

Keeping the Beijing Commitment Alive...

Nepal NGO REPORT ON BEIJING + 15



Organised By :



National Network for Beijing Review Nepal

Coordinated By :



SAATHI



Keeping the Beijing Commitment Alive...

Nepal NGO Report on Beijing + 15

Convenor
Bandana Rana

Editors
Pinky Singh Rana
Dr. Gopal Krishna Shivakoti
Samjhana Kachhyapati

Organized by:
NNBN



Coordinated By:
SAATHI



Published By: National Network for Beijing Review Nepal (NNBN)

First Edition: November 2009

Cover Design By: Anup Nasnani

ISBN: 978-99946-995-7-5

This initiative was made possible by the generous support of The Foundation of Open Society Institute (FOSI) and The Asia Foundation (TAF).

Table of Contents:

Foreword:.....	4
Acknowledgement	6
Acronyms.....	8
Message of the President	11
National Conference on B+15 Review	12
Women's Movement Honours Three Prominent Women Leaders	15
B +15 Review - Present Status, Gains, Gaps, Challenges and Recommendations.....	16
A. Women and Poverty.....	17
B. Education and Training.....	22
C. Women and Health	27
D. Violence against Women	31
E. Women and Armed Conflict.....	35
F. Women and the Economy	39
G. Women in Power and Decision making.....	44
H. Institutional Mechanism for Advancement of Women.....	47
I. Human Rights of Women	52
J. Women in Media.....	57
K. Women and Environment	59
L. The Girl Child	64
Kathmandu Declaration	69
Annex I. Glimpses of the Conference.....	71
Annex II. Newspaper Clippings.....	72
Annex III. Network Members.....	73
Annex IV. Conference Preparation Committees	75
Annex V. List of Participants.....	76

Foreword

We are pleased to bring out an NGO Report on Beijing+15 Review prepared by National Network for Beijing Review Nepal (NNBN), a network that constitutes of 47 NGOs working in the area of women's human rights. The network was born out of the passionate desire of key NGOs, who are involved in the Beijing initiative since the very beginning, to be a part of the review process.

The Beijing Review provides an opportunity to examine the government's effort, and those of other non-state actors, at implementing the Beijing Platform for Action (BPFA). The report represents an attempt towards keeping the Beijing commitment alive whilst also reporting the efforts of government as well as non-government organizations and civil societies in realizing the commitment to the goals of equality, development, and peace for women. In doing so, the report recalls the 12 Critical Areas of Concern of the BPFA for women's advancement, and traces the progress made, challenges faced, and forward-looking strategies revolving round the prevalence of the problem, key gains, gaps, and recommendations for future action. While preparing the report, a two-day national conference participated by multi- generational women and men gender activists from all over the country was organized. The main objective of the conference was to ensure a participatory process and seek input and recommendations from women representatives and gender activists in finalizing the report.

Based on the assessment and review of the implementation of BPFA, the Kathmandu Declaration was prepared and adopted after extensive discussion. The Declaration prioritizes the issues of major concern requiring urgent attention in the context of Nepal in areas such as women's participation in peace process as per the UNSCR 1325 and 1820, poverty, migration, gender and climate change. This Kathmandu Declaration will serve as the guiding framework for the Women's Movement for collective action in the coming years and also for urging the Government to address these pertinent issues with concrete action plans and policies in the coming five years. (for details refer to page 69)

The women's movement in Nepal has been extremely vibrant in the past few years and has successfully brought about significant policy and legislative changes. All this is due to women leaders who paved the way with their consistent struggle, passion and dedication to keep the women of Nepal vigilant, united and active. Hence, we considered the Beijing + 15 Review as the opportune time to recognize and honor three of these senior women for their immense contribution to the women's movement. The Plaque of Honor bestowed on the women leaders Sahana Pradhan, Chandni Joshi and Professor Shanta Thapaliya by the highest dignitary of the country - Rt. Honourable President Dr. Ram Baran Yadav, signifies the nation's recognition of their valuable contribution to the women's movement. The network has decided to continue with this trend and honor three women who have made significant contributions to the women's movement every five years during the Beijing Review Process.

Increasing presence, participation, and involvement of women in all sectors including political, legal, economic, social, and cultural along with their changing roles and responsibilities does indicate that our dream of 'being equal' is not an impossible one. All we need is unity, solidarity and the strong commitment to transform that dream into reality. Then the journey ahead will certainly show us a day when we can proudly display our equality and be able to enjoy our fundamental human rights to the fullest.

At the threshold of the Beijing + 15 Review we look forward to a united, active and committed women's movement nationally, regionally and globally in continuing our struggle for equality, development, justice and peace.

National Network for Beijing Review Nepal (NNBN)

Acknowledgements

The Beijing +15 Review holds a lot of significance for women as it provides an important opportunity to examine the efforts of government, non-government organizations as well as civil societies in realizing the commitments to the goals of equality, development, and peace for women, and further for holding leaders and governments accountable. We did not want to miss such an opportunity and decided to initiate a participatory process in taking the review forward. We had lots of challenges ahead of us particularly in terms of resources and time constraints. But with the goodwill, confidence and support of several stakeholders we were successful in bringing out this report.

My sincere gratitude to the Foundation of Open Society Institute and The Asia Foundation who, realizing the urgency to start the process, gave us a prompt response without needing us to go through the lengthy procedures of grant approval and agreed to support us in the entire review process and bringing out this NGO Report on Beijing+15 Review. My special thanks go to GTZ, TEWA and Hotel de l' Annapurna for their generous support in organizing the national conference.

My sincere thanks to all media institutions, media persons and journalists for their support in broadening the reach of the conference to a wider audience through their coverage, radio and television reports. Kantipur Television deserves special thanks for the live telecast of the inaugural program of the conference

Credit goes to all the network members for their confidence and trust in Saathi and myself, for the overall coordination work and for their active participation and input provided throughout the process. The working committee members also deserve special acknowledgement for their guidance and input.

My very special gratitude to the report writing team who in spite of their busy schedule understood the urgency and promptly agreed to contribute to the report based on their specific expertise and knowledge. They are Babita Basnet, Chapala Koirala, Dr. Chandra Bhadra, Kamala Dhungel, Lily Thapa, Pinky Singh Rana,, Pushpa Ghimire, Sabin Shrestha, Salina Joshi, Saloni Singh, Shobha Gautam, Sumeera Shrestha, and Sumnima Tuladhar.

The editor Pinky Singh Rana and the declaration drafting committee, Dr. Gopal Krishna Shivakoti and Ms. Jane Hodge of Inhured International who provided technical guidance in fine-tuning the report deserve special acknowledgement. Special merit goes to Samjhana Kachhyapati of Saathi for the painstaking work of compiling all the reports.

My thanks also to all the district, as well as local participants who actively participated in the two-day national conference and provided their invaluable inputs for the report. They made our attempt to reflect the voice of women's rights activists from all over the country possible.

My greatest gratitude is reserved for all women's rights activists who spent their life time struggling for equality, peace, and development for women. My profound gratification is in being able to honor, if not all, three such women personalities - Ms. Sahana Pradhan, Ms. Chandni Joshi, and Prof. Shanta Thapaliya, the living legends of Nepal's women's movement. My heartfelt gratitude to them for accepting the honor bestowed on them on behalf of the women's movement.

My profound thanks to the Rt. Hon. President Dr. Ram Baran Yadav who accepted our request to grace the inaugural ceremony of the national conference and honor the leaders of the women's movement. We greatly acknowledge his commitment towards the fullest implementation of the BPFA. Also, thanks to Hon. Minister Mr. Sarbadev Prasad Ojha, Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare, and Hon. CA Members Ms. Sapana Pradhan Malla and Ms. Kamala Pant for their presence and remarks on the significance of the BPFA. I would also like to acknowledge the supportive role of different session chairs Durga Ghimire, Subodh Raj Pyakurel, Hon. Dr. Leela Pathak, Sharda Pokhrel, Dr. Gopal Krishna Shivakoti, Hon. Pampha Bhusal, Dr. Nirmal Pandey, Hon. Nainkala Thapa and Deputy Inspector General of Police Parvati Thapa.

Above all, my special appreciation to my colleagues at Saathi – for all their hard work and tireless effort in making this entire review process a success regardless of duty hours and festival holidays.

Finally, I would like to thank all those who have been a part of the women's movement and have directly or indirectly contributed to the implementation of BPFA in realizing the ideals of equality, peace and development.

Bandana Rana

Convenor

Acronyms

ANC	Ante Natal Care
ASIP	Annual Strategic Implementation Plan
BPEP	Basic and Primary Education Programme
BPFA	Beijing Platform for Action
CA	Constituent Assembly
CBOs	Community Based Organization
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of All forms of Discrimination Against Women
CMF	Centre for Micro Finance
CPA	Comprehensive Peace Agreement
CRC	Convention on the Rights of the Child
CSIDB	Cottage and Small Industry Development Board
CSW	Commission on the Status of Women
CTEVT	Centre for Technical Education and Vocational Training
DECs	District Education Committees
DoCSI	Department of College and Small Industries
DoE	Department of Education
ECD	Early Childhood Development
EFA	Education for All
EIA	Environment Impact Assessment
FHHs	Female Headed Households
FM	Frequency Modulation
GEDS	Gender Equality and Development Section
GEF	Global Environmental Facility
GFP	Gender Focal Persons
GoN	Government of Nepal
GPI	Gender Parity Index
GRB	Gender Responsive Budget
GRBC	Gender Responsive Budget Committee
HH	House Hold
HIV	Human Immune Deficiency Virus
HIV/AIDS	Human Immune Deficiency Virus/Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome

IDPs	Internally Displaced People
IEDI	Industrial Enterprise Development Institute
ILO IPEC	International Labour Organization International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labour
IMR	Infant Mortality Rate
INGO	International Non Government Organization
IUCDs	Intra-Uterine Contraceptive Device
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
IV	Intra Vein
LDTA	Local Development and Training Academy
MFI	Micro Finance Institution
MMR	Maternal Mortality Ratio
MoE	Ministry of Employment
MoE	Ministry of Education
MoF	Ministry of Finance
MoHP	Ministry of Health & Population
MoL	Ministry of Labour
MoPR	Ministry of Peace and Reconstruction
MVA	Manual Vacuum Aspiration
MW	Mega Watt
NATHM	Nepal Academy of Tourism and Hotel Management
NDHS	Nepal Demographic Health Survey
NGO	Non Government Organization
NLFS	Nepal Labour Force Survey
NLSS	Nepal Living Standard Survey
NNBN	National Network for Beijing review Nepal
NPA	National Plan of Action
NPC	National Planning Commission
NWC	National Women's Commission
PAF	Poverty Alleviation Fund
PRSP	Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper
PTAs	Parents Teachers Association
RH	Reproductive Health

RMDC	Rural Microfinance Development Centre
SAARC	South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation
SCR	Security Council Resolution
SESP	Secondary Education Support Programme
SGBV	Sexual and Gender Based Violence
SLC	School Leaving Certificate
SMCs	School Management Committees
SMEs	Small and Medium Size Enterprises
SSR	School Sector Reform
STI	Sexually Transmitted Infection
SWAP	Sub Sector Wide Approach
TM	Transport Management
TRC	Truth and Reconciliation Commission
TYIP	Three Year Interim Plan
U5MR	Child Mortality Rate
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNICEF ROSA	United Nations Children's Fund Regional Office South Asia
VAW	Violence Against Women
VDCs	Village Development Committees
VECs	Village Education Committees
VSCDT	Vocational Skill Development Training Centre
WDC	Women Development Offices

Message of the Rt. Hon. President Dr. Ram Baran Yadav

(Taken from the inaugural address presented at the national conference)

First of all, I would like to thank the organizers for giving me the opportunity to participate and share my thoughts in this national conference on Beijing +15 Review.

In today's world, women have been advancing in all spheres and structure of the state in the nation building process breaking every form of social and conventional bondage. Though women had been raising their voice against discrimination even before the Beijing Conference it is the Platform for Action and the 12 Critical Areas of Concern adopted at the Fourth World Conference on Women held in Beijing in 1995 that paved the way and set the framework for women's holistic development. Because of this, women all over the world have been proudly showing their involvement and participation in all sectors including political, economic, social, and cultural.

The impact of the Beijing Conference is also evident in Nepal. The formation of the Ministry of Women, National Women's Commission, recognition of the need for gender mainstreaming in all ministries of Nepal and empowerment of community and rural women are the direct results of Nepal's participation in the Beijing Conference and the commitment it had shown for the implementation of Beijing Platform for Action. The one-third representation of the women in the Constituent Assembly is the result of this very commitment along with the persistent struggle of Nepali women.

I would like to recall here Nepal's achievements in the area of women's rights presented during the Beijing+5 and+10 Review and reiterate the commitment in fully implementing the Beijing Platform for Action in the days ahead. Despite many attempts violence against women has continued to prevail in the country due to the patriarchal attitude prevalent in social, political, and economic realm. It is indeed essential to revisit and recognize the role women have played and the contribution they have made in conflict resolution while restructuring the state. Assimilating the essence of the UN Security Council Resolution 1325 the state should address the different forms of violence faced by women during conflict and ensure the meaningful involvement of women in all stages of the peace processes.

I believe this national conference on Beijing +15 will reiterate the need to involve women from all class, caste, and occupation in decision making positions for building a "New Nepal". Peace, Equality and Development are the essential needs of the hour. And it is not possible without women's active and meaningful participation in all national processes. In order to empower women and uplift their status, education for girls is vital. I anticipate the conference will give importance to this effect.

It is the clarion call of the country that we rise above the issues of culture, ethnicity, language and maintain our national unity and pride. It is the duty and responsibility of every civilized citizen of Nepal to preserve and protect the sovereignty, integrity and pride of the nation.

Finally, I would like to extend my heartiest thanks to the women coming from all 75 districts and wish for the grand success of the conference.



National Conference on B+15 Review Conference Proceedings

Background

The Beijing +15 Review is an opportunity for women to examine the efforts of government as well as non-government organizations and civil societies in realizing the commitment to the goals of equality, development, and peace for women and further for holding leaders and governments accountable for the commitments made for women's empowerment, equality, and the promotion of their human rights under the BPFA.

In view of this, key NGOs working in the area of women's rights, who have history of being involved in the implementation of the BPFA, felt the need for a consolidated effort in initiating the Beijing +15 review process and came together to form an alliance "National Network for Beijing review Nepal (NNBN). In order to ensure a participatory process the network organized a two-day national conference on the Beijing +15 Review where women's rights activists from all over the country were invited to participate.

Inauguration

The inaugural ceremony of the two-day national conference on the Beijing+15 Review was graced by the President, Rt. Honourable Dr. Ram Baran Yadav. Also present at the ceremony were Hon. Sarvadev Prasad Ojha, Minister for Ministry of Women, Children, and Social Welfare (MWCSW), Constituent Assembly members, dignitaries, representatives of government and non- government organizations, grassroots women and media practioners and journalists.

The conference was officially inaugurated by the Honourable President by lightning 12 candles signifying the 12 critical areas of concern of the BPFA. The president was accompanied by two girl children who symbolized the future generation that would take the Beijing torch forward. Prior to the inauguration the welcome remarks by network member Shobha Gautam covered background information on the Beijing Conference highlighting the Twelve Critical Areas of Concern.

Sharing of experiences by women from different walks of life highlighted changes which had occurred in Nepal over the past last decade. Grassroots based Kanchhi Didi shared her experiences at the 4th World Conference on Women in Beijing in 1995 and her ensuing battle in combating trafficking in women in Sidhupalchowk district. Hon. CA member, Sapana Pradhan Malla highlighted legal and policy changes and achievements. Hon. CA member Kamala Pant emphasized the need for effective implementation of laws and policies, as well as change in patriarchy based mindset prevalent in the society, structures and state mechanisms. Hon. Sarvadev Prasad Ojha, Minister for MWCSW urged all concerned for coordinated and collaborative efforts towards eliminating violence against women. He claimed the ministry and the government of Nepal were fully committed to the cause of women.

Felicitatation Programme

Three pioneer women rights activists, Ms. Sahana Pradhan, Ms. Chandni Joshi and Prof./Dr. Shanta Thapaliya were felicitated in recognition of their contribution to women's movement in Nepal. The President Dr. Ram Baran Yadav presented them the Plaque of Honor.

Expressing her gratitude for the honor, Ms. Sahana Pradhan said that, though change had taken place, women were still suffering from the onslaught of sheer inequality. She claimed 'women and politics' should be added as a critical area of concern to promote women's access in decision making.

"Women are still hindered by five Ps – Pati (husband), Parmeshwor (God), Parampara (tradition), Paralok (heaven or hell), and Purpuro (karma). Until and unless the patriarchal attitude that prevails in society is changed, no real change can be achieved, no development can take place."

-Ms. Sahana Pradhan, Politician

Sharing the honor with the preceding generation who laid the foundation for women's movement, along with her own generation who shared all the ups and downs, Prof. Shanta Thapaliya stated the fight had always been for social transformation and for securing women's legal rights, especially for daughters' rights to equal parental property.

"There have indeed been a lot of positive changes in Nepal's law and constitution with regards to women's issues. I am very hopeful that the new constitution will guarantee equal rights to women."

-Prof. Shanta Thapaliya

Recollecting the Beijing events, Ms. Chandni Joshi shared some successful initiatives in raising women's rights issues at national and international levels as well as the setting up of an accountability mechanism.

"The Beijing Platform for Action is a Women's Bill of Rights. Many conferences of the UN have lost their momentum, however in South Asia, the spirit of the Beijing conference is truly alive."

-Ms. Chandni Joshi

President Hon. Dr. Ram Baran Yadav in his inaugural address highlighted the significance of the Beijing Platform for Action (BPFA) and the 12 Critical Areas of Concern for women's holistic development. He further emphasized the need to institutionalize the democratic system in the country to ensure peace, prosperity, security, and rule of law. He concluded by wishing for a successful conference.

Finally, Ms. Bandana Rana, convener of NNBN and president of SAATHI, who had presided over the inaugural program expressed the vote of gratitude to all and stated that women's movement in Nepal attaches great significance to the BPFA. She added that the NGO report produced in the review process would be shared at the Asia Pacific NGO forum and at the CSW Session in New York in 2010 and would be further used nationally

as a guiding framework and lobbying document for women's rights for the next five years.

Technical Sessions

The inaugural ceremony was followed by paper presentations on Women and Armed Conflict, Women and Economy, Women in Power and Decision Making, and Women and Media. The floor was opened for comments and suggestions from participants. The next session involved paper presentations on The Girl Child, Education and Training, Women and Health, and Violence against Women. Participants were then divided into eight working groups as per their areas of their interest and expertise. The working groups provided detailed inputs in the respective papers. The second day commenced with presentations on Women and Human Rights, Women and Environment, Women and Poverty, and Institutional Mechanism for Advancement of Women. Presentations were again followed by group division and group work. After the technical sessions and plenary on group work the draft Declaration of the conference was presented by Dr. Gopal Krishna Shivakoti in the presence of Hon. CA member Pampha Bhusal. The draft after intensive discussions and additional input provided by the participants was finalized and adopted unanimously by the conference.

Closing Ceremony

The closing ceremony was chaired by Hon Nainakala Thapa, chairperson of the National Women's Commission. Representatives from five development regions shared their reflections of the conference. Participants expressed commitment to raise awareness on the BPFA and the conference Declaration at grassroots level. The conference concluded with Bandana Rana expressing gratitude to all for their active participation in making the conference a success and calling for unity and solidarity for keeping the Beijing Commitment alive. .

Voices from the Conference

"The conference has taught us to rise above our differences and be united in our issues", Dila Sangraula, Eastern Development Region.

"Coming from a backward rural community I feel extremely lucky to have been provided an opportunity to be a part of this conference". Madhuri Shrestha, Western Development Region.

"No matter which part of Nepal we come from, I am happy that we can be a part of this strong network for keeping the Beijing commitment alive". China Lama, Central Development Region.

"The conference has provided us a platform for learning and sharing experiences". Prisma Singh Tharu, Mid-Western Development Region.

"I commit to take the declaration of the conference to every village development committee in my district through my networks and local FM radio stations". Lalita Sunuwar, Far-Western Development Region.

Women's Movement Honours

Three Prominent Women Leaders

Sahana Pradhan: A living legend of Nepal's Women's Movement, she has spent most of her life struggling for women's rights. Her contribution lies not only in taking women's movement forward but also in restoring democracy in Nepal. From the time of Rana Regime to the Historical People's Movement, she was in the forefront of all political processes providing positive vision and leadership. She is well admired for her courage in raising issues related to equality beyond political ideologies. One of her major contributions lies in securing voting rights for Nepali women. She will remain an ideal leader for all women rights activists. Her contribution in securing civil, social, political, and economic rights for women in Nepal will always be remembered with a sense of pride and remain a source of inspiration for all willing to bring change.



