6th Anti Human Trafficking Day Celebrated With Utmost Vigor And Enthusiasm!!

6th national Anti human trafficking day was observed with intense enthusiasm and participation in Nepal. Maiti Nepal commemorated the day with a week long programme. Various activities were conducted by the central office and branch offices with innovative approach and ideas. Inter-high school essay writing competition was organized at central level. The motion of the essay was “Role of youth in minimizing human trafficking”. The winners of the essay writing competition were felicitated jointly by Maiti Nepal and Ministry of Children, women and social welfare. Awareness program was organized in Dolakha district at headquarter Charikot and popular tourist destination Jiri. Dolakha district, though not itself a highly trafficking prone location, is notorious transit point of girl trafficking. Girls/women from neighbouring districts like Okhaldhunga and Solukhumbu are trafficked via Jiri and Charikot. The two day long awareness program comprising of door to door programme, rally and street drama in the district was very influential in generating alertness and consciousness among the residents of Dolakha where indigenous people like Thami, Jirel and Surel are inhabiting. Chairperson of Maiti Nepal, Ms. Anuradha Koirala and the Director, Mr. Bishworam Khadka graced the programme. One of the other various activities was hanging of flexes at the rear side of vehicles and autorickshaws. The flexes were hung for a week and the messages written in it helped create awareness and consciousness among the people in the issues of human trafficking. On 5th of September, which is anti human trafficking day this year, Maiti Nepal proactively participated in the rally organized by Ministry of Children Welfare and Social Welfare. Volunteers and women of Maiti Nepal chanted slogans during the entire period with explicit jubilance and energy. The celebration of anti human trafficking week this year was in a way more special, participatory, energizing and successful.
Violence against women prevails in every society in more or less magnitude, although it is unjustifiable and is against the basic norms of human rights. It is rampant in developing nations and societies where patriarchy is the module of operation. Violence against women emerges with various modes and manifestations and in everyday basis new types of cases get registered in Maiti Nepal. The increasing number of cases of violence being registered can be connoted with the growing consciousness of women towards their rights and status. However, from another perspective, the assessment of such situation can be made as the consequence of instability, dismantled social systems, burgeoning impunity and weak state mechanisms.

Maiti Nepal deals with various cases of domestic violence through its legal section. The legal section particularly looks into the cases of domestic violence, trafficking and rape. The types of domestic violence are maintenance, property partition, polygamy, divorce, etc. The statistical figure depict that the number of aforementioned cases have been increasing every year. The total number of cases of trafficking dealt by Maiti Nepal in 2011 was 25. In 2012, till the end of June, the number of such case is already 21. With the average half yearly calculation of both years, the increase of trafficking cases becomes 42%. (forty two percent) The total number of cases of domestic violence in 2011 was 834, while in 2012 till the end of June, it is 470. Thus the increase in domestic violence in 2012, is 11 percent. (eleven percent). The total number of cases of rape in 2011 was 25, whereas in 2012 till the end of June, the number is 14. The increase in cases of rape is 14% (fourteen percent).

Besides, the flow of people seeking legal counseling from Maiti Nepal is increasing every day. Making an analysis of this trend help us confirm that violence against women is increasing every day. Violence against women existed in the past as well but only few of them would be reported due to the deep seated patriarchy, social values and culture, and fear of stigma and discrimination. However, with the advent of NGO sectors and their awareness raising, empowerment programs, leadership building trainings, women in present context have become alert and concerned about their rights, roles and position. This leads to more number of cases to be registered. However, whatever may be the reasons, the increase in the incidents of violence is a subject of grave concern.

TIP report published by US Department of State has placed Nepal in TIER 2 and it says that Nepal is mainly a source country for men, women, and children who are subjected to forced labor and sex trafficking. Nepali men are subjected to forced labor, most often in the Middle East and, to a lesser extent, within the country. Nepali women and girls are subjected to sex trafficking in Nepal, India, and the Middle East, and also are subjected to forced labor in Nepal and India as domestic servants, beggars, factory workers, mine workers, and in the adult entertainment industry. They are subjected to sex trafficking and forced labor in other Asian destinations, including Malaysia, Hong Kong, and South Korea. The Chinese district of Khasa on the border with Nepal is an emerging sex trafficking destination for Nepali women and girls. Nepali boys also are exploited in domestic servitude and – in addition to some Indian boys – subjected to forced labor in Nepal, especially in brick kilns and the embroidered textiles industry.

Trafficking of Nepalese minor girls to Gulf Countries with fake document is increasing in the recent times. We had cases of girls below the age of 15, being given all the legal documents mentioning age of 22. One of the girls was intercepted at the airport while trying to go to the Gulf. Organized crime syndicates are operating in India who make fake Nepali passport and send Nepalese girls to the Gulf by changing photo (PC). This is pushing Nepalese girls into further peril. Brothels in India are shifting their modes of operation into dance, cabin restaurants. This type of underground operation is making the scenario from bad to worse. The Kamathipura brothel, one of the most notorious in the world is changing its way of operation and being more underground pushing girls at higher risks. The other destinations like Nagpur, Meerut, Ilaahbad, Kerela and Tibetan Khasa are emerging as new challenges in combating girls trafficking. Girls are rescued from these destinations and Tibetan Khasa in high frequency these days.

