



Passing Untouchability Bill: Historical achievement for Dalit

The Interim Parliament of Nepal passed the Caste-based Discrimination and Untouchability Crime Elimination and Punishment Act on 24 May, 2011. This act made untouchability practices both in public and private spheres illegal and punishable. Dalit activists and CA members have pressurized to make sure that the untouchability and discriminatory act in public as well as in private shares should be consider as crime and make it punishable.

This is a historical achievement for the Dalit community and Dalit activists and everyone who have solidarity for movement against untouchability and caste-based discrimination.

This initiation is very optimistic but stills we have long way to go. This decision is welcoming but challance is does it will be effectively implemented and bring the social changes. This ensures the rights of Dalit and increase the confident level of Dalit community to assure reaching to the discrimination and caste hierarchy free society.

This is a huge achievement for the Dalit community to end the caste and untouchability but the

Nepalese media didn't give any attention towards it where many grassroots level Dalit are ignorant about the bill.

FEDO, DNF, NNDSWO along with other Dalit organization jointly organized the press meet on the newly passed bill with the objectives to circulate the information and provision to the wider Dalit community. During the press meet FEDO President Durga Sob said this is a historical achievement of the Dalit community so media should give priority to this and try to inform the people. Media widely cover the event and we were successful to disseminate the information.



Durga Sob sharing the significant of the newly passed bill on untouchability.

National Census 2011

National census is very important for the Dalit community as it is a golden opportunity to find out the exact population where previous figure shows 13 % and Dalit civil society have been claiming it to be more that 20% of the total population. In this context FEDO along the partnership between DNF and other Dalit organization jointly conducted the one month short project called "Bringing out Accurate Demographic Data of Dalits of Nepal from Census 2011" which was implemented in 74 districts. FEDO implemented the project in 9 districts respectively Illam, Dolakaha, Lalitput, Chitwan, Baglung, Argakhanchi, Shankhuwashava, Kaski and Makawanpur.

The project was mainly focus on informing Dalit grassroots community about the census and its importance. For this poster, pamphlets, flyers about the census were widely disseminated and volunteers were mobilized to aware people about the census and aware Dalit to give exact information about their caste and which caste they belong. This will help to get the exact data that support us inclusion and making policies and its implementation process for Dalit. FEDO Volunteers and supervisors monitored the Census process where the Dalit population is dense and conducted several awareness and interaction program in project districts as well as in thier45 district chapters on thier own initiation. At the same time, Joint Monitoring Committee was also formed and coordination with media was done to get the accurate segregate data of Dalit community.

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Leadership Development Training

Dalit women's activists leadership quality was enhanced and given opportunity to be familiar with the practical knowledge regarding the topic and were informed about the quality that a good leaders should have and how they could

achieve. This was made happen under the "Leadership Development of Dalit women for Political Participation" (LDDP) project from 1-3 June 2011, at FEDO resource centre. The participants of the training were Dalit women affiliated in different political parties, Dalit women activists and young students. The training was interactive and participants gain the leadership skills. They did a group work and made a presentation. Training was made participatory and made sure that all the participants gets opportunity to present at least one time which also enhance to raise the confident level. They also gain knowledge how they could take the leadership in their community or in their working areas.



LDDP Central Project Coordinator Narensh Sob concluding the training.

TOT on Political Empowerment

3 day long ToT training on "Political Empowerment were conducted under the "Inclusion of Dalit Women in Democratic Process" (IDWDP) project in 6 districts i.e Palpa, Dhailekh, Rupendehi, Kaski, Palpa, Dadeldhura. Altogether 160 Dalit women from V.D.C, municipalities, and Dalit women groups participated and were informed and sensitized about the political empower-



Facilitator explaining about the necessity of political empowerment of Dalit women.

ment, advocacy, gender, social inclusion and legal provision for Dalit women so that they can be empowered to speak for their rights. The training was facilitated by different political parties leader, Advocate, gender specialist and human rights activists. Dalit women became able to get idea about what politics is? Current political situation of Nepal, advantages of being politically empower etc as well as genders equality, different rules and regulation and provision of government. Participants were enthusiastic and think this was really beneficial for them and this kind of training will be supportive to work further.

Protection and Security Training

Protection International, Nepal conducted 3 day long training on "Protection and Security" where core member of the FEDO, representatives from different organization were participated from 6-8 June 2011 in the resource centre of FEDO. The training was facilitated by the Tessa Deryck, Asia Representatives of Protection International and Nepal representatives Gyanu Luintel. The training was very important for FEDO and especially it was focused on the protection and security of human rights defenders and to prepare the organizational security plan of FEDO. During the training participatory approach were used and discussion and learning was practical. In the training participants prepared security strategy, security plan, assessment for security and protection of office, preventive and emergency plan, security wheels: assessing organizational security performance in groups. At the end FEDO team and other organizational representatives were convinced and determine to prepare the organizational security plan and policies days with the primary priority knowing its importance and necessity.



Participants of the training listening to the facilitator.