, and Social Inclusion), Civic Engagement, Roles of CCGs in Movement building, CCGs experience in different sectors, Ending Child Marriage, Child Participation, Online Safety, and Climate Justice. The discourses, led by plenary sessions, expert presentations, and focused breakout discussions, effectively boosted skills, deepened comprehension, and fostered unity. The conference successfully highlighted the pressing concerns of CCGs, carrying on the legacy of the conference.

In this segment, we wish to express our appreciation for the invaluable contributions made by

individuals and entities for the inception, preparation, organization, management, and documentation of the conference. Foremost, we extend our profound gratitude to all the mentioned organizations and representatives who actively participated as the organizers of the conference. Our special thanks also go to the child rights networks, Civil Society Organizations, and development partners who have contributed financially and technically to the completion of the program; including CWIN Nepal, KIRDARC, Swatantrata Abhiyan, SPCSN, VoC, Looniva, ADARA, Saathi, National CFLG Forum, Nepal Youth Network for Sustainable Development, UNICEF, Save the Children, World Vision International Nepal, Care, WSM, TDH Germany, Child Fund Japan, KANALLAN and so on. We also extend our sincere gratitude to the 252 participants who traveled from various parts of the country and significantly contributed to the success of this conference.

Moreover, we express our sincere appreciation for the valuable contributions of our esteemed guests, speakers, presenters, session chairs, volunteers, rapporteurs, and all individuals who directly or indirectly supported the successful organization of the conference. Special thanks to the Hon'ble Chairperson of the National Assembly, Mr. Ganesh Prasad Timilsina, for his time as the chief guest of the opening ceremony and Hon'ble Ranju Jha, Coordinator of the Child Rights Caucus, House of Representatives for gracing the event as chief guest of the closing ceremony.

We would also like to thank Ms. Roslyn Gabriel, National Director of World Vision International Nepal, Mrs. Usha Mishra Hayes, Chief of Policy, Governance, and Evidence at UNICEF-Nepal, and Mr. Bam Bahadur Baniya, Vice President of the National Child Rights Council for their remarks, commitment and encouragement as guests of the opening ceremony. Similarly, we express our gratitude to Mr. Janak Raj Sharma, Under-Secretary at the Ministry of Federal Affairs and General Administration; Mrs. Mamta Bista, Chief of the gender-based violence elimination section at the Ministry of Women, Children, and Senior Citizens; Mrs. Indradevi Dhakal, Member Secretary of the National Child Rights Council; Dr. Netra Timalsina, Coordinator of the World Social Forum 2024; and Mr. Min Bahadur Shahi, Former Member of the National Planning Commission, for their presence as esteemed guests. Special thanks to Mr. Gauri Pradhan, child rights activist, Surendra Basnet, Executive Vice-president of NYC, Ms. Binita Karki, Head of Solutions Mapping, UNDP, and other guests for their valuable contribution. Lastly, I would to acknowledge the contribution of Ms. Sumikshya Khadka for report review & finalization. Special gratitude to organizers and supporters for their dedicated engagement throughout the process.

We hope for the sustainable legacy of this event to inspire and propel future generations of Child Club Graduates.

Tilottam Paudel

Coordinator

2<sup>nd</sup> National Conference of Child Club Graduates

## Abbreviations

CFLG	Child-Friendly Local Governance	
CCGs	Child Club Graduates	
CTEVT	Council for Technical Education and Vocational Training	
CSE	Comprehensive Sexuality Education	
CWIN	Child Workers in Nepal	
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction	
EFLG	Environment-Friendly Local Governance	
GEDSI	Gender Equality Disability and Social Inclusion	
HRDs	Human Rights Defenders	
Hon'ble	Honourable	
INGO	International Non-Government Organization	
JCYCN	Jagriti Child and Youth Concern Nepal	
LGBTIQ	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Intersex, Queer	
KIRDRAC	Karnali Integrated Rural Development and Research Centre	
NCFLGF	National Child Friendly Local Governance Forum	
NCGR	National Coalition for Girls' Rights	
NCRC	National Child Rights Council	
NGO	Non-Government Organization	
NYC	National Youth Council	
NYNSD	Nepal Youth Network for Sustainable Development	
RPs	Resource Persons	
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals	
SPCSN	Social Protection Civil Society Network	
SRHR	Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights	
Tech	Technology	
UNCR	United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child	
UNCRC	United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child	
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme	
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund	
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund	
VOC	Voice of Children	
WCSCSD	Women, Children, and Senior Citizen Service Directorate	
WOREC	Women's Rehabilitation Centre	
WSF	World Social Forum	
WSM	World Social Movement	
YAV	Youth Along Voice	
YFLG	Youth Friendly Local Governance	

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## **Executive Summary**

Child clubs serve as formal platforms aimed at empowering children by advocating for their rights and fostering their participation in decision-making processes. These clubs offer children a structured environment to discuss their rights, develop leadership skills, and engage in community issues relevant to them.

Child Club Graduates (CCGs) are individuals who have completed their involvement in child clubs, typically upon reaching 18 years of age. CCGs have made a major contribution to Nepal's child rights movement. However, the contributions of CCGs often go undocumented and unsupported, highlighting the need for increased recognition and encouragement.

In response to these concerns, the first National Conference of Child Club Graduates was convened in July 2017 in Lalitpur, Nepal. It addressed 12 critical topics related to child rights and youth advocacy and was concluded with an 18-point declaration endorsing the commitments and actions of CCGs. Building on this success, the second national conference for Child Club Graduates took place from 5-6 December 2023 in Kathmandu.

The second conference aimed to provide a platform for CCGs to share experiences, engage in learning, and strengthen their roles in community development and social change. 252 participants, including government officials, experts, and practitioners were present in the program.

The opening ceremony of the Second National Conference of Child Club Graduates (CCGs) was hosted by, Bipana Sharma, Secretary of National CFLG Forum and was chaired by Tilottam Paudel, President of JCYCN. Hon'ble Chairperson of National Assembly Ganesh Prasad Timilsina was present as the Chief Guest. Distinguished guests included Roslyn Gabriel from World Vision International Nepal, Usha Mishra Hayes from UNICEF-Nepal, and Bam Bahadur Baniya from the National Child Rights Council.

The conference covered nine thematic issues, spread over various sessions. These sessions involved a wide array of presenters, speakers, and rapporteurs who contributed valuable insights and experiences. Led by relevant experts, each session aimed to address these concerns, fostering informative discussions. Furthermore, each session consisted of a chairperson, presenter, and a few speakers, providing insights, experiences, and perceptions on the topic at hand.

On the first day of the conference, three sessions were held simultaneously, covering Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights, GEDSI and Social Security, and Civic Engagement, Youth Leadership, and Entrepreneurship. The plenary session titled "Role of CCGs in Movement Building" featured distinguished speakers discussing their experiences and insights.

On the final day, CCGs from various sectors shared their insights during the experience-sharing session moderated by Ms. Rejina Gharti Magar from Jcycn. Another session focused on Climate Justice, Children, and Youth (DRR), with discussions led by experts. Furthermore, three breakout sessions were conducted in different halls to delve deeper into specific topics including Girl's Empowerment and Ending Child Marriage, Promotion of Child Clubs and Child Participation, and Online Access and Safety.

Honourable Ranju Jha, Coordinator of, the Parliamentary Forum for Child Rights was present as the chief guest of the closing ceremony, hosted by Mr. Ranjan Paudel. Mr. Janak Raj Sharma, Under Secretary, Ministry of Federal Affairs and General Administration, Mrs. Indra Devi Dhakal, Member Secretary, of National Child Rights Council, Mamta Bista, Under Secretary, Ministry of Women, Children and Senior Citizens, Mr. Min Bahadur Shahi, Chairperson of Human Rights Alliance and Former Member of National Planning Commission and Dr. Netra Timalsina, Word Social Forum, Coordinator were present as guests of the closing ceremony. They expressed solidarity on the event and stressed the need for legal and policy implementations with dedicated engagement and innovations of youths for bringing positive change.

Volunteers and rapporteurs played vital roles in facilitating discussions and ensuring thorough documentation throughout the conference. As the conference wrapped up, Hami DajuVai was designated as the organization responsible for the third conference, aiming to sustain the graduates' legacy. The event witnessed a renewed commitment to empowering CCGs and enhancing their impact at local and national levels. It stressed the necessity of ongoing dialogue and collaboration among stakeholders to promote child rights and youth participation in Nepal. A joint declaration, endorsed at the conference's conclusion, emphasized collaborative efforts and commitments to uphold child welfare and rights by fostering increased youth participation and leadership.

## Declaration endorsed by the 2nd National Conference of CCGs

Reviewing the progress of the child rights movement in Nepal, the institutionalization of child participation, efforts in youth rights, and institutional engagement and the leadership roles undertaken by Child Club Graduates

Deeply valuing human rights, equality, peace, democracy, inclusiveness, child rights, and youthfocused provisions outlined in the preamble, fundamental rights, and state policies of the Nepalese Constitution,

Drawing from Nepal's accomplishments in Child-Friendly Local Governance and the meaningful involvement of citizens, youth, and children in local planning over the past decade and a half.

Affirming a dedication to maximal decentralization within the governance system amid ongoing state restructuring process, leveraging local government and federal structures to foster national prosperity, equitable development, and inclusive societal growth, thereby advancing democracy founded on principles of equality.

Committing to passing on the valuable civic awareness, responsibility, and personal growth skills acquired through involvement in child clubs and participation activities to the upcoming generation of child club members, while also supporting youth initiatives and movements.

As 160 graduates of child clubs representing 60 districts, we collectively present the following declaration outlining our perspectives, requests, and pledges regarding current pressing issues, as discussed during the second National Conference of Child Club Graduates in Kathmandu on 5–6 December, 2023.

- The enactment of the constitution has unveiled fresh prospects in child rights, youth empowerment, economic growth, social development, and democratic practices. To strengthen the democratic structure of Nepal and advance child rights, youth employment, and participation, we pledge our commitment to vigilantly engage, support, and collaborate with local government and political entities in innovative and constructive ways.
- 2. Children are the fundamental aspects of human rights, the rule of law, and democracy. We firmly urge governments across all three levels to boost investments in children, enhance the institutional growth of child clubs, and prioritize children in shaping policies, plans, and programs, by ensuring mandatory child-friendly consultations in decision-making processes.
- 3. Aligned with the National Youth Council's action plans and policies, we encourage Child Club Graduates to foster an environment conducive to active participation, engagement, and utilization of their skills within the youth councils established at provincial and local levels. Furthermore, we appeal to CCGs to join the Youth-Friendly Local Governance (YFLG) campaign, assuring our complete support for this initiative.
- 4. To mitigate the effects of climate change on children, adolescents, and young individuals, we urge

the government to expedite actions and amplify investments by formulating policies, plans, and programs centred on the well-being of children.

- 5. We appeal to all levels of government, development partners, political parties, and stakeholders to collaborate with CCGs in strategizing, executing, and overseeing initiatives, maximizing the utilization of skills and knowledge acquired through participation in child clubs.
- 6. We encourage everyone to actively support the empowerment, participation, and leadership growth of girls and adolescents. Simultaneously, we highlight the imperative role of children, adolescents, and young men in combating sexual violence, particularly the elevated rates of violence against girls, adolescents, and gender and sexual minorities.
- 7. To emphasize that the youth represent the future of our nation, we urge the promotion of youth entrepreneurship, innovative initiatives, the provision of technical education, and the heightened involvement of young individuals.
- 8. The rise in urbanization and the gradual development of cities and transport infrastructure in Nepal have led to increased internal mobility among youth, children, and adolescents seeking educational, employment, and developmental prospects. We believe that current policies and laws insufficiently cater to urban poverty, specifically for children, youth, and adolescents residing in temporary urban settings. There's a clear gap in their access to state opportunities, protective facilities, and social security provisions, inadequately addressed by urban local government programs. We call for all local governments in Nepal to enact necessary policies and programs, implement child-sensitive social security measures, and ensure the provision of survival, protection, development, and participation opportunities for all Nepali youth, adolescents, and children at the local level.
- 9. Though improvements have been observed in addressing violence against children, child sexual abuse, and Labor exploitation compared to the past, there's been minimal progress in combating sexual harassment, exploitation, abuse, trafficking, and child labor within informal sectors. We urge relevant agencies to rectify inaccuracies in the Children Act, 2075, and the National Civil Code promptly. The current programs lack effectiveness due to a lack of effective legal frameworks against discrimination, corruption within the security and administrative systems, family illiteracy, poverty, limited awareness, and life skills, and inadequate social and economic education among children and adolescents. Hence, we call upon the Government of Nepal to engage young citizens in initiatives promoting youth entrepreneurship, employment, skill development, and quality education opportunities at the local level. This includes establishing and enforcing anti-discrimination laws, ensuring robust implementation of criminal laws, and controlling corruption.
- 10. Integrating child participation has notably enhanced the democratic, transparent, and child-centred aspects of both local and national planning. Hence, we advocate for the comprehensive involvement of children and youths not just in the planning stages but also in the subsequent implementation and monitoring phases. We pledge our dedication to advocate, oversee, and creatively engage in fostering child-friendly and youth-friendly local governance. To facilitate this, we propose a mandatory allocation of a minimum of 10 percent of the total budget at the local level for children. Additionally, we recommend prioritizing CCGs for roles such as child-friendly facilitators and other essential responsibilities within the local framework.

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- 11. The Children's Club serves as a platform fostering civic consciousness and responsibility, cultivating competent and responsible citizens, and nurturing a harmonious democratic culture. CCGs embody active citizenship, capable of contributing significantly to their communities, villages, cities, and across local, state, and federal levels as resilient, adept, and engaged youths. We urge youth movements and campaigns to establish robust and conducive environments, along with policies that bolster the involvement and active engagement of CCGs.
- 12. There is a lack of sufficient knowledge, education, skills, and awareness concerning sexual and reproductive health rights among adolescents and youths. We call upon federal, provincial, and local governments, as well as development partners, to integrate comprehensive sexuality education into school curricula and child club discussions for youths and adolescents. Additionally, we advocate for enhanced participation of girls and teenagers in associations such as sports, Junior Red Cross, and scouting. CCGs are dedicated to contributing to this endeavour as agents of social awareness, local advocates, and supportive allies.
- 13. Our observation indicates that children and young people have limited and insecure access to information technology, which, in some instances, is being utilized in hazardous ways. Due to the misuse of information technology and a lack of technical know-how, youths and children have inadvertently become involved in fraudulent, abusive, exploitative, and criminal activities facilitated through these means. We call for the formulation of policy and programmatic arrangements, inclusive of budget allocations, to ensure secure, user-friendly, and uninterrupted access to high-quality information technology for youth, adolescents, and children throughout Nepal. This access should primarily serve educational and self-development purposes. To address risks faced by children, we urge the government to take legal and practical actions that prioritize children's safety.
- 14. Each year, millions of Child Club Graduates (CCGs) emerge from child clubs, equipped as proficient, engaged, and skilled proponents, overseers, and facilitators within the local child rights movement. We implore all stakeholders involved in the Child Rights Campaign, including the National Child Rights Council, private sector entities, and corporations, to champion child participation, actively practice child rights, and collaborate with CCGs at the grassroots level. Furthermore, we advocate for expediting the establishment of Province-level Children's Rights Councils across all provinces, ensuring the swift continuation of this process.
- 15. It has been 12 years since the inception and implementation of the School Peace Zone Guidelines. In both the Act relating to Children, 2018, and the Political Parties Act, 2073, there are legal stipulations prohibiting children from involvement in party politics. Furthermore, it is explicitly stated that holding party programs within schools and disrupting school operations is prohibited by law. However, our observation reveals a lack of information dissemination regarding schools as a Zone of peace in many areas, with political organizations and parties demonstrating an inadequate commitment to this cause. Hence, we appeal to all political entities and organizations to maintain schools as apolitical spaces, respecting children's political freedoms ensuring fairness, and fostering collaboration for school development and the assurance of education for all. Additionally, we assert that actions conflicting with the principles of the school as a Zone of peace should be legally addressed as criminal offenses, specifically considering crimes against children.

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- 16. The Sustainable Development Goals serve as the foundation for fostering human rights-centred, democratic, and inclusive development opportunities. We advocate for the establishment and execution of children's rights and youth development programs aligned with the spirit of the Sustainable Development Goals. Furthermore, we urge local governments to devise and execute programs focused on children and youth, structured upon the Sustainable Development Goals and their corresponding indicators. In this endeavour, we pledge our commitment to serving as facilitators and supporters to local governments and development partners, contributing to their efforts in aligning with these objectives.
- 17. Child marriage remains a critical concern affecting all groups of youth, adolescents, and children. While forced marriage has decreased, there is a rising trend of self-initiated marriage due to insufficient sexual and reproductive health information and life skills education. Hence, we call upon the Nepal government and development partners to devise a comprehensive plan, backed by investments, aimed at eradicating child marriage by 2030. This plan should encompass peer education initiatives, local monitoring, rigorous enforcement of policies and laws concerning child marriage, life skills education, enhanced sexuality education, poverty alleviation measures, youth employment programs, and the provision of free and mandatory secondary education. CCGs are steadfast in their commitment to spearheading a unified campaign against child marriage, conducting local awareness initiatives, and actively monitoring activities aimed at addressing this issue.
- 18. Natural and man-made disasters, along with climate change, disproportionately affect the lives of children, adolescents, and young individuals compared to others. Notably, Child Club members and their graduates have demonstrated efficiency and effectiveness in disaster risk reduction efforts, actively engaging in relief distribution during disasters, organizing protective measures, and fostering resilience. Consequently, we earnestly urge all levels of government and collaborative partners to prioritize the participation and engagement of Child Clubs and their graduates in developing plans for disaster risk reduction and climate change initiatives.
- 19. Research has highlighted that engaging in early participation within the family and community significantly contributes to fostering children's personality development, political ability, and interpersonal understanding. Families and communities embracing child participation exhibit traits of being child-friendly, inclusive, and democratic. To further encourage the practice of child participation within families and communities, we urge the government of Nepal, local governing bodies, and development partners to implement effective programs aimed at cultivating a culture of child participation. These initiatives should encompass positive parental education, specialized training for children, and policy frameworks designed for community engagement. We are committed to assuming roles as facilitators, trainers, and advisors, assisting families, community leaders, and children themselves in fostering and embracing participatory practices.
- 20. The insufficiency of local employment opportunities has led to a significant portion of the younger population seeking foreign employment. Consequently, this trend has given rise to challenges such as a scarcity of local workforce, the emergence of a consumer-driven economic culture, familial fragmentation, and the compromise of children's rights to paternal care and affection. To address this critical scenario, we strongly advocate for the encouragement of local entrepreneurship, the

creation of job opportunities, and the facilitation of financial accessibility to promote local income generation and economic development initiatives. Additionally, we emphasize the necessity for programs aimed at family reunification, counselling services, and the deployment of local social workers. These measures are vital to ensure the safety and promising future of children amidst these circumstances.

