

Article 39, Rights of the Child:

- (1) Every child shall have the right to name and birth registration along with his or her identity.
- (2) Every child shall have the right to education, health, maintenance, proper care, sports, entertainment and overall personality development from the families and the State.
- (3) Every child shall have the right to elementary child development and child participation.
- (4) No child shall be employed to work in any factory, mine or engaged in similar other hazardous work.
- (5) No child shall be subjected to child marriage, transported illegally, abducted/ kidnapped or taken in hostage.
- (6) No child shall be recruited or used in army, police or any armed group, or be subjected, in the name of cultural or religious traditions, to abuse, exclusion or physical, mental, sexual or other form of exploitation or improper use by any means or in any manner.
- (7) No child shall be subjected to physical, mental or any other form of torture in home, school or other place and situation whatsoever.
- (8) Every child shall have the right to juvenile friendly justice.
- (9) The child who is helpless, orphan, with disabilities, conflict victim, displaced or vulnerable shall have the right to special protection and facilities from the State.
- (10) Any act contrary to in clauses (4), (5), (6) and (7) shall be punishable by law, and a child who is the victim of such act shall have the right to obtain compensation from the perpetrator, in accordance with law.

Article 18. Right to equality

Article 20. Rights to justice

Article 29. Right against exploitation

Article 31. Right to education

Article 35. Right to health

Article 40. Rights of *Dalit*

Article 42. Right to social justice

Article 43. Right to social security

Article 51. Policies of the State

- (i) Policies relating to labour and employment:
 - (3) Abolish all forms of labour exploitation including child labour.
- (j) Policies relating to social justice and inclusion:
 - (5) Take into consideration primarily of the best interests of the child.

"Assurance of the Rights of Children in Emergencies, Shared Commitment of All of Us"

State of Children in Nepal

2020



Government of Nepal
Ministry of Women, Children and Senior Citizens
NATIONAL CHILD RIGHTS COUNCIL
Pulchowk, Lalitpur

(Unofficial Translation)

"Assurance of the Rights of Children in Emergencies,
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Message

As a signatory party to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, 1989, the Government of Nepal is moving towards ensuring the rights of the child in accordance with the provisions of the Convention. Nepal's constitution is exemplary from the point of view of child rights. For the effective implementation of fundamental rights of children, Children's Act, 2018 including other various acts related to children are in implementation. The concerns relating to children have been well incorporated in the periodic plans. Moreover, the three tiers of government have shown sensitivity towards children.



The day the United Nations General Assembly adopted the Convention on the Rights of the Child on November 20, 1989, is celebrated by the state parties as International Child Rights Day. On this occasion, I am happy that the National Child Rights Council has published the Report on the **State of Children in Nepal, 2020**. As this report covers various concerns related to children, it is seen as an important document to reflect the situation of children.

We all have noticed that the situation of children has been gradually improving as a result of the contribution of all three tiers of government, development partners, non-governmental organizations, civil society, private sector, media, family and other stakeholders on issues including protection, development and rights of children. This report is the evidence of these all changes we have observed. However, the achievements we have made so far are not enough to fully ensure the rights of the child. Therefore, it is necessary to continue the best practices of the past in the field of child rights protection and promotion by properly addressing the problems seen and challenges faced. Similarly, it is required to use of available opportunities to identify and implement necessary and innovative measures to ensure the rights of children. The Government of Nepal is committed to fulfilling these ends and I am confident that the province and local levels will remain committed accordingly. I heartily urge all the stakeholders to move in this direction with more responsibility, commitment, activism and sensitivity. And I expect a significant improvement in the lives of children from the concerted effort of government and non-government sectors in the coming days.

Finally, as Chairperson, I would like to thank the National Child Rights Council for publishing this status report in English version.

Thank You!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lilanath Shrestha'.

(Lilanath Shrestha)
Minister, Ministry of Women,
Children and Senior Citizens, and
Chairperson, National Child Rights Council

Date: November 20, 2020



Government of Nepal

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Message

It has been three decades since Nepal ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child, adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on November 20, 1989. The National Children's Day is celebrated in remembrance of Nepal's ratification to the Convention on September 14, 1990. This year, National Children's Day is celebrated with the slogan ""Assurance of the Rights of Children in Emergencies, Shared Commitment of All of Us"". Every year on November 20, International Child Rights Day is celebrated around the world and on this occasion, I am happy that the National Child Rights Council is going to make public the national report entitled "**State of Children in Nepal, 2020**" in English version. This report will be helpful for the government, concerned bodies and stakeholders at all levels to provide information on the situation of children as well as to formulate policies, plans, strategies and programs related to children and for all those working for the cause of children.

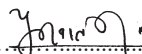
According to the basic provisions of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, Nepal has been making constitutional, legal, policy, structural and programmatic reforms to ensure the rights of children and for this context, the Ministry and the National Child Rights Council are coordinating and cooperating with government agencies, development partners, non-governmental organizations, media and civil society to yield tangible results. At the same time, children's feelings and thoughts are being incorporated into the development process through ensuring child participation. As a result of these efforts, there has been a marked improvement in child-related indicators which are presented in the report systematically.

Ministry of Women, Children and Senior Citizens is sensitive enough to coordinate and cooperate with the concerned ministries and agencies in sustaining and institutionalizing the achievements made so far in the field of child rights, to protect and promote the rights of children beyond the access to education and health services, to protect children in need of special protection and to adopt the innovative measures to bring positive changes in the lives of children. The Ministry is committed to address the problems encountered in the field of child rights, to face the challenges and to take advantage of the opportunities to ensure result-oriented work for the rights of the child. In addition, programs have been formulated to develop the National Child Rights Council as an effective mechanism in this regard.

As the issue of children is interrelated with various thematic areas, I urge all levels of government, development partners, non-governmental organizations, civil society, media, private sector, community, households, youth and children to contribute more productively in coming days.

Finally, I would like to thank the entire team of National Child Rights Council for publishing English version of the report "**State of Children in Nepal, 2020**" and all the concerned agencies for providing the relevant information and data upon which the report is prepared.

Thank you.


.....
(Yam Kumari Khatiwada)
Secretary

Date: November 20, 2020

Preface

It has been three decades since Nepal ratified the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, 1989. During this period, the Government of Nepal has explicitly recognized its responsibility towards respecting, protecting and fulfilling the rights of children. As in the previous years, the National Child Rights Council has publicized a national report entitled "**State of Children in Nepal, 2020**" on the occasion of the International Child Rights Day (November 20). The main purpose behind publishing this report is to reflect the situation of Nepal's constitutional, legal, policy, institutional, programmatic efforts, and outcomes in line with international and regional conventions, treaties ratified by Nepal and national commitments made for the protection and promotion of the rights of child. Similarly, the report is published in English version to articulate the state of Nepalese children in global community. The relevant information and data related to the survival, protection, development and participation of children are collected from the concerned ministries, commissions, departments, offices and other agencies at the federal and provincial level. The collected data and information are processed, tabulated, interpreted, analyzed and presented accordingly. This report is organized into 7 chapters, 55 tables, 5 graphs and 10 schedules.

This report can be useful for all stakeholders including child-centered law and policymakers, decision-makers, implementers, researchers, donors, development partners, international and national NGOs, civil society, media, children's clubs and other stakeholders. In addition, the Provincial Governments, Local Levels, and Province and Local Child Rights Committees can also use it as reference material in preparing annual reports on children.

Since the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, Nepal has made qualitative and quantitative progress in the field of protection and promotion of child rights, as well as policy and structural reforms. In order to further expand and manage the responsibilities and functions of the former Central Child Welfare Committee and to implement the issue of children with more importance, provisions have been made in the Children's Act for the National Child Rights

Council, Province Child Rights Committee, Local Child Rights Committee, Child Welfare Officer and Probation Officer.

Statistically, from FY 1990/91 to 2019/20, the net enrollment rate at the primary level has increased from 64 percent to 97.1 percent. The ratio of girl to boy students in basic and secondary education has increased from 0.43 to 0.98 and from 0.43 to 1.01 respectively. Overall, access, equity, quality and effectiveness of school education have increased. And the neonatal, infant and child mortality rate has significantly dropped from 50 to 16, from 108 to 25, and from 162 to 28 per thousand.

Despite the progress made over the decades, there are still some problems in ensuring the protection and promotion of child rights. They are less access to quality education and health for all children, no proper development and protection of children in absence of recreation, child participation, and child-friendly environment, still in existence of child labour, street children, child marriage, violence, exploitation, sexual abuse, rape, murder, unauthorized trafficking, inadequate protection and management of unaccompanied, orphaned and disabled children, children in contact with law, juvenile delinquency and children at risk in a simple, comfortable, and immediate manner.

In addition to these problems, we are still facing challenges to ensure child rights in Nepal aligning with the global changing scenario. Such as, protecting the children who are in need of special protection and living under difficult circumstances by improving access to education, health, recreation, child participation and child-friendly environment, ending the incidents of child marriage, child labour, murder, abduction, violence against children, sexual abuse and ensuring the better future of unaccompanied, separated, orphaned, disabled, street children, homeless children and children deprived of basic rights by properly protecting and managing them, along with addressing the multifaceted problems in the education, health and protection of children caused by the pandemic of COVID-19 seems to be equally challenging.

The National Child Rights Council has drafted a five-year strategic roadmap based on the past achievements and learning and to address issues of child rights protection and promotion in the changed federal structure. Action for strengthening

child protection system at the national level, promotion of coordination and cooperation between the three tiers of government, and activities regarding the proper management of national issues such as street children, child marriage, child labour, child trafficking, child participation, child-friendly local governance, child marriage, protection of orphans and alternative care of children and promotion works are being carried forward. The National Child Rights Council has realized the need to address the health, education and protection issues and support of children in emergency and non-emergency setting including the pandemic of COVID-19.

The major need of the current time is to realize the national aspirations of a Happy Nepali and a Prosperous Nepal by addressing the problems properly, coping the challenges and utilizing the opportunities by continuing the best practices of the past in course of the protection and promotion of child rights. Recalling the context of celebrating National Children's Day with the slogan "Assurance of the Rights of Children in Emergencies, Shared Commitment of All of Us", the recommendations and future priorities highlighted by the report should be adequately addressed by all levels of government, donor agencies, development partners, international and national NGOs, civil society, and the National Child Rights Council heartily requests all stakeholders, including the media, to address the issue appropriately and increase the investment of time and resources for children.

Finally, I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to the concerned Ministries, Departments and agencies for providing the necessary information and assistance for this report, and to the staff and friends of the National Child Rights Council who are seriously involved in the preparation of the report and publication in Nepali and English version.

Thank you.



.....
(Milan Raj Dharel)

Executive Director

National Child Rights Council

Date: November 20, 2020

Major Status

- It has been 30 years since Nepal ratified the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, 1989, on September 14, 1990.
- The basic provisions of the Convention have been addressed in the constitution, laws and plans.
- The issues of child rights have been significantly assured in the Constitution of Nepal. The Children's Act, 2018 has ensured 13 basic rights of children and some other acts also cover children's issues. Qualitative and quantitative indicators related to children have been improving.
- According to the census of 2011, the number of children under 18, 16 and 14 years is 41.84, 37.37 and 32.35 percent respectively.
- According to the Nepal Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey, 2019 of the Central Bureau of Statistics, the neo-natal mortality rate has come down to 16 per thousand, infant mortality rate 25 per thousand and under five mortality rate to 28 per thousand followed by stunting come down to 31.6 percent of children below five years and wasting to 24 percent.
- According to Nepal Labor Force Survey 2017/18, about 286,000 children under the age of 17 years are involved in economic activities.
- In F/Y 2019/2020, 574 street children (boys 465 & girls 109) were rescued and managed.
- According to the Nepal Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey, 2019, 5.2 percent of married people in the age group of 20 to 24 years are married under the age of 15 (1.5% for men and 7.9% for women) and 22.7% (9% male and 32.8% female) for those under 18 years of age. Similarly, 12.8 percent (males 5.3% and females 19.3%) of the 15 to 19-year-olds were married.
- Out of 2,729 missing children, 2,219 children (81.3%) have been found from the National Center for Children at-Risk (Toll-Free No. 104) in the fiscal year 2019/20 and the search for the rest is underway.
- The 12 Child Helplines run by the National Child Rights Council in partnership with NGOs have provided emergency services to 1,420 children in the fiscal year 2019/20 and provided various services and assistance to a total of 8,744 children at risk.

- According to Women, Children and Senior Citizens Service Directorate under Nepal Police Headquarters, a total of 75 children (71 girls and 4 boys) have been victims of human trafficking and smuggling in FY 2019/20.
- According to the information received from the Ministry of Home Affairs, there are 2,091 Bhutanese refugee children in Nepal in the fiscal year 2019/20.
- As of National Child Rights Council in 2019/20, 11,350 children (5,194 boys and 6,156 girls) are under the protection of 489 child care homes operating in 45 districts.
- As of National Child Rights Council in 2019, a total of 216 child care homes were monitored in Kathmandu, Lalitpur, Nuwakot, Banke, Surkhet, Kailali, Kanchanpur, Chitwan, Makwanpur, Sarlahi, Morang and Sunsari. Out of the 14 Child Care Homes operating without meeting the minimum standard, 8 have been alerted to operate as per the standards, while 55 children have been rescued from the remaining 6 Child Care Homes, 52 children have been reunited with their families and 3 children have been placed under temporary protection.
- In the 8 child correction homes operating across the country, in 2019, there were a total of 1,053 committing 36 types of delinquent behaviours, out of them, 352 people have been sent home due to Covid-19 and the remaining 701 are in the homes.
- In the fiscal year 2019/20, 81 children were found to be dependent on their parents in 32 district prisons due to various reasons. Besides them, 286 children are being protected by various organizations.
- The birth registration rate of children under the age of five has reached 77.2 percent.
- In 2019, the number of early child development centres has reached 36,450 and the number of children has reached 1,105,561 (973,000 in 2018).
- In 2018, 3,730,602 children were enrolled at the primary level, while in 2019, 3,543,862 children (1,781,321 boys and 1,762,541 girls) were enrolled. The number of students enrolled in grades 1-12 was 7,214,525 in the previous academic session and has increased to 7,021,622 in 2019. As a result, the number of children enrolled in grades 1-12 has decreased by 1,92,903 in a year. It is estimated that this may be due to the declining birth rate; there is a decrease in the number of students enrolled in the school despite the growing interest in education. However, the enrollment rate in grades 9-12 has increased slightly.
- In 2019, the enrollment rate is 97.1 percent in primary level, 93.4 percent in the basic level, 69.0 percent in grades 9-10 and 47.6 percent in grades 11-12.

- In 2018, there were 349,603 regular students appearing for grade 11 and 292,153 students appearing for class 12. In the year 2019, the examination of grade 11 and 12 was postponed due to Covid-19. But this year, there are a total of 661,642 students in grades 11 and 12.
- Till 2019/20, all the wards of 5 local levels (one in Province-2, two in Bagmati, one in Gandaki and one in Lumbini province) and 47 wards of 28 local levels have been declared child friendly.
- In 2019, the net enrollment rate for the primary level is 97.1 percent in the country, which is almost the same in all the provinces (97.5 percent in Sudurpaschim Province and 96.6 percent in Province-2).
- In FY 2018/19, out of 70 percent children who were fully vaccinated in the country, 88 percent were in Karnali and 57 percent in Bagmati Province.
- According to the Central Bureau of Statistics, Nepal Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey, 2019, the percentage of underweight children under the age of five is 24.3 percent in the country, 37.4 percent in Karnali Province and 11.1 percent in Bagmati Province. Similarly, the percentage of children under the age of five (stunting) is 31.5 percent in the country, 47.8 percent in Karnali Province and 22.9 percent in Bagmati Province.
- According to the Central Bureau of Statistics, Nepal Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey, 2019, the neo-natal mortality rate is 16 per thousand across the country, 25 in the Sudurpaschim Province and 9 in Bagmati Province.
- According to the Central Bureau of Statistics, Nepal Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey, 2019, 12.8 percent (19.3 percent female and 5.3 percent male) of married people in the age group of 15-19 years are found in the country, with Karnali Province having the highest percentage of 20.5 percent and the lowest in Bagmati Province (9.6 percent).
- In FY 2019/20, there are 489 child care homes in operation across the country with 11,350 children (5,194 boys and 6,156 girls) residing, Bagmati Province has the highest number of CCH (364) and children (8,336).

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CHAPTER – I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 BACKGROUND

It has been three decades since Nepal ratified the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, 1989. During this period, the key rights of children as enshrined in the Convention have been incorporated in the constitution, laws, policies and plans. Accordingly, the efforts made on institutional arrangements, programs, investments, cooperation, etc. are commendable. As a result, significant progress has been made in various indicators related to education, health, nutrition of children, including protection and participation. The contributions of the development partners in this regard is also praiseworthy. Despite these efforts and the results that have been achieved, it is still necessary to work tirelessly to ensure the full rights of children in course of ensuring the rights of vulnerable children.

1.2. PROVISIONS RELATED TO CHILDREN IN THE CONSTITUTION OF NEPAL

The rights of children have been given priority in the Constitution of Nepal. Article 39 of the Constitution guarantees the rights of children for development, protection and participation under 10 clauses. These clauses, including the rights mentioned in Articles 18, 20, 29, 31, 35, 40, 42, 43, and 51 are also significant vis-à-vis children's rights (listed on the last page of this report). Apart from this, the rights to citizenship in Article 10, the rights to live with dignity in Article 16, the rights to freedom in Article 17, the rights to communication in Article 19, the rights against torture in Article 22, the rights to religious freedom in Article 26, the rights to information in Article 27, the rights to privacy in Article 28, the rights to language and culture in Article 32, and the rights in Article 11 (4) are also applicable for children. With all these, the Constitution of Nepal can be perceived as child sensitive ever in the history of the country.

1.3 CHILDREN'S ACT, 2018 AND SOME OTHER RELATED ACTS

The Government of Nepal has amended the Children's Act, 1992 and issued the Children's Act, 2018. In this Act, 13 fundamental rights of children (Clauses 3 to 15) have been ensured in accordance with the basic principles and provisions of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Clause 2 (j) of section 1 of the Act defines a person under the age of eighteen as a "child". Clause 16 stipulates that every organization and body dealing with children must

give priority to the best interests of the child, Clause 17 provides for the responsibility of the family or guardian, Clause 18 provides for the responsibility of the state, and section 19 provides for the responsibility of the media sector towards children. Similarly, section 4 provides for juvenile justice, section 5 provides for special protection and rehabilitation of children, section 48 provides for groups of children in need of special protection, section 49 provides for alternative care for children in need of special protection, Clause 50 provides for the protection of children following the advice, suggestions, guidance and instructions given by the father, mother, guardian, other family members, teachers and social workers considering the best interests of the children in section 77 under section 10. It also mentions that it is the duty of every child to follow the instructions and to respect and honour everyone (Annex 1). Considering all these provisions, it is seen that the overall rights, interests and entitlements of children have been included in the Children's Act, 2018. However, it is still necessary to amend this Act to develop it as a child-friendly law.

Apart from the provisions in the Children Act, 2018, the Civil Code, 2017, the Civil Crimes (Code) Act, 2017, the Local Government Operation Act, 2017, the Labor Act, 2017, the Compulsory and Free Education Act, 2018, the Personal Privacy Act, 2018, Public Health Services Act, 2018, Social Security Act, 2018, Safe Maternity and Reproductive Health Act, 2018, Rights of Persons with Disabilities (First Amendment) Act, 2017 have included issues related to children.

1.4 CHILD RELATED PLANS, PLAN OF ACTIONS, NATIONAL POLICIES AND PROGRAMS

1.4.1 Plan and National Plan of Action

It is well known that after the ratification of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, 1989, the Government of Nepal has been giving priority to the issue of children in its periodic plans. The issues of children have been included in the Ninth Plan (1997-2003) from a rights perspective. The Fifteenth Plan (2019/20 -2022/23) includes the Government of Nepal's Vision 2100 with a long-term vision to establish Nepal as a prosperous, independent, and socialist-oriented economy with equal opportunities, healthy, educated, dignified and high standard of living. The vision has also put forward the national slogan of **Prosperous Nepal and Happy Nepali** with the national goal of 4 indicators of prosperity and 6 indicators of happiness with a total of 10 indicators. Of the four indicators of prosperity, the national goal of building human capital and achieving prosperity by making full use of its potential indicates that priority has been given to the all-round development of children. In addition, the indicators of safe, civilized and just society, sophisticated and dignified life among the six happy Nepalese indicate a society protected from any violence, abuse, exploitation, harm and risk against children.

Sub-heading 7 of section 7 of this plan includes the part for children and adolescents. It envisions a child-friendly society that ensures the rights of children and aims to develop

children and adolescents as qualified and capable citizens who can build a nation by protecting and promoting their rights by freeing them from all forms of violence, abuse and exploitation. The objectives of this plan are as follows.

- To protect and promote the rights of children and adolescents.
- Creating a child and adolescent friendly environment.
- To end all forms of violence, discrimination, abuse, exploitation and neglect against children and adolescents, including physical and mental.

By the end of the plan, the quantitative target is to increase the birth registration of children under five to 100 percent, decrease the status of underweight children to 15 percent and increase the number of schools teaching in mother tongue to 324 schools (270 in the first year of the plan). Similarly, policies, laws, plans, programs and standards related to the protection and promotion of child rights should be implemented at all three levels of government, the rights of children in need of special protection should be protected, access to education, nutrition and health services should be provided, all types of physical and mental abuse, violence and abuse should be significantly reduced, the responsibility of government bodies, institutions, parents and guardians towards children should have been increased and National Centre for Children at-Risk (NCCR), Toll Free No. 104 and Child Helpline, Toll Free No. 1098 should be made effective, etc. are expected.

The first National Program of Action on Children for the 1990s and the Second Ten Year National Plan of Action for Children (2004/2014) have been implemented. The third Plan of Action for Children is being prepared. National Strategy for Ending Child Marriage, 2015, Master Plan on Child Labor, 2018-2028 and other national action plans related to education, health, nutrition, adolescence, human trafficking are being implemented.

1.4.2 National Child Policy

The National Child Policy, 2012 has a long-term goal of creating an environment in which children of all classes and communities can fully enjoy their rights and develop their personality as capable and deserving citizens in coordination with government agencies, local bodies, parents, teachers and national and international NGOs. The main objectives of this policy are as follows:

1. Protect children from all forms of physical or mental violence, harm or abuse, abandonment, neglect, exploitation or sexual abuse. To achieve this objective, 32 policies and 19 strategies have been adopted.
2. Provide physical, mental and educational development to the children by providing them with necessary care, nutrition support and education before and after birth. To achieve this objective, 5 policies and 11 strategies have been adopted.
3. Increase child participation by giving children who are able to make their own opinion the opportunity to express their views on all issues related to them. Eight policies and six strategies have been adopted to achieve this objective.

4. End discrimination against children. To achieve this objective, 3 policies and 2 strategies have been adopted.
5. Strengthen the juvenile justice system. To achieve this objectives, 9 policies and 5 strategies have been adopted.

This policy addresses most of the provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. Given that the federal structure has been implemented in the country and the province and local governments have been able to work actively, it is necessary to review this policy and formulate a new policy. The National Child Policy is under the process of amendment.

1.4.3 Child Focused Programs

Aiming at ensuring the right of children to education as a whole, the Government of Nepal has provided free school education, free textbooks, including residential and non-residential scholarships for poor, *Dalit*, marginalized, disabled, liberated *Kamalari* and conflict-affected children. Apart from this, there are also arrangements for various scholarships, day meal programs being conducted in some of the specified schools. In addition to this, various material supports have also been provided for the targeted students. The contribution of development partners in such activities has also been appreciated and children have benefited significantly from these programs.

In order to promote the right of children to health and nutrition services, various vaccines, vitamins, nutritious food and other prescribed health services and prescribed medicines and treatment services have been made available free of cost. The integrated child health and nutrition program, national vaccination program, community-based newborn and paediatric integrated management program, golden thousand days' program are in operation. Similarly, a monthly nutrition grants of Rs. 400 is distributed to all the children in Karnali areas, *Dalit* children of all districts and Achham, Bajhang and Rautahat districts. Pregnant and lactating women at-risk of death in remote mountainous and hilly districts have been rescued by helicopter under the President's Women's Upliftment Program and taken to the hospital which has provided benefit to both the mother and the infant.

Efforts are being made to provide immediate assistance to children at high risk and living under difficult circumstances, including those with serious illnesses. Rehabilitation and protection assistance is provided to the children living on the streets. The National Child Rights Council has conducted a province-level discussion program in Province 1, Province 2 and Karnali on the burning issues of child rights and child protection in the fiscal year 2019/20. The event was attended by people's representatives, government and non-government bodies, children, civil society, media and other representatives. The Council has provided health and protection support to 64 children at-risk (40 boys and 24 girls), and has been working to address the incidents of child violence, rape, abuse and children at-risk for decades. Similarly, awareness programs against child marriage, child sexual

abuse and labour exploitation are also in operation. Various development partners and non-governmental organizations have been working for the direct and indirect benefit of children, including education, health, child protection and violence, as well as awareness-raising and capacity building.

In the Fiscal Year (2020/21), some innovative initiatives will be performed for the protection and development of children, for instance, providing protection to orphans, deinstitutionalizing and restructuring Child Care Homes, studying the feasibility of building a museum to educate children about science and technology, preparing a 10-year strategic action plan for children, encouraging creative children, making the nation free of street children, and building libraries in the provinces.

1.5 INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS

At the federal level, the Ministry of Women, Children and Senior Citizens plays a leading role on children's issues and coordinates with other ministries and commissions. As per the Children's Act, 2018, National Child Rights Council as well as Province Child rights Committee have been formed in Bagmati province. According to this Act, the Province Child Rights Committee and the Local Child Rights Committee are expected to form as soon as possible. Thematically, the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology deals with the issues of child education from early childhood development to Grade 12. The Ministry of Health and Population addresses the issues related to child health and nutrition. The Ministry of Labor, Employment and Social Security works on child labour and the Ministry of Home Affairs addresses issues including children in disasters. The Ministry of Federal Affairs and General Administration deals with child friendly local governance as well.

Under the direction and patronage of the Ministry of Women, Children and Senior Citizens, the National Child Rights Council with the joint contribution of the Nepal Police operates a National Centre for Children-at-Risk - NCCR (Toll-Free No. 104) from Bhrikuti Mandap in Kathmandu. There are about 240 Women, Children and Senior Citizens Service Centers in all the districts under the Directorate of Women, Children and Senior Citizens Services, Nepal Police. The NCCR deals with the cases of lost & found children as well as children at-risk. The Child Helpline (Toll-Free No. 1098) has been operating by non-governmental organizations in 12 different districts with coordination, facilitation and partial support of the National Child Rights Council.

The Central Child Justice Committee is chaired by the Supreme Court Judge and the District Juvenile Justice Committee is chaired by the District Judge. Juvenile bench has been arranged in all the district courts. Child Correction Homes are in operation in Bhaktapur, Kaski, Morang, Banke, Makwanpur, Rupandehi, Doti and Parsa districts for the children who have been punished for conflict in laws. The Ministry of Social Development has the arrangement to look after the issue of children in the province. Similarly, child-related activities are carried out by all the municipalities.

1.6 SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS AND CHILDREN

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) set for the world have 17 goals, 169 targets and 237 indicators to be achieved by 2030. In the case of Nepal, 257 out of 237 indicators have been added and a total of 494 indicators have been set. Out of the total goals set for the world, there are 8 goals, 35 targets and 76 indicators directly related to children. Most of these are education, health, violence, social security, mental or physical punishment, trafficking and birth registration. The progress status of the indicator related to children is covered in the relevant chapters.

1.7 NATIONAL CENSUS AND CHILDREN

In the National Census 1991, 2001 and 2011, the population growth rate was 2.08, 2.25 and 1.35 respectively. Compared to the census of 1991, the percentage of children under the age of 18 years out of the total population has been gradually decreasing in the recent census. The number and percentage of children are presented in the table below.

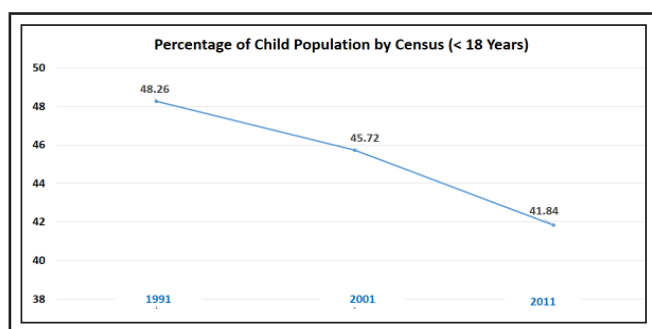
Table 1: Number and percentage of children under 18 and 5 years of age as per National Census 1991, 2001, and 2011

Census Year	Total Population	Child population	Percentage of children < 18 yrs	Percentage of children < 5 yrs
1991	18,491,097	8,923,621	48.26	14.64
2001	23,151,423	10,585,791	45.72	12.11
2011	26,494,504	11,084,311	41.84	9.69

(Central Bureau of Statistics, 1992, 2002, 2012)

From the table above, it is seen that the population of children has decreased by 2.54 percentage point out of the total population in the census of 2001 and by 3.88 percentage point in the census of 2011 compared to the previous census. As the birth rate declines, so does the percentage of children in the total population. However, the number of children is seen to have slightly increased in each census period. The percentage of children according to the three censuses is presented in Graph 1.

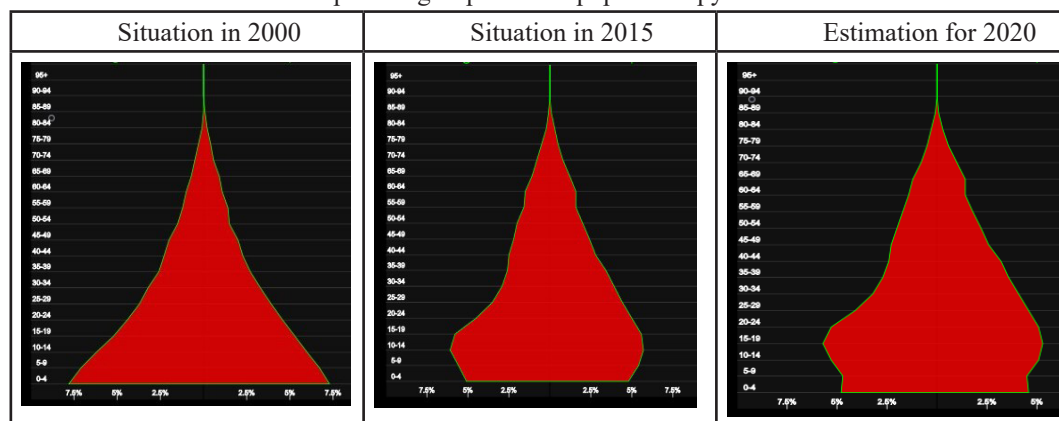
Graph 1: Percentage of children's population according to three censuses



From the graph above, the percentage of children in each census has decreased significantly. Comparing the number of boys and girls in the total population of children, according to the census of 1991, there are 172,829 more boys than girls. The census of 2001 and 2011 also shows the similar situation as the number of boys is more than the number of girls.

Despite the declining birth rate as a result of improvements in the health sector, including service delivery, growing public awareness of healthcare and improvements in healthcare facilities, the neo-natal, infant and child mortality rate is decreasing. As a result, the pattern of the population pyramid is changing. Graph 2 shows a glimpse of the changing situation of the total population of Nepal.

Graph 2: A glimpse of the population pyramid



(World Life Expectancy, 2020)

From the graph above, it is seen that the size of the population of children getting its size changed in the given span of time.

1.8 CHILDREN IN THE GOVERNMENT OF NEPAL'S 'POLICY AND PROGRAM' AND 'BUDGET SPEECH OF FY 2020/21'

The Government of Nepal addresses the issues of children at the federal level annual policies and programs and budget statements. In this regard, the federal government has stated specific provisions to provide vaccination services to all children, free treatment of child heart disease, increase the capacity of Kanti Children's Hospital, ensure that all school-age children are in school, make public schools as centres of quality education, improve the physical condition of schools, improve the capacity of teachers, emphasize science and technical education, improve school level curriculum, integrate scholarship programs, strengthen early childhood development centres in the 'Policy and program statement' and 'Budget speech' of the Fiscal Year 2020/21. Similarly, there are provisions under child protection - to abolish child labour, make a country free of street children, protect disabled

and helpless children with disabilities who cannot take care of themselves or work, identify needy children and provide social protection support. The 'Policy and program statement' and 'Budget speech' has also stated to widen scope of child protection grants for children of the families below the poverty line, helpless, endangered and marginalized communities. Notwithstanding, the points mentioned in the 'Budget speech' do not seem to be in line with the 'Policies and program statement'. The points related to children in the 'Policy and program statement' and 'Budget speech' are given in Annex 2.

1.9 OVERALL GLIMPSE RELATED TO CHILDREN SINCE 1991

After the ratification of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Government of Nepal has made legal, policy, institutional and programmatic efforts in various fields focusing on the issue of children. As a result, there has been a significant improvement in qualitative and quantitative indicators related to children. These improvements are presented below.

1.9.1 Overall Qualitative Improvement Regarding Children since 1991

After ratifying the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Government of Nepal has been making significant efforts in protecting and promoting the rights of children. The qualitative as well as quantitative overview of the situation of children before and after Nepal's ratification on the Convention is presented in the table below:

Table 2: A comparative overview of the situation related to children

Status of FY 1991/92	Status of FY 2018/19
There were some provisions related to children in the constitution.	The Constitution of Nepal has detailed and progressive provisions from the point of view of child rights.
There was no separate special law on children.	Special Acts include the Children's Act, the Local Government Operation Act, the Compulsory and Free Education Act, the Personal Privacy Act, the Public Health Services Act, the Social Security Act, the Safe Maternity and Reproductive Health Act, and the Child Labor (Prohibition and Regulation) Act. Such laws are in force.
There was no separate institutional system for the cause of children.	There are various institutional arrangements e.g., Ministry of Women, Children and Senior Citizens, the National Child Rights Council and the Ministries in the Provinces, departments and branches related to children at the local level, and the Directorate of Women, Children and Senior Citizens Services in Nepal Police.

The periodical plan covered only a few issues related to children.	The issues of children have been given priority in the periodic plan.
There was no national action plan for children.	The National Action Plan for Children, the National Master Plan for the Prevention of Child Labor and the National Action Plan for Education and Nutrition are also being implemented.
Laws, policies, plans and programs were welfare-oriented.	Laws, policies, plans and programs are being implemented with rights-oriented objective.
There was no national policy on children.	National policy on children, a national strategy on reduction of child marriage, child-friendly local governance and other policies are being implemented.
Lack of specific procedures and guidelines on child protection issues.	There are procedures and guidelines for the operation and management of residential Child Care Home, including the management of street children.
There were very limited social security programs targeted to children.	Significant social security programs targeting children are in operation.
Limited information on children was available.	Various thematic information related to children has started to be managed.
There were a few programs for children at-risk.	Significant work has been done for children at-risk, disaster and calamity.
There were limited sensitivity and interest regarding children.	Sensitivity and interest towards children in government and non-government sectors have been increasing significantly.
Bodies and institutions that support and care for children in need of special protection were limited.	A significant number of government and international and national/local non-governmental organizations are actively targeting children in need of special protection.
There was no concept of a Child Correction Home.	Work is being done in accordance with the concept of Child Correction Home.
Provisions related to the administration of juvenile justice were limited.	Legal, policy and institutional arrangements have been made for the administration of juvenile justice.
There was not much public awareness work on children.	Awareness on child rights issues has increased in the community, families and even children.

