



Feminist Dalit Organization (FEDO)

For a just and equitable society

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Editorial

Golden 22 Years of FEDO

Feminist Dalit Organization (Fe DO) has spent its golden 22 years working with and for the poorest, suppressed and neglected sect of woman which is mostly composed of Dalit women. Now, Fe DO has been evolving as per the context and recent development it has been winning the heart of those women who are still remaining in caste and gender based discrimination. Fe DO was founded in 1994 to establish the rights of Dalit women by organizing and empowering them for their mainstreaming into national development. It is not easy to express every detail of its history of two decades worked for Dalit women rights but a clear picture of their changes and achievement after the Fe DO's establishment is self-evidence. It has been working to promote the Dalit's rights and to eliminate caste and gender-based discrimination and promote justice and equality in Nepalese society since its establishment. Fe DO works at four levels (grassroots, regional, national and international level) to promote Dalit women's advancement and participation at the decision-making level. This organization has also been leading various successful campaigning for the economic, social, civil and political rights of all Dalits and Dalit women in particular through economic, Political empowerment, Justice and human Rights.

In these 22 years, the organization also evolved to accommodate the need of the ground. It is now functioning as an umbrella organization or confederation with 56 district chapters in all the Development Regions of the country, which comprised of 2,154 women's groups and 53,850 members united, organized and mobilized to fight against caste and gender based discrimination at all levels. FEDO is thus known as a pathfinder or front runner to protect and promote the interest and rights of Dalit women who were facing various forms of discrimination. Fe DO has also been working with several alliances and expanding its network to strongly lobby and bring Dalit issues to the forefront at both the grassroots and national levels. Coordination, collaboration and networking are the major working approach of the organization.

The Fe DO is continuously building up its new history of its leadership. Just now, it has elected its new Central Board Committee. Kala Swarnakar became the second President of Fe DO. Swarnakar was unanimously elected to the post which gives the message of unity and harmony within the institution. Newly elected president Swarnakar vowed to make Fe DO a strong and credible institution of Dalit women.

Fe DO was organized and successful to gain several achievements and milestones under the visionary leadership of Durga Sob who is the founder and former president of the organization. Sob, the outgoing president, worked tirelessly to make the organization as a common platform of Dalit Women. The organization is very much thankful to her for the efforts and work done for Dalit community. Founder and former President, Sob promises to do best to ensure betterment of Dalit women in future as well. 'I would work earnestly to ensure that work is done to ensure Dalit women rights', said Sob. These expressions are providing guardianship for the organization. Moreover, there are other strong hands and support for the organization to achieve its success which includes its development partners, funders, good wishers and community who had believe on us and supported our goals. At this moment, the organization would also like to extend its gratitude to all of them.

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New constitution enhances the rights of marginalized People: *Mainali*



Kathmandu, January, 1

Deputy Prime Minister CP Mainali has stated that the state's policies, programme and budget would be made Dalit- friendly.

Inaugurating an interaction programme 'Dalit Women's Participation in Politics for sustainable Peace: Opportunities, Learning and Challenges' on 1st January, Deputy Prime Ministry and Minister for Women, Children and social Welfare honorable Mainali said that there has been significant positive changes of Dalit women but still qualitative changes to achieve in future.

Deputy Prime Ministry Mainali has also extended his best wishes to FeDO for its active role in increasing Dalit women's participation in the country's politics. At the programme, Mainali said that the new constitution has created conducive environment for peace and prosperity. 'the nation adopted new constitution to enhance the marginalized people's access to rights, opportunities and development' he added. Deputy Prime Minister Mainali urged

political forces to institutionalize the recent change and achievement made through the constitution.

