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Women of Nepal and Constituent Assembly



Constituent Assembly is an important and burning issue in Nepal now. Constituent assembly is going to be formed under interim constitution to draw up a new constitution by an electoral college elected by the people. The main issue here is whether all the sections of society will be included in that electoral body or not.

Women constitute more than half of Nepal's population but have less prestige, power and privileges than their male counterparts. Their social, economic, political and educational status is far more lower than men. Decision making has traditionally been regarded as a male domain. Women continue to

be under represented at the legislative, judiciary, ministerial as well as in the corporate sector and in other social and economic institutions. Thus the challenge now is to ensure proportional representation of all stratas of society including women in the constituent assembly and formulate "gender-mainstreamed" constitution so that women's issues are adequately discussed and their rights are ensured in new constitution securing equitable representation at all levels. In April 2006, the lower house of the parliament was reinstated after the People's Movement II (April, 2006).

The cabinet formed after the movement made an agreement to eliminate all kinds

of discrimination against women and made mandatory to include 33% women on all public offices however, cabinet decision and the draft interim constitution has contradictions regarding the 33% reservation as the interim constitution highlight 1/3 rd reservation in the constituent assembly only. women were also not included initially in the commission to draft the interim constitution as well as there were no women representatives in peace talk committees from both the seven parties and the CPN (Maoist).

Issues:

- Discriminatory laws still existing
- 33 percent inclusion of women is not yet implemented
- Interim constitution not internalised

Challenges:

- How to ensure women's right issues in the new constitution
- How to ensure women's participation in the constitution Assembly

Thus it is imperative to have proportional representation of women in constituent assembly to address women's issues like citizenship rights, property rights, domestic violence and many other issues. Let us work together and be hopeful that the new constitution to be drafted through Constituent Assembly shall give equal rights to women. □

Rachana Shrestha

We wish a happy, prosperous, healthy and peaceful New Year 2007 to all our Friends and Partners

Letter from the Chair

Dear Readers,

Festive greetings to all !

Everyone has got an attitude and it shows, Attitudes are the reflections of our soul, the lenses we wear that color our world with gloom or brightness. We all have it that take form in our minds and which is expressed verbally or non-verbally. Non-verbal attitudes are the loudest.

An attitude is a small thing but can make a big difference. And it is the difference between winning and losing, success and failure, living life of simply surviving, fulfillment and dissatisfaction. A great attitude may not necessarily be one's own ability, is what could give the edge in life. Victory is not as always for the strong; success is not just for those with exceptional ability, power and resources.

2006, for us Nepali, have been a year of struggle, a year of victory and also the year of demand. All of us with all the best attitudes fought together

to decide our own future and write our own destiny. However, at the end of this year the "interim constitution" as well as the process of Constituent Assembly show the attitude of those with power and resources. The issue of gender equality and social inclusion still remained "Not yet priority agenda"

It is again the attitude not position and power that can make the big difference. Let's all join hands and commit together that the New Years to come will bring positive difference in gender equality and social inclusion. Let's live life with the most positive attitude and wish that "Let everyone on earth can live with happiness
Happy New Year 2007!

भवतु सब्ब मंगलम् ।

**Saloni Singh
Executive Chair**



Picture Courtesy: FWLD

सशस्त्र द्वन्द्वबाट पीडित नेपालीले यतिबेला केही राहत अनुभव गर्न पाएका छन्। शान्तिपूर्वक बाँच्न चाहने आम नेपालीको चाहना सात राजनीतिक दल र नेपाल कम्युनिष्ट पार्टी (माओवादी) बीच सम्झौता भएपछि पुरा भएको हो।

जनचाहना र दबावका कारण सरकार र माओवादीबीच २०६३ साल कात्तिक २२ गते भएको सम्झौताबाट द्वन्द्व अन्त्य भयो। त्यसपछि मङ्सिर ११ गते भएको विस्तृत शान्ति सम्झौताले सशस्त्र द्वन्द्व समाप्त भएको ऐतिहासिक घोषणा गरेको छ।