Chandni Joshi: A Women's Rights Activist who has been able to impact not only the lives of Nepali women but women of South Asia as well. Be it social, economic, or political empowerment, her contribution for the upliftment of women's status has been remarkable. Reaching out to grass root communities, assessing their needs, identifying their strengths, and making them self reliant through her graceful charm and dignity is what Chandni Joshi is well known for. Her perseverance, commitment and dedication for women's cause beyond the call of duty have motivated many (women and men) to take up the issue of gender equality throughout the region. Thus she has played a significant role in improving the lives of many women of Nepal, South Asia and beyond. Her contribution is reflected in the improved status of women in all sectors. Because of women like her, women's movement of yesterday has become a unified global movement of today.



Prof./Dr. Shanta Thapaliya: A woman who spent most of her youth raising awareness on gender issues and struggling for securing legal rights for women in Nepal. She is well known for raising her voice for equality to be ensured in the constitution right from birth. No matter how adverse and unfavorable the situation, she stood calm, patient and committed to women's cause fighting all odds to ensure legislative changes for the equality of women. As a result Nepali women are now to some extent able to enjoy certain social, civil, political, economic rights in a society like ours where patriarchal mentality and discrimination dominates all the state and social structures. She will always be remembered as a pioneer who paved the way for a gender just society through legislative changes.





Beijing +15 Review

*Present Status, Gains,
Gaps, Challenges and
Recommendations*



A. Women and Poverty

1. Prevalence of the Problem

According to Nepal Living Standard Survey (2005) the overall incidence of poverty has declined by 11 percentage points between 1995/96 and 2003/04, a decline of 3.7 per cent each year. In 2003/04, 31 per cent of the population lived in poverty compared to 42 per cent in 1995/96.

However, the assessment of the Tenth Five Year Plan (2006) states that the decline in poverty (from 42% to 31%) has not been even, in terms of outcomes on different groups and regions. ***Women in general and women from Mid and Far West development regions in particular remained excluded from access to services and economic opportunities.***

Poverty affects households as a whole but because of gender discriminations poverty affects women and men differently. The brunt of poverty falls disproportionately on women due to gender discrimination, which is termed as the "feminization of poverty". "Feminization of poverty" in Nepal is manifested by the following:

Income Poverty

Census 2001 depicts that women comprise 31 per cent of all paid workers as against 69 per cent men. Supporting this data, Human Development Report/UNDP (2007-08) shows that the ratio of estimated female to male earned income is 0.50; with the estimated PPP US\$ 1,038 for female as against US\$ 2,072 for male.

In a research commissioned by the National Planning Commission in 2004, it was found that micro-credit Programs and saving and credit activities especially after 1980s have enabled women to have access to *some* income. However, these Programs have not been able to lift women out of the poverty trap.

Human Deprivation and the Resultant Human Development Poverty

Women and girls get into the 'human deprivation poverty' in terms of losing their access to food and nutrition, access to health care, access to education, access to other human development opportunities and having to shoulder excessive work burden. Even if a household does not fall below the poverty line but is in the poverty threshold, the share of women and girls in intra-household resource distribution gets so low it results in a state of human deprivation poverty.

The 'feminization of agriculture' and the below subsistence productivity has led to some 60.2 per cent of households reporting (Agriculture Census 2001) their produce was insufficient to feed the household for the whole year. During food scarcity in the household, it is women's share that is curtailed.

Because of human deprivation poverty, the human development situation of women seems bleak. Census 2001 revealed the literacy rate of women at 42.5 per cent as against 65.1 per cent of men with a gender gap of 22.6 per cent. In the same line, as the level of education increases (from Primary, Lower Secondary, Secondary and Higher Education) the proportion of girls' net enrolment decreases.

Year	Primary level		Lower Secondary level		Secondary level	
	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male
2005	83.4%	90.1%	43.1%	49.8%	29.2%	35.5%

Source: Ministry of Education & Sports. (2006). Ministry of Education & Sports: At a Glance

In the recent Demographic and Health Survey, 2006, maternal mortality ratio is found to be 281/100,000 live birth; still one of the highest in the world. The same survey revealed that 29.0 per cent of urban women and 37.5 per cent of rural women between the ages of 15-49 years are anemic. On top of it due to heavy workload and difficult terrain of the country a vast majority of women suffer from prolapsed uterus.

Poverty in Female Headed Household

A large proportion of female-headed households (FHHs) fall below the poverty line as compared to the male-headed households due to gender discrimination in access to and control over productive resources and other economic and political opportunities. This is especially so in the poorest consumption quintile households. In fact, Nepal Living Standard Surveys reveal that poverty has increased in the FHHs of the poorest consumption quintile from 1995/96 to 2003/04.

Property/Wealth Poverty

Women also remain poor due to the lack of access to and control over productive resources. During Census 2001, only 17 per cent of the households reported that the female in their families have ownership of the house, the land and the livestock. Among those who reported of female ownership, 10.8 per cent reported female ownership of land, 7.4 per cent reported of female ownership of livestock and 5.5 per cent reported female ownership of the house. In 83 per cent of households, women had entitlement of neither land nor livestock or the house.

Agriculture Census 2001 revealed that the female population held only 8.1 per cent of the total land holdings, the rest 91.9 per cent had male holders. The average size of holdings operated by female holders was 0.53 hectares while that of the male holders had 0.81 hectares per holdings.

Poverty Induced Male Migration Resultant “Feminization of Agriculture” and “Female Headed Household”

Poverty also instigates male emigration resulting in “feminization of agriculture” and ‘female headed households’. Single parenting and sole household responsibility with a high dependency ratio has also marked the ‘feminized poverty’. Census 2001 revealed that the proportion of male migrants was much larger (89%) than the proportion of female migrants (11%).

Time Poverty

“Feminization of poverty” is also characterized by ‘time poverty’. As stated above, the reliance on traditional labor and time intensive technology for production results in heavy workload in terms of time-use and drudgery. Over the years since 1979, time use studies have time and again shown that women work significantly longer hours than men. On top of all these, the out migration of male members of the family has added household and agricultural responsibility on women extending women’s work to longer hours. The brunt of mothers’ workload falls upon daughters, and girls having to share and shoulder mothers’ works generally drop out of schools.

2. Key Gains

As stated above poverty has decreased from 42 per cent to 31 per cent over eight years’ period (1995/96 – 2003/04). Poverty reduction is measured in terms of the following indicators.

Percent of Households Reporting Less than Adequate

	NLSS-I (1995/96)	NLSS-II (2003/04)
Food consumption	50.9	31.2
Housing	64.1	40.6
Clothing	57.6	35.6
Health Care	58.7	28.3
Schooling	45.4	21.4
Total Income	72.6	67.0

Note: NLSS is Nepal Living Standard Survey

It is assessed that the poverty incidence in urban areas has declined by more than half (from 22% in 1995/96 to 10% in 2003/04), which is by almost 7 per cent each year. The decrease in rural poverty was modest and it declined from 43 per cent in 1995/96 to about 35 per cent in 2003/04, which is by 2.5 per cent each year during eight years between the surveys.

It is a surprising fact that in spite of Nepal going through the worst phase of armed conflict and losing many foundations of economic growth poverty has reduced significantly within the past eight years. Contributing factors of poverty reduction is assigned to the increment in the share of non-farm income. Remittance is identified to be the key in raising non-farm income as depicted by the table below.

Remittances and Transfers	NLSS I 1995/96	NLSS II 2003/04	% Change
1. Percentage of all households receiving remittances	23.4	31.9	8.5
2. Average amount of remittances per receiving households	Rs 15,160	Rs 34,698	129.0
3. Proportion of remittances from outside the country	55	76	21
4. Share of remittances received from India by households	33	23	-10
5. Share of remittances in total household income among recipients	26.6	35.4	8.8

3. Key Government/NGO Initiatives

Government Initiatives

- a. Nepal began implementing the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP) in this fiscal year 2002/03 (mid-July to mid-July). The PRSP is also Nepal's Tenth Five Year Plan.
- b. Poverty Alleviation Fund (PAF) has been operating in Nepal since 2004. Initially piloted in six districts, it covered 40 districts by the end of fiscal year 2008/09 and plans to cover all 75 districts by the end of the fiscal year 2009/10. Under PAF, 69 per cent of community organization members are women.
- c. Government of Nepal has initiated Gender Responsive Budgeting (GRB) since 2005. The initiation of GRB and its institutionalization at the Ministry of Finance (MoF) is expected to improve resource mobilization and involving local communities in development at the grassroots level for making gender sensitive allocations with a special focus on the needs of women. MoF has also introduced policy of tax-exemption on land deeds in women's ownership (10% in 2004, 20% in 2005 and 25% in 2008).

NGO Initiatives

The major non-government sector actors on extending women focused microfinance initiatives at the macro level are as follows:

- a. Centre for Micro Finance, Nepal (CMF/Nepal) extends capacity building and strengthening services to women managed savings and credit cooperatives.
- b. Rural Microfinance Development Centre (RMDC) extends credit via MFI partners (Development Banks, Savings & Credit Cooperatives, and Financial Intermediaries) to poor women.

Apart from the above organizations/institutions, individual development banks and/or savings and credit cooperatives provide various products and services for women's micro-enterprises. Some of these nationally known organizations/institutions are Nirdhan Utthan Bank Ltd., Self Help Development Bank, *Chhimek* (Neighborhood) Development Bank, DIPROSC Development Bank, SAHARA (Support) Nepal Savings & Credit Cooperative, etc.

4. Emerging Issues

- a. **Climate change and impact on agricultural productivity:** Climate change has impacted negatively on already below subsistence 'feminized agriculture'. But female farmers are unaware of the climate change and alternative know-how to deal with the climate change impacts.
- b. **Poverty, a push factor for migration of women for work:** In Nepal the feminization of poverty is the leading cause of migration of women for work beyond borders. Nevertheless, for women, migration is not as easy as it is for men. On the one hand, the 'protectionist approach' of the State through imposition of restrictions on women's migration leads to women seeking irregular channels and getting into physical, psychological and labour rights related vulnerabilities. On the other hand, in spite of significantly contributing to poverty reduction of the household, due to women taking irregular channels they are unrecorded, hence not recognized as economic contributors in the national accounting.

A paper presented in a seminar organized by South Asia Centre for Policy Studies (2009) stated that even in this global recession, there is an increasing trend of women going abroad for work while the rate of the migration of men is decreasing. Women's job in domestic work in global labor market is found to be more stable compared to men's jobs in other sectors.

5. Gaps

- a. In spite of "poverty having a woman's face", the national accounting fails to disaggregate poverty by gender, both in quantitative and qualitative terms.
- b. The NLSS (1995/96 and 2003/04) have measured "adequacy of consumption" in items like food, housing, clothing, schooling and total income. 'Less than adequate' is taken as an indicator of self-reported 'poverty'.
- c. The methodology stated in measuring poverty is that "...In Nepal, the Poverty Line is derived by using "Cost of Basic Needs" method where nutrition of 2,124 kcal per day per capita is taken as the minimum caloric requirement for an **"average" Nepali household.**"
- d. The conventional method of poverty analysis as stated above assumes household-as-a-unit of analysis as against individual-as-a-unit. This leads to the gap in measuring intra-household gender discrimination that result in 'human deprivation and human development poverty' of women and girls. Such analysis obstructs reduction of "feminized poverty".
- e. In spite of migrant women contributing to household poverty reduction, they remain invisible in the State accounting. In three years' accounting the data remained as below:

Year	Female	Male
Fiscal year 2006-07	390	204143
Fiscal year 2007-08	772	228633
Fiscal year 2008-09 (10 months)	1943	147396

Source: Nepal Country Study, presented by Mr. Ganesh Gurung & Dr. Jaganath Adhikari, in the seminar organized by South Asia Center for Policy Studies (SACEPS), 26 July 2009, Kathmandu.

Invisibility in accounting leads to invisibility in protection of women's labor rights and their rights to safe migration and security of employment.

- f. The GRB allocation is in operation since 2007, but the output of the budget allocation has not been audited yet to find out the impact of GRB on reduction of "feminized poverty".

- g. The State has no policy to address the effect of ‘climate change’ on “feminized agriculture”.
- h. In a research study commissioned by National Planning Commission in 2004, micro-credit Programs and saving and credit activities especially after 1980s have enabled women to have access to *some* income; but these Programs have not been able to lift women out of the poverty trap.

6. Key Recommendations

- a. **Policy linkage on “climate change and feminization of agriculture”:** Agriculture is still the mainstay of people’s livelihood and Nepal’s agriculture is marked by “feminization of agriculture”. In this respect, an immediate action recommended is policy linkage with “feminization of poverty”, “feminization of agriculture” and the climate change.
- b. **Recognition, recording and rights of migrant women workers:** Migrant women workers’ contribution to the household poverty has to be recognized by the State. The State must have proper recording of women’s migration for work and has to ensure the right of women to employment, choice of profession and the right to mobility as stipulated in CEDAW Article 11.
- c. **Increase women owned SME:** Micro credit campaign has positive impact on women in having access to and control over income; but the coverage and the amount is still limited as a large number of women are not covered in these Programs and the amount that women can access is not large enough for taking women out of credit-dependency and/or out of the poverty trap. Government and non-government endeavors must ensure that women owned small and medium size enterprises (SMEs) will lead to poverty reduction in absolute sense rather than currently claimed poverty reduction in relative terms.
- d. **Institutionalization of GRB impact assessment:** MoF has claimed that the allocation of budget directly benefiting women (11% in 2007, 14% in 2008 and 17% in 2009) has increased over the years. Although allocation of budget is the necessary condition but it is not a sufficient condition to ensure the impact on reduction of “feminization of poverty”. Hence, the GRB output and impact assessment has to be institutionalized and regularized.
- e. **Ensure de facto property/wealth ownership of women:** To combat lack of access to and control over productive resources (contributing factor to “feminization of poverty”), the State has taken *de jure* as well as policy endeavors. To translate this *de jure* endeavor of the State effort has to be mustered from all concerned to ensure women’s *de facto* economic empowerment.

B. Education and Training

1. Prevalence of the Problem

As a state party committed to follow the Beijing Platform for Action, Nepal has been determined to promote sustained economic growth through provision of basic education, life-long education, literacy and training, and primary health care for girls and women. Gender within the education sector has for long been a prime agenda of the government of Nepal (GoN). The 2007 Interim Constitution states that each citizen has the right of getting free education up to secondary level as provided by the state law. As per GoN's international commitments, the government is committed to ensuring access to free, compulsory and quality primary education.

Over the years the main focus has been on increasing the number of girls in schools and making illiterate girls and women literate. Various activities have been undertaken for increasing the enrollment of girls and children from disadvantaged groups, and the number of female teachers. Priority remained in Basic and Primary Education Programme (BPEP) I, and BPEP II (1997-2002), Education for All (EFA) (2004-2009), Secondary Education Support Programme (2004-2009) and present School Sector Reform. Gender has been integrated in the Village Education Committees (VECs), District Education Committees (DECs), School Management Committees (SMCs) and Parents Teachers Association (PTAs) which have mandatory provisions of including at least one woman in all committees and associations.

The Three Year Interim Plan (2007-2010) also has educational objectives from a gender and inclusion perspective, i.e., (i) Make everyone literate and provide quality and employment oriented education by ensuring education to all citizens, (ii) Make quality and free education easily accessible to all, and (iii) Make education at all levels equitable and inclusive. The plan also addresses community focused education policy in order to make education accessible in all languages. The SMC in consultation with the community would decide which language to use for ensuring the learning of children.

Yet, in spite of government's efforts to eliminate gender discrimination there still lie various problems which have become impediments in achieving gender parity in education. While poverty is still a problem obstructing parents from sending their girls to school, patriarchal perception that girls should bear the household responsibilities has become another impasse in their education. Inadequate physical facilities such as crowded class rooms, lack of drinking water, and lack of toilet facilities, also serve as obstructions in girls' education. Though there is almost gender parity at primary level, the difference is wider in lower secondary (0.89) and secondary (0.85) levels and there is significant difference across the various social groups, gender and geographical regions.

The enrollment of girls of disadvantaged communities such as Dalit, indigenous communities, Madhesi/marginalized Terai communities and girls from Karnali regions as well as from remote areas is low. Drop out rate of disadvantaged communities is high.

Information on out of school girls is unavailable as the Flash Reports do not cover such information.

There is low representation of women officials in governance and management.

Position	Woman	Man	Total	Percent
Gazetted First Class	1	18	19	5.26
Gazetted Second Class	9	129	138	6.52
Gazetted Third Class	46	743	789	5.83

Source: (Acharya 2006, cited in Dahal, 2065 p 48)

There is under representation of women in teaching profession. The higher the level of education, the lower is their participation (SSR Core Document, 2008). The proportion of female teachers by level in all types of schools is: 38.6 percent at primary level, 24.7 percent at lower secondary level and 15.9 percent at secondary (Flash Report, 2008).

There is lack of appropriate physical facilities for mobility impaired women. Lack of income generating training and employment opportunities for mobility impaired persons, third gender, Dalit, Ethnic groups, women of Terai and Karnali Zone is also prevalent.

2. Key Gains

- a. The progress towards eliminating gender disparity in primary education has been encouraging, with Gender Parity Index (GPI) in primary education being 0.98 in 2008.
- b. Stakeholders related to education have developed an understanding about gender issues and various activities have been initiated to address gender and social inclusion.
- c. Strategies adopted by Education for All [EFA] (2004-09) to ensure equitable access and quality education has helped improve internal efficiency and quality of education.
- d. The Gender Equity and Development Section (GEDS) has developed a gender sensitization training manual for sensitizing staff members related to education. GEDS has also developed Strategies for Girls' education and activities have been implemented as identified by the document.
- e. Scholarships, to a large extent, target girls at primary and secondary level to address the issues of gender and exclusion.
- f. There is a statutory requirement for involving at least one female member in all educational committees (DEC, VEC, SMC, PTA).
- g. Vocational Training for Community Development has been created under Council for Technical Education and Vocational Training (CTEVT) to look after training needs of women. It has set aside women and underprivileged groups' quotas in training Programs.

3. Key Government and NGO Initiatives

The government and NGOs have initiated various Programs of affirmative action such as bringing girls and excluded groups in schools, increasing female teachers and undertaking equity approach in training Programs. Some of these are:

- a. School Outreach Programs, Flexible Schooling Programs and Community Based Alternative Schooling Projects that have been started for girls and disadvantaged

children who cannot attend formal schools. Various scholarship Programs for girls and disadvantaged children are also provided.

- b. Particular interventions target girls and children from disadvantaged groups with special learning needs and disabilities.
- c. Financial support Programs such as girls' education fund, Higher Secondary Education Scholarship, Students Financial Support Fund have been established to bring girls and children of deprived groups up to higher education.
- d. Training Programs take into consideration diversities of trainees based on language, gender, social and cultural differences, and the mobility impaired.
- e. Female teachers are given special consideration and can teach even with SLC qualification, though the revised 2062 policy upgraded the qualification of primary teachers to 12 grade pass.
- f. Temporary female teachers from disadvantaged groups are given eligibility for accessing in-service training.
- g. There is policy commitment for making training Programs gender sensitive.
- h. Provision is made for providing special facilities for women and disadvantaged groups in the pre-service training¹.
- i. NGOs have initiated literacy based activities such as functional literacy, civic literacy, legal literacy and literacy for empowering women.
- j. In 1995, a group of 40 NGOs formed the National Resource Center for Non-Formal Education which undertook activities in the sector of need based and local curriculum development, development and dissemination of learning materials, training of literacy instructors, supervisors and local organizers working with NGOs, etc.
- k. Specific efforts are being made by Industrial Enterprise Development Institute (IEDE), Local Development and Training Academy (LDTA), CTEVT, Cottage and Small Industry Development Board (CSIDB), Department of Cottage and Small Industries (DOCSI), Nepal Academy of Tourism and Hotel Management (NATHM), Directorate of Vocational Skill, Development Training Center (VSCDT) under the Ministry of Labour and Transport Management to include women in their Programs.
- l. CTEVT has set an objective of increasing trainees, particularly women and those from underprivileged groups in both government and private training.
- m. Though there is no specific policy, Vocational Skill Development Center gives priority to women candidates while selecting candidates for general training.
- n. VSCDT has started giving training to women going abroad for employment.
- o. Industrial Enterprise Development Institute (IEDI), Cottage and Industries Board, and Nepal Academy of Tourism and Hotel Management are trying to sensitize their training Programs and structures on gender issues.²

¹ Thapalia, T. (2065). Talim Niti ra Laingik Samabikas (Training policy and gender equity) In DOE, Laingik Samabikas Sikchha. Kathmandu. DOE Page 24+

² UNFPA (2007). Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women in Nepal. Kathmandu: Author

4. Gaps

Despite various policies and Programs in favor of girls and excluded children, there are some gaps in meeting the set objectives.


