FEDO Organises Storytelling Training

Aiming at developing storytelling skills of the staffs, Feminist Dalit Organisation (FEDO) organised story telling training to its staffs, under the Communication Strengthening Fund as supported by Just Society (FJS) on 23-24 May in Kathmandu.

The two-day training was divided into various sessions; each of the sessions aiming at teaching the participants about various aspects of the storytelling through lecture, group discussion, group work, interactions, games among others. To enhance the skills of the participants, they were given several exercises. At first the participants were asked to listen to each-others’ story and then developed a story in writing out of it. Then they were asked to share the story that they have written. The shared stories were jointly evaluated by the participants. The participants also suggested the necessary corrections in the stories. The participants were taught how to work as a storyteller in a various setting. They were also oriented on various new techniques and tools to be used for storytelling.

The training provided the participants with an opportunity to explore their unique expressiveness and heighten their ability to communicate thoughts and feelings in an articulate, lucid manner. The participants learnt how to reflect, analyze and edit one’s own and other’s work.

The training was facilitated by the prominent journalist and women’s right advocate Jaya Luitel. A total of 25 staffs from the various districts: Kailali, Rupandehi, Palpa, Udayapur. Siraha, Kathmandu, Banke and Dang were benefitted from the training.
In order to encourage the mother of the girl child of Dalit and other marginalized community towards income generation, FEDO organised 7-day training on detergent and incense stick making in Kapilvastu Municipality.

A total of 21 Dalit women participated in the training. They were divided into 4 different groups and were given training on detergent making for 4 days and incense stick making for three days. Each of the group will be given the worth Rs 10,000 to start their enterprise. Moreover, effective coordination will be done with the concerned authority to establish the proper market for their products. The training was facilitated by Ganga Bista.

At the end of the training the participants made detergent and incense sticks and shared in the training hall among themselves.

The Participants expressed that the training was very effective and requested to organise such training time and again.

Majority of the girls either do not join school or leave their study in the middle as their parents cannot afford the school expenses. Thus, the training was an effort to raise their economic level so their children do not have to miss going school.
A five-day training program on Papad and Masewra making has been concluded in Kohalpur Municipality. A total of 25 Dalit women from Kohalpur Municipality ward no 2, 11 and 12 were given training on how to make Papad and Masewra in a hygienic way. The participants were also given training on marketing skills. The training was organised by FEDO in collaboration of Kohalpur municipality with an objective to empower Dalit women economically by means of enhancing the vocational skills.

Following the training, the participants said that the training have not only made them skillful but has also motivated them to start up business of papad and maswera collectively.

Women Trained in Cushion and Doll Making

With a view to create employment opportunities for Dalit women Kohalpur Municipality, a 15-day skill training programme on doll and cushion making concluded in Kohalpur.

FEDO with support of Kohalpur Municipality had conducted the training as a part of income generation and entrepreneurship development program for Dalit women. A total of 25 Dalit women from Kohalpur municipality ward no 1, 2 and 3 were benefitted from the training.

The participants of the training gained the skills to go on to make a variety of dolls and cushion of different shapes and styles. The trainers expressed satisfaction on the progress and performance of the participants. The participants also expressed confidence to start up their own enterprise.

The training was conducted from May 27-July 12.
Training Program on Animal Husbandry Held

A two-day training on animal husbandry business concluded in Tulsipur Municipality. As many as 25 Dalit women of Tulsipur Municipality ward no 1, 2, 4, 6, 7, 8, 9, 12 participated in the training organised by FEDO with the support of Namsaling Community Development Centre on June 11-12.

The trainee were oriented on shed management, nutritious food and balanced diet for the animal, required vaccination among others. Besides, they trainee were made aware of the present status and potential of animal husbandry in Nepal along with the opportunities and the challenges associated with it.

Likewise, special reference to their role in increasing productivity and profitability in animal husbandry was also highlighted.

The participants took keen interest in training and interacted openly. All queries related to animal husbandry as enquired by farmers were discussed and responded by the trainer Jeet Bahadur Chaudhary. It was found that farmers adopt traditional way of animal husbandry as they are not aware of new technologies and approaches associated with it.

While concluding the training, Chaudhary emphasised on need of working in groups for adopting scientific procedures and practices in day to day animal husbandry to improve productivity.

