



The Hon'ble Prime Minister of Nepal, Madhav Kumar Paudyal, Flagging Off the Nepal March for Education



The Hon'ble President of Nepal, Dr. Rambaran Yadav, rediving the Kids in Kathmandu



Nepal March for Education



Nepal March for Education

8-18 September 2009





“Nepal March on Enforcement of Education As Fundamental Right”

What is a March or Yatra?

A march or yatra is a massive grassroots' level awareness and advocacy campaign that generates tremendous orientation in favour of a social cause. From time immemorial marches have been used to propagate faith, social awareness and independent struggles particularly promoting fundamental rights in South Asia. The case against child labour has got enormous support and help by marches through various marches like the Global March Against Child Labour in 1998, an 80,000 km spanning 103 countries which led to vast public opinion against child labour and the formulation of ILO Convention 182 concerning worst forms of child labour. During the past, particularly in Indian subcontinent, physical marches have always had tremendous success be it for independence or any other social causes that directly relate with the issue of Human Rights.

Why a Nepal March on enforcement of education as fundamental right?

Nepal is among the poorest and least developed countries in the world with almost one-third of its population living below the poverty line. Nepal has been grappling with conflict for more than twelve years. More than 10,000 people—mostly young—have been killed and many more have been injured. According to National Living Standard Survey (NLSS, 2004) about 1.8 million Nepalese children are working full time in Nepal.

The Nepal March wishes to influence the enforcement of the fundamental right to education, generate awareness among the educationists, policy makers, civil society, general administration, potential parents and children, and envisage having overall impact in the education situation in Nepal. The event is also being observed at the time when Nepal is drafting its constitution through an inclusive Constituent Assembly.

What are the key demands of the Nepal March?

The key demands of the Nepal March are:

- ?Inclusion and Enforcement of the fundamental right to free and quality education in Nepal till the age of employment,
- ?Creation of a National Commission on Child Labour and Education in Nepal to define policy and expedite cases of child labour and non-enforcement of education right,
- ?Rigorous enforcement of the bonded labour (Kamaiya) and child labour laws,
- ?Clear guidelines of rescue and rehabilitation of children from hazardous forms of work,

- ?Including the quality of education at all level to improve retention and completion of schooling, and
- ?Introduction of a SAARC protocol on violence against children, including protection of children in armed conflict and on trafficking of children.

Who are the Nepal March participants?

The Nepal March was led by a team of 120 core marchers – former Kamiayas (bonded labourers), child labourers, children who were out of school, former victims of child trafficking, child rights and education advocates, grassroots activists, representatives of the teachers associations and teachers, Members of the Parliament (Constituent Assembly of Nepal), leaders of the UN agencies and civil society, journalists, academics, and most importantly the common people who will be touched by the march.



Background

South Asia is home about one-quarter of the world's out-of-school population. India and Pakistan together account for 14 million out-of-school children, with another 2 million in Bangladesh and Nepal¹ according to UNESCO Global Monitoring Report 2009. Only one country, Maldives was close to achieving EFA Development Index (EDI), and five out of the six countries covered in the region - Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal and Pakistan - are far from achieving EFA (EDI values below 0.80) goal by 2015.

Nepal is among the poorest and least developed countries in the world with almost one-third of its population living below the poverty line. Nepal has been grappling with conflict for more than twelve years. More than 10,000 people—mostly young—have been killed and many more have been injured. According to National Living Standard Survey (NLSS, 2004) about 1.8 million Nepalese children are working full time in Nepal.

The situation in Nepal can be summarised as follows²:

1. There are about 2 million children working in Nepal?50% work without pay as family members or bonded labourers.
2. 42% of 10 to 14 year olds are working rather than attending school.
3. 62.7% of the male population and only 34.9% of the female population over 15 are able to read and write.
4. 60% of the child labourers are girls.
5. Girls work longer hours than boys.
6. Children comprise 20% of the total workforce (one of the highest proportions in the world).
7. 80% of the workforce is employed in agriculture.
8. Prostitution – many female sex workers are under the age of 18.
9. About 10 to 12 thousand girls are trafficked for commercial sexual exploitation beyond Nepal

The children involved in child labour start working between the ages of 7 and 14. In addition, more than one-third of them are illiterate, and a majority are school dropouts, who have been brought to their present workplace by their parents or relatives, many studies have reflected this reality.

This is a bleak picture of children being exploited, denied an education, often at risk of sexual abuse, and working in dangerous unregulated conditions with poor safety records. Children working and living in the streets of cities have a high incidence of HIV/AIDS and drug abuse.