- 21. We extend our sincere gratitude to the development partner organizations, the Nepal Government's National Youth Council, the National Child Rights Council, and esteemed experts and resource persons for their invaluable financial and technical support extended towards the success of the Second National Conference of Child Club Graduates. Additionally, we express our appreciation to the Speaker of the National Assembly, Honourable Ganesh Prasad Timilsina, Honourable Member of the Federal Parliament Ranju Jha, diverse ministries, council officers, staff, and all attendees for their presence and encouragement during the event.
- 22. We earnestly urge all relevant entities, including development partners, the private sector, and non-governmental organizations, to tangibly execute the resolutions derived from the National Conference of Child Club Graduates. We encourage all child club graduates to actively facilitate the implementation and monitoring of this conclusion.

## बालक्लबका पूर्व सदस्यहरूको दोस्रो राष्ट्रिय सम्मेलन (१९ र ३० मंसिर, ३०८०, काठमाडौँ) बाट जारी गरिएको घोषणापत्र

नेपालमा बालअधिकार आन्दोलन, यसले संस्थाातरूपमा विकास ारेको बाल सहभागिता, युवा अधिकारको पहल, बालक्लबका पूर्व सदस्यहरूको संस्थाात सहभागिता र नेतृत्वको समीक्षा ार्दै, नेपालको संविधानको प्रस्तावना, मौलिक हक तथा राज्यका नीतिहरूमा उल्लेखित मानव अधिकार, समानता, शान्ति, लोकतन्त्र, समावेशिता, बाल अधिकार तथा युवा लक्षित प्रावधानहरूको उच्च प्रशंसा र सम्मान ार्दै, नेपालले विात डेढ दशक यता थालनी ारेको बालमैत्री स्थानीय शासन, स्थानीय योजना प्रक्रियामा नारारिक, युवा र बालबालिकाको सकिय र सार्थक सहभागिताका सफल र असल अभ्यासहरूमा आधारित रहेर, विधमान राज्य पुनर्शरचनाको प्रक्रियामा प्रयोग भएको शासन प्रणालीको अधिकतम विकेन्द्रीकरण, स्थानीय सरकार तथा संधीय संरचनाबाट प्राप्त हुने अवसरहरूलाई राष्ट्रिय समृद्धि, समविकास तथा समावेशी समाज निर्माण, समानतामा आधारित लोकतन्त्रको संस्थाात विकासका लागि पर्ने प्रतिबद्धता व्यक्त गर्दे, बालक्लब र बाल सहभागिताका अभ्यासहरूबाट प्राप्त नागरिक चेतना, दायित्व र व्यक्तित्व विकासका सीपहरूलाई आजामी पुस्ताका बालक्लब र बाल सहभागिताका अभ्यासहरूबाट प्राप्त नागरिक चेतना, दायित्व र व्यक्तित्व विकासका सीपहरूलाई आजामी पुस्ताका बालक्लब र बाल सहभागिताका अभ्यासहरूबाट प्राप्त नागरिक चेतना, दायित्व र व्यक्तित्व विकासका सीपहरूलाई आजामी पुस्ताका बालक्लब र बाल सहभागिताका अभ्यासहरूबाट प्राप्त नागरिक चेतना, दायित्व र व्यक्तित्व विकासका सीपहरूलाई आजामि पुर्नतका बालक्लब र बाल सहभागिताका अभ्यासहरूबाढ प्राप्त नागरिक चेतना, दायित्व र व्यक्तित्व विकासका सीपहरूलाई आजामि पुर्नतका बालक्लब का पूर्व सदस्यहरू काठमाडौँमा सम्पन्ज बालक्लबका पूर्व सदस्यहरूको दोस्रो राष्ट्रिय सम्मेलन (१९ र २० मंसिर, २०८०) बाट समसामयिक सरोकारका स्वालहरूमा निम्ब धारणा, माज र प्रतिबद्धता सहितको धोषणापत्र जारी गरिखेँ :

- 9. संविधानको कार्यान्वयनसँථो बाल अधिकार, युवा अधिकार, आर्थिक तथा सामाजिक विकास र लोकतन्त्रको संस्थाञत सुदृढीकरण र अभ्यासमा नयाँ अवसरहरू सिर्जना ञरेको हामीले महसुस ञरेका छौँ । नेपालको लोकतान्त्रिक जणतन्त्रको संस्थाञत सुदृढीकरण तथा बाल अधिकार, युवा रोजजारी र युवा सहभाजिताको प्रवर्द्धनका निम्ति स्थानीय सरकार तथा राजनीतिक संरचनाहरूसँज हामी बालक्लबका पूर्वसदस्य युवाहरू सकारात्मक र रचनात्मक ढंजबाट खबरदारी, पहरेदारी र साम्नेदारी जर्ने प्रतिबद्धता व्यक्त जर्दछौँ ।
- २. मानवअधिकार, विधिको शासन र लोकतन्त्रका मूल आधारहरू बालबालिका हुन् । बालबालिकामा लगानी बढाउन, बालक्लबलाई संस्थागत विकास गर्न तीनै तहका सरकारहरूसँग हामी जोडदार माग गर्दछौं । नीति, योजना र कार्यऋमहरू निमार्ण गर्दा तिनै तहका सरकारले बालबालिकालाई प्राथमिकतामा राख्न, बालबालिकासँग अनिवार्य बालमैत्री ढंगबाट परामर्श गर्ने व्यवस्था मिलाउन आग्रह गर्दछौं ।
- 3. राष्ट्रिय युवा परिषद्को कार्ययोजना र नीति अनुरुप प्रदेश र स्थानीय तहमा बन्ने युवा परिषदमा बालक्लबका पूर्वसदस्य युवाहरूको सकिय सहभागिता, संलञ्नता र आफ्नो सीप तथा क्षमता लगानी गर्ने वातावरण बनाउन आग्रह गर्दछौं । साथै युवामैत्री स्थानीय तहको अभियानमा बालक्लबका पूर्व सदस्यहरूलाई पनि सँगसँगै लान अपील गर्दै यस अभियानमा हाम्रो पूर्ण समर्थन रहेको पनि जाहेर गर्दछौं ।
- 8. जलवायु परिवर्तनले बालबालिका, किशोरकिशोरी, युवाहरूमा परेको असरलाई कम जर्न बालबालिकाको सर्वोत्तम हित केन्द्रित नीति, योजना र कार्यक्रमहरू बनाई द्रुत जतिमा काम जर्न एवं लजानी वृद्धि जर्न सरकारसँज आग्रह जर्दछौं।
- ४. बालक्लबमा सिकेको सीप र ज्ञानलाई अधिकतम प्रयोग गर्न बालक्लबका पूव सदस्यहरूसँग योजना निर्माण, कार्यान्वयन, अनुगमनमा सहकार्य गर्न तीनै तहका सरकार, विकासका साम्नेदार, राजनीतिक दल लगायत सबैमा आग्रह गर्दछौँ ।
- ৫. बালিকা र কিথাখিনহুকা মথান্চিক্ৰখ্য, মনসাঢ়িনো र নेतृत्व विकासमा योगदान गर्न सबैलाई आग्रह गर्दछौं । सँगसँगै बालिका, किशोरी, यौनिक तथा लैङ्गिक अल्पसंरूयक समुदायका व्यक्तिमाधि हिंसा अत्याधिक मात्रामा हुने भएकोले लैंगिक हिंसा अन्त्यका लाग्रि बालक, किशोर, युवा पुरुषको सहभागितामाधि पनि ध्यानाकर्षण गराउन चाहन्छौं ।
- ७. ચुवाहरूलाई देशमा भविष्य छ भन्ने सन्देश जनस्तरमा पुऱ्याउनका लाଠा चुवा उद्यमशीलता, नवीन योजना तथा कार्यऋम सञ्चालन তাर्न, चुवाहरूलाई प्राविधिक शिक्षा प्रदान जर्न साथै चुवाहरूको सहभाणिता वृद्धि जर्न आज्रह जर्दछौँ ।
- c. बढ्दो शहरीकरण तथा शहर र यातायातको सुविधाको ऋमिक विकासराँगै नेपालमा युवा, बालबालिका र किशोरकिशोरीहरूको शिक्षा, रोजजारी र विकासका उपयुक्त अवसरहरूको खोजिमा आन्तरिक आवाजमन बढ्दो छ । शहरी जरिबी तथा अस्थायी बसोबास जरेका एवं आवाजमनमा रहेका बालबालिका, युवा र किशोरकिशोरीहरूलाई आफू बसेकै स्थानमा राज्यका अवसरहरूमा सहमाजी हुन, संरक्षणका सुविधाहरू उपलब्ध हुन र सामाजिक सुरक्षाका व्यवस्थामा पहुँच बढाउन विद्यमान नीति तथा कानुनहरूमा रहेको एवं शहरी रखीत्र उपलब्ध हुन र सामाजिक सुरक्षाका ट्यवस्थामा पहुँच बढाउन विद्यमान नीति तथा कानुनहरूमा रहको एवं शहरी स्थानीय सरकारहरूको कार्यक्रमहरूम त्यवधान रहेको एवं शहरी स्थानीय सरकारहरूको कार्यक्रमहरूने पर्याप्त सम्बोधन जर्न बढाउन विद्यमान नीति तथा कानुनहरूमा व्यवधान रहेको एवं शहरी स्थानीय सरकारहरूको कार्यक्रमहरूले पर्याप्त सम्बोधन जर्न नसकेको हाम्रो ठन्याइ छ । हामी नेपालभिन्नका सबै स्थानीय सरकारहरूले आपने सरहदीमें रहेका सबै नेपाली युवा, किशोरकिशोरी तथा बालबालिकाका लाणि बाँच्न पाउने, संरक्षण, विकास र सहमाणिताका अवसरहरू सुनिश्चित जर्न जीति जान नीति तथा वानु संवेदनशील सामाजिक सुरक्षा याप्त सम्वोधन जर्म केकको हाम्रो ठन्याइ छ । हामी नेपालभिन्नका सबै स्थानीय सरकारहरूले आपने सरहदीमें रहेका सबै नेपाली युवा, किशोरकिशोरी तथा बालबालिकाका लाणि बाँच्न पाउने, संरक्षण, विकास र सहमाणिताका अवसरहरू सुनिश्चित जर्न आवश्चक नीतिजात तथा कार्यक्रमिक व्यवस्था तथा बाल संवेदनशील सामाजिक सुरक्षा कार्यक्रम र नीति लागू गर्च मांजो जोती होते ।

- ९. बालबालिका विरुद्ध हुने हिंसा, बाल थौन दुर्व्यवहार, बाल श्रम शोषणको अवस्थामा विजतको तुलनामा सुधारहरू भएको पाइएको छ। यद्यपी थौन हिंसा, थौन शोषण, दुर्व्यवहार तथा बेचबिखन र अनौपचारिक श्रम क्षेत्रमा बाल श्रमको प्रयोजको अवस्थामा भने उल्लेखनीय सुधार हुन नसकेको हाम्रो ठहर छ। साथै, कानूनी रुपमा त्रुठीपूर्ण व्यवस्थाहरु रहेको बालबालिकासम्बन्धी ऐन, २०७५ र मुलुकी देवानी संहिताका त्रुठीपूर्ण व्यवस्थाहरु यथासिष्ठ सच्याउन सम्बन्धित निकायलाई अनुरोध जर्दछौं। भेदभाव विरुद्धको कानुनी व्यवस्थाको अभाव, सुरक्षा संयन्त्र तथा प्रशासनिक प्रणालीमा रहेको भ्रष्टाचार, परिवारमा रहेको अशिक्षा, जरिबी र चेतनाको अभाव तथा बालबालिका र किशोरकिशारीमारू पर्यापत सचेतना तथा जीवनोपयोजी सीप, सामाजिक तथा आर्थिक वित्तीय शिक्षाको अभावहरूले जादी विधमान कार्यक्रम तथा पहलहरूको प्रभावकारिता देख्न सकिएको छैन । त्यसैले युवा उधमशीलताको विकास, स्थानीय तहमा रोजजारी, सीप विकास र जुणस्तरीय शिक्षाको अवसरको सिर्जना, भेदभाव विरुद्धको कानुनहरू को जानुनहरूको प्रभावकारीता देख्न सकिएको छैन । त्यसैले युवा उधमशीलताको विकास, स्थानीय तहमा रोजजारी, सीप विकास र जुणस्तरीय शिक्षाको अवसरको सिर्जना, भेदभाव विरुद्धको कानुनको निर्माण र कार्यान्वयन, फौजदारी कानुनहरूको प्रभावकारिता देख्न सकिएको छैन । त्यसैले युवा अधनशीलताको विकास, स्थानीय तहमा रोजजारी, सीप विकास र जुणस्तरीय शिक्षाको अवसरको सिर्जना, भेदभाव विरुद्धको कानुनको लाजी निर्माण र कार्यान्वयन, फौजदारी कानुनहरूको प्रभावकारी वार्यान्वयन, खोजदारी कार्नान्तरूको प्रभावकारी कार्यान्वयन, भ्रेजदारी कानुनहरूको प्रभावकारी जार्यान्वर्यन, भ्रेजदारी नियन्तरूको लाजी निर्वार र जुणस्तरीय शिक्षाको अवसरको लाजि लाणि युवा नाजरिकरको संतजनतामा पहलहरू जर्नका लाजि नेपाल सरकार रंजजनतामा पहलहरू जर्नका लाजि लाणी नियन्वरणका लाजि लाजि राणी नेपाल सरकार होन्यना नाजी नेपाल सरकार रंजजनतामा पहलहरू जर्नका लाजि नेपाल सरकार रंज अनुरोध जर्दि ।
- 90. बाल सहआगिताको अभ्यासले स्थानीय र राष्ट्रिय योजना निर्माणको प्रक्रियालाई अक्त बढी लोकतान्त्रिक, पारदर्शी तथा बालमैत्री बनाउन सहयोग पुगेको हाम्रो निष्कर्ष छ । त्यसैले स्थानीय एवं राष्ट्रिय योजना निर्माण प्रक्रियामा मात्र नभई कार्यान्वयन र अनुगमनका प्रक्रियामा पनि बालबालिका तथा युवाहरूको विधिवत सहभागिताको त्यवस्था गर्न माग गर्दछौं । यस प्रक्रियामा बालक्लबका पूर्व सदस्यहरूले बाल मैत्री एवं युवा मैत्री स्थानीय शासनको लागि पैरवी, अनुगमन र रचनात्मक संलगनता गर्ने प्रतिबद्धता व्यक्त गर्दछौं । बालबालिकाका लागि स्थानीय शासनको लागि पैरवी, अनुगमन र रचनात्मक संलगनता गर्ने प्रतिबद्धता व्यक्त गर्दछौं । बालबालिकाका लागि स्थानीय शासनको लागि पैरवी, अनुगमन र रचनात्मक संलगनता गर्ने प्रतिबद्धता व्यक्त गर्दछौं । बालबालिकाका लागि स्थानीय तहमा कूल बजेटको अनिवार्य न्यूनतम ९० प्रतिशत बजेट विनियोजन गरिनु पर्ने र स्थानीयस्तरमा आवश्यिक पर्वे बालमैत्री सहजकर्ता लगायतका जिम्मेवारीमा बालक्लबका पूर्व सदस्यहरूलाई पहिलो प्राथमिकता दिनु पर्वे माग जार्दछौं ।
- १९. बालक्लब नार्जारेक चेतना र कर्तव्य प्रवर्द्धन ठार्ने, असल र सक्षम नाजरिक उत्पादन ठार्ने, शान्तिपूर्ण लोकतान्त्रिक संस्कृतिको विकास ठार्ने थलोको रुपमा रहेको छ । बालक्लबका पूर्व सदस्यहरू सबल र सक्षम तथा सक्रिय युवाकारूपमा समुदाय, जाउँ, नजर, प्रदेश तथा संधीयस्तरमा योजदान दिन सक्ने सक्रिय नाजरिक हुन्। हामी, युवा आन्दोलन तथा अभियानहरूलाई बालक्लबका पूर्व सदस्यहरूको सहभाजिता र संलज्जता अभिवृद्धि जर्ने सबल र सहयोजी परिवेश, नीतिहरू निर्माण र कार्यान्वयन जर्न अनुरोध जर्दछौँ ।
- १२. किशोरकिशोरी तथा चुवा समुदायमा पर्याप्त मात्रमा चौन तथा प्रजनन स्वास्थ्य र अधिकारका पक्षमा जानकारी, शिक्षा, सीप तथा सूचना नपुरोको हाम्रो निष्कर्ष रहेको छ । हामी संधीय, प्रदेश र स्थानीय सरकार तथा विकासका साम्जेदारहरूसँग चुवा तथा किशोरकिशोरीमाम वृहत्तर चौनिकता शिक्षालाई विद्यालयस्तरको पाठ्यऋम, बालक्लबको छलफलको विषयमा समिमलन गर्न अनुरोध गर्दछौं । खेलकुद, जुनियर रेडऋस, स्काउट जस्ता संघ संगठनहरूमा बालिका र किशोरीहरूको सहभागिता वृद्धि गर्न अनुरोध गर्दछौं । बालक्लबका पूर्व सदस्यहरू यस प्रक्रियामा सामाजिक संचेतना, स्थानीय पैरवीकर्ता तथा साथी सहयोगीको रूपमा भूमिका निर्वाह गर्न प्रतिबद्ध छौं ।
- 93. স্নুचना प्रविधिमा युवा तथा बालबालिकाको अत्यन्तै न्यून र कमजोर पहुँच रहेको तथा कतिपय अवस्थामा जोखिमपूर्ण प्रयोग भइरहेको हाम्रो अनुभव छ । स्रूचना प्रविधिको दुरुपयोग तथा प्राविधिक ज्ञानको अभावमा युवा, किशोरकिशोरी तथा बालबालिका सूचना प्रविधिबाट हुन सक्ने ठगी, कुलत, शोषण तथा दुर्व्यवहार र बेचबिखन तथा अपराधिक ऋियाकलापमा नजानिदों संलग्जता समेत हुन पुगेको छ । हामी नेपालका सबै स्थानहरूमा युवा, किशोरकिशोरी र बालबालिकामारू उच्च गुणस्तरको सूचना प्रविधिको सुरक्षित, सहज तथा निर्वाध पहुँच, उपयोगको जानकारी तथा शिक्षा र आत्मविकासका लागि उपयोगी हुने गरी बजेट सहितको नीतिगत र कार्यक्रमिक व्यवस्था गर्न माग गर्दछौँ । बालबालिका विरुद्ध हुने जोखिमहरूलाई सम्बोधन गर्न, कानुनी तथा व्यवहारगत रुपमा बालबालिकालाई प्राथमिकतामा रासी कार्यहरू गर्न सरकारसँग माग गर्दछौँ ।
- 98. हरेक वर्ष बालक्लबबाट उत्पादन भएका लाखौं बालक्लबका पूर्व सदस्यहरू स्थानीय बाल अधिकार आन्दोलनका प्रभावकारी, सक्रिय र सक्षम पैरवीकर्ता, अनुजमनकर्ता र सहजकर्ता हुन् । हामी राष्ट्रिय बालअधिकार परिषद सहित बाल अधिकार अभियानका सबै सरोकारवाला निकाय, निजी क्षेत्र तथा जैससहरूलाई बाल सहभाजिता प्रवर्द्धन जर्न, बाल अधिकारको व्यवहारिक कार्यान्वयन जर्न स्थानीय तहमा बालक्लबका पूर्व सदस्यहरूसँज साम्ठेदारी तथा सहकार्यको अपील जर्दछौं । साथै, सबै प्रदेशहरूमा प्रदेशस्तरीय बालअधिकार समिति यथासक्य छिठो जठन जर्ने प्रक्रियालाई अधि बढाउन माज जर्दछौं ।
- १५. विद्यालय शान्ति क्षेत्र निर्देशिका निर्माण भई कार्यान्वनमा आएको १२ वर्ष भयो । बालबालिका सम्बन्धी ऐन, २०७५ र राजनीतिक दल सम्बन्धी ऐन, २०७३ मा बालबालिकालाई दलजत राजनीतिमा संलजन जराउन नपाइने कानुनी व्यवस्था छ । विद्यालयहरूमा दलजत कार्यक्रम जर्न, विद्यालय बन्द जर्न नपाइने कानुनी व्यवस्था पनि छ । तर पनि धेरै स्थानहरूमा विद्यालय शान्ति क्षेत्रका बारेमा सूचना तथा जानकारीहरू उपलब्ध नभएको, राजनीतिक सङ्गठन तथा दलहरू यसप्रति प्रतिबद्ध हुन नसकेको हाम्रो अनुभव छ । विद्यालयलाई राजनीतिक हस्तक्षेप मुक्त राख्न । बालबालिकाको राजनीतिक स्वतन्त्रता र निष्पक्षतालाई सम्लजन जर्न तथा विद्यालयको विकास र सबैका लाणि शिक्षाको सुनिश्चितताका लाणि सहकार्य जर्न हामी राजनीतिक दल तथा उनीहरुका भात्रिसङ्गठनलाई अनुरोध जर्दछौ । विद्यालय शान्ति क्षेत्रको मर्म विपरीतको कार्यलाई बालबालिका विरुद्धको कसूरका रुपमा फौजदारी अपराध सरह कानुनी कार्वतिको