मुलकको विकासका लागि शान्ति अत्यन्त महत्वपूर्ण छ। सर्वसाधारणले स्वतन्त्ररूपमा काम गर्न, बस्न नपाउने अवस्थामा विकासको कुरा कल्पना गर्न पनि सकिँदैन। सबैले शान्तिपूर्ण वातावरणमा आफ्नो उद्यम, व्यवसाय गर्न पाउने अवस्थाबाट मात्र विकास हुने निश्चित छ।

स्थायी शान्ति नेपालको यतिबेलाको सबैभन्दा प्रमुख आवश्यकता हो। सरकार र माओवादीबीच भएको शान्ति संझौताबाट नै स्थायी शान्ति स्थापना भइसकेको मान्न सकिने अवस्था छैन। सबै वर्ग, जाति, लिङ्ग, क्षेत्र एवं समुदायले राज्यका सबै अङ्गमा समान अवसर पाउँदामात्र स्थायी शान्ति हुनेछ। समाजमा व्याप्त शोषण, थिचोमिचो तथा भेदभावहरूका कारण विद्रोहले मौलाउने अवसर पाएको हो। विगतमा पहुँचवालाहरूको स्वार्थलाई विकास निर्माणका कामसाग जोडेर योजना बनाउने काम भए। महिला, जनजाति, दलित आदि समुदायका साथै दुर्गम क्षेत्र विशेषगरी कर्णाली अञ्चललाई राज्यले वेवास्ता गर्‍यो। विकासका काम त्यस्ता समुदाय र क्षेत्रसम्म पुग्न सकेनन्। पुन्याउनतिर सरकारमा बस्नेहरूले पर्याप्त ध्यान दिएनन्। आज आएर १२ वर्षसम्म सशस्त्र द्वन्द्व चल्नुका पछाडिको मुख्य कारण असमान अवसर एवं वितरण नै थियो भन्ने प्रमाणित भइसकेको छ।

यिनै कारणहरूले द्वन्द्व व्यवस्थापन सँगसगै आर्थिक कार्यक्रमहरू जस्तै रोजगारी, व्यवसाय आदिको प्रत्याभूति समेत सँगसगै लगनुपर्ने देखिन्छ। आफ्नो उत्थान अरुको दमन नगरी गर्न सक्ने व्यक्ति राज्यको स्रोत वितरण गर्ने निर्णायक स्थानमा हुने हो भने द्वन्द्व व्यवस्थापन र शान्ति स्थापनाको शुरुवात त्यहिबाट थालनी हुन सक्छ। अहिले नेपालमा शान्ति स्थापनाको शुरुवात हुनमा राज्य स्रोतको वितरण गर्ने निर्णायक स्थानमा विद्रोही र सरकारी पक्ष

एकसाथ निर्णय गर्नसक्ने वातावरण निर्माण भएकोले द्वन्द्व व्यवस्थापन भई शान्ति स्थापना सम्भव भएको हो।

सशस्त्र द्वन्द्वका कारण विस्थापीतहरूलाई ससम्मान फर्काउन पहल गरिनु पर्छ उनीहरूको अनुपस्थितिमा गाउँसमुदायमा भएको रिक्तताले अझ त्यसठाउँमा पछ्यौटेपन निम्त्याएका छन्। आ आफ्नो स्थानबाट उनीहरूले योगदान गर्न सक्ने, जीवीका गर्न सक्ने अवस्था सृजना गर्नु पर्छ। द्वन्द्व व्यवस्थापनमा मात्र त्यसैले शान्ति सम्भव छ। यसमा लागि पर्न सबै जनताको आज ठूलो आवश्यकता हो।

