# The Burning Issue

**BVS-Nepal Newsletter - July 2012** 

'Burns are a global public health problem, accounting for an estimated 195 000 deaths annually. Non-fatal burns are a leading cause of morbidity, including prolonged hospitalization, disfigurement and disability, often with resulting stigma and rejection'

Who-report 2012

#### VISION OF BVS NEPAL

Our main objective is to promote a holistic approach to supporting survivors of burns violence. This entails working with partners to provide quality medical and psychosocial care, whilst also promoting legal advocacy, vocational training and long term prevention strategies.

#### Mission

- -To rehabilitate survivors of burns violence with an integrated/ holistic approach
- To prevent the occurrence of burns violence in Nepal through a network of partnerships
- To help construct positive environments in which survivors can live with dignity

#### ACTIVITIES

Support to burns survivors with quality medical and psychosocial care, whilst also promoting legal advocacy, vocational training and long term prevention strategies.



### **121 PATIENTS SUPPORTED**



In close cooperation with government and private hospitals, BVS-Nepal provides medical and surgical care to burns victims. Nutrition, physiotherapy and counselling assistance is given for all the burns patients admitted at the Bir Hospital Burns Unit. Thanks to the contributions from C.H.A.N.C.E.

for Nepal, we were able to support 121 patients in 2011 including 23 surgical operations.

In the beginning of 2012 we started a Nutrition Support Programme for the 22 bed Burns Unit at Kanti Children's Hospital. Also, recently we initiated the weekly recreational activities and schooling support.

## Mother kills self after burning two daughters

MANOLADHIKARI PORTIARA March 8

A mother burnt her two minor daughters and then committed suicide by bruning herself on Monday night in Lekhnath municipality of

Kaski district, said police. Sita Ofha, 32, who owned a small grocery shop at Sis-uwa-8 of Lekhnath municipality, burnt her daughters Simana, 12, and Swastika. 8, following altercation with her husband Shiva Raj, Kaski District Police Office said.

in another room," said Rabindra Poudel, investigation chief at the Kaski police

According to Shiva

Baj, who was interrogated by police on Tuesday, Sita wanted to move elsewhere following disagreement with their land lady, "I refused and Instead tried to convince her to stay as we were doing good business here," Shiva Itaj told Republicn. "But she said she would no longer stay here. I did not



Sita Ojha with her husband Shive Raj and two daughters, Simana and Swastika. File photo

According to Sisuwa police post in-charge Krishna Arval. Simana died at her apartment while Swastika and her mother died in hospital, said inspector Aryal.

'As it appears now, Sita burnt her daughters, who were asleep, by sprinkling kerosene on their hodies

mit such a dreadful act over such petty discord."

Shann Gurung, who had rented a room in the same house, first smelled smoke and kerosene. She woke up Shava Raj sleeping in another room. When he opened the door, Shiva Raj saw the room entirely engulfed by

### **FUNDRAISING AT BRITISH EMBASSY**



On 7th July 2011, **British Ambassador** Excellency John Tucknott generously organized a fund raising event at his residence, British Em-The bassy of Kath-

mandu. The Kadoorie Charitable Foundation donated Nrs 2 lakhs for burn victims in Nepal. His Excellency John Tucknott delivered the amount to BVS- Nepal on behalf of The Kadoorie Foundation. Ambassador Tucknott said the work done by BVS-Nepal was crucial in the treatment and aftercare for burn victims and congratulated BVS-Nepal on its ongoing programmes. His Excellency also expressed hope that the Government of Nepal would increase the amount available to the specialist Burns Unit at Bir Hospital.

### SUPPORT FROM SCHOOLS

Adarsha Vidhyalaya School, Mandir 'A.V.M. School", and The British School of Kathmandu, "TBS", are special partners of BVS Nepal..



TBS parents generously donated a DVD player, books and CDs to Kanti Children's Hospital Burns Ward in a gesture to offer some recreation to the children and the families within the ward. In addition, for the last 6 months, thanks to the kind support of TBS students and coordination of Mrs Sandz Wilderspin, School Principal, the children of the Burns Ward are receiving individual Mithila Gift Boxes, filled with little toys, soft dolls, books and other surprises.

### LIFE CHANGING

12 years old Pinky Chaudhary was identified as a burn survivor during the BVS-Nepal field visit at Nepalgunj. She had contractures in her hand. Dr Binod Karn performed her reconstructive surgery at Nepalgunj Medical Hospital. After the successful operation her contractures were much improved and she can easily move her hand.





**BEFORE** 

'Burns are the second most common injury in rural Nepal, accounting for 5% of disabilities' WHO-report 2012

## Woman tortured to 'cast off spell'

Himalayan News Service Itahari, June 14

Puran Kumari Choudhari (30) of Sokumbasi Basti of Jhumka in Bhadguun Sinuwari-5, Sunsari, was tortured to 'relieve her from witchcraft, on Sunday night.

