

# Chapter 3

## 3.4 Child Marriage: Concerns of Remote Baglung

### 1. Definition

The law regards any marriage that is held below the specified age as child marriage. However, there is diversity in the definition of child marriage in terms of territory, region, ethnicity and religion/culture. Though the right to marry or not marry lies with the concerned individual, the minimum age of marriage is determined by every country. The Civil Code of Nepal specifies 20 years as the minimum age for marriage.<sup>1</sup> Any marriage below this age is child marriage.

In the constitutional history of Nepal, the Constitution promulgated in 2015 mentioned child marriage as a violation of child rights and recognized it as a punishable offense.<sup>2</sup> Prior to this Constitution, the legal age for marriage was 20 years for boys and 18 year for girls. But since United Nations convention and Nepal's law contradicted, the Constitution amended the old provision to make it 20 years for both boys and girls to get married. Accordingly, a Nepali citizen can acquire his/her citizenship after attaining 16 years of age and can vote after completing 18 years old. However, to get married one has to reach 20 years old.

### 2. Background

Baglung is a hilly district in Gandaki province. Of the 268,605 population, 61,163 are below the poverty line. As a result, social norms and values, religious superstition, poverty and illiteracy have established child marriage as a culture and tradition in majority of the parts of the district.

The Women and Children's Office, Baglung had carried out a study on the situation of child marriage in some local levels of the district in mid-March 2018. And the study showed very high level of the number of child marriages taking place in Nisikhola rural municipality. As per the data, the number of children in the rural municipality getting married before reaching the age of 18 is 138. Of them, 83 were girls. Likewise, the number was also reported to be high in Barend of Jaimini municipality-1, where 36 boys and 59 girls had done child marriage. Not only in the rural municipality, but child marriage is also taking place in Baglung municipality as well. During the period, the study found that 8 boys and 19 girls had married before the legal age in ward nos 1, 2 and 3 of the municipality.

1. <http://www.lawcommission.gov.np/np/archives/1532>

2. <http://www.lawcommission.gov.np/np/archives/6900>

There is not accurate data about the number of child marriages that take place in Baglung district every year. The number is seen to have gone down following sensitization by government and stakeholder agencies but the trend of child marriage is not full stopped. In compared to boys, the number of girls doing child marriage is found to be high in Baglung. Though social and cultural norms, gender discrimination, poverty, illiteracy, insecurity are the major reasons to play for child marriage to take place in the rural parts of the district, foreign employment is found to be the main reason for child marriage in the district headquarters and neighbouring regions.

According to United Nations data, Nepal stands in the seventh position in the world and third in Asia in terms of child marriage. A study by UNICEF in 2016 on child marriage in South Asia found that every year 14 million children are married below the age of 18. As per this study, Nepal stands in the third position in the list of countries with the most number of child marriages. In South Asia, Bangladesh leads the list with 65 per cent followed by India with 47 per cent and Nepal in the third position with 41 per cent. And of the 41 per cent in Nepal, more than 10 per cent involve children between 10 to 15 years of age.

### 3. Legislation Related to Child Marriage

The United Nations had identified child marriage as an obstacle to achievement of the millennium development goals worldwide. Likewise, the Sustainable Development Goals agenda (2016-2030) also gives priority to ending child

marriage. In September 2013, the United Nations Human Rights Council passed a resolution on “Strengthening efforts to prevent and eliminate child, early and forced marriage: challenges, achievements, best practices and implementation gaps” and in December the same year, the UN’s 68th General Assembly endorsed a resolution on child, early and forced marriage. Following this, programmes against child marriage have received high priority around the globe.

Likewise, child marriage and a marriage before the age as specified by the country are recognized as a punishable offense. The Civil Code, 1854 had specified five years as the minimum age for marriage of girls.<sup>3</sup> The article under marriage chapter of the Code is a reflection of then social practice. In the Civil Code, 1963 the age for marriage for women has been noted as 14 and for men as 18. However, currently it is 20 for both men and women. As per the prevalent law, child marriage will lead to three years in prison and penalty.

### 4. Provision Related to Child Marriage in Constitution of Nepal

- The Constitution of Nepal (2015), Part-3, Article 3 (39) reads, ‘No child shall be subjected to child marriage, transported illegally, abducted/kidnapped or taken in hostage.’
- The Act designed to amend and annul some Nepal Act, 2015 has amended the Civil Code, 1963 to specify 20 years as the minimum age for marriage. A violation of this provision leads to a maximum of three years in jail and fine of 10,000 rupees depending on the age of the child.

