

# THE FEDO POST

Official newsletter of the Feminist Dalit Organisation



## FEDO Observes 16 Days of Activism in a Grand Manner

Feminist Dalit Organisation (FEDO) has observed 16 days of activism against Gender-Based Violence (GBV) in a grand manner conducting various program across the nation. In this connection, FEDO in collaboration with Women for Human Rights (WHR) and Sankalpa organised a statics based dialogue program on “Gender Based Violence,” in Kathmandu .

The event witnessed discussion on the study jointly organized by FEDO, WHR, and Sankalpa and on the issues of violence against women in Province 5, Sudurpaschim Province and Karnali Province.

In the course of discussion, the panelists and the other participants pointed out that the violence against women is accredited to the patriarchal mindset of the people and the behavior associated with it. They opined that violence against women will continue until and unless there is change in mindset of the people which see women as a subject for the violence.

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According to the study, the violence against women including domestic violence, technology-facilitated abuse, rape, polygamy, child marriage, human trafficking among others are on rise. However, in many occasion the complaint against those violence barely filed in the police station.



On the occasion, Baburam Bishwokarma, Assistant Editor, Center For Investigative Journalism shared that the incidents of the violence against women in province 2 has risen by 16 times.

Speaking at the program, the participants said that incidents of women violence would continue till the change of patriarchal thinking and behavior took place. Editor of the newspaper Kapil Kadle pointed out that patriarchal thinking as a factor in the violence against women and that it was not only in men but also in women.

On the occasion, FEDO Founder President Durga Sobur urged that complete elimination of violence against women is possible only when both men and women work hand-in-hand against all forms of violence.

Kala Swarnakar said that the root cause of the violence against women lies in discrimination which denies women equality with men in all areas of life.



In Bardiya, the campaign was marked by organized rallies in all wards of Badhaiyataal and Gulariya. The rallies witness the participation of huge number of people, including students, representatives of I/NGOs, Civil Society Organisations, local government, activists, academicians, advocates, media among others. During rally, the participants chanted slogans urging to take action to end the practice of gender-based violence.

In Gulmi, FEDO organize a program to exchange experiences of sexual violence. Participants at the program confidently recounted the incidents of sexual violence they had suffered and pointed out that there is no alternative than to unite together and fight against it.

In Dang, FEDO organized an interaction program with the victims of the gender-based violence. Participants in the program complaint that the concerned authority often do not take the issues of the violence against women seriously and thus try to sort out such cases through financial compensations.

Kailali and Banke witnessed series of programs including interaction, public dialogues , rallies among others to marked the campaign. In Dhangadhi, FEDO organised a rally which was accompanied by around 300 participants from Ministry's/governmental officials, Nepal police, NHRC, Human rights agencies, civil society organizations, media personals, etc.

The participants at the rally chanted the various slogans demanding the elimination of all forms of gender violence and effective as well as the implementation existing laws/policies and mass awareness.

The rally that started from Dhangadhi Chauraha was converted to a formal program at the premises of Ministry office after marching through various major places of Dhangadhi.

# Inter-Dialogue on Status of Dalit Women in Province 5 Held

In a bid to mark the 16 days of activism against Gender-Based Violence (GBV), FEDO organized an inter-dialogue program on the "Status of Dalit Women in GBV in Province 5 and the Role of Stakeholders," in Butwal, Rupandehi.



The event witnessed a panel discussion on the study conducted by FEDO on the 'status of violence against women in Province 5 with special reference to the Dalit women.

Study identifies that the being socially and economically unempowered coupled with lack of access to justice Dalit women are always the first and the easy target of violence.

According to the study, from July 1 to November 3, a total of 795 cases of domestic violence cases were reported to the police, however, only six of them were registered as a case. It has been found that in most of the incidents of domestic violence, the victim is forced to withdraw their complaints asking a compromise on various grounds. Likewise, the situation of rape is alarming in this state. However, many of the rape cases barely reported in the police station.

The study was presented by the journalist Binod Pariyar.

## Working Committee Formed

FEDO has formed a working-committee in Kaski District. The committee that comprises of 8 members is headed by the Sumitra Gayak as a President while Uma Devi Rokka being her deputy. Anjana Sunar and Saraswati Pariyar have been bestowed with the responsibility of Secretary and Assistant-Secretary respectively. Bina Nepali has been appointed as Treasurer.

The other members of the committee include Bimala Nepali, Geeta Bishwokarma and Saraswati Khati

# Interaction on Status of GBV in Sudurpaschim Held



The types of violence include human trafficking, polygamy, child marriage, rapes, an attempt of rape, unnatural sex, child sexual abuse and allegations of witchcraft.

