



Women as an engine for fostering peace and promoting democracy

Women for Peace and Democracy Nepal (WPD Nepal)

Uniting passion for building a Peaceful and Democratic Nepal

Issue IV, 2015

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1. Socioeconomic Empowerment Program for Women and Marginalized (SEWAM) enters the 5th Year

Women for Peace and Democracy (WPD) implemented the Socio-economic Empowerment for Women and Marginalized (SEWAM) program (Year 1-4), that has been helping marginalized women of Nepal to realize their potential since 2010 with the support of World Accord. SEWAM has helped in developing women's leadership, strengthening women groups and ensuring their personal security through the enhancement of economic opportunities. With the help of the program, women's participation in income generating activities has been improving. Women have begun to invest funds and loans that are mobilized through the trust funds, micro credit loans. Technical skills development, improved technologies, knowledge of keeping accounts and exposure tours have enhanced women's role in economic development. Under the 5th year program, women received different levels of trainings like financial administration and business management, micro credit loans,



making bamboo chairs, poultry farming, mushroom cultivation, pig raising and organic farming. The women group in Chisapani received adult education cornerstone trainings and goat raising as the initial trainings. Majority of the women sell their products in the market. The money earned from their sales has contributed to their family income and has influenced household expenditures. It has been encouraging the women to take loans with low interests and help them to establish small scale businesses of their own. This year Chisapani village was identified as a new working community and Chisapani Women Group was formed in Handikhola village after an assessment in November 2014. Chisapani Women Group comprises of 30 marginalized Chepang women. The other working areas of the SEWAM 5th year program are distributed among Kumroj, Bachhauli, Handikhola, Basamadi, Hariyon, Haripur, Bindhi of the 4 districts, Chitwan, Makwanpur, Sarlahi and Dhanusa. These areas consist of a total of 15 women groups. Till the third quarter of the program, the total number of women who are involved in some kind of income generating activities is currently at 208 women with 82 women taking new loans from the trust fund. Therefore, SEWAM program continues to work for reduction of poverty and to increase economic opportunities through improved and sustainable participation of marginalized women groups.

2. Nepal Earthquake Relief and Reconstruction Program:

Nepal Earthquake Relief Camps

Nepal, a country full of natural beauty and precious cultural heritages, was completely shaken by the earthquake that occurred on 25th of April 2015. A 7.8 Richter magnitude earthquake not only destroyed houses and cultural heritages but also took many innocent souls with it. The earthquake killed more than 8,000 people and injured more than 23,000. More than 600,000 houses have been completely or partially destroyed and this earthquake has supposedly affected the lives of around eight million people from 39 districts. Despite the initiatives undertaken by the Nepalese government the work yet to be done is immense. Therefore, Nepal Earthquake Relief and Reconstruction Project was initiated by WPD Nepal for the support to improve the lives of 4118 people affected



living in Nuwakot, Sindhupalchowk, Gorkha, Syangja and Dolakha. After the devastating earthquake WPD Nepal staff with 20 energetic volunteers forming WPD Nepal Earthquake Relief and Reconstruction Team (NERRT) went into action right afterwards by setting up relief camps at various regions that were mostly affected by the earthquake. The camps were set up 3 times in Sipapokhare and Sindupalchowk, 2

times in Sunkhani and Nuwakot and, once each in Dolakha, Syangja and Tallopam and Mathillo pam, Gorkha. Rice, tarpaulin, medicine, dry foods, clothes and other basic stationary were distributed in the affected areas. A total of 4118 victims benefited from the camps out of which 2146 were female and 1090 victims were under 16 years of age. The relief materials were provided to Dalits and ethnically marginalized people of the target districts. Total 8 relief camps were conducted.



