

International Webinar

Experiences of Separated Children in Nepal

Virtual Event, November 28^h & 29th, 2022

2 to 5 PM (Nepal Time) 8:15 to 11:15AM (UK Time)

Exploring the Experiences of Children Facing Parental Separation in Kathmandu: through

Practitioner's Lens

Organized by

Liverpool John Moores University, UK and

International Webinar on Experiences of Separated Children in Nepal

Kadambari Memorial College, School of Social Work, Kathmandu Nepal

Parental separation is an increasing issue affecting children in Nepal. Brought about by poverty, the perception of improving life opportunities, better education, changes in family relationships, migratory work patterns and more, children separated from their parents often move to a childcare home or boarding school or cities in labour work etc. Poverty affects parental choices and, in some cases, children are forced to live away from their parents to earn or live on the street or with the employee. Although UN-CRC, UN Alternative Guidelines for the Alternatives care of Children and the 2019 UN resolution have been highlighting the risks of harm associated with child separation and the importance of parental care, 1.3 million children in South Asia were found to living in institutional care, the largest in the. The recorded number of institutionalized children is 11, 350¹ in Nepal. However, many others are experiencing parental separation but are not recorded as separated children in Nepal. If these numbers were summed up, the number of children in child separation becomes significant.

The extent of parental separation and its impact on children in Nepal is unknown. Anecdotal evidence shows interruption in parental care influences children's development impacting their mental health and well-being. The Sustainable Development Goals set for the world strive for the well-being of people and the planet and include 8 goals, 35 targets and 76 indicators directly related to children. Most of these are education, health, violence, social security, mental or physical punishment, trafficking and birth registration.² All of these goals and indicators are directly related to the dynamics of child separation. Several organizations are working separately to address some of the issues these children face, focusing on child protection, education and mental health needs. However, there is limited research on this issue which could have informed the interventions more precisely.

The gap in research knowledge means approaches are ad hoc and lack an evidence base. Hence this research **Exploring the experiences of children facing parental separation in Kathmandu: through a practitioner's lens** was designed by Liverpool John Moores University(LJMU), UK and Kadambari Memorial College (KMC), School of Social Work, Nepal and completed its study to interview practitioners working in organizations in Kathmandu, representing the first step to gaining insight into the extent of the issue and understanding the nature of children's experiences in the current situation and informing approaches and interventions to address the child protection issue related to the parental separation. The collaborative research team is led by Principle Investigator Dr Sue Kay Flowers, LJMU along with co-investigators Ms Pradipta Kadambari and Dr Nalini Lama, KMC.

² State of children in Nepal, 2020, page 6

Join us for this two-half-day virtual seminar, learn our findings and discuss your experiences. Featuring presentations, plenaries and breakout sessions, we are providing an engaging seminar with you as our collective efforts in leaving no child behind in achieving sustainable development goals for the children in Nepal.

Day: 28th and 29th, November 2022

Time: 2 PM to 5 PM Nepal time

8:15 AM to 11:15 UK time

Virtual Room: Zoom

Google registration link

Contact email: S.J.Kay-Flowers@ljmu.ac.uk,

info@kadambari.edu.np , pradiptakadambari@gmail.co

International Webinar on Experiences of Separated Children in Nepal

Session Itinerary

S.N.	Activities	Time
Day one		
	Check-in and settlement	2:00 – 2:10
1.	Welcome and introduction to Day 1 (session plan)	2:10 – 2: 20
2	Introduction of the collaborative research project	2:20 – 2.35
3.	What is known about separated children’s experiences in Nepal?	2.35 - 2.50
	Coffee break	2.50 -3.00 (10 min)
4	The experiences of separated children in Nepal - comments Reasons of separation (Breakout room discussion)	3.00 - 3.55 (15 minutes discussion, 20 minutes sharing from the group, 15 minutes identifying key themes)
5	The experiences of separated children in Nepal Identifying the difficulties, they face (Breakout room discussion)	3.55 - 4.45 (15 minutes discussion, 20 minutes sharing from the group, 15 minutes identifying key themes)
6.	Main themes and closing of Day 1	4:45- 5:00
S.N.	Activities	Time
Day Two		
	Check-in and settlement	2.00 – 2.10
1.	Welcome and introduction to Day 2 (session plan)	2.10 – 2.20 (10 min)

2.	How the research project was conducted?	2.20 - 2.30
3.	What did we find? (Part 1) Findings - panel presentation and discussion Reasons why children are separated from their parents Separated children's experiences after leaving home The difficulties separated children face Discussion with participants	2.30 – 3.15 10 min 10 min 10 min 15 min
4.	What did we find? (Part 2) Findings - panel presentation and discussion Issues relating to birth registration and citizenship certification Government responses Good practice Discussion with participants	3.15 - 4.0 10 min 10 min 10 min 15 min
	Coffee break	4:00– 4:10 (10 mins)
5.	What next for future actions and research? (Breakout room discussion)	4.10- 4.45
6	Plenary: Bringing ideas together and closing the seminar	4.45- 5.00