



Press Release / प्रेस विज्ञप्ती

For immediate release

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National Children's Day: Schools padlocked in Terai-Madhesh

Birgunj, 15 Sept 2015: While we are to have countrywide celebrations for National Children's Day, 2072, most of the children in Terai-Madhes are deprived of any schooling for more than a month now. As a direct result of the Terai-Madhes Andolan the schools have been shut down, and the children who would have otherwise been engaged in studies, are now employed in protests, causing even deaths and more than a score of casualties in minors.

Sano Paila which is an organization active in the child sector has been continuously attempting to curb the use of children in protests and use of force on children by appealing to the concerned groups, including the State.

Sano Paila appeals to the conflicting groups in Terai-Madhes to ensure a secure environment to immediately have the schools functioning to allow the children to continue their education, which is an inalienable right of the children. We draw attention of local administration, educational organisations/bodies and of all parties active in the child sector.

The theme for the National Children's Day 2072 is " Reconstruction and New Constitution: Campaign to Secure Child Rights." 29th Bhadra is celebrated as National Children's Day to mark the nation's commitment to the United Nation's Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), and to the national laws passed for securing child rights.

Nepal is in the 25th year of having approved of the UNCRC- 1989. There has been remarkable development in this period, however, there are increasing cases of violation of child rights, including physical and mental violence.

Child abuse or misbehaviour can appear in either of these forms: child labour, child trafficking, child marriage, mental or physical torture, exploitation, all impeding the child's growth. Sano Paila has been rescuing children in insecure conditions and attempting to re-integrate separated children with their families.

Subir Ghosh, the Head of Communications at Sano Paila calls it an irony that when we target to bring changes in the laws and policies of the State to better address the rights of Children, we are faced with a reality where the children are not even able to attend regular school. Ghosh says that Sano Paila has been engaged in developing an environment, meeting the four vital aspects of child rights: Prevention, Security, Development and Participation.

The devastating earthquake in this year and other natural calamities like floods and landslides have left a heavy economic loss, and a severe psychological impact, especially affecting children. To help them overcome their mental insecurity, children need a long term psychological counselling; and regular schooling is also a reliable solution, according to Kanchan Jha, the CEO of Sano Paila. Jha further adds that Governmental and Non-Governmental organisations must collaborate in order to ensure children's educational, health, nutritional and shelter-related needs in the challenging post-calamity scenario.