

16 Days Activism against Gender based Violence

Feminist Dalit Organization (FEDO) organized the public hearing on "Dalit women inter-caste marriage; social violence" in the occasion of "16 Days of Activism against Gender based Violence" on 7th December 2010 in Kathmandu. In the program 5 Dalit women victim from 5 Development region shared their problems they have been facing from the inter-caste marriage

Durga Sob, the President of FEDO explained the scenario of inter-caste marriage in Nepal. "90% of the inter-caste marriage has not been successful and the couple has been isolated by the family and society" she clarified. Simultaneously, victimized women shared their story and the social challenges they had been facing.

Home Minister Bhim Bahadur Rawal shown his commitment to bring in effective laws. "Laws are not enough to end this kind of gender-based violence. What we need is social consciousness and the movement to fight against such social inequality and violence. Women are in pain from different social and other kinds of violence due to social stigma, untouchability, tradition and social values and norms." In the program Chairman of National Women Commission, National Dalit Commission, representatives from civil society, Dalit women activists and journalist were also presented.

Radha Kasera of Surkhet married a non dalit boy Bimal Rana Magar after three years of love affair. But they were not accepted by the family and society. They moved to India where Radha's husband worked in electricity wire repair. But, unfortunately he got an electric shocked and his hand was amputated. Now, their life is miserable and still the boy parents didn't accept them.

Kamala Pariyar of Chitwan and Shree Ram Lamichanne of kavre also did a love marriage in 2008. However, Lamichane's family didn't accept and forced to leave the house reasoning the girls belong to the so called "untouchable" groups. My husband's parents didn't give his citizenship card so, we are not able to register our marriage legally, and get the money from the government that is provided to the couple doing inter-caste marriage, Kamala narrated.

These women are just the representative of thousand cases of social violence from the inter-caste marriage. The physical and mental torture, social violence, discrimination and challenges Dalit women have to tackle is really challenging. During the program other women also shared the similar problems of the inter-caste marriage.

Regards

Durga Sob

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