



# FEDO's E-Bulletin

*Movement Against Caste and Gender-Based Discrimination*

## Feminist Dalit Organization(FEDO)

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FEDO launches its first edition of E-Bulletin to inform you about its activities, their achievement and news in center and districts level.

FEDO presents proudly the first issue of its E-bulletin. This monthly E-bulletin will be disseminated to individuals and organizations that are directly or indirectly the stakeholders. In this bulletin, we will include the update of the activities, their achievement, the news, reports, and features related to Dalit women.

### Welcome note from Feminist Dalit Organization

FEDO is the first national level non-government organization and a pioneer to represent Dalit women and advocate their concerns and address immediate needs. Since long time, FEDO is fighting against discrimination, injustice, and the practice of untouchability. To accomplish this, FEDO has developed various programs aimed to empower women, especially marginalized Dalit women. Our vision is to create a "just and equitable society" Where Dalit women gain their rights and opportunities to life, equity, development, and participation. Our mission is to continue a movement against caste and gender-based discrimination in order to protect and promote civil and political rights of Dalit women and to support their socio-economic empowerment. We work through our 45 district chapters throughout Nepal.



### This Month's Contents

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## FEDO celebrates its 17th year



FEDO's General Secretary speaking on the occasion.



Durga Sob opening FEDO's 17th anniversary.

FEDO celebrated its 17th Anniversary on July 28th, 2010. For this special occasion, FEDO central executive board member, Dalit women activists, CA members, representatives from different Dalit organizations and political parties were present. They wished to continue FEDO's visioning "just and equitable society". FEDO coped with challenges and complexity in these 16 years of voyage, but with hard work, dedication, commitment and the help of well wishers and supporters, we are now able to overcome challenges and stand proud to be a leading organization working for Dalit women. To mark its anniversary, FEDO held an interaction program on "Our Effort on Dalit and Women Friendly Constitution" in its resource centre. The CA member, Purna Singh Diyali, expressed that Dalit community's contribution in the people's movement is immeasurable in the past but they have been marginalized by the state. So, to address their issue and problems constitution should be Dalit and women friendly to bring them into the mainstream in the society. At the same time, two members of the Nation Women Commission (Ms. Dhan kumari Sunar and Ms. Gyanu Gaire), the CA member Ms. Durga Pariyar and other guests expressed their commitment to make effort from own level for Dalit and Women friendly Constitution and also gave warm wishes to achieve more success in the future. Ms. Durga Sob, the President of FEDO, said FEDO is raising the voice and issues of Dalit women from long time but to ensure the proportionate representation of Dalit women in social-economy, political and in state mechanism we need the support of the whole Dalit community.

## FEDO in Commission on the status of women

On the occasion of International Women's Day, FEDO's President Durga Sob took part in the session of Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), UN which was held in USA, New York from March 1 to 12, 2010. FEDO would like to congratulate her on her productive and fruitful participation in CSW session and contribute from her side. This year, the United Nations (UN) 54th Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) had a very special focus, which was to look back at what has been achieved in the last 15 years since the Fourth Women World Conference in Beijing in 1995, where the Beijing Platform for Action (BPFA) was adopted.



Durga Sob presenting about Dalit women in New York.

## *Dalit women friendly budget*



Durga Sob speaking in the interaction program.

Feminist Dalit Organization (FEDO) and Nepal Dalit Women Welfare Center jointly organized an interaction program on government policies and Program for Dalit and Dalit women on 16th July 2010, at Tripureswor, Kathmandu. The main speakers of the program were Mr. Krishna Hari Baskota, the Secretary of the Finance Minister, and Mr. Puroshatam of the Nepal Local Development Ministry, Planning Department Head. In the program, representatives from Women Commission, CA members, Dalit and women activists, journalists, representatives from different Dalit organization were present.

The President of FEDO, Ms. Durga Sob, expressed her views about the government policies and program for Dalit and Women. Mr. Puroshatam Nepal presented the program and policies of the Local Development Ministry regarding Dalit and Dalit women. Later on Secretary of Finance Minister Mr. Krishna Hari Baskota described that the new budget we will try to bring the program which directly reaches to the house of Dalit community and by bringing the Dalit friendly program government will try to shorten the gap between rich and poor people.