রায়বানা ল্যায়ন নাতা তার্রেঞ্চাঁ ।

- १६. संयुक्त राष्ट्रसंघद्वारा अनुमोदित दिगो विकास लक्ष्य, मानव अधिकार केन्द्रित, लोकतान्त्रिक, समावेशी विकासको अवसर सिर्जना गर्ने आधारपत्रको रुपमा रहेको छ । दिगो विकास लक्ष्यका भावना अनुरुप बाल अधिकार तथा युवा विकासका कार्यऋमहरू निर्माण र कार्यान्वयन गर्न तथा स्थानीय सरकारहरूसँग दिगो विकास लक्ष्य र यसको सूचकहरूका आधारमा बाल केन्द्रित तथा युवा लक्षित कार्यऋमहरूको निर्माण र कार्यान्वयन गर्न माग गर्दछौँ । यस प्रक्रियामा बालक्लबका पूर्व सदस्यहरूले स्थानीय सरकार तथा स्थानीय विकासका साम्हेदारहरूका लागि सहजकर्ता तथा सहयोगी भूमिका खेल्ने प्रतिबद्धता व्यक्त गर्दछौँ ।
- १७. बाल विवाह चुवा, किशोरकिशोरी तथा बालबालिकाका सबै समूहका निम्ति एक टड्कारो समस्या र सवालको रुपमा रहेको छ । विजतमा अभिभावकको दबाबमा हुने बाल विवाहमा केही कमी आए पनि हाल चौन तथा प्रजनन स्वास्थ्य शिक्षा तथा जीवनोपचोजी शिक्षाको अभावमा स्वयं किशोरकिशोरी नै विवाह जर्ने प्रवृत्ति बढिरहेको हाम्रो अनुभवले बताउँदछ । त्यसैले सन् २०३० सम्ममा बाल विवाह अन्टर्थका लाजि लजानी सहितको चोजना निमार्ण, साथी शिक्षा, स्थानीच अनुजमन, बालविवाह सम्बन्धी नीति तथा कानुनको प्रभावकारी कार्यान्वयन, जीवनोपचोजी सीप शिक्षा, वृहत्तर चौनिकता शिक्षा, जरिबी निवारण तथा चुवा रोजजारीका कार्यऋमहरू र नि:शुल्क र अनिवार्य माध्यमिक शिक्षाको व्यवस्था जर्न नेपाल सरकार तथा विकास सम्बद्दा नाज प्रतिवद्ध रहेका छौं । बालक्लबका पूर्व सदस्यहरू बालविवाहका विरुद्ध एकीकृत अभियान, स्थानीय संचेतना र अनुजमनका कार्यहरू जर्न प्रतिवद्ध रहेका छौं ।
- 9C. प्राकृतिक तथा मानवीय विपद, जलवायु परिवर्तनले बालबालिका, किशोरकिशोरी र युवाहरूको जीवनमा अन्यको तुलनामा बढी नै प्रभाव पारेको हामीले पाएको छौँ । विपद जोखिम न्यूनीकरण तथा विपदका समयमा राहत वितरण प्रक्रिया, संरक्षणको व्यवस्था जर्न तथा उत्थानशीलताको प्रवर्द्धन जर्न बालक्लब सदस्य तथा यसका पूर्व सदस्यहरूले विजतमा सक्षम र प्रभावकारी भूमिका खेलन सफल भएका छन् । तसर्थ विपद जोखिम न्यूनीकरण, जलवायु परिवर्तन सम्बन्धी योजनाहरूमा बालक्लब तथा बालक्लबका पूर्व सदस्य युवाहरूको सहभाजिता तथा संलज्नता सुनिधिचतता जर्न हामी सबै तहका सरकार र साम्प्रेदारहरूसँज जोडदार माज जर्दछौँ ।
- १९. परिवार तथा समुदायमा सानैदेखि सहभागिताको अभ्यास र अनुभवले बालबालिकाको व्यक्तित्व विकास, राजनीतिक क्षमता तथा आपसी समभवारी प्रवर्द्धन गर्नमा महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निर्वाह गर्ने कुरा अध्ययनहरूले प्रमाणित गरेका छन् । बाल सहभागिताको अभ्यास भएका परिवार र समुदाय बाल मैत्री तथा समावेशी र लोकतान्त्रिक हुन्छन् । त्यसैले परिवार तथा समुदायमा बाल सहभागिताको अभ्यासको प्रवर्द्धन गर्नका लागि सकारात्मक अभिभावक शिक्षा, बालबालिकाको लागि प्रशिक्षण तथा समुदायमा बाल नीतिगत व्यवस्था गर्दै बालसहभागिताको संस्कृतिको विकास गर्नका लागि प्रभावकारी कार्यऋमहरू लागू गर्न नेपाल सरकार, स्थानीय सरकार र विकास साम्नेदारहरूसँग अपील गर्दछौँ । बालक्लबका पूर्व सदस्यहरूले परिवार, समुदायका नेताहरू तथा स्वयं बालबालिकालाई सहभागिताको अभ्यास गर्न सहजकर्ता, प्रशिक्षक र सचेतकको भूमिका निर्वाह गर्ने प्रतिबद्धता व्यक्त गर्दछौँ ।
- २०. स्थानीय रोजगारी र आर्थिक विकासका अवसरहरूको अभावमा युवा पुस्ता ठुलो संरूयामा वैदेशिक रोजगारीमा जान बाध्य छन् । यस प्रवृत्तिले स्थानीय श्रम शक्तिका अभाव, उपभोक्तावादि आर्थिक संस्कृतिको निर्माण, पारिवारिक विखण्डन र विकृती तथा बालबालिकाको अविभावकत्वको अधिकार एवं माया र स्नेहबाट वञ्चितीकरण जस्ता समस्याहरू सिर्जना गरेको छ । हामी यस जोरिममूर्ण परिस्थितिको अन्त्यका लागि स्थानीय उद्यमशीलता प्रवर्द्धन, रोजगारीका अवसरहरू सिर्जना गर्ने र पारिवारिक एकीकरणका लागि स्थानीय आय आर्जन तथा आर्थिक विकासका कार्यक्रमहरूका लागि वित्तीय पहुँच र सहजता, मनोविमर्श सेवा तथा स्थानीय सामाजिक कार्यकर्ताको व्यवस्था गरी बालबालिकाको सुरक्षा र समृद्ध भविष्यका सुनिश्चितताको माग गर्दछौँ ।
- २९. बालक्लबका पूर्व सदस्यहरूको दोस्रो राष्ट्रिय सम्मेलन आयोजनाका लागि आर्थिक तथा प्राविधिक सहायता प्रदान गर्ने विकासका साम्मेदार संस्थाहरू, नेपाल सरकार राष्ट्रिय युवा परिषद्, राष्ट्रिय बालअधिकार परिषद् एवं संलग्ज विज्ञहरू, श्रोत ब्यक्तिहरूलाई हार्दिक धन्यवाद दिन चाहन्छौं । साथै यस कार्यक्रममा प्रमुख अतिथिको रुपमा सहभागी भई प्रोत्साहन प्रदान गर्नुभएकोमा राष्ट्रिय सभाका अध्यक्ष, सम्माननीय गणेश प्रसाद तिमिलिसना, संधीय संसदका माननीय सदस्य रञ्जु का, विभिन्न मन्त्रालय, परिषद्का पदाधिकारी, कर्मचारी लगायत यस कार्यक्रमलाई सफल बनाउन सहयोग गर्नुहुने सञ्चारकर्मी, स्वयंसेवक, प्रतिवेदक र सम्पूर्ण सहभागीहरूलाई हार्दिक कृतत्तता व्यक्त जर्दछौं ।
- २२. बालक्लबका पूर्व सदस्यहरूको राष्ट्रिय सम्मेलबाट प्राप्त निष्कर्षहरूको व्यवहारिक कार्यान्वयनका लागि सबै सरोकारवाला निकाय, विकास साम्मेदार, निजी क्षेत्र तथा जैससहरूलाई हार्दिक अपील जर्दछौं । यी निष्कर्षहरूको कार्यान्वयन र अनुजमनमा सहजीकरणका लागि सम्पूर्ण बालक्लबका पूर्व सदस्यहरूलाई आह्रवान जर्दछौं ।

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## **Chapter I. Introduction**

#### 1.1 Background

Child clubs serve as formal organizations created to empower children by advocating for their rights and enabling them to participate in decision-making processes. These clubs provide an institutional platform for children to discuss their rights, develop leadership skills, and actively engage in community issues that matter to them most.

Child Club Graduates (CCGs) typically refer to individuals who have completed their involvement within Child Clubs. These individuals have usually aged out after completion of 18 years of age gaining knowledge, skills, and experiences in advocating for children's rights and participating in community initiatives during their tenure. Though there is no formal graduation process, the term CCGs has been widely accepted in Nepal's child rights movement. While the graduation criteria also remain unspecified, the significant impact of CCGs in advancing child rights and fostering good governance is well recognized. However, despite numerous success stories of CCGs' contributions to communities, these achievements remain undocumented, unsupported, and inadequately encouraged. Realizing the need for an open discourse between the relevant stakeholders to mitigate these concerns, the first National Conference of Child Club Graduates was organized from July 1st to July 2nd, 2017, in Lalitpur, Nepal. It was jointly led by Yuwalaya, Changa Foundation, Creation Society Nepal, and JCYCN with the support of UNICEF Nepal. It centred on addressing 12 pressing contemporary topics related to child rights and youth advocacy movements in Nepal. The conference drew the participation of 121 child club graduates and over 30 child rights activists and experts. After the event, an 18-point declaration encapsulating the commitments of the child club graduates, their stances on critical issues, and their calls to action were collaboratively crafted and endorsed by all attendees. This declaration marked a pivotal success, significantly bolstering the competencies, networking opportunities, leadership skills, and dedication of the CCGs. The conference itself concluded that a similar event was necessary to continue the momentum.

Consequently, the second national conference for Child Club Graduates was conducted from 5-6 December 2023, at Alfa House in Baneshwor, Kathmandu.

#### 1.2 Goals and Objectives

The primary objective of the conference was to create a platform for Child Club Graduates to share knowledge, engage in learning and unlearning, and rejuvenate, thus strengthening their roles and impact at both local and national levels for community development and positive social change.

The specific objectives are as written below:

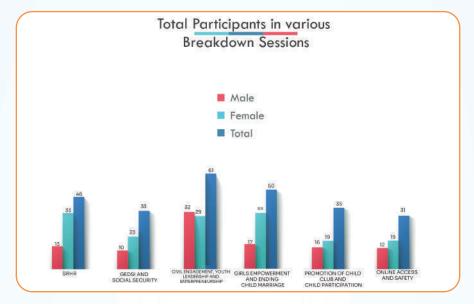
- Establish a dedicated platform for Child Club Graduates to exchange valuable experiences and insights.
- Empower the youth to actively participate in diverse child rights movements in Nepal and inspire their involvement in various youth-led social initiatives.

Foster a connection between child rights advocacy and youth movements, seamlessly integrating the knowledge acquired during childhood into the broader context of nation-building.



In total, 252 youths and stakeholders participated in the event. Among them, 112 were male, and 140 were female.

The participants were hosted jointly in plenary sessions, and divided into various break-out sessions during the parallel sessions. The details of the participation in various parallel sessions have been provided below:



Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights had 46 participants, including 13 males and 33 females. The GEDSI and Social Security session saw 33 participants, with 10 males and 23 females. Civic Engagement, Youth Leadership, and Entrepreneurship attracted 61 attendees, consisting of 32 males and 29 females. Girls Empowerment and Ending Child Marriage had 50 participants, with 17 males and 33 females. The session on Promotion of Child Club and Child Participation in the Changing Context involved 35 participants, comprising 16 males and 19 females. The Online Access and Safety session had 31 attendees, with 12 males and 19 females.

#### 1.4 Conference Key Agenda and Methods

The conference addressed nine different thematic issues including Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights (SRHR), GEDSI (Gender Equality, Disability, and Social Inclusion), Civic Engagement, Roles of CCGs in Movement building, CCGs' experience in different sectors, Ending Child Marriage, Child Participation, Online Safety, and Climate Justice. The discussions on these thematic issues employed a participatory approach, utilizing panel discussions, participatory exercises, and reflection activities. Key speakers included government officials, national experts, experienced practitioners, dedicated campaigners, and activists in the field of child and youth rights. Open floor discussions further promoted the agenda.

The first day featured parallel sessions on Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights, GEDSI (Gender Equality, Disability, and Social Inclusion) and Social Security, Civic Engagement, Youth Leadership, and Entrepreneurship. A plenary discussion centred on the Role of CCGs in Movement building was conducted on the second day. The final day focused on plenary sharing, emphasizing the experiences of CCGs working in various settings. Parallel panel discussions included themes on Girls Empowerment and Ending Child Marriage, Online Access and Safety, and Promotion of Child Club and Child Participation in the Changing Context, followed by a Plenary discussion on Climate Justice and DDR, Children, and Youth.

