

**UNITED NATIONS CHILDREN’S FUND (UNICEF) AND
GIRL- CHILD PROTECTION IN INDIA**

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DECLARATION

This is to be certify that the dissertation entitled “United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) and Girl-Child Protection in India” submitted by Nitu Kumari for the award of Degree of MASTER OF PHILOSOPHY of Jawaharlal Nehru University is my own work. The dissertation has not been submitted previously for any degree to this University or any other university.

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Nitu Kumari

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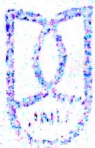
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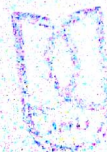


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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

A&C	Advocacy and Communication
A&F	Admin and Finance
AIDS	Acquired Immuno Deficiency Syndrome
AIR	All India Radio
AIHW	Australian Institute of Health, Welfare
AOL	Art of Living
ASER	Annual Status of Education Report
BCG	Bacille Calmette-Guerin
BTC	Bodoland Territorial Council
CAC	Central Advisory Committee
CDC	Centres for Disease Control
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
CEE	Central and Eastern Europe
CESCR	International Covenant on Social, Economic and Cultural Rights
CP	Child Protection
CPSs	Child Protection System
CRC	Convention on the Rights of the Child
CRS	Civil Registration System
CSA	Child Sexual Abuse
CSR	Child Sex Ratio
CSW	Commission on Status on women
DWCRA	Development of Women and Children in Rural Areas
ECOSOC	Economic and Social Council
EFA	Education For All
EGMs	Expert Group Meetings
EPR	Emergency Preparedness and Response
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
FBOs	Faith Based Organizations

FGM	Female Genital Mutilation
FSU	Former Soviet Union
GA	General Assembly
GAP	Gender Action Plan
GBV	Gender Based Violence
GBEM	Girls and Boys Education Movement
GDI	Gender Development Index
GEM	Gender Empowerment Measure
GEM	Girls' Education Movement
GII	Gender Inequality Index
GIVS	Global Immunization Vision and Strategy
GOI	Government of India
GPE	Global Partnership for Education
GTZ	Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
IASC	Inter-Agency Setting Committee
ICCPR	Inter- national Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
ICDS	Integrated Child Development Service
ICPS	Integrated Child Protection Scheme
ICRW	International Centre for Research on Women
IDGC	International Day of the Girl Child
IDD	Iodine Deficiency Disorder
ILO	International Labour Organisation
IMA	Indian Medical Association
IMNCI	Integrated Management of Neonatal and Child
INGO	International Non-Governmental Organisations
JMP	Joint Monitoring Program
KGBV	Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas
MCI	Integrated Management of Neonatal and Child
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
MICS	Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys
MoNE	Ministry of National Education
MS	Mahila Samakhya

MWCD	Ministry of Women and Child Development
NCCTC	National Cold Chain and Training Centers
NGO	Non-Governmental Organizations
NRHM	National Rural Health Mission
OBC	Other Backward Class
OHCHR	Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
OOSCI	Out-of School-Children Initiative
PPE	Policy, Planning and Evaluation
RTE	Right To Education
SAARC	South Asian Association for Regional Co-operation
SC	Scheduled Caste
SIRD	State Institute of Rural Development
SNCUs	Sick Newborn Care Units
S&P	Supply and Procurement
SSA	Sarv Siksha Abhiyan
ST	Scheduled Tribes
SVPs	Shramik Vidya Peeths
TB	Tuberculosis
UDHR	Universal Declaration of Human Rights
UIP	Universal Immunisation Programme
UK	United Kingdom
UN	United Nations
UNAIDS	United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS
UNCRC	United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child
UNCT	United Nations Country Team
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNECA	United Nations Economic Commission for Africa
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNGEI	United Nations Girls' Education Initiative
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund

UNIFEM	United Nations Development Fund for Women
UPR	Universal Periodic Review
UNPR	United Nations Peer Review
UNRRA	United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration
VFABI	Volunteer for Better India
WASH	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
WB	World Bank
WCDD	Women and Child Development Department
WHO	World Health Organization

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

The main focus of this research is how the UNICEF is addressing the problems faced by the girl-child through the study of UNICEF's activities in India. Firstly, this studies tracing the evolution of child as an international issue with specific focus on girl-child, highlighting the peculiar challenges of girl-child. Then study discusses the organizational structures of the UNICEF at headquarters at New York as well country-level in India. The focus of the study is on how the UNICEF in collaboration with governmental agencies, NGOs and other local actors as well as other international organizations in India attempts to protect and promote welfare of the child-girl in India.

Background

Children were considered as the private property of parents and were never seen as a topic of public discussion till the middle of twentieth century. As children are defenceless and easy to targets, they suffer the most in any crisis be it war, natural disaster and many other types of crimes (O'Neill 1988: 450-451). Although children are vulnerable and easily victimise in any crisis, girl-child affect the most. She is the most marginalized and vulnerable group. She faces double discriminations because of her tender age and of her gender. Thus girl-child is subjected and suffer from both sexism and "childism" for she is the intersection of women's rights and children rights (Feliciati 2006:14).

Before girl-child is born, she faces the threat to her life in the form of female foeticide which has been perfected by the modern technologies. Dowry system and son preference in the society are the main causes of female foeticides. After her birth, she faces discrimination at every stage of her life. A Large number of girl-child death in infancy and early childhood because of neglect she faces in the family and not getting food and medical care (Kishor 1993:247). She suffers negligence because the traditional perception about the girl-child is that girls are not seen as family members and she would leave the family after marriage. Due to these reasons, girl-child discriminated and deprive of care such as medical, food and other essential

requirements. This negligence of attention and deprivation of essential requirements are the major causes of high female child mortality. Female mortality is extensively recognized as deep-rooted in economic and cultural factors. In some societies, female foeticide and mortality rate are so high that they cause lopsided demographic ratios, which made some authors to see female as “endangered” species (Kishor 1993:247-250). Thus, the girls suffer from the lower position given in the society and imposed various kinds of discriminations on girl-child.

Discrimination towards girl-child started from her family in the name of religion and customs. She is made to do the household work and taught that girls are emotionally and physically weak and they are dependent on the male members of the family. In many cultures, girl-child is taught that her role in the family and the society is to be nurturing and caregiving, while the boy is taught to be protector role. She has been taught to be submissive and subordinate to the boy. This kind of role differentiation and attitude is constructed and nurtured through the family, school, and in almost all the social institutions (Berman and Jiwani 2002:2-3). She faces physical exploitation, psychological discrimination and nutritional neglect in the family and society. This discrimination based environment affects the overall development of girl-child in various regions of the world. for instance, the authors have traced how the girl-child before birth, and in early childhood, young girls in South and East Asia experience types of discrimination which are reveal in poor sex ratios at birth, high rates of girl-child mortality and lesser access to educational and health facilities (Croll 2006:1288).

Girl-child faced many types of discrimination in education field due to the traditional gender phenomena. In most part of the world patriarchal form of society exist where girls are seen as inferior to boys and deprived of the rights of education. Parents pay more attention on education of boys and ignore that of the girls. Many places, girls do not enrol in school and if enrol the dropout rate is high, leaving without complete their education. Girl children’s education is also hampered by child labour in the most family as girl- child is made to do the household work (Alabi et al 2014:400).

Child marriage is another major problem of the girl-child. Although this tradition is present most part of the world but the developing countries girls are more

affected from this practice. According to International Centre for Research on Women (ICRW) 47% of marriages is child marriage in India, and this is the big cause for girls faced domestic violent (Malhotra et al 2011). Early marriages are often the early pregnancy, and its effects girl-child health. Girl-child faces unique problems and becomes more acutely vulnerable in crisis situations like war and natural disaster. Early consummation creates many health problems for girls and gives to maternal morbidity and mortality, malnutrition as also infant and prenatal death (Chakravarty 1998:15).

The protection of girl-child is not only an issue of developing countries. Girl-child in the developed countries also faces violence and discrimination of different nature. Therefore, it is equally an important issue in the developed countries. The girl-child of the developed country who married in early age also faced threats of violence and murder. For example, in Canada girl-child is subjected to a large range of violent behaviours, attitudes and practices, for instance, adolescent wives between the age of 15 and 19 are three times more likely to be murdered as compared to wives who are older (Rodgers 1994:2-8). The violence and exploitation of girl-child occur across the world and most of the time girl-child faces these kinds of difficulties within the family. In most of the cases, girl-child is facing continuously rape and sexual exploitation by their own family members. Girl children are more likely to be victims of sexual and physical assault by family members than are boys (Berman and Jiwani 2002:2).

Due to these specific vulnerabilities and challenges growing realization was drawn on the international community the need for separate focus on the plight of girl-child. For instance, the international community identifies that the condition of girl children is very poor and identify it as a vulnerable group. Due to these peculiar conditions, international community stressed, following the UN decade 1976–1986” for women and girls, the need for special attention of girl-child (Purewal 2014:467). With the significant identification of the female children peculiar condition, it draws the attention of various international organizations too. For instance, UNICEF identifying that the ‘girl child’ as a main objective of its gender activity in the 1990s and it also decided that the following decades of UNICEF’s strategy will address the status and needs of girl-child (Croll 2006:1285-1286). There were many regional and international organizations draw the attention and they conducted a range of projects

and programs to identify the challenges of girl-child across the world. The feminist movements and many the NGOs also took up the issue of girl-child. Many International Conferences on population, development, women and children also touch upon the girl-child issues and take it as an important issue. Apart from these organisations, there are various NGOs, INGOs taking interest on the issue of girl-child, and even some of the specific programs have been adopted by various actors. The movement related to child and women issues also play a crucial role toraised the issue of girl-child and create the platform for girl-child voice. The international recognition of violence against girl-child and women as consider the violence against human rights is the result of years of devoted campaigning by woman's rights activists and survivors of violence (Ramsay 2005:10).

All these resulted in making girl-child an international issue, requiring collective efforts to address the concerns. Various national and international organizations related to the children and women promoted the girl-child welfare. Although the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women(CEDAW)'s various aspects demonstrated the issue of women but after fifteen years of CEDAW, in mid 1990s UNICEF and UNIFEM did attempt to resolve this exclusion of girls issue through the extending of CEDAW mandates, and it included women's and girls' rights separately as well as it emphasise on that the rights of today's girls is the rights of tomorrow's women (Croll 2006:1286-1287). Both these two international organizations are emphasizing that without the empowering and addressing the girl-child, the empowerment of women is inadequate.

Among all the international organizations, UNICEF has been very active in carrying out advocacy role of sensitizing the issues of girl-child. As it is the prominent organization that deal with the issue of children. It is expected to be in the forefront to address the issue of girl-child. This study focuses on the role of UNICEF in the protection of Indian girl-child from violence and discrimination.

Review of Literature

The existing literature in the area of study are reviewed under the following themes: Girl-Child as International Issue; UNICEF's structure, changing role and functions;

UNICEF's policy, strategies and programme relating to girl-child; UNICEF's activities in India

Girl-Child as International Issue

Children are considered the private property of parents and are seen everywhere along with the parents in primitive society. Children do not have own separate identification from their parents or family they always consider with their parents and family. In every society, children are considered as the pride of the parents and the greatest value the society possess (Alabi et al 2014:393). Children were never a topic of importance; they were not paid much attention by the government or by thinkers until the First World War. After the grisly Nazism Genocidal crime against children, issues emerged as an important subject in domestic and international realms. Children as they are vulnerable and easy targets, suffer the most in any crisis be it war, natural disaster, crimes. Children are the first ones to suffer in any crisis and can easily be victimised (O'Neill 1988:451-455). Though the constant efforts, children get noticed by international society.

With the recognition of child as international issue followed by series of international norms and standards relating to child and gradually recognized child as distinct individual of right holder, not just a private property of the parents. Geneva Declaration in 1924 was the first historic document where the issue of children recognized on the international level. On 26 September 1924 was the remarkable date in history when specific needs of children were documented and in this declaration summarised the fundamental needs of children such as, their right to development, assistance, relief and protection (Geneva Declaration 1924). Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948) was the first document where the topic of child rights has emerged on the international level and rights of the child were enunciated. This declaration emphasis on human rights and it also states the need of special care and assistance of both child and mother, Article 25(2) of Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) (1948) states "Motherhood and childhood are entitled to special care and assistance". Preamble of UN Declaration of Rights of Child 1959 clearly states "whereas the child, by reason of his physical and mental immaturity, needs special safeguards and care, including appropriate legal protection, before as well as after birth" (UN. Document 1959). UN Convention on the Right's of the Child 1989

(CRC) is the major landmark for child rights, which started with the preparation for 1979 as the International Year of the Child and the discussion was started with the draft of the Government of Poland. UNCRC 1989 define the age of the child, when the childhood started and when it ends (UN Document 1989). With these efforts, child issue became took on the international arena.

There are various categories of child such as child from wedlock, child from out of wedlock, poorer child, deprived child, upper caste child, lower caste child, migrated child, refugee child, developed countries child or developing countries child and the most important difference is girl child or boy child. When a child is born the first query is where it is a girl or boy, this is because we cannot relate to a child without first knowing his or her gender (Taefi 2009:349). All children are vulnerable; however, the Girl-Child is more susceptible rather than a boy child. The Girl Child suffers from both sexism and “childism” for she is the intersection of women’s rights and children rights. Girls are more likely victims of sexual and assault by family members than are boys (Berman and Jiwani 2000:1-3). The issues of girl-child in all over the world has many dimensions but root of this all kinds of discriminations and bias is in customs, traditions and typical mindset of society which consider the girl child as inferior beings (Alabi et al 2014:394). Girl child faced discrimination in the family, society and this disparity is socially formulated and started during the childhood. In many cultures, there is a trend on the way to socializing girls to adopt nurturing, caregiving roles, and the role of boys adopted as the protector. This notion is transmitted through the family, peers, schools, the community, the media, and virtually every social institution (Berman and Jiwani 2002:2).

According to research that girls experience sexual abuse up to three times compare to male children, and that mostly happened within the family (Finkelhor et al. 2005: 6-10). However not only family and societies norm and tradition generates the problem for even war conflicts are also more affected the girl child. In our society due to certain tradition, stereotype practices, cultural and religious beliefs girl-child not been cherished, protected and loved and these practices put them in at the risk of abuse or neglected (Alabi et al 2014:393).

During the 1990s a series of conflicts emerged, global conflict, civil war, ethnic cleansing and terrorism continued to plague in many parts of the world. There

was an increase in violation of human rights against women, particularly in times of armed conflict women and girl child faced atrocities, systematic rape, forced pregnancy and forced abortion, in particular under the policies of ethnic cleansing (United Nations 1996:7). And with these situations women and girl-child issues become crucial issues for the entire world. International Community identify the female children as vulnerable group followed the UN decades for women 1976-1986 as well as following decades in 1990s UNICEF also identify the girl-child as main concern of their gender activity (Purewal 2014:467). There are many international and regional human rights instruments discussed the discriminations against the girl-child and be active on the violence against the girl-child. However, they are not specifically addressed the girl children and girl-child signifies within the general group of “children, “women”, or “disadvantage groups” who suffered from discrimination (Goonesekere 2006:3).

The problem of the girl child is not a problem of any individual country or continent. Girl-child all over the world faced similar kinds of the problem varies only in degree. Such as desperate and reluctant victim of female genital mutilation in Africa; the poverty-stricken child labor and child-bride in India; the child prostitute in Thailand; the undeserving victim of honour killing in the Middle East; the illiterate, uneducated and exploited child in Latin America; or the unwanted girl child in China (Berman and Jiwani 2002:1-2). The problem of early marriage is present various parts of the world and the teenage pregnancy of girl-child also occurs across the world. And with these conditions the issue of girl-child as universal rather than of a country or region.

The problem faced by girl-child is universal not only of developing countries. Girl-child in developed countries faces different kind of discrimination(Rodgers 1994:3-6). Girl children are more likely to be victims of sexual and physical assault by family members than are boys (Malhotra et al. 2011). According to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, around 80% of all refugees are women and children. The mass rape has been widely denoted in recent civil conflicts and has been used systematically as a tool of torture or ethnic domination (Ramsay 2005). Within the poor rural area or poor urban area, girls are exploited in all over the place. In rural setup, the girl-child is engaged in all house work and responsible for fetching fuel.

Such as making food for the family, bring water for the family, looking after younger siblings. Similarly in urban area girls are engaged in domestic work and they are in low paid domestic labour categories (Chakravarty 1998:16). Girls across the world, the continent, whether in rural or urban area, rich or poor family all sectors they remain in the vulnerable condition (Croll 2006:1288).

In the conflict zone, all person are faced trouble such as exploitation, molestation even boy. According to police records 52,733 rapes and attempted rapes reported to police between April 2003 to March 2004 and 41% of the rape victim in South Africa are under the age of 12. Because girl-child is unable to defence so they easily targeted. Genital Mutilation is one practice which mostly carried out on girls the age of 0 to 15, and according to WHO millions of girls are affected with this. Female Genital Mutilation has been affecting the girl education and girls often drop out of school and are married at a teenage (Ramsay 2005). In conflict zone or refugee camps all children and people faced the challenges, however, the difficulties of girls and women is very crucial. The problem of the arrangement of food, fuel, and water pushes women and girls into "survival sex." (Landgren 2005:225).

Today girl child has become distinct international issue and reflects the various program of United Nations, INGO's, NGO's and in individual government program also. There were many feminist movements, the NGO's, International Conference which highlighted the Girl Child issue. The international recognition of violence against the girl child and women's as a violence against human rights the result of years of dedicated campaigning by woman's rights activists and survivors of violence (Susan 2005:9-10). Apart from the engagement of the NGO's and women activities, the Government also shows the considerable interest in girl child matter. "The girl child of today is the women of tomorrow" so the skill, idea and problem of girl child is vital for goal of equality, development and peace of any country (United Nations 1996:14).

In identification of the oppression of girls as a gendered concern, international organizations followed suit, proclaiming 1990 "The Year of The Girl Child", and the 1990s as "The Decade of the Girl Child". At the United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing in 1995, the plight of girl children was highlighted as a major issue of concern (Berman and Jiwani 2002:1). They highlight the problems

of Girl Child in the different region. In late 1980s the South Asian Association for Regional Co-operation (SAARC) declared the 1990s as the “Decade for the Girl Child” and asked the government and the respective organization to working to more extensive study into the problem of discrimination and to provide positive media images for girls (Croll 2007:1286). In this decade government of the SAARC countries tried to focuses on the girl-child problem, such as female feticide, child marriage, exploitation, women and girl children trafficking and other many areas which affect the girl-child directly and indirectly (Croll 2007).

India is among the first group of countries along with others in Africa to recognize the “girl child” as the centre of attention for the improving the social and economic status of women (Gopalan and Bhaskar 1998:1). There was no special status given to a girl-child and this happened for the very first time in the Fourth UN conference for Women held in Beijing in 1995 where, the girl child get her own place on an international agenda. And it gets a separate identification. Before this convention, there have no separate international agenda or things for girl-child. This conference highlights the human rights of women and girl-child, ensure the full enjoyment of human rights of women and girl child and take effective actions against the violations of these rights (United Nations 1996:4). The Conference reaffirmed that “The world conference on human rights recognized of women and girl child an inalienable, integral and invisible part of universal human rights”(United Nations 1996: 90).

Girl Child is very important and there have many international and regional organizations, international conferences, Commissions and agencies that are concern about the girl child. They have formulated some global norms and standards for child and girl child. Such as United Nations, World Bank, INGO’s and NGO’s are as well as other organizations who worked for child and women. Universal Declaration of Human Right of 1948 “ Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and wellbeing of himself and his family, including food, clothing, housing and medical care”(Article 25). The health of girl child is also taking a big issue and various norms and standards are formulated for this. Article 19 of CRC states “The right to protection from all forms of physical or mental violence, injury or abuse,

maltreatment or exploitation, including sexual abuse, while in the care of parents, guardian or any other person (UN Document 1989).

Genital Mutilation not only affect the girls health it has an affected to girls mentally also. Genital Mutilation is one practice which mostly carried out on girls the age of 0 to 15, and according to WHO millions of girls are affected with this (Ramsay 2005). CRC 1989 states in Article 24 “the right to health and access to health services: and to be protected from harmful traditional practices. Girls are protected by a number of general and specific treaties under international law. On a general platform, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and the International Covenant on Social, Economic and Cultural Rights (CESCR) create a ‘bill of rights’ that applies universally (Taefi 2009:353). Child marriage is frequently discussed as an important issue in both CRC and CEDAW Committees in their discussion with state parties and concluding observations. Both Committees emphasized on the demerits of early marriage while the CRC does not specifically prohibit child marriage, but CEDAW provide an urgent justification for eradicating the tradition of early marriages (UNICEF 2008B:3).

Article 16 of CEDAW men and women have same right to choose a spouse and to enter into marriage only with free and full consent and it also states “The betrothal and the marriage of a child shall have no legal effect, and all necessary action, including legislation, shall be taken to specify a minimum age for marriage”(CEDAW 1979). In concluding Observation to other State Party reports too, the CRC Committee has been worried about the health of adolescents, specifically girls, is neglected, for example, a very high percentage of early marriages, which impact a negative on their health (De Silva-de Alwis:2008). According to Article 16 of UNDHR; Men and Women to full age, without any limitation due to race, nationality or religion, have the right to marry and to found a family. They are entitled to equal rights as to marriage, during marriage and at its dissolution (UNDHR 1948)

There were many mechanisms are adopted by international and regional community, international government as well as NGO’s and INGO’s for girl-child improvement. International conference, women and child development-related organisation also play a crucial role as the mechanism for policy implementation. In the 1980s when UNICEF adopted the phrase, “the girl child” girl child issue became

more significant. Many Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO's) actively participate and they play crucial role in an attempt to achieve gender equality and implementation of norms and standards, specifically relating to girl-child (Noeleen 2005).

UNICEF's Structure, Changing Role and Functions

The United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) was established in December 1946. Before the establishment of UNICEF, there was the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration (UNRRA) established in November 1943, to provide relief and rehabilitation to displaced person and measures for the relief of victims of war. UNRRA's role did not mention specific about children, however providing food and cloth as well as the specialized care for children was one of the main role of UNRRA from very beginning (Jacobs 1950A:145). UNICEF takes the place of UNRRA and it became very popular due to its active work for children.

United Nations established it's after the Second World War, to give aid and assistance to the war-affected children of Europe. The first few years since its inception the main work carried out by the UNICEF was to provide resources to meet emergency requirements of children in Europe for food, drugs and clothing (Ferguson 1972:172). By the year 1953, the UNICEF was sending aid to countries of Asia and Latin America as well. Although UNICEF was created as a temporary organisation, because of its effective functioning in various parts of the world, in October 1953 the UN General Assembly made it one of the permanent specialized agencies of the United Nations. After more than a decade's the primary focus on the child health issue, UNICEF expands its role in 1961 and addresses the whole needs of the child. The words 'international' and 'emergency' were dropped from the name which now became the United Nations Children's Fund through the acronym was retained (UNICEF 2006:6).

This organisation continues to be the pioneering agency addressing the concerns of the children. Executive Board is governing the body of UNICEF; it formulate policies and reviews the activities of UNICEF. It represented by 36 members which representing the five regional groups of members states at the United

Nations and its works coordinated by the bureau, comprising the President and four Vice-Presidents, each officer representative one of the five regional groups (UNICEF 2014). UNICEF has the normative role protect and promote girl-child rights and welfare, ensure gender equality development policy, legislative frameworks, institutions and budget mechanism (UNICEF 2010:8). UNICEF is a major player in development which specifically relates to children, women and needy people welfare (Ansell 2005). The Board's decisions are influenced by the major powers through voluntary funding. The members of Executive Board selected by the ECOSOC, but on the other hand ECOSOC was not to free to choose member of the board, as it was compulsory to include some nations exclusively for political or operational practicality (Jacobs 1950B:360).

UNICEF divided their working area in eight regions and these regions are, Central and Eastern Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States, East Asia and Pacific, Eastern and Southern Africa and Industrialized countries, Latin America and Caribbean, Middle East and North Africa, South Asia and West and Central Africa (UNICEF Website A).

There are some of the countries where UNICEF has established its Regional Offices. Panama City (Panama), Geneva (Switzerland), Bangkok (Thailand), Nairobi (Kenya), Amman (Jordan), Kathmandu (Nepal), Dakar (Senegal) are among the countries where UNICEF's Regional Offices are situated. (UNICEF 2003:2).

UNICEF's role is to setting norms and standards for children welfare as well as supports governments on the reduction of children difficulties as well as girl-child difficulties. Such as child protection, promote the health policies for children, gender disparities and so on through interventions at national and local level. Thus, UNICEF set the norms for child marriage prevention that no marriage is legal under the age of 18 years (UNICEF 2008:2). Through the help of other organization, UNICEF encourages the children welfare activities across the world. For example, UNICEF's active participation in the elimination program for malnutrition with the help of WHO (González et.al 1966: 89). UNICEF serves as the lead agency and hosts of the secretariat of the United Nations Girls Education Initiative (UNGEI) partnership. Through UNGEI, UNICEF championing the rights of girls and help to the countries in achieving gender equality in education (UNICEF 2013A). In 1980s civil society

empowerment approach, emerged and not only World Bank and IMF take the initiative. Even UNICEF prides itself on a relationship to many international NGOs before this, such as Oxfam and Save the Children since the 1950s and worked for civil society empowerment model (Stiles 1998:200-205). UNICEF in 2008 with WHO and the United States Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) come together and worked for a multi-country project plan for preventing child maltreatment to enhance early child development (UNICEF 2009A:9). It supports a variety of schemes within nations (as well as regions) that focus on children's participation in democratic processes and consequently contributes to the construction of national childhoods (Skelton 2007). UNICEF celebrates 11 October 2013 as "International Day of the Girl Child" and this year's day focusing on innovating of girls' education (UNICEF Website A). UNICEF's involvement and funding or other support the NGO's for fighting against the murders of street children of Rio de Janeiro in Brazil (Stiles 1998:203).

UNICEF is entirely based on voluntary funding. UNICEF is working with many other organizations, agency, NGO, INGO and with the individual government also. UNICEF and WHO work jointly on the eliminating program of FGM (Female Genital Mutilation) in Africa and all affected area (Ramsay 2005). UNICEF, United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) and the World Health Organization (WHO) worked on harmful tradition practices of Female genital mutilation/cutting (FGM/C) (WHO 2008:1). An investigation into domestic service conducted by the International Labour Organization (ILO) and UNICEF suggest that "staggering numbers" of children around the world an approximate 90 percent of whom are girls are working as household servants, both investigate jointly and worked together for eliminating this condition (Ward 2011:545-549). Government of the Netherlands and UNICEF jointly worked on the International Conference "A Study on violence against the Girl Child" and published a report (UNICEF 2009). For

the first time ever, UNICEF, along with UNDP, UNFPA, WFP and UN-Women, has fully aligned its new Strategic Plan (2014-2017) (UNICEF 2013B).

Although this partnership of UNICEF with another organizations has significant but at the same time this partnership sometimes overlaps the role of each other (Keeney 1953:606).

UNICEF's Policy, Strategies and Programme Relating to Girl-Child

UNICEF promotes the gender equality and Women empowerment. UNICEF concentrate on three broad areas at the outset: (1) the provision of supplemental food to stave off the nastiest ravages of malnutrition; (2) the re-establishment of children's institutions and services damaged by the war; (3) the training of child health and child welfare personnel necessary for the implementation of national programs (Jacobs 1950A:152). It actively participated in eliminating child marriage, the disparity of girls' education and other various program related to girls empowerment barrier. The promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls are central to the mandate of UNICEF and its focus on equity (UNICEF 2014).

Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting (FGM/C) is the very dangerous tradition for the girl child and UNICEF engage with many awareness programs against this tradition with the collaboration of World Bank (UNICEF 2009B). Health is the primary concern for development and in various countries of the world girl child faced many kinds of discrimination. In addition, it is dedicated to the healthy and sustainable reproduction of future generations (Skelton 2007). Adolescent pregnancy is related to child marriage and child marriage related to illiteracy, UNICEF doing work all these issues (UNICEF 2009A). Girl's education is the central concern of UNICEF program. In partnership with key partners such as UNESCO, United Nations Girls' Education Initiative (UNGEI), and the Global Partnership for Education (GPE), UNICEF will engage in three critical areas with respect to girls' secondary education (UNICEF 2014). Girls' education and gender equality have taken by UNICEF in 2012 when data give explanation the rate and percentage of girl dropout from school. Child-Friendly School provides a gender sensitive environment and promotes the gender equality in the classroom (UNICEF 2014). Early in the twenty-first century, UNICEF has organised several major global events to raise the profile of children and

young people. In 2001, it organised the worldwide campaign ‘Say ‘Yes’ For Children’ beginning in March (Skelton 2007:168-172).

Child marriage is very hazardous practice in society especially developing countries girls are come up this dangerous zone. UNICEF through various program and policy tried to end child marriage. Collectively with other United Nations agencies – including UNFPA and UN-Women – governments, and civil society partners, UNICEF is taking greater attention and urgency to end child marriage as a key gender issue (UNICEF 2014). Strategies are the ending of child marriage is supporting the enabling environment to end child marriage such as through collaboration with other organisation (WHO, UNFPE, UN Women) fight for minimum age 18 for marriage. Other strategies are increasing opportunities for girls to gain education, life skills, and health information and services, and as well as Creating demand at the community and family level, and along with girls, for ending child marriage (UNICEF 2014). Child protection in also a crucial program of UNICEF which trying to cover the child from all kinds of violence, exploitations and disparity. The principle for mainstreaming gender in child protection is the recognition that gender norms result in different protection risks among boys and girls who may have different needs and choices, and may possess different skills, knowledge and coping strategies. In March 2013, Swaziland, is one country with the highest HIV incidence in the world, UNICEF start a national campaign: Eliminating new HIV infections in children by 2015 and keeping their mothers alive (UNICEF 2013B).

UNICEF's Activities in India

UNICEF's active role in India is not a new phenomena or novel activity, it active in India from 1949 onwards. In 1948, UNICEF hugely expand its operations in other regions also ten additional countries, among them India, Pakistan, the Philippines, and Singapore, received special mention as in need of UNICEF aid (Morris 2010). UNICEF's first initiative in India started in 1949 when it provided the technological equipment support to the Indian government in the establishment of India's first penicillin plant in India (UNICEF Website B). In the 1950s, UNICEF was engaged with the Indian government in the BCG vaccination program and tried to protect children from TB and other diseases (Lahariya 2014:498).

In 1950 UNICEF's engagement in India was very wider; according to an estimated 500,000 children in India were receiving UNICEF milk as well as nearly 30,000 in the food crisis area are getting UNICEF rice and other adequate requirements from UNICEF initiative (Social Service Review 1952:225). Child Survival Programmes (CSPs) launched by UNICEF in the 1980s in cooperation with many developing countries focused primarily on ensuring the survival of children by protecting them against what were called vaccine-preventable diseases (VPDs) like diphtheria, tetanus, polio and measles and with the cooperation with Indian Government it worked in India also (Kulkarni 2006:28). With these significant participations, UNICEF actively engaged in the issue of girl-child in India.

Due to the tradition perception about the girl-child of India, girls were faced various difficulties in India society. UNICEF has taken initiative to protect and promote girl-child wellbeing. UNICEF published various kinds of the report such as girl-child and boy-child ratio, men-women literacy percentage and ratio, which helpful for the Indian government to take appropriate action for reform. Such as UNICEF's report of 1989 which highlighted the rural-urban literacy ratio and men women literacy percentage (Mukhopadhyaya 1994).

UNICEF's report on Child Marriage in India explored the harmful tradition by rural- urban variation, what is the percentage of child marriage in each state in India (UNICEF 2013). It actively explores the reason behind this early marriage and as well as actively play a part I an attempt to end this tradition. UNICEF's efforts to stop child marriage has included raising the issue within the Meena Communication Initiative since 1991 and more recently, support to national and regional consultations on child marriage as well as state level advocacy (Basu et al 2010). UNICEF's initiative is to highlight the issue of child marriage and actively participate against the child marriage tradition especially on that area where the large number of child marriage taking place. And for this prevention UNICEF's activities is publish annual report of UNICEF on child marriage at state and district levels and explore the condition of girl-child in society such as UNICEF Innocenti Research Centre, Annual Reports on child marriage, Conferences on child marriage tradition in India.

UNICEF recent activity in India supporting in health challenges such as, prevent all children from malnutrition, developing models for sanitation, hygiene and

water supply. UNICEF also collaborates with the Government of India and other partners for awareness about HIV/AIDS (UNICEF 2014). With the help of national and state government, UNICEF publishes the reports on children health and immunization. Such as UNICEF's jointly worked with Government of India and published report based on children health specifically nutrition and immunization (UNICEF 2009A).

UNICEF report on child sex worker is helpful for Indian Government in counter this problem, "UNICEF report has estimated 5 lakh child sex workers in India and predicted that the number would rise steadily in the context of sex-tourism" (Ghosh 2009:724).

Sarva Siksha Abhiyan (Education For ALL) under the flagship of Indian Government improved enrolment in school and UNICEF also play a big supportive role in this, especially promote in eradicating gender disparity in school and increase girls' enrolment (UNICEF 2014). Child protection is also a big UNICEF's India programmatic approach which builds a protective environment for children. Girl children are especially vulnerable to exploitation such as child trafficking for domestic work, trafficking for prostitution so UNICEF largely focuses on girl-child issues (UNICEF 2014). Child labour, child trafficking and children in difficult circumstances is mainly focused in the UNICEF's child protection program. UNICEF helps in the emergency situation as this was it initial concern, such as in disaster time (Earthquake, Cyclone, flood), conflict zone and so on (UNICEF Website B). Education for children and eliminating gender disparity in education is also in central concern of UNICEF.

Although UNICEF is actively engaged in the girl-child welfare program but during the effective implementation UNICEF faces some challenges also. Such as absence evaluation and monitoring system of program implementation, insufficient information to make effective policies and programs (Lee-Rife et al 2012:289). During the field research UNICEF facing difficulties on the collection of data on due to the language problem. It is possible that, in the process of translation from local dialect to Roman Hindi and finally Hindi to English there were some details and nuances have been lost or missing (UNICEF and ICRW 2011:12-13).

The above literature review indicates that there are rich literature on children and girl child and also work of the UNICEF. However, there is lack of focus literature on working of the UNICEF in partnership with various stakeholders specifically on girl-child. This study is an attempt to understand how the UNICEF works in India in partnership with various actors to address the challenges faced by the girl-child in India.

Definition, Rationale and Scope of the Study

There are various perspectives on the concept of the child. Biologically, childhood is the span of life from birth to adolescence. According to the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986 of India, child has been defined as “child as any person who has not completed his fourteenth year of age”. United Nations classify child differently. According to the 2000 ‘United Nations Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punishment Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children (known as Palermo Protocol)’, “child shall mean any person under eighteen years of age”. Immigration and Nationality Act of US defines the term child is a person under the age of 21 who born in wedlock system. Article 45 of Constitution of India states - ‘the State shall endeavour to provide free and compulsory education for all children till they complete the age of fourteen years ...’. Different Acts under Labour Laws state different age criteria, such as in The Apprentices Act (1961) of India states ‘A person is qualified to be engaged as an apprentice only if he is not less than fourteen years of age’ and in The Factories Act (1948) of India "child" means a person who has not completed his fifteenth year of age; (Factories Act 1948:1). A child below 14 years of age is not allowed to work in any factory. An adolescent between 15 and 18 years can be employed in a factory only if he obtains a certificate of fitness from an authorized medical doctor....’ Again The Child Labour Prohibition and Regulation Act (1986) of India “Child” means a person who has not completed his fourteenth year of age.’

However the First Periodic Report of the government of India on the Convention on Rights of Child has accepted the definition provided in the Convention on the Rights of Child 1989. So in this research, definition of Convention on the Rights of Child 1989 is adopted. Article 1 of the Convention defined Child as “a human being below the age of 18 years unless under the law applicable to the child majority is attained earlier” (UN Document 1989).

The main focus of this study is to understand and analysis the issues and complexities of girl child problems and examine how UNICEF have attempted to address them through collaboration with other stakeholders in India. This study is significant as protection girl-child and promoting her interests is in a way empowering her to a more capable woman. Empowered and capable women could make the substantial contribution to the society. Therefore, assessment of the UNICEF's roles and functions in addressing the issues of Indian girl-child is warranted.

As the girl-child became a distinct issue from that of child in general from the 1980s, the scope of this study would be from 1980 to 2014.

Research Questions

1. Why Girl-child has become an international issue?
2. What international norms and standards formulated for the girl-child?
3. What are the policies and strategies adopted by the UNICEF to address the concerns of the girl-child?
4. What kinds of activities and programmes the UNICEF is involved in India to address the concerns of girl child?
5. How and why does the UNICEF involved in the partnership with other actors in addressing the concerns of girl-child?
6. What are the challenges faced by UNICEF in addressing the concerns of Indian girl-child?

Hypotheses

UNICEF's policy and strategy statements do not match with its activities in the field.

UNICEF is better in production of information in the form of report on girl-child rather than operational activities addressing the problems.

Research Methodology

The study adopted deductive reasoning of enquiry and used qualitative method focusing on the historical and analytical approach. It relied on both primary literature such as documents of government of India, United Nations and UNICEF and other international organizations. It also used secondary literature such as books, journal articles as well as information from internet sources. Further, interview has been conducted with an official of UNICEF in Delhi.