1. <http://www.lawcommission.gov.np/np/archives/1532>

2. <http://www.lawcommission.gov.np/np/archives/6900>

3. [http://www.wikiwand.com/ne/%E0%A4%AC%E0%A4%BE%E0%A4%B2\\_%E0%A4%B5%E0%A4%BF%E0%A4%B5%E0%A4%BE%E0%A4%B9#/%E0%A4%95%E0%A4%BE%E0%A4%A8%E0%A5%81%E0%A4%A8%E0%A5%80\\_%E0%A4%B5%E0%A5%8D%E0%A4%AF%E0%A4%B5%E0%A4%B8%E0%A5%8D%E0%A4%A5%E0%A4%BE](http://www.wikiwand.com/ne/%E0%A4%AC%E0%A4%BE%E0%A4%B2_%E0%A4%B5%E0%A4%BF%E0%A4%B5%E0%A4%BE%E0%A4%B9#/%E0%A4%95%E0%A4%BE%E0%A4%A8%E0%A5%81%E0%A4%A8%E0%A5%80_%E0%A4%B5%E0%A5%8D%E0%A4%AF%E0%A4%B5%E0%A4%B8%E0%A5%8D%E0%A4%A5%E0%A4%BE)

## 5. Punishment as per Age

- A prison sentence of six months to three years and a fine of 1,000 to 10,000 rupees if a child below 10 years old is married/caused to marry.
- A prison sentence of three months to one year and a fine of up to 5,000 rupees if a child between 10 to 14 years old is married/caused to marry.
- A prison sentence up to six months or a fine up to 10,000 rupees if a child from 14 to 18 years old is married/caused to marry.

## 6. National Policy

- National Children's Policy, 2069 has recognized child marriage as an obstacle to the enjoyment of the rights of the child.<sup>4</sup>
- The policy's Strategy no. 8.9 states that government and development partner organisations would be mobilized to stop child marriage, receive complaints and prosecute cases against child marriage pro-actively, and give the local level additional responsibility of working to stop child marriage.
- Likewise, Strategy no. 9.3 states that media and other appropriate means would be mobilized in order to run public awareness programmes against trafficking and transportation of children and against child marriage, and to increase awareness on child protection at the village level.
- The 13th plan (2070/71-2072-2073) aims to end various kinds of social abuses including child marriage.
- Likewise, the overall national action plan (2070/71-2074/75) for adolescents talks about taking policy measures for minimizing harmful social practices and discrimination that impact particularly the marginal-

ized adolescents, and develop or improve guidelines to implement it, as well as provide open and alternative education to bring the adolescents, specially the adolescent girls into the mainstream of formal education.

## 7. Objective of the Study

- To sensitize the stakeholders about the state and impact of child marriage, and motivate them to stop child marriage.
- To make everyone responsible in protection and promotion of child rights to stop child marriage that remains as a major challenge to education and development.
- To inform about child marriage and its impact on the health of adolescent girls, and medical treatment.
- To bring out stakeholders' views about child marriage in district.
- To exert pressure for law enforcement.
- To provide motivation to organisations and individuals working active for an end to child marriage.
- Make the local level alert towards its function, duties and rights.
- Motivate adolescents who have suffered from polygamy and divorce following marriage to live a new life.

## 8. Rationale of the Study

The Constitution of Nepal (2015) defines child marriage as a punishable crime. But even though child marriage is defined as a crime in the Constitution, child marriage has strong roots like a tradition and culture in the society. Despite knowing that child marriage is illegal and not only illegal but also has a long-term negative impact on the society and those getting married, child marriage continues to increase by the day. Child marriage is not only a violation of the rights of the

child and women but also creates a series of violation of many rights in their life. This pushes girl child and women to more violence.

Child marriage will not make the married life long-lasting, various health complications will have to be faced for giving birth without maturity, gender-based violence, sexual violence, child labour and trafficking invites more sufferings for girl child and women. As child marriage would become a stumbling block in the development of a civilized, cultured and equitable society by minimizing the role and participation of women in the social development process in the long run, a study on it is important in terms of its solution.