- a. Lack of consistency on the fundamental issue of free primary education and targeting of Early Childhood Development (ECD) to disadvantaged group.
- b. Since 1992, there is a provision of appointing at least one female teacher at primary level but there are about 8,000 schools which do not have even one female teacher.
- c. The Civil Service Act has made provisions on affirmative action for disadvantaged group and women for new appointments but this is silent for file promotion. Therefore, chances of women being promoted to decision making level are low.
- d. GEDS' position is hierarchically too low for influencing major decisions on planning, programming, budgets and training materials.
- e. In spite of revising curriculum, teacher training materials and textbooks from a gender perspective, vestiges of gender stereotypes still remain.
- f. In education the Sub Sector Wide Approach (SWAp) modality has been operated which takes gender into consideration to a greater extent. However this modality is partial and superficial.³
- g. Mainstreaming of gender and equity concerns in the overall whole education sector is limited.⁴
- h. Though the government quite strongly mentions partnership between the government and NGO in its different policy papers, at implementation level it is equally feeble.⁵

5. Issues and Challenges

- a. Some ethnic groups still do not value the importance of girls' education. Girls are compelled to do household chores, care for the siblings and sick, and the old and incapacitated for which education is not considered necessary and helpful. Sometimes education is considered a privilege rather than a right among lower socio-economic groups.⁶ (Annual Strategic Implementation Plan [ASIP], 2008).
- b. In some cases girls do not want to go to school for fear of mistreatment or due to lack of facilities, particularly sanitary facilities.
- c. At times parents cannot afford fees, uniforms and other supplies for girls. Preference is given to boys in such instances.
- d. Discriminatory practices in teaching and learning processes are found.
- e. There is lack of clear allocation of functions and division of work between District Education Offices, supervisors and resource persons in facilitating the development of planning and management capacity at school level

³ Acharya, S. (2007). Social Inclusion: Gender and Equity in Education SWAp, Nepal Case Study. Kathmandu: UNICEF ROSA

⁴ *Ibid*

⁵ Timsina, N. (2009). NGOs in Nepal: Social Responsibility and Governance System: Portal of National NGO Platform,  <http://www.ong-ngo.org/spip.php?article1513> 21 Aug 2009

⁶ MOE/DOE (2008). Annual Strategic Implementation Plan (ASIP) 2008-09. Bhaktapur: Author

- f. Many schools lack capacity to analyze skills and express their need for developing teaching skills.
- g. Gender mainstreaming in education as well as training Programs is incomplete; it is not integrated into the criteria listed for according priority to government Programs.
- h. Most Programs are donor driven and can therefore be terminated abruptly if donor interest shifts.
- i. There is lack of human resources in Gender Units of the Ministries.
- j. There is inadequate resource mobilization for meeting the cost of free education.⁷

6. Recommendations

- a. There is a need of capacity building of civil society, families and communities in planning and implementation of girls' education.
- b. Adequate and sustainable financing levels through the use of gender sensitive budgeting by gender mainstreaming in the various educational Programs should be encouraged.
- c. Parental awareness through community mobilization packages should be increased.
- d. Scholarship Programme should be expanded for reducing parental burden and subsidizing opportunity costs.
- e. Provision should be made for additional resources for the educationally backward districts as identified by MOE and for the disadvantaged girls.

Disaggregated data on higher education need to be compiled on an annual basis based on gender, indigenous group, ethnic group, differently-abled people and Dalit issues.

Reference:

Literacy Watch Bulletin (2000 No. 15). Role of NGOs in Educational Development

Nepal ko antarim sambidhan, 2063. Kathmandu: Himali Prakasan

NPC, (2064). Three Year Interim Plan, (2064/65-2066/67). Kathmandu: Author.

⁷

MOE/DOE. (2008). Flash report I (2008). Bhaktapur. Author.

C. Women and Health

1. Prevalence of the Problem

The enjoyment of the highest standard of mental and physical health is the right of every Nepali woman. But socio-cultural values and gender discriminations undermine Nepali women's contribution to family, society and nation, and existing strategies and services to address women's health needs, availability and accessibility to health services are inadequate. A rights based approach towards women's health, whether in urban or rural areas is nonexistent.

The last fifteen years since the BPFA have seen significant changes in the health of Nepali women. Government and non-government organizations' (NGO) initiatives have brought about positive changes, and indicators show improvement in women's health status in specific areas, particularly reproductive health which occupies a primary place in government health policy. However, understanding of women's health is limited to reproductive health (RH) service providers, specific diseases and medicines.

Addressing women's health from a life cycle approach indicates women face most complications during adulthood. Personal health is not a priority for Nepali women. Socio-cultural and economic norms have instilled a practice focusing on curative rather than preventive measures. The prevalence of self-denying benevolence and the overload of household chores further aggravate women's health continually.

Family planning is a major component of the RH Programme. Comparative data from the Nepal Demographic Health Surveys (NDHS) over the last ten years indicates current use of modern contraception has increased from 26 per cent in 1996 to 44 per cent in 2006, due mainly to increased use of female sterilization, the pill, condoms and injectibles⁸. However, in family planning 25 per cent of currently married women in Nepal have an unmet need for family planning services, of which 9 per cent have a need for spacing and 15 per cent have a need for limiting.⁹

The Second Long Term Health Plan targets reduction of maternal mortality ratio (MMR) to 250/100,000 live births. The 2006 NDHS revealed drastic reduction of MMR from 539/100,000 live births in 1989-1995 to 281/100,000 live births, but MMR is grossly underestimated. Maternal mortality deaths occurring during the pregnancy period, still birth and abortion complications remain undetected. Even today less than two thirds of pregnant women have received two or more tetanus injections during their last pregnancy. Information is yet to reach all women. Government health centres have inadequate health service providers and frequent absence or transfer of health service providers continually aggravate conditions. Non women-friendly service providers and health centres exacerbate the situation.

UNFPA estimates there may be 600,000 women with uterine prolapse¹⁰. The NDHS 2006 reports significant variation by age group, with symptoms ranging from a low of 2 per cent among women under 20 years of age to 9 per cent among women 45-49 years. Embarrassment compels women to maintain silence, while lack of services and expenses deter service seeking behaviour.

Though domestic violence and marital rape have become punishable acts, mental and

⁸ 2006. Nepal Demographic and Health Survey (NDHS).

⁹ NDHS

¹⁰ UNFPA, 2006

physical health repercussions which violence brings to a woman's life are yet to be addressed. Service providers lack knowledge in identifying and supporting survivors.

Despite prioritization of HIV/AIDS and the development of the National Strategy for HIV/AIDS, women continue to be marginalized in accessing services. Care and support for HIV positive women, limited mainly to the capital city, lack funds. The NDHS 2006 indicates some 7 per cent of sexually active women had sexually transmitted infections (STI) and/or STI symptoms in the past 12 months of which only 42 per cent had sought advice or treatment from a health facility¹¹. But a vast majority of women do not access help for STI due to embarrassment, lack of services, lack of knowledge or funds.

Prevalence of iron deficiency anemia is common among women. A research in 1998 revealed nearly three-quarters of all women were anemic, and prevalence was especially high among pregnant women¹². Although recent data (2006) indicates improvements, a decline with two out of five pregnant women being anemic, efforts must be intensified.

Some aspects of women's health such as cervical cancer, breast cancer, tuberculosis, lung cancer, asthma, tobacco and alcohol consumption during pregnancy, menopause, osteoporosis are not even alluded to in national policies and strategies. Most women have little or no information about the preventive and curative measures for these.

2. Key Gains

Since its inception in 1997, the Safe Motherhood Programme has developed policies and protocols as well as expanded the roles of service providers such as staff nurses and Auxiliary Nurse Midwives in life saving skills¹³. The MMR has reduced to 281/100,000 live births in 2006¹⁴. The proportion of mothers receiving antenatal care (ANC) from Skilled Birth Attendants, has significantly improved over the past ten years increasing from 24 per cent in 1996 to 44 per cent in 2006. The percentage of women making four or more ANC visits during pregnancy has tripled during the past 10 years. The percentage of births taking place in health facilities has doubled in the past five years, with 168 Primary Health Care Centres currently running Birthing Units.

Malnutrition, in particular iron deficiency anemia, is showing signs of improvement. Government led training on deforming of pregnant women indicates one in five women is presently receiving deforming tablets during pregnancy to prevent pregnancy anemia.

The safe abortion law which came into effect in 2002 is a momentous gain. Safe abortion services are provided at service delivery points with surgical facilities located at district hospitals and some primary health care centres. Abortion is being practiced in different parts of the country. There is a general assumption the reduced MMR may partly be due to safe abortion practices.

Uterine prolapse, a hidden morbidity afflicting a large number of Nepali women has finally been acknowledged as a national concern. Although government initiative has only just begun since March 2009, the NGO sector has been providing services through mobile camps and health facilities. Exact figures on women who received services are uncertain, however services have been provided across the nation.

¹¹ 2006. NDHS.

¹² 1998. Ministry of Health

¹³ (2007/2008). Annual Report. Department of Health Services (2064/65). Ministry of Health and Population. Kathmandu.

¹⁴ 2006. Nepal Demographic and Health Services.

3. Key Government and NGO Initiatives

Policies on Safe Motherhood and Neonatal Health, coupled with collaborative and individual efforts of NGOs have brought significant improvements during the last decade in the area of safe motherhood. The government policy is set to ensure easy access to community people and has focused on maximum projects to be at district level. Recent initiatives include allowance for pregnant mothers who complete the fourth visit at maternity centers and fully utilize pre-maternity and post-maternity services, free transportation service for deliveries in government health facilities (initiated in 2005), and free delivery service in government facilities (since January 2009). NGOs have also been promoting Birthing Units at health facilities.

Following legalization of safe abortion, training of doctors in MVA has been the heart of government safe abortion services. The government has already trained 704 public and private doctors on MVA, and MVA services are available in 75 districts. Medical abortion has recently been piloted by government in 6 districts, with plans for expansion.

Despite uterine prolapse reported as a common problem the extent of women's suffering remained unknown in Nepal until 2005 when the Safe Motherhood Network Federation - a network of NGOs widely disseminated information on the problem. This prompted NGO and community based entities to further provide services at central and district level. The government has also allocated budget for uterine prolapse surgeries along with free transportation cost since this fiscal year 2008/2009. The Uterine Prolapse Guideline has been prepared and is currently being revised.

The government sector remains the major source of contraceptive methods providing methods to nearly four in five female users. Intra-uterine contraceptive device (IUCDs) services are made available in 68 districts and Norplant services in 64 districts. NGOs initiatives are significant in this area.

To address malnutrition the Iron Supplementation Programme by the Ministry of Health and Population (MoHP) was introduced across the nation, followed by a National Strategy for the Control of Anemia among Women and Children developed in 2002.

4. Gaps

Despite a number of laws, policies and guidelines, lack of effective implementation prevents women from accessing health services. Within the government sector, lack of timely budgetary dispatch at district level, absence or frequent transfer of health service providers, and non-availability of medicines results in mortality and morbidity. Focus of health plans and strategies remain narrow and limited to RH. Other significant areas of concern for women such as side effects of contraceptives, osteoporosis, breast cancer and cervical cancer, menopause and its side effects, depression and suicide are absent in national health plans and strategies.

Lack of understanding of health consequences ensuing from sexual and gender based violence (SGBV) is a grave drawback. Capacity building of health service providers to detect symptoms of SGBV is severely wanting. Women bear physical and mental consequences and are unable to share problems due to shame, family prestige and lack of understanding by health service providers.

The rate of depression and suicide among women is increasing in the country, particularly during and in the aftermath of insurgency. Attempts to access cure for mental illness is still considered a symptom of 'madness' by society at large. Many are ignorant of where

and how to access services, while others fear social stigma.

5. Emerging Issues

- a. The increasing number of migrant workers has also given rise to vulnerability to STI and HIV/AIDS. Both migrant women workers and spouses of male migrant workers are becoming a high risk group.
- b. Heavy household burden turns many women at grassroots level to smoking. Smoking as well as smoke from firewood is leading to tuberculosis, asthma and lung cancer.
- c. Depression and suicide, as a result of insurgency, domestic violence and menopause demand immediate focus. Need for psycho-social counseling is felt at various levels.

6. Key Recommendations

- a. The government and NGOs must work in close collaboration for effective and wide scale implementation of laws, policies and strategies prioritizing women's health. Public private partnerships must be promoted.
- b. A wide scale understanding among women, government, NGOs and health care providers on the right based approach is necessary for improved attitude, behaviour and services.
- c. Women's health demands wider coverage for critical concerns such as menopause, osteoporosis, mental health, breast and cervical cancer.
- d. Training of health care professionals on identifying and caring for mental and physical needs of SGBV survivors, availability of services and referrals must be promoted.
- e. Promotion of critical mass of women at all levels of the health sector, such as the Female Community Health Volunteers at grassroots level, is essential.
- f. Expenditure tracking of the health sector, with a gender focus, is recommended to monitor the qualitative and quantitative use of the health budget.
- g. Emergency funds, to be used for referral to health centres, must be created and mobilized in all women's groups.
- h. Health centres should be established at a distance of every three hours to cater to emergency obstetric care needs.
- i. There should be establishment of appropriate laws on the right of mothers and newborns to survive.
- j. Provisions of services must be available to enable women for timely identification and prevention of breast and cervical cancer.
- k. All forms of politicization within the health sector, with regards to promotion, transfers, selection in committees, must be removed.
- l. Specific Programme must be developed for women suffering from mental illness.
- m. There should be expansion of provisions and facilities within the health sector to address special needs of differently-abled women.
- n. There should be advocacy and awareness Programs on HIV/AIDS and STI testing facilities and confidentiality maintenance to reach out to housewives.

D. Violence against Women

1. Prevalence of the Problem

Violence against women is a global phenomenon. As a result of this violence, women encounter enormous social consequences and increased risk for both short- and long-term mental, sexual and reproductive health outcomes. Women often face the greatest risk of violence at home or in familiar settings, as perpetrators of violence against women are often well known to survivors^{151, 3}. The main factors attributed to increased susceptibility include: the subordinate status of women, socially determined differences in roles and responsibilities between women and men, and inequalities in terms of accessing resources and decision-making power⁽²⁻³⁾

The omnipresence of VAW across all communities, cultures, castes, classes, races and religions and in different forms and kinds points to its roots in patriarchy. Some common identified forms of VAW prevalent in Nepal are intimate partner violence, marital rape, polygamy, alcohol abuse violence, incest, dowry related violence, female infanticide, as well as other harmful cultural and traditional practices such as, child marriage, son preference, restriction on women's rights to choice of marriage and various inhuman codes of conducts for widows as well as practices of Deuce (dedicating girls to a god and goddess), Jhuma (in some communities, second sisters remain unmarried and spend their life in monasteries) and Badi (ethnic practice of prostitution among young girls). While at community level physical, sexual and psychological violence can be daily features. VAW also occurs while traveling in public transportations, at workplaces, schools, sports, clubs, colleges and hospitals. Different forms of VAW prevalent at community level are rape, sexual harassment, verbal abuse such as terms like "husband eater" and "inauspicious" used against widows, trafficking, and accusation of witchcraft, forced prostitution and others. Hence, VAW ranges from physical abuse to mental torture, sexual exploitation to economical violence and is committed by intimate partner to community people.

Besides, Nepal experienced a decade of conflict from 1996 through 2006, characterized by violence, suffering and unrest resulting in women's and girls' increased exposure and vulnerability to gender based violence (GBV). While the post-conflict recovery period remains unpredictable and unstable, giving rise to an environment in which sexual and domestic violence is at times tolerated. A research entitled Situational Analysis Of Gender-Based Violence in Surkhet and Dang Districts, 2008 carried out by SAATHI, WHR, UNFPA, and IRC revealed that 81 percent of women reported ever having faced domestic violence from their husbands. Similarly, 74 percent of women reported being forced by their husband to participate in non consensual sexual acts under threat multiple times.

The State commits VAW through its public policy and state agents. State agents include all people in authority, ranging from state organs, namely, legislative, executive and judiciary, to social security officials and security forces. The State may bring up policies which are humiliating and against national and international laws. A recent Nepali

¹World Health Organization. WHO Multi-country Study on Women's Health and Domestic Violence against Women: Initial Results on Prevalence, Health Outcomes and Women's Responses. World Health organization: Geneva; 2005.

²World Health Organization. Gender and Health in Disasters. World Health Organization: Geneva; Jul 2002.

³World Health Organization. Global Report on Violence and Health. World Health Organization: Geneva; Oct 2002

example is the 2009/2010 Budget of Government of Nepal (GoN) which makes provision of NRs. 50,000.00 to a couple where a widow is married; such a provision is against the principles of CEDAW and discriminates against the provisions in the Interim Constitution, 2007. The State may also commit VAW if adequate law and policies in favor of women are not adopted and implemented, and if perpetrators of VAW are not punished for inhumane acts. Nepal's government in its new definition of 'victims of violence' includes conflict victim, but women who faced abduction, illegal detention, gender and sexual violence such as rape and torture during conflict remain completely excluded. In relation to sexual violence there is a culture of silence and exacerbated by weak laws and impunity.

2. Key Gains

The 1991 Constitution of Nepal in Article 11 states that all citizens are equal before law, no person shall be denied equal participation and state shall not discriminate against any citizens in the application of general law on grounds of religion, race, sex, caste, tribe or ideology.

Article 20 of the Interim Constitution of Nepal states that "No woman shall be discriminated against in any way on the basis of gender. Every woman shall have the right to reproductive health and other reproductive rights. No physical, mental or other form of violence shall be inflicted on any woman, and such act shall be punishable by law. Sons and daughters shall have equal rights to ancestral property." Similarly, the Directive Principles and policy also provide guidelines to encourage the participation of female population in the task of national development by making special provisions for their education, health, employment and welfare.

The National Country Code in its Eleventh Amendment incorporated women's right to property, a conditional right to safe abortion, and an increase in minimum age of marriage.

The Gender Equality Act was passed in 2006. The act repealed and amended 56 discriminatory provisions of the various Acts and also incorporated some provisions to ensure women's rights. Some key provisions amended by the Act are provision of daughter requiring to return the share property upon marriage, provision of summons issued by court to be received by male family member as far as possible, provision of divorce in case of no children within 10 years of marriage. Further, the act established sexual violence as a punishable crime with varying years of imprisonment, depending on the age of the raped survivor.

While nearly after two decades of persistent struggles, lobbying and advocacy the year 2009 saw a historic achievement in the area of violence against women – the passage of Domestic Violence Legislation which established violence against women as a punishable crime.

National Women's Commission was established in 2002 to act as an independent legislative body to monitor the implementation of women's rights as per the CEDAW and other international human rights instruments.

Nepal signed the Convention on Preventing and Combating trafficking in women and children for prostitution and the Convention on Regional Arrangements for the promotion of welfare of children during the 11th SAARC Convention in January 2002. Furthermore, the fact that Nepal has signed 24 major international conventions has created space for regional and international communities to pressurize the government for ensuring security

and protection of women from any form of violence.

3. Key Government/NGO Initiatives

VAW, especially domestic violence, became an area for intervention in Nepal only after the Beijing conference. Prior to this very few organizations were working on the issue. Over the years the government has taken initiatives to address VAW. At policy level, the Sixth Five-year Plan (1980-1985) made provisions to enhance women's participation in the development process; the Tenth Five Year Plan included gender and human rights as crosscutting and sectoral issues; Gender Focal Points have been established in sectoral Ministries; and Task Forces have been established at central and district levels to check trafficking. The GoN also adopted the policy of representation of 33 per cent women in different government and political sector. The GoN reaffirmed its commitments by signing Convention on Elimination of All forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW).

Programmatically, the Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare conducted gender assessment studies and gender budget audits. The Nepal Police established Women's Cells for investigation of women and children issues in all 75 districts. Statistical information on gender-related Programs and women's contribution to household activities are also being recorded in the national accounts.

It is after the Beijing Conference that many non government organisations (NGOs) started work in the area of women's empowerment. They adopted VAW as a focus area, with an aim of combating trafficking, addressing the marginalized sector even within women themselves, and promoting health and education of women and girls along with their empowerment.

