

BrickClean Network

Create a Clean Nepal, Brick by Brick

- Do you want to buy bricks produced by bonded labourers, children and animals?
- Do you want to create a clean Nepal, brick by brick?
- Then join our campaign!

"Working in the brick kiln sometimes makes me sick. I very feel bad when I have to carry loads of bricks for long hours. "

Rita, 19 , Dang



"How do I feel? I have no feelings. For the last six years we have been working hard in the brick kiln, and nothing has improved in our life."

– L. M, 25

"We have land which produces only enough food for six months. So we have to come to the brick kiln to earn money for our children's education and other necessities."

Priya, 27, Kavre

BRICKCLEAN NETWORK

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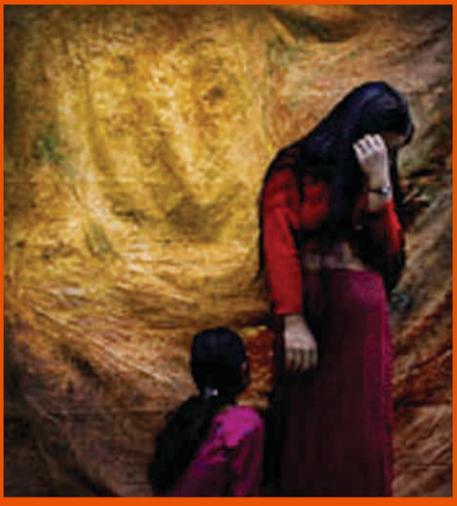
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■ What's wrong with the brick industry?

Brick production is a rapidly growing industry, linked to Nepal's rapid urbanization.

Traditional brick kilns are the number one polluters of Kathmandu Valley for sulphur dioxide emissions. The brick industry further removes fertile top soil and extracts precious ground and surface water.

Brick kilns form isolated villages where human and animal labourers toil to produce the bricks needed to build our comfortable, earthquake-proof houses.

The work in brick kilns is seasonal and attracts the poorest of the poor. Middlemen use loans to lure the most desperate to Kathmandu.

Concern Nepal estimates that some 60,000 children work in brick kilns across the country. They work 8-12 hours per days. Their living and working conditions easily qualify for a worst form of child labour.

Abused mules and donkeys, brought in all the way from Nepalgunj, increasingly become the backbone of brick production.

■ Who are we?

The BrickClean Network (BCN) consists of a group of social workers, environmentalists, child rights and animal rights advocates working in brick factories in the Kathmandu Valley. Concerned about the plight of the workers, including bonded labourers and thousands of children, working animal abuse and environmental degradation, the network aims to promote socially responsible brick making.

The overall objective of the network is to promote a socially responsible brick industry in Nepal, starting from Kathmandu valley.

Our specific objectives are to:

- Eradicate child labour;
- Improve living and working conditions of labourers;
- Reduce air pollution and other environmental impact;
- Eradicate animal abuse

■ What do we do?

- Certification of brick factories

BCN has developed a certification system which allows us to rate brick factories. Certified factories fall in one of three categories: Green (Excellent), Orange (Improving) and Red (Worst Category). BCN uses 41 indicators to come up with ratings for categories that correspond with our four specific objectives. The outcomes can be found on our website.

- Nationwide consumer campaign

BCN on April 9, 2011 launched a nationwide consumer campaign to promote 'clean and green bricks'. The campaign was kicked off during a one day event called Brick by Brick featuring Nepal's first ever flashmob, a

photo exhibition of labourers and their conditions and a contemporary art performance.

The network reaches out to consumers through media exposure, leafleting, stalls, competitions, open air galleries and annual events.

- Advocacy and institutional strengthening

BCN promotes clauses for 'clean and green bricks' in bilateral and multilateral aid contracts. The network lobbies to ensure that "brick work" is included in the list of hazardous work and the inclusion of certification criteria in the registration renewal process.

We aim to work in close collaboration with the industry and to provide technical support to entrepreneurs who want to become Brick Clean certified.

-Research and analysis

BCN aims to initiate in depth research into the brick industry. The outcomes will help inform the general public about the risks of "red" or "blood bricks".