Strategy

A march or *yatra* is a massive grassroots' level awareness and advocacy campaign that generates tremendous orientation in favour of a social cause. From time immemorial marches have been used to propagate faith, social

1. http://www.unesco.org/education/gmr2009/press/Factsheet_SWAsia.pdf

2. <http://www.ilo.org/public/english/region/asro/newdelhi/ipecc/responses/nepal/index.htm>
<http://www.ilo.org/public/english/region/asro/newdelhi/ipecc/resources/nepal.htm>
<http://www.arc-worldwide.org/downloads/Child%20Labour%20in%20Nepal%20-%20Summary%20Report.pdf>

awareness and independent struggles particularly promoting fundamental rights in South Asia. The case against child labour has got enormous support and help by marches through various marches like the Global March Against Child Labour in 1998, an 80,000 km spanning 103 countries which led to vast public opinion against child labour and the formulation of ILO Convention 182 concerning worst forms of child labour. During the past, particularly in Indian subcontinent, physical marches have always had tremendous success be it for independence or any other social causes that directly relate with the issue of Human Rights.

In 1992, Buchpan Bachao Andolan (BBA) organised its first march against child labour in the carpet industry from Nagar Utari to Delhi covering the heart of carpet industry. This was a remarkable event in addressing the issue of child labour in carpet industries not only in India but it had wider impact in Pakistan and Nepal as well.

The *Shiksha* March in 2001 covering the length and breadth of the country not only spread awareness that education is the tool to eliminate child labour, but was also instrumental in making primary education a fundamental right to children below 14 years of age.

Marches have thus been tools for - social change in the world, especially for problems affecting the marginalised sections of the society. The Nepal March wishes to influence the enforcement of the fundamental right to education, generate awareness among the educationists, policy makers, civil society, general administration, potential parents and children, and envisage having overall impact in the education situation in Nepal. The event is also being observed at the time when Nepal is drafting its constitution through an inclusive Constituent Assembly. In addition, the School Sector Reform programme that is being implemented with the support of many development partners in Nepal will have more support with the march as enrolment, retention and completion rate of the children at primary and lower secondary levels is low in the Terai regions from where the march is passing. This event will contribute directly to "Welcome to school campaign" being organised during the month April each year to support the EFA programme in the country.

Plan of Action

Nepal March To Enforce Education As the Fundamental Right

Goal: Nepal March will contribute to enlist and enforce the right to education as a fundamental right, impacting the overall education situation in Nepal positively.

Activities envisaged

- Conduct the Nepal March (from Kakarbhitta and kanchanpur to Kathmandu) to enforce education as the fundamental right,
- Generating awareness among the critical mass, general public, civil society organisations, etc.

- Sensitising the general public on the importance of education and the need for the fundamental right to education during the march and follow up meetings.
- Conducting numerous public meetings along the March route building awareness and influencing policy makers.
- Persuading high level political engagement on the issue of education as fundamental right.
- Holding consultations among various stakeholder groups on the issue of right to education and creating an alliance.
- Promoting people's participation by the formation of People's Vigilance Committees (PVCs) for watching the access, equity and quality of education in different regions.
- Leading the formation of a civil society coalition on education rights in Nepal to function as a social watchdog for education right.
- Identifying loopholes and their implementation in the existing statutory schemes and continuously providing visibility to these issues.
- Draft thematic notes, policy documents, secondary researches, and information and communication materials.
- Preparing and showing visual documentation of the process.



The Hon'ble Prime Minister of Nepal, Madhav Kumar
Flagging Off the Nepal March for Education





Day 1 (8 September 2009)

Compulsory and Quality Education as a Fundamental Right is the Foundation of 'New Nepal'

Mahendranagar (Western Nepal), 08 September 2009 – it was a historic day in the democratic Nepal when the Prime Minister Madhav Kumar Nepal flagged off the Nepal March for Enforcement of Education from Mahendranagar on 8th September 2009. As the world marked International Literacy day today, Prime Minister Mr. Nepal gave a new slogan “Compulsory and Quality Education as a Fundamental Right for New Nepal”. Prime Minister was responding to a call by former Kamaiya (bonded) and child labourers, children out of school, victims of exploitation and the 25,000 strong commoners for inclusion of free and quality education as a fundamental right in the new Constitution of Nepal.

Prime Minister Mr. Nepal also thanked the founder of Bachpan Bachao Andolan and Chair, Global March Kailash Satyarthi for coming all the way from India to show solidarity with Nepal and its children. “We have all come together as one, coming together for all our children and our future. He urged Mr. Satyarthi to work on all fora and involve Nepal in Fast Track Initiative on Education for All.”

The Nepal March for Education organized by Backward Society Education Nepal (BASE Nepal), Bachpan Bachao Andolan (BBA) India and Nepal, Global March Against Child Labour and supported by numerous networks and organisations is the largest mobilization of common people in Nepal to include free and quality education as a fundamental right in the Constitution of Nepal. The physical march started today from Mahendranagar and will reach Kathmandu on 18 September after covering 1,500 kilometers covering the length of the country.

Rajkumari, 14 years old former child domestic labourer questioned the Prime Minister and the officials, "Is my country so poor that it can not give pencil and slate to us? This march is not only for me and my fellow marchers, but for all the children who are missing an education, working in homes, fields, factories, hotels, restaurants, stores, getting abused and exploited. This march is our call for education for all." Further she added, "New Nepal has to be built on the foundation of education and freedom from exploitation."



