



South Asian Children's Times

Issue 3

November 05 - February 06

Our Success: Team Spirit

Success can be external or internal. Externally, it is measured by recognition from society and internally, it is a feeling of achievement and satisfaction that comes with the completion of the task. With the release of the third issue of South Asian Children's Times, we the children of South Asia, feel proud and successful on both grounds

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of The Child has given every child the "**freedom of information**". This means that every child has a right to seek, receive and impart information through any media. For us, South Asian Children's Times is the only medium to express our desires in life. We are glad to see that our effort in the previous two issues has been successful in constructing a creative space for children in the print media.

Our experiences are the window to our life. Through these we can be seen and understood. Our stories speak for ourselves and we hope that through this, you understand us better and help us in our effort to achieve a better life.

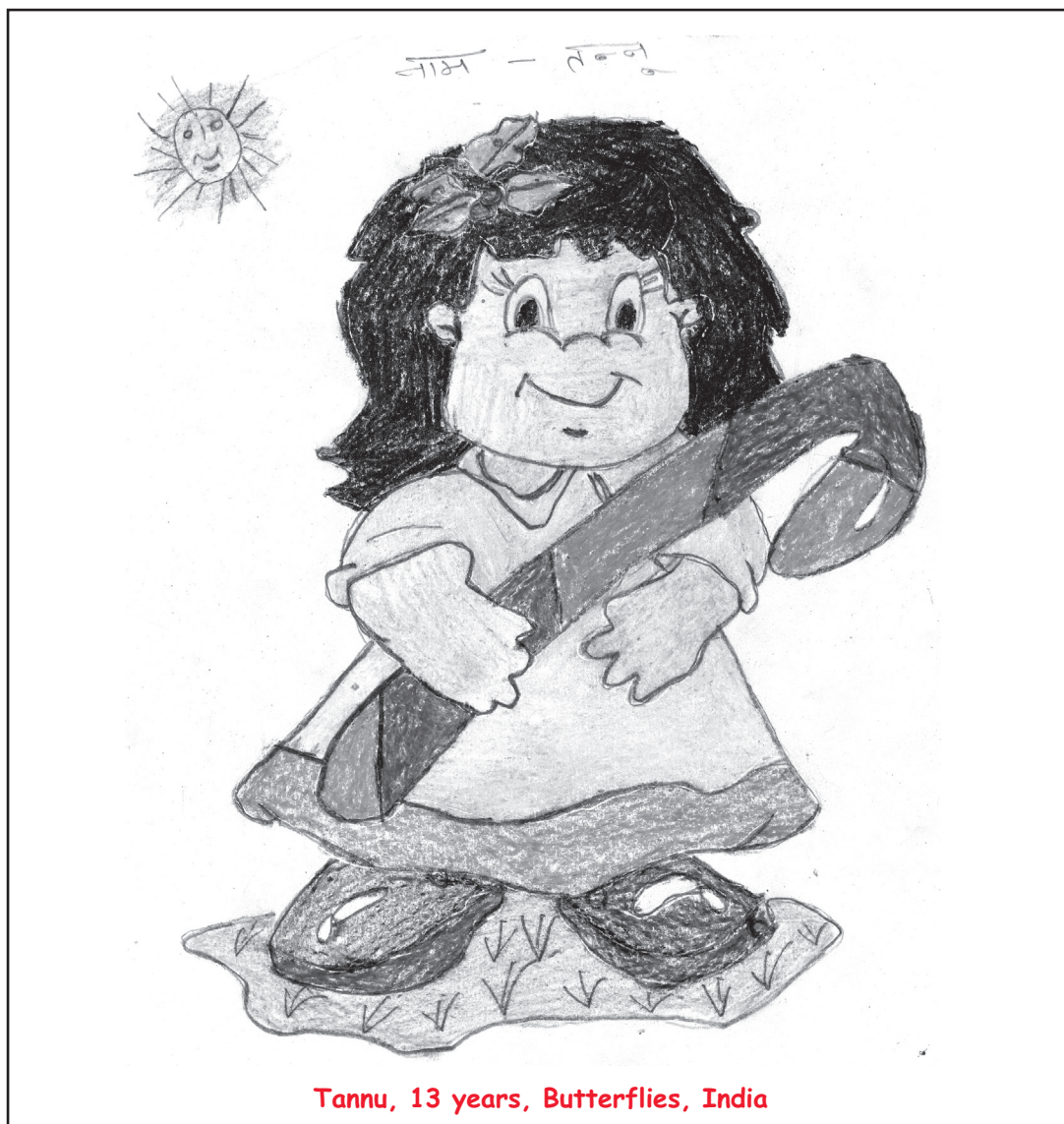
Any child from any South Asian country can send their articles on issues that concern them or the society. We would be happy to print their views in our newspaper, if the editorial board accepts it.