#### 1.5 Arrangement for Organizing Conference

The conference was organized by JCYCN, Hami DajuVai, Changa Foundation, Yuwalaya, YAV Nepal, Creative Society Nepal, Concern Society Nepal, in solidarity with various child rights networks, Civil Society Organizations and Development partners including Plan International, CZOP, National CFLG Forum, NCGR, WOREC Nepal, SPCSN, CWIN, Saathi, ADARA Group, KIRDARC, and so on. to enhance the competence of CCGs and highlight their roles in social development. The program was jointly supported by UNICEF, Care Nepal, Save the Children, Child Fund Japan, WSM, World Vision International Nepal, and KANALLAN.

Five Committees were formed to divide the management, documentation, communication, and organizational tasks of the conference. This committee was formed during the first preparatory meeting held on 16 November 2023 at the office of JCYCN. The details have been provided below:

Name of the Committee	Members	Terms of Reference
Main Organizing Committee	<ul> <li>Advisor: Rajesh Sharma, (Chair, first conference organizing committee)</li> <li>Coordinator: Tilottam Paudel, JCYCN</li> <li>Member: <ul> <li>Sanjog Thakuri, Hami DajuVai</li> <li>Nawaraj Dhakal Creation Society Nepal,</li> <li>Kunjani Pariyar, Changa Foundation</li> <li>Dharma Raj Rimal, Yuwalaya,</li> <li>Ashok Khanal, Concern Society Nepal</li> <li>Sujan Adhikari, YAV Nepal,</li> </ul> </li> <li>Member Secretary: Manoj KC, JCYCN</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Finalizing the concept of the conference, participants, and schedule</li> <li>Engaging potential partners for technical and financial support</li> <li>Coordinating with the Chief Guest and Guests</li> <li>Finalizing reports</li> <li>Providing direction to all committees</li> </ul>
Technical Committee	<ul> <li>Coordinator: Sanjog Thakuri Hami DajuVai,</li> <li>Member: <ul> <li>Abinash Karki, Yuwalaya,</li> <li>Harish Chandra Ghimire, Creation Society Nepal</li> <li>Kunjani Pariyar, Changa Foundation</li> <li>Ashok Khanal, Concern Society N Nepal</li> </ul> </li> <li>Member Secretary: Prava Shrestha, JCYCN</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Finalizing the timetable and Resource Person (RPs)</li> <li>Coordinating with RPs, Facilitators, Note Takers, and Volunteers Drafting and completing the declaration</li> <li>Offering technical guidance to all other committees</li> <li>Establishing Reporting Formats</li> </ul>

Media Relation and Documentation Committee	<ul> <li>Coordinator: Safalta Bhandari, Creation Society Nepal</li> <li>Member: <ul> <li>Naresh Awasthi, UNFPA Youth Advocate</li> <li>Bishnu Pandey, NYNSD,</li> <li>Aakash Gajurel, YAV Nepal,</li> <li>Samichhya Dahal, Changa</li> </ul> </li> <li>Member Secretary: Sumikshya Khadka, NCFLGF</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Capturing photographs</li> <li>Compiling reports</li> <li>Publicizing the event</li> <li>Collaborating with media outlets</li> <li>Serving as the event's spokesperson</li> </ul>
Volunteer and Participant Management Committee	<ul> <li>Coordinator: Ashok Khanal, Concern Society Nepal</li> <li>Member: <ul> <li>Purnima Kayastha, YAV Nepal</li> <li>Abinash Karki, Yuwalaya</li> <li>Subash Adhikari, Changa Foundation</li> </ul> </li> <li>Member Secretary: Rita Thapa, JCYCN</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Determining the number of volunteers and attendees</li> <li>Assigning volunteers according to the schedule</li> <li>Conducting an orientation session for volunteers</li> </ul>
Logistic Management Committee	<ul> <li>Coordinator: Amrit Lamichhane, JCYCN,</li> <li>Member: <ul> <li>Pramod Shrestha, Yuwalaya</li> <li>Laxmi Bharati, Hami DajuVai</li> <li>Bikash Banjara, WOREC Nepal</li> </ul> </li> <li>Member Secretary: Manoj KC, JCYCN</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Handling printing, photocopying, and stationery management</li> <li>Arranging logistics for CCGs participating from outside the valley</li> <li>Securing venue bookings and coordinating timely and healthy meals</li> <li>Drafting letters, certificates, and banners</li> </ul>

Table 2: List of the preparatory committee for the conduction of the 2nd National Conference of CCGs

Various meetings were conducted between these committees for the preparation of the event.

## **Chapter II. Conference Proceeding**

### 2.1 Opening Ceremony

PROCEEDING REPORT ON

SECOND NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF CHILD CLUB GRADUATES

The opening ceremony of the conference was organized with the presence of 150 participants representing 60 districts. The inaugural session was hosted by Ms. Bipana Sharma, Secretary of the National CFLG Forum. All the participants were welcomed by Mr. Rajesh Sharma along with experience sharing of First National Conference of Child Club Graduates on behalf of Changa Foundation. Mr. Tilottam Paudel, President of JCYCN and coordinator of the conference chaired the opening ceremony. Notably, the Hon'ble Chairperson of the National Assembly, Mr. Ganesh Prasad Timilsina, graced the occasion as the chief guest. Accompanying guests included Roslyn Gabriel, National Director of World Vision International Nepal, Usha Mishra Hayes, Chief of Policy, Governance, and Evidence at UNICEF-Nepal, and Bam Bahadur Baniya, Vice President of the National Child Rights Council.

The formal inauguration involved the ceremonial lighting of lamps by the chief guest, followed by motivating remarks from the esteemed guests. The speakers emphasized the criticality of increased investment in youth for a sustainable future, expressed their support for advancing child and youth rights in Nepal, and urged participants to actively contribute to the rights-based movement.

#### Remarks by Hon'ble Chairperson of National Assembly Ganesh Prasad Timilsina



It's imperative for today's youth to critically assess the leading political parties, and support the most deserving only. Past generations laboured to establish a fair justice system for citizens, despite challenges like elitism and political instability. Now, it falls upon the younger generation to combat elitism, reinstate political stability, ensure justice, and propel social transformation within our nation. Dissuading youths from seeking opportunities abroad, we should encourage them to harness their skills and knowledge, leveraging these

assets for the betterment of our country. While we address issues like child rights and climate change, it's equally vital to be critical of our nation's sovereignty, our expectations, and our responsibilities toward our homeland.

#### Remarks by Roslyn Gabriel, National Director, World Vision International Nepal

Empowering children by prioritizing their voices and genuinely hearing them is of paramount importance. World Vision International stands as a prominent organization committed to advocating for children and fostering their growth. We wholeheartedly endorse this platform that empowers Child Club Graduates to actively contribute to societal transformation. Collaborating in this endeavour will allow us to collectively address and eliminate all issues affecting children, ensuring each child experiences a secure and healthy upbringing.



#### Remarks by Usha Mishra Hayes, Chief, Policy, Governance and Evidence, UNICEF Nepal

Referring to 2019 statistics, the positive trend in Nepal's school retention rates and improved child nutrition levels is noteworthy. However, the challenge of Nepal's migrating population remains a growing concern. With 45 percent of the population under 25, Nepal is experiencing demographic changes, necessitating increased investment in its youth. While 22 percent of the national budget caters to social protection, only 6 percent of it is allocated to children, emphasizing the need to align financial priorities with our values. Recognizing



the critical 'golden thousand days' after a child's birth, wherein significant brain development occurs, underscores the importance of investing in children, not only from a developmental standpoint but also economically. Collaboration between UNICEF and the government is crucial in fulfilling our responsibility towards children. Children possess the transformative power to impact wards, municipalities, and the nation, hence, it's crucial to harness and realize this potential.

#### Remarks by Bam Bahadur Baniya, Vice President, National Child Rights Council



Addressing the challenge of brain drain is crucial. Resist the temptation of foreign visas and staying abroad; instead, contribute to our country. Embrace digital platforms for national progress, whether you are residing locally or internationally. Youth empowerment is surging, and its high time to be creators, innovators, and developers. While children under 18 can have political knowledge, caution them against misguided political involvement. Educate yourselves on policies and laws. Nepal's potential is vast; adopting Finland's educational system

is pivotal for our growth and nurturing leadership in children. We invite your voluntary contribution; together, we can cover every region of Nepal. Use your skills for our motherland. Child Club Graduates, you play a pivotal role in shaping our nation's future generation.

#### 2.2 Sessions

During the two-day Conference, a sum of eight sessions was conducted, with six running concurrently—three on each day. These parallel sessions involved presentations, speaker remarks, and open-floor discussions. Furthermore, a plenary session convened each day, gathering all participants in the same hall. Details of each of these sessions are elaborated below:

#### **Session 1: Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights**

Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) are fundamental components of physical, mental, and emotional well-being, encompassing the right to make informed decisions about one's sexual and reproductive life. In the context of Nepal, where societal norms and cultural values play a significant role, promoting SRHR is crucial for fostering individual autonomy, gender equality, and overall public health. Similarly, Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE), which provides individuals with ageappropriate, scientifically accurate information about human development, relationships, and sexuality, is integral for promoting SRHR. In Nepal, where adolescents often face challenges related to early marriages, gender-based violence, and limited access to reproductive health services, CSE emerges as a vital tool for empowering young people to make informed choices, navigate relationships, and protect their wellbeing.

By prioritizing SRHR and CSE, Nepal can address prevalent issues such as child marriage,

unintended pregnancies, and sexually transmitted infections, contributing to healthier, more informed communities. Thus, SRHR was addressed as one of the core themes of the conference.

This session was conducted at Shiva Sadan, Alfa Beta from 11 am to 1 pm, to bring understanding from experts in the field, offering valued perspectives on contemporary issues related to SRHR and CSE.

Sujan Adhikari, Chairperson of YAV, chaired the session. Prabha Paudyal, Ecological Justice and Women's Leadership Coordinator at WOREC-Nepal served as the session's presenter. Additionally, the session featured insights from notable speakers: Samir Pariyar, Dignified Menstruation Campaigner; Dia Yonzon, Project Manager for LBQ Women South Asia at Youth Voice Count; and Nirajan Khadka, Technical Advisor on SRHR from Plan International Nepal.

Mr. Sujan Adhikari, as the session chair, commenced by extending a warm welcome to all participants. Following the introduction, he invited the presenter and panellists on stage to initiate the session and handed over the proceedings to the session's presenter.

#### Highlights of Ms. Prabha Poudyal's presentation:

- In Nepal, discussing sexual and reproductive health rights remains a sensitive and often avoided topic for many individuals.
- Women encounter various challenges stemming from inadequate awareness and knowledge regarding SRHR, contributing to their health issues.
- As per the NDHS 2022 Key Indicator Report, 14% of girls aged 15–19 experienced pregnancy.
- SRHR falls within the ambit of Human Rights, encompassing three fundamental aspects: freedom, dignity, and lifestyle.
- Recognizing individual body rights for every girl is crucial. Embracing the motto of "my body, my rights, my choice" is pivotal in attaining life goals and preventing unnecessary hardships.
- It's imperative to familiarize ourselves with both national and international policies about SRHR. This awareness empowers us to make informed decisions without undue pressure or fear.

#### Remarks by the speakers:

Mr. Samir Pariyar highlighted the importance of normalizing menstruation. He addressed misconceptions and stigmas surrounding menstruation, noting that in many areas, it's still viewed with discriminatory attitudes, even in urban settings. He emphasized the need to combat this mindset, especially in Western Nepal, where cultural practices restrict women during their menstrual periods. He emphasized the role of families in changing this narrative, sharing his own experience of promoting a discrimination-free environment at home. Mr. Pariyar underscored that menstruation taboos



perpetuate gender-based violence and highlighted the urgent need for amplification of the Dignified Menstruation campaign to address these issues, including reducing mortality rates among adolescent girls and fostering a deeper understanding of menstruation's significance for childbirth.

Ms. Dia Yonzon emphasized the importance of understanding the special needs of the LGBTIQ+ community. She highlighted that this acronym includes diverse sexual orientations, but discussing these identities openly remains a challenge. Identifying one's sexuality may take time and can be confusing, often leading to societal non-acceptance, even within families. Miss Yonzon pointed out examples of same-sex attraction leading to marriages and highlighted the



global context of same-sex marriages, including the recent legalization in Nepal. She urged the youth to support the LGBTIQ+ community in gaining societal acceptance and living with dignity, emphasizing their right to freedom and respect like any other individual.

Mr. Nirajan Khadka pointed out that need to focus on both rights and health while advocating for SRHR. He stressed the importance of openly discussing SRHR due to the associated social and cultural taboos. He shared cases of teenage pregnancies and increased mortality rates among young mothers due to inadequate knowledge, and urged for interventions to control teenage pregnancy with awareness about its associated risks.



He emphasized the necessity of ending early marriages, which often lead to early pregnancies, maternal deaths, and infant mortality rates. He advocated for appropriate age considerations for marriage and pregnancy to ensure both physical and mental readiness, suggesting investment in adolescent sexual health. He concluded by emphasizing the importance of engaging both girls and boys in discussions about SRHR, promoting their active involvement in this crucial conversation.

#### Remarks from the participants during the open floor discussion:

- How do we address the lack of discussion on Sexual and Reproductive Health in schools and the stigma surrounding menstruation in families?
- How can we spread awareness of SRHR when societal barriers hinder CCGs from educating children and teenagers?
- Why do gay couples play the roles of husband and wife?
- Why does SRHR discussion often focus only on girls, excluding male adolescents? Why is abortion only permissible in emergencies? And what's the significance of "My body, my rights, and my choice"?
- Why is LGBTIQ considered unnatural? Are surrogacy rights fully recognized for the LGBTIQ+ community?
- How can we incorporate discussions about genital cancers into SRHR?
- How can we eliminate the Chhaupadi culture from society, not just by demolishing physical structures, but by changing people's mindsets?
- Even educated girls in college are reluctant to discard menstruation taboos. What's the solution to this issue?

#### The session was concluded with the following conclusions:

- 1. The campaigns that challenge established social norms, culture, and tradition, should focus on changing the mindset of people, rather than just legal reinforcement.
- 2. The engagement of boys and men should be increased in the SRHR issue, to ensure their awareness, engagement, and commitment towards it.
- 3. Though the legal provisions for the LGBTIQ community are progressing, the solidarity and engagement of all stakeholders are essential to ensure complete social acceptance and dignified living standards.
- 4. The duration of the session should be increased for rigorous discussions

#### **Session 2: GEDSI and Social Security**

The agendas of Gender Equality, Disability, and Social Inclusion (GEDSI) are pivotal for fostering an inclusive and equitable society. Nepal, with its rich diversity, recognizes the need to address historical gender disparities, ensure the rights of individuals with disabilities, and promote social inclusion. GEDSI initiatives play a crucial role in dismantling barriers, empowering marginalized groups, and fostering a more equitable environment. Simultaneously, the focus on Social Security in Nepal is imperative to establish robust systems that protect the well-being and livelihoods of vulnerable populations. This includes addressing economic disparities, ensuring access to healthcare, education, and infrastructure, and establishing safety nets that cater to the diverse needs of the most vulnerable population.

The Integrated National Social Protection Framework, endorsed by the National Planning Commission, aims to coordinate and integrate social protection initiatives across 13 federal ministries and various agencies at all levels. Its effective implementation is pivotal for expanding cost cost-effective, child-sensitive, and shock-responsive social protection system in Nepal. In essence, the GEDSI and Social Security agendas in Nepal underscore the nation's commitment to building an inclusive and just society, where all individuals, regardless of gender, ability, or social background, can actively participate and benefit from the country's development journey.

Recognizing the need for awareness of the GEDSI and Social Security agenda among CCGs, an entire session was dedicated to this agenda. It aimed to provide tools and knowledge to empower participants to become advocates for social justice (Gender, Inclusion, Disability, Social Security) within their respective communities

Mr. Sanjog Thakuri, president of Hami DajuVai, chaired the session. Ms. Indu Tuladhar, Feminist Lawyer provided the presentation on the topic. Ms. Sarita Lamichhane, Founder, of Prayatna Nepal, Ms. Kinda Sharma, Former Chairperson, WHR-Nepal and Mr. Sudip Chapagain, Member, of Male Leader Network, Ministry of Women, Children and Senior Citizen, were present as the speakers.

#### Highlights of Ms. Indu Tuladhar's presentation:

Awareness of relevant policies, laws, programs, and schemes is essential.

- The "Leave no one behind" principle should be emphasized.
- Citizens should be familiar with rights declared in the constitution.
- Special provisions for excluded groups, such as women's rights in education and health fall under equality rights.
- Two types of policies: Contributory (e.g., Labor, CIT in formal and informal sectors) and non-contributory (e.g., single women, senior citizens, child nutrition allowances).
- Currently, more than 80 Social protection schemes are being run by various ministries.
- Lack of coordination among ministries/departments is causing difficulties in addressing actual needs.
- Challenges with differentiation between schemes and the country's economic crisis is paramount.
- Critics argue that the current system is not sustainable and fails to address targeted groups effectively.

#### Remarks by the speakers:

Mrs. Kunda Sharma shared observations on the severity of prevailing discrimination against single women in society while also expressing pride in the diverse group she is a part of. She emphasized that initiating change from within the home can serve as the first step toward progress. Notably, positive transformations in the lives of single women have been witnessed following the organization's movement, evident in the increased confidence and capacity development of its beneficiaries. However, challenges persist

as many women still encounter difficulties accessing social allowances. The distributing authorities lack awareness and fail to create a conducive space for women to voice their problems. She recommended focusing on process improvement, including aspects such as form-filling and document submission, to address these issues. She stressed that effective monitoring and implementation of the recommendations can pave the way for sustainability in the long run.

