



PA Nepal

**Enduring More than Fair
Punishment in Nepal**

Indira Rana Magar

Today's Presentation

- Introduction to myself and PA Nepal
- Issues in Nepal's prison system
- PA Nepal's work

ABOUT ME

- **Social worker**
- **Rights activist**
- **Frontline worker**
- **Social entrepreneur**
- **Mother**



Prisoners Assistance Nepal

PA Nepal is a grassroots organization that seeks to provide basic needs and human rights to prisoners and their children.

PA Nepal is working towards transforming prisons into places that work to help prisoners build a worthwhile future.



“Giving prisoners and their children a better today and a brighter future.”

Issues in Nepal's Prison System

- **Absence of due process**
- **Lack of prisoner segregation**
- **Punitive system: no rehabilitation or reintegration tactics**
- **Human rights abuses**
- **Absence of family protection network**
- **Government instability**

Absence of Due Process

- Forced confessions are common
- Lack of legal counsel
- Unspecified days of detention
- Prisoners often held past their release date
- Corruption is pervasive



Lack of Prisoner Segregation

- General population housed with high-risk prisoners
- Those awaiting trial held with convicted
- Mentally ill held with general population
- Juveniles not separated



Punitive System: No Rehabilitation or Reintegration Tactics

- Internal management is run by prisoners due to limited resources
 - Prisoners are decision-makers (food distribution, security, cell assignments, etc.)
 - No daily routine
 - No work programs
 - No pre-release programs
 - No supervision
- Prison realities differ depending on wealth and family support



Human Rights Abuses

- Poor living conditions
 - Overcrowded Prisons
 - Unhealthy conditions
 - Lack of proper nutrition
 - Unsafe buildings
- Limited access to health care
 - No social workers
 - Limited availability of doctors
- Lack of stimulation
- Violent environment (torture and slavery)
- Prisoner's are unaware of their own rights



Absence of Family Protection Network

- No state-provided social services
- Nepali families depend predominantly on the father's income
- Lack of institutionalized care for children of prisoners
 - Child imprisonment
 - Social effects (trafficking, homelessness, drug abuse, prostitution, etc.)



Government Instability

- Dysfunctional Institutions
- Lack of policy implementation & enforcement
- Government NOT involved directly with prison system
 - The only assistance comes through NGOs

OUR WORK: PRISONS

- Welfare visits throughout Nepal- focusing on vulnerable groups
- Income generating projects
- Education & literacy programs in the female central jail
- Support for released women
- Family integration projects
- Daycare centers attached to jails
- Micro-credit programs
- Clothing distribution

Welfare visits throughout Nepal- focusing on vulnerable groups



Income Generating Projects



Education and Literacy Programs in Kathmandu Central Jail



Support for Released Women



Family Integration Projects



Day Care Center Attached to Jail



Micro-Credit Programs



Clothes Distribution



OUR WORK: RESIDENTIAL HOMES

PA Nepal has rescued many children who were living in prison with a convicted parent and provides a warm and caring environment for over 100 children. PA Nepal has four homes across Nepal. These are located in Naya Bazar - Kathmandu, Sankhu, Palpa and Jhapa.

- The homes support the children's basic needs (food, water, education and medicine).
- The children are taught in our own schools or are sent to local Nepali schools to ensure that they have the best chance at succeeding in life.
- The children learn life skills and farming so that they can reintegrate with their villages of origin wherever possible.
- Children who live at the homes are encouraged to regularly visit their parents in prison where appropriate.

Nayabazar:

Our first home



A rented facility that also acts as our main office.





- Established in 2000 Nayabazar accommodates over 30 children of various ages after they have been rescued from prison. We also provide assistance for other disadvantaged children in the Kathmandu area.
- The children attend local schools and receive additional educational support at the home from staff and volunteers.

The home at Nayabazar provides the children with:

- Education
- Medical and dental attention
- Basic needs such as food and clothing
- A community environment based on Nepali values
- Assistance (both educational and psychological) for those children who experienced trauma within prison



Sankhu:

Teaching life skills



The children's home in Sankhu was founded in 2006 in order to provide our children with a healthier natural environment outside of the big city. The home currently accommodates over 50 children of various ages.



This increased focus on practical life skills means that the children develop responsibility and improve their future chances of finding work. The children are involved in farming, working with animals and daily chores.



Sankhu houses a Junkiri school, a word meaning “firefly”. This new progressive model of schooling was developed by PA Nepal in response to the specific needs of these children.



Palpa:

Skills and Sustainability for Boys



The children's home at Palpa is nestled in the jungles of Nepal close to nature.





A new house was recently constructed in the traditional Nepali style.



The boys are taught important skills in organic farming that provide them with a sustainable future career.

Crops are grown and harvested on site at Palpa. This helps us move towards our aim of self sustainability.



The boys learn about cattle farming so that they can return to their villages with useful skill sets once old enough.



Jhapa:

Our newest home





Located in eastern Nepal,
Jhapa is home to 10 children.

Like Sankhu, the children
attend the on-site Junkiri
school with children from
the local community.



Sustainability: The land at Jhapa is used for organic farming and food production, thereby supporting the long-term needs for food at the nearby children's home. This also provides a means to train women and children from the local home and community about farming techniques.



WHO DO WE WORK WITH?

- ▶ **Prison department**
- ▶ **Prison officials**
- ▶ **The Police**
- ▶ **Prisoners**
- ▶ **NGOs**
- ▶ **The judiciary**
- ▶ **Legal profession**
- ▶ **Social service providers**
- ▶ **Volunteers and experts**
- ▶ **International criminal justice agencies**
- ▶ **Human rights organizations**
- ▶ **Consultants and advisors**
- ▶ **Social entrepreneurs**
- ▶ **International networks**
- ▶ **Sponsors and donors**

THANK YOU



Prisoners Assistance Nepal

Shahid Gangalal Marg-36

Nayabazar

Kathmandu

P.O. Box: 8974 PCN 363

Tel: +977 (1) 4364896

Email: p_a_nepal@yahoo.com

www.panepal.org