

TILOTTAM PAUDEL

A short biography

Born in a middle class family from a remote village of Bhokshing-VDC, Parbat District of western Nepal, on the 5th of December of 1982, Tilottam Paudel is one of the founding members of Jagriti Child Club Nepal (JCCN), known as the first ever registered child club in the country. The club, situated in Pragatinagar VDC of Nawalparasi District, was established on 1991, when Tilottam was only a 9 year old boy.

Keeping children's rights in mind and under the leadership of the young Mr. Paudel, a group of united children registered a case in the Supreme Court to demand the registration of a child club in the District Administration Office in 1997 under the Child Rights Convention of 1989. After three years of challenges in a serious legal battle, the verdict of the Supreme Court came in favor of the group of children. From that moment on, Jagriti Child Club has not only legal permission to organize programs among children, but also to form other child clubs in Nepal. The importance of this case can be observed as it has been included in the first year course of Law of the Tribhuvan University. To be part of this process was and still is extremely valuable as child clubs positively influence many Nepalese communities by empowering children and giving them opportunities to share their ideas and raise their voices. As a former child club member, Tilottam began to coordinate and build networks between stakeholders and child and youth clubs. At the present, the number of clubs in the country exceeds 22 000, being 800 based in Nawalparasi district. Another milestone that has been added in Mr.Paudel's career is that Pragatinagar VDC (now Devichuli municipality) has been declared as first ever child-friendly VDC of Nepal.

Currently, Mr. Paudel is working as the president of Jagriti Child and Youth Concern Nepal (JCYCN), a non-governmental, non- political and non-profit making social organization working in the field of child and youth rights' protection and promotion. It is an updated version of Jagriti Child Club with expanded working sectors, from children rights to conflict and natural disasters victims, youth leadership, girl child empowerment and peace building, for example. JCYCN has managed to build collaboration and partnerships with various governmental, non-governmental and international organizations, and has been active in the child and youth field in Nepal since 2001.

Regarding his previous experiences, Tilottam has worked as a District Program Coordinator for Child Workers in Nepal (CWIN) in Salyan, Rolpa and Rakum districts during the prime time of the rise of the armed conflict that was originated in these exact districts. During his nine years tenure at CWIN, he has gained sound knowledge and skills in quality education, child friendly education, model school and model village concept, and research works including field coordination, data analysis and report writing. His main working sectors in CWIN were child helpline and support to street children from 1999 to 2002, and children in conflict affected area from 2003 to 2008.

In the meantime until nowadays, he has coordinated and facilitated various trainings and deploying international participants as multi cross-cultural development agent to attain their mission to carry out peace building. He has also contributed in many child protection researches during his work at CWIN and at various time frames with JCYCN involvement in joint collaborations. Additionally, he was actively involved in various human rights monitoring works, during armed conflict insurgence, second people's

movement in Nepal, Constituent Assembly election in 2008 and 2013, and at the Second Cycle for Nepal in the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) of the United Nations Human Rights Council in 2015. During the Maoist conflict period in Nepal, for instance, he monitored many conflict affected areas and the people's situation for 2 months on behalf of Human Rights Commission, and was arrested in a total of 13 times, being 3 times by the government and 10 times by the Maoists. He also got injured due to the conflict violence during the human rights monitoring in the People's Movement (2006-2007).

A writing enthusiast on the topics of Peace, Child and Youth Rights, Mr. Paudel has been able to publish more than a hundred articles. He is one of the leading activists to pressurize the Government to formulate child and youth friendly policies and took the leadership on works related to Children as Zone of Peace (CZOP), children as a sector of peace, children's protection, child and youth clubs, and children participation campaigns. Similarly, he worked as an activist for social youth movements and human rights protection and prevention. Furthermore, he has participated in various national and international trainings, workshops and programs. He has visited Bangladesh, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Jordan, Malaysia, Netherlands, Singapore, South Korea, Switzerland and Thailand in order to keep learning and sharing about child, youth and peace. A remarkable example was when Tilottam went to Jordan as a delegate of the committee which formulated the declaration paper for the 2250 Resolution on 2015 on the Youth and Security World Conference, which afterwards was adopted by the United Nations Security Council.

Given his outstanding work, Tilottam was board member from 2010-2012, and later on selected as the 2010-2014 General Secretary of the Association of Youth Organizations Nepal (AYON), which is an umbrella organization of 92 youth organizations working throughout Nepal. In the same period, he was also the coordinator of Community Managed Disaster Risk Reduction (CMDRR) Forum Nepal, a forum of more than 40 youth led organizations working on community managed disaster risk reduction in the country. Likewise, he had worked as a core organizing member for the South Asia Youth for Peace Training from 2007 to 2009, and as one of the organizers of the Global Youth Peace Festival (GYPF) in India since 2013. Recently, he was also nominated as the Asia representative member of the International Steering Group of the United Network of Youth (UNOY) Peace Builder placed in the Netherlands, as board member of Men Engage Nepal, as counselor of conflict affected children, and appointed as one of the sub-coordinators for the 4 number state of Nepal by Consortium. Moreover, in recognition of his social contributions he has been awarded with various national and international honorary awards.

With more than 20 years of profession experience in children, youth and human rights, Tilottal Paudel has gain tremendous knowledge on child clubs formation, children in armed conflict, human rights monitoring, peacebuilding, youth empowerment, networking, project management, facilitation and conduction of trainings. One of his best skills is his capabilities to collaborate and coordinate with the all the civil society organizations, political parties and government agencies. History will remember him as a prominent leader in child rights and participation, youth leadership and peace building movement in Nepal.