Ms. Sarita Lamichhane addressed the issue of tokenism, particularly focusing on inadequate inclusion in venue selection that lacks accessibility for disabled individuals. She questioned the financial challenges faced by organizations led by disabled women and highlighted the absence of a Gender Equality, Diversity, and Social Inclusion (GEDSI) perspective in the youth sector. She emphasized the significance of fostering acceptance within homes and noted that supporting equality starts with the practice of inclusion at home. She



stressed the importance of self-realization among individuals for increasing awareness and acceptance.







Mr. Sudeep Chaulagain, CCG and Goodwill Ambassador for Male Leaders Network, Ministry of Women, Children and Senior Citizens raised concerns regarding the higher participation of men in establishing child clubs and the crucial role of female leadership in such initiatives. He underscored the gap between legal rights and practical implementation, emphasizing the necessity for concrete actions for the effective execution of policy provisions. He said that men, as primary decision-makers within households, have more



opportunities to raise awareness among peers, in the community, and at workplaces. He explored social disparities, including gender discrimination and the insufficient recognition of sexual and gender minorities. He brought attention to global discussions on gender inequality, questioning the unequal access women face compared to men, and said that despite advocating for equality, men are still perceived as superior. He emphasized the need for increased awareness and respect for the LGBTIQ community.

#### Remarks from the participants:

- Are there additional facilities or schemes related to social security beyond government allowances?
- Emphasize leadership from your current position.
- Acknowledge that men can also be victims of domestic violence and question the responsibility for ensuring justice in such cases.

#### The session was concluded with the following conclusions:

- Effective monitoring of the programs targeting the vulnerable population, and improvisation as per findings should be prioritized for sustained impact.
- Promote and foster acceptance, dignified living standards, and access to opportunities for people with disabilities within homes, recognizing it as the foundational step in promoting equality.
- Enhance the engagement of girls, children with disabilities, and LGBTIQ children in child clubs for inclusive and diverse participation.

#### Session 3: Civic Engagement, Youth Leadership, and Entrepreneurship

According to the 2021 Nepal Census, the youth population (aged 16-40) constitutes 42.56%, reflecting a notable increase of 2.21%. This demographic transformation signifies a crucial juncture in Nepal's history, heralding a 'population dividend' or 'youth bulge.' In this scenario, the youth segment becomes the most substantial portion of the country's population. Thus, their active involvement in civic matters is crucial for fostering participatory democracy and a secure future.

Nepal faces various social, economic, and political challenges, and civic engagement enables young individuals to address these issues, contributing to positive community impact. Additionally, youth

leadership encourages the emergence of innovative solutions to societal problems and nurtures a new generation of leaders capable of spearheading transformative changes.

Entrepreneurship is another vital component in Nepal's development landscape. The country's economic growth is intertwined with the promotion of entrepreneurship, particularly among the youth. Encouraging entrepreneurial endeavours among young individuals not only drives economic growth but also fosters innovation, and job creation, increases GDP, and discourages foreign employment. Realizing the importance of civic engagement, youth leadership, and entrepreneurship for sustainable development and inclusive growth, an entire session dedicated to this agenda was conducted. It aimed to explore how civic engagement, youth leadership, and entrepreneurship can collectively contribute to positive community impact and sustainable development.

The session was chaired by Mr. Dharma Raj Rimal, President, of Yuwalaya. Mr.Naren Khatiwada, Strategic Advisor, Youth Advocacy Nepal was the presenter of the session. Ms. Bhawana Bhatta, Vicechairperson, of NGO Federation Nepal, Ms. Prarthana Saakha, Kathmandu Chapter President, Nepalese Young Entrepreneur's Forum, and Mr. Bishnu Khatri, Activist were present as speakers.

Mr. Dharma Raj Rimal, serving as the session moderator, emphasized the importance of two-way communication for the effectiveness of the session. Before the session's commencement, he expressed his concern about the significant number of Nepalese migrating abroad daily, noting that those migrating illegally from the Nepal-India border are not officially counted.

#### Highlights of Mr. Naren Khatiwada's presentation:

- Society and the nation grapple with the challenge of limited resources for civic engagement.
- Complex issues add to the difficulties, with remnants of feudal culture impeding national growth.
- Entrepreneurial endeavours face a significant obstacle due to a lack of access to funding.
- Government commitments to allocate 20 percent of the budget to education fall short, with only 10 percent delivered, and a mere 1.5 percent utilized.
- Civic engagement is a collective movement necessitating active participation, particularly from the youth.



- Youths should be encouraged to invest their time in innovation and development, create ideas, invent new technologies, and contribute to Nepal's global recognition.
- As many youths are semi-skilled or unskilled, providing them skill-based training is highly essential.
- Certified organizations like CTEVT should be engaged to enhance and modernize courses, making them practical, applicable, and relevant in the contemporary world.

#### Remarks by the speakers:

Ms. Bhawana Bhatta posed a critical question: "What hinders our ability to instill hope in the younger generation?" Expressing concern over the paradoxical perception of youth as the backbone of society while embodying an 'easy come, easy go' mindset, she delved into the challenges hindering the persistent engagement of young individuals in their work. She discussed the ongoing government initiative to classify individuals aged 18–32 as youth and underscored the importance of establishing Youth Clubs

within wards, urging individuals to question their absence. While acknowledging periodic policy reviews every five years, she raised doubts about the genuine incorporation of youth perspectives into these policies. Bhatta highlighted the significant gap between policy formulation and effective implementation, pointing out the lack of motivation among youths to stay in the country, attributed to cultural and societal pressures. She identified family and societal expectations as key drivers of the prevalent brain drain phenomenon and emphasized the necessity for a fundamental shift in mindset and societal norms to address these complex challenges.

Mr. Bishnu Khattri emphasized the cultural significance of the "phalcha" concept in Newari culture as a way of discussing current affairs. He stressed the need for its adoption nationwide. Highlighting Harka Sampang's fame, he commended him for bridging joint Labor communities with the government to ensure efficiency and accountability. Article 48 of Nepal's constitution grants the right to such initiatives, and he urged the use of the existing Civil Society Forum for communal benefit. Sharing the existing employment scopes, he

noted the involvement of non-governmental entities in providing opportunities and encouraging selfemployment. Despite the allocation of two budget grants this year for employment measures, he stressed the lack of focus on innovation. Moreover, he underscored the role of civic engagement for sustainable development and crime reduction, citing the US organization's monitoring indicating a lack of civic engagement in Nepal. He called for improved investment from the government in entrepreneurship, emphasizing the necessity of skill-based training, access to funds, and the collection and dissemination of success stories. He quoted Modi, stating that "Connection generates from ideas.", and stressed the principle of SDG "Leave No One Behind".

In response to the moderator's question about whether youths merely blame or also take action, Ms. Prarthana Saakha shared her journey, reflecting on the applicability of lessons learned in the classroom to reallife scenarios. She narrated the inception of Helmets Nepal, initiated with her regular pocket money and savings, despite initial family concerns and inquiries. Choosing to forego a UN job, she ventured into entrepreneurship





and later established her own tech business amid the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. She advocated for increased youth involvement in entrepreneurship and stressed the creative potential of youths to identify novel options and opportunities and compete globally. Emphasizing execution of the prevailing provisions as the key to success, she addressed funding challenges by suggesting pitching ideas to organizations like NYEF. She urged youths to demonstrate to their parents that investing in them is an investment, not an expense. Acknowledging the evolving landscape, she underscored the need for continuous effort and the pursuit of new knowledge. Forming networks and embracing personal responsibility were identified as crucial elements for success in the entrepreneurial journey.

#### Remarks/ queries from the participants:

- Addressing the disparity in opportunities based on social status is crucial. How can we ensure global competency amidst the current turmoil in student politics?
- Substance abuse among youths in Kohalpur is hampering entrepreneurial endeavours.
- Youth represents a phase of both creativity and distraction. Carve out your own space, concentrate on the preparation of mission 84 (upcoming election), foster civic engagement, initiate social entrepreneurship, and transform your skills into entrepreneurial pursuits.
- The absence of earning opportunities during undergraduate studies poses a challenge. The lack of job security compels many young students in our nation to seek opportunities abroad.

#### The session was concluded with the following conclusions:

- Political turbulence impacts leadership transitions, leading to boycotting of dissenting opinions.
- Lack of critical thinking hampers progress. Cultivating a 'Why?' culture is essential. Education extends beyond financial needs; it nurtures holistic human development.
- Prioritize Youth Investment bridging the education-entrepreneurship gap through legal and policy provisions.
- Encourage youths to explore funding opportunities within Nepal and promote inclusivity in forums focused on youth and entrepreneurship. Champion laws benefiting community welfare and youth development using collective expertise.

#### Session 4: Role of CCGs in Movement Building

Recognizing the pivotal role of Child Club Graduates (CCGs) in movement building in Nepal is essential for fostering positive societal change and sustainable development. CCGs, having undergone empowerment programs within child clubs, emerge as dynamic individuals equipped with leadership skills, a strong sense of social responsibility, and a deep understanding of community issues. These graduates represent a valuable demographic that can contribute significantly to grassroots movements, advocating for child rights, social justice, and community welfare. By recognizing and empowering CCGs,

there is an opportunity to build a network of young leaders who can drive initiatives, engage in advocacy, and contribute to the overall development of Nepal. The collective efforts of these graduates can lead to transformative changes in societal attitudes, policies, and practices, thereby contributing to the creation of a more inclusive, equitable, and child-friendly Nepal. Thus, the session on the role of CCGs in movement building was organized to highlight how youth especially child club graduates can engage in various social movements and explore how the learning from child club can be capitalized for the broader social good.

The session was chaired by Mr. Tilottam Paudel, President, of JCYCN. Mr. Gauri Pradhan, conceptualiser of Children are Nation Pride, Ms. Surendra Basnet, Executive Vice Chairperson, National Youth Council, Mr. Ram Prasad Subedi, President, NGO Federation, Ms. Binita Karki, Head of Solution Mapping, UNDP, Ms. Manu Nepali, Senior Program Officer, Swatantrata Abhiyan, and Ms. Urmila Chaudhary, President, Freed Kalahari Development Forum were present as the speakers.,

#### Remarks by the speakers:



Ms. Urmila Chaudhary stressed the need for inclusive participation of underprivileged children in all empowerment initiatives. Additionally, she discussed the efforts initiated in 2000 to eliminate the Kamlari system, a traditional practice of indenturing girls and young women into servitude. She highlighted the ongoing challenge wherein genuine beneficiaries among needy children and families lack access to essential benefits. As a relentless

advocate, she fervently championed the rights of Kamlaris and bonded labourers, advocating strongly for their freedom. Drawing from her personal experience of enduring 11 years as a Kamlari, she said that she began her resistance on the very day she gained her freedom. She encouraged the participants to intervene by ensuring access to the most vulnerable population.

Mr. Ram Prasad Subedi reflected on several burning issues concerning social service. He questioned whether there might be a diversion from the essence of social service, prompting contemplation on the ways to propel it forward. He advocated for active involvement in diverse social forums, the establishment of functional networks, and collaboration with other key stakeholders and governmental bodies as crucial strategies. He emphasized



the importance of understanding and upholding economic, cultural, and social rights while respecting seniors. Additionally, he shed light on the challenges surrounding organization registration, outlining concerns such as the intricacies of form filling, issues of authority, and trust-related hurdles. Stressing the foundational role of local groups and stakeholders, including women, children, and youths, he underscored their significance in laying the groundwork for a democratic society. Subedi urged the government to facilitate the smooth operation of these foundational groups, viewing their seamless functioning as the requirement for community development.

Ms. Binita Karki highlighted the efficacy of Solution Mapping as an optimal approach for analysing problems and constructing viable solutions. She underscored the importance of keeping youths informed about the laws, policies, budgetary allocations, and community planning to empower them to make the authorities accountable. Karki expressed concern about the current state of the country, characterizing it as a place where individuals



either come to perish or arrive post-mortem and painted a grim picture. Stressing the benefits of skill development for gaining access and progressing ahead, she emphasized the need for innovation and creativity in today's technology-driven world. She advocated for cultivating innovative ideas through constructive thoughts as a means to stay abreast of the evolving global landscape.

Ms. Manu Nepali discussed the ongoing journey toward eradicating child Labor, highlighting the support extended by Civil Society Organizations to this campaign. She emphasized the necessity of channelling efforts into declaring various areas as child Labor free, thereby promoting the rights of children. Additionally, Nepali said that the relevant stakeholders and



organizations play a pivotal role in this endeavour. She drew attention to Nepal's annual child Labor data, pointing out the current existence of approximately 1.1 million child labourers in the country. Expressing concern, Nepali highlighted the challenges faced by children who escape from child Labor and struggle to integrate into society. She called for urgent governmental action, stressing the importance of facilitating normalcy in the lives of former child Laborers through initiatives such as education, participation, and exploration.

Mr. Gauri Pradhan articulated the value of respecting all forms of Labor, emphasizing that the exception arises when it involves children, and exposing them to hazardous situations. He advocated for an increased focus on workshops centred around solution mapping, suggesting techniques like posing questions, finding solutions, and discussing them in dedicated forums. Pradhan said the country has failed to acknowledge women's skills



and has confined women entrepreneurs within domestic markets, hampering their ability to sustain their businesses effectively. Highlighting the significance of economic empowerment, he underscored its pivotal role in fostering progress and equity.

Mr. Surendra Basnet underscored the vital role of motivation as an essential element in the pursuit of goals. He encouraged a shift in perspective, urging individuals to focus on what they can contribute to the country rather than solely considering what the country provides in return. Basnet advocated for a collective approach, suggesting the transformation of individual endeavours from "me" to "us." He emphasized the critical



role of time management in achieving optimal productivity and success. Key principles highlighted by Basnet included prioritizing tasks based on importance and deadlines, breaking down larger projects into manageable steps, setting realistic goals, and minimizing multitasking to preserve focus.

#### Remarks/ queries from the participants:

- What is the rationale behind predominantly hosting national conferences in the central region?
- Despite the Child Act explicitly stating that children under 18 cannot work, conflicting information from other authorities suggests a lack of proper revision in the accurate law and policy.
- Youth are unaware of their rights, indicating a significant gap in awareness.
- With a surge in child suicide cases, inquiries arise about the preventive measures implemented by child protection organizations.
- There is a pressing need for the development of skilled manpower, particularly focusing on hand skills

#### The event was concluded with the following conclusions:

- Events, programs, and workshops concerning child protection must ensure the participation of underprivileged children.
- Child club graduates need awareness of their local government's functioning to comprehend community development laws, policies, budgets, and planning.
- Child clubs can organize and participate in skill-building activities, collaborating with diverse organizations to broaden children's access to various opportunities.

#### Session 5: Experience Sharing by CCGs working in various sectors

CCGs having engaged in various community-driven initiatives through child clubs, carry valuable insights, diverse perspectives, and successful strategies. Experience-sharing platforms allow them to exchange ideas, learn from each other's accomplishments and challenges, and thereby enhance their leadership, advocacy skills, and community engagement. It also facilitates the spread of innovative approaches, best practices, and impactful solutions that contribute to broader societal improvements. This exchange also enhances motivation, scales up effective strategies, and builds solidarity. Thus, the experience sharing by CCGs was conducted as the first plenary session of the second day to facilitate the exchange of knowledge and best practices among CCGs, enabling them to learn from each other's successes and lessons learned in different sectors.

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This session was chaired by Ms. Rejina Gharti Magar, Peer Educator, JCYCN, Mr. Sahil Ansari, Youth Advocate, Ms. Bhawana Paudel, Ward Secretary of Shambhunath Municipality, Mr. Mohan Dangal, president of Consortium Nepal, Mr. Ashok Shiwakoti, General Secretary of Hami DajuVai and Mr. Prabin Silwal, Youth Activist were present as guest speakers.

**Ms. Bhawana Paudel** shared her journey as a Child Club Graduate, reflecting on her experience with child clubs and how it made her aware of child participation, sparking her interest in advocating for child participation. She emphasized the belief that nothing is unattainable when pursued earnestly. She stressed the significance of personal integrity and initiating change from within. She highlighted the urgency of prioritizing the establishment

of child clubs at the local level due to the high prevalence of underprivileged children, particularly from marginalized communities. She said that the lack of confidence due to unsupportive authorities was one of the major challenges she encountered.

Additionally, she advocated for encouraging child graduates to seek engagement in formal sectors, advocating for their involvement beyond informal sectors.

**Mr. Sahil Ansari** said that the introduction of Madrasas education has been an effective approach. He recounted facing various challenges from opposing factions when striving to eradicate practices like child marriage and child Labor and said that those who initially posed threats are now expressing willingness to collaborate and contribute to child protection efforts. He emphasized the importance of collective advocacy for citizen

rights, acknowledging the official recognition of these rights within constitutional frameworks. He urged everyone to uphold and speak out for the fulfillment of these fundamental rights.

**Mr. Mohan Dangal** shared his perspective, emphasizing that child clubs serve a dual purpose: not only do they incorporate children and educate them about social awareness, but they also focus on fostering creativity and uniqueness. He highlighted the significance of a culture that values and respects diverse opinions, noting how this practice enables individuals

to gain insights from varying viewpoints. He stressed the importance of perpetuating a child-friendly culture and advocating for its sustainability through ownership of communities and societies.

