



FEDO's E-Bulletin

Movement Against Caste and Gender-Based Discrimination

Feminist Dalit Organization(FEDO)

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In the fifth edition we have highlighted the news and photos of the National Conference of Dalit Women for "Dignified life, Inclusion and Social Transformation". You can read about it just below!

National Conference of Dalit Women (11-13 May, 2011)

Feminist Dalit Organization (FEDO) organized the **National Conference of Dalit Women** with the theme "**Dignified life, Inclusion and Social Transformation**" from 11-13 May 2011. In the three- day- long conference held in Kathmandu, Dalit women activists from 75 districts of Nepal; Human Rights activists, representatives from different I/NGOs, media persons; and international delegates from Denmark, UK, Sweden, Hongkong, India, and Bangladesh, participated.

A huge rally was organized and marched through different parts of the town chanting various slogans related with Dalit women rights and upcoming new constitution early in the morning at 8:30 am where more than 800 activists participated. The rally began from Bhadrakali and concluded at City Hall, Kathmandu. The Dalit women activists along with various like-minded organizations from all over the country also join for the solidarity towards the objectives of the Conference and for the Dalit women issues.



Chief Guest Subash Chandra Nemwang, Chairperson of Constitution Assembly inaugurating the conference (also seen in the picture FEDO President Durga Sob)

Beginning the Conference, FEDO President Durga Sob deliver the welcome remarks highlighting the Conference objectives and its background where she put forward the issues of Dalit women. The conference formally began with the inauguration from Chief Guest Subash Chandra Nemwang, Chairperson of Constitution Assembly while FEDO president Durga Sob chaired the whole Conference. Minister for Local Development, political parties' leaders, UNDP Nepal Resident Coordinator, Civil society leaders and international delegates were among the special guests.

Following the inauguration session, special guests gave their remarks and congratulated FEDO for organizing such a conference which would support to assert the rights of Dalit women. The chief guest Nemwang said that the conclusion and recommendation of the conference will be fruitful for the constitution making process specially in addressing the agendas and issues of Dalit women. "The constitution making process is really challenging but we can turn this as an opportunity to favor the marginalized, disadvantaged groups and bring their issues in mainstream" Nemwang added.

Anuradha Koirala, President of Maiti Nepal, the CNN Hero of the year 2010 was honored by chief guest and the FEDO President recognizing her contribution in the social sector specially in girls trafficking issues in Nepal. (read more in the next page)



Dalit women from different parts of Nepal chanting slogans in rally.



Participants at the inaugural session of the Conference.

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National Conference.....

After the inaugural session, working papers on various themes were presented and discussed.

Some photos of the paper presentation

<p>1. Topic: “Constituent Assembly, State Restructuring and Issues of Dalit women” Presenter: Bishwo Bhakta Dulal (Ahuti) (CA Member) Chair by: Dr. Surya Dhungel (Constitution expert) Commentator: Sapana Pradhan Malla (CA Member) Yam Bahadur Kisan (Advocate)</p>	<p>2. Topic: “Madhesi Dalit women and their problems” Presenter: Ganga Mahara (Activist) Chaired by: Sarita Giri (CA Member) Commentator: Ranju Thakur (Advocate) Shanti Devi Chamar (CA Member)</p>
<p>3. Topic: “Badi women and their problems” Chaired by: Dhana Kumari Sunar (National Women Commission NWC Member) Presenter: Uma Badi (Dalit Activist) Commentator: Binod Pahadi (CA Member)</p>	<p>4. Topic: Sharing international experience Panelists: Rikke Nohrlind, Coordinator, IDSN; Dr. Ruth Manorama, India; Ms. Moni Rani, Bangladesh; Cintia Lavendera, Program Manager, WOMANKIND Worldwide, UK Chaired by: Dr. Sumitra Mamandhar Gurung</p>
<p>5. Topic: “Issues of Far western Dalit Women” Chaired by: Dr. Arju Deuba Rana (CA Member) Prepared by: Ganesh BK (Political/Social Activist) Presenter: Puran Singh Dayal Commentator: Hari Ram Stripailee (CA Member) Gyanu Gaire (NDC Member)</p>	<p>6. Topic: “Impact of Inter-caste marriage on Dalit women” Chaired by: Teku Nepali (Politician) Presenter: Sabita Singh (Women Activist) Commentator: Gyanu Luitel (Human right activists)</p>



The paper presentation was followed by the cultural programme for the refreshment of the participants which was performed by the *Kritika* Group (group of disabled, marginalized, minority women). They performed various dances, songs reflecting the issues of marginalized women.

The third and last day began with the group discussion. Women Participants’ were divided into group according to five development region where women coming from the districts discussed about the major issues of the Dalit women from that region. Later on, the conclusion from the discussion was shared. Cintia Lavendera, Programme Manager of WOMANKIND Worldwide shared the experience of international agencies working in the issues of Dalit women in Nepal and showed her commitment to contribute for the rights and empowerment of Dalit women.

In the second session of the last day, FEDO General Secretary presented the memorandum to the group which was to be submitted to the CA Chairperson, Prime Minister after it is finalized. In the memorandum, different provisions were included on various issues of Dalit women such as political agendas, economic agendas, socio-cultural agendas, education, health and legal agendas were included. On this regards, open discussion was made where the participants brought out very significant point to be included so as to incorporate the rights of Dalit women in new constitution. At the end Durga Sob thanks all the people who supported to make the conference successful and did an official closing of the conference.

Leadership Development Training

From 23-25 February 2011, training on “Leadership Development” under the LDDP project funded by ESP/RDIF was organized in Mahottari. The main objective was to aware the participating women about their leadership skill. 27 Dalit men and women from different VDCs were invited who are involving in different political parties are trained about leadership, advocacy and facilitation skill tools and techniques. As we know only the people from excluded groups who have leadership skill can contribute for change. Dalit women have no access to reach the political parties decision making places even they are sacrifice their time like other personalities in the political parties. So that training will support them to develop their skill and capacity. After taking the training their awareness level increased and they should actively participate in political. The training will build their capacity for raise the Dalit women issues in different platform without hesitation. Participants committed to share their knowledge in community level to raise the Dalit women issues within own political parties houses and government sectors.



Participants of the Leadership Development Training in Mahottari.

Press Meet for National Conference

On the eve of National Conference, FEDO organized a press meet on 10th May 2011 at FEDO Resource centre. In the conference representatives of the various electronic and print media were present where FEDO President shared the objectives of the conference and its highlights. At the same time, senior Journalist from Dalit community Mr. Prakash Chandra Pariyar was congratulation for being elected as the member of Federation of Nepali Journalists.

Durga Sob sharing the objectives and highlights of the conference.

