

SEGMENT 1**10:00:24 – 10:00:45**

Nepal, a tiny kingdom tucked away in the Himalayan mountains between India and China, home to Mount Everest, the world's tallest peak, and 24 million people. It's also one of the poorest countries in the world. A third of its children have never been to school. And it has been estimated that there are 2.6 million working children in the country.

10:00:54 – 10:00:45

I'm meeting with one of Nepal's most well-known daughters to take a look at what is being done to help the children here.

10:01:01 – 10:01:32

Hi I'm Manisha Koirala. I'm an actress and I'm from Nepal. I've been very lucky – I have a family who loves me and a happy childhood and I went school. But many of the children here don't go to school, and over 75 per cent of them are girls. Many of them have to work to help support their families.

Today, I have a visitor who has come a long way to find out how we can give back to our children their childhood.

10:01:44 – 10:01:57

Over 40% of the children are working in the country today. The carpet industry is known for exploiting these children. The government, as well as, organizations such as the Rugmark Foundation has helped to reduce the number of children who are exploited.

10:01:58 – 10:02:33

The Nepal Rugmark was established in December 1995 as part of the global non-profit initiative to remove child labour from the carpet industry of Nepal. Nepal Rugmark in the last six years has achieved a lot. We have rescued around 465 children, out of which we have given education and rehabilitation to 324 children. At present, we still have 144 children in our three rehabilitation centres. Apart from this, under the community rehabilitation programme, we are supporting 76 children for their education needs.

10:02:36 – 10:02:41

So you learn how to read here at Rugmark?
You must like reading cos you read very well.

10:02:49 – 10:03:13

The Tri-Ratna Cooperative School is basically part of Bungamati Cooperative Society and Rugmark has tied up with them to run one of its rehabilitation centres because we believe in community support. Our children are studying in their school. They have been supporting us in terms of accepting the carpet children which is usually a difficult thing in other schools.

10:03:14 – 10:03:39

It's kind of an interesting system that they have set up here, very co-dependent, very integrated. At the same time Rugmark to me is a very unique business – they are kind of in the business of eradicating themselves, of eradicating the problem of child labour in the rug industry but yet they are very dependent on the rug industry to fund the support for the children, their education, the schooling, the clothing, the meals, et cetera.

10:03:40 – 10:03:59

We provide them all education materials, fees. uniforms, stationary and everything. We have recently started day-care centres which is an achievement for NRF in that the workers have been able to give a better output to the owners which makes us more acceptable to the carpet industry.

10:04:00 – 10:04:17

A lot of progress has been made in stemming out child carpet labourers in Nepal. But more needs to be done to take children out of the workplace - from the farms, brick factories, construction sites, hotels and restaurants – wherever they are exploited as cheap labour.

10:04:32 – 10:04:52

Child labour, in my opinion, is a terrible waste of potential and talent, reducing a child at his most impressionable time – a time when he should be learning and growing and developing – reducing them doing menial tasks, such as in the rug factories.

10:04:56 – 10:05:11

Well, the problem of child labour started somewhere around early 1990's where there was a major demand for Nepalese carpets and the industry was not able to fill its labour shortage. So they started hiring and training child labour.

10:05:15 – 10:05:49 (NEPALESE)

Initially it was very difficult to work in the factory.

There was no medical facility.

In winter, the wool used to cut my fingers.

But I had to work despite the pain.

Food was not enough.

Sometimes there was only one meal a day, either lunch or dinner, and it was never a full meal.

We worked continually for long hours, from 6 AM to 8 PM everyday.

10:05:50 – 10:06:26 (NEPALESE)

I used to start work at 5 AM and it lasts till 9 PM.

I used to be very tired after working the long hours.

But after 9 PM, we had to go and cook.

The plates and utensils from lunch were very dirty and we were asked to wash them.

When I had to do that, I felt that my parents left me to suffer this alone.

10:06:27 – 10:06:40

Child labour is a very, very complicated problem. You can't just say we need to eradicate child labour so let's take the kids out of the work force because a lot of families depend on the children.

10:06:41 – 10:07:04

[Conversation between Wang Lee Hom and street boy. Boy's answers have been rephrased, i.e not word for word.]

What's most important to you?

Most important, I help my family. We don't have our own house, we have to rent it.

Ok. So you have four people in your family?

No, 12.

12 people in your family?

Yes

So how old were you when you started working here?

When I was 5, I started working.

For 2 years I sold bags.

I have been a guide for the past 5 years.

10:07:08 – 10:07:33

Manoj has been working in Durbar Square as a guide since he was five. So it's been seven years. He's fluent in English, Nepalese, Hindi. He's rattling out French phrases, Espanol (Spanish). How does he know all these stuff? He's never been to school before and he learnt it all on the streets. He learnt it all from basically heckling tourists. His name is Manoj and he's really quite an exceptional individual.

10:07:35 – 10:08:05

There's no question that Manoj is extremely talented and intelligent, quick and he has a lot of smarts that can only be categorised as street smarts because he is a street kid. But the sad part about Manoj is when you ask him what he wants do when he grows up, he says he wants to be a guide and he doesn't ever foresee himself leaving that kind of lifestyle or entering a school system because he does not have the money to be in the school system. And him being a guide working as a guide helps him support his family of 12.