**Mr. Ashok Shiwakoti** shared his journey into theatre, reflecting on the transformative experience it offered. He elaborated on the "Hatemalo Sanchar" initiative, detailing how it involved the formation of child clubs focused on utilizing drama and performances as vehicles for raising awareness on various issues. He emphasized the prospect of multifaceted









learning within these clubs and said that children acquire essential life skills such as stress management, leadership, and advocacy. He said that a significant impact of these skills has been observed among the children involved in the clubs, and attributed them to positive behavioural changes.

**Mr. Prabin Silwal** reflected on his professional journey outside Kathmandu Valley, noting that the challenges he encountered outnumbered the positive experiences. He said that it's better to have a collective representative rather than intervene as an individual voice. He further said that the difficult times are inevitable but also temporary. He strongly advocated against exploiting the innocence of children, asserting that child-focused organizations aren't



accountable as contractors for assuming full responsibility. He said that there the disparities between the child protection policies and laws of various Local governments in Kathmandu and Sindhupalchowk, emphasizing the importance of collaborative efforts to develop policies aligned with the actual context of the specific regions of operation. He stressed the existence of a clear distinction between campaigners and activists, emphasizing the need for the public to recognize and understand this difference.

Remarks from the participants	Response from the speakers	
The mobilization of child clubs is unsatisfactory. There is very little investment in children. Additionally, the involvement of Child Club members in decision-making processes is notably absent. What should be done to address these? Male, Bodebarsain Municipality, Saptari	The child club graduates should advocate with stakeholders for budget allocation. You should have knowledge of potential supporters, advocate respectfully, maintain your stance, and champion children's rights: Response from Bhawana Paudel	
What motivated you to join the sector you're currently working at? & Female, Nawalpur, Gandaki Province	<ul> <li>Growing up as a child club graduate and my father engagement in the social sector has instilled a sense or responsibility in me, shaping me into a more accountabl contributor to my community.</li> <li>Response from Bhawana Paudel</li> </ul>	
As Nepal's tenth CFLG-declared municipality, we are still lagging in properly implementing CFLG within the municipality. Male, Koshi Province	Understanding the authentic essence of "child-friendly" requires concerted effort. We must not overlook the Constitution, which is the blueprint guiding our actions. While Aarati and Nirmala symbolize the results of the lack of its implementation, the constitution stands as the framework for reaching our endeavors. Each individual needs to possess a profound awareness of their fundamental rights. Upholding justice demands unwavering perseverance; we cannot yield or attribute every setback solely to external circumstances.	

#### Remarks from the participants:

Women and girls in Madhesh Province are still falling behind, hindered by the patriarchal structure of society. What measures can be taken to support and assist them? Participant, Siraham Madhesh	Our engagement in elections demands a commitment from every party to prioritize our cause for our support. It's crucial to ensure that our vote is for the candidate with a dedication to our mission. Despite Madhesh's initiation of the Child Participation policy, its implementation has fallen short. This emphasizes the vital role of the CCG in advocating for its effective execution.
We need to address pressing issues like unsafe abortion, violence, and child rights today, impacting mostly girls and women, directly and indirectly. The more we embrace digitalization, the greater our exposure to these challenges. What measures can be taken to tackle these issues? Participant, Baglung, Gandaki province	We encounter numerous cases where children from Child Clubs voluntarily engage in child marriages. Regrettably, the blame often falls on Child Clubs for these actions. As a graduate of a Child Club, it's our responsibility to advocate for what's right and wrong. We shouldn't limit ourselves to becoming politicians; in Child Clubs, we can also pursue roles in bureaucracy. I've often questioned why there's no budget allocated to the Children's Department. As a writer in the film industry, I focus on incorporating child-related issues into the drama scripts I create.

#### The session ended with the following conclusions:

- Prioritizing the formation of child clubs at the local level is crucial, especially given the high prevalence of underprivileged children.
- Child clubs play a pivotal role in instigating positive behavioral changes. They not only involve children and educate them about social awareness but also nurture creativity and individuality.
- Fulfilling citizen rights necessitates collective advocacy rather than fragmented efforts.

### Session 6: Girls Empowerment and Ending Child Marriage

The Nepal Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey 2019 shows among the 15–19 years group, 12.8% are married which includes 5.3% boys and 19.3% girls. According to the Women, Children, and Senior Citizen Service Directorate (WCSCSD), 52 cases of child marriage were registered in the fiscal year 2078/79. At present, self-initiated marriage has flourished as a new issue in ending child marriage. This persists due to cultural norms, lack of acceptance of dating, socio-economic factors, and gender disparities, leading to harmful outcomes like early pregnancies, restricted education, and increased health vulnerabilities. These repercussions not only affect individuals but also impact families, communities, and the nation's progress.

Efforts to combat child marriage in Nepal involve multifaceted strategies, including legal reforms, awareness campaigns, and community involvement. Activists and organizations tirelessly challenge societal norms that perpetuate this practice while advocating for the enforcement of laws prohibiting child marriage. Since 1964, Nepal has committed to empowering adolescent girls by bolstering legal and policy frameworks. This initiative prioritizes enabling girls to resist early marriage, continue their education,

access adolescent-friendly reproductive health services, and mobilize communities. It necessitates investments in education, healthcare, and socio-economic development for girls, empowering them to delay marriage until they are emotionally and physically prepared. In this regard, the session on Girl's empowerment and ending child marriage was conducted to raise awareness about the detrimental impact of child marriage on girls' lives, highlighting the importance of eradicating this harmful practice and the importance of girl-led initiatives.

The session was chaired by Mr. Deepak Sharma, General Secretary, JCYCN, Ms. Writtu Bhatta Rai, President of, the National Coalition for Girls Rights, provided a presentation on the topic. Ms. Meena Sharma, President, CZOP, Mr. Narendra Dangol, Executive Director, Looniva, and Mr. Ghanshyam BK, Chairperson, National Adolescent Boys Network were present as the speakers during that session.

#### Highlights of Ms. Writtu Bhatta Rai's presentation:

- Child marriage in Nepal denotes any marriage involving a bride/groom under 20 years old and is socially and legally unacceptable.
- Girls face severe consequences of child marriages, including health risks, discontinuation of education, human rights violations, and social stigma.
- Child marriage and same-sex affairs should not be practiced before the legal age. 80 such cases have been reported cases this year alone.
- Child marriage isn't an isolated issue; it's a form of modern slavery rooted in poverty, education, and traditional values.
- Ending child marriage requires government collaboration with communities and families, to reinforce skills and awareness to avoid it, and foster democratic and egalitarian family mindsets.
- Building resilience and social support systems for married children is crucial. Empowering and educating girls is also equally important.

#### Remarks by the speakers:

Ms. Meena Sharma emphasized the need for a multifaceted approach to develop a strong civil society movement and strengthen our voice. She highlighted the importance of creative strategies and collaboration with various stakeholders in this endeavour. She said that one of the notable initiatives is the partnership with priests and traditional healers to address this pressing issue. She stressed the link between child marriage and



poverty, emphasizing that as representatives of all children in our localities, it is our responsibility to disseminate the message against child marriage. She stressed the importance of actively advocating for the eradication of child marriage, by promoting awareness to collectively build a society that prioritizes the rights and well-being of all its members.

Mr. Tilak Paudel highlighted the substantial decrease in maternal mortality rates achieved through concerted efforts of girls' networks. He said that Karnali faces unique challenges, primarily attributed to its rugged topography. He emphasized the crucial connection between empowering girls and reducing the prevalence of child marriage. While Karnali has been historically viewed as a symbol of deprivation and struggle, he urged the



importance of recognizing the emerging state of resources and possibilities in the region. By embracing the potential inherent in Karnali and persistently prioritizing the establishment of a girl's network, he asserted that continued progress can be made in enhancing maternal health and the overall well-being of girls and most marginalized communities.

Mr. Ghanshyam Bishwakarma highlighted concerning statistics reported by UNICEF, ranking Nepal as the 10th highest country globally for child marriage occurrences. He emphasized that the lack of effective law reinforcement has fuelled the prevalence of child marriage, and urged for immediate actions. He noted ongoing campaigns aimed at empowering individuals and eradicating child marriage. Stressing the importance of



data accuracy, he emphasized the critical need to maintain the confidentiality of complaint registers and ensure clear and reliable data. Additionally, he said that a designated focal person tasked with overseeing issues related to child marriage and responsible for reporting cases to relevant authorities or officers should be appointed in each district.

#### Remarks from the participants:

Remarks from the participants	Response from the guest
Numerous policies have been formulated	We need to work collaboratively for the implementation
to address child marriage; however, there	of the existing legal provisions. Encouraging the
is a lack of effective implementation and	promotion of survivor leadership, and establishing a
monitoring mechanisms.	structured system is also highly essential.
Could you provide insights into the previous endeavours undertaken by the former president of the child club within the Karmali area?	In Karnali, banks are implementing a campaign entitled "Bank Account for Daughters, Lifelong Protection", where the banks themselves deposit a certain amount of cash on girls' accounts in collaboration with the local government. There are different initiatives like street dramas, protests, demonstrations, and so on targeting awareness through entertainment.
Currently, child marriage is increasingly	We may not have direct control over children, but we
driven by personal choices rather than	can advocate for instilling age-appropriate boundaries
parental influence, often encouraged by	within them and formulate policies that reinforce child
romantic relationships. What strategies	protection mechanisms. It's crucial to integrate child-
do you believe can effectively address this	centric policies into societal norms and dissuade children
trend?	from engaging in such actions.

make decisions regarding their children's marriages. How can we effectively prevent child marriage when a significant number of parents lack formal education? To what extent are parents informed and aware of the effects of child marriage?	Distinguishing between education and awareness is crucial. Initiating campaigns aimed at educating individuals and enhancing their awareness is paramount. It's essential to devise strategies to impart knowledge and sensitivity, particularly by focusing on parents. This necessitates a multifaceted approach encompassing both legal and socio-cultural dimensions, and recognizing the influence of cultural norms on parental practices, which may vary across societies.
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The session was terminated with the following conclusions:

- Combat child marriages through a comprehensive strategy involving community engagement, political commitment, and individual accountability. Create safe spaces for girls to prevent vulnerability and encourage active participation and leadership opportunities.
- Recognize child marriage as a form of child Labor, intervening to combat modern-day slavery.
- Educate and empower girls on reproductive health, informed choices, and decision-making.
- Foster democratic values within families and ensure equal participation in programs for individuals previously subjected to child marriage.
- Eliminate discrimination and restrictions on girls' liberties by adopting a multidimensional approach to address child marriage.

#### Session 7: Promotion of Child Club and Child participation in changing context

The evolution of Child Clubs and child participation in Nepal reflects progressive strides in empowering children and adolescents within changing societal and political contexts. With over 20,000 registered Child Clubs, Nepal has witnessed a remarkable surge in their establishment, showcasing a considerable increase in their prevalence. These clubs serve as pivotal platforms where children come together, engage in diverse activities, voice concerns in formal settings, and contribute actively to community development.

In Nepal's evolving landscape, child participation has gained traction, moving beyond mere representation to integrating children into policy dialogues, community ventures, and governance structures. This shift signifies a fundamental change in viewing children, acknowledging them not just as recipients of development but as agents of transformation.

In response to this shift, Nepal has witnessed an increase in initiatives fostering child participation. These encompass policy provisions and collaborative efforts among NGOs, development partners, government bodies, and community entities to provide spaces for children to express themselves, voice concerns, and contribute meaningfully to shaping their futures. The development and expansion of the Child-Friendly Local Governance (CFLG) campaign has further solidified the provisions of child participation. The session on the promotion of child clubs and child participation in the changing context was conducted to critically examine how CCGs can play a pivotal role in the promotion of child clubs and child participation in the changing context by revising the lesson learned.

The session was chaired by Ashok Khanal, coordinator of the National CFLG Forum, and featured Mr. Noorjung Shah, a Child Rights Activist as the presenter. It included insights from speakers Mr. Tarak Dhital, a Child Rights Activist, Ms. Nupur Bhattacharya, Founder, of Hatemalo Sanchar, and Mr. Chandrika Khatiwada, a Child Rights Activist. The collaboration among these key figures enriched the discussion and contributed diverse perspectives to the discourse.

#### Key Highlights of Mr, Noor Jung Shah's Presentation

- It is essential to establish child protection provisions as per the Act Relating to Children, 2018.
- There is a need for adequate allocation of budgets inwards and Municipalities for youth and child-oriented programs.
- Local-level policy formation is essential for sustainable community improvement
- Policy should be revised to ensure the lawful operation of child clubs.
- Exploring the correlation between social rights, and the role of local governments is essential for achieving SDGs.
- Acknowledgment of the paramount importance of the Local Governance Act.

#### Remarks by the speakers:

Mr. Chandrika Khatiwada said that the local government should be more accountable due to their proximity to the citizens. He emphasized the importance of preparedness and empowerment strategies for child clubs and child rights-focused organizations. Khatiwada stressed the importance of prioritizing the implementation of progressive policies

on Child Clubs by also ensuring effective resource implementation. Additionally, he provided valuable insights into essential elements for child empowerment, pointing to inclusive membership, equitable perspectives, effective advocacy on child issues, coordination among various agencies, development of life skills, democratic practices, updated knowledge, active participation, reflective evaluation, mentorship, networking, exemplary conduct, resource generation, and celebration as fundamental aspects of empowerment.

Ms. Nupur Bhattacharya highlighted the intrinsic relationship between awareness and the realization of participation. She emphasized that discrimination should never serve as a barrier to participation. Bhattacharya stressed the pivotal role of early childhood development in fostering children's participation, suggesting that parents play a critical



role in this phase. She referenced the Hatemalo Child Club as an exemplary awareness tool addressing







various social issues. She also raised the importance of inclusivity within child clubs, advocating for the increased involvement of disabled-friendly children. Furthermore, she traced the origin of child clubs back to the 1970s when children faced health challenges, and leaders-initiated child participation to identify and resolve these issues effectively.

Mr. Tarak Dhital highlighted the necessity to analyse both positive and negative influences concerning child empowerment to effectively address these issues. He advocated for the creative use of media with good intentions, cautioning against the imposition of adult responsibilities on children. Dhital emphasized the importance of acquiring knowledge instead of just imitating behaviours. He stressed



the significance of allowing children in child clubs to develop naturally without being pressured by predetermined agendas. Additionally, Dhital highlighted the need to assess the culture within child clubs, focusing on aspects such as participation, leadership, and accountability. He also highlighted the existing lack of coordination between parents and child clubs, asserting the equal importance of empowering parents. Dhital concluded by advocating for the implementation of technology and creativity within child clubs, urging for the exploration of innovative approaches to enhance their activities.

#### Remarks from the participants:

What methods can child club graduates utilize to advocate for budget allocations at the local level?	Lobby for the reflection of your demands in the annual policy, program, and budget before the initiation of the new fiscal year and review the guidelines before making demands.	
There's a necessity for a precise framework governing the mobilization of child welfare authority.		
Lack of appropriate budget allocation at the local level hampers the formation and effective functioning of child clubs.		
What is intersectionality?	Intersexuality encompasses inclusion regarding geographical, disability, and gender differences	

#### The session ended with the following conclusions:

- Child club graduates can serve as mediators, offering opportunities, empowerment, and guidance for a brighter future while embracing the joy of childhood.
- Educating and raising awareness among child club members about cyberbullying is the responsibility of child club graduates.
- It's crucial for child club graduates to understand child psychology and interact appropriately based on the children's age without displaying authoritarian behaviour.
- Child club members should not be coerced into activities they lack interest in; developing a childfriendly environment to incorporate their preferences is essential.

#### **Session 8: Online Access and Safety**

As technology continues to advance, children are becoming more connected online, exposing them to both opportunities and risks. With a growing number of young individuals accessing the internet, there is a heightened need to address online safety concerns and promote responsible digital citizenship.

In the context of Nepal, where the legal provisions for online safety are feeble despite share expansion in internet usage, it becomes crucial to ensure that children can access online resources safely. The Electronic Transactions Act, of 2063 (2008) establishes a legal framework aimed at regulating electronic transactions and deterring cybercrime. This legislation encompasses provisions to penalize cybercriminals and safeguard the rights of victims. However, it lacks specific clauses for shielding young girls from cyber threats. As internet accessibility grows, the spectre of cybercrime looms larger, resulting in a yearly surge in victim counts. Reported cybercrimes in Nepal encompass various nefarious activities, including image manipulation for blackmail, the creation of deceptive accounts using women's photos, illegal item sales, stalking, and cyberbullying. Instances of online sexual abuse via blackmail tactics are also on the rise. Key concerns revolve around the absence of adequate guidance for girls navigating online platforms and social media, as well as the insufficiency of appropriate laws and grievance procedures to address cybercrime-related issues.

Hence, the session on online access and safety was held to educate participants on the importance of access to online space and its safety & privacy measures and to discuss responsible online behaviour and strategies to protect themselves from potential risks and threats.

Mr. Nawaraj Dhakal, the Coordinator of Net for Good Alliance, chaired the session. Mr. Raju Ghimire, Deputy Director of Voice of Children shared a presentation on the topic. Additionally, speakers included Adv. Santosh Maharjan from CeLLRD, Adv. Sagar Bhandari from CWIN, Ms. Tulasha Khadka from Child SafeNet, and Ms. Kripa Kafle, Chairperson of the National Adolescent Girls Network.

Mr. Nawaraj Dhakal commenced the session by welcoming all participants and introducing the panellists, quickly initiating the session by inviting Mr. Raju Ghimire for his informative presentation.