In the program, the Founder President of FeDO and women rights activist Durga sob has highlighted the continuous efforts of FeDO for the meaningful participation and increasing Dalits women's role in politics. she further expressed that FeDO, as an organization and movement, will continue working towards Dalit women whether or not any specific project is continued. She claimed that FeDO has been working to include Dalit women in the state organs as their rights. 'this was the responsibility of political parties but they are indifference in this regards, they are in long slumber' sob has said. she urged the political parties to ensure meaningful and appropriate role to Dalit women in upcoming days at all level of decision-making.

newly elected President of FeDO Kala s warnakar demanded to prepare Dalit-friendly laws as the spirit of constitution. President s warnakar has promised that FeDO will work along with government agencies and other

stakeholders to enhance Dalit women's participation in the country's politics. Similarly, CPN (u ML) leader Jitu Gautam has highlighted the golden role of FeDO for increasing Dalit women's participation in the nepalese politics. Mukta Bahadur Mahate, Vice Chairman of Committee for upliftment and Development of Oppressed, suppressed and Dalit Community added that nepal should prepare effective plans and programmes regarding Dalits community. Former lawmaker Durga Pariyar has remembered her days in which she was associated with FeDO and acquired the post of lawmaker with the help of the organization.

Addressing the interaction Unified Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist) leader Ranendra Barali said that nation could not achieve its goals without the development of Dalit women. he praised the role of FeDO for increasing the Dalit women's participation in the politics.

General secretary of utpidit Jatiy Mukti samaj, Ganesh BK, secretary of Dalit ngo's Federation sushil BK, Dalit rights activists trilok Chand Vishwas B.K, Dr. Yam Bahadur Kisan, recalled and praised the role played by FeDO for the advancement of Dalit women in nepal.

executive Director of FeDO Bhim Bahadur BK presented four year experiences; achievement, learning and challenge of the "Increasing Dalit Women's Political Participation for sustainable Peace in nepal" project which was implemented in Banke, Kailali and Kanchanpur.

Laxmi neupane, Project Manager, welcomed whereas the Vice President of FeDO shanti Paswan extended votes of thanks to the participants. the Programme was emceed by Renu sijapati, General secretary of FeDO.

Achievement Report (April 2012-December 2015)

Increasing Dalit Women's Political Participation for Sustainable Peace in Nepal Project

Project Summary

Feminist Dalit Organization (FeDO) is a national level organization founded in 1994 dedicated to the establishment of Dalit rights, eliminating caste and gender based discrimination, promoting justice and equity and eventually mainstreaming Dalit women and the entire Dalit community into the social, economic and political development process in Nepal. It has its outreach in 56 out of 75 districts where there are 2154 women groups with 53850 members in it and 519 Dalit women activists.

under the strategic pillar IV: Improve representation and participation of Dalit women at all levels, FeDO has implemented a comprehensive project entitled "Increasing Dalit Women's Political Participation for sustainable Peace in Nepal" in partnership with the Womankind Worldwide (WW) UK, through the financial support of Dutch Government under "Funding Leadership of Women (FLOW)" in three districts of mid and far-western regions of Nepal (Banke, Kailali and Kanchanpur) from April 2012 to December 2015. The major components of the project are capacity building, lobby & advocacy, community mobilization and organizational development where the women groups were capacitated, organized and linked with local agencies; political party's leaders and concerned government officials hold accountable and responsive towards Dalit women's inclusion issues and concerns.

Project Goal (overall objective)

Dalit women have increased skill, resources and opportunities to contribute towards the achievement of MDG3 and the eradication of poverty.

Objectives

1: to increase numbers of women actively and effectively participating in political parties and decision

- making structures at national and local levels.
- 2: to improve accountability by decision making structures to their female constituents.
- 3: to strength WW and its partner organizations to play a leadership role on issues of women's political participation and effectively bridge the gap between communities and decision making structures.

Target Stakeholders

Political parties, political leaders, sister wings, center and local government institutions, policy makers, local institutions, civil society groups, CA members and CA thematic committees, local and national media, Dalit/women Leaders and activists, Dalit/women networks

Final Beneficiaries (based on targets) Major Activities

1. study and research

	Groups	hh (planned)	Present result
Direct Beneficiaries	75	4,648	8,123
Indirect Beneficiaries	75	23,240	40,615

- 2. Formation and mobilization of 75 Dalit Women's groups with 1875 members.
- 3. Lobbying/advocacy with government personnel's, Political parties and concerned stakeholders.
- 4. Produce a directory of Dalit women who can contest and be appointed to the district assemblies
- 5. Media campaign (training, conference, interaction and identification of key messages for TV, radio and newspapers on Dalit women's participation
- 6. Capacity building (training on political structure, political inclusion and social integration, HR, leadership development, public speaking, new

constitution)

- 7. Political awareness-raising workshops, interactions, national conferences, exchange visit in and out country.
- 8. Right based approach materials (5,000 booklets) related to inclusion provisions, human rights, and women's rights.