We hope that you would like this issue. Please send in your comments and suggestions about this issue.

Thanks

TEAM

Together Everyone Achieve More
Children of South Asia



Tannu, 13 years, Butterflies, India

Child, Family and Tele Drama

Ruwini Tharanga, Deepthi Children's Association, Sri Lanka

The child who gets up at 6 o'clock in the morning and leaves for school at 7 o'clock has a lot of things in her/his mind about education. After spending six hours in the competition of education in the classroom the child leaves school to attend private tuition classes. Late in the evening the child returns home with next day's burden of work in her/his mind.

After a brief leisure she/he does home work. She/He needs good time management to do their home work well. The tele dramas that are broadcasted from 7.00 p.m. to

10.00 p.m. are an obstacle to students success. It also affects the harmony of the family. The time from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. is the most important time for the family. It is the time that all the members get together. Only at this time they can talk to each other, share the day's happenings and solve the day's problems. The family misses this valuable opportunity by watching tele dramas. All the problems are left for the next day. The bond of the family loosens. If the media could have sensible programs then it will serve its dual purpose of education and overall development of the child. ■

Life

Lila lama, 17 years, Child Welfare Scheme, Nepal

Life is a struggle	accept it
Life is a journey	fulfill it
Life is a challenge	compete it
Life is love	consume it
Life is hell	insult it
Life is beauty	worship it
Life is a tragedy	face it
Life is a grief	bear it
Life is heaven	enjoy it

SOUTH ASIAN CHILDREN AT A GLIMPSE

Countries	Under-5 mortality rank	Under-5 mortality rate 2001	Infant mortality rate (under 1) 2001	Total population (thousands) 2001	Annual no. of births (thousands) 2001	Annual no. of under-5 deaths (thousands) 2001	Life expetancy at birth (years) 2001	Net primary school enrolment/ attendance (%) 1995-2001*
Afghanistan	4	257	165	22474	1078	277	43	24
Bangladesh	58	77	51	140369	4284	330	60	79

*Data refer to the most recent year available during the period specified in the column heading.
Source: The State of World's Children 2003, UNICEF, <http://www.unicef.org/sowc03/tables/>
This data has been collated by adult editorial advisors.

My Story

Rajesh, 15 years, Butterflies , India

My home is in Gorakhpur. My village is small. My father is a confectioner. At home I work in our fields. Near by my house there is one Geeta press where books and copies are being printed. I used to go there with my friends and then go to the fields to play. There is one river and we all friends used to bathe

in this river. One day we were taking a bath when suddenly one of my friend started drowning in this river. As my friend and I jumped in the river to save him I was hurt and was hospitalized. Now I am all right and I can walk comfortably. Because of this reason my parents scolded me and I ran away from my home and came to Delhi. Earlier also I was desperate to visit Delhi. How would Delhi be? I used to think. When I came to Delhi I searched for Lal Quila for three days and was wandering on the roads. After that I got a job in a teashop. I worked there for one month and then I asked for money. The owner of the shop didn't give me any money. I took the train and came to Old Delhi. Then I started living in a night shelter. Now I work in a garment shop for two hours in morning and rest of the time I devote to my studies. I work as well as study now.