Internationally acclaimed child rights leader Kailash Satyarthi, President Global Campaign for Education and Chairperson Global March Against Child Labour remarked, "It is heartening to see the commitment of the children, common people and activists braving the rain to participate in the largest education campaign in Nepal. Nepal is at crossroads. It needs a strong and engaged democracy. The presence of the Prime Minister here ensures that the entire country wants to work for change and you want to educate your children. Nepal has become a source of trafficking to the South Asia; children are being prostituted, abused and exploited. But today shows that all this is going to change and very soon". He committed to take this demand for education in Nepal to the Fast Track Initiative (FTI) for Education for All steering meeting. He assured that he would push for the inclusion of Nepal in the FTI funding mechanism.

Prime Minister Mr. Nepal welcomed Mr. Satyarthi's remark for inclusion of Nepal in FTI mechanism. He said Nepal is keen to work exponentially to achieve education and inclusion in the FTI mechanism would be a strong step in this direction.

Tharu leader and President, BASE Nepal Dilli Bahadur Chaudhury asked the 25,000 strong gathering to spread the demand for inclusion of free and quality education to every village, every town and every city in Nepal. "In the last decade our country has gone through enormous turmoil. No mass movement can be successful without a people's mass movement for education. There are 20 lakh children toiling in child labour, 3 girls are raped every two day, nearly half of all children are not able to complete their primary education, Kamaiya and Kamlari although abolished are still prevalent in our society, discrimination happens in the name of caste, community, religion. These are not simply astonishing statistics, they represent the face of Nepal. Today, we must make a strong commitment to change this and bring the light to education, free, quality and compulsory education to Nepal."

Showcasing the vibrant culture of Nepal were dances from different parts and communities of Nepal. Marching across the town of Mahendranagar, they caught the



attention of people as the children shouted slogans. The cries of "Hamro Nepal, Shikshit Nepal" (Our Nepal, Educated Nepal), "Chora Chori Barabar, School Jayain Sara Sar" (Boys and Girls are equal, Each to School).

This National Education Campaign has the support of Ministry of Labour and Transport Management, Ministry of Women, Child and Social Welfare, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Irrigation among other government department and community based organizations.

The march moves through Jhalari and Atariya reaching Dhangadhi tomorrow.





“नयाँ नेपालको सुरुवात”



Day 2 (9 September 2009)

More than 20 thousand people joined Nepal March for Education in Dhangari

9th September 2009 - The second day of the march began with a lot of enthusiasm and zeal on the part of the participants. Today saw, involvement of 9 schools from Jhalari and Dhangadi areas of Kailali district. The day was marked by delightful Tharu dances and inspiring speeches given by children from Nepal and India. Three public meetings were conducted in the centers of the town where the local government officials, INGOs, NGOs, representatives, schools and local people welcomed the march.

After reaching Ataria the core marchers were joined by the local schools and local people. When they got to know that this march is walking on the streets of Nepal for education they also joined in and chanted Hindi and Nepalese slogans. In this March the boundaries of Nepal and India were diminished and everybody walked for all the children with an aim to free them from slavery and give them education.

Uma Kant Joshi Resource Person District Education Office, Kailali said that "this march would bring light of hope in the

lives of the children who are still enslaved. He also requested the marchers to raise the issue of corruption where the money allocated for education never reaches the grass root level".

Kaupila , 12 years old while addressing the public meeting said that "we all have gathered here for ensuring free and good quality education to all children. Are the world leader so poor that they cannot give books and pencils to us ? its important for the government to realize its responsibilities and this march would change the situation of Nepal".

In Dhangari the core marchers were given an exceedingly warm welcome by the people with traditional vermillion and flowers. The air of Dhangadi area was heavy with slogans from all the streets of the area demanding quality education for all irrespective of the differences of the caste, creed, sex or economic standing. Countless children participated in the march not only for themselves but for 20 lakh other children who have never held a book in their hands.

The public meeting was organized in Sports Complex of Dhangari in which Ganesh Bhadur Singh, District Education Officer ; Ramrasile Chaudhary, District President Kailali; Gyanender Bhadur Shah , Community School ; Suresh B.K, NNDSWO; Ambika Prasad Acharya , Advisor PABSON; Sumedha Kailash , Director Bal Ashram India , Ramakant Rai , NCE Convener India , R. S Chaurasia Chairperson Bachpan Bachao Andolan India were the key speakers.

Sumedha Kailash Director Bal Ashram said that "this is a historic march flagged off by the Prime Minister ensuring, compulsory and quality education as a fundamental right for New Nepal. Every human being has a responsibility towards humanity that he is bound to ensure good childhood to every child. She encouraged everyone present to walk hand in hand with the core marchers to ensure rights of 7.2 million children all around the world. No matter what the circumstances be caste, creed, and rich or poor every child has a right to get free and good quality education.



R.S Chaurasia , Chairperson BBA- He congratulated citizen of Nepal for new democratic system establishing in their country. He informed people about the challenges ahead of making education compulsory in the country as the people in power are not willing to provide equitable education. For India it took us 62 years to pass the bill of Right to Education. All of us have to raise our voices to create an empowered Nepal and he gave new slogan Jai Nepal Jai Bharat bringing both the nation together for children.