Project Area (Kanchanpur, Kailali and Banke)



Name of the district	Name of the VDCs	Name of the municipalities
Banke	Bageshwori, sitapur, shamsheganj, t itihiriya, udhrapur, Khaskarkado, Kamdi, Manipu, Purnima	nepalganj
Kailali	Chaumala, Mashuriya, Dododhara, Chuha, Baliya, Pathariya, Phulbari, shreepur, Malakheti, Godawari	Dhangadi
Kanchanpur	suda, Daiji, Jhallari, Krishanpur, Pipaladi, Beldadi, Routelibechwa, Dodhara, Chadani	Mahendranagar

Multi Pronged Implementation Approach and Strategy

- * Right based approach (RBA)
- * Participatory and decentralized project management structure.
- * Linking with the micro-macro level actions, intervening at practical and strategic needs.
- * Community mobilization.
- * Capacity building amongst Dalit women.
- * Lobby, advocacy and alliance building.
- * Participatory monitoring and evaluation.

Project highlights and Achievements

the project has been completed 4 years by providing a unique opportunities and platform in regular basis to Dalit women groups, Dalit women leaders, political leaders and parties, government institutions, civil society organizations, local and national media, policy makers along with CA members for discussing on Dalit/women issues and bringing them on common platform for addressing all those issues. It has been also contributing to increase Dalit women's participation in different level of political arena and also the significant developments and changes in the life of Dalit women.

on human rights, leadership skill and political empowerment, public speaking, political structure.

- 1875 members of the 75 Dalit women groups organized capacitated in 30 VDC of Kailali, Kanchanpur and Banke.
- In second Constituent Assembly, 5 Dalit women competed through FPTP (first past the post) system and 501 through the proportional representation system. In Banke 19 women were nominated by their political parties, this represents an increase of 15% from the first ever elections in nepal in 2008.
- Out of the nominated 506 Dalit women 22 were nominated for 335 seats, including FeDO's

- Increased Dalit women's representation in their central committees, which was zero in baseline study.
- (Nepali Congress-2, CPN UML-3, UCPN Maoist-2, Madheshi Jana Adhikar Forum Democratic-4 and Madheshi Jana Adhikar Forum Nepal - 2)

Improved accountability and responsiveness of decision makers towards the representation and participation issues of Dalit women

- 9741 people political leaders and government officials sensitized and educated about Dalit women rights and participation and did commitment for specific policy formulation for Dalit women and effective implementation of existing Dalit women friendly programs and policies through 399 lobby advocacy meetings and workshops.
- new constitution indorsed and included Dalit woman's rights in fundamental rights
- 56 proposals submitted by Dalit women groups and approved by the VDC where they were successes to get n Rs. **52, 340, 00** local resources.
- Media Mobilization: 78 Media representatives trained **82 episodes** of tV program telecasted. ntV has **52% viewers. 5% viewers sensitized and aware** through **Hamro Sarokar** program on Dalit women issues.
- 372 episode of radio program broadcasted.
- Dalit women issues highlighted through Radio and tV program and created pressure to the concerned stakeholders for insuring Dalit women's rights in state program and polices.
- senior Journalist visited the FeDO districts and highlighted the Dalit women issues through national and local news papers and tV.