Nepal Earthquake Rebuilding of Shelter homes

A Reconstruction of Temporary Shelter Homes program was launched right after the Earthquake Relief Camps in order to ensure that the earthquake victims received shelter. Temporary shelter homes are currently being built in two of the worst earthquake-hit regions, namely Sindupalchowk and Nuwakot. 83 temporary shelters have already been built in 5 communities (Kuwapani, SetoPahara, Jyamire, Tindhara and Badegaun) in Sindupalchowk and in Sunkhani of Nuwakot. Another 80 shelter homes are currently under construction in Tindhara and Badhegaun of Sindhupalchowk and in Sunkhani of Nuwakot. One temporary learning shelter was built in Sipapokhare, Sindhupalchowk. While in Nuwakot, one shelter house for primary school children is under construction. Two other schools are under assessment, focusing on building girl child-friendly environments in Sindhupalchowk and Nuwakot. More families in



the affected areas are also being assessed in order to construct more shelter homes

The reconstruction program is working sustainably as the program ensures that reusable debris from the fallen houses such as windows and doors are being used to rebuild the new shelters and also during the reconstructions both women and men work together. The program is rebuilding community



together with local women and men.

Balbalika Sudhar Primary School in Sindhupalchowk is Up Again. Thank you to our supporters; Where Do the Children Learn (WDCL) Geneva, Ilias Panchard and the entire team; Bindhya Schaer Subha, Gauri Guvaju, Journey Pradhan and Sharmila Vanolden Magar for helping us to make this happen. There is still more to come.



3. Nepal Earthquake Rebuilding program (NERP)



Along with the rebuilding of houses, Nepal Earthquake Rebuilding Program (NERP) has been initiated in Sindupalchowk and Nuwakot focusing on rebuilding the affected communities through socio-economic empowerment of women and marginalized supported by World Accord and HOPE International Development Agency, Canada. The objective of NERP is to build temporary shelter homes for marginalized women and their families and temporary learning shelters in the earthquake affected communities of Sindhupalchowk and Nuwakot and to enhance economic opportunities to



improve the socioeconomic conditions of marginalized women of the target villages through a process of economic and social empowerment. Under the NERP program 60 shelter homes and two temporary learning shelters are under construction. 60 Dalit and ethnic women in Sindhupalchowk and 30 Dalit and ethnic women in Nuwakot are receiving various technical trainings, education and awareness programs and micro credit loans to initiate their small-scale income generating activities. The goal is to empower the community's most marginalized women socially and economically.

4. Control Arms Campaign Arms Trade Treaty First Conference of States Parties in Geneva



On July 4 - 6, 2015, The Executive Chair of WPD-Nepal, Shobha Shrestha, attended the Final Preparatory Conference for the ATT First Conference of State Parties, Signatories and Observer States, UN & specialized IGOs and civil society and industry as participants to CSP1. Shrestha delivered the Control Arms intervention on draft financial rules during the Final Preparatory Meeting of First Conference of States Parties. Control Arms mentioned the Arms Treaty of Shrestha. The intervention focused



on implementing effective financial management. A portion of the intervention was also quoted by Non-Violence International Southeast Asia.

SEWAM HERO (Lila Devi Shah)

"Tears roll down my eyes when I remember the hardships of the past but thank you SEWAM program for making me who I am today" says Leela Devi Shah, Bindhi.

Leela Devi Shah, aged 35, lives in Bindhi village of Janakpur district. Leela got married at the age of 9 to Ram Kailash Shag and then moved to Madhwapur of India. Leela had her eldest son at the age of 17 and then had two girls at the age of 23 and 25.

As Leela's family grew, their financial problems increased as well. Leela's husband had no job and used to spend his time aimlessly wandering in the village. There were no income generators in her family. Her problems got worse when Leela and her husband along with their children were thrown out of her in-laws' house because of the economic problem.

Leela and her family had nowhere to go except to her mother's house in Bindhi village where her mother built a small hut for Leela and her family to stay. Leela confessed that during that particular situation, she felt helpless because she had no education or any skill to

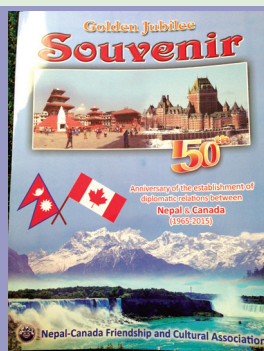


get a job and earn money. But things changed after she joined the Puja Women Group formed under SEWAM program.