केन्दमा भएको शान्ति संझौता मात्रै विकास र द्वन्द्व व्यवस्थापन मान्न सकिँदैन। द्वन्द्वलाई पूर्णरूपमा निर्मूल पार्न गाउँ गाउँ, समुदाय वस्ति वस्तिबाट शान्तिको लागि काम गरिनु आवश्यक छ। अहिले सम्म भएका हिंसा, हत्या, उत्पिडन लाई दुवै पक्षले स.स्विकार गर्नुपर्छ। समुदायलाई शान्तिको प्रत्याभूति दिनु पर्दछ। जवसम्म पिछाडिएका वर्ग, जाति, लिंग हरेरूलाई समेट्न सकिन्न तवसम्म द्वन्द्व व्यवस्थापन सफल हुन सक्दैन।

यी तथ्यहरूलाई मध्यनजर गर्दै दिदीबहिनीले समय समयमा समय सापेक्ष कार्यक्रम हरु गर्दै आएको छ। केही समय अघि द्वन्द्व व्यवस्थापन सम्बन्धि ३ दिने जिल्ला स्तरिय कार्यक्रम गर्नुका साथै सबै गाविसमा समेत यो कार्यक्रम भैरहेको छ। □

Advocacy Strategy for Women's Political Empowerment

महिला राजनीतिक सशक्तिकरणको लागि पैरवी सीप र रणनीति

पैरवी के हो ?

अन्यायको विपक्षमा बोलिदिनु पैरवी वा जनबकालत हो।

पैरवीले के गर्छ ?

यसले सामाजिक, सांस्कृतिक रूपमा पछाडि पारिएकाहरूलाई अगाडि बढाउन ज्यादै सहयोग पुग्छ। पैरवीले आवाज नभएका वा मधुरो आवाज भएकाहरूको आवाजमा आवाज थपिदिन्छ। आफ्नो अधिकार र आवश्यकताका लागि लड्ने बल प्रदान गर्दछ। समाजमा, समुदायमा भएका अन्याय अत्याचार उत्पीडनहरूलाई बाहिर ल्याएर त्यसको समाधान गर्न क्षमता प्रदान गर्दछ।

पैरवी कसले गर्छ ?

पैरवी आफैमा पूर्ण हुँदैन। पैरवीलाई सहीरूपमा प्रयोग गर्न योग्य मानिस चाहिन्छ। सम्बन्धित व्यक्ति एवं समुदायको इच्छाविपरीत वा करकापमा पारेर पैरवीगर्न सम्भव हुँदैन। यस्तो नहुँदा शान्ति उत्पन्न हुनुका साथै समुदायले नपत्याउन सक्छन्।

पैरवीको महत्व किन छ त ?

महिलाहरूले भोग्नु परेका समस्याहरूमा उनीहरूको आवाजलाई बुझेर समाधान खोज्न सकिन्छ। समुदायमा रहेका प्रथा तथा घटने घटनाहरू जस्तै वोक्सी प्रथा फाउपडी प्रथा, यौन शोषण, घरेलु हिंसा आदि आदिका जस्ता सामाजिक कुरिंतिहरूलाई नग्याएर समाजमा भय रहित बनाउन समुदायको ठूलो भूमिका रहन्छ।

पैरवी कसरी गर्न सकिन्छ ?

पैरवी गर्ने तरिकाहरू अवस्था र विषयका आधारमा फरक फरक प्रकृतिका हुन सक्छन्। जस्तै :

- कुनै कुराको पैरवी सम्बन्धित पीडितले योग्य सम्बन्धित व्यक्ति वा निकायलाई सामान्य जानकारी गराएर गर्न सकिन्छ।
- यस्ता कुराहरूमा सहमत गराएर वा सुनाएर (यदि सामुहिक समस्या छ भने) गर्न सकिन्छ।
- औपचारिकरूपमा भेटघाट गरेर, प्रतिनिधिमण्डल बनाएर गरिन्छ।
- पत्रपत्रिका, रेडियो, टेलिभिजन, चलचित्र जस्ता सञ्चार माध्यमको प्रयोग गरेर पनि गरिन्छ।
- जुलस, न्याली आदि पनि प्रभावकारी पैरवीका रणनीतिहरू हुन्। जस्तै- नागरिकता, द्वन्द्व समाधान जस्ता विषयमा न्याली, धर्ना एवं जुलस प्रदर्शन ज्यादै प्रभावकारी देखिएका छन्।

