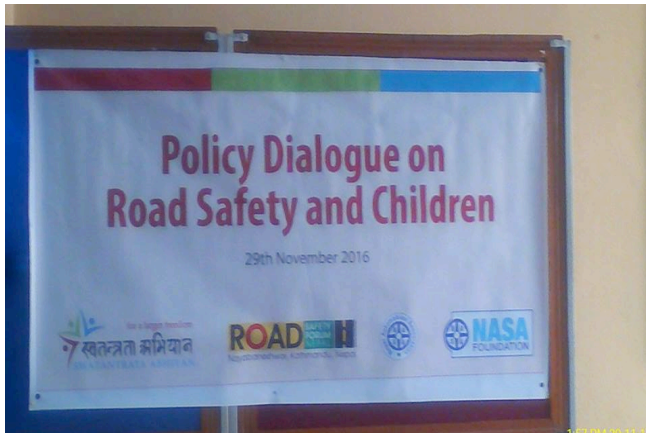


Safe School Zone Campaign to Be Launched



Road Safety NGOs, Central Child Welfare Board of Nepal and Lalitpur Metropolitan City, Department of Public Health has agreed to launch targeted initiative for making Safe School Zone with Road Safety Actions among Road Side Schools In Kathmandu Valley. The stakeholders made this commitment in a policy dialogue seminar on 29th November 2016. Swatantrata Abhiyan together with NASA Foundation and Road Safety Forum hosted the seminar to observe World Traffic Victim Remembrance Day.

Annually almost a million children visit hospitals due to the injuries and the financial cost of child injuries remained at almost 43.5 billion each year. Swatantrata Abhiyan Nepal (SAN) is advocating and campaigning for child safety and Road Safety being Member of Global Alliance of NGOs for Road Safety and Save Kids Worldwide (SKW). Swatantrata Abhiyan Nepal (SAN) organized a Policy Dialogue on Road Safety and Children with objective ***to create a platform for government and non-government institution to discuss on existing policies, legislations and program to address road safety issue to ensure safe road for children.*** There were 12 participants (m- 6, F-6).including government bodies and civil society.

The program was started with the welcome speech from Ms. Writu Bhatta Rai, Executive Secretary of SAN. Ms. Bhatta presented some data of child injuries due to road accident and highlighted the objectives of the program. Mr. Tarak Dhital, Executive Member of Central Child Welfare Board (CCWB) presented on Road Safety and Children. Mr. Dhital began his session from the ***right to protection of children.*** Highlighting the current practices, he briefed about the unsafe road, zebra crossing and speed limit and his major concern was school area including the role of drivers and pedestrians.

Dr. Bashudev Pandey, Director General of Health Department exaggerated the people's behaviour and inadequate traffic resource as a major cause of road accident.. Mr. Pandey shared about ***the lack of coordinating agency or organization and he asked civil society to inform about the existing practices and for joint collaboration.*** There was a discussion after both sessions. The participants discussed about the lack of traffic light, the rule of helmet and seat belt, zebra crossing, speed limit, bus stop and lack of implementation of existing policies and mechanism.

Similarly the participants shared about the ongoing activities and materials they prepared for road safety and discussed about the cooperation and collaboration for practicing effective mechanism. They also discussed about the lack of awareness and advocacy and education among the people regarding this and the meeting got concluded with organizing one special program specially focusing on road safety and children with all concerned authorities and stakeholders and start a campaign.

SwatantrataAbhiyan Nepal is a Non Government Organization working with movement building, research, policy advocacy and influence, capacity development.

Further details can be requested @ Telephone- +977-1-5546746, E-mail- info@swatantrataabhiyan.org, www.swatantrataabhiyan.org



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