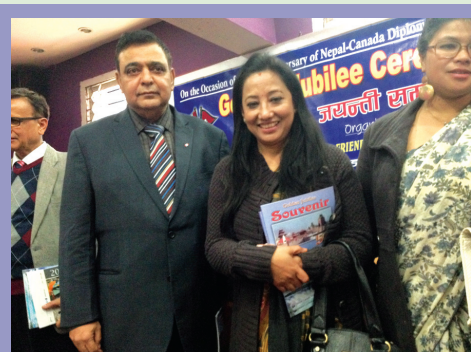
After joining the group, Leela got the opportunity to take adult education classes, cornerstone training, goat raising training, bangles making training and she also participated in gender based violence, climate change and health and sanitation awareness programs. She learned about the importance of being in a group, about monthly savings and benefits of trust fund loans

to initiate income generating activities. Leela, took her first loan of Rs.5,000 for goat raising from the trust fund and paid back the loan with interest on time. Leela had learned the basic knowledge of making bangles from her mother. But after taking bangle-making training provided by SEWAM program she got confidence on running a bangle making business. She took a loan of Rs.24,000 to start a bangle business and today she runs a small bangle shop in Bindhi village and earns monthly Rs.5,000 to Rs.6,000. Leela says she earns more during the festive seasons. Today, she has no problem feeding her family and sending her children to school. Inspired by Leela, her husband has also started working as a chef in a small restaurant. The best part is that her children also help her in the business when they have time after school.

"Tears roll down my eyes when I remember the hardships I have faced in the past, but thank you SEWAM program for making me who I am today", says Leela with gratitude. Thanks to World Accord's support, today Leela and her family's life have gotten a positive and significant change for which she is very grateful.



On January 18, 2015 Celebrating 50th Anniversary of Nepal-Canada diplomatic relations a 'Golden Jubilee Souvenir' was launched by Nepal -Canada friendship and Cultural Association. Shobha Pradhan Shrestha, Executive Chair of WPD – Nepal and an executive member, Nepal –Canada friendship and Cultural Association shared her journey working with World Accord, Canada and Women for Peace and Democracy Nepal through an article "Helping People and Transforming Communities" in the Souvenir.



International Women's Day celebrated in Makwanpur

On March 8, 2015, The SEWAM women of Basamadi village celebrated International Women's Day conducting rallies; dramas and creating awareness to the women of their communities. SEWAM women of Basamadi and Handikhola village of Makwanpur conducted a rally with a slogan "We continue to make it happen to end all forms of violence against women" followed by drama and dance. The women celebrated the day acknowledging all the



hard work fighting against women violence and transforming lives.

On July 15, 2014, Students for Liberty South Asia (Nepal) had organized a workshop. Ms. Shobha Pradhan Shrestha, the executive chair of WPD-Nepal was invited as a panelist to share about WPD Nepal's women empowerment work at the talk program on "Women's empowerment starts with Women's Liberty". The program saw participation by more than 100 emerging youth



leaders. In the program, Shrestha shared their stories and her experiences working with the marginalized women.

On September 18, 2014, Shobha Pradhan Shrestha, Founder and Executive Chair of WPD-Nepal was invited to be a part of World Alliance of Religions for Peace Summit 2014, Seoul, Korea by



International Women's Peace Group (IWPG). Ms. Shrestha shared about SEWAM women in peace building with the participants of the summit.

On November 22, 2014, to protest against this cycle of violence incidence happening these



days, Women for Peace and Democracy, WPD-NEPAL with Rational Unity for Knowledge and Skills (RUKS Group) envisioned a cycling event that depicts unity of young people to cycle/rotate against inadequacies that have been happening around. To support the motto of "Cycling-A powerful rotation against violence", WPD-Nepal and RUKS Group portrayed the solidarity of people and expressed their discontentment of the violence in a symbolic way. Skit and Sign collection was also done during the event.

On November 22/24- 11, 2014, World Accord Team, the Director of World Accord

(WA), David Bath with WA Program Coordinator, Farrah Ali Khan and friend of WA, Dan Allen visited Nepal. They visited Chitwan, Makwanpur, Sarlahi, Janakpur to assess the situation of women supported by WA and Chisapani of Handikhola Makwanpur and Pokhara to explore possible working areas with WPD Nepal team. The team identified Chisapani community of Hadikhola as a new working community for SEWAM's 5th year program.