## 9. Methodology

An onsite study was carried out to the various rural and urban settlements in the district while carry out a study of the situation of child marriage in Baglung district. Participation was also made in child marriage related programmes and interactions held in the district. Meetings and interaction was held with stakeholders and organisations in the district. Discussion was also held with those working in Baglung district in the field of children, women and adolescent girls' rights and with human rights workers and media persons. Talks were also held with children who done child marriage. In addition to this, reference materials related to child marriage were also studied.

## 10. Major Reasons of Child Marriage

### ○ *Religious norms/superstition*

Due to the superstition that a son will be born if the daughters are married young, there is still a practice in the rural parts to get daughters married before they reach puberty. Though this thinking is gradually fading away in the urban centres, child marriage is still practiced in the rural areas with the superstition that one would go to heaven after death if

the daughter is married before she starts menstruating and also because of the norm that a son will be born thereafter.

### ○ *Poverty and Financial Problems*

Majority of the child marriage is found to have taken place among the families who have a poor financial situation and are known as poor households in the society. Due to the financial inability of the family to bring up the children and provide them proper education, child marriage is found to be taking place in the rural parts of Baglung district. According to Kaji Gaunle, the coordinator of Civil Society, Baglung, though sons are regarded as the group that would earn and run the household, daughters are taken as those who would be marrying off and leaving for another home. As a result daughters are taken as a burden in the poor families. Due to this reason they are married off young.

### ○ *Lack of Education and Awareness*

The number of students dropping out from school in a young age is high in the rural parts of Baglung district. As the school-going age children have to help with work in the farm and for parents in domestic chores, they are deprived of education and are thus married young for lack of education and awareness. Furthermore, the under-age children even marry on their own or elope, according to school teacher Hom Maya Adai.

### ○ *Misuse of Technology*

Widespread expansion and use of the social media and the misuse of it is also contributing to child marriage as of late. People living faraway come to contact easily through facebook, emo, instragram, twitter, and mobile telephone. And children misuse this technology leading to child marriage. Children make friends and meet through the social media and even get married without consultation

with their parents. And out of fear that their children may take the wrong path, parents get them married in a young age.

#### ○ *Gender-based Discrimination*

Taking daughters as those who would be married off and go to live in other's house, and a burden to keep her at the mother's place, there are many who marry them off at a young age. Families who have many daughters trying to get a son find it difficult to finance their upbringing and education. And due to this reason, they believe that their daughters should be married soon. Some also feel that as daughters grow, the outside world stares at them, and hence it's better to marry them before they reach that age. There is also a practice in the rural parts of Baglung district for older men, who have become a father through the first wife of daughters only, to marry under-age girls in the home of giving birth to a son.

#### ○ *Lack of Enforcement of Law*

Even though child marriage is rampant in the district not a single complaint has been filed against it before the concerned agency. Lately, some local level governments have begun running various programmes to stop child marriage. Some of them have also annulled some child marriages. But there is no practice yet of the concerned individuals filing an official complaint before the concerned agency. As a result, there is a problem in enforcement of the legislation. As respected and educated personalities of the society attend child marriage functions, complaints are not filed before the police, said Superintendent of Police Dipak Regmi, Chief of Baglung Police.

#### ○ *Weakness on Part of Educated Individuals*

Dil Sirish, the chair of Federation of Nepali Journalists, Baglung views that it is due to the weakness of the educated

people here that child marriage is on the rise in the rural parts of Baglung district. According to him, the educated individuals and social workers themselves take part in the child marriage that takes place here. It is due to the silent acceptance of the stakeholders and educated individuals of Baglung and taking it as a custom that is making child marriage a complex problem.

#### ○ *Fear of Resentment*

The trend of child marriage is also not coming to an end as people do not want to report it to the police administration for fear of resentment among one another. As they have to live together in the same society, require one another's help during times of need, even educated intellectuals and conscious people attend child marriage functions, and do not report it to the concerned body, says social worker Dev Bahadur Shrestha.

#### ○ *Foreign Attraction*

As of late attraction to leave for abroad is also increasing child marriage. Especially, parents in the urban areas get their young daughters married to men who are based in the US and Europe even by acquiring documents that increase their age. Likewise, older men also choose younger girls for marriage and parents too are enticed with countries like US and Australia, and hence get their under-age daughter married, says human rights worker Ram Sharma.