Currently NGOs are working on domestic violence, trafficking of women and girls, girl child's rights, single women (widows) rights, capacity building of government and NGOs through gender advocacy and empowerment, research and media mobilization. The activities undertaken are wide ranging some of which include lobbying for policy changes, shelters for victims of sexual and domestic violence and trafficking, transit homes, rehabilitation centers, hospices for HIV positive women, psycho-social and legal counseling, capacity building of media and other human resources, and action researches.

Recently, National Network against Domestic Violence has been formed, which initially held a series of advocacy programs to pressurize the government for the passage of domestic violence bill while now the network is actively working towards education and effective implementation of the Domestic Violence Act.

4. Gaps

The government of Nepal has ratified many international and regional conventions but there is no monitoring and evaluation on whether these are implemented at national level. The political will for enforcement of law is lacking. Although a few Programs on VAW have been initiated they are not continued for long due to poor funding. Coordination among donor agencies and civil society to work jointly for the issues is lacking and there is duplication of Programs. Various reasons such as geographical inaccessibility, lack of will, corruption, lack of fund also prevent Programs from reaching target groups at grassroots level. The GoN is also unable to launch employment package to make these women economically independent which would reduce VAW to certain extent. Among

NGOs they are mostly supporting for awareness, but immediate relief and the rise of demand for support services is inadequate due to financial and technical constraints.

Remedies for VAW face challenges of inadequate and improper legislation, lack of immediate relief for victim support, incapability of police cells, especially women cell to handle issues at district level, and cultural and religious factors which perpetrate violence. Some major challenges are lack of awareness, inappropriate laws such as discriminatory compensation policies, lack of proper medical format, and insensitive prosecution and judicial processes for ensuring justice to survivors. During the conflict women have been violated physically, sexually and mentally but the GoN has not been able to develop concrete Programs to support them. Widowhood, though a natural phenomenon, has deep rooted stigma related to cultural, religious and social contexts. The violence and discrimination faced by single women (widows) is extreme both in private and public spheres while government, donor communities and civil society are yet to be sensitized on this issue.

5. Key Recommendations

- a. Establishment of a holistic support program including shelter, food, medical, psychological, legal services along with life skills and livelihood trainings and employment opportunities for survivors of violence as well as emergency support system for vulnerable women in coordination with NGOs who have already been operating some of these services particularly related to shelter services.
- b. Mass awareness of VAW, existing legislations and its implementation various awareness raising programs at grassroots, district and national levels with special focus on engaging men and boys.
- c. Formation of a High Level Commission on VAW for documenting cases of VAW and to support survivors.
- d. Ending the culture of impunity through strengthened rule of law and effective implementation of national and international legal and human rights instruments in line with the CEDAW convention.

E. Women and Armed Conflict

1. Prevalence of the Problem

The 4th World Conference on Women held in Beijing in 1995 passed 12 Critical Areas of Concern on women's issues. At that time, unlike in other countries 'women and armed conflict' was not a priority issue for Nepal. But within 15 years of the Beijing review process, the topic has gained high priority in the country, with close linkages with violence against women, health, economy, decision making process, girl child, human rights, media, education and poverty.

During the decade-long internal armed conflict between the Government and the Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist), more than 13 thousand people lost their lives. Between 100,000 to 200,000 people were displaced, more than 4,000 women lost their husbands, and hundreds of women were forced to face sexual violence during that period. During this period women were raped by the parties in conflict. As victims of rape some women committed suicide, while many others were forced to care for their children, born from the rape cases, all alone.

During the 10 years of conflict, serious human rights violations occurred. Hundreds of people were abducted and tortured in custody, while many were taken from custody and killed in the name of encounters. Rebel groups abducted and tortured people from the villages, maiming them by chopping off their legs, arms and other body parts. Rebel groups killed people they accused of being informants. Women were raped and killed during encounters and close to the barracks. Even now there are more than 1000 people who have involuntarily disappeared.

The conflict also brought about massive infrastructural damages. Of the 3,915 Village Development Committees (VDCs) more than 1,772 VDC buildings were destroyed by the conflict. Some 2,646 development infrastructures were damaged. They are all yet to be reconstructed and restored, despite three years having passed since the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA). Many internally displaced people many of whom are women have not been able to return to their homes. Thousands of people are undergoing mental distress and physical torture, and the number of people with disabilities has increased due to armed violence and torture.

Following the signing of the CPA in November 2006, the Interim Constitution was promulgated in 2007 and the election to the long-cherished Constituent Assembly was also held according to the provision of Article 63 and 64. Despite these processes numerous hurdles have come up in the way of the peace process in the country. When the Maoists participated in the CPA, the ex-combatants were confined in the cantonments. However, the number of splinter armed groups has increased in Terai and other parts of the country. Currently, there are more than 140 armed groups demanding ethnic, religious and regional rights and autonomy. Many of them are involved in terrorizing, abducting, kidnapping and killing people for vested interests. Some of these groups are also violating people's non-negotiable rights, including rape and murder of women. According to 2008 Human Rights report of INSEC, some 200 women were raped in 2008 in the Terai region alone. Illicit arms are also proliferating in the country and most of the violent cases - which are increasing in Terai, are gun related violence. including

The increasing use of arms has given rise to domestic violence, resulting in psycho-social problems among affected women. Perpetrators are moving freely in their territories. Due to the transition period prosecution mechanisms are weak and the law enforcement

agencies are losing credit before the people. Violence towards women and children has increased since the beginning of the armed conflict and remains persistent even in the post conflict period. It has even given rise to human trafficking and sexual violence.

Although the Ministry of Peace and Reconstruction was formed after the signing of the CPA, it has done little to provide justice to the conflict victims and survivors. Victims' basic survival needs have remained unfulfilled. Conflict victims are dissatisfied with donors who merely collect information, but fail to address victims' need for livelihood and justice.

2. Key Gains

- a. The signing of the CPA and arms management are important gains. As a result the Interim Constitution was developed and the Constituent Assembly also came about.
- b. Article 7.6 of CPA states, "All forms of sexual exploitations and ill behaviors against women and girls, including the women and child laborers, which are against international and national laws, will be restricted; Young children below 18 years will not be used in the army and conflict affected children will be rescued as soon as possible".
- c. Establishment of the Ministry of Peace and Reconstruction and establishment of Local Peace Committees in the districts with 33% women's participation.
- d. Adoption of the National IDP Policy and initiatives for compensation scheme to the internally displaced, as well as integration management for ex-combatants has been initiated.
- e. Seven different transition related commissions such as the Commission on Disappearance, Truth and Reconciliation, State Restructuring, etc. are in the process of formation.

3. Key Government and NGOs Initiatives

Government Initiatives:

- a. The GoN has taken the initiative to develop the plan of action for implementing UNSCR 1325 and UNSCR 1820 and has formed a high level committee involving representatives of women's groups.
- b. Training of trainers has been provided to government officials on UNSCR 1325 and UNSCR 1820.
- c. The GoN has established Local Peace Committees in all districts and has also developed the policy for the 33 per cent inclusion of women in all committees.
- d. The GoN is in the process of establishing the Disappearance Commission and compensation system to the internally displaced persons.
- e. Process has been developed for the integration/adjustment of the ex-combatants.

NGO Initiatives:

- a. A Women's Peace Coalition called Shantimalika was established in 2004. A number of other peace coalitions have also been formed and are putting pressure on conflicting parties and GoN to include women agendas in the peace

agreement and involve women in all kinds of decision making processes for instituting peace.

- b. Some NGOs are engaged in educating about 1325 at grassroots level and are also supporting IDPs to return to their own communities.
- c. A National Women's Security Network has been formed to involve more women in security policy and to monitor security related violence.
- d. Some NGOs are providing shelter and psychosocial counseling to conflict victims and training and jobs to displaced youths.
- e. NGOs are conducting training on UNSCR 1325 to government, security officials, and commission staff to help develop the government action plan in 1325/1820.

4. Emerging Issues

- a. The National Action Plan for UNSCR 1325 and 1820 should have indicators to address violence against women due to arms uses, and must address cases during conflict and post conflict.
- b. National and international laws have to address cases of domestic violence and rape cases brought on by illicit proliferation of small arms in the country.
- c. Conflict induced IDPs, especially women and children, need to be treated distinctly with due attention to their specific needs and priorities.
- d. It is vital to address women related sexual violence from the beginning of peace process and as part of the cease fire agreement.
- e. Special attention must be given for the recovery of children of conflict, i.e., those born from rape and sexual abuses inside and around the Maoists ex-combatant's camps. Such cases need to be addressed since the beginning of the peace dialogues.

5. Gaps

- a. Nepali women have yet to be assembled in one forum for implementing peace initiatives collectively.
- b. Gender disaggregated data on male and female victims of conflict and the dead are yet to be prepared. Among women also there is lack of information according to caste, class and gender.
- c. There is a lack of strong movement in the country to control arms and highlight international laws related to arms.
- d. Patriarchal thinking and socio-cultural practices still prevail within parties and their leaders. Consequently, they fail to understand the real connection and need of women and security in the country.
- e. Women's issues continue to be neglected in the Nepali peace process.
- f. Women are excluded from major decisions related to peace.
- g. Prevalence of culture of silence, weak law, impunity and lack of data has deprived women from acquiring justice.

6. Key recommendations:

- a. Peace education should be included in the curricula in schools and colleges of Nepal to bring about disciplined children and to ensure that national systems and laws are followed.
- b. All peace negotiations and peace building processes, including structural conflict resolution processes should have at least 33 per cent women in the committees.
- c. Segregated data on murders, kidnappings, tortures, abductions, and all forms of violence of conflict need to be maintained.
- d. Monitoring of UNSCR 1325/1820 for ensuring its proper implementation and for ending impunity is strongly recommended.
- e. Need to develop, within the peace agreement, cases of women's rights violation for both conflict and post conflict period. The violence brought on by arms and its impact on women also needs to be addressed.
- f. Shelter and training Programs for women victims of conflict including sexual violence must be provided by the government.
- g. Need to ensure the security and protection of ex women combatants and their children living in cantonments. Integration process must be urgently initiated.
- h. The parliament must pass laws to address the needs of individuals who have taken loan from banks, but died in conflict. Banks must assess such cases and provide the family release paper to spare them the financial burden.

F. Women and the Economy

1. Prevalence of the Problem

Nepal is trying to achieve the goal of poverty reduction and food security through its planned development efforts, constitutional provisions, legal reforms and affirmative actions. The 2007 Interim Constitution of Nepal has declared the right to property, employment and food-sovereignty, as some of the fundamental rights of women and men. Nepal has also committed itself to different national and international women's human rights related Conventions and Declarations¹⁶ which ensure the rights of access to resources, knowledge and opportunities for all. In spite of these, numerous challenges persist, especially for the poor and disadvantaged women, which prevent the enjoyment of rights in reality.

- a. **Ownership of economic resources (land and property):** According to the 2001 Census of all households, women's ownership of land, house and livestock was 10.83, 5.5 and 7.2 per cent respectively. The 2001 Census also revealed that 83 per cent of households had no female ownership of land, house and livestock at all. With regards to property ownership, the September 2002 Eleventh Amendments to the 1963 Country Code of Nepal, made several provisions to secure women's economic rights¹⁷. However, even after the amendment, daughters have to return their share of property to their natal households after marriage.
- b. **Lower access to credit, technologies, and marketing know-how:** For a long time the government has been trying to cater to the credit needs of women through different micro-credit programs¹⁸ and establishment of Rural Development Banks. But women's access to institutional credit from banks and financial institutions in 2004 was only 1.7 per cent¹⁹. Similarly, women's access to agricultural technologies, skills and marketing know-how remains very low²⁰. Most technologies introduced in the agriculture sector are not women-friendly.
- c. **Increasing female headed households (FHHs):** In recent years male migration in search of work, from rural to urban areas and from one country to another has been on the rise, resulting in the increase in proportion of FHHs. The 2009 Nepal Labor Force Survey (NLFS) reports that the proportion of FHH in 2008 was 22 per cent, in contrast to 14 per cent in 1998/99²¹. However, on average FHHs have only 0.50 ha of farmland compared to 0.78 ha for male-headed households²².
- d. **Increasing work burden of women:** In addition to women's productive, reproductive and community roles, in recent years it is felt that women's participation is needed at local and national level planning, resource allocation and decision-making processes. A provision of at least 33 per cent representation of women at all levels of planning process including those in committees, boards has been made mandatory (Three Year Interim Plan, 2007). However, no reallocation

¹⁶ CEDAW, BPFA, EFA, MDGs and the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness 2005.

¹⁷ UNFPA (2007) Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women - An Update, UNFPA, 2007

¹⁸ Production Credit for Rural Women (PCRW), Micro Credit Programmeme for Women (MCPW) and Women's Jagriti Programmeme

¹⁹ UNFPA (2007) Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women- An Update.

²⁰ South Asia Watch on Trade, Economics and Environment (2005), WTO Membership and Nepalese Women

²¹ Given the definitional problem or the perceived definition of household head

²² UNFPA (2007) Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women- An Update.

or redistribution of work for men has been made. Household chores are still exclusively considered as women's responsibility, and without reorganization women are getting overburdened.

- e. **High concentration of women in the care economy:** A substantial proportion of women are confined to household work due to social and reproductive factors. In 2001, women constituted almost 95 per cent²³ of the total homemakers. In this regard, the NLFS 1999 reported that women contribute 84 per cent of the total household care time; for rural women it is much higher.
- f. **Feminization of agriculture and employment gap:** Pre-dominance of subsistence agriculture, lack of agriculture credit especially to poor women, lack of technical know-how and increasing men's and especially youth migration are causing feminization of agriculture in Nepal. Of the total employed or economically active population, 76 per cent of women and 60 per cent of men were working in agriculture sectors in 2001,²⁴ whereas only 24 per cent of women were working in non-agriculture sectors.
- g. **Wage differentials:** Gender differences in daily wages exist both in agriculture as well as in non-agriculture sectors. In the agricultural sector, male wage earners receive 26 per cent more than women (NLFS, 2009). In non-agriculture sector, difference in wage rates between men and women is even higher. Women are paid 69 per cent of their male counterpart for the same work and the same number of hours²⁵.
- h. **Climate changes and declining agriculture production:** Due to the global climate change and traditional monsoon based agriculture system in Nepal, its production is declining and thus strategically affecting women's lives on their sustainable livelihood generation²⁶.
- i. **Rising prices:** In FY 2004/05 the annual inflation based on consumer price index was 4.5 per cent whereas in 2008/09 it is 13.8 per cent²⁷. Since women are primarily responsible for the supply of food and other basic needs, the ultimate burden of such increasing prices falls on women and affects her daily food supply and calorie intake.

2. Key Gains

Constitutional provisions and legal reforms: In order to eliminate gender based discrimination and secure women's rights to property, the 2007 Interim Constitution of Nepal, for the first time has provisioned:

- Equal rights of daughters and sons in parental inheritance, and
- Non discrimination specifically on the basis of one's gender

The 2063 Gender Equality Act, passed by the Interim Parliament in 2007 has declared to end all discriminatory laws and regulations against women. Provisions have enabled

²³ (Acharya, 2003 cited by UNFPA, 2007)

²⁴ Acharya Meena (2008) MAPPING FOREIGN AID IN NEPAL FROM GENDER PERSPECTIVE, "EC/UN Partnership on Gender Equality for Development and Peace" (A Case Study, Nepal) submitted by SAHAVAGI to UNIFEM, Kathmandu.

²⁵ Central Bureau of Statistics, 2006

²⁶ Agriculture contributes one third of the GDP in Nepal and it supports livelihoods for 79 percent farm households (ADB study, 2009).

²⁷ Ministry of Finance GoN (2009) ECONOMIC SURVEY FISCAL YEAR 2008/09

separated daughters, married women or the widowed to use their share of property as per their wish.

Following the declaration of the 1995 Beijing Conference, the Central Bank of Nepal passed Financial Intermediary Act and conducted saving-credit mobilization and micro-credit programs for women to promote self-reliance among 200,000 women through different non-government organizations.

Planned effort: The GoN, especially since its Ninth Five Year Plan, is trying to address women's poverty and enhance socio-economic aspects of women. Various Programs addressing the practical as well as strategic needs and concerns of women have been implemented. Some relief oriented Programs like old-age allowance and widow allowance for single women of more than 60 years were implemented.

The current Three Year Interim Plan (TYIP 2007-2010) has continued the long-term goal of poverty reduction through gender mainstreaming and social inclusion. Strategies undertaken are:

- Employment-oriented, pro-poor and broad-based economic growth increasing employment opportunities for women, Dalits, Janjatis, Madheshis, etc.
- Good governance and effective service delivery
- Increased investment in infrastructure development, etc.

a. Accordingly the TYIP policies are:

- Engendering of macro economic frameworks and the government mechanisms.
- Increased participation of women in all walks of national life.
- Institutionalization of gender analysis and gender sensitive budgeting process, and
- Special measures to socially and economically empower single women.

b. The quantitative targets fixed are:

- The gender development index: 0.556.
- Gender empowerment measure: 0.450.
- Women representation in policy-making bodies: 33.0 per cent.
- At least 10 per cent of national budget shall be spent on women's empowerment related programs.

c. Gender Responsive Budgeting (GRB): GRB was officially introduced in Nepal by the GoN/MoF in FY 2007/08. Since then, government budget of all ministries, commissions and committees are categorized under directly gender responsive, indirectly responsive and neutral. Gender responsive classification of the total budget of last three FY is as follows:

Gender responsive classification of national budget (2007/08-2009-10)

GRB Classification	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10
Directly Responsive	11.3	13.9	17.3
Indirectly Responsive	33.2	35.4	36.4
Neutral	55.5	50.6	46.3
Over all	100.0	100.0	100.0

Sources: Acharya, 2009 and MoF/GoN, 2009

However, there are several challenges in the GRB operationalization. Various clarities still remain in methods and process of GRB calculations.

Mapping foreign aid effectiveness in terms of gender equality: Foreign aid effectiveness is becoming an agenda of gender equality since the 2005 Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness, of which Nepal is a signatory. In 2008, a mapping study²⁸ assessed the contribution of foreign aid on gender equality and concluded that despite national policies, the commitment to allocate financial resources for gender equality goals (around 7% of total foreign aid) had not been adequately met. Therefore the GRB, through its effective implementation will be an important tool to ensure gender equality in foreign assistance.

3. Emerging Issues

Migrant women workers: In recent years, women are increasingly crossing household boundaries in search of employment opportunities. In 2001, of the total remittance contributors, around 11 per cent were women. Study also shows that women's remittance directly contributes towards household poverty reduction²⁹. However, there is lack of official statistics about the number of women migrating from formal and informal channels and their problems and challenges.

Women in informal sector economy: Globalization worldwide has brought many Nepali women into the labour force. However, most of them are concentrated in low paying, insecure and non-regulated informal sectors. Studies on problems and prospects of women informal workers, including those of street vendors are lacking in Nepal. The NLFS 2009 reports that around 2,142,000 people aged 15 years and over are currently employed in the non-agricultural informal sector. Of these, 31.1 per cent are men and 26.1 per cent are women.

Globalization and its by-product: Spreading consumerism: In Nepal, with liberalization, global consumerism is spreading rapidly. It is affecting Nepali consumption pattern (eating habits, clothing patterns), life style and even thinking and behaviour of people (both women and men), which is negatively affecting the Nepali economy, culture and environment.

Underutilized population: The 2009 NLFS recently reported that around 30 per cent of the total Nepali population aged 15 years and above is underutilized, of which 38.2 per cent are men and 22.8 per cent are women. However, it needs to be explored whether they are currently studying, seeking jobs, disguised in the agricultural sector or doing nothing.

²⁸ By Dr. Meena Acharya, in collaboration with GRBC/MoF, UNIFEM Kathmandu, EC/UN and ITC/ILO.

²⁹ Bhadra, C. (2007) International Labor Migration of Nepalese Women: The Impact of their Remittances on Poverty Reduction. Kathmandu.

Issues relating to home based workers: In urban areas women's involvement in home-based work, especially in textile, garment, carpet, toys and handicraft industries and other small income generating activities are increasing. Due to expansion of e-markets, urban educated and semi-educated/skilled women are also serving as home based workers. However, their actual statistics including their problems, prospects and the contribution in GDP are invisible.

4. NGO Initiatives

- a. A wide range of non government organizations are working for women's right to property and economic empowerment of women and single women. National level NGOs as well as district and community based NGOs and CBOs are pushing the women's movement for women's rights.
- b. Various UN agencies especially UNIFEM, UNFPA and UNDP are addressing issues related to women and economy, especially, disaggregating data from gender perspectives; commencing gender budget audit of sectoral ministries and initiating gender responsive budgeting; mapping foreign aid from gender equality perspectives; and organizing women informal workers as well as urban home based workers.