1.9.2 Overall Quantitative Improvement Regarding Children since 1991

The overall indicators highlight the fact that the situation of children has improved as a result of various efforts made on the issues of children since the ratification of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. For example, the net enrolment rate at the primary level reached to 97.1 percent in the year 2019 against 64 percent in 1991, the ratio of girls in primary education increased to 0.98 against 0.56 and the ratio of girls from Grades 1-12 reached 1.01. According to the Nepal Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey, 2019 of the Central Bureau of Statistics, the NMR has come down from 50 per thousand to 16, the IMR from 108 per thousand to 25 and the CMR (under the age of 5 years) rate from 162 per thousand to 28. The MMR has dropped from 850 to 239 per/100,000, while the delivery rate by skilled health workers increased from 7 to 79.3. The birth registration rate of children under the age of five has not been ascertained in the year 1991 however, it has reached to 77.2 percent in 2019. From such macro-level indicators related to children, the overall situation of children has seen an encouraging improvement since the Fiscal Year 1990/91. The quantitative indicators related to children are included in the relevant chapters.

1.9.3 Overall Implementation Status of the 'Convention on the Rights of the Child, 1989' and Its Optional Protocols

The Government of Nepal ratified the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, 1989 on September 14, 1990. Since then, the constitutional provisions, law, policy, plan and institutional provisions have been gradually improving in line with the provisions of the Convention. Thematic programs related to children, especially education, health and nutrition is increasing in an encouraging manner. The contribution made by development partners, civil society and the media is also commendable. As a result, significant progress has been made in various indicators related to education, health, and nutrition including protection and participation of children.

Of the 54 articles in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, 42 are related to children. Out of these articles, about 16 provisions have been fully implemented and about 26 provisions are being implemented. Further efforts are required to keep the issue of fully implemented articles sustainable and to bring completeness to the issues under implementation (Annex 3). The status of children is presented in the preceding chapters in accordance with almost all the articles of the Convention.

After ratification of the United Nations Convention, the State has to submit a preliminary and periodic report to the United Nations. According to this provision, the preliminary report of the Convention on the Rights of the Child was submitted by Nepal in 1995, the second periodical report in 2004 and the third, fourth and fifth periodical reports jointly in 2012. The presentation and discussion of this joint report took place at the United Nations on June 3, 2016. The concluding remarks made by the UN Committee on the Rights of

the Child on the Fifth Periodic Report welcomed the provision of child-friendly legal provisions as a whole and, the country should address the needs of children in the best interests of the child, appropriate treatment of all forms of violence and special protection, family environment and alternative care, basic needs of children with disabilities, right to education, birth and citizenship arrangements for identity, corporal punishment including the need to amend existing laws to address the issue of corporal punishment or abuse of children in families, schools or other institutions. Similarly, suggestions have been given to the government to pay attention to issues like planning and monitoring, disaggregated information management, increase in investment for children and institutional strengthening. The concluding remarks of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child are summarized in Annex 4.

Despite the above-mentioned reforms, efforts to end various forms of child abuse, exploitation and abuse still remain a challenge. It is necessary to draw the serious attention of all the concerned stakeholders including the association, province and local level and development partners to overcome the challenges and implement the result-oriented works more effectively.

Of the three Optional Protocols under the Convention on the Rights of the Child, 1989, Nepal ratified the Optional Protocol on Child Trafficking, Sexual Abuse and Pornography, 2000 on January 20, 2006 and the Option Protocol on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict, 2000 on September 19, 2007.

There are total 13 articles in the Option Protocol on the **Involvement of Children in the Armed Conflict, 2000**, of which the provisions in Articles 1 to 7 are directly related to children. A preliminary report on this Optional Protocol was submitted by the Government of Nepal to the United Nations in 2012. The UN Committee on the Rights of the Child passed a Concluding Observations on this report on June 3, 2016. The remarks praised the efforts of constitutional and legal reforms, including the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, the Commission for the Investigation of Disappeared Persons, the National School as Zone of Peace National Framework, and the implementation of the National Action Plan for the Rehabilitation of Conflict-Affected Children. It is also suggested that more effective programs should be conducted for the protection of the affected children, and there should be coordination and cooperation. According to this Protocol, the legal system and the provision of educational support, residential education and rehabilitation for the children affected by the armed conflict are in implementation. The details of this issue are given in the Chapter 3 (6).

There are total 17 articles in the Option Protocol on **Child Trafficking, Sexual Abuse and Pornography, 2000**, of which Articles 1 to 10 deal directly with children. The Government of Nepal submitted its preliminary report to the United Nations in 2009. According to the Concluding Observations of the Child Rights Committee on this report, provisions against

child abuse have been provided in the current laws. It is the responsibility of all bodies of the state to comply with the provisions of the Optional Protocol ratified by Nepal and to implement the recommendations made in the Concluding Observations of the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child. It is necessary to do more work according to this responsibility. A detailed position on this subject is given in the Chapter 3 (7).

1.10 NATIONAL CHILDREN'S DAY AND SLOGANS

It is found that the practice of celebrating National Children's Day started on September 19, 1965. Commemorating the date of ratifying the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, 1989 by the Government of Nepal, the National Children's Day started to celebrate on September 14 since 2007 with the following slogan:

Slogans of Children's Day in Nepal after 2007	
Year	Slogan
2007-08	Assured Child Rights: Foundation of New Nepal
2009-10	Concerns of All: Child Rights Guaranteed in the New Constitution
2011-12	Concern for all of us: peace, constitution and guaranteed child rights
2013-14	Let's listen to the children: Let's end child abuse
2015	Reconstruction and Constitution: Our Campaign Protection of Child Rights
2016	Promotion of Child Rights: Implementation of the Constitution
2017	Child-Friendly Governance: Respect for Child Rights
2018	Happy Nepali, Prosperous Nepal: Child Rights everyone's Concern
2019	Ensured Child Rights: The Basis of Prosperous Nepal
2020	"Assurance of the Rights of Children in Emergencies, Shared Commitment of All of Us"

Among the above slogans of the National Children's Day, the essence of the slogans from 2007-2015 has been addressed in the Constitution while the sentiments of the slogans from 2016 to 2017 have been included in the Children Act, 2018 and other Acts related to children. Similarly, the long-term vision of the Fifteenth Plan (2019/20 - 2023/24) has also put forward the national slogan of 'Prosperous Nepal and Happy Nepali' with a national goal of 10 indicators including 4 indicators of prosperity and 6 indicators of happiness. These indicators are also related to children. The National Children's Day of 2020 has been celebrated virtually with the motto of "Assurance of the Rights of Children in Emergencies, Shared Commitment of All of Us". This slogan has been sent to 2.1 million users through SMS in collaboration with Nepal Telecom. On the occasion of this Children's Day, the best speakers (all girls) have been awarded by organizing a national level oratory competition by competing from all seven provinces under the theme "The Impact of COVID-19 on Children's Education and Health and measures to reduce it". Similarly, an interaction program has been organized on the occasion of Children's Day virtually. The program was chaired by Hon'ble Minister for Women, Children and Senior Citizens Mr. Parbat Gurung and the chief

guest Hon'ble Prime Minister Mr. K.P. Sharma Oli and was concluded in the direct virtual presence of about 200 people. Hon'ble Ministers of the Ministry of Social Development of the provinces, Chairperson of the National Affairs and Coordination Committee of the National Assembly, Chairperson of the Women and Social Committee of the House of Representatives, Chairpersons of ADCCN, MuAN and ARMIN, Secretary of the Ministry of Women, Children and Senior Citizens, Joint Secretaries of various Ministries, UNICEF Nepal's Resident Representative, representatives of a network of national and international organizations, children's representatives of all seven provinces and representatives of various media were present in the program.

On the occasion of the National Children's Day, 2020, **Rt. Hon'ble President Bidya Devi Bhandari** has sent a message of good wishes to all the children and parents living at home and abroad. In the message, she expressed her view that it is the responsibility of the state to effectively implement the provisions of the United Nations and other international declarations, and constitution as well as laws in course of ensuring the rights of children. Similarly, the government has conveyed the message that the government has adopted a zero-tolerance policy against child violence and a policy of taking care of orphans and unaccompanied children by strengthening the child protection system. In addition to this, it has also drawn the attention of all three levels of government, national and international non-governmental organizations, child rights activists, social organizations, civil society and parents to be sensitive in protecting children in various disasters including COVID-19.

Rt. Hon'ble Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli wished all concerned with children on the occasion of the National Children's Day, 2020, which are celebrated nationwide with the slogan "Assurance of the Rights of Children in Emergencies, Shared Commitment of All of Us". He also shared that the Constitution of Nepal has established the rights of children as a fundamental right and the government is committed to the protection of child rights not only because of the commitment made by the government at the international level but also because of its commitment to the belief that children are the foundation of the future. The state has started taking care of the children who have lost their parents and are orphaned on the streets and has taken the policy of declaring Nepal as a street child-free nation within this fiscal year. Similarly, the government is committed to ensuring the rights of the child by ending all forms of violence and abuse against children. The government has taken the lead to reach the goal of "May all live happily" and fulfil the aspirations of prosperous Nepal and happy Nepali. As the success of the country is linked to the success of the children, it is important to promote the meaningful participation of children in the development process in building a beautiful future for the next generation. The government is committed to protecting the future of children from various disasters and the impact of COVID-19. Calling on all stakeholders in the government and non-government sectors to be active in the rights and protection of children, he urged all to show solidarity.

On the occasion of this year's Children's Day, **Hon'ble Minister of Ministry of Women, Children and Senior Citizens, Mr. Parbat Gurung** expressed his best wishes to the children and all the stakeholders, and thanked all those working in the field of child rights. The government has given high priority to the protection of child rights, has a zero-tolerance policy against all forms of violence and abuse against children, has intensified the campaign to build a "street child-free nation" and has been investing to fulfil the national commitment of "Prosperous Nepal: Happy Nepali". As the issue of children is not only the issue of the government but also of all stakeholders, it has called upon all the concerned stakeholders to work with more responsibility, commitment and activism to ensure the rights of the children.

On the occasion of the National Children's Day, 2020, Secretary at the Ministry of Women, Children and Senior Citizens, Ms. Yam Kumari Khatiwada expressed her best wishes to all children and parents. She said that the protection of the rights of children and best interest of the child, and guarantee of their rights was extremely challenging in the situation of the pandemic of COVID-19. She wished all the stakeholders including various bodies of the government at all the three levels, organizations contributing in the field of children to be safe in their respective places and to provide more energy to protect the rights and interests of children and to protect and promote the rights of children.

Similarly, the Executive Director of the National Child Rights Council, Mr. Milan Raj Dharel wished all the best on the occasion of National Children's Day. He also mentioned that the Government of Nepal has made significant legal, policy, periodic plans and program provisions in addressing the issues of child survival, protection, education, health and participation. Further efforts on child protection and development is needed in the coming days in course of ensuring the rights of children. Similarly, in the context of the country's transition to a federal system, it is not possible for the federal government alone to implement all legal and policy provisions. In this regards, the coordination and cooperation between the local level, the provincial government and the federal government on child rights. It is equally important that children's voices be heard and their participation in the implementation process of policies, plans and programs related to children are to be ensured. In this process, coordination and cooperation of development partners and civil society organizations is equally important.

He requested to all parents, community leaders, policymakers in state bodies and decision-makers to accelerate the effort in ensuring every child's rights to physical, mental, participation and entertainment in the situation of natural disasters and the pandemic of COVID-19. On the occasion of National Children's Day, 2020, he expressed that only if the children are safe and strong, the family is strong, the society is strong, the foundation of the state is strong and, only from strong children we can expect a strong state. He extended his best wishes with the commitment to cooperate with all Nepali children and listen to their voices in actions in coming days more effectively.

1.11 CONCLUSION

Since the ratification of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, 1989, Nepal has been increasing its investment in programs related to children by improving the constitutional, legal, policy, planning and institutional arrangements in line with the provisions of the Convention. As a result of the implementation of policies, action plans and programs in the thematic areas with priority on the issue of children, there has been a qualitative and quantitative achievements. Various programs are being implemented by formulating policies and plans paying more attention to the issue of children from each province and municipality. There has been a significant improvement in the qualitative and quantitative indicators related to the lives of children up to this fiscal year as compared to FY 1991/92.

Despite these efforts and achievements, significant development works need to be accelerated at the federal, provincial and local levels to protect and promote the rights of children who are deprived of basic necessities, affected by various forms of violence and abuse, and in need of special protection. Institutions also need to make more efforts and cooperate more with government agencies to move towards the promotion of child rights.





2.1 INTRODUCTION

This chapter specifically addresses the implementation status of the provisions of the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the survival and development (Article 6), and the rights of children to health (Article 24). The relevant provisions basically cover issues such as pregnancy and birth status, vaccination, infant and child mortality, child nutrition, child health including children infected with HIV/AIDS.

The Constitution of Nepal provides for the rights of every citizen to receive free basic health care from the health institutions. Clause 13 of the Children's Act, 2018 provides for the rights of every child to proper nutrition, clean drinking water and breastfeeding for children up to two years, vaccinations against various diseases and health care and free medical treatment for every child.

2.2 SAFE PREGNANCY AND BIRTH

The Government of Nepal is sensitive to the health of pregnant women. Pregnancy and birth conditions are the basis of child protection. The National Penal (Code) Act, 2017 provides that an abortion can be performed up to 12 weeks with the consent of a pregnant woman with the opinion of a licensed physician if the life of the pregnant woman may be endangered or her physical or mental health may deteriorate or a child with a disability may be born. In addition, there is a provision that abortion can be performed with the consent of a woman if she is infected with HIV or any other incurable disease of the same nature or conceived through forcible action or incest for up to 18 weeks of pregnancy. However, abortion should not be performed on a pregnant woman under duress or under threat, or out of sheer temptation, and abortion by gender identification of the foetus is considered illegal. In addition, the Right to Safe Motherhood and Reproductive Health Act, 2018 provides that abortion may be performed in case of unwanted or endangering the health of the pregnant woman, but not by force or by gender identification. The Public Health Services Act, 2018 provides for the rights of pregnant and new-born child to receive services. These legal provisions seek to discourage the practice of female feticide in Nepal due to prejudice and discrimination against daughters. There is a legal provision of imprisonment for 1 to 5 years and a fine of Rs. 10,000 to Rs. 50,000 depending on the duration of the pregnancy.

As of annual progress report of the Department of Health Services, 2016/17, about 53 percent of pregnancies check-ups (ANC visits) were performed at least four times before delivery. It has increased from 50 percent in 2017/18 to 56 percent in 2018/19. Medicines including iron, calcium and vitamins for the health of pregnant women and children will be provided free of cost from hospitals and health posts and a variety of vaccines are provided at community and health facilities. Free services to women undergoing delivery at government hospitals and health posts are also provided along with the transportation costs. Prenatal and postnatal health care is also in operation. According to the Nepal Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey of the Central Bureau of Statistics, 2019, the percentage of deliveries by skilled health workers has reached 79.3 percent and the percentage of deliveries in health facilities has reached 77.5 percent.

Access to these services for women and children of all target groups remains to be ensured. Incidents of abortions performed by married women and unmarried adolescents in the desire of son and unwanted pregnancy are frequently being heard. In FY 2019/20, a total of 19 cases of abortion have been made public through various media in which most of the abortions performed by girls between the ages of 14 and 18 have been made public.

Awareness-raising activities related to safer sex, including improving the condition of the fetus, pregnant women and new-borns, making the referral system effective, regularizing maternity services, providing necessary services 24 hours a day in maternity centres and hospitals, increasing the number or percentage of prenatal check-ups at least four times is necessary. There is an urgent need to raise awareness and improve the services provided by public health services and health institutions. It is necessary to increase the efforts and contribution of the federal, province and local government mechanisms as well as development partners and the private sector.

2.3 VACCINATION AND INFANT AND CHILD HEALTH

Child health policies and programs are in implementation with priority and integrated community based neonatal and paediatric management programs which are in operation in all districts. This integrated package addresses various health problems of the new-born. In case of any danger signs in the health of pregnant women, new-borns and children, common medicines that can be used without any health check-up are immediately distributed by the Female Community Health Volunteers. And as a result of child health programs, infant and child health has improved. In the Fifteenth Plan, a strategy has been adopted to reduce child mortality by improving child health.

Nepal is one of the countries that effectively administers essential vaccines for children. National Immunization Act 2015 is implemented and Nepal is the first country in South Asia to implement the National Immunization Act and the National Immunization Program

with a high priority. A detailed multi-year plan (2017-2021) is being implemented to make this program effective. "Full Vaccination Program" has been implemented since 2012. Till FY 2018/19, about 80 percent of the municipalities have been declared as fully vaccinated municipalities, while 58 districts have been declared as fully vaccinated districts. Gandaki province has been declared a "fully vaccinated province". Nepal has achieved its goal of controlling Rubella and Hepatitis B. The percentage of children who have been vaccinated in the last three fiscal years is presented in the table below.

Table 3: Details of children receiving various vaccinations

SN	Vaccine	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19
	BCG (under 1 year)	91.34	92	91
	DPT-HepatitisB-Hip3 (Under 1)	86.49	81.8	86
	Measles / Rubella (under 1 year)	84	81.3	73
	Children fully vaccinated (%)	73	70	70

(Department of Health Services, 2016/17, 2017/18, 2018/19)

The table above shows some fluctuations in the percentage of children receiving various vaccinations. However, after FY 2016/17, the percentage of fully vaccinated children has decreased to 70 percent in the last two years.

According to the Nepal Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey, 2019 of the Central Bureau of Statistics, children who have been vaccinated with BCG (under 2 years) in 2019/20 was 95.7 percent and children vaccinated against Measles and Rubella (under 2 years) was 87.1 percent. Similarly, 70.2 percent of children were fully vaccinated. The percentage of children who have been vaccinated has been gradually improving over the years. Children are still deprived of much-needed vaccines to protect them from various diseases. It is imperative that all levels of government, development partners, non-governmental organizations, families, communities and the media pay attention to this and provide access to all types of vaccines to all targeted children in the coming days. Similarly, in order to ensure the right of children to receive the required vaccinations, it is necessary to pay more attention to the issues of adequate manpower, information management, proper storage and management of vaccines, strategic vaccination plan and ensure the right of children to receive proper health care on time.

Since Nepal ratified the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, it has been increasing its investment in child health with priority, resulting in significant improvements in neonatal, infant and child mortality. The improvement in these indicators from FY 1990/91 to 2019/20 is presented in the table below.

Table 4: Status of child mortality indicators, FY 1990/91–2019/20

Indicator	1990/91	2000/01	2010/11	2016/17	2019/20
Neo-natal mortality rate (per thousand)	50	39	33	21	16
Infant mortality rate (per thousand)	108	64	46	32	25
Child mortality rate (per thousand)	162	91	54	39	28

(NDHS, 2016, NPC, 2016, CBS, 2019)

Note: In case the data of the specified year is not available, the data of the nearest year are referred. From the above table, there has been a radical improvement in the neonatal, infant and child mortality rate over a period of about three decades. In order to make this reform process sustainable, it is necessary to continue the programs related to child health and to adopt the latest measures.

Innocent children have even been infected and affected by HIV. In order to control HIV/AIDS transmission from mother to newborn, the Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission Program, including cash assistance for HIV/AIDS affected and infected children work is in progress. A total of 1,302 children including 703 boys and 599 girls have been provided cash assistance in FY 2019.

According to the National Mental Health Survey, 2019, edited by the Nepal Health Research Council, 5.2 percent of children in the age group of 16 (5.3% girls and 5% boys) have mental health problems. Province 1 has the highest number of such problems in 11.4 percent children. The survey also found that out of fear of being called insane, unknown about where to go to solve their problem and thinking that the problem will go away on its own, some people do not go for a doctor's consultation.

2.4 NUTRITION

Provisions related to child nutrition have been ensured in the Constitution of Nepal, Children Act, 2018 and Public Health Services Act, 2018. The United Nations Special Assembly has declared 2016-2025 as the Decade of Nutrition. The National Nutrition Strategy, 2004 has been in implementation to address all types of malnutrition. Similarly, the Multi-Sectoral Nutrition Plan is in implementation and, the Ministry of Health and Population has been implementing a strategic plan to improve the nutritional status of mothers, infants and children for decades.

In order to reduce the death rate of children due to severe malnutrition, nutrition rehabilitation homes are in operation in 19 districts including three districts of Kathmandu Valley. To control iron deficiency anaemia, supplemental iron-folic acid is distributed to pregnant and lactating women in all districts. A program to distribute nutritious food is also underway. The distribution of iodized salt has become widespread to control the problem of iodine deficiency and also the National Vitamin 'A' Program is in operation to address

the problem of Vitamin A deficiency. In addition, worm medicine is distributed to children aged 12-59 months to control worms. School health and nutrition strategies and programs are in implementation to improve the health and nutrition status of children by developing the interrelationship between school education and child health and nutrition. Iron folic acid tablets are also distributed to 10-19-year-old girls to reduce and control the high iron load. Child growth monitoring and counselling works are also ongoing. The table below shows the improvement in child nutrition indicators over the past three decades.

Table 5: Status of child nutrition indicators, FY 1990/91-2019/20

SN	Indicator	1990/91	2000/01	2019/20
1	Wasting - Low weight-for-height (6-59 months children) - (%)	57	29	24.3
2	Stunting - Low height-for-age (6-59 months children) - (%)	60	41	31.6
3	Severe malnutrition (%)	-	13	10
4	Children with anaemia under 5 years (%)	-	46	52.7

(NPC, 2016, 2020, NDHS, 2016)

Note: In case the data of the specified year is not available, the data of the nearest year is kept.

The above table shows a significant improvement in child malnutrition indicators over a period of three decades. However, the condition of malnourished children and children with anaemia has not improved satisfactorily. Despite the implementation of various programs aimed at improving the nutritional status of children, the problem of malnutrition among children still exists. In this situation, it is important to pay more attention to the issues of proper food and feeding habits for children and to spread public awareness on sanitation, adequate distribution of supplementary food, and expansion of health and nutrition programs. Additional contributions from families, communities and governments at all three levels, development partners and all other stakeholders are needed.

2.5 HEALTH INSTITUTIONS

The following health institutions provide health services to the children as well.

Table 6: Number of health institutions, FY 2015/16 to 2019/20

Health Institution	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2019/20 ^{ES}
Hospital	111	123	125	125
Primary health centre	202	200	198	203
Health post	3803	3805	3805	3805
Sub Health Post/ Primary Health Care Center			1200 ^{ES}	2626
Ayurveda Institutions	384	384	384	395

(DoHS, 2015/16, 2016/17, 2017/18, MoF, 2020)

Apart from the above health institutions, private health institutions have also been providing various health services to the general public including children.

2.6 CONCLUSION

As per the government's commitment to promoting child rights by improving the nutritional status of safe pregnancies and births, vaccinations, infant and child health, investment in programs has also been increasing as per the policy and plan. As a result, there has been a significant improvement in various indicators of child health, as confirmed by the data and statistics. Donors, development partners, NGOs, the private sector and the media have also contributed to improve the situation of child health.

In the context of the significant improvement in the field of child health, it is necessary to do more effective work in the field of child right to health, child-friendly arrangements in health institutions, child-friendly arrangements and treatment of infectious diseases and protection of children from accidents and injuries. More effective steps need to be taken to strengthen children's right to free health care and child-centred research in public health research. For this, it is necessary to make the programs implemented by the government at all three levels, the operation of the existing local health care mechanisms and other related sectors more effective.



3.1 INTRODUCTION

This chapter has presented the information and statistics related to the major issues of child protection as specified in the CRC that are parental care (article 5), birth registration, name/identity and nationality (articles 7 and 8), protection of right to confidentiality (article 16), protection from all types of violence (article 19), special or alternative care for children who do not get family care (article 20), adoption (article 21), refugee children (article 22), child labour (article 32), drug abuse (article 33), abduction and sale (article 35), confinement and punishment (article 37), rehabilitation of child victims (article 39), juvenile justice (article 40) including the provisions of the Constitution as well.

3.2 CHILD LABOUR

Government of Nepal is sensitive enough to address the issue of child labour by adopting legal and policy measures. Article 39, clause (4) of the Constitution of Nepal prohibits child labour in factories, mines or other such hazardous work. Similarly, section 7 (6) of the Children's Act, 2018 states that every child has the right to protection from economic exploitation. It has further ensured that children can be protected from any work that hinders their education and harms their health, physical, mental, moral and social development. Pursuant to section 5 of the Labour Act, 2017, no one should employ children in any work that is against the law.

Nepal has ratified the Convention on the Minimum Age for Employment 1973 (No. 138), and Worst Form of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (no. 182) in 2003 and 2004 respectively. Both Conventions have banned the use of child in hazardous work. The Convention on the Minimum Age for Employment 1973 (No. 138) prohibits the employment of children under the age of 18 in hazardous work. But in the case of countries that do not have sufficient economic and educational facilities, there is a provision that children can be employed from the age of 14 if they are fully protected in terms of adequate education, health and morality. Both Conventions have provisioned that the State Party must take initiative to prevent children from engaging in hazardous work, to provide necessary and appropriate direct support for the rescue and reintegration of children from hazardous work, to provide free education, appropriate vocational training for those children freed from hazardous

work. Nepal has also signed the Abolition of Forced Labour Convention 2001 (No. 129) and the Convention on Tripartite Consensus 2001 (No. 144) to increase the implementation of international labour standards.

In the Fifteenth Plan (2019/20-2023/24), the state has adopted the strategy of making necessary arrangements to end all forms of child labour, and SDGs has focused to take immediate and effective measures to secure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour, eradicate forced labour and end child labour in all its forms, including the recruitment and use of child soldiers by 2025.

The second 10-Year National Master Plan on Child Labour Prevention (2018-2028) issued by the Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Security has been implemented. The objective of this master plan is to make the country child labour free by completely eliminating all forms of child labour from Nepal. The main goal of the master plan is to put an end to all forms of child labour in Nepal. It has also set the target of banishing the exploitative and worst form of child labour by 2022 and all types of child labour by 2025.

Although the constitution and law prohibit the use of children in hazardous work, and policies and plans include provisions to reduce child labour and the government as well as development partners implement various programs to end child labour, the problem still remains significant.

National Population Census of Nepal 2011 has revealed the fact that a total of 104,714 children (56,267 boys and 48,447 girls) are involved in work. According to Nepal Multiple Indicators Cluster Survey (NMICS), 2014, a total of 37.4 percent children of age between 5 and 17 years are child labour. Similarly, percent of children aged 5–11 years involved in economic activity for at least one hour is 27.9 (29.9 boys and 26.5 girls). The survey further reveals that a total of 44.2 (43.4 boys and 44.8 girls) percent children aged 12-14 years involved in economic activity less than 14 hours and a total of 15.2 percent (12.3 boys and 17.6 girls) involved for 14 hours or more. It was estimated that about 30 percent children between the age of 5 and 17 were working under hazardous conditions in 2015 and is targeted to reduced it in 22 percent by 2019 (SDGs, Goal 8, Target 8.7, Indicator 8.7.1). According to Nepal Labour Force Survey (2017/18), of the approximately seven million children aged between 5 and 17 years, approximately; 286 thousand are involved in work for pay but not all working children are in child labour.

The government in collaboration with development partners has been carrying out different programs for decades including awareness raising and other supports to address the problem. As a result of this endeavour, some municipalities, metropolises and cities have initiated remarkable efforts for minimizing child labour and the process of making child labour free wards, markets and cities has begun.

Despite the legal provisions against child labour, children are generally involved in domestic

labour, including in the informal sectors of employment (restaurants, transportation, construction, agriculture, small and cottage industries, carpet factories, brocade factories, brick kilns, etc.). Incidents of children being involved in risky activities by lying about their age have also come into attention.

In FY 2019/20, altogether 23 cases, affecting 79 children (57 boys and 22 girls), relating children's involvement in various works has been published through different media outlet. It has been found that most of the children (67) have been involved in labour activities to meet their educational expenses, 9 have been involved in domestic and hotel activities and 3 in public transport. It is also found that 10 children of 10 years and below are also involved in labour activities.

There are different reasons behind the existence of child labour problem in various sectors. Children are more convenience to use at work as compared to adults in terms of availability of children in less salary with a greater number of working hours, inadequate awareness among stakeholders regarding negative dimensions of child labour, social acceptance of child labour, inadequacy of support programs for children in difficult situations, shortage of adult human resources in labour market because of foreign labour migration are some of the identified reasons in this regard.

3.3 STREET CHILDREN

Government of Nepal has made headway for addressing the issue of street children in Nepal by adopting legal, policy and program measures. These measures have made the state responsible for providing information, records, the rescue of street children, family support and reintegration, and psychosocial counselling. Sub-section (4) of section 7 of the Children's Act, 2018 provides that children at risk or living on the streets shall have the right to special protection as prescribed by the state for a secure future. The National Child Policy, 2012, has provisioned a number of activities to be taken for management of street children ranging from information management to rescue, protection management in temporary protection center including reintegration and family support. The Government of Nepal, MoWCSC has issued "Street Children Rescue, Protection and Management Guidelines, 2015" in order to rescue, counsel, protection, socialization, family and community reintegration of street children with the mutual collaboration and coordination among GOs, I/NGOs, development partners and civil society in integrated way. As per the guidelines, under the leadership of MoWCSC, coordinated by the then CCWB and support from Nepal Police along likeminded NGOs, the management of street children in the Kathmandu Valley with the slogan 'no children require to live in street' was rapidly initiated since 2016. Currently, the NCRC is actively pursuing such activities under the national campaign to declare Nepal as a street children free nation.

On the occasion of National Children's Day, 2020, Right Hon'ble Prime Minister Mr. K.P. Sharma Oli has conveyed the message that a policy has been taken to declare Nepal a street

children-free nation within FY 2020/21. Similarly, Hon'ble Minister of MoWCSC, Mr. Parbat Gurung has informed that the campaign to build a "street child-free nation" has been intensified.

Currently, the street children rescue management program has been effectively implemented in Province 1, Bagmati, Gandaki and Karnali Provinces including Kathmandu valley under the leadership of MoWCSC as focal ministry in federal level, coordination and technical support from NCRC as specialized agency of GoN and collaborating with NCCR (104), provincial governments, local levels and like-minded NGOs¹¹. Similarly, awareness programs at the local level by promoting family support programs to create an environment where children will not have to live in streets are in implementation. The temporary protection service centres, socialization centres and drug rehabilitation centres are working in coordination with the National Child Rights Council as well for this ends.

Since the inception of this program till mid-July 2020, a total of 1,433 children have been rescued and managed including 1,235 boys (86 %) and 198 girls (14%). Out of rescued children, 673 (47%) are from ethnic communities, 407 from Brahmins (28%), 271 from *Dalits* (19%), 72 from Madhesi (5%) and 10 others (1%). Among them, 2,502 (87%) were found to be literate. Similarly, 975 children's (68%) both parents were found alive and 172 children's (12%) both parents were found dead. Most of these children are from the Kathmandu Valley and surrounding districts. In addition, there are 30 (2%) children from India. Of the total children rescued, 255 are currently in DICs, 99 are in socialization centres, 50 are in the protection of various child care homes, 810 are reunited with their families, 184 are sent for various training and 59 are involved in work after completing the training.

A total of 574 children (465 boys and 109 girls) have been rescued and managed in FY 2019/20. Of these, 18 have been managed in Sunsari of Province 1, 27 in Pokhara of Gandaki and 18 in Surkhet of Karnali Province and rest of the children are managed in Kathmandu. Of those managed, 354 are currently in temporary protection service centers and socialization centres, 126 are reunited with their families, and 94 are dropouts.

3.4 CHILD MARRIAGE

Article 39(5) of the Constitution of Nepal has banned the child marriage. Nepal has taken legal, policy and program initiatives to end child marriage. The National Civil (Code) Act 2017 defines marriage before the age of 20 as child marriage and such marriages

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- 1 A. VOC, Lalitpur (Temporary Protection Service Center and Socialization Center)
 - B. CPCS, Godawari, Lalitpur (Temporary Protection Service Center and Socialization Center)
 - C. UCEP Nepal, Sanothimi, Bhaktapur (Socialization Center)
 - D. APC Nepal, Kalimati, Kathmandu, (Temporary Protection Service Center)
 - E. Raksha Nepal, Satungal, Kathmandu
 - F. Sober Recovery Drug and Alcohol Treatment & Rehabilitation Centre, Jorpati, Kathmandu (Drug Rehab Center)
 - G. Bhairab Youth Empowerment Center, Surkhet (Temporary Protection Service Center)
 - H. CHILDEN-Nepal, Pokhara (Temporary Protection Service Center)
 - I. VOC, Itahari, Sunsari ((Temporary Protection Service Center)

automatically annulled. National Child Policy, 2012 mentions that joint efforts among government, development partners and CBOs are encouraged to control child marriage. The goal of reducing child marriage is also included in the Sustainable Development Goals (2016-30). The National Strategy to End Child Marriage, 2015, aims to end child marriage by 2030. In this strategy, under the sub heading Empowerment of Girls and Adolescents, there is a commitment to ensure the access of married and unmarried children, especially out-of-school children and their families, by identifying the necessary resources and opportunities for their empowerment with the coordination among governmental, non-governmental and private sectors from national to the local level. The strategy has put forward a plan to run a child marriage free local level campaign. Accordingly, the work of declaring child marriage free local level has also started.

One of the strategic areas of the SAARC-affiliated "South Asia Initiative to End Violence Against Children- SAIEVAC" is to fight against child marriage. It has focused its efforts against child marriage in SAARC countries by preparing a "Regional Action Plan to End Child Marriage" (2015-2018) through a national mechanism. In line with this strategy, the Government of Nepal organized a SAARC-level "Regional Convening on Using Law to Promote Accountability to End Child Marriage" in November 2014 and adopted the "Kathmandu Call for Action to End Child Marriage from SouthAsia".

Despite these initiatives, still the issue of child marriage is existed in Nepal. According to the Population Monograph, 2014, Part 2 (Social Demographics) of the Central Bureau of Statistics, 26.3 percent of children in the age group of 10 to 18 years were married. As per the NMICS (2019), 5.2 percent of married people of the age group 20 to 24 years are married under 15 years (1.5% males and 7.9% females) and 22.7 percent are married under 18 years of age (9% males and 32.8% females %). Similarly, 12.8 percent (males 5.3% and females 19.3%) of the people between age group 15 to 19-year-olds are found to be married.

