

[The South Asian Report On the Child-friendliness of Governments](#) – 2013 (Caste Extracts)

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Inequalities, gender discrimination and conflicts based on religion, caste and ethnicity deeply affect the lives of children, which are also influenced by social norms condoning harmful practices such as child labour, child marriage and corporal punishment. (P. 14)

The South Asian report documents the exclusion and discrimination of children on the basis of their age, gender, caste, ethnicity, religion, nationality or disability. (P. 20)

The Convention on the Rights of the Child underlines the effective implementation of all children's rights. Non-discrimination - the inclusion of all children regardless of their age, gender, caste, ethnicity, religion, nationality and disability - and children's right to be heard are general principles of the Convention to be considered in all circumstances. (P. 24)

In addition, the chronic poor in South Asia are disproportionately made up of minorities, including tribal peoples, peoples belonging to perceived low-status castes and migrant labourers. (P. 34)

Patriarchal social norms and safety issues are deterrents to the mobility, visibility and participation of girls in India. While girls' participation is influenced significantly by a range of factors – including their socio-economic background (caste, class and religion and the economic status of their family) and where they live (rural, semi-rural, urban, semi-urban areas) – experience shows that girls tend to participate actively wherever an environment for them to participate is created and encouraged. (166)

Partly as a result, there is disparity in enrolment and completion rates based on socio-economic status, sex, caste, ethnicity, etc. Drop-out after basic education is very high as youths tend to join the job market. (Nepal chapter – P. 214)

Other challenges to girls' empowerment in education include a high drop-out rate amongst girls and the fact that only about 21 per cent of teachers at the secondary education level are female. In addition, girls from lower castes, in particular in remote areas, are still very much disadvantaged. (Nepal chapter – P. 222)

"Discrimination faced by children on the basis of caste, ethnicity and disability continues to be one of the biggest challenges in our country." Child Rights Defender, Shantha Sinha (P. 38)