



FEDO's E-Bulletin

Movement Against Caste and Gender-Based Discrimination

Feminist Dalit Organization(FEDO)

Issue n°2

November 2010



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FEDO publishes its second edition of E-bulletin, where different news from both district and central level are included.

Members of European Union in Lubhu VDC

The EU high level mission of European Parliament, Development Committee and senior level staffs from Brussels, Delhi and Kathmandu visited Lubhu VDC-8, Jyamirkot, Lalitpur on November 3rd 2010. FEDO's President Durga Sob welcomed the EU team. Then she shared about the Dalit Empowerment Project (DEP) and works of FEDO.

The Mission chair expressed "we had little difficulty while coming to your village, but it is nothing compare to the discrimination and injustice that you have been facing from the past". He added more "It was a great pleasure for us to see these works and meeting Dalit communities' in-person and knowing their issues more closely ". He further said this is the place where you are touching the real people, society, and the real problems of Dalit women; appreciating this fact he assured their support to fight for equality, self-esteem, integration in the society and also for empowerment to realize progress as a people, women, minority and as a human being. The high level delegates interacted with the local women and tried to know their challenges in depth. Later on the mission team visited some households, their vegetables farm and livestock.

Dalit women's group members presented their real situation, challenges they have been facing in daily life and how FEDO supported to strengthen their life standard. Secretary of Lubhu Village Development Committee, Head teacher of the local school expressed how they are working together with these women groups.



Durga Sob explaining the impact of DEP project to the EU delegates in Lubhu.



This Month's Contents

- Members of EU Parliament in Lubhu VDC
- Sita Badi's Success Story
- Peace exhibition
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- Health activities in Bardiya District

--A Success Story--



SITA BADI

Sita Badi is a Dalit woman from the Badi minority community. She lives in Accham district (Far Western region). In this region, the Dalit population consists of 30% of the total population.

Traditionally, the Badi community is used to travel from village to village, and they perform singing from which they manage their livelihood. During the arm conflict between Maoists and State, she couldn't freely go around the villages. So Badi's profession was in danger, and she decided to migrate with her whole family nearby district headquarter.

Two years ago she was nominated in the paralegal committee and has been actively involved in social activities. She became the member of the pressure group formed by Feminist Dalit Organization Accham chapter in 2010. As a result she became active in the Nepali Congress, one of the major political parties. She was elected as a member of District Executive Committee of Nepali Congress on September 2nd, 2010.

This story is an achievement of the Leadership Development of Dalit Women in Political Participation project, supported by ESP/RDIF. Thanks to this action, it is the first time that a Dalit woman has been elected as member in district level committee of any political party in Accham district.

--EVENTS--

Peace Exhibition

The Day of the International Peace, on September 21st, an exhibition/forum was set up to showcase the women's work for Peace and Development in Nepal. A lot of key organizations and networks were invited to participate in this event under the motto: "Nepali Women Holding & Advancing Peace Together".

All organizations had a stand to present their projects. And to make this day interactive, some special activities have been held. A panel discussion on "Nepali women in the peace process – what needs doing" has been organized and moderated by Ms Durga Sob, the FEDO president. Later on, Nagarik Aawaj the sung peace songs in live.

Such event raised awareness about the important female role in lending peace in Nepal. And that allowed to make visible the women's work for peace and to reinforce women's collective strengths too.



FEDO's members disseminating their publications in Peace exhibition.

FEDO's assessment workshop

From September 30th to October 2nd 2010, the whole team of FEDO's central office participated in NGO sustainability assessment workshop. This workshop was supported by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). And it was facilitated by Health Development Association (HAD), John Snow Incorporated (JSI).

During these 3 days, all the components of sustainability, like financial, organizational and programmatic aspects, have been deepened as regards FEDO. In little groups, the members evaluated point by point the strengths and weaknesses of FEDO. From these assessments, a schedule has been set up to improve the organization's functioning and sustainability.

This workshop was really positive and fruitful. It was conducted in good mood, giving the possibility to each member to say his/her own opinion. Durga Sob, the president of FEDO, ended this workshop by concluding that some areas of improvement have been revealed. And it allowed giving a new impulse to the organization.

FEDO in World Bank Program



FEDO's stand in the exhibition's hall.

FEDO exhibited its recent publication, organization profile, books related to the issues of Dalit women on 3rd Nov 2010 at the official launching of the World Bank "Program for Accountability in Nepal" (PRAN) and "Share fair". The 3 days long program was organized to discuss the importance of social accountability in Nepal. In the morning session participants visited the share fair where leading practitioners showcased more than 20 ongoing social accountability initiatives in Nepal. Later on the discussion was conducted on the existing social accountability program and activities.

--ACTIVITIES--

Leadership and Advocacy Trainings



Resource Person explaining why Advocacy is important.

As part of the Dalit Women's Capacity Development Project, two trainings have been carried out by FEDO in its central office supported by Minority Rights Group (MRG): the first one was about Advocacy & Political Awareness (25th-29th September) and the second one about Leadership (31st September – 4th October). The 23 participants coming from Dhanusa, Banke, Dadeldhura and Arghakhanchi districts have been trained by Pushkar Khati (Deputy General Secretary of DNF).

As regards the advocacy, such topics like democracy, rule of law, civil rights and duties, authority, cycle of advocacy and work keys (finance topic) have been approached. And during the leadership training, Dalit women learnt about leadership qualities, the different kinds of leadership, women's awareness into the society, Human Rights, Gender, etc.

During these two events, Mr. Khati varied the work's tools to keep the attention of his trainees. Through different activities like stories, sketches, lessons or making charts, participants tackled a lot of topics, formed their own opinions and learnt to express themselves in public.

At the end of the training, the president of FEDO, Durga Sob, handed the training certificate in to all participants. It stands to reason that these Dalit women went back to their district with more knowledge and self-confidence to fight for their rights.



Small groups performing group exercises.

Health Activities in Bardiya District

As part of the Equal Access of Dalit Women to Health Services Project, one event of Primary Health and Adolescence Education Training was organized in Bardiya district. The 27 participants from the grades 8, 9, 10 and 11 were present for 2 days on 6th and 7th October 2010. This training has provided the essential knowledge to these students about physical growth and behavioral change in adolescence age. They are now able to share the adverse effect of early marriage and unsafe sexual relation in their life. One event of Sanitation Awareness Training has been also held in Bardiya district gathering together 32 participants: both non-Dalit and Dalit women. During the 2 days on October 10th and 11th, people became aware about the importance of safe drinking water to maintain a good health. Following this training, women planned to ask for water filters and to check arsenic in their tap-water. Furthermore, women have been encouraged to build toilets in their homes.



Participants of the Primary Health and Adolescence Education Training under EU support.