Chapterisation

This study consists of six chapters. The first chapter consists of the statement of the purpose of the research, lay out the background of the study and discuss details about the research design in the forms of review of the related literature, defining the main concept, statement of the rationale and scope of the study. It also points out the major research questions to be investigated, statement of hypotheses and research methodology. The second chapter discusses the various kinds of challenges faced by children in general and girl-child in particular. Then it analysing how the child, as well as girl-child, has become an international issue. It discusses the major norms and standards for girl-child welfare have been formulated by international organizations and then describe the various mechanisms working to scrutinise the adherence to these norms and standards. The third chapter traces the historical background of UNICEF and then describes in detail the organizational structures both at the headquarters and the country levels. The main focus of this chapter is to critically analyse the evolving roles and functions of UNICEF. The fourth chapter focuses on policies and strategies adopted by the UNICEF to address the girl-child problems. It also discusses the challenges which are faced by UNICEF during the implementation of the programs and policies. The fifth chapter focuses on analysing the UNICEF activities in India to address the challenges of Indian girl-child in collaboration with the central and state governments and other local actors and other international organizations. The chapter six is the conclusion chapter that summarizes the major findings of this study. It ends with series of policy suggestions to make the UNICEF more effective in addressing the concerns of the girl-child.

CHAPTER II

GIRL-CHILD AS AN INTERNATIONAL ISSUE

Traditionally, children believed to be the private property of the parents and were hardly treated as someone possessing rights. Children were not seen as separate individuals hence they did not have separate rights. All the laws, policies and programs for children were generally made by the adult members with the explanation that children were incapable of deciding their fate because of innocence and immaturity (Naughton et al 2007:161).

However the international community through various discussions and declarations such as Geneva Declaration 1924, Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948), UN Declaration of Rights of Child 1959, recognized the need to promote child care. They also emphasized the need for protection of children but did not talk about the rights of children. Gradually various studies and report pointed out the need to treat child as a right holding individual and raised the importance of rights of children to involve in the decisions and policies which affects them. Thus these sensitizations led to the recognition of child as right holder and formulation of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Child (UNCRC) 1989, which gives rights to the children and to have a voice in the decisions affecting them. According to Article 12 of UNCRC 1989, “States party shall ensure that, a child who is capable of giving his/her own views on that matter, affecting them, are free to express their views and state shall give due weight to those views in accordance to age and maturity of child” (UN Document1989).

With the support of 192 states, UNCRC 1989 became a landmark achievement for children rights. Only a few states, such as Somalia and the US, are not signatories to this convention. The impact of this child rights orientation was very big. In 1990 based on the initiative by UNICEF, World Summit for Children was held in New York and a European Convention on the Exercise of Children’s Rights held in1996. These types of summits and conferences were held to emphasise the importance of child rights (Alston and Tobin 2005: 7). United Nations and various countries across the world along with numerous NGOs have raised the issues of child rights and tried to address the challenges faced by children.

There were a number of controversies regarding the definition of child, some suggested individuals below the age of 14 as the child while other regarded under the age of 18. In natural terms, childhood is the period of life from birth to adolescence or teenage period. Technically, the term “Children” was defined for the first time in the process of the formulation of the Child Labor Prohibition Act by International Labour Organization (ILO). ILO identifies children as a person appropriate till the age of completion of their compulsory education, and adulthood as the period when they enter the world of work (Abebe and Bessell 2011:770). Although not clearly mention the age of compulsory education but ILO’s International Program on the Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC) states that under the age of 14 (Edmonds 2009:19). According to The Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986, employment is prohibited for children below the age of 14 and 15 years. An International Labour Organization (ILO) report of 2010 also states that, child labour means those children under the age of 15 or below, engaged in work that poses threat to its health, safety or moral development and is a subject of forced labour (Wyness 2013:346).

According to United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), “Child victims or witness means every person under the age of 18 years should be treated as a child, irrespective of his or her role” (UNODC 2010:5). According to Article 1 of the UNCRC, ‘a human being under the age of 18 years is considered as children and the law applicable to the child, majority is attained earlier” (UN Document 1989:4).UNCRC 1989 considers all human being under the age of 18 as children.

It is to be noted that one of the most frequently used definitions for the age of children by the world community is provided by the Coalition to Stop the Use of Child Soldiers. It has defined children as belonging to the age group up to 18 years. According to this definition, children belonging to ‘straight-18 years’ are prohibited from recruitment into armed forces. Before the completion of this benchmark age, if they recruit any person, it would be seen as child soldier recruitment, which is internationally prohibited (Beier 2015:5). According to the United Nations Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punishment Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children (known as Palermo Protocol, 2000), stated that “child shall mean any person under eighteen years of age”. Thus, there are variations in understanding term children but generally a person below the age of 18 is regarded as the child.

This chapter firstly discusses the kinds of challenges faced by children in general as well as girl-child in particular. Then it goes on to analyse how child has become an international issue and what various norms and standards for girl-child welfare have been formulated and how different kind of mechanisms are working to scrutinise the adherence to these norms and standards of treatment of girl-child.

Challenges of Child

All children are vulnerable and easily victimised because they are unable to protect themselves. While wars, natural disasters, economic crisis, other man-made or natural tragedies affect all human being, but their effect on children is considerably more. As children are vulnerable and easy targets, they suffer the most in any crisis be it war, natural disaster, crimes (O'Neill 450-451: 1988). Children, who have experienced war and natural disaster, or other manmade disasters, suffer from many difficulties, such as inadequate education facility or no education, homelessness or refugee camp. During 1990s series of conflicts emerged be it global or the start of civil wars, ethnic cleansing and terrorism continued to plague in many parts of the world. There was an increase in violation of human rights against women and children.

Child labour is a hazardous situation which affects the education, health and as well as the overall development of children. It is one of the biggest obstacles in children development; they are forced to do work in their early age and face many physical as well as mental challenges (Alabi et al 2014:400). Exploitations and violations are generally faced by children in different forms be it mental exploitation (abuses, trauma, pressure so on), physical exploitation (forced sexual activities, violence and so on), although they are unable to defend themselves from these adversities.

Girl-child's Peculiar Problems

There is no official and international definition or description of “girl-child”, and even no international binding convention specifies the status of girl-child (Felicati 2006:14). As there is no separate definition of girl-child in the legal context, girl-child count as sub-set of children category under the age of 18 years. Although there is no legal definition and separate legal identity of girl-child but on the basis of sex the

girl-child commonly known as a biological female child from birth to eighteen (18) years of age (Alabi et al 2014:394). With this identity crisis, girl-child faces various other peculiar difficulties and these problems of girl-child are universal. It is not only limited to specific region or country. In developed countries also girl-child faces several kinds of challenges such as sexual violence, child pornography, child prostitution. The girl child in Canada is suffered to a large range of violent behaviors, approach and practices, for instance, adolescent wives between the age of 15 and 19 are three times more likely to be murdered as compared to wives who are older (Berman and Jiwani 2002:3-5)

The social malpractices that are practiced especially in developing countries are increasing at an alarming rate. Girl-child faced different kinds of problem, such as distressed and unwilling victim of female genital mutilation in Africa; the poverty-stricken child labour and child-bride in India; the child prostitute in Thailand; the undeserving victim of honour killing in the Middle East; the illiterate, uneducated, exploited, and cared for child in Latin America; or the unwanted girl child in China (Berman and Jiwani 2002:3). Due to these different kinds of difficult situation women and girl-child issues became a crucial issue for the entire world and the issue of girl child raised at the global level. The Elimination of discrimination and violence against girl-child has become an international, regional and national issue for over a decade (Goonsekere 2006:1).

Violence against girls is a problem that occurs across every culture (UN 1989). Girl-child in developed countries faces different kind of discrimination than in developing countries. The nature of exploitation may be different, but they are victimized within a family, within a society, within a culture and hence across the globe. The girl-child faces some peculiar problems as discussed below.

Inferior Position

The prevalence of the patriarchal system across the geographical boundaries for centuries has been a detriment for the females of the societies. This has expanded upon the religious as well as caste differences. Female children throughout the world suffer based on their gender. The position of the female and female child in many societies is below the male and male-child. They are seen as inferiors in patriarchal

societies. In many societies across the world, boys nurture a sense of superiority while girls are brought up in an atmosphere where they have to accept the inferiority of their stature (Ras 2006: 2).

Discrimination against girl-child is an age old phenomena in almost all the societies. Females of the world across different societies hold a much lower position, discrimination and disparity is present in every society in various forms or traditions. Violence against the female child is a problem that occurs across every culture (Taefi2009:351). However not only families and societies generate norms and traditions affect negatively to girl-child, even wars and other conflicts affect girl-child more (Kishor 1993).

Son preferences in the society are predominant, and girl child is seen as inferior to the boy child because boys carry the family name, they bring resources into the family and only they can do funeral rites. With these traditions and customs, girl-child is faced with discrimination beginning at birth or even before they are born. In rural setup, the girl-child is engaged in all house works. Such as making food for the family, bring water for the family, looking after younger siblings. Similarly in urban area girls are engaged in domestic work and they are in low paid domestic labour categories (Chakravarty 1998:16).

Abuse Trauma

The female child suffers abuses based on their gender. Female infanticide, bride burning, sex slavery and sex tourism, servile marriage, discrimination in family and society all these evils affect the female child because she is female and a child. Both of these positions are vulnerable in many societies (Feliciati 2006:15). Sexual and physical abuses are generally confronted by women and girl children. According to a research girls, experience sexual abuse up to three times more than male children and that mostly happened within the family (Taefi 2009:351). In many cases, it is seen that accused of rape, molestation, sexual harassment or similar kinds of violence belong to the family or were known to the family of the victim.

Child abuse is any kinds of harass such as emotional, physical as well ill-treatment of children is considered as child abuse (Dabir and Nigudkar2007:2864). Child abuse is a trauma for all children it is a cause of mental exploitation to girls

more. However, the girl-child is more affected from the abusive environment rather than a boy child because in many parts of the world abuses are generally oriented on women or girls. Girls are faced various kinds of direct and indirect abusive behaviour and atmosphere, physical exploitation (child labour, harassment), emotional trauma (child prostitution) as well as marital harassment (child marriage, child widow) all these are manifested as various forms of child abuses which affects the girl children most (Kulkarni 1997:1522).

Gender Discrimination

Girl-child faces different kinds of gender discrimination. Sex and gender are most of the time used for similar context and interchangeably, however, both terms origin are in the different way. The term sex of individuals is determined or decided by biological and gender is socially or culturally constructed word or terms (Kishor 1993). Status of girl-child and boy-child in society is created by society, not by nature.

Many feminist emphasis on social discrimination and defined that the gender-based discrimination where girls are ignored and oppressed by family and society is formulated by patriarchy and man dominated the world. Although there are various different scholars' view such as Liberal Feminist, Marxist and Socialist Feminist, Radical Feminist, Sociological Feminist and others described the women and girls position in different way but they give emphasis that this gender concept is constructed by social and cultural phenomena (Bristor and Fischer 1993: 519-523). Their views are overall little different from each other but in gender inequality they agree. It is social and class constructed. In general children faced many kinds of difficulties and girl-child more than the boy-child.

In many cultures, girl-child encounters different kinds of discrimination but the root of all kinds of discrimination is patriarchal society where customs, tradition of societies, as well as the social norms all, encourages the discrimination against girl-child. In many cultures, there is a trend on the way to socialize girls to being a nurturing, caregiving role and the role of boys adopted as the protector. This notion is transmitted through the family, peers, schools, the community, the media, and

virtually every social institution (Berman and Jiwani 2002:2). The socialising process of girl-child is different from a boy-child.

Female feticide is one of the biggest discrimination symbols against the girl children when they are killed by their own parents before their birth. Girl-child is in the danger situation, and they were unwelcoming in their family even before the birth. It is to be noted that through various medical technologies such as ultrasound scans the sex of the foetus can be determined and the foetus is aborted if found to be female (Jena 2008:8). However, the United Nations gives the right to birth and protection as the right of every child. Even after these norms girl-children are still killed in large number.

Women position in the family is lower than men in many societies of the world which affects the condition of girls also and girl-child seen as the burden for the family. Discrimination and disparity are present in every society it may present through different kinds of tradition.

Health of Girl-child

As many parts of the world have the patriarchal society, girls are neglected by their own family members. Many tradition which affect the girls' ratio, as well as girl-child health such as son preferences, sexual exploitation, sexual abuses, violence against girl-child and discrimination against girl-child in food allocation, prevails there and these all discrimination not only affect the girl-child external health even these practices are a big reason for fewer girls survival than boys into adulthood. Girl-child also suffers from nutrition deficiency more than the boy-child.

Many traditions and customs present in the society which affect the health of girl-child direct physically or mentally. Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) is also a big challenge to the health of girl-child. Genital Mutilation not only affects the girls health it also affect her mentally and it is a peculiar problem of girl-child. Genital Mutilation is one practice which mostly carried out on girls at the age of 0 to 15, and millions of girls are affected with this (Kawewe and Dбие 1999:54). Mainly in African states FGM is present and it is a practice for virginity security of girls.

Education of Girl-child

In all over the world, girls and women literacy rate are poorer than boys and male. There is various reasons behind this gap such as patriarchal society, discrimination against the girl child, traditional mindset, lack of safety and so on. Patriarchal society is one of the most important reasons of girls' poor educational condition. In various parts of the world, the girl child has been socialized as the caregiver and they should engage in household work rather than getting the education (Dabir and Nigudkar 2007:2863).

Poverty is also a cause of poor literacy of girl-child. The families are less likely to invest in girls' education. As instance when the fee was abolished for girls' education, girl-child enrolment increased in Uganda (DFID 2005:20-22). While poverty affects both girls and boys education and dropout increases and poor schooling is result of this, however according to various research, girls drop out or not going school rate is bigger than boys drop out due to poverty. In most of the family circle girl-child education opportunities in an inferior position due to the child labour and poverty (Alabi et al 2014:400). Girls are the force to engage on household works such as preparing food, take care of siblings many other works which basically domain for women and girls in patriarchal society. And due to this unrecognized child labour girls education is always ignored by the family and society.

All these factors are big barriers for girls' education and it influence the girls overall development. Illiteracy is one reason on the unawareness about the own rights. Female feticide, early marriage, discrimination and disparity, exploitation, illiteracy all are played a role of the circle which declines the girls' condition in society. In many patriarchal society girl education neglected by parents, because they thought girls are not staying with us after marriage. So investment on girls' education is the waist of wealth. The poor education opportunity for girls and women is the challenge of across the world. It may present in different forms. They faced this challenge because of gender biases. Generally in developed countries girls and women has suffered from lack of choice in education, due to the gender biases they hardly enter in technological and vocational education, in other hand many developing countries girls and women not get opportunity to access the education because of their gender

bias (Goonesekere 2006:11). All these conditions are created big challenges for the girl-child.

Due to these peculiar challenges girl-child is seen as they should be treated differently from the other child and it needs to be more attention. They need more consideration not only because of the challenges they are facing various kinds of discrimination within the family and out of the family because girl-child condition is poor in all over the world. They suffer from various horrific traditions and practices, before as well as after the birth. They stay away from the basic human rights throughout the patriarchal social norms. With all these challenges, the girl-child gets the attention of the world community and it became an international issue.

Child marriages also have a negative impact on girl-child education. Early age marriage is a big reason behind the school dropout of girl children. They are sent to in-laws house and forced to engage in domestic work and dropout from the school. Many other causes play a vital role in girls' poor literacy. Girlchild's involvement in helping parents, siblings care, and early marriage all of these play a vital role in girls' dropout (Chakravorty 1998:15).

Child Marriage

Child marriage which affects the both girl and boy child life but in the circumstance of society this early marriage practice affects more to girl children. In some part of the world especially in South Asia, child marriage is a very big problem which not only affected the health, education and adolescent pregnancy, even it affected the overall development of girl-child. However through child marriage both boys and girls suffer but the situation of girls is worse than the boy. They leave their family in the early age when they need the moral and emotional support of their family for overall development (Chakravarty 1998:13-15). These kinds of peculiar environments affect the mental health of girl-child and become a big obstacle on their overall development.

Girl-child also faced various kinds of physical difficulties and suffer from the health problems. Early consummation creates many health problems for girls and gives to maternal morbidity and mortality, malnutrition and also infant and parental death (Chakravarty 1998:15). Girl-child is not physically developed to establish the

sexual relation and they faced many challenges. Such as teenage pregnancy, sexual health infections so on. Moreover, child marriage is also a form of child prostitution because economic transition and sexual exploitation take place (Mikhail 2002:43-44). This early marriage affects the girl-children overall developments, specifically in South Asian and African countries girls faced this dangerous practice. Teenage pregnancy, adolescent sexual relation increased the chance of HIV/AIDS infection, premature consummation and forced sex which affects the health of girl-child and it also poses a risk of mental health and personality development of girls (Chakravarty 1998:15).

Girl-child Trafficking

Girls are generally killed by their families and society or religious leaders. There are various reasons behind this inhuman behaviour such as those girls are faced honour killing who doing inter-caste or inter-religion marriages, pregnant out of wedlock, raised voice against the horrific norms so on. In traditional belief abortion was not preferred and it opposed by people and the punishment for those girls, who became pregnant before marriage is very harsh, those girls were attached to weighty stone and thrown into river (Feliciati 2006:21).

Trafficking of children and women is a big issue in various part of the world. Human trafficking is considered as the crime against humanity and is condemned by the international society. Children and women are the easy victims of this inhuman practice because they are unable to defend themselves. This is considering as an organized crime against the human life and women and girl-child faces more difficulties because of this organized crime more than a boy or male. Although the girl children are more victimise with this crime. The trafficking of girl children is considered more lucrative or profitable rather than arms or drug smuggling (Chakravarty 1998:18). They trafficked for child labor, child slavery; sale of organs, forced marriage, sex tourism, child prostitution, and household chores these are the some of the main reason of trafficking of girl children. With these crucial conditions, international agencies and national actors set up various norms against this organized crime.

Sexual Exploitation

Girl-the child is generally facing violence and exploitation because the condition of childhood and girlhood both being too vulnerable. The Girl-child suffers from both sexism and “childism” for she is the intersection of women’s rights and children rights (Feliciati 2006:14). As the example, the female child is more susceptible rather than a male child in some situation, in war and conflict situation children are easily victimised but the girl-child is mostly targeted and they are more vulnerable. They faces various atrocities and difficulties such as, sexual exploitation, systematic rape, forced pregnancy, forced abortion, forced marriage, trafficking and many other difficulties in particular under the policies of ethnic cleansing these problems are more affected the girls rather than boys (United Nations 1996:7).

In conflict zone where all children and women face various difficulties for surviving, the girl-child faced more difficulties such as physical exploitation, and they faced horrific sexual exploitation which hardly faced by a boy child. According to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, around 80% of all refugees are women and children. The mass rape has been widely denoted in recent civil conflicts and has been used systematically as a tool of torture or ethnic domination (Ramsay 2005:15-17). According to police records, 52,733 rapes and attempted rapes against girls and women were reported to police between April 2003 to March 2004 and 41% of the rape victim in South Africa are under the age of 12 (Ramsay 2005:13).The peculiar difficulties of girl-child are broadly discussed in the various reports and article on Rwanda genocide incident. As example, according to “Restorative Justice for the Girl Child in Post- conflict Rwanda” in conflict zone not only girls are suffered egregious sexual violence based on gender regardless of her age, there were far differences where women and girls suffer differently from men and boy: while later were a men or boy killed rapidly with a single shot or machete stroke, girl children and women were mutilated, tortured and left to die slowly (Feliciati 2006:1).

Rape and molestation are big crime against any age of women. Girl-child is more affected with this hazardous problem because they are not able to oppose the attackers as well as they easily controlled. In conflict areas, girls are generally faced continues rape and exploitation, sex trafficking and so on. All these circumstance effects the immediate as well as the gradual life of girl-child. It creates a circle of

difficulties where one is the cause of other difficulties. They face the difficulty of teenage pregnancy as the result of rape and abducted and forced to marry with their abductor (Chinkin and Charlesworth 2006:941). It affects girl-child physical and mental health. Gender-based violence and exploitation are a big challenge for girls and women specifically in the conflict zone.

Apart from these external assaults and harass many times the girl-child faced rape and sexual exploitation by their own family member or close relatives (Singh and Kapur, 2001:16). And the female child is vulnerable in their own family atmosphere. Globally the data on girl-child assault says that, 36 to 58% of raped which faced by girls are committed by own relative and most cases the rapist are girl child's father, stepfather or other relative (Kawewe and ibie 1999: 83). These difficulties which affects horrifically to the girl-child and they faced many physical as well as mental challenges. Child prostitution, child pornography where girl-child was kidnapped and forced to do these and suffer from horrific sexual exploitations.

Child and Girl-Child as International Issue

Children were never a topic of importance and they were not paid much attention by the government or by thinkers until the First World War. After the grisly Nazism genocidal crime, children issues emerged as a big subject in the domestic and international realm. And children were discussed by the international community after World War First. World War I was not only the witness of disaster for all human beings, it even affected the children more. As because children are vulnerable and easy targets, suffer the most in any crisis be it war, natural disaster, and many types of crimes. It draws the attention of world community.

Geneva Declaration in 1924 was the first historic document where the issue of children recognized at international level. On 26 September 1924 was the remarkable date in history when specific needs of children were documented and in this declaration summarised the fundamental needs of children such as, their right to development, assistance, relief and protection (UN Website). While this declaration being a landmark for the issue of children and it draws the attention of world community, this declaration was stated to men and women, not to the states and this declaration has some limitations.

Although Geneva Declaration was seen as a most important step for the reorganization of child matter, but the states are not legally bound by this declaration. It referred to “men and women of all nations”, the child was seen as an “object of protection” and not as a holder of its own rights, (UN Website). But still this declaration created a platform for later child convention and declarations. So the peculiar problems of the child were highlighted and, the issue of children were seen as the major international issue by the world community.

Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948) was the first document where the topic of child rights has emerged on the international level. This declaration emphasis on human rights and it also states the need of special care and assistance of both child and mother, Article 25(2) of Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) of 1948 states “Motherhood and childhood are entitled to special care and assistance”. The United Nations also take the interest in rights of the child as like League of Nations. The issue of protection and fulfilment of basic needs of the child has included as the main concern in both international organizations.

Preamble of UN Declaration of Rights of Child 1959 clearly states “...the child, by reason of his physical and mental immaturity, needs special safeguards and care, including appropriate legal protection, before as well as after birth” (UN Doc. 1959:164). This declaration basically emphasis on legal protection and essential rights of the child such as the right to name and nationality, rights to adequate nutrition and basic need of the child. Children have necessarily provided their own identification. Proper name and nationality are rights of all human beings and child is also included in this basic rights.

UN Convention on the Right’s of the Child 1989 (CRC) is the major landmark for child rights, which started with the preparation for 1979 as the International Year of the Child and the discussion was started with the draft of the Government of Poland. UNCRC 1989 define the age of the child, when the childhood started and when it ends (CRC, 1989). However not in Geneva Declaration (1924), nor the UN Declaration of Rights of Child 1959 classify the proper age of child (UN Document 1959).

Although with the 192 states support UNCRC 1989 it became a landmark achievement for children rights, some of states are not signatories to this child right convention, such Somalia and The United States of America (Alston and Tobin 2005: 10). While, this convention started to provide emphasis on the give important to children rights. The impact of this child right orientation was very big and this start influences the various regions of the world and child rights seen as an important subject. As example, in 1990 on the initiative of UNICEF, World Summit for Children was held in New York, European Convention on the Exercise of Children's Rights of 1996 and so on these types of many summit and conferences held where the issue of child rights raised as an important subject (Alston and Tobin 2005: 7).

UNCRC 1989 clarify the age of children, it gives various rights to children and clearly states that all state parties ensure these rights of children. Every state party shall ensure that to provide possible atmosphere for children to survive and development, it recognized that every child have right to life as well as right to name and nationality from their birth (UN Document 1989). This convention emphasises that states should implement all rights which given by the UNCRC 1989. According to this convention children, have the right to all adequate needs which are compulsory for their development and state ensure these requirements. It emphasises that children views in the formation of policies and program related to them should be included. As example, Article 12 of UNCRC 1989, states that, "states parties shall assure that children who capable to forming his or her views on those matters which affecting them, states shall include their views and give weight according to children age and maturity (UN Document1989). With these constant efforts, the issue of children became an international issue.

Girl-child did not have separate reorganization. After the long battle, both at the regional and international level, girl-child get separate identification and it became an international issue, separate from that of children in general. There were various situations occur in all over the world which draw the attention on girl-child issue. During the 1990s a series of conflicts emerged, global conflict, civil war, ethnic cleansing and terrorism continued to plague in many parts of the world. There was increased the violation of human rights against women and girl, particularly in times of armed conflict women and girl-child faced many kind of problems atrocities,

systematic rape, forced pregnancy and forced abortion, in particular under the policies of ethnic cleansing (United Nations 1996:7). The girls and women more suffer from these situations and they need special attention.

There were many regional and international attempts to internationalize the girl-child issue. Girl-child's many kinds of problems and issues recognized by various governments and organisations and they conducted a range of projects and programs to identified the challenges of girl-child and highlight various atrocity and hidden violence against them. They required international attention. Apart from the individual governments and agencies, there are various NGOs taking interest on the issue of girl-child. The movement related to child and women issue also play a crucial role to raised the issue of girl-child and create the platform for girl-child voice. The international recognition of violence against girl-child and women as consider the violence against human rights is the result of years of devoted campaigning by woman's rights activists and survivors of violence (Ramsay 2005:10).

Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) adopted in 1979 by UN General Assembly for protection of women rights, however, this rights makes few references to the girl-child and mainly address to women issue but it builds a platform for girl-child rights as well (Croll 2007:1286).After fifteen years of CEDAW, in mid 1990s UNICEF and UNIFEM did attempt to extend CEDAW mandates by separating women's and girls' rights and emphasising on that the rights of today's girl is the rights of tomorrow's women (Croll 2007:1286-1287). Both organizations are emphases that without the empowering girl-child, the empowerment of women is inadequate.

In 1989 Convention on the Rights of the Child, (CRC) did not recognize girl-child separately. It states about equality among children without the differences of sex, social background and ethnicity. This convention promotes the equal opportunity for all without any discrimination and supports the needs of the girl through the encouragement of equality. The female child seen as equally likes male-child, according to this convention.

UNICEF's Board recommendation in the 1990s, that the UNICEF's programs and strategy for decade clearly address the status and needs of the girl-child and

suggested that following years worked on it should continued. UNICEF published a number of pamphlet or booklet and highlighted that gender-related discrimination against girls, in all most all the societies through the various kinds of customs (Croll 2007:1285).

South Asian Association for Regional Co-operation (SAARC) also draws attention to girl-child and designated the 1990s as “Decade for the Girl-child” and through research and help of media tried to explore the problem of girl-child (Croll 2007:1286). It highlights those problems which generally face by girl-child. UNICEF and SAARC’s efforts have played a positive contribution for raising the girl-child subject in Beijing Conference in 1995.

Moreover with these regional and international efforts the issue of girl-child were raised on many regional and country levels. They draw the attention on girl-child problem. As example, India is among the first group of countries along with others in Africa to recognize the “girl child” as the centre of attention for the improving the social and economic status of women (Gopalan and Bhaskar 1998:1).

These earlier attempts are to make girl-child issue as the international issue was not sufficient. Girl-child does not get the adequate attention of international community and it requires to more attention for the international recognition. And this recognition girl-child gets in Beijing Conference. Beijing Conference which held in 1995, the emphasis that the “girl child of today is the women of tomorrow”. So the skill, idea and attempt to solved the problem of girl-child are necessary for the goal of equality, development and peace of any country (United Nations 1996:14). Very first time in the Fourth UN conference for Women held in Beijing in 1995 where, the girl child occupied her own place on an international agenda (UN WOMEN Website). Before this convention, there was no separate attention or consideration of girl child. Girl-child always seen with child and women issues. This conference highlights the human rights of women and girl-child, ensure the full enjoyment of human rights of women and girl child and take effective actions against the violations of these rights (United Nations 1996:4).It ensures that the basic human rights enjoyment is fundamental rights of all human being and violation of these rights is being punishable. The Conference reaffirmed that “The world conference on human rights

recognized of women and girl child an inalienable, integral and invisible part of universal human rights”(United Nations 1996:90).

The world’s biggest goals Millennium Development Goals (MDG’s) adopted in September 2000 and 189 member states of United Nations adopted this Millennium Declaration. It includes concert commitment and targets to work together for poverty eradication, gender equality, development and the protecting the environment (Kettel 2007:872). These goals are pushing the issues of gender equality in international level. These goals are helpful in promoting girl child rights. It creates a platform where the issue of women and girls takes international attention, with international cooperation gender equality is achievable and the world became free to poverty and inequality. The third goal which is “Promote Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women” addressing to Gender Disparity and promote the rights of girl-child. In Millennium Development Goals (MDG’s) encourages the welfare of girls. It is the holistic approach for girls’ welfare. Goals are interlinked such as achievement of Universal Education, Gender Equality, Maternal health all are correlated with women and girl-child empowerment (MDGs 2013).

Many Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO’s) actively participation in girl-child issue also play a big role in taking this issue in international level. They worked on gender equality achievement and norms and standards implementation; because many NGO’s representatives attend annual sessions of Commission on Status on women (CSW). And in this annual meeting NGO’s give the report to Commission on Status on women (CSW) about gender equality and the problem of girl-child (Noeleen 2005). NGOs these efforts raised the issue of girls at international level. For instances, in 2006, the Non- Governmental Organizations (NGOs) meeting in the association of 50th session on UN Commission on the Status of Women (CWS) which based on women status reformation. They raised the issue of women and girl and stated maximum part of the world is most evil and sent a letter to Secretary-General Kofi Anan. That letter was signed by 240 Women, which belongs to 50 different countries of the world (Kettle 2007:873). Therefore, the issue of girl and women has risen from different parts of the world. All these Summits and resolutions and talks build a thought where women seen as global citizens and it create a platform for girl-child issue. As women and girls problem is not come apart, similarly this is

not a matter of any individual states or region. So the United Nations take the interest in women empowerment and promotes gender equality, give platforms to member states where they think, talk and make the program for half people of the world.

UNICEF and UNESCO joint report in 2007 emphasis on “eliminating laws that permit girl to marry before the compulsory school- leaving age of allow disparity in school-leaving ages or numbers of years of compulsory education for girls and boys (Melchiorre 2004:31). Both organizations take the initiative and place the girl-child issue at international level. Throughout the data and report on girl-child condition in various parts of the world, it draws attention on the peculiar problem of girl-child and raised it as a vital international issue.

In 2011, United Nations take initiative and passed a resolution and established 11 October as the International Day of the Girl Child (IDGC) and this day was selected for encouraging the rights of girls and addressing the unique challenges which faced by girl-child (UNICEF Website A). The initial day in 2012 focused on the issue of eradicating the child marriage. In 2013, the theme was “Innovating for Girls’ Education” (UNICEF 2011). Still United Nations and other international as well as regional actors encouraging those activities which gives focuses the issue of girl-child and places it on the international level.

All these efforts for girl-child built a wider platform for them where the problem of girl-child is got international attention.

Norms and Standards and Guidelines Relating to Girl-Child

Issue of girl-child has got importance throughout the effort of many years and several international and regional organizations such as United Nations, World Bank, SAARC and other Non- Governmental Organisations (NGO). With these specific attentions all these actors were formulated numerous norms and standards to addressing the issue of girl-child. Many international conferences, Commissions and agencies are worked on girl-child issues and set global norms and standards for them.

International policies, document, declaration and conventions for children has adopted by countries and encourage to countries to adopt these norms and standards and promote the girl-child wellbeing. Such as Declaration of the World Summit for

Children (1990), the Beijing Platform for Action and Declaration (1995) and the Millennium Declaration leading to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) (2000). While all these documents on children are not legally binding for state parties (Goonesekere 2006:2-3), the Convention of Rights of the Child adopted in 1989 is a legally binding document. International efforts are trying to set a common norms and standard for children and girl-child and expected to all states to ensure adherence to these norms and standard. Some of the major norms, standards and guidelines relating to girl-child is discussed below.

Girl-child Protection

Article 19 of CRC states “The right to protection from all forms of physical or mental violence, injury or abuse, maltreatment or exploitation, including sexual abuse, while in the care of parents, guardian or any other person (UN Document 1989:6-7). Girl-child needs to protection before their birth. Because in female-child is killed by their parents before their birth. Throughout the various norms and standards UN and the international treaty is trying to protect the life of girl children.

Girl-child is protecting by a number of general and specific treaties under the international law. On a general platform, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and the International Covenant on Social, Economic and Cultural Rights (CESCR) established a ‘bill of rights’ that applies universally (Taefi 2009:348-355).

CEDAW and UNCRC norms for girl children is to provide atmosphere for their progress with the respect, protection and full enjoyment of all human rights which given by UN Human Right Commission (UNHRC) (Goonesekere 2006:19). Through these CEDAW and UNCRC initiative norms try to the emphasis on providing a protective environment to girl-child for their survival.

Protection of girl-child from sexual and mental violence is one of the important aspects for girl-child protection. With the horrific experience of facing violence and exploitation by girl-child, the international community takes initiative and formulate norms against this. Throughout these norms and standards, they help the girl-child and protect them from violence and exploitation. There are some legal framework setup and try to eliminate violence against women and girl-child such as

the General Assembly Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women in 1993, Vienna Declaration 1993 and Program of Action Plan as well as Beijing Declaration in 1995. While all these international efforts (except Beijing Declaration) are not specifically meant the norms against violence and exploitation of girl-child, it referred to the women, but still it ultimately protect the girls and girl-child as well (Feliciati 2006: 19-20)

Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women in 1993 and Statute of the International Criminal Court in 1998, both initiatives being a landmark against the sexual violence against girl-child. They recognized that child rape; enforce prostitution, sexual slavery, forced pregnancy and sexual violence all these crimes against girls and women is considered as the war crime (Feliciati 2006:18). And the punishment for these crimes should very crucial. To protect girl-child from such kinds of sexual and mental violence and exploitation every state ensure that they take effective action for it and provide them an environment where girl-child enjoy their all human rights and fundamental freedom like a boy child as well any action against the violation of these rights of girls and women shall counter by state immediately and effectively (United Nations 1996:4). Beijing Conference set norms that the all perpetrator who involve in the crime of women and girl child trafficking, forced marriage, child prostitution, and other type of sexual violence activities they should be punishing through criminal as well as civil laws (United Nations 1996:55).

These norms and standards are playing a vital role in the protection of girl children from various circumstances. As girl children are facing unfair care from the childhood and even before their birth. With relevant norms and standards on the health of girl children, it started the world especial attention to girl health issue. Similarly in other issue norms and standards are helping to improve the girl-child condition in society. While with all these positive contribution of international norms and standards it has some disadvantage also. All norms are not equally adopted by all state parties so it could not be equally benefitted to all girl-child across the world. As instance the compulsory registration of marriage is one of the norms of both Marriage Convention 1962 and CEDAW but India declares that due to the large population of country as well as various different customs and religion India cannot follow this norm(UNICEF 2008B:25).

Girl-Child Health

All human beings have the right to enjoy their health without any discrimination and states shall ensure that this right could not be violated by any circumstance. Article 19 of CRC states that, the right to protection from all forms of physical or mental violence, injury or abuse, maltreatment or exploitation, including sexual abuse, while in the care of parents, guardian or any other person (UN Document 1989). As well as Article 24 of UNCRC 1989 states, “the right to health and access to health services is the right of every human beings, it also emphasise that state parties shall ensure that no children deprived of the health facilities, as well as state parties, should be given protection to children from harmful traditional practices (UN Document 1989:8). While these norms are protected to the female child from various kinds of inhuman practices which affects their health mentally and physically, such as Female Genital Mutilation, child marriage and so on.

Beijing conference in 1995 discussed about girl-child health and laid emphasis on effective action against the discrimination of girl-child, such as ensuring the full implementation of the human rights of women and of the girl-child as an absolute, integral and indivisible part of all human rights and fundamental freedoms (United Nations 1996:2). It emphasise that state parties shall ensure that girl children enjoy their human rights and other fundamental rights such as basic health facilities, parental care and so on and states should take effective action against the violation of girls’ these rights.

United Nations Girls Education Initiative (UNGEI) with the help of United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) worked in various areas which played a positive role in formulating norms and standards for the girl. It promotes the maternal health, gender equality, and it emphasises that girls and women should be treated with dignity. According to UNFPA ensure that every pregnancy is wanted, every birth safe and women and girl are treated with dignity and respect (UNGEI Website). These initiatives basically benefitted to girl-child because in most of the society girls health and medical care are generally ignored by the family and society. Such as on the time of maternal care girl-child suffered from the inadequate food and health care. And girl-child infertility mostly taking place due to this ignorance of patriarchal society.

With this equal dignity promotion girl-child get protection from illness and other health-related difficulties.

World Health Organization (WHO) has published the findings and proposal of a systematic review on preventing child marriages, early pregnancies and poor reproductive outcomes among adolescent in developing countries. The recommendations describe to preventing marriage before the age of 18 years and it emphasise that these norms should be support by political leaders, planners, community leaders throughout the make policies and enforce laws for prohibition of child marriage. UNICEF, World Bank (WB), and United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) joint attempt on human capital perspective and their approach is the education of girls or schooling of girls is a key of reducing fertility and child marriage (Cobbett 2014:312). Through this norms WHO is trying to eradicate that tradition which affects the girl-child health.