5. Recommendations

- a. Institutionalization of GRB at all levels is strongly urged. The TYIP provision that all development projects involving more than NRs.50 million should have a gender audit report must be strictly followed. Capacity building of the Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare, Gender Focal Points, planning and budgeting section of the government ministries, departments and implementing authorities should be appropriately made by equipping them with human, physical and technical resources and authority.
- b. Women's entrepreneurship development through increased as well as easy access to institutional credit, technical know-how and marketing facilities must be promoted. Despite various Nepali financial institutions (Rural Development Bank, World Bank funded Poverty Alleviation Fund) providing loan to poor women on group guarantee basis, reports of financial institutions demanding the signature of husband restrict women from starting a new enterprise on her own. Such barriers must be removed for effective implementation.
- c. Gender disaggregated data and other relevant information, especially about migrant women workers, informal and home based workers must be collected and published periodically for the visibility and recognition of their work and further policy implications.
- d. National level policy and planning initiatives for reallocation and/or redistribution of household work between women and men is essential. Economic valuation of women's household work is recommended.
- e. Government must take actions to mitigate the impact of declining agriculture production, rising prices and spreading global consumerism on women.
- f. Capacity enhancement and economic empowerment of single, disabled, marginalized, displaced, conflict affected and vulnerable women, including those of third sex and homosexual women is fundamental.

G. Women in Power and Decision Making

1. Prevalence of the Problem

The socio-economic and political empowerment indicator of women in Nepal is very much measured by the proportion of representation in local and national government. The amount of women in the House of Representatives was 3.4 per cent in 1991 and 5.8 per cent in 1999. But it has taken a dramatic leap in 2008 reaching about 33 per cent in the Constituent Assembly (CA). Besides the increase in the number of women, social inclusiveness in the representation has been another important feature in CA.

Gender empowerment is one of the main agendas of Poverty Alleviation Strategy Paper / Tenth Five Year Plan of Nepal. As stated in the paper, it requires total transformation of the traditional welfare approach in development. The Tenth Plan aimed to place at least 20 per cent of women in decision making positions across the sectors which have again been accomplished by government's decision to have at least two thirds representation of women in all sectors and levels of governance.

However, this sector has two important dimensions: 1) Quantitative and 2) Qualitative. The qualitative dimension relates to the capacity of women in terms of position, respect, dignity and level of assertion capacity to exercise their right as well as the enabling climate for it. Even though there has been some numerical improvement in the quantitative dimension as result of the affirmative action/positive discrimination, the overall participation of women in decision making and powerful positions is still very low.

The Interim Constitution of Nepal, 2007 articulates the following provisions:

- No room for gender based discrimination
- The state will promote, conserve and develop women's rights through legal provisions.
- Proportional and Inclusive Representation in all sector and levels of governance.
- Inclusive and Proportional Representation of women even in the executive levels of the political parties.

In addition, there are already existing international treaties, laws and conventions regarding women's empowerment and participation in decision making, e.g. Universal Declaration of Human Rights-1948, CEDAW-1979, BPFA-1995, UNSCR 1325, UNSCR 1820, etc. In spite of it all the following problems prevail:

- a. Women in governance (both in number and position), at all levels and sectors in terms of representation and participation is still very low in comparison with men.
- b. Even the best performance ratio in CA, women are only 197 out of total 601 members.
- c. In the judiciary, there are very few women figures who only serve as a token of representation.
- d. Women's participation in civil service is a highly ignored sector.
- e. Women in local governance could never exceed more than 18 per cent representation.
- f. Women's participation within the political parties is still very low. If we see

women's position in their party governance, especially at policy making and executive level women's participation is almost negligible.

2. Key Government and NGO Initiatives

Since the 1995 Beijing Conference a number of women focused Programs and policies have occurred. These have played key roles in promoting women in decision making roles and within institutional mechanisms. Some of these are:

- a. Establishment of Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare in 1995/1996
- b. National Plan of Action for Women's Equality and Empowerment in 1997
- c. Establishment of National Women's Commission in 2002
- d. Formation of Gender Budgeting Committee
- e. Commitment for 33 per cent women's representation and participation at all levels and sectors of governance
- f. Affirmative action policy to achieve inclusive and proportional representation in civil service
- g. Provision of "Women's Rights as Fundamental Rights" in the Constitution.
- h. Women's right to inherit property
- i. Provision for obtaining citizenship through mother
- j. Domestic Violence Act passed in 2009
- k. Gender Mainstreaming Strategy of Ministry of General Administration, 2007
- l. Increased access and participation of women in higher education through Gender Mainstreaming Strategy of Ministry of Education
- m. Action taken to ensure women's right to land
- n. Provisions for women in "Sainik Ain" (Military Act) regarding their access and enabling environment
- o. Amendment of 'Policies Regulation' to ensure women's access and 20 per cent quota for women
- p. Almost 33 per cent representation of women in Constituent Assembly
- q. Increasing priority and place for women's empowerment, gender mainstreaming and gender equality in periodical National Plans.

3. Gaps

- a. Despite a number of initiatives and provisions made by the government through process and plans in different ministries and departments, the resource available for the purpose is either very poor or even the resources allocated is not properly used. This demonstrates the very poor performance and low priority of the government towards the empowerment of women and gender equality. It can be articulated as weak political will or commitment.
- b. Every development indicator has been affected by the unstable political situation. This sector also does not remain untouched.
- c. In the name of 'women's participation and empowerment' more emphasis is being

placed in quantitative indicators than qualitative performance. Therefore, the number count is overriding the quality of representation and participation.

4. Recommendations

- a. Ensure women's quality participation, representation and leadership in all state machineries. Focus must be on emphasizing substantive equality and equality in results, rather than just parity in numbers.
- b. Develop gender mainstreaming as a culture. Gender budgeting and gender auditing must be continued as regular working norms. Capacity building efforts for gender planning, implementing and auditing also must be continued.
- c. Initiation of a “Shadow Constituent Assembly/Shadow Parliament” for women's equality and rights will further promote women’s leadership
- d. Ensure proportional representation and participation of women in the peace process in the context of post conflict and transitional period

H. Institutional Mechanism for Advancement of Women

1. Prevalence of the Problem

Significant changes have occurred in the political scenario in Nepal post Beijing +10. The decade long conflict ended and a democratic process of building a new Nepal began upon signing of the comprehensive peace agreement (CPA) between the Maoist and the seven political parties in November 2006. This political transformation created opportunities for establishing post conflict mechanisms to promote peace and development such as the Constituent Assembly (CA) in 2008, Ministry of Peace and Reconstruction (MoPR) in 2007, and the National Peace Committee and the Local Peace Committees (LPCs) in 2009. In addition there are preparations for forming new bodies such as the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) and the Disappearance Commission.

While institutional mechanisms were established to promote gender equality such as the Ministry of Women Children and Social Welfare (MWCSW) in 1995, the National Women's Commission (NWC) in 2003, the gender units within sectoral ministries in 1995, women cell in Police, Office of National Rapporteur in the National Human Rights Commission 2002, the new institutions established are equally important for women's advancement. Unfortunately, prevalent problems with regard to institutional mechanisms have posed serious challenges for effective functioning of these institutions. Some key problems are:

- a. **Lack of Gender Expertise:** Despite noteworthy initiatives in establishing mechanisms for women's advancement, effectiveness of these mechanisms is poor due to a serious lack on gender expertise in these mechanisms. Consequently promoting gender sensitive policies, laws and Programs are ineffective. Gender focal persons (GFP) in sectoral bodies of the government often lack gender background or understanding, and also have other primary responsibilities. The NWC³⁰, formed as a monitoring and advisory body to oversee implementation of policies and legislations and provide recommendations lacks technical expertise on gender preventing it from fulfilling its responsibilities. Furthermore, commissioners are politically appointed without any consideration of their gender experience or background.
- b. **Inadequate Human Resource:** These mechanisms are given tremendous responsibilities, but lack the required human resources. The MWCSW does not only have responsibility for women, children and social welfare, but also people with disabilities and senior citizens. The Women Development Offices (WDO) in the 75 districts are unable to reach all the village development committees (VDCs) they are required to service. Data shows that only 50 per cent VDCs are covered by each WDO office as some 6-8 staff is required to cover 200,000-300,000 district population.
- c. **Lack of Adequate Budget:** Budget allocations for institutions targeting women are very low. The budget for WDO is approximately between 15-35 lakh rupees. Approximately 20 per cent of the budget for WDO offices is spent on Programme while 80 per cent goes on administrative cost. The ceiling given by National Planning Commission for budget formation does not allow a budget to cover all of VDCs in the district.

³⁰ The NWC is an autonomous body formed under the National Women Act, 2007.

- d. **Non Gender Friendly Policies and Plans of Other Sectoral Bodies:** Policies and plans developed by sectoral bodies lack gender sensitivity. There is also a general lack of political will within sectoral bodies to address gender concerns. The MWCSW or the NWC are yet to provide substantial expertise in policy formulations. The GFPs in sectoral bodies are also unable to promote gender sensitivity due to their own lack of gender expertise. Furthermore, GFPs are not in a position to give influential suggestions or advice.
- e. **Lack of Implementation of Plans and Policies:** Although the Plan of Action to implement CEDAW, BPFA is in place, many discriminatory laws have been eliminated, and gender sensitive laws in the area of property right, health and violence against women been established, however, these policies and legislations are yet to be implemented to bring changes in the lives of women.
- f. **Verbal Commitment vs. Action:** The CPA incorporates provisions for the formation of the TRC and the Disappearance Commission. However, these Commissions are yet to be formed even though more than three years have passed since the plan was made public in 2006. Concrete efforts to look into past violence are absent, and the disappeared and their families are yet to receive justice. Rampant violence and insecurity have further given rise to impunity in the country.
- g. **Absence of Mechanism to Provide Direct Relief to Victims:** There is a lack of mechanism to provide immediate relief for victims of violence, with the exception of some provided by NGOs. The government has plans to establish shelter homes for victims of human trafficking and domestic violence, however, past experiences reveal such announcements take a long time to materialize. Hotline and counseling services which can provide immediate relief to victims are yet to be available at grassroots level.

2. Key Gains

- a. Some 17.5 per cent of national budget is gender responsive.
- b. There is a 33 per cent representation of women in CA, inclusive of women representatives from disadvantaged groups.
- c. Women's right to property, right to health and right against discrimination is included in the Interim Constitution, 2007.³¹
- d. The Domestic Violence Act, 2009 has been recently passed.³²

3. Key Government and NGO Initiatives

- a. **Establishment of the Gender Responsive Budget Committee, 2005:** The Gender Responsive Budget Committee (GRBC)³³, with the role of promoting gender responsive budget, was established in 2005 under the Ministry of Finance (MOF). The GRBC has developed indicators based on which budgets are developed and marked as directly gender responsive, indirectly gender responsive and neutral. As a result there is an increasing trend of developing budgets that are gender sensitive.

³¹ Article 20 of the Interim Constitution, 2007.

³² The Act on Domestic Violence was passed on May 2009.

³³ The Committee is comprised of Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare and UNIFEM.

- b. **Formation of Policies and Legislations: Interim Plan 2008-2011:** Both from the government and NGO's initiatives many legislations such as the Gender Equality Act 2006, Human Trafficking Act 2009, and Domestic Violence act 2009, has been passed. The Interim Plan is also in place that provides addressing of women's issues to ensure their socioeconomic and legal rights.
- c. **National Plan of Action (NPA) on UNSCR 1325 and UNSCR 1820, 2009:** The MOPR has taken a lead to prepare a National Plan of Action (NPA) on UNSCR 1325 and UNSCR 1820. A framework for the resolutions has been developed and key stakeholders consulted on the process to be adopted to develop the NPA. The NPA will be crucial in advancing women's representation in decision making in conflict prevention and resolution, as well as addressing sexual and gender based violence aggravated by conflict.
- d. **Interim Constitution 2007:** The Interim Constitution 2007 is in place providing for many constitutional bodies.
- e. **Formation of CA 2008, Committees 2008, Women's Caucus 2009 and the Parliamentary Committee on Women, Children and Social Welfare 2009:** Nepal also saw a historical gain in 2008 post CA election that ensured 33 per cent women's representation in CA, which is not only the first time in Nepal but also in the history of South Asia. The CA, a body of 601 elected members, was formed in May 2008 to draft a new Constitution for Republic Nepal. The new Constitution, to be drafted by May 2010, is expected to be an inclusive constitution promoting an equal and just framework for Nepali citizens.

With regard to international instruments, there is a general lack of understanding among government personnel and parliamentarians on the commitments made under international instruments and obligations. The UNSCR 1325 is a relevant document to implement during the conflict and post conflict time in Nepal. However, there was a very late awakening to the understanding and existence of UNSCR 1325 and the country's obligation towards it.

The Women's Caucus, established in January 2009 within the Parliament is an informal mechanism which aims to promote gender sensitive policies and legislations. The Regulation of Women's Caucus has been passed in 2009. A working committee and an executive committee have been established under it and the executive committee is further divided into three sub committees which are 1) Violence against women, 2) Constitutional Committee, and 3) Legislative Parliament. But the Women's Caucus faces institutional challenges for though office space is provided within the legislative parliament, the office is yet to be equipped with necessary logistics such as computers or internet access.

- f. **Formation of MOPR 2007, National Peace Committee 2009 and LPCs 2009:** Ministry of Peace and Reconstruction was established in 2007 with the objective of promoting sustainable peace, and addressing the aftermath of conflict through reconstruction efforts. The Ministry is responsible for providing relief and reparation to conflict victims in addition to leading transitional justice efforts and national plan of action on UNSCR 1325 and UNSCR 1820.

Local Peace Committees are district level bodies formed under MOPR. This is a local level mechanism to prevent and resolve conflict involving local stakeholders. The committee members are political party and civil society members, including human rights activists. A 33 per cent representation of women in the LPCs has been made mandatory. Thus far 20 LPCs have been formed.

- g. **Formation of Shelter Homes:** A serious problem facing women is violence against women, including domestic violence. However, in cases where women are raped, or face domestic violence, there is almost no shelter that women can turn to. Furthermore, survivors are reluctant to seek justice fearing physical security and due to absence of protection mechanism which gives rise to impunity. The government has established district level shelter homes in a couple of districts.

While the MWCSW focuses on gender mainstreaming, WDOs instead of mainstreaming gender into the work of sectoral ministries carry out Programs parallel to these ministries. Also WDOs are not yet permanent, though they will now be able to go through examinations to become so.

- h. **Bills on Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) and Disappearance Commission:** New transitional justice mechanisms such as the TRC and the Disappearance Commission are in the process of being established. These Commissions are temporary bodies that will also look into human rights violations that women suffered during conflict period. The Commissions will be critical bodies to address impunity and promote women's access to justice. The TRC Bill was developed by MOPR, and consultations are currently ongoing to revise the Bill. The Bill to establish Disappearance Commission is currently tabled at the parliament after it passed its validity as an ordinance.

4. Emerging Issues

Truth and Reconciliation Commission and Disappearance Commission

- a. **Reparation:** The MOPR fails to address gender considerations with regard to relief and reparation. There are no proper consultations on the kind of reparations required for women.
- b. **Impunity:** There are concerns that TRC and Disappearance Commissions will focus on reconciliation and may not provide due attention to punishing crimes against humanity and human rights violations, thereby giving rise to impunity.
- c. **Victim/Witness mechanism:** The formation of the Commissions has been stalled since the last three years, denying victims the right to justice. Women's rights, especially with regard to protection is raised but not extensively discussed. A gender sensitive environment for women to come forward and report and a need to ensure victim/witness protection is essential.

5. Gaps

- a. Institutions are established without consultations and proper planning. Strengthening of institutions is not provided much consideration in terms of ensuring gender expertise, adequate human resource and budget.
- b. Monitoring and evaluations are weak, while assessment of effectiveness of institutions is not undertaken.
- c. Although policies and laws are developed, however, their implementations are weak. The institutions are yet to reflect any changes in the lives of women.

6. Key Recommendations

- a. **Strengthening Institutions:** Institutions should be strengthened by ensuring

placement of gender experts, adequate human resources and budget. Periodic review of effectiveness of institutions should be made to ensure timely progress and improvements.

- b. Strengthening National Women's Commission: NWC's role as a monitoring and advisory body should be strengthened through placement of gender experts through public hearing process instead of political appointments. NWC also should be established as a constitutional body in the new constitution.
- c. Proper Planning and Consultative Process before establishing mechanisms: A consultative process must be followed in the formation of TRC and Disappearance Commission. Gender issues and concerns must be incorporated into the designing and mandate of Commissions.
- d. Engendering Policies and Plans: Gender indicators should be included in the forms that the NPC disseminated to sectoral bodies while formulating policies and plans. Gender indicators should also be developed and provided to Cabinet to ensure gender sensitivity of the policies they pass. Mandatory provisions could be developed to ensure gender sensitivity in policies. The 33 per cent declaration should be formulated in policies and laws. Policy on zero tolerance to violence and sexual harassment in the workplace should be adopted.
- e. Gender Unit in MOPR: A Gender Unit must be established in the MOPR to ensure the peace process includes gender considerations in all its initiatives targeting relief, reparation, reconstruction, addressing past violence during conflict and promotion of victim's rights.
- f. Establish TRC and Disappearance Commission: The TRC and Disappearance Commission should be established without further delay to avail justice to victims of armed conflict and take forward the peace process to effectively address impunity.
- g. Gender Sensitive Constitution: The new Constitution should not only be devoid of discriminatory provisions for women, but must also include special measures in the area of representation. Women Caucus should actively engage themselves and the gender advocates in ensuring inclusion of recommendations provided by the women's groups.³⁴
- h. Establish Information Dissemination Mechanism: Government personnel must be well aware of national obligations under international instruments to ensure that information is widely disseminated among government bodies including parliamentarians. An information dissemination mechanism to inform personnel of their obligations must be established.
- i. Establish Shelter homes: Shelter Homes for victims of violence, as made public in the recent national budget are an urgent need. Support to existing shelter homes run by NGOs and establishment of hotline and counseling services at VDC level are strongly recommended. Victim/witness protection must also be ensured. Services should be designed in consultation with relevant stakeholders without any delay.
- j. Engender 2011 Census: The 2011 census should include gender disaggregated data within all its data.

³⁴ Gender Recommendations for the New Constitution, 2009, Pro Public and UNIFEM.

I. Human Rights of Women

1. Prevalence of the Problem

Women's human rights are integral part of the universal human rights framework. The full and equal participation of women in every walk of life at national, regional and international levels is primarily the responsibility of governments towards all its citizens irrespective of their sex. Moreover, the right to be free from gender based discrimination is a fundamental right of women.

Nepal is a party to CEDAW and its Optional Protocol. It has made commitments to ensure the right to equality under various national and international documents, including the Constitution, Acts, Plans and Policies and International Human Rights Instruments. Nevertheless, human rights of Nepali women are consistently violated and they suffer not only from social, economic and political discrimination, but also from laws and policies. Even after its commitment to the CEDAW and BPFA, Nepal has not been able to amend laws to fully incorporate the concept of equality. Although the Gender Equality Act has been passed, discrimination still exists in various legislations. Women are deprived of providing citizenship in equal condition as men to their children and spouses. Women are still discriminated on the ground of their marital status.

2. Key Gains

- a. **Enactment of Gender Equality Act:** The Gender Equality Act was passed on 28 September 2006 and came into effect from 3 November 2006. The Act is an important step towards the movement on eliminating discrimination against women. It repealed and amended 56 discriminatory provisions of the various Acts and also incorporated some provisions to ensure women's rights. Some key provisions amended by the Act are:
 - Replacement of a provision that summons issued by court should be received by male family member as far as possible and if not by female member. Currently any family member who has attained the age as prescribed by law can receive it.
 - Provision relating to ground for divorce in case of no children within 10 years of marriage has been removed.
 - Following divorce, mother shall have first right to guardianship of child, if the child is minor. The provision depriving mother from the guardianship of child in case of second marriage has been removed.
 - Provision that a daughter shall return the share property once she is married has been repealed.
 - Women are entitled to use their movable and immovable property freely in lieu of the previous provision that required consent before exercising more than half of the immovable property.
 - The definition of rape has been broadened. Marital rape is included within the definition of rape and punishment for marital rape. Marital rape included as a ground for divorce.
 - Daughter is included within the definition of the family under the Act Relating to Land.

