

Children from South Asia say: “Join us to end violence!”



November

9th -14th

2010

Kathmandu

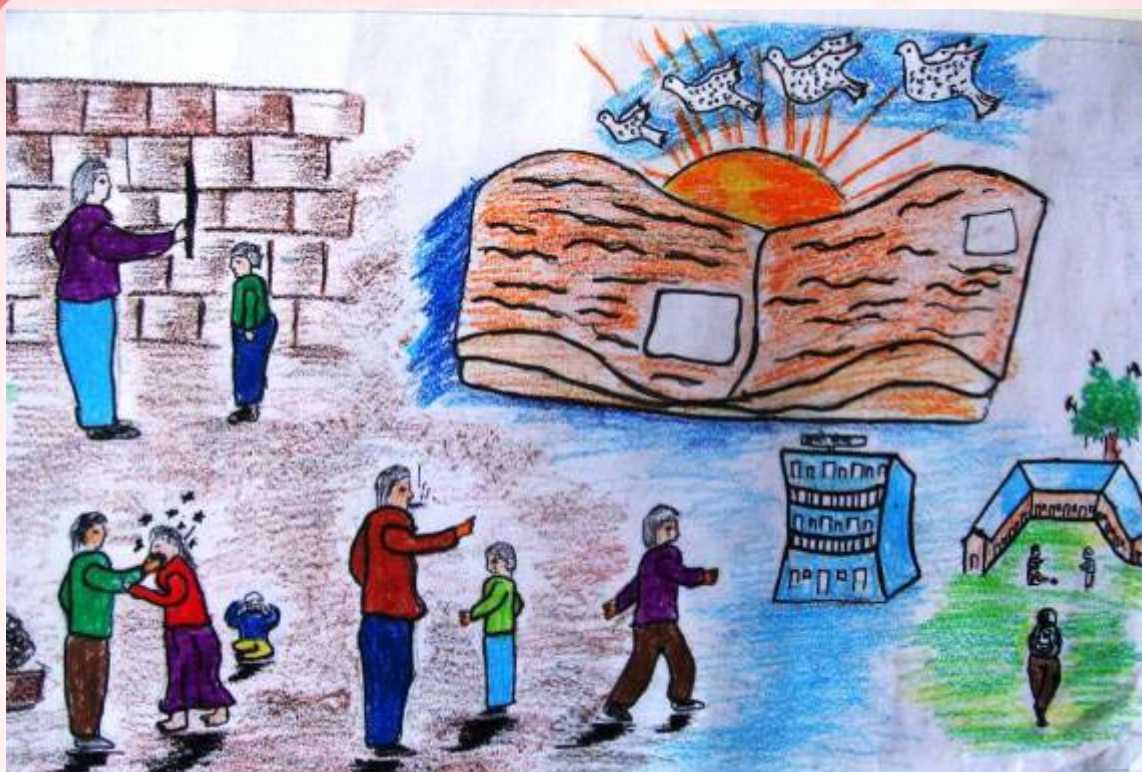
**Report
of the
Children's Consultation**

**For the First Governing Board Meeting
and the Legal Reform Workshop**

of the

**South Asian Initiative to End Violence Against
Children (SAIEVAC)**

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Foreword

Dear Friends,

The participation of the children to the first SAIEVAC Governing Board meeting and the Legal Reform Workshop was very important and added importance to the meetings, as they were organized for the benefit of the children.



The children are, indeed, the best ones to consult because they know what laws and environment they need to stop violence against them. If there were no children participating in these meetings, the meetings would not have been so successful because adults who are making decisions would have not been reminded what children think and what children's ideas look like. The adults can never come into the shoes of the children.

The participation of the Children in such important and strategic meetings is also very rare. The facilitators were very sensitive to the children and they took great care that the children were fully engaged in the meetings. The facilitators have considered our views and ideas and in fact, they paid even more attention to what the children had to say. Their attitude inspired us to voice out our views.

The children's consultation was in fact a great idea because it brought a lot of ideas that adults might never have thought about. For instance, nobody would have thought that children could network among themselves and share information.

The Children's Consultation was a great one and I hope that in the coming meetings, children will be even more active and contribute even more. This time everything was new to us, however, we are much obliged to have participated in the meeting. We feel assured that our voice will be heard and that we have, at the same time, our own responsibility to end violence against children.

