

CARE Gender and Empowerment



**THE CULTURAL CONTEXT OF CHILD
MARRIAGE IN NEPAL AND BANGLADESH:**
Findings from CARE's Tipping Point Project
Community Participatory Analysis

RESEARCH REPORT

FORSAKING CHILD MARRIAGE – WHAT'S AT STAKE?

February 23, 2015



Tipping Point: Digging Up the Roots of Child Marriage to Replant the Future



	% girls marrying before age 18	% girls marrying before age 15
Bangladesh	65	29
India	47	18
Nepal	41	10
Pakistan	21	3
Sri Lanka	12	2

Source: www.girlsnotbrides.org



Local Partner Organizations



Dalit Social Development Center NEPAL

DSDC's vision is to promote a self-reliant and dignified Dalit society, with a mission to mobilize Dalits in a participatory way and to facilitate their access to and control over local resources. They also work to inform community groups of their rights, and facilitate their access to rights and resources by linking them to local networks and governments. Their priority groups are the poorest of the poor, poor, vulnerable, and socially excluded women, illiterates, and minority ethnic groups, as well as areas that are more rural and less aware of girls' and Dalits' rights.



Association for Slum Dwellers BANGLADESH

Since its inception in 1988, ASD has worked to ensure poor peoples' participation in development. ASD's focus is to ensure that poor people have support so they can change their own lives. Its mission is to encourage the poor to create solidarity, build skills, link to resources, improve their bargaining position, and have income earning opportunities. ASD works to improve its clients' quality of life through social, institutional and public resources.



Siddhartha Samuyadayik Samaj NEPAL

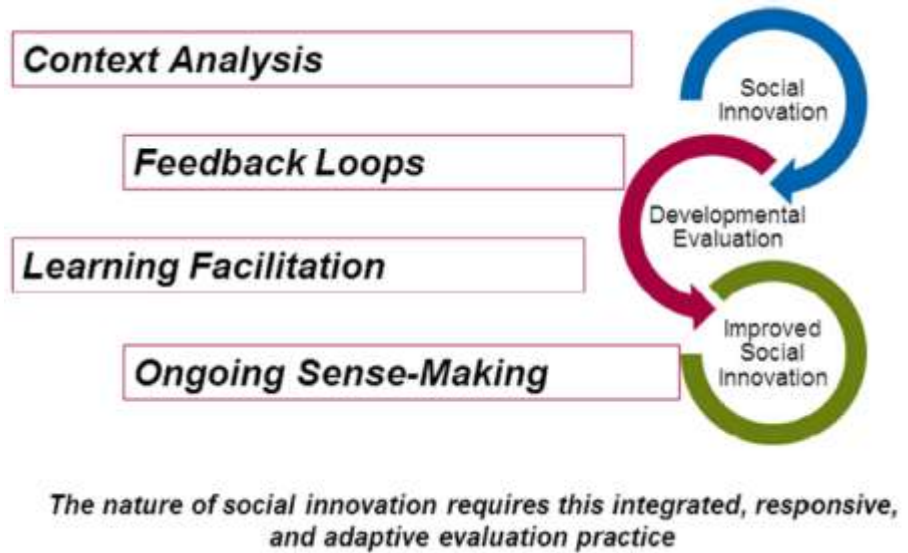
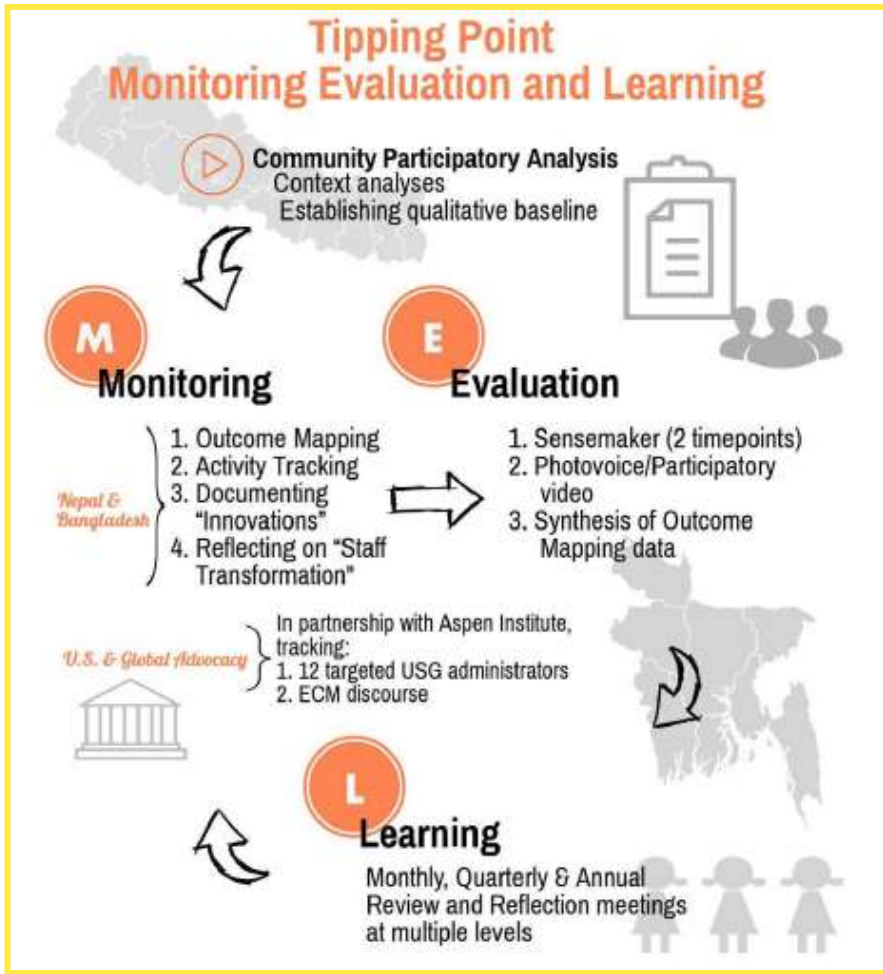
Founded in 2003 years ago, SSS's vision is a fair and equitable society, and their mission is to create social and economic and health empowerment for women to change their status in society. With 9 board members and 110 members, 105 of whom are women, SSS currently has programming in 30 VDCs, with partnerships with CARE, World Vision, the United Mission, and local and national federations. SSS's areas of expertise are WASH, anti-trafficking, education, gender awareness, women's empowerment and advocacy, and community health.