#### Highlights of Mr. Raju Ghimire's presentation:

- Modern technology has granted easy internet access, leading to its widespread but often uninformed usage.
- Facebook records 23 lakhs of users, among which 40-45% are children. Even newborns have social media accounts with personal details.
- Data illustrates an 80% internet usage rate among individuals aged 13–23 in 2023.
- Various platforms like Facebook, Messenger, Twitter, and Netflix impact users across age groups, affecting both physical and mental well-being.
- Children are particularly vulnerable to social media's misuse due to insufficient knowledge or misuse of its functionalities.



- Internet access, while beneficial for learning, work, gaming, and entertainment, also contributes to psychosocial problems when misused.
- Youths and teenagers currently face psychological issues due to online abuse.
- Educating individuals about proper internet usage remains vital to safeguard against online abuse or cybercrime.
- Measures to curb online abuse include strict law implementation, training authorities in internet safety, regular password changes for social accounts, and educating parents and children about online safety.

#### Remarks by the speakers:

Ms Tulasha Khadka highlighted Child SafeNet's community-focused awareness programs involving students from schools and colleges. The research conducted by the organization in 2010 revealed a mere 2.6% internet accessibility. Over the past decade, there has been a notable surge in social media usage. Unfortunately, the study uncovered that many use the internet primarily for sex



education, and discussion resulting in increased online harassment. Children, in particular, are highly vulnerable to online abuse, often unintentionally accessing inappropriate sites through random social media links. Practical awareness is crucial to address and prevent these forms of abuse. Wrong guidance and grooming contribute significantly to the rise in online child abuse, leading to distressing scenarios like online relationships with toxic individuals, ultimately leading to child trafficking and both online and physical harassment.

Ms. Kripa Kafle highlighted that improper use of social media promotes negative behaviour, leading to various social crimes. She emphasized how technology-enabled unethical actions, like gender identification before birth and exploiting newborns' online presence without consent, contribute to societal issues. While acknowledging the benefits of digital platforms, she stressed the dangers of their misuse. Instead of banning digital apps outright, she advocated for proper education on



responsible usage. Miss Kafle mentioned that the National NAGN is disseminating online safety measures across Nepal's 77 districts and all 7 provinces.

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Advocate Sagar Bhandari shared his experiences of addressing children's issues and highlighted sexting as a major concern in online child abuse. He emphasized the significance of prioritizing bodily safety and data security in the modern era. Bhandari expressed concern about the high prevalence of victim-blaming in society, hindering victims from standing against online violence due to the absence of a proper reporting system.



He advocated for parental education on online safety, and the establishment of an online reporting system, and emphasized the risk to mental health without these measures. He urged CCGs to be well-informed about reporting systems, educate their communities, and discourage sharing content with double meanings or pranks. Drawing from personal experience, he cautioned against opening random links, highlighting the potential dangers of inadequate online knowledge.

Advocate Santosh Maharjan shared insights on contemporary issues and solutions related to online access and abuse. He emphasized that denying internet access doesn't guarantee safety, as individuals can still be abused through fake profiles using their names and photos. Maharjan stressed the importance of responsible use and safety measures on social media, citing the Nepal Government's ban on TikTok due to its unresponsiveness



to reported cases of increased violence. Notably, both abusers and victims in reported cases are often children. He highlighted the need for education on proper social media use for protection, emphasizing the responsibility is not only to avoid abuse but also not to engage in abusive behaviour. He expressed concern about AI-generated cases where online abuse has been promoted through manipulated photos. Maharjan concluded by underscoring the necessity of parental supervision over children's social media accounts to combat child online abuse, emphasizing that engaging in illegal activities, whether physical or online, is a crime.

#### Remarks from the Guests:

Ms. Sumnima Tuladhar from CWIN recognized the valuable evidence presented by Mr. Raju Ghimire and CWIN concerning online safety. Emphasizing the equilibrium between rights and responsibilities, she highlighted the significance of empowering youth with modern technologies while ensuring their safety online. She commended the organizers for addressing the importance of this agenda and extended wishes for fruitful efforts in establishing effective measures to combat online abuse.

Ms. Neha Gauchan from Body and Data shared that online access and safety have a broad scope. While major cities experience rapid internet misuse, marginalized areas lack awareness and access. She raised concerns about tech companies sharing and selling data, stressing the importance of addressing this issue seriously. She highlighted the negligence in reading and accepting app consent, hindering effective reporting against abuse. She also discussed the significance of respecting children's consent and concluded by emphasizing that a simple "NO" should be treated as a complete sentence.

#### Remarks from the participants:

- Is the national child helpline Number, 1098, available and accessible across all regions in Nepal? What's the expected response time?
- How prevalent is the misuse of AI technology within educational institutions?

- What strategies can be employed to address children's addiction to technology?
- Are there any measures in place to regulate or manage the rise of cybercrimes facilitated by AI advancements?
- What reporting mechanisms exist in Nepal for individuals to report incidents related to cybercrimes?

#### The session was concluded with the following conclusions:

- Future sessions should consider inviting individuals with firsthand experience of online harassment, particularly in areas with limited internet access
- It is crucial to organize sessions focusing on internet safety measures, emphasizing evidence-based discussions to enhance understanding of the realistic context and promote more effective awareness creation.
- Increase self-awareness among child club graduates regarding potential misuse of social or digital media.

#### Session 9: Climate Justice, Children and Youth (DRR)

As a developing country grappling with limited resources and low resilience, Nepal has been hit hard by the climate crisis, facing an array of challenges exacerbated by its unique geographical features. The nation frequently experiences natural disasters such as floods, landslides, earthquakes, and forest fires. Moreover, the escalation of global climate issues has intensified the frequency of these disasters, compounding the environmental strain on Nepal. The impacts extend from the glacial melt in the Himalayas to the heightened occurrence of floods, landslides, and unpredictable weather patterns, which, in turn, disrupt agricultural practices and livelihoods.

This environmental turmoil has a profound impact on the children and youth, who constitute a significant portion of the population, including interruptions in education, health hazards, and threats to overall well-being. While Nepal has implemented a combination of policies and initiatives to address these challenges, a notable gap persists in incorporating children and youth-specific perspectives in climate adaptation and disaster resilience-building efforts. At this critical juncture, Nepal faces the imperative to strike a balance between traditional practices and modern solutions. This involves a concerted effort to formulate inclusive policies, engage the youth actively, and foster collaboration among stakeholders. Mitigating risks and capitalizing on the potential of the younger generation are paramount in steering Nepal toward a resilient future in the face of the climate crisis. With this understanding, a discussion on climate justice, children, and youth was conducted as one of the major plenary sessions at the conference.

The session aimed to increase awareness among children and youth about the impacts of climate change, fostering a deep understanding of climate justice and its relevance to their lives. It was chaired by Advocate Kunjani Pariyar Pyasi, Chairperson, Changa Foundation. Mr. Haribol Acharya, Environmentalist Activist, was the presenter of the session. Mr. Amrit Devkota, Founder, of Nepal Youth Network for Sustainable Development, and Ms. Deepshikha Nepal, Communication Coordinator, of Nepalese Youth for Climate Action were present as the speakers of the event.

#### Highlights of Mr. Haribol Acharya's presentation:

- Long-term gradual shifts in climate indicate climate change.
- Anthropological insights highlighted the human influence on natural graphs, contributing to an unexpected warming trend over 50 years.
- Altered precipitation patterns, Imbalances in ecological and environmental systems, Temperature fluctuations, and Surges in emergency and natural events are the effects of climate change.
- There is urgency in understanding the present condition of climate change and its extensive effects across various domains.
- Youth play a pivotal role in advocating for climate justice and lobbying for meaningful change, particularly within the context of children's welfare.

#### Remarks by the speakers:

Mr. Amrit Devkota expressed contentment in witnessing the active involvement of CCGs spanning various sectors, particularly in dialogues centred around Climate Justice, Children, and Youth. He highlighted the increasing recognition among stakeholders regarding the significance of Climate Justice, Children's Rights, and the fostering of an environmentally conscious democratic

setting. Emphasizing the importance of collaboration for unified action, he stressed the need to prioritize discussions on children's rights, considering they constitute half of Nepal's population and are highly vulnerable to natural disasters and environmental issues. Mr. Devkota underscored the necessity for a constructive path forward to address the substantial impact of climate change and environmental pollution within the country. He also drew attention to the global scenario where developing nations face the repercussions of environmental degradation despite contributing minimally to pollution. Human activities have accelerated these challenges, significantly impacting the lives of children and youth. Amidst these trials, Mr. Devkota reiterated his commitment to nurturing a sustainable and resilient future for the younger generations.

Ms. Deepshikha Nepal emphasized the variability of the Climate Crisis across different regions, highlighting its unequal impacts. She said that the intergenerational knowledge gap in climate change is a grave concern, and underscored the need for heightened intergenerational awareness. She stressed the value of data-driven evidence in this context and said the role of Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) departments is crucial for effective intervention. Notably,

Nepal witnesses active Fridays for Future climate activism led by Nepali youth, with children engaging in environmental activities, sometimes foregoing school. The lack of resources among children and youth, and insufficient involvement of youths are significant challenges in controlling climate change.









She emphasized the importance of believing in the reality of Climate Justice when working towards it, stressing the need for support in this domain. Additionally, she pointed out several critical issues, including unmanaged pollution and problems with drinking water in certain areas, and prompted youth initiatives to address these concerns. She also raised questions about the relatively less active role of some environmental groups and urged consideration of Nepal's goal to become a carbon-neutral country by 2030.

#### Remarks from the participants:

- Issues with water drinking resources persist, prompting the question of why there is no assistance from the local government.
- Implementation shortcomings in acts related to children raise concerns about the effectiveness of these measures.
- Addressing the intersection of climate change and religious beliefs remains a challenge that needs careful consideration and representation.
- Increased foreign migration needs urgent attention from local governments.
- Youth-led initiatives such as the creation of a youth paper should be increased to actively address and solve climate-related issues.
- With the Waste Management Act and Disaster Management in place, people are becoming more responsible, contributing to a synthetic approach to waste management

#### The session was concluded with the following conclusions:

- Ensuring the active involvement of women and children in addressing climate challenges is vital for holistic and impactful solutions.
- Embracing opportunities to collaboratively address climate issues is crucial for achieving a collective impact.
- Prioritizing the voices of youth and children in discussions on current conditions is essential, with continuous and upcoming programs facilitating these conversations.
- Implementing strict laws, providing internet safety training to beneficiaries and authorities, encouraging regular password changes for social accounts, and educating parents and children about online safety are some important measures to combat online abuse.

### 2.3 Closing Ceremony

The two-day conference was dismissed with a formal closing ceremony held at Shiva Sadan Hall of Alfa House. It was hosted by Ranjan Paudel, a Youth Activist.

Mr. Tilottam Paudel, Coordinator of the Second National Conference of Child Club Graduates, chaired the event. Hon'ble Ranju Jha, Coordinator of the Child Rights Caucus was welcomed as the chief guest. She was also present as the chief guest of the first conference of Child Club Graduates. Mr. Janak Raj Sharma, Under-Secretary, Ministry of Federal Affairs and General Administration; Ms. Mamta Bista, the gender-based violence elimination section chief, Ministry of Women, Children and Senior Citizens; Ms. Indradevi Dhakal, Member Secretary of the National Child Rights Council; Dr. Netra Timalsina, World Social Forum Coordinator; and Mr. Min Bahadur Shahi, Former Member of the National Planning Commission were present as the guests.

The ceremony was initiated with insights shared by guest speakers and the chief guest and was concluded with remarks from the chairperson. A committee was also formed for the organization of the third conference, which promised the continuation of the legacy.

An open floor discussion was also held where the attendees reflected on their experiences, commitments, and remarks. 22 points Declaration prepared during Second National Conference of CCG was also endorsed during the closing ceremony.

#### Remarks of Honourable Ranju Jha

I'm honoured to be here, having dedicated my early adult years, from 19 to 25 to motherhood and nurturing my children. Upon reviewing your declaration, I noted its alignment with all 22 points acknowledged in Article 39 of Nepal's constitution. During my involvement in the constitution-drafting committee, Tilottam Poudel Jee, and other campaigners consistently advocated for a special focus on children. Although our legislation is robust, the



critical challenge lies in effective implementation. This can be mitigated if prioritized adequately. The impactful role of Child Club members and graduates in combating, if not eradicating, child marriage is commendable. In my travels to India, I encountered Mr. Jay Krishna Murthi, whose efforts to combat child marriage are admirable. During an interview there, I highlighted Nepal's clauses, seeking collaboration to reduce child marriage rates across our seven provinces.

I aim to collaborate with India to find effective measures to reduce child marriage rates in all provinces of Nepal. This involves coordinating efforts for law implementation, fostering Child-Friendly Local governance, and increasing investment for children. Securing adequate funding for children in national and governmental budgets will also create employment opportunities for our youth, curbing brain drain. Our laws prioritize gender equality, mandating 50–50 participation from both sexes and ensuring inclusive engagement of all genders. I am not merely here to speak but to take meaningful action. I am committed to driving these initiatives forward and effecting necessary changes

#### **Remarks of Indra Devi Dhakal**

I extend my warm wishes and acknowledgments to all of you. Today, I want to emphasize the critical issues surrounding the Nabaraj B.K murder case and commend the decisive actions taken by our esteemed Judiciary and the Government. We must address and reflect upon such matters that impact our society deeply. Recognizing the youth as an invaluable national asset, I want to highlight their pivotal role as agents of change and essential pillars for the progress of our beloved country. The energy and passion displayed



by our youth are truly unique and impressive, showcasing their immense potential to drive substantial transformation in our communities. Moreover, I express my enduring commitment and eagerness to collaborate with all of you towards the betterment of our society. Together, we can create positive change, ensuring a brighter and more prosperous future for generations to come.

#### **Remarks of Min Bahadur Shahi**

I want to recognize all the participants here as human rights defenders. Your actions and commitments play a pivotal role in implementing the laws and regulations that govern us. We must uphold accountability, especially concerning our children. I urge us all to continue advocating for their rights and to consistently remind our government of its responsibilities towards them. We must voice our concerns about local issues and contribute to the ongoing



transformation of our nation into a more child-friendly and welfare-focused state. Together, our collective efforts span all 753 areas, and I invite each one of you to join forces for further progress. Thank you all for your dedication and commitment to this cause. Together, we can create a brighter future for our children and our nation.

#### **Remarks of Netra Timalsina**

I want to underscore the importance of direct involvement and ownership in our cause. Looking at the World Social Forum (WSF) as an inspiration, I'd like to highlight its collaborative efforts in instigating social transformation and providing solutions. Originating in Brazil, WSF serves as a dedicated platform for fostering global change. I'm particularly excited about the upcoming Intercontinental



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Youth Forum and believe it's crucial to reinforce youth forums within WSF. Inclusivity is a key aspect, and we must ensure diverse representation, empowering voices from varied backgrounds. This approach will undoubtedly enrich the dynamic nature of the forum.

#### **Remarks of Mamta Bista**

Firstly, let me extend my heartfelt congratulations on the successful completion of this two-day conference. I want to encourage each one of you to be catalysts for change. It is also highly essential to establish a Male Leader Network dedicated to combating gender violence. Rest assured; the Ministry is committed to collaboration. Whether it's through direct or indirect efforts, we are keen on working alongside civil society for the greater good. Together, we can make a meaningful impact. Thank you for your dedication and participation in this vital cause.



#### **Remarks of Janak Raj Sharma**

I am pleased to witness the resurgence of vitality within our movement; despite a temporary lull, I now see the spark reigniting. Our focus on enhancing policies to ensure improved access to children's rights remains steadfast, acknowledging the challenges posed by federalism. Nevertheless, our commitment to striving for the best is unwavering. I would like to highlight the government's ambitious goal of transforming Nepal into a child-friendly nation by 2030 AD. In conclusion, I extend my congratulations and gratitude for the declaration paper.



#### Sharing from the participants:

It is crucial to raise inquiries for societal transformation. Our consolidated effort is required to effectively mitigate the burning social issues at the grassroots level and implement the existing policy provisions. I aim to implement the insights gained here in my community to the best of my capabilities.

🖝 Suwash Khatri (Representative of CCGs from Karnali Province)

As Helen Keller wisely said, "Alone we can do so little, together we can do so much." Our joint effort is the best approach. In addition to our regular sessions during the conference, our conversations during tea breaks were also profoundly engaging. The purpose and objectives of the event have been fulfilled.

Resource persons provided valuable insights into contextual issues and potential solutions, which are highly commendable. I plan to analyze, select, share, and implement the lessons learned from this enlightening two-day conference within my child club.

🗢 Sushmita Chaulagain, Bagmati Province

Delivering the concluding remarks, Mr. Tilottam Paudel acknowledged and expressed appreciation for the participation and engagement of organizing partners, funding contributors, and team members who played a vital role in bringing the concept of the second Child Club Graduates' conference to fruition. Furthermore, he extended invitations to organizations and graduates to collaborate for future conferences.



Finally, an announcement revealed that Hami DajuVai would take on the responsibility of organizing the next conference. Sanjog Thakuri was assigned the role of managing documentation and initiating preparations for the upcoming event, carrying forward the legacy of the graduates' conference.

### **Chapter III. Ways Forward**

#### 3.1 Challenges

Throughout the conference, various significant challenges were identified, reflecting diverse concerns within the Nepalese communities. These encompassed the demographic challenge caused by youth migration abroad, the persistent issue of an under-skilled workforce, and the inadequate implementation of progressive laws. The challenge of talent migration, often referred to as Brain Drain, was also emphasized. Additional concerns included the lack of support for the youth's spirit and optimism, outdated educational policies impeding progress, lack of entrepreneurial activities, lack of youth mainstreaming in politics, climate crisis and insufficient attention to infant and maternal nutrition, SRHR, Social inclusion, rights of LGBTIQ youths, and so on.

