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NGO child-labour eradication programmes in Nepal

In Nepal non-governmental organisations (NGOs) are contributing to the eradication of child labour through education, but support is minimal. Coordination is poor so that the most vulnerable children are not identified and prioritised for support.

Transparency International Nepal and the Professional Women Support Group ? an organisation of Nepali women working to tackle corruption ? undertook a study to assess the transparency and effectiveness of child labour support programmes run by 23 NGOs.

An estimated 2.6 million Nepali children below the age of 14 work; 1.27 million of these work in the worst forms of child labour as defined by the International Labour Organisation. Poverty and the lack of job skills force parents to put their children into the labour market.

The Nepali government, donors and NGOs have started to focus on the welfare of working children. Government schools are instructed not to charge fees up to grade five. Parents, however, still have to pay for school uniforms, stationery and exams. This helps explain why half of those children who enroll don't complete primary education.

Local NGOs typically provide support to child labourers in the form of textbooks, stationery, uniforms and tuition fees. Some NGOs support parents through micro-finance. NGOs also run schools offering non-formal education that do not follow the academic year and exist solely for child workers who don't have enough time to join formal education programmes.

Donor policies have led to the emergence of a large number of NGOs offering education to working children. Researchers examined how children qualified for funding assistance, how the funding was received and spent, whether funds were transparently spent and accounted for and what children thought of the support they received.

The study found that:

Many donors and NGOs were reluctant to provide information and cooperate with the research team.

Although legislation requires NGOs to submit annual reports there is no standardised monitoring system and reports are not in the public domain.

Three quarters of NGOs claim the public have access to their budgetary information, but only 17.4 percent publish financial reports.

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Speakers at a discussion yesterday said gender budgeting is not reflected in the proposed budget for 2006-07, although it was highlighted in the budget speech.

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Crisis in Nepal

OneWorld South Asia highlights the crisis in Nepal, arising out of people's desire for democracy. [Click here for the latest on Nepal](#)

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Most beneficiaries report general satisfaction with support received.

Assistance per child is decreasing as NGOs are keen to increase the number of children they support.

Many NGOs are also helping children who are not labourers.

NGOs and donors are generally satisfied. There is a perception that children's awareness has increased and that child labour has been reduced in recent years. Many children have been enrolled in education programmes, developing their confidence and opportunities. However the average level of assistance per primary school child - US\$14.10 per year - is too low to keep poor students in formal education.

Source: ID21 Education [More](#)

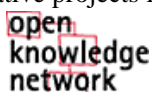
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