Discrimination Against Girl-child

Many regional organisations also highlighted the traditional social norms which affect negatively on girl future and life dignity. Girl-child has right to treated as equal like other child and they have right to enjoy full human rights as well as other fundamental rights. Without any discrimination based on gender, sex, and color all human being have to right to enjoy the human rights as well as fundamental rights. States shall take effective action on the activity which promotes the biased and violates the human rights of girl children.

While in this UN charter the girl-child is not specifically mentioned but it condemns the discrimination is on the basis of sex and gender, which is the concern with girl-child issue. The Beijing Conference formulated norms for the protection of girl children from discrimination. According to Beijing Conference, states shall take all necessarily measured steps for the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women and girl-child which present in society (United Nations 1996:4).

Preamble of UN Declaration of Rights of Child 1959 clearly states “whereas the child, by reason of his physical and mental immaturity, needs special safeguards and care, including appropriate legal protection, before as well as after birth” (UN Doc. 1959). It promotes children care without any discrimination on the basis of sex

and gender. All children should get proper care. Before and after the birth care rights give girls to protection from female feticide as well as protection from childhood neglect which is the generally happen with girl-child.

Apart from these treaties, conventions many conferences held and commissions established for women issues and it highlighted the girl children problems specifically in the presence of various forms of discrimination against the girl children. As the instance, the members of ECOSOC and the representatives of women issues (Feminist, NGOs) meet every year in United Nations Headquarter. And in this annual meeting they discuss the issue related to women and girls (Goonesekere 2006:1-2). As well as they set global standards and policies for Women empowerment and promote gender equality. Equal rights for women and men as well as the male child and female child are compulsory according to this commission such as equal political rights, equal economic rights and so on. However, these equality in various sector is immediately benefited to women but it also helps in the eradication of lower position of girls in patriarchal society.

Trafficking of Girl-child

Trafficking of girl-child issue was taken by as an important issue by the international community. As discussed earlier the girls and women are crucially affected by this organized crime. And due to these crucial conditions United Nations take the initiative and set up the norms that all states should take the issue of child and women trafficking as an important issue. For example, in the Convention on the Rights of the Child 1989, Article 11 declares that All states parties take up the issue of trafficking of women and girl-child as major important issue and take the effective and immediate action against this organized crime (UN Document 1989). Through this initiative, UN encourages to state parties to formulate hard and effective legal punishment against the children and women trafficking activity and start combat against this crime.

In Beijing conference it emphasise the government with help of Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), the mass media, as well as United Nations bodies take effective action against this crime which crucially affects the children, women and girls. States parties should adopt the specific measure and protect children

and women from this horrific inhuman crime, with the providing legal protection as well as medical assistance (United Nations 1996:42-44). It emphasising on the legal protection and medical assistance for the rehabilitation of children and women who have suffered from this inhuman crime.

Education

Education is one of the important tools for human being which helps them on their development. As discussed earlier girl-child education condition is generally poor than a boy child in all most part of the world. Due to these poor condition of girls education world community take initiative and setup norms that everyone have right to access education. For example, the Article 26 of the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) states that, “everyone has right to education” without the discrimination on sex, colour and class. According to this declaration every human being has to right to study and build a dignity of life without any discrimination or biasness. Throughout this norm UDHR emphasise that every state shall ensure that, they setup norms on equality on education facilities and education for all people of their states without the discrimination of sex, color, caste and so on. Although this norm addresses the people not specifically address to the girl-child but as discussed girls are facing unfairness on education access so through they are getting benefits. It encourages the education of girl children because generally in patriarchal society girls are deprive from the education opportunity.

In Beijing conference girls’ education was taken as an important subject and it states that all government shall ensure the equal access of education and get equal opportunity for education without the differences of sex and gender. Various actors such as governments, international community, regional and international agencies, civil society, and NGOs called upon to formulate a strategic action against the inequalities and inadequacies in sector, all these actors should take effective action for equal education access and opportunity for girls and women (United Nations 1996:16).

UNESCO’s norms for the girls education is encouraged girls’ education and counters all those barriers which are responsible for girls’ dropout. UNESCO set standards for every school have separate toilets for girl student and it is compulsory in

all school. Because in many data says that the main reason of girls drop out from school is lack of separate toilets as well it also states that the hostel facility for girls should be available by government in all school (United Nations 2013:3-4).

Child Marriage

Norms for the child marriage is provided by the various convention and treaties. As example the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) Article 16 states, men and women have same right to choose a spouse and to enter into marriage with free and full consent and it also states this consent is considered only when the both groom and bride are not child, “the betrothal and the marriage of a child shall have no legal effect (United Nations 1979). This norm encourages that all marriage should take place after the consent of both parties which completed their childhood. The consent of both men and women is compulsory according to this article, this is also to emphasise that the before the completing child age, which already consider 18 years, the marriage with consent is also not considered as legal marriage. State should take all necessary action, including legislation and specify a minimum age for marriage” (United Nations 1979). Through this initiative, CEDAW basically promotes the effective legal action against the child marriage and all states important role on the prevention of girl-child from this harmful tradition. Both girls and boys consent for marriage encourage that all marriage could place after the maturity age of girls and boys as well as state ensure that they take immediate action against this crime. And with these initiatives it tries to protect girl-child from this horrific tradition.

UNCRC of did not directly states about child marriage prohibition. It states about the inclusion of children views on the decision process on children as well as it states that the abolishment all those tradition and practices which gives negative impact on children (UNDHR 1948:2).Moreover in other way UNCRC 1989 prohibition on the child marriage as it contain a norm that states parties should not give permission or legal validity to that marriage which happens between persons who have not attained their majority age for marriage (UNDHR 1948:2). At this point majority attained is the concern with they should have the children age, which is decided by UNCRC in the age of 18 years.

According to Universal Declaration of Health (UNDHR), all human has right to a 'free and full' consent for their marriage. Whoever this consent cannot be considered as 'free and full' when both parties are not sufficient mature (UNDHR 1948:4-5). Sufficient maturity is the concern here with the age of bride and groom and it should not be under the 18 years. This norm of UNDHR protects the children from early marriage tradition. According to Article 16 of UNDHR; men and women to full age, without any discrimination due to sex, race, nationality or religion, have the right to marry and to found a family of their own choice, they are entitled to equal rights as to marriage and at its dissolution (UNDHR 1948).

Eliminating child marriages is the major concern for United Nations and it present from the early period. 1962 UN Convention on Consent to Marriage, Minimum Age for Marriage and Registration of Marriages is also set norms and standard for the prohibition of this early marriage tradition. According to this convention consent, is compulsory for any marriages, and both intending spouses consent is legal acceptance of marriages. Article 1 of the convention states, no marriage shall to be legal validly or cannot be legally entered into the force without the full and free consent of both person as well as Article 2 of this convention emphasise that, the state parties shall specify the minimum age of marriage and not any marriage shall consider legal marriage which not held according to this minimum age (UNDHR Website). In the process of eliminating child marriages give freedom both girls and boys to take decision-related to their marriage. All marriages should be registered, through these norms UN tried to eliminate child marriages.

UNICEF's norm for early marriage is girls should not be married before the completing their compulsory education (UNICEF 2008B). The age of compulsory education is set by UN and before this age the marriage of girls and boys should not be legal and UNICEF emphasis on these norms. Moreover, UNICEF's commitment on the elimination of the early marriage practices from society is also significant. While the social norms and beliefs are playing a vital role in taking the place of child marriage in various societies. UNICEF is committed to change or discourage those social norms and beliefs which promote the early marriage of child and encourage enforcement laws against this as well as create a platform for girls where they raised their voices (UNICEF 2008B). Governments, in cooperation with non-governmental

organisations, the mass media, the private sector and relevant international organizations, including United Nations agencies and try to end this harmful tradition take effective strategic action against this child marriage practices (United Nations 1996).

Mechanisms Relating to Girl-child

Mechanism is known as the vital tool for any program, policy or treaties for proper assessment of achievement and challenges and monitoring the implementation process. It plays a crucial role for the evaluating the appropriate implementation and evaluate the challenges and achievements of policy and program and norms. When a government and organization started the program they set up many kinds of mechanisms for evaluating and monitoring the programs.

Treaty-based Monitoring

There are various kinds of the mechanism established for monitoring, reporting and reviewing the proper implementation of children rights as well as policy and position of girl-child in the world. It explores the improvement of girl-child situation through the evaluation of policy and program implementation, it also highlights the demerits and apathy of related organisations or individual government.

Article 42-54 of UNCRC 1989 states about the proper implementation and entry into force all UNCRC's rights. According to these articles, it established a committee on the Rights of Child to monitor the implementation of the convention. All states party to the Child Rights Convention of 1989 required to submit the regular report to this committee relating to how they are implementing the convention. Firstly states parties have to submit the report after two years of adaptation of UNCRC and later than after every five years this report should be submitted. Committee gives some recommendation to the state parties on the basis of their reports, and this recommendation called "concluding observations" (UNICEF 2006).

The committee on the Rights of Child is the monitoring mechanism established on the basis of UNCRC. It consists of 18 experts, who are independent, good honourable character and they well knowledgeable in the human rights field. These eighteen experts are monitored implementation of the convention by state

parties (UNCRC Website). It also monitors the two optional protocols to the convention whether government taking proper action according to these protocols or not. These two protocols are related to the condition of children who involve in armed conflict and the sale of children, child prostitution, and child pornography so on. Girl-child trafficking and child prostitution is made girl life more miserable and affect the whole life of a child especially girl-child more suffered of this. Through these protocols where monitoring and reporting to the committee are compulsory the UN tried to set an effective mechanism. Through this mechanism not only evaluate the government and organizations and other related institutions works, even it helps on observation of girl-child scenario in the world.

Commission on Status of Women

Although the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) was established as the functional commission of ECOSOC to deal with the issue of discrimination against women but it addresses the issue concern with the girl-child as well. Along with UNICEF and expert groups, Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) organised an online discussion on the theme. Through these online discussion, CSW explores the condition of girl-child in different parts of the world and what kinds of action taken by the relative government for the counter that problem (UN Women Website).

Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) get the recommendation from UN. For instance, a report on ‘The elimination of all forms of discrimination and violence against the girl child’, which explores the condition of girl-child in across the world, suggested some recommendation for consideration by commission (UN Document 2006:2-3). These recommendations on the report are given to the CSW and expect that commission will give attention on those recommendations. However throughout these reporting systems UN focuses on those report and through the underlie of these reports recommendation trying to include these recommendations on future programs.

While before the establishment of Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) the issue of women was seen by ECOSOC and the members of ECOSOC and various other actors such as Feminist, child and women NGOs from across the world come together and organising meeting every year in the headquarter of United

Nations. Through this annual meeting initiative ECOSOC and other actors present report on the condition of women and girls in the different parts of the world as well as they raised the issue of women and girl-child (UN WOMEN Website). These reporting systems evaluate the women and girl-child condition in across the world and help to improve the condition of women and girls through their suggestions and recommendations.

UN WOMEN organised several meetings with the experts. It called Expert Group Meetings (EGMs). These experts are belonged from various nations, government, academia, civil society, United Nations as well as other regional and international agencies. Because UN WOMEN works on the various issue related to girl and women so these experts are belonged to the different background. The work of these are to discuss and analysis on the certain issue and with the some recommendations EGMs set up the annual theme of States of Women (CSW). The other work of Expert Group Meetings (EGMs) is to prepare flagship reports on issues. These analyses and reports played a vital role in the evaluation of the current condition of women and girl as well as what kind of approach should adopt by States of Women (CSW). As instance, CSW along with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) organized an Expert Group Meeting (EGM) and they discussed the condition of girl-child in all over the world (UN WOMEN Website). CSW considered the theme "Elimination of all forms of discrimination and violation against the girl-child" in 2007- 2009.

This Expert Group Meeting (EGM) explores and shares the various achievements and challenges in addressing the all forms of violence, exploitation and discrimination against the girl-child (Goonesekere 2006:1). These experts are from various fields it provides a proper and appropriate recommendation. This various fields expertise is helpful in the evaluation process of policies success and failure. The Expert Group Meeting highlighted those aspects that have the main obstacle in the welfare of girl-child, such as it focused on the protection of girl-child from HIV/AIDS, protect them in armed conflict situation and so on (Goonesekere 2006:1-2).

Other Reporting Systems

Since 2010 UNFPA and UNICEF in along with the Harvard School of Public Health's Program on International Health and Human Rights, engage in developing a monitoring and evaluating (M&E) tool for Female Genital Mutilation/ Cutting (FGM). Every country office of UNFPA produces an annual report and global report, on child marriage and Female Genital Mutilation/ Cutting (FGM), UNFPA and UNICEF prepared a global report every year from 2008 to 2011. They published the report on every five years and moreover it played a crucial mechanism for policy and program of FGM eradication (UNFPA & UNICEF 2014:32). Individual countries reporting and monitoring system has emerged as the valuable mechanism for evaluating challenges and opportunity for girl-child related policies. According to the UNFPA and UNICEF joint report on FGM phase 1 2008 to 2013 " the revision to the joint program's M&E framework in 2011 get into better focus the shortfalls and challenges of programs as well as the difficulties in implementation (UNFPA & UNICEF 2014:33). United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) giving the yearly report on child marriage. And highlight through data, how many girls are suffered from this ill tradition of child marriage.

The mandatory reporting system is necessary for various fields. How mandatory report playing a major role in eliminating child sexual abuse which generally faced by children especially in school children faces many type of physical and sexual abuse (Goldman and Grimbeek 2009:223). Girl-child are more likely to be faced sexual abuse and sexually assaulted rather than boy-child, according to Australian Institute of Health, Welfare (AIHW) 2006, girls are faced two and three times more likely to be sexually abused than are boys, and sexual abuse is confirmed in about 10% of all cases. Through the mandatory reporting system it is compulsory to report on these type of case, according to Western Pacific regional office of WHO, in some countries domestic violence laws or laws on sexual assault says that the mandatory reporting is necessary from the health care providers who treat the child victims of this crime, it will helpful in counter the violence against girl and women (WHO 2008:38). While health care providers increase reporting system could helpful for the government to create some rule against the domestic violence of girl-child.

Universal Periodic Review (UPR)

Universal Periodic Review (UPR) is a process of the Human Rights Council which involved a review of the human rights records of all UN member states. The idea of UPR is given by the United Nations Secretary-General, Kofi Annan, and request to states to submit the report on human rights progress in their territories (Hickey 2012:3). This UPR mechanism is basically provided a forum to members for an open dialogue and discussion on the implementation of basic human rights and freedom. Moreover, not only the state stakeholders are present in this UN Peer Review meeting (UNPR) even NGO's are also welcomed. States are given the recommendation to peer states on the certain issue while peer states are not obliged to accept all recommendations they have right to reject the peer recommendations (Hickey 2012:7). As the instance, the in April 2008, the review meeting the UK rejects the Indonesia recommendation on the issue of CRC (Hickey 2012:7-8). However the UNPR system is the organized discussion on the issue of women and girl, so it provides a floor for girl-child. Peer states are recommended to ensure the all human rights should provide for all people of the territories without the discrimination of gender and sex. The issue of girls explores on this floor. As the example, the United Kingdom point out the cross-Government strategies to address the issue of women and girls from the different region (Hickey 2012:30). Through the monitoring the human right condition in certain territories and in the process of evaluation of human rights, UPR monitors the rights of the girl-child as well (UNHR Website).

NGO's also playing an important role as a mechanism of any policy and operational activities related to girl-child. They contribute a vital role in holding international and national leaders or organisation as well as individual government accountable for their commitments. It creates a platform for action which became helpful for goal achievements. As example, the NGO AAWAAJ (it is a Nepali word and meaning of this is voice) argued and emphasise that it require to develop a standard format for the data collection on the issue of girl-child and reach a consensus through dialogue (UN Document 2006:20). UNCRC Committees is basically evaluating the state parties report on the proper implementation of CRC on their countries; however, the Committee also prefers the NGOs reports of related countries. NGOs report is basically to inform to Committee about the progress and inadequate

reform process of CRC implementation, it highlights the condition of children as well the condition of girl-child (Bergman 2006:10). While, some of the NGOs are not specifically addressed the issue of girl child it signifies within the general group of “children, “women”, or “disadvantage groups” who suffered from discrimination, but in these issue they focuses the problem of girls and girl children (Goonesekere 2006:3).

Data Collection

UNICEF, UNIFEM, WHO and other organization collect the data and published. It becomes an effective mechanism of any policy and program for evaluating the actual progress and challenges of implementation. UNFPA along with the state government collected the data related to girl-child population in the country. It also presents the data of child marriage and girl-child enrolment in school. UNFPA is not supported by the regular budget of UN; however governments’ voluntary contribution supported (UNFPA 2014:6). UNFPA also worked with the partnership with civil society. Data about the girl-child states the fact of health and poor position of them, it alerts us to the needs of relatively global effort for the development of basic human rights of girl-children (Woods 2009: 206).

UN Development Program publishes the Gender Development Index (GDI) which shows up the situation of girl-child in all over the world. It also states on members’ countries individuals’ reports on gender development. Gender Inequality Index (GII) and gender-related other data mechanism playing a supportive role for girl-child issue. It has shown the actual status of girl-child in the whole world and other basic fundamental rights situation such as life expectancy, health condition, literacy, enrolment in school and so on. For making adequate policies to improve the condition of girl-child, it is compulsory to available the sufficient and relevant data on the issue of gender, this data are available by the Gender Development Index (ECA 2004:5).

Mechanisms are focused on the collection of data specific aspects. They are not assessing the overall development and overall impact of any program on the child. For example the case of educational statics, they present sobering insights and the primary focus has been on number of girls’ enrolment in school, there is very small

number of information on other vital dimensions of learning process (Saith and Wazir 2010:405). Without the availability of adequate data, it is difficult to explore the actual problem of girls in the certain area and set program and policies as to counter that. As example in 2000, there were very African countries ranked in GDI was bellow than 100 and only Egypt was included in the Gender Empowerment Measure (GEM), causes of all these exclusion or lower ranked was insufficient data availability (ECA 2004:5). The availability of adequate data is playing the import role in policy making. Through the data mechanism, it explores the actual condition of girl-child in the certain region and what kinds of policies and program should formulate.

Conclusion

The definitions of children have been forwarded by various national and international forums and their definitions vary in age specifications. Such as International Labor Organization (ILO) has defined children as someone who is at the age of completion of compulsory education. United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) has defined that “Child victims or witness means every person under the age of 18 years who is a victim or witness to a crime is a child regardless of his or her role”. UNCRC 1989 considers the age of children as all human being under the age of 18, and this definition of children is generally adopted.

Children are known to be more vulnerable to and easy targets of evil doers. They are seen to suffer the most in any crisis, be it war, natural disaster, or crimes. After the hazardous experience of First World War, that affected all human beings, children turned to be more affected with the situation and international community get special attention on the children. All children are vulnerable to certain problems like child labor, organ trafficking, child trafficking, violence and exploitation and so on. However, in such situations, girl child is more victimized than male child. As Girl-child suffers from both childish and sexism, they suffer not only from war, the natural disaster but also sexual exploitation and so on.

Even in the domestic arena, a girl-child faces many types of problem in their own family and the girl-child has certain peculiar problems other than that of a boy-child. The patriarchal society place girls and women in a lower position than that of boy and men. Girl -child face different kinds of problems which are based on gender

discrimination such as Female feticide, Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), systematic rape, child prostitution, child pornography, child marriage, dowry system, so on.

Apart from these, there are many kinds of social norms and traditions that are present in various parts of the world which are against the girl-child rights. In many culture and society, girl-child is neglected in their own home, and given inappropriate care and nutrition. Girl-child is negatively affected by such practices as Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), female infanticide, child marriage, and teenage pregnancy and so on. Child marriage is not only dangerous for girl child's health but, it also affects the mental condition.

Despite these various challenges which are faced by children as well as girl children, the children are not taken as the issue of international concern. Child became international concern due to the constant efforts of various actors. After the First World War, the League of Nations took initiative on child protection. The League of Nations adopted the Geneva Declaration in 1924, and it was the first remarkable document where the issue of children was recognized at an international level. Even the United Nations pursued as an important issue and got reflected in Article 25(2) of Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948). UDHR Article 25(2) talks about the needs of motherhood and childhood special care and assistance. Likewise, the preamble of UN Declaration of Rights of Child 1959 clearly states, “the child, by reason of his physical and mental immaturity, needs special safeguards and care, including appropriate legal protection, before as well as after birth”. UN Convention on the Right's of the Child 1989 (CRC) is the first formal convention dealing with children's rights. It became a landmark for child rights. Child issues gained increasing attention after the Child Right Convention (CRC) of United Nations in 1989.

Among the children, girl-children drew the attention of the world community as they suffer more than other children. Before the Beijing conference, there was no separate international agenda for girl-child. However, regional efforts were present that were engaged constantly on their program on girl-child protection and development. UNICEF's Board recommendation in the 1990s stated that UNICEF's programs and strategy for the decade would address the needs of the girl-child, and thus they worked on it in the following the decade. South Asian Association for Regional Co-operation (SAARC) draws attention to girl-child and designated the

1990s as “Decade for the Girl-child”. Through research and help of media, SAARC has tried to explore the problem of girl-child. Earlier than Beijing Conference, there were initiatives taken by United Nations through the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), UN Commission on the Status of Women (CWS), that tried to highlight the issues of women and girl-child.

There are various kinds of norms and standards that have been formulated relating to girl-child. Girl child problems are tried to be addressed through a number of general and specific treaties. Right to birth, rights of equality and equity are created by regional and individual government for girls. Education is the crucial tool for any human beings to build life and dignity. Article 26 of 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights states that “everyone has the right to education”. UN through this right gave the opportunity to girl-child to be treated equally as boys. Individual governments also encouraged the right of education and formulated the norms of education for all. Education for All (EFA) sets standards of sustainable development through education. Gender equality and women empowerment which is the third goal of MDGs also emphasized that the disparity related to girl-child should be eradicated.

The UN tries to prevent child marriage by setting norm relating to age of marriage. Article 16 of CEDAW states that men and women have the same right to choose a spouse and to enter into marriage through free and full consent. It also states, “The ritual engagement and the marriage of a child shall have no legal effect, and all necessary action, including legislation, shall be taken to specify a minimum age for marriage”. The UN Convention on Consent to Marriage, Minimum Age for Marriage and Registration of Marriages came into force in 1962 and 1964 respectively. Universal Declaration of Human Right of 1948 states that “ Everyone has the right to a standard of living, adequate for the health and wellbeing of himself and his family, including food, clothing, housing, and medical care”. With these various efforts, international community encourage those activities which related to the child marriage elimination. The health of girl-child is also taken as a serious issue and various norms and standards are formulated for this.

There are various kinds of mechanisms that have been set up by UN, regional organizations as well as individual government, such as reporting, mandatory

reporting, Universal Periodic Review and so on. They play vital role for any program and policy. Survey system of individual country publishes the annual survey report on various social issues. The mandatory reporting system is necessary for various fields. Universal Periodic Review (UPR) is the sub-body of United Nations Human Rights Council that was established by UN General Assembly on 15 March 2006. It is not directly related to girl-child, but it gives the report on human rights. And as discussed in the most part of the world girl-child faced various human rights violations difficulties so this UPR gives the condition of girls and women in the certain country. Due to the inferior position of girls and women in society their rights and needs are ignored by the family and society and with this mechanism UN highlights the rights accessed and opportunity of girls and women across the world.

Data mechanism played a vital role in girl-child policies and programs. It becomes an effective mechanism of any policy and program for evaluating the actual progress and challenges of implementation. Such as the data on girl-child health and the poor position in the country is helping to policy makers to start the program on the health of girl-child and make policy to counter those difficulties which encourage the discrimination in society. Gender Development Index (GDI), Gender Inequality Index (GII) and so on. These types of data explore the girls' condition in society. With these programs, policies and various mechanisms, world communities actively engaged in to counter the girl-child peculiar issue.

CHAPTER III

UNICEF: STRUCTURE, ROLES AND FUNCTIONS

The United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) was established by United Nations General Assembly in December 1946 to provide aid and assistance to the war affected children. While before the establishment of UNICEF, there was United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration (UNRRA) established in November 1943, to provide relief and rehabilitation to displaced person and measures for the relief of victims of war. Although UNRRA's role did not mention specific about children, but it providing food and cloth as well as the specialized care for children and the issue of children was one of important part of the UNRRA from very beginning (Jacobs 1950A:145).UNRRA and UNICEF both organizations were started to provide temporary relief and rehabilitation of people who were victims in the war as well as to help those people who were affected from the disaster of war. The program and policies, as well as the administrative structure of UNICEF, were wholly borrowed from the UNRRA (Jacobs 1950A:145).

The establishment of UNICEF can be track on the 1940s when the ghastly effects of World War II took place. In the post-Second World War circumstances European countries were concerned about the children wellbeing because the war's impact on European Children was very disastrous. They suffered from the famine, health issues, educational problems as well as many other kinds of difficulties. During the war and in the post-war period most of the children and their families were frequently seen as the greatest wounded of wartime disruption (Wynn 1996:476). After the war, the countries felt the need for the child care program and they tried to carry out some especially post-war planning on the care of the children (Dratch 1974:187). Because of these instant reasons UNICEF was established specifically to look after children issues.

On 11 December 1946,United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) was established by United Nations General Assembly to provide food, drug, cloth and other health care to millions of displaced and refugee children (UNICEF 2006:4-5).In the initial period, UNICEF's mandates were only related to the temporary needs of children. It had worked for the immediate child welfare

program and only for the European children, not to the other part of the world. As the emergency situation was over by 1950, the UNICEF was expected to be closed. However, the developing countries expressed their desire of the service of UNICEF as millions of children from Africa, Asia and Latin America suffer from hunger and health diseases. Therefore, 1953 UNICEF declared as a permanent agency of the United Nations and extended its mandate. UNICEF dropped the words ‘International’ and ‘Emergency’ and the new name of this organization is United Nations Children’s Funds (UNICEF 2006:6). However, even after the change of the name to United Nations Children’s Fund, it is popular with its old acronym UNICEF and continued to use it (Ferguson 1972: 172).UNICEF is known as the only United Nations organization which concerned exclusively with children’s issue (Shaffer 1960: 72).

UNICEF transformed its previous formal mandate and working area into much wider mandate and area. They included not only the issue and difficulties of children but their mothers (Walt 1996:60).More than a decade the primary focus was on the child health issues; UNICEF expands its role in 1961 and addresses the whole needs of the child. Over the years, UNICEF’s area of concerns expanded along with the expansion of roles and functions.

This chapter discusses the historical evolutions of UNICEF and also describes the detail discussion on organizational structure such as executive board of UNICEF, executive directors of UNICEF, UNICEF Innocenti Research Centre and so on. Then it discusses the role and functions of UNICEF in addressing various issues of child concerns as well as its partnership with other organizations. It also discusses various mechanisms to monitor adherence to the norms and implementations of the policies and programs as well as mechanisms to collect data. Finale section will highlight the challenges of UNICEF.

Structure of UNICEF

UNICEF has to have the proper organizational structure to carry out the mandated roles and functions. It has various levels of structures. At present, there are 190 countries as members of UNICEF. Headquarter of UNICEF is located in New York and apart from the organizational structure of UNICEF at headquarter, it has various other structures such as Regional Offices, Country Offices, Innocenti Research Center

and there are many other offices and National Committees which are established in different region and countries. As well as Board and Directors are significant of UNICEF's structural setup.

Executive Board of UNICEF

At the Headquarter, there is Executive Board, which is governing the body of UNICEF. There are 36 members in Executive Board. These 36 member states are elected for the three-year term and United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) plays the vital role in this election process. They elect Executive Board members from different parts of the world (UNICEF Website D). They were representing the five regional groups of member states at the United Nations. It is the tradition that, United Nations Security Council's permanent member cannot be appointed as officers of Executive Board (UNICEF 2015B:1-2). Although the organizational structure of UNICEF is trying to reach various part of the world but the operational activities and important actors post where dominated by the major powers. UNICEF has Executive Board which represents different parts of regions and the Board's members are elected by Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) where the major powers influence the decision on the election with the ECOSOC (Jacobs 1950A).

Executive Board of UNICEF's works are coordinated by the bureau, comprising of the President and four Vice-Presidents, each officer is representative of one of the five regional groups. Only United Nations member states could be electing for the Executive Board. Their participation is from different parts of the world so the representation in UNICEF Executive Board is from all over the region (UNICEF Website D). There was allocation for, Eight seats from Africa, Seven from Asia, Four from Eastern Europe, Five from Latin American and Caribbean states and Europe and others representation is Twelve.

The Executive Board's one of the other important roles is to make policies of UNICEF and approves the projects for funding on the country level (Ferguson 1972: 173). Executive Board meets three times in a year, such as in January/February, May/June, and September. These all meetings are known as regular session, annual session and second regular session (UNICEF 2015B). Generally in April or May

Executive Board member states get elected and Executive Board reviews the activities and policy of UNICEF as well as the country related programs, policies, and budgets. Executive Board assesses UNICEF's programs with countries and budgets system also (UNICEF Website D).

The Executive Board plays an important role in UNICEF. All UNICEF's programs and policy are being approved by the Executive Board. No programs and policy could be applicable or could be implemented without the approval of Executive Board. The Executive Board could allocate the budget for any program and policy. As for the UNICEF aided programs it is compulsory to bring approval from United Nations Specialized agency and suggestions of these agencies are presented to the UNICEF Executive Board for the approval of an allocation (Shaffer 1960:73).

Executive Board's director publishes the annual report and also gives the actual data of some specific activities of UNICEF and these reports and data helps in preparing subsequent policy. According to the "Review of UNICEF's Development Effectiveness: Final Report 2009-2011" the annual and regular report and data of the Executive Director is giving a detail clarification about the UNICEF's activities, as well as it also support to program. This report positively contributed into the higher level achievements and impacts are seen in final results (UNICEF Website D).

Although Executive Board has authority to approve programs for countries, it does not play a dominant role in the organization. It appreciates and encourages countries to keep their views about programs and states the initial need of their countries' children. And as a result of these appreciations number of governments requested to UNICEF for the expansion of its aid on those aspects which is essential for their countries' children welfare. For instance, Honduras government's request for increasing aid for essential maternal and child welfare services, and in 1959 a program was presented for Honduras in the meeting of UNICEF Executive Board and the allocation of \$97,000 for that program was approved (Shaffer 1960: 71). Although, the policies and program of UNICEF are established by its Executive Board, which is guided by objectives laid down by the ECOSOC and its Social Commission (Jacobs 1950A: 145-150). So the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) also plays a vital role in policies and program making.

Although the Executive Board of UNICEF is the important part of UNICEF which played a vital role in the decision process. But this structure is not independent or free-form political influence in UNICEF. The decision of Executive Board is mainly influenced by the ECOSOC. And ECOSOC was imposing their decision on the Executive Board. ECOSOC and its Social Commission acted as a supplementary or additional advisory group by scrutinizing Executive Board decisions (Jacobs 1950B:353). Due to the vital influence of ECOSOC in Executive Board's decision process, the Executive faced various critics (Jacobs 1950B: 359-360). And the Executive Board of UNICEF generally not opposed this decision-making process. The reason behind this influence is the Executive Board of UNICEF members' selection process. Its members were selected by the ECOSOC, but on the other hand ECOSOC was not free to choose member of the board, as it was compulsory to include some nations exclusively for political or operational practicality (Jacobs 1950B:360). Thus, although the Executive Board of UNICEF is the important part of UNICEF which plays a vital role in the decision process. This structure is not independent or free from influence and dominance of ECOSOC.

Executive Director of UNICEF

The Executive Director of UNICEF is the most important post of UNICEF. He/she administrates the UNICEF's policies and programs. He/she is appointed by United Nations Secretary-General with the consultation of UNICEF Executive Board members (UNICEF Website D).

The role of the Executive Director of UNICEF is to submit annual report to the executive board and this report is known as 'General Progress Report' and this report is basically related on process of policy implementation (Ferguson 1972:173). What approach UNICEF is adopting for program and policy implementation, use of allocated funds and so on all these detail discussion is present in this report. As the instance, the UNICEF executive director Henry Labouisse highlighted in his 1971 report to the executive board that how UNICEF day-care centers were helpful for children. Because of these increasing demonstrations, 20 percent of the playgroup or pre-school children in Taiwan were being cared through this day-care center network (Ferguson 1972:171). Executive Director of UNICEF presents the Annual Report in every year. And this report is the most important tool for the assessment of the whole

year program. It evaluates the programs, achievement and challenges which were faced in implementation throughout the year. Currently in 2015, the Executive Board is operating almost in the same way and its 36 members, elected by the ECOSOC and for three years, there are not any differences came into the force in Executive Board member election and other operation activities (UNICEF 2015A:4).

Although the operating structure of Executive Board is still same since the 1990s but the role of Executive Board is expanded such as in current time 2015 the Executive Board supervise the activities of UNICEF, take decision on administrative and financial plans, include the more field-level coordination and so on (UNICEF 2015A:5). The other new role of Executive which appreciated by the member states is too informal discussion of Executive Board members with the delegates, for exemplify sometimes Executive Board allow to the delegates to raised the relevant issue without the formal document and other formalities (UNICEF 2015A:10). These initiatives of the Executive board try to cover the more issue and challenge of children. Its role is still engaged into the take decision on that UNICEF is responsive to prior needs and requirements of UNICEF aid recipients' countries.

Bureau

The Bureau known as a strong bridge which connects the UNICEF secretariat and regional group's representatives in Executive Board. There are five members in Bureau which include one president and four vice- presidents. All these five officers of Bureau are representative of five regional groups and Executive Board elects them for one year (UNICEF Website D). The members of Bureau are elected among the Executive Board's member and moreover the post of president is occupied through rotational process among the regional groups on the annual basis (UNICEF Website D).

The primary role of Bureau is to deal with the administration and functional matter. With the strong negotiation at the session, Bureau is trying to facilitate or make easier to the decision of Executive Board and enhance the more effectiveness of Executive Board's decision (UNICEF Website D). Bureau is basically played a link tool between regional group's representative and the secretariat of UNICEF, it

coordinate with this representative and try to provide an atmosphere for negotiation and discussion on program and policies.

UNICEF National Committees

According to UNICEF data 2006 there are 36 UNICEF National Committees working all over the world and every National Committees has its own structure (UNICEF 2006:7). Their role is to promote UNICEF's program as well as signify and encourages the UNICEF's voice at the country level where they work. It also promotes the awareness about children welfare and highlights the difficulties of children (UNICEF 2006:7). Raising funds for UNICEF and these funds come from private sector, creating the networks for volunteer supports groups as well as it also engaged in the promotion of Convention of the Rights of Children (CRC). Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) gives many rights to children and these committees basically take part on being imparting knowledge and awareness about these rights. And through the promotion of children rights, they protect children from the many kinds of difficulties such as, vulnerable by poverty, suffered from natural and human-made disaster, armed conflict, abuse and many other types of exploitation (UNICEF 2003).

UNICEF Innocenti Research Centre

UNICEF Innocenti Research Centre was established in Florence in 1988. UNICEF Innocenti Research Centre basically gives support to UNICEF through research ability as well as encourage the children voice and advocate for them on worldwide (UNICEF 2003:1-2). At present, it is involved in promoting the proper achievement of Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and it also worked on the improvement of international understanding of children's rights. It also focuses on to where the UNICEF could extend their work area in future. It monitors the children issue and highlights kinds of changes came into the situation of children. By Focusing on the actual fact and data report related to children and through research, it is trying to bridge knowledge gap about the children and their problems. It also influences the policy making the decision in the favour of children (UNICEF 2003). UNICEF Innocenti Research Centre also significantly engaged for the capacity-building forum

for UNICEF through arranging of the seminar and experts discussions on the current issue of children right and welfare (UNICEF Website A).

Apart from the headquarter structure and UNICEF National Committees, UNICEF divided their working area in eight regions. These regions are Central and Eastern Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States, East Asia and Pacific, Eastern and Southern Africa and Industrialized countries, Latin America and Caribbean, Middle East and North Africa, South Asia and West and Central Africa (UNICEF Website A).

There are some of countries where UNICEF has established its Regional Offices, such as Panama City (Panama), Geneva (Switzerland), Bangkok (Thailand), Nairobi (Kenya), Amman (Jordan), Kathmandu (Nepal), Dakar (Senegal) are among the countries where UNICEF's Regional Offices are situated (UNICEF Website A).

With these significant organizational structure and operation activities, UNICEF has some weakness also. Specifically in recruitment process and expert advice, UNICEF's recruitment and performances appraisal are inadequate and sometimes it unfair also such as the process of Executive Board election is still as like same from the 1990s and on the basis of donation UNICEF take partial decision sometimes (UNICEF 2004:8). This domination reflects on the process of Executive Board member selection as well as the ECOSOC interference in the Executive Board decision is also a political aspect. As big powers impose some of the countries representatives name for Executive Board member and ECOSOC elect them. The partnership with other actors also gives vital challenges for UNICEF. Sometimes these collaborations affect the norms and standards of UNICEF (Jacobs 1950B). Although the UNICEF's organizational structure is divided into headquarter and regional offices and both are relating to each other works but in practice headquarters and regional offices are not coordinate adequately and this inadequate coordination affects the projects achievements (UNICEF 2004:29).

UNICEF'S Role and Functions

Initially, the UNICEF has limited roles and functions, providing food, drug or cloth to children in the emergency situation. Its roles and functions expanded after the 1950s which include many other roles related to children health and development.

