

# Committee on the Rights of the Child

Day of General Discussion

Friday, 28 September 2001 – OHCHR (Palais Wilson, Geneva)

**Violence Against Children within the Family and in Schools**

Submission by **United School, Nepal**

### Violation against Children in Schools

Nepal is a developing country. The literacy rate of Nepalese is 40%. There are around 16 000 schools in the country. Most of the schoolteachers are not trained. As such the teachers do not really know how the teaching is to be started. They even do not know to study their student's psychology and deal accordingly. The teachers are found punishing the students very brutally in many places in the past.

- His teacher made Master Sumesh Budathoki eat grass because he did not memorize the lesson. (Kantipur, 7th July 1999.)
- Her teacher locked Ms Rita Rai in bathroom, as she did not bring her homework regularly for two days. (Samacharpatra, 19th October 2000)
- Master Nirajan was hanged upside-down for five minutes as he tore the book of his friend. (Space-time, 2nd April 2001)

"17 students were admitted in mental hospital, Katmandu alone for treatment due to punishment in schools in the year 1999, 27 in 2000 and 12 in this year respectively," Dr. Nirakaran Man Shrestha, Director of Mental Hospital, Kathmandu says in an interview to Nepal Television on 17th July 2001. There is no evidence of hospitalized children due to physical punishment, as people do not bother to take the students to hospitals for minor injuries due to illiteracy.

### UNITED SCHOOL'S POLICY

The school's policy bans corporal punishments and verbal abuse of the students. This has been done because: Violent approach to students teaches them to use violence against others; Corporal punishment has no didactic value.

Instead of corporal punishment and abuse, the school uses the following method (approaches) where the punishment of child is indicated.

1. Make them write 10, 20, 30, times their commitment to improving their mischief, e.g. If a child does not do his/her homework, he/she is made to write, "I will always do my homework" a number of times as per the nature of the problems.
2. The child is made to stand in the corner of the classroom for 10 to 20 minutes.
3. The child is made to clean the classroom.
4. The child is made to pick up the litter of her/his school compound.
5. Stop the child to take part in his/her favorite games for one day/ days as per the nature of his / her mischief.
6. Parents are informed of the students' such mischief. They are suggested not to allow them to watch television for certain time as per the nature of the mischief.

The school has successfully improved discipline of many students in this way. The teachers were given workshops on this topic. The permissible circumstances and ways of punishment are described in school's policy and the Principal monitors their behavior in this respect.

Address:

Narayan Pradhan, Principal  
United School, Satdobato,  
GPO Box No. 8975 EPC 1195, Lalitpur, Kathmandu, Nepal.