10:08:08 – 10:08:49

Nepalese children are not alone. Some 250 million children between the ages of 5 and 14 are working in developing nations around the world. But child labour is not the root of the problem – it is a symptom of poverty. It is a product of low income levels and a lack of alternative income sources for poor families who then look to their children to help put them food on the table. A central strategy for preventing child labour is education. Educating our children can help secure better employment opportunities and a better life for them and their children. Education, that's the key to breaking the vicious cycle of poverty.

SEGMENT 2**10:09:38 – 10:10:12**

Children are the real victims of poverty. It's poverty that forces them into exploitative work and it's poverty that contributes to the trafficking of children across borders where they are forced to toil away in sweatshops, or beg on the streets or work in brothels. Women and children, some as young as seven years old, are forced to work in sex industries where they suffer physical and mental abuse.

In Nepal, the trafficking of girls and women is a serious problem.

An organization called CeLRRd, with support from UNICEF, is working to prevent girls from being trafficked and sexually exploited.

10:10:26 – 10:10:40

CeLRRD has been involved in prevention of trafficking for the last five years. We do legal training for the empowerment of women, as well as, we do a lot of education activities for adolescent girls.

10:10:45 – 10:11:03

Trafficking of girls became a commercial business between Nepal and India, especially after 1980. In the last 20 years, it has become a big industry, controlled by the underworld and it has a lot of money, greater than the tourism industry.

10:11:09 – 10:11:40

In the past, traffickers used to obtain girls from the rural villages. But in the 90's, a large number of girls started coming to the cities. So they don't have to go to the villages to obtain girls. And abduction used to be a very common form in the past but now the major form of trafficking is enticement for employment in India because it is generally thought that the India market would give more salary to the girls.

10:11:42 – 10:11:54 [TEXT SUPER]

Every year 5000 to 7000 girls are trafficked from Nepal.

1 in 5 girls are below 14 when they are trafficked.

10:11:55 – 10:12:04

The statistics on trafficking of girls and women are heartbreaking. But the numbers alone do not tell the tragedy of victims such as Chhakali.

10:12:11 – 10:13:13 (Nepalese)

We were very poor. We had a cow.

It had gone to the fields.

My mother's sister-in-law, came with some sweets and asked me to go to the movies with her.

As I was a kid, I was very keen to watch movies.

So I agreed.

She said she will wait for me to get changed.

I feed the fodder to the cow, changed and went back to her.

We left.

But instead of going to the movies, she took me to her place.
She had a different plan for me.
She wanted to introduce me to a guy.
But I refused
She said she meant well for me.
She said that I am poor and unhappy and no matter how much I worked, my parents will still beat me up.

10:13:20 – 10:14:03 (Nepalese)

This guy KC lives at my mother's sister's house.
He smoked and so did I.
He used to offer me cigarettes.
One day, he offered me a smoke.
I didn't know if he had put anything in the cigarette.
I went to the river to bathe and he followed me there.
He said he was going to Kathmandu and asked me if I would go.
Somehow I could not say yes or no.
He picked up my clothes, put them on a bus and I followed him.
I didn't know why or how...
But when I reached Kathmandu, I realised what was going on.

10:14:08 – 10:14:41

It is hard to actually imagine, to put yourself into her situation. I can't imagine being a 12 year old and being drugged and being kidnapped, being taken away from my family.
Here is the worst form of slavery, where girls are being sold at the age of 10 and 11. maybe younger. And they are put behind cages and exploited. They are mentally bruised. They are physically bruised. Their spirits are bruised.

10:14:44 – 10:15:35 (Nepalese)

We traveled for 3 nights on a train.
After getting off the train we boarded a jeep.
They took us to a brothel.
I was crying.
They sent a guy to me because I cried.
He dragged me inside a room and tried to force himself on me.
I bit him on the hand and ran out.
They told me that I had been sold for 30,000 rupees

10:15:36 – 10:15:46

She suffered 4 years of hell before she was rescued during a police raid. She has since returned to her village where she is working with the General Welfare Pratisthan, or the GWP.

10:15:51 – 10:16:05 (Nepalese)

The first time we met Chhakali, she in bed.
She did not say she came back from India.

She did not say she had AIDS.
The first day we visited her, we cleaned her wounds and loved her like a sister.
Then we met her everyday.

10:16:05 – 10:17:02 (Nepalese)

They told me that if I worked for GWP, I would go around the village and meet people like you and me and distribute pamphlets and advise them.
So I started going with them to the villages.
I tell people that we are their sisters and we have come to talk to them about AIDS, how it is transmitted and how HIV can develop into AIDS.
We advise our friends in the village that they should always carry a condom in their pocket.

10:17:03 – 10:17:14 (Nepalese)

People from all over come and asks us about our work and we tell them.

10:17:14 – 10:17:25 (Nepalese)

If someone had told me, then maybe I would have been spared.
So I educate them because if somebody tells them now, then they will be aware.