জেহিস

Jaintia Shinnomul Songstha BANGLADESH

JASHIS is a non-profit organization based in the Sylhet district of Bangladesh. JASHIS conducts most of its work through a participatory approach that considers everyone's perspective. JASHIS values providing everyone with an opportunity to participate in the planning process, and a role in decision making. JASHIS has gathered knowledge and skill through extensive training on PRA tools, and the team applies their learning during all stages of a project.



The monitoring, evaluation, and learning (MEL) approach for this initiative is driven by a focus on **facilitating innovation** and **prioritizing learning**. The MEL design is built on **Developmental and Feminist evaluation** principles.

Objectives of the Tipping Point Community Analysis (CPA) Study

RESEARCH PERSPECTIVE: to deepen understanding of the contextual factors and root causes driving the prevalence of child marriage in particular regions of Nepal and Bangladesh.

PROGRAMMING PERSPECTIVE: intended to inform innovative and context-specific program design.

MONITORING AND EVALUATION PERSPECTIVE: to provide clarity on outcomes and measures to focus on, and to provide baseline data for some indicators of change.

FEMINIST VALUES PERSPECTIVE: to promote learning and build capacity at the local level, incorporating a focus on learning by proactively creating space for review and reflection at every level.

The CPA study was designed to build capacity of the project field staff as knowledge workers, amplify their skills to engage with participatory data collection tools, analysis and sense-making, and use findings from their research to inform the program design.

1 MEL WORKSHOP

- Capacity building on Monitoring Evaluation & Learning (MEL)
- Development of Theories of Action
- Identification of what we need to find out and from whom

2 DESIGN OF CPA PROCESS AND TOOLS

- Remotely designed with consultants
- Input from MEL colleagues

3 PILOTING AND TRAINING

- Piloting and training to change tools and questions as needed
- Capacity building for use of participatory data collection tools, analysis, and sensemaking

4 DATA COLLECTION

- Accompaniment in collection of data
- Facilitation of reflection after each cycle

5 ANALYSIS AND SENSEMAKING

- Group sensemaking and planning workshop
- Macro analysis and report by research consultant



In both countries, with support from project teams, community-based social mobilizers in Nepal and field facilitators in Bangladesh used several participatory exercises with different respondent groups in each village to collect data.



Participatory Data Collection Tools

Key Informant Interviews

Social Mapping

Visioning

Seasonal Calendar

Risks and Benefits

Timeline

The study purposively used participatory exercises for data collection that would also facilitate conversation amidst community members on the issue of child marriage, what is driving parents' decisions, what adolescents aspire for themselves, and what the contextual realities are



Highlights of Tools

Visioning

This exercise was conducted to explore the dreams and aspirations of adolescents, paying particular attention to the barriers and facilitators to those dreams. Demographic information on sex, religion, age, education, marriage, and gauna (Nepal only) status was recorded.

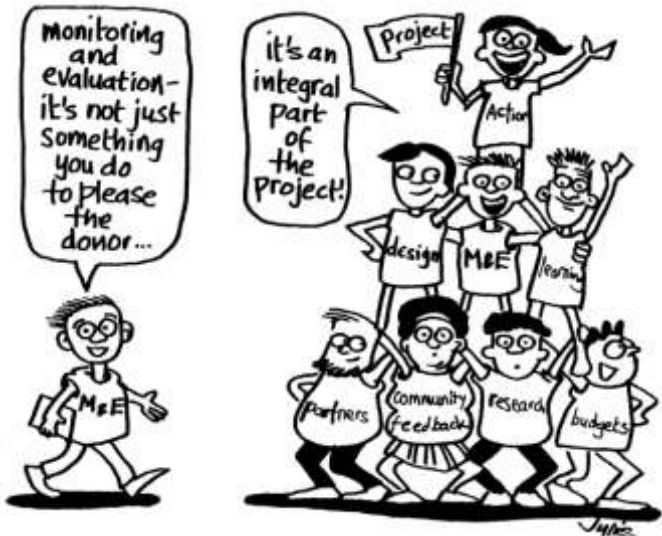
Risks and Benefits

This exercise sought to understand the communities' perceptions of the risks and benefits of child marriage on adolescents, with special focus on girls. Four lists were created to record the groups' perceptions about marriage for boys and for girls: (a) the benefit of getting married before age 18, (b) the benefits of getting married after age 18, (c) the risks of getting married before age 18, and (d) the risks of getting married after age 18.

Why use such an approach...

Starting to see more “Evaluative Thinking” amongst field colleagues and overall project team

“Excavating the root causes of child marriage and trying to come up with a theory of action together in a participatory manner gave us a feeling that our views were heard, respected and included-because of this we had a sense that we have collective ownership of the purpose of the project.”



Engaging in the data collection, analyses, and sensemaking has helped the teams be reflective and critical about the strategies they will be implementing and what community driven programming and monitoring can look like

WANT TO LEARN MORE?

WEBSITE:

www.care.org/our-work/womens-empowerment/child-marriage/tipping-point

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