

## Policy Brief-5

May 2022

# Campaign against discrimination through art-based approaches

### Summary:

Nepali legislation protects citizens – including young people and children – against all forms of discrimination. However, society still discriminates against people because of their gender or because of their caste. Young researchers in the Janapriya Child Club, Palpa, have explored the issue of discrimination, looking particularly at its root causes. Using art-based methods, including street drama, music, photo collage, and a short film, Club members have engaged in dialogue with the Teachers' and Parents' Association and developed an action plan for a campaign against discrimination. Their work has informed the following recommendations.

### Key Policy

### Recommendations

1. Local government should:
  - a. launch a campaign against social discrimination in every quarter.
  - b. award the dignitaries of the non-Dalit community working against caste discrimination with certificates and cash every year.
  - c. promote girl's education and provide scholarships to at least 20 girls for technical education.
2. Local village development organizations, mothers' groups and youth clubs should carry out awareness pamphlets and wall painting and encourage others to do the same by recognizing those who work against discrimination and respecting society.

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*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

Diversity is at the foundations of Nepali society. The Constitution of Nepal clearly spells out the fundamental rights to equality (Article 18) and against untouchability and discrimination in (Article 24). In line with the UN Convention on the Rights of Child, Nepal's Children's Act 2075 (2018), clearly states that 'No discrimination should be made against any child on grounds of religion, race, caste, tribe, sex, origion, language, culture, ideological thoughts, physical or mental condition, physical disability, marital status, family status, employment, health condition, economic or social condition.' This extends to not discriminating between males and females when it comes to education or health care.

Despite this legislation, different forms of discriminations are still in practice within Nepali society, resulting in being evicted, ostracized and even killed. It is not uncommon for women and girls to be barred from entering their houses when they are menstruating, resulting in lack of food and sleep and being barred from going to school. As well as gender, discrimination in the name of caste also endures within Nepali society and legal protections against discrimination between Dalits and non-Dalits are not implemented effectively.

## The research

Members of the Janapriya Child Club, Palpa explored these issues of discrimination, so that they could reduce both caste and gender discrimination, develop brotherhood, build leadership skills and increase learning achievements. By exploring the issues using art-based approaches, the Club found that discrimination is caused by conservative traditions, illiteracy, poverty, social backwardness and religious bigotry. To tackle the issues and raise awareness, they developed a program of activities including street drama, music, photo collage competition, and a short film, which they shared with the Teachers' and Parents' Association (TPA). Together with the TPA, they then co-developed an action plan for a campaign against discrimination, which they have subsequently shared with the community and local policy makers.



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