



Interaction on draft Constitution and Dalit agendas

An interaction program was organized on **“Constitutional Draft progress on Dalit issues”** by FEDO on 21st November 2011. In the program various Dalit CA members, activists, lawyers, NGO workers and journalist participated where sharing and discussion was done about the agendas of Dalit community and its incorporation on draft constitution. Durga Sob, president of FEDO facilitated the program and shared it is necessary to organize this interaction and sharing so as to make sure that Dalit rights are ensured.

Binda Panday, CA member as well as member of *Committee on Fundamental rights and Directive Principle* from CPN-UML one of the speaker shared the recent updates of the draft constitution. She shared the Dalit have been marginalized by state from past to affirmative action is necessary to bring them in mainstream development. She further added proportionate inclusion is necessary for Dalit and the representation of Dalit women should be assured.

Shambhu Hajara Paswan of Nepali Congress illuminated the situation that the madhesi Dalit women are most deprived and backward so their empowerment is significant. Next speaker Puspa Bhusal member of *Committee for determining the form of the Government* said Constitution as an opportunity to secure the rights for Dalit community. There are still some prejudice and discriminatory act and provision which are not in the favor of Dalit and Dalit women so we need to be attentive and correct Bhusal added.

Further other speaker shared their updates and a concern regarding the draft constitution and later the open discussion was done. Constitution is a legal document and its implement is obligatory but there is a question that is all the provision will be implemented without any bias. Still the question remains unanswered.



South Asia Social Forum 18-22 November 2011, Dhaka, Bangladesh

South Asia Social Forum (SASF) was organized in Dhaka, Bangladesh from 18-22 November 2011 with the main theme of **“Democracy for Social Transformation in South Asia: Participation, Equity, Justice and Peace”**. In the forum leaders, representatives from different NGO’s, activists, students from South Asia and other part of the world participated who were determined to build a new south Asia.

From Nepal hundreds of people participated. Representing the Dalit community Dalit leaders, activists, NGOs representatives participated to show their solidarity. FEDO along with DNF, NNDSWO, DWO and other Dalit NGOs representatives participated and jointly organized a rally during the forum. Interaction program on **“Cultural revolution perspectives of untouchability elimination process in South Asia”** was also organized on 21st November 2011 where Dalit leaders from India, Bangladesh and participants from different country participated.

An International Consultation on “Good Practices and strategies to eliminate caste discrimination” started from 29th November in Kathmandu organized by IDSN in the co-ordination of FEDO, DNF and NNDSWO. The aim of the international consultation is to identify, share and learn from examples of good practices and strategies to eliminate caste-based discrimination. (Details news will be featured in December edition)

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Women leadership Development Mediation and Advocacy Training

FEDO organized the 5 days long training at its resource centre on **“Women leadership Development Mediation and Advocacy training”** under the Including Dalit women in Peace Building and Democracy (IDWD) project funded by Womankind from 10-14 November 2011.



The main objectives of training was to train Peace Ambassador, district board members and staffs about different human rights laws, peace process, counseling, mediation and negotiation so that they can support Dalit women in peace process.

The training was facilitated by Mr. Meen Bishwokarma. Some other guest trainer also gives their presentation on conflict, peace process in Nepal and caste discrimination and affirmative action in Nepal. During the training participatory approach was used with various exams and various group discussions and group works were done. We hope these participants will be able to train other Dalit women about counseling and advocate for solving problems of Dalit women.

Kamala Bishwakarma of Dang district is 27. She couldn't complete her school education because of the social perception towards sending girl to school. She was looking for opportunities and platform where she can get confident and develop herself.

Kamala a Role model for their community

She became a chairperson of one of the Dalit women saving group formed by FEDO. In the starting period they starting saving, organized monthly meeting and invest loan within group. FEDO Dang provide those group members saving and credit management training, women empowerment training, human and women right training, advocacy training. Kamala along with other women was not aware about the rights of Dalit women and laws against caste and gender based discrimination.

Now she is able to put my view in different platforms for the Dalit women rights. She knew about the political process through Leadership Development of Dalit Women for Political Participant project. She is lobbying with VDCs level political party leaders about nominating Dalit women in their parties. In her initiation they received 20,000 rupees from the Hapur VDC which they used for Dalit women empowerment training for all 9 wards. She is also a coordinator of Hapur VDC level pressure group and built good relation with different political party's leaders, VDC secretary and other social activists. Similarly she was elected in Janahit forest user committee treasurer. She is also member of drinking water and sanitation division office committee in VDC office for open defecation of Hapur VDC.



Now pressure group has built one small building for meeting purpose coordination with Dalit women saving group of Hapur VDC. This building is used for pressure group and saving women group regular meeting. She said FEDO has empowered them so now they are able to understand their rights.

EU high level ROM visit

EU Result Oriented Monitoring (ROM) External Consultant Maria Fernandez Carcedo and National Program Manager of FEDO Bhim B.K visited the project district of Equal Access of Dalit Women to Health Services Project (EADWHS) project from 1-4 November 2011.

During the visit they meet the Dalit women and observe the activities carried out under the projects and talk with them about its effect in their life in Bardiya and Surkhet district. They also meet with District Health Office and other stakeholders and discussed about the possibility of working in coordination with FEDO to improve health and sanitation situation of Dalit women.



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