10:17:27 – 10:17:50

I'm impressed with Chhakali for the fact that she has come out and talked about her life, about what she went through because girls who go through this kind of trauma are either too shy, or too hurt and too bruised even to want to express themselves and tell the world what they have gone through.

SEGMENT 3**10:18:47 – 10:19:13 (Nepalese)**

Flowers blossom on a thorny plant.
Our school is on Dhodeni Hill.
We were late.
We met our friends in the school.
You study and I will study too.
We will not quit studying.
We were late.
We met our friends in the school.

10:19:15 – 10:19:47

1 in 3 Nepalese children do not attend the formal schools provided by the state. Over three quarters of these out-of-school children are girls. This is especially true in the rural areas such as Kavre, where the children have to stay home to do housework or take care of younger siblings or work on farms. Distance is also a major factor: some children live up to 2 hours away on foot from the nearest school. So the OSP, or Out Of School Project was introduced to bring the schools to the children.

10:19:48 – 10:20:04

Hello. (in Nepalese)

Hello. (in Nepalese)

Let's go in.

Alright, check out the classroom!

Today I made my first trip to the OSP. And to be honest, I was very impressed.

Hello.

And walking to the classroom is just like (walking to) any classroom.

10:20:08 – 10:20:12

The teacher – excellent, only 19 years old and really brilliant.

10:20:17 – 10:20:38

The teacher was wonderful and she wanted to educate and promote education because a woman is an equal part of the society and the main force in the family. I think, just like in any education system, the quality of teaching is of the utmost importance. And these girls seem to love her and you could feel the vibe that these kids were really learning.

10:20:41 – 10:20:58 (Nepalese)

The objective of the OSP is to provide informal education to all kids in our community who are deprived of formal schooling for any reason.

The classes are conducted 2 hours a day at a time that fits into their daily schedule.

10:20:58 – 10:21:17 (Nepalese)

Schools are not prevalent in the villages although people are now realising its importance in the villages.

Education is very important, especially in Nepal where it is undeveloped and the majority of women have not had an education.

10:21:18 – 10:22:17 (Nepalese)

The kids were not going to school.

It was suggested that we give a room to conduct classes.

So I did.

I gave a vacant room so that the kids in the village can study and my daughters will study too.

I want them to be educated and to be clever because they can't even speak properly now.

But if they could read, then they will become more independent.

If my daughters are educated, when they need to go anywhere to do something, for example, if they go to Kathmandu, they can read, write and understand more.

10:22:20 – 10:23:01

It's really nice. I can see people getting motivated to send their children to the schools. Also the fact that the disparity between the girl child and the boy child will disappear and education in the future will be equally important for boys and girls.

It's going to be a slow process but the intensity is so strong – there are more than 200 schools like this just around this area. This is the kind of the work that is being done. I'm sure that very soon people will be motivated to go to school and realise the value of education.

10:23:04 – 10:23:13 (Nepalese)

I was not able to go to school before.

I could not learn to add, subtract and sing songs.

I can go to school in the morning and cook for my family during the day.

10:23:26 – 10:23:44 (Nepalese)

In school, I learn a lot.

I can read, write, learn mathematics and listen to songs.

That's why I like the OSP.

I want to be like Miss Shova and teach other kids in the village

10:23:47 – 10:24:23 (Nepalese)

I am very interested in the OSP.

I live in this community and I'm educated.

But there are many kids here who are not educated.

In this day and age, education is very important.

Many girls are not educated.

And there are people from disadvantaged class who are very backward.

I think if they learn even a bit, it will help them a lot.

10:24:31 – 10:25:21

What I really hope to see happen in villages like this, is the preservation of this kind of culture and lifestyle. I think it's great. I mean these kids are so cute and they're so nice. And everybody seems to be very happy and harmonious together. But at the same time, when asked "What do you want to do when you grow up? What dreams do you have?" These questions seem to be impossible to answer to them. I really hope that there can be a happy medium, that the culture can be preserved and the education system can be enhanced to give people and the kids here more access to education, to knowledge, for whatever ends that they want.

10:25:52 – 10:26:12

Children have a right to education. It provides them with knowledge and skills to deal with life. It empowers them so that they are no longer vulnerable to abuse and exploitation.

There can be no nobler task than giving our children a better future because our children's future is the future of the world.

SEGMENT 1

00:57 / 09:39 / 19:16 [once every segment]

Wang Lee Hom

01:01 / 10:01 / 20:26 [once every segment]

Manisha Koirala

02:05

Ajay Singh Karki

Executive Director

Nepal Rugmark Foundation

05:22

Parbati Tiwa

06:04

Jhalak Man Tamang

06:44

Manoj

SEGMENT 2

10:27

Yubaraj Sangroula

Co-ordinator

Center for Legal Research and Resource Development

10:11:42 – 10:11:54 [TEXT SUPER]

Every year 5000 to 7000 girls are trafficked from Nepal.

1 in 5 girls are below 14 when they are trafficked.

12:25

Chhakali Bal

16:01

Rekha Shrestha

Administrative Officer, GWP

17:04

Shukre Lama

Chhakali's husband

SEGMENT 3

20:42

Shiva Shova Khadka

OSP Teacher

23:27

Manju