Due to legal, policy and program measures that have been adopted by Nepal against child marriage, concerted efforts from development partners and civil society caused to increase awareness in the community that led to decrease the incidence of child marriage. However, cases of young people getting married voluntarily before reaching the age prescribed by law have come to attention through social media. According to the Women, Children and Senior Citizens Service Directorate under the Police Headquarters, 41 girls have been victimized in child marriage in FY 2019/20, out of them, 24 are in the age group of 11-16 years and 17 are in the age group of 17-18 years. It has been difficult to update the information of the incidents except those registered at the police station.

More encouragingly, some Provinces have expressed their commitment to reduce and end child marriage. Province no. 1 committed to declare child marriage free by 2025, Bagmati Province is committed to make child marriage free by 2021, Province no. 2 is committed to reduce child marriage through "Save the Girl: Educate the Girl" campaign. Similarly,

Sudurpaschim Province implementing *Sanai Chhu, Badna Deu: Bal Bibaha Haina, Padna Deu* (I am younger, Let me grow: No marriage, Let me learn/study) campaign to reduce child marriage. Few local levels have adopted insurance policy to reduce child marriage. Initiatives including raising public awareness against child marriage and controlling child marriage, are being carried out by non-governmental organizations and child clubs.

As per various media monitoring through NCRC for current FY, a total of 208 children (68 boys and 140 girls) have been affected in 140 cases of child marriage in 29 districts. Of these, 68 marriages were under aged, 4 marriages were unmatched and 68 marriages were between a female child and adult male. Incidents of child marriage are reported to be more prevalent among children themselves than through parents. Nepal Police has given advice and suggestions to the parents of some couples who have had child marriages for their educational continuity. For the period, a total of 32 child marriages have been cancelled, 22 cases by Nepal Police and 10 by child clubs.

Even though the law and policy prohibit child marriage, it is still prevalent in society due to some factors like, reporting against child marriages in different communities and geographical areas is not in practice, children marrying voluntarily and not improving the behaviour of individuals, families and communities as expected from campaign against child marriage, inadequate management technological effects are major one.

3.5 RESCUE, REHABILITATION AND REINTEGRATION OF VULNERABLE CHILDREN

According to the CRC 1989, a child shall not be separated from his or her parents against their will except that such separation is necessary for the best interests of the child (Article 9). The State shall take appropriate legal, administrative, social or educational measures to protect children from any form of physical or mental abuse, contempt or neglect or sexual abuse and to treat the victims (Article 19). The state should provide special protection and assistance to any child deprived of its family and to provide alternative and institutional care to such children (Article 20). Every child should be provided with physical, mental, spiritual, moral and social development by every parent and the state should also provide assistance to the needy families (Article 27).

According to these provisions, the Government of Nepal collaborating with NGOs for rescue, protection, counselling, institutional rehabilitation, family and community reunification of children who are in need of special protection from the state and living under difficult circumstances like unaccompanied and separated children, lost and found even without family members and in need of assistance from any other person or organization or governmental mechanism etc. For this end, National Center for Children at Risk (NCCR) Toll-Free No. 104 and Child Helpline (Toll-Free No. 1098) are in operation. Under this, rescue and rehabilitation of lost and unaccompanied children and rescue, protection, counselling and family rehabilitation of vulnerable children are being carried out.

3.5.1 Rescue and Rehabilitation of Lost and Found Children

NCRC facilitates operation of National Center for Children at-Risk (104) as a joint effort of Nepal Police and NCRC, for immediate rescue, protection and management of lost, trafficked, unaccompanied children. The service related to searching of lost and trafficked children, family tracing of unaccompanied children found in the street, family reunification, community reintegration and taking measures to prevent and stop such incidents are now scaled up in 77 districts. Outside the Kathmandu valley, these services are integrated with Women, Children and Senior Citizens Service Centers of Nepal Police. The office is staffed by Nepal Police and other staff members from the NCRC. The Nepal Telecommunication Authority has provided assistance for the operationalization of Toll-Free no. 104. To bring more effectiveness in the above activities, the Ministry of Women, Children and Senior Citizens has approved National Center for Children at Risk No. 104 Operation Guideline, 2019.

Of the 3,422 reported lost children (1,051 boys and 2,371 girls) in FY 2018/19, 2,540 (825 boys and 1,715 girls) were found. The number of lost children reported in FY 2019/20 is 2,729. Of these, 2,219 children have been found and the search for the rest is underway, as shown in the table no 7.

Table 7: Details of lost, found and search ongoing children, FY 2019/2020

Province		Lost children			Found among the lost			Search ongoing children			Found Children %
		Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total	
1		91	305	396	77	245	322	14	60	74	81.31
2		133	514	647	109	349	458	24	165	189	70.79
Bagmati	Valley	88	40	128	63	27	90	25	13	38	70.31
	Outside valley	112	267	379	95	248	343	17	19	36	90.50
Gandaki		89	281	370	67	228	295	22	53	75	79.73
Lumbini		107	240	347	100	210	310	7	30	37	89.34
Karnali		87	102	189	72	91	163	15	11	26	86.24
Sudur Paschim		124	149	273	107	131	238	17	18	35	87.18
Total		831	1898	2729	690	1529	2219	141	369	510	81.31

(NCRC, 2020)

The above table shows that a significant number of children are lost from almost all the provinces. Out of them, Province 2 is marked for highest number of lost children; 647, and lowest percentage of found children; 70.79. Similarly, Karnali Province is marked for lowest

number of lost children; 189 and the percentage of found children is 86.24. The number of lost girl child is highest in all provinces except in Kathmandu valley with comparison to boy child. Out of lost children, 1,898 (70%) are girl child and 831(30%) are boy child. Out of the total lost children in the last FY, only 72.23 percent children were found, but FY 2019/20 is marked for significant improvement in percentage and increased to 81.31. However, the number of found children is estimated to be low due to non-reporting of lost persons found by the family or community to NCCR (104). The number of lost children by age group is given in the table no.8.

Table 8: Number of lost children by age group, FY 2019/20

S.N.	Age group	Lost children		
		Boys	Girls	Total
1.	0 - 5	26	21	47
2.	6 - 10	76	37	113
3.	11 - 14	379	406	785
4.	15 - 18	350	1,434	1,784
Total		831	1,898	2,729

(NCR, 2020)

Out of the total lost children; 2,729, the highest number of 1,784 children (65.37 %) is in the age group of 15 to 18 years. In the last FY (2018/19), the number of lost children in this age group was 2,087 (60.98% of lost children). Thus, it is seen that more children in the age group of 15 to 18 years are lost every year. More significantly, 80.38 percent of the girls are lost from the same age group, so it is necessary to study why girls are lost more in this age group.

Some children are found unaccompanied. Such children and lost children are reunited with their families after being traced. The number of children who have been found unaccompanied, reunited with their families, currently in the protection centers and dropped out from the shelter is given in the table below.

Table 9: Number of children found unaccompanied and reunited to their families, FY 2019/20

Number of unaccompanied children			Number of reunited children			Currently living in protection centers			Dropped out from the centers		
Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total
242	95	337	112	65	177	126	29	155	4	1	5

(NCR, 2020)

In the last FY, out of the found children, 66.54 percent of the children were found to

be unaccompanied, compared to 72 percent for this FY. Similarly, 60.47 percent of the unaccompanied children were rehabilitated in the last FY while 52.52 percent of the children have been rehabilitated in FY 2019/20. Children who are not rehabilitated in the family are kept in the protection centers. It has been known that 4 boys and 1 girl have dropped out from the centers this FY. The details of the children found unaccompanied according to their age group are given in the table below.

Table 10: Number of children found unaccompanied by age group, FY 2019/20

S.N.	Age group	Unaccompanied children found		
		Boys	Girls	Total
1.	0 - 5	16	8	24
2.	6 - 10	90	21	111
3.	11 - 14	111	31	142
4.	15 - 18	25	35	60
Total		242	95	337

(NCRC, 2020)

Of the 337 unaccompanied children found in FY 2019/20, the highest percentage (42.13 percent) was in the age group of 11-14 years and the lowest 7.12 percent was in the age group of 0-5 years. The NCCR 104 has been working to reunite the children with their family and provide other alternative care to the children who are orphaned.

The NCCR has received information about the children at risk through different sources like Nepal Police Hotline-100, NCCR-104, Child Helpline-1098, National Women's Commission Hotline-1145 and other police Offices across the country, police radio sets, emails, internet, social media, newspapers, organizations, individuals, etc. Then the action of search, rescue and management are being operated immediately.

3.5.2 Rescue, Protection and Family Reunification of Children at-Risk

The Children's Act, 2018 has a provision to protect children in need of special protection from the state. National Child Policy 2012 has provision of free hotline/helpline services for those who are living under difficult circumstances and who are in need of special protection. Child Helpline is child friendly structure/mechanism to provide immediate services like rescue, protection, humanitarian support, reunification etc to those children whose rights are violated.

With abiding existing legal and policy measures, NCRC facilitates operation of Child Helpline No. 1098 in 12 districts (Kathmandu, Morang, Makwanpur, Banke, Kaski, Kailali, Chitwan, Udayapur, Sunsari, Dailekh, Surkhet and Bajura) through collaborating with 7 different CSOs for immediate rescue, protection management and rehabilitation of children living under difficult circumstances. The services under Child Helpline No. 1098 will be expanded in additional districts within FY 2020/21. The main services provided by Child

Helpline Nepal (1098) include emergency monitoring, relief, counselling, temporary shelter, health treatment, family support, legal counselling and assistance, regular reunification, support, rehabilitation, etc.

In order to increase the effectiveness of the services provided by the Child Helpline Nepal (1098) and to define its scope of work and procedures more clearly, the MoWCSC has been issued Child Helpline Nepal Operational Procedure, 2019 and is under implementation.

In the last FY (2018/19), a total of 3,501 children (boys 1664 and girls 1837) were rescued from difficult circumstances and provided with immediate support- relief, psychosocial counselling, family reunification and social rehabilitation through Child Helplines operated in 12 districts. In this FY 2019/2020, a total of 1,420 children have been rescued from difficult circumstances and different services have been provided. Details of rescued children are given in the table below.

Table 11: Children rescued through Child Helpline No. 1098, FY 2019/20

S.N.	District	Number		
		Boys	Girls	Total
1	Kathmandu	49	113	162
2	Chitwan	31	22	53
3	Surkhet	62	124	186
4	Banke	111	26	137
5	Morang	23	31	54
6	Kailali	21	50	71
7	Makwanpur	101	128	229
8	Kaski	67	52	119
9	Sunsari	120	12	132
10	Udayapur	55	61	116
11	Dailekh	58	67	125
12	Bajura	21	15	36
Total		719	701	1,420

(NCRC, 2020)

Out of 1,420 children (719 boys and 701 girls) rescued and provided with temporary protection services from Child Helplines in FY 2019/20, a total of 1,131 were rescued through Child Helpline No. 1098 and 289 children were rescued from other stakeholders and referred to the Child Helpline. Out of rescued, a total of 1,089 children are reunited with their families by mid-July 2020, 249 children are rehabilitated institutionally, 51 children are in temporary protection service centers and 31 children are dropped out from protection centers. The details of circumstances from where children are rescued presented in the table below.

Table 12: Details of children rescued through Child Helpline No. 1098, FY 2019/2020

S.N.	Difficult Circumstances	Boys	Girls	Total
1	Street children	96	16	112
2	Children who have been subjected to physical, mental, financial or sexual violence or abuse	187	247	434
3	Lost and unaccompanied children	140	96	236
4	Children who are or threat to be trafficked	24	9	33
5	Child labour	36	11	47
6	Children with serious illnesses, accidents and outbreaks	21	33	54
7	Conflict affected children, children of imprisoned or detained parents or delinquents juvenile	25	11	36
8	Bullied children	5	9	14
9	Victim of child marriage	23	115	138
10	Drug abuse, online abuse and others	18	9	27
	Total children rescued	575	556	1131
11	Children referred from other organizations	144	145	289
	Total	719	701	1,420

(NCRC, 2020)

A total of 8,744 children (4,047 boys and 4,697 girls) are provided with different services through Child Helpline for FY 2019/20. Among them 1,420 children rescued from difficult circumstances through Helpline and 7,324 children who have been referred to the Helpline through various means of communication. In the last FY 2018/19, the number of such children was 7,806. Details of services provided by Child Helpline in this FY are presented in the table below.

Table 13: Number of children assisted through Child Helpline 1098, FY 2019/20

S.N.	Details of services	Assisted		
		Boys	Girls	Total
1	Health treatment	160	205	365
2	Psychosocial counselling	942	1,027	1,969
3	Family counselling	792	1,029	1,821
4	Legal advice	133	295	428
5	Care, safety and protection assistance	1,263	1,075	2,338
6	Educational support	306	457	763
7	Child marriage prevention	59	193	252
8	Income support	5	30	35
9	Other support (family tracing, coordination)	387	386	773
	Total	4,047	4,697	8,744

(NCRC, 2020)

In FY 2019/20, out of the services provided through Child Helpline 1098, the highest number; 2,338 children (1263 boys and 1075 girls) have been provided care, security and protection service and 1,969 children have been provided with psychosocial counselling services. COVID-19 has caused more care and protection services this year than in previous years.

Child Helpline No. 1098 is getting remarkable support from police, administration, local level, National Human Rights Council, hospitals, school, media, community, child clubs and other likeminded NGOs to protect and promote the rights of children who are in need of special protection. To make Child Helpline more effective, the government (federal and province), local level as well as development partners should increase investment/efforts for those children who need special protection from the state or others. More specifically, there is a need for the local government to intensify this service in the coming days to promote the child rights and child protection.

3.6 CHILDREN AFFECTED BY CONFLICT

Article 39 (6) of the Constitution does not allow any child to be recruited or used in the army, police or armed groups or to be abused, neglected or physically, mentally, sexually or otherwise exploited in any way or manner in the name of cultural or religious practice. Similarly, clause (9) mentions that conflict-affected, displaced and vulnerable children have the right to get special protection and facilities from the state. Likewise, section 7 of the Children's Act, 2018, mentions that no child shall be deployed in army, police and armed group and be used for armed conflict or political purpose directly or indirectly. Similarly, section 8 mentions that no one shall attack, or make hindrance to the operation and management of any school, including the place, service or facility, used for the best interests of children, with any excuse at times of armed conflict or in any adverse situation of whatever type.

Article 38 of the CRC, 1989 states that the State shall not allow any child under the age of 15 to be directly involved in hostilities or conflicts and that the State shall take all appropriate measures to protect and care for children affected by armed conflict. The Government of Nepal ratified the Optional Protocol of CRC, 1989, entitled "Optional Protocol on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict, 2000" on September 19, 2007. There are 13 articles in this protocol, of which articles 1 to 7 must be implemented directly. Article 1 stipulates that no child under the age of 18 should be involved in an armed group, article 2 stipulates that no child under the age of 18 should be deployed in the army by the state, and articles 3 to 7 mention that the state requires to take appropriate child protection measures when recruiting such children as volunteers. According to the Concluding Observations upon preliminary report submitted by the Government of Nepal to the CRC in 2012, Nepal has adopted legal and programmatic measures accordingly.

It has been a long time that the decade-long (1996-2006) armed conflict has peacefully managed in Nepal. UNICEF facilitated the program entitled Children's Associated with Armed Forces and Armed Groups (CAFAG) for those who were affected by armed conflict, and provided assistance for the reintegration and rehabilitation. Various tasks were performed by the Nepal Peace Trust Fund Secretariat. However, the impact on children is still being felt due to the huge financial losses incurred during this period. The Government of Nepal has prepared and implemented the National Action Plan for the Rehabilitation and Reintegration of Children Affected by Armed Conflict, 2010. With the financial support of the then Ministry of Peace and Reconstruction, special scholarships and financial assistance were provided to conflict-affected children through the Local Peace Committee. In line with the action plan, the then CCWB, with the financial support of the EU, conducted the project entitled "Project for the Reintegration and Rehabilitation of Children Affected by Armed Conflict (CAAC) in 20 districts from January 2015 to mid-July 2017. The project identified 18,665 conflict-affected children in 20 districts, and 10,499 children and their families were directly supported.

The Government of Nepal has been providing scholarships for the education of the children of conflict-affected families as well as providing grants to the Martyrs' Academy for the proper care of the conflict-affected children. Under this, five residential schools are operating in Sunsari, Dolakha, Kaski, Dang and Doti covering the then five development areas. The details of the children in the residential school under Martyrs' Academy up to 2018/19 are presented in the table below.

Table 14: Details of children residing in Martyrs' Academy, FY 2018/19

S.N.	District	Name	Address	Protected children		
				Boys	Girls	Total
1	Sunsari	Martyrs' Academy Nepal	Itahari Sub-Metropolitan 25	175	141	316
2	Dolakha	Martyrs' Academy Nepal	Jiri RM 6	142	89	231
3	Kaski	Martyrs' Academy Nepal	Pokhara Municipality 14	107	65	172
4	Dang	Martyrs' Academy Nepal	Tulsipur Sub-Metropolitan 17	245	163	408
5	Doti	Martyrs' Academy Nepal	Dipayal Silgadi RM	184	80	264
Total				853	538	1,391
11-12 Class						
	Sunsari	Martyrs' Academy Nepal	Itahari Sub-Metropolitan 25	13	16	29
	Kaski	Martyrs' Academy Nepal	Pokhara Municipality 14	42	29	71
	Dang	Martyrs' Academy Nepal	Tulsipur Sub-Metropolitan 17	18	14	32
Total				73	59	132
Grand Total				926	597	1,523

(MAN, 2019)

In FY 2017/18, there were 1,478 children (906 boys and 572 girls) in the Martyrs' Academy and in FY 2018/19, 76 more were added and the total number was 1,523 (boys 60.8% and girls 39.2%). The children studying in class 11 and 12 were in Sunsari, Kaski and Dang. According to the Martyrs' Academy, children from five Academies have gone to their families or close families due to corona infection (COVID-19) since April 2019, and enrolment in the 2020 academic session has not started yet. It has been learned that new statistics could not be updated in 2019/20.

3.7 TRAFFICKING, SALE, SEXUAL EXPLOITATION AND ABUSE OF CHILDREN

Article 39 of the Constitution of Nepal provides that no child should be abused, sexually exploited or otherwise abused in any way or manner. Sub-section (5) of section 7 of the Children's Act, 2018 provides that every child shall have the right to protection against any type of physical or mental violence and torture, hatred, inhuman treatment, gender or untouchability-based mistreatment, sexual harassment and exploitation that might be caused by his or her father, mother, other family member or guardian, teacher and other person. Similarly, section 66 covers sexual violence and behaviour against children, including any obscene audio-visual, child pornography, sexual activity, cheating, pressure or intimidation, touching sensitive organs, kissing, holding, prostitution or other sexual acts. The above-mentioned child sexual abuse shall be considered as a crime against children (Annex 1). According to the Human Trafficking and Smuggling (Control) Act, 2008, no one should do or be made to do any work related to human trafficking and smuggling. Anyone who commits such acts shall be deemed to have committed an offence under this Act. These provisions seem to further strengthen the work against child trafficking, smuggling, sexual violence and the protection of at-risk children. In the Fifteenth Plan, a strategy has been adopted to end all forms of violence against children and make their lives safer.

Article 34 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child stipulates that the state must control all forms of sexual exploitation and abuse of children, including prostitution. The Government of Nepal ratified the Optional Protocol on Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography 2000, on January 20, 2006. There are total 17 articles, out of which 10 articles need to be implemented directly. Article 1 stipulates that the state should prohibit the trafficking of children, prostitution and pornography, the meaning of these words in article 2, article 3 provides that any action related to these issues should be prohibited by law, articles 4 to 10 contain provisions such as child protection, child justice, the best interests of children, and child-friendly measures. The report was discussed at the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child in May 2011 and as per the Concluding Observations of the committee, the current laws have provisions against child abuse and the Government of Nepal is seriously working to address any issues of sexual abuse and abuse against children. It is the responsibility of all the state authorities to abide by the provisions of the Conventions under which it has been ratified by Nepal and to implement the recommendations given in

the Concluding Observations, however, it is necessary to do more work according to this responsibility for the cause of children.

The then Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare has been working as the main liaison body for the control of trafficking in women and children since its inception, with the support of the United Nations and national and international non-governmental organizations. After issuing of the Human Trafficking and Smuggling (Control) Act, 2008 and Rules 2009, the Human Trafficking Control Committee was formed at the national and district level.

The Government of Nepal is committed to implement the provisions of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others, and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Labour. The Government of Nepal is cooperating with SAARC at the regional level to combat human trafficking and the common goal of controlling child trafficking under the South Asian Nations Campaign to End Violence against Children (SAIEVAC).

The National Plan of Action against Human Trafficking, especially Trafficking in Women and Children, 2011 is being implemented. The Plan of Action basically sets out objectives in the dimensions of preventive, protective, legal action, capacity building and coordination, cooperation and collaboration to end human trafficking, especially the smuggling and trafficking of women and children. It is necessary to pay more attention to the effective implementation of the planned works, periodic monitoring and reporting. The National Child Rights Council has carried out awareness-raising activities on sexual abuse and abuse against children through audio-visual media while managing and facilitating the incidents of exploitation, abuse and violence against children. Various non-governmental organizations have been working on this issue for the past decade.

A recent study by an organization called Sathi found that among the child sex offender, foreigners preferred boys and locals preferred girls for sexual abuse and ordinary hotel are increasingly being used as places of sexual abuse. Similarly, foreigners between the ages of 36 and 75 and Nepalese between the ages of 15 and 85 have been found to be sexually abusive. The perpetrators are known to sexually abuse children by providing them with food, money and other necessities.

Government and non-government sectors have been working for the past decades to control and rescue children, including raising awareness against child trafficking, sexual exploitation and abuse. Sexual abuse and abuse against children is related to human mentality and behaviour in the social sphere and this has been a very sensitive and complicated question. Various non-governmental organizations and the media are contributing for uncovering the incidents of sexual abuse and abuse against children and facilitating the legal process.

Human trafficking is a global problem and trafficking, sexual exploitation and abuse of women and children, in particular, is a serious problem in Nepal and its solution is a big challenge. It is estimated that sexual abuse and harassment is present in almost all communities in one form or another. Particularly, lack of awareness among children, women and communities at-risk, poverty, family disintegration and miserable conditions, lack of strong child protection mechanisms in the community, lack of regular consultations in border areas and lack of proper addressing of problems are challenges to combat human trafficking. A national study on the trafficking of women and children remains to be commissioned. There is information that trafficking of Nepali girls is taking place from the domestic city market to various foreign countries as well. Maiti Nepal has been working for rescue, rehabilitation of trafficked women and children and conducting programs for decades on skill development and income-generating activities. Similarly, other non-governmental organizations including Shakti Group and Raksha Nepal are working on it.

Despite the fact that incidents of violence, abuse, abduction and trafficking against children are illegal, these incidents have been reported in the country. It is seen that children are being trafficked and made victims of various temptations. This year, 22 cases of child trafficking (14 boys and 8 girls) have been publicized through various media outlets. Police have rescued 10 children were used to smuggle goods across the border in Nepalgunj. Similarly, incidents of abduction of 14 children (7 boys, 6 girls and 1 infant) have come to light during this period. Out of the six abducted children, three including one infant have been killed after being abducted and 11 others have been released. The reason for the abduction was ransom and families animosity.

During this FY, 323 children (318 girls and 5 boys) have been sexually abused known through various media. Of these, 5 boys have been sexually abused by foreigners and 318 girls have been sexually abused and raped by locals. Out of the incidents of rape, 25 girls have been victimized by gang-rape. The perpetrators are ranging from blood relation to acquaintances and elected representatives to government employees by profession. It is seen that 16 girls aged 5 years and below are victims of such misdeeds. An eight-month-old girl has been abducted, raped and murdered in Mahottari.

According to the statistics of the Women, Children and Senior Citizens Service Directorate under Nepal Police, a total of 75 children (71 girls and 4 boys) have been victims of human trafficking and smuggling in FY 2019/20. It is seen that girls are most affected by such incidents. According to the age group, children in the age group of 11 to 16 years are more at risk than other age groups. Similarly, a total of 1,393 cases of rape against girls have been reported at the Police Office in FY 2019/20. Among them, 272 girls under the age of 10 years, 801 girls between the ages of 11-16 year and 319 girls between the ages of 17-18 year have been found to be victims of rape. In addition, 324 girls have been victimized by the attempt to rape this FY. Among the victims, 58 are under 10 years of age, 199 are in the age

group of 11-16 years and 67 are in the age group of 17-18 years. The provincial number of children victims of trafficking, smuggling, the crime of rape and attempt to rape is given in Annex 6.

Such incidents against children are heinous crimes themselves and are disgrace to human beings. Therefore, the reduction of sexual violence against children must be a common priority of all three levels of government, concerned agencies and stakeholders.

3.8 BIRTH REGISTRATION

Article 39 (1) of the Constitution of Nepal provides that every child has the right to be named and born with his or her own identity. Similarly, in section 4 of the Children's Act, 2018, every child has the right to register their birth with their own identity, after the birth of the child the father or mother has to register the birth in the name of the child according to the prevailing law, if the child born of rape or through incest (a punishable according to the prevailing law) the mother should register by mentioning only the name of the mother, the child will be allowed to use the surname of their father or mother or both if they wish, and not to change the surname of the child in such a way as to conceal the identity of the child, with and intention to gain undue benefits. The Government of Nepal has committed to have 100 percent birth registration by 2021.

Article 7 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, 1989, provides for the birth registration of a child by birth, the right to a formal name and the right to a nationality, and, as far as possible, the right to know and receive care for one's parents.

The ward offices of all the local levels have been working on vital registration. In case of birth registration within 35 days of the birth by family in all the districts of Karnali region and in *Dalit* families across the country, Rs. 1000 has been provided as incentives. In order to make birth registration effective, the Government of Nepal has made birth registration certificates mandatory for various services including school admission, allowance for children under social security program due to which the importance of birth registration among the general public is increasing. According to the NMICS, 2019 the birth rate of children under five years of age has reached 77.2 percent in 2019 compared to 58.1 percent (boys 59.2% and girls 57.0%) in 2014.

In Nepal, there are still problems in the birth registration of children, especially those who have been unaccompanied, separated from their families and on the streets. Essential measures should be taken to ensure the right to identity of children.

3.9 CHILD ADOPTION

Article 21 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, 1989, recognizes the right to adopt children. In order to make the work related to adopted children more systematic, there is also the Convention on Protection of Children and Co-operation in

Respect of Inter-country Adoption, 29 May 1993. In order to make these conventions compatible, chapter 8 of the Civil Code Act, 2017 relates to the adoption and chapter 9 provides for the provision of intercountry adoption. Various provisions have been made for the adoption of children including Terms and Conditions and Process for Granting Approval for Adoption of Nepali Child by Alien, 2008, Inter-Country Adoption Management Board (Formation) Order, 2001.

According to The Hague-based International Organization for Adoption of Children, from 1999 to 2019, a total of 1,901 children were sent from Nepal to the different country ratified Hague Convention. Out of the 1,901 children, 882 identified by the gender (boys, 368 and girls, 514) and the identity of 1,019 children were not disclosed. The number of countries adopted Nepali Children during that period are presented in the table below.

Table 15: Number of countries and adopted children from Nepal between the year 1999 and 2019

S.N.	Country	From 1999 till 2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	Total
1	Italy	489	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	489
2	America	376	0	1	2	0	1	0	1	381
3	Austria	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
4	Belgium	18	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	18
5	Canada	40	0	2	0	2	0	0	1	45
6	Germany	29	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	29
7	France	111	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	111
8	Denmark	22	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	22
9	Sweden	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9
10	Switzerland	19	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	19
11	Norway	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10
12	Spain	744	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	744
13	Luxembourg	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
14	Netherlands	16	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	16
15	Slovenia	0	0	1	0	2	0	1	0	4
Total		1,887	0	4	2	4	1	1	2	1,901

(HCCH, 2019)

In the past, 1,887 Nepali children were adopted for abroad during the 14-year period from 1999 to 2012 due to ease of adoption process by Alien, and later during the seven-year period from 2013 to 2019 due to legal and structural arrangements, the number is limited to 14 children.

As the documentation of the adopted child should be officially protected, it used to be registered and kept at the Land Revenue Office. But the later on as per Civil Code Act 2017, there is a provision that the work will be done by the District Court. Due to the difficulty in obtaining the records obtained in the districts within the country, integrated statistics in this regard have not been available.

3.10 REFUGEE CHILDREN

Article 22 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, 1989, states that the United Nations shall grant special protection to children who are refugees or are in the process of becoming refugees and to ensure that refugee children enjoy the same rights as other children. Even among refugees, children need special protection. Nepal has not become a party to the United Nations Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees, 1951 and its Optional Protocol, 1967 and the Convention Relating to the Status of Stateless Persons, 1959. However, as a party to the conventions and treaties on human rights, child rights and a number of other issues, Nepal has been addressing the issue of refugees for nearly six decades and Bhutanese refugees for the past three decades.

National Child Policy, 2012 (8.12) includes that arrangements will be made to keep records by ensuring the right of the identity of refugees and internally displaced children for any reason. It has been mentioned that access to basic services will be ensured for such children. According to the Ministry of Home Affairs, the total number of Bhutanese refugee children was 2,262 in FY 2017/18 and 2,085 (1,009 girls and 1,076 boys) in FY 2018/19. The number is 2,091 in FY 2019/20.

Table 16: Number of Bhutanese refugee children, FY 2019/20

Age Range	Girls	Boys	Total
0-4	196	204	400
5-9	276	281	557
10-14	290	353	643
15-18	241	250	491
Total	1,003	1,088	2,091

(MoHA, 2020)

The number of Bhutanese refugee children has increased by six in this FY compared to the previous FY. No other information has been obtained about the condition of these children.

3.11 CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES

The United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights, along with other declarations made at various times since 1948, has begun to recognize the rights of persons with disabilities in one form or another. In this context, the United Nations Convention on the

Rights of Persons with Disabilities, 1971, has ensured the rights of persons with disabilities. The Incheon Declaration, 2015, also calls on the government to make policy reforms to promote the education of children with special needs.

The Government of Nepal has been sensitive to the protection of the rights of children with disabilities. Article 39 of the Constitution of Nepal provides for the right of children with disabilities and those at risk to receive special protection and facilities from the state. Similarly, article 31 provides for the right to free higher education as per the law for the disabled and financially deprived citizens and the right to free education as per the law through Braille and Sign Language. Section 12 of the Children's Act, 2018 provides for the special rights of children with disabilities (Annex 1). The rights of persons with disabilities (First Amendment) Act, 2017 have ensured the rights of children with disabilities. These include the rights against discrimination in section 8, the right to community life in Article 9, the right to protection in Article 10, the right to participate in cultural life in section 14, the right to access services, facilities and justice in section 15 and the right to social security in section 16. Section 17 mentions the right to information, and section 18 mentions the right to freedom of movement. Similarly, section 20 guarantees additional rights for children with disabilities. Under this, mainly education, training, health care services, rehabilitation services, employment preparation and the right to access recreational opportunities have been provided. The Rules on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, 2020 also provides for the special protection of children with disabilities.

Nepal implemented the "Disability Protection and Welfare Act, 1982". In 2005, on the initiative of the Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare, a National Policy and Action Plan on Disability were formulated and implemented. After reviewing this Action Plan, 10-Year National Policy and Action Plan on Disability, 2016-25 has been formulated and is being implemented. The Ministry of Education, Science and Technology has issued the Inclusive Education Policy for Persons with Disabilities, 2016. One of the three objectives of this policy is to ensure equal access to quality education opportunities for children with disabilities. It is believed that the implementation of these legal provisions, policies and action plans will help in the protection and promotion of the special rights of children with disabilities and help them in their personality development according to their different abilities.

According to the National Census 2011, the population with some form of disability is 5,13,321, which is 1.94 percent of the total population (male 2.18 percent and female 1.71 percent). Out of this, it is 1.21 percent in urban areas and 2.09 percent in rural areas. The number of persons with disabilities in Population Monograph Volume 2 published by the Central Bureau of Statistics in 2014 is presented in the table below.

Table 17: Population with disabilities

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Total
Male	108279	47041	41204	4803	33190	16787	8280	20502	280086
Female	78178	47724	38103	4633	25665	14210	6608	18114	233235
Total	186457	94765	79307	9436	58855	30997	14888	38616	513321
Percent*	0.70	0.36	0.30	0.04	0.22	0.12	0.06	0.15	1.94
Percent [#]	36.32	18.46	15.45	1.84	11.47	6.04	2.90	7.52	100

(CBS, 2014)

* Total population of 2,64,94,504

[#] Total population with disabilities

1= Physical, 2= Low Vision, 3= Dull Hearing, 4= Hearing-impaired, 5= Speech-related disability, 6= Dull Mood, 7= Intellectual Disability, 8= Multiple Disabilities

From the table above, according to the census report of 2011, 1.94 percent of the total population has some form of disability. The highest physical disability was found to be 0.70 percent and the lowest was 0.04 percent for both hearing and sight-impaired people.

According to Population Monograph Volume 2 of the Central Bureau of Statistics, 0.99 percent (92,012 people) of the total population in Nepal have some form of disability among children aged 0 to 14 years and out of 92,012 people, 36.1 percent have a physical disability and 18.5 percent have blindness, speech-related disability is seen among 15.5 percent, complete deafness among 10.4 percent, multiple disabilities among 9.5 percent, mental retardation among 4.53 percent, intellectual disability among 4.3 percent and hearing-impaired among 1.6 percent. According to the NMICS, 2019 of the Central Bureau of Statistics, 10.6 percent of the children in the age group of 2-17 years have some kind of difficulty in hearing, seeing, speaking, learning, walking and feeling.

As per the law, education and health services and facilities have been provided to the children with disabilities, Rs. 3000 for completely disabled children and Rs. 1600 for children with a partial disability has been provided along with identity cards to children with disabilities. The provision of residential and non-residential scholarships on the basis of the nature of disability including health facilities are in practice. Various service facilities have been provided by development partners for the protection and development of children with disabilities.

Despite such efforts, the basic needs of all children with disabilities have not been ensured. Services for children with intellectual disabilities and multiple disabilities, in particular, have been low. Even more, the protection of children with intellectual disabilities and those with multiple disabilities has been challenging.

3.12 CHILD CARE ARRANGEMENTS

Under article 39 of the Constitution, every child has the right to education, health, upbringing, proper care, sports, recreation and holistic personality development from the family and the state. The Children's Act, 2018 has made provision for the care and protection of children.

Article 18 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, 1989, states that parents are responsible for the upbringing and care of their children and that the government should assist in the care of children if the condition of the parents is deplorable. The status of children in institutions such as Child Care Homes, religious institutions, rehabilitation centres, and child correction homes is presented as follows.

3.12.1 Child Care Homes

For the protection of orphaned children in Nepal, Paropakar Orphanage was established in 1952, Bal Mandir in 1964 and SOS in 1982. Article 20 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, 1989 states that it is the responsibility of the state to provide support for the protection of orphans. The Minimum Standards for Operation and Management of Residential Child Care Homes, 2012 stipulates that the children of families who do not have both parents or are physically or mentally not stable should be cared for by their relatives as much as possible and the state should assist in that. The Children's Act, 2018 provides for the placement of children in residential homes only as a last resort for the alternative care of children.