Increased Local level political participation of Dalit women(2112 Dalit women took membership from 5 Major political parties)

s.n.	name of Political Party	Central Committees		District Committees	Progress (Value)
		Base Line (Value)	Progress (Value)	Base Line (Value)	
1.	nepali congress	0	2	64	445
2.	nepal Communist party united Marxist and Leninist	0	3	89	838
3.	nepal Communist party united Maois	0	2	143	631
4.	MadheshiJanaadhikar Forum and	0	2	3	89
5.	MadheshiJanaadhirkar Forum nepal.	0	1	0	109
	Total	0	10		2112

Increased Participation of Dalit Women in Local Government Institution (606 Dalit women got membership from 5 targeted local institution of 30 targeted VDC)

s.n.	name of Political Party	Base Line (Value)	Progress (Value)
1.	Ward Citizen Forums	27	298
2.	Forest user Groups,	9	160
3.	school Management committees,	110	85
4.	Water and sanitation committees	0	26
5.	health Management committees.	0	37
	t otal	146	606

Some highlights and achievements over the four years (2012-2015)

thousand of Dalit women actively and effectively participating in political parties and decision-making structures at national and local levels

- **3981** women and men trained through 134 events of the training

treasurer, and 1 from Banke. the representation of Dalit women compared to men in CA-II is now is more i.e. 53.65%.

- (Out of 22, 6 from Nepali Congress, 5 from CPN UML, 5 from UCPN Maoist, RPP-1, RPPN-2, CPN ML-1, Rrastriy Janmukti-1)

Sustainability

the capacitated board members of three districts is the major assets for sustainability where the good relationship is established with political parties and government agencies at local to national level. 80 selected Dalit women leaders recommended by different political leaders to whom we

develop leadership and empowered politically through different trainings and exposure visit. 1875 group members at community level have good linkage with government agencies and can regular voice their rights and tap the resources provided the government. so, this project is a complete package for overall development of Dalit women at levels.

District	Numbers of Groups	Saving amount	Remarks
Kalilai	25	NRs. 7,13,630/-	Most of the amount provided loan for business
Banke	25	NRs. 138, 6421	Most of the amount provided loan for business
Kanchanpur	25	NRs. 7, 113, 05	Most of the amount provided loan for business

Dalit woman have been utilizing this loan for their income generation activities, such as vegetable farming, chicken farming, small shops, small entrepreneurship development etc.

Publications

FeDO has published some documents during these 4 years and the information of all documents has been using for advocacy and lobby as well as memorandums and position papers preparation:

- Dalit woman in politics, directory
- Right based approach materials. e., 'Information Booklet on Women Rights and Gender Based Violence'.
- Dalit women in politics, directory.
- Case stories of Dalit woman
- Quarterly Bulletin 'Margadarsan'
- national budget analysis from Dalit, women and Dalit women perspective

Learning

- economic empowerment is very necessary for political empowerment and sustainability.
- Regular lobby, advocacy, coordination and collaboration with Political Parties and Government offices as the best ways of enhancing effective participation of Dalit Women in various political and development arenas and access to local resources.
- Different levels of implementation and involvement of Dalit women in program (national, district and community) success to bring effective results.
- Involvement of non Dalit in project

support to make success project implementation as well as to internalize the Dalit issues.

- Youth mobilization is necessary for second level leadership development as well as to raise Dalit issues regularly.
- Break down the barriers and bias mind set and perception of Dalit women's leadership are vital to supporting Dalit women's political participation.
- exposure visit and exchange visit are the most effective mechanism for increasing identity of FeDO in national and international. It is also an effective mechanism for learning and sharing of best practice.
- Women/Dalit women in decision making position can influence to the stakeholders as well as can play the vital role to change the mindset of the society.
- Collective campaign is most effective than individual organizational campaign as FeDO along with other Dalit organizations established Dalit civil society forum.
- Access to income generation activities proves to be an important pre-requisite for Dalits ability to engage into community life. the experience clearly shows that improved skills and income can lead people out of poverty, increase their self-esteem and dignity, as well as establish them as respected community members.
- Youth mobilization for second and third line leadership development to raise Dalit woman issues regularly and for sustainable social transformation.

Best Practice

- Regular lobby, advocacy, discussion, coordination and collaboration between political parties, government institutions and important stakeholders for result based outcomes.
- Regular interaction between the local government representatives and Dalit women in community level for making accountable to the duty bearers.
- Public hearing highly effective to create accountability to the duty bearers in local and national level
- use of media, television and Radio another important tool for

accountability.