- b. **Ratification of Optional Protocol to CEDAW:** The government of Nepal ratified the Optional Protocol to CEDAW on June 15, 2006 with some reservation. Given the reservation is withdrawn, this may prove significant as in the event that any rights conferred under CEDAW are violated the Optional Protocol provides for victims' access to justice at an international level.
- c. **Recognition of women's right as specific fundamental right:** The Interim Constitution, 2007 recognized women's rights as specific fundamental right. The Constitution states no one shall be discriminated in any form merely for being a woman. The Constitution also states every woman shall have the right to reproductive health and other reproductive matters.
- d. **Recognition of mother for conferring the citizenship:** According to the promulgation of Interim Constitution of Nepal 2007 and enactment of new Citizenship Act, 2007 any person whose father or mother is a citizen of Nepal at the birth of such person one shall be deemed to be a citizen of Nepal by descent: a person who has acquired citizenship by descent.
- e. **Independent body to monitor women's human right situation:** The National Women's Commission has been established as an independent legislative body to monitor the implementation of women's rights provided by CEDAW and other international human rights instruments and to give necessary recommendations to the government.
- f. **Judicial decisions to enhance women's human right:** The Supreme Court of Nepal has repealed various discriminatory legal provisions by declaring those discriminatory provisions ultra vires. Some of these major decisions are passport forms that required approval of guardian with the decision of the Ministry of Cabinet³⁵, restriction on women to exercise her exclusive property³⁶, women transaction considered invalid if she would get married with the same person³⁷, daughter to return intestate property upon marriage³⁸, interpretation of marital rape by the Supreme Court as a crime explaining No. 1 of Chapter on Rape does not exclude it³⁹, Rule 10 of Royal Nepal Army that treated son and daughter for scholarship differently⁴⁰, ground for divorce for not having child by woman⁴¹, and restriction on birth registration by mother⁴².

Similarly, the Supreme Court has issued directive orders to the government to enact appropriate laws to amend provisions in line with principle of equality for punishment in accepting dowry and *tilak* under 4(3), 4(4), 4(1) and 4(2) of Social Practice Reform Act, 1976⁴³, effective implementation of laws related to child marriage with massive awareness for preventive measures⁴⁴, to control malpractice of witchcraft⁴⁵ and to declare Chhaupadi as malpractice, for conducting research to find out its impacts on women and children, to raise awareness among people about such malpractice, to prepare directives to control and to inform Supreme Court as well as to conduct extensive research so as to draft law if necessary⁴⁶.

³⁵ Writ No. 3355/2060 D.D. 28/11/2005 (2062/8/3)

³⁶ Writ No. 34/2061

³⁷ Writ No. 114/2062

³⁸ Writ No. 110/059

³⁹ Writ No. 55/2002

⁴⁰ Writ No. 175/2063

⁴¹ Writ No. 64/2061

⁴² Writ No. 121/060 Decision made on 2062/5/30

⁴³ Writ No. 131, D.D. 14/12/2006 (2063/8/28)

⁴⁴ Writ No. 98/2062, D.D. 2063/3/29

⁴⁵ Writ No. 2891/2058, D.D. 2061/1/19

⁴⁶ Writ No. 3303/2061, D.D. 2062-1-19

3. Key Government and NGO Initiatives

- a. **Formation of Committee to Review Discriminatory Laws and Recommend Amendment Provisions:** The government has constituted a Committee with representatives of Ministry of Law and Justice, Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare (MWCSW) and civil society to review discriminatory laws against women and prepare a draft to amend the discriminatory provisions of the laws as guaranteed by the Constitution of Nepal and CEDAW. This Committee has already submitted proposed amendments to the government.
- b. **Establishment of Para-legal Committees:** Under the joint initiative of the government, UN agencies and civil society, Para-legal committees have been established in more than 500 Village Development Committees (VDCs). Typically consisting of 13-15 volunteer women (self-selected or elected), the committees carry out extensive social mobilization to raise community awareness on women's right issues. Through networking with other front-line community workers, Para-legal committees collect information on at-risk women and children, make timely interventions, facilitate access to services, mediate disputes, and promote reconciliation at community level.
- c. **Research / Study Conducted:** Various research and study on situations of women's rights have been carried out by various NGOs.

4. Gaps

- a. Despite the various initiatives at different levels some 103 discriminatory provisions and 92 schedules in various Acts and Regulations which discriminate against women continue to exist, even though The Interim Constitution, 2007 has guaranteed the right to equality.
- b. The Interim Constitution of Nepal, 2007 carried out changes in the previous constitutional provisions which discriminated women for conferring citizenship. However, the Constitution, Citizenship Act, Citizenship Regulations and Passport Rules even today discriminate against women. The new law requires that children born from foreign husbands have to be born in Nepal, and be permanent residents of Nepal. Even after completion of these two conditions, children will get naturalized citizenship only. The present Constitution states that women of foreign nationality who marry with Nepali citizens can acquire Nepali citizenship after commencing the process to denounce their former citizenship. However, a man of foreign nationality marrying a Nepali woman is not entitled to acquire Nepali citizenship by virtue of marriage.
- c. Nepali law excludes married daughters from the right to inheritance and intestate property. They fall behind in the line of succession. Unmarried daughters are eligible to file application for intestate property only after the sons, and married daughters fall much behind in the line of succession in the event of the death of the person.
- d. Wives of all male police personnel can receive pension upon the accidental death of their husbands. However, in case of women police personnel, the GoN holds authority to decide whether the husband of deceased women police personnel is eligible to receive such pension. A widow of a government employee is not entitled to family allowances and gratuity if she is not living together with her husband at the time of his death.

- e. Armed Police Regulations require women to be unmarried or widowed (single women) as eligibility criteria to apply for job. Similarly, legal provisions also prohibit women to marry during the training period.
- f. Though the Supreme Court held that the Constitution of Nepal, CEDAW and the CRC protect the right to reproductive health and issued a directive order to provide for measures to ensure adequate maternity leave in line with international human rights instruments, especially the ILO Convention, Maternity Protection, 2000 which provides for 14 weeks of maternity leave, such legal provisions remain in laws and regulations only. Maternity leave provision in various laws is highly inconsistent with other laws. For instance, the Labour Law prescribes 52 days, some 60 days, some 98 days, while in some legislation there are no provisions for maternity leave.
- g. If women have miscarriage as a result of an act of anger or malevolence of another person the punishment is up to six months imprisonment or fine of up to Rs. 1000 depending on the period of pregnancy and knowledge about the pregnancy as per existing abortion law. However, if a woman undertakes abortion in other circumstances, she will be imprisoned up to 5 years depending on the period of pregnancy.
- h. Nepali laws relating to marriage and family rights are inconsistent with the rights guaranteed by various human rights instruments and right to equality vested by Article 13 of the Interim Constitution of Nepal, 2007. The Chapter on Husband and Wife of the Country Code mentions that if a married woman remarries, the earlier marriage is automatically terminated. If the husband remarries the earlier marriage is not automatically terminated and the wife has to apply for divorce.
- i. Bigamy is encouraged by the law. The existing law allows a man to perform second marriage without divorcing his first wife if the first wife becomes infected by incurable sexually transmitted disease, if she becomes incurably insane, if she becomes crippled, and cannot walk or is blind in both eyes, if a medical board recognized by GoN certifies that the woman is infertile, and if the wife is living separately after taking her share of the husband's property. The law allows the husband to remarry when the wife needs love, affection and care the most. Although bigamy is illegal, the second marriage is not void and becomes legal after completion of the minimal punishment of imprisonment ranging between one to three years and the payment of a fine between NRs.5,000-25,000. Moreover, the second wife and her children also have a share in the family property, thus affecting the right to property of the first wife.
- j. Court proceedings are very important to obtain legal remedy. However women's names are not required in legal documents such as petition, reply, or appeal submitted in the court. The format of the summons, *subpoena*, notice issued by the court only require the names of fathers or husbands of the people to whom such order is issued. However, there is a recent practice to mention the mother's name in few legal documents.
- k. Moreover, 536 discriminatory or gender biased words are used in the Constitution, laws, regulations and annex of laws and regulations such as *Sabhapati* (Chairman), *Jetha budha* (Elder Oldman), *Kanyadan* (Gifting of a girl), *Pitrikarya* (father's last rites not mothers), degrading words for women like *Aimai*, *Upakulpati* (Vice-chancellor), *Kulapati* (Chancellor), *Udhyogpati* (Industrialist), *Pradhansanapati* (Chief of Army), *Rastrapati*, (President) *Uprastrapati* (Vice

President) are still used in various legislations.

5. . Recommendations

- a. The new constitution to be drafted by the Constituent Assembly must guarantee non- discrimination based not only on sex but also on gender, marital status, pregnancy, sexual orientation and gender identities. Both direct and indirect discriminations need to be addressed. De jure and de facto equality both must be guaranteed.
- b. Non-discrimination should be ensured not only in the public sphere but also in the private sphere, as women's rights are violated more within the house than in the community and workplace.
- c. Racial discrimination still exists under the state made laws, and need to be amended as a matter of priority. The Concluding Comments of the CEDAW Committee also recommends the government to do so.
- d. Wider dissemination of the Constitution and legal provisions must be prioritized so that with access to information rights can be claimed and exercised, and laws can be enforced.
- e. Creation of an enabling environment with human and financial structure and resources is necessary for promoting access to justice. Orientations must be conducted for addressing the gender biased mind sets of law enforcers. Procedural hurdles for exercising rights, especially under citizenship laws, need to be removed.
- f. It is vital to ensure adequate participation of women at the decision making level within the law enforcement mechanism such as judges, judicial administration, police, and public attorneys, in Judicial Council, Bar Council and Bar Associations.
- g. The reform of remaining discriminatory laws needs to be initiated through communication and collaboration with concerned agencies. Alternate languages need to be encouraged in collaboration with different women's groups and through social mobilization.

J. Women in Media

1. Prevalence of the Problem

Despite the increase in women's involvement in media with the establishment of numerous private newspapers, television channels, FM Stations, participation still remains relatively low and is estimated to be about 14 per cent only including both government and private media. Though there has been change in media sector after democracy but in terms of women and gender mainstreaming, visible improvements are yet to be seen. Top management/decision making level continues to be dominated by male and patriarchal mindset. The number of women holding senior positions remains negligible. The presence of women in official commissions, boards, committees formed for formulating policies and monitoring media is very low. For example, The Press Council Board has only one woman out of 13 members. There are no women members at all in the board of state owned media like Nepal Television, Gorkhapatra, Radio Nepal and National News Agency. There is lack of specific policies for women journalists resulting in unfriendly working environment for women. Despite this, the number of girls/women joining media has increased but they are more involved as presenters/announcers rather than in reporting, editing, and other technical part. Even among those involved in reporting, very few are assigned to cover "hard issues" like politics, security and economy. Most of them are only assigned to "soft issues" such as culture, art and lifestyles, etc.

2. Key Gains

- a. Recently the Government of Nepal (GoN) formulated the media monitoring mechanism at district level where there is a provision for including at least one woman journalist in the committee.
- b. Gender Training and orientation for journalists have been conducted throughout the country.
- c. Women feature service on issues related to women with the objective of mainstreaming gender issues are taken out every month. Features from the feature service are given importance by daily and weekly newspapers throughout the country.
- d. The trend of portraying of women has changed and women's issues have started receiving priority in anchors, editorial and box news as compared to the past.
- e. There are improvements in the allocation, sensitivity and the style of writing on women's issues.

3. Gaps

- a. Lack of specific media policies and code of conduct for the rights of women working in media and also for the balance and positive portrayal of women.
- b. Lack of gender friendly working environment in media organizations.
- c. Lack of security for women journalists (e.g. Late Uma Singh whose case is cited herein).
- d. Lack of job security and irregular remuneration.
- e. Lack of training and skill enhancing Programs.

- f. Lack of implementation of affirmative action on special provision for women in state owned media.
- g. No representation of women in decision making positions.

4. Emerging Issues

- a. Emergence of new media (websites, e-newspapers, blogs,) which are in (most cases) discriminatory towards women.
- b. In the context of inactiveness of cyber law in Nepal, cyber crime against women is increasing.

5. Recommendations

- a. The historic decision made by the House of Representatives on removing existing discriminatory laws against women and the reservation for at least 33 per cent women in every structure of state bodies, should be made applicable to the media sector as well.
- b. Gender orientation for media professionals holding decision making level and policy makers must be compulsory.
- c. Need to develop and ensure gender friendly working environment in all media organizations and also a gender code of ethics which should be made obligatory to all media houses and institutions.
- d. Ensure measures against sexual harassment at work places for women journalists.
- e. Special capacity building Programs should be designed and developed to enhance skills of women media personnel.
- f. The Press Council needs to be expanded as Media Council which would allow media monitoring of both Print and Electronic Media.

Case Study: Murder of a Woman Journalist, Uma Singh

Manipur based woman journalist and human rights activist Uma Singh, 26, who worked for the Janakpur Today Daily and Radio Today FM was murdered on 11 January, 2009 by an unknown group, who burst into the room she rented in Janakpur. She was brutally attacked on several parts of her body with sharp weapon. She died of her injuries shortly before midnight while being driven to the capital city.



Working in the most lawless part of Nepal, Uma Singh was fearless with her written and spoken word. She reported in particular against violence and discrimination against women. She did this with a sense of immediacy and professionalism in radio and print media in three languages.

She is the first woman journalist who was murdered in the history of Nepali journalism. Since her murder, an attempt is being made to dilute the seriousness of the crime by passing it off as a property dispute between members of her family. Yet, the threat she posed was not because she was involved in a family dispute over property but because she did not hesitate to speak boldly and honestly about political crimes, including the one involving her family.

This sad incident has had huge impact on emerging and working women journalists as they are hesitant to join journalism as a profession. Women are not supported by their family to go into the field of journalism. However, women are taking keen interest in journalism at their personal level. The growing incidents of violence, many of which target women, underscore the necessity for the Government to improve protection of basic human rights.

K. Women and Environment

1. Prevalence of the Problem

The Beijing Platform for Action in 1995 is a milestone in the history of women's empowerment. It played a crucial role in laying down a framework and establishing fundamental standards for advancement of women all over the world through recognition of twelve critical areas of concern. In combination with these, the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) and other international agreements on environment and resource conservation, have been endorsed by the Government of Nepal whilst the people of Nepal have time and again expressed firm commitment to enhance the role of women in resource management and environment protection.

Nepal is blessed with exceptionally rich and diverse natural heritage. It has a topographic range of about 100 to 150 km from south to north, varies from 70 meters to 8,048 meters in altitude, has eight of the 10 highest peaks of the world (including Mt. Everest), and also boasts some of the rarest species of flora and fauna. Within a territory of about 0.09 per cent of the world's land surface, Nepal claims approximately 9 per cent of world's bird species, 4 per cent of mammalian, and 2 per cent of flowering plants. Nepal has set aside about 14 per cent of its land as green habitats for wild animals in the form of national parks and wildlife reserves.

Divided into three main geographical regions – Himalaya, mid-mountains and Terai plains – the larger chunk of population is settled in the Terai plains and mid-hill valleys and terraces. More than eighty per cent of people are dependent on subsistence agriculture. Nepal has a huge potential to generate hydropower, close to 83,000 MW, through its three major river systems and their 6000 tributaries. Proper development of tourism sector, sustainable trade of medicinal plants, and hydro-power generation may be enough for Nepal to secure its prosperity, provided stability in politics and credible legal environment are guaranteed for interested investors.

However, Nepal suffers from serious economic challenges due to prolonged political conflict, growing poverty, low literacy rates, grave environmental threats and resource depletion. Continued deforestation due to illegal felling of trees and over consumption of forestry products, soil erosion due to rains, floods and land slides, excessive mining of boulders in the Chure belt, drying water sources, melting snow-tops due to rise of temperature causing threats to outburst of glaciers and mountain lakes, loss of rare species of flora and fauna and wild habitats due to failure to mitigate illegal encroachments and corruption, and failing environmental governance due to absence of local governments and state machineries are responsible for mounting environmental and human health problems. Adding to these problems is unplanned urban expansion resulting in poor waste management and emission of industrial/vehicle pollutants. Over use of agro-based chemicals and pesticides by farmers in rural areas without any safety measures has also been causing a lot of health problems. Above all, climate change and green house effect are the emerging unpredictable phenomena.

Although the Brundtland Commission Report (1987) and Rio Declaration (1992) paved a new path for addressing environmental problems through a concept of sustainable development, no concrete attempt has been made by the world community to link the problems with poverty and resource management in the developing world. It was only in 1995 with the BPFA, and in 2000 with the Millennium Declaration, that gender linkages were established in both economic empowerment and environment conservation sectors.

Reflections of the breakthrough made in Beijing are visible in the post Beijing policy developments in Nepal.

2. Key Gains

A remarkable initiative by civil society in the recent past ensured incorporation of environmental and health rights as part of fundamental rights in The Interim Constitution of Nepal, 2007. The earlier 1990 Constitution secured this right through judicial interpretation of the 'right to life' clause in a leading environmental case. Several public interest litigation cases filed by *pro bono* lawyers have been decided by the Supreme Court with significant judicial pronouncements. Additional inputs have been given by IUCN Nepal to expand fundamental rights by educating Constituent Assembly (CA) members for incorporating more environment and natural resources related provisions in the forthcoming new Constitution through the Constituent Assembly.

Major leading political parties made commitments to promote environment conservation during the CA election campaign period in 2007/2008. In response, a special committee to deal with natural resources management and environment has been constituted under CA rules of procedure, and several presentations have been made by experts at the committee to brief CA members about the need for environmental protection clauses. Under minority rights and restructuring of state committees, issues related to environment rights and resource sharing and management have been seriously taken up by women CA members while deliberating on ILO 169 and UNSCR 1325 to ensure women's decision making role under the new constitutional framework. Securing gender rights with regard to sharing of natural resources under new federal structure is another question environmental groups are trying to respond to. Right to self-determination is a conceptual paradigm that has also come under serious discussion as it also relates to right to decision making on natural resources.

Implications of climate change adversely affecting the existing climate pattern and ecosystem have been gradually felt and understood even by the common people of Nepal in the recent past. Although the ongoing current debates on climate change will be raised in the context of the forthcoming December 2009 Copenhagen Conference, they do not tend to link the glaring symptoms of drought, rise in temperature, erratic rains and floods, and fast melting of glaciers. The Ministry of Environment however is trying belatedly to echo third world voice in a collective way at the conference. In the documents and country reports of international INGOs and donors, a growing trend of establishing linkages of their activities with climate change is prevalent.

3. Key Government/NGO Initiatives

At a policy level, the establishment of the Ministry of Population and Environment was the result of NGO movement which led the draft of the 1990 Constitution to incorporate some environment friendly provisions. This was followed by a positive gesture expressed by the then elected democratic government of Nepal which led a high level delegation to the Rio Summit in 1992. Immediately after the 1995 BPFA, a new Ministry of Women and Development was created to deal with empowering women in response to commitments made in Beijing. The National Planning Commission which emphasized the formulation of Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Guidelines and Environmental Protection Act within its eighth Five-Year Plan period (1992-1997), together with the revised Forestry Act and Rules (1995), went on to extensively engage civil society groups

in environmental Programme development, drafting of environmental rules and initiating participatory environmental management schemes for managing urban waste and information dissemination under the ninth Five-Year Plan (1997-2002). The tenth Five-Year Plan (2002-2007) was more progressive from a gender perspective as it formulated Programs to involve women at all levels of decision making related to environment and resource management.

Reforms in legislative policy with regard to resource related legislation were introduced by making environmental friendly laws. EIA was made mandatory prior to approval of any development or industrial projects, and environmental units were created within several ministries to examine and monitor environmental impacts of development interventions. In addition to water resources and forestry related laws, local governance laws drafted in 1999 (redrafted in 2005) with responsibilities to manage municipality and village level resources and environment, granted extensive powers to locally elected bodies. Growth of community managed forestry and irrigation schemes, with women successfully playing lead roles, compelled policy makers to reconsider their state controlled resource management policies. Engagement of women's groups in project management was given top priority in the Poverty Alleviation Fund projects at grassroots level.

Programmatically, emergence of new partnerships of non-government sector with government resulted in gradual expansion and transfer of resources related research and management responsibilities from state to non-state actors. Some of these organizations are members of the IUCN national committee in Nepal. Small grant programs under Global Environmental Facility (GEF) have also engaged environmental groups in promoting and protecting environment, in addition to other directly funded environmental projects of many bilateral donor agencies.

Global Gender and Climate Change Alliance Nepal, a network of gender activists and professionals, has been formed with the main objectives of promoting gender just climate change process by ensuring gender perspective into all policy dialogues and decision making processes in regard to adaptation, mitigation, technology, financing and capacity building and also creating arenas for sharing knowledge, information and experiences at local, regional, and national levels and forums where different stakeholders can discuss concrete challenges in relation to gender and climate change and thereby engage in collective advocacy for gender integration and women's leadership in all the efforts to fight threats posed by climate change. The alliance has already initiated local and national dialogues on gender just climate change processes. It has also been actively participating in all the government processes in Nepal on Climate Change.