In gist, the changing modes of trafficking and the emergence of newer destination necessitates higher degree of intervention.
Children Of Maiti Nepal Come Out With Flying Colours In Medical Entrance Examination !!!

Three students –Priya Sherpa , Samjhana Pokhrel and Krishna Neupane, who were brought up and educated by Maiti Nepal came victorious in MBBS entrance Examination conducted by Kathmandu University. The jubilant students will be joining Lumbini Medical college affiliated to Kathmandu University by September 10, 2012

Krishna Neupane belongs to a remote district Jumla of Karnali Zone. Though a bright student, the socio-economic condition of his family was not conducive enough to satisfy his inner craving desire of becoming a physician. Displace by conflict, his family moved to Kathmandu to seek alternative means of livelihood. Stricken by hunger and pathetic by condition, Krishna was lucky enough to meet Anuradha Koirala, The Chairperson of Maiti Nepal. She offered him a chance to study in a boarding school ( Teresa Academy) run by Maiti Nepal. Since then Krishna continued to deliver his best, ultimately becoming eligible to study medical science.

Priya Sherpa and Samjhana Pokhrel studied in the Teresa Academy run by Maiti Nepal. They were the survivors of domestic violence. Samjhana’s mother had expired in her childhood and her father was mentally ill. Priya Sherpa was rescued at six years of age when she was working working as domestic worker. They completed their school with distinction and joined Gyanodaya Bal Batika Higher Secondary School for higher level studies. They completed 11th and 12th grade with first division marks in the science faculty. Since childhood they were aiming to be physician.

Medical profession is considered to be one of the most dignified jobs in South Asian countries

Justice Prevails- Traffickers Convicted !!

Two criminals who were nabbed by Area police office Rani on charge of trafficking a girl was ultimately convicted by honourable district court Morang. The court sentenced each of the culprits with one hundred thousand rupees fine and 15 years of rigorous jail terms. Besides, the court decided that the survivor should be granted 50,000 rupees as compensation. The plot behind this incident is as follows-Bhim Bishwokarma, age 21 and resident of Duwagadi 5 , Jhapa, District and Yubaraj Bishwokarma age 27 of Sundarpur Morang District were spotted in suspicious condition by Maiti Nepal’s border surveillance staff stationed at Biratnagar . They were trying to take a girl across the Jogbani border concealing her in between them. She was intercepted by the border surveillance staff on June 8, 2011. Upon counseling and interrogation, it was unveiled that Rita( name changed) was being trafficked to India. The traffickers had instructed Kalpana to put on Tika and beads (the emblem of marriage in Nepali culture) so that they could cross the border without any obstacles and interventions. She was also inculcated by the traffickers to say that she was going to India for a short term visit. In the initiation of Maiti Nepal, a FIR was filed at Area police office, Rani on June 9, 2011. The court gave its verdict on April 24, 2012

Public Interest Litigation filed in Supreme Court to intensify process for formulating Fast Track Court !!!

Maiti Nepal in collaboration with two other organizations, filed a Public Interest Litigation in Supreme Court seeking necessary actions from the government to expedite prosecution of human trafficking cases through the formation of fast track court. Though the Supreme Court had already issued order to the Ministry of children ,women and social welfare for the formation of Fast track Court to prosecute all forms of criminal cases, it was not duly implemented. Cases of trafficking which are of grave criminal offence were treated like other normal cases. The prolonging prosecution and the uncertainty looming in the psychology of the survivors was adversely challenging the appropriate and timely delivery of justice. Criminal Law Administration itself is a consistent and changing concept. Criminal law Administration should be made relevant to time ensuring proper technology of case investigation and amending hearing procedures. Delaying in justice delivery means denial of justice. Nepal’s Interim Constitution 2006 AD, harnesses the fact that Nepal government and its agencies has to co-operate duly with the Supreme Court in delivery of justice. The PIL has been registered keeping this fact in consideration, to benefit large bulk of survivors and affected people.
Children and women in Maiti Nepal celebrated Teej festival with utter vigour, joys and humour. Among the other participants were celebrities, singers social workers, journalists, representatives from UN missions, diplomatic missions and corporate houses. Everybody was dressed in red. As in the previous years, singers sang their beautiful songs which made everyone dance with euphoria. There were games in which women from diverse background participated. The Tug of War, Musical Chair were some of the interesting items. The program lasted for three hours. At the end there was lunch for all.

Teej is a traditional festival celebrated by Hindu women. Hindu mythology says that, Teej is celebrated as a devotion to Goddess Parvati who underwent through rigorous meditations and fasts for 108 years in different births to get the Supreme lord Mahadev as her husband. Devotees believe that they can get their wish fulfilled after fasting in Teej. One day before the fast, they usually take heavy dinner, which is known as Dar