उदाहरणका लागि, दिदीबहिनी महिलामञ्चका सदस्यहरूले गर्ने कामलाई लिन सकिन्छ। किनकी उनीहरू समुदायका रैथाने भएकोले नयाँ ज्ञान र सीपको माध्यमबाट समुदायका आवश्यकता, त्यहाँ हुने द्वन्द्व तथा अन्य पछ्यौटेपनलाई आवाज प्रदान गरी सामुदायिक विकासमा ठूलो भूमिका खेल्दै आएका छन्। नयाँ पैरवी सीप, रणनीति, तरिका तथा सोचमा विकास होस भन्ने हेतुले दिदीबहिनीले आफ्नो कार्यक्षेत्रमा गाविस स्तरको २२ दिने तालीम भरखैर सम्पन्न गरेको छ। □

Congratulations!!!

हादिक बघाई



Congratulation to Pranjali for being awarded as "Youth Ambassador for Peace" by Small Fisher's Federation of Lanka (SSFFL), and International Advisor to children as Communicator and Promoters for Peace (CCPP) by Lanka Jatika Sramadana Sangamaya SARVODAYA, Sri Lanka in November December 2006.

Pranjali Singh, one of the youth forum members of DidiBahini, was invited first to SFFL to organize her Paint for Peace program starting from 17th till 30th November in three different district centers with around 100 youth

participants in total. Her program facilitated and encouraged the participants to express their feelings,



opinions and desire about peace through pictures and paintings. The program contained series of exercise which helped the participants to search, understand, internalize and express their feeling of peace and think positive through sketches and colors. Variety of methods were used like guided meditation which helped each participants to travel through personal to collective peace process. This program also included activities which facilitated in expanding their creativity as means of expressing the oppressed feelings through art and color. The output of this initiative were three district specific murals (one in each) as a collective expression of peace that each young citizen in Sri lanka dream of.

The other program Pranjali attended from the 1st to the 5th of December was at SARVODAYA. She was invited as

the chief guest for a national level "Children's Leadership Program for Peace" where she was honored as the key speaker on "Children as Communicators for the Promotion of Peace" theme. There were discussions and presentations on promotion of peace with participation of Children where Pranjali also provided several inputs and communication methods through art, songs, music, drama and dance. The program also included an inauguration of the CHILDREN'S CHAIN which formed at national, district level as well as local committees and Pranjali was unanimously elected as the international advisor for the committees. She was also been highly welcomed and appreciated by the Legendary Personality, Dr A.T. Aaryaratne, the founder of SARVODAYA. □

Youth Forum

नया संविधान निर्माणमा युवा वर्गको भूमिका

Role of young citizens in constitution making- reshaping the law of Land

After a long political upheavels, Nepal is turned to new phase of constitution making. During 11 years of armed struggle, many people have lost their life in the name of ideologies. Ordinary citizens also were the victim of this bloody war. Young citizen were one of the worst victims in this armed conflict. Their forceful recruitment in Maoist cadres used to be heard from time to time.

Even in this context, young citizen lack access to resources and authority to raise their voices. Lack of quality education, social discriminations on the basis of cast, class, ethnicity has created a big gap even among the youth and children of the country. Therefore, despite of global cognigence of youth as an important and integral part of the country's development, Nepali young citizen have not been given adequate platform in the national decision making.

Young citizen are the adults of tomorrow. We will be having even bigger responsibility to drive the nation in tomorrow's highly

competitive and challenging world. We should be given a equitable platform to put forward our views in today's time, so that our future is worthful and also secure.