Following the training, the participated said that the training will supplement their existing animal husbandry activities to carry out it in better way.

The training was very effective in improving the knowledge and understanding of the participants about the animal husbandry.
Needles and Thread to Provide Self-Employment

Dalit women of Baijanath municipality are confident of starting their own enterprise as they learned and the skill of hand embroidery. A total of 12 women participated in the training conducted by FEDO with the financial support provided by the office of ward of 5 of Baijanath municipality.

The training aimed at developing skill for self-employment of Dalit women so as to support their socioeconomic transformation for ending gender as well as caste-based discrimination.

In the course of two month, the participants were given training on Design transfer techniques, Embroidery tools and materials, Color choice and patterns, Embroidery throughout history, stitching techniques among others. They were given practical hand-on instructions. Following the completion of the training, the participants were training completion certificates.

Addressing the conclusion ceremony, chairperson of the ward no 5 Baijanath rural municipality Man Bahadur Khatri expressed satisfaction over the skill development acquired by the trainees during the training period. He appreciated the efforts made by FEDO in order to uplift the economic status of women. He assured that his office will continue to provide the required budget to conduct this sort of training to support women employment. He also assured of providing further required support to the trainees for starting their self-employment ventures.

Likewise, the trainees said that apart from developing embroidery skill they learned about the benefits for adopting self-employment. They expressed their commitment to start up their own enterprise in a group utilising the skill they gained from the training and run it with the full honesty and dedication. They showed the confident that with the skill in hand economic empowerment would be no longer far-fetched reality for them.
Interaction held on Status of Dalit

Coinciding the occasion of 13 years that Nepal being declared as untouchability free nation, Feminist Dalit Organisation (FEDO) along with the other organisations: Samata Foundation, Dalit NGO Federation (DNF), Samabesi Foundation, Juri Nepal, Nepal National Dalit Social Welfare Organisation (NNDSWO), Dalit Welfare Organisation (DWO), National Dalit Commission (NDC), Jagaran Media Centre (JMC), Association for Dalit Women's Advancement of Nepal (ADWAN) and Dignity jointly organised an interaction program on ‘Current Situation of Dalit.’

The interaction program was conducted with Honorable Minister for Federal Affairs and General Administration, Lal Bahadur Pandit as the Chief Guest and Nepali Congress leader Min Bishwokarma as a Special Guest. Other guest were: Senior Vice President of DNF Bhakta Bishwokarma, Undersecretary of Foreign Affairs Ministry Ram Prasad Subedi, Padam Prasad Khatiwada, Social Activist Rita Pariyar, Mount Everest Summiteer Bijay Ghimire, Mount Everest Summiteer Kumari Gyan Malla Ranapat, Journalist Ashok Darnal, Ishwori Nepali, Dr. Buddhi Mohan Shah, Sundar Sheni. The event witnessed the participation of several individuals, activists stakeholders, representatives of NGOs, media personalities among others.

In the program, the guests, speakers and the participants hold an interaction on the overall status of Dalits in socio, economic and political arena in Nepal. They also discussed on how the situation of Dalits can be improved.

They stressed on the need of bringing change in the societal perceptions that would translate the behavioural and attitudinal treatment given to the Dalit women in a positive way by creating public understanding and favorable public opinion. The participants also vowed for the proper implementation of the laws against caste-based discrimination and untouchability so as to ensure discrimination-free life of the Dalits.
FEDO's General Secretary Speaks on 'Gender and Justice'

General Secretary of Feminist Dalit Organization of Nepal (FEDO Nepal) Renu Sijapati has highlighted the diverse forms of discrimination and oppression Dalit women face including social, political and financial discrimination.

Exchanging her view on ‘Gender and Justice’ at the side-event organized by the IDSN International Associate IMADR, and others during the 41st Session of the Human Rights Council, she said “the triple burden of economic deprivation, gender inequality and caste-based discrimination has resulted in poor socioeconomic, political, cultural status of Nepali Dalit women confining their position to the lowest level in all dimensions of Human Development Index.”

“Owing to their poor condition, they often get subjected to several forms of violence like charges of witchcraft, verbal abuse, tortures for touching public taps and dug-wells and even rapes,” she added.

She called for increased action to address the extreme intersectional discrimination faced by Dalit women in Nepal who face abuse and violence at all levels of society and are not given access to justice or Government mechanisms.