Ramrasile Chaudhary, District President Kailali said that this march would bring solution to all problems of Nepal and eradicate illiteracy. This march is for children , with children and by children.



Day 3 (10 September 2009)

Overwhelming Response on 3rd Day: More than 50 thousand people join; eastern leg start from Jhapa

10th September 2009 – The eastern leg march started from Jhapa and more than 4 thousand people came to support the march. The march was flagged off by Narender Dahal CDO and Vijay Bhatt SSP of the area.

In the third day of the western leg of the march more than 50 thousand people joined and welcomed the March in Sukkhad. 50 schools with local organization joined in the march. The day was marked by delightful Tharu dances and inspiring speeches given by children from Nepal and India. 3 public meetings were conducted in the centers of the town with the local government officials, INGOs, NGOs, representatives, schools and local people joined & welcomed the march in Lamki and Tikapur.

After reaching Sukkhad the core marchers were joined by the local schools and local people with traditional dances and flowers the marchers were welcomed. Thousands of people and school students were waiting for the marchers to come

in their town. They walked 5 km with the marchers to support the issue. They were climbing trees and mountains to see the march and also their presence showed that they all were waiting for the mass movement for education.

Pooja , 12 years old , India while addressing crowd said that this is not just a march but its an effort by all of us to bring the voice of unheard children who are still entrapped in the darkness of child labour. Please don't consider it a speech as given by the ministers but consider it my request to all of you to come together for the children so that the nation, the world can progress.

In Lamki the core marchers were given an exceedingly warm welcome by the people with traditional vermilion and flowers. In the scorching heat also the children were chanting the slogans with same spirit and zeal. The enthusiasm of the children was unbeatable which made all the local people also join in and listen to the voice of children. The public meeting was organised in the campus of the school,

Neeraj Vohra , Campus Chief said that “ we want to welcome this historic march in the our beautiful country. I hope with this March quality of education would be improved. This would also help in prevention of trafficking for forced labour”.

Sumedha Kailash , Director of Bal Ashram- She congratulated citizen of Nepal for new democratic system establishing in their country and said that “ BBA has been working for the rights of the children from past 30 years and we are glad that we are part of the Nepal March and helping in laying foundation of the New Nepal with equitable and good quality education. Any child who is not going to school is on urge of being trafficked and exploited therefore it is duty of all the citizens to make sure all children are enrolled in school and getting proper education”.

March reached Tikapur in the evening where Vimla Purn , Nepalganj UNESCO , Resham Chaudhary Phulbari FM Director welcomed the march.

Vimla Purn ,UNESCO said that “ All children should get quality education as children are losing their childhood in exploitation and this is government responsibility to secure the childhood and provide quality education then only this New Nepal could be established.”.

The march had its night stoppage Tikapur and tomorrow would move towards Bhurigaon.







Day 4 (11 September 2009)

The heavy rainfall in Nepal was not able to stop the marchers

11th September 2009 – Today Nepal faced heavy rainfall but then it was not able to stop the marchers from chanting slogans and also from local people to participate in the march. Small children were holding umbrellas and the placards to show their support for education. The spirit and zeal for change was eminently visible on this day. The march progressed from Tikapur, Bhurigaun, Gularia, Mainapokhar, Khajura and rested at Nepalganj for night stay.

Tomorrow March would start from Nepalganj and cover areas of Kohalpur, Chakhaura, Ghorahi, Tulsipur and rest at Chaukhora.



Day 5 (12 September 2009)

Maoists disrupt Nepal March for Education - children manhandled

12 September 2009, Nepalgunj, Nepal – On the fifth day of the march, Satrugan Prashad Singh, Minister of Tourism and Culture and Deputy Minister Civil Aviation of Nepal came to welcome the Nepal March for Education in Nepalgunj in the Terai region of Nepal. The child marchers, mainly former child labourers, bonded child labourers, victims of trafficking and exploited children were leading the Nepal March for Education, chanting slogans 'Nepal Padh cho, Aage Baadh cho' (Nepal will read, Nepal will develop). An angry mob of Maoists in motorcycles, on foot armed with sticks and back flags disrupted the children's rally. Shouting anti-government slogans, the Maoists even manhandled the children. Though no one was seriously hurt, the Maoists were successful in disturbing the March in Nepalgunj with the hos organizations leading the children away from the Maoist mob to a safe location and the Deputy Minister leaving the programme midway.

The public meeting was organised in Birendra Chowk of Nepalgunj in which Satrugan Prashad Singh, Minister of Tourism and Culture and Deputy Minister Civil Aviation of Nepal, Dilli Bahadur Chaudhary BASE President, Bhuwan Ribhu BBA India activist, Jay Banjade BASE International Representative, PABSAN representative RP Gautam, Nepal Teacher Union President Balram Yadav, Nepal Teacher Union representative Mrs. Krishna Pathak, and Rajkumari Chaudhary, 13 year old former child labourer were addressing the 20,000 participants.



