

Prevention of Early Marriage in Dolakha District

Submitted By

Rotary Club of Dhulikhel

District 3292 Nepal-Bhutan

Background



Nepal is a socio-culturally diverse country, with different castes, ethnicities, religions, and geographical areas. As a consequence of these diversities, Nepali people adopt a diverse set of rituals and practices that have both positive and negative consequences. Early marriage is an example of a practice with negative consequences. In fact, the practice of early marriage is a traditional practice that is more widespread amongst less advanced communities and this practice invariably affects the physical, intellectual, psychological, emotional, and educational aspects of those individuals who are engaged in the early marital practices .

Child Marriage is a global problem which affects millions of people across the world. It is considered a human violation because it deprives those involved , especially girls , of education and health services , the chance to learn skills and develop their personalities ,and leaves them vulnerable indeed. Although Government of Nepal has signed many International agreements, its national – level commitment are inadequate to address the issues.

In Nepal , marriage before the age of 20 is considered to be child marriage. But in rural areas still marriage before 16 is common. In some communities, child marriage is a customary, socially established practices that has been carried on for generation.



Child Marriage in Dolakha District

Dolakha District, a part of Bagmati Province, is one of the seventy-seven districts of Nepal. The district, with Charikot as its district headquarters, covers an area of 2,191 km² (846 sq mi) and had a population of 204,229 in 2001 and 186,557 in 2011.

The district consists of 9 Municipalities, out of which two are urban municipalities and seven are rural municipalities. These are as follows

Bhimeswor Municipality

Jiri Municipality

Kalinchok Rural Municipality

Melung Rural Municipality

Bigu Rural Municipality

Gaurishankar Rural Municipality

Baiteshwor Rural Municipality

Sailung Rural Municipality

Tamakoshi Rural Municipality

Need Assessment



Local Government Meeting



Multi –Stakeholders Meeting



Dhulikhel Hospital-Dolakha Meeting

Finding of Need Assessment

Based upon the patients come to Dolkha Hospital and local stakeholders

Three Municipalities have more child marriage and young bride

Bhimeswor Municipality : Ward no 2 & 5 (4767 Population as per 2011 Census)

Kalinchowk Rural Municipality : Ward no 1-9 (22,954 Population as per 2011 Census)

Bigu Rural Municipality : Ward 1-8 (18,449 Population as per 2011 Census)

Intervention

The Government of Nepal recently endorsed a new National Strategy on Ending Child Marriage and has set the legal age of marriage at 20 to discourage early marriages. Based upon the need assessment and government national strategy following will be intervention program to mitigate the early marriage .

1. Empowering adolescent girls
2. Improving adolescent-friendly sexual and reproductive health
3. Mobilizing communities

Empowering adolescent girls

By delivering a **comprehensive life skills package** to girls both in and out of school. It helps to increase their access to information on issues that are relevant to them, such as health, gender issues, leaderships skills, and basic finance and accounting skills. And will also works with their parents, community members and religious leaders to create an encouraging environment.



Improving adolescent-friendly sexual and reproductive health

Rotary will work with the Government of Nepal to improve access to sexual and reproductive health information, services and education for young people. Youth-friendly health services should be welcoming and non-judgmental, ensure confidentiality, and provide high quality services and information to young people regardless of their age, marital status, or sexual orientation. Rotary will work with the government to implement comprehensive sexuality education, both in schools and through community-based training and outreach. Comprehensive sexuality education goes far beyond traditional 'sex education'.

It encompasses age-appropriate information and dialogues on health, puberty, relationships, human rights, gender issues, and other life skills relevant to young people.



Mobilizing communities

Rotary will promote public expressions of commitment towards ending child marriage by working with young people and leaders at the community and higher levels. We will be engaging religious leaders, men and boys to change attitudes towards harmful practices such as child, early and forced marriages.



Budget

The program will be conducted at 19 wards of mentioned Municipalities

SN	Particular	Quantity	Rate (NRs.)	Amount (NRs.)
1	School Awareness Program (also include social media misuse)	40 Schools	20,000	800,000
2	Community Awareness Program	19 communities	30,000	570,000
3	Radio Program Weekly	6 month	10,000	240,000
4	Awareness Hoarding Board	19 Communities	25000	475,000
5	Meeting with stakeholders	12 times	10000	120,000
6	A4 Information Broachers Color	2000	150	300,000
7	Washable Sanitary Pad	3000	500	15,00,000
8	Project Manager	12 months	35000	420,000
9	Travel to different locations	59 locations	8000	472,000
10	Project Monitoring & Evaluation			100,000
11	Contingency Cost			300,000
	Total		USD. 44,142	5,297,000

Girls account for the vast majority of those who marry as children

