



TV

UNITED NATIONS NATIONS UNIES

UN IN ACTION

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Languages: Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian, Spanish

NEPAL: TOO YOUNG TO MARRY

VIDEO

BIJAY LAXMI DOES HOUSEWORK

BIJAY LAXMI ON CAMERA

USHA

USHA ON CAMERA

NEPAL MOUNTAIN/GIRLS
WORKING IN FIELDS

AUDIO

NARRATION:

Bijay Laxmi, 15 years old, has been married since she was 11. In a few months, she will move in with the family of a husband she doesn't know. (9.5)

BIJAY LAXMI: (In Local Dialect) F

"I regret being married young, but what can I do? I hope this doesn't happen to others." (5.5)

NARRATION:

Usha, too, is fifteen.. She faced a dilemma after learning that her parents were planning her marriage. (6)

USHA: (In Local Dialect) F

"I didn't know what to do. Should I do it or should I not?" (3.5)

NARRATION:

In Nepal, half of all girls are married by the age of eighteen. Although child marriage is illegal, the law is widely ignored especially in rural areas.(9.5)

A NEPALI WEDDING	According to Nepalese tradition, a bride's family must pay a dowry to the groom. And the older the girl gets, the more money they must pay. Many parents feel they have no choice but to marry off their daughters young. (12.5)
BANGLADESH STREET/YOUNG GIRLS	Nepal is not alone. According to the UN Population Fund, UNFPA, about half of the girls worldwide affected by child marriage live in South Asia. (12)
YOUNG MOTHERS	Many will start bearing children before their bodies are ready, suffering serious health problems. They are also denied an education. (8)
BIJAY WORKING	Bijay never attended secondary school and can barely write her own name. (5)
TEACHER WITH PARENTS	But after a teacher from the 'Choose Your Future' campaign visited Bijay's home, her parents let her attend classes. (7)
CHOOSE YOUR FUTURE CLASS	<p data-bbox="712 1289 902 1323"><u>NARRATION</u></p> <p data-bbox="712 1348 1419 1654">Choose Your Future is a program that brings girls who are not in school together. Supported by UNFPA and other charity groups, they learn basic life skills, personal hygiene and reproductive health. Bijay knows that it can be risky having children before 18. (17.5)</p>
BIJAY LAXMI IN CLASS	<p data-bbox="712 1730 1211 1764"><u>BIJAY LAXMI:</u> (In Local Dialect) F</p> <p data-bbox="712 1785 1419 1871">"I'd like to wait four or five years, when I am twenty or twenty two years old." (4)</p>
BIJAY ON CAMERA	

USHA WORKING	<p><u>NARRATION:</u> As for Usha, her parents cancelled the marriage after her Choose Your Future classmates confronted them and told them child marriage is illegal. (8)</p>
USHA'S MOTHER INTERVIEWED IN CLASSROOM	<p><u>USHA'S MOTHER:</u> (In Local Dialect) F “They told us that early marriage can lead to childbirth complications. They also threatened to inform on us, so my husband and I decided not to marry her, for now.” (15)</p>
GIRLS IN CLASS	<p><u>NARRATION:</u> Choose Your Future teachers try to persuade parents to let their daughters return to school, which is now free for girls through grade 10. Many do so, including Usha. (13.5)</p>
USHA ON CAMERA	<p><u>USHA:</u> (In Local Dialect) F “After I finish school, I could be a teacher or a doctor, or at least a shopkeeper.” (4.5)</p>
STREET THEATRE/GIRLS IN SCHOOL	<p><u>NARRATION:</u> Today, many local groups are joining the Choose Your Future campaign, including street theatre by children’s clubs, to educate people about the harmful practices of child marriage. (10)</p>
GIRLS GOING TO SCHOOL	<p>They hope that one day soon, more girls will be able to stay in school and choose their own future. (5.5)</p>

This report was prepared by William Ryan for the

UN LOGO

United Nations. (4.5)