

THE FEDO QUARTERLY POST

The Official newsletter of Feminist Dalit Organization



WHAT'S IN OUR LATEST ISSUE:

Distributed essential items to Dalit and excluded group of Kanchanpur

2-day Legal literacy training to Dalit women of Surkhet

Concluded 3-day psychosocial counselling training to Frontline women leaders of Dang district.

Conducted Review and Planning workshop with district team at Kaski district.

Gender training given to 30 entrepreneur group of Siraha and Udayapur district

FEDO MARKS 112TH WOMEN'S DAY

The successful completion of local, provincial, and federal level elections definitely opened doors of opportunities for Dalit women representatives but also presented them with different challenges to tackle. The number of women especially from Dalit and marginalized communities coming into power augurs well for gender equality and social inclusion (GESI) but, the road to Dalit women's substantive participation in leadership and decision-making roles is littered with manifold challenges.

So, coinciding with the occasion of 112th International Women's Day, Feminist Dalit Organisation (FEDO) organized a public discussion platform where we shared our latest study report on 5 years of learning, challenges, and experience of local Dalit women representatives of Nepal. This platform was all for the Dalit women representatives to share what kind of experience they had, how they dealt with the unstoppable challenges, and their learning while exercising their power.



With the active interaction with the women representatives, we could tell that despite the progressive policies aimed at uplifting Dalit and marginalized women, the deeply rooted patriarchal notion and the rigid mindset of people remain constant and this has somehow hindered in meaningful participation of Dalit women in politics.

**WITH THE CONSTANT
EFFORT OF FEDO,
BADAIYATAL RURAL
MUNICIPALITY OF BARDIYA
DISTRICT IS OFFICIALLY
DECLARED ITS LOCALITY
AS
CASTE-BASED
DISCRIMINATION AND
UNTOUCHABILITY-FREE
AREA.**

Feminist Dalit Organisation (FEDO) marked 112th International Women's Day expressing its solidarity towards women, social issues regarding women, and raising their voices to stop violence against women. In this connection, FEDO organized a rally with the joint collaboration with CSOS, INGOs\NGOs, UN Agencies, and bilateral and multilateral agencies in different district chapters. Chanting the slogans in celebration of womanhood, FEDO vowed for ensuring women's rights and demanded women's empowerment through equal opportunity in jobs; equal share in resources, and equal access to justice, health, and education among others.

FEDO ORGANIZED PROVINCIAL WOMEN'S CONFERENCE FOR

"Ensuring meaningful participation of Dalit women in the
upcoming election"



As recommended by the Election Commission, the Government of Nepal has announced local level elections to be held on May 13, and with the country being restructured through the people's vote, FEDO is quite concerned about the meaningful participation of Dalit women in an upcoming election. In their 5-years of the political journey, Dalit women definitely had both bitter and good experiences which somehow enhance their capabilities to better understand problems, plan solutions and implement them through a deliberative decision-making process.

The introduction of mandatory provision made by the Government of Nepal on reserving 6567 seats for Dalit women at local level opened doors of opportunities for Dalit women to come into the mainstream of the nation and also have the responsibility to perform in the best way. However, the mandatory provision made without any prior preparation, brought a great number of Dalit women into local government in Nepal. Each and every party was responsible for electing one Dalit women member from their party to fulfil the inclusive provision policy in the constitution of Nepal. As a result, they were chosen randomly without any preparation or prior knowledge about the provision, duties and responsibilities given to the participants. This later became a challenge for those elected Dalit women who were responsible for their position and duties.

To further secure their participation with strong and meaningful voices for their individual and collective rights, FEDO successfully organized the Provincial conference at 4 different provinces of Nepal; Province 1, Karnali province, Sudharpashim, and Lumbini province.



This consultative meeting primarily created a sharing and learning platform for Dalit women representatives where they were open about the challenges, issues, and experiences faced during the 5-years tenure. Moreover, this meeting emphasized making the government committed to the Dalit issues and to further work on strengthening the capacity of Dalit women representatives at the local level and its implementation.



FEDO handed over the memorandum to the Hon. Commissioner Dr. Janaki Tuladhar of the National Election commission on 4th March 2022. Through this memorandum, FEDO would like to draw attention to the matter of effective implementation of inclusive and positive arrangements done by the Nepal Government for Dalit and marginalized groups of Nepal. The state arrangements definitely protect the rights of Dalit women, however, their ignorance of education and political strategies drags them down. So the state should have a clear plan of action to work on ensuring the meaningful participation of Dalit women in upcoming elections by preparing them accordingly.