### 11. Impact of Child Marriage

#### ○ *School drop-out*

The first problem after marriage of school-going children is that they drop out from school. Many children drop out from school due to the custom that says that daughter-in-laws should not be educated, they need to be taught to assume responsibility of the family and after marriage sons too need to take responsibility of the

house, family and wife, and start making an income. The number of students dropping out from schools in Baglung district is 0.4 per cent. Though this looks less in compared to other districts, the number of students enrolling in school but not attending school is significant in Baglung, according to Sarita Devi Sharma, information officer at the Education Department and Coordination Unit, Baglung. According to her, in the current academic year, a total of 250 students have already dropped out from school in the district.

#### ○ *Infant mortality*

New born from child mothers who have become pregnant in a young age are found to be more vulnerable to death. Even though the pregnant mother is kept under regular observation of a doctor, child delivery is not easy and caesarean section needs to be adopted to bring out the baby. However, it is very hard to save babies born as such, said gynecologist Dr Laxmi Acharya.

#### ○ *Abortion*

Girls who have married in a young age suffer from the problem of miscarriage following pregnancy. Even regular consultation and medical examination with a doctor does not stop the mother from facing problems in child delivery and since the baby inside the womb is also not healthy, it is difficult to survive for 9 months. As a result, majority of the girls who have married in a young age suffer from miscarriage and also need abortion.

#### ○ *Problem in the health of child mothers*

Majority of those who have become mother after getting married in a young age suffer problems of uterus prolapse, urine-related problems and infertility. They also suffer from sexually transmitted disease and various other infections.

As girls who become a mother in a young age are unaware about the health concerns during pregnancy and of the new born, the growth of the baby is not as good as it should be while the mothers themselves become physically weak.

#### ○ *Polygamy*

The girls who have been married in a young age also face polygamy. The girls who have undergone arranged marriage, eloped or married in social traditions in a young age find their husband later marrying for the second time and then ignoring them. Sunita Gotame of Tamankhola rural municipality was married at an age when she was too young to understand what a marriage is and what life is. And by the time she understood it, she became a victim of polygamy.

#### ○ *Divorce*

Another impact that child marriage has had in Baglung district is divorce. Boys who have married in a young age leave their wives with their family and head abroad for work or to the district headquarters for higher education, and gradually start neglecting their wife. And stating that the marriage had taken place in a young age, they do not want to accept when they are grown up. And many have divorced with the wife, after giving them some money. As these marriages are not legally registered, such couples get a divorce at the local level itself with the advice and decision of the respected individuals in the society.

#### ○ *Mental disorder*

Majority of the girls and boys who have done child marriage are also found to become mentally weak. The family responsibility that falls on a young person after marriage and inability to easily handle the social/cultural burden makes them mentally weak.

### ○ *Weakness in children born out of child marriage*

Children born out of child marriage are found to be weaker in compared to other children. Education resource person of Tamankhola rural municipality Bed Bahadur Budha said that a general education survey of students in the schools in the rural municipality found that the child born out of child marriage are weak in students, have low memory power and are found slow and lazy in compared to other children.

### 12. Number of child Mothers Continues to Rise

By age, she should be heading to school with books. But she is busy with a daughter in her lap and doing household chores. Due to ill-intention of her lover and her own conduct, she is now forced to up bring a daughter when she herself is still young. Of course, she wished that she could join her friends to school. But the illicit relationship she had with Madan Sirpali of the village, whenever she was alone at home while her parents were out in the farm, has forced Maya Sripali of Tamankhola rural municipality into a life full of tensions.

‘I hid the illicit relationship I had with Madan for many months, but then a time came when it was evident as I was nine months pregnant’, says Maya. Following this the villagers got them married but it was not long-lasting. Accusing her of tarnishing the image of their son and family, her in-laws started mentally torturing her every day. She endured it for 17 days following marriage, but then had a difficult turn in her life. “But I had left my home, where should I go, could not even kill myself,” she said, caressing her now two-year-old daughter, “I now stay with my mother for the cause of this baby, but my husband does not treat me well. Hence, I have in a lot of pain.”

