



हाम्रो पालो

Declaration

Her Turn Girls Support Committee Symposium

Date: 3rd Aug, 2016

This declaration was prepared in the presence of adolescent girls members of Girls Support Committees, mentors and teachers representing rural areas of Nepal (Sindhupalchowk, Gorkha and Jumla). It was written during three days Her Turn's Girls Support Committee Symposium organized by Hamro Palo, where the topics of education, health, livelihoods, protection from violence, early marriage and security were discussed in depth. We are thereby committed to solving problems related to them.

We recognize that:

1. Women and children who are victimized due to familial and social values and those excluded on national and international policy levels should be included and get equal share in social development.
2. High rates of early marriage due to illiteracy, poverty, harmful traditions, natural disaster along with modernization and irresponsible use of social media should be addressed. It is affecting personal, educational, economic and social development of children and adolescents and will have negative impact on future generations.
3. Due to discriminatory social practices, inapplicable education and lack of educational environment and infrastructure, the availability and quality of education is not sufficient. This has deeply affected girls and has prevented them from developing socially; therefore, it is indispensable issue to address for all.
4. It is crucial to address the challenges faced by people in their livelihoods due to poverty, illiteracy, lack of transportation and modern agricultural techniques.
5. Poverty, early marriage, domestic violence, lack of access to information and to health services contributes to high rates of maternal and child mortality. These factors also affect issues related to reproductive health.
6. Due to lack of safe toilets and proper bathing spaces many women and children feel insecure. Insecurities also prevail while travelling alone on a bus, walking on a road and in the jungle as harassment is common in these situations. These insecurities need to be addressed.

Commitments:

In school and work areas where the program has been implemented, we are committed to:

- a) End all kinds of discrimination, harassment and violence against women and children.

- b) Take initiative and reach out to appropriate organizations to improve the lives of women and children.
- c) End early marriage and its consequences.
- d) Coordinate and collaborate among community leaders and related institutions in order to improve transportation facilities.
- e) Strengthen Girls Support Committee (GSC) to actively participate in awareness programs to reduce problems related to health and safety. Collaborate with *ama samuha* (mothers' groups), youth clubs and child clubs.
- f) Safety, freedom and equity will be our primary concern.

Hamro Palo

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