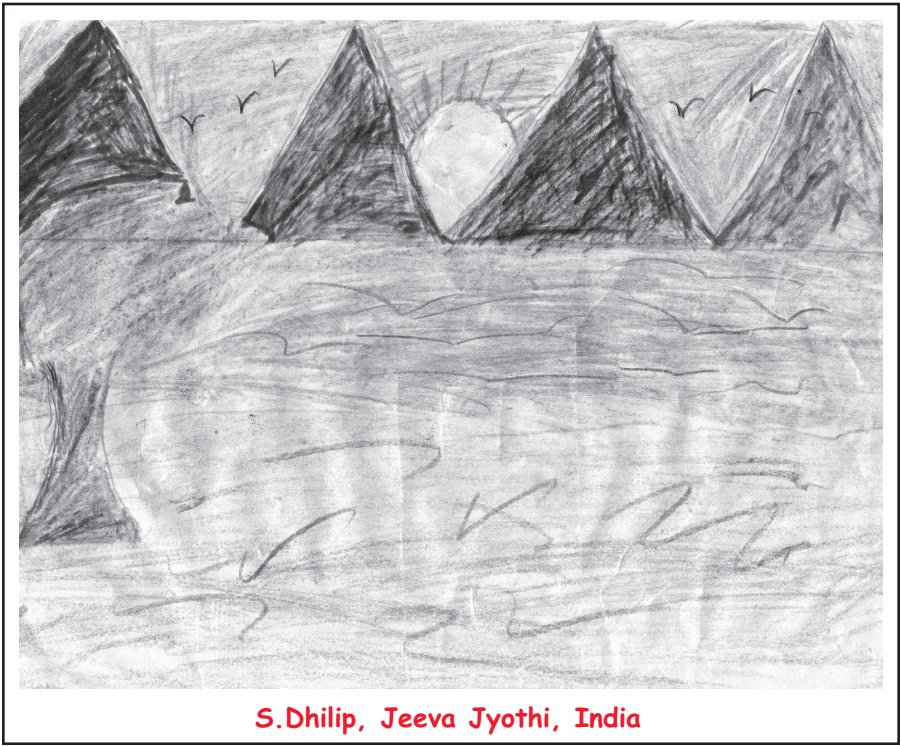
How I Won a Challenge

Maduranga Bopitiya,
Deepthi Children's Organisation, Sri Lanka

I study in seventh class at Koongastenna Vidyalaya. I have two brothers and a sister.

My parent's livelihood is farming. We led a normal life until one day when my father met with an accident. He was taken to Colombo general hospital. Doctors said that he should be operated. It needed a lot of money. We did not have a huge sum like that. After the accident there were obstacles to our education. No money to buy our books. Mother was helpless. I grew vegetables and herbs in my garden. I sold these at the children's fair and got money. With this money my father was able to get his medicines and has now recovered.

I faced a challenge and learned. My class teacher and the principal in return gave me some presents of appreciation.



S.Dhilip, Jeeva Jyothi, India

United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC)

Safique Alam, 16years, MJCC, India

The UNCRC adopted by the U.N. general assembly in 1989 and ratified by India in 1992 is a comprehensive document on human rights legislation. In India, the constitutional mandate on children's rights provides a sound framework for policy, planning and action for us to make our future dreams come true. Every child wants that his/her country should contribute towards securing the rights of the child. This is possible if we are aware of the articles that are part of this convention. Lets study some of these articles:

Article 6:Survival & Development

- Every Child has a right to life
- The state must ensure the survival and maximum development of the child

Article:7,8:Identity and Nationality

- Child has a right to a name and to acquire a nationality

- Parents' rights to preserve or re-establish the child's identity (Name, nationality and family ties).

Articles 9,19,5,25: Parental Care

- Child's right to know and be cared for by parents
- Live with Parents (unless deemed incompatible with the child's best interest)
- Maintain contact with both Parents

Article 24: Health Care

- Child's right to the highest standards of health and access to medical services

Article 28,29: Education

- Child's right to free and compulsory primary education
- Equal access to secondary and higher secondary education

Article 32: Child Labour

- Child's right to protection from economic exploitation

and from engaging in work that constitutes a threat to health, education and development.

Article 23: Special Children

- Special care and training designed to help achieve self-reliance and decent life in society.

Article 40:Juvenile Justice

- The rights of the accused child to be treated with dignity
- The state to protect children from other inhuman or degrading treatment, capital punishment and life imprisonment.

Article 13 : Freedom of Information

- Child's right to seek, receive and impart information through any media

Article 12 : Free Expression of Opinion

- Child's right to express opinion in matters affecting them and to have that opinion heard

Tokai's Rights

Noorujaman Jewel, Aparajeyo, Bangladesh

My name is Tokai,
I pick torn papers.
Give me food,
I long for rice.
I don't have clothes,
Brother, I don't want weapons.
I don't have shelter,
I live in the footpaths.
I want education,
I don't want alms.
I have a wish,
That to be loved.
I have something to say,
Which causes me pain,
Repeatedly I cry,
I have rights.

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India	54	93	67	1025096	25112	2335	64	76
Nepal	55	91	66	23593	821	75	59	66

*Data refer to the most recent year available during the period specified in the column heading.
Source: The State of World's Children 2003, UNICEF, <http://www.unicef.org/sowc03/tables/>
This data has been collated by adult editorial advisors.

Take patients to Doctors and not to Tantrik (Exorcists)!