*Sunita Gotame of Tamankhola rural municipality-2 got married at the age of 13 and divorced at 16, as a result her colourful journey has now come to an full stop. At a time when she was not aware what is marriage, and what is life, her nephew lured her to go to Burtibang market and got her married to Kisan BK of the same village. She was just a 5 grader then. Then the childhood of Sunita converted into pain and problems. Three years after the marriage, her husband married for the second time. Sunit received three hundred thousand rupees from her husband for this. The incident of Sunita is also a testimony to the fact that women in rural parts of the district are forced to accept divorce in return for cash. Sunita, who now lives in her maternal home, said, ‘All of my wishes and dreams are now gone. We should not take life so easily.’*

*Narma Sirpali of Tamankhola-5 got married at the age of 14 to Kopil Sirpali just to keep the promise that her father had made. But now is she is back to her maternal home. Narma returned to her mother after she could no longer tolerate the daily abuse from her in-laws and neglect and abuse from her husband. Her husband has recently married again. “I was forcibly married off because I was a burden at home,” she said, “Now I have to live with my mother. And hence hear a lot from people, hatred and mistreatment. May be I would not have faced this situation if I was married at an adult age.”*

*The culture of child marriage continues to be practice in western area of Baglung district. The family feels that their burden is lessened after marrying off their daughter at a young age and also fear of a bad image in the society due to their daughter. As a result, the family members are getting their daughters married soon due to problems they foresee and out of compulsion too. And as a*

*result of child marriage, polygamy is also found to have been encouraged.*

Though child marriage may sound normal for those hearing about it, but it is a very painful and alarming problem for those experiencing it, says Dil Kumar Sharma, Head of the Women and Children Office in Baglung. As child marriage is a serious obstruction to socio-economic development and reproductive health, she suggested that the government, stakeholders and family become very alert to abolish it.

Even though the data of child marriage in Nisikhola rural municipality is alarming, no budget has been allocated to run mitigation programmes. Chief of the rural municipality Taranath Poudel however says that awareness raising programmes have been initiated in the schools to stop child marriage. He also said that the number of school-going children marrying on their own by eloping is higher than those marrying with their parents' consent. As a result, the awareness programme has been initiated from the schools.

Meanwhile, the Tamankhola rural municipality has begun collecting data of child marriage. 'Child marriage, and polygamy has been seen as big social problem in the rural municipality and since it cannot be resolved only through legal means, we have begun a sensitization programme to control it,' Jok Lal Budha, chief of the rural municipality said.

'After being transformed into a rural municipality following the implementation of the new federal structure, we found child marriage as a burning problem,' Khim Bahadur BK, executive officer at the Tamankhola rural municipality said, "Considering this, we have allocated budget to run awareness raising

campaign and programmes to stop child marriage and the subsequent polygamy."

Child marriage and the problems that it has invited including polygamy is a very big issue in this remote and backward region of the district. Child marriage is reported to be high in Nishikhola, Jaimani municipality and Khungkhani, Syaula and other areas of Tamankhola rural municipality. But no complaints have been received so far about it, according to the Bungadobhan police post. Complaints are neither registered at the rural municipality. Vice-chair of Tamankhola rural municipality, who also leads the Judicial Committee, Mansari Sherchan said, 'we have been witnessing child marriage in the village but nobody has yet come seeking justice over it'.

### **13. Theatre and Documentary to Stop Child Marriage**

The Tamankhola rural municipality in Baglung has been working hard to stop child marriage and abolish it.<sup>5</sup> This rural municipality, which is regarded as very remote in the district, has child marriage rooted as a culture and tradition in majority of the wards. It will be very difficult to find someone who is 20 years old and unmarried in Khungkhani, Syaula, Bongkhani, Hile, Kholesawang and Pahirra villages of the rural municipality.

It will be like putting water to sand to try to make people here understand that 20 years and above is the right age for marriage. Meanwhile, from mid-April 2018, the Chair and Vice-chair of Tamankhola rural municipality are not only stopping child marriage in the village but also annulling child marriages that have already taken place. The rural municipality has also prepared a documentary on child marriage and its impact by incorporating the challenges faced by those who

5. <http://inseconline.org/np/news/%E0%A4%AC%E0%A4%BE%E0%A4%B2%E0%A4%B5%E0%A4%BF%E0%A4%B5%E0%A4%BE%E0%A4%B9-%E0%A4%B0%E0%A5%8B%E0%A4%95%E0%A5%8D%E0%A4%A8-%E0%A4%9F%E0%A5%8B%E0%A4%B2%E0%A4%9F%E0%A5%8B%E0%A4%B2%E0%A4%AE%E0%A4%BE/>

have married.

Currently the rural municipality has been going from one ward to another screening the documentary with a campaign to stop child marriage. Lately, the rural municipality has been providing training to the students to generate awareness about child marriage, polygamy, gender-based violence and racial discrimination, including untouchability through the medium of theatre.