The primary role of UNICEF related to children health, nutrition, social welfare, education, family planning, and disaster relief for children (Ferguson 1972:185). After the 1950s, UNICEF has not limited its role in providing assistance in the emergency situation. Its role and functions expanded to address the whole needs of children. Its role and function not only expanded but also started its work on various other parts of the world, including Asia, African and Latin American countries and other regions of economically less developed countries (Shaffer 1960:70).

However after the large change of the role of UNICEF, it is still working in the emergency period. And in the time of emergency it immediate contact and try to determine the nature and level of emergency and according to this information try to provide necessary assistance (UNICEF 2005B:7). For example, UNICEF was actively participated in many natural tragedies which happened in 1970s such as East Pakistan affected from tidal wave and cyclone, an earthquake in Peru, Latin America affected by largest disaster as well as the civil war and cholera which badly affected to Nigerian people (Ferguson 1972:173). UNICEF's role and function are to support those projects which actively engaged in children welfare. Its role is to provide the material aid to child welfare projects (Frank Field 1953:38). With these historical involvement UNICEF still actively supporting the government on the time of emergency such as natural disaster like flood, drought, cyclone and many other difficult conditions. For example, Bangladesh faces the constant disaster in recent years such as flood in 1998, 2004 and 2007 and many other natural disasters and during this difficult time UNICEF strategically support to the Bangladesh government in these emergency conditions. For example, UNICEF designed an emergency kit of recreation items for children with this kit it provides the education and sports equipment to children (UNICEF 2009B:65-66). Many other instances of UNICEF explain that the UNICEF involvement still in the emergency situation is present and it continues with its initial objectives.

Setting Norm and Standard

UNICEF has the important role in setting norms and standards for the children. They set norm related to proper diet for the eradication of nutrition deficiency. UNICEF also set many other norms such as adequate food, education, the special arrangement for disabling child and so on. UNICEF set up norms for the protection of the children from exploitation and harmful traditions which crucially affect their physical and mental health such as child marriage, Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), child labour, gender disparity etc. UNICEF set norms for the girl-child that no girls should get married before the compulsory school-leaving age and through this initiative UNICEF trying to eliminate the tradition of early marriage (UNICEF 2008). Thus, UNICEF set the norms for child marriage prevention that no marriage is legal under the age of 18 years (UNICEF 2008B:2).

UNICEF set norms that every child should provide the free birth registration and UNICEF provides technical support to countries for this registration process (UNICEF 2013A:8). According to CRC 1989 every child has the right to a name and nationality and this birth registration initiative is being significant for this identification. Although with this registration norm children can access all health care and education privileges which are provided by the government. Due to Lack of formal recognition or document children may be brought into the child marriage or used in child labor market so the birth registration is helpful for children (UNICEF 2013A).

UNICEF actively engaged in the eradication of FGM, an evil tradition from the society. It highlights that the FGM practice is seen as the violation of human rights of girls and women and the government should give harsh punishment to those people who are involved in this practice. It advocates that, intervention on FGM practices need to be holistic intervention in different level such as community, national, regional and global level, it also emphasise that this harmful tradition should be counter in collective way and it need to change the social norms which promote the FGM (UNFPA & UNICEF 2014:2).

Eradication of malnutrition or reducing the child undernutrition could not be achieved only by focusing on the children health. UNICEF set the norms for the

nutrition deficiency that to improve child nutrition, first the nutrition dose of the women should be addressed. Women's nutrition does, especially during the pregnancy as well as after the birth of the child is necessary for the children undernutrition eradication (UNICEF 2013C:1). With proper nutrition dose and proper health care, undernutrition disease could be eradicated. UNICEF set the proper health care availability as primary norms for undernutrition elimination.

Child Protection

Promotion of child protection is one of the key functions of UNICEF. Throughout from safe birth to proper growth and the physical and mental fitness, these are the basic protections which are the main concern of UNICEF. UNICEF child protection program was related to protecting children from violence, exploitation, abuse as well as the various types of discriminations. Such as discrimination on gender, race, sex and ethnic based and give children to the proper atmosphere to grownup and enjoy all rights which are given by CRC. All children are included in this program, such as children with disabilities, orphaned children, displaced children as well as the children who are affected from the natural as well as the human-made disaster (UNICEF Website C).

UNICEF is working to improve rates of birth registration of all children which helps them to access all benefits or facilities which provide by the government or other agencies (UNICEF 2013:7). UNICEF's initiative for the birth registration of all children is important for all countries it provides a record of the children as well as it gives the identity to all children which are the basic rights of all children. Through this initiative, UNICEF protects children from child labour, child marriage and various other vulnerable conditions where children faced difficulties due to the no legal evidence about their age.

Moreover, it actively engaged in the protection of children from child labour, child trafficking and protects them from other types of violence and exploitations. UNICEF has developed the data collection in various sector in recent years which are helpful in protecting the children more, such as data related to child labor, orphaning children, disable children, child soldiers, and girls data who are affected from the evil societal norm FGM/C (Landgren 2005: 243).

The Child-friendly school program developed by the UNICEF school and through this program UNICEF trying to protect children from exploitations as well as other various kinds of discrimination which generally happens in school (UNICEF 2012B).

Child health

The promotion of child health is another major role of the UNICEF. Health is one of the most important factors for every human being. It makes them capable to enjoy their rights and life. While, as the health of children is more important because they are the future of the world as well as children are not capable to protect their health. Devoid of motherhood health, child health cannot be protected. So for the overall development of children and the protection from other kinds of disease UNICEF paid much attention on mother health also. UNICEF supports countries in collecting data which are connected with the children as well as with the women. This data collection of UNICEF carried through the Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys (MICS), an international family circle program (UNICEF Website C). UNICEF works for children health through various functions such as generating the awareness and campaign program. As instance, awareness about the breastfeeding and how it plays a positive role in children health, UNICEF with the WHO organizes programs and highlights that the breastfeeding up to two years is important for children (Barrett 2011: 125).

UNICEF gives attention and work against those diseases which are more common in children such as diarrhea, malaria, malnutrition and so on. UNICEF is actively participating and engaged with very effective role all over the world on the elimination of malaria. There are many important UNICEF-assisted programs for malaria eradication, for example in when Central America struggles against malaria and malnutrition disease and the mass number of children of Central America suffer from the malaria , UNICEF actively give the support to government on their battle against these disease (Shaffer 1960:70).UNICEF in 2008 with WHO and the United States Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) come together and worked for a multi-country project plan for preventing child maltreatment to enhance early child development (UNICEF 2009:9).

UNICEF promotes the awareness program about nutrition insufficiency in children and how this nutrition insufficiency affects the health of children. through the group immunization movement it tries to aware all those people who related to the child neonatal caregiving as well as other important people such as parents, family members, children guardian and so on. For example, UNICEF participated in group immunization movement or campaign and development of child guidance clinics and UNICEF also works along with the FAO and actively engaged in stimulating production and distribution of safe milk (WHO 1949:547).

Children Nutrition

Another major function of UNICEF to carry out its role of promoting child health is emphasizing the importance of balanced nutrition for proper physical growth as well as the mental growth and overall development for a human being. And the needs of appropriate nutrition in children before the age of six is more compulsory because in this period they are in early growth stage which determine their later overall development. The issue of children nutrition deficiency is not a new phenomenon it is recognized as the global problem related to children from very previous decades. After the World War II children all over the world were facing different kinds of difficulties and malnutrition was one of them. Various national and international agencies take this issue as a big challenge and work to counter this such as United Nations supplementary organizations, WHO, FAO and UNICEF as well. UNICEF has been actively participating in the elimination program for malnutrition all over the world (González and Béhar 1966: 89). This significant role of UNICEF is still present in its main functions and it actively engaged in child nutrition initiative across the world. For instance, UNICEF's various programs and policies on child nutrition such as Infant Feeding in Emergency (IFE), Integrated Management of Childhood Illness (IMCI), Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) and so on. Through the national level, Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) policy UNICEF started child nutrition and health policies across the world (UNICEF 2012 C: 27).

UNICEF takes this issue of nutrition sufficiency in children as an important issue in their program. UNICEF highlighted about types of nutrition insufficiency present in children all over the world. As well as how these nutrition insufficiencies affect the health of children and also they suggested measures for the elimination of

this nutrition deficiency. According to UNICEF, the proportion of nutrition in children aged under 5 is in very bad condition and they suffer from underweight. The world is full of weak children because of the high proportion of children is facing malnutrition and this global malnutrition reason is responsible for half of all children deaths and diseases (Moszynski 2006:1051). Therefore, the UNICEF's role in promoting proper nutrition intake of the children is significant.

There are many causes of the deaths of newborn babies and the main reason of these post-neonatal deaths are because of pneumonia, diarrhea, malaria and undernutrition and all these are related to nutrition deficiency in mother and in children (UNICEF 2013C:14). UNICEF with the help of WHO highlighted these reasons which are the main cause of newborn babies' death. Inadequate knowledge of the mothers, family members and community and the results of this inadequate knowledge is poor nutrition among children. One of the main function of the UNICEF is to highlight the root causes of nutrition deficiency in the child. Through awareness program and campaign, the UNICEF is trying to sensitize the negative effect of nutrition deficiency and highlight the important part of "policies to safeguard child nutrition" and it should include the mother, family and the community (Moszynski 2006:1051).

Gender Equality

One of the crucial roles of the UNICEF is to improve and encourage the gender equality all over the world. UNICEF supports the individual governments on the reduction of gender disparities through the interventions at national and local level. UNICEF serves as the lead agency and hosts of the secretariat of the United Nations Girls Education Initiative (UNGEI) partnership. Through UNGEI, UNICEF championing the rights of girls and help to the countries in achieving gender equality in education (UNICEF 2013B). Basic education and gender equality is one of main focus area of functions and role of UNICEF. UNICEF collaboration with UNGEI tried to stop school drop-out of girls and improve the education quality in schools.

UNICEF's other significant role is the development of children friendly situation all over the world. After the years of work on children, UNICEF had shown its interest on children development as well as the achievement of gender equality

also. According to their research, without the equal development of girls and boys world cannot achieve the authentic or real development of society. And UNICEF started work on gender equality, during the 1990s there are many recommendation of UNICEF's Board which related to gender equality and its strategy as well as program ensuring decade explicitly address the status and work on the needs of girl child (Croll 2006:1285).

Education

UNICEF tries to carry out its role in promoting children education through various actions. It advocates for children education and girl-child education. As well as it promotes the rights of education as important rights of children with disabilities. 'Education For All' is a program which was started in 1990 and popular in various countries. UNICEF took active participation in this program along with the other UN agencies such as the UNESCO and the World Bank and there was first time marked an unprecedented level of educational co-operation between these organizations (Vaughan 2010: 417). UNICEF published various report and conduct surveys and highlights the poor condition of education across the world. As the instance, in 1955 UNICEF and UNESCO organized a survey which was based on the condition of primary schools in the least developed countries (Postlethwaite 1998:290). In this survey, they highlighted about the condition of classrooms, the standard of classroom equipment, the level of the teaching and also the reason behind the drop-out and the rates of drop-out of children from school. And this survey was very helpful for the United Nations to know the condition of education in the least developing countries. With these historical involvement UNICEF still engaged in various education initiative of children across the world, for example recently UNICEF promote the child-friendly school concept and through this concept UNICEF trying to involve in school atmosphere not only children even include the parents and community approach on children education (UNICEF 2009B:3-4).

UNICEF conduct awareness- raising and educational campaign to provide the accessible primary and secondary education facilities to children with disabilities such as accessible buildings, special trained teacher, financial support and so on (UNICEF 2007:1). UNICEF advocates investment in girls' education as a way for all children to fulfil their right to a quality basic education. An educated female child is more aware

of her rights and can assert them (Alabi et al 2014:401). UNICEF celebrates 11 October 2013 as “International Day of the Girl Child” and this year’s day focusing on innovation of girls’ education (UNICEF Website A). Through these initiatives, UNICEF played a crucial role in children education promotion.

Mechanisms

There are various mechanisms which assist UNICEF to monitor the implementation of norms and standards and assist it in formulating improved strategies and policies. From data collection to monitoring, reporting, as well as the other kinds of evaluation mechanisms, are being used as effective tools by the UNICEF.

Data collection

Data collection is one of the mechanisms of UNICEF. UNICEF collects the data related to all types of harmful tradition which affects the children physically as well as mentally. In UNICEF’s child protection program, UNICEF collects the data related to child labour, orphaning, disabilities, child soldiers, and data related to FGM/Cutting. These data highlights the actual condition of children in specific region or country. And on the basis of these data UNICEF launch programs and this data collection is also helpful in eliminating the main crucial reason behind these harmful norms. Baseline data collection is being helpful to ensure that it could make necessary changes in the program (UNICEF 2013B:4).

Through these collections, UNICEF tried to recognize the actual increase or decrease harming effects and find the actual area where these norms are more in attendance. As example, the Global Immunization Vision and Strategy (GIVS) which is developed by UNICEF and WHO to increase numbers of people for vaccination, this vaccination related data are analyzed at the national level, and this national coverage data helps government and other actors to be aware of the program implementation (MMWR 2010:1367).

UNICEF collects data on Child labour rate with the help of International Labour Organization. An investigation into domestic service conducted by the International Labour Organization (ILO) and UNICEF suggest that “staggering numbers” of children around the world and approximate 90 percent of whom are girls

are working as household servants. Both organizations investigate jointly and worked together for eliminating the child labour is (UNICEF 2007:66). This data collection highlights the condition of children across the world. It draws the attention which is helpful for formulating policies according to requirements.

UNICEF takes the initiative in Data collection on the status of children maternal mortality. UNICEF with various other UN agencies such as United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), WHO and World Bank (WB) work on this issue. They are working together for improved data collection on maternal mortality. This inter-agency approach pools resources and works comprehensively (UNICEF 2008C: 5). They were collecting the data related to child maternity and safely newborn baby and published their report. This report provides adequate help in formulating policy related to child health and their overall development.

UNICEF Out-of School-Children Initiative (OOSCI) is a big initiative of UNICEF. In this initiative UNICEF is working with 25 countries and collected the data on the out of school children and promote the use of this data to measure and better understanding of the children's barriers to school access (Sayeda 2013:843).Data on the education status helps the government to make policies and program on the certain area and give more special attention to those difficulties which are generally faced by children on the access of education facilities.

Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) is the very harmful social tradition which affected the girl-child severely. UNICEF with the help of WHO collect data on Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) practices and they provide the annual data related to FGM tradition in various parts of Africa and other parts of world (WHO 2008:4).

Although there are various positive aspects of data collection mechanism of UNICEF but at the same time there is extreme self-deception was present in data collection of the UNICEF. The report on the immunization coverage program of UNICEF, Many doctors or local health worker give falsify data, as example one doctor who was working for British related relieve agency explains about the workers in Ethiopia that they falsify the data related to immunization reporting "because Unicef gave them so much money, they didn't want to disappoint them" (Godlee 1995:182).

Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E)

Monitoring and Evaluation is the important part of program and policies implementation and for new recommendations. This is seen as a responsibility of Country Office of UNICEF and the responsibility of Regional Offices (UNICEF 2003:103).

Monitoring is the regular assessment of the program. Although the part of outcome or achievement is mechanized by Evaluation mechanism, it reveals the outcome and effect of the program (UNICEF 2013C:9). Both Monitoring and Evaluation together plays a vital role and it assess that how program and policies are working for achieving the goal. They evaluate that, are the outcome or achievement is same as decided initially and what kinds of modification require in the implementation process.

UNICEF's Monitoring and Evaluation mechanism provides the regular information about the achievement and challenges of programs. It helps in the assessment of effectiveness of program-related activities, as example social cash transfer program which started in Liberia with the support of European Union and UNICEF for the help of country's most vulnerable and poor resident (UNICEF 2009:1). This cash transfer program is regularly monitored and evaluating by UNICEF to assess that how it affects the health, education and other wellbeing of children who suffer from disabilities (UNICEF 2013A:15).

The purpose of Monitoring and Evaluation is that it presents the evidence or facts related to the achievement of programs, it explore the strengths and weakness of programs and programs implementation process as well as the effectiveness of program (UNICEF 2013A:9-10). Monitoring and Evaluation mechanism build a process where civil society can put their voice and put the pressure on related stakeholder or government for better performances (UNICEF 2005:26).

UNICEF's Monitoring and Evaluation tools is good for the evaluation of policies outcome, however, the process of this mechanism was not very appropriate. Sometimes the professionals and experts who involve in Monitoring and Evaluation activity they dominate or ignored the selection of social indicators for evaluation. They generally assess the programs achievement through the glasses of the

international indicator and ignore the local people analysis and experience. As the instance, UNICEF's monitoring and evaluating mechanism in Zimbabwe for the proper data on the reason of HIV/AIDS ignored the local condition of Zimbabwe (Kararach 2004:569).

There are many international agencies who apply the uniform approach in the assessment of any problem for all region of the world. They ignored what kinds of different reasons persist in different areas of the world.

Table 3:1 Monitoring and Evaluating at Different Intervention Levels

Focus	Monitoring activities/systems	Evaluation activities
Global Policy, Global Strategy, Regional Priorities	MTSP Monitoring Children's Goals Monitoring Child Info Regional Quality Assurance Systems	Global, Regional Thematic Evaluations Global, Regional Syntheses of Evaluations Meta- Evaluations Regional Analysis Reports Multi- Country Evaluations
Country Programme	Situation Assessment and Analysis Common Country Assessment Early Warning Monitoring Annual Reviews Annual Management Reviews Mid-Term Management Review CO Quality Assurance Indicators	Evaluation of Country Programme Mid-Term Review Self-Assessment
Programme/ Project	Mid-year progress reviews Field visits Annual Management Review	Programme/project evaluation

Sources: UNICEF, Programme Policy and Procedures Manual: Programme Operations, UNICEF, New York, Revised May 2003, pp. 109-120.

Reporting System

Reporting mechanism provides the systematic and regular report about the program implementation and timely information about program process (UNICEF 2004:17). UNICEF reporting system is based on reports by country, reports by region, reports by theme and reports by date. With all these reporting mechanism, UNICEF updates its program activities (UNICEF 2014).

Annual Report of the Executive Director of UNICEF is also a reporting mechanism of UNICEF. This report is most important because it give the assessment of the whole year program. It gives the report of UNICEF's achievement and challenges faced in implementation its decisions and program in the entire year. The annual report also gives the information about the developments in the implementation of programs and as well as it provides the internal challenges and measures of program performance (UNICEF 2013C:13).

Report publishing system of UNICEF is very old mechanism UNICEF is working with the collaboration with other organizations. This collaboration program was present in report publication system also. All the partners published the joint report of their activities. They published various reports related to the children issue. As the example, WHO and UNICEF on the Joint Reporting Form on Immunization, which publishing the annual report on vaccination program (UNICEF & WHO 2012: 1367).Such as child mortality with World Health Organization, In 1995 UNICEF and UNESCO submitted their report of developing countries related to percentage of children out of school, responses rate of schools as well as others criteria of model school (Postlethwaite 1998:294).

This partnership in the report preparation and publication is to make simpler or easier any program or policy and emerged as the good and effective mechanism for the organisation. Report on malaria eradication which is prepared by the World Health Organization's Director-General on the request of UNICEF Executive Board and this evaluation is helpful in the review of UNICEF's financial support of this Malaria eradication program (Shaffer 1960:75).

Although there are various positive significant of reporting mechanism and in many cases government and UNICEF authority include the reporting is a mandate for

stakeholders but the work on transparent reporting is still not taking much attention (UNICEF 2008:100). The reporting mechanism could more effective through the transparent reporting mechanism. Other critics of reporting mechanism are to this irregularity. According to UNICEF research, in recent years the constancy and quality of reporting is not performing well. And there are the factual quality of reporting is not much faithful (UNICEF 2004:24).

Evaluation Program

Evaluation is basically the organized assessment of programs related activities and also assesses the outcome of programs. It evaluates the actual achievement and initial goal of any program (UNICEF 2013C:9). Evaluation mechanism is always being the important part of the UNICEF and UNICEF gives more attention to the system of evaluation. It always tried to mention all the recommendation or advices which are given by Evaluation system. UNICEF appoints the respected professionals for the program evaluation part. According to the “Review of UNICEF’s Development Effectiveness: Final Report 2009-2011” Evaluation Officers post are fulfilled by respected professional evaluators and they are the major strength of this system. The Evaluation Officer (EO) has played a main leadership role in UN management through the UN Evaluation Group (UNICEF 2013C: 8-9).

Program and policies evaluation is the main crucial mechanism for the assessment of the outcome of UNICEF’s program. UNICEF’s Central Evaluation Office is seen or considered as a very strong part of the UNICEF. The reports of this office is measured as credible as well as impartial (UNICEF 2013C:8). It provides a feedback about the program’s achievement and increases accountability to the program countries and stakeholders. As well as it provides a learning opportunity for the future program as example UNICEF and UNFPA evaluation program on FGM intended the future work on FGM (UNICEF 2013B:1-2).

Evaluation mechanisms which are present at international level, regional level, and sub-regional level promote the accountability and transparency in policies implementation and expenditure (UNICEF 2005B:22). Although with these mechanisms UNICEF actively engaged on the proper and effective outcome of programs and policies but in other hand the UNICEF all these management is

basically more focused on result-based management. And it ignored the aspects of managing by results and it is far from the management on the result which affects its future program and policies (UNICEF 2004:2).

UNICEF's Partnership with Other Organizations

UNICEF works along with many other organizations, agencies, NGO, INGO and with individual governments. UNICEF established its relationship with many international NGOs such as Oxfam and Save the Children since the 1950s and worked for civil society empowerment model (Stiles 1998). These relationships were appreciated by United Nations also. It could be helpful in capital or resource mobilization of the organization that had practice or working in similar or related fields (Jacobs 1950A:149). Many other organizations also work for the children welfare. As well as other reason of this partnership is to the mobilization of funds and is one of the important aspects of the partnership of UNICEF (Jacobs 1950A).

Its collaboration with other organizations could work more effective and the goal could be achieved in a shorter period. Such as working with United Nations Educational, Scientific and cultural Organization (UNESCO) and UNICEF also concern with various children education promotion activities across the world and both organization actively engaged in Education For All program (Vaughan 2010: 406-415). For the children education and it is one of the most vital points for UNICEF. They work together and tried to achieve the goal of education. For instance, UNICEF actively engaged at the local level and with the partnership of local authority program makes more effective outcome. They make policy and program related to proper food, drug, nutrition and the basic needs of children for overall development.

Comprehensive use of resource is also one of the aspects of partnership, for example, UNICEF, UNFPA and World Bank together working improve data collection on maternal mortality field and this comprehensive inter-agency work reduce the funding responsibility on one organization (UNICEF 2008C:4-5).

However, UNICEF's partnership with other actors has its own significance. It makes easier to achieve the goal and could bring the effective outcome of the program. But there are some demerits and disadvantages of this collaboration. And

because of this disadvantage it faced many criticisms and challenges. Different actors are responsible for different implementation part which creates more difficulties in the implementation process. As instance, UNICEF and WHO both organizations works hand in hand in Asia on 50 projects in 15 countries where UNICEF has provided materials and invested in supplies, as well as the WHO, has provided the professional personal and in sometime UNICEF influence with the norms of WHO(Keeney 1953:606). As UNICEF have own norms and standards as well as WHO following the own rule for program assessment but on the period of the partnership the sometimes both organizations face the challenge due to these different norms on the common issue.

Some of the actors follow the top-down intervention for the eradication of any difficulties of children which is not equally appropriate in all places. Such as, WHO and UNICEF started the joint program for the eradication of polio from all over the world. According to DrCirodeQuadros, director of the polio abolition programme in the America, UNICEF aid worker get amazing result through the single mind and single diseases eradication program but the same policy in Africa was the wastes of resources because without the development of proper health care infrastructure, single diseases eradication program could not be effective (Godlee 1995:182).

While within the partnership or beyond the partnership the international agencies evaluate all over the area of the world in the same approach. For example, HIV/AIDs and the reason behind this in Zimbabwe was different from the other parts of world, here the professionals of UNICEF as well as WHO ignored the social statics of Zimbabwe and adopted a uniform approach (Kararach 2004:571).

Challenges

As other United Nations agencies, UNICEF is also influenced by powerful countries. The dominant role of developed countries has affected the role and functions of UNICEF.

Organizational structural is a big challenge of UNICEF. As UNICEF is working in larger parts of the world it is very difficult to reach the entire world equally. With the minimum resources, it is difficult to establish a large and effective

structural arrangement to deal with various issues of children. All these aspects affect the project result of UNICEF. According to the research of UNICEF, some Country Offices yet lack training in procurement and logistics and faced challenges (UNICEF 2004:31).

As UNICEF based on voluntary funds for their activities and this voluntary funds mostly given by major powers and because of this donation they influence the program and policies. The allocation of funds of UNICEF and as well the policy making process for any country is sometimes affected from the major power's national interest. They dominate the UNICEF to make policy for those countries who keep the favourable position for them. As the instance, the allocation of funds for the German program, this program was very small and basically nothing more than a token. As it was related to the national interest of the United Kingdom and the United States and that was the reason they pushed this program (Jacobs 1950B:357).

Although the UNICEF program and policies concern with the wellbeing of children across the world and it assess the impact of their program on children overall development but there are very little documentation about the environmental impact of programs and policies or all projects (UNICEF 2004:25).

Accountability is not included in UNICEF as important aspects which and this exclusion of accountability hampered to UNICEF program and policy outcomes. Managers and many other important actors of UNICEF are not yet accountable for result as well as there are not reward system for poor achievements or other negative outcomes and this lack accountability create more difficulty for UNICEF achievements (UNICEF 2004:18).

Due to the vital influence of ECOSOC in Executive Board's decision process, this Executive Board of UNICEF would be seen as the mirror of United Nations and faced various critics (Jacobs 1950B: 359-360). And the Executive Board of UNICEF generally not oppose to this decision process. The reason behind this comparison is the Executive Board of UNICEF members' selection process. Its members were selected by the ECOSOC, but on the other hand ECOSOC was not to free to choose member of board, it was compulsory to include some nations exclusively for causes of

political or operational practicality (i.e., Argentina, Brazil, Iraq, and Switzerland) , and this is the big disadvantage of the member selection of board (Jacobs 1950B:360).

Conclusion

UNICEF as an organization works for the welfare of children across the world. Although the initial objective of the UNICEF's establishment is to provide the food, milk and drug as well as other aid to European children specifically those children who ghastly affected from Second World War, later, UNICEF's sphere of operation expanded to all over the world. While UNICEF is not the first organization who engaged with the children wellbeing and raised the issue of children, it has become an prominent organization specialized children's issues. The establishment of United Nations Relief Rehabilitation Administrative (UNRRA) was a vital effort for the upliftment of children. Although the UNRRA was not exclusively working for children, the children issue was the one of the important parts of the UNRRA. The significance of UNICEF is that it is established for the specifically to deal with the issue of children. But due to the various similarities between these two organizations, UNRRA was seen as the father of UNICEF. UNICEF primarily deals with the issues of children as well as the immediate difficulties of children.

The work process, priority given to specific issues and regions for aid is seen to be shifting according to the needs and priorities identified by UNICEF. Such as UNICEF's engagement in the field has not only been limited to emergencies, it also works for current as well as the gradual needs of children. While with wider engagement on children issue as well as the wider part of the world, UNICEF has the difficulties in deciding the priority areas where more work should be done and immediate action should taken. These difficulties are due to vast differences in the social and economic profile and situation of the countries. With these dynamic involvements of UNICEF, it requires organizational structure to counter the difficulties of children.

Although the organizational structure of UNICEF is trying to reach various part of the world, the operational activities and important post in the organizational set up were dominated by the major powers. UNICEF has Executive Board which represents different parts of regions and the Board's members are elected by

Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) where the major powers influence the decision as well as election to various posts in the organization. The Executive Board Director is elected by the Executive Board members and basically responsible for annual report of performance of the UNICEF. Major Powers' national interest dominates the decision of the Executive Board Director.

The Bureau is a bridge which connects the UNICEF secretariat and regional groups represented in Executive National Committees play important role in raising funds for UNICEF. And it also actively participated in the promotion of Convention of the Rights of Children (CRC) across the world as well as its most significant contribution is to promote the voice of UNICEF at the country level. With these significant roles of Bureau and UNICEF National Committees, they played a vital role in UNICEF interaction with other actors as well as establishment a strong presence at the country level. With this strong presence UNICEF advocates the rights of children and UNICEF Innocenti Research Centre played a vital role in this sector.

UNICEF Innocenti Research Centre encourages for children's voice and advocates for them worldwide. UNICEF Innocenti Research Centre promotes the proper achievement of Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) rights children. It monitors the children issue and highlights kinds of changes came into the situation of children. With the available data and report it on children issue it is trying to bridge knowledge gap about the children and their problems and with these significant role it influence the policies on children welfare. Although the role of UNICEF Innocenti Research Centre is to promote the children welfare policies of UNICEF across the world but sometimes its decision on the priority of country for UNICEF policies implementation.

With these significant presences, its role and functions are to setting norms and standards for children welfare, child protection, child health and many other children welfare works. UNICEF through the setting the norms for children try to provide an environment to children where they grown up with dignity and get all basic requirements. Such as UNICEF set the norm adequate food, education, the special arrangement for all child, proper health care and education facilities should provide to all children. Specifically for girl child, UNICEF formulate various norms such as gender equality, norms for the protection from exploitation and harmful

traditions which crucially affect their physical and mental health such as child marriage, Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), child labour, gender disparity etc. With these setting norms it involve in the various child welfare activities such as promotion of child protection, promotion of child health, emphasizing the importance of balanced nutrition for proper physical growth as well as the mental growth. UNICEF is significantly engaged in encouraging the gender equality, promoting children education.

UNICEF is working in partnership with other national and international organizations as well as individual governments also. UNICEF along with the World Health Organization (WHO) works on child health and development. This partnership of the organizations eliminates various challenges of children policies. FAO and UNICEF work together for food program in many developing countries. UNICEF and UNESCO are working together for education and promoting gender equality. Children education and as well as girls education-related works are more effective with the cooperative work of UNICEF and UNESCO. This partnership reflects in report preparation and publication and it makes simpler of program and policy evaluation. And this cooperative work has emerged as a good and effective mechanism. With the comprehensive approach, UNICEF is trying to counter the difficulties of children and working for the welfare of children. Although the main objective of UNICEF for partnership is to achieve goal and aim on the easier way but sometime this partnership overlap the role of each other. As well as they face difficulties too because of the different norms and rule of each organization.

UNICEF developed various mechanisms for their program and policies such as data collection, monitoring and reporting, Monitoring and Evaluation. Through these mechanisms, UNICEF evaluates the proper implementation of their program as well as the later requirements of those programs. Through these collections and reporting system, UNICEF tries to recognize the actual increase and decrease in the assessment of children related condition in society. Data collection is one of the important mechanisms of UNICEF, but sometimes data collector gives the falsify data due to which affects formulation of programs and policies.

Some of the UNICEF mechanisms ignore the local phenomena and uses the uniform standards for all countries. The African countries and European countries do

not have equal social and cultural background. In such situation, uniform processes of evaluation mechanisms are not much effective. Despite these drawbacks, UNICEF plays an important role in promoting children welfare across the world.

CHAPTER IV

UNICEF AND GIRL-CHILD: POLICIES, STRATEGIES, AND PROGRAMME

In order to address the girl-child issue, the UNICEF formulates various policies and adopts strategies. Its policies, strategies, and programs are related to the girl-child immediate and gradual needs as well as draw the attention on the peculiar difficulties of girl-child. UNICEF's engagement on girl-child issue is not a new phenomenon. In the 1990s, UNICEF was actively engaged in the issue of girls and women, as for instance, UNICEF's Executive Board recommended that UNICEF's subsequent strategies will mainly focus on the status and needs of girl-child across the world (Croll 2006:1285). And following years of UNICEF raised the issue of girl-child. By 1990s gender issue has become one of the main focus of UNICEF. UNICEF replace its strategies from child development to child survival and give more attention on the issue of gender-based discrimination under the female Executive Director Carol Bellamy. These strategies allowed to UNICEF to give attention on the intellectual, psychological and emotional development of both girl and boy children equally (Morris 2010:646).

UNICEF set some goals such as promoting welfare of children, focuses on child protection from various types of violence and exploitations, protect children health through various health policies, promote gender equality for the welfare of girl children, promotes the children education and so on as discussed earlier. To achieve those goals UNICEF formulate various policies. For the proper implementation and effective outcome from those policies, UNICEF adopted strategies. While all these policies and strategies come into the practice through the effective programs. Through the holistic approach on all these three aspects (policy, strategy, and program) UNICEF is trying counter the girl-child difficulties across the world.

This chapter discusses how UNICEF deals with the issue of girl-child across the world, highlighting the policies of UNICEF adopted to address the girl child difficulties. Then it discusses the strategies and strategies adopted by the UNICEF to implement these policies Finally, it explains those challenges which are faced by UNICEF during the implementation of programs and policies.

Policies on Girl-Child Issues

UNICEF decided to work on the wellbeing of girl and to achieve the goals of girl-child wellbeing UNICEF make policies and strategies. In the process, the UNICEF is trying to highlight the complications and the peculiar problem of girl-child as well as their root causes.

Policies on Girl-child Health

In many patriarchal and male dominated societies, the health of girl-child is neglected from the very earlier period. United Nations take initiative on this issue and formulate many norms as example, norms for the protection of the girl-child from all harmful traditions and disparity which crucially affect their physical and mental health such as inadequate food and health care for girl-child, child marriage, Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), child labour, gender disparity and so on. The UN tries to promote these norms through various policies. UNICEF is one of the vital actors who promote the UN norms for girl-child health as well as UNICEF through the various other policies, promotes these international norms and protect girl-child health. For instance, UNICEF emphasise the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) of 1948, where everyone has the right to a standard of living for the adequate health and wellbeing without the biases on the basis of sex and gender. UNICEF stress that the discrimination on to provide proper health care to the girl child is the violation of their basic human rights. And all those tradition should eradicate which gives the negative impact on girl-child health. For example, UNICEF initiated that the international agreement importance on the standard indicator for the analysis of situation behind the Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) and towards the end this horrific tradition this initiative helps (Berg & Denison 2012:144). UNICEF's policy is to publish the report on FGM practices and draw the attention on this harmful tradition. For example, in 2005 UNICEF published its first statistical study on FGM and tries to increase awareness of the magnitude and continue practices of FGM (UNICEF 2013 B: 1-2).

The girl child's physical health as well their mental health is affected by the various other tradition and UNICEF with other UN agency makes policies to address the issues of those harmful tradition for example, UNICEF and WHO jointly collect data on Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) in Africa and all affected area (Ramsay

2005 & UNICEF 2009). These data enable the UNICEF formulate policies and strategies to address these problems. On the basis of data UNICEF's strategies is to highlight the current aspect of FGM across the world as well as through the guess of future of this practices draw the attention of world community. For example, UNICEF describe the condition of FGM in Ghana FGM rate among the girls age 15 to 19 years is 2 % now and this is the one-quarter half of previous 30 years with these current situations the future rate will decrease (UNICEF 2010:3-4).

As discussed earlier girls are facing more HIV/AIDS diseases due to the child prostitution, child marriage, FGM practices, the rape and so on. And UNICEF takes this as an important issue and along with other partners such as United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) formulate policy on this issue. Their approach is to the help those people who fighting from HIV/AIDS. For instance, UNICEF is one of the cosponsoring agencies of UNAIDS and it attended many discussion with pharmaceutical companies on the various drug for the fight to HIV/AIDS (Bellamy et. al.2000:960).

UNICEF engaged individually as well as with other UN agencies to provide a healthy environment for girl-child and promotes the awareness and campaign against the social practices which give negative impact on girl children health. In 1990s UNICEF and World Health Organization (WHO) together formulate policies and promote the meals campaigns across the world and core aim of this campaign was, to reduce global meals mortality by 2005 (Costa et al 2003:23). UNICEF has the policy of promoting the birth registration, especially of girl children because, with the proper record, girl children can access all health facilities which provided by government or certain organizations.

UNICEF's also tries to counter the root causes of girl-child poor health through formulating policies jointly with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and WHO. For instance, UNICEF and Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) combined policy committee suggested the health policy governing and support to the national governments for the improvement of the nutrition of mothers and children both (Shaffer 1960:72). As women position in society reflects the girl-child position in society and the poor condition of girl-child health is because of the poor

condition of women health. So with the mother and child both health improvements get the actual benefit to the girl-child health.

Policy on Protection from Violence and Exploitation

UNICEF bring child protection as a most important aspect of its policies. It tried to formulate policies and strategies to protect children from all kinds of visible and non-visible violence or exploitations. As all children faced various kinds of violence and exploitation, UNICEF uses the term child protection and refers to protection of all children from violence, exploitation, and abuses (Landgren 2005:215). The UNICEF policy is to highlight the condition of girl children across the world such as how they suffer from the violence and exploitation. UNICEF published a numeral pamphlets and highlighting the girls situation such as gender disparity and discrimination against girls, sexual violence against girls, physical and mental exploitation as well as visible and invisible social norms against the girl-child wellbeing are underlined by the UNICEF (Croll 2006:1285). Another policy is UNICEF includes the religion community leader on the campaign on girl-child issue. Moreover it supports the various religion representatives, individual government and community leader to raise the issue of girl-child and through the support of them highlights those social practices which encourage the violence against girl-child such as, female feticide, Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) and other violence against the girl-child (UNICEF 2013B:4).