With the increase in the number of children under institutional care, the number of child care homes was 463 in 46 districts till last FY. In FY 2019/20, it is updated that only 45 districts have Child Care Homes in operation. A total of 11,350 children (5,194 boys and 6,156 girls) are in the care of 489 Child Care Homes operated in those districts. On average, there are 23 children living in Child Care Homes. Child Care homes sent 2,057 children (1,115 boys and 942 girls) to their homes during the COVID-19 transition period. In 2019/20, 343 children (173 boys and 170 girls) are reunited with their families. In FY 2018/19, out of 533 Child Care Homes, institutional care was provided to 356 children with disabilities (161 boys and 195 girls) in 14 Child Care Homes. Out of 489 Child Care Homes in operation this FY, a total of 18 Child Care Homes providing institutional care to children with disabilities (1 in Sankhuwasabha, 1 in Jhapa, 1 in Makwanpur, 14 in Kathmandu and 1 in Lalitpur) have come into operation. At present, a total of 346 children (195 boys and 151 girls) are living in these orphanages. A total of 193 children (114 boys and 79 girls) have been sent home from these orphanages during the transition period of COVID-19 and 8 boys and 1 girl have been reunited with their families.

The National Child Rights Council conducted on-site monitoring in 216 Child Care Homes in Kathmandu, Lalitpur, Nuwakot, Banke, Surkhet, Kailali, Kanchanpur, Chitwan, Makwanpur, Sarlahi, Morang and Sunsari for this FY. Out of these, as per the standards, the condition of 102 Child Care Homes is found good, the condition of 100 Child Care Homes is found satisfactory and the condition of 14 Child Care Homes is found poor. Out of 14 Child Care Homes operating in poor condition without meeting the standards, 8 Child Care Homes have been alerted to operate as per the standards by making necessary improvements while 55 children (36 girls and 19 boys) have been rescued from the remaining 6 Child Care Homes and 52 have been reunited with their families. The details are presented in the table below.

Table 18: Number of children rescued from Child Care Homes, FY 2019/20

SN	Child Care Homes and Address	Rescued Children		
		Boys	Girls	Total
1	Namuna Pragatishil Samaj, Bafal, Kathmandu	4	5	9
2	Safe Hostel, Nakhu, Lalitpur	0	18	18
3	Manabiya Tatha Samajik Sarokar Kendra, Gothatar, Kathmandu	9	2	11
4	Punaruththan Pratisthan Nepal, Bhaisepati, Lalitpur	3	4	7
5	New Nepal Community Service, Chandragiri, Kathmandu	0	7	7
6	Sahara International Nepal, Budhanilkantha, Kathmandu	3	0	3
Total		19	36	55

(NCRC, 2020)

Of the 55 rescued, 52 children have been reunited with their families, while three children from Sahara International Nepal, Budhanilkantha, Kathmandu, who are not reunited to their families, have been placed under temporary protection service centers.

3.12.2 Temporary Protection Service Centers and Rehabilitation Centers

Temporary protection service centres and rehabilitation centres are in operation from the non-governmental sector to rescue and provide temporary protection to street children, provide short-term shelter to children at risk and helpless due to various reasons, socialize and provide psychosocial counselling, non-formal education, extracurricular activities and training. In the last FY, there were 237 children (157 boys and 80 girls) in 17 rehabilitation centres. The number of rehabilitation centers operating in this FY and the number of children in it is given in the table below.

Table 19: Rehabilitation center and number of children, FY 2019/20

SN	District	Rehabilitation center	Address	Currently protected children		
				Boys	Girls	Total
1	Jhapa	Child Rehabilitation Center	Damak Municipality 9	0	0	0
2	Kathmandu	APC Nepal	Ramghat	12	0	12
3	Kathmandu	Access Transit Home	Dhapasi	0	2	2
4	Kathmandu	ABC Nepal	Narephat	0	15	15
5	Kathmandu	Bethany Vision	Gaurighat	1	7	8
6	Kathmandu	COCON	Pepsicola	0	0	0
7	Kathmandu	Child Watawaran Center Nepal	Nayapati	0	4	4
8	Kathmandu	The Himalayan Innovative Society	Pashikot	12	6	18
9	Kathmandu	Centre for Awareness Promotion Nepal	Budhanilkantha	0	4	4
10	Kathmandu	Shakti Samuha	Dhumbarahi	0	15	15
11	Kathmandu	Kumudini	Basbari	0	4	4
12	Lalitpur	CPCS	Godawari	12	2	14
13	Lalitpur	Voice of Children	Lubhu	60	0	60
14	Lalitpur	ChoraChori Nepal	Godawari	4	4	8
15	Bhaktapur	UCEP Nepal	Nayathimi	13	0	13
16	Chitwan	K. I. Nepal	Bharatpur	0	14	14
17	Kaski	Children Nepal	Annapurna RM	27	0	27
18	Surkhet	Bhairab Youth Empowerment Center	Patenichowk, Birendranagar	13	0	13
Total				154	77	231

(NCRC, 2020)

As per the table above, out of the 18 temporary rehabilitation centres, no child was found to be living in the Child Rehabilitation Center, Jhapa and the Common Platform for Common Goal (COCON), Pepsicola in mid-October 2020. As the rescued and children at-risk are kept in these institutions for a short period of time, the number given in the table is a fluctuating number.

3.12.3 Child Correction Homes

Children convicted by the court in various cases of juvenile delinquents have been kept in correction homes instead of being kept in jail for a specified period of time. In the 8 child correction home operating in the country in last FY, there were 821 children and in 2019/20, a total of 1,053 children were in child correction homes due to 36 types of delinquency. Considering that the risk of COVID-19 is increasing as there are more children in the

correction homes, 352 children (9 girls in Sanothimi, Bhaktapur) were freed and reduced the period of retention in coordination with the Office of the Attorney General, Department of Prison Management and the Ministry of Women, Children and Senior Citizens. The number of children currently in child correction homes is presented in the table below.

Table 20: Child correction home and number of children, FY 2019/20

S.N.	Child Correction Home	Sent to the family due to COVID-19	Residing in Juvenile Correction Centre
1	Bhaktapur	126 (9 Girls)	166 (27 Girls)
2	Morang	28	155
3	Kaski	16	75
4	Makwanpur	8	35
5	Parsa	81	45
6	Rupandehi	18	75
7	Banke	52	104
8	Doti	23	46
Total		352	701

(NCRC, 2020)

From the above table, Sanothimi, Bhaktapur has the highest number of 166 children (including 27 girls), Biratnagar, Morang has 155 and Hetauda, Makwanpur has the lowest number of 35 children. According to the Central Child Justice Committee, there have been 36 cases of delinquency. It is learned that the child correction home does not have adequate physical facilities and it is important for the federal, province and local governments to pay serious attention to reducing the nature and number of child delinquency and improving the physical facilities in child correction homes.

3.12.4 Children Living with their Parents in Jails

Children are forced to stay in jail with their parents and guardians when there is no one to take care of the young children in the family while their parents and guardians are prisoners. There were 82 children in different prisons in FY 2018/19 and in FY 2019/20, a total of 81 children are in prisons with their parents in 32 different districts.

Institutions such as PA Nepal, Early Child Development Center (ECDC), Victims Service Association (VSA) and Prisoner Assistance Mission (PAM) have protected and rehabilitated children dependent on their parents or guardians in prisons. The number of children under the protection of these institutions from FY 2017/18 to 2019/20 is given in the table below.

Table 21: Number of children under protection in institutions, FY 2017/18 - 2019/20

S.N.	Institution	2017/18			2018/19			2019/20		
		Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total
1	PA Nepal	98	96	194	75	75	150	90	100	190
2	ECDC	20	30	50	13	30	43	9	24	33
3	VSA	14	9	23	15	0	15	34	0	34
4	PAM	18	14	32	16	12	28	16	13	29
	Total	150	149	299	119	117	236	149	137	286

(NCRC, 2020)

As the table stated, the number of children in institutional protection of children dependent on their parents has fluctuated. It is necessary for the government to adopt the appropriate measures to keep such children in institutional care.

3.12.5 Protection of Orphan Children

Article 39(9) of the Constitution of Nepal provides that the helpless, orphaned, disabled, conflict victims, displaced and at-risk children have the right to special protection and facilities from the state. Section 48 of the Children's Act, 2018, includes children in 13 conditions are in need of special protection, including - (a) orphans, (b) abandoned or found in a hospital or in any other public place, separated from parents or unaccompanied children, (c) There are also children who need proper care due to serious physical or mental disability or disability of their parents.

Article 20 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, 1989, states that the state is responsible for the protection of orphans. According to the provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Constitution of Nepal, the Children Act, 2018 and the Local Government Act, 2017, children without both parents and both parents or one living parent but are unable to care their children due to physical or mental reasons, it is clear that state has the responsibility of upbringing and protection of the children.

The Paropakar Orphanage was established in 1952 to work for orphans. After that, Bal Mandir and Nepal Bal Sangathan were established in 1964 under the National Direction Act, 2018. Along with the nationwide expansion of Bal Mandir School, the task of arranging education and care for orphans was done. From the Seventh Plan to the Fifteenth Plan, the protection of orphans and other vulnerable children has been included in the plan. In the Fifteenth Plan, the strategy of protecting orphans, helpless and disabled children from the state has been adopted and the main program is to have the state as the guardian of orphans and unaccompanied children.

On the occasion of National Children's Day, 2020, Hon'ble President Bidhya Devi Bhandari has conveyed the message that the state has a policy of taking care of orphans and unaccompanied children. Hon'ble Prime Minister Mr KP Sharma Oli has informed that the state has started taking care of the orphaned children.

Out of the total children aged 0-17 years (projected 11,566,076) from 2014, the NMICS of the Central Bureau of Statistics found that 4.8 percent of the children were not with their parents; 23,132 (0.2%) have both parents dead and 474,209 (4.3%) have either parent dead. Similarly, according to the same survey conducted in 2019, 5.3 percent of the children were not with their parents; 4.2 percent of the children had either parent died and the percentage of children whose both parents are dead is not certain. The results of these two studies over the past five years do not appear to have changed significantly. This suggests a modest increase in the number of children whose parents have died.

In line with the policy, program and budget of the federal government for FY 2020/21, the scope of child protection grant has been widened to include the children including *Dalit* and Karnali region and Terai/Madhesh (Annex 3). It is believed that the progress of the program by drawing the attention of all the three tiers of government towards the basic services, facilities and protection of children without both parents will make an encouraging contribution to the protection and development of such children.

3.13 SOCIAL SECURITY AND CHILDREN

Internationally the social security program was first introduced officially by Germany in the health insurance of sick workers in the 1880s, followed by unemployment allowance system in France from 1905, health insurance, unemployment allowance and senior citizen insurance or allowance program in the United Kingdom from 1911, and comprehensive social security arrangements in the then Soviet Union from 1922. In Nepal, social security initiation was started with an effort to provide a lump sum amount to wounded Nepali soldiers returning from World War I. So far, the Government of Nepal has been greatly improving and expanding social security programs for children, senior citizens, persons with disabilities, single women and widows, endangered and marginalized communities and other citizens who need protection assistance from the state.

The issue of social security has been addressed by various declarations of the United Nations and other international instruments. In particular, the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 1948, and various other declarations so far cover social security issues for individuals and groups of all ages and backgrounds. According to article 26 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, 1989, every child has the right to benefit from social security and insurance. Article 43 of the Constitution of Nepal provides for the right to social security in accordance with the law for the economically deprived, disabled and helpless, single women, people with disabilities, children, those who are unable to take care of themselves and endangered communities. Section 7 of the Children's Act, 2018 provides that children with disabilities, conflict victims, displaced, at-risk or living on the streets have the right to special protection. The Rights of Persons with Disabilities (First Amendment) Act, 2018 provides for social security for persons with disabilities. The Social Security Act, 2018 is the main act related to the social security.

Various other acts also have provisions related to social security. The National Planning Commission has prepared the National Integrated Social Protection Structure. Similarly, point no. 71 and 74 of the federal budget speech of FY 2020/21 covers social security issues (Annex 2). It is seen that social security related programs have been brought into operation from the province and local level.

Generally, the depth of child poverty is determined by factors such as family size, education level of the head of the house, caste, housing, dependency, ownership of the land and other income. The population living below the absolute poverty line is 18.7 percent and the multidimensional poverty is 28.6 percent. Both absolute and multidimensional poverty has a profound and long-term impact on children's overall development, including housing, food, education, health, sanitation, drinking water, sports and recreation. The long-term effects of poverty are more pronounced in children than in adults, and children's risks are higher and more multifaceted than those of adults. Therefore, when formulating social security policies and programs, it is important to pay special attention to child risk in poverty.

Studies about expenditures on social security especially pensions and benefits for employees (contributory), senior citizens, single and widows, people with disabilities, endangered communities and child nutrition (non-contributory cash transfer assistance) and scholarships, shows that 68 percent or more will be spent on pensions and allowances, 29 percent on assistance allowances and 3 percent on scholarships. The details of the number of beneficiaries among the recipients of assistance allowance and the amount of average annual allowance are given below.

Table 22: Beneficiaries of social security allowance, annual amount and children, FY (2017/18-2019/20)

Category	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	FY 2018/19		2019/20	Percent
				Monthly (Rs.)	Yearly (Rs. in Thousands)	Yearly (Rs. in Thousands)	
Senior citizen	1,231,586	1,276,137	1,329,087	2,000	30,627,288	31,898,088	43.82
Single women	105,480	116,344	97,218	2,000	2,792,256	2,333,232	3.21
Widowed	569,005	600,589	643,942	2,000	14,414,136	15,454,608	21.23
Fully disabled	39,508	43,226	46,803	3,000	1,556,136	1,684,908	2.31
Partially disabled	65,292	73,869	80,941	1,600	1,418,285	1,554,067	2.13
Endangered communities	24,761	24,204	24,345	3,000	871,344	876,420	1.20
Child nutrition	521,507	679,715	737,579	400	3,262,632	3,540,379	4.86
	2,557,139	2,814,084	2,959,915		54,942,077	57,341,702	
Health allowance for senior citizens above 70 years	111,846	1,192,356	1,288,017	1,000	14,308,272	15,456,204	21.23
Total					69,250,349	72,797,906	100

(Budget Speech, 2020)

The above budget/expenditure is not covered the allocated budget of Rs. 31.9 billion in 2019/2020 and Rs. 27 billion for various types of scholarships, in 2020/21. Similarly, allowances for martyrs' families, children of martyrs and children affected by the conflict are not included. It is estimated that the number of children receiving such allowances will be much less than the total number of children receiving child grants.

Of all social security allowance, the government spends 65 percent or more on senior citizens (including health allowance), on single and widow allowance about 24.5 percent, disability allowance about 4.5 percent, endangered community allowance 1.2 percent and child nutrition allowance about 4.8 percent. Since children are not excluded from disability and endangered community allowances, the percentage of children in the total population (41.84%) is about 2.4 percent. From this, the share of children from the support allowance group will be up to 7.2 percent.

Looking at the various types of cash transfers (monthly allowances) currently being provided, the cost for the financially inactive citizen is actually considered as the expenditure, while the cost for the child is an investment in future human capital development. Despite the legal, policy and programmatic provisions being child-sensitive for protecting the rights of children in need of special protection, including the coverage of millions of children within child nutrition and scholarships scheme, and provision of immediate support for child labour and street children, it is essential to increase the share of child oriented social security scheme to ensure the rights of children in need of special protection as enshrined in law. The contribution of the federal, provincial and local levels in this work should be mainstreamed. It can be believed that the social security program will be strengthened through the above arrangement.

The various types of support allowances provided to economically inactive populations or individuals are actual expenditures, while support allowances for children are investments for future manpower needed by the country. Therefore, for the various groups of children (economically weaker families, orphans, helpless, disabled, HIV/AIDS affected, etc.) who need state assistance to meet the basic needs of children, new programs under social security should be added and the current monthly allowance should be increased.

3.14 RIGHT OF CHILDREN TO PRIVACY

Article 16 of the UNCRC, 1989 mentions that no child shall be subjected to arbitrary or unlawful interference with his or her privacy, family, home or correspondence or to unlawful attacks on his or her honour and reputation. Article 28 of the Constitution of Nepal guarantees the rights to privacy and this rights also applicable to children. Sub-section (1-3) of section 11 of the Children's Act, 2018 has provisions for the right to privacy of children. However, if it has to be published for any study or research work, it can be published by mentioning only the age or gender of the child and their family name, surname, address and other identities should not be revealed.

The Supreme Court has issued a procedural guideline on confidentiality on 25 December 2007 to maintain the confidentiality of the parties in the proceedings of special cases. Similarly, the Press Council of Nepal has also issued 'Child-Friendly Media Guideline, 2016' to make the media child-sensitive (Annex 2). Thus, the right to privacy of children is being protected from child-related issues and incidents.

The practice of anonymity not giving real names and not publishing pictures of children who have been subjected to violence, exploitation or abuse in the audio-visual and print media is also on the rise. In cases of child abuse, especially sexual abuse, abuse and child abuse, the system of mentioning the symbolic name of the child in the documents without mentioning the real name is being implemented everywhere.

The Child-Friendly Communication Guideline, 2016 also includes the issue of respecting the privacy of children. It is mentioned that the identity of the child should not be made public except in cases where it is necessary for the public interest and to ensure that no harm is done to the child but their identity can be disclosed only if it is not risky for the children or has no immediate and long-term negative impact on them. In order to protect the privacy of the child, the identities of children who have been sexually abused or abused, in case of such violence or abuse by a relative, the identity of the accused should not be disclosed, in order to develop a sense of confidence and security between the petitioner without even revealing the identity of the accused, the confidentiality of their personal identity or other information should be guaranteed. There is a provision that news or news items related to child abuse should be prepared by mentioning only hints and by changing the name. In accordance with these provisions, work is being done to maintain privacy according to the seriousness of the issue of children.

3.15 CORPORAL PUNISHMENT AND BULLYING

Article 19 of the UNCRC states that the state must protect children from all forms of abuse and neglect by parents, guardians and other responsible persons. Similarly, article 37 stipulates that no child shall be subjected to torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, and shall not be deprived of their liberty in an unlawful or unjust manner.

There is a provision that children should not be punished or tortured in any way. Sub-section (5) section 7 of the Children's Act, 2018 mentions that every child shall have the right to protection against any type of physical or mental violence and torture, hatred, inhuman treatment, gender or untouchability-based mistreatment, sexual harassment and exploitation that might be caused by his or her father, mother, other family member or guardian, teacher and other person.

Awareness raising work against physical and mental punishment of children has been going on from governmental and non-governmental organization for the past years. However,

incidents of physical and mental punishment or torture against children in various setting like homes, communities, early child development centres, schools, residential child care homes, child correction home, treatment centres, workplaces and other places are still coming to light. Incidents of children being affected by various types of bullying by adults, teachers and friends in families, communities, schools and other places are becoming public. The idea that children should be disciplined in schools to improve their educational and moral aspects has been found to give physical and mental punishment to children.

Necessary policies and guidelines have been issued by the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology (MoEST) for child friendly learning and child friendly school. However, cases of children being affected by physical and mental punishment by some teachers in schools have been getting attention which also affects the personality development of children. Physical and mental punishment against children in family, school and other setting and bullying also fall under the category of child violence and abuse. It is important for everyone to be aware of this and to have a child-friendly attitude towards children. According to the NMICS, 2019 conducted by the Central Bureau of Statistics, 82 percent of the children in the age group of 1 to 14 years have received some form of physical and mental punishment. Since such punishments against children have a long-term effect on the minds of children, it is important to discourage any form of punishment from any place where children are involved.

Information about various types of physical and mental punishment against children in schools has been made public through various media. In 2019/20, a total of 56 incidents of corporal punishment have become public in which 41 boys and 15 girls have been victimized by the headmasters and teachers and the reasons for corporal punishment include long hair and late schooling. Fifteen children have been seriously injured in the beating. In addition, 36 children receiving corporal punishment are from institutional schools and 20 children are from community schools. It was also published that 34 students of class 6 and 7 of a school in Kathmandu were forced to cut their hands by a school teacher with a blade.

3.16 INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND CHILDREN

Article 39, clause (6) of the Constitution of Nepal states that "no child shall be subjected to any form or manner of abuse, neglect or physical, mental, sexual or any other form of exploitation or abuse." The Electronic Transactions Act, 2006 is being implemented in Nepal to prevent cybercrime. The Right to Information Act, 2007 provides that every Nepali citizen will have access to public information in public bodies subject to this act. Section 2 of Some Public (Crime and Punishment) Act, 1970 prohibits the printing or publishing of obscene language by words or pictures or displaying or selling such obscene publications in public places.

Article 17 of the UNCRC ensures that every child have the right to access on information, notice and materials that are of social, spiritual and moral interest to them through a variety

of sources. Therefore, the state should encourage the media to disseminate such information and materials and take the necessary steps to protect children from information and notices that could harm them. Despite the right of children to access on information and technology, the Optional Protocol on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Pornography highlight the need to protect children from such abuse.

With the development of information and communication technology, the Nepal Telecommunication Authority has issued the Online Child Safety Guidelines, 2019 to reduce the increasing incidence of child abuse through online media in joint initiatives of stakeholders and for safe use of the internet for children. This guideline contains detailed provisions on what online service providers should do for children, households and communities, information on websites and apps used by children, safe use of the internet on school computers, and the role of stakeholders, and the Nepal Tele-Communications Authority.

The rapid development and expansion of information technology in the world have significantly increased children's access to social media, including the internet. From this, children have got the opportunity to learn various subjects informally which has both negative and positive effects on children. At the same time, the potential for online sexual abuse of children seems to have increased. On the one hand, the development of technology has made human life faster and more technology-friendly, while on the other hand, its misuse has also led to distortion which is affecting the children.

In FY 2019/20, 104 complaints were registered in the Central Cyber Bureau against children related to cyber bullying, child pornography, false IDs and cheating. According to the Central Cyber Bureau, 48 such complaints were registered during the lockdown (April 2020 to July 2020). Online abuse of children seems to be more deadly than other forms of abuse, as images, videos, information, and notices that are made public electronically reach many people at once and remain in cyberspace forever.

According to the report of the Nepal Telecommunication Authority, the percentage of internet users in Nepal as of July 2020 is 74.43 (this percentage was limited to 2.65 in 2067), of which 55.30 percent are mobile internet users. Similarly, according to a survey conducted by UNICEF Nepal and ChildSafeNet in 2020, a total of 85.85 percent of children in Nepal use mobile internet. The study also found that one in four children and one in four youth use the internet for more than 10 hours each day. The study also found that 42 percent of children and young people open and view pornographic websites.

In Nepal, especially in urban areas, where children have access to the internet, children may be at higher risk of sexual abuse. Parents are too busy to give their children enough time, instead provide them with electronic devices like mobiles, tabs, laptops. The tendency of parents to be reluctant to use these materials puts children at even higher risk of being sexually abused online.

It has been found that children especially use the internet to do homework, play online games, chat, use social networks like Facebook, Viber, etc., and listen to music. Some surveys have shown that some children use the internet to view pornographic material. Similarly, it has been reported that children are being sexually abused by sending obscene pictures, audio, video, messages etc.

Despite extensive efforts from government and non-government organizations put forward to protect children from potential harm through electronic means or online, it is still challenging due to lack of online child safety data and adequate studies, lack of an institutional mechanism for legal, psychosocial, health and technical assistance to victims, lack of shared understanding of online harm and risk, need for detailed audits to help child victims of online violence, make research and prosecution child-friendly, etc. For the long-term solution of such problems and challenges, it is necessary to draw the attention of all three levels of government and stakeholders for the expansion of safe and effective use of the internet.

3.17 CHILD-FRIENDLY JUSTICE

Constitution of Nepal guarantees the rights of child to child-friendly justice. For the effective implementation of this constitutional provision, there is a provision of Central Child Justice Committee at the center as per section 46 of the Children Act, 2018 and District Child Justice Committee in each district as per section 47 in order to coordinate among the various agencies related to the administration of justice for children in a legal dispute. As per Child Justice Procedural Rules 2019, a Central Child Justice Committee has been formed at the center under the chairmanship of a Supreme Court Judge and District Child Justice Committee has constituted under the chairpersonship of a District Judge. In addition to the juvenile justice system for children involved in delinquency, the court has been sensitive to issues related to children. The state has adopted a child-friendly system through concepts such as child correction homes, observation room, juvenile court, and diversion for appropriate treatment to correct the behaviour of children who have been punished by law but have not been prosecuted as adults due to their young age and physical and mental immaturity.

As of the secretariat of the Central Child Justice Committee, in 2019/20, total 1,362 delinquents (1,309 boys and 53 girls) were involved in 36 different types of delinquencies in 56 district courts. Out of the total 1,022 cases, total 416 (40.71%) cases have been verdict while the remaining 606 or 59.29 percent cases are still pending. Out of these cases, 288 persons were involved in most of the cases of rape. There are 179 delinquents in the case of drugs, marijuana, nitro-vet, codeine and brufin. Similarly, it is seen that there are 1/1 juvenile delinquents in the lowest number of money laundering and human trafficking cases. The number of children involved in various cases and such are given in Annex 6.

A general analysis of the nature and number of children involved in delinquency also shows

that serious challenges have been added to the protection and promotion of child rights. The involvement of children in delinquencies who are under the age group who need to go to school and acquire life skills and knowledge seems to have a negative impact on fulfilling the national aspirations of a happy Nepali and a prosperous Nepal. Therefore, for the long term solution of this problem, it is necessary for all the three levels of government and concerned bodies to seriously discuss and take appropriate measures.

3.18 MISCELLANEOUS

Among the various incidents related to child protection, especially the incidents related to COVID-19 and the children affected by the accident, including suicide and murder, which have come to light in the mass media, are presented in this section.

3.18.1 COVID-19 and Children

The pandemic of COVID-19 that is spreading all over the world has also affected Nepal. The first case of the virus was reported in Nepal on Thursday, January 23, 2020. Keeping in mind the infection of the pandemic, the country remained under lockdown from March 24, 2020, to address the problem of this pandemic. Meantime, the Office of the Prime Minister and Council of Ministers has issued "Guidelines on Volunteer Mobilization in the Community for Prevention and Control of Corona Pandemic, 2020".

In order to protect the children from this pandemic, the Ministry of Women, Children and Senior Citizens has prepared the Criteria for the Operation of Shelters during the Pandemic of COVID-19, 2020, to properly address it. Among the three objectives of this standard, (b) is to provide safe services to the victims of violence, pregnant and maternity and children by admitting them to shelters during pandemics and captivity. It states that the shelter or quarantine room should be child-friendly and provide psychosocial counselling as needed. Similarly, if there is a dependent child with the affected person, they should also be tested and treated in isolation. As the affected children have to live separately, the shelter should contact the concern local level or child helpline service and make necessary arrangements for the care of the child, child-friendly behaviour and other arrangements are included. Similarly, the Ministry of Women, Children and Senior Citizens have prepared and implemented an Action Plan, 2020, to improve and address the impact of COVID-19 on women, children, persons with disabilities and senior citizens and to mobilize social organizations.

The National Child Rights Council has made arrangements for the provision of temporary protection services and rehabilitation for the rescue and protection of children on the streets during the period of corona infection. In case of children living in child care homes, child correction homes and streets tested positive, NCRC has set up a 10 bed child friendly quarantine in the premises of Nepal Children's Organization.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, examinations at various levels of school and higher education and enrolment in the new semester/class have been postponed. On-site teaching has stopped. Shortly after the lockdown, private schools began conducting online classes. The Ministry of Education, Science and Technology (MoEST) has approved the Student Learning Facilitation Guide, 2020 (Sept 4, 2020) from the alternative system and the work of conducting online classes has been organized. Various informative programs are being disseminated through various media outlets targeting parents for child-friendly learning and behaviour during corona infection and for children to participate in learning and recreation.

According to the Ministry of Health and Population, 3,447 children up to 14 years of age have been infected till mid-September 2020, while 2,622 children up to 10 years of age and 7,073 people between 11 and 20 years of age have been infected. Children across the country have been affected by the infection.

3.18.2 Suicide, Murder and Children

In FY, 2019/20, 57 incidents related to killing of children due to various reasons have become public through different media outlets. The reasons behind killing of children are varied. Among the killed, 12 due to illicit relationship, 3 after abduction, 3 after rape, 9 due to family resentment and 14 by stepmother or father and 17 have committed suicide after killing their children. Among the killed children 20 are boys, 29 girls and 8 infants. According to various media outlets, 180 children (106 girls and 74 boys) have committed suicide. The increasing number of child suicides is a very sensitive issue and total 138 children have committed suicide since the lockdown started on March 24, 2020.

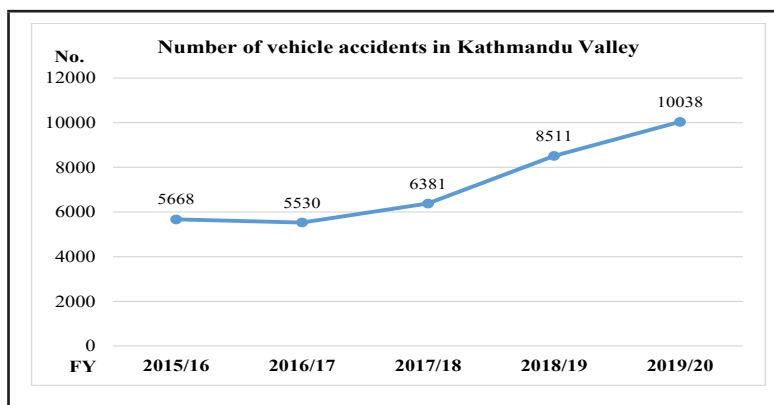
According to the Women, Children and Senior Citizens Service Directorate under the Police Headquarters, a total of 185 children (boys, 7 and girls, 175) have been victims of domestic violence in FY 2019/20. Similarly, 662 children (boys, 252 and girls, 410) committed suicide.

3.18.3 Accidents and Children

Many people lost their lives and seriously injured in road accidents every year. Details of road accidents and human casualties across the country have become difficult to update. However, details of such incidents within the Kathmandu Valley are made available. There were 8,511 road accidents in 2018/19 and 10,038 road accidents have taken place in 2019. Of the 10,038 accidents, 139 accidents involved 153 deaths (122 men and 31 women). Most of these vehicles are motorcycles and scooters (54), followed by buses (22), trucks (18), tippers (17), jeeps (17), pickups (6), tankers (3), dumpers and graders (2), bicycle (2), container (1), micro (1) and 3 vehicles were unidentified. According to the Metropolitan Traffic Police, Ramshahpath, more men than women have lost their lives in road accidents in the last five fiscal years.

The number of road accidents in the Kathmandu Valley in the last five fiscal years is presented in the graph below.

Graph 3: Number of road accidents in Kathmandu Valley, FY 2015/16 - 2019/20



(MTPD, 2020)

The incident of road accidents in Kathmandu Valley has been increasing in the last three FYs. It is a matter of concern that the number of road accidents is increasing even after the Traffic Police Office has taken various measures to reduce the number of accidents including raising awareness on road accidents.

The number of people who have died in road accidents in the last five FYs according to the age group is given in the table below.

Table 23: Number of people killed in road accidents in Kathmandu Valley, FY 2015/16-2019/20

Age range	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20
Below 16 years	12	16	18	15	7
17 to 35 years	92	86	103	147	98
Above 36 years	62	80	73	92	48
Total	166	182	194	254	153

(MTPD, 2020)

From the above table, the number of deaths due to road accidents has increased every year till last year and declines in this FY. The number (and percentage) of children under the age of 16 who have died in road accidents has declined since the last fiscal year.

In order to prevent and control road accidents, the Metropolitan Traffic Police has been strictly implementing the Vehicle and Transport Management Act. Traffic awareness classes are being conducted in schools, colleges and various organizations including those injured

in accidents and violating traffic rules. Public awareness activities on traffic rules through various means of communication is ongoing. However, driver negligence, speeding, driving under the influence of alcohol, mechanical malfunction, overtaking incorrectly, negligence of pedestrians, poor road conditions (width, turning, degradation), adverse weather conditions and leaving four-wheelers on the road, etc. have seen to cause accidents. Therefore, in order to reduce road accidents, it is necessary to increase the vigilance of the concerned stakeholders and the general public.

Due to various accidents other than road accidents (drowning and flooding in rivers and ponds, landslides and ditches, road accidents, electric shocks, snake bites, etc.) within the FY 2019/20, the information about 178 children (86 boys, 81 girls and 11 infants) who lost their lives has been made public through various media.

3.18.4 Children in Emergencies

Nepal is one of the countries at risk of natural disasters. Every year, some kind of disaster and calamity happens in Nepal and such disasters like earthquakes, floods, landslides, and pandemics and man-made disasters affect adults as well as children. The effects of such disasters on children's education, health, psychological and other aspects are more sensitive than those of adults. In each of the major disasters, measures have been taken to address the problem of targeting children and the contribution of development partners, NGOs and civil society has been significant.

Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act, 2017 is being implemented. The National Council for Disaster Risk Reduction and Management is chaired by the Hon'ble Prime Minister to effectively conduct the work related to disaster management. From approving the national policy and plan on disaster management, this council provides necessary policy guidance to the province and local level for disaster management. The Ministry of Home Affairs has a Disaster and Conflict Management Division to address the problems created by disasters. There is an arrangement of Provincial Disaster Management Council and Provincial Disaster Management Executive Committee as well as District and Local Disaster Management Committee. In the case of natural and man-made disasters, these committees take necessary action to address the problem.

The Fifteenth Plan aims to reduce the human, material, economic, social, cultural and environmental damage caused by all kinds of natural disasters and non-natural disasters. In addition, strategies and approaches have been formulated for the purpose of strengthening disaster risk reduction and management, improving multi-disaster risk mapping and information management at all three levels, capacity building from the community for disaster risk reduction, and raising awareness.

The Government of Nepal is sensitive to disaster management. In each case, small and large disasters have been addressed by the government. But it is difficult to get disintegrated

data about what, how much and what type of services and facilities were distributed from government, non-government and private sectors and what kind of services and facilities are provided to such children. With the attention of the concerned stakeholders, it seems necessary to manage information targeted at children in the coming days.

According to the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Authority, a total of 57 children, including 45 from floods and landslides, 3 from lightning and 9 from snake bites, have died in the period from the onset of monsoon in 2020. Similarly, according to the Gandaki Province Police Office, 42 children (23 girls and 19 boys) have been killed from June 9 to September 25, 2020. In addition, 9 children have gone lost and 17 children have been injured.

3.18.5 Sexual Minority and Children

According to article 12 of the Constitution of Nepal, a person who obtains Nepali citizenship on the basis of descent can obtain a certificate of Nepali citizenship with gender identity in the name of their mother or father. In Article 18, all citizens shall be equal before the law and no one shall be deprived of the equal protection of the law. The State shall not discriminate between citizens on the basis of origin, religion, caste, creed, sex, economic status, language, region, ideological belief or any other such ground. However, there is a provision that special provisions for the protection, empowerment or development of socially or culturally oppressed women, including sexual minorities cannot be considered as prohibited.