Razi Haider, Mahila Development Centre, India

By this true story we want to tell you that how much people believe on exorcisms (witchcrafts). They don't take the patients to the doctor and go to the exorcist and then repent. This is the true story of a girl named Geeta. Her parents didn't care for her and they lost her. She was ill and had fever that lasted for many days. Her parents believed in exorcists more than the doctors. She was suffering from high fever but instead of taking her to the doctor they took her to the exorcist. She remained with the exorcists for one month and her condition deteriorated and became critical. Thus they brought her back. The neighbour suggested them to take her to the doctor. They took Geeta lastly to the doctor but it was too late. The doctor refused because she was at the last stage of her life and was counting her last breath. Geeta died and her parents realized that if they had taken her to the doctor earlier she would be alive. They lost their daughter because of their illogical belief.



Md. Shamim Shiekh, 17, Butterflies, India

Doll of Sita

Sita, 9 years, Butterflies, India

Oh my doll start counting,
Say zero- zero- zero,
Become hero-hero-hero.
Oh my doll start counting,
Say one- one- one,
Eat bun-bun-bun.
Oh my doll start counting,
Say two-two two,
Go to zoo- zoo- zoo.
Oh my doll start counting,
Say three- three- three,
Become free- free- free.
Oh my doll start counting,
Say four- four- four,
Open door-door-door.
Oh my doll start counting,
Say five- five -five,
Lets enjoy our life-life-life.

Stop Hazardous Child Labour

Mohammad Salim, 16 years, Aparajeyo, Bangladesh

Bangladesh features as a small country on the world map. Measuring approximately 1,87,570 thousand square k.m, this country has a population of about 17 crore. In this over populated country, adults as well as children work alike. We, children, are working in mill factories, at railway stations, in leather factories, ceramic factories, in battery recharging units, in bricks kilns, in hotels, in match factories, in bidi making industries etc. We children are working in these hazardous industries, when we ought to be in schools and in playgrounds. While working in these industries we are often at the risk of death. And if we don't work, then we might starve to death. Without work we shall not be able to support our parents financially, which would then result in irritated parents abusing their children.

Every year, 12th June is celebrated as anti-Child-Labour day. Bangladesh also observes this day appropriately. We try our best to keep children away from hazardous work. We need each and everyone's support in this regard.



Ha...Ha...Ha

Md. Imran, 15 years, Pakistan

Four Sikhs decided to start a business and opened a motor workshop. But one month passed and no customer came, because their workshop was on the fourth floor. Then they bought a taxi but again could not get passengers as one of them would drive it and three others would be sitting in it.



Prevailing State of Children in Nepal

Laxmi Puri, Child Welfare Scheme, Nepal

If we look upon the history of our world, we see children and women as being worst affected by war and violence. They are tortured physically and mentally. Their right to live and survive is all taken away in a glimpse. They stroll from place to place in search of food and shelter. Violence, extortion and insurgency are the only reason why women and children are passing through this phase. The ongoing violence is one of the major problems that Nepal is facing today. The most affected sector is education. Due to this there is a conflict going on between the government and the student union which has resulted in

strike, firefighting, lockouts, destruction of government office buildings etc. The greatest impacts of all these factors are on the children of Nepal today. Day by day they are mentally shrinking. Of course there are government homes that are for these unfortunate children but it is limited to only urban areas of Nepal. This facility has not yet reached to the rural areas. So, children from the rural sector who are below 14 years are misrepresented everywhere. That is why the number of child labour is increasing day by day. The main reason of increased child labour is poverty and no one is bothered to listen to their

voice. The government has agreed to support the rights of children, remove polio from its root, decrease the number of child labour etc that is in the national and international proposal but on the ground level the result is null, nothing is implemented. Children are still working in houses, factories, road construction etc which clearly indicates their dark future. Four lakhs of children are engaged in household works and factories. Approximately 392 female girl child are raped and sexually harassed, and every year 400 girls are lost and sold off in the market. The number of Nepali children that are working in

India is approximately 16 lakhs and 11 lakhs in rest of the world. Roughly we can say that only 34% of the children in Nepal are living their childhood. 66% of the population of children is deprived of their own childhood days, which is a matter of great concern. Therefore we as the children of Nepal should try to overcome these situations for our better tomorrow. Child labour should be minimized. Children's right to education, juvenile justice, and other services should be coordinated and delivered thereby ensuring better tomorrow for children.

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Pakistan	43	109	84	144971	5340	582	60	46
Sri Lanka	130	19	17	19104	332	6	72	97

*Data refer to the most recent year available during the period specified in the column heading.
Source: The State of World's Children 2003, UNICEF, <http://www.unicef.org/sowc03/tables/>
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