

# INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON CHILD MARRIAGE

“Strength in Unity, Girls are Not Brides- A Global Youth Partnership to End Child Marriage”

**Nepal**

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**OXFAM**



About oxfam



OXFAM

# Oxfam in Nepal

- Oxfam in Nepal is under Oxfam International which operates as an NGO in Nepal
- Active in Nepal for more than 30 years
- Core areas:
  - Sustainable Development Programme : Gender Justice; Food and Economic Justice; Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation
  - Humanitarian Programme
  - Media, Advocacy and Campaigning – Programme Quality

## **Gender Justice Objectives**

- Reduced prevalence and threat of Violence Against Women and Girls in target areas.
- Women from marginalized communities in target areas, have increased leadership in politics and governance.
- Positive legal and policy environment for gender equality and women's rights created.
- Improved readiness of women, particularly from marginalized communities and violence survivors in target areas, to engage in economic leadership.

Website: [www.oxfam.org](http://www.oxfam.org).

Facebook Page: Oxfam in Nepal





# Child Marriage in Nepal



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# Child Marriage in Nepal

- Nepal has one of the highest prevalence of child marriage in the world and the third highest child marriage prevalence (41%) in South Asia after Bangladesh and India.
- It is estimated that among Nepali women aged 25- 49, more than half were married before the age of 18.
- Over 1.3 million adolescent girls are at risk of being married as children.
- Root causes: social norms and values, poverty, illiteracy, gender-based violence, income and caste issues
- In some communities dowry system, trafficking and other harmful social norms and practices are intrinsically connected to the practice.





# Oxfam's Role And Initiatives



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# OXFAM's Approach

## Work in partnership with Local Partners

### Level of engagement:

- **National level** (Networking and collaboration with national government & non-government stakeholders, Policy Advocacy, Campaigns)
- **District level** (Networking, coordination, Advocacy, awareness)
- **Community level** (Awareness, sensitization, capacity building etc)



# Oxfam's Roles and Initiatives

- We Can Campaign (2004-2011)
- My Rights My Voice (2012-2016)
- Women Leadership Programme (2014-2017)
- Nepal Girl Summit 2016: District Consultations and Intergenerational Dialogues
- Creating Space to Take Action on Violence Against Women and Girls (2016-2021)

## Major Achievements

- Succeeded in creating mass public support for elimination of child marriage
- Young people have an adequate understanding of the negative consequences of child marriage.
- Girls and young women have been recognised as change agents in the community
- Child marriage cases have decreased by 61 percent in MRMV project areas
- Prevented 8 cases of child marriage in MRMV project districts in 2015-16.

## Activities/ Approaches

- Reflect methodology based Community Discussion Centres
- Child Health Committees
- Forum Theatre
- Radio Programme
- Wall magazines
- Trainings on leadership, advocacy and monitoring skills
- Awareness and advocacy campaigns with parents, teachers, children and local stakeholders – including priests and other religious leaders



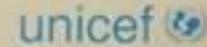
# Case Study

- 14-year-old Devi Kumal from Tamsariya VDC, Nawalparasi district
- CDC members talked to her grandparents, custodians/protectors and sought their permission to split her from her husband but the couple were not ready to separate
- CDC members explained about the negative consequence of child marriage
- Also led the couple to the VDC Office, paralegal committee and police station to inform them about the legal and practical problems of child marriage
- The couple were made to sign a paper which read, "There shall be no bar to the girl and boy if they wish to marry each other after they attain the eligible age for marriage under the existing law. If not interested to re-marry with each other, they may also marry anyone they like."
- Devi is very happy with her decision. She is now taking sewing and knitting training





Government of Nepal  
Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare



# NEPAL GIRL SUMMIT

Girls are the Future of Nepal



Government Initiatives in Nepal



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# Government Initiatives in Nepal

- Commitment to ensure a future free from child marriage by 2030.
- National Strategy to End Child Marriage
  - Linked to the South Asia Initiative to End Violence Against Children (SAIEVAC)
  - Legal age of marriage is 20
  - Punishment for child marriage is imprisonment for up to three years and a fine of up to 10,000 rupees
  - A Theory of Change to end child marriage was developed as part of the national strategy that outlines six strategic directions that form the basis of the strategy, including: Empowering girls (including economic empowerment); Providing quality education for girls; Engaging men and boys; Mobilising families and communities; Strengthening and providing services; and Implementing laws and policies.
- Establishment of an inter-ministerial Steering Committee to oversee strategy development and a Technical Working Group to provide expertise





# A Just World Without Poverty

putting women rights at the heart of all we do