The UNICEF's other policies are to protect girl-child from violence and exploitation and highlights the global rights of girl-child. While it highlights all rights of girl-child and specifically underline those rights of girl-child which provide to the girls for protection from violence and exploitations. Such as UNICEF promotes the Article 19 of CRC which stress that, "The every children have right to protection from all forms of physical or mental violence, injury or abuse, maltreatment or exploitation, including sexual abuse, in the care of parents, guardian or any other person (1989). The other example is UNICEF's policy is to promote Convention on the Rights of Child 1989 (CRC). Specifically it stress on those CRC rights which related with the children protection from violence and exploitations such as CRC says, every child have right to a name and nationality because United Nations give this right to all children but still many children left from the mainstream and facing the identity crisis

and faces various violence and exploitations. UNICEF's policy is to promote all children this right through the child's birth registration campaign. Through this policy girl-child being more benefited because in various society the girl-child birth registration is ignored and the birth registration of girl-child was lower than boy-child and this situation was present in all over the world (UNICEF 2013A:22). Because of the lack of birth certificate proof girl-child faced child marriage, and difficulties and UNICEF is trying to protect girl-child from these difficulties.

UNICEF with Inter-Agency Setting Committee (IASC) set the guideline for eradicates Gender Based Violence. And UNICEF through this Gender-Based Violence campaign tried to protect girls as well as women from various gender-based violence and exploitation. For example, in crisis or conflict zone women and girls more suffered from gender-based violence and UNICEF through the help of Inter-Agency Setting Committee (IASC) promote the policies prevent girl and women from sexual violence in emergency phase. Despite UNICEF included all children on their protection policies but due the patriarchal societal norms and the peculiar problem of girl children UNICEF gives special attention on the issue of girl-child protection.

Policies for Promoting Girl-child Education

UNICEF policies highlight the poor condition of girls' education across the world. UNICEF underline that the poor condition of girl-child education is not phenomena of one country or region, it present the world. And UNICEF emphasizes that the reason behind this poor condition is the gender-based discrimination in society. Its policy is to draw the attention the girl-child education difficulties across the world. For example, according to UNICEF Innocenti Research Centre reports 2006, in developed countries, women, and adolescent girl do not have sufficient choice or option in education field, mainly technical and industrial fields, due to the gender biases (Goonsekere2006:11).

Highlighting the benefits of girls' education and through the data and survey it explores the condition of girl-child in various region and society. For example, UNICEF and UNESCO in 1955 organized a survey on the girls' education condition in the least developed countries. This survey was based on the condition of primary schools in the least developed countries as well as it also explores the reason behind

the dropout of girl-child from school (Postlethwaite 1998:290). In this survey they highlighting what are condition of classrooms, standard of classroom equipments, level of the teaching and as well as what are the reason behind the drop-out and the rates of drop-out of children from school. And this survey was very helpful for the United Nations to know the condition of education in the least developing countries. UNICEF through this policy highlights the condition of girl-child education condition (Postlethwaite 1998).

In various countries, UNICEF's policies are to encourage to government and increase the girls-child enrollment in school. For instance, UNICEF support to Turkey government on their campaign for girls and women education (Somuncu 2006:20). With the encouragement of girls enrollment in school UNICEF's other policies is to provide proper education to those girls who are not enrolled in the school. UNICEF policies are to promote the girl-child education through the campaign. For instance, UNICEF and Turkey government joint effort on "Off School, Girls" campaign is one of the campaign policy of UNICEF (Somuncu 2006:20).

Policies for Gender Equality

UNICEF started gender equality policies in 1994 and through this policy UNICEF basically promotes the equality between girls and boys. It is trying to eliminate gender disparity from all sectors and for this UNICEF engaged with the cooperation of government and other national and international partners (UNICEF 2012). For example, UNICEF designated and emphasise that the girls education is a sustainable development of region or country because in future an educated girls and girl-child became a competent mother, a good decision maker, a knowledgeable family planner and so on (Croll 2006:1288).

UNICEF takes gender disparity as an uppermost agenda in it policies. Eliminate all discrimination against the girl children and provide an appropriate atmosphere for them to equal grow up in society. UNICEF policies and programs which promote the gender equality is not new phenomena, it present in UNICEF's policy from very past decades. As well as they work on education policy in many different regions and continent. In the 1990s, UNICEF through the many pamphlets

on girl-child they promoted the gender-related awareness, gender equality programs and many another approaches for girls' empowerment (Croll 2006).

UNICEF policy to promote the birth registration of all children is playing a big role in gender equality process; throughout this policy UNICEF encourages the treating all children equally. Through this policy, UNICEF is promoting the gender equality because without any kinds of discrimination they emphasize the registration of girl-children birth also. It encourages the birth registration of girl-child because the birth registration of girl children was ignored in various region of the world. As well as UNICEF approach to publishing the annual report on birth registration and it published all countries data related to girl-child birth registration. Through this published report, it encourages the countries to registered girl-child birth registration as like boy child birth registration(UNICEF 2013A).

UNICEF's policies are to participate with other national and international organization, public and non-public parties for the effective works on gender equality. UNICEF and UNESCO partnership for girls and women education, UNICEF and World Health Organization (WHO) joint make policies for children education and also promotes the girl-child education. For example, Education For All (EFA), MDG's third goal 'gender equality and women empowerment' many other approach for gender promoting the gender equality and create the equal platform for girl-child and boy-child (Vaughan 2010: 417).

UNICEF with the help of International Labour Organization (ILO) promotes the policy to collect data and publish the report on child labour condition across the world. While all children suffer from the child labour difficulties but girl-child faces more difficulties such as daily household chores are mostly seen as the work of girl-child. With these data and report collection policies, UNICEF highlights that how these traditions present in all society of the world. For example, an investigation into domestic service conducted by the International Labour Organization (ILO) and UNICEF suggest that "staggering numbers" of children around the world an approximate 90 percent of whom are girls are working as household servants, both investigate jointly and worked together for eliminating this condition (Ward 2011). This policy on child labour and other kinds of child exploitation eradication are constantly supported by UNICEF and through drawing the attention on gender

discrimination. And it is also trying to establish the gender-equal environment in society.

UNICEF's other policy at is to promote the gender equality at the country level with the support of government. Policies are to encourage the country to give proper attention on the issue of girl-child gender discrimination problems and promote the gender equality in the country. For example, UNICEF played a vital role and it is the important member of United Nations Country Team (UNCT) which basically works and coordinates to the UN developments contribution to nation-wide goals and prior aim. Through this participation, UNICEF emphasizes the issue of gender equality and the issue of girls and women should be taken as the prior goal of nations (UNICEF 2010:12).

Policies on Eradicating Child Marriage

UNICEF's policies on the child marriage prevention are very diverse. Through various different policies, it tries to counter this harmful tradition. It adopted a policy is to emphasize the negative impacts of early child marriage practices such as premature consummation, teenage pregnancy, and mental trauma and so on. According to UNICEF report 2006, South Africa, most of the girls faced this early marriage and teenage pregnancy difficulties, average 44% of girls under the age of 18 years gave birth which is the big cause of girls poor health(Walker 2012:232). UNICEF policy also focuses the awareness expansion in the community, family and state about the early marriage difficulties. As well as it approaches are to promote all those law and norms which prevent children from this horrific tradition. For instance, UNICEF and UNESCO joint effort on eliminating those laws which allow girls to marry before the compulsory education, promotion of CRC and so on (UNICEF 2009A).

UNICEF is committed to change or discourage those social norms and beliefs which promote the early marriage of child and encourage enforcement laws against this as well as create a platform for girls where they raised their voices (UNICEF 2012C:7). And its policies are to promote those activities which work against this harmful tradition and for this, it work with other organization or state to counter early marriage tradition. For example, UNICEF promotes the CRC and Convention for

Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) Committees activities against the child marriage (UNICEF 2008B:3).

The UNICEF also tries to protect girl-child from early marriage by adopting policies to encourage girls' education; girls consent rights on marriage and so on and with these policies it trying to protect girls from early marriage and teenage pregnancy. For instance, UNICEF, World Bank (WB), and United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) joint attempt on human capital perspective and their approach is the education of girls or schooling of girls is a key of reducing fertility and child marriage (Cobbett 2014:312). UNICEF's approach for girls' education is indirectly given a major effect on child marriage declining. More year girls spend in school and through this way they keep far from early marriage as well as teenage pregnancy.

However, with these significant policies on girl-child welfare UNICEF faces some challenges also during the making policies. UNICEF has actively participated in the formulating the policies on girl-child welfare such as elimination of violence, exploitation, and other kinds of discrimination against the girl-child but the major efforts of UNICEF does not properly work in the various region of the world. UNICEF promoting gender equality and establish gender units, as well as UNICEF actively engaged in the various region but in many region children, are rarely were divided by gender (Croll 2006:1288). And in this condition UNICEF faced various difficulties to counter the problem of girl children. Sometimes girl-child does not have separate identification in society, they reckon in women group. So the UNICEF's policies on girl-child could not be get benefited for them.

Patriarchal and male dominated society is also one of the big obstacles for UNICEF to make policies for addressing girl-child issues. In many societies of the world, son is seen as the states of symbol of states and girls are ignored in the family as well in society. In the various regions, girl-child does not count as a part of the family and they seen as a member who left home after their marriage, so discrimination was started from childhood (Croll 2006). In these circumstances, it is very difficult to make policies for individually girl-child and convince parents or guardians to promote gender equality or girls-child welfare and it affects the policies implementation process as well.

UNICEF country offices commissioned and numbers of special studies on girl-child and according to these findings they analyzed the country situation and provide the adequate require programming process to country (Croll 2006:1288). However, these studies and research are not always giving correct information about the condition of girls or children in the certain country. For example, in the annual report of UNICEF the enrollment of girls in school is increasing in Sub-Saharan Africa. While when they published the report of one decade assessment it different from annual report according to this report, in 1990 20 million girls are out of the school and it's increased in 2002 and become 24 million (Alabi et al. 2014:404). While data and report are most important to make a policy for the certain region or on the certain issue but with default and wrong data it is very difficult to UNICEF to make any policies on girl-child issue. If UNICEF is giving annual report where the enrollment of girls is increasing and after that the data on girls which are out of school is also increased.

Although UNICEF make various policies to counter the issue the girl-child, but it is very difficult to get success all policy and UNICEF achieve all goal as it decided, it faced some challenges also. For example UNICEF make policies to eliminate the child prostitution and child marriage practices from Southeast Asia and for this goal it focusing on the public information campaign and emphasise that these practices are the violation of rights rather than a criminal act but in practical it is very difficult to outright ban in the short term period (Oestreich 1998:189). Because of these traditions were present from the very past decade and without the proper knowledge and literacy it is difficult to eradicate this practices properly.

Another obstacle of UNICEF is the language barrier. When UNICEF makes policies to encourage the girl-child welfare they do not follow the local languages. And local people are generally not properly aware with the global language and it creates the problem for UNICEF policies. For example, in Uganda, UNICEF with the help of private sector partner such as Uganda Telecom started a mobile and web-based technology to promote the birth registration of all children. Although the process is more accessible or reliable but due to the registration form is not is not translated into the local language the birth registration rate does not increase as

assumed (UNICEF 2013A:37).As girl-child birth registration is already ignored by various society and the hazard process effects the girl-child birth registration.

Strategies on Girl-child Issues

The strategy is defined as an attempt to get desirable means or outcome from available or limited sources. UNICEF's strategies are centered on children welfare as well as girl-child welfare in all over the world through the available means and sources. To put all the policies formulated by UNICEF in practices, UNICEF adopted different sets of strategies.

Strategies for Girl-child Wellbeing

UNICEF is not the first organization which started the special strategies for girl-child wellbeing. From the very earlier time, a range of United Nations agencies was engaged on the rights and position of women which are indirectly related to girl children welfare. There is various plan and strategies of United Nations basically focus on the elimination of the difficulties of women and girls. In mid 1990s UNICEF and UNIFEM strategies was to resolve the exclusion of girls' issue from the committees and convention on women for this they emphasise that the extending of CEDAW mandates and inclusion of the women and girls' rights separately and also emphasis on the rights of today's girl is the rights of tomorrow's women (Croll 2006:1289).

UNICEF's other strategies for girl-child wellbeing is it highlighted the basic human rights of girl-child and promoted the rights of girl children which given in the Convention on the Rights of Child (CRC). UNICEF promoted the girl-child welfare across the world such as in the different region, society and in different communities (UNICEF 2010). Its strategies are to specifically promote the normative role of UNICEF and through this role it encourages the girl-child wellbeing across the world throughout the gender equality, the equal education advocacy and so on. UNICEF actively engaged in acquiring all these welfare norms and standards should properly implement through the various policies, program, and strategies of UNICEF. And it set some norm for girl-child welfare with look upon to girls' rights and gender

equality development policy, legislative frameworks, institutions and budget mechanism (UNICEF 2010:8).

UNICEF's strategy also emphasise that it should not be limited to only providing rights to the girl-child but also to protect and promote these rights across the world and the issue of girls' rights protection should take place on the international floor. These girls' basic human rights issue not to be seen as a regional or continental issue and it equally promote all over the world. Girl-child rights such as their health rights, education right, and marriage consent all rights which already given them by CRC, however, in practice these rights are not very active. UNICEF's approach towards these rights, it should be compulsory to give all these rights to girls and women by legal protection. UNICEF with the support of other social and international agencies actively engaged in these basic rights proper implementation. For example, the UNICEF and the Division for the Advancement of Women (DAW) both argued that the protection of rights of girl-child should take on international level and the elimination of discrimination against girl-child take as vital issue and starting point across the world (Walker 2012:236).

Strategies of Protection of Girl- child Health

The strategies of UNICEF are to provide the proper health care and need to protect girl-child from various types of health problems. UNICEF's strategies for girl-child health are to highlight the poor health conditions of girl-child. Through the give the special attention on those practices and tradition which gives the negative impact on girl-child health and underlines the issue if girl-child health across the world. Such as in most part of world girl-child faces malnutrition difficulties due to the male dominated society and the inferior position of girls and women. And UNICEF's strategies are to eliminate the malnutrition its works dynamically. Firstly UNICEF underlines that how malnutrition affects the children across the world as well as how girl-child more suffered from this disease. For instance UNICEF highlights the negative impact of malnutrition, according to UNICEF, the proportion of nutrition in children aged under 5 is very bad condition and they suffering from underweight. The world is failing of weak children because of the high proportion of children is facing malnutrition and it has scarcely fallen since 1990 and this global malnutrition reason is responsible for half of all children deaths and diseases (Moszynski 2006:1051).

UNICEF approach to highlights the global effect of malnutrition on children health and draw the attention of world community on this issue.

UNICEF's other strategy is to promote the girl-child health protection is to eradicate the disease root causes. For example, most of the time children faced the undernutrition disease and this nutrition deficiency raised the other various diseases. So the UNICEF initiative is to eradicate the undernutrition disease as well as the root causes of undernutrition disease too. It suggested that through the improving nutrition dose to women or mother, especially during the pregnancy as well as after the birth of the child the undernutrition disease problem could be counter (UNICEF 2013C:1). Through the provide nutrition dose, proper health care, undernutrition disease of girl-children could be eradicated from the patriarchal society. UNICEF set the proper health care availability as primary norms for undernutrition elimination.

Protection of Girl-child from Gender Based Violence

Protection of girl-child from Gender Based Violence is also a one of the important strategy of UNICEF. Gender Based Violence (GBV) term which used by UNICEF is basically protecting girl-child from various kinds of gender-based violence in the emergency situation. This approach basically came for protecting girls and women from sexual violence and exploitation in the conflict zone. UNICEF set-up guideline for this Gender Based Violence (GBV) and tried to recognize this violence. The main purpose of this guideline is to protect women and girls from all actors who involve in conflict as well as humanitarian actors also came into this guideline (Guideline GBV 2005:2). In various movement girls and women faced gender-based exploitation during receiving humanitarian aid in the conflict zone. This strategy trying to protect girls and women from external as well as humanitarian actors who violating the girls and women of the refugee camp or other rehabilitation areas through the sexual exploitations.

UNICEF's other strategy is to make awareness about the negative impact of gender-based violence through the inaugural day on girl-child. For example, UNICEF declared 11th October 2012 as International Day of Girl child and the main slogan of this start was protecting girl-child from gender-based violence (UNICEF Website A). They protect girls from a various types of visible and non-visible violence, such as

protection of girl-child from sexual violence, child marriages, dropout school before the completing their primary education, which seen as the human rights violation of girls and so on.

UNICEF's strategy is to prevention and eradication of gender-based violence against the girl-child. And for this UNICEF along with other partners engaged such as many national government and its approach is to address the domestic violence against women and girls for instants, Bolivia's National Plan for the Prevention of and Eradication of Violence Against Women (1994), and UNICEF actively engaged in the movement on eradication and opposes to gender-based violence in Afghanistan against the women and girls (Innocenti Digest 2000:19).

UNICEF other strategy is to promote the girl-child right and protect them from gender-based violence and for this it promote the other organizations and committees activities against the girl-child gender discrimination. For example, CEDAW adopted in 1979 by UN General Assembly, it became a most important milestone in support of the appreciation and protection of women's rights, however, it makes few references to girls but after fifteen years later in mid 1990s UNICEF and UNIFEM did attempt to resolve this exclusion of girls issue through the extending of CEDAW mandates, inclusion the women's and girls' rights separately and emphasis on the rights of today's girl is the rights of tomorrow's women (Croll 2007). UNICEF strategy is to draw the attention girl-child issue which left the CEDAW mandates.

Strategies for Ending Child-Marriage

UNICEF's strategies for ending child marriage traditions from society are very wider. UNICEF makes strategies to counter all those basic causes which support this harmful tradition. Child marriage which violates the basic human rights of girls as well as it affects the overall development of girl-child. UNICEF is dedicated to change those social norms which promote child marriages, ensure the protection mechanism for child marriage, encourage laws against this destructive tradition as well as create platform for girls voice (UNICEF 2012C:7).

They create a platform for the girl children issue and voice with organized various meeting and conferences. UNICEF strategies for eradicating child marriage are to provide data and evidence on child marriage. With the publication of these

child bride reports, they explore the reason behind this injurious practice. These reports and data find and highlight the actual situation of child marriage in the world. UNICEF approach or strategies for child-marriage is to explore the reason and effects of these early marriages on the girl-child. Its strategies are focused all those basic cause which support this tradition and through program and policies tried to counter this. UNICEF's other approach is through the international conference on girl-child highlight the present difficulties of girl-child all over the world (UNICEF 2012C). UNICEF present the figures related to child marriages information, it also provides the other evidence or effects of child marriages such as teenage pregnancy, HIV/AIDS infection and so on. According to these data and report, UNICEF's strategies were to counter those problems which are the main causes of child marriages through the available funds and resources.

Innosenti Research Centre along with the government of the Netherlands organized the conference in 2009 tried to discuss the disadvantage of child marriage, female genital mutilation/cutting, and many other harmful practices which affect the girls. Inter-agency cooperation such as individual government and UNICEF, UNESCO and UNICEF, ILO and UNICEF many other organizations cooperation promote the basic human rights of girls and counter the issue of early marriages.

UNICEF's set norms and through this try to eliminate this harmful tradition from the society. According to UNICEF, early marriage violates the girl-child basic human right and girls should be married after the completing their compulsory education. Child marriage violates the rights of the girl-child to be free from all forms of inequity, inhuman and degrading, behavior and slavery (UNICEF 2008B). It also promotes the CRC and Convention for Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) laws against the child marriage such as CEDAW's Article 16.

UNICEF's Strategies for Gender Equality

UNICEF's strategies are to attain the equal states for girls and boys in society. UNICEF brings girls issue on the international platform. The reason behind this strategy was that -the world shall aware about the difficulties of girl-child in the different region. Girls and women have lower position comparison to boy and men, and this phenomenon is not only present in one or few region or country. UNICEF

actively engaged in the process of gender equality. In 1990s, UNICEF announces and recommended that its strategies and program focusing the needs of girl-child and its status in society and for this strategies UNICEF published the numerous pamphlets on gender issue (Croll 2006:1285). In these decades, UNICEF draws attention to the gender disparities and women as well as girls condition in various parts of the world.

UNICEF, an organization which is known as unite for children, creates awareness about the rights of children. After the adoption of Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) 1989, UNICEF was identified as a lead agency who actively participates on policy implementation and achieving specific goals to improve the girl-child condition in society and eliminate the gender disparity (Goonesekere 2006:6). They promote those rights of children which are provided by Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), 1989 such as equality between girl-child and boy-child, no biases on the basis of sex, gender and colour and so on.

From 1990s, UNICEF recognized and acknowledged that the gender issue takes as fundamental and core organizing principle of UNICEF and it also states that the women and girls are far from basic rights because of 'inequalities and impediment from both public and economic states (Morris, 2010:646). UNICEF continued its commitment and in 1995 UNICEF get first female Executive Director. The first female Executive Director of UNICEF was Carlo Bellamy she took the position in 1995 and following years UNICEF actively participated on positive change in women and girl status in society.

Gender Action Plan (GAP) 2014-2017 is one of the important strategies of UNICEF; in this plan UNICEF basically states about, how they will promote the gender equality. They emphasis on the girl's gender-based needs as well as UNICEF will promote the technical support of the girls education (UNICEF, GAP 2014:1-4).UNICEF's strategy for gender equality was started in 1994 and emphasis on the rights of girls and women. UNICEF highlighted those discriminations and disparity which present in society and constantly work for the elimination of that discrimination. In 2006-2007 UNICEF again revised their strategy related to gender equality and adopted the various approach for gender equality (UNICEF 2013A:1). In the 1990s, UNICEF published various pamphlets on the states of gender discrimination against the girl-child (Croll 2006:1285).

Strategies to Eradicate Gender Disparity from Education sector

Girls' Education and Gender Equality, Basic Education, and Gender Equality, through strategies UNICEF's approach is to eradicate gender disparity from the education sector. UNICEF's strategy for girls' education is to encourage the girl-child enrolment in school in various stages. The UNICEF strategies are to not only focus on the enrollment of girl-child even the school environment, classrooms atmosphere, sanitation all these aspects are also included as an important factor in its strategies. Because all these aspects affects the girls continuation on education sector such as child-friendly classroom, gender sensitive school environment, sanitation facilities are the crucial factor of girls drop out. And to fulfil all these aspects UNICEF strategies are to the emphasize that all school teachers and staff should be given training on gender awareness and gender sensitivity issue in the classroom as well as all sanitation facilities should be provided in every schools (UNICEF 2005A:1-2). With these wider and holistic approaches UNICEF promote the girl-child education and eliminate the girls drop out from school.

Drop out is the big obstacle of girls education across the world. Sanitation and classroom, as well as the school environment, are the vital reason of the drop out of girls. UNICEF included the gender disparity eradication as the main aspect in its strategies. Other strategies to eliminate disparity from the education sector is to promotes the sports in schools where girls are encourage participating and also eliminating the gender biases text from the textbook as well as encourage the co-curriculum activities in schools (UNICEF 2005A).

UNICEF makes strategies for society, community as well as for school environment also. UNICEF strategy is to create awareness through the non-formal or community-based model and promote the girl-child education. For example, in the 1970s UNICEF with the help of United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) develop a non-formal or community-based model to provide knowledge about child care and girls education (Rosemberg and Puntch 2003:254).

UNICEF's approach is to assess the annual data on girls' education situation in all over the world. It noted the how many girls are left from school without complete their education. As well as what are the reason of this dropout. According to

UNICEF, Operational Guidance 2013, UNICEF is constantly working for close that gap which present between boys and girls education degree, they work on the major way of educational disadvantage which faced by girls (UNICEF 2013A:4-5). They also tried to find and highlight those gender-related obstacles in the education field. As well as they intervene on these obstacles or barrier to remove or to overcome them. UNICEF's approach on education focused on the education of children as well as it focuses the gender-equal education policy implementation (UNICEF 2014:8). UNICEF promotes girls' education and throughout the awareness programs. They correlate the education of girl and women are related to the growth of society or community. In 1990s UNICEF states about the importance of girls' education, girls' education is helpful in sustainable development also an educated girls can be a competent mother, a knowledgeable family planner and informed citizen and so on (Croll 2006:1288).

Programs on Girl-child Issues

UNICEF's program is a most important part of it goal achievement. The program is various actions proper implementation. Goals which determine the time of policies formulation could not be achieved without the proper implementation of the program. To achieve all those goals, UNICEF started the various program.

UNICEF organized various programs for girl-child welfare as well as the all over the development of them. UNICEF's started program for girl-child protection, girl-child education, ending child marriage, elimination of female gentile mutilation/cutting so on.

Programs on Girl-child Health

UNICEF started the various program to protect girl-child health, such as malnutrition program, awareness program on lows promotion related to the girl-child. They also started various awareness programs on the state level as well as community level on girl-child health. UNICEF has been actively participated in the elimination program for malnutrition all over the world (González et.al 1966: 89). Child marriages have crucially affected the health of girl-child.

Birth Registration of all children is one of the vital programs of UNICEF. This program supports the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) article 7 which states the name and nationality are rights of all children. Birth Registration program helps all children to protect from exploitations also, such as birth certificate helps them to acquire all kinds of rights which given for children. As well as this identity certificate protect them from child labour, early marriage and girls are more affected from these traditions (UNICEF 2005:1). This birth certificate is also helpful in accessing all advantage which given by government or UN agency for girl-child.

UNICEF highlighted the root causes of nutrition deficiency in child specifically in girl-child. Inadequate knowledge's about nutrition, tradition to provide inadequate food to girl-child and many other reasons highlighted by UNICEF. Such as mothers who do not have proper knowledge about the nutrition, family members and as well as the community who ignore the health importance of girl-child and so on. And UNICEF gives stress on the awareness about the nutrition should be being as one of the parts of "policies to safeguard child nutrition" and it should include the mother, family and as well the community level (Moszynski 2006:1051).

Girl-child generally faces the difficulties of undernutrition as discussed earlier. Male dominated society ignored the health of girl-child. UNICEF's program to counter the undernutrition diseases is dynamic and it states that without improving the women health the girl-child undernutrition disease eradication is not possible. And it emphasizes that, reducing the child undernutrition disease achievable through the improved nutrition dose to women, especially during the pregnancy as well as after the birth of the child (UNICEF 2013A:1).

Integrated Management of Neonatal and Child (IMNCI) is started by UNICEF in 2000 with the help of WHO (Ramji 2006:1029). In this IMNCI program, they mainly give attention on the protection of the child in the neonatal period and save them from childhood death. However in patriarchal society girl-child faced discrimination on the period of the neonatal, so this initiative becomes playing a vital role for surviving girl-child during childhood period.

Program to Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)

Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) is a very harmful tradition which affected the girl-child physical as well as mental health very poorly. This tradition is present in many parts of the world and exaggerated the girls' health. This tradition affects especially girls from the Muslim country where this harmful tradition is mostly present. The African continent is more affected with this evil practice. United Nations with the help of UNICEF and World Health Organisation (WHO) started the various program and trying to eradicate this tradition. UNICEF and WHO work jointly on the eliminating program of FGM (Female Genital Mutilation) in Africa and all affected area (Ramsay 2005). They organized awareness program and published the harmful effect of this tradition.

UNICEF with WHO works on the collection of the annual data on FGM tradition in various part of Africa and another part of the world. Through this data, they are highlighting the rate of FGM practices in the world and how millions of girls are affected with this dangerous practice and it creates the very difficult situation for girls (Ramsay 2005). This data collection draws the attention on this issue significantly and encourages the future program on this issue.

UNICEF works with other organization and tried to counter all those barriers which give negative impact on girl-child. An instance, from 2010 UNFPA and UNICEF in along with the Harvard School of Public Health's Program on International Health and Human Rights, started works on FGM eradication. It actively engages in developing a monitoring and evaluating (M&E) tool for Female Genital Mutilation/ Cutting (FGM) condition in society. All country office of UNFPA produces an annual report and global report, on child marriage and Female Genital Mutilation/ Cutting (FGM), UNFPA and UNICEF prepared a global report every year from 2008 to 2011. They published the report on every five years and moreover it played a crucial mechanism for policy and program of FGM eradication (UNFPA and UNICEF 2014:32).

Programs to Promote Girl-child Education

As education is seen as the tool to counter various problem UNICEF started the various program for girl-child education. UNICEF promotes girl-child education through various programs such as child-friendly schools, gender sensitive classroom and so on. As Techno Girls program in South Africa, Girls, and Boys Education Movement (GBEM) in South Africa many other programs for girls' education promoted by UNICEF (UNICEF 2013). With these programs UNICEF working for that to create an environment for girls education where girl-child can access education without facing discrimination and difficulties. UNICEF is stress that classrooms should more child-friendly and gender sensitive. All school should organize the training program for the teacher on gender-sensitive classroom and all sanitation needs should be provided in school (UNICEF 2005:1-2). UNICEF program on the encouragement of girl education is individual as well as it supports the various government on their girls education program as example, Girls' Education Movement (GEM) which is started by African Education Minister in 2003. UNICEF give the crucial support to this movement as well as the African states also played a vital role in this movement. And this Girls Education Movement (GEM) played a vital role in pan-African girls' education improvement. It creates the equal opportunity for girls to acquire education benefits and make their life independent. GEM is significant and major effort for girls' education; transform to African schools and education system and society phenomena into those kinds of atmosphere or environment where girl-child can achieve the proper education and equal opportunities (Kirk &Garrow2003:5).

UNICEF takes initiative for girls' education international as well as national level with the help of the international and national government. 'Come on girls, let's go to school' is one project which started by Ministry of National Education (MoNE) of Turkey and UNICEF in 2003. This project mainly promotes girls' education in rural area of turkey, push for this project basically come with UNICEF, UNICEF take initiative and demand from Turkey government to craft a scheme for most important subject girls' education (Yazana 2013:846). UNICEF with the help of Turkey government encourages girls' education rural as well as urban level. Girls' education always being an important part of UNICEF approach and it seen as the movement of

Education For All (EFA) campaign in the 1990s. UNICEF with the help of UNESCO works for universal education. UNICEF with the support of Uganda government started Pan African Girls Education Movement (GEM) in 2001 in Uganda (Kirk and Garrow 2003:5).

UNICEF approach was to counter all those reason which creates the barrier for girls' education. Their strategies were not only limited to girl-child enrollment in school even they emphasize the environment of school and society which should be also girls friendly. They promote those environments which encourage girls' education. In Rwanda, the government has actively engaged in sanitary facilities in schools and through the help of UNICEF it succeeds in the larger way. UNICEF funded for child-friendly schools project and addresses those factors or issues which specifically affect girls' education (Wallace et al 2008:121).

School-in-a-Box was one of the UNICEF's programs with the help of United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). In the 1990s, this program creates a platform for all children to acquire education in the easy way. Girl children were brought education with this program, UNICEF provides them a box of materials such as chalk, pencils, notebooks, slates and other technical manuals (Barricklow 1995:10).It promotes children education without any kinds of discrimination and girls' education get benefited with this because in patriarchal society girls faced discrimination in the education field also. This type of material support encouraged girls' education system and improve girls condition in society. UNICEF give support through funding to some of program, policies and campaign related to girls' education. UNICEF's financial support of "off to School, Girls" campaign in turkey is one of the important examples of this support, UNICEF provides US\$420,000 for this campaign (Somunucu 2006:23).

UNICEF through the various programs and schemes encourages the girl-child education. It is trying to eradicate the girl-boy disparity in the education sector. Global Chief of Education at UNICEF Cream Wrightin 2005 proclaimed that the issue of gender disparity in education is the main concern of all agenda's (Seeberg 2008:51). It tried to eradicate that reason which is the cause of girls' dropout from school.

Programs on Ending Child Marriage Tradition

UNICEF started the various program such as Community Based Intervention on Child Marriage, promotion of Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), as well as UNICEF published the annual report on the child marriage states in world. UNICEF's report is related to region level, country level, state level as well as districts level also. Throughout the help of individual government, Nongovernmental organization UNICEF actively engaged in eradicating this tradition. According to UNICEF, child marriage affects the health of girls as well as child marriage violates the rights of girl child to be free from all forms of inequity, inhuman and degrading, behavior and slavery (UNICEF 2008). UNICEF published many kinds of data and highlighted the death reason of girls. UNICEF's 2001 report on teenage pregnancy states die percentage in Egypt, such as in Egypt, girls who are under the age of 15 are five times more likely to be dying rather than female in age of the twenties and the reason of these deaths is teenage pregnancy (Mikhail 2002:47). UNICEF trying to eradicate this death revolving circle which affects the girl-child physical as well as mental health through the drawing attention on the negative impact of this tradition.

UNICEF actively participated with other organizations and encourages the efforts against this harmful tradition such as UNICEF and UNESCO joint report in 2007 emphasis on "eliminating laws that allow girls to marry before the compulsory school-leaving age of allowing differences in school-leaving ages or numbers of years of compulsory education for girls and boys. UNESCO and UNICEF both states that those laws, that allow girls to marry before the compulsory school-leaving age has to be eliminated. Child marriage violates the rights of girl-child to be free from all kinds of discrimination and exploitation (UNICEF 2008B).

UNICEF works together with United Nations Educational Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) for girls' education. A program which was known as 'School-in-a-Box started by both these organization and supplies a basic material for study such as chalk, pencil, notebooks, slates teaching manual for orphaned or refugee children and they focuses the girl-child education as well as all children (Barricklow 1995:10).

Reports and data about the child marriage which published by UNICEF, these reports, and data are published by countries and states. These reports underline that what is the condition of child marriage in such country as well as the child marriage situation in states and according to this reporting policy making process will come. These reports will help formulate policies to eliminate this early child marriage. According to UNICEF 2006, South Africa, most of the girls faced this early marriage and teenage pregnancy difficulties, average 44% of girls under the age of 18 years gave birth (Walker 2012:232).

Adolescent pregnancy is related to child marriage and child marriage related to illiteracy, UNICEF doing work all these issues (UNICEF 2009). UNICEF's approach has holistic it works on the immediate as well as gradual needs of girl-child. It connects the issue of child –marriage with the health of girls, development of girls and women and trying to counter all these difficulties. UNICEF works for girls' education as well as on early marriage eradication. UNICEF's works for eradicating this harmful tradition is very wider. Many organizations such as UNICEF, World Bank (WB), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) works is in human capital perspective and they see the education of girls or schooling of girls is a key of reducing fertility and child marriage (Cobbett 2014:312). UNICEF's approach for girls' education is indirectly given a major effect on child marriage declining. More year girls spend in school and through this way they keep far from early marriage as well as teenage pregnancy. When UNICEF's started works on girls' primary enrollment the rate of child marriage was decreased (Cobbett 2014).

Programs for Gender Equality

Through the various programs, they are engaged in eliminating gender disparity which is presented in various parts of the world. Education For All (EFA) campaign, which started in 1990, and it started jointly by UNESCO, the World Bank and as well UNICEF, and they were first time marked an unprecedented level of educational co-operation between these organizations (Vaughan 2010: 417). This program which not directly mention about the promotion of girl-child education although it promotes the equal rights of acquiring for all children. As discussed earlier generally girl-child not sending the schools because of the traditional gender perception of many societies.

This program promotes the equality between girl-child and boy-child to get the education.

UNICEF with the support of other organization works for gender equality. They support the education system and through the proper education they promoting the social norms related to gender equality. Education is one of the important tools to know about the rights and opportunity and many international aid agencies promote education in the tribal community and promote girl-child education for promoting gender equality. For example, UNICEF, SIDA, USAID and EU, all are support education scheme, which helps in the development of literacy and equality in the tribal community and it promote the equality between girls and boys (Panda 2011:30).

Child labour is a hazardous situation which affects the education, health and as well as the overall development of children. In patriarchal society girl-child facing more child labour difficulties directly or indirectly. Due to the gender phenomena in most of the family circle girl-child education opportunities in an inferior position due to the child labour (Alabi et al 2014:400). Girl-child who works in home such as preparing food, take care of siblings many other works which basically domain for women and girls in patriarchal society. And all these work affects the education process of girls. UNICEF throughout the help of ILO continually works for girl-child labour eradication process.

UNICEF's one program is to highlights the gender inequality in different fields such as International Labour Organization (ILO) and UNICEF worked for collection of data and report related to child labour specifically how girl-child labour is rate is big rather than boy-child labour. An investigation into domestic service conducted by the International Labour Organization (ILO) and UNICEF suggest that "staggering numbers" of children around the world an approximate 90 percent of whom are girls are working as household servants, both investigate jointly and worked together for eliminating this condition (Ward 2011).

UNICEF's one vital effort is to make UNICEF Strategic Plan and through this encouraged the girl-child equality and raises the girls' voice on the international platform. In this plan, UNICEF mainly focuses on the girls' secondary education expansion and through the education empowering the girls and promoting gender

equality (Norrani 1995). For Strategic Plan UNICEF is actively engaged and working with the other organizations such as UNESCO, United Nations Girls' Education Initiative (UNGEI) and Global Partnership for Education (GPE). UNICEF through the support of these UN agencies highlighted what are the reason behind the girls' lowest education rate, why girls drop-out from school and throughout this evaluation they underline that how lower education promote the gender disparity in society. UNICEF also support gender equality through the giving support to the government and communities and provide them technical assistance to increase the schools near about the residential area and encourage the equal education opportunity for girls and boys and promote equality for example UNICEF helps to Bangladesh government to established schools near to residential area (Norrani 1995).