Organizations such as the Blue Diamond Society, Mitini Nepal and Parichaya Samaj and Campaign for Change are working on the rights of people belonging to sexual minorities. Among the various activities of these organizations, the program of Gaijatra festival is also showing an increase in the identity of sexual minorities. However, it is still difficult to get enough information about children with sexual minorities and the study of this issue is necessary.

3.18.6 Child Rights Violation Cases as Published in Media

The National Child Rights Council publishes monthly and annual reports on incidents of violence and abuse against children published in national daily newspapers and electronic media. In the FY 2019/20, a total of 1,302 children (452 boys, 830 girls and 20 infants) were victimized through child rights violation cases like sexually abused, child labour, child marriage, murder, trafficking and trafficking, abduction, suicide, physical and mental punishment, abortion and abduction. The nature of the incident and the number of children affected is presented in the table below.

Table 24: Incidents and number of affected children published in the mass media, FY 2019/20

Incidents	Total affected			
	Total number	Boys	Girls	Infant
Child sexual abuse and rape	323	5	318	
Child Marriage	208	68	140	
Suicide	180	74	106	
Death	178	86	81	11
Child Labour	79	57	22	
Murder	57	20	29	8
Corporal Punishment	56	41	15	
Smuggling	22	14	8	
Abortion	19		19	
Abduction	14	7	6	1
Total	1136	372	744	20

(NCRC, 2020)

The above incidents have been adjusted in the relevant thematic headings. Depending on the nature of such incidents made public through various media, the National Child Rights Council is facilitating and liaison with the concerned agencies (Municipality, Ward, Nepal Police and other stakeholders) for the brief information of the incident, coordination and addressing the problem or proper management of the incident.

3.19 CONCLUSION

The existing Children's Act 2018 has made provision for all the agencies and institutions working directly with children to formulate and implement mandatory child protection standards to ensure the protection of children and reduce the risk. Awareness efforts to protect the rights of children, service expansion and investments in the empowerment of children and parents have led to an increase in complaints of violence and abuse against children and public awareness. There is also an increase in the sensitivity of parents not to commit violence against children. It has been found that the government, development partners, non-governmental sector, media and other stakeholders are becoming sensitive to the rights, interests and entitlements of children in need of special protection. The government is committed to making the country free of street children by 2020. The necessary assistance program is being implemented in accordance with the policy of taking care of orphans. Issues such as child labour, child marriage and child justice are improving and work is underway to address the needs of children at risk. However, it has been a challenge to

improve all kinds of issues such as child violence, rape, sexual violence, abuse, bullying, the impact of the internet on children, child protection social security system, operation of Child Care Homes as per rules, and online security. In this regard, it is necessary for all stakeholders, including the government and non-government sector, to contribute in a more productive manner.

4.1 INTRODUCTION

This chapter contains information on the issues related to the education of children (Articles 28 and 29) mentioned in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and the provisions relating to the education and development of children guaranteed by the Constitution and the legal provisions. Clause 15 of the Children's Act, 2018 has provisions for the right of children to education (Annex 1). According to the Compulsory and Free Education Act, 2018, the state will provide compulsory education up to the basic level to every child who has completed four years of age and has not reached 13 years of age, every citizen will get free education up to secondary level from the state, while children of each community will get education up to basic level or secondary level in their mother tongue.

The Fifteenth Plan (2018/19-2023/24) aims to develop human resources for socio-economic transformation and to develop creative, efficient, competitive, productive and innovative human resources through quality education. One of the five objectives of the education sector is to make education quality, vital and technology-friendly by ensuring compulsory and free access of all children to basic education with experience of early childhood development and free access to secondary education to all children.

The National Education Policy, 2019 aims to develop human resources in line with the needs of the country by making education at all levels competitive, technology-friendly, employment-oriented and productive. The objectives of this policy are basically to make early childhood development and education qualitative and effective, to ensure easy and equitable access to school education for all, to guarantee universal, viable, creative, competitive and quality compulsory and free education, and to establish interrelationship between formal, informal and non-formal education. These include the development of the capacity to use traditional and modern technology for national development by integrating science and technology into the education system. The fulfilment of these objectives seems to help further ensure the right of children to education.

4.2 EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT

The Constitution of Nepal mentions the issue of early childhood development as a fundamental right. The Compulsory and Free Education Act, 2018, includes the right of

every child to early childhood development and education. The issue of managing the operation of the child development centre has been mentioned in the Early Childhood Development Guideline, 2007. The National Education Policy, 2019 has a provision of making early childhood development and education quality and effectively focused on the all-round development of children.

Early Childhood Development Centre (ECDC) has been expanding. The number of ECDC from the year 2015-2019 based on community schools and community and institutional school is presented in the table below:

Table 25: Number of ECDC from the year 2015-2019

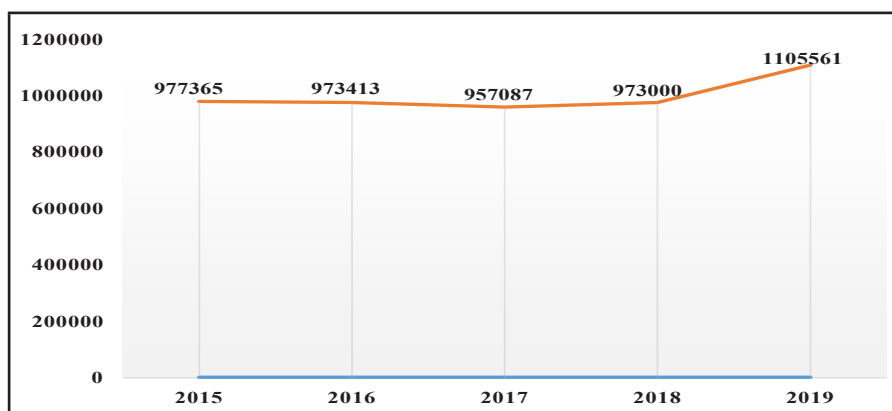
Early Child Development Center	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Community school and community-based	30,448	30,448	30,448	30,097	30,039
Institutional school-based	5,543	5,645	6,120	5,896	6,411
Total	35,991	36,093	36,568	35,993	36,450

(DoE, 2016/17, CEHRD, 2018, 2019, 2020)

From the table above, it is seen that the number of ECDC has been fluctuating every year since 2015. With the implementation of federalism, the Local Government Operation Act, 2017 has given the responsibility of establishment, operation and management of child development centres to the local level. This may also be the cause of fluctuation in the number of ECDC in the given years.

The following graph shows the fluctuating number of children enrolled in the ECDC from the year 2015 to 2019.

Graph 4: Number of children enrolled in the ECDC between the year 2015-2019



From the graph above, it is seen that the number of children enrolled in ECDC has decreased every year from 2015 to 2018. However, there is a significant increase (13.6%) in 2019 as compared to 2018. The average number of children per ECDC has increased from 27.03 in 2018 to 30.33 in 2019. The enrolment rate of children in ECDC was 84.7 percent in 2018, which has reached to 86.2 percent in 2019.

The percentage of children enrolled in grade 1 was 66.9 percent in 2018 with the experience of the ECDC, which has reached to 68.6 percent in 2019. As the physical, intellectual, emotional and cognitive development of children with the experience of early childhood development is expected to be good; it requires to do more effort to gain the experience of the ECDC to all children enrolled in grade 1.

The Constitution and Acts have provisions for the protection of *Dalit* and minority children. According to the 2011 census, *Dalits* constitute 13.6 percent of the total population and Janajati 37.2 percent. Out of the total 1,105,561 children enrolled in the ECDC in 2019, in which 209,105 children are from the *Dalit* community and 404,771 children are from the Janajati community. The percentage of *Dalit* and Janajati children enrolled in the ECDC from 2016 to 2019 is given in the table below.

Table 26: Percentage of *Dalit* and Janajati children in ECDC from the year 2016-2019

	Total 2016	<i>Dalit</i> %	Janajati %	Total 2017	<i>Dalit</i> %	Janajati %	Total 2018	<i>Dalit</i> %	Janajati %	Total 2019	<i>Dalit</i> %	Janajati %
Girls	4,59,069	17.9	39.3	4,52,259	18.4	39.2	4,49,075	16.8	37.3	5,08,145	19.3	36.8
Boys	5,14,344	17.1	38.8	5,05,868	17.7	39.1	5,25,825	16.0	36.7	5,97,416	18.6	36.4
Total	9,73,413	17.5	39	9,58,127	18	39.1	9,73,900	16.4	37	11,05,561	18.9	36.6

(DoE, 2016/17, CEHRD, 2018, 2019, 2020)

From the table above, there are some fluctuations in the number and percentage of children enrolled in the ECDC from the year 2016 to 2019. The number of children enrolled in 2019 overweighs by 132,561 than the previous year. The percentage of children (18.9%) enrolled in ECDC is higher than the percentage of the total population of the *Dalit* community (13.6%). On the other hand, the percentage of children enrolled in ECDC (36.6%) is slightly less than the percentage of the total population (37.2%) in the Janajati community. The enrolment rate of the children of the Janajati community in ECDC has been declining compared to the past few years.

Of the children enrolled in the ECDC in 2019, the number of children with various disabilities has reached to 3,687, which was 3,270 in the previous year. Local level, ECDC and families require to give more attention to increase access of such children to ECDC.

4.3 SCHOOL LEVEL EDUCATION

Article 31 of the Constitution of Nepal states that every citizen shall have the right to free and compulsory education up to the basic level and free education up to the secondary level. Clause 20 of the Compulsory and Free Education Act, 2018 provides for free education up to secondary level. Under Clause 15 of the Children's Act, 2018, every child shall have the right to compulsory and free education up to basic level and free education up to the secondary level in a child-friendly environment. It has been mentioned that *Dalit* children will have the right to free education with scholarships as per the prevailing law.

According to the Economic Survey of 2019/20, the ratio of girls to boys at the basic level (grades 1-8) is 0.98. It is estimated that this ratio has come down as the number of boys has increased more than the number of girls at the primary level. But the ratio of girls from grade 1-12 has reached 1.01. The number of students enrolled at the school level had been increasing till in the last decade as a result of the government's increasing investment in the education sector, school enrolment campaign, and educational awareness. Despite this, the total number of students enrolled at the school level (Grades 1-10) has started to decrease for almost a decade and, the decreasing number is seen to be high at the primary level. For example, according to the information available from the then Ministry of Education, the total number of students at the school level in 2009 was 7,782,219, whereas it is 7,021,622 in 2019. However, literacy rate and enrolment rate are improving. The number of enrolments in different levels of school education from 2015 to 2019 is presented in the table below.

Table 27: Student's enrolment by school level from the year 2015-2019

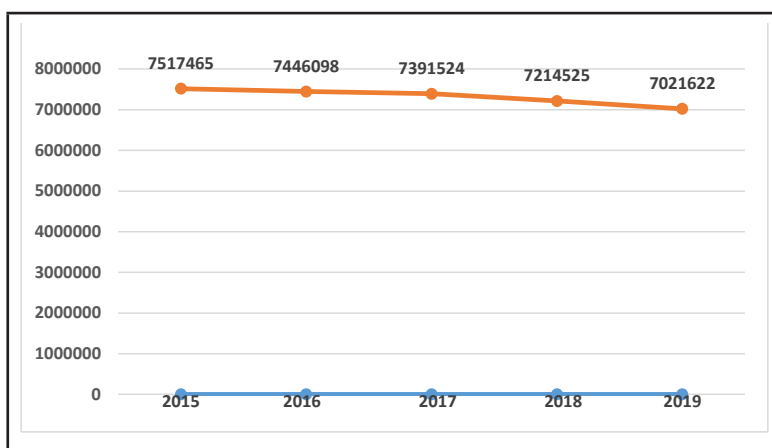
Academic session	2015			2016	2017	2018	2019		
	Girls	Boys	Total	2016	2017	2018	Girls	Boys	Total
Primary (1-5)	2,165,386	2,099,556	4,264,942	4,135,253	3,970,016	3,730,602	1,762,541 (49.7)	1,781,321	3,543,862
Lower Secondary (6-8)	94,4816	918,057	1,862,873	1,859,359	1,866,716	1,824,777	891,145 (50.2)	883,997	1,775,142
Secondary (1-8)	3,110,202	3,017,613	6,127,815	5994612	5,836,732	5,555,379	2,653,686 (49.9)	2,665,318	5,319,004
Grade (9-10)	478,168	460,729	938,897	958,502	970,720	1,027,512	523,185 (50.3)	517,791	1,040,976
Grade (11-12)	228,350	222,403	450,753	492,984	584,072	631,634	351,095 (53.1)	310,547	661,642
Higher Secondary (9-12)	706,518	683,132	1,389,650	1,451,486	1,554,792	1,659,146	874,280 (51.3)	828,338	1,702,618
Grade 1-12	3,816,720	3,700,745	7,517,465	7,446,098	7,391,524	7,214,525	3,527,966 (50.2)	3,493,656	7,021,622

(MoF, 2020)

From the above table, it is seen that the number of students enrolled at the primary level is decreasing every year from 2015 to 2019. At the primary level, the number of students has decreased by 3 percent in 2016, 6 percent in 2018 and 5 percent in 2019. In contrast, the number of students at the secondary level is gradually increasing. The number of students in grade 9-10 has increased by 6 percent in 2018 as compared to the previous year and 1 percent in 2019. Similarly, the number of students in Grade 11-12 has increased by 18 percent in 2017 and 5 percent in 2019. Overall, the number of students in Grades 1-12 has decreased by 3 percent in 2019. The significant decrease in the number of students at the primary level may be due to the decrease in population growth, while the increase in the number of students at the secondary level may be due to the general awareness of education. In the table above, the percent of girls is shown in the bracket in 2019. According to this, the percentage of girls has decreased compared to boys at the primary level since 2018 (49.7%) while the percentage of girls has increased in other Grades. In Grade 11-12, girls constitute 53.1 percent.

The total number of students enrolled in Grade 1-12 from the academic session 2015 to 2019 is presented in the graph below.

Graph 5: Total number of students enrolled in grade 1-12 from the year 2015-2019



From the above graph, it is clear that the total number of students enrolled at the school level has been gradually decreasing since 2015. A total of 495,843 students has decreased in 2019 as compared to 2015. The decreasing number of students provides some basis for the government to manage the physical infrastructure and number of teachers in the coming years.

The net enrolment rate of students according to the levels of school in 2019 is presented in the table below.

Table 28: Details of enrolment according to the school level, 2019

School-level	Girls	Boys	Total
Primary (1-5)	96.4	97.7	97.1
Lower secondary (6-8)	88.7	90.7	89.7
Primary (1-8)	92.6	94.2	93.4
Secondary (9/10)	69.3	68.7	69.0
Higher Secondary (11-12)	26.5	25.9	26.2
Secondary (9-12)	47.9	47.3	47.6

(MoF, 2020)

According to the 2019 report of the Center for Education and Human Resource Development, the sustainability rate of students in schools has improved in 2019 as compared to the previous academic year. The sustainability rate up to Grade 5 increased to 93 percent (boys 92.2 and girls 93.6) against 89.6 percent in the previous year, the rate in grade 8 reached to 79.3 percent (boys 79.1 and girls 79.6) against 77.9 percent in the previous year followed by the rate in grade 10 reached to 60.3 percent (boys 59.1 and girls 61.6) from 58.4 percent and Grade 12 reached to 24.0 percent (boys 23.4 and girls 24.6) from 22.2 percent.

At the school level, students have been repeating grades and dropping out for various reasons. From the academic year 2017 to 2019, the success rate of students, the rate of repeating a grade and the dropout rate are given in the table below.

Table 29: Success, repetition and dropout rates from the year 2017-2019

Class level	Pass Rate			Repeat Rate			Dropout Rate		
	Girls	Boys	Total	Girls	Boys	Total	Girls	Boys	Total
Academic Session 2017									
Primary (1-5)	89.9	89	89.5	6.8	7.2	7.0	3.3	3.8	3.6
Lower secondary (6-8)	92.0	91.4	91.7	3.8	4.1	4.0	4.2	4.5	4.4
Secondary (9/10)	93.4	93.4	93.4	2.9	3.0	2.9	3.7	3.6	3.7
Academic Session 2018									
Primary (1-5)	89.7	88.8	89.3	6.7	7.2	7.0	3.6	4.0	3.8
Lower secondary (6-8)	92.9	91.7	92.3	3.5	4.0	3.8	3.6	4.3	3.9
Secondary (9/10)	94.2	93.6	93.9	3.5	3.6	3.6	2.3	2.8	2.6
Academic Session 2019									
Primary (1-5)	90.7	89.4	90.0	6.1	6.6	6.4	3.3	4.1	3.6
Lower secondary (6-8)	93.1	91.9	92.5	3.6	4.0	3.8	3.3	4.1	3.8
Secondary (9/10)	95.5	95.0	95.3	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.5	3.0	2.8

(CEHRD, 2020)

As per the above table, the success rate in 2019 has increased in all the three levels of primary, lower secondary and secondary level as compared to the last academic session. The rate of repetition has decreased in 2019 at the primary and secondary level as compared

to last year while it has remained the same at the lower secondary level. There has been no significant improvement in dropout rates in the middle of the academic session.

Dalit and Janajati children:

According to the 2011 census, *Dalits* constitute 13.6 percent of the total population and Janajatis 37.2 percent. The percentage of *Dalit* and Janajati children studying in the primary, lower secondary, secondary and higher secondary level from the academic session 2017 to 2019 is given in the table below.

Table 30: Percentage of *Dalit* and Janajati children in total students according to educational level from the year 2017-2019

Year	2017		2018		2019	
Education Level	<i>Dalit</i> %	Janajati %	<i>Dalit</i> %	Janajati %	<i>Dalit</i> %	Janajati %
Primary (1-5)	19.9	36.8	19.9	34.2	19.5	33.7
Lower secondary (6-8)	16	40.9	15.6	37.8	15.6	37.6
Primary (1-8)	18.7	38.1	18.5	35.4	18.2	35.0
Secondary (9-10)	11.1	33.8	12.4	39.8	12.3	37.6
Secondary (11-12)	6.5	23.3	6.9	23.1	8.7	38.1
Secondary (9-12)	9.4	29.9	10.4	33.5	10.9	37.8
Grade (1-12)	16.7	36.35	16.6	35.0	16.4	35.6

(CEHRD, 2018, 2019, 2020)

The percentage of *Dalit* children in the total number of students has decreased at the primary level, however, there has been some improvement at the secondary level. Similarly, the percentage of Janajati children has also decreased at the primary level and a significant improvement at the secondary level. The percentage of *Dalit* and Janajati children in the total number of students at school level is slightly less than the percentage of *Dalit* and Janajati community in the total population.

Children with disabilities:

The Government of Nepal has been sensitive to the protection of the rights of children with disabilities. Accordingly, the Inclusive Education Policy, 2016 has been in implementation for persons with disabilities. Children with physical, intellectual, hearing, sight, voice and other conditions of disability are studying at the school level. According to the Economic Survey, 2019/20, a total of 62,704 children with disabilities have been provided with residential and non-residential scholarships at the secondary level and higher secondary level in the academic session of 2019.

According to the National Census, 2011, persons with disabilities constitute 1.94 percent of the total population. Against this proportion, 0.88 percent children with disabilities (CWD) are in school-level education. According to the 2019 report of the Center for Education and Human Development Resources, the number of students with disabilities enrolled in

grade 1-12 was 66,955 in the academic year 2018, while it is 62,047 in 2019. According to the type of disabilities, there are 36,999 children with physical disabilities, 6,685 children with intellectual disabilities, 6,205 children with hearing impairment, 5,410 children with low vision, 4,529 children with voice and speech problem, 2,022 children with visual impairment and 916 children with both hearing and vision disabilities.

There are 33 special schools, 23 integrated schools and 380 resource classes for the children with disabilities. For the visually impaired, programs have been launched to provide free Braille textbooks and to develop and distribute sign language and other learning materials. Further efforts are needed to increase the access of children with disabilities to school education.

Others:

The computer facilities in community schools is being expanded. Schools are increasingly using information technology in teaching and learning activities. The Government of Nepal aims to expand the use of information technology in all secondary schools to guarantee quality education by bringing more effectiveness in teaching and learning through the use of information technology.

Various programs are in implementation to increase the enrolment of children in schools, to sustain them in schools, to increase the quality of education, and to increase the access of children in poverty and difficult situations to education. Development partners have also contributed to this effort. Among others, various types of scholarships (mainly residential and non-residential) are provided to students based on categories.

It is estimated that around Rs. 3.18 billion scholarships have been distributed to 32,88,924 students that covers the students among *Dalits*, girls, poor, children of martyrs, children of conflict victims, children of the marginalized and endangered community in the year 2019. Similarly, it has been found that there is a provision of scholarship to encourage the study of science subjects in grade 11-12. According to the Sustainable Development Goals Progress Report, 2020, published by the National Planning Commission, about 36 percent of school-level children have benefited from various types of scholarships. As per point no. 165 of the budget speech of FY 2020/21, Rs. 2.70 billion has been allocated to provide scholarships to the children of deprived and disabled citizens, sons and daughters of martyrs and hardworking students across the country. It is estimated to benefit around 2.6 million students by conducting the scholarship program in an integrated manner next year.

According to the information received from the Examination Control Office, Sanothimi, Bhaktapur, the number of students appearing for the SEE examination has been gradually increasing every year. A total of 475,003 students were present in the 2018 examination, whereas 4,83,986 students filled up forms for SEE examination in 2019. But SEE examination of this year was postponed due to COVID-19, in which, a total of 472,078

students who have qualified for the examination from the schools have received the certified with score details from the Examination Control Office.

Similarly, according to the information of the National Examinations Board, there were 349,603 regular students appearing for Grade 11 and 292,153 students appearing for Grade 12 regular examination in 2018, whereas a total of 661,642 students altogether in Grade 11 and 12 were registered for the examination. But due to COVID-19, the examination was postponed.

4.4 NUMBER OF SCHOOLS

The total number of schools was 34,837 in the academic session 2015, 34,739 in 2016, 35,601 in 2017 and 35,055 in 2018. The total number of schools has reached 35,520 in the academic session of 2019. The number of community, institutional and religious schools is presented in the table below.

Table 31: Number of schools by type of school, 2019

Level and type of school	Community	Institutional	Religious	Total
Primary (1-5)	27,540	6,420	1,103	35,063
Lower secondary (6-8)	12,039	4,601	130	16,770
Primary (1-8)	27,692	6,441	1,129	35,262
Secondary (9/10)	7,105	3,500	39	10,644
Higher Secondary (11-12)	3,268	913	6	4,187
Secondary (9-12)	7,105	3,745	39	4,889
Total	27,704	6,687	1,129	35,520

(MoF, 2020)

From the table above, a total of 35,520 schools from Grade 1 to 12 are in operation. Out of this, community schools account for 77.99 percent, institutional schools 18.82 percent and religious schools 3.19 percent. Due to the duplication of level of school, the total number of schools in each level does not seem to match. According to the Education and Human Development Resource Center, 2019, out of 1,129 religious schools, 911 are Madarsa, 114 are Monasteries and 104 are Gurukuls. In the academic session of the year 2018, the number of religious schools was 1,121.

4.5 CONCLUSION

All three tiers of governments have been working to improve the quality of school education. The development partners, the non-governmental sector, civil society and other stakeholders also contribute to education sector. The total number of students at the school level has been decreasing over the years, while enrolment rates have improved. Overall, school education seems improving.

Additional efforts have to put forward for increasing access to education of out-of-school children due to poverty, geographical remoteness, abandonment and neglect from family, disabilities; for regular teaching on all school days; reducing dropout rate; improving student learning in school; improving school-teacher-student ratio in course of ensuring the rights of children to education.

CHILD PARTICIPATION

5.1 INTRODUCTION

Among the provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, 1989 respect for the rights of the child (Article 12), freedom of expression (Article 13), freedom of association (Article 15), and access to information (Article 17) are directly related to child participation. Clauses 8, 9 and 10 of the Children's Act, 2018 cover issues related to child participation (Annex 1). From these provisions, child rights to participation, freedom of expression and the right to information and peaceful assembly have been established by law. This chapter includes these issues.

5.2 FREEDOM OF THOUGHT AND EXPRESSION, AND PARTICIPATION OF CHILDREN IN INFORMATION, TECHNOLOGY, COMMUNICATION AND ENTERTAINMENT

Article 39 (3) of the Constitution of Nepal guarantees the right of children to participate. In addition, other fundamental rights apply to all citizens, the right to freedom of thought and expression, as well as the right to freedom of association applies to children.

In the process of formulating periodical plans, policies and other programs related to children, governmental and non-governmental organizations make participation of children in expressing their views. Various programs related to children are run in various print, audio and visual media. Children themselves have also been organizing children's programs in audio-visual media. Similarly, various materials written by children are published through various print media. Such programs provide information to children on the one hand and encourage children on the other hand. Similarly, children express their views through programs on various TV and radio stations.

Children are also engaged in audio-visual materials designed for children's educational activities, as well as adult entertainment materials. Regulatory bodies also seem to be silent as there are no policy provisions on how children are being engaged in various songs and music and whether child sensitivity was adopted or not in the process.

According to the Children's Act, 2018, every child has the right to play and participate in sports according to their age and interests. Similarly, there is a provision in each school to encourage children to participate in sports and to provide necessary recreational materials for the same. In addition, it is stated that every child shall have the right to participate in

cultural activities in accordance with their religion, culture, customs, rituals and beliefs without compromising their interests. From this, the right of children to develop their personality by participating in various extra-curricular activities including sports and culture has been ensured by law.

Over the past decades, the government has been encouraging participation of children sports by organizing various sports programs and competitions at the school level, inter-school level, district level, regional level and national level by the ministries related to sports including education. Nepali children also used to participate in international sports events; however, information on the number, types of sports and participation of Nepali children in such events have yet to updated by the concerned organization.

5.3 CHILD CLUB AND CHILDREN

Children's Act, 2018 (Clause 10) guarantees the child rights to run club or institution and peaceful assembly. The Guidelines for the Formation and Facilitation of Children's Organizations (Sample) and the Guidelines for the Formation and Facilitation of Child Groups, 2017 mention about the registration in the concerned local level and affiliation of school based child club to school. In the fiscal year 2017/2018, a total of 23,606 children's clubs were in operation in schools and communities across the country. However, after the implementation of the federal system, it is yet to update the number of child club and process of registering the child club.

5.4 SPORTS AND CHILDREN

Sports make a significant contribution to the physical, mental, educational, intellectual and emotional development of children. Children's Act, 2018 (Clause 14) ensures the right of every child to recreation, and participate in sports according to their age and interests. Each school arranges in-door as well as out-door sports for the students according to the physical infrastructure and financial resources. Similarly, clubs, schools, school networks, National Sports Council and its affiliated committees also organize sports competitions for children. The Fifteenth Plan has a strategy of making sports development, training and practices as an integral part of school activities in developing inherent potentials of children.

Point no. 194 of the budget statement of federal government (FY 2020/21 mentions that children's park, library and science and technology museum will be constructed for the sports, entertainment, learning and physical and mental development of the children.

5.5 SCOUT AND CHILDREN

Nepal Scout was established in 1952 to make the children and youth of Nepal more involved in Scout and to make them physically, mentally and intellectually disciplined and self-reliant. Nepal Scouts conducted the first National Scout Jamboree in 1986 in Kirtipur, Kathmandu, and the second Jamboree in 2012 in Tikauli, Chitwan. It is known that there is significant participation of children in the jamboree program.

In Nepal Scout, members of the age group are categorized into three groups, 7 to 10 years namely Cub/Brownie, 11 to 15 years are called Boy/Girl and 16 to 25 years are classified into Rover/Rangers. Most of the Scout members are under 18 years of age which has led to significant participation of children in scout-related activities.

5.6 CHILD-FRIENDLY LOCAL LEVEL AND WARDS

The then Central Child Welfare Committee started Child-Friendly Village Development Committee Declaration Campaign in 2007 by developing child-friendly indicators. The then Ministry of Federal Affairs and Local Development implemented '*Child Friendly Local Governance: National Strategy and Implementation Procedure, 2011*'. The United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child has also praised the Government of Nepal for adopting child-friendly local governance.

With the implementation of federalism, Local Government Operation Act, 2017 included the issues of child-friendly local governance as one of the crucial functions of local level. Local Development Training Academy has included 'child-friendly local governance' in its training curriculum. Some local levels have given priority to legal, policy, programmatic measures for the promotion of child-friendly governance. Till FY 2019/20, five municipalities and 47 wards of 28 local levels have been declared child-friendly.

Developing common understanding among elected representatives about child-friendly local governance and its prioritization in annual budget and program, and declaring child-friendly local level and making it sustainable are challenges associated with child-friendly local governance.

As child-friendly local governance is a matter of implementation of fundamental rights, the federal government should coordinate with the provincial government and the local level to run the program effectively. Furthermore, local level should play a proactive role in making child-friendly local governance more effective. It also requires to develop synergy with development partners and civil society organizations. In the coming days, the involvement and role of the Province and Local Child Rights Committees as well as Child Welfare Officers should be made clear to gear up the implementation of child-friendly local governance.

5.7 CONCLUSION

Government as well as development partners have been encouraging children to participate in the program related to the cause of children recognizing their meaningful views. This is promoting the rights of children to participation. Children have rights to run clubs and institutions. Efforts are being made to increase the access of children to various types of information and communication and to encourage the expression of children through audio-visual media. Notwithstanding, the participation of children in social, physical and other developmental works related to children should be encouraged.



CHAPTER – VI

PROVINCE AND CHILDREN

6.1 INTRODUCTION

It has been three years since the country adopted federalism, and each and every province requires to formulate and implement laws, policies, plans and programs related to children. Accordingly, it has been found that the provinces have started to initiate various works for the cause of children in general and for the protection of vulnerable children in particular. This chapter covers the information on the issues of education, health & nutrition, protection, and participation together with the 'policy and program, and budget statement of 2020/21' at the provincial level.

6.2 PROVINCES AND CHILDREN

According to the National Census 2011, the total population of Nepal is about 26.5 million. Out of this, 41.84 percent of the population is under 18 years of age. Based on this, a glimpse of the total population of the province and the population of children is presented in the table below.

Table 32: Provincial population and number of children

Province	Pro. 1	Pro. 2	Bagmati	Gandaki	Lumbini	Karnali	Sudhupashchim
Population	4,534,943	5,404,145	5,529,452	2,413,907	4,891,035	1,168,515	2,552,517
Percent	17.1	20.4	20.9	9.1	17.0	5.9	9.6
Estimated children under 18 years (41.84%)	1,897,420	2,261,094	2,313,523	1,009,979	2,046,409	488,907	1,067,973

From the table above, Bagmati Province has the highest population (20.9%), followed by Province-2 (20.4%) and the lowest is in the Karnali Province (5.9%). The proportion of children is also more or less similar to the proportion of the population of provinces.

6.3 PROVINCE AND EDUCATION STATUS OF CHILDREN

6.3.1 Early Childhood Development

In 2018, the number of ECDC was 35,993 with 973,000 children. In 2019, the number of ECDC has reached to 36,450 with 1,105,561 children. Compared to the previous year, the number of ECDC has increased by 457 in 2019 and the number of enrolled children has

increased by 132,561. The number and children of ECDC in 2019 are presented in the table below.

Table 33: Number of ECDC and children by Province, 2019

Province	Total	Community	Institutional	Number of children
1	6,925	5,536	1,389	202,189
2	4,961	4,326	635	163,530
Bagmati	6,944	5,030	1,914	225,418
Gandaki	4,195	3,628	567	102,606
Lumbini	6,466	5,356	1,110	225,153
Karnali	2,760	2,585	175	67,324
Sudharpashchim	4,199	3,578	621	119,341
Nepal	36,450	30,039	6,411	1,105,561

(CEHRD, 2020)

From the table above, the highest number of ECDC is seen in the Bagmati Province and Province-1, and the lowest in the Karnali Province. Likewise, the highest number of children in the ECDC is in the Bagmati Province followed by Lumbini Province, and the lowest in Karnali. However, in terms of the total population of the province, the highest percentage of children enrolled in ECDC is in Karnali Province (5.76%) and lowest (3.03%) in the Province-2.

The total number of children enrolled in Grade 1 in 2019 and the percentage of children enrolled in Grade 1 with the experience of early childhood development according to the province is presented in the table below.

Table 34: Number of children enrolled in grade 1 with ECD experience by Province, 2019

Province	Enrolment in Grade 1			Enrolment in Grade 1 with ECD experience			Percentage of children enrolled in Grade 1 with experience		
	Girls	Boys	Total	Girls	Boys	Total	Girls	Boys	Total
1	52,646	52,517	105,163	36,957	37,087	74,044	70.6	70.2	70.4
2	84,212	83,806	168,018	52,622	54,250	106,872	64.7	62.5	63.6
Bagmati	54,905	56,826	111,731	39,916	39,959	79,875	70.3	72.7	71.5
Gandaki	25,677	25,749	51,426	19,617	18,617	38,234	72.3	76.4	74.3
Lumbini	62,168	64,833	127,001	44,326	45,792	90,118	70.6	71.3	71.0
Karnali	29,616	29,077	58,693	19,573	19,284	38,857	66.3	66.1	66.2
Sudurpashchim	42,622	42,227	84,849	28,173	29,097	57,270	68.9	66.1	67.5
Total	351,846	355,035	706,881	241,184	244,086	485,270	68.5	68.7	68.6

(CEHRD, 2020)

According to the table above, 68.6 percent of the total students enrolled in Grade 1 are with the experience of ECDC, which is 1.7 percentage points more than the previous academic session (66.9%). Also, it is known that performance of children with early childhood development experience are better than those without such experiences in terms of physical, intellectual, emotional and cognitive development experience. Therefore, the additional policy and programmatic initiatives should be adopted for all children to gain ECDC experience.

Measures have been taken to increase access of *Dalit* and Janajati children to education in accordance with the legal and policy provisions for the protection and promotion of the rights of every child. According to the census of 2011, Janajati constitutes 37.2 percent and *Dalit* 13.6 percent out of the total population. The total number of children enrolled in the ECDC in 2019, and number and percentage of *Dalit* and Janajati children by province is given in the table below.

Table 35: Province-wise *Dalit* and Janajati children enrolled in the ECDC, 2019

Province	Total	<i>Dalit</i>	<i>Dalit</i> %	Janajati	Janajati %
1	202,189	31,426	15.5	94,578	46.8
2	163,530	41,267	25.2	23,909	14.6
Bagmati	225,418	18,112	8.0	125,420	55.6
Gandaki	102,606	24,964	24.3	43,786	42.7
Lumbini	225,153	43,925	19.5	85,733	38.1
Karnali	67,324	18,796	27.9	7,981	11.9
Sudharpashchim	119,341	30,615	25.7	23,364	19.6
Total	1,105,561	209,105	18.9	404,771	36.6

(CEHRD, 2020)

From the above table, out of the total children enrolled in the ECDC in 2019, *Dalit* children have the lowest 8 percent in Bagmati Province and the highest 27 percent in Karnali Province (9.6% last year). Similarly, Janajati children have the lowest at 11.9 percent in Karnali Province (2.1 percent last year) and the highest at 55.6 percent in Bagmati Province (30.2 percent last year). The percentage of *Dalit* and Janajati children enrolled in the ECDC last year and this year has fluctuated significantly. It is necessary to study this carefully.