Ugyen Dema Dorji

Governing Board Member
Child Representative
Bhutan

Summary

Children have always been at the centre of decision-making processes of the South Asia Initiative on Violence against Children (SAIEVAC). This makes SAIEVAC unique.

Children from all SAARC Countries were represented in a Regional Consultation of Children during the Ministerial Meeting in June 2010, Kathmandu. The Child Representatives presented a set of recommendations to the Ministers. An important recommendation expressed by the children was more access to information and a way for children to share their views and be involved in planning and supporting SAIEVAC's work. Their recommendations were approved by the Ministers and added to the SAIEVAC Workplan 2010-2015. The children elected two representatives to attend SAIEVAC's 1st Governing Board Meeting. The children representatives have equal responsibilities and power of Government Representatives.

For SAIEVAC's 1st Governing Board Meeting and the Legal Reform Workshop the South Asia Coordination Group on Action to End Violence Against Women and Children (SACG), conducted a program to prepare the children to participate in the meetings.

The children attended learning session on topics such as: how to make a law, what constitutes a child friendly law?; what is corporal punishment and how does it affect children at school or different settings? These sessions prepared them to form and present their views and recommendations to adults.

The children also decided to create a Facebook Group and were trained on the risks that children can face when using the internet.

The Children had a special session with the UN Secretary- General's Special Representative on Violence Against Children, Ms. Marta Santos Pais and the Chair of the SACG, Ms. Turid Heiberg.

The program was designed not only to ensure the meaningful participation of the children but to give them the opportunity to learn about child protection issues and how to behave with adults and with Government Representatives so that their voices can really be heard.

EXPECTATIONS OF THE CHILDREN REPRESENTATIVES

At the Minister's Meeting Children's Consultation, held in June 2010 in Kathmandu, two child representatives were selected to the Governing Board.

The preparations for SAIEVAC's Governing Board Meeting began with the Child Representatives to the Governing Board (Ugyen and Rakesh) reviewing the child friendly report from the Regional Children Consultation held during the Minister's Meeting.

Their main expectations for the first SAIEVAC Governing Board Meeting were that the Child Representatives to the SAIEVAC Governing Board speak with one voice and identify the steps needed to end violence against children in South Asia.

"I expect from these meetings that children of South Asia speak as one voice",
Rakesh Shaw from India, 16 years.



"What I expect from these meetings, is that we identify with government, INGOs and NGOs the steps toward ending violence against children",
Ugyen from Bhutan, 15 years.

PARTICIPATION AND PREPERATION

for SAIEVAC's 1st Governing Board Meeting

In preparation for the Governing Board Meeting, children were reminded about the SAIEVAC processes, framework, strategic workplan and the key actors and people.

They went through the proposal for SAIEVAC to become a SAARC Apex Body, discussed the roles and responsibilities for the regional and national child forum and commented on Regional Programme on Child Participation.

They learnt what their role as governing board members is and how to behave in the most effective way with Government Representatives.

The 2 Child Representatives attended the First SAIEVAC Governing Board Meeting on the 10th and 11th November, as Governing Board Members. They participated with an equal voice and equal responsibilities as all other Governing Board Members have.



Children representatives (Ugyen and Rakesh)during the first Governing Board Meeting of SAIEVAC

“We realized that we have the equal responsibilities as any other governing board member. In fact, we have a bigger responsibility because we are not only representing our country but all the children in South Asia.”,

Ugyen, SAIEVAC Governing Board Member.



Children's Recommendations for the SAIEVAC Governing Board Meeting

- Bring children together by establishing centers or organizing issue based workshops
- Create linkages at national level among all existing children forums and networks
- Support the creation of Child Clubs to build capacities of children on child protection issues, child rights and other relevant issues.
- Develop better understanding and also capacities on child protection issues through comic series, schools curriculum, drawings exhibitions, media etc...
- Organize national awareness campaigns against child labor, sexual exploitation, corporal punishment, and physical torture using dramas in public places, puppet shows, films etc...
- Develop child friendly materials, laws and policies that are friendly in their form (in simple language) and their content.
- Ensure children's participation in the law making process with government representatives, officials and civil society organizations involved in it.
- Ensure child friendly discussions with simple language and recreational time when organizing consultation between children and government representatives
- Develop and support internet and Facebook interface to strengthen networking among children in the region to join hands and speak same voice against violence against children
- Ensure studies on child protection issues to inform laws and policies involving all stakeholders

Debrief from the 1st SAIEVAC Governing Board

The Child Representatives, Ugyen and Rakesh reported back about the discussions and decisions taken during the first SAIEVAC Governing Board Meeting to the children from Nepal who join them to attend the Legal Reform Workshop. It was obvious that the children understood the content and their role very well.

