

Policy Brief 2

May 2022

Using art to reduce Human Trafficking



Summary:

Human trafficking poses a serious challenge to Nepal's socioeconomic development, and peace building. This policy brief is based on arts-based research carried out by young people and provides an outline of the research findings and recommendations to prevent human trafficking. These recommendations are intended to complement the work of the Government of Nepal and various organizations making efforts to prevent human trafficking. Our research has highlighted the need **to raise awareness in communities and to make local government accountable for reducing human trafficking.**

Key Policy

Recommendations

1. Local indigenous cultural forms (i.e. Deuda) should be used for dialogue between children and youth, parents and policymakers to address trafficking.
2. School is the key place for raising social awareness, various street plays and awareness programs should be conducted in the school.
3. The political leadership and the local government must take appropriate action against those involved in human trafficking.
4. It is necessary for the local governments to provide adequate security patrols on the open border of Nepal and India.

This research is part of the [Mobile Arts for Peace – MAP – project](#), which aims to strengthen peace by teaching young people to express their ideas and feelings through the creative arts and by highlighting the need to participate in the life of the community.

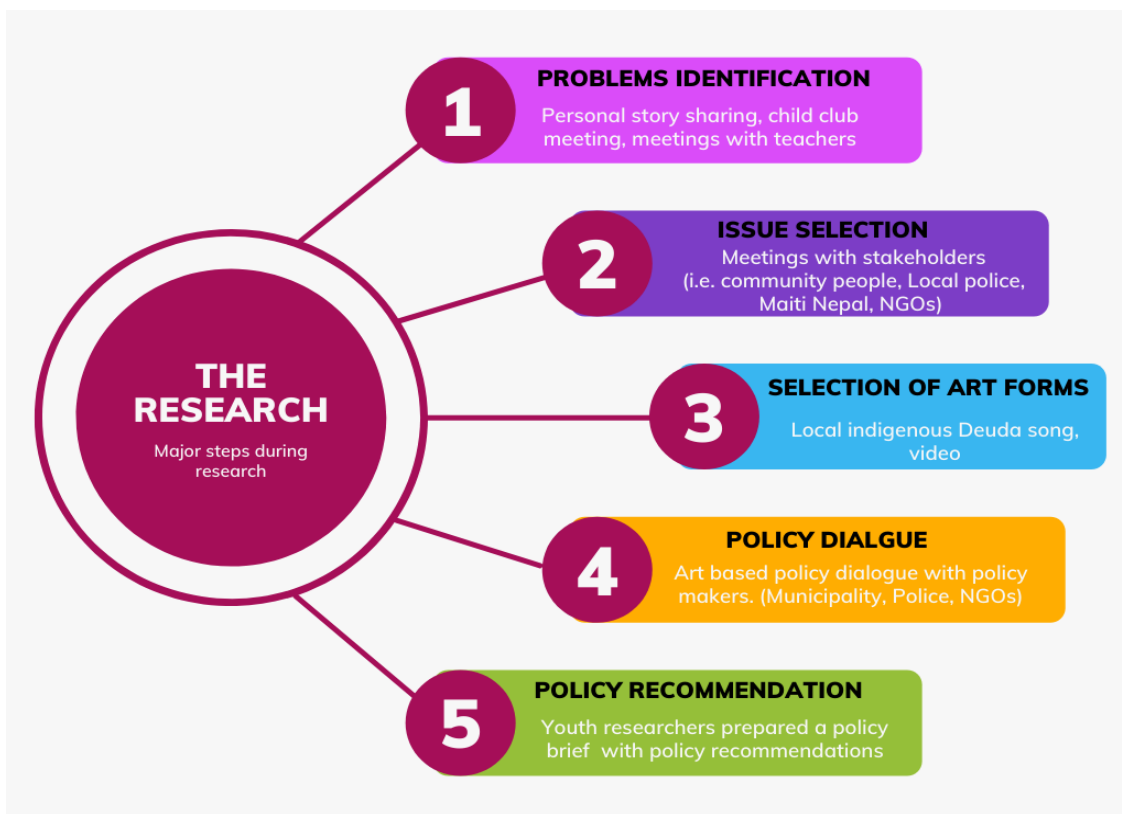
Introduction

Trafficking is a serious crime and a grave violation of human rights. In Nepal, the most widespread forms of human trafficking are for forced labor, domestic servitude, prostitution and sexual exploitation, and organ extraction. Human Trafficking and Transportation (control) Act 2007 clearly states that, if anyone sells or purchases a person for any purpose, uses someone in prostitution with or without any benefit, extracts human organs except otherwise determined by law or goes for in prostitution, they shall be deemed to have committed human trafficking.

Many young women, children and men have been sold from Nepal to India and other countries. According to [State of Children in Nepal 2021, published by National Child Rights Council](#), a total of 80 children (girls 79, boy 1) have been victims of human trafficking, an increase compared to the previous year.

The research

Child club members of Janajyoti secondary school, Dodhara Chadani Municipality, carried out art-based research between March 2021 to April 2022. Methods included the indigenous Deuda song, video and drama. The research was carried out from problem identification – sharing personal stories through the art forms – to policy recommendations, shown in the diagram.



Research Findings:

1. There are many forms of trafficking and anyone (men, women, children) could all be victims of trafficking. However, young girls are more vulnerable to trafficking.

"We have big issues about human trafficking, trafficking means we think of girls only, but there are many cases where boys are also vulnerable to trafficking. Many initiatives have been taking by local government in collaboration with police, maiti Nepal and other organizations. If we extent such program in all school, we can minimize trafficking. We hear through deuda and we watched video about trafficking. Now we need this to implement in our behavior. We need to aware everyone in the community. Municipality is ready to collaborate at any point"

" Based on complain recorded in policy station, trafficking is big issue in Kanchanpur and girls are more vulnerable to this. I hope this video will be helpful to protect human trafficking from society. Finally, I would like to say "Stop Human Trafficking".

2. People in communities are not aware of the consequences of trafficking. Art-based methods can be used as a powerful tool for change.

"I am sure that these video and Deuda will help to raise awareness. I request you all team for uploading the videos in social media as soon as possible. If everyone fulfils their responsibilities, such activities will be reduced. All the artists are doing their respective job greatly."

Communication between youth with other stakeholder is not easy in Kanchanpur, we can't express our thought to policy makers. MAP helped us to use art to express our thought with others"

Current programmes with local government do not have interventions to raise awareness about the risks of working in other countries. There is a need for programmes to show the risks and challenges associated with migrant worker abroad. I can see art based method works effectively"

3. The open-border provision allowing nationals of Nepal and India to cross the border between their countries without a visa or a passport makes cross-border movement easy for all types of trafficking.

"Kanchanpur is border with India, so trafficking is high using this land"

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