The number of children with disabilities enrolled in the ECDC has increased from 3,270 (0.34%) in 2018 to 3,687 (0.33%) in 2019. The number of children with disabilities in the ECDC by province is presented in the table below.

Table 36: Number of children in ECDC according to the type of disability by Province, 2019

Provinces	Major types of disability								Total
	Physical	Mental	Hearing	Vision	Low Vision	Hearing and Sight	Vocal	Multiple disabilities	
1	392	68	37	25	8	0	24	32	586
2	364	116	2	54	3	0	6	57	602
Bagmati	453	140	33	34	29	2	58	32	781
Gandaki	150	38	12	5	14	1	30	38	288
Lumbini	574	128	20	28	23	2	27	57	859
Karnali	107	24	23	11	29	2	11	4	211
Sudurpashchim	233	42	39	19	7	0	15	5	360
Total	2,273	556	166	176	113	7	171	225	3,687

(CEHRD, 2020)

From the table above, the highest number of children with disabilities in the ECDC is in Gandaki Province followed by Bagmati Province, and the lowest in Karnali Province followed by Sudurpashchim Province. Out of the total number of children in this group in the ECDC, 2,273 are the most physically disabled children, and only 7 are the least physically disabled and visually impaired children.

6.3.2 Provincial Schools and Number of Students

This section includes the number and level of schools, types of schools, net enrolment rate as per level of education, school-student ratio and number of *Dalit* and Janajati students by province. There are total 35,520 communities, institutional and religious schools teaching from Grade 1 to 12 across the country. The number of schools by province is presented in the table below.

Table 37: Number of schools of different levels by Province, 2019

Province	Total schools (units)	Primary (1–5)	Lower Secondary (6–8)	Secondary (9–10)	Higher Secondary (11–12)
1	6,953	6,879	3,309	2,019	750
2	4,137	4,104	1,703	993	434
Bagmati	7,031	6,865	3,939	2,932	1,028
Gandaki	4,317	4,252	1,961	1,337	614
Lumbini	5,707	5,660	2,655	1,624	644
Karnali	3,167	3,126	1,244	669	279
Sudurpashchim	4,208	4,177	1,959	1,070	438
Total	35,520	35,063	16,770	10,644	4,187

(MoF, 2020)

From the table above, the number of schools is highest in Bagmati province followed by Province-1 and Lumbini Province, and lowest in Karnali Province.

The total number of religious schools is 1,129. The number of religious schools by province is given in the table below.

Table 38: Number of religious schools by Province, 2019

Provinces	Madarasa	Gumba/Bihar	Ashram/Gurukul	Total
1	188	49	52	289
2	286	3	0	289
Bagmati	4	33	14	51
Gandaki	10	25	17	52
Lumbini	414	2	16	432
Karnali	0	2	0	2
Sudurpaschim	9	0	5	14
Total	911	114	104	1,129

(CEHRD, 2020)

From the table above, religious schools are highest in Lumbini Province (432) and lowest in Karnali Province (2).

In 2019, a total of 70,21,622 students were enrolled in 35,520 schools across the country.

The number of students by provinces is given in the table below.

Table 39: Number of students by Province, 2019

Level/Province		Pro. 1	Pro. 2	Bagmati	Gandaki	Lumbini	Karnali	Sudurpa- shchim	Total
Primary (1-5)	Girls	273,210	395,845	301,383	125,578	317,931	143,204	205,390	1,762,541
	Boys	280,120	366,560	331,010	137,358	332,826	135,328	198,119	1,781,321
	Total	553,330	762,405	632,393	262,936	650,757	278,532	403,509	3,543,862
Lower Secondary (6-8)	Girls	148,627	148,031	175,019	78,581	159,967	72,152	108,768	891,145
	Boys	146,810	145,833	181,746	79,471	160,865	67,270	102,002	883,997
	Total	295,437	293,864	356,765	158,052	320,832	139,422	210,770	1,775,142
Secondary (9-10)	Girls	92,599	78,214	109,698	50,563	90,377	40,325	61,409	523,185
	Boys	87,697	87,780	110,403	49,674	88,383	37,041	56,813	517,791
	Total	180,296	165,994	220,101	100,237	178,760	77,366	118,222	1,040,976
Higher Secondary (11-12)	Girls	63,522	34,689	106,862	36,069	53,460	21,505	34,988	351,095
	Boys	52,511	32,720	87,202	35,352	51,332	20,632	30,798	310,547
	Total	116,033	67,409	194,064	71,421	104,792	42,137	65,786	661,642
Grand Total		1,145,096	1,289,672	1,403,323	592,646	1,255,141	537,457	798,287	7,021,622

(MoF, 2020)

From the table above, the highest number of students is seen in Bagmati Province followed by Province-2 and Lumbini Province, while the lowest is seen in Karnali Province followed by Gandaki and Sudharpashchim Province. Further study is needed on the number of

school-age children and the number of students enrolled in schools in Karnali Province in 2019.

The net enrolment rate of the students enrolled in different levels of school in 2019 is given in the table below.

Table 40: School level net enrolment rate by Province, 2019

Level/Province		1	2	Bagmati	Gandaki	Lumbini	Karnali	Sudurpashchim	Total
Primary (1-5)	Girls	96.4	96	96.2	96.6	96.4	96.5	96.8	96.4
	Boys	97.9	97.3	97.5	97.7	97.8	97.9	98.1	97.7
	Total	97.2	96.6	96.8	97.1	97.1	97.2	97.5	97.1
Lower Secondary (6-8)	Girls	94.7	69.2	94.3	95.4	89.1	91	94.5	88.7
	Boys	95	74.5	94.4	95.7	91.8	93.5	95.2	90.7
	Total	94.9	71.9	94.3	95.6	90.5	92.2	94.8	89.7
Secondary (9-10)	Girls	75.4	56.9	76.1	72.3	67.2	66.4	70	69.3
	Boys	73.2	62.8	72.9	71.8	64.4	64.5	69.5	68.7
	Total	74.3	59.9	74.5	72.1	65.8	65.5	69.8	69
Higher Secondary (11-12)	Girls	27.9	24.5	31.1	25.5	23.8	25	27.3	26.5
	Boys	25.4	23.3	27.6	25.2	23.9	28.4	30.2	25.9
	Total	26.6	23.9	29.4	25.3	23.8	26.7	28.8	26.2
Secondary (9-12)	Girls	51.6	40.7	53.6	48.9	45.5	45.7	48.6	47.9
	Boys	49.3	43.1	50.2	48.5	44.2	46.5	49.9	47.3
	Total	50.4	41.9	51.9	48.7	44.8	46.1	49.3	47.6

(MoF, 2020)

From the table above, the net enrolment rate at the primary level is 97.1 at the national level in 2019, and the rate seems encouraging in almost all the provinces. The highest rate (97.5%) is in the Sudurpashchim Province and the lowest in Province-2. Similarly, at the secondary level (grades 9-12), the net enrolment rate is 47.6 percent at the national level, with the highest (51.9%) in Bagmati Province, and the lowest (41.9%) in Province-2. Although Province-2 is generally advantaged in terms of geographical accessibility, agriculture and economy, there is a need for more efforts to improve school education in particular. From the gender point of view, the net enrolment rate of girls is lower than that of boys by an average of 1.3 percentage points in all the provinces at the primary level. At the lower secondary level (grades 6-8), the net enrolment rate of girls is lower than that of boys by an average of 2 percentage points in all the provinces. At the secondary level (grades 9-12), the average net enrolment rate of girls is 0.6 percentage points higher, with the highest percentage of 3.4 percentage points being seen in Bagmati province and the highest net enrolment rate of boys in Province-2 is 2.4 percentage points higher.

The number of schools and students in all the provinces and the ratio of schools to students are presented in the table below.

Table 41: School to student ratio by Province, 2019

Provinces	Students	School	School and student ratio
1	1,145,096	6,953	164.7
2	1,289,672	4,137	311.7
Bagmati	1,403,323	7,031	199.6
Gandaki	592,646	4,317	137.3
Lumbini	1,255,141	5,707	219.9
Karnali	537,457	3,167	169.7
Sudurpaschim	798,287	4,208	189.7
Total	7,021,622	35,520	197.7

(MoF, 2020)

From the table above, the average number of students per school is highest at 312 in Province-2 and the lowest is 137 in Gandaki Province. Due to the high population density in Province-2, the average number of students per school may have increased.

In 2019, out of the total number of students enrolled in various levels of schools (grades 1-12) across the country, the percentage of children of *Dalit* and Janajati community constitutes 16.46 percent and 35.66 percent respectively. The number of *Dalit* and Janajati students according to the school level by province is presented in the table below.

Table 42: Number of *Dalit* and Janajati children in schools by Province, 2019

Provinces	<i>Dalit</i>			Janajati		
	Girls	Boys	Total	Girls	Boys	Total
1	71,786	69,369	141,155	290,949	280,179	571,128
2	130,129	131,485	261,614	108,380	99,404	207,784
Bagmati	53,171	50,644	103,815	388,827	384,943	773,770
Gandaki	66,074	65,343	131,417	127,444	128,639	256,083
Lumbini	107,654	107,281	214,935	254,386	247,913	502,299
Karnali	68,341	63,889	132,230	32,387	29,678	62,065
Sudurpaschim	87,780	82,585	170,365	68,095	62,428	130,523
Total	584,935	570,596	1,155,531	1,270,468	1,233,184	2,503,652

(CEHRD, 2020)

From the above table, the number of *Dalit* students is highest in Province-2 and lowest in Bagmati province, while the number of Janajati students is highest in Bagmati province and lowest in Karnali province. The number of *Dalit* and Janajati children enrolled in different levels of schools by province in 2019 is given in Annex 7.

6.4 PROVINCE AND HEALTH STATUS OF CHILDREN

Article 35 of the Constitution of Nepal provides for the right of every citizen to receive free basic health care. Children need to be healthy for their all-round development. This section includes provincial situation related to safe motherhood, immunization, child health and nutrition, mortality rates and the status of children infected with COVID-19.

According to the Health Protocol, the Government of Nepal has set a national target of increasing the percentage of pregnant women undergoing prenatal check-ups at 70 percent and 90 percent and the percentage of deliveries at health facilities being 70 percent and 90 percent respectively by 2020 and 2030. In the fiscal year 2018/19, the national and province-wise safe motherhood indicators are as follows.

Table 43: Province-wise safe motherhood status, FY 2018/19

SN	Indicators	Nepal	Pro. 1	Pro. 2	Bagmati	Gandaki	Lumbini	Karnali	Sudur-pashchim
1	First ANC check up of pregnant women	110	114	118	106	108	110	127	90
2	Third ANC check up of pregnant women	16	9	15	14	13	9	24	31
3	Institutional delivery	63	62	53	62	48	79	73	71

(DoHS, 2019)

Despite the improvement in women's health care and facilities, in 2018/19, the percentage of pregnant women who underwent tertiary care in health facilities and the percentage of those who gave birth in health facilities was low as per the target. Province-1 and Lumbini Province have the lowest percentage of ANC three visits, while Gandaki Province has the lowest percentage of deliveries in health facilities. It is necessary to increase the sensitivity of all concerned in the pregnancy and delivery issues.

According to the Nepal Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey, 2019 of the Central Bureau of Statistics, the percentage of deliveries by skilled birth attendants is 79.3 percent at the national level, while in Province-2 and Karnali Province it is 65 and 67.7 percent respectively. This shows that there is a need to strengthen safe motherhood programs especially in these two provinces.

National immunization is a high priority program. Nepal is also one of the countries that conduct effective immunization. The percentage of children receiving full vaccination has decreased than the previous year. Some of the vaccines given to children and percentage of children benefited in FY 2018/19 are presented in the table below.

Table 44: Percentage of children vaccinated by Province, FY 2018/19

SN	Vaccine coverage	Nepal	Pro. 1	Pro. 2	Bagmati	Gandaki	Lumbini	Karnali	Sudur-pashchim
1	BCG	91	87	107	81	72	98	102	84
2	DPT-HEPB-HIP 3	86	83	105	71	72	90	99	82
3	Measles/Rubella 2 (12–23 months)	73	75	71	60	77	84	78	75
4	Fully vaccinated	70	80	66	57	66	74	88	76

(DoHS, 2019)

In FY 2018/19, the number of children receiving BCG vaccination has been less than in the previous year while the percentage of children receiving DPT-HEPB-HIP3 has improved. Of these, the percentage of children receiving measles/rubella vaccination has decreased in Province-1, Karnali and Sudharpashchim provinces, while it has increased in the rest of the provinces. Further efforts are needed to achieve the national target of 90 and 95 percent of fully vaccinated children by 2020 and 2030, respectively.

The Constitution of Nepal guarantees the right to food, health and nutrition to all citizens. The United Nations Special Assembly has declared 2016-2025 as the Decade of Nutrition. The Government of Nepal has been working for more than four decades to improve the nutritional status of children and, improving nutritional status has become a matter of national concern. The nutritional status of children by province is presented in the table below.

Table 45: Child nutrition status by Province, FY 2019/20

SN	Indicator	Nepal	Pro. 1	Pro. 2	Bagmati	Gandaki	Lumbini	Karnali	Sudur-pashchim
	Percentage of underweight children under five years of age	24.3	19.8	28.2	11.1	14.8	30.7	37.4	33.3
	Percentage of stunted children below the age of five	31.5	24.9	34.2	22.9	22.6	35.5	47.8	40.9
	Percentage of severe malnutrition children under the age of five	12.0	14.3	13.9	4.7	8.0	13.7	17.6	14.1

(CBS, 2019)

According to the table above, the situation of child malnutrition in Karnali, Sudharpashchim, Lumbini and Province-2 seems to be weaker than the national average, while the situation of child malnutrition in Bagmati, Gandaki and Province-1 are comparatively better than other provinces. In order to achieve the national goals of nutrition, it is necessary to implement more programs effectively by the Government of Nepal and Provincial Government.

The government has been implementing various schemes and programs being sensitive on the issue of child health, which has resulted in significant improvement in the health of children. According to the Central Bureau of Statistics, the status of neonatal, infant and child mortality at the national and province level is as follows.

Table 46: Neonatal, infant and child mortality rate by Province, FY 2019/20

SN	Indicator	Nepal	Pro. 1	Pro. 2	Bagmati	Gandaki	Lumbini	Karnali	Sudur-pashchim
1	Neonatal Mortality Rate (per thousand)	16	20	10	9	18	22	11	25
2	Infant Mortality Rate (per thousand)	25	30	15	16	27	35	27	33
3	Child Mortality Rate (per thousand)	28	32	19	19	30	40	30	39

(CBS, 2019)

According to the table above, neonatal, infant and child mortality rates are better than the national average in Province-2 and Bagmati Province. There is a lot of effort to be made to improve child health in the Sudurpaschim Province.

The infection of COVID-19, which started in January 2020, has spread across the country. The pandemic of COVID-19 is affecting children as well. So far, the information regarding infection of COVID-19 has been collected up to 15th September 2020. The number of children infected by COVID-19 is presented in the table below.

Table 47: Number of COVID-19 infected children by Province up to 15th September 2020

Provinces	Up to 10 years			Up to 11 to 20 years		
	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total
1	102	83	185	384	198	582
2	234	138	372	1,559	306	1,865
Bagmati	510	316	826	1,002	691	1,671
Gandaki	66	43	109	265	100	365
Lumbini	185	177	362	919	268	1,187
Karnali	89	46	135	403	81	484
Sudurpaschim	380	263	643	710	209	919
Total	1,566	1,066	2,632	5,242	1,853	7,073

(MoHP, 2020)

According to the table above, COVID-19 infection is higher among boys than that of girls. The number of infected children below the age of 10 years is higher in Bagmati Province and higher among persons between the age of 11-20 years in Province-2, whereas it seems lower in Karnali Province. In addition to the impact on the health of infected children, the closure of educational institutions has had a profound effect on children's education and learning, and children have also been affected mentally and physically.

6.5 PROVINCE AND CHILD PROTECTION SITUATION

Child protection covers a wide range of issues. Among them, child trafficking, sexual exploitation and abuse, child marriage, domestic violence, suicide together with issues of CCHs by province have been included in this section.

6.5.1 Trafficking, Sexual Exploitation and Abuse of Children in the Provinces

Even though the incidents of child trafficking, sexual abuse and abuse are illegal, the incidents of child abuse in each province have been registered and taken action in the Directorate of Women, Children and Senior Citizens Service of Nepal Police and its subordinate offices. According to the statistics of the Directorate, total 75 children have been victims of human trafficking in FY 2019/20. The age and information of the children affected by the incidents by province are presented in the table below.

Table 48: Age and number of children affected by trafficking by Province, FY 2019/20

Provinces	Below 10 years		11-16 years		17-18 years		Total		
	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Total
1	0	0	0	10	0	1	0	11	11
2	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	3	3
Bagmati	0	1	0	7	0	1	0	8	8
Gandaki	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	3	3
Lumbini	0	0	1	9	0	6	1	15	16
Karnali	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sudhuraschim	0	0	0	8	0	8	0	16	16
Kathmandu Valley	0	0	0	5	0	7	0	12	12
Bureau	0	0	0	2	2	0	2	2	4
Total	1	1	1	45	2	25	4	71	75

(WCSCSD, 2020)

According to the table above, Bagmati Province has the highest number of child victims (20) followed by Lumbini and Sudurpashchim Provinces (16), while Karnali Province has not registered any cases of child trafficking. Out of the total victims, 71 are girls and 4 are boys. All three tiers of government have to pay special attention to address such heinous incidents against children.

According to the information availed from the Directorate of Women, Children and Senior Citizens Service, under Police Headquarters, a total of 1,393 cases of girls raped have been registered in FY 2019/20. The age and province-wise statistics of the victim girls registered at the police office are presented in the table below.

Table 49: Number of girl victims of rape by Province, FY 2019/20

Provinces	Below 10 years	11-16 years	17-18 years	Grand Total
1	51	188	80	319
2	32	135	37	204
Bagmati	36	92	37	165
Gandaki	22	77	24	123
Lumbini	67	122	45	234
Karnali	13	47	21	81
Sudhupashchim	9	81	39	129
Kathmandu Valley	42	59	36	137
Bureau	1	0	0	1
Total	272	801	319	1,393

(WCSCSD, 2020)

According to the table above, the highest number of girl victims of rape is 319 (23%) in Province-1 and the lowest is 81 (6 %) in Karnali Province. The highest number of 67 girls under 10 years of age has been victimized in Lumbini Province while the highest number of 268 girls in the age group of 11-18 years has been victimized in Province-1. It is a matter of concern for everyone that there are so many incidents registered in the police offices. There might be other suppressed and unreported incidents.

According to the information availed from the Women and the Directorate of Children and Senior Citizens Service under Police Headquarters in FY 2019/20, a total of 324 girls have been victims of crime related to rape. The number of victim girls registered in the police offices according to their age and province is presented in the table below.

Table 50: Province-wise number of girl victims of rape, FY 2019/20

Provinces	Below 10 years	11-16 years	17-18 years	Grand Total
1	12	62	12	86
2	10	24	11	45
Bagmati	6	22	8	36
Gandaki	4	14	5	23
Lumbini	10	29	11	50
Karnali	3	15	4	22
Sudhuraschim	5	19	11	35
Kathmandu Valley	8	14	5	27
Total	58	199	67	324

(WCSCSD, 2020)

According to the table above, the highest number of victims of rape crime is 199 (61.4 %) in the age group of 11-16 years, 67 (21 %) in the age group of 17-18 years and 58 (19.5 %) in the age group of 10 years and below. The highest number of victims was 86 (26.54 %) in Province-1 and the lowest was 22 (6.79 %) in Karnali Province.

Incidents such as child trafficking, child labour and child marriage are heinous crimes in themselves and are a disgrace to human beings. Therefore, in order to reduce the trafficking and sexual crimes against children, there is a need for the government at all three levels and the concerned bodies and stakeholders to be committed to effective implementation with common priorities.

6.5.2 Child Marriage

According to the Directorate of Women, Children and Senior Citizens Services under the Police Headquarters, 41 girls have been victims of child marriage in FY 2019/20. The age and the number of victims registered at the police offices are given in the table below.

Table 51: Age and number of child victims of child marriage by Province, FY 2019/20

Provinces	11-16 years	17-18 years	Total
1	4	2	6
2	5	2	7
Bagmati	1	2	3
Gandaki	4	1	5
Lumbini	4	6	10
Karnali	0	1	1
Sudhuraschim	4	1	5
Kathmandu Valley	2	2	4
Total	24	17	41

(WCSCSD, 2020)

According to the above table, a total of 41 girls in the age group of 11 to 18 years have been affected by child marriage in FY 2019/20. Of these, 24 are in the age group of 11-16 years and 17 are in the age group of 17-18 years. According to the province, the highest number of child marriage victims is 10 in Lumbini and the lowest in Karnali Province. In the case of other provinces, 7 in Province-2, 6 in Province-1, 5 each in Gandaki and Sudurpashchim Provinces. It is necessary to launch a massive campaign against child marriage and strengthen the scope of legal action.

The situation of child marriage is reported to be improving compared to the past. According to the Nepal Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey, 2019 of the Central Bureau of Statistics, the situation related to child marriage by province is as follows.

Table 52: Status of child marriage by Province, FY 2019/20

Indicators	Nepal	Pro-1	Pro-2	Bagmati	Gandaki	Lumbini	Karnali	Sudur-pashchim
Percentage of married people aged 20-24 years								
Total:								
A. Under 15 years	5.2	4.2	8.9	1.7	4.2	6.4	8.4	6.5
B. Under 18 years	22.7	20.9	29.3	13.2	22.9	25.0	34.6	29.4
Girl:								
A. Under 15 years	7.9	6.6	14.2	2.2	6.8	8.9	12.0	8.2
B. Under 18 years	32.8	28.5	46.0	19.7	35.7	33.7	44.3	35.6
Boy:								
A. Under 15 years	1.5	0.0	2.1	1.2	0.0	2.4	1.7	3.0
B. Under 18 years	9.0	8.1	7.8	7.2	2.1	11.4	17.0	17.5
Percentage of 15-19-year-old married								
Total:	12.8	8.9	15.2	9.6	14.7	13.9	20.5	13.3
Women	19.3	14.7	24.9	13.7	23.1	20.1	27.4	18.8
Men	5.3	2.5	4.4	4.8	4.3	6.3	12.1	7.0

(CBS, 2019)

From the table above, in all indicators, the position of Province-1 and Bagmati province is better than the national average, while in Province-2, except for the marriage status of men in the age group of 15-19 years, the status of all other indicators is weak. In other provinces, the situation is mixed. In order to achieve the national goal of child marriage, significant efforts should be made at the federal, province and local levels, while development partners, NGOs, civil society, community and other media have to contribute more.

6.5.3 Children Suffering from Domestic Violence

According to the Directorate of Women, Children and Senior Citizens Service under the Police Headquarters, a total of 185 children have been victims of domestic violence in FY 2019/20. Of the total, the age of 10, including 1 boy in Karnali and 2 girls in Lumbini Province under the age of 10 are victims of domestic violence, the details of the rest are presented in the table below.

Table 53: Age and number of children victims of domestic violence crimes by Province, FY 2019/20

Province	11-16 years		17-18 years		Total		
	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Grand Total
1	0	2	0	3	0	5	5
2	0	17	1	27	1	44	45
Bagmati	0	3	0	8	0	11	11
Gandaki	0	4	0	14	0	18	18
Lumbini	3	9	1	22	4	31	35
Karnali	0	10	1	9	1	19	20
Sudharpashchim	0	5	0	6	0	11	11
Kathmandu Valley	1	9	0	27	1	36	37
Total	4	59	3	116	7	175	182

(WCSCSD, 2020)

According to the table above, the highest number of victims of domestic violence is 119 children (3 boys and 116 girls) in the age group of 17-18 years. In addition, 63 children (4 boys and 59 girls) in the age group of 11-16 years and 3 children (1 boy and 2 girls) under the age of 10 are victims of domestic violence. By province, the highest number of victims is 45 (1 boy and 44 girls) in Province-2, while the lowest number is 5 in Province-1. Out of the total victims, 177 are girls (96%) and 8 are boys (4%).

Even a simple analysis of the statistics shows that girls are more affected in domestic violence than boys. The data also shows that girls in the age group of 17 to 18 years are more at risk than other age groups. In addition, in terms of the number of domestic violence crimes, Province-2, Lumbini Province and the Kathmandu Valley are also at high risk. Therefore, for the protection of children from such violence, the government at all three levels should pay special attention to prepare and implement a special package for the protection of girls.

6.5.4 Suicide and Children

According to the Directorate of Women, Children and Senior Citizens Service under the Police Headquarters, 662 children have committed suicide in FY 2019/20. Although no information is available on the age of children who committed suicide, the details of children by province are presented in the table below.

Table 54: Age and number of children committed suicide by Province, FY 2019/20

Province	Boys	Girls	Total
1	64	80	144
2	56	121	177
Bagmati	21	40	61
Gandaki	19	26	45
Lumbini	31	84	115
Karnali	18	17	35
Sudharpashchim	25	32	57
Kathmandu Valley	18	10	28
Total	252	410	662

(WCSCSD, 2020)

As per the table above, out of the total 662 children committed suicide in FY 2019/20, in which 410 were girls (62%) and 252 were boys (38%). The highest number of child suicide is 177 (56 boys and 121 girls) in Province-2 and the lowest is 35 (18 boys and 17 girls) in Karnali province. The data also show that the suicide rate of girls is higher than that of boys in other states except for Karnali and the Kathmandu Valley. The data also show that girls are more at risk of suicide than boys. Therefore, especially in the provinces where the risk of suicide is high, it is seen that positive thinking, life skills, psycho-counselling services and other activities should be conducted for children and adolescents.

6.5.5 Province and Child Care Homes

The child care homes are in operation in all the provinces. In FY 2019/20, 489 CCHs are in operation in 45 districts across the country where a total of 11,350 children (5,194 boys and 6,156 girls) reside as information collected from the NCRC. The following information includes the number of CCHs, number of children residing in CCHs, number of children who have gone home due to the COVID-19 pandemic and have been reunited with their families.

Table 55: Number of child care homes and children by Province, FY 2019/20

Province	No. of districts	No. of CCHs	No. of children in CCHs			Children who have recently gone home			Reunited in the family		
			Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total	Boys	Girls	Total
1	7	26	270	280	550	36	22	58	7	12	19
2	7	13	112	49	161	106	13	119	5	5	10
Bagmati	11	362	3,707	4,629	8,336	865	842	1,707	141	120	261
Gandaki	6	45	581	598	1,179	44	22	66	10	29	39
Lumbini	7	20	243	342	585	0	0	0	9	2	11
Karnali	3	10	147	137	284	16	36	52	0	0	0
Sudhur-pashchim	4	13	134	121	255	48	7	55	1	2	3
Total	45	489	5,194	6,156	11,350	1,115	942	2,057	173	170	343

(NCRC, 2020)

From the above table, Bagmati Province has the highest number of 362 CCHs with 8,336 children (3,707 boys and 4,629 girls) while Karnali Province has the lowest number of 10 CCHs with 284 children (147 boys and 137 girls). There is an average of 23 children per CCH. It is seen that 54.3 percent of the girls and 45.7 percent of the boys are under the protection of the CCHs. During the COVID-19 infection period, 2,057 children went back to their home and 343 children were reunited with their families by the CCHs. The number of CCHs and number of children residing in the CCHs by province and districts is given in Annex 8.

6.6 CHILDREN IN THE PROVINCIAL POLICY AND PROGRAM STATEMENT' AND 'BUDGET SPEECH', FY 2020/21

The provincial government has so far come across three fiscal years. In this Fiscal Year, the issues related to children have been briefly reviewed in the 'policies and programs' and 'budget speech' of every province. Although each province seems to have given

priority to the issue of children in its 'policies and programs' and 'budget speech', some provinces seem to have given more priority and some provinces have given less priority to the causes of children. Some gaps have been seen between 'policies and programs' and 'budget speech'. For example, point 73 of the 'policy and program' of Province-2 states that special protection and empowerment programs will be arranged for orphans, but this program does not seem to be included in the budget speech. In Bagmati Province, it is seen that children's issues are more included in the budget statement as compared to the 'policies and program' statement. In Gandaki Province, the budget speech does not seem to cover some of the issues included in the 'policy and program' statement. Similarly, the 'policy and program' statement of Karnali Province states that proper arrangements for proper protection, upbringing, education and health will be made for the children without parents in collaboration with the local level, but the budget speech does not cover them as expected. Similarly, the 'policy and program' of Sudurpaschim Province states that the street will be declared as human-free by conducting special programs to rescue and protect the helpless, and programs for persons with disabilities, but the budget speech does not cover the programs as expected. Notwithstanding, the 'policy and programs statement' and 'budget speech' of all the provinces for FY 2020/21 have been encouraging.

Each province needs to move forward with policies and programs aimed at ensuring child rights by addressing the provisions of the Convention on the Rights of the Child as well as other declarations related to children. Details of the 'provincial policy and program' and 'budget speech' of FY 2020/021 relating to children are given in Annex 9.

6.7 CONCLUSION

There are different situations on the issues of children in terms of population, number of schools and school-student ratio, health status of children and protection concerns. It has been seen that each province has given priority to child related legal, policy and program measures. Provinces have also given focus to the issues of orphan, child marriage, child labor, education, health, nutrition including special protection for children at-risk. For example, Province-1 has taken the policy of making all the citizens literate, initiating campaign as self-reliant daughters for prosperous province, and province government with children. Province-2 has adopted a policy of conducting programs such as 'Save the Daughter, Educate the Daughter', safe motherhood, special protection and empowerment targeting to orphans. Bagmati province has adopted policies to run programs such as 'One Secondary School, One Nurse', literate Province, 'Our Province Free of Child Marriage', protection of orphans, and a human-free street. Gandaki Province has policies to run campaigns to end untouchability, discrimination, superstitions and child marriage, and make child-friendly province. Similarly, Lumbini Province has adopted policies to make one model school at the one local level, child marriage free, street childfree and untouchability

free province. Karnali Province has a policy of providing full immunization, a local level model community school, protection of orphans and vulnerable children. Sudurpashchim Province has adopted policies of insurance for girls, eradication of *Chaupadi* and caste discrimination with the slogan of "Equal perspective for each child", a fully literate province, declaring the streets free of helpless people, 'One School, One Nurse' and a Yoga teacher in school. These policies and actions taken by the provinces for children can be expected to accelerate the protection, development and promotion of the rights of children.

CONCLUSIONS

After the ratification of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Government of Nepal has been gradually incorporating the issues of the rights, best interests, protection and development concerns of children in the Constitution and relevant laws. A separate law on children is in implementation. Similarly, the issue of children has been given priority in the periodic plans. Two terms of the 10-year action plan for children have been completed, and the national child policy is in implementation. Each province has also been addressing concerns of children with priority in the plans and programs.

The institutional arrangements from the centre to the local level have been improved to address the provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, its optional protocols and other international declarations related to children. Action plans related to specialized issues such as child marriage, child labour, sexual exploitation and abuse, education and health are in implementation. Guidelines, minimum standards and procedures of some issues related to CCHs, child violence and child protection are in implementation and also being improved. Similarly, child protection assistance and child-sensitive social security activities are in operation. Investment for children especially in education and health sectors including protection concerns is increasing. Awareness on child rights issues has increased in the community, families and even among children. Vulnerable pregnant and lactating mothers and babies have been rescued through helicopters from remote mountainous and hilly areas under the Presidential Women's Upliftment Program.

Among the policies taken by the government to the cause of children, zero-tolerance against child violence, strengthening of the child protection system, protection of orphans and unaccompanied children by the state and declaring Nepal as a street child-free nation within this fiscal year are very noteworthy. The government is committed to ensuring child protection and the rights of children and securing the future of children by managing the disaster of COVID-19. The government has been sensitive to the issue of providing protection to children in the use of online and internet services. The policies and actions taken by some provinces for the protection of orphans and unaccompanied children are encouraging. Similarly, development partners, non-governmental organizations, civil society, private and other media sectors are making efforts with high sensitivity on the issues of protection and rights of children.

As results of the above efforts, significant progress has been realized in qualitative and quantitative indicators related to the issue of children. At the primary level, the net enrolment rate of children has risen from 64 percent (in FY 1991/92) to about 97.1 percent (in FY 2019/20), and, the ratio of boy to girl students has increased from 0.56 to 0.98. The ratio of girls from grade 1-12 has reached 1.01 in FY 2019/20. Similarly, the neonatal mortality rate has dropped from 50 to 16 per thousand, the infant mortality rate from 108 to 25 per thousand and the child mortality rate from 162 per thousand to 28 per thousand from FY 1991/92 - 2019/20. The rate of malnutrition among children has also been significantly reduced.

Despite many improvements and outcomes that have a positive impact on children's lives, ensuring the rights of children in need of special protection and managing child labour, child marriage, inhumane sexual violence against children, abuse and discrimination, and child trafficking still remains a challenge. Similarly, there is still a challenge to effectively carry out appropriate care and protection for orphans, street children, children with disabilities and children affected by HIV/AIDS. The issues of children deprived of education, health and other protection services in a timely and effective manner, improving the learning achievement of children in school education, significantly improving the nutritional status and managing fragmented information of children at all three levels are challenging.

It is also necessary to launch a special national campaign to address the issues of violence against girls, especially adolescents, such as acid attacks, increasing suicides and rape. The use of children in the mass media, especially in videos of Nepali adult songs, has been seen as promoting discrimination against girls, traditional gender inequality and violence. It seems important to take necessary code of conduct and regulatory actions to address this in a timely manner.

The three tiers of government, development partners and non-governmental sectors, all concerned stakeholders should be more sensitive and accelerate efforts related to children in all dimensions of the rights of children.

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Children's Act, 2018: The Rights of Children, Responsibilities towards Children, Duties of Children and Child Rights to Privacy

Clauses for the Rights of Children:

3. Right to live:

- (1) Every child shall have the right to live with dignity.
- (2) The Government of Nepal, Province Government and Local Level shall take necessary measures required for preventive and security service including prevention of possible accidents, minimization of risks that may occur on the children, in order to protect the rights of the child to live and development.