In Nepal, out of the total number of women raped, 20% are Dalits. Moreover, 80% of Dalit women and girls are killed after being raped.”
Relief Material Distributed to Storm Victims

In a bid to extend helping hand to the victims of the strong storm that hit Bara and Parsa district on 31 March, Feminist Dalit Organisation (FEDO) in collaboration with Mahila Sanjal, distributed the relief materials to the victims.

The relief materials includes clothes, soaps, washing powers, buckets, mugs and the necessary utensils were distributed to the storm victims of Subarna Rural Municipality and Feta Rural Municipality.

Besides relief material distribution, the team also approach and inquired about health condition of the the victims who were undergoing treatment in the local hospitals after sustaining injuries in the storm. Likewise, the team also inspected the storm affected the area and inquired about the situations of the victims.

Due to discrimination in distribution, many of the Dalits did not receive relief, claims media.
Dalit women and girls are more prone to be trafficked because of the poor economic condition of the family

FEDO organized one-day orientation program on women trafficking and reduction of violence in Baijanath Rural Municipality. The program aimed at educating people on how to spot trafficking and what to do about it in their own communities.

The program covered the topic such as definition of human trafficking, its prevalence, who is most at the risk of trafficking, impact of trafficking on the victim as well as on the society as a whole, anti-trafficking laws, right of victims, judicial procedure, victims’ legal needs, prevention of trafficking, rehabilitation of the victim, where to get additional support and resources for the victim among others. The status of girls and women trafficking in Nepal was also shared among the participants.

With this, the participants learned how to avoid being trafficked, stand up for victims of trafficking, and spread the word in their communities so that sexual exploitation and human trafficking become a thing of the past.

It was concluded that there is need of the proper implementation of anti-trafficking laws to curb the trafficking. Moreover, the participants also vowed for the social inclusion and full integration of the trafficked women and girl into the society.

A total of 65 women participated in the training which was financially supported by the office of ward no 4 of Baijanath Rural Municipality.

Dalit women and girls are more prone to be trafficked because of the poor economic condition of the family
In a bid to expand its network, Feminist Dalit Organisation (FEDO) formed provincial committee in Sudurpaschim Province. The committee that comprise of 9 members is headed by the Poonam Sijapti as a President while Mina Auji being her deputy.

Sunita Gaire and Laxmi BK has been bestowed with the responsibility of Secretary and Treasurer respectively. The other members of the committee includes Parbati Bhul, Saraswati Nepali, Shanti Dhojali, Geeta Nepali and Sunkesa Nepali.

The committee will coordinate with the central committee and will facilities to carry out various activities of FEDO in the Sudurpaschim province.
Story of Success: Lajjawati Raidas

No longer Dependent on Husband

“I am very happy that I do not have to depend on my husband for my financial needs. I can proudly say that we both run the family together. This has been possible with the support of FEDO. I will support other women to get involved in income generation.”

Permanent resident of Badhaiyataal Rural Municipality, Lajjawati Raidas is a mother of three children. With no education and no skills in hand, she was compelled to rely on her husband’s income to run her family. It was really hard for her to bring up her three children as the income of only earning member of her family, was not good enough. She always wanted to do something on her own so as to support his husband financially and bring up her children in a good manner.

To get involved in income generation activities was a far-fetched reality for her, until she joined Himal Dalit Women Group in Badhaiyataal Rural Municipality ward no 7. No longer than had she joined the group, she began to participate in each and every activities conducted by the group. Within the very short span of time, she became the most active member of the group. Being involved in the several activities conducted by the group, gave her confidence that she can start up her business. In this connection, she took a loan of Rs 10,000 from the group and bought 2 goat and started goat farming.

Within 14 months, she managed to double the numbers of goats. By selling goats in the local market, she is earning good enough to provide better life to her children. Now, she plans to add up more number of goats in her farm targeting the markets of Kathmandu and other cities. She is confidence that her goats will be sold on very good price during the festival of Dashain.

Contact Us:

Feminist Dalit Organization
Kupandole, Lalitpur
GPO Box: 4366, Kathmandu
Tel: 5543986, 5520982
Fax: 5520982

Email: dms.fedo@gmail.com
Website: www.fedonepal.org
Like us: www.facebook.com/FEDOnepal