The educational sector of Nepal has taken a new leap towards promoting environmental education. A growing number of women students undertaking environmental science studies have shown distinct signs of achievements. Leading universities of Nepal are successfully running undergraduate Programs on environmental studies with large number of female students opting for the courses.

Major achievements in the conservation of environment and natural resources made during the post Beijing period are in the field of conservation of bio-diversity (both in the national parks and watershed/wetland areas) and the community forestry sector. This has occurred despite the state failure to assure local people of their security during the prolonged armed conflict lasting from 1995 to November 2006.

4. Emerging Issues

- a. Need to reactivate state institutions, both at national and local levels, and restore public faith in them.
- b. Need to contribute to the constitution building efforts by helping CA members incorporate strong environment and gender friendly provisions.
- c. Post conflict transitional strategy and Programme to rehabilitate the depleted environment is required. A long term scheme to reconnect the existing chain of management pattern under new legal and policy frameworks in compliance with international agreements and commitments must be developed.
- d. Nepal needs to embark on a national position in cooperation and coordination with other third world counterparts in the best interest of the nation and region, keeping in view the Kyoto Protocol and Bali Action Plan four point actions of mitigation, adaptation, technology and financing. For this there is need to revisit the overall environment protection and management issues of Nepal from climate change and gender perspectives.
- e. The new roles of the civil society at national, regional and global context must be identified to collectively fight common threats posed by climate change and other emerging national and trans-boundary environmental challenges, including mitigation and reversal of serious resources depletion trends such as over exploitation of mines and timbers in the vulnerable Chure belt and the growing threats to glacier lakes.

5. Gaps

A look into environmental issues from Beijing +15, MDG and gender perspectives highlight five distinctly visible gaps in Nepal. These mainly include knowledge gap, commitment gap, institutional gap, resource gap and gender gap.

- a. Knowledge gap exists amongst major political actors and decision makers partly due to technicality of environmental subject and inadequate conceptual knowledge of emerging issues that are trans-boundary in character. No monitoring system has been developed to keep track of the environmental trends and developments in Nepal. Environmental auditing is always discussed but never implemented by any agency. There is a lack of periodic state of environment report. With the exception of individual documents with no official ownership, no progressive report is produced by the state on Beijing commitments,
- b. The knowledge gap leads to commitment gap, as environment does not appear to be a state priority during the present transition period. Due to wide political differences on key national issues related to the peace process, and partly due to power struggle amongst leading political forces, commitment of political party leaders and policy makers to protect and conserve environment is negligible. Lack of political commitment further widens institutional gap, as the absence of appropriate institution and leadership makes policy execution impossible. Moreover, due to lack of knowledge most gender activists do not consider environmental issues or climate change as pertinent to women's movement.
- c. The Ministry of Environment and its essential departmental hands are paralyzed due to lack of appropriate personnel and institutional directives to assess the environmental situation and respond to immediate needs. Thus far, the civil

society, non-state actors and community based organizations have been playing crucial roles in preserving and protecting environment and natural resources with donor support. The virtual collapse of state institutions at local level and mounting corruption caused by armed conflict have further worsened the situation. Women groups have in this context played a vital role in the management and conservation of local natural resources, as during the conflict period most youths were either displaced or forced to carry weapons.

- d. Resource gap, both in financial and human capital, was obvious during the past decade of the conflict period. Disbursement mechanism of the state system was non-functional, and many resource generating community forest users groups were dismantled under the threat of guns. No technical personnel ever visited their posts out of major cities due to security problems.
- e. Gender gap exists in all the above stated gaps as the resource governance system was non-functional similar to that of other state machineries. Hence, no effort was knowingly made by anyone to either monitor the implementation progress in terms of the Beijing commitments, or to co-relate the situation with the climate change parameter. Despite these gaps, women leaders have contributed both at the national and international to represent the country and the community in the environmental sector.

6. Recommendations

- a. Innovate or activate national and regional mechanisms for regular sharing of environmental information and collectively respond to each others' needs through an established network. Group members are recommended to meet periodically to review the developments beyond Beijing +15 and support each other's efforts.
- b. Joint Programs for opening avenues for regional environment leaders to participate in achieving a common goal are highly recommended. Regional conferences to bring together regional environment leaders and endorse common regional Programs are recommended.
- c. Massive environmental awareness Programs on emerging environmental challenges must be launched at all levels. Policy makers must be educated and capacity building of national actors on key environmental issues, including climate change and Nepal's position at national and international forums is essential.
- d. It is recommended that a national environment commission, with half the members being women, is created. Some major tasks of the commission would be to undertake periodic environment auditing studies and publication of an annual environmental state report.

L. The Girl Child

1. The Prevalence of Problem

The girl child population in Nepal constitutes half of the total child population. As with the general population distribution most of these girls live in rural areas. The 2007 Interim Constitution of Nepal and international human rights instruments which Nepal has ratified, especially the CEDAW and CRC, proclaim equal rights to all girls, irrespective of caste, religion and gender. However these aims have not been achieved. Boys and girls are not considered equal in daily practice. Girls are still considered a burden to parents and family while the birth of a boy is celebrated. Majority of girls are neglected, humiliated, oppressed and exploited in their everyday life.

The prevailing unfair social and labour relations compounded by unequal power structure and patriarchal thinking contribute to the sorry situation of girls in Nepal. Social attitude towards girls is still regressive. Majority of girls are denied care, education, health service, recreation and other basic services right from the birth. The environment in which they are living is not conducive for physical and cognitive growth. Moreover, the atmosphere that prevails at home, family, community and at the national level obstruct the path of overall development of girls.

If we fail to properly analyze the nature and form of the problems and the reasons for such a situation of girls, not only will we be unable to ensure a bright future of our girls, but we will fail to ensure a secure future for our women and mothers. This means the movement for women's liberation will barely be able to keep its head above troubled water. The following facts reveal the situation of the girls in Nepal.

- a. **Population:** Girls in Nepal consist 50 per cent of the total child population. (CBS)

	<i>In every thousand children</i>	
	<i>Boys</i>	<i>Girls</i>
Infant mortality rate (IMR)	144.50	150.38
Child mortality rate (U5MR)	108.00	133.00

- b. **Gender Discrimination/Son Preference:** Discrimination of girls is rampant in every sector of society. Son preference is very high. According to the 2001 census, the national ratio of boys and girls is 100:101, while in some districts such as Kailali in the Far West, it is 100:84.
- c. **Literacy Rate:** Literacy rate of girls is 42 per cent compared to 65 per cent among boys. In Nepal, primary school going girls is 74 per cent compared to 86 per cent boys. (MOE 2003)
- d. **Child Malnutrition:** Child malnutrition in Nepal is 56.2 per cent in which the state of girls is more vulnerable than boys. Statistics on breast feeding indicate that 51 per cent boys are breast fed, while its number is only 43 per cent among girls.
- e. **Child Sexual Exploitation:** Almost 40 per cent of survivors of child sexual abuse and rape are girls below 18 years. Most of them are abused at home, in educational institutions, at work places or any given place. They are insecure in all these places. (CWIN 2008)

- f. **Child Marriage:** 34 per cent of total marriages in Nepal are with girls below 16 years. Some 7 per cent of child marriages take place with children below 10 years. (UNICEF 2005). Existing practice of dowry in many parts of the country further provokes child marriages in the society.
- g. **Child Labor Exploitation:** Most household chores and child rearing activities are the responsibility of girls. Girls aged between 10-14 years work double compared to boys in the same age group. In Nepal, 2.6 million children are working in different sectors of labor. Amongst these 56% are reported to be girls. (ILO-IPEC, 2001)
- h. **Bonded Labour:** Labour bondage still persists in the form of 'Kamlari' in the eastern part of Nepal, where girls are kept in the households of their 'masters' to serve them.
- i. **Girl Trafficking:** Girls are trafficked for different purposes including domestic and agricultural work, forced beggary, marriage, carpet weaving, circus and sex trade. About 20 per cent (i.e. 40,000) of the total trafficked women for sex trade are girls below 16 years. (CWIN 2006) Annually approximately 12,000 girls and women are trafficked. (ILO, 2001). Patterns are changing, as girls are now being trafficked to the Middle East, South-east Asia and also to Europe.
- j. **Street Children:** Among 5000 street children in Nepal around 5 per cent are girls. (CWIN, 2006). Girls living in the streets are most vulnerable to sexual exploitation, drug use and HIV.
- k. **Conservative Tradition:** Women and girls are regarded as "untouchable" during menstruation period. In some parts of far western Nepal, they are not even allowed to stay inside the house and forced to stay outside, mostly in the cattle house. Despite legal prohibition, sexual exploitation of girls in the form of traditional and religious customs, such as Deuki still exists in Nepal.
- l. **Armed Conflict:** In the 12-year-long armed conflict, 475 children died due to internal armed conflict. Among them 205 were girls. In the course of armed conflict many incidences of sexual abuse of girls have been made public. Similarly, many children including girls have been displaced to city areas and are involved in exploitative labor sectors. (CWIN 2007)

2. Key Gains

Despite these challenges and gaps, following the immense change in political situation and establishment of republic state, Nepal has taken some important and historic decisions on issues concerning women and children.

- a. The 2007 Interim Constitution of Nepal provides equal rights to all citizens and also provides protection to women from discrimination. The Constitution of Nepal places educational and health rights as fundamental rights.
- b. The GoN has set up the Central Children Welfare Board and District Child Welfare Boards in all districts of Nepal. However, their activation is still a challenge for the government.
- c. Nepal has ratified two optional protocols of the 1989 UN CRC, first on the rights of children in armed conflict and another on rights of children to be protected from prostitution and pornography.
- d. Amendment of the 1992 Children's Act gives more specific mention to children's rights.

- e. Endorsement of National Act against Trafficking, 2007.
- f. GoN has constituted a National Women's Commission, in 2007. However, the Commission does not have a constitutional status.
- g. The non government organizations in Nepal have played an important role at the national as well as local level in carrying out different activities relating to attainment of girls' rights and their empowerment. Girls have become important actors in resolving their problems and are also being heard by different organizations and government bodies during policy decisions about their rights.

3. Key Government and NGO Initiatives

There have been many efforts and positive contributions to protect and rescue girls from risk and difficult situations, and ensure physical, mental, educational, social and psychological development of children. In order to change the gloomy picture of Nepali girls GoN and NGOs are working through education, empowerment, conscientization and social mobilization initiatives. The Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare has also been extending its support to Programs being carried out by NGOs.

NGOs such as CWIN have been continuously working with girls at risk for their socialization, social reintegration and empowerment through its programs research, policy advocacy and social conscientization in the fight against discrimination and exploitation of girls. NGOs also extend direct support in the forms of residential care, emergency support, educational support and support for capacity building to girls at risk. These initiatives cater to the needs of survivors of torture and physical abuse, sex abuse and exploitation, trafficking, labour exploitation, girls affected by armed conflict and street girls. Special Programs to address education of girls and Programs for adolescent girls have also been initiated with support of UN agencies and others. Adolescent girls' groups are being formed by girls from urban poor areas. Peer Support Programs have also been initiated by various NGOs.

4. Emerging Issues

- a. **Increasing crimes against women and children:** With increasing crimes in the society, crimes targeting women and children are also on the rise. Crimes, like rape, child prostitution, child marriage, child servitude, child abduction and child labour exploitation are incidences occurring in every nook and corner of the country almost everyday. Until crimes or violence against women and children are eliminated, their rights and dignity cannot be established and restored.
- b. **Commercial portrayal of girls in media:** The trend of using children, especially girls in commercial advertisement in mass media like television, movies, newspapers and magazines is increasing with every passing day. The indecent presentation poses threat to the dignity of women and girls. Increasing trends of organizing 'Little Lady' pageants also put younger girls in the same platform as women competing for the looks and the way they walk rather than developing their true talents.
- c. **Commercial sexual exploitation and pornography of children:** Owing to poverty and ignorance in the country, as well as the absence of commitment, coordination and consistency among law enforcing agencies, the pathetic and objectionable practice of commercial sexual exploitation of children, and

especially that of girls, continue. There have been incidences and court cases where a renowned singer used girls for pornographic video films. There are also increasing trend of foreign pedophiles sexually exploiting girls and boys in the disguise of providing 'love and care'. They are also suspected of selling pornographic pictures of Nepali children to the pedophilia circle.

- d. **Girls affected by armed conflict/girls in post conflict situation:** Social reintegration of girls associated with armed conflict (former girl child soldiers) remains a major challenge. They still face social stigma and are undergoing traumatic experiences following their engagement in the activities related to conflict. Going back to villages after explicit exposure to conflict has also brought about adaptability issues. Furthermore, services for social reintegration, psychosocial support and self reliance for conflict affected girls are inadequate.
- e. **Safety of girls in cyberspace:** As the Internet is becoming accessible to more and more Nepali children, they are exposed to age inappropriate and harmful materials. They can also become targets of predators. Girls seem to be more vulnerable to unwanted behavior from strangers. There has been a murder of a 17-year-old girl in Kathmandu in 2006, wherein her online lover stabbed her to death following her refusal to his sexual proposal.
- f. **Vulnerability to HIV:** An increasing number of girls are becoming involved in unsafe sexual practices and are also doing drugs (from glue sniffing to IV drug use), making girls more vulnerable to contracting HIV. Besides girls from streets or those into commercial sex work who are highly vulnerable, girls in urban centers are becoming equally vulnerable. Forced consumerism and lack of social security is resulting in more and more urban adolescent girls into a practice of 'pocket money sex', leading to full time commercial sex work.
- g. **Female Foeticide:** There is increasing trend in the urban settings for sex determination tests which is illegal. A recent study by CWIN reveals that tests are openly carried out in most of the ultrasound clinics in urban centers. Women from remote rural areas are brought to urban centers for such tests, while those from bordering districts travel to India for tests. The increasing tests are a signal to termination of female foeticide.
- h. **Issues of Empowerment of adolescent girls:** However, there is also an inspiring trend of adolescent girls becoming empowered and making their voices heard in their communities and at the national policy levels. There are an increasing number of girls' groups or adolescent girls' groups tackling various issues of girls, where they have become answers to their problems and have started putting an end to gender discrimination, sexual abuse and domestic violence in the society. They are proactively working with adolescent boys to end gender discrimination and violence.

5. Key Gaps

- a. There is a lack of realization of urgency for upliftment of girls at the state level.
- b. The principle of social inclusion is limited to slogans and not internalized by state actors and mechanisms. Women's representation in state mechanisms is still limited.
- c. Powerful and sustainable initiatives are not taken to change the social and

regressive attitudes towards girls.

- d. Fluid political commitments still persist. Proper measures are not taken and mechanisms not developed to implement national and international commitments.
- e. Girls' access to mainstream education is still a major challenge for meeting the national and global goal of achieving education for all by 2015. Various social and economic causes are hindrances to girl's enrollment and retention.

6. Key Recommendations

- a. There is a need to conduct intensive and analytical studies at both local as well as national level to identify the real situation and problems of girls living in neglected situations in rural and urban areas of the country. Programs devoid of sufficient information and statistics have failed to give appropriate direction and clear vision.
- b. Collective massive national initiatives to fight patriarchy, unfair power structure, regressive traditions for women and girls' empowerment are essential. The role of boys and family in girls' empowerment must be promoted.
- c. Lack of education and ignorance remains the biggest obstacle in the path of girls' development and empowerment. There must be innovative and intensive drive to increase total access and provide equal educational opportunities to girls from all sections, with priority to girls from marginalized communities.
- d. National intervention is required for social reintegration of girl survivors of abuse and exploitation with appropriate opportunities for self reliance and economic independence.
- e. There is a need for progressive amendments of existing national laws and harmonization of international laws to ensure highest possible rights for girls. Proposed amended National Child Right Act and National Child Protection Policy must be endorsed by the government followed by their implementation.
- f. The National Planning Commission must come up with specific plan and allocate substantial national budget for the upliftment of girls. There is a strong need to strengthen the Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare, both financially and structurally, for effective national Programs.
- g. National initiatives are required to address specific issues of adolescent girls.

KATHMANDU DECLARATION

Beijing+15 Review National Conference

September 13-14, 2009

Recalling the Twelve Critical Areas of Concern relating to women's rights, equality, peace and development embraced in the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action adopted during the historic UN Fourth World Conference on Women held in Beijing, China in 1995;

Recognizing the Convention on the Elimination of All forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), 1979 and its Optional Protocol as milestone documents on women's rights and equality and recalling the principle of "Women's Rights are Human Rights" incorporated in the Vienna Declaration and Program of Action adopted by the UN Second World Conference on Human Rights held in Vienna, Austria in 1993 as well as the Cairo Declaration and Plan of Action endorsed by the World Conference on Population and Development held in Cairo, Egypt in 1994 prior to the Beijing Conference;

Recalling the Five-year Review of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (Beijing+5) and its Outcome Document held in New York in 2000 and subsequent "Millennium Development Goals" promulgated by the UN's Millennium Summit in September of the same year in which "Gender Equality" has been embodied as one of the most important cross-cutting component goals;

Realizing the urgency to establish accountability mechanism and ending the culture of impunity through effective implementation of the provisions included in UNSCR 1325 and 1820 concerning women's participation in conflict prevention, resolution, peace and security, and combating violence against women respectively;

The two-day National Conference organized by the National Network for Beijing Review Nepal (NNBN) comprising of various civil society organizations working in the field of women's rights and human rights across the country held in Kathmandu on 13-14 September, 2009 with the objective of reviewing the achievements and challenges 15 years after the Beijing Conference, has unanimously promulgated the 12-point **Kathmandu Declaration** with the prime slogan 'Keeping the Beijing Commitment Alive';

Through this Declaration, we express the following concerns to the Government of Nepal:

Incorporate fully the essence and spirit of the Twelve Critical Areas of Concern of the Beijing Platform for Action in the new constitution by ensuring issues such as education, health, employment, accommodation and food as fundamental rights and amend the existing laws in compliance with CEDAW and other relevant international instruments on women through affirmative action to end all forms of discrimination against women.

Formulate a high level constitutional monitoring mechanism to effectively implement the laws and the National Plan of Action endorsed to end all forms of discrimination and violence against women and trafficking; and ensure women's proportionate and meaningful participation in all bodies, functionaries and decision-making process of the state.

Ensure meaningful participation of women in all processes related to the proposed "Truth and Reconciliation Commission" in order to create a conducive environment for sustainable peace and reconciliation; and end the culture of impunity by effectively

implementing UNSCR 1325 and 1820 on women, peace, security, and violence against women respectively.

Review, revisit and amend the National Plan of Action adopted a decade ago to implement the BPFA in collaboration and coordination with civil society organizations and ensure its effective implementation through the formation of a high level monitoring mechanism.

Ensure priority for women for adequate, nutritious and qualitative food security and employment to save the rural and poor women from the onslaught of the current global economic recession in the given stark reality of women being directly affected by the vicious cycle of poverty.

Put a total ban on the export, import and the use of such weapons by taking special measures to ensure security for the vulnerable women and bring the perpetrators to justice with no room for impunity in the present context where women are increasingly falling victim in domestic and public affairs due to the illicit use and trade of the small arms.

Adopt and implement appropriate legal and administrative measures for safe, regular and rights-based migration and conclude bilateral and/or multilateral agreements with the destination countries as per the international standards with effective implementation and monitoring mechanism to curb the incidents of women falling prey to the trafficking and forcibly entering into the vulnerable and exploitative labor due to their compulsion of entering into the foreign labor market in an extremely unsafe and uninformed way.

Accept, support and endorse unconditionally the new gender entity to be established by the upcoming UN General Assembly with an aim to make the gender equality machinery strong, empowered and resourceful in the context of scattered nature of different bodies formed under the auspices of the UN on women's rights and equality.

Ensure women's direct and meaningful participation in formulating and implementing laws and policies relating to minimization and controlling of the impacts of climate change in the context where women are being hardest-hit by the unpredictable decrease in the agricultural production, rain, drought and unimaginative natural calamities as a result of the global climate change, and in the context where women are also being uprooted from their place of origin.

Enact appropriate preventive and safeguarding legal measures to prevent and control all forms of incidences of sexual violence against women, and adopt legal measures to ensure dignity, social security, and appropriate livelihood options for the women vulnerable to human rights violation and those affected by the conflict.