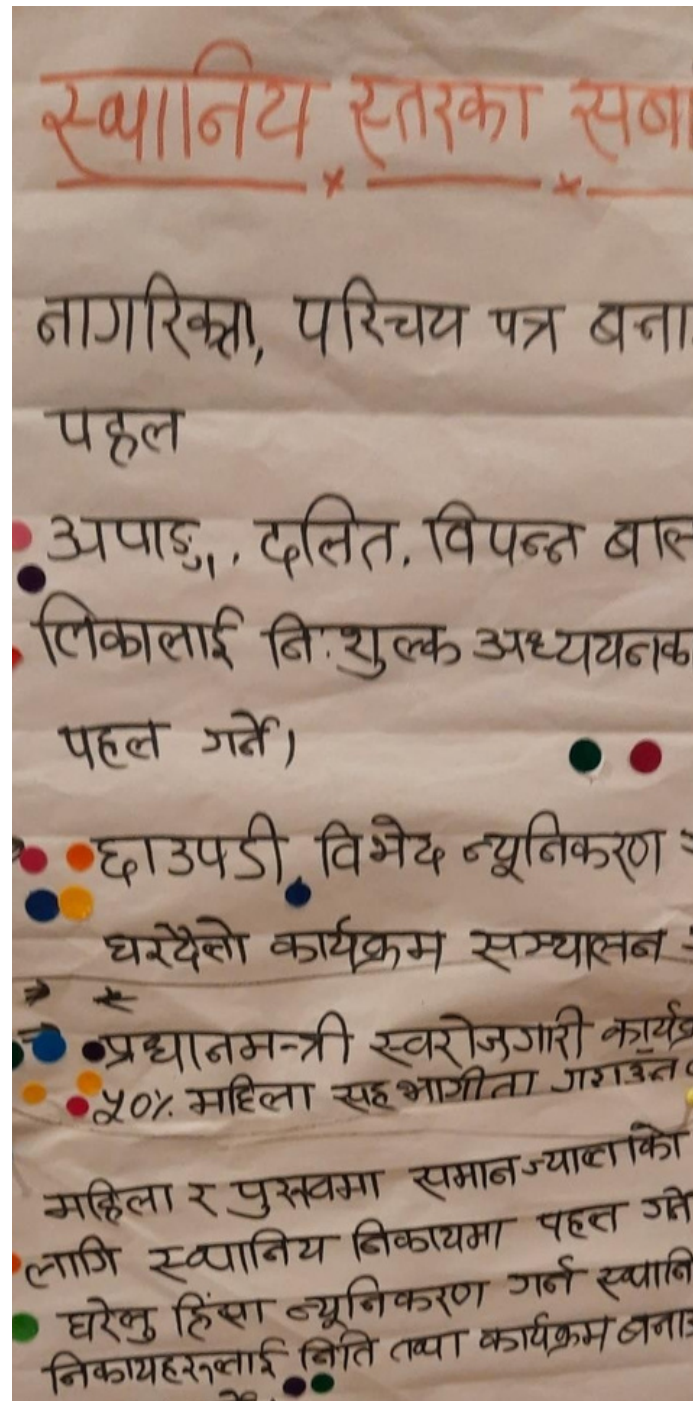
GENDER-RESPONSIVE PLANNING AND BUDGETING

TRAINING TO DALIT WOMEN LEADERS

FEDO conducted 2-day Gender-responsive planning and budgeting training in Sudharpaschim province covering 2 districts; Dadeldura, and Achham with the active participation of 62 community Dalit women, women leaders, and Dalit women representatives. This 2-day workshop training is intended to equip community women and Dalit women representatives with skills to enable their effective participation and advocacy in the budget process and policy analysis from a gender lens.



Likewise, a similar kind of program was conducted in the Kaski district by an expert trainer in active participation of 42 elected women leaders which basically covered various topics on legal and policy frameworks, the budget process, tools for gender-responsive budgeting, and overall budget analysis, policy advocacy strategies, and data for evidence-informed advocacy.



Similarly, in Siraha and Udayapur districts, an interaction program was organized with the participation of 30 existing Dalit women representatives at the local level to ensure the Dalit-friendly plans, programs and policies, and budgets. Interactive sessions also incorporated the extensive discussion on the human rights issues, major challenges faced by Dalit women, and ways to address them.

This platform was also used to make the participants mindful of the pertinent issues of caste-gender-based violence, discrimination, and its social as well as psychological impact on the sufferer. Dalit women should be able to break the silence and vow of justice by reaching out to the justice actors. So, this workshop played a vital role in developing the confidence in Dalit women to speak for their rights and entitlements and be able to stand against any form of violence/ discrimination.



This interaction program has created a great learning platform for me to understand how important it is to speak for our rights and entitlements

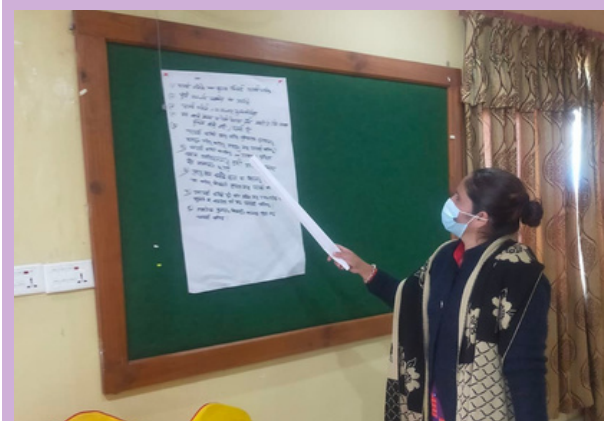


LEADERSHIP AND ADVOCACY TRAINING TO DALIT WOMEN

With the specific objectives of enhancing leadership capacity, advocacy skills, and political involvement of the women network, FEDO commenced the Leadership development and advocacy training from 24 to 26 February 2022 for the women representatives of various women platforms in Sudharpaschim Province. This platform also created an opportunity for the network members to exchange their knowledge and experience and share key issues on local-level advocacy.



Likewise, this similar training was organized in the Kaski district aiming to strengthen the skills of Dalit women in leadership, negotiation; public speaking; women's legal rights and entitlements; constitution, federalism, and gender-responsive planning and budgeting; constituency building; social media; and mentoring. Altogether 37 participants got benefitted from this program which will eventually refine their leadership skills; giving them better insight and specific tools to lead their path more effectively. Also, through this platform, we are intended to make them feel empowered to self-identify as a leader assessing their own qualities of leadership regardless of a position of authority.



CONGRATULATION POST

Sita Pariyar becomes the first female from Dalit Community to be appointed as Chief District Officer (CDO). She has been appointed as CDO of Humla on 17th February 2022. We wish her success in the upcoming days.



FEDO would like to congratulate and welcome Dr. Rabina G Rasaily for being officially appointed as an Executive Director of FEDO effective from 1st March 2022.

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