

**Integrated Rural Health Development Training Center Nepal**  
**IRHDTC/Nepal**

**'I am a Child, not a Bride' Campaign'**  
**Summary Report**

*(Including the activities carried out during Covid-19 lockdown)*

<b>From:</b>	<b>February, 2020</b>	<b>To:</b>	<b>April, 2020</b>
<p><b>Brief Summary of February 2020:</b> IRHDTC Nepal successfully conducted a trip to Parsagadhi Municipality from 18th February to 24th February 2020 with an objective to refresh the knowledge and provide certificate, uniforms and stationeries to the two child club members of two schools Rastriya Secondary School and Janata Secondary School of Parsagadhi Mnicipality- Parsa, who were oriented on Child and Maternal Health with the slogan of "I am a child, not a bride". Twenty adolescent girls of the two schools were awarded with the certificate and track suit (uniforms) and stationeries distribution program was done with the presence of Deputy Chairperson of Parsagadhi Municipality Ms. Archana Chaudhary on 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2020.</p> <p>Mr. Chetmaan Das, Head of Rastriya Secondary School stated the importance of such type of health related initiatives in Parsagadhi Municipality as there is a very high rate of the child marriage. Mr. Das appreciated the concept of the IRHDTC Nepal and requested to spread this concept not only in two schools but also to the other.</p> <p><b>Municipality says; Campaign should cover all the schools of Parsagadhi Municipality</b></p> <p>Ms. Archana Chaudary, Deputy Chairperson, Parsagadhi Municipality, firstly thanked IRHDTC Nepal for taking such initiatives for the adolescent girls on health, and such type of program should be implemented in all the schools of Parsagadhi Municipality. Ms. Chaudary gave her words to fully support IRHDTC in all matter to implement the program in other school of Parsagadhi Municipality in near future.</p> <p><b>Summary of March and April 2020:</b> Our working area Parsa district lies on Province 2, where few cases of COVID-19 have been found. The Health Ministry of Nepal had confirmed 2 cases of COVID-19 from Parsa district, taking Nepal's COVID-19 tally to 54. It has been reported that all schools of Parsa district are closed and both students and teachers are in self-isolation. Since the country entered into the nationwide lockdown from 24<sup>th</sup> March, 2020 to combat COVID-19 , we have been restricted to travel which has created several challenges to implement our project as per the prepared plan. The Cabinet of Government of Nepal decided to extend the lockdown till Thursday, 7 May 2020, However, we managed to performed several activities which are explained below.</p> <p><b>Specific Purpose- Lockdown Period :</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• To continue "I am a Child, not a Bride" awareness campaign among adolescents of Parsa district even during lock down.</li><li>• To identify the status of adolescents during COVID-19 crisis.</li><li>• To help adolescents to engage in several creative activities so that they can protect their mental health during crisis.</li></ul>			

**Action Taken During Lockdown Period:**

- Regular telephonic follow up to 20 adolescent girls and respective school teachers.
- Identified the status of adolescent's girls during pandemic. All girls are safe and self-isolated with proper hygiene practices following the directions given by the Government of Nepal.
- Ensured none of adolescents (target population) are under domestic violence.
- Provided mental health support by engaging them in several creative works such as drawing, writing poem, articles, indoor games and assigning them to identify COVID-19 status of their own wards.

**Major output:**

- Regular telephonic conversation has become important coping mechanism among adolescents with their mental health issues during crisis.
- We encouraged adolescent girls to utilize the pandemic period into capacity enhancement by involving them into several creative activities as mentioned above.
- Not only adolescent girls, but also their family, peer group, relatives and whole community were benefitted by the telephonic counseling provided by program officer of IRHDTC.
- After this telephonic follow-up, our adolescents' girls including their family are aware of Covid-19 symptoms and its prevention.