Day 6 (13 September 2009)

Nepal March For Education in Dang - Marched reached to 5 thousand people

13th September 2009 – The Maoists attack was not able to lower down the enthusiasm of the marchers. Next day they all were again ready to march ahead, the sixth day of the march began with a warm welcome by children from local schools, NGOs, INGOs, local government officials. More than 5 thousand people were reached. The day was marked by Tharu dances, welcome song having message to ensure quality education and abolishing child labor composed by local students and inspiring speeches given by children from Nepal and India.

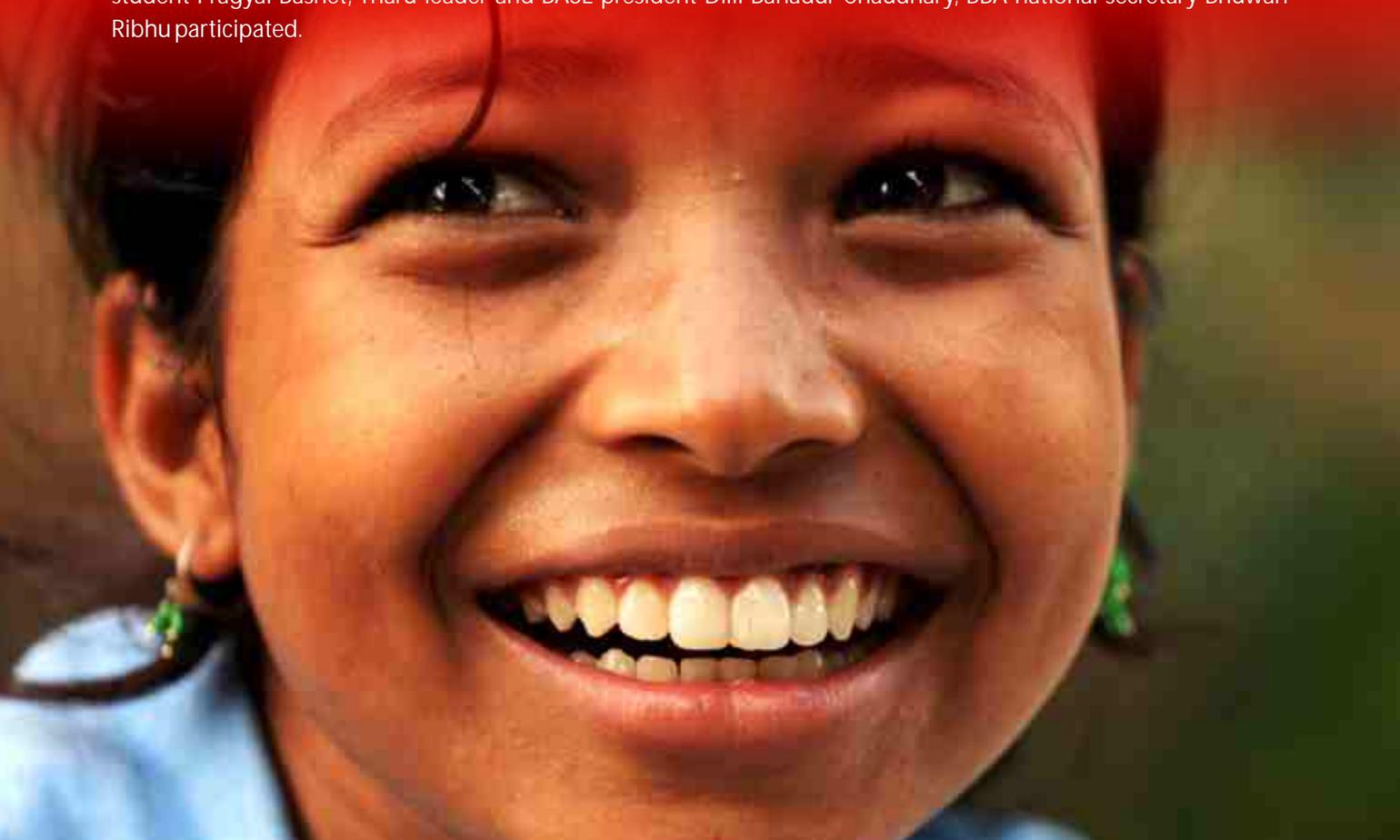
The first public meeting was organized in Ghorahi bazar of Dang. More than six schools participated in March in Ghorahi bazar.

Tharu leader and President, BASE Nepal Dilli Bahadur Chaudhury said, "This movement will continue till there will be a strong policy of punishment in New constitution of Nepal for people who are involved in the illicit crime of trafficking children and also employing them as child labourers. They are the criminals of the society. Government, NGOs and private schools should now stop blaming each other on the issues of low quality of education in Nepal. That's why the budgets which are spending for education are being less productive. This march will certainly form a network to keep all

the organization in one umbrella with an objective of working jointly for the improvement of quality in education. Now it's time to start education revolution in Nepal for making our country a developed country”.

