



FEDO's E-Bulletin

Movement Against Caste and Gender-Based Discrimination

Feminist Dalit Organization(FEDO)

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18th Anniversary of FEDO

18th Anniversary of FEDO was celebrated in its resource centre with selected people. In the program the well wishers, partners, supporters along with the Constitution Assembly members, Dalit NGO's representatives, Dalit women activists were present.

Everyone extended his/her well wishes and congratulate for successfully completing the 17 year and entering on 18th year. They appreciated and encouraged FEDO's effort towards ensuring "just and equitable society" by reaching to maximum deprived Dalit women's life. This was the opportunity to remember the struggle and analyze the hard work done by organization for empowering Dalit women and ensuring their rights. FEDO treasurer Kamala B.K welcomed the participants and Executive Director Gopal Prashad Sunar shared the progress and achievement made in the year. Ranju Bishwakarma, Vice President of FEDO chaired the program and gave a vote of thanks.

To mark the anniversary, short discuss was done on the topic "New Constitution and Dalit Women". In the discussion the CA member Aahuti threw light on the agendas and recommendation of Dalit women in new constitution and other participants added their thoughts on those points.



Participants listening the progress and achievement of the year.

E-Bulletin Contents

- 18th Anniversary of FEDO
- Conference on Decade of Dalit Rights UN at Geneva.
- IDWD Review and Planning Meeting.
- Organizational Development training.
- Kathmandu Proclamation on Dalit Women's Issues in New Nepa.

Conference on Decade of Dalit Rights UN at Geneva

FEDO president Durga Sob participated in the conference on Decade of Dalit Rights UN, 2011-20: Decisive Decade against Discrimination based on Work and Descent which was held in Geneva, Switzerland 24-25 June 2011. She was the panelist in one of the session which title "Present Status of Caste-Affected Countries vis-à-vis their DWD Communities & Our Future Response". She spoke about the Status of the Dalit women who are affected by the discrimination based on work and decent (DWD) across social, cultural, economic, political and legal dimensions of Nepal. 50 representatives from the caste affected countries of Bangladesh, Japan, India, Nepal and Srilanka, solidarity networks from Denmark, Netherlands, Germany and UK, International Human Rights Organizations, Faith Bodies, INGOs, and researchers participated in the Conference. The conference was focused on to review the past interventions, mainly at the UN and plan the future strategy at national and international interventions in the next decade (2011-2020).

Following the same conference, a sharing program about the conference was organized in FEDO office. Three representatives; Durga Sob, Bhakta Bishwakarma and Subash Darnal from Nepal in the conference after returning back to Nepal shared their experience and discussed how Dalit civil society can pressurize UN so that they can create the platform to bring the convention on Dalit rights while CERD mainly focus on racial discrimination which doesn't address the discrimination on the basis of caste system. During the sharing program discussion was focused on the action that Dalit civil society can do within 10 years.

IDWD Review and Planning Meeting

Including Dalit Women in Peace-building and Democracy (IDWD) project completed its one year in June 30th 2011. A review and planning meeting was organized from 11-12 July 2011. In the first day senior board member Renu Sijapati welcomed all the participants as well as explained the objectives of the event. All the District Project Coordinator, Peace Ambassador and Accountants participated to share learning, activity planned Vs progress, financial report and real experience of field level staffs of the respective districts.

In the beginning all the District Project coordinator presented the progress of all the activities of one year under three outcomes. They highlighted the achievement and changes in the life of Dalit women through this process. They shared their experience, learning, challenges and suggestion to the Centre office and donor to make the project more effective. In the second day all the financial status was presented and finance officer give feedback to improve in next quarter.

The centre team presented the reporting format and explained as well as additional questionnaire and beneficiaries table were distributed. All districts made the activity plan for the year 2011 where it was discussed among the group and incorporated. The finance officer of centre office Rajkumar B.K presented the overall financial progress and sharing of the program.



IDWD centre and districts staffs discussing during review and plan of the project.

Organizational Development Training

3 days long training on organizational development was organized in FEDO meeting hall under the Leadership Development of Dalit Women (LDDP) project from 29-30 June, 2011. Organizational development is essential for the sustainability and advancement of any organization.

The training was facilitated by Mohan Das Manandhar. FEDO centre board members and staffs similarly LDDP project districts learnt the techniques, tools and methods of Organizational development. During the training session, group discussion was made to find out the strengths, weakness, capacities, lacks and gaps of FEDO and ways to strengthening and filling the gaps.

