Alarming number of children missing in Nepal: Immediate action needed

Photo: from childstsnepal.org

The number of missing children in Nepal has increased alarmingly in the past seven years. According to data from the National Council of Child Rights and Nepal Police, 65,514 children were reported missing between 2072 and 2079, of which 42,812 are still missing. Girls are missing in greater numbers than boys, and 19 to 21 children between the ages of 10 and 12 go missing daily nationwide.

Koshi province has recorded the highest number of cases, while the capital, Kathmandu, also sees an increase in missing children. However, data on missing children provided by the National Council of Child Rights and Nepal Police are different, indicating a lack of cooperation between the two government agencies responsible for reducing the number of cases.

The fiscal year 2078/79 had the highest number of missing children, with 14,957 cases reported, of which 8,307 are still missing. Children fleeing toxic environments and parental polygamy, violence, abuse, unmet expectations, financial difficulties, and kidnapping for ransom contribute to missing children.

Under the Act Relating to Children of 2018, every child has the right to live with dignity. However, this right is violated when children are forced to work as child laborers in adult entertainment areas in cities, face discrimination, abuse, and sexual violence, and are denied a proper education.

Given the gravity of the situation, it is imperative to challenge the status quo and hold those in power accountable for reducing the number of missing children in Nepal.

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Governance Issues of the Week

1. The Karnali Sports Development Council constructed the stadium at Birendranagar Municipality without getting the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) report approved. They falsely claimed the Regional Conditions List (TOR) report was the EIA report and commenced construction. As a result, the council was fined Rs. 10,000 in accordance with the Provincial Environment Act, 2077.

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2. During the fiscal year 2078/079, a total of 160 writ petitions were filed in Administrative Court, High Court, and Supreme Court against the Public Service Commission. These petitions covered a range of issues, including disputes over minimum educational requirements, application forms without citizenship submission, staff promotions, and integration, among others.

   Read more: eKarmachari

3. The Ministry of Labour, Employment, and Social Security has proposed to amend the procedure of granting labor permits to migrant workers in destination countries. If approved, this amendment would eliminate the need for migrant workers to return to Nepal to obtain new labor permits or renew existing ones.

   Read more : The Himalayan Times

4. The District Court in Kathmandu has remanded six individuals in judicial custody, including Prithvi Bahadur Shah. They have been charged with fraud, document forgery, cooperative fraud, and organized crime for cheating several foreigners. According to the CIB, the accused illegally obtained a sum of Rs 639.5 million via online hacking.

   Read more: The Kathmandu Post

5. The government allocated Rs. 60 million in the current fiscal year for the Honorary Bibhusan Award after a repeated outcry against wasteful spending. However, the Ministry of Home Affairs has already spent Rs. 150 million, going against the government's decision to reduce costs, with plans to distribute the award to a record-high number of people of 982.

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6. The Civil Aviation Authority of Nepal (CAAN) grounded all aircraft of Guna Airlines after discovering flaws in the airline's financial audit. The business hasn't paid its employees in three months and owes CAAN Rs 4 million.

   Read more: Republica

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