BBA India activist Bhuwan Ribhu said that this is not a simple public meeting or a march and the child participating in the march are not just children. They are former child labourers who have suffered a lot in their life. They are the leader of future Nepal. This march has scene participation of thousands of people and indicated that there will be drastic change in future of Nepal. In future a tharu community child will certainly be a president, prime mister and minister of Nepal.

The public meeting was organised in Ghorahi Bazar Dang in which GMBS representative Shanti Chaudhary, Gramin Mahila Utthan Kendra representative Jasmani Tharu, Radar representative Chullu Chaudhary, Parsuram Tharu-12 years, Child welfare officer Rashmi Pandey, Grade 10 student Khagendra D.C., BASE Nepal vice president Yagya Raj Chaudhary, District Education Officer, Dhurba Raj K.C., PABSON president Keshav Thapa were main speaker. Similarly another public meeting was conducted in Tulsipur municipality in which Raj Kumari Chaudhary-13 years old, National PABSON representative Lambodar Lamichane, DNGOCC president Khadak B.K., Teacher Bishnu Prashad Acharya, Grade 10 student Pragyal Basnet, Tharu leader and BASE president Dilli Bahadur Chaudhary, BBA national secretary Bhuwan Ribhu participated.





Day 7 (14 September 2009)

Nepal March For Education- In Dang and Kapilbastu - Marched reached to 10 thousand people

14th September 2009 – Lamhi, Kapilbastu are Terai Region which is the most poorest part of Nepal and its is the source of trafficking of children for forced labour therefore this area was targeted in the march and also the eastern leg is covering the most rural areas of Nepal which are most affecting by the poor quality of education. The two public meeting were organised in which there was immense participation of organization and local people. From past 8 days of the Flag off the march it has been observed that Nepal residents have been welcoming the march with their open hands walking with marchers enchanting slogans showing that this was the movement that all of them were waiting for.

The first public meeting was conducted in Lamahi bazar of Dang, Chandrauta bazar of Kapilbastu district. Tharu independent government centre committee member Yogendra Chaudhary said all school aged children should get an education. They should not be exploited as a child labourers . Government should declare education as fundamental rights.

BASE Nepal vice president Yagya Raj Chaudhary said the march will not end till each child of this country will not be educated. Terai region of Nepal is the source of child trafficking from where march has started this time. He also urged people to take pledge to not to eat food in a restaurant where children are working and socially boycott the families who are employing children.

Teacher Chabi Lal Bhandari said we would like to welcome and thanks to the education march participants and the organiser of this campaign. It is a novel cause for the society because child labour can be found especially in major town area.

Urmila Chaudhary-15 years old said the problem of Nepal is that the law and policy has been formed against child labor however not implemented because government does not take it serious for taking action in this issue. We expect the voice of poor people will be included in new constitution of Nepal. We should be clever in selecting our political leaders.

Today three children named Ganesh Sapkota, Bishnu Bishworkama and Prem Bishwokarma were rescued and handed over to local area police office for further inquiry about the child labour and process of returning back to their own home.

The public meeting was organised in Lamahi Bazar Dang in which tharuhat independent government centre committee member Yogendra Chaudhary, BASE Nepal vice president Yagya Raj Chaudhary, BASE Nepal representative Parsu Ram Chaudhary were main speaker. Similarly second public meeting was conducted in Chandruta bazar in which BASE Kapilbastu district president Jawaharlal Chaudhary, Teacher Chavi Lal Bhandari, BBA India representative Raghavendra Singh, Urmila Chaudhary -15 years old child and Suresh Chaudhary -13 years old child gave their speech.





Day 8 (15 September 2009)

Nepal March For Education- In Rupandehi and Nawalparasi- Education March may support to improve quality in Education

15th September 2009 - The eighth day of the march began with a warm welcome and enthusiasm from people of Rupandehi and Nawalparasi districts. The day was marked by Tharu dances and inspiring speeches given by children from Nepal and India. Two public meetings were conducted in the centers of the town where the government and non government organisations representatives, schools and local people welcomed the march.

The first public meeting was conducted in Sidhartha Nagar of Rupandehi. Where local people welcome to march and participated in the meeting. Similarly another public meeting was conducted in Parasi bazar of Nawalparasi district. Local NGO's representative, students and teachers were participated in the march.

District Education Officer of Rupandehi Ram Saran Sapkota said the education march is a matter of proud to all those

who love education. It has been anticipated that such marches may certainly support to improve the quality in education. The slogan of march is voice of 20 lakh child. We hope that this agenda will be incorporated in new constitution of Nepal. Childhood is a age of creativity. If all children will be education then only they can contribute for the Nation.

BBA India Representative Raghavendra Singh said let us all socially boycott places such as a hotel and home where there is child labor exploitation. The children participating in education march are not a normal children they are all rescued bonded child labourers. We all should support them in our own way for the success of the moment.

Prabal Khanal -12 years old said that child labor is a major problem of our country. education should be fundamental rights to all and there should be equality and quality education to all so that the child labour problem is eliminated.

