

“MPRC Initiative” – Improving SRHR for women in Nepal

Background:

Nepal is among the poorest and least developed countries in the world where more than one third of the population is below the absolute poverty line. GDP per capita of Nepal is also one of the lowest in the world, and over a third of the population living on less than one a day. Social and cultural disparity between men and women demonstrates significant gaps in every aspect of women's life. Nepalese women spend more than 16 hours in household chores, but their labor is not considered as productive work. The practice of early child marriage is a major factor responsible for high proportion of teen-age child bearing in Nepal. Around 44% women are married before the age of 15 year and among them 42% child bearing is completed before the age of 19. The adolescent girls have tremendous nutritional deficiencies, which may affect their children resulting in infant's low weight birth, disabilities or death. Another burning problem is that adolescent girls are facing, sexual exploitation. Every year 12,000 girls from different parts of the country are trafficked to different cities of India as sex workers. Poverty may be the main cause behind the problem of sex work and trafficking. But the attitude of discrimination, abuse and violence against girl children and women are also found to be a major contributing factor to this social cause.

Beneficiaries:

Adolescent girls (10-19) and young women (15-24 yrs) especially poor and marginalized including trafficked returnees.

Objectives:

Long term objective – To improve the wellbeing and livelihoods of marginalized young women in Nepal

Direct objective – To improve the sexual and reproductive health and rights of poor and marginalized young women in seven district of Nepal through increased access to information and services and through being empowered to make health and welfare decisions that affect their wellbeing

Results Targeted:

- Multi-Purpose Resource Center will be established and strengthened to provide sexual and reproductive health information and service to adolescent girls and young women, and the broader community in seven districts of Nepal
- Adolescent girls and young women will be able to make informed decisions concerning their sexuality and reproductive health in seven districts of Nepal
- Trafficked returnees and young girls and women vulnerable for trafficking in project districts will be able to access services and information to improve their sexual and reproductive health status, offer advice on viable alternatives to sex work, and facilitate reintegration into communities

Implemented district:

Dailekh and Mohottari (new project areas) and Morang, Sunsari, Kapilbastu, Banke and Bardiya (continue project area)

Project Duration:

January 2008 to December 2010