One of the considerable achievement was FEDO team thoroughly discussed and reviewed the strategies and objectives that was prepared to meet the vision and mission of the organization. Some strategies changes were also done considering the emerging global issues and its effect in marginalized Dalit women. Discussion was done very innovatively and energetically and the training was participatory where all the participants got chance to share their ideas and ask the questions.

At the end of the day, committee was formed to fill the existing gaps so as to effectively functioning and sustainability of organization.



Resource person reviewing the drawing prepared by participants imagining FEDO after five year.

Kathmandu Proclamation
on
Dalit Women's Issues in New Nepal

With a claim to be addressed compulsorily Dalit women's issues with the principle of proportionate inclusion, eliminating all forms of caste, class and gender discrimination, establishing Dalit and Dalit women's rights and to promulgate advanced constitution without any delay Kathmandu proclamation is released.

Political/ Administrative issues of Dalit women:

- The constitutional and legal provision for proportionate representation's rights of Dalit women in all Government bodies (parliament, government, low court, administrative mechanism, local bodies and social organizations etc.) should be ensured.
- There should be constitutional arrangement of 20% reservation for Dalit communities and 50% for Dalit women until and unless they reach on the same line or row with other communities of the society and same line or row with men respectively, in which 20% among women and 50% among Dalits should be reserved for Dalit women. Among the acquired rights, Madhesi Dalit women, Badi, Gandharva along with single women, disable women, who are kept behind, should be given priority.
- The census should clearly collect data of different sub caste within the Dalit communities. The upcoming census should appoint Dalit women as reckoner proportionately.
- In new constitution, there should be proportionate reservation system for Dalit men and women to ensure inclusion and proportionate participation in electoral system through making it constitutional.
- There should be separate sitting or session in every court to see the cases of untouchability and caste based discrimination. The declaration by state of forming "Untouchability Watch Centre" at VDC level, should be formed immediately and start effective execution.

Economic issues:

- Most of the Dalit communities are landless and are deprived from the earning of land resources. Hence, land should be made available to produce for livelihood. Dalit women's equal land rights should also be ensured.
- Arrangement of self employment program for economic development and loan arrangement without collateral system should be made Dalit women and men who wish to conduct micro enterprise.
- Equal wages for men and women for similar jobs has to be ensured.
- The state should develop and promote the traditional skill of Dalit communities and should conduct special program for them.

Social and cultural issues:

- Eliminate all forms of discrimination, which Dalit women are experiencing from the centuries such as untouchability, dowry system, child marriage, polygamy, inter-caste marriage, witchcraft allegation, bonded labour, girls/ women trafficking, traditional bad custom and practices and ensure Dalit women's protection and promote them to establish in the society.
- Stop all forms of women violence which takes place due to patriarchal social structure and guarantee the rights to live dignified life like men.
- The state should guarantee the families' protection and social security of inter caste marriage between Dalit and non Dalit and special initiation for justice to Dalit women should be made who are the victims of inter caste marriage.

Education issues:

- There should be free education with scholarship provision for Dalit girls from primary level to higher education and technical education as well through establishing education as fundamental right, which should be ensured in new constitution.
- The content related with caste and gender discrimination in the syllabus should be omitted and caste and gender friendly contents should be included.
- Scientific, employment generating, vocational and technical education, adult and non formal education should be arranged and implemented effectively.

Health issues:

- Ensure the access of health services for Dalit women through establishing health services as fundamental right and in addition, state should ensure free health services and treatment for marginalized and Dalit women.
- Ensure the reproductive health rights of women
- There should be special health services and treatment arrangement for marginalized communities.

Legal issues:

- Define untouchability as crime against state and serious social crime and eliminate impunity and there should be hard legal action for perpetrators.
- There should be provision to get citizenship easily in the name of mother without any condition.
- Dalit women's employment should be ensured in Nepal Army, police.
- Execute the National and International treaty, protocol, laws to eliminate all forms of caste and gender discrimination in an effective and efficient manner.

The National Conference of Dalit Women from 11-13 May 2011, concluded aforesaid economical, political, social and cultural, education, health and legal issues to be included in new constitution and request to government, Constituent Assembly, political parties and all concern stakeholders to implement immediate the provisions which are already made and possible in favor of Dalit women.