And the reason behind this is the structure and phenomena of society where girls and women not seen as equal like boy and men. UNICEF started the various program for gender equality, however, the implementation of those programs faced many challenges. Patriarchal society, poverty, lack of awareness, lack of willingness of society, community as well as government many other reasons are being the big obstacle on the implementation of gender equality policies and programs. Such as child marriage, girls' education, girl-child nutrition all is linked with the poverty, patriarchal society. UNICEF tried to counter those obstacles throughout the various program and achieve equal status for both girls and boys through gender equality. With the partnership with others, UNICEF is trying to counter all barriers which create difficulties in girl-child growth and development (Norrani 1995).

Challenges

However, UNICEF actively engaged in girl child wellbeing, but it faced some challenges as well as critics on it action. As challenges- UNICEF face dilemma of determining how many funds should allocate for children welfare long-term program and how much for those program or policies which related to immediate needs of children, such as war and conflict-affected area (Jacobs 1950B:351). The decision-making process is very difficult for UNICEF because, in various regions, the gradual needs of girl children are more compulsory rather than immediate needs of children in other region. For example in the African countries girl child policies on gradual needs require to more fund rather than an essential needs of European countries children.

Because they have different economic and social conditions. In this situation, UNICEF faced the dilemma on the allocation of funds. For example according to UNICEF (2004), the funds on the HIV/AIDS disease, Zimbabwe receives only a fractions of this funds comparison to other region although the number of people who suffering from this disease is more likely to very high from other region (Mushunje2006:120). As discussed earlier the HIV/AIDS is more commonly in girl-child due to the horrific crime such as child prostitution, child rape, forced sex, child marriage and so on. So with this lack of proper funding girl-child more suffered and UNICEF's program and policy also face various challenges.

Promotion of girl-child welfare and gender one of the important agenda of UNICEF and it introduce gender units, adviser and focal points in various region but in many region children are rarely were divided by gender (Croll 2006:1288). Even, in various region girl-children not count as a part of the family. In patriarchic society, girls are not seen as a permanent member of family the girls are seen member who left home after the marriage (Chakravarty 1998). And in these kinds of circumstance, it is very difficult for UNICEF to make policies for girl-child. Even if it starts any program on girl-child, it is very difficult to assess that girl child are benefiting from this program or not.

While, UNICEF have it own significance and importance, but it also faced many critics for its policies, strategies and programs on girl-child. Even with a big heading and phrases of UNICEF on 'women and girls' it contents almost following and referred to the women and large part of the programs and policies are addressed the women issue and little part concerns to the girl-child issue. Although there is the linkage between women and girls problem, but it is not connected with the all girl-child issue to women (Croll 2006:1287).The strategies of UNICEF influenced from the world politics as well as affected from the national interest of some countries. It carries out the national interests of fund contributor countries which influence its policies and strategies. UNICEF does not have the separate regular budget in United Nations. It does not get fund from the regular budget voluntary contribution is the main source of it budget. And these fund donor countries impose their national interest on the related decision and implementation process. And this imposes or compel affect the strategies of UNICEF. There are various examples given which

elaborates about the influence of major power in UNICEF's strategies and it ignores the girls' related issue as well as because of this political influence UNICEF does not allocate the adequate funds for needy, for example, Zimbabwe receives only a fractions of funds on the issue of HIV/AIDS disease as like other country but the number of people specifically girls who suffering from this disease is more likely to very high from another region (Mushunje2006:120).

UNICEF's strategies of the allocation of funds for German program was the impact of the United States and the United Kingdom national interest, both power pushed for this aid because of German people struggle against the Eastern Power (Jacobs 1950B:357-358).), UNICEF allocated fund for German people in the 1950s when they engaged in against of Eastern Power, it was the so small program, but the strategies were influenced from big powers. While, these influence affects the UNICEF girl-child policies also. It ignores the essential policies requirement in the certain region and give priority to those countries willingness which provide it funds. United Stated of America is the one of the big fund contributor in UNICEF budget. In following periods, many other donor countries affect the overall strategies and policies of UNICEF.

UNICEF's approach for many regions is same and this is also a big obstacle of UNICEF's policies and program. The African and the Arab Islamic countries girl children have the different problem rather than the girl-child from European countries. Although the UNICEF approach for gender-equality or girl-child health issue should be different for both region.

Conclusion

As UNICEF adopt a holistic approach and trying to counter all issues of girl-child across the world. The initial UNICEF's policies, strategies, and programs took girl-child issue as a subset of children issue. However from the 1990s the matter of girl children got a distinct identity in UNICEF and it gives special attention on girl-child subject. UNICEF approach changes and it focuses on child development to child survival. And in this approach girl children came into the center because across the world girls and women are lower position and hard to survive in the male dominate society. UNICEF's throughout the various policies, strategies and program trying to

counter the girl-child difficulties, inferior position and negative phenomena about girls and works for the wellbeing of girl children. Although the girl-child get separate identification in Beijing Conferences but the girl-child proper place in policies and program still not much sufficient.

UNICEF determined to work on the wellbeing of girl-child and for this it decides to some goals and objectives. To achieve these goals and objectives UNICEF make policies on the girl-child welfare such as policies on girl-child health, policies on girl-child welfare, policies on girl-child protection and so on. These policies of UNICEF highlighted the condition of girl-child and underline the all peculiar difficulties which faced by the girl-child across the world. After the underline, all peculiar problem of girl-child its policy is to highlights those norms and standards which given to the girl-child by the United Nations and other UN agencies. It also formulates the policies on protection of girl-child from various kinds of violence, policies for promoting girls education, eliminate the dropout rate of girls and so on. And through this policy it highlights the occurrence of this violence and exploitation in most of the society, culture and within the family in different forms. As well as it emphasis on the girl-child protection law and legal rights which given by the CRC and Beijing Conference and other committee and so on. It policies, UNICEF highlights the peculiar problem of the girl-child and highlights all those social or patriarchal norms which are the causes of these problems. Policies on girl-child education, in this section UNICEF's policies is to explore the condition of girl-child education across the world as well as it focuses on the root causes of those conditions. And set policies to eradicate those reasons. Policies on gender equality and child marriage basically highlight the presence of this tradition in various societies. Through the highlighting the gender disparity in the various sector, it highlights those social norms which promote the gender disparity. It policies is through the help of government and other UN agency eradicate this inequality. On the issue of child marriage, UNICEF's policies is to highlights the condition of this tradition all over the world as well as through the help of government and other actors raise voice against this tradition. Although the UNICEF formulate policies to girl-child wellbeing, but the root causes of girls problem is different in different reason such as the HIV/AIDS and teenage pregnancy is the similar problem of girls across the world but it has different reason of this problem in European Countries and African Countries.

To bring these policies into the practices so the UNICEF adopted various strategies. UNICEF's strategy is to the protection of girl children from malnutrition which focuses the girl child health and development. UNICEF's strategy on the protection of girl-child from gender-based violence, strategies for girl-child wellbeing and strategies for ending child marriage and so on. UNICEF's strategies on the protection of girl-child health are to underline all the negative effects of the poor health condition of girl-child. Such as it focuses on malnutrition affects, undernutrition, and so on. Other strategies to highlights the gender-based violence against the girl-child such as sexual violence, domestic violence on gender basis and so on. Strategies for eradicating child marriage tradition is to find the root causes of this tradition as well as draw the attention on the harmful impact of this early marriage practices. Its strategy is also encouraging the other actors' positive approach against this tradition. Through these strategies, UNICEF is trying to acquire all policies goal and results. Although the UNICEF makes policies to eradicate the nutrition deficiency rate in girl-child and for this it started various initiative but in various male-dominated society it is very difficult to reach every girl-child.

UNICEF's program is a most important part of it goal achievement. The Program is various actions proper implementation. UNICEF's started program for girl-child protection, girl-child education, ending child marriage, elimination of female gentile mutilation/cutting and so on. UNICEF's Programs to promote girl child health it encourages the eradication of harmful tradition which affects the girl-child health negatively. Such as Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), child prostitution, child marriage and so on but due to the lack of appropriate data on these organized crime and harmful tradition it is very difficult to counter all difficulties of girl-child.

UNICEF started the various program for girl-child education and trying to counter girls peculiar through the education tool. UNICEF's Programs on girl-child education are, Girls' Education Movement (GEM), School-in-a-Box, off to School, Girls'' campaign and so on. UNICEF with the help of (UNESCO) and UNGEI started various programs on girl-child education improvement such as School-in-a-Box, Come on girls, let's go to school', Education For All (EFA), techno Girls program in South Africa, Girls and Boys Education Movement (GBEM) in South Africa and so on. Although these initiatives of UNICEF are benefited to the girls across the world

but without the eradication of root causes of girls' education obstacle it is a utopia to achieve adequate girls education.

UNICEF's active participation on the issue of child marriage eradication and for this goal UNICEF started various programs such as Community Based Intervention on Child Marriage, promotion of Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), publication of annual report on this tradition occurrence across the world. It supports to those actors who actively work on this issue such as UNESCO, WHO and so on. UNICEF's program is to highlights those difficulties which take place due to the practices of early marriage tradition such as teenage pregnancy, HIV/AIDS, early death mental trauma and so on. While without the eradication of root causes of early marriage tradition it is difficult to protect all girls from this harmful practices, such as social norms, illiteracy, poverty and so on.

UNICEF's program on gender equality focuses on the social norms eradication which promotes the gender disparity in society. It promotes the gender equality through improving the condition of girl-child in different sections such as education. UNICEF with the help of UNESCO, USAID and EU works for girl-child education. As well as along with ILO it focuses on the protect girl-child from child labour practice and give them an equal platform like boy-child to develop their self and enjoy their rights equally.

On the other hand with many significances UNICEF's approach faces some challenges also during the formulation policies, strategies and proper implementation of the program. UNICEF does not have separate and won funds and its multi-donor and voluntary fund contribution is one of the biggest obstacles of UNICEF. United States of America, United Kingdom, France other major power or industrialized countries are main contributors for UNICEF's program and policies. These countries with the donation of fund impose some of the clauses or conditions on the implementation of those funds. These various funding sources created difficulties in implementation of various programs effectively.

UNICEF's decision-making process further complicated the issue. UNICEF's judgment on to identify areas where funds should be allocated immediately and what

kinds of problem can be solved latter is not always correct. UNICEF's approach for girl child does not deal with the problems in depth and without the eradication of root causes of girl-child difficulties it is very difficult to protect girl children. Equal evaluation about the girls' condition in different areas of South Africa, South Asia, and European countries is not effective it affect the outcome of program and policies.

For policy making UNICEF assess the problem of girl-child in all over the world however they apply the uniform approach for assessment of any problem in all region which is not appropriate for everywhere. UNICEF's mechanism for girl-child policies and program evaluation is good but in this evaluation process UNICEF recommended only professionals and ignores the social indicator for evaluation which affects the result.

UNICEF works with the partnership of other organization it being effective however sometimes it creates more difficulties to acquire the actual outcome due to the necessary space between two organizations. Such as vaccine program which was started by WHO and UNICEF's joint effort. However the vaccine is provided by WHO and the technologies and actors were provided by UNICEF and due to the lack of knowledge about the proper implementation or vaccine this immunization program was not very successful. Maximum effectiveness or outcome from these partnerships is not reflecting. A partnership with other organizations make the program outcome more effective and easier to achieve, but it requires to use this joint tool effectively.

With all these policies strategies and program UNICEF actively engaged on the welfare of children as well as on welfare of girl children. Although it facing various challenges but still the role of UNICEF is appreciated to girls' welfare across the world.

CHAPTER V

UNICEF AND GIRL-CHILD: ACTIVITIES IN INDIA

UNICEF expanded its work to developing nations in the 1950s and along with other nations India also received the aid and assistance from UNICEF. UNICEF's first initiative in India started in 1949 when it provided the technological equipment support to the Indian government in the establishment of India's first penicillin plant in India (UNICEF Website B). In the 1950s, UNICEF was engaged with the Indian government in the BCG vaccination program and tried to protect children from TB and other diseases (Lahariya 2014:498). UNICEF was actively engaged in this TB test program till 1959 and worked for protecting Indian children from this illness. UNICEF also supported the other organizations to work on the health of Indian children. For example with this BCG program UNICEF supported the World Health Organization (WHO) on its program in India related to the antibiotic plans (Social Service Review 1952:225). UNICEF got involved in the program of the welfare of children of India on the request of the Indian government during the White Revolution in 1954. UNICEF funded the invention of the technology for converting buffalo milk to powder and after a decade there were thirteen UNICEF assisted milk processing plants established in India (UNICEF Website B).

UNICEF activities widened after 1960s such as UNICEF's active engagement to provide the assistance to children in emergency situations as well as it also worked for the gradual needs of children in India. For example in 1966 Bihar and eastern Uttar Pradesh faced a large worst drought disaster and it was the biggest drought in the 20th century. More than 50 million people suffered from lack of adequate food and water supply and this time UNICEF played a wider role to help the Indian government in this emergency situation (UNICEF Website B). UNICEF helped the Indian government on the request of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi and it played a key role as an external partner and provided safe drinking water and other adequate needs. UNICEF actively participated to provide help in the emergency situations but UNICEF also focused on the gradual needs also. Hereafter, the UNICEF's role and functions in India expanded and it worked in partnership with various levels.

This chapter firstly discusses the organizational structure of UNICEF in India. Then it highlights the objective of UNICEF in India as well as UNICEF's collaborations with the central as well as state governments and other actors for the children welfare in general. Then, the detail discussion on problems the girl-child faces in India. It is followed by detail analysis of UNICEF's activities to protect rights and promote welfare of Indian girl children. Specifically highlights the challenges the UNICEF faced in India in carrying out its policies, strategies and programs in addressing the concerns of the girl-child in India.

Organizational Structure of UNICEF

Initially, the organization structure of UNICEF in India was very limited. UNICEF in 1949 began their work only with three staff member and they did not have any office in India. However, after three years, UNICEF established its office in Delhi (UNICEF Website B). Thus, with the initial modest start of UNICEF in India, it gradually became world's largest program.

At present, UNICEF has one India Country office in New Delhi and it works in 16 states of India (UNICEF Website B). Through its New Delhi office, UNICEF deals with its activities at various levels and various actors in India (Giusti 2015). UNICEF is working in 16 states of India and it has 13 state offices in states' capital, such as in Patna, Ranchi, Bhopal and so on (UNICEF Website B). These 13 states offices which cover almost 16 states program. This is because UNICEF covers the work of Karnataka, Telangana and Andhra Pradesh from the Hyderabad's office, as well as on the state level UNICEF is engaged with different departments (Giusti 2015). UNICEF with the help of these offices organized its field work in the district level programs and policies.

UNICEF appoints a UNICEF Representative for India to see all UNICEF's activities in India. UNICEF Representative in India is in charge of the UNICEF's Country office at New Delhi. Louis-Georges Arsenault is the present UNICEF Representative for India. The work of the representative is to guide or lead the policies, dialogue and advocacy with the Indian government as well as state government and other partners of UNICEF (UNICEF Website B). UNICEF divided its works in different sections. However for each section, they appoint some specialists

and works on certain themes which deals with the priorities or most important difficulties. All the sections work with a team of staff and sections.

Admin and Finance Section (A&F) is one of the important sections of UNICEF India. This section basically aims how to provide the effective and well organized client-focused administrative service as well as finance services, so it could help to the smoothly running the offices of UNICEF in India and also help to the program implementation (UNICEF Website B). The head of Admin and Finance Section (A&F) is the Chief Admin and Finances officer. Administrative Assistant, Administrative Specialist, Finance Assistant these are some other staffs who also working under this section.

Advocacy and Communication (A&C) Section mainly deal with enhancing social and other types of changes on policies which is being benefited for children (UNICEF Website B). With the strategic partnership and networks with important actors, UNICEF appoints some specialist such as chief of communication, communication specialist, consultant and it also works in national, state as well as district level (MDWS and UNICEF2012:2). This section consisted of Chief of Communications, Communication specialist, Communication officer, Audio Visual Assistant and so on. Through these communication specialists, this section engages with influencer and important decision makers as well as other strategic partners in India.

Child Protection (CP) section basically work to address all problems related to child which commonly present in society such as child labour, child trafficking, many kind of violence and sexual exploitation as well as corporal punishment and so on (UNICEF Website B). On the issue of girl-child, this section deals with the child missing problem and gender-based biases which generally faced by girl-child. In Child Protection section, the Chief Child Development & Nutrition is appointed and under this officer Nutrition Specialist and Child Development Specialist is working. Child Protection Specialist, Senior Program Assistance and other staff UNICEF working in this section.

Communication For Development section is basically to promote equal platform for all. People such as children, parents, families and communities come

together and to develop a communication between them and through this communication they access all information, skills and technologies which empower them (UNICEF Website B). Through this communication, they find the solution of those difficulties which generally faces by children. The main key actors of this section are Chief Communication for Development specialist, Communication for Development specialist, Chief Communication for Development, Communication for Development officer and Senior Program Assistant.

The education program is conducting by Education Section and it works with the various themes on education improvement in India. It works towards attempt to achieve Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), specifically goal 2 (Achieve Universal Primary Education), goal 3 (Promote Gender Equality and Empower Women) which address the problem of children education as well as gender discrimination. The program of this section is basically conducted by the Education Specialist, Senior Program Assistant, and Program Assistant and so on.

Emergency Preparedness and Response (EPR) section which mainly deals with the issue of the humanitarian crisis. In EPR engaged in the program to ensure all rights of children and women should provide during the humanitarian crisis (UNICEF Website B). This section basically works during emergency time such as natural disaster, war, and conflict area. The member staffs of this section is very small there is three staff such as Chief Emergency, Emergency Specialist and Senior Program Assistant are working under this section (UNICEF Website B).

Health section of the UNICEF India team is mainly supporting the national and state policies and programs on children and maternal health. This section working with these staff such as Chief of Health, Health Specialist, Immunization Specialist, Health Officer, Senior Program Assistant and Administrative Assistant they and it helps to the national and state government on their newborn child and maternal care related program. For example, it works with National Rural Health Mission (NRHM), and as well as it supports to those encouraged the MDGs goal achievement (UNICEF Website C). Other important staffs are Chief of Health, Health Specialist, Immunization Specialist, Health Officer, Senior Program Assistant and Administrative Assistant and so on(UNICEF Website C).

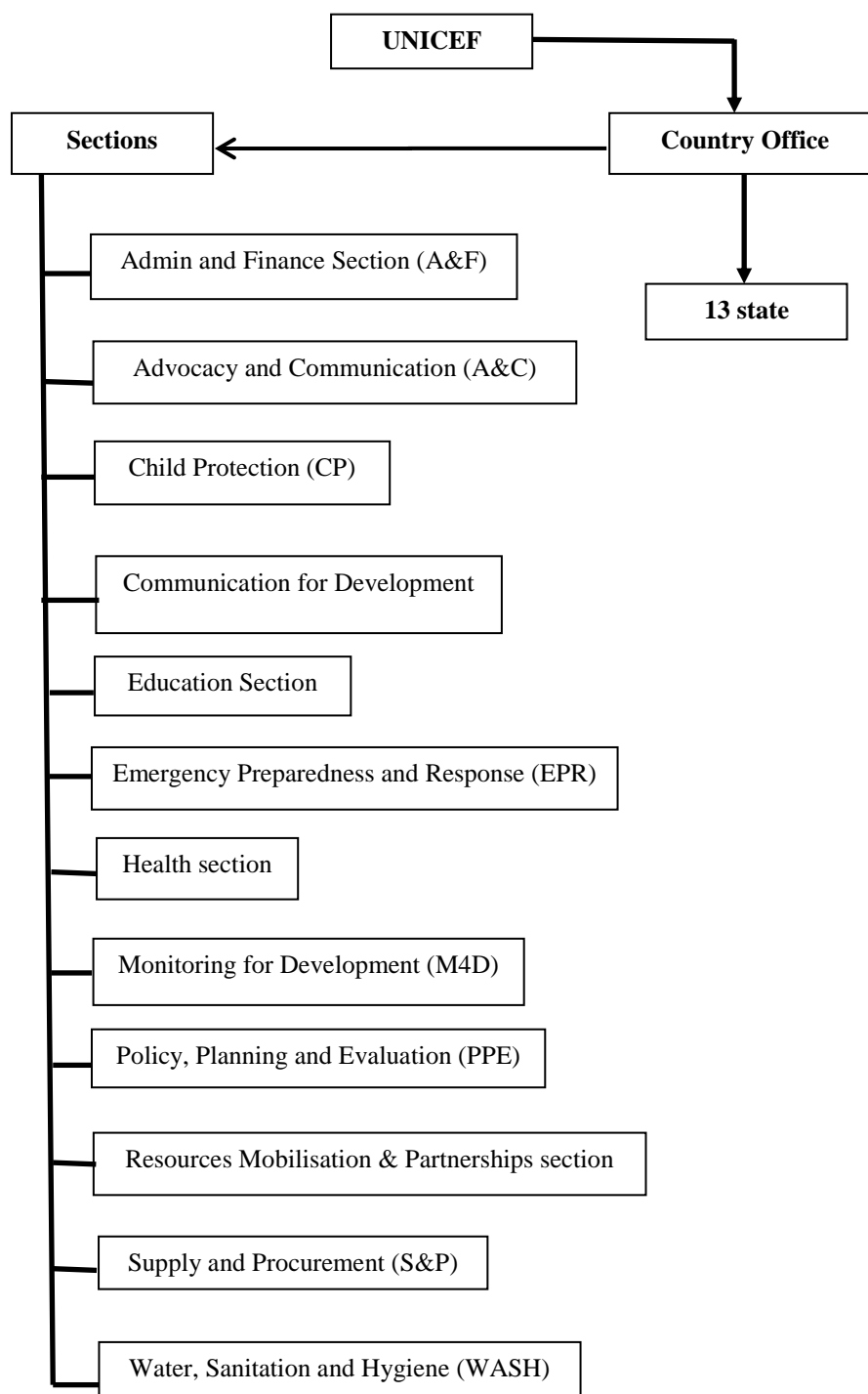
Monitoring for Development (m4D) is one section which works with core mandates of many UNICEF's individual and combined program. It monitors the program and budget to assess the overall performances of the program. The results of the program are same as it targeted or it differ from its initial aim, the budget of the program and so on all these aspects are monitors by Monitoring for Development (m4D). Through this monitor and development section, UNICEF basically trying to improve the final outcome of programs as well as achieve the goal. This monitoring process is helpful for to find the strength and weakness of program (UNICEF Website B).

Policy, Planning and Evaluation (PPE) section's theme was to ensuring the program area, see all objective of program in advance and maintain the rights of children, teenager as well as women (UNICEF Website B). This section works with national and sub-national and supports them on their child related program. For example, Civil Registration System (CRS) is one initiative of Policy, Planning and Evaluation (PPE). Through CRS. UNICEF encouraged the birth and death registration in India and also evaluates the level of birth and death registration in country (UNICEF Website B).

Resources Mobilisation & Partnerships section played a vital role in India UNICEF Country Office. This section is basically engaged in organizing resources and raising funds. For this resource and fund mobilization, it engaged with individual donors, corporate institutions, and UNICEF National Committees. The head of this section is the Chief Resource Mobilization & Partnership who playing most important role in this section. Other key actors are Fundraising Specialist, Corporate Partnership Officer, Donor Acquisition, Donor Retention, Data Analyst and so on.

Supply and Procurement (S&P) section is mainly accountable for to supply all services timely and effectively. It helps UNICEF's aid to the Indian government and other collaborator and makes sure that to provide all supplies and services effectively according to UNICEF's mandates (UNICEF Website B). Procurement Specialist, Procurement officer, Supply & Procurement Chief these are some staff who working under this section.

Chart 5.1 Organizational Structure of the UNICEF in India



Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) section is one of the important section which works at central as well as state levels. A large number of UNICEF's activities is conducted by WASH section and it engaged with many partners such as families, communities, and government and making awareness about the sanitation and hygiene. Although with the gradual needs of children it also actively participates

in to provide urgent relief and necessary things to all children in the emergency situation (UNICEF Website B). The main actors of WASH are the Senior Program Assistant, Chief WASH, and WASH-specialist.

UNICEF working in India through these different sections but they faced several challenges remain. Such as UNICEF's Child Protection section deals with the various different aspects such as protect all children from violence, abuse, trafficking and other kinds of exploitations. As all these activities thrive on illegally and secretly, so it is very difficult to UNICEF as well as Indian government to collect the reliable data which hampers their efforts to protect children (UNICEF 2011:28).

Advocacy and Communication section's role is to change the mindset of people for the achieving child protection goals and other child welfare goals. People are not aware about their rights and policies of the governments at various levels. Due to the lack of awareness, various challenges come in the implementation process of programs and policies.

WASH facilities availability and health care of children are the two sides of a coin. Through the WASH facilities, UNICEF carry out the awareness campaign about the health disease as well as protecting children from various health problems, but sometimes this section faced some challenges also. Such as the WASH faced difficulty of the capacity problem as well as lack of financial and management planning (UNICEF 2012B:18). It is very difficult for WASH facilities to provide good quality facilities in low-cost finance. One of the other major challenges of effective functioning of these various sections is to lack comprehensive monitoring and accountability system to make the official work effectively.

Objective of UNICEF in India

UNICEF's objective in India is very wide as it attempts to promote the welfare of children across the country. The objective was not fixed or constant. UNICEF modifies its objectives according to the requirements of time and priority. Initially in the 1950s, the UNICEF's main objective in India was to provide emergency assistance to those children who affected from the emergency crises such as drought, flood, as well as it also support them in the fight against communicable diseases

through providing proper drug and other requirements (UNICEF 2012A:38). UNICEF also gives technical support to the government in the establishment of health related farm or drug plants. For instance, UNICEF supports the Indian government in 1949 in the establishment of penicillin plant. Another example is UNICEF helps Indian government in 1954 and provided free and in subsidies the rate of milk for needy children (UNICEF Website B). Although in these years UNICEF actively engaged in the immediate needs of children and needy people but it also shift its goal and give attention on to provide aid for the long-term social and human development of children. For example in 1951, the UNICEF, and Indian government started joint effort on the Bacille Calmette-Guerin (BCG) vaccination program and Tuberculosis (TB) test of Indian people (Lahariya 2014:498-499). It promoting the government to established their own service equipment for the welfare of children.

UNICEF's objective was to give the technical or financial support to the national and state governments to carry out welfare work as well as disaster affected people, including children. For example, UNICEF's actively participated in 1966 providing food and drinking water to those people who suffered from drought in Bihar (UNICEF Website B). After the 1950s UNICEF shift their goal and objective and give attention on the immediate as well as gradual needs of children and women. UNICEF helped the Indian government to setup its own country-level maternal and child health services and also aided India to develop its an antibiotic plants as well as its first penicillin production plant (Social Service Review 1952).

After the active engagement on long-term human development approach, UNICEF does not refrain from its initial objectives such as provide the immediate assistance to the children and women in the emergency situation. And it continually helps in emergencies such as natural disaster and other crises. For instance, in mid 1960s UNICEF was busy with their work on various part of the India and it actively supported to Bihar, when famine was come in Bihar and Eastern Uttar Pradesh (India) in 1966-67 (UNICEF 2006: 12).

UNICEF shift it objective and try to cover the all immediate and gradual needs of children and needy people. The request from the developing countries for UNICEF to expand it objectives have been made frequently. As developing countries faces many difficulties such as children dying and suffering from various diseases. These

conditions were recurring and many times the same problem emerged. Under these circumstances UNICEF tries to counter the root causes of these difficulties. For example, UNICEF's reports identify poverty, population growth, and environment stress (PPE) as the major causes of these difficulties in developing countries (George 1994:1117).

In 1960s and 1970s UNICEF's objective was to convince and influence the Indian government to give attention on the basic needs of children and women, such as starting projects for safe drinking water, food, and drug and other essential needs of them in rural as well as in urban area. UNICEF supported the Indian government on their disease eradication program through provide the proper vaccine and drug. The Indian Government started Integrated Child Development Service (ICDS) across the country to give proper attention on children issue and this Indian government's initiative is started on due to the UNICEF's encouragement (UNICEF Website B).

UNICEF highlighted those problems which were present in the country and made an effort to pressurise the government to take action against those difficulties. In the 1990s southern Indian states like Tamil Nadu faced many criticisms on the poor condition of girl-child in the state. At that time the states with the consultation of UNICEF and other child and women NGOs gave profound attention on this issue leading to the Chief Minister Ms Jayalalitha, announcement of "Jayalalitha Protection Scheme for the Girl-Child" (George 1997:127).

In the latter decades, UNICEF's goals were expanded and they focused on gradual social and human development needs of people. And the concern of UNICEF was to give support in the emergency circumstances as well as promoting the programs related to gradual needs of children and women. And for these objectives and aims UNICEF was engaged with other United Nations agency and other national as well as local actors for the welfare of children and women in India. Although UNICEF formulated attractive goals and objectives in India promote children's wellbeing, implementation of these became major challenges, which will be analyse in detail in the section below relating to UNICEF's activities to address girl-child in India. The psychological barrier is also a big challenge for UNICEF to formulate policies and implement the programs properly. As well known in Indian culture the religions are played a vital role in people way of living. Different religion people are

not accepted all policies of UNICEF and the children and girl-child of those communities left from the adequate benefits. For example, a research highlights that, the coverage rate of polio vaccine is lower in North India specifically in Muslim communities' area and reason behind this low rate is to lack of proper information as well as religious misconception about the polio vaccination (Demon et al 2014:13).

To achieve these objectives, UNICEF works with various actors at various levels such as national and state level governments, local level actors to improve the children condition in India. It also works with other international organizations such as World Health Organization, UNESCO, UNFPA and so on.

Girl-Child in India: Peculiar Problems

As discussed in the earlier chapter, the girl-child face many types of exploitation in society as well as in the home. In the Indian context, the girl-child is faced peculiar problems on the basis of gender, caste, weaker section and so on. Apart from all these, there are traditional perceptions of women as always inferior to men, and socially girl-child is predominantly unwanted and most people prefer boy child. These social preferences pose major challenges to the girl-child in India.

In India traditionally regard the status of girl-child as inferior to a boy-child. This practice can be tracked to the past traditions of Indian society. In the Rigvedic period, girl-child position was lower than boy-child. In the patriarchal society, the birth of the son was more desired while in Rig Veda there were no mentions of the desire for girl-child (Sharma 1999:75). The condition of women and girl children was lower than men and male children. In Rig Veda, the practice of widow remarriage was written but, there was no mention of child marriage (Sharma 1999:75-76).

In the period of Medieval, there were hardly any changed in the condition of women in India. Although the old rituals were present, many other obligations were imposed on the women and girls. The early marriage concept was increased; various obligations was imposed on the wife such as devotion for the husband, no remarriage, no right of worthy on husbands property and so on (Chandra 1976:172). There were various writers of that time write about the poor condition of women and girls in society , for example Ibn Battutah mention about the horror practices of Sati Pratha

present in India (Chandra 1976:172-173). There was various evidence highlighted the poor condition of girls and women while there were girl-child was not seen as separate from the women and girls. So these horrific conditions were for girl-child also.

During the British colonial period, there was no major improvement in girl-child condition. Sati Pratha was present in India specifically in North India while British rule tried to eliminate this horrific tradition and finally in 1929 the Sati Pratha was declared as the crime (Chandra 1976:170-175). But the Indian society's perception about the women and girl-child was still not changed. Girls and women not allowed to go to school, they do not have right to choose their husbands, child marriage, widow exploitation various tradition was still widely present in India. For example, the literacy percentage of women was very low in the 1920s; the only 2 percent girls were literate or attending school and in 1921 and just 490 girls attended high school in Bengal Presidency (Chandra 1976:99). The reason behind this low literacy rate of girls was the ignorance of girls' education in initial education policies.

In current society, the status of girl-child has not changed much and they are still seen as inferior to boy child and their position is lower than the boy. Girl-child has the unequal position in society in comparison to the boy child. Some of the major problems faced by the India girl child are as follows:

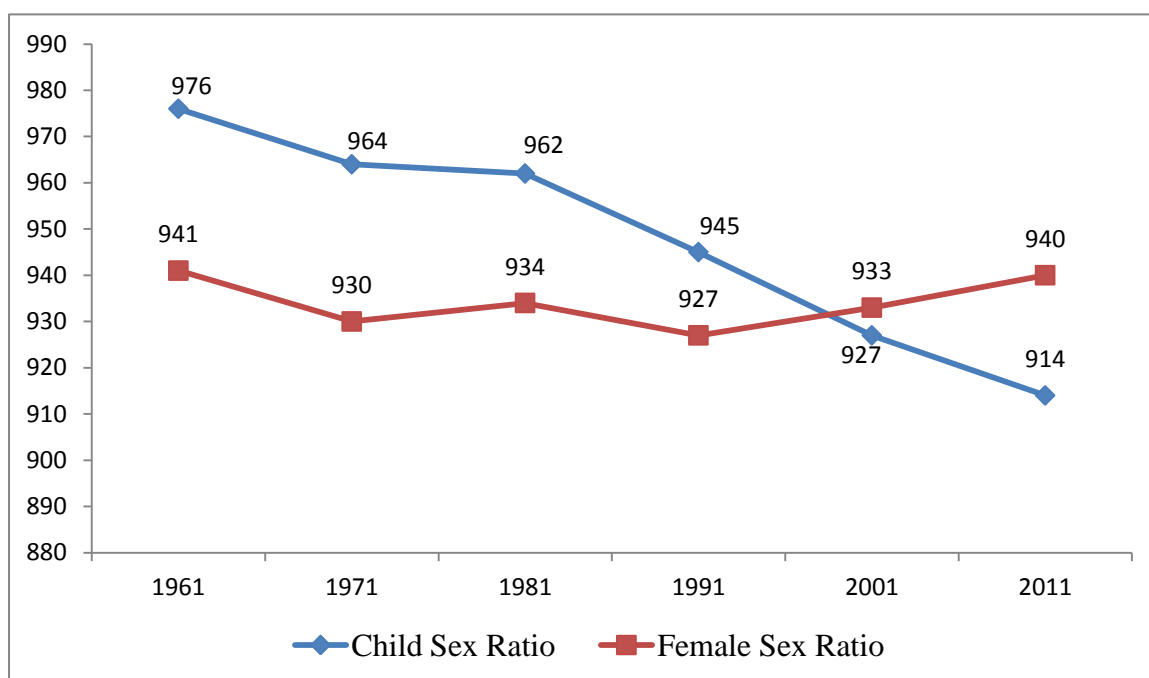
Female Foeticide

Female foeticide, as discussed in the earlier chapter, one of the harmful practices and this practice, is present in most part of the India. Through various medical technologies, such as ultrasound scans, the sex of the foetus can be determined during pregnancy of women and foetus is aborted if found to be female (Jena 2008:8). In Indian society, the female foeticide practices are present across the country. The large number of female foeticide practices affects the sex ratio of male and female child. The child sex ratio between girl-child and boy-child is continually declined in India (Singh & Kapur 2001:10-15). There is very poor condition of child sex ratio in India, girl-child presence is very lower than boy-child, for example, according to Census, 2011, in India Child Sex Ratio (CSR) is declined, only 919 girl-child is alive on the per 1000 boy child in 2011. This data showed the decline of girl-child population

from the previous decade, for instance in 2001, girl- child and the boy-child ratio was 927/1000 which is better than 2011 data (Census of India 2011). With this large gap between girl and boy child, the female foeticide practices are present across the country.

Child Sex Ratio (CSR) is poor in some states of India as female foeticides rate is very high. Child Sex Ratio (CSR) condition is very poor in states such as Punjab, Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat and many other states (UNICEF Website B). Some of these states the condition of girl-child is very critical due to the female foeticide and they face various crimes against them. Some state those have large Child Sex Ration such as Haryana and Punjab have respectively only 834 and 846 girl-child per 1000 boy child (Census of India 2011:24). Although the female sex ratio or overall sex ratio presents encouraging trends and in 2011 female sex showing the marginal increase and it became 940 from the earlier 933 in 2001. But this trend is not in girl-child sex ratio. Child sex ratio is decline consistently and in 2011, child sex ratio is 914 which is lower than 2001 of 927 (UNICEF 2011: 35-36).

Chart 5.2 Child Sex Ratio (0-6) and overall Sex Ratio of India



Source: UNICEF 2011:36

In India there is high rate of girls' infant mortality is take place however this tradition of killing the girl-child is not only present through the foeticide even the rate of girl-child mortality is high under the age of one year. (Singh & Kapur 2001:9). Girl-child is murdered before they complete one year age. All these practices crucially affect the girl-child life and status in society. There is various reasons behind this killing tradition such as in Indian culture son is seen as the symbol of status and girl child is considered as burden for family and due to this thought they prefer boy child. Son may see as economically supporter and daughters are being great economically decline (in dowry, not stay in family after marriage) and due to cultural norms son is seen as big source of social and political power while the girl-child are seen as lower than male (Kishor 1993:248). This power symbol for boy-child encourages the female foeticide practices in India. And put the girl-child in the critical situation.

In India, many kinds of equipment use for identify female foetus and in the abortion process. Even when laws and regulation become strict against female infanticide, still the abortion of girl children is taking place in the very high rate. Abortion is a 'barbaric' practice which carried by non-professionals or less powerful person such as traditional 'dai' as well as the old lady of household (Agnihotri 2003:4351).

Other reason is to governments' apathy and the absence of strong action against this horrific tradition. While, the Indian government identifies the female foeticide as a big crime which violates the right to birth and it's strictly banned in the country. But in actual practice, very few cases filed against the practice of female foeticide. For example, in 2006, there are only 125 cases were registered against the female foeticide practices in the whole country (Razi 2012:24).