4. Right to name, nationality and identity:

- (1) Every child shall have the right to have name with own identification and birth registration.
- (2) The father or mother of a child, after his or her birth, shall give a name to him or her and register it according to the prevailing laws.
- (3) The mother of a child born from rape or incest that is punishable by the prevailing laws shall register his or her birth by mentioning only the name of the mother if she so wishes.
- (4) While giving name pursuant to sub-section (2), if the father or mother of a child is not available immediately or there is no possibility that they can be available, then the child may have the name given by any other family member or guardian who looks after him or her.
- (5) Every child after birth may use the surname given by mutual consent of his or her parents or if such consent is not available, he or she may use the surname of his or her father after his or her name.
- (6) Notwithstanding anything contained in sub-section (5), the child, if he or she so wishes, may use the surname of his or her father or mother or both.
- (7) A child whose paternal identity is not known may use his or her mother's surname after his or her name.
- (8) If a dispute arises regarding the surname of any child, except as proved otherwise, it shall be deemed that the child is using his or her father's surname.
- (9) A child whose both father and mother are not identified may use the surname given by the guardian after his or her name.

- (10) The child welfare authority shall be informed about it when the guardian gives the name and surname pursuant to sub-section (9).
- (11) If the name of father, mother and grand-father, grand-mother must be mentioned pursuant to law in any formal legal proceeding or document, in cases where the father of the child is not known, he or she may mention his or her mother and parents' name and if the name of mother is also not known, mentioning that matter will suffice the requirement.
- (12) The mother, father or guardian of a child shall not change his or her name, surname that hides the identity of the child with an intention to gain undue benefits.

5. Right against discrimination:

- (1) No discrimination shall be made against any child on grounds of religion, race, caste, tribe, sex, origin, language, culture, ideological thought, physical or mental condition, physical disability, marital status, family status, employment, health condition, economic or social condition of him or her or his or her family or guardian, geographical area or similar other ground.
- (2) No one shall discriminate between son and daughter, son and son or daughter and daughter or children from ex-husband or wife or present husband or wife in maintenance, education or health care of children.
- (3) No one shall make any kind of discrimination between their own son, daughter and adopted son, daughter.
- (4) No discrimination shall be made with regard to maintenance, education and health care between children born to a man and woman before and after their marriage.

6. Right to live and meet with the parents:

- (1) No child shall be split or separated from his or her father or mother without his or her will.
- (2) Not with standing anything contained in sub-section (1), the Juvenile Court may issue an order to separate any child from his or her father or mother and entrust him or her to any guardian's custody for the best interests of the child, if necessary. Provided that the concerned party shall not be deprived of an opportunity to submit his or her explanation before issuing such an order.
- (3) Except for the condition where the Juvenile Court has made a restriction stating that it would be not in the interests of a child, the child living separately from the father or mother or both shall have the right to make direct contact or meet with the father or mother regularly.

- (4) The person adopting a child shall allow the adopted child to meet, contact and make correspondence with his or her biological parents.
- (5) Any person or institution responsible for alternate care shall allow the children under their care or guardianship to meet their biological parents or families.

7. Right to protection:

- (1) Every child shall have the right to obtain proper care, protection, maintenance, love and affection from his or her father, mother, other member of family or guardian.
- (2) The parents shall have equal responsibility in relation to care, protection and maintenance of their children. In cases where the parents are divorced or living separately due to any other reasons, financial expenses for the maintenance of their children shall be borne by both parents according to their capacity.
- (3) No father, mother, other member of the family or guardian shall abandon or leave the child of their own or under his or her guardianship unattended.
- (4) Children with disabilities, war victims, displaced, under vulnerable conditions, or living on street shall have the right to special protection as prescribed from the State for their secured future.
- (5) Every child shall have the right to protection against any type of physical or mental violence and torture, hatred, inhuman treatment, gender or untouchability-based mistreatment, sexual harassment and exploitation that might be caused by his or her father, mother, other family member or guardian, teacher and other person.
- (6) Every child shall have the right to protection from being exploited economically and shall also be entitled to be protected from any activity which may be harmful to him or her or be obstacle to his or her education or detrimental to his or her health, physical, mental, moral, social development.
- (7) No child shall be deployed in army, police and armed group and be used for armed conflict or political purpose directly or indirectly.
- (8) No one shall attack, or make hindrance to the operation and management of any school, including the place, service or facility, used for the best interests of children, with any excuse at times of armed conflict or in any adverse situation of whatever type.
- (9) Children below fourteen years of age shall not be deployed in any risky work or used as a house-servant or house-maid.

(10) The Government of Nepal, Provincial Government and Local Level may follow the necessary measures and make and implement the standards for the protection of the children.

8. Right to participate: A child who is competent to form his or her own opinion shall have the right to participate in the decision-making process of family, community, school or other public institution or organization on the matters concerning him or her.

9. Right to freedom of expression and information:

(1) Every child shall have the freedom to express his or her opinion pursuant to the prevailing laws.

(2) Every child shall have the right to demand and receive information on the subject of his or her right, interest and concern subject to the prevailing laws.

10. Right to open organization and assemble peacefully:

(1) Every child shall have the right to open a child club or organization or the right to assemble peacefully for the protection and promotion of the rights of the child.

(2) The provisions regarding the opening of a child club or organization pursuant to sub-section shall be as prescribed.

11. Right to privacy:

(1) Every child shall have the right to privacy regarding the subject of his or her body, residence, property, document, data, correspondence and character.

(2) No one shall do, or cause to be done the act of creation of personal information, details, photo, collection of information, publishing, printing, demonstrating, sale and distributing or transmitting by any means that causes negative impact on the characteristics of a child or any shame, regret or domination to him or her.

(3) The details that provide the identity of a child along with the name, surname, address, age, sex, family background, economic status, offence committed by, and any details regarding action, if any taken, against a child who is victim or accused of an offence by the Juvenile Court, police office, guardian, caretaker, or any other body shall be kept confidential. The details of a child kept confidential shall not be used elsewhere except as provided by the law.

Provided that if such details have to be published for any study or research work, only the age or sex of the child, without disclosing his or her name, surname, address, other data which may reveal his or her identity and his or her family may be published.

12. Special rights of children with disabilities:

- (1) Special arrangements shall be made, as prescribed, for the children with disabilities.
- (2) Every child with disability shall have the right to determine his or her own honour and prestige, to promote his or her own independency, to participate actively in the society and to live a life with dignity.
- (3) Every child with disability shall have the right to obtain special care and to be assimilated in the society and to obtain the opportunity to education, training, health care, rehabilitation service, preparation for employment and entertainment for the development of his or her personality.
- (4) Every child with disability shall have the right to equal access and utilize the public services and facilities.

13. Right to nutrition and health:

- (1) Every child shall have the right to proper nutrition, clean drinking water and the child up to two years of age shall also have the right to breast feeding.
- (2) Pregnant women and children shall have the right to get necessary vaccination to prevent diseases and allow to utilize the physical and mental health services according to the national standards, to get information about body, reproduction and reproductive health according to age and maturity.
- (3) Every child shall have the right to obtain free basic health service.

14. Right to sports, entertainment and culture:

- (1) Every child shall have the right to play games and participate in sports according to his or her age and interest.
- (2) Every school shall encourage the children to participate in sports at the time other than study and for that purpose, provide for necessary playgrounds and sports materials.
- (3) Every child shall have the right to child friendly entertainment according to his or her age, interest and requirement.
- (4) Every child shall have the right to take part in cultural activities according to his or her religion, culture, custom, tradition and conscience without causing any adverse effect on his or her interests.

15. Right to education:

- (1) Children below six years of age shall have the right to learn in a proper way according to their age and level of development and to pre-child development.

- (2) Every child shall have the right to acquire free and compulsory education up to the basic level and free education upto the secondary level pursuant to the prevailing law in a child friendly environment.
- (3) Every child shall have the right to acquire education through proper study materials and teaching method according to his or her special physical and mental condition, pursuant to the prevailing law.
- (4) *Dalit* children shall have the right to acquire free education with scholarship pursuant to the prevailing law.

Responsibilities towards Children:

16. Priority to be given for the best interests of children:

- (1) The officials of every organization and institution that carries out activities related to children shall adopt necessary child friendly process by giving priority to the best interests of children, while doing every activity.
- (2) It shall be the responsibility of everyone to instantly help children whose life is in risk.
- (3) The child welfare authority or Juvenile Court shall, while making arrangement for a child's alternative care, separating a child from his or her parents or guardian, making decision on who has to take care of and maintain a child after divorce between his or her father and mother shall adopt the process as prescribed for the best interests of the child pursuant to this Act.
- (4) Public and private social institutions where children stay or which provide services to children shall, while constructing or refurbishing the physical structures, make necessary arrangement that is child friendly.

17. Responsibility of the family or guardian:

- (1) Both the father and mother shall have equal responsibility on the child's care, maintenance and overall development.
- (2) It shall be the responsibility of every father, mother, other members of the family or guardian to care, maintain and protect, to provide the opportunity for education, treatment, along with personality development of, to provide environment full of love and care and to guide properly for future certainty of the child.
- (3) Father, mother, other family member or guardian shall provide suitable environment for acquiring education to every child of age to join school by admitting him or her to the school.

- (4) Father, mother, other member of the family or guardian shall not engage the child on labour which may adversely affect his or her education, health and physical or mental development.
- (5) Father, mother, other member of the family or guardian shall not leave the child below six years of age alone at home or any other place or send alone elsewhere, without being accompanied by an adult person.

18. Obligation of the State: The State shall make necessary arrangement for the basic needs including maintenance, protection, health and education of children in need of special protection, on the basis of the available means and resources.

19. Responsibility of the media sector: It shall be the responsibility of the media sector to publish and transmit information, without violating the rights of the child and causing adverse effect on the interests of the child.

48. Children in need of special protection:

1. The children stated below shall be deemed to be children in need of special protection:
 - (a) Orphan children,
 - (b) Children that have been left or found abandoned in hospital or other public places or separated from parents or left unclaimed, with the identity of their parent's unknown,
 - (c) Children that are not receiving appropriate care due to physical or mental disability or incapacity of their parents,
 - (d) Among children in conflict with law, those who have been referred for alternative care under the diversion process,
 - (e) Children staying in prison being dependent on their father or mother who is detained or imprisoned
 - (f) Infants born due to rape or incestuous relationships that are punishable by law and concerning whom application has been submitted to a child welfare authority, claiming inability to raise them,
 - (g) Children who have been separated from their families for their best interest due to abuse, violence or neglect by their fathers, mothers or guardians,
 - (h) Children who are earning their livelihood by engaging in labour that is forced or bonded or hazardous or worst in form or that contravenes a prevailing law, are addicted to smoking, drinking or other narcotic drugs, or are infected with HIV,

- (i) Children who are experiencing difficulty leading normal life or whose lives are at-risk, having been suffering from serious physical or mental health problems or serious disability, due to the inability of their parents or families to afford treatment,
- (j) Children who are the victims of offences against children or are at such risks,
- (k) Children who have lost both or either of their parents, or whose parents have disappeared, or have themselves been suffering physically or mentally or facing disability due to disasters or armed conflict,
- (l) Children belonging to deprived *Dalit* communities,
- (m) Other children who are designated as children in need of special protection by the Ministry through a notification in the Nepal Gazette.
- (n) The services and support, including rescue, temporary protection, health treatment, psychosocial support, family reunion, rehabilitation, alternative care, family support, social security and socialization, as required, to children referred to in Subsection (1) shall be as prescribed.

66. Offences against children:

- (1) If a person engages in any act of violence pursuant to Subsection (2) or sexual abuse pursuant to Subsection (3), it shall be deemed an offence against children under this Act.
- (2) If any person commits any of the acts, stated below, against children, it shall be deemed an act of violence against children:
 - (a) Involve in addictions such as smoking, drinking or gambling,
 - (b) Allow entry to, or use in, recreational facilities opened for adults such as dance bars and casinos,
 - (c) Show motion pictures or other audio-visual materials classified as adult-only,
 - (d) Inflict physical or mental punishment or behave in undignified manner, whether at home, school or any other place,
 - (e) Inflict physical injuries or harm, terrorize or intimidate, humiliate, neglect, discriminate, exclude or hate, isolate or cause mental torture,
 - (f) Harass or bully using electronic or other medium,
 - (g) Organize for political purposes or use in strikes, shutdowns, transportation strikes, sit-ins or rallies,
 - (h) Keep in illegal confinement, detention, jail or house arrest; handcuff them

- (i) Treat in a cruel or inhumane manner or torture,
 - (j) Cause to beg or disguise as ascetic, monk or mendicant, except for tradition, custom or any religious or cultural activity,
 - (k) Forcibly declare as orphan or register as orphan,
 - (l) Offer or dedicate in the pretext of a pledge, religious or any other purpose or subject them to violence, discrimination, neglect or exclusion or mockery in the pretext of custom, culture or rituals
 - (m) Engage in magic or circus shows,
 - (n) Teach or train to commit offensive acts or involve in such acts,
 - (o) Fix marriages of children or marry, or cause to marry, children,
 - (p) Remove organs of children in contravention of a prevailing law,
 - (q) Use children for medical or any other experiment,
 - (r) Keep them in children's homes other than under a due process of law
- (1) If any person engages in any of the acts stated below against a child, she/he shall be deemed to have committed an act of child sexual abuse:
- (a) Show, or cause to show, obscene pictures, audio-visual recordings or other such materials or display, or cause to display, expressions or gestures that reflect obscene or sexual conduct or behaviour or display, or cause to display, child pornography,
 - (b) Distribute, store or use actual or fictitious obscene pictures or audio-visual materials of children,
 - (c) Propose, entice, coerce or threaten for sexual activities,
 - (d) Use children in production of obscene acts and materials,
 - (e) Touch, kiss, hold sensitive parts of body, embrace with sexual intent or cause them to touch or hold sensitive parts of own body or body of another person or render them unconscious with sexual intent or display, or cause them to display, sexual organs,
 - (f) Use, or cause to use, children for stimulating sexual urge or sexual excitement,
 - (g) Use, or cause to use, children for the purpose of sexual gratification,
 - (h) Engage in, or cause to engage in, child sexual exploitation,
 - (i) Use, or cause to use, children with the intent of providing sexual services,
 - (j) Use, or cause to use, children with the intent of engaging in sexual abuse,

- (k) Use children in prostitution or other sexual work,
- (2) Notwithstanding what is contained in Subsection (3), anything expressed by means of writing, speaking, gesturing or displaying any word, picture, audio, visual medium and objector material on a sex-related topic without displaying obscenity with the aim of imparting information and education or an act performed with good intent in the course of treatment of children or for saving children from an accident or danger shall not be deemed acts of sexual abuse.

77. Duties of the child: It shall be the duty of every child to respect his or her father, mother, guardian, other family members, teachers and social service providers and obey the advice, suggestion, guidance and instruction given by them, taking into consideration of his or her best interests.

78. To maintain confidentiality:

- (1) No person shall publish or broadcast through print or electronic media any details that discloses the identity of a child concerned with a case that is *sub-judice* in the Juvenile Court.
- (2) No person shall broadcast information or news through any communication media by disclosing the identity of a child victim of an offence against children.
- (3) The police, government attorney or Juvenile Court shall make arrangements for maintaining records of child victims of the offences against children, without disclosing their names and identity.
- (4) The investigation authority, government attorney and Juvenile Court shall keep the identity of children in conflict with law confidential. Copies of documents related to such charge shall not be given to any person other than the concerned police and government attorney's office, Juvenile Court, the child concerned, family members, guardian, legal practitioner of the concerned child and Central and District Child Justice Committee.
- (5) Notwithstanding anything contained elsewhere in this Section, the details related to the child may be published or broadcast as follows, in the following circumstance:
 - (a) If publishing or broadcasting the details relating to the children in conflict with law does not adversely affect the interests of such children, such details, with the permission of the Juvenile Court,
 - (b) Data on the children in conflict with law may be published with the permission of the concerned agency, for any study or research, with the disclosure of their age or gender, without disclosing their names, surnames, personal details and addresses.

Children in the Government of Nepal's 'Policy and Program Statement', and 'Budget Speech, FY 2020/2021'

Policies and programs	Budget statement
(A) Issues related to health:	
Point No. 44. Full vaccination service has been declared at 671 local level wards across the country. Next year, the government will provide full vaccination service to all other local level wards as well.	Point no. 37. A sum of Rs. 4.22 billion has been allocated for the free treatment of destitute citizens and heart disease of senior citizens and children and for continuing tuberculosis, AIDS and sexually transmitted diseases and leprosy control programs.
Point No. 54. Kanti Children's Hospital will be developed as an eminent centre for studying higher education in various fields of paediatrics.	Point No. 45. A budget has been allocated for the development of Kanti Children's Hospital as an eminent centre for higher education by constructing an infrastructure with additional ICU, to start a paediatric heart treatment facility at the Martyr Gangalal National Heart Center and to purchase additional equipment.
(B) Issues related to education:	
Point 70. All school-age children will be ensured to be in school. Arrangements will be made for all students to complete at least secondary level by making the program "Enrol children to school and continue education" more effective.	Point no. 160. All children of school-going age group will be enrolled in school and access to basic education will be ensured for all within the coming year. Schools including Madrasas, Gurukuls and Gumbas providing basic education in mother tongue will be integrated into the mainstream of modern education.
Point no. 72. Public schools will be made centres of quality education. Public School Stabilization Decade 2019-28 Campaign will be in operation. Schools and educational institutions will be mapped and adjusted on the basis of geography and a minimum number of students. For quality education, qualified, efficient and committed teachers in the teaching profession will be appointed, developed and mobilized in the schools.	Point no. 162. By expanding the Presidential Educational Reform Program, educational infrastructure and quality enhancement programs including classroom construction, provision of technical teachers, teacher training, volunteer teacher mobilization, science laboratory, information technology lab, playground and provision of sports equipment will be conducted. The Public-School Stabilization Decade program will be conducted as a part of this program.
Point no. 73. Emphasis will be given on scientific learning methods to make science education effective and interesting at the school level. Science study centres will be established.	Point no. 161. Emphasizing on technical education at the secondary level and the program of conducting technical education in at least one school at all local levels has been taken forward. Under this, 607 local level programs have been started so far and will be extended to all local levels next year.
Point no. 74. In the next three years, all community schools and technical schools will be developed as well-equipped educational institutions.	Point no. 164. Funds have been allocated for the reconstruction of 1,800 school buildings, 2,520 classrooms, 1000 science laboratories, libraries and computer labs in the coming fiscal year.

Policies and programs	Budget statement
Point no. 75. The school-level curriculum will also cover the issues of Nepal's pride, culture, civilization and values, promotion of national unity and sense of duty of the citizens.	Point no. 165. By conducting the scholarship program in an integrated manner, a budget of Rs. 2.70 billion has been allocated for the next year for the benefit of around 2.6 million students across the country, including children of deprived and disabled citizens, sons and daughters of martyrs and hardworking students.
Point no. 76. For the all-round development of children under the age of five, early childhood development programs will be encouraged at the local level.	Point no. 167. In order to keep the students of community schools up to class 5 in school, Rs. 7.52 billion has been allocated. About 2.8 million children will benefit from this program.
Point no. 77. Arrangements will be made to provide online education by producing electronic teaching materials. Information technology laboratories and high-speed internet facilities will be provided to all public secondary schools.	Point no. 168. An arrangement has been made to transfer Rs. 1.82 billion as a conditional grant through the local level to provide sanitary pads free of cost to 1.34 million female students studying in all community schools across the country.
Point no. 78. The National Education Policy, 2019 and the National Science and Innovation Policy, 2019 will be implemented by timely modification.	Point no. 169. For the strengthening of early childhood development centres, a conditional grant has been provided to run the program from the local level at cost sharing basis.
	Point no. 171. A sum of Rs. 2.23 billion has been allocated to mobilize additional 6,000 volunteer teachers in schools with a high number of teachers and schools where a shortage of Math, English and Science teachers.
	Point no. 172. The arrangement has been made to distribute free textbooks in all schools before the beginning of the academic year. In order to make teaching and learning effective, Rs. 2.76 billion has been allocated to provide free textbooks to the basic level including coloured textbooks for the benefit of about 4.6 million students.
	Point no. 163. In view of the obstruction created in study due to COVID-19, the teaching of the new academic year will be promoted through the operation of virtual classrooms, online education and television and radio. Creativity development activities with positive thinking will be conducted to alleviate the psychosocial impact on students due to infection risk.
(C) Issues related to protection	
Point no. 86. All forms of child labour will be eradicated.	Point no. 194. A country free of street children and child labour will be made.

Policies and programs	Budget statement
Point no. 89. Arrangements will be made for social protection by identifying the helpless persons and children with disabilities who are unable to take care of themselves or work.	Point no. 74. In line with the government's view to protect children, the scope of child protection grant has been widened next year to include children from <i>Dalit</i> and Karnali regions and Terai/Madhesh as well as families below the poverty line. For this program, Rs. 3.76 billion has been allocated. About 1.3 million children will be benefited from this program. Arrangements have been made to mobilize social organizations to provide reliable social security for orphans and HIV-infected children who need special protection. Arrangements have been made to make the streets helpless human-free by providing shelter, protection and care to all the disabled, unaccompanied, infected and homeless people.
Point no. 235. Targeted social welfare programs will be made integrated and result oriented by restructuring the government and organizations involved in the work related to women, children, persons with disabilities and senior citizens. An integrated social development Act will be formulated.	Point no. 71. Social security will be made lifecycle-based, mandatory and universal. Programs will be implemented to provide special protection and protection to the economically deprived, disabled, helpless, single women, children and endangered and marginalized communities from the state.
Point no. 239. A national strategy for children will be prepared and implemented. With the cooperation and coordination of the province and local level, rescue and protection of the children who are helpless or on the streets due to the death of their parents or guardians will be provided.	Point no. 194. A national strategy for children will be prepared and implemented. A country free of street children will be made and end child labour forever. Children's park, library and museum of science and technology will be constructed for the recreation and physical and mental development of children.
Point no. 242. Vulnerable and helpless persons to health and homeless and helpless persons will be rescued, treated and rehabilitated.	Point no. 270. Free legal aid will be provided to women victims of violence, single women, persons with disabilities, <i>Dalits</i> , children and senior citizens to access justice.
	Point no. 277. Strict action will be taken against those involved in drug production, trafficking, sale, drug addiction and child abuse. Awareness programs will be conducted in coordination and cooperation with community organizations.

The policies, programs and budget statements of this fiscal year seem to address the issues of children's education, health and protection with priority. However, policies and programs do not seem to address the issue of children in the budget statement.

Status of Implementation of UN CRC Provisions in Nepal

CRC Articles	Fulfilled	On track	Requires
Article 1 – Definition of a child. A child is recognized as every human being under 18 years old, unless national laws recognize an earlier age of majority.	√		
Article 2 – Non-discrimination. All rights apply to all children without exception. It is the State’s (national government’s) obligation to protect children from any form of discrimination and to take positive action to promote their rights.		√	
Article 3 – Best interests of the child. All actions concerning the child shall take full account of his or her best interests. The State shall provide the child with adequate care when parents, or others charged with parental responsibility, fail to do so.		√	
Article 4 – Implementation of rights. The State must do all it can to implement the rights contained in the Convention.		√	
Article 5 – Parental guidance and the child’s evolving capacities. The State must respect the rights and responsibilities of parents and the extended family to provide guidance for the child that is appropriate to his or her evolving capacities.		√	√
Article 6 – Life, survival and development. Every child has the inherent right to life, and the State has an obligation to ensure the child’s survival and development.		√	
Article 7 – Name and nationality. The child has the right to a name at birth. The child also has the right to acquire a nationality and, as far as possible, to know his or her parents and be cared for by them.		√	√
Article 8 – Preservation of identity. The State has an obligation to protect and, if necessary, re-establish basic aspects of the child’s identity. This includes name, nationality and family ties.		√	√
Article 9 – Separation from parents. The child has a right to live with his or her parents unless this is deemed incompatible with the child’s best interests. The child also has the right to maintain contact with both parents if separated from one or both.		√	√
Article 10 – Family reunification. Children and their parents have the right to leave any country and to enter their own for purposes of reunion or the maintenance of the child-parent relationship.		√	√
Article 11 – Illicit transfer and non-return. The State has an obligation to prevent and remedy the kidnapping or retention abroad of children by a parent or third party.		√	√
Article 12 – Respect of the child’s views. The child has the right to express his or her opinion freely and to have that opinion taken into account in any matter or procedure affecting the child.	√		
Article 13 – Freedom of expression. The child has the right to express his or her views, obtain information and make ideas or information known, regardless of frontiers.	√		

CRC Articles	Fulfilled	On track	Requires
Article 14 – Freedom of thought, conscience and religion. The State shall respect the child’s right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion, subject to appropriate parental guidance.		√	
Article 15 – Freedom of association. Children have a right to meet with others, and to join or form associations.	√		
Article 16 – Protection of privacy. Children have the right to protection from interference with their privacy, family, home and correspondence, and to protection from libel or slander.	√		
Article 17 – Access to appropriate information. The State shall ensure the accessibility to children of information and material from a diversity of sources, and it shall encourage the mass media to disseminate information that is of social and cultural benefit to the child, and take steps to protect him or her from harmful materials.	√		
Article 18 – Parental responsibilities. Parents have joint primary responsibility for raising the child, and the State shall support them in this. The State shall provide parents with appropriate child-raising assistance.		√	√
Article 19 – Protection from abuse and neglect. The State shall protect the child from all forms of maltreatment by parents or others responsible for the child’s care and shall establish appropriate social programmes for the prevention of abuse and the treatment of victims.		√	√
Article 20 – Protection of a child without family. The State is obliged to provide special protection for a child deprived of the family environment and to ensure that appropriate alternative family care or institutional placement is available in such cases. Efforts to meet this obligation shall pay due regard to the child’s cultural background.		√	√
Article 21 – Adoption. In countries where adoption is recognized and/or allowed, it shall be carried out only in the best interests of the child, and then only with the authorization of competent authorities and safeguards for the child.		√	√
Article 22 – Refugee children. Special protection shall be granted to a refugee child or to a child seeking refugee status. It is the State’s obligation to cooperate with competent organizations that provide such protection and assistance.	√		
Article 23 – Disabled children. A disabled child has the right to special care, education and training to help him or her enjoy a full and decent life in dignity and achieve the greatest degree of self-reliance and social integration possible.		√	√
Article 24 – Health and health services. The child has a right to the highest standard of health and medical care attainable. States shall place special emphasis on the reduction of infant and child mortality and on the provision of primary and preventive health care and of public health education.		√	√
Article 25 – Periodic review of placement. A child who is placed by the State for reasons of care, protection or treatment is entitled to have that placement evaluated regularly.	√		

CRC Articles	Fulfilled	On track	Requires
Article 26 – Social security. The child has the right to benefit from social security, including social insurance.		√	√
Article 27 – Standard of living. Every child has the right to a standard of living adequate for his or her physical, mental, spiritual, moral and social development. Parents have the primary responsibility to ensure that the child has an adequate standard of living. The State’s duty is to ensure that this responsibility can be, and is, fulfilled. State responsibility can include material assistance to parents and their children.		√	√
Article 28 – Education. The child has a right to education, and the State’s duty is to ensure that primary education is free and compulsory, to encourage different forms of secondary education accessible to every child, to make higher education available to all on the basis of capacity and to ensure that school discipline is consistent with children’s rights and dignity. The State shall engage in international cooperation to implement the right to education.		√	√
Article 29 – Aims of education. Education shall aim to develop the child’s personality, talents and mental and physical abilities to the fullest extent. Education shall prepare the child for an active adult life in a free society and shall foster in the child respect for his or her parents, for his or her own cultural identity, language and values, and for the cultural background and values of others.	√		
Article 30 – Children of minorities or indigenous populations. Children of minority communities and indigenous populations have the right to enjoy their own culture and to practice their own religion and language.	√		
Article 31 – Leisure, recreation and cultural activities. The child has the right to leisure, play and participation in cultural and artistic activities.	√		
Article 32 – Child labour. The child has the right to be protected from work that threatens his or her health, education or development. The State shall set minimum age for employment and shall regulate working conditions.		√	√
Article 33 – Drug abuse. Children have the right to protection from the use of narcotic and psychotropic drugs, and from being involved in their production or distribution.		√	√
Article 34 – Sexual exploitation. The State shall protect children from sexual exploitation and abuse, including prostitution and involvement in pornography.		√	√
Article 35 – Sale, trafficking and abduction. It is the State’s obligation to make every effort to prevent the sale, trafficking and abduction of children.		√	√
Article 36 – Other forms of exploitation. The child has the right to protection from all forms of exploitation prejudicial to any aspects of the child’s welfare not covered in articles 32–35.		√	√

CRC Articles	Fulfilled	On track	Requires
Article 37 – Torture and deprivation of liberty. No child shall be subjected to torture, cruel treatment or punishment, unlawful arrest or deprivation of liberty. Both capital punishment and life imprisonment without the possibility for release are prohibited for offences committed by persons below age 18. Any child deprived of liberty shall be separated from adults unless it is considered in the child’s best interests not to do so. A child who is detained shall have legal and other assistance as well as contact with the family.		√	√
Article 38 – Armed conflicts. States shall take all feasible measures to ensure that children under 15 years old have no direct part in hostilities. No child below 15 shall be recruited into the armed forces. States shall also ensure the protection and care of children who are affected by armed conflict as described in relevant international law.	√		
Article 39 – Rehabilitative care. The State has an obligation to ensure that child victims of armed conflict, torture, maltreatment or exploitation receive appropriate treatment for their recovery and social reintegration.	√		
Article 40 – Administration of juvenile justice. A child in conflict with the law has the right to treatment that promotes the child’s sense of dignity and worth, takes the child’s age into account and aims at his or her defense. Judicial proceedings and institutional placements shall be avoided wherever possible.	√		
Article 41 – Respect for higher standards. Wherever standards set in applicable national and international law relevant to the rights of the child are higher than those in this Convention, the higher standards shall always apply.		√	√
Articles 42– States parties’ obligation to make the rights of the Convention widely known to both adults and children.	√		

Concluding remarks of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child in Nepal's report on the status of implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child

A) Implementation method

- Welcome the provisions related to the rights of children and child-friendly local governance in the constitution.
- Require to coordinate all sectoral plans, and ensure adequate human, technical and economic resources for the formulation and implementation of strategies.
- Establish a single inter-ministerial and inter-agency mechanism for coordination, monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the Convention, and manage for strong mandate, adequate human, technical and financial resources.
- Manage disaggregated information and information management system according to the indicators as per the Convention.
- Manage definite structure within the National Human Rights Commission for the monitoring of children.

B) Definition of children

- Ensure that all laws are in line with the Convention, and all children under the age of 18 are protected.

C) General principles

- Adopt appropriate measures to end any kind of discrimination in practice.
- All legal provisions and the best interests of children should be clearly considered in the decision-making process.
- Ensure the participation of children in all activities and areas of society that affect them, especially in the family, school and community.

D) Civil rights and freedoms

- Ensure the birth registration of everyone in time.
- Amend relevant legal provisions to comply with Articles 7 and 8 of the Convention (Registration of Personal Incidents, Citizenship Act).

E) Violence against children

- Prohibit punishment in the name of discipline in all sectors.
- Define child abuse and neglect in all cases and ban them as well as make legal provisions effective.
- Put in place mechanisms, procedures and guidelines to ensure the repeal of the six-month time limit in rape cases and the mandatory reporting of incidents of child sexual abuse and exploitation.
- Eliminate all traditional harmful practices for the physical and psychological benefit of children.
- Make activities related to ending child marriage effective.

- Raise public awareness against stigma and discrimination against sexual minority children.

F) Family environment and alternative care

- Make clear legal arrangements regarding alternative care and to reduce institutional care.
- Abolish the policy of adopting inter-country adoption based on poverty by improving inter-country adoption provisions.

G) Children with disabilities, basic health

- Develop a comprehensive strategy to include all children with disabilities (including physical, mental, intellectual or sensory impairment), and ensure access to services.
- Avail additional human, technical and financial resources in order to improve the access and quality of health services in rural areas.

H) Education

- Welcome to the constitutional provision for free and compulsory basic education and free secondary education.
- Make necessary arrangements for access to education and maintaining quality.

H) Special protection

- Adopt legal, administrative and institutional measures to ensure the birth registration of all children, including asylum seekers and refugee children.
- Reform policies related to child labour by covering informal and extreme forms of child labor sectors.
- Protect children engaged in hazardous work by adopting preventive measures, and continue their access to education.
- Reform the process of arresting children for as short period of time and the conditions of detention as far as possible.
- Manage separate unit in police offices to look into the cases of children conflict in law.
- Implement the recommendations of the Optional Protocol on Child Trafficking, Sexual Abuse and Pornography.

