

Combating child labor through education project Nepal

Background:

After the release of new constitution in Nepal in 2016 the aspiration of Nepalese people grown up and there is provision in the constitution that there will be inclusive development of all communities in Nepal. According to the ILO and Central Bureau of Statistics of Nepal, 2012 report state that the child population between 5 and 17 years of age are 7.77 million, which is about 33 per cent of the total population in the country where children are involved both formal and informal sector. Among these working children, the report further estimates that 1.60 million children, or almost 51 per cent of all working children, fall into the category of child labor. Within the child labor category, 0.62 Million children have been identified as being engaged in what is called hazardous work. These above scenario shows vicious problem in Nepal which may create barrier to achieve MDG goal no. 8 (Decent work and Economic growth) and MDG goal no 4 (quality education).

Child labor has been widespread in Nepal for many centuries, mostly in rural areas as part of the normal process of socialization. In the countryside children always worked, and continue to work, long hours alongside their parents in the fields and at home. Although the participation rate for children in Nepal is estimated about 40.4 per cent, there is a significant difference between that of girls (47.6 per cent) and that of boys (36.1 per cent). In Nepal, the majority of children are found working in the agricultural sector, followed by service, manufacturing and other sectors. They are mostly employed informally as domestic servants, porters, rag pickers or carpet factory workers, as well as in restaurants and in the transportation sector. Depending on the sector, children may have to work long hours, carry heavy loads and face the risk of sexual exploitation.

Challenge

The children exposed to hazardous working conditions often find themselves working at minimum standards with excessive workloads jeopardizing their overall well-being. The lack of safety and hygiene, poor physical conditions and burden of repetitive job in absence of any standard occupational safety and health practices exposes children affecting their physical, mental and over all development. The gender differences at work contributing to unequal pay, sexual exploitation, debt bondage, and lack of access to health services, education and opportunities are some of the tips of iceberg relating to child labor phenomenon in Nepal. But most, regardless of their economic status, require lifelong support. Very few, if any, support services are available when families are in crisis or when parents die and services provided by the state are minimal.

Solution

Target child: 500 child labors

School Enrollment support: 450 child labors

Vocational training: 50 aged over children or parents of very poorest families

Target district: Dang (4 Village Development Committees) and Bardiya (6 Village Development Committees)

Find child labor: We will conduct baseline survey to find child labor in the target area. After finding them, it need more research to find their situation. There will be collaborative mechanism with public private partnership where local government such as municipality and VDCs including chamber of commerce will also be major player during this project implementation.

Rehabilitation center: Rehabilitation center will be established and keep child labors after rescued them. Counselling classes will be provided to the child and their parents after rescued. BASE will recruit trained counselors.

Bridge Classes: At first, different age group children will be divided and provided bridge class opportunity. The children will get for 5-6 months bridge classes and will enroll for formal education at government school. During bridging course stationary will be managed by project and after bridging course the school education cost and school uniform will be afforded by project as well.

Enrollment: For the enrollment cost those children who will not afford the education cost, will receive enrollment cost as the parents belong to the poorest of the poor group. For this coordination and collaboration will be done with school management committee and concern municipality/VDCs. The poorest of the poor family status will be collected from VDCs and municipality as the local government is responsible to keep the record about it.

Parenting Education (PE): The PE session will be organized in cluster basis for the parents whereas appropriate for them. BASE has already developed the PE session materials and those are useful and made good impact in the past project. The PE session facilitators will get training on how to run the PE session.

Vocational Education (Training): Those children who may not agree to join for the bridge course and their age is already over (14-17 age) will be provided opportunity for the vocational skill training. The child labor parents will also involve on this vocational training. For this training there are vocational skill training institutions in the areas where we are going to propose this project. In the past BASE has organized vocational training and the impact is good. The beneficiaries can get long term benefits and in a sustainable way. The vocational skill training will be based on beneficiaries' interest and market assessment will be done in close collaboration with vocational institutions.

Sustainability:

The project will pioneer best practices for elimination child labor in the working community. It will give respite to their families thereby improving their quality of life, sensitize the wider community, and serve as a model for replication. The project will thus touch many more lives and impact a far larger number of

people through a cascading effect. The livelihood supports to the parents increase their source of income for better life. We can link them with local resource and service providers for long term supports for their education.

Long term Impact:

The target community will have dignified and healthy life with long term access to government resources. There will be child labor free village with access to quality education, health and child friendly environment. The community will have peace and prosperity.