Nepal Child organisation president Keshav Raj Sharma said that after hearing the testimony of children participating in the march its has opened our eyes and it has to be understood by the everyone that fundamental rights of the children have to be insured by the new constitution.

The public meeting was organised in Sidhartha municipality Rupandehi in which District Education Officer of Rupandehi Ram Saran Sapkota, Prabal Khanal -12, Kopila Chaudhary-12, BBA representative Raghavendra Singh and BASE Nepal representative Parsu Ram Chaudhary were main speaker. Similarly second public meeting was conducted in Parasi bazar in Nawalparasi district in which Parsuram Tharu-12, Nepal child organisation president Keshav Raj Sharma, BBA representative Raghavendra Singh and BASE Nepal vice president Yagya Raj Chaudhary gave their speech.





Day 9 (16 September 2009)

Kathmandu just a night away – kinds welcomed at Narayanghat

16 Sept. 2009: The Nepal March for Education was welcomed today at Narayanghat by around 2000 school children. The children took out a morning rally at Narayanghat joined thousands of students.

The also address the press conference at departed for Dhading/Kathmandu in the evening.



प्रहाड तराई कोही छैन पराई

भार्यै श्रम न शिका कसई कसई

Day 10 (17 September 2009)

National Child Labour Commission Announced in Nepal

17th Sep., 2009: Kathmandu: The Nepal March on Education was welcomed today by thousands of students at Ratna Park in Kathmandu today. At the culmination ceremony of the March, the Govt. today responded to the call of child labourers, civil society members, UN Agencies and child rights activists and announced the formation of a Nepalese National Commission on Child Labour. This Commission would be the first of its kind in the world and would work towards elimination of child labour by ensuring effective enforcement of anti child labour laws and access to rehabilitation to released child labourers in the country.

At the ceremony, Parsuram, 13, recalled his days as a former child labourer and called upon the entire society to end child labour. Sharing his experiences during the Nepal March, he said, "we traveled across Nepal for hundreds of kilometers and found it very difficult to eat at a dhaba where food was not being served by a child labourer. We rescued several kids along the way and sometimes had to change 5 different places to eat. Can the entire society not see this child labour in front of us? I lost a leg while working as a domestic servant, and I call upon everyone to boycott such services provided by child labourers in dhabas and homes."





Internationally acclaimed child rights activist, and President of Global Campaign for Education and Global March Against Child Labour, Kailash Satyarthi applauded the efforts of Parsuram and all the Nepalese core marchers. He compared the story of Parsuram as a symbol of change for the entire Nepal as a country. He said, "The will of Parsuram shows Nepal is ready for change and when in a country from a former child labourers to the Prime Minister everyone is geared to end exploitation and abuse. It is heartening to see history being made. I promise to take the spirit of the Nepalese children to all International fora to ensure that Nepal gets all requires assistance to International community in this great endeavour." He compared these children to heroes like Nelson Mandela and Gandhi and proclaimed that the future generations, when they read history, and access to fundamental rights, these children would shine in the annals of history.

All the marchers shared their experience with the ministers and demanded that it is necessary to create a statutory body to deal with child labour cases specifically and this is also the core demand of the march.

The labour minister Hobo'le Mohd. Aftab Alam immediately responded while reaffirming the commitment of the Nepalese Govt. He said, " the time has come for us to act immediately to eliminate child labour and in this regard a NATIONAL CHILD LABOUR COMMISSION OF NEPAL would be constituted."

The State Minister for Education Mr. Govind Chaudhary said," the need of the hour is to have not only compulsory but also inclusive and participatory education with all public and pvt. institutions coming together for quality and compulsory education."

Mr. Dilli Bahadur Chaudhary, President, BASE-NEPAL and National Coordinator of the Nepal March for Education said, "there are more than 20 lacs children forced to work in this country. Most of this children belongs to marginalized sections of society. This has to change. To do this we are going to launch a National Campaign called- EDUCATE TO END EXCLUSION. Fundamental right to education in Nepal must be included in the constitution of Nepal as not only

compulsory but also enforceable. Policy for rescue and rehabilitation for all child labourers must be made. In this regards the child leaders in the Nepal March for Education would go and meet with the Honorable President of Nepal on 18th September 2009.

The President of Bachpan Bachao Andolan Mr. Ramesh Gupta congratulated all the Marchers and the participants in the Nepal March for organizing and leading this historic campaign and endeavor.

Mr. U. Sarathchandran, Member Sec., National Legal Services Authority of India said, "India has already enacted the Right to Education Act and shown the way. These efforts must be replicated and Education should become a fundamental right as soon as possible. The judiciary of India has also implemented the Legal Aid services and to ensure child rights, such legal aid should also be provided." It is notable that in India, the Supreme Court has already directed the creation of an All India Legal Aid Cell on Child Rights.

The Nepal March for Education has proved to be a tremendous success over more than 3000 Km. and with the participation of hundreds of civil society organizations, UN agencies, Govt. Dept. etc.