The conference highlighted the limited investment in children, acknowledged as the future pillars of the nation, emphasizing the ongoing need for youth to take ownership of social change. Furthermore, cultural barriers, mindset challenges within youth and their families, resource limitations, and ineffective utilization of budgetary resources were discussed as pressing issues.

The following challenges were faced during the conduction of the conference:

- The open floor discussions couldn't be held effectively due to time limitations. The discussion on the declaration of the conference also couldn't be completed due to time constraints. Hence, the short duration of the conference was a major constraint.
- 2. The venue lacked open space for stalls, and demonstrations from the campaigners, activists, and

organizations working throughout the country.

3. The program missed an opportunity to focus participation of survivors of different social issues, which could have significantly enriched the discussions on major themes and the suggestions for the way forward.

### 3.2 Lesson Learned

The lessons learned from the two-day conference have been written below:

- Providing platforms to the survivors of social malpractice experience can foster a connection among participants, encouraging them to open up during the session.
- Child Club Graduates have formed an alumni of child human rights defenders and should be mobilized effectively to create a new generation of leaders.
- Practical sessions are required to effectively aware and capacitate the community.

### 3.3 Outcomes

The major outcomes of the conference are as written below:

- 1. 252 Child Club Graduates were capacitated on various youth and child rights and championed as young human rights defenders.
- 2. The contemporary challenges youth activists have been facing were discussed, and a constructive way forward has been concluded.
- 3. The endorsement of the declaration has enhanced the commitment and solidarity of the government stakeholders, civil society actors, development partners, and Child Club Graduates for the implementation of the way forward.
- 4. The continuation of the legacy of the conference has been confirmed through the formal decision to handover of the responsibility to Hami DajuVai.
- 5. The conference has enhanced coordination between policymakers and Child Club Graduates, fostering stronger collaboration among CCGs and amplifying a sense of unity in a shared campaign.

### 3.4 Recommendations

The major recommendations for the way forward have been listed below:

- 1. Encourage youth-adult partnership in all domains to further promote the engagement of Child Club Graduates as agendas of social change.
- 2. Continue virtual discussion forums to keep the connections between the CCGs alive, and continue the form for sharing of learning, best practices, and challenges to collec-tively build competence and

resilience.

- 3. Conduct follow-up events of the conference at the local and provincial level, through leadership and engagement of the relevant stakeholders.
- 4. Create a graduation criterion for becoming a Child Club Graduate, and encourage the upcoming generations of CCGs to work in collaboration with the existing network of CCGs.
- 5. Fix a date for the conduction of the third conference, and plan to make it more unique, diverse, and effective.

### Participants' List

S.NO.	PROVINCE	NAME	DISTRICTS
1	Koshi	Rahuk Kumar Saha	Dhanusa
2	Koshi	Neha Yadav	Dhanusa
3	Koshi	Priyanka Shah	Dhanusa
4	Koshi	Aditya Sahani	Dhanusa
5	Koshi	Arati Kumari Paswan	Dhanusa
6	Koshi	Mukesh Kr. Pandit	Dhanusa
7	Koshi	Aarti Kr. Paswan	Dhanusa
8	Koshi	Gopal Shah	Dhanusa
9	Koshi	Janaki Panjiyar	Dhanusa
10	Koshi	Bijay Rai	Morang
11	Koshi	Lakshminiya Kumari Paswan	Dhanusa
12	Koshi	Ruju Khatiwada	Ilam
13	Koshi	Gopal Kr. Sah	Janakpur
14	Koshi	Anujrag Jhha	Janakpur
15	Koshi	Gopal Shah	Janakpur
16	Koshi	Ritsab Parajuli	Jhapa
17	Koshi	Susmita Khadka	Khotang
18	Koshi	Kabita Ban	Khotang
19	Koshi	Ramesh War	Kohalpur
20	Koshi	Ruju Khatiwada	Jhapa
21	Koshi	Rishab Parajuli	Jhapa
22	Koshi	Sindhu Regmi	Jhapa
23	Koshi	Malvika Laksamba	Jhapa
24	Koshi	Pratyush Lagun	Okhaldhunga
25	Koshi	Alina Adhikari	Okhaldhunga
26	Koshi	Roshani Katwal	Okhaldhunga
27	Koshi	Ramila Nepal	Okhaldhunga
28	Koshi	Smrity Niraula	Panchthar
29	Koshi	Nilu Surya Magar	Morang
30	Koshi	Kinjal Gangai	Morang
31	Koshi	Pujan Bhandari	Morang
32	Koshi	Manisha Pandey	Sunsari
33	Koshi	Sugam Jha	Sunsari
34	Koshi	Laxmi Hamal	Udayapur
35	Koshi	Rita Karki	Udayapur

36	Koshi	Purnima Karki	Udayapur
37	Koshi	Sunita Khadka	Udayapur
38	Koshi	Salina Basnet	Udayapur
39	Madhesh	Swarupa Jaiswal	Bara
40	Madhesh	Aditi Sinha	Bara
41	Madhesh	Pradip Sah	Parsa
42	Madhesh	Rahul Saha	Parsa
43	Madhesh	Swati Kr. Kurmi	Parsa
44	Madhesh	Rahul Kumar Saha	Parsa
45	Madhesh	Alisha Singh	Parsa
46	Madhesh	diwash Sarraf	Parsa
47	Madhesh	Anshu Magar	Parsa
48	Madhesh	Rijwan Badhai	Rautahat
49	Madhesh	Rajjik Siddhique	Rautahat
50	Madhesh	Abdul Rajik Siddiqui	Rautahat
51	Madhesh	Bishedra Paswan	Saptari
52	Madhesh	Kanchan Kumari Yadav	Saptari
53	Madhesh	Tribeni Kumar Yadav	Saptari
54	Madhesh	Bishendra Paswan	Saptari
55	Madhesh	Anchala Paswan	Mahattori
56	Madhesh	Alpana Kumari Mahato	Mahattori
57	Madhesh	Gautam Sharma	Mahattori
58	Madhesh	Bardan Shrestha	Saptari
59	Madhesh	Amar Yadav	Saptari
60	Madhesh	Bhawana Poudel	Saptari
61	Madhesh	Samikshya Dahal	Sarlahi
62	Madhesh	Niruta Yadav	Sarlahi
63	Madhesh	Md Nayim Rain	Sarlahi
64	Madhesh	Sonu Sinha	Sarlahi
65	Madhesh	Bishal Mahato	Siraha
66	Madhesh	Partibha Mahato	Siraha
67	Madhesh	Nayim Rain	Siraha
68	Madhesh	Prativa Kr. Singh	Siraha
69	Bagmati	Swikriti Mishra	Bhaktapur
70	Bagmati	Dibya Silwal Khatri	Bhaktapur
71	Bagmati	Romy Subedi	Bhaktapur
72	Bagmati	Alisha Karki	Bhaktapur
73	Bagmati	Pariskrit Dahal	Bhaktapur

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74	Bagmati	Shubhanga Timilsina	Bhaktapur
75	Bagmati	Menuka Karki	Bhaktapur
76	Bagmati	Pallabi Thapa	Bhaktapur
77	Bagmati	Aakash Gajurel	Bhaktapur
78	Bagmati	Savona Guragain	Bhaktapur
79	Bagmati	Suchitra Poudel	Bhaktapur
80	Bagmati	Purnima kayastha	Bhaktapur
81	Bagmati	Nabin Khatri	Bhaktapur
82	Bagmati	Nabin Sharma	Bhaktapur
83	Bagmati	Menuka Thapa	Bhaktapur
84	Bagmati	Ashok Siwakoti	Bhaktapur
85	Bagmati	Jamuna Poudyal	Bhaktapur
86	Bagmati	Volga Poudyal	Bhaktapur
87	Bagmati	Rohan Bagale	Chitwan
88	Bagmati	Reetu Kandel	Chitwan
89	Bagmati	Bishnu Maya Gurung	Dhading
90	Bagmati	Anushka Tamang	Dhading
91	Bagmati	Abhisek Adhikari	Dhading
92	Bagmati	Niranjan Shrestha	Dhading
93	Bagmati	Sophiya Gurung	Dolakha
94	Bagmati	Rajan Subedi	Kathmandu
95	Bagmati	Divyanti B.K	Kathmandu
96	Bagmati	Mohan Dangal	Kathmandu
97	Bagmati	Bijay Kuswaha	Kathmandu
98	Bagmati	Bhumika Pandey	Kathmandu
99	Bagmati	Laya Pd. Upreti	Kathmandu
100	Bagmati	Meena Sharma	Kathmandu
101	Bagmati	Sagar Bhandari	Kathmandu
102	Bagmati	Niharika Thapa	Kathmandu
103	Bagmati	Dilasha Gurung	Kathmandu
104	Bagmati	Sprina Shrestha	Kathmandu
105	Bagmati	Amulya Shrestha	Kathmandu
106	Bagmati	Babita Pariyar	Kathmandu
107	Bagmati	Prakash Silwal	Kathmandu
108	Bagmati	Rashmita Bajracharya	Kathmandu
109	Bagmati	Reecha Koirala	Kathmandu
110	Bagmati	Rita Puri	Kathmandu
111	Bagmati	Pramila Sinchury	kavre

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112	Bagmati	Susmita Chaulagain	kavre
113	Bagmati	Rabin Chaulagain	kavre
114	Bagmati	Josha Jarga Magar	kavre
		Manisha Kharel	kavre
115	Bagmati		
116	Bagmati	Dipesh Dhital	kavre
117	Bagmati	Biraj Paudel	kavre
118	Bagmati	Nawaraj Dhakal	kavre
119	Bagmati	Haribol Acharya	kavre
120	Bagmati	Ranjan Paudel	kavre
121	Bagmati	Pasific Maharjan	Lalitpur
122	Bagmati	Manoj Maharjan	Lalitpur
123	Bagmati	Sabina Khadka	Lalitpur
124	Bagmati	Ira Silwal	Lalitpur
125	Bagmati	Rajan Maharjan	Lalitpur
126	Bagmati	Shyam Kathayt	Lalitpur
127	Bagmati	Ashma Aryal	Lalitpur
128	Bagmati	Neha Gurung	Kathmandu
129	Bagmati	Niraj Neupane	Kathmandu
130	Bagmati	Sugam K.C	Kathmandu
131	Bagmati	Samuel Gabriel	Kathmandu
132	Bagmati	Ashish Chaudhary	Kathmandu
133	Bagmati	Ritu Deshar	Kathmandu
134	Bagmati	Rakshya Kathayat	Kathmandu
135	Bagmati	Deepak Bashyal	Kathmandu
136	Bagmati	Shiva Tamang	Kathmandu
137	Bagmati	Binu Shrestha	Kathmandu
138	Bagmati	Sarita Lamichhane	Kathmandu
139	Bagmati	Ritu Panta	Kathmandu
140	Bagmati	Prarthana Saakha	Kathmandu
141	Bagmati	Dia Yonzon	Kathmandu
142	Bagmati	Sarita Tamang	Nuwakot
143	Bagmati	Gautam Tamang	Nuwakot
144	Bagmati	Pramila Lama	Ramechhap
145	Bagmati	Binu Maya Lokchan	Rasuwa
146	Bagmati	Benu maya Lokchan	Rasuwa
147	Bagmati	Priyanka Sris Rana	Lalitpur
148	Bagmati	Bisakha Maharjan	Lalitpur
140	Bagmati	Bipin Maharjan	Lalitpur
147	Daymati		

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150	Bagmati	Prasiddhi Shakya	Lalitpur
151	Bagmati	Anish Maharjan	Lalitpur
152	Bagmati	Lalita Tamang	Lalitpur
153	Bagmati	Safalta Dulal	Lalitpur
154	Bagmati	Ankita Timalsina	Lalitpur
155	Bagmati	Ashmita Pariyar	Lalitpur
156	Bagmati	Pradeep Lamichhane	Lalitpur
150	Bagmati	Priyanka Kumari	Lalitpur
158	Bagmati	Raju Ghimire	Lalitpur
158	Bagmati	Aastha Mahato	Lalitpur
160	Bagmati	Sumina Mardniya	Lalitpur
161	Bagmati	Sanjog Thakuri	Lalitpur
162	Bagmati	Barsha Thapa Magar	Lalitpur
162	Bagmati	Akriti Giri	Lalitpur
165		Abinash Karki	Lalitpur
165	Bagmati	Santosh Maharjan	
	Bagmati	Mani Kumar Pakhrin	Lalitpur
166	Bagmati		Makwanpur
167	Bagmati	Anjan sapkota	Makwanpur
168	Bagmati	Sampada Adhikari	Makwanpur
169	Bagmati	Kripa Kafle	Sindhuli
170	Bagmati	Janak Raut	Sindhuli
171	Bagmati	Pratistha Dhakal	Sindhuli
172	Bagmati	Suman Gautam	Sindhuli
173	Bagmati	Indira Thapa Magar	Sindhuli
174	Bagmati	Sujana Khadka	Sindhuli
175	Bagmati	Anjana Kalikote	Sindhuli
176	Bagmati	Suja Adhikari	Sindhuli
177	Bagmati	Sujan Adhikari	Sindhuli
178	Bagmati	Dina Karki	Sindhupalchowk
179	Bagmati	Safalta Bhandari	Sindhupalchowk
180	Gandaki	Gobinda Gautam	Baglung
181	Gandaki	Govinda Gautam	Baglung
182	Gandaki	Nabin Gaire	Baglung
183	Gandaki	Subash Adhikari	Kaski
184	Gandaki	Kunjani Pariyar Pyasi	Kaski
185	Gandaki	Bibek Tripathi	Kaski
186	Gandaki	Rejina Gm	Nawalpur
187	Gandaki	Bidhya Dhungana	Nawalpur

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188	Gandaki	Ritika Pokhrel	Nawalpur
189	Gandaki	Nisha Chaudhary	Nawalpur
190	Gandaki	Niruta Khatri	Nawalpur
191	Gandaki	Hum kumari Gurung	Parbat
192	Gandaki	Ashish Pariyar	Parbat
193	Gandaki	Kripa Ghimire	Lamjung
194	Gandaki	Ranjana Shrestha	Myagdi
195	Gandaki	Tham Prasad Acharya	Myagdi
196	Gandaki	Niruta Khatri	Nawalparasi
197	Lumbini	Bipina Sharma	Nawalparasi
198	Lumbini	Krishna Ghimire	Nawalparasi
199	Lumbini	Ranjeet Bishwokarma	Nawalparasi
200	Lumbini	Krishna Prasad Ghimire	Sunwal Nawalpur
200	Lumbini	Punam Kunwar	Sunwal Nawalpur
202	Lumbini	Samir Pariyar	Sunwal Nawalpur
202	Lumbini	Ram Prasad Gaire	Arghakhanchi
203	Lumbini	Menuka Rawat	Banke
204	Lumbini	Sweta Gurung	Banke
205	Lumbini	Chetana Khanal Cheetri	Banke
207	Lumbini	Mamta Joshi	Banke
208	Lumbini	Sugandha Acharya	Banke
209	Lumbini	Sundeep Balmiki	Banke
210	Lumbini	Santosh Tharu	Banke
211	Lumbini	Deepti Singh Sunar	Banke
212	Lumbini	Sahil Ansari	Banke
213	Lumbini	Narsingh Chaudhary	Bardiya
214	Lumbini	Puja Dhamala	Bardiya
215	Lumbini	Sirjana Subedi	Bardiya
216	Lumbini	Niranjan Kr. Yaddav	Dang
217	Lumbini	Urmila Chaudhary	Dang
218	Lumbini	Srijana Chaudhary	Dang
219	Lumbini	Sudeep Chapagain	Kapilbastu
220	Lumbini	Ram Shabd Yadav	Kapilbastu
221	Lumbini	Gunja Tharu	Kapilbastu
222	Lumbini	Neelam Harijan	Kapilbastu
223	Lumbini	Manoj K.C	Pyuthan
224	Lumbini	Ghanashyam BK	Rukum
225	Lumbini	Anil Kc	Rukum

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226	Lumbini	Sonam Chaudhary	Rupandehi
227	Lumbini	Sabika Dhawal	Rupandehi
228	Lumbini	Ranjeet Kumar Lohar	Nawalparasi
229	Karnali	Yubraj Thapa	Dailekh
230	Karnali	Manju Budha	Dolpa
231	Karnali	Suwas Khatri	Jumla
232	Karnali	Reema Chaulagain	Jumla
233	Karnali	Subash Khatri	Jumla
234	Karnali	Rima chaulagain	Jumla
235	Karnali	Min Shahi	Kalikot
236	Karnali	Durga Aacharya	Surkhet
237	Karnali	Rakesh Paudel	Surkhet
238	Sudurpaschim	Nirmala Bhandari	Achham
239	Sudurpaschim	Puja Budha	Achham
240	Sudurpaschim	Dhurba Kiran Vul	Baitadi
241	Sudurpaschim	Dhurba Kiran Bhul	Baitadi
242	Sudurpaschim	Anamol Bajai	Bajhang
243	Sudurpaschim	Arjun Joshi	Bajura
244	Sudurpaschim	Hikmat Timilsena	Bajura
245	Sudurpaschim	Hemmanti Kottari	Darchula
246	Sudurpaschim	Nisha Malashi	Doti
247	Sudurpaschim	Deepa Rawat	Kailali
248	Sudurpaschim	Soni Sherpa	Kailali
249	Sudurpaschim	Lalit Ojha	Kailali
250	Sudurpaschim	Shekhar Nath	Kanchanpur
251	Sudurpaschim	Ishwor Bhandari	Kanchanpur
252	Sudurpaschim	Bhumika Regmi	Kanchanpur

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