- Involvement of the leaders from different political parties in writing the inclusion strategy made them more Dalit women friendly and they feel ownership.
- Men and non Dalit engagement on Dalit women's participation issues is highly effective.

Challenges

- Public expectation management, such as income generation program, program for non target VDC and districts etc.
- Lack of internalization of Dalit issue especially meaningful participation, untouchability by non-Dalit and other stakeholders.
- Outcomes out of implementer's control because of the political nature of the project,
- Difficult to continuously engage the political leaders as they work for their own political interest,
- ever changing government, both at national and local level
- Feeble mechanism of the government of Nepal regarding the implementation of the inclusion policy.
- Difficult to come on common understanding among the political parties, which is the main barrier for timely constitution and local election.

Causes of Success and Sustainability

- Active board at district chapters and at center.
- Dalit women groups either project or not.
- Competent project staffs at districts and center.
- strong lobby and advocacy.
- smooth coordination and collaboration with political parties, Local and national government institutions and stakeholders.
- Focus on income generation activities for sustaining the political empowerment.
- Integrated working approach.

For further information:



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Swarnakar elected as FEDO President

nepalgunj

December 22

Kala swarnakar has been elected as the new president of the Feminist Dalit Organization (FeDO) from the 4th national General Convention that concluded on tuesday in nepalgunj. A team of 15 different positions of the Central Committee were elected by the convention.

shanti Paswan and Chameli Pariyar have been elected vice president of FeDO. Likewise Renu sijapati was elected as General secretary of the organization.

similarly, Punyawati Ramtel and Manju sunar were secured the post of treasurer and secretary respectively. Pandu Pariyar (e astern Region), Pabitra Bishwakarma (Mid-Region) sujata Paudel (Western), hima sunar (Mid-West Region) and s hashi sob (Far Western) have been elected as the central working



committee member of Fe DO. Four other members will be nominated by central committee as per the provision of Fe DO's constitution.

After the win swarnakar said she would focus her attention to participation and inclusion of Dalit women in the all sector of state organs.

Founder and outgoing President of FeDO, Durga sob said that she is only leaving the active role of president but she promised to do best to ensure better implementation/ promotion of Dalit women rights. 'I would work earnestly to enhance Dalit women's participation in all organs of the state' said sob.

Workshop on Strategic Plan

Kathmandu, Dec 1

the Feminist Dalit Organization (FeDO) has conducted a two-day workshop to review its Five Years strategy Plan with the participation of central and district level committee member and personnel. FeDO is going to prepare a new two-year strategic action plan reviewing the previous

Five Years strategy.

Participants have focused the need of reviewing strategic plan of FeDO for an effective execution of responsibilities of the organization. During the programme Participants have expressed deep concern over about the current political, economic and environmental situation of the

nation and discussed for upcoming scenario of the country. At that time they underscored the need of preparing strategic plan of action of the institution. Participants marked out priority and implementation of policies and programme of the organization.

t he workshop has formed a taskforce to evaluate pervious plans, achievement and to prepare new strategic plan of action. t he task force will prepare strategy of the organization as the mandate and guideline of workshop with a time frame. Addressing the workshop, Kala swarnakar, then General secretary of the FeDO said that the strategic plan would help find out practical and suitable plans for the Fe DO to complete its duty.

the workshop was facilitated by Mohan Das Manandhar, where the central member of FeDO, personnel and the representative of different districts were participated.



The Problem of Non-Dalithas Transmitted in Dalits too!

Sunkosha Sarki
Kailali

Among three hundreds houses of our village, hardly thirty houses are of ethnic communities people, remaining all are of dalits. From the name of village it is known as the village of marginalized people. My husband, Raghu Lal sarki goes to earn money to h ariyana Karnal in India. We have four children: three sons and a daughter.

Our family is a representative family of a landless village. All dalit males in this village go in search of job to India and from the money they earn and send us, we've to maintain the family by providing the education to the children very difficultly. From our farming and earning we can hardly live for three months.