Enhance effective measures through affirmative action and standard inclusive policy along with constitutional, legal and policy provisions to end the incessant discrimination against women from all walks of life including underprivileged sectors, Terai-Madhesh, mountains and hills as well as women representing dalits, indigenous and minority groups including sexual minority, senior citizens, single women, refugees, backward, marginalized, differently-able and especially girl child.

Formulate appropriate measures to adequately reflect the conclusions and recommendations derived from the dialogues, interactions, debates and discussions carried out at different phases by this Network regarding the achievements, opportunities, constraints and challenges and emerging issues in relation to 15 years after Beijing Conference in the new constitution drafting process.

The End

ANNEX I

Glimpses of the Conference



Newspaper Clippings

The Kalamunda Press • Monday, November 16, 2009

Conference on Beijing +15 review starts

Abstract

President Ram Baran Yadav stressed the need to promote the education of young girls, an urgent measure, said, to uplift the status of Nepal's women as the beneficiaries of the New Year's National Conference on Building a New Nepal, sponsored by the Ministry for Building a New Nepal, in Kathmandu. He said, "Building a new nation is the collective responsibility of the Nepalese Government, the people, the youth and the women. Therefore, we must give women the same status as men in our society." This conference was first held in Building a New Nepal.

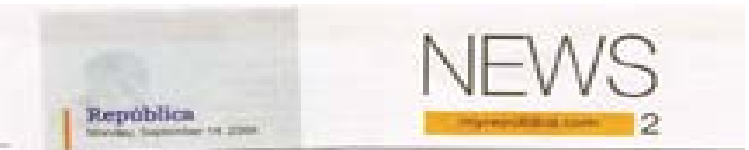
the last several weeks, women always have played in these three movements. In Nepal, according to Kanchan, Nepal's president of the movement, the women's movement is Nepal's strength in a lot of organizations in the Nepali Parliament, the Justice (NPT) and in society. They have been heard for the women and children. The movement must be more prominently active in issues regarding the situation of women, such as rape, incest, and violence. Women movements in Nepal must be more active in the issue of women's suffrage. The culture of Nepalese, the effect of climate change on women, and the issue of migrant women workers are some challenges that the

In the programme, presenting women's objectives, Betty Thompson (Indiana) said, "I am glad to hear these contributions to Nepal's women's movement. Patriarchy makes Thailand and Viet Nam women very patriarchal. Discrimination is prevalent in the society. The status of women is not as high as it should be."

More systematically, William E. Shafer, said that there had been a lot of positive change in Iraq's law and constitution with regards to the women's issue.

Ministry of Women, Children, and Social Welfare (Department of Social Welfare) Minister. "Communities should be empowered and made stronger to continue to uplift the status of women," she added.

More than 60 participants from different districts in Nepal gathered in this national conference. The conference is to present an NGO report for Nepal to them for the Beijing +12 Asia Pacific NGO Forum in Manila in February 1994 and the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women in New York in March 1994.



1.8.8. *Other activities*

અવધાન્યુપાં બોર્ડ, ટોંચનાર, ૨૭ જાન્યુ ૨૦૨૩

बेइजिङ समीक्षा सम्मेलन सुरु

अन्यथा न संभवति

[illegible]

समस्यायुक्त महिला अधिकांशतया क्षेत्रीय
स्तर पर ५०-६० वर्ष की आयु समूह की
महिलाएँ हैं। इनमें १५-२० प्रतिशत ३०-
४० वर्ष की आयु समूह की महिलाएँ हैं।
अधिकतर महिला आयु समूह १२-२० वर्ष की
महिलाएँ हैं।

कार्यकर्ता : सुकुमि ड. वसवराव
 छात्राई लोकसभा में प्रवेश करने की इच्छा है।
 अधिवक्ता : भद्रा— (कानून) : प्रश्न
 निम्नलिखित अधिनियमों के अन्तर्गत संशोधन करने
 की आवश्यकता है :
 १. अधिनियम १९५३
 २. अधिनियम १९५३

[illegible]

પરિણામ, આત્મચરિત્રિકા એવા
પ્રસાદકલાકાલગણનો સમર્પિતપ્રત્યક્ષ એકાગ્ર
મેરિટલ પર્વતોત્પત્તિથી પશિત, અર્ધિત્તરકાલ
એકમત કામ મુખ ખુલ્લો કાલ। કાર્યક્રમમાં
સામયગુણ પ્રકાર પ્રકાર મળતો કે કાલના પાત્ર,
સમી સીમકાનો અવધાન કવનના પ્રસાદપ્રકાર
કાલના સર્વિકા કાલ। કાર્યક્રમમાં પશિત
આવેશિતકાલ કાર્યક્રમ પોષાત મુખનો પ્રકાર
પ્રકાર, પ્રકાર અવશિત કે અર્ધનો એકાગ્ર
કાર્યક્રમ પ્રકાર પોષાત કાલો।

ଆନେକ ପାଠକାବଳି କଲେ ମଧ୍ୟ ସିଦ୍ଧିଲାଭ ହୋଇନାହାନ୍ତି । ସମସ୍ତଙ୍କୁ ସମୀକ୍ଷା କରିବା ପାଇଁ ଏହି ପୁସ୍ତକ ପ୍ରସ୍ତୁତ କରାଯାଇଛି ।

The Honolulu Star-Bulletin, November 5, 2009

Education can inform women of their rights: Prez

Journal of Management Inquiry 17(4) 409-424
© The Author(s) 2008. Reprints and permissions:
sagepub.com/journalsPermissions.nav

President Dr. Bhanu Shrestha Yadav's army struggled with illiteracy as a prime culprit in keeping Nepalese women unaware of their rights and obligations in society.

Addressing a programme organised by the capital by Saadiah to receive Beijing plus 10, he underlined the importance of education in ameliorating women's conditions in society. "Many women in the rural areas are functionally illiterate and are unaware of their fundamental rights and responsibilities," he said.

"Bringing plus 15 as a platform for putting North women's voice," she pointed the government in the same direction. In the same way, she added, the government should be able to put the need for the change policies and ensure that there would not be any discrimination against legal provisions against women in the new constitution.

"The country has entered a perilous because the people want no further reforms. He, however, called on the people to fulfil their responsibilities too. 'Institutionalisation of the republican system remains a key challenge,' he added. Speaking on the same occasion, Sharma Dev Prasad Ojha, Minister for Women, Children and Social Welfare, informed that the annual report of the district-level institutionalised protection against sexual abuse in the pipeline. A task force has been formed to celebrate 2010 as women's year," he added.

On the occasion, Sachin felicited former Foreign Minister Shriya Pradhan and Dr. Sharmila Thapaliya for their contribution to women's cause.

Sapana Pradhan Mehta, Co-ordinator, Assembly (CA) member, assured her unfinching support to women in their fight for dignity and rights, through the CA.



Task: Write a function `isPrime` that takes a number as input and returns a boolean value indicating whether the number is prime or not.

ANNEX III

Network Members

ABC Nepal

Alliance Against Trafficking in Women & Children in Nepal (AATWIN)

Blue Diamond Society

Burn Violence Survivors - Nepal (BVS-N)

Centre for Policy Research & Analysis (CPRA)

Child Workers in Nepal (CWIN)

Community Action Centre (CAC) - Nepal

Didi Bahini

Equal Access

Feminist Dalit Organization (FEDO)

Forum for Women, Law & Development (FWLD)

Gender Studies Tribhuvan University

Global Gender Climate Alliance Nepal (GGCAN)

IHRICON

INHURED International

INSEC (Informal Sector Service Centre)

International Association of Women in Radio & Television (IAWRT) Nepal

Jana Hitaishi

Kaamdhenu

Karnali Integrated Rural Development and Research Center (KIRDAC)

Legal Aid & Consultancy Centre (LACC)

Mahila Mitra Samuha

Maiti Nepal

Media Advocacy Group (MAG)

Mirest Nepal

Nagarik Aawaz

National Indigenous Women's Federation (NIWF)

National Network against Girl Trafficking (NNAGT)

Nepal Muslim Women Welfare Society (NNWWS)

Nepal Red Cross Society

Pourakhi

Pro Public

Rural Women Development Unity Centre (RUWDUC)

SAATHI

Safe Motherhood Network Federation Nepal

Sahayogi

SAMANATA

Sancharika Samuha

Shakti Samuha

South Asia Partnership (SAP) Nepal

Stri Shakti

Tewa

Utthan

Women for Human Rights (WHR)

Women for Women Forum

Women in Environment (WE)

Women Security Pressure Group (WSPG)

ANNEX IV

Conference Preparation Committees

Working Committee Members

Babita Basnet, Sancharika Samuha
Bandana Rana, SAATHI
Dr. Gopal Krishna Shivakoti, INHURED INT'L
Geeta Gautam, INSEC
Meera Dhungana, FWLD
Pinky Singh Rana, Samanata
Premlata Prasai, LACC
Renu Sijapati, FEDO
Sangini Ranamagar, NIWF
Shobha Gautam, IHRICON
Tulsa Lata Amatya, CAC-Nepal

Report Writing Team

Dr. Chandra Bhadra, Gender Studies TU
Pinky Singh Rana, Samanata
Sumnima Tuladhar, CWIN
Lily Thapa, WHR
Sumeera Shrestha, WHR
Babita Basnet, Sancharika Samuha
Pushpa Ghimire, Gender Studies, TU
Chapala Koirala, Sahabhagi
Salina Joshi
Sabin Shrestha, FWLD
Saloni Singh, Didibahini
Shobha Gautam, IHRICON
Kamala Dhungel, WE
Bandana Rana, SAATHI
Tulsalata Amatya, CAC Nepal

Declaration Drafting Committee

Dr. Gopal Krishna Shivakoti – Chair
Saloni Singh
Babita Basnet
Shobha Gautam
Bandana Rana
Dr. Nirmal Pandey
Renu Sijapati
Tulasa Lata Amatya
Geeta Gautam

SAATHI Coordination Team

Pramila Shah
Anup Nasnani
Suvekchya Rana
Samjhana Kachhyapati
Pukar Shah
Hari Banskota
Ava Regmi
Sangeeta Rana
Shamir Raj Gautam
Jayshree Pal
Srijana Thapa
Anju Singh

Annex V

List of Participants

1	Abdul Kaish	NMWWS
2	Amila Shrestha	CAC-N
3	Amuda Shrestha	Member, National Women's Commission
4	Anil Thapaliya	LACC
5	Anita Bhattarai	Solidarity Monthly
6	Anita Thapaliya	LACC
7	Anjana Neupane	Media Advocacy Group
8	Anjana Tamli	NIWF, Dhankuta
9	Anju Ghimire	Advocacy Forum
10	Anju Singh	Children's Program, SAATHI
11	Anup Nasnani	SAATHI
12	Anupa Shrestha	Image Channel
13	Anuradha Koirala	Maiti Nepal
14	Asha Hamal	Tikapur, Kailali
15	Asmita	Sancharika Samuha
16	Astaman Maharjan	YAEF
17	Ava Regmi	SAATHI
18	Babita Basnet	Sancharika Samuha
19	Bandana Rana	SAATHI
20	Basanti Bhatta	Baitadi
21	Basanti Shrestha	LACC
22	Basudev Adhikari	CWIN Nepal
23	Basundhara Panthi	Community Welfare Center, Arghakhanchi
24	Basundhara Bhattarai	ICIMOD
25	Beena Poudel	Tribhuvan Universtiy, Central Department
26	Benu Maya Gurung	AATWIN
27	Bhawani Rana	SAATHI, Kathmandu
28	Bhumika Karki	Sankhuwasabha
29	Bhupal Karki	Ilam
30	Bibha Prajapati	INHURED International
31	Bijay Rai Shrestha	POURAKHI

32	Bijaya KC	Board Member, SAATHI
33	Bimala Ghimire	Jana Hitaishi
34	Bimala Parajuli	WHR –Saptari
35	Bimala Shahi	Kathmandu
36	Bimala Yogi	Nepal Women Community Service Center, Dang
37	Binay Gautam	INSEC
38	Bishnu Basyal	Kathmandu
39	Bishnu Sapkota	Women Rights and Awareness Campaign, Dadeldhura
40	Chandani Joshi	Kathmandu
41	Chandra Baniya	Radio Nepal
42	Chapala Koirala	Sahavagi
43	China Lama	Sindhuli IHRICON
44	DIGP Bimala Thapa	Nepal Police
45	DIGP Parvati Thapa	Nepal Police
46	Dila Sangroula	ABC Morang
47	Dr. Chandra Bhadra	Gender Studies, TU
48	Dr. Chhatra Amatya	Nagarik Aawaz
49	Dr. Gopal Krishna Shivakoti	INHURED International
50	Dr. Nirmal Pandey	CPRA
51	Dr. Poonam R.L. Rana	NEHCA
52	Durga Ghimire	ABC Nepal
53	Durga Sob	FEDO
54	Durga Thapa	Blue Diamond Society
55	Faiza Banu	Nepal Muslim Women Welfare Society
56	Flora Gurung	Maiti Nepal
57	Geeta Gautam	INSEC
58	Gyani Shova Shakya	WWG
59	Gyanu Poudel	Namuna Ekikrit Bikash Parishad, Rupendehi
60	Hari Banskota	Kathmandu
61	Hari Priya Pandey	NNAGT
62	Hon Minister Sarvadev Prasad Ojha	Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare
63	Hon Nainkala Thapa	Chair, National Women's Commission
64	Hon Pampha Bhusal	CA Member
65	Hon. Dr. Leela Pathak	Member, National Human Rights Commission
66	Hon. Kamala Pant	Kathmandu
67	Hon. Mahommadi Siddiqui	CA Member, Nepalgunj

68	Hon. Sapana Malla Pradhan	CA Member
69	Indira Neupane	Community Development Center
70	Indira Tiwari	Kathmandu
71	Indrawati Moktan	FECOFUN
72	Itendra Timilsina	Single Women's Group, Bara
73	Janaki Shah	TEWA
74	Jane Hodge	INHURED International
75	Jayshree Pal	Banke
76	Jharana Yogi	SAATHI, Kathmandu
77	Jocelene Josse	The British Embassy
78	Kalika Khadka	Dolakha (INSEC)
79	Kalpana Ghimire	Kantipur Daily
80	Kalpana Sharma	Dang
81	Kamala Bisht	RUWDUC, Dadeldhura
82	Kamala Dhungel	WE Nepal
83	Kamala Khadka	NCDC, Khotang
84	Kamala Panthi	Radio Kantipur
85	Kanchi Bhandari	Sindhupalchowk
86	Kaushila Rai	Center for Rural Technology Nepal
87	Khaga Pd. Chapai	Kapilvastu
88	Lalita Sunar	Dhangadhi, Kailali
89	Laxmi Bhandari	Kantipur "NARI"
90	Laxmi Pandey	WREPS, Nawalparasi
91	Laxmi Puri	Shakti Samuha
92	Luni Karki	NTNC
93	Madhav Pradhan	CWIN Nepal
94	Madhuri Shrestha	SAATHI, Kapilvastu
95	Madhuri Singh	Founder President, SAATHI
96	Mahendra Karki	NCDC, Jhapa
97	Maiya	World Education
98	Manisha Shrestha	SAP Nepal
99	Manu Lama	Shakti Samuha
100	Maya Babu Shrestha	WHRD, Kavre
101	Meena Sharma	Kathmandu
102	Meera Amatya	Working Women Journalists
103	Meera Dhungana	FWLD

104	Merina Pradhananga	Bhaktapur (CAC-Nepal)
105	Milan Shakya	Samjhouta Nepal
106	Mina Lama	Makwanpur (Dalit Uthan Jilla Samanwoya Samiti)
107	Mina Oli	Surkhet, Birendranagar
108	Nandu Ban	ICIMOD
109	Neha Sharma	Metro FM
110	Nina Dangol	FWLD
111	Nirmal Rijal	Equal Access
112	Parvati Bisunkhen	FEDO, Dailekh
113	Parvati Shrestha	Nuwakot – CAC Nepal
114	Pawan Barsha Shah	Nepal TV
115	Pingala Basnet	Nagarik Aawaz
116	Pinky Singh Rana	SAMANATA
117	Prabin Basnet	Media Advocacy Group
118	Prakash Sharma	Pro Public
119	Pramila Shah	Women's Shelter, Saathi
120	Pratima Biwash Rai	FNJ – Sunsari
121	Prativa Mudbhary	WFWF
122	Prem Bahadur Dangi	SMFN, Salyan
123	Premlata Prasain	LACC
124	Prisma Singh Tharu	Tharu Women Upliftment Center, Bardiya
125	Prof. Dr. Shanta Thapaliya	LACC
126	Pukar Shah	Saathi
127	Pushpa Ghimire	TU Gender Studies
128	Radha Paudel	Nepal TV
129	Radha Thapa	Gauri Organisation
130	Raj Devi Shahi	MCDC
131	Ram Pyari Karki	NFD-N
132	Rama Adhikari	Mahila Bikash Manch, Udaypur
133	Rama Luintel	Annapurna Post
134	Rama Singh	Nepal TV
135	Ranju Kafle	The Rising Nepal
136	Rasmila Malla	Kamdhenu Association
137	Ratna Maya Awal	ECR FM, Women Division
138	Renu Sijapati	FEDO
139	Rita Shahi	KWC Humla

140	Rubina Khatri	Morang
141	Ruby Siddique	FFN
142	Ruchi Thapa	ABC Nepal, Kathmandu
143	Sabin Shrestha	FWLD
144	Sahana Pradhan	Women's Security Pressure Group
145	Salina Joshi	Kathmandu
146	Saloni Singh	Didi Bahini
147	Sameksha Singh	Kamdhenu Association
148	Samjhana Ban	Poournama.
149	Samjhana Kachhyapati	Kathmandu
150	Sangini Rana Magar	NIWF
151	Sangita Aryal	Sagarmatha TV
152	Sangita Rana	Kathmandu
153	Sanjay Singh	Kathmandu
154	Sanju Ghimire	Population Watch
155	Saraswoti Dahal	Kanchanpur, SAATHI
156	Saraswoti Parajuli	Banke, SAATHI
157	Sarita Karki	Didi Bahini
158	Sarita KC	Chitwan (Ideal Women Development Centre)
159	Sarita Shrestha	MMS
160	Sato Sadain	NSS, Dhanusha
161	Saundarya Shakya	Palpa - Rastriya Adibashi Janajati Samanwoya Samiti
162	Savitri Thapa	Women's Security Pressure Group
163	Seema Khan	Muslim Women Society
164	Shadhana Shrestha	LACC
165	Shamir Raj Gautam	SAATHI
166	Shanker Basnet	Media Advocacy Group
167	Shanti Chadda	NW
168	Sharada Pokharel	Rajdhani Daily
169	Sharada Pokhrel	Women's Security Pressure Group
170	Sharmila Karki	Jagaran Nepal
171	Shobha Basnet	SAMANATA
172	Shobha Gautam	IHRICON
173	Shodashi Rayamajhi	Planete Enfants
174	Shristi Malla	Kathmandu
175	Sita Chettri	Parsa - Didi Bahini

176	Sita Shrestha	TEWA
177	Sneha Moktan	Mirest Nepal
178	Srijana Thapa	SAATHI
179	Subodh Raj Pyakurel	INSEC
180	Suchitra Shrestha	Sancharika Samuha
181	Sumeera Shrestha	WHR Single Women Group
182	Sumira Shrestha	WHR
183	Sumnima Tuladhar	CWIN Nepal
184	Sunil Pokhrel	Didi Bahini
185	Sunil Shrestha	SMNF Nepal
186	Suresh Acharya	Mirest Nepal
187	Surya P. Shrestha	NEOI
188	Sushila Adhikari	Mahila Bikash Manch, Udaypur
189	Sushila Mangranti	Makwanpur (Dalit Uthan Jilla Samanwoya Samiti)
190	Sushma Kattel	IHRICON, Gorkha
191	Susmila Mishra Bhatt	SP Sarokar Manch, Doti
192	Sutan Rizal	Nagarik Aawaz
193	Suvekchya Bindu	WWJ/NS
194	Suvekchya Rana	Kathmandu
195	Tara Bhattarai	Red Cross
196	Tikajit Rai	Magnus
197	Tirtha P Gyawali	SAP Nepal
198	Toya Giri	ABC Nepal
199	Tulsalata Amatya	CAC-N
200	Urmila Yadav	INSEC
201	Usha Pokhrel	Stri Shakti
202	Usha Thapaliya	INSEC
203	Yogendra Chintan	ECCA

BEIJING +15 REVIEW



Report Publication Supported By:



National Conference Supported By:



For Further Information Contact:

SAATHI, Ekantakuna, Lalitpur, Nepal
POB: 7770, Tel: 977-1-5000063, 5000074
Email: saathi.ktm@gmail.com, Website: www.saathi.org.np