The Child Representatives shared that the Regional and National Forum of Children's aims, roles and responsibilities were approved by the Governing Board. This means each Government committed to supporting setting up a National Forum of Children in their home country.

The Child Representatives reported that the Government of Nepal was asked to register SAIEVAC and submit the SAARC Apex Body Application by the second week of December. Ugyen and Rakesh also shared that SAIEVAC is currently trying to hire the SAIEVAC Director General.

Preparatory Sessions for the SAIEVAC Technical Session on Legal Reform

The children remembered and reaffirmed the definition of violence from the Regional Children Consultation, held in June and the key priority issues for violence against children in South Asia that they had agreed.

Definitions of Violence and Key Issues

“Abusing children mentally, emotionally, physically and/or sexually with or without any reason by which children lose their dignity, confidence that leads to violation of their rights and hinders their development is called violence against children”

“The most critical issues of violence that children are facing in South Asia are the Child Marriage, Child Labor, Sexual Abuse and exploitation, trafficking and Corporal Punishment”

Cycle of Violence and Gender Norms

The Children discussed and learnt the **Cycle of Violence** which is the process of how violence is transferred in society. In most cases, children are the last link in the chain of violence and experience violence at home or in the community.



The Children learnt the difference between sex and gender and that violence against children also has a gender component to it. We discussed **Social Gender Norms** and the children reflected on what society expected from them as boys and girls.

Children's perceptions of what the society expects boys and men to be:

- brave
- muscular
- having mustache and beard
- honest
- wise
- social worker
- aware and obedient
- sharing knowledge and wisdom with others
- be the good luck of the house
- be the head of the family

Children's perceptions of what the society expects girls and women to be:

- gentle
- goddess of wealth
- take care of the household
- good cooker
- sincere and weak
- wear long clothes
- always aware
- shy, soft
- respect others and husband, husband is god
- voiceless

The Children realized that the roles given to the boys and girls are not given by birth but often by society. They reflected on how children are socialized in their communities and realized that children learn to become violent often because of the social gender norms and values that are practiced in society.

The children understood that neither boys nor girls are what society expects them to be. Society sometimes requires boys and girls to behave according to social norms and this may compromise their true desires. This prevents peaceful social relations, reinforces dominant positions and contributes to harm against girls, women, boys and men as well.

How children see their role in the law making process

The children had a separate session on laws and policies, on who are the stakeholders involved in the law making process and on what roles children could play during this process.

The children see they have a role to play in the law making process and should support the main people and actors involved in law making (the government, the parliamentarians, the bureaucrats and traditional leaders)

The children see themselves as strong advocates and a driving force for changing laws!

Children can:

- Be advocates for new laws or for amending laws to better protect children
- Contribute to raising people's and children awareness on existing laws
- Support election of candidates interested in rights
- Be advocates for amending laws that are against their rights
- Take part in awareness campaign such as rallies, street dramas etc...



Interaction of Children With Marta Santos Pais, UN Secretary-General's Special Representative on Violence Against Children

Children expressed their desire to create linkages among themselves and share their experiences: hearing from the experience of Salam from Nepal, Rakesh said he was interested in having more information on what Nepal was doing

Children shared the recommendations from their Regional Children Consultation in June, signed on its child friendly report and gave it to Marta Santos Pais. 😊



"It is incredible to see the presence of children in such important meeting and I am very much impressed with the work happening in this region to stop violence against children. I appreciate the work and commitment shown by the children, it is indeed inspirational. I wish to be in touch with each and every one of you. I would like to know more from you and learn from your experiences. I wish all the best for good work and all your plans in future..." Marta Santos Pais.

Reporting Incidences of Violence

What is important for the children when they identify and report cases of violence at home, at school and in institutions? :

- Support from government should go to the victims of violence first
- Awareness raising campaigns for adults and children to understand their rights and what is wrong and what is good, are needed.
- Strong laws against violence against children and systematic law implementation should be the priority of all governments.
- Integrity of duty bearers: those who are supposed to protect children should not be the perpetrators
- Support from adults: adults should accompany the children to combat violence against children

The children called attention on the following challenges:

- The children are not confident to report cases of violence to adults
- When children reports, there is no response from adults: adults are not listening or believing them or taking their views seriously
- The children don't know to whom and where to report if anything happen to a child.
- When perpetrators are members of the family or institutions that are supposed to protect them, how a child is supposed to address this?
- The children have fear of facing violence if they report on it against perpetrators

What threats do children face when reporting cases of violence:

- More abuse or more violence from the perpetrator of violence
- Discrimination and stigmatization: when children report cases of violence at school from a teacher, he can take revenge from them by failing them during examination

General Recommendations from children to identify and report cases of Violence:

For survivors of Corporal Punishment:

- Adults should protect the child survivors from further victimization or violence
- Immediate protection of children reporting cases of violence involving their family is needed
- Set up a system to protect the survivor of violence

For adults, governments and children:

- Awareness, sensitization of adults and children on children rights is essential to address violence against children
- Break the power relations where adults is dominant
- Stronger law implementation is needed to better protect children, support survivors and punish perpetrators
- Child friendly schools to ensure good environment for their development
- Stronger punishment for the parents who are perpetrators of violence against children
- Simple and friendly access to reporting procedures including privacy for children who reports on cases of violence
- Involvement of children in school management committee meetings
- Child participation in Local Governance should be ensured especially on child issues.

To break the silence:

- Children should be courageous, report cases of violence and fights for their rights
- Adults should support the children who are survivors of violence and/or reporting it
- Children should be united together irrespective of their disabilities
- Breaking down social barriers that hinder their development

The children reflected on what needs to be done for a laws to become child friendly. They also looked at the key principles of the UNCRC and developed a set of recommendations that they presented to their Government Representatives who were working on changing laws to ban corporal punishment in all settings.

Corporal Punishment at Home and at School

Children shared a few cases of violence they have come across and realized they had ALL faced physical and emotional corporal punishment in their lives.

I am Salam and I stay in a village which is very close to the Indian Border. Once we were travelling to a nearby village for which we need to cross the Narayani River. The current of water was so strong that we could not control the boat. When we managed to get off the boat we were in Indian Territory. We were immediately caught by the Border Security Force officers of India. We were blind folded and our hands were tied with the handkerchief. We were really scared. Our Adult accompanying us showed our identity cards in vain. We were kept there for long time and finally they released us. This incident made me think about how children are treated or exploited that regularly go to India for their education and other purposes. In order to stop such violence where the authorities of two nations are involved, we must have a strong regional body by which authorities can be made aware and cooperate instead of turning to violence. SAIEVAC can take up such issues”

“I know the story of a child whom has been locked in the toilet by the teacher who wanted to punish him. The teacher forgot him and the day after was an holiday and the child was found dead after three days. He wrote on the wall that he was hungry and thirsty.”

“This is a story of a friend of mine. He was playing on a football team and the team lost their match. He was held responsible by the rest of the team and became the victim of verbal violence. When the team left, he came back to the toilet and committed suicide.”

“In my school, the teacher discriminated against children mentally disabled. I defended the children and got punished by the teacher with 3 days of exclusion.”

How do children feel when facing corporal punishment?

- Humiliation
- Loss of confidence and self esteem
- Feel bad
- Feeling of injustice
- Deep fear
- Trauma

Is corporal punishment a good way to discipline?

- No! It does not help them learn or improve
- It breaks the children
- It can do bad only
- It is not teaching anything because children needs to understand first why they have to behave the way adults want them to behave

What are other ways to look after children development?

- Adults should listen and communicate with children in child friendly way
- Adults should respect children
- If adults care for children, they will listen to them
- Create an environment where children feels good and feels participating

Why having laws against corporal punishment is important?

- Law applies to all persons
- It gives government the obligations to implement it through various institutions
- It can address social or societal practices that are harmful to children

Corporal Punishment In LAWS in South Asia

The children learnt that out of 195 countries worldwide, only 29 have banned corporal punishment in all settings.

- Corporal Punishment at home is not against the law in all countries in South Asia
- Corporal Punishment at school is not against the law in almost all the countries in South Asia

Recommendations from the children on to Prevent Corporal Punishment in all settings:

Legal Reform

- Government of all countries should have a law that prohibits corporal punishment in all settings.
- Draft laws that prohibit all forms of corporal punishment and share it with all stakeholders including civil society and children.
- Laws should reflect the UNCRC and its Principles of Child Participation, Non discrimination, Best interest of the children and Survival, Development and Protection of the children
- Adults who are making the laws should be skilled on child psychology
- Laws should be simple and child friendly
- Laws should be realistic and backed up with budget allocation
- Children should be involved in the law making process at all levels
- Ensure appropriate budget allocation to implement laws and policies

Other Activities

- Children have to come together, find supporters and break the silence
- Situation analysis at national level to better understand the scope and nature of the corporal punishment, where it takes place and how many children are affected
- Organize a national campaign led by children through Media, street theaters
- Develop and implement a training Programme for teachers and code of conduct to promote positive discipline
- Develop a monitoring mechanism on cases of corporal punishment at all level
- Set up a complaint mechanism where children who are victims of violence are supported.
- Support regional cooperation with SAARC countries to address cross regional child protection issues such as trafficking
- Develop a regional portal/website for effective networking among all actors that promote the realization of children rights and especially child protection.

Challenges

- Children are also perpetrators of violence and therefore this has to be addressed

Annual Planning To End Corporal Punishment

The children formed a pretend government with different ministers and developed ideas for an annual plan to address corporal punishment in all settings in their virtual country.

What children want in the process of law making to ban corporal punishment

- Awareness on child rights and laws that protection children
- Unity, harmonization of laws among all stakeholders in SAARC Countries
- Budget allocations
- Effective networking among all stakeholders at regional and national level
- Children to make others aware and report on cases of violence
- Capacity building of all stakeholders
- Children sensitive laws and making processes
- Having laws as component of curriculum
- Regional mechanisms for preventing, responding and reporting cases of violence

What children don't want in the process of law making to ban corporal punishment

- Conflict
- Biases and superstitions
- Abuse
- Discrimination



Children in working group preparing their annual plan

The Children developed key recommendations and presented in plenary to their government representatives whom were also developing their plans!

Creation of a Facebook Group “South Asia Regional Children Forum to End Violence”

The children created a web space to share their views and experiences by starting a Group on Facebook named “**South Asia Regional Children Forum to End Violence**”. The children agreed to have one adult to support as a moderator. The children invited all the participants of the meeting to join them.



The children were also sensitized at the risks they could face using internet.

DO's and DON'TS while using internet

- **DO** not share private information with people you don't know
- Do Be alert about inappropriate material
- Do follow netiquette
- Do talk about negative experience with trusted adults/friends or organizations
- Do follow netiquette
- Do Be aware of addiction
- Do learn about the risks of using internet
- Do learn to say NO

- **DON'T** believe everything written online
- Don't agree to meet people you don't know
- Don't add people you don't know on your facebook
- Don't install the computer in an open space

Role and responsibilities

- The Moderator is Ugyen Dema Dorji from Bhutan
- The administrators are Ugyen and Laxman Belbase (adult administrator)

Content of the Facebook Group

The children agreed to share the following through internet:

- Learning from programs and projects addressing violence against children
- Experiences or initiatives that children have to combat violence against children
- Key recommendations from important meeting

Children's Interactions During the Legal Reform Workshop

In the afternoon, the children attended the presentations from the countries on issues of violence and had an opportunity to ask Marta Santos Pais a few questions.



The children raised the issues of discrimination and gaps in law implementation to Marta Santos Pais and government representatives from South and Central Asia.

The children listened to Marta Santos Pais presenting her mandate, mission and priorities and asked the following questions.

"Just because I am differently able, I get different treatment- I think this is also violence- I wish I am like other children but because I am differently able, I am often excluded. We have been talking about children in general- why don't we specify them and talk about children with different abilities in a specific manner?"

"When I was coming to Kathmandu and was in the bus, I met a girl who was trafficked as a bonded labor. We handed over girl to a police institute. We do have a law for bonded labour in Nepal. I am worried about what will happen now to that girl."

Marta Santos Pais Responds to Children

Marta said: "Our very young lady has raised a very important aspect. We want to prevent any risk of stigma or discrimination among children including children who may be perceived as less able and we need to ensure they are participating like all other children. What we ask the country is to give specific information about this and address this. This concern needs to be given additional attention in our following discussions."

"What we ask the country is to give specific information about this (the issue of discrimination) and address this. This concern needs to be given additional attention in our following discussions.", **Marta Santos Pais**

"We need to invest more in child friendly discussions and materials and we need to include it in the school curriculum. When they (children) are aware they can prevent bad things from happening." **Marta Santos Pais**

She also added: "The second intervention puts the finger on an important aspect: the distance between law and reality. Sometimes we have a perfect law but people are not aware and the monitoring systems are not equipped or cannot ensure intervention. In a way you are calling our attention to the fact that this is a responsibility of everyone. This (The implementation of the law) needs to be supported by awareness raising campaigns to prevent loopholes and address specific needs." And re-emphasized on the importance of the children role: **"Children play a critical role. Children are the first line of defense and it can only happen if they feel supported.** We need to invest more in child friendly discussions and materials and we need to include it in the school curriculum. When the children are aware they can prevent bad things from happening."

Children's Recommendations on Child Friendly Laws

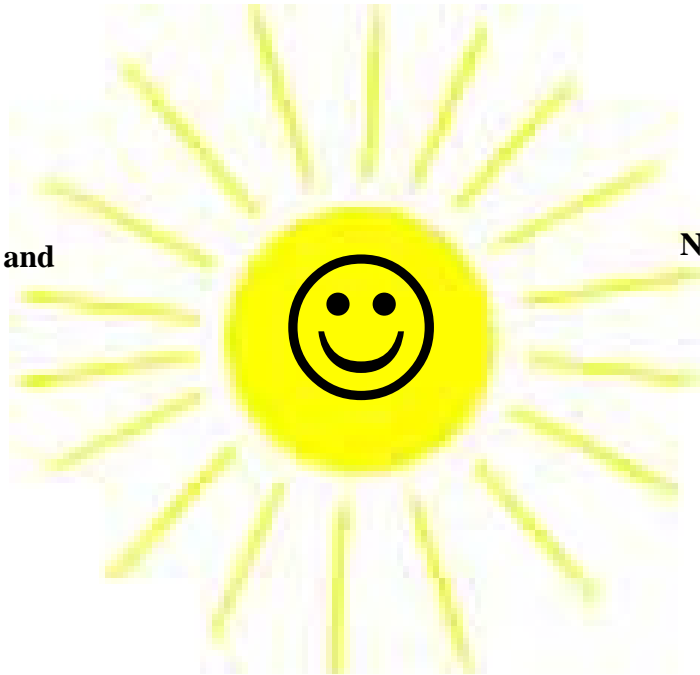
The Children presented their recommendations on what law makers have to consider ensuring that laws are friendly to children in their content and their form.

Recommendations from the children on for child friendly laws:

- The law should reflect the UN CRC Principles of Child Participation, Non Discrimination, Best Interest of the Child and Survival, Development and Protection of the children
- Adults who are making the laws should be skilled on child psychology
- Laws should be simple and child friendly
- Laws should be realistic and backed up with budget allocation
- Children should be involved in the law making process
- Laws should have child friendly version

Child Participation

**Survival,
Development and
Protection**



Non Discrimination

**Best Interest of the
Children**

Children's Annual Plan to Combat Corporal Punishment in all Setting

Recommendations from the children on to Prevent Corporal Punishment in all settings:

- Organize a national campaign led by children through Media, street theaters
- Develop and implement a training Programme for teachers and code of conduct to promote positive discipline
- To set-up mechanism to ensure systematic consultation of children by the government at all levels.
- Situation analysis at national level to better understand the scope and nature of the corporal punishment, where it takes place and how many children are affected
- To develop a monitoring mechanism on cases of corporal punishment at all level
- To ensure appropriate budget allocation to implement laws and policies
- Set up a complaint mechanism where children who are victims of violence are supported.
- Support regional cooperation with SAARC countries to address cross regional child protection issues such as trafficking
- Draft laws that prohibit all forms of corporal punishment in all settings and share it with all stakeholders (civil society and children)
- Translate laws in simple and child friendly language for children to aware of the law
- Develop a regional portal/website for effective networking among all actors that promote the realization of children rights and especially child protection.



Children's Advocacy Messages

"Mr. Speaker, Corporal Punishment should be banned because it not only harms physically but it also hinders development of the children. All say children are the citizens of tomorrow and if the development of the children is hindered then there won't be a bright future in the society. So these issues should be given the priority in the parliament in order to have productive citizens in the future."



Child Representatives Speeches During the Closing Ceremony

*"Good Afternoon, I am Rakesh Shaw from India. I am grateful to all of you that you have given a chance to me to be here. I will try my best to play my roles and responsibilities in my country. It is a good new that we have formed a group in Facebook called **"South Asia Regional Children Forum to End Violence"**. I would like to invite you to join us. Thank you again to give me an opportunity to be here. Thank you."* **Rakesh Shaw**, from India



*"It is very nice to have participated in the meetings, especially the First SAIEVAC Governing Board Meeting. This meeting made me feels very important and I also realized that I have the equal responsibilities as any governing board member. In fact, even more, because we are not only representing our country but all the children in South Asia. And I assure that I will shoulder my responsibilities without fail with the support of all the children and all of you out here to combat violence against children. In this occasion, I would like to share a good new that we have created a group in the Facebook. It is called **"South Asia Regional Children Forum to End Violence"** and this forum is open to all and for your information, I am the moderator and we are also trying to link this group with NGOs and INGOS which are concerned with children",* **Ugyen Dema Dorji**, from Bhutan

The Children positioned themselves as the greatest supporters and reminders of government commitment to SAIEVAC and as key actors and driving force together with their government, international community and the civil society for ending violence against children.

Children's Reflections on the Workshop

On the South Asia Initiative to End Violence against Children (SAIEVAC)

- We understand the aim of SAIEVAC
- SAIEVAC doesn't work alone but with other entities such as SACG, SAARC and Children Regional and National Forums
- SAIEVAC is soon to become an Apex Body
- SAIEVAC is composed by a Governing Board, a Secretariat and a Director General for the SAIEVAC Secretariat is soon to be recruited
- The Children Representatives represent all the children from South Asia
- Children have equal responsibilities than any other Governing Board Member
- As children, the child representatives know better the situation of the children and how to address the issues of violence against children
- The child representatives have learnt how to speak, to listen and not to be violent during the discussions

On Child Protection Issues

- The concrete experiences from our peers shows us that we are not alone in facing corporal punishment and many of us have already come across corporal punishment
- Corporal Punishment can be very severe and could lead to death
- I could not believe that there are so many cases of abuse through internet
- I learnt that Face book is not a book on internet but a network that can connect children together
- I was not aware of the risks when using internet and learnt what to do and what not to do and will tell her friends
- I was not aware that there are things in internet that a child is not supposed to see through internet
- I learnt how governments get their resources through taxes, support from international community etc...
- I learnt that by creating awareness among people and suggesting law makers, I can influence on the content of the laws
- I learnt that children has to be alert while using internet
- Sharing his experience, he feels he has been heard and he knows there is a forum where he can share with other and where he can speak out on issues of violence
- There are alternative ways than corporal punishment to discipline children
- As children become adults, they need to behave themselves

On the role of the children

- Children should seek for support and report cases of violence they experience or they witness
- Children should share information on issues of violence against children
- Children should assess to whom to report, when and where it is appropriate
- Children have to create awareness and come together to fight for children rights

How can children participate?

These are key ideas and views on how to establish good child participation:

- Adults, international organizations, government representatives need to truly Listen to children and support their initiatives
- Let children be the driving force: children have demonstrated their pro-activeness and also invited adults to join them.
- Support the Face Book Group “The South Asia Regional Children Forum to End Violence” through providing access to internet to all the children, support linkages, upload friendly material etc....
- Conduct an inventory of the child organizations through the Face Book Group
- Prepare and support a Regional Consultation of Children beside the Technical Meeting of the SAIEVAC planed in October 2011
- Ensure direct interaction of children with adults and government representatives during the second SAIEVAC Governing Board Meeting and the Technical Meeting in 2011: this would imply to have a child friendly setting where children and their government representatives could sit together, plan and review the SAIEVAC together.
- Support fundraising for the regional programme of Children Participation of the SAIEVAC through networking with donors and support proposal writing.

Child Participants



Ugyen Dema Dorji, Bhutan



Rakesh Shaw, India



Nirmaya Magrati, Nepal



Salam Khan, Nepal



Anurag Chaudhary, Nepal



Keshab Khadka, Nepal

Adult Facilitators



Turid Heiberg, chair of the South Asia Cooperation Group on Action against Violence against Women and Children



Ashish Damle, Regional Manager on Child Rights and Governance for SCS Regional Office in South Central Asia



Rasa Sekulovic, Regional Child Rights Programme Specialist, Plan International Regional Office in Asia



Jerome Conilleau, Regional Programme Manager for SCS Regional Office in South Central Asia



Catherine Kates, Regional Advocacy and Communication Manager for SCS Regional Office in South and Central Asia
Dr. Rinchen, SAIEVAC Senior Advisor.



Sumni Tuladhar, Executive Coordinator for CWIN in Nepal



Shodash Rayamajhi, Child Protection Coordinator from Planet Enfant



Bimol Bhetwal, YPP Associate for South Asia, Ecpat International



Bhuvaneswari Mahalingam, Regional Education Manager for SCS Regional Office in South and Central Asia



Chiranjeet Das, Regional Emergency Manager for SCS Regional Office in South and Central Asia



Laxman Belbase, Regional Coordinator for MenEngage Alliance in South and Central Asia



Indu Tuladhar, UNICEF Consultant

ANNEX: Children's Recommendations

Recommendations from children on a Regional Program on Child Participation

- Bringing children together through establishing centers like the "coaching centre" or organizing issue based workshops
- Create linkages at national level among existing children forums and networks
- Form Child Clubs
- Develop better understanding and also capacities on child protection issues through comics, schools curriculum, printing drawings, media etc...
- Organize awareness campaigns on child labor, corporal punishment, and physical torture using dramas in public places, puppet shows, films etc...
- Develop child friendly materials, child friendly laws and policies in simple language
- Ensure children participation in law making process
- Ensure child friendly discussions with simple language and recreational time when organizing consultation between children and government representatives
- Develop and support internet and Face book interface
- Ensure studies on child protection issues to inform laws and policies involving all stakeholders

Recommendations of children on processes to identify and report cases of violence

Towards the victims of Corporal Punishment:

- Adults should protect the child victims from further victimization or violence
- Immediate protection of children reporting cases of violence involving their family is needed
- Set up system to protect the victim

Towards adults, governments and children:

- Awareness, sensitization of adults and children on child rights is essential
- Break the power relations where adults is dominant
- Stronger law implementation is needed
- Child friendly schools
- Stronger punishment of parents perpetrators of violence
- Simple and friendly access to reporting procedures including privacy for children who reports
- Involvement of children in school management meetings
- Child participation in Local Governance

To break the law of silence:

- Children should be courageous, report cases of violence and fights for their rights
- Adults should support the children
- Children should be united together irrespective of their disabilities
- Breaking barriers and law of silence

**Recommendations from the children
on Legal Reform to Prohibit Corporal Punishment in all settings**

- Government of all countries should have a law that prohibits corporal punishment in all settings.
- Children have to come together, find supporters and break the silence
- Awareness campaigns through drama, street theaters etc...should be conducted and advocacy campaign
- The children also identify one challenge: children are also perpetrators of violence and therefore this has also to be addressed

**The children presented in plenary their views on the important elements to make the law
child friendly in their form and content:**

- Reflect the UNCRC and its Principles of Child Participation, Non discrimination, Best interest of the children and Survival, Development and Protection of the children
- Adults who are making the laws should be skilled on child psychology
- Laws should be simple and child friendly
- Laws should be realistic and backed up with budget allocation
- Children should be involved in the law making process
- Laws should have child friendly version

**Recommendations from the children regarding prohibiting Corporal Punishment in all
settings:**

- Organize a national campaign led by children through Media, street theaters
- Develop and implement a training Programme for teachers and code of conduct to promote positive discipline
- To set-up mechanism to ensure systematic consultation of children by the government at all levels.
- Situation analysis at national level to better understand the scope and nature of the corporal punishment, where it takes place and how many children are affected
- To develop a monitoring mechanism on cases of corporal punishment at all level
- To ensure appropriate budget allocation to implement laws and policies
- Set up a complaint mechanism where children who are reporting cases of violence are supported and action taken.
- Support regional cooperation with SAARC countries to address cross regional child protection issues such as trafficking
- Draft laws that prohibit all forms of corporal punishment in all settings and share it with all stakeholders (civil society and children)
- Translate laws in simple and child friendly language for children to aware of the law
- Develop a regional portal/website for effective networking among all actors that promote the realization of children rights and especially child protection.