Feminist Dalit Organization (FeDO) not only has united us (dalit women) in such groups but also has made us aware of the dalit rights. It has taught us how to save our earning, not only voting the leaders in the time of election, it has encouraged us to participate in the political parties too. Without being involved in the political activities we cannot reach to the policy level. FeDO has made us aware of how to make the favourable party able to reach to the mainstream state politics by providing sufficient information. It made dalits implement the legal and constitutional rights in to practical life. Otherwise the rights of dalits would be limited in the writings on the paper. For this reason untouchability has been still prevailed in the social practices although it has been legally ended in 2020 B. s. If the social system would be according to the legal declaration, nepal would be the best country having equality. But there is still medieval behavior in the society, status of dalit is like that of the dogs and the behavior done upon the dalit people is still inhuman due to such practices.

Fe DO has made us aware of where we are by making us united, providing different trainings and taking us to visiting different places. Whatever political systems came in to practices in the past, we dalit had been living inhuman lives considering the lives of dalit community destined in such way. But we now realized that we are as equal as other people and our socio-economic and political rights also are also equal to other community people.



I used to be afraid of while speaking in the mass and I couldn't share my opinion as I was illiterate person, but now I have become active in every aspect of social life after I took the trainings from the FeDO. I cannot express how much effort I should make and how much difficult it had become

to face the pressure of the family, society and non-dalit people. the people who didn't response our greetings (namaste) are now calling me sunkosa Ji. It's very simple to see and listen to such activities but my 36 years life is a witness of such scenerio.

the male members of my family used to say that the job of female is to bear and care the children. the hen shouldn't crow. the society thinks that it's a dalit and its untouchable. If touched it should be purified. What would be the economic status of such stigmatized people? It's clear that we dalit people's life would be over being worried about what to eat for living. Our status is not equal to dogs although we are equal human beings, as clearly declared in the law. Let's not think of education, health, employment opportunities. In reality that was like slavery system.

FeDO, which provided the knowledge and awareness about equality to all dalit people especially dalit women by making them united, is really praiseworthy – it is our savior. had it not given us training by making us united, not brought us to district headquarters from the village, not taken to Kathmandu to some dalits from their villages, our lives would have gone without getting anything because nobody has made us dalit women aware in such way. Freedom is impossible without the improvement in economic condition although there were changes in our life.

We cannot compare our lives in the past to the present in terms of awareness. But our economic status is still problematic. saving money of the members in the union has helped us a lot in the emergency in our poor economic condition but it is not sufficient enough. It cannot create employment opportunities. What can we do by saving monthly ten rupees in these days? the gap between needs and income is wider than the Karnali River. But it doesn't mean that we have been changed in such present condition by doing such minor tasks. Where could we reach if we

didn't do even such minor tasks?

I am the coordinator of srijana Civil Awareness Centre .there are 25 members in the centre. I have been handling it myself. We know about the budget and resources available in our Village Development Committee (VDC) and District Development Committee (DDC) for dalits and women and such budgets can be invested for the welfare of the Centre's members. We can participate in the training conducted for the Awareness Centre. Dalits' issues can be included in the DDC's projects which supports for the welfare of the dalit women. We have been demanding for the dalit rights by finding what is to be done for the dalits in education, health, agriculture, livestock, forest, drinking water, road construction projects of the DDC.

We can get many opportunities if we work in groups. We graveled the road of our village which had never been constructed before in such way by submitting the proposal of one hundred and fifty thousands. We constructed water boring from the budget allocated to dalit. They said the fund is not sufficient, it would be constructed next year, we didn't agree it and ultimately we constructed the boring. the water of the boring can be used for irrigating the vegetable farming. We were able to get 412 thousands to construct the building of Awareness Centre. there are many women unions, but there was no building to conduct the meeting, we fulfilled it by constructing the common building. We've plastered it with zinc roof. If we give the hall in rent for other programs, we can have some income from it. We've to conduct public advocacy forum about the construction of the building. Beside it, we've started discussing in the group about what project we can get for the next year. Our priority is to gravel the road, to construct the boring and to manage the drainage system.