Nepal March for Education

Memorandum to Hon'ble President of Nepal

September 18, 2009

To,
Dr. Ram Baran Yadav
Hon'ble President of Nepal
Raj Bhawan, Kathmandu,
Nepal

Honourable President Sir,

We, the marchers of Nepal March for Enforcement of the Right to Education carried out a 10-day physical march starting from 2 corners of Nepal. The western leg was flagged off from Mahendranagar on the occasion of International Literacy Day on 8 September 2009 and the eastern leg started from Kakarbhitta (Jhapa) on 10 September 2009 to raise awareness on the issues of education for all, child labour, child trafficking and other forms of exploitation of children in Nepal. Covering cities, towns, villages along the route about 120 core marchers, half of them being children who are former victims of child abuse, child labour, trafficking for forced labour sensitized about 1,00,000 people along the 1,500km march. Today, on 18 September 2009, we would like to submit a memorandum on behalf of the marchers with respect to the fundamental right to an education and exploitation of children in Nepal.

Our humble request to you would be the following:

- Inclusion and Enforcement of the fundamental right to free and quality education in Nepal till the age of employment;
- Creation of a National Commission on Child Labour and Education in Nepal to define policy and expedite cases of child labour and non-enforcement of education right;
- Rigorous enforcement of the bonded labour and child labour laws;
- Clear guidelines of rescue and rehabilitation of children from hazardous forms of work;
- Including the quality of education at all level to improve retention and completion of schooling;
- Appointment of all vacancies of teachers and their rigorous training to ensure quality education; and
- Introduction of a SAARC protocol on violence against children, including protection of children in armed conflict and on trafficking of children.

We sincerely hope that you as an esteemed lawmaker and concerned citizen would use your august office to take up these issues and will ensure the inclusion of the above in the impending Constitution and legislations.

Sincerely,

Former Child Labourers and Core Marchers of the Nepal March for Enforcement of the Right to Education and former victims of child abuse, on behalf of all child marchers

Dilli Bahadur Chaudhary, President and Founder, Backward Education Society, Nepal (BASE Nepal)

Kailash Satyarthi, Chairperson, Global March Against Child Labour; President, Global Campaign for Education
Sincerely,



GLOBAL **MARCH**
Against Child Labour
Contra el Trabajo Infantil
Contre le Travail des Enfants



**Bachpan
Bachao
Andolan**

कान्तिपुर

शैक्षिक कार्यक्रममा आएका प्रधानमन्त्रीलाई कालो भन्डा

विद्याका लागि नेपाल यात्रा कान्तिपुरमा

सन् २००८ सालमा - सर्वलाई समान शिक्षा उपलब्ध गरी शिक्षक, विद्यार्थी तथा शिक्षणको उत्तम विकास तथा कायमपार्नुको सोचसहित विद्याका कान्तिपुरमा भन्डा चलाउने कार्यक्रमको शुरुवाती। शिक्षणको उत्तम विकासका लागि विद्याका कान्तिपुरमा भन्डा चलाउने कार्यक्रमको शुरुवाती। शिक्षणको उत्तम विकासका लागि विद्याका कान्तिपुरमा भन्डा चलाउने कार्यक्रमको शुरुवाती।



दैनिक

पत्रिका

República

The Himalayan

Consensus must for political stability

Rajendra Bhatta
Mahaendranagar, September 2006
Prime Minister



कान्तिपुर

THE KATHMANDU POST

PM: Consensus panacea for all ills

POST REPORT
KATHMANDU, Sept. 2

Prime Minister Madhav Kumar Nepal has said that the ongoing discord among political parties on constitution writing would be resolved through consensus.

reach consensus and end the current political stalemate.

Stating that the people, especially children, have suffered a lot during the decade-long Maoist insurgency, the prime minister said no one should try to ignite another conflict in the country.

The prime minister also inaugurated the 'Tour for Education 2006' over a green flag to a child.

Prime Minister Madhav Kumar Nepal arrived at the event which started from the Annapurna Circuit to participate in the

थप द्वन्द्वबाट मुलुकलाई बचाउनुपर्ने

news from

कान्तिपुर

LITERARY MARCH TO ENFORCE EDUCATION

Officials from United Nations, Human Rights and other international organizations and a number of UN members are expected to join the march.

The march is expected to be held in Kathmandu on September 10, 2006. It will be held from 10 AM to 12 PM. The march will be held from 10 AM to 12 PM. The march will be held from 10 AM to 12 PM.

शिक्षाका लागि यात्रा पूर्वबाट पनि



राजधानी

शैक्षिक कार्यक्रममा माओवादी अवरोध

शैक्षिक कार्यक्रममा माओवादी अवरोध... शिक्षणको उत्तम विकासका लागि विद्याका कान्तिपुरमा भन्डा चलाउने कार्यक्रमको शुरुवाती। शिक्षणको उत्तम विकासका लागि विद्याका कान्तिपुरमा भन्डा चलाउने कार्यक्रमको शुरुवाती। शिक्षणको उत्तम विकासका लागि विद्याका कान्तिपुरमा भन्डा चलाउने कार्यक्रमको शुरुवाती।