Child Marriage

The child marriage tradition is present across the world as discussed earlier. In India, there is the high rate of child marriage takes place in every year. The issue of child marriage is taken as a crucial issue in India during the colonial period. The Child Marriage Restraint Act 1929 was passed in 1929 (Hatekar et al 2007:145). This act raised the age of girls for marriage was settling on from 12 to 14 years. After a long debate on the child marriage, today the legal age of girls for marriage is 18 years.

After these laws, still this harmful practice of child marriage is present in India. According to International Centre for Research on Women (ICRW), 47% of marriages are child marriages (UNICEF&ICRW 2011:3). And these early marriages cause many complications and problems for the girl child.

There are various authors and researchers explain that how child marriage tradition being existing in India from very previous time specifically in Brahmanical society, in Brahmanical society “the marriage is known as the Kanyadana, and it consider as a ‘gift of virgin’ and ritually pure girl to groom and those parents who fail to marry their daughter before the starting of menstruation, commit a serious sin (Fuller and Narsimhan 2008:737). According to this Kanyadan tradition girls should married before the onset of menstruation this is the perception which present in various part of the India. Even in some of society in south India and North-West India still following this tradition and they married their girl child before the onset of menstruation. For instance, in Rajasthan there are still child marriage is taking place in huge numbers and this practice is present in various castes and community. Such as Atta Satta, MirtuBhoj and group/community marriage, Akha Teej these are some practices of child marriage, which are still present in Rajasthan (UNICEF and ICRW, 2011:15).

Although these early marriage practices give the negative impact on both girl-child and boy-child, but the girl-child is more harm with this tradition. As discussed earlier it affects the girl-child physically as well as mentally. Such as the premature consummation and teenage pregnancy, forced sex which affects the health of girl-child and it also poses a risk of mental health and personality development of girls (Chakravarty 1998:15).

There were many reasons behind this harmful practice in India such as illiteracy, poverty, patriarchal mindset and so on. Poverty is seen as a main and common cause of child marriage in India. Parents are relieved from economic responsibility throughout the marry their girl-child and some time, parents marry their girls in early age for receiving economic benefits and sometimes it happens because parents married their daughters in early age to avoid the increasing dowry cost (Lee-Rife et al 2012:288). The poverty of parents makes their daughters life very difficult and critical.

The illiteracy rate of women and girls are very high and because of this is girls are not aware of the negative impact of early marriage. As well as girls are not be acquainted with their rights and law related to child marriage prevention. Other reason is, in some of Indian states have tradition social patterns and norms that explain the tradition of child marriage, lower rate of education such as north central states and this circumstance are big reason of child marriage (Giusti2015).

In India, there are many laws against the child marriage practices but in practice it's hardly taking place. And the reason behind this is rigid thought of patriarchal society. While, in some of case those women who oppose child marriage they were faced many challenges and raped and killed by local people. As example, in Rajasthan where Banwari Devi was gang-raped by local men and in those rapist some of are from her own village, because she campaign against the child marriage she faced rape continually (Kulkarni 1994:1884).

Discrimination against Girl-child

In Indian patriarchal society girl children faced many discriminations in societies as well as in their own family. Poor health, nutrition, and poor education or no education are mostly present in girl children of India due to the discrimination against them. Large numbers of girls are dying before the age of 10 or 15 and reason behind this death was discrimination against them for treatment, neglect.

Girl-child faces various discriminations in society as well as in family too. In Indian society, son is seen as the symbol of status and girl-child is regarded as burden. Due to these circumstances girl-child not getting proper care by their family and they die or suffered from various difficulties. Such as inadequate food, nutrition deficiency, poor medical care during illness, they neglect by parents (Chakravarty 1998:11).

Girl children suffer discrimination in the share of food, drug, and other essential requirements. Parents and other family member not provide the essential basic requirements and discriminate between girl-child and boy-child. Girl-child is seen as a burden for the family because they have leave their family after marriage so invest of money on girl-child education, care, drug, food is regarded as waste of money. So they discriminate the girl-child. In India there are large numbers of girl

children who unwanted at their birth or killed in wombs, faced discrimination in childhood or neglected in family as well as victimise by social abuse, violated by society and community all these discrimination creates a big challenge for their survive (Chakravarty 1998:16).

Household chores are the big example of discrimination against the girl-child. In Indian various societies, the household chores are generally doing by girl-child rather than boy child. Girl-child is socialized as like responsible for everyday work which is not commonly faced by boys. Girl-child faced more emotional abuse than a boy child and more than 80 percent of cases the abusers are parents or family members. In Indian society, girl-child oppressed and faced discrimination on the name of culture, tradition or older norms. They could not be grown up and treated as similar to boy children and due to this discrimination, more than 45 percent of girls wished that they were boys (Dabir and Nigudkar 2007:2863).

Girl-Child Rape and Sexual Exploitation

This violence and exploitation against women as well as girls are widely prevalent across Indian society. In India, girl-children is faced many kind of exploitations and molestation within the family, schools and in society. Some authors highlighted that, how sexual assault against girl children is present in so called metro cities. A research in Bangalore pointed out that in every 20 girls 3 girls is faced rape, 5 girls out of 10 are molested and 8 girls out of 10 are faced sexually harassment (Singh and Kapur 2001:12). A Large number of sexual exploitation which faced by girl-child is happened by their own family member or close relatives.

In Indian society violence and exploitation against girl children is present in different kinds of ways such as physical abuse, rape, battering, sexual assault, forced pregnancy in many cases the accused are girl children relative or family member (Chakravarty 1998: 17). In India, there are 54. 29% of girls who are the victims of rape in the age of 7-16 and in some of the cases they continually raped by their father or other closed relatives.

Child prostitution is also a big issue in India where, girl-child forced to engage in this illegal activity. Girl-child trafficking for the use of child prostitution is very active in some part of India. As example, some of the districts of West Bengal, such

as, Murshidabad, Dinajpur, Nadia, Howrah, 24 Parganas as well as Midnapur these some area's girl children are mostly victims of this human trafficking crime (Ghosh 2009: 727-728).

Buying or trafficking girl-child and sell them for sexual tourism is most common in these days in India. The trafficking of girl children is considered more lucrative or profitable rather than arms or drug smuggling (Chakravarty 1998:18). And Government of India takes this issue as an important subject. Ministry of Women and Child Development (MWCD) actively engaged on the prevention of girls and women from this crucial practice and prevent them cross-border trafficking as well as trafficking in the internal part of India. For this Trafficking prevention which was stated by MWCD they working for this prevention (MWCD and UNICEF 2008:18).

Child abuse is one trauma for children which affect them mentally as well as sometimes physically also. Any kinds of harass, such as, emotionally, physically as well ill-treatment of children is considered as child abuse (Dabir and Nigudkar 2007:2864). All children are negatively affected with this child abuse trauma, however, the girl-child more affected from the abusive environment rather than a boy child. Physical exploitation (child labor, harassment), emotional trauma (child prostitution) as well as marital harassment (child marriage, child widow) all these are manifested as various forms of child abuses which more affects the girl children (Kulkarni 1997:1522). In Indian patriarchal society, abuses are targeted to women or girls. Child abuse which affects to girls or women mentally and sends them in emotional trauma is frequently used in Indian society. It became a big mental harassment practice for girl-child which present in the society.

Neglect of Girls' Education

The girls' education rate in India is lower on the national level and in some of the Indian states girl-child literacy is very low. According to Census, 2011, there are only 64 women are educated per 100 men (Census of India 2011). There are many reasons behind this huge disparity such as, social patterns where girls are not permitted to go outside, patriarchal mindset, dowry system, child marriage, lack of safety environment and so on (Chakravorty 1998:12-16).

Drop out from school is also one big problem relating to girl-child and this is one of the reasons of their lower education rate. Large numbers of girls are left school before complete their higher secondary school. In patriarchal society of India girls are socializing into the culture that girls should play a caregiving responsibility and boys should like guardian or defender and this notion transmit through family, peers (Berman and Jiwani 2002:2). And due to all this phenomena girls are unable to have the career or engage in economic activities. The girls are socialized into thinking that they should engage in household chores. This household task is playing a vital role in girls' dropout from school. Domestic work, such as helping parents, household chores, siblings care, and early marriage all these are played the very negative role in girls' dropout (Chakravorty1998:15).

All these factors are big barriers for girls' education and they influence the girls overall development. Illiteracy is one reason on the unawareness about the own rights. Female foeticide, early marriage, discrimination and disparity, exploitation, illiteracy all are played a role of the circle which declines the girls' condition in society.

UNICEF and Girl-Child in India

In India UNICEF through the programs and policies tried to provide protecting and learning environment for girls. UNICEF's work in South Asia and special focuses on girl-child problem is not new phenomena, UNICEF engaged in girls' education, child marriage elimination and many difficulties which faced by girls. UNICEF active participation on the protection of girl-child from abuse, child prostitution, child labour, poor health, education inequality, gender disparity many other kinds of the peculiar problem which affect girl-child. Following are the major areas in which the UNICEF works in India to protect and promote the welfare of the girl child.

Protection of Girl-child Health

The health of girl-child is one of the important concerns of UNICEF's activity. In India, girl-child health is mostly ignored in the family because in patriarchal society son is seen as the symbol of status and girls do not even count as a member of the

family. In these peculiar situations, UNICEF and the Indian government launched the program on girl-child health protection.

Universal Immunization Program (UIP) is one of the i programs of UNICEF which started in 1985. UNICEF with the help of national and state governments engaged in the immunization program for children. Through the compulsory preventive-vaccine, UNICEF protects children from various kinds of diseases or sickness. UNICEF is giving technical support in the establishment of national centers Universal Immunization Program (UIP), an example, National Cold Chain and Training Centers (NCCTC) (UNICEF Website C). In this cold chain, UNICEF and GOI trained some medical officers and Cold Chain handlers for the better care for children health and immunization program.

In the cases of the eradication of polio disease, UNICEF in partnership with Government of India, World Health Organization (WHO), the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundations and other actors actively engaged. Under this program, all children under 5 years are vaccinated (UNICEF 2012:5). Other approach of UNICEF relating to health to the works of WASH, as discussed earlier, to promote the sanitation and health routine into the regular activities of children. UNICEF through the support of WASH encourages the awareness about the hand washing before eating school (UNICEF Website B).

However, these programs do not specifically mention the concern of girl-child health. Although, in Indian patriarchal society parents do not given proper attention of girl-child health these programs, where all children get benefit, girl-child also gets benefit. They also get the same health advantage as like boys. Dalit girl-child who ignored on the basis of gender and poverty as well as also oppressed by dominating castes, they too get benefits from the Universal Immunization Program (UIP). The caste and religious are the crucial determinants in India that causes discriminations against girl child on the on the basis of castes and religion. UNICEF works with religious and community level to overcome these challenges. For instance, UNICEF realized that, in India, the polio vaccination program is not appropriate effective to those children, who belong to the Muslim community. Through the Muslim leaders convinced the Muslim community about the importance of vaccination (Demon et al

2014:13). This initiative of UNICEF is trying to protect all children of the Muslim community from polio as well as girl-child.

Integrated Child Development Service (ICDS) is one of the most important programs of India. This program which started in 1975 and it basically works for early childhood development such as immunization, eliminate nutrition deficiency, as well as works for pre-school non-formal education. UNICEF is assisting the ICDS program from its initial time (Aid Worker 1993:1398). Through this program, they encouraged all children health without any discrimination on caste and sex and it exemplify the holistic approach of UNICEF for child development (UNICEF Website C).

Water supply and Sanitation is always included in UNICEF's strategies because this is the basic factor which affects the health of people. In India, Planning Commission of India, World Health Organization (WHO) and UNICEF, prepared a report on the drinking water supply and sanitation in India (Planning Commission 2002:13). Moreover, in this report, they explore what are the condition of rural as well as in urban area's population due to the lack of safe drinking water and water for sanitation. They published an assessment report and emphasise that due to the short of water supply, all people health are affected and the health of girl-child is more affected such as, inadequate water supply in school during the menstruation days and girls' are faced hygienic disease, girls are forced to go far from home to taking drinking water, go outside for open defecation and so on (Planning Commission 2002:48-49). UNICEF highlighted these peculiar difficulties of girls, which affect their health directly and indirectly.

As earlier discussed that child abuse affects the girl-child more and it gives the mental trauma to girl-child. UNICEF engaged in to counter this problem through workshop and various other programs in an attempt to eliminate this practice and protect girl-child from this mental harassment. UNICEF contribution in this field is very significant, UNICEF organized many workshop on the awareness about this negative aspects, such as with the help of women and child development department of Madhya Pradesh UNICEF organized joint workshop on the debate of abuse against girl child (Kulkarni 1997:1523).

Indian Medical Association (IMA) and UNICEF jointly take the initiative against the Child Sexual Abuse (CSA). This is the one recent activity of UNICEF in India. Through this program, UNICEF's basic goal is to build a nation-wide chain of doctors and practitioners and through them circulate or expand the knowledge about the Child Sex Abuses (UNICE Website B). This program under the supervision of state branches of IMA, these doctors and trainers will active on the state as well as district level. Both UNICEF and IMA release the 10 key points about the case of CSA and they specifically emphasize that the proper information and implementation of these 10 key points (The Hindu 2014). And every doctors and trainers should be know those 10 key actions points when they handle the case of CSA such as all CSA case has to be considered as medical emergency, in CSA case provide to victims free treatment and give them other essential medical facilities. Other important key actions are, in the case of CSA, it is the legal duty of doctors to give proper medical care to victims, collect the forensic facts and inform the police immediately as well as give the all essential testimony if it is demand by court (UNICE Website B). With this joint initiative UNICEF trying to protect children from child sexual abuses as well as provides the proper care to victims of Child Sexual Abuses. As discussed earlier that generally the child sexual abuses are faced by girl-child. So this program, child protection from CSA is more benefited to girl-child.

HIV/ AIDS is also one big problem in India and it affects the girl-child more than a boy child. As we know India is the second largest populous country in the world, so the number of people who affected from this disease is also huge. Especially sex- workers are faced more challenges due to these diseases. Trafficking of girl-child increased child- prostitution and this child prostitution increased the number of HIV/ AIDS infected people (Chakravarti 2011:389-400).

UNICEF and the Indian government are working against the human trafficking as well as UNICEF emphasize the awareness about HIV/AIDS in school level. UNICEF with the support of other international organizations, engaged into the protection of women as well as girl-child also from this disease. UNICEF and World Health Organization urging to all South Asian countries to get attention on the launch of sexuality education in school, for instance they advice to India for introduce

reproductive health as well as sexuality education in schools it also encouraged the awareness about the HIV/AIDS in school level (Chakravarti 2011:389).

Integrated Management of Neonatal and Child (IMNCI) is started by UNICEF in 2000, with the help of Indian government and WHO (Ramji 2006:1029). In this IMNCI program, UNICEF interacts with national government and they mainly give attention on the protection of the child in the neonatal period and save them from childhood death. However in Indian patriarchal society girl-child faced discrimination on the period of neonatal, so this initiative is becomes playing a vital role for surviving girl-child during childhood period (Ramji 2006:1029).

Meena Communication Initiative (MCI) is started by UNICEF in the 1990s. This is an animated advocate or promoter of rights of girl-child (UNICEF 2004:12). Through this animation UNICEF promoting the girl children rights as well as trying to eliminate the gender disparity from the society. It also draw attention on those issue which affects the girl children health as well as overall development, such as inadequate food, nutrition deficiency, sanitation, education, early marriage, practice of dowry and many other issues related to girl-child.

UNICEF in its effort to protect the health of girl-child faced many challenges. A large population is also a big obstacle for UNICEF's programs and policies to achievement. With the UNICEF's limited sources, it is difficult to counter all girl-child health issues. Another major challenge is lack of data on the child rights violations activities (UNICEF 2011:10)

Psychological barriers also played a vital role in health protection of children as well as girl-children. UNICEF health workers' coverage rate of polio vaccine is lower in north India specifically in Muslim area rather than the average of other states (Demon et al 2014: 12-13). The lack of proper knowledge about health vaccines as well as the high rate of illiteracy became big barriers for the UNICEF during the implementation of their program.

Another major challenge is the lack of supervision and accountability of UNICEF's programs. All programs need to regular supervision as well as proper implementation on the local level. Immunization programs of UNICEF faced challenges because there was the lack of interest of local level implementation. The

political will, hygienic condition, as well as proper and secure health infrastructure of the country, is playing a big role in successes of immunization or health protection program (Demon et al 2014:13). Lack of these conditions makes it difficult to protect the health of the girl-child.

Protection from Female Foeticide

As discussed earlier, the practices of female foeticide denied the right to life for girl child even before the birth. The practice of female foeticide has led to increasing the gap in ratio between girls and boy child. UNICEF publishes the report of their survey and highlights the how many percentages of female foeticide happen annually in India. UNICEF reports highlights about the annual rate of abortion in India are roughly 5 million and most of them based on the female child. With the report and data, UNICEF raised the issue of female foeticide and draws the attention of Indian government to this horrific practice (Sarkaria 2009:906-913).

Apart from the report and data publish UNICEF takes initiative on this issue through individually as well as with the support of Indian government. UNICEF individual as well as with the support of other organization such as, United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) organized many conventions, awareness campaign on disadvantage of female foeticide as well as rallies and condemn sex-selective abortion (Sarkaria 2009:930-935). As in this campaign, UNICEF's get support from Ministry of Women and Child development and as well as from states governments.

UNICEF with the support of National Commission for Women and the Indian Medical Association work against the female foeticide practices. In New Delhi in 2001, they organize the convention of religious and political leaders and this convention UNICEF highlights the backdrop or poor condition of juvenile sex ratio in India (MWCD and UNODC 2008:3). UNICEF's activities on the eradication of female foeticide practices from Indian society are appreciated by many state governments. Madhya Pradesh government, Punjab Government, and many other Indian state governments give vital support to UNICEF on the counter this problem (Kulkarni 1997:1523).

Multi-faith campaign program against female foeticide in India is always supported by UNICEF. According to UNICEF-India sources, in 2005 UNICEF

organized the fortnight multi-faith hard rally against the female foeticide as well as the protest against sex selection (UNICEF Website B). Through this Multi-faith campaign, UNICEF highlighted those take place in society after the unequal sex ratio of society. In Delhi, UNICEF has engaged in the campaign against this horrific practice from the 1990s. UNICEF organized many rallies on awareness about female foeticide disadvantage. How female foeticide affects the girl and boys sex ratio in society.

In 1990s when Tamil Nadu faced many criticisms on the poor condition of girl-child in state, then state with the consultation of UNICEF and other child or women NGOs, and Chief Minister Ms. Jayalalitha announced “Jayalalitha Protection Scheme for the Girl-Child” (George 1997:127). Tamil Nadu government in 1992 started the various scheme for the protection of girl-child from female foeticide practices. UNICEF works with the state government against this harmful practice against the girl-child. Many states of India support UNICEF in the policies of girl-child welfare, such as the campaign against female foeticide, girls’ education improvement, child marriage elimination, gender equality achievement many other girl children programs(George 1997).

UNICEF’s supports National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) at national as well as state level. NRHM started various program to protect girl-child from infanticide but due to the inadequate data and evidence girl-child does not get the proper benefits of this efforts. For instance, various states started guidelines for the Sick Newborn Care Units (SNCUs) and promote the newborn children admission in the list of SNCUs. But at the same time in some of states of India the admission record of female child is very fewer in SNCUs (only 40 per cent) rather than male child and in this condition UNICEF facing various challenge to protect girl-child from infanticide (UNICEF 2013:41).

Meena Communication Initiative (MCI) is one of the big programs of UNICEF in South Asia. But in the context of India this program does not reach all states equally and awareness about the protection of girl-child infanticide and other awareness program is not very effective. According to the UNICEF Annual Report 2013 – India, due to the lack of proper signal of All India Radio (AIR) and other

infrastructure Meena Communication Initiative (MCI) faced difficulties (UNICEF 2013:41).

Prevention of Girl-child Trafficking

Girl-child trafficking is one major problem faced by Indian girl-child. UNICEF provides technical support to the Indian government for the development of Integrated Plan Action to prevent and combat the trafficking of children and women, and in this prevention program they get support from Ministry of Women and Child Development (MWCD) Department of Women and Child Development and other actors who working for children and women welfare (MWCD and UNODC 2008:42).

Cross Border Trafficking prevention is one of the important activities of UNICEF in India. According to India Country Report, the incident of trafficking of women and children is one of the crucial issues in India, which happens mostly in border areas. Cross Border Trafficking prevention was started by MWCD and UNICEF with the help of MWCD is working for this prevention (MWCD and UNODC 2008:18). They are engaged in trying to end cross-border trafficking between India-Bangladesh, India-Nepal, which has increased in recent years. They train the stakeholders how to tackle this organized crime.

MWCD and UNICEF jointly take initiative on the issue of girl-child trafficking. Through the conducted survey, both actors with the help of NGOs highlights that what are the main causes of this organized crime against girl-child. UNICEF's initiative in the rehabilitation practices also carrying out with cooperation with MWCD. UNICEF actively engaged in the rescue and rehabilitation of those victims who suffered from the child trafficking crime. For instance, UNICEF with Ministry of Women and Child Development (MWCD) and Nirmala Niketan NGO organized survey and study on Child Victims Trafficked for Commercial Sexual Exploitation such as, in 2005 "Rescue and Rehabilitation of Child Victims Trafficked for Commercial Sexual Exploitation" (MWCD and UNODC 2008:16). With this type of survey, UNICEF is trying to draw attention on this horrific crime.

The Indian government gives special attention on to counter the children and women trafficking crime and try to prevent girls and children as well as women from this organized crime. And for this prevention the Ministry of Women and Child

Development (MWCD) established Central Advisory Committee (CAC) who works for the prevention and combating against the girls and women trafficking for Commercial Sexual Exploitation. This Central Advisory Committee (CAC) work is actively supported by UNICEF (MWCD and UNODC 2008:10). There are various fields representatives are included as member of Central Advisory Committee such as from Home Affairs, External Affairs, Tourism Health and Family Welfare, members from UNICEF, UNIFEM and so on, all members are meets every quarter. In their meeting, they discuss the issue of trafficking across the country as well as they make strategies to counter this problem (MWCD and UNODC 2008:10).

UNICEF's other approach to counter the girl-child trafficking crime in India is to publish the report, collect data, conduct the survey and identified the endemic areas of girls and women trafficking. For example UNICEF gives data on child sex workers in India and according to the UNICEF's data, the 5 lakh child sex worker involve in sex tourism and it also alert that this number would rise because of the sex-tourism steadily rise (Ghosh 2009:724). While this data is just underline the condition of girl-child trafficking rate. Such reports also draw the attention of government. And take proper action against this crime and counter the sex-tourism practices from India.

Workshop on the issue of girl-child trafficking is also a big initiative of UNICEF. UNICEF with the collaboration of National Commission for Women and Child Department, organized Regional Workshop at Bangalore on 16-17 October 2000. In this conference the theme was "Prevention of Trafficking of Women and Children" and officers from Government of India (GOI) as well as States Governments took part in the conference (MDWCD and UNODC 2008:3-4). UNICEF in their work on prevention of girl-child from trafficking identify some of districts which are more 'endemic' for this crime, such as some of districts of West Bengal like, Murshidabad, Dinajpur, Nadia, Howrah, 24 Parganas as well as Midnapur. The girl children from these areas are mostly victims of this human trafficking crime (Ghosh 2009: 728).

The Anti-Trafficking program is an important initiative of UNICEF. It started by UNICEF at the state level, such as in Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, and Maharashtra. Through this Anti-Trafficking program, UNICEF organized serious training and capacity building program, community awareness program and many

other activities to prevent girl-child and women from the human trafficking crime (MWCD&UNODC 2008:41).

Due to the lack of appropriate facilities such the lack of proper water supply, sanitation facilities girl-child has to go outside for defecation and these community defecation areas are the places where girl children are mostly victimised (Planning Commission 2002:47-48). The girls were kidnapped or trafficked when they go outside in night specifically for defecation. This happens mostly in the urban slum areas. In these circumstances World Health Organization (WHO) and UNICEF jointly engaged to counter this issue through the Water supply and Sanitation, improvement of proper water supply and sanitation in rural as well as in urban area, providing special benefits for women and girl-children (MWCD and UNODC 2008).

Challenges faced by UNICEF during these prevention programs are huge. UNICEF with various program and policies as well as with awareness rallies is trying to eliminate girl-child trafficking practices from Indian society. However, these efforts are not very success and there are many reasons behind this. Child sex ratio difference, illiteracy, poverty, patriarchal mentality, lack of supervision of government policies creates difficulties for UNICEF effort. Moreover, powerful groups are involved in these criminal activities which make UNICEF efforts difficult. Moreover, these girl-child trafficking, violence, and exploitation are crime which thrive on secrecy. So it is very difficult for government as well as UNICEF to collect reliable data related to these crimes (UNICEF 2011:28).

Lack of the systematic and reliable data on the girl-child and women trafficking make the UNICEF difficult to counter this problem. According to the UNICEF report it estimated that more than 5 lakhs sex workers in India and most of them are under age and this number is not exact and it would be increased (Ghose2009:19-24). There is not exacta data is available on this organized crime and due to this it is very difficult for UNICEF to provide proper rehabilitations for suffered girls.

Promotion of Girl-Child Education

As discussed earlier that education is the most important tool for the overall development of human beings. Girls are marginalized in society and education is

mostly denied to the girl child. UNICEF's participation in India to promote the girl-child education is very dynamic. It supports to the government on their program on girl-child education, it highlights the data on girls education condition across the country, encouraged the campaign on education promotion and so on.

Shramik Vidyapeeth (SVPs) is one of the non-formal education program of the Indian Government which started in the 1990s. Through this program, the government provides the education and training facilities to the industrial worker, self-employed workers and so on. However this program which conducts by national as well as state government, in initial time it limited into the labours non-formal or workers, but with the encouragement of UNICEF it coverage included the Women and girls' education too (Patel 1996:88). UNICEF gives it assistances for organizing vocational training and education program for the different type of workers, women as well as girls. As discussed girl-child are from Indian society faced many challenges to acquire the proper education with the encouragement of SVPs with the assistance UNICEF promote the literacy based vocational training for women and girls (Patel 1996:88).

In 1991 Mahila Samakhya (MS) incorporate with the District Primary Education Program (DPEP), which get some funds from UNICEF as well and both actors works for girls' education on various states of India, such as Bihar, Andhra Pradesh (Unterhalter and Dutt 2001:62-63). Mahila Samakhya (MS) is one older organization in India, working for women empowerment and for equality between men and women.

UNICEF's involvement in girl-child education at the national level as well as it actively engaged in the promotion of girls' education at the state level. for example, Andhra Pradesh Primary Education Project (APEP) and the Shiksha Karmi Project in Rajasthan these are the state-specific program which get support from UNICEF (Ward 2011:547). These are some programs which promoting the education for all children without any discrimination on gender, caste and society and UNICEF promotes these programs. In the mid-1980s to mid-1990s, UNICEF helps these primary education programs for the child as well as for girl-child education improvement (Ward 2011:547).As discussed earlier in Indian society a boy child sent the school but the girl-child faced challenges to get the proper education with these

initiative UNICEF and state government promote the girl-child education importance also.

Sarva Siksha Abhiyan (SSA) which launched in 2001, by the Indian government is supported by UNICEF. This is also one flagship education program of the Indian government, where girls' education is promoted through the emphasis on education is not for certain gender or caste it is should be gain without the biases of gender, caste, and other discrimination. UNICEF works with Indian government in this Sarva Siksha Abhiyan (SSA) education program. It works on those states which suffer from poor performance in education sector as well as poor education condition of women and girl children such as Bihar, Rajasthan and UNICEF also engaged with the community-based activities for girls' education. Indian government started many flagship program like Sarva Siksha Abhiyan (SSA) or Education For All, Right To Education (RTE), Education is the fundamental right, Mid Day Meal program which world's largest school feeding program for the improvement of girl-child enrolment in school and many international organizations supported the government of India such as UNICEF, UNESCO and so on (Central Statistical Organization 2011:45-52).

UNICEF encourages girls' education and highlights the condition of girls in education field on national as well as state level. For instance in 2003, UNICEF India has published the report on the primary schools condition in many states. Its report highlighted that in Bihar 50% of teachers post were vacant and many other states also not give proper attention on primary education (Chitrakar 2009:58). UNICEF explore the girls education condition Indian society, such as UNICEF carried on a surveys on regarding on literacy status or percentage in certain districts of West Bengal and Bihar, such as Purulia, South 24 Parganas districts (Mukhopadhyay 1994:1379-1378).

Through the underline of the education condition of girl-child and Dalit girl-child, UNICEF actively engaged into the counter those difficulties and promotes the education of this girl-child. For instance, in July 2004, the Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas (KGBV) scheme which is basically started by the Indian government to encourage the education of Scheduled Caste (SC), Scheduled Tribes (ST), Other Backward Class (OBC), and Minor communities' girls. These sections' girls take advantages from Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya (KGBV) and complete their higher secondary education on the easier way. The Kasturba Gandhi Balika

Vidyalayas (KGBV) is one of the girls' education promotion programs of the Government of India and UNICEF actively supports to this program (UNICEF2011). This education scheme basically provides a school program for those girls who drop out their school before complete the higher secondary education. This scheme basically became more helpful for Below Poverty Line (BPL) family's girls. Adolescent girls who have not completed high School, with the help of Kasturba Gandhi Vidyalaya (KGBV) scheme can complete their high school education at home. UNICEF and GOI are trying to reduce the rate of dropout of girls without the completing their education through this KGBV program.

The UNICEF through the survey and publications highlights the condition of girl-child education as well as the girls' education condition of Dalits and deprived class of India. UNICEF carried out the survey on the Dalits girls' health, education and child marriage condition in Indian society. For example, in one of the publications of UNICEF India Summer Internship Program 2006, UNICEF published in this document condition of Dalit girls in school enrollment specifically in Gujarat (UNICEF 2006:18). In rural area Dalit girls and women faced more discrimination; they are exploited on the basis of gender and also exploited by the dominant caste. UNICEF through this type of publication draws the attention on Dalit crucial backward condition in India.

UNICEF's attention on Dalits girl-child education promotion is remarkable as well as it also encourages the community-based activities for the girl-child education. The communities' role is very vital in the girls' education and UNICEF promoted the communities based activities for the improvement of girl-child enrollment in schools. For instance, UNGEI description on girls' education condition in India, the girls' enrolment in certain communities increased when communities-focused activities are adopted, this communities-focused activity is supported by Universal Quality Primary Education project, Punjab Education Department and UNICEF as well as financial support by the Norwegian government (Chitrakar 2009:92).

Minimum Level of Learning (MLL) is one project of which started by UNESCO and UNICEF is helping the girl-child in India. Through this project, UNICEF and UNESCO basically measured the skills of children, which they learn at school as well as out of school and promote those skills through the proper education.

They assess the other quality and skills of children and promote that such as craft and other skills. However, this project is becoming more helpful for girl-child. In India, children belong to the different socio-economic background along with the problem of gender-based differences. This skills assessment at school and out of school helps to children from the different background as well as girls who are not attending school.

UNICEF throughout the publication highlighted the reason of girls' dropout from school in India. It helps to the government to formulate rule and law against those causes. Such as child marriage, distances to schools and lack of transport, engaged to household chores, lack of separate toilet and lack of safety, these are some major issue which highlighted by UNICEF as reason of girls' dropout (UNICEF 2011:21). Apart from the rise of issue UNICEF took effective against these crucial dropout reasons. For instance, the lack of toilet not only affects the education of girls but during menstruation girls are affected by many disease due to lack of toilets in school and UNICEF with WHO and Planning Commission of India organized a monitoring program on the relative effects of school on girl-child health. According to Planning Commission of India, World Health Organization (WHO) and UNICEF organized a joint monitoring program (JMP) and they highlighted the lack of sanitation facilities in school effect the enrolment as well as attendance of teenage girls (Planning Commission of India 2002: 48).

Through the help of Communication for Development Section, UNICEF promotes the strategies to influence the social norms and encourages the individuals all rights such as education is the rights of all people and girl-child have the right to education. It promotes the individual's behavior as well as community practices on realization and awareness about rights (UNICEF 2012C:12). With these active initiatives, UNICEF promotes the girl-child education across the country.

While, during the formulating and implementation of program, UNICEF faced various challenges in India. Various programs and policies started by UNICEF and the Indian government but most of those programs on the paper as they were not put into practice. For example, District Primary Education Program (DPEP) which is one of success program of Indian government and UNICEF but hardly any person knows

about this program in the various district of Indian states. (Unterhalter and Dutt 2001:58-63).

Social norms and tradition is one of the obstacles for UNICEF's efforts. In patriarchic society, girls are seen not as members of the family as they have to leave home after marriage and due to these phenomena parents and families are not taking interest on girl-child education (Chakravarty 1998:11-16). And in these kinds of circumstances, it is very difficult for UNICEF to promote girl-child education.

Child Marriage

As discussed earlier, child marriage system is prevailing in Indian society. For example, Nawada and Madhepura districts in Bihar and Bikaner and Tonk districts in Rajasthan is the place where UNICEF explore the high rate of child marriage is taking place (UNICEF and ICRW 2011:1). These states are extremely backward in education percentage as well as the condition of women education. This system has negative impact on girl-child mental and physical health. UNICEF through the publication and report highlight the issue of child marriage. State and district level annual report of UNICEF on child marriage explore the condition of girl-child in society. UNICEF tried to draw the attention on the issue of early marriage through reports and conferences. Government of India (GOI) constantly works against this early marriages concept through the laws, and punishment trying to prevent the girl-children from this horrific practice.

Child-widow is also one of the causes of child marriage. UNICEF Innocenti Research Centre published document on early marriage and highlighted how in child marriage girl-child spouses suffer more than boys, in the context of Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh, they research and highlighted that, child-widow girls face absence of socialization, discontinuation of education, isolation, poverty, which push them in a situation where these child-widows faced physical as well as emotional violation (UNICEF 2001:9). With the minimum education qualification child widow did not have the option to earn money and they engage or sell in child prostitution. Child-widow's condition is very bad as they are exploited by many blind beliefs as well as isolated by their family due to this tradition. In a conference in Bangalore in 1994

participants drew attention on the condition of child widow in Indian society (Innocenti Digest 2001:9).

According to UNICEF officials document Akha Teej is one festival in Rajasthan and on this day huge number of child marriage took places in Rajasthan, however since 2005 government started various campaigns against the child marriage and specifically before few weeks of Akha Teej (UNICEF and ICRW 2011:29). UNICEF published those activities of state government as well as achievements on the prevention of girl-children from early marriage practices. Rajasthan, in 2006 UNICEF started a campaign 'Child Marriage Abolition Campaign' and stood against this harmful tradition (UNICEF and ICRW 2011:32-33). UNICEF along with Rajasthan State Commission for Women and local NGOs works in Rajasthan for elimination of early marriage tradition of some districts of Rajasthan. Jhunjhun is one district in Rajasthan where the rate of child marriage is very high. In 2006 UNICEF started a campaign 'Child Marriage Abolition Campaign' (UNICEF and ICRW 2011:32-33). Girls' education, delayed marriage as well as good health practices for girl child is promoted by UNICEF. Jan Sunwai' or public hearing which provides a platform for girls and women to their voice against these social practices is supported by UNICEF as well as Rajasthan State Commission for Women (UNICEF & ICRW 2011:31). Rajasthan State Commission for Women along with the UNICEF started the campaign against child marriage in Rajasthan. In 2006, both actors with the help of local NGO's launched 'Child marriage Abolition Campaign' in Jhunjhunu district where the rate of child marriage was very high (UNICEF and ICRW 2011:32).

UNICEF studies and research also indicate that in India, retention dropout and other kinds of difficulties or challenges in education is still more affected to girls comparison to boy students, girls faced mainly discrimination in education field (Panda 2011:18). UNICEF with the help of Ministry of Women and Child Development in India explore what are the social norms and tradition behind these child marriage in India, as well as what are the barriers in delayed marriage and throughout these research both actor making program and policies for the eradication of this harmful tradition (ICRW and UNICEF 2011). UNICEF organized awareness programs in those places and find the role model family who break the tradition of this early marriage and promote awareness through them. UNICEF actively supports

to the Ministry of Women and Child Development on their initiative to develop and implement the national strategies and approach to preventing child marriages (UNICEF 2012C:11).

Lack of evaluation of program and policies is also a big challenge for the countering of early marriage practices. The evaluation process is playing a big role in the success of any program. Most of the programs which started for the elimination of child marriage from society are not regularly evaluated by government as well as UNICEF. Very few were being evaluated with the use of rigorous methodology or with sufficient information others (Lee-Rife et al 2012:289). Due to the lack of evaluation and supervision programs are not appropriately effective.

Girls feel shy about the sharing of personal experience about early marriage difficulties. Several girls are not responding on the question concerning their routine after child marriage, and due to this lack of information, UNICEF as well as researchers find challenges to discover the girls that are interested about the topic (UNICEF and ICRW 2011:12). Language and translation are also a big limitation. When UNICEF tried to know the views and experiences of girl children on their early marriage life, most of the girls share their view on own language or local dialect. It is possible that, in the process of translation from local dialect to Roman Hindi and finally Hindi to English there were some details and nuances have been lost or missing (UNICEF and ICRW 2011:12-13). Victims' views and experience is vital for the counter of any problem and girl children views are not coming as it is and it's affecting the adequate policy launches. Inadequate sensitization as well as inadequate training of those who involve in law implementation all these insufficiency makes difficulties for the proper implementation of laws (UNICEF and ICRW 2011:45).