## *FEDO in Government High Committee*

For the first time, FEDO's president Durga Sob, with two other women, was nominated from the civil society. She became a member of the high level government committee "Management and Monitoring Committee for Violence against Gender Application". The two other women are Sarmila Karki from NGO Federation and a woman from Indigenous Federation. Some of the Constitution Assembly members were selected as advisors too.

## *Japanese Students' visit*



Japanese students at FEDO resource center.

Students from Nihon University was enthusiastic while visiting FEDO office and to know about the situation and issues of Dalit women and FEDO's work. After the orientation from FEDO, the 15 students with their Professor Chikako Aoki went to the home stay in Lamatar, Lalitpur. They wanted to be aware and familiar about the actual situation of Dalit Women; their daily life, their families and social conditions.

## *FEDO meeting with Womankind Worldwide*



Durga Sob presenting FEDO's background and activities.

FEDO's team met Cintia Lavandera, the Programme Manager of WOMANKIND Worldwide on 30th August 2010 to discuss about the project funded by Womankind. At the same time the project coordinator of Including Dalit Women in Peace Building and Democracy (IDWD) Renu Sijapati and Empowering Dalit Women against Gender based Violence (EDWAGV) Coordinator Punyawati Ramtel gave a presentation about their project activities and achievement so far. Cintia has appreciated the work of FEDO and also suggested to work in most priority areas by giving the special effort to it.

## *--ACTIVITIES--*

### *Dalit women being aware on political participation*



Kala Swarnakar, General Secretary of FEDO, sharing the program's objectives.

Feminist Dalit Organization (FEDO) has started the 'Leadership Development of Dalit Women for Political participation' (LDDP) project with the funding support of RDIF/ESP (Rights, Democracy and Inclusion Fund/Enabling State Program) in Mahottari, Achham, Dang and Pyuthan districts. The overall objectives and goals of this project are to increase meaningful participation of Dalit women in politics and political processes and to make inclusive and democratic political processes. The project will facilitate the creation of an appropriate environment to increase Dalit women's political participation in the decision and policy making level in the project districts. More than 24,000 Nepalese people will be aware about this, and will start dialogue on promoting Dalit women's and Dalits' inclusion in politics and public sphere.

The Planning meeting of (LDDP) project was organized on June 17th and 18th, 2010 to share about the background, objectives, planned activities and program log-frame of the project. The project orientation workshop was also completed in center and in its working districts Dang, Mohottari, Achham and Pyuthan. Similarly 28 pressure groups were formed in four districts. In each district there are seven Pressure Groups which are formed in VDC (Village Development Committee) and district level. 196 women in Dang, Mohottari, Achham and Pyuthan have been involved in the Pressure group and are participating enthusiastically.

## *Dalit Women in peace building and democracy*

FEDO made an effort to increase the skills of Dalit women's participation in the Peace-building process and Democracy through the Project called "Including Dalit Women in Peace-Building and Democracy" (IDWD). It is supported by Womankind Worldwide. The IDWD project has been implemented in two districts in Far-western region (Kailali, Kanchanpur) and two districts in Central region (Makawanpur and Chitwan). The project's orientation at the centre level was conducted in 4th July, 2010. Similarly the district level project introduction workshop was completed in Kailali and Kanchanpur on 8th and 11th August 2010 and in Makawanpur and Chitwan on 22nd and 23rd August respectively.



Participants of orientation program.

## *Training on "Political Inclusion and Social Integration"*



Training participants in Pyuthan.

From 21 to 24 August 2010, a training on "Political Inclusion and Social Integration" under the LDDP project funded by RDIF/ESP was organized in Pyuthan. The goal was to aware the participating women about their inclusion in politics and their social integration. 24 women from different Village Development Committees (VDC) have participated. After the training, these women became conscious that women are excluded from politics. So their awareness level increased and they should actively participate in politics. Participants committed to conduct micro teaching on different subject for increasing awareness level of women in their society.