I've been selected as a representative of dalit community in VDC supervision Committee. no project can be approved without our approval. I am the member of Village tussle negotiation Committee as well. t he people who used to stigmatize dalits in the past are now accepting the punishment we decide. We refer the persons to police for further investigation and punishment if they don't accept our decisions.

I could reach to singhadarbar during the process of getting the rights of dalits in

See page 8

The Problem of...

the leadership of Fe DO. I met the president of Nepal, too. I had the snap with the president. He said that the discrimination between dalit and non-dalit has been legally ended and informed us to become aware of it. I had never thought that I could meet such head of the state and share our feelings in this life. When I told it to my villagers they hadn't believed it but after they saw my large picture snapped with the president they were surprised.

Nowadays we've been able to make the officers work in favour of us forcefully. But real change is impossible without dalit's access in such positions. education is the most important thing to make the dalit people able to reach in such positions. unless we provide quality education to our children, we can never reach there because we need qualification for that! I used to vote CPN (uML) but I had no access in the party. But after I became the member of the party, I can raise our issue in the party. the leaders should address such issues. I can become the candidate in the election. I could not have such right before I became the member of the party. to become the officer we have to pass the bachelors degree. unless we educate our child, they will never pass bachelors degree and they can never become officers. That's why I've been sending my children for higher education compromising delicious foods and beautiful clothes.

having all these, what I don't like is the way dalits don't want to leave the post once they reached there. the problem of non-dalits has come to us, too. non-dalits always want to remain in power. It's bad. It's injustice. One should leave the post for the newcomers once one reached in the power. non-dalits also should be ready to give opportunity to dalits. Rich dalits should become example by giving chance to other poor dalits. Otherwise, how can there be changes in the dalits in this country?

Dalit Women getting empower through saving and credit

Kailali, Dec 1
By Ram Khatri

Dalit Women of Phulbari, Kailali are getting self dependency in economic through collective saving and credit activities. they, 21 women of the village founded Saraswati Women Group for collective saving and credit for four years. 'We Dalit women are empowered strengthened economically due to our involvement in saving group' says a member of the group. Each member has been saving Rs. 50 per month in group. now they have collected more than an amount of Rs. 85 thousand in group. the group is providing loan to member for a short term with nominal charge of interest.

'Members of the group have been starting goat farming, poultry farming, and beauty parlour' says Kamala Devi Tiruwa member of the Saraswati Women Group. she also added that the financial condition of the Dalit women has been uplifting

due to the regular saving and easy loan for private enterprise.

Feminist Dalit Organization (Fe DO) Kailali Chapter had trained them on saving and credit and account keeping as per the rule of Cooperative. Before it they are used to receive loan from an informal individual as Rs 2 or 3 for 100 for a month. now, now any problem to get money from organization says Laxmi Tiruwa 'financial independency brings us rays of hope'. Proud Meena Tiruwa BK mentioned that 'We are able to get easily 20 to 25 thousand from organization as our need.'

they can make independent decision on the use of their money. no any obstacle of husband, male or any senior are influenced them to gain and spend their money. this gives them enjoying power of self-decision. the Dalit Women of Kailali who are associated with saving group are getting self-dependency in economic through collective saving and credit' says Punam sijapati chair of Fe DO Kailali.

Interaction Concluded

Kathmandu
Dec.1

The Feminist Dalit Organization (Fe DO) has conducted an interaction programme with the theme "Rights of Dalit and Dalit Women in the new Constitution and the Challenges of Implementation" in the capital city. the interaction was held on the occasion of '16 days of activism' along with the 25th International day for the elimination of violence against women.

speaking at the interaction various participants said that 'though the constitution is historic and unique in term of procedure and content in the constitutional history of country



but there are so many challenges to implement.

Likewise they expressed their doubts over the sincere implementation of even the few provisions in support of the Dalits that are mentioned in the constitution. At the programme they said that whatever Dalit-friendly provisions have been included in the

constitution is tokenism at best.