On December 23-24, 2014, Sauraha, Chitwan, two young women leaders Asmita Niraula and Windy Pham from Colby-Sawyer College Enactus, New Hampshire, United States joined WPD Nepal to organize a two-day workshop on "Inspiring, Interactive, Informative Discussions with SEWAM women entrepreneurs" from Sarlahi, Makwanpur and Chitwan. It was a unique discussion-learning program where knowledge gained through practice and theory merged together and enriched everyone.



On March 24, 2015 at Annual and Review Planning Meeting, Ms. Nirmala Theeng Lama was awarded as the best Motivator as of her hard work, dedication and commitment to the women of the community. Lama who believes every woman has a potential to change has been continuously empowering marginalized women to change their lives.



About WPD - Nepal

The voices of women and the marginalized in Nepal often go unheard. Despite the state declaring commitment to gender equality in law and development, inequality between men and women persists. Especially, in rural areas of Nepal, women continue to be marginalized in conditions of poverty. These women are largely excluded from health, economic and social services and have little access to political opportunities.

Women for Peace and Democracy - Nepal was established in 2010 to address this lack of opportunities that women face due to discrimination. This independent, non-governmental and women-led organization has a mission to bring gender equality to Nepal. WPD-Nepal campaigns to end gender-based violence, discrimination, and injustice. We believe that change comes from the grassroots and that tolerance and respect for human rights must emerge at the community level. WPD-Nepal has a reputation for hard work and is committed to working with like-minded organizations and the communities it serves. Together, we can build peace, improve living conditions, and uphold human rights in Nepal.

Objectives:

- To enhance the capacity of women and the marginalized and facilitate their role in the processes of socio-economic and political change.
- To improve coordination and networking between the women organizations/groups.
- To promote social awareness on women's issues



Congratulations to Som Laxmi Praja, one of the motivators of Srijansil Women Group in Handikhola, who has been assigned as a teacher by EPAC to teach 30 women of Makari community on health and hygiene.

and their rights.

- To develop women's skills and competencies so they can reach decision-making levels at all spheres.
- To fully involve women in peacemaking, peace building and disarmament.

Vision:

- A peaceful and democratic Nepal.

Mission:

- To bring about a society with gender equality - based development.

Goal:

- To enhance the practice of democracy and promote a culture of just and equitable peace.

Strategies:

- Enhancing opportunities for the economic development of women.
- Promoting effective political representation and meaningful participation of women in governance.
- Creating awareness and advocacy.

Approach:

WPD-Nepal believes that women can become empowered through the creation of a supportive environment where they can discuss their issues and needs within their community. As such, WPD-Nepal oversees the creation of women groups in rural areas, and provides them with structure, trainings, education, awareness and support. We achieve this through partnerships with community organizations located in rural Nepal, as well as through partnerships regionally, nationally, and internationally. We work with several small women groups that are striving to build peace in their communities and, by extension, throughout the country. Our rights-based approach ensures meaningful development for women and socially excluded groups. This not only increases the

realization for their rights, but also empowers them to participate in decision-making on multifaceted issues from the local to the national level. These women groups are the foundation of WPD-Nepal's development model, and as such they are treated as partners in their own development.

Target Area

17 Rural communities of the six districts Chitwan, Makwanpur, Sarlahi, Dhanusa, Nuwakot and Sindhupalchowk of Central Development Region

WPD-Nepal Partners

Local Partners/ Groups

- Tharu Sanskritik Sangrahalaya, Bachhuali, Chitwan
- Manakamana Aapasi Bikas Kendra, Kumroj, Chitwan
- Darpan Aapasi Bikas Kendra, Basamadi, Makwanpur
- Nepal Manav Chahari Sangh, Hariपुर, Sarlahi
- Rural Development Foundation, Janakpur, Dhanusa
- Community Development and Environment Conservation Forum, Sindhupalchowk

International Partners

- World Accord, Canada
- HOPE International Development Agency, Canada
- Westminster College, United States
- Controls Arms Coalition, United States
- Colby-Sawyer College Enactus, New Hampshire, United States
- Where Do the Children Learn (WDCL), Geneva
- Naya Yuba, Help Nepal, United Kingdom
- Nepal Pain Relief, Geneva
- International Action Network for Small Arms Control (IANSA), UK
- Institute for Peace and Justice (IPJ), San Diego, USA
- Quaker United Nations Office, Geneva

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