The villagers, in the presence of local witch doctor Hari Narayan Danawar, burnt her both cheeks with a hot spatula spoon.

flaughter Laxmi, the locals had plained about the incident,

invited the witch doctor on Sunday night to treat her mother who used to fall unconscious.

'As the witch doctor started to chant verses, a group led by local Ram Chandra Singh burnt her cheeks saying that it would free her from witchcraft," she said.

Ram Chandra admitted torturing Choudhari but said villagers were involved ASI Surendra Kherbar of Area Police Office, According to Choudhari's Pakali, said that no one has com-

### STREET DRAMA: A PREVENTION AND AWARENESS PROGRAMME



KNITTED DOLLS FOR EACH PATIENT

they can bring back home.

... and knitted dolls.

For the last few months, C.H.A.N.C.E. for

Nepal has started a new supportive project.

Their knitting groups are donating their wool,

time and love to make more than 718 dolls for the Kanti Children's Hospital. Every patients receive an individual 'goody bag' which

contains little games, stuffed toys, stickers

Each bag

Burn-related injuries in Nepal are dramatically increasing. Young children and women are most at risk and the root causes are gender based discrimination, lack of awareness, the hazardous living conditions and poor education.

Studies have shown that 60% of these injuries could have been avoided through prevention and awareness programmes. Therefore, BVS-Nepal is actively working on the prevention of burn-related injuries by the means of Street Drama intended for the general public and school students. It also distributes educational materials to spread awareness and basic first aid messages. In 2011, the programmes were performed for 26 schools and communities within the Valley of Kathmandu.

### Children burnt to death

GAIGHAT: Three children were burnt to death at Naule area of Bhuttar VDC-6.
Udayapur on Friday afternoon. Pramila Shrestha, five-year-old daughter of local Pahalman Shrestha, his two-year-old son Subash Shrestha and his brother Dinesh Shrestha's two-year-old son Sujan Shrestha were killed when the fire engulfed their home while they were playing with a matchbox in the absence of others of family. Former chairman of Bhuttar VDC Hom Bahadur Dahal said the children were trapped inside the house and could not escape. The entire house was gutted. A police team has been sent to inspect the site.—wo

### Six-month-old killed in fire

REPUBLICA (HEAPA): A baby boy was killed in a fise in thapa on Thursday. Six month-old Prajwol, son of Bikash Rai of Satasidham: 5 died in the fire that broke out due to short circuit. According to the police, the bouse caught fire at 1.30 am when the haby's parents were test at bosne. In another incident, the Chulachull camp of the Maoist combatants gutted in fire on Frislay. According to the commander Yumbahadur. Adhikari property worth its 250,000 was destroyed in



## TOWARDS COMPREHENSIVE STRATEGY TO END BURNS VIOLENCE IN NEPAL

This project is funded by the United Nations Trust Fund through a project grant to Acid Survivors Trust International (ASTI). Burns Violence Survivors – Nepal (BVS-Nepal) is implementing the proiect in Nepal.



The nature of this problem, and the need to address it holistically, precludes a wider approach to this project with the resources available.

Therefore, 3 model communities are selected Kathmandu, Kapilbastu and Nepalgunj where we have been exploring root-causes of and ways of addressing acid and burns violence. Using trained facilitators we are engaging with community members - survivors of acid burns, family members and neighbours of victims, local government representatives, village leaders etc – through interviews, focus groups and group dialogue.

We are also exploring professional responsibilities and ways of addressing acid and burns violence with health, law enforcement and social service professionals. We are engaged with local NGOs and INGOs and their local counterparts and also with key line ministries to advocate for law and policy change. We are working closely with the media to improve publicity, awareness, causes and repercussions, and publicizing successful prosecutions of the perpetrator.



### "LET'S UNITE NOW TO END BURNS VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS.

Kathmandu, Dec 4: BVS-Nepal organized this event, at 1905, Kantipath.

Aiming at spreading awareness about burn violence against women, the event started with an introduction to BVS and a documentary about young girls and women suffering from burn violence.

The events of the evening included a play on burn violence against women by the youth of the Youth Information Center, Jharuwarasi; poem performances by Actor/Director Eelum, Richa, Sugarika, The Word Warriors – including Yanik Shrestha, Yukta Bajracharya, Ujwalla Maharjan and Gaurav Subba and Nepali poet, Manjul. An awe-inspiring performance by Nepali Folk-Rock band, Kutumba was also one of the highlights of the evening. Students from Adarsha Vidya Mandir(AVM), also stood together on stage to speak against the injustice that is burn violence. The event also featured performances by the B-Boyz and B-Girlz of the Nepal Break-dance Foundation.

Towards the end of the event, YouTube star Nattu Shah performed some of her famous tunes and the event ended with a one minute silence, a candle-lighting ceremony in memory of burns and acid violence victims.







#### YOUR SMALL CONTRIBUTION CAN MAKE A BIG DIFFERENCE

We would like to thank all our partners, supporters and well wishers for their consistent dedication and support.

We look forward to continuing our work together in the coming years for burn survivors in Nepal.

A special thanks to Wendy Marston whose support contributed significantly towards achieving our objectives for the year.