Advocate and women right activist Meera Dhungana said that the new constitution spells out the provision to end discriminations and violence against women. Meanwhile, then President of Fe DO Durga Sob said that though some provisions included in

the constitution regarding the Dalits rights, their implementation is not free from challenge.

Participants from Kathmandu, Lalitpur, Bhaktapur, Kavreplanchowk, Banke, Bardiya, surkhet, siraha and saptari were participated in the programme.

Constitutional Provisions Regarding Citizenship



Meera Dhungana

The constitution of the Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal has been greeted with euphoria. The long-held, nearly 68 years, aspirations of the people to develop their constitution by their representatives have been fulfilled as the country has finally got the constitution out from the CA. The Constitution has opened several new avenues of gender friendly environment. In the constitutional history of the country, this constitution is more liberal and progressive towards women rights comparing to previous six constitutions. Some major provisions of the constitution regarding women rights related to citizenship are highlighted below:

Citizenship

10. not to be denied of citizenship:

(1) no nepali citizen shall be denied the right to acquire citizenship.

(2) there shall be a provision of single federal citizenship with provincial identity in Nepal.

11. to be deemed citizen of Nepal: (1) Persons who have acquired citizenship of Nepal at the commencement of this Constitution and persons who are eligible to acquire citizenship pursuant to this Part shall be deemed citizens of Nepal.

(2) At the commencement of this

Constitution, the following persons who have their permanent domicile in Nepal shall be deemed citizens of Nepal by descent:

(a) A person who has acquired the citizenship of Nepal by descent before the commencement of this Constitution.

(b) Any person whose father or mother was a citizen of Nepal at the birth of such person.

(3) A child of a citizen, who has acquired the citizenship of Nepal by birth before the commencement of this Constitution, shall acquire the citizenship of Nepal by descent after becoming adult if his/her father and mother are both citizens of Nepal.

(4) every child who is found in Nepal and whose parents' identity is not known shall, until the father or mother of the child is traced, be deemed citizen of Nepal by descent.

(5) A person, born in Nepal to a Nepali citizen mother, who has domicile in Nepal and whose father is not identified, shall be granted citizenship of Nepal by descent.

Provided that in case his/her father is proved to be a foreign citizen the citizenship of such a person shall be converted into naturalized citizenship as provided for by the federal law.

(6) If a foreign woman married to a Nepali citizen so wishes, she may acquire naturalized citizenship of Nepal as provided for by the federal law.

(7) notwithstanding anything contained elsewhere in this Article, in case of a person born to a Nepali woman citizen married to a foreign citizen, who has permanent domicile in Nepal and has not acquired citizenship of a foreign country, he/she may acquire naturalized citizenship of Nepal as provided for by the federal law.

Provided that at the time of acquisition of citizenship, both his/her mother and father are citizens

of Nepal such person born in Nepal may acquire citizenship of Nepal by descent.

(8) except provided for in this Article, the Government of Nepal may grant naturalized citizenship of Nepal as provided for by the federal law.

(9) the Government of Nepal may grant honorary Nepali citizenship as provided for by the federal law.

(10) In case any territory is acquired by Nepal by way of merger, persons having domicile in such territory shall be citizens of Nepal subject to federal law.

12. Citizenship based on descent and gender identity: According to this Constitution, a person who acquires citizenship of Nepal by descent may obtain citizenship certificate of Nepal in the name of his/her mother or father with gender identity.

13. Acquisition, re-acquisition and termination of citizenship: Other provisions relating to the acquisition, re-acquisition and termination of citizenship shall be as provided for by the federal law.

14. non-resident Nepali citizenship may be granted: A person who has acquired citizenship of a foreign country and who resides in a country other than a country member of South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation and who previously himself or herself or his/her father or mother, grandfather or grandmother was a citizen of Nepal by descent or by birth and who later acquired the citizenship of a foreign country may be granted non-resident citizenship of Nepal allowing him/her to enjoy the economic, social and cultural rights as provided for by the federal law.

15. Other provisions related to citizenship of Nepal: Record keeping of each citizen of Nepal along with his/her identity and other provisions regarding citizenship of Nepal shall be as provided for by the federal law.