Though there are some organizations working for the welfare of youth, there is a lack of youth-right based organizations which can put forward their demands and fight for their rights. Youths at this crucial time should be united and fight for the rights. It is appropriate time to realise the situation and influence in rewriting the constitution so that young citizen's place is secure in the new constitution. In order to materialise it, strong and youth-supportive leader should be elected in the constituent assembly. It is the responsibility of all including youth citizens, youth-based organizations and individuals. Otherwise, it will be too late to regret for the mistakes. □

Nabina Bajracharya

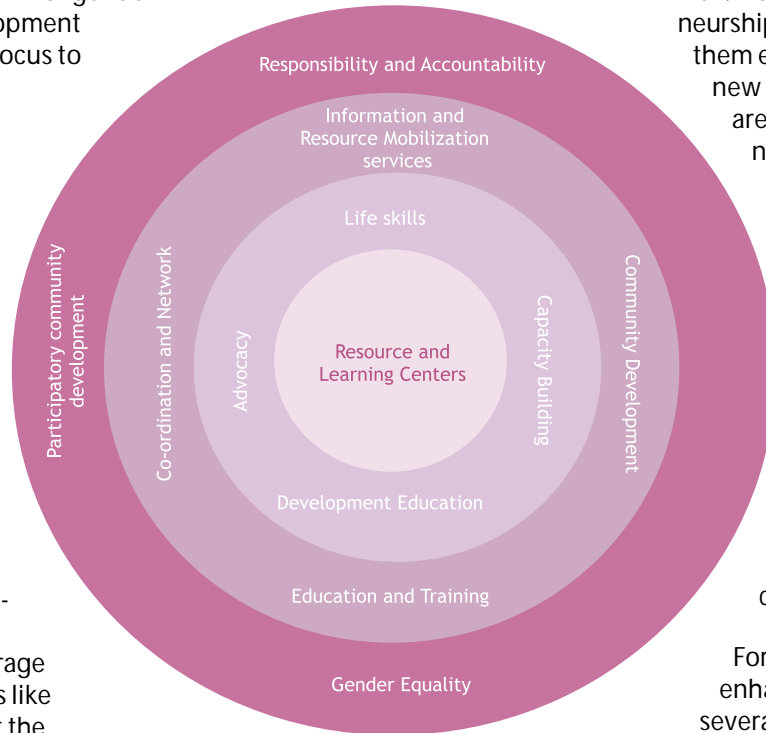
RESOURCE CENTERS

Development Initiatives through Resource and Learning Centers

DidiBahini has been promoting Resource and Learning Centers (RLCs) as a platform for gender equal community development initiatives. RLCs mainly focus to facilitate development education and political empowerment to the community men/ women through community's own initiatives. They also advocate empowerment through debates, interactions, meetings, interactions, orientations on different issues like political empowerment, gender equality, domestic violence, resource identification and mobilization, clean and green environment and encourage awareness in the aspects like health, education so that the community is self-motivated and self-sustained. They help people learn community advocacy and

lobbying skills based on participatory learning approaches so that community

Various orientations and trainings in life skills are given to the community men/women. For instance, entrepreneurship trainings are provided to help them enhance their capacities, learn new skills so that they themselves are empowered socially, economically and help sustain their resource and learning centers.



WorkCycle of Resource and Learning Centers

Flow of information and resources is also another important element for any community. Through updated vital information on agriculture, education, health they can do better in occupation, be able to practice new technologies, high yielding varieties of seeds and help live economically sound and healthy life.

For sustainability, they also enhance linkages, coordinate with several districts and VDC level line agencies, local governments for resources. With the close coordination and supervision of DidiBahini at the center RLCs carry on participatory community development with the accountable and responsible manner, creating positive and multiplier effect within and around the VDCs as well as districts. (The diagram given above is self-explanatory). □

by itself can exert influence in policy decisions and help sustain self-governance.

Capacity Building and Life skills are also important aspects Resource and Learning Centers (RLC) activities.

Gist of Activities

- District and Learning Center Training on "Leadership and Conflict Management" accomplished
- VDC level Training on advocacy accomplished in all DB working districts.
- District level sharing on constituent assembly and role of women accomplished.
- VDC level training on peace education accomplished.

Glimpse of Activities

- National workshop on "Interim Constitution and Constituent Assembly and the issues of Women.
- DidiBahini , SFFL Youth Exchange Program
- SFFL and DidiBahini long term partnership announcement

STAMP
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