The nature and number of child cases, and number of defendants, FY 2019/20

S.N.	Type of case	Number of cases	Number of defendants		
			Boys	Girls	Total
1	Rape, molestation, trafficking, abduction, attempt to murder, etc.	265	283	5	288
2	Child sexual abuse	11	11	0	11
3	Abusive behaviour, public, peace, a crime against morality, criminal harassment, public crime offences included	75	127	2	129
4	The government signed paper and written bogus included	7	7	1	8
5	Forest related distribution of illegal forest products, distribution of sal wood, electricity supply to aquatic animals, illegal distribution of timber included	7	11	0	11
6	Homicide, killed due to carelessness and robbery	48	61	7	68
7	Absconded theft	60	88	1	89
8	Theft	117	156	7	163
9	Drugs, including marijuana, nitrovet, codeine, brufin	143	174	5	179
10	Kidnapping and hostage	4	3	1	4
11	Illegal wildlife organ smuggling and theft	3	5	0	5
12	Child marriage, including polygamy	29	17	16	33
13	Money laundering, including misconduct	3	3	0	3
14	Killing, including robbery and murder related offences	68	107	1	108
15	Robbery, theft, even killing cattle	52	92	0	92
16	Arms smuggling and organized crime included	8	9	2	11
17	Attempt to rape	38	49	0	49
18	Acid sprayed intending to make the face ugly	1	2	0	2
19	Hundi Business	1	1	0	1
20	Beatings and mutilations	9	15	1	16
21	Activity did against exam rules	1	2	0	2
22	Kidnapping	1	2	0	2
23	Gambling	2	2	0	2
24	The human trafficking	2	1	2	3
25	Death due to accident	37	40	0	40
26	Abortion	1	2	0	2
27	Human trafficking	1	1	0	1
28	Mutilation by vehicle	2	2	0	2

S.N.	Type of case	Number of cases	Number of defendants		
			Boys	Girls	Total
29	Gang rape and homicide	6	13	0	13
30	Animal-related offenses	2	2	0	2
31	Unnatural intercourse	4	4	0	4
32	Set on fire	3	4	0	4
33	Creating a situation to suicide	7	6	2	8
34	Cow killing	3	5	0	5
35	Carrying tools used in the theft	1	2	0	2
Total		1,022	1,309	53	1,362

Source: Central Child Justice Committee Secretariat, 2020

Child Friendly Declared Local Level and Ward, FY 2019/20

Province	SN	District	Local level	Ward	Declared date
1		Sunsari	Dharan Sub-metropolitan City	13, 14	July 10 & 14, 2018
		Sunsari	Dharan Sub-metropolitan City	20	Sep 14, 2018
		Sunsari	Dharan Sub-metropolitan City	12	May 24, 2019
		Sunsari	Dharan Sub-metropolitan City	18	July 07, 2019
		Sunsari	Ramdhuni RM	02, 05	July 09 & 14, 2018
		Udaypur	Triyuga Municipality	15	Oct 03, 2018
		Morang	Gramtham RM	01	Jan 12, 2020
2		Parsa	Birgunj Metropolitan City	31	Mar 14, 2018
		Parsa	Parsagadhi Municipality	02	Sep 14, 2018
		Saptari	Kanchanrup Municipality	All wards	Sep 06, 2019
Bagmati		Chitwan	Ratnanagar Municipality	03	June 12, 2018
		Chitwan	Ratnanagar Municipality	05	Sep 20, 2018
		Chitwan	Ratnanagar Municipality	15	May 10, 2019
		Chitwan	Ratnanagar Municipality	14	Feb 18, 2020
		Chitwan	Bharatpur Metropolitan City	14	July 10, 2019
		Dolakha	Bhimeshwor Municipality	All wards	Sep 15, 2019
		Makwanpur	Indrasarobar RM	04, 05	June 12, 2018
		Makwanpur	Manahari RM	All wards	Jan 13, 2020
		Kavrepalanchok	Panauti Municipality	12	Aug 06, 2018
		Kavrepalanchok	Panauti Municipality	02, 03	June 29, 2019
		Kavrepalanchok	Panauti Municipality	01	Feb 08, 2020
		Kavrepalanchok	Dhulikhel Municipality	10	June 10, 2019
		Kavrepalanchok	Dhulikhel Municipality	3, 4, 5, 6 & 7	Feb 17, 2020
Gandaki		Nawalparasi (BSP)	Devchuli Municipality	All wards	Sep 14, 2018
		Nawalparasi (BSP)	Gaindakot Municipality	11	Dec 27, 2019
		Parbsat	Modi RM	08	Jan 29, 2018
		Parbsat	Paiyutar RM	07	June 24, 2019
		Lamjung	Kwhlosothar RM	01	Sep 15, 2019

Lumbini	Nawalparasi	Sulawal Municipality	All wards	Aug 19, 2018
	Kapilbastu	Shivraj Municipality	09	Sep 19, 2018
	Kapilbastu	Shivraj Municipality	01	Nov 14, 2019
	Kapilbastu	Kapilvastu Municipality	09, 10	Oct 25, 2019
	Rupandehi	Shuddhodha RM	02	Oct 02, 2018
	Pyuthan	Swargadwari Municipality	05	July 16, 2019
Karnali	Humla	Sarkegad RM	01	June 30, 2017
	Humla	Simikot RM	04	Jan 31, 2017
	Kalikot	Tilagupha Municipality	02	Dec 04, 2017
	Kalikot	Tilagupha Municipality	04	Dec 04, 2018
	Kalikot	Tilagupha Municipality	01, 03	Nov 04, 2018
	Dailekh	Aathbisa Municipality	04	Dec 23, 2017
	Dailekh	Gunras RM	06	Dec 27, 2018
Sudurpashchim	Achham	Chaurpati RM	06	Jan 13, 2019

Source: National CFLG Forum, 2019

Note: Besides Local Level that declared all wards, 47 wards of 28 Local Level has been declared child friendly.

Annex 7

Number of *Dalit* and Nationalities Children Enrolled in the Levels of School Education by Province, 2019

Province	Education level	Dalit			Nationalities		
		Girl	Boy	Total	Girl	Boy	Total
1	Primary (1-5)	41,047	41,439	82,486	131,654	134,999	266,653
	Lower-secondary (6-8)	17,592	16,594	34,186	78,298	76,249	154,547
	Secondary (9-10)	8,531	7,571	16,102	49,469	44,222	93,691
	Higher secondary (11-12)	4,616	3,765	8,381	31,528	24,709	56,237
	Grade 1-12	71,786	69,369	141,155	290,949	280,179	571,128
2	Primary (1-5)	92,688	89,549	182,237	56,817	52,035	108,852
	Lower-secondary (6-8)	25,446	26,555	52,001	28,202	26,116	54,318
	Secondary (9-10)	10,143	12,687	22,830	16,631	16,208	32,839
	Higher secondary (11-12)	1,852	2,694	4,546	6,730	5,045	11,775
	Grade 1-12	130,129	131,485	261,614	108,380	99,404	207,784
Bagmati	Primary (1-5)	25,615	26,118	51,733	176,534	187,896	364,430
	Lower-secondary (6-8)	13,786	12,792	26,578	99,164	97,892	197,056
	Secondary (9-10)	7,424	6,749	14,173	59,270	55,697	114,967
	Higher secondary (11-12)	6,346	4,985	11,331	53,859	43,458	97,317
	Grade 1-12	53,171	50,644	103,815	388,827	384,943	773,770
Gandaki	Primary (1-5)	31,630	33,056	64,686	55,173	58,632	113,805
	Lower-secondary (6-8)	18,352	17,236	35,588	35,089	34,593	69,682
	Secondary (9-10)	10,035	9,316	19,351	22,303	21,286	43,589
	Higher secondary (11-12)	6,057	5,735	11,792	14,879	14,128	29,007
	Grade 1-12	66,074	65,343	131,417	127,444	128,639	256,083
Lumbini	Primary (1-5)	63,490	65,099	128,589	122,134	125,780	247,914
	Lower-secondary (6-8)	26,972	25,915	52,887	70,377	67,372	137,749
	Secondary (9-10)	11,967	11,079	23,046	39,678	36,138	75,816
	Higher secondary (11-12)	5,225	5,188	10,413	22,197	18,623	40,820
	Grade 1-12	107,654	107,281	214,935	254,386	247,913	502,299

Karnali	Primary (1-5)	41,319	38,855	80,174	16,231	14,996	31,227
	Lower-secondary (6-8)	17,312	15,924	33,236	8,616	7,945	16,561
	Secondary (9-10)	7,463	6,645	14,108	5,210	4,606	9,816
	Higher secondary (11-12)	2,247	2,465	4,712	2,330	2,131	4,461
	Grade 1-12	68,341	63,889	132,230	32,387	29,678	62,065
Sudur-pashchim	Primary (1-5)	53,036	49,722	102,758	29,786	30,618	60,404
	Lower-secondary (6-8)	22,036	20,161	42,197	19,629	17,713	37,342
	Secondary (9-10)	9,639	9,067	18,706	11,292	9,087	20,379
	Higher secondary (11-12)	3,069	3,635	6,704	7,388	5,010	12,398
	Grade 1-12	87,780	82,585	170,365	68,095	62,428	130,523
Total	Primary (1-5)	348,825	343,838	692,663	588,329	604,956	1,193,285
	Lower-secondary (6-8)	141,496	135,177	276,673	339,375	327,880	667,255
	Secondary (9-10)	65,202	63,114	128,316	203,853	187,244	391,097
	Higher secondary (11-12)	29,412	28,467	57,879	138,911	113,104	252,015
	Grade 1-12	584,935	570,596	1,155,531	1,270,468	1,233,184	2,503,652

Source: Education and Human Resource Development Centre, Flash I Report, 2019

Annex 8

Province and District-wise Child Care Homes, 2019/20

Province	SN	District	No. of CCH	Residing			Back to home due to Covid-19 pandemic			Family reunited		
				Boy	Girl	Total	Boy	Girl	Total	Boy	Girl	Total
1	1	Sankhuwasava	3	3	7	10	7	10	17	0	1	1
	2	Ilam	2	9	8	17	0	1	1	1	1	2
	3	Bhojpur	1	11	25	36	0	0	0	0	0	0
	4	Jhapa	9	91	63	154	10	6	16	0	1	1
	5	Morang	4	53	56	109	15	0	15	1	4	5
	6	Dhankuta	1	6	9	15	0	0	0	0	0	0
	7	Sunsari	6	97	112	209	4	5	9	5	5	10
	Total			26	270	280	550	36	22	58	7	12
2	1	Saptari	1	13	0	13	2	0	2	1	0	1
	2	Parsa	2	35	0	35	65	0	65	0	0	0
	3	Sarlahi	5	30	26	56	25	13	38	2	4	6
	4	Bara	1	6	5	11	0	0	0	2	1	3
	5	Rautahat	1	23	3	26	0	0	0	0	0	0
	6	Siraha	1	0	4	4	0	0	0	0	0	0
	7	Dhanusha	2	5	11	16	14	0	14	0	0	0
	Total			13	112	49	161	106	13	119	5	5
Bagmati	1	Kathmandu	173	1809	2375	4184	437	465	902	46	42	88
	2	Lalitpur	110	1051	1212	2263	219	226	445	43	37	80
	3	Bhaktapur	17	153	216	369	26	21	47	4	2	6
	4	Chitwan	28	276	406	682	141	92	233	16	9	25
	5	Dolakha	3	32	1	33	15	0	15	0	0	0
	6	Sindhuli	1	3	5	8	0	0	0	0	0	0
	7	Dhading	6	54	60	114	6	10	16	0	2	2
	8	Sindhupalchowk	4	24	56	80	2	5	7	0	0	0
	9	Makwanpur	8	132	79	211	3	2	5	2	1	3
	10	Kavre	10	166	204	370	1	21	22	7	15	22
	11	Nuwakot	2	7	15	22	15	0	15	23	12	35
	Total			362	3707	4629	8336	865	842	1707	141	102

Province	SN	District	No. of CCH	Residing			Back to home due to Covid-19 pandemic			Family reunited		
				Boy	Girl	Total	Boy	Girl	Total	Boy	Girl	Total
Gandaki	1	Lamjung	1	4	7	11	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2	Myagdi	1	4	7	11	0	0	0	0	0	0
	3	Tanahu	3	21	9	30	3	0	3	0	0	0
	4	Kaski	36	508	547	1055	41	22	63	9	24	33
	5	Syangja	1	15	5	20	0	0	0	1	4	5
	6	Gorkha	3	29	23	52	0	0	0	0	1	1
	Total			45	581	598	1179	44	22	66	10	29
Lumbini	1	Palpa	1	14	13	27	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2	Kapilvastu	1	29	0	29	0	0	0	0	0	0
	3	Banke	3	46	65	111	0	0	0	0	0	0
	4	Dang	2	19	126	145	0	0	0	0	0	0
	5	Nawalparasi	2	3	3	6	0	0	0	0	0	0
	6	Rupandehi	9	113	100	213	0	0	0	9	2	11
	7	Bardia	2	19	35	54	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Total			20	243	342	585	0	0	0	9	2
Karnali	1	Surkhet	4	104	106	210	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2	Humla	4	22	12	34	16	36	52	0	0	0
	3	Jumla	2	21	19	40	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Total			10	147	137	284	16	36	52	0	0
Sudur-pashchim	1	Achham	1	3	10	13	0	0	0	0	0	0
	2	Kailali	6	97	91	188	26	6	32	1	2	3
	3	Dadeldhura	1	10	0	10	3	0	3	0	0	0
	4	Kanchanpur	5	24	20	44	19	1	20	0	0	0
	Total			13	134	121	255	48	7	55	1	2
Grand Total			489	5,194	6,156	11,350	1,115	942	2,057	173	170	343

Source: National Child Rights Council, 2020

Annex 9

Children in the Provincial 'Policy and program' and 'Budget Speech,' 2020/21

Province: 1

S.N.	Children in Policies and Programs	Children in the Budget Speech
1.	<p>25. Construction and maintenance of school buildings, operation of e-education and provision of scholarships to girls from marginalized communities will be carried out with the campaign of mainstreaming in education.</p> <p>78. Necessary programs will be designed keeping in mind the impact of COVID-19 on the students' education. In the current situation, special programs will be launched including online education, operation of virtual classrooms as well as the development of necessary infrastructure for effective use of information and communication technology in education. Provincial education policy, law and the educational plan will be formulated to maintain the quality of education and to make the teaching-learning method systematic. The educational information management system will be further strengthened.</p>	<p>Campaign to improve the educational quality of school education will be continued. Infrastructure development, information technology education, digital literacy and school learning information management system will be developed in the selected schools. For this, Rs. 160 million has been allocated.</p>
2.	<p>79. Giving priority to the spirit of making all citizens literate, a fully literate province will be declared in the coming fiscal year. E-education infrastructure development and school nurse services will be expanded in the community schools by continuing the educational quality improvement program as a campaign to expand the access of quality school education to the children of all poor, marginalized, Dalit and backward communities.</p>	<p>In view of the impact of COVID-19 on students' education, arrangements will be made to produce and broadcast materials through radio, television, online and offline to facilitate learning. Rs. 30 million has been allocated for this.</p>
3.		<p>In order to improve the health, nutrition and hygiene of the students, the school nurse service program will be expanded to reach all the local levels. For this, Rs. 70 million has been allocated.</p>

4.	<p>80. Provincial residential schools will be established for the education of poor and deserving students. Continuing the online education and literacy program, the necessary infrastructure will be developed for teaching and learning through online and offline in schools by integrating teacher training with technology. School education promotion program will be developed for talented <i>Dalit</i> students studying in community schools.</p>	<p>In order to expand the access to quality education for the children of hilly and mountainous districts, Rs. 11 million has been allocated for the continuity of volunteer science teacher management in secondary schools.</p>
5.	<p>82. Under Manmohan Technical University, operation of multi-technical schools will be taken forward in Panchthar, Taplejung, Sankhuwasabha, Bhojpur, Terhathum and Solukhumbu districts. Necessary skilled technical manpower will be produced for the province by developing coordination and capacity between other technical schools operating in the province.</p>	<p>The incentive program will be implemented for talented <i>Dalit</i> and marginalised community students. Province level residential schools for the hearing impaired, intellectually differently abled and blind children will be strengthened. For this, Rs. 22 million has been allocated.</p>
6.	<p>87. Province level residential schools for the deaf, intellectually differently abled and blind children will be strengthened. Special education resource classes will be strengthened. Resource teacher's capacity building and all-round development programs for children with disabilities will be implemented.</p>	<p>Scholarships will be provided for the children of martyrs and wounded, disabled and conflict victims of the conflict and people's movement. Arrangements will be made to provide grants for treatment and vocational skills training and business for the injured and disabled.</p>
7.	<p>199. Protective and promotive programs will be implemented for the development of marginalized communities including women, children, senior citizens, conflict victims, endangered, marginalized, persons with disabilities, <i>Dalits</i>, gender and sexual minorities, single women, Madhesi and Muslims.</p>	<p>Necessary funds are allocated to run the program in partnership with the federal, province and local levels for the rescue, protection and rehabilitation of street children as well as the homeless children.</p>

8.	<p>200. The campaign to make the province child marriage-free by 2025 will be continued through the "Self-Reliant Daughter Program for Prosperous Provinces". Income-generating programs will be conducted and an insurance program for daughters will be implemented. Street children free program will be declared by rescuing, protecting, rehabilitating and reuniting children on the streets and involved in labour.</p>	<p>To make the province child marriage free by 2025, 'Self-reliant Daughter for Prosperous Province' program will be launched. Under this, production, employment and income-generating programs will be intensively implemented for insurance program for the daughters of marginalized communities by community mobilization to end child marriage. Necessary arrangements have been made for this.</p>
9.	<p>201. An Emergency Child Rescue Fund will be established and mobilized in the province for the rescue and protection of children to end all forms of exploitation, abuse, child labour, child marriage and other discrimination against children. Coordination will be made with the local government in the implementation of existing child-friendly provinces by connecting the children with the provincial government.</p>	<p>In order to provide effective services to pregnant, maternity and newborn babies, rural health mother programs will be conducted in coordination with the local level. For this, Rs. 50 million has been allocated.</p>
10.	<p>202. For the economic and social development of persons with disabilities, the disability prevention and rehabilitation program run in tripartite partnership of the province government, local level and partner organizations will be expanded, and the operation of disability friendly village and rehabilitation centre for their protection will be emphasized.</p>	
11.	<p>205. An information management system will be created to make the information and statistics of women, children, persons with disabilities and senior citizens systematic and to get information easily by connecting with all the local levels.</p>	

Province: 2

S.N.	Children in Policies and Programs	Children in the Budget Speech
1.	<p>21. More classrooms will be built in schools with a higher number of students, more temporary and volunteer teachers will be recruited, distance education and community-based education will be invested to improve the education sector. Ensure access to school education for poor children. Special programs will be implemented to reduce the impact of Corona on the education sector by investing in the psychosocial treatment of children, lunch and modern technology through online education, radio and television programs. A campaign will be launched to make the province a "literate province".</p>	<p>End all forms of violence, exploitation and discrimination against women and girls, ensuring the active participation and opportunity of women in all political, economic and social decisions and maintaining gender equality.</p> <p>The entire province will be developed as an educated province. For this, emphasis will be given on quality education by building the physical infrastructure of the schools of the province and increasing the capacity of human resources. For FY, Rs. 20 million budget has been allocated.</p>
2.	<p>52. Programs related to family planning and safe motherhood will be conducted as a campaign to "completely safe motherhood province". In addition, specialized maternal and child hospitals will be established and operated in the province.</p>	<p>In order to identify possible and suitable places for kindergarten and children's park, women's safety home, construction of the playground, senior citizen park and senior citizen ashram, the program will be formulated on the basis of the study.</p>
3.	<p>57. Continuing the multi-sectoral nutrition program for malnourished women and children, a campaign will be launched to make the province malnutrition free by conducting awareness programs and exhibitions for balanced, nutritious and diverse food and developing nutritious food habits.</p>	<p>A budget of Rs. 100 million has been allocated for the construction of additional classrooms, repairs, recruitment of volunteer teachers, operation of teaching through radio and television and expansion of online education keeping in view of the present need of teaching students while maintaining a physical distance.</p>
4.	<p>60. A special education campaign will be launched to bring children into the mainstream of education. In addition, the province's major moral education program will be continued.</p>	<p>For the health, physical, psychological and emotional development of school children, Rs. 32.5 million budget has been allocated.</p>
5.	<p>61. By identifying the skills, interests and inherent talents of the children studying at the secondary level, employment-oriented skills and capacity-building programs will be conducted accordingly.</p>	<p>A budget of Rs 15 million has been allocated for self-defence training of female students.</p>
6.	<p>63. The educational policy of the province government will be formulated and implemented. In addition, for the promotion of quality education, model residential friendly schools will be established in the province and brought into operation.</p>	<p>A budget of Rs. 20 million has been allocated to increase public awareness for reducing malnutrition.</p>

7.	64. Arrangements will be made to improve teaching-learning based on child friendly technology in all the educational institutions in the province.	Continuing the "Teach Daughter, Save Daughter" program, Rs. 306.47 million has been allocated for the education insurance deposit program for 25,000 girls. A budget of Rs. 248.6 million has been allocated for other programs.
8.	73. Arrangements will be made to run special protection and empowerment programs targeting orphans. In addition, construction work of kindergarten and children's park will be continued for the development of children.	
9.	209 Safe daughter campaign, child violence, preventive and remedial programs against domestic violence will be implemented through the coordination of the police, local level and schools.	
10.	229. "Student Education Scholarship Program" will be continued to increase the educational level of extremely poor <i>Dalit</i> and Muslim students from grade 1 to 8 through scholarships.	

Province: Bagmati

S.N.	Children in Policies and Programs	Children in the Budget Speech
1.	31. Maternal and neo-natal service will be strengthened and CEONC service will be ensured in all the hospitals. Continuing the program of prevention and management of child health problems including malnutrition, a program will be implemented to provide access to health services to the most marginalized and endangered community living in the province.	In order to reduce the maternal and child mortality rate, arrangements comprehensive emergency obstetrics and neonatal care (CEONC) are ensured in all the hospitals under the province. Overall, Rs. 183.5 million has been allocated for the promotion of maternal and child health.
2.	33. The "One Secondary School One Nurse" program will be expanded to provide services such as health care, child health promotion and reproductive and sexual health counselling in community schools. Coordination will be made with the local level to make one school one nurse program compulsory even in private and institutional secondary schools.	Rs. 198 million has been allocated to expand the 'One School One Nurse Program' to two more schools at all local levels for the overall health improvement of the students in the community schools. In addition, Rs. 60 million has been provided for the implementation of special programs aimed at safe and healthy future of adolescents.

3.	134. This province will be declared as "Literate Bagmati Province" next year.	Necessary reforms will be made in the education system to ensure the constitutional right to compulsory and free education up to basic level and free education up to secondary level. At the same time, emphasis will be given to prepare capable, morale and patriotic human resources by making education professional, skill-oriented and entrepreneurial.
4.	136. Cooperation will be made with the local level to bring all children within the reach of school to ensure the constitutional right to free and compulsory primary education and free secondary education.	Arrangements have been made for the construction of classrooms and dormitories in schools and infrastructure development and establishment of information technology labs, smart boards and science laboratories in schools to realize the goal of quality educational infrastructure, the basis of province prosperity and to realize the belief of community school, safe school. Rs. 448.7 million budget has been allocated for this.
5.	138. Cooperation will be made with the local level for the establishment of at least one well-equipped special school in each district on the basis of the nature of disabilities of students by integrating the resource classes in operation for the education of children with disabilities or due to special circumstances. Establishment of well-equipped special schools within the province will be initiated.	The necessary budget has been allocated to manage CCHs, protection homes, day care centres for senior citizens, old age homes including physical infrastructure for children, senior citizens, persons with disabilities to be protected in partnership with institutions and inter-governmental coordination.
6.	139. In order to ensure the right of children to get quality education, educational quality standards will be prepared and implemented within the province.	Encouragement of pre-primary teachers has been continued including provision of a secondary teacher community schools where there is no quota for secondary level.
7.	149. The effort for making all local levels child friendly will be encouraged as in the past. In order to make achieve the goal of "Child marriage free our province, one message of province and local level" a child marriage free province will be created by 2021 in coordination and cooperation with the local level. The social security program will be implemented in coordination with the local level to protect the children without parents (both parents).	Rs. 120 million have been allocated for the infrastructure development and operation of five residential schools in Sindhuli, Dolakha, Sindhupalchowk, Chitwan and Dhading districts to ensure access to quality school education for the marginalized and endangered children.

8.	<p>153. Province-level protection thematic groups will be activated to provide psycho-counselling services and other services for the protection of women and children at risk. Priority will be given to self-defence related training and development programs for the multidimensional development of adolescents.</p> <p>154. Incentive programs will be implemented to manage the physical and institutional infrastructure of CCHs, protection home for the children who need to be protected under intergovernmental coordination and in partnership with other organizations.</p> <p>157. Bagmati province will be moving forward in making street free of helpless people in coordination and cooperation with the local level.</p>	<p>An arrangement has been made to encourage the community schools to integrate with each other with the objective of advancing the implementation process of the 20 model schools as per the master plan and enhancing the quality of education by making the best use of resources. Rs. 265 million have been allocated for this.</p> <p>In order to make vocational, practical and science and technology-based education and training effective, Rs. 192.5 million has been allocated for the provision of technical infrastructure of schools run by technical education.</p> <p>Arrangements have been made to declare Bagmati province as street children and helpless people free province in the near future in coordination and cooperation with the local level and in partnership with the organizations,</p> <p>The budget has been arranged to make all local level child friendly as well as achieve the goal of child marriage free province.</p> <p>Arrange has been made to provide Rs. 2,000 per child per month for the children who do not have both parents.</p> <p>The necessary legal and institutional framework will be made to strengthen the integrated educational information system within the province and to conduct the examination, management and certification of secondary education (grade 10) from the province itself.</p> <p>Arrangement has been made to provide self-defence training for 5,000 adolescents next year to facilitate psychosocial counselling services and other services for the protection of children at risk, including COVID-19, and to activate the province-level protection thematic group including protect girls from various forms of violence.</p> <p>Necessary arrangements have been made to facilitate the learning through distance and open education and alternative teaching and learning systems in collaboration with the federal government and local level to continue the learning of children even when regular school operations are disrupted due to COVID 19.</p>
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Province: Gandaki

S.N.	Children in Policies and Programs	Children in the Budget Speech
1.	50. A maternity waiting room will be set up in the hospitals under the province for the survival of pregnant women in critical condition. Basic and emergency maternal and newborn care services will be strengthened. In order to save the lives of pregnant, maternity and newborn babies in the remote and inaccessible areas, the work of airlifting to the well-equipped hospital will be continued.	A multi-sectoral nutrition improvement program will be implemented in partnership with the Government of Nepal and the local level to improve the nutritional status of infants, children, adolescents, persons with disabilities and pregnant women. For this, Rs. 15 million has been allocated in the budget. An arrangement has been made to increase the amount in the vaccination fund to continue the vaccination program to maintain a fully vaccinated province.
2.	51. In order to improve the nutritional status of pregnant women, infants, children, adolescents and persons with disabilities, a multi-sectoral nutrition improvement program will be implemented in partnership with the Government of Nepal and the local level. Vaccination programs will be continued to maintain the province as a fully vaccinated province.	
3.	53. Necessary assistance will be provided to establish a children's hospital in Shishuwa, Pokhara.	Arrangements have been made to run preventive, promotional and remedial programs to end all forms of violence against women and children.
4.	65. The work of managing and operating model residential schools in remote and mountainous areas in collaboration with the local level will be continued. The policy of assisting in the development of infrastructure of Gurukul, Gumba, Madrasa, Ashram and Alternative School and mainstreaming the education imparted by such institutions in the formal education system will be continued.	The program to develop the schools selected from the community schools as model schools and model residential schools has been continued. The necessary budget has been allocated for the development of infrastructure of alternative schools such as Gurukul, Gumba, Madrasa and Bhashik Pathshala.
5.	67. Community schools providing technical education, vocational training and science education will be strengthened in coordination with the local level. Incentive programs will be conducted for the needy students of poor families studying in community schools. A policy will be adopted to assist in the education of the poor, childless, conflict and violence victims and children with disabilities. Talent to innovate and demonstrate creative ability will be encouraged.	

6.	76. ... Rescue and protection programs for children at risk will be implemented.	
7.	77. ... To make Gandaki a child marriage free and child-friendly province, an awareness program will be conducted in coordination and cooperation at the local level.	
8.	149. The physical infrastructure including the building to be constructed by the provincial government will be made gender, child and disability friendly and earthquake resistant.	
9.	180. The physical infrastructure of the Juvenile Correctional Institution will be improved and additional activities, meditation, yoga and skill-based programs will be conducted.	

Province: Lumbini

S.N.	Children in Policies and Programs	Children in the Budget Speech
1.	119. Neonatal Intensive Care Unit service will be brought into operation in the hospitals of the districts where maternity pressure is high for the survival of newborns. Congenital diseases will be identified through health examination of newborns and necessary training will be conducted to reduce maternal and infant morbidity and mortality. Tests including video X-ray of pregnant women will be done free of cost.	A detailed feasibility study will be completed for the construction of a maternity hospital in the province for the survival of pregnant women and newborns. Arrangements have been made to bring a one-stop crisis management centre and neonatal intensive care unit service for the survival of mother and newborn. In addition to the extension of maternity services, necessary programs will be implemented to identify congenital diseases by examining the health of newborns and to reduce maternal and infant morbidity and mortality. Rs. 62.7 million has been allocated for these programs.
2.	126. In addition to developing community schools that teach science subjects in classes 11 and 12 as attractive educational institutions, the "One Local Level, One Model School" program will be implemented with the joint investment of the local level targeting the schools that bring excellent results.	A total of Rs. 182 million has been allocated for the construction of toilets and expansion of drinking water and sanitation facilities in public schools and Rs. 110 million for the construction of other infrastructures in schools through cost-sharing with the local level.
3.	127. In order to increase the participation of Muslim girls in education, special infrastructure will be developed in 6 schools of Nawalparasi, Rupandehi, Kapilvastu, Dang, Banke and Bardiya and it will be developed as a model school for Muslim girls.	The necessary budget has been allocated for the expansion of the nursing program in schools with the joint investment of local level, community health organizations, private health organizations and non-governmental organizations.

4.	129. A special school with residential facilities will be constructed and brought into operation with the co-investment with the local and federal government targeting the children with disabilities.	Kanti Secondary School in Butwal will be developed as a hub for studying science in the province to provide excellent science education opportunities in community schools. Rs. 104 million has been allocated.
5.	134. Special arrangements will be made for residential education in community schools through the local level for helpless children and extremely poor children of endangered families. Grants will be provided to the local level for the operation of CCHs targeting helpless children.	The community schools teaching science subjects in class 11 and 12 will be developed as attractive educational institutions and the model school program will be expanded to 12 more schools with the joint investment of the local level targeting the schools that bring excellent results. Rs. 120 million has been allocated.
6.		... School education will be transformed by institutionalizing science, technology, mathematics and engineering (STEM) subjects in all the districts of the province. Rs. 50 million has been allocated.
7.		To provide scholarships to all the students studying science subjects in class 11 and 12 of the community schools of the province and to the students studying in the science faculty at the undergraduate level for the effective implementation of the science program Rs. 25 million has been allocated.
8.		Emphasis will be given for freed Kamaiya and Kamalari, Muslim, <i>Dalit</i> and backward class students to study in class 11 and 12.

Province: Karnali

S.N.	Children in Policies and Programs	Children in the Budget Speech
1.	18.3. In order to improve maternal and child health, cooperation will be made with the local level to organize adolescent, pregnancy and maternity health awareness and nutrition-related programs as well as birthing centres. In order to save the lives of pregnant and lactating mothers at risk, the air rescue program will be continued and be made more systematic. The province will be declared a fully vaccinated province.	Multi-sectoral nutrition programs will be extended to all the districts of the province to make citizens healthy. Adolescent, maternity and lactating awareness and nutrition programs will be conducted. Maternal and child health-related programs will be made more effective and air rescue programs will be continued and managed for the survival of pregnant women and pregnant women at risk.

2.	24.2. In collaboration with the local level, life-sustaining education will be developed from school education to self-acquisition with knowledge.	Residential schools will be constructed in mountainous and remote hilly areas. School adjustment will be encouraged on the basis of geography and number of students. A community campus, a constituency, a technical school and a special school and <i>Dalit</i> dormitory for students with disabilities will be constructed in the province capital. Rs. 281 million has been allocated for the mentioned infrastructure works.
3.	24.4. The literate Karnali campaign will be continued by mobilizing the local level to conduct intensive literacy programs at the local level and in the districts that are yet to be declared literate.	The institutional partnership will be made for the development of technical education in remote and hilly and mountainous districts with non-profit technical schools run under the auspices of Technical Education and Vocational Training Council. Assistance will be provided for the development of infrastructure of the school which will be run on the concept of self-learning (learn and earn) along with knowledge and skills. Rs. 40 million has been allocated.
4.	24.5. Partnerships will be made with the local level for the development of special schools, school libraries, laboratories and information technology.	The program "Bank account of daughters, life long safely" has been continued to end discrimination against daughters, not to obstruct the education of daughters and to end child marriage.
5.	25. The capacity of community schools will be developed to provide easy and simple access to school education for all and to provide quality education.	
6.	25.1. School integration and integration in partnership with the local level will be encouraged on the basis of geography and number of students.	
7.	25.2. Work will be taken forward on the basis of feasibility to run residential schools in mountainous and remote hilly areas.	

8.	28.2. For the mainstreaming by effectively implementing gender equality and social inclusion, to end discrimination in food, treatment, upbringing, education, etc., to prevent early marriages and “Bank account of daughters, life long safely” program will be continued. By ending the discrimination between sons and daughters, the province will be transformed into a gender friendly and egalitarian province.	
9.	28.5. Appropriate arrangements will be made for the protection, upbringing, education and health of the children without parents in collaboration with the local level.	

Province: Sudurpaschim

S.N.	Children in Policies and Programs	Children in the Budget Speech
56.	Policy arrangements will be made for the insurance of girls to ensure the golden future of the newborn girls.	The budget has been allocated with priority to the programs to be implemented in Bajura, Bajhang, Darchula and Achham districts which are lagging behind in the indices of health, education and human development. Special programs will be conducted to fight against the social evils including Chhaupadi practice, ethnic untouchability, child marriage and violence against women in the province.
85.	A social transformation campaign will be launched to eradicate the practice of Chhaupadi and caste discrimination with the basic slogan of one creative vision.	For the main public health service programs including family health, child health, pandemic management and health service promotion, Rs. 380 million has been allocated.
123.	Programs including scholarships will be conducted to ensure access to education for the residents of remote areas, Dalits, women, tribals, martyrs, injured, missing persons with disabilities, economically deprived sections, endangered, marginalized communities and children with disabilities.	With the objective of providing easy health care to the citizens who are far from the reach of health institutions in coordination and cooperation at the local level, Rs. 199.5 million has been allocated to expand the infrastructure of health institutions and increase access to services.

	125. Special programs including school enrollment programs will be conducted to ensure access to school education for all the children who are out of the school in the province.	... Rs. 49.3 million has been allocated for medical education scholarships for underprivileged students, higher education studies scholarships for the target groups and technical education and vocational training scholarships for extremely poor students.
	126. The province will be declared a fully literate province in collaboration with the federal and local levels.	Rs. 280 million has been allocated for the construction of dormitories in the technical stream community schools which have started construction in the Fiscal Year 2018/19 and in the current Fiscal Year and will be constructed in the coming Fiscal Year as well.
	127. E-library, computer and modern educational materials will be provided to encourage the use of information and communication technology in educational institutions.	The physical infrastructure of schools will be improved, field management and overall educational quality of the province will be enhanced. For which Rs. 1 billion 175 million has been allocated.
	128. Arrangements will be made to teach mother tongue curriculum from elementary school to class 3. Education will be provided for children with disabilities.	In case of the inconvenience of school teaching and learning due to the infection of COVID-19, work will be initiated to operate and manage learning facilitation programs through alternative learning. For which Rs. 10 million has been allocated.
	138. Policies will be adopted to expand services for the treatment and prevention of unsafe motherhood, high maternal, infant and child mortality and various diseases.	For strengthening of traditional and religious schools and special education schools, Rs. 18 million.
	149. In collaboration with the local level, one school, one nurse and one yoga teacher program will be conducted in the schools with a minimum number of students at each local level respectively.	The program to end child marriage with the slogan "No marriage, let me grow and study" will be further expanded, for which Rs. 16 million has been allocated.
	150. The rural ultrasound program for the promotion of maternal and child health will be expanded and the air ambulance service for emergency maternity services and critical health services of critical nature will be continued.	A child health insurance program will be implemented to ensure a dignified life and child rights by ending the discrimination on the basis of the gender of the new born girl child in a poor family and the necessary budget has been allocated for that.
	165. A campaign against child marriage will be launched in coordination with the local level.	
	166. Roads will be declared human-free by conducting special programs to rescue and protect the helpless and disabled people.	

Abbreviations and Acronyms

CCH	Child Care Homes
CCWB	Central Child Welfare Board
CRC	Convention on the Rights of the Child
CWDs	Person with Disabilities
FCHV	Female Community Health Volunteer
FY	Fiscal Year
INGO	International Non-Governmental Organization
MoEST	Ministry of Education, Science and Technology
MoHP	Ministry of Health and Population
MoWCSC	Ministry of Women, Children and Senior Citizens
NCCR	National Centre for Children at-Risk
NCRC	National Child Rights Council
NER	Net Enrolment Rate
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NPA	National Plan of Action
SAARC	South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation
SAIEVAC	South Asian Nations Campaign to End Violence against Children
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SEE	Secondary Education Examination