



Methods Brief

Tipping Point: Community Participatory Analysis Study

OVERVIEW CARE's Tipping Point project addresses child marriage through a dynamic process of innovation, insight, and influence through advocacy in Nepal and Bangladesh. With the generous support of the Kendeda Fund, the project focuses on identifying the root causes of child marriage and facilitates innovative strategies to create alternative paths for adolescent girls. Grounded by this work, the project also seeks to influence the way policymakers, donors, researchers, and civil society approach the issue of child marriage, specifically to steer the global discourse beyond short-term solutions.



The Community Participatory Analysis (CPA) Study Objectives

Research Perspective: to deepen understanding of the contextual factors and root causes driving the prevalence of child marriage in particular regions of Nepal and Bangladesh.

Programming Perspective: intended to inform innovative and context-specific program design.

Monitoring And Evaluation Perspective: to provide clarity on outcomes and measures to focus on, and to provide baseline data for some indicators of change.

Feminist Values Perspective: to promote learning and build capacity at the local level, incorporating a focus on learning by proactively creating space for review and reflection at every level.

Study Design Strategy – A Focus on Participatory Approaches and Building Local Capacity

The Tipping Point CPA study was designed to build capacity of the project field staff as knowledge workers, amplify their skills to engage with participatory data collection tools, analysis and sense-making, and use finding from their research to inform the program design. The study was also designed to use participatory exercises for data collection that would also facilitate conversation amidst community members on the issue of child marriage, what is driving parents' decisions, what adolescents aspire for themselves, and what the contextual realities are.

Data Collection Tools

In both countries, with support from project teams, community-based social mobilizers in Nepal and field facilitators in Bangladesh used several participatory exercises with different respondent groups in each village to collect data.

Social Mapping: Participants worked in groups to map each village. Maps included descriptive information on boundaries, landmarks, schools, services, NGOs, households with adolescents, and important village decision-makers.

CPA Study Process

1 MEL WORKSHOP

- Capacity building on Monitoring Evaluation & Learning (MEL)
- Development of Theories of Action
- Identification of what we need to find out and from whom

2 DESIGN OF CPA PROCESS AND TOOLS

- Remotely designed with consultants
- Input from MEL colleagues

3 PILOTING AND TRAINING

- Piloting and training to change tools and questions as needed
- Capacity building for use of participatory data collection tools, analysis, and sensemaking

4 DATA COLLECTION

- Accompaniment in collection of data
- Facilitation of reflection after each cycle

5 ANALYSIS AND SENSEMAKING

- Group sensemaking and planning workshop
- Macro analysis and report by research consultant

Timeline: Participants constructed timelines of a typical adolescent girl and boy in their communities. A qualitative form recorded the major events participants shared that happen during childhood and adolescence with focus on puberty and marriage.

Seasonal Calendar (Bangladesh Only): Participants worked through a year long calendar to look at how specific seasons are linked to migration, marriage, school drop-out, and livelihood options

Visioning: This exercise was conducted to explore the dreams and aspirations of adolescents, paying particular attention to the barriers and facilitators to those dreams. Demographic information on sex, religion, age, education, marriage, and gauna (Nepal only) status was recorded.

Key Informant Interviews (Bangladesh Only): This exercise was conducted to understand the experiences of young married girls/women who were currently between 14-22 years of age and had marriages before age 18. Individual interviews were conducted with participants with a semi-structured interview protocol.

Risks & Benefits: This exercise sought to understand the communities' perceptions of the risks and benefits of child marriage on adolescents, with special focus on girls. Four lists were created to record the groups' perceptions about marriage for boys and for girls: (a) the benefit of getting married before age 18, (b) the benefits of getting married after age 18, (c) the risks of getting married before age 18, and (d) the risks of getting married after age 18.

Study Sample

Village Selection - Nepal: The selection of Village Development Committees (VDCs) from the districts of Rupandehi and Kapilvastu for the Tipping Point project was based on four priority criteria associated with child marriage: caste and ethnicity, remoteness, availability of school, and presence of civil society organizations. The CPA study sampled 8 out of the 16 target VDCs (4 from each districts) of the project.. The number of households in the selected villages ranged from 38 to 162, with an average of 90 households per village.

Village Selection - Bangladesh: The Tipping Point project is working in 90 villages in the haor areas of Sunamganj district. Of the 90 total villages 13 were purposively sampled for the CPA study using the following criteria: high level of remoteness; a mix of rankings for perceived levels of child marriage (and within those rankings, the highest vulnerability for child marriage scores) with a proportional distribution for the villages; and proportional representation of Hindu and Muslim majority populations. The final set of villages varied along these dimensions and ranged considerably in population size. The number of households in the selected villages ranged from 49 to 556, an average of 159 households per village.

Analyses and Sensemaking

- After each data collection cycle was completed in a village cluster, review and documentation meetings were held. At these meetings, a Village Level Analysis (VLA) tool which covered about 30 questions was applied as a guide for reflecting on the raw data. These meetings were conducted by a trained facilitator in a participatory fashion with the field teams in each country.
- At the end of the entire data collection phase, each country team held a four-day sense-making workshop with guidance from external consultants and CARE staff.
- The sense-making workshops were followed by transcription and translation of the VLA and other select data into English. The data was then imported into Dedoose, qualitative analyses software, coded, and processed for synthesis and analysis by a team led by a researcher consultant. The coding was used mostly to categorize the large amounts of information by VLA question and descriptors were also included so that data could be disaggregated by village, country, or majority ethnicity of the village.

Respondent Demographics By Tool

VISIONING EXERCISE

NEPAL	Girls (Married)	Girls (Unmarried)	Daughters-in-law*	Boys (Married)	Boys (Unmarried)
Participants (n)	56	63	44	45	74
Mean Age (range)	16 (12 – 19)	13.5 (10 – 17)	21 (16-29)	18.6 (12 – 25)	13.6 (10 - 17)

20% of married girls and 40% of married boys reported being in school • 65% of unmarried girls and 76% of unmarried boys reported being in school • 35% of unmarried girls and 24% of unmarried boys reported NOT being in school • 92% of participants are Hindu, with the Dalit and other excluded castes making up the majority • About 8% of the participants are Muslim * who have had *gauna* and are staying with in-laws

BANGLADESH	Girls (Unmarried)	Boys (Unmarried)
Participants (n)	130	118
Mean Age (range)	13 (10 – 17)	13 (10 – 17)
Hindu (n)	34	26
Muslim (n)	96	92

62% of girls and 64% of boys reported being in school, respectively;
38% of girls and 36% of boys reported NOT being in school, respectively.

TIMELINE EXERCISE

	NEPAL		BANGLADESH	
	Mothers	Fathers	Mothers	Fathers
Participants (n)	71	62	156	116
Mean Age (range)	41 (26 – 50)	47 (24 – 81)	39 (25 – 65)	47 (24 – 81)
Hindu (n)	62	62	36	27
Muslim (n)	8	8	120	89

RISK BENEFITS BY COUNTRY

	NEPAL		BANGLADESH	
	Mothers	Fathers	Mothers	Fathers
Participants (n)	71	71	149	120
Mean Age (range)	43 (27 – 65)	45 (22 – 81)	Not reported	Not reported
Hindu (n)	61	64	33	27
Muslim (n)	10	7	116	93

KEY INFORMANT INTERVIEWS WITH MARRIED GIRLS [BANGLADESH ONLY]

Participants (n)	24	Hindu	5
Mean Age (range)	17 (14 – 22)	Muslim	5
Mean Age at marriage (range)	14 (11 – 17)		

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