



FEDO's E-Bulletin

Movement Against Caste and Gender-Based Discrimination

Feminist Dalit Organization(FEDO)

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FEDO's Media Campaign

FEDO initiated the media campaign to raise Dalit women's issues in mainstream media. As the beginning of the campaign few works has been started coordinating with print and electronic media. In the coordination of central staff a team of 3 National level journalists from different news house and a documentary team visited 4 districts; Doti, Surkhet, Dhailekd and Kapilvastu of Nepal. The campaign is supported by our partner organization WOMANKIND worldwide.

During their visit they meet inter-caste marriage couples, visited the Dalit community and meet the FEDO branch office board to discuss more about their works. Documentary will be broadcasted from Kantipur Television and features will be publishes in National daily newspapers in Nepali and English. Similarly radio jingle was prepared and broadcasted from UJYAALO 90 NETWORK which gives messages of Dalit women's issues such as inter-caste marriage, their socio-economic situation as well as FEDO's intervention on those issues.



Media team interacting with a inter-caste married Dalit women in Kapilbastu.

This initiation will be constructive to draw attention of government, political parties and general people about the Dalit women issue in local, national and international levels. The campaign is very significant part of FEDO's work to sensitize and pressurize to address the Dalit women issues.

FEDO president elected as a board of director of IMADR

FEDO President Durga Sob also a board of director of IMADR participated in the meeting on September 11 and 12, 2011 in Japan. Following the meeting she also participated in IMADR's quarterly General Assembly on 13th September 2011 in Tokyo where two hundred participated. She was once again elected as one of the board of director for IMADR. She is the only board member from Nepal. It is an achievement of the FEDO and for Dalit community to be representatives in board of director in international organization fighting against discrimination.

She expressed the situation of Dalit women in Nepal who have been facing multiple forms of discrimination based on caste and gender. This makes them vulnerable to different forms of violence, low health, economic condition and illiterate and bad sanitation and hygiene etc. She further added the government is required to address the difficult situations of Dalit women by fully implementing its policies and programs designed for the vulnerable community. At last she also mentioned the support and attention for the most marginalized community among Dalit women. The general assembly approved different 6 categories of areas which will be given main priority and focus till September 2012.

FEDO has been awarded from Emma Humphreys Memorial Prize September 2011. We are very much delighted to receive the award. This is a great honor and achievement for us which encourage more to accelerate our movement of "just and equitable society" where Dalit women can live in dignity and rights without any kinds of violence. We would like to thank all our supporters, staffs, activists, partners' organizations, networks for their effortless support and contribution.

FEDO family would like to wish a very Happy Deepawali and chhath. May this season of festivals bring peace, prosperity and success in everyone's life.

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Raju Devi Sarki Success

Raju Sarki is the resident of Bhimdatta municipality ward-13 Kanchanpur district. She has small land from which she is survived. Her 3 sons and 1 daughter are married. She used to be busy in her household work. Social traditional norms and values bound her to go out, speak or explore freely in society like other women in the community.

FEDO reached to their community and proposed to form a group. Raju became the treasurer of the group. Peace ambassador and other staff regularly visited the group and village and shared the importance and opportunities of being in group. She participated in various training. She gain more confident day by day. She is involved in various group groups formed in their village and explore as a Dalit leader in the community. She is also nominated as a member of a management committee of Bisheshor Prasad Primary School. She established herself as a human right activist in the community. Dalit women from her village and surrounding come to her with their problems of violence against women, domestic violence, inter-caste marriage, discrimination and other minor problems. She tried her best to solve them and take them to the concern authority.

Moving ahead she is now the ward committee member of Communist Party of Nepal (Unified Marxist–Leninist) CPN-UML. She has become the role model for other Dalit women after seeing her achievement and respect that she gets from society. She encourages other Dalit women to speak for their rights and conduct various awareness programmes in community. She believes until and unless Dalit women are educated their socio-economic and political situation cannot be enhanced.



Raju Devi Sarki

Interaction on mainstreaming Dalit women

FEDO has organized Interaction and network mobilization on 13 September 2011 at Lalitpur. Mr. Ram Lal B.K ex-president of National Dalit Commission, Chakraman B.K. President of Dalit Welfare organization, Nepali Congress representative Purshotam Neupane, Ganga Mahara and Gopal Sunar addressed their view on Dalit women issues.

Dalit women have been marginalized throughout the history where they are economically, socially, culturally and politically at the bottom of hierarchy. They are not included in state mainstream. Knowing this fact most of the participants shared the necessity of unification of Dalit community and agreement on common agendas which will help them to pressurize government and political parties. Further they expressed that the government policies at all levels need to be revisited and revised and make them Dalit women friendly which ensures their inclusion and meaningful representation in state's all mechanism. Total 34 participants took part in the program among them 25 were female and 9 male.

National and international experience sharing

FEDO and DNF jointly organized experience sharing meeting at FEDO office on October 22, 2011. Dr. Dorna Rasaily, Deepak Jung Bishwokarma and Anil Bahadur Gajmer shared their experience on Dalit issues and their rights on international perspective.

Mr. Anil Gajmer shared that Dalit movement should be dynamic according to time. If we continuously work on campaign and awareness it could not show positive result. Now, Dalit community should focus on entrepreneurship which will support for the economic empowerment. So that Dalit community should be organized for compete in mainstream business for the holistic development of country.

Deepak Jung Bishwokarma, General Secretary of Nepali America Society for Oppressed Community (NASO Community) expressed about its objectives and activities they have been doing so far. He further added the importance of such organization and role it can play to support the movement and empowerment of Dalit.

Similarly, Dr. Dorna Rasaily shared about Nepal Dalit Info. It's a mailing group moderated by Rasaily where more than seven hundred people are linked to each other. Many Dalit colleagues shared and explored the news, issues about Dalit and opportunities. We need welfare fund to form a common association where Dalit can contribute financially for their empowerment.



Durga Sob, President of FEDO welcoming to all guests.