A group of 13 including six girls and seven boys representing all the 6 wards in the rural municipality have been trained and they are staging theatre in the wards under the name of Tamankhola Art group. In the story that the children prepare themselves for the theatre characters representing those who marry under-age due to poverty, the mother and child who die during delivery and man marrying again for the want of a son are included.

So far, the art group has presented their theatre at the Paira Bhume primary school and Janjagriti secondary school in Tamankhola rural municipality-1, Shanti secondary school in ward no. 5, Hile in ward no. 4 and Syaula in ward no. 1, according to Mansari Sherchan, Judicial Committee coordinator and rural municipality Vice-chair. According to her, the municipality has also annulled 10 child marriages involving children between 16 to 19 years of age.

### **Problems for the Local Level**

As child marriage has been getting a silent approval in majority of the rural municipalities in Baglung, people's representatives believe that it is difficult to stop it at once. 'Child marriage is a custom of this region, and it cannot be stopped immediately', Taranath Poudel, chair of Nishikhola rural municipality said, 'We have recently begun with a sensitization programme, its impact will be seen in the long-term.'

The incidents of child marriage have been reported in Tamankhola, Nishikhola, Badigadh rural municipalities, and in Dhorpatan, Jaimini and Baglung municipalities. But for lack of complaints nobody involved has been brought to justice. 'We are never reported about child marriage,' deputy Mayor of Jaimi municipality Lila Rana said, 'first we are never informed, and second even if we receive the information, it will usually be only when the girl child has become pregnant.'

### **Initiatives by the Administration**

The local police and administration have also been supporting the local level and the organisations running campaigns to check child marriage that is increasing in this region. Dipak Regmi, chief of Baglung police said all the police posts in the district have been directed to work in collaboration and support of the locals in the event of any case of child marriage is reported.

He also shared that he had heard about child marriage being rampant in the district but no reports and no information is received by police in that regard. "This is a social offense. Child marriage affects the child as well as social development. Hence, we are committed to stop it and for a legal remedy", Regmi said.

### **Commitment**

#### **1. Janak Poudel, Mayor-Baglung Municipality**

Child marriage is found to be taking place not only in the rural parts of Baglung district but also within the district headquarters and Baglung municipality. Even though the reasons for child marriage in the rural areas and in the urban centres are different, child marriage is a crime. Despite of what happened before we assumed office, we are now committed and alert to stop child marriage in the days to come. This not something that can be stopped by the municipality and police

administration. So, we are working for mitigating child marriage with the support of all sides concerned.

## **2. Roshan GC, Chair-Adarhsa Yuba**

Child marriage is taking place not only in our place, but in every society and community. The only difference is some are evident in the society while some are still being held in a concealed manner. Lately, we have been running a campaign against child marriage and drug abuse by forming a club named Adarsha Yuba through the Adarsha Cooperatives Institute. Child marriage has become a compulsion in poor and rural areas while an enticement in the urban centres. All youths need to be alert to stop it.

## **3. Bina Karki, Director, Seto Guran Child Development Service**

The society needs to be alert and educated first in order to mitigate and stop child marriage. However, child marriage has been reported to have taken place as of late even in educated families. However, the society has not been able to speak against it. First of all, we need to call something that is not right, as wrong. Child marriage will gradually come down only if we are able to make everyone realize the impact of child marriage, its social impact and the benefits of marriage in the right age through social awakening.

### **Recommendations**

Child marriage is found to have been protected like a tradition and culture in the rural parts of Baglung district.

Due to reasons of poverty, illiteracy, lack of awareness and religious norms and values, there is a practice of marrying off under-age daughters in the rural parts of Baglung. The newer generation, who grew up seeing their sisters and other women in the society getting married in a young age, are found to have developed the norm that one's needs to be marry and settle at a young age. It is very difficult to find any girl students in majority of the secondary schools of Dhorpatan municipality. Child marriage is increasing by the day for lack of awareness on the physical, mental, social and family impact of child marriage. As a result, school-level awareness-oriented curriculum should be developed and enforced in order to minimize and control child marriage. The local government also needs to run effective programmes to stop and control child marriage in the rural and very remote parts of the district. Like Tamankhola rural municipality, other 9 local level units in the district needs to recognize child marriage as a serious problem and run programmes with priority like awareness-oriented events, door-to-door campaign, school inspection, street theatre and radio theatre etc.

### **References**

1. INSEC online
2. Documentary on child marriage produced by the Tamankhola rural municipality
3. United Nations Population Fund data
4. Constitution of Nepal (2015)
5. Local newspapers