Marking the 16 days of activism against GBV, FEDO organised an "Interaction on Women in Gender Violence in Sudurpaschim Province," in Dhangadhi.

On the occasion, Mohan Joshi senior reporter of Dhangadhi Post National Daily presented the analytical paper on the status of the women in gender based violence based on the study conducted by FEDO.

According to the study, a total 731 cases women violence were registered in different district police stations of the provinces from January to September 2019, among which in 119 cases i.e 16.2% the victims were from the Dalit community.

Among the various forms of violence, rape stands in the top position with 163 cases reported, followed by attempt of rape and polygamy in second and the third position with total incidents of 82 and 75 reported respectively. A total of 35 cases of human trafficking were reported. Likewise, the total incidents of witchcraft allegation and unnatural sex were 3 each. The total incident of the 2 child marriage and 5 Child sexual abuse were reported.

Following his paper presentation, the participants including provincial assembly members, social activists, media, lawyers and other concerned stakeholders exchange their knowledge and experience on the topic and also made remarks on the paper.

Speaking on the occasion, the Special Guest duo of the event, Province Assembly Members Durga B.K. and Shanti Nepali expressed their committed to make continuous and strong effort to eliminate the violence against women.

# Interaction on VAW

## Held

Coinciding the occasion of 16 Days of Activism against GBV, FEDO along with Sankalpa Foundation and Womankind jointly organised an interaction program on 'Violence against Women and Status of their Access to Justice,' in Surkhet.

The interaction was focused on the paper presented by President of Federation of Nepalese Journalist, Karnali Province Durga Thapa. The paper presents the overall scenario off violence against women in Karnali Province. As mentioned in the paper, a total of 335 woman and girls were victim of various forms of violence in Karnali Province, in the fiscal year 2072-76. Of the total number of the victims, 138 were victims of rape while 52 faced other forms sexual harassment. The guests and the speakers exchange of knowledge feelings on the issue of the event and also made remarks on the presented paper.

The interaction program was conducted with Honorable Minister for Law and Justice, Karnali Province Naresh Bhandari as a Chief Guest and Provincial Assembly Member , Karnali Province, Amrita Shahi as a Special Guest.

The event witnessed the participation of several individuals, activists stakeholders, representatives of NGOs, media personalities among others. FEDO founder President Durga Sob and FEDO President Kala Swarnakar also expressed their views on the occasion.



## Interaction on GBV Held



Coinciding the occasion of 16 days of activism against gender-based violence, FEDO organized an interaction program on caste and gender-based violence in Sandhikharka, Arghakhachi.

Speaking at the program, the participants emphasize on the role of the elected representatives of provincial and the local government, NGOs, civil society, media among others for the effective implementation of the law against caste and gender-based discrimination and violence.

The program was organized amid the presence of Provincial Assembly Member Shri Ramji Prasad Ghimire as the Chief Guest and Bijay Raj Poudel as the special guest. Addressing the program, the guest duo express commitment to make every possible effort to end the practice of caste and gender-based discrimination and violence.

## Domestic Violence Survivor Receives Support

FEDO has extended helping hand to the survivor of domestic violence.

In this connection, FEDO helped , Bargdoria-3, Ranikunta-based domestic survivor Anita Chaudhary(25) with warm clothes and cash.

FEDO has also been providing psychological counselling to Anita who is also mother of a two children.



# Community Mediation Training Concludes

With an objective to enhance the capacity to Collective Action Group (CAG) members on preliminary mediation process and facilitate the community people into justice and peace process, FEDO organized a three-day Community Mediation Training to CAG members in Dhangadi sub-metropolitan, Kailali.



In the training, the participants were oriented about the present legal provision and condition with GBV & CBDU acts, human & constitutional rights of Dalits and women, seven stages of mediation process, role/responsibilities and legal process of local justice committee, mediation and justice delivery among others.

Following the training, the participants said that the training had helped them to carry out the mediation activities in the community establishing themselves as an informal justice actor. The participants also expressed their commitment to contribute in strengthening the human rights of Dalit and marginalized women.

## Women Gain Skill for Income Generation

In order to encourage the mother of the girl child of Dalit and other marginalized community towards income generation, FEDO organized 4-day training on detergent in Kapilvastu Municipality-5 Dalhalaha.

The training covered the detailed information on the various raw materials, mixing of these materials, making a low, medium and high range of Detergent products as per the market requirement.

At the end of the training the participants made detergent and shared in the training hall among themselves. The participants also received the raw materials for detergent making.

A total of 25 Dalit were benefitted by the training.





## Sewing and Tailoring Training Concludes

A three-month long sewing and tailoring training has been concluded in Kapilvastu.

The training was organized by FEDO along with Green Tara Nepal and REