Demi Moore’s visit to Maiti Nepal

Famous Hollywood Celebrity Demi Moore visited Maiti Nepal from 2nd April to 7th April 2011. She came to Nepal with a team of CNN as a follow up activity after Ms. Anuradha Koirala was declared CNN Hero of the year 2010.

During her visit to Maiti Nepal, she interacted with the girls who were rescued by Maiti Nepal from sexually exploited conditions. She went to the Nepal-India border and observed the border monitoring activities of Maiti Nepal. She actively participated in the awareness program of Maiti Nepal. She even had a meeting with the Prime Minister of Nepal to discuss about the gravity of human trafficking in Nepal.

With Demi Moore’s visit to Maiti Nepal, it is expected that international community spares much more concerns to human trafficking problem and a broader solidarity being built up to avert this issue.
18th Annual Day of Maiti Nepal

As always, the 18th annual day of Maiti Nepal left everyone with ever cherishing memories. The program started with a very encouraging welcome speech of Mr. Bishworam Khadka, the director of Maiti Nepal who also sang a popular Nepali song on this fortunate and glorious occasion. After the welcome speech from the Director, the students of Teresa Academy sang some Nepali songs. Meanwhile, the Chairperson of Maiti Nepal, Ms. Anuradha Koirala was seen dancing with some of the children.

The Chairperson wished everyone a very ‘Happy Anniversary’ and sang a very beautiful Nepali song with her melodious voice. Everyone was astounded by her wonderful performance. After her performance, there were some marvelous dance and song performance, poems and gaza recitation by the teachers and staff of Maiti Nepal.

Finally, this grand event came to an end with a thanking speech given by the Chairperson for the tireless effort put in by the staff and children of Maiti Nepal. The 18th Annual Day of Maiti Nepal ended with bliss and euphoria.

Prevention updates

Preventative activities carried out by Transit home holds great importance in Maiti Nepal’s campaign. Activities like interception, rescue, counseling, dealing with cases of missing, rape, domestic violence carried out by transit contribute to the preventative initiatives of the organization.

During the month of April 2011, Kakarbhitta Transit Home intercepted 16 cases and dealt with 4 cases of missing. Similarly, during the months of April and May 2011, Transit Home Pashupatinagar dealt with 6 cases of missing. 3 cases of domestic violence and intercepted. 106 girls and women.

Likewise during the month of April and May 2011, Transit Home Biratnagar intercepted 20 cases, dealt with 6 cases of missing and provided information on safe migration to 232 people.
A Horrifying Tale

Anupa’s (name changed) mother married at a very tender age. After few years of her mother’s marriage things between her father and mother started getting tensed. So when things between them could not work out they separated from each other, she could no longer stand the physical torture laid upon her by her husband. Anupa’s mother after leaving her husband went to her parent’s house and started staying with them. Anupa was born at her maternal grandparent’s house. After giving birth to Anupa, her mother married again to another man and started staying with him, while Anupa lived with her grandparents and her uncle. Anupa was admitted to a nearby school and was living a contended and a happy life. During her holidays she used to visit her friends house to watch television. One day Anupa went to her friends place to watch television and came home a little late, her uncle scolded her very badly and threatened her that if she repeated this again she would be thrown out from the house. Anupa was very hurt by this and decided to leave the house. That very night she ran away and went to Malekhu. There in Malekhu she met a boy who asked her about her whereabouts and promised to help her. That boy took her to a hotel and made arrangements for her to stay there and asked her if she wanted to work in that hotel. She agreed to work but was not paid, she was provided with only food and shelter. After a week Anupa’s uncle came searching for her and took Anupa with him. Anupa was beaten up badly by her uncle and was warned never to leave the house again. But the very next day she again ran away from the house and went back to Malekhu and started working in the same hotel. But again Anupa’s uncle came searching for her, but this time Anupa refused to go back with him. Knowing this Anupa’s uncle got very angry and left her saying that she no longer had any relation with him and with her grandparent’s. As she was not paid for her work, she along with her friend working in the same hotel decided to leave this work and find a new job where they would be paid well. From Malekhu they left for Mugling searching for a new job. In Mugling they found a similar kind of job, working in a hotel without being paid, only food and shelter was provided. There they worked for few days and again decided to leave that job. From their they left for Kathmandu. They knew no one in Kathmandu and were wandering here and there in the bus stand. After sometime a boy came and asked Anupa and her friend about their whereabouts. Anupa, explained him everything and told him that they were in search of work. So knowing everything about them that boy promised to help them. He first asked them to come along with him to his sister’s house. So that night the boy enticed Anupa telling her that he would marry her. That night Anupa and the boy were physically intimate. The next morning when Anupa woke up she found that the boy had already left and came to know that this place where he had brought her telling her that it was his sister’s house was a brothel. Anupa was now in a place where no girl would want to be and would be her worst nightmare. Anupa refused to work in that brothel, but at last she had to surrender and work because she no longer could tolerate the torture laid upon her. After working there for four month without being paid a single penny she somehow managed to run away from that place. She had no place to go and finally decided to go back to Mugling where she was working before. As she was hurrying to get inside the truck to go back to Mugling a man was noticing her because she looked very scared and nervous. So seeing her look so nervous and scared he asked her what happened to her and why was she so worried. Anupa was left with no option but to tell him her “Horrifying story”. Finally Anupa met someone who genuinely wanted to help her and brought her in the safe hands of Maiti Nepal.

Anupa now wants to punish those culprits who made her life living hell and wants to help the Maiti Nepal team to arrest those people. She also wants to complete her further studies.

Case study Sumitra Shrestha
Senior counselor
Yet another story

My family consists of me, my husband and my two daughters. We were living in Kumarithan in a rented house. My husband worked as a laborer in Kathmandu. A woman named Bimala Tamang used to visit our village quite often because her sister in law lived near my house. Bimala’s husband and my husband worked together in Kathmandu. So my husband and Bimala’s husband decided to take us along with them to Kathmandu. We all then moved to Kathmandu.

One day Bimala told me that I was working too hard. She suggested me to go to Delhi where I could get a job and would be paid for it.

Bimala used to come to my house quite frequently and sometimes would take me for movies. One day Bimala came to my house with her brother and brother in law and introduced me to them. After 4-5 days Bimala asked me to come along with her, she did not tell me where we were going. So , me and my daughter went along with Bimala , her brother and brother in law. First we took a bus to Kirtipur. After reaching Kirtipur one of Bimala’s brother left us. From Kirtipur we left for Hetauda. When asked Bimala where were we going, she then told me that she was taking me to Pokhara to work. After 5-10 minute she got down from the bus telling me that she wanted to go to the toilet but never came back. I was terrified and completely unaware of what was happening.

Bimala’s brother told me that we were going to Delhi. I had no idea what was going to happen to me and my daughter. Reaching Delhi after two days, he took me to his aunt and uncle’s house and introduced me to them. There we stayed for 15 days because I was suffering from tuberculosis and the next 15 days we stayed at his friends place named Manju. So one day Bimala’s brother took me to G.B road and said that I was sold in a brothel for 1,50,000. I was completely pulverized and shocked.

I was left in a brothel where my body would be sold every day to men who would be pouting on me like a hungry tiger. I was tortured and beaten up when refused to work. After spending 20 days in that brothel , I met a Nepali boy. I told him my story and asked him for help. He first asked me to run away from that place then only he could help me. He gave me his phone number and asked me to come to the bus stand. I somehow managed to run away from that place and met him at the bus stand. There he hurried me inside a bus which was going to Nepal.

I was a victim of trafficking and forced into prostitution. My life turned upside down, everything changed in my life. Everyday I wish whatever happened to me was just a nightmare….a bad dream. But the reality is that I was sold in a brothel just for money.

Now I request Maiti Nepal to find those culprits and punish them for committing such a heinous and inexcusable crime.
Youth Partnership program festival in Kathmandu

With the slogan of “Promoting Youth Power”, Youth Partnership Programme celebrated its successful completion of its Second Phase through the YPP Youth Festival on 6th April 2011 in Kathmandu, Nepal. The YPP Youth festival was also a ground to welcoming of the up-coming Third Phase of YPP with new and refreshed ideas and initiations.

The total of 178 participants which included the representatives from the Government of Bangladesh, India and Nepal, Members of SAIEVAC (South Asian Initiative to End Violence Against Children) Governing Board, INGO’s, NGO’s, Press Media and Youth involved in YPP from Bangladesh, India and Nepal participated for the celebration of the YPP Youth festival.

The YPP Youth Festival was an opportunity for the Youth to share the outcomes and good Practices of the Youth Led activities during the Second Phase of YPP. The festival comprised of the Official Inauguration programme which was followed by the Booth Exhibition set by the YPP teams of South Asia. The Women Commissioner from the National Women Commission programme as a Chief Guest.

During the inaugural session, Nepal also reported the survey to vulnerability of girls working in dance parlours in Kathmandu.

In the same time, the Youth from Bangladesh submitted the report of the signatures collected in the petition forms for the ECPAT and The Body Shop Campaign to Stop Sex Trafficking of Children and Young People, to the representatives of the Government from their respective countries and the SAIEVAC Governing Board. There were a total of 12,800 signatures collected for the Campaign from India, 15,810 from Bangladesh and 38,140 from Nepal.

The second part of the Youth festival comprised of the Panel discussion on various topics and learning from the Second Phase, facilitated by the YPP Youth. Then came the Parallel sessions on the topics; “Good Practices on the Peer Support programme”, facilitated by the YPP team from Nepal and “Designing and Conducting the Youth Led Research”, facilitated by the YPP team of India.

On the following day, 7th April 2011, with an objective to meet and interact with the President of Nepal with regard to the successful completion of the South Asian YPP Youth Festival, some of the selected Youth participants along with the adult representatives from ECPAT, Sanlaap-India, Aparajeyo-Bangladesh, SAIEVAC Governing Board and Maiti Nepal, received an opportunities to meet the President of Nepal and share the outcomes of the YPP Youth Festival.

The very occasion of the meeting was also used to hand over the number of signatures that had been collected in Bangladesh, India and Nepal for the Petition on ECPAT and The Body Shop Campaign to stop sex trafficking of children and young people. The meeting was also a ground in advocating to the President of Nepal on controlling and minimizing the ever growing problem of Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children in South Asia.

The President made a positive response on the initiative taken by the young people to end CSEC and other forms of exploitation against children. He also gave his commitment towards the issues raised by the children against CSEC and Sex Trafficking of young people.