Conclusion

UNICEF's initiative in India was present from 1949 onwards. Although, UNICEF was actively engaged in the long-term projects, but it also helps to India through provide the assistant for children, women and other needy people on the emergency situations. With this dynamic role of UNICEF, its involvement in India significantly draws the attention on the overall development of children. In the 1960s, UNICEF started new approach of teaching in India as well as in 1970s it engaged into the India

to provide the necessary food, drug and drinking water to war-affected children of Indian and Bangladesh. In following decades it actively engaged with the Indian government on their child health related vaccination, education, eradication of harmful tradition, child nutrition programs and many other initiatives of the government are supported by UNICEF. With these significant involvements, UNICEF set up its offices and other organizational structure in India.

UNICEF's organizational structure in India is basically based on the program related sections and team. It has one country office in Delhi and it work in 16 states of India with the 13 state offices which establish across the country. UNICEF Representative in India is incharge of the UNICEF-India Country Office New Delhi. UNICEF works in India through various program sections working on specific areas.

Initially in the 1950s, the UNICEF's objective in India was to provide emergency assistance to children at the emergency crisis such as drought, flood, as well as it also support them in the fight against communicable diseases through provide proper drug and other adequate things. It support to the Indian government to build-up their own health service facilities for needy people help. UNICEF's objectives in India after the 1960s were shift and it made effort to promote the overall development of children and women of India. There were the various reasons behind this shift such as the eradication of root causes of the problems as well as it tries to reach to all children and engaged at the local level also. This turning point of UNICEF's objectives is to support the government to establish their own service facilities for children welfare. Through this initiative UNICEF try to give a gradual environment to children for their overall development.

To achieve its objectives and goals for child welfare, the UNICEF works with the national and state governments as well as with local authorities and other local and international actors in the field. It also works with the other UN agencies such as World Health Organization, UNESCO, UNFPA and so on. Its active participation in India with the IGOs, NGOs, and Faith-Based organizations such as World Bank, UNGEI, Pratham NGO, Art Of Living (AOL) and so on. With the effective collaboration with these actors, UNICEF's attempt is to cover all aspects of children and provide them a growing environment.

The UNICEF faced challenges such as the absence of strong infrastructure, non-availability of qualified staff, lack of the capacity of aid-receivers and users as well as lack of proper empowerment of women and girls and so on.

Girl-child is facing various difficulties due to the patriarchal society, social norms, traditional perception about girls and women. They face discrimination in society as well as within family. In Indian society, the traditional perception about the girl-child is very negative and depressive. They are seen inferior to boy child as well as they had the lower position in the society. Girl-child is seen as the burden for family and through the female foeticide, girl-child is killed before she is born. In the patriarchal society of India, the girl children are exploited by their family as well as by the society through the evil practices and tradition such as child marriage, unmatched marriage, child-widow exploitation and so on. They faced various discriminations within the family as well as throughout the male-dominated social norms such as inadequate food and health care on the basis of gender and sex, neglect education access, and so on. Girl-child faces various peculiar problems such as physical and mental violence, rape; sexual exploitations within the family as well as close relatives or other persons and many other difficulties. The girls' education is neglected by the family they do not provide the proper education to girl-child. The condition of girl-child is very bad across the country.

While with these peculiar problems of girl-child, UNICEF gives the attention on the issues of girl-child in India. Through various programs and policies, UNICEF is trying to counter those problems. With the national and state government supports UNICEF is trying to cover the whole phenomena which affect the girl-child and try to provide a safe environment for girl-child.

UNICEF's activity participated into improving the girl-child health which is mostly ignored in the family because in the patriarchal and son preferences society. UNICEF and Indian government with the support of WHO launched some program on girl-child health protection such as Integrated Management of Neonatal and Child (IMNCI), Meena Communication Initiative (MCI), Universal Immunization Program (UIP), Integrated Child Development Service (ICDS), Child Protection System (CPSs), and so on. With these programs UNICEF trying to protect the girl-child health and give them an adequate environment of their overall development. Other

efforts of UNICEF are to protect girl-child from mental trauma and give them proper mental health care. For this, it works with the Indian Medical Association (IMA) and takes the initiative against the Child Sexual Abuse (CSA) which mainly faces by girl-child. UNICEF and the Indian government are working against this human trafficking as well as UNICEF emphasizes the awareness about HIV/AIDS in school level. This mainly affects to girl-child due to the child prostitution, child marriage and so on.

UNICEF trying to protect girl-child from female foeticide practices. For this protection, UNICEF publishes the survey reports and highlighted the condition of female infanticide. UNICEF with the support of National Commission for Women and the Indian Medical Association work against the female foeticide practices. They organize the convention of religious and political leaders and highlight the backdrop or poor condition of juvenile sex ratio in India. Apart from these initiatives, UNICEF along with WHO influence the state governments to make policy and protect girl-child from the female foeticide practices.

UNICEF actively engaged in the protection of girl-child from trafficking. For this it works with Ministry of Women and Child Development (MWCD) and started Cross Border Trafficking prevention program. Other significant approach is to the rehabilitation of girl-child victims who suffers from this organized crime. UNICEF with Ministry of Women and Child Development (MWCD) and Nirmala Niketan, a local NGO, organized survey and study on Child Victims Trafficked for Commercial Sexual Exploitation such as, in 2005 “Rescue and Rehabilitation of Child Victims Trafficked for Commercial Sexual Exploitation” and draws the attention of government on this issue. It supports the Ministry of Women and Child Development (MWCD) on the establishment of Central Advisory Committee (CAC) for children and women trafficking prevention. UNICEF’s other approach to counter the girl-child trafficking crime in India is to publish the report, collect data, conduct the survey and identified the endemic areas of girls and women trafficking. UNICEF organized the workshop on the issue of girl-child trafficking through the help of National Commission for Women and Child Department. Apart from these prevention and rehabilitation programs, UNICEF actively engaged in the anti-trafficking program of children and women.

UNICEF encourages girls' education and highlights the dismal condition of girl-child education. UNICEF through the survey and publications highlights the condition of girl-child education as well as the education condition of girls from Dalits and deprived class of India. Through these efforts to depict education condition of Dalit and backward classes' girl-child, UNICEF actively engaged to counter those difficulties and promote education of these girl children. Other initiative for girls education is Sarva Siksha Abhiyan (SSA) which launched by the Indian government is supported by UNICEF. And through this initiative provide the equality for all children for education without any discrimination on gender and caste. Shramik Vidyapeeth (SVPs) is one of non-formal education program of the Indian Government which started in the 1990s, UNICEF gives it assistances for organizing vocational training and education program for different type of workers, women as well as girls. UNICEF through publication and data highlighted the reason of girls' dropout from school in India. It helps the governments to formulate rule and law against those causes and address some of the causes of the problems, such as child marriage, distances to schools and lack of transport, engaged to household chores, lack of separate toilet and lack of safety. These are some major issues which highlighted by UNICEF as reason of girls' dropout.

On the issue of child marriage, UNICEF through the publication and report highlight the presence of child marriage tradition across the country. State and district levels annual report of UNICEF on child marriage explore the condition of girl-child in society such as such as UNICEF Innocenti Research Centre, Annual Reports on child marriage, Conferences on child marriage tradition in India many other documents on child marriage are highlighted by UNICEF. On the state level, UNICEF started a campaign on Child Marriage Abolition, for example, Rajasthan; in 2006 UNICEF started 'Child Marriage Abolition Campaign' and stood against this harmful tradition. Girl-Child' week is organized by UNICEF is also a good initiative for child marriage prevention. UNICEF with the help of State Commission for Women organized public meeting and tried to explore the difficulties of girl-child related to their early marriage and in these difficulties are stated by girls in their own view.

Jan Sunwai or public hearing which provides a platform for girls and women to their voice against these social practices is supported by UNICEF as well as

Rajasthan State Commission for Women. At this platform, girls raise their voice against the early marriage traditions. UNICEF emphasis on these reasons and throughout the various policies tried to stay girls in school. For instance, UNICEF and UNESCO joint report in 2007 emphasis that, eliminating laws that allow girl to marry before the compulsory school- leaving age of allowing differences in school-leaving ages or numbers of years of compulsory education for girls and boys. The community-based awareness campaign is also one approach of UNICEF and the Indian government.

UNICEF Innocenti Research Centre published document on early marriage and highlighted how in child marriage girl-child spouses suffer more than boys, in the context of Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh. Its research highlighted that, child -widow girls face absence of socialization, discontinuation of education, isolation, poverty, which push them in a situation where these child-widows faced physical as well as mental exploitation. These are the some crucial issue of girl-child and UNICEF actively engaged to counter these difficulties of girl-child of India. UNICEF's engagement in India has widely promoting the girl-child wellbeing and its active participation at various levels reflects its dynamic objective and effort to touch all children's difficulties in India.

However, the limited organizational structure has its own difficulties in working at local level. Although it tries to counter all difficulties of girl-child, a holistic approach to counter the problems faced by the girl-child in India is a necessity which is fundamentally ignored by UNICEF. Holistic approach for future aspects could counter the difficulties with more effective outcome. Moreover one important aspect the UNICEF should take into account is that the girl-child problem based on their caste system and special initiative needs to be taken to counter deprivation of girl-child based on caste consideration. This aspect is all the more important specifically in the context of India society as caste and religion plays a vital role in girl-child overall development in India. The national and state governments' apathy is also a big hurdle for proper implementation of UNICEF and Indian governments' joint programmes.

CHAPTER VI

CONCLUSION

All children are vulnerable and easily victimized because they are unable to protect themselves. While wars, natural disasters, economic crisis, other man-made or natural tragedies affect all human beings, they affect on children is considerably more. The age and sex of the girl child play the crucial role in the peculiar problems faced by them including rape, sexual abuse, molestation and so on. In many cases, it is seen that accused of rape, molestation, sexual harassment or similar kinds of violence belong to the family or were known to the family of the victim. The patriarchal society and gender discrimination further leads to the neglect of girl child. The international community through various international organizations attempt to address the problems of children in general and girl-child's problems in particular. The UNICEF is playing pioneering role in this effort.

Traditionally, children are believed to be the private property of parents and were hardly treated as someone possessing rights. Children did not possess individual identity and rights for long time. Children were not obtained much attention by the government or by thinkers until the First World War. After the grisly Nazism genocidal crime, children issues emerged as a big subject in the domestic and international realm. With the horrific experience, the international community draws the attention on children and include the children as an important issue and with the constant attempt children issue came on the international issue. Geneva Declaration in 1924 was the first historic document where the issue of children recognized at international level. Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948), Preamble of UN Declaration of Rights of Child 1959 were other the constants attempt by the international community to took the children issue at the global level. Even though these declarations emphasized on the child needs, care, and legal protection, they did not raise the topic of children rights. However the international community through various discussions and declarations such as Geneva Declaration (1924), Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948), UN Declaration of Rights of Child (1959), recognized the need to promote child care and protection of children from vulnerable conditions. Gradually various studies and reports raised the importance of rights of

children. Thus this belief led to the recognition of child as right holder and formulation of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Child (UNCRC) 1989, which give rights to children and voice in the decisions affecting them.

The prevalence of patriarchal system across the geographical boundaries for centuries has been a detriment for the females of the societies. This has expanded upon the religious as well as caste differences. Female children throughout the world suffer based on their gender and they are seen as inferior to the male children. Because of this male-dominated phenomenon girl-child faced various discriminations in the family as well as in society, such as inadequate food and health care, neglect of education and so on. Preference for a male child in the society is predominant and girl child is seen as inferior to the boy child because boys carry the family name, they bring resources into the family and only they can do funeral rites and so on. Girl-child suffers abuses based on their gender and sexual as well as physical abuses are generally confronted by women and girl children. Society imposes various tradition practices and rituals which negatively affect the girl-child health such as Female Genital Mutilation, child marriage, child widow, trafficking for sex tourism or other reason lead to forced pregnancy, and so on. All these vulnerable conditions give the crucial negative impact on girl-child mental as well as physical health. These difficulties of the girl child occur across the world and girl-child facing various challenges in different forms. With the passage of time girl-child also got separate identification, specifically the Beijing conference played a landmark role towards achieving this status. The issue of children and the peculiar problem of the girl-child came to the international attention. As girl-child faces more vulnerabilities and certain peculiar difficulties than the male child, the world community gave special attention on the issues of girl-child and made the constant effort to bring the plight of the girl-child onto the forefront of the international arena.

Although various declarations and conventions focus on the topic of children, it is not raised the issue of girl-child separately. The topic of girl-child obtains their place on the international floor after the long battle. There were various situations occur in all over the world which draw the attention on girl-child issue. Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) adopted in 1979 raised the issue of women. Although this convention does not

directly address the girl-child topic but it creates a platform for girl child issue. And in the mid-1990s, UNICEF, and UNIFEM emphasize that the CEDAWA mandate should be extended because without the empowering the girl-child the empowerment of women is the utopia for the world community. On the passage of time regional efforts also came into the force and raise the issue of girls. SAARC draw the attention on girl-child issue and declare that the 1990s as the 'Decade for Girl-Child'. While these conventions and mandates lifted the girl-child topic at the international level, the remarkable attempt for the girl-child issue was made at the Beijing Conference 1995. In this conference girl-child not even got separate identification, she obtains various legal.

The international community set up various norms and standards for the treatment of child in general and girl-child in particular. Education is a crucial tool for any human beings to build life dignity. And the norms for the girl-child education set up by the various international conferences and declarations. Such as Article 26 of the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights states that "everyone has the right to education". As girls are deprived of the equal opportunity of education, this declaration gave the right to education for all. And UN through this right gives the opportunity to girl-child treat equally like boys. Individual governments also encouraged the right of education and formulate the norms that the education is for all. Various organizations took the initiative and set the standards and try to eliminate the girl-child dropout from schools. UNESCO started program Education for All (EFA) and through this program, set standards for all schools, and try to ensure that there are separate toilets for girls.

Norms against child marriage set up by UN and define the minimum age of marriage. The Article 16 of CEDAW and 1962 UN Convention on Consent to Marriage gives to right to girls to oppose the early marriage tradition. Through these initiatives, girls right to give consent for marriage and choose spouses. Another initiative is the Minimum Age for Marriage and compulsory Registration of Marriages which come into force in 1964. All these efforts protects girl-child from early marriage tradition. UNESCO and UNICEF emphasized that all laws which allow the girls to marry before the compulsory school-leaving age should be

eliminated. Child marriage violates the rights of girl-child to be free from all kinds of discrimination.

The discrimination against the girl-child and horrific practices against girls was counter by various norms such as UNCRC 1989 prohibition on the child marriage, CEDAW initiative that the betrothal and the marriage of a child shall have no legal effect, UDHR norms that everyone has right to education and so on. To proper implementations these rights and norms, various mechanisms have been set up.

The various mechanisms have been developed at the international level to ensure adherence to international norms and standards of treatment of the child in general and girl child in particular. Treaty-based monitoring is one of the mechanisms. UNCRC 1989 Articles emphasize on that proper implementation of all treaty should be monitor by the mechanism. The treaty-based mechanism basically monitors the proper implementation of treaties. UNCRC established the “Committee on the Rights of Child” to monitor the implementation of the convention. All states party to the Child Rights Convention of 1989 required to submit the regular report to this committee relating to how they are implementing the convention. Firstly states parties have to submit the report after two years of adaptation of UNCRC and later than after every five years. The Committee gives some recommendation to the state parties on the basis of their reports, and this recommendation called “concluding observations. Through such treaties based mechanisms UN trying to implement rights accorded to children in general and girl-child in particular.

Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) along with UNICEF and expert groups monitor the governments’ action on girl-child and women welfare. CSW get the recommendation from UN and other the experts to explore the condition of girl-child across the world. Through the online discussion also, they explore the girls’ condition across the world. Individual countries reporting and monitoring system has emerged as the valuable mechanism for evaluating challenges and opportunity for girl-child related policies. Survey system of an individual country, they publish the annual survey report on various social issues. The mandatory reporting system is necessary for various fields and stressed that, the stakeholders need to be more responsible. Universal Periodic Review (UPR) is the sub-body of United Nations Human Rights Council. Although it is not directly related to girl-child, it gives report

on basic human rights freedom without the discrimination on gender, caste, colour, and sex. Another mechanism is data collection of results and evidence of girl-child policies and program implementation.

Although there are various norms and standards formulated for the girl-child wellbeing and their rights, there is the large part of the world's girl-child and women even not aware about their rights. There are far differences between norms and standards of the girl child and actual implementation of them. While the norms and laws on child marriage exist from the 1960s, still in various parts of the world girl-child is suffering from this harmful tradition and child marriage. Although the norms and standards formulated, without the adequate support of governments these are not much effective. Mechanisms are established for scrutinizing the program and policies as well as to assess the proper implementation of norms and standards. But these mechanisms seem to be not functioning effectively.

The first major international organization to address the concern of the children was the United Nations Relief Rehabilitation Administrative (UNRRA) . UNRRA was established in November 1943, to provide relief and rehabilitation to displaced person and measures for the relief of victims of war. UNRRA was not exclusively working for children, but it seen as the father of UNICEF because dealing with the issue of children was the important aspect of UNRRA. The establishment of UNICEF in 1946 was the big initiative of the world community. However UNICEF initially only focused on the immediate needs of children as well was limited to the European children but with the passage of time, it expanded its mandate as well as its working area and actively engaged with the Asian, Latin American and African countries.

UNICEF gradually developed its organizational structure after the declaration it as a permanent specialized agency of the UN. Executive Board of UNICEF plays an important role in decision-making on program and policies. Although the Executive Director of UNICEF is always elected by the Executive Board members, this election process influence by the major powers. Because UNICEF based on the voluntary funding system and larger part of the funds are giving by the major powers such as the USA, they impose their decision on the UNICEF Executive Director. Other central structures of UNICEF are Bureau and UNICEF National Committee. The Bureau

serves as a bridge between the UNICEF secretariat and regional groups and assist in fund raising activities. UNICEF National Committees are actively engaged into arranging and raising the funds for UNICEF and engaging in the promotion of Convention of the Rights of Children (CRC).

UNICEF Innocenti Research Centre is another important part of the UNICEF structure and it raises the children's voice and advocates for them worldwide. Moreover, it promotes the proper implementation of Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and also works on the improvement of international understanding of children's rights. UNICEF dynamically engaged in the child welfare aspects across the world through these significant organizational structures. Although the UNICEF has the significant structural organizations both at the global level and various parts of the world, it is very difficult to reach the entire world equally. With the minimum resources and limited organizational structure and it is difficult to deal with various issues of children all over the world.

With the passage of time, the role and functions of UNICEF has undergone changed as its initial role was limited to providing food, cloth and medical aid to children, but now it also works for the health, education, child protection, as well as for gender equality and adolescent related difficulties and many other immediate and gradual needs of children. With these wider aspects, UNICEF actively works across the world and supports the governments and other actors on their child welfare efforts.

Through the effort on the effective implementation of the international norms and standards relating to children, UNICEF is promoting the children overall development through the various policies, programs and strategies. Through this significant role, it promotes the welfare of children across the world. Such as friendly environment for children, education for all as well as all basic human rights of children and many other norms are promoted by the UNICEF. Girl-child wellbeing through the various norms promotion is one of the vital roles of UNICEF. It promotes implementation of norms for the girl-child that no girls should get married before the compulsory school-leaving age and through this initiative UNICEF trying to eliminate the tradition of early marriage. Moreover to elimination of gender disparity from the society and provide the all privilege to both girl-child and male child. UNICEF initiated that every child should provide the free birth registration and many other

aspects of children promoted by UNICEF through the norms and standards. Such as promote the harsh punishment for those people who involve in harmful practices such as, FGM, child marriage and so on. With this significant role of promoting norms and standards for children welfare it actively engaged on children welfare. UNICEF promote norms and standard sometimes, which are not universal because there are wider economic and cultural differences between countries. Such as the reason for HIV/AIDS infection is not similar to be for an African country and a Latin American country although the problem is same.

Protection of child is the one of the important role of UNICEF. To carry out this role, the UNICEF promote eradication of malnutrition or reducing the child undernutrition with the proper nutrition dose of the women or mother across the world and protect children from various disease. Protection of children from child labour, child trafficking and protects them from other types of violence and exploitations are one of the important aspects of UNICEF. Promotion of child health is another major role of the UNICEF. Health is one of the most important factors for every human being. Through the vital active work against those diseases which are more common in children such as diarrhea, malaria, malnutrition and so on, UNICEF protect the children health. Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys (MICS) international family circle program of UNICEF is another way to promote the health of children. The UNICEF promote the children welfare activities through the giving support to national and state governments and other local actors.

As UNICEF's role expanded and it covered all aspects of children, therefore it requires the partnership with UN agencies. Through collaboration with other UN agencies working on the same issue, UNICEF tried to counter the difficulties of children more extensively. Such as UNICEF with the help of WHO and UNFPA is actively participating in the program for elimination of malnutrition across the world. It is known that the WHO is the main actor in the international arena working on health issue across the world. UNICEF with the collaboration of WHO is engaged in child health protection across the world on the cases of the post-neonatal deaths, diarrhea, malaria and undernutrition and these other types of illness of children were included in both actors joint initiative. For the protection of children from various kinds of violence and exploitations with the help of government and other children

and women related agencies, UNICEF actively engages in these areas. Although UNICEF actively participates with the program and policies to counter the problem of children across the world, sometimes UNICEF's program and policies are influenced by the national interest of major powers. However, UNICEF's partnership with other actors has its own significance. It makes easier to reach the goal and effective outcome of the program. But there are some demerits and disadvantages of this collaboration. For instance, WHO provides technical support to the UNICEF. Thus, sometimes UNICEF influences with the norms of WHO. However with some positive and negative aspects of partnership, UNICEF is engaged in the various programs and for the effective outcome of these programs, UNICEF has set up various mechanisms.

Proper implementation of all norms and standards as well as program and policies, UNICEF developed various mechanisms. Such as data collection, monitoring and reporting, Monitoring and Evaluation with these mechanism tools of UNICEF evaluating the proper implementation of its programs and policies as well as the draw lesson-learned ideas from these mechanisms. These mechanisms assist in evaluation and assessment of the outcome of programs and policies which can lead to suggestions for the modification in future policies and programs.

Sometimes these mechanisms produce the data and the report containing incorrect information. There are instances where many doctors and local health workers falsify data relating to immunization reporting because most of the time Unicef gives them money and thus they don't want to disappoint them.

Another fault of the mechanism is that sometimes, the UNICEF's program and policies ignore the local gradual needs, which affects its greater goals achievement. Without the inclusion of local social norms and evaluation of the ground level difficulties, it is very difficult to eradicate the problems of children and work for their welfare. Other demerits of UNICEF's process are the evaluation process of program and policies and UNICEF's uniform approach for the evaluation of program related to the children and women. And in these evaluation standards, it ignores the local phenomena and the social and norms of the various kinds of difficulties faced by children. These evaluation processes may not be ideal for all region of the world.

UNICEF is seen not to be impartial and take fair decisions in deciding the immediate priorities about their aid and assistance facilities to the neediest country. Its decision been influenced by world politics and the clashes of national interest between the countries. United States of America is one of the biggest providers of funds to the UNICEF and thus naturally influences the policy making the process of UNICEF. UNICEF's financial support is based on the voluntary contribution of the countries and so it creates difficulties for the UNICEF working process.

UNICEF's dynamic engagement on the issue of girl-child started from 1990s. It emphasized on the girl-child protection from all harmful tradition and practices, female foeticide, Female Genital Mutilation/ Cutting, child marriage and so on. It focuses that girl-child require protection from gender-based violence and discrimination. UNICEF through the various program and policies is trying to create an environment for girl-child were grown up without facing discrimination and violence. It formulates gender-based violence guideline and norms and promotes the equality for girl-child. Although UNICEF is actively engaged in the girl-child welfare and it started various program and policies to promote the gender equality, in various societies the children are divided by the sex and gender and girl-child is hardly considered as children categories.

On the other hand, UNICEF's approach was not proper and sufficient to counter the girl-child problems. There are many obstacles present in UNICEF's strategies, program and policy which affect its implementation process. UNICEF's multi-donor and voluntary fund contribution is one of the biggest obstacles in UNICEF. The funding system of UNICEF is based on voluntary contribution. United States of America, United Kingdom, France other major power or industrialized countries are main contributors for UNICEF's program and policies. These countries through the donation of funds impose clauses or conditions on the implementation of those funds. These various funding sources create difficulties in implementation of various programs effectively, including relating to girl-child.

While UNICEF through its various policies and programs is engaged into the countering the peculiar problem of girl-child but all program and policies are not very effective due to the lack of correct decision-making process of UNICEF. Such as the UNICEF's judgment on to identify areas where funds should be allocated

immediately and what kinds of problem can be solved latter is not always correct. While sometimes the UNICEF's decisions on program and policies implementation critically influences the world politics. It exemplify by the UNICEF's strategies of the allocation of funds for German program was the impact of the United States and the United Kingdom national interest, both power pushed for this aid because of German people struggle against the Eastern Power. With this type of political influence, the decision is the big critic of UNICEF's impartial role for children welfare.

While during the assessment and counter of girls' problem, UNICEF ignored the root causes of girl-child difficulties. Such as the core reason of poor health of girl-child is related to the societal norms, poverty, child marriage, teenage pregnancy and so on. And without the eradication of the whole root causes the proper adequate healthy life of girl-child is the utopia. UNICEF's approach in dealing with girl-child in various part of the world is without differentiation. This approach is not effective because different countries have different social, and economic background and different cultural tradition. It affects the outcome of program and policies.

UNICEF's interaction with India started from 1949 when it gave support to the Indian government for establishing penicillin plant in India. At the initial period, the UNICEF's engagement in India was limited with the immediate needs of children but with the passage of time it actively participated in the long term project for children. Such as it works on the new approaches and strategies for the education of children, it supported the birth registration of all children and many other gradual approaches. And in the current situation there are various children welfare programs and policies supported by the UNICEF. This expansion of working dimension is to promote the overall development of children and throughout the interaction with national, state and local level UNICEF trying to reach to all children.

While with these wider aspects the UNICEF's organizational structure is not very large. It has one country office in Delhi and it works in 16 states of India with the 13 state offices which are established across the country. UNICEF Representative in India is incharge of the UNICEF-India Country Office New Delhi. Although UNICEF is working at the local level also but it establishes it offices in the capital of states and this is the big obstacle for the proper implementation of program and

policies. UNICEF with the supports of these offices works in India through the sections. Such as Admin and Finance Section (A&F), Advocacy and Communication (A&C), Child Protection (CP) section, Communication For Development section, Education Section, Emergency Preparedness and Response (EPR), Health section, Monitoring for Development (m4D), Policy, Planning and Evaluation (PPE), Resources Mobilisation & Partnerships section, Supply and Procurement (S&P), Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) and so on. These section's works are handled by certain specific teams and they work on the specific theme on children. While through all these sections engagement, UNICEF's attempt is to get in touch with all difficulties of children across the country but in reality it is very difficulties to reach all state through the only 13 UNICEF state offices. As well as UNICEF's various program where addressing the issue of children at district and village level but it does not establish it an organizational structure at the local level. And this limited organizational structure creates the difficulties for UNICEF.

Through this limited but significant organizational structure, UNICEF's initial objective in India was to promote the welfare of children. After the decades, UNICEF's objectives were shifted to make the effort to promote the overall development of children and women of India. And it tries to give a conducive environment to children for their overall development. As well as it supports the government to establish their own service facilities for children welfare. Through this various types of specific initiatives, UNICEF basically is trying to eradicate the root causes of children difficulties with the dynamic intervention on the children issue in partnership with various internal and external actors.

UNICEF's engagement in India is very dynamic. It works with the collaboration with the national, state governments as well as local governments and trying to improve the children condition across the country. At the national level, UNICEF's works for children welfare in partnership with Women and Child Development Department of India (WCDD), Development of Women and Children in Rural Areas (DWCRA). UNICEF closely works with these government organizations to address women and child welfare in India.

UNICEF is also actively engaged in India at state as well as at panchayat levels. It works with the other UN agencies such as World Health Organization,

UNESCO, UNFPA and so on. Its active participation in India with the IGOs, NGOs, and Faith-Based organizations is promoting the children welfare dynamically. Such as through the joint effort with UNGEI and Pratham NGO it promotes the education importance among the children. The Art Of Living (AOL) and UNICEF is promoting the gender equality and girl-child protection. UNICEF has recognized that religion plays a vital role in Indian society and people life. UNICEF actively engages with the religious and community leaders to counter the problem of girl-child. For UNICEF's active engaged with Muslim community leaders and through their help, try to counter the polio disease in Muslim communities' children. It is a big initiative of UNICEF to counter health problem of children through religious belief. Although with these actors UNICEF working for children and women but due to the crucial condition of girl-child it started special attention on girls' issue.

In Indian society across the country, children are facing difficulties but due to the inferior position of girl-child, they are facing more difficulties and various peculiar problems. In Indian society, the traditional perception about the girl-child is very negative and depressive. From the historical period, they are seen inferior to boy child as well as they had the lower position in the society. Through the female foeticide, girl-child is killed before their birth as well as if girl-child born, they faced much discrimination and impose various horrific traditions by the society and they automatically die. They faced various discriminations within the family as well as throughout the male-dominated social norms such as inadequate food and health care on the basis of gender and sex, neglect education access, and so on. Girls are exploited with the social practices such as child marriage, child-widow exploitations, and various other difficulties emerged due to these practices. For example, some of the states such as Bihar and Rajasthan the child marriage rate are very high through the some tradition such as Akha Teej, Mrityu Bhoj and so on with this traditional practice the large number of child marriage take place. This child-marriage is the major cause of teenage pregnancy and high girls' mortality. Child-widow faces various difficulties such as in Indian society girls are not allowed to remarriage although the boys are allowed for remarriage. And due to these norms child-widow are facing physical and mental exploitations, violence, social boycott and various other difficulties. Poor education rate of girl-child is also rooted from the social practices such as girls are not seen as the family member. Girls will leave the home

after marriage so the education of girl-child is the waste of money. Son is the symbol of status and only son could do the all funeral ritual so the development of boy is more compulsory. With these social norms and traditional mindset, the education and development of girls are ignoring by the family and society. With these peculiar problems of girl-child, UNICEF gives the attention on the issue of girl-child of India and engaged in the welfare of girl-child.

UNICEF with the collaboration of Indian government UNICEF launched some program on girl-child health protection such as Integrated Management of Neonatal and Child (IMNCI), Meena Communication Initiative (MCI), Universal Immunization Program (UIP), Integrated Child Development Service (ICDS), Child Protection System (CPSs), and so on. Through these programs, attempts been made to address the health issue of all children without any discrimination on the basis of sex and gender. Due to the inclusion of all children, the girl-child is also getting benefitted with health care programs. Integrated Management of Neonatal and Child (IMNCI) program which started for all children but it benefitted to girl-child more because in India the neonatal and child death rate of girl-child is more than boy child. As Meena Communication Initiative (MCI) encourages the girl-child health importance, it promotes the awareness about the girl-child right and many other girl-child welfare issues raised by this initiative. With these programs UNICEF trying to protect the girl-child health and give them an adequate environment of their overall development. Another effort of UNICEF is to protect girl-child from mental trauma and give them an environment through the effective action against those traditional practices which promote the mental trauma in girl-child. Protection of girl-child from various kinds of child sexual abuses, child prostitution, forced sex and so on been the priorities of the UNICEF. To prevent girl-child from child sexual abuse, it works with the Indian Medical Association (IMA) and takes the initiative against the Child Sexual Abuse (CSA) issue which mainly faces by girl-child. They giving training to doctors and other important actors to take effective action against the case of child sexual abuse, such as immediate report on police, take case as emergency case, give the evidence and so on. UNICEF and the Indian government are working against this human trafficking as well as generating awareness about HIV/AIDS in school level. This mainly affects to girl-child due to the child prostitution, child marriage and so on.

Through the dynamic engagement, UNICEF creates an environment for children where children getting special attention by the government, regional actors as well as by the various international actors. But these efforts are not much effective and successful without the adopting holistic approaches for counter the barriers of children and girl children overall development. Such as child marriage and school dropout is two sides one coin. Both are the reason of each other. Similarly the child marriage and teenage pregnancy is interrelated. The female foeticide and gender inequality, as well as poverty and illiteracy, promotes the child prostitution, girl-child sexual exploitation and girl-child trafficking all are the reason of each other. So respond to each problem differently is not very effective. UNICEF has to see these problems holistically and have to use the comprehensive method. UNICEF and other actors program, policies, campaign and other activities are not more effective if they are not giving attention on proper implementation. As well as proper evaluation and supervision is one of the essential requirements for any policies success. For example, the girl-child enrollments in school, their attendance in schools are in the main concern of UNICEF. However without the proper focus on the quality of education, the outcome is insufficient.

On the issue of child marriage, rule and law as well as the campaign and program, policies should be revised properly. UNICEF has the limited organizational structure in India, which place in the capital of states. While most of the early marriage cases are placed on the rural area where UNICEF does not have any offices or other structural profile. So this structure absence also is a big challenge for UNICEF to tackle the problem of child marriage.

Girl-child is one of the most common victims of child trafficking and this trafficking leads them to a slavery condition. Sex tourism, commercial sex, child prostitution are some reason and effects of girl-child trafficking. UNICEF throughout the help of national actor should emphasis on the hard law against this crime as well as the immediate action against those people or group who involved in this crime. Government and UNICEF need to bridge the gap between law and policies on the one hand and their implementations on the other hand. Although the data collection on the organized crime is very difficult because this illegal activity take place in hiding the way, active engagement by the UNICEF and forceful action by the governments at

various levels could control this crime. Rehabilitation of these girls and women who suffered from this trauma is should be an important part of the UNICEF and the Indian government policies.

Government and other actors' apathy on proper implantation of programs and policies makes these programs achievement is a utopia in Indian society. As UNICEF actively engaged at the local level and try to implement it program with the local actors, but it does not get adequate support. Moreover at the same time governments are not taking strong initiative on the report of UNICEF on child and girl-child issue. Through the eradication of these difficulties, UNICEF's program and policies could get the more effective outcome. And throughout the adequate implementation, UNICEF's activities in India for girl-child welfare can get the more success. The UNICEF's future program and policies through the more holistically approach could be more effective.

UNICEF and the Indian government have to include the social indicator and local people during the collection of data and report on girl-child policies. This inclusion improves the data reliability as well as through the local indicator evidence it finds the actual reason behind the programs negative and positive result. Economic growth should be seen with social equity lens not with the universal standards. Big investment in education and specially focussed on the secondary level of education can help girls to get economically independent. Opportunity for employment for girls can lead them to oppose the violence against them, such as child marriage, widow exploitation, forced sex and pregnancy and many other kinds of discrimination.

Accountability of the program and scheme is also an important factor and UNICEF need to expand this accountability part. Continued sensitisation and social norms change to ensure that girl-child and women treated equally in the society and build their equal position in society. Sensitisation about the girl-child issue, positive social norms, equality all these are connected with each other. Such as sensitization alone is not enough while, with the sensitization the encouragement of the education, empowerment and better education for girls can play a positive role in economic empowerment of girls and women which counter the poverty and other difficulties. So with this enhance and holistic approach, the condition of girl-child could be improved.

The various findings of the research suggest piecemeal changes at the grassroots level for better working and efficient results in the programs and policies of UNICEF. Voluntary funding is a considerable obstacle for UNICEF's programs and policies. Lack of accountability at various levels is another impediment in UNICEF's program achievement. A single, uniform approach all regions; specifically in evaluation process creates difficulties in assessing region specific problems and it ignore the local standards. The election of UNICEF's Executive Board and Directors is also influenced by the major powers. At the country level, UNICEF's role in India has widely promoted girl-child wellbeing but the limited organizational structure has its own difficulties. A holistic approach to counter the problems faced by the girl-child in India is a necessity which is fundamentally ignored by UNICEF. The national and state governments' apathy is also a big hurdle for proper implementation of UNICEF and Indian governments' joint programs.

On the light of the findings in this study, it is proposed that the UNICEF should address the girl child issues through a holistic approach, as every problem has cause and effect on other issues. The UNICEF needs to make special focus on shattering the circle of causes and effects of all harmful tradition. India needs economic growth with social equality with equity lens and increases a comprehensive growth of India. It is a well acknowledge fact that the girl child in India faces acute challenges in every respect. It required more effective consultation between the various levels of government structures in India with the UNICEF to further strengthen the formulation and implementation of policies and programs to improve wellbeing of the girl child in India. More effective accountable and monitoring mechanisms are pre-requisite for to ensure more effectiveness implementations of norms, policies, and programs.

Although UNICEF actively engaged at the local level such as with Panchayati system, but the structural setup of UNICEF at the local level is not present. UNICEF's all program and policies at the local level is conducted by the state offices and hardly local people aware about the various policies and programs to protect and promote rights and interests of girl-child. So there is the imperative need for more active and effective presence of UNICEF at the grassroots level. As the caste system is one of the significance aspects of Indian culture, UNICEF should include this aspect while

formulation policies and programs and try to address the problems of lower caste Indian girl-child. Through collaboration between various levels in India, both the UNICEF and other actors in India could gain benefits through two-way processes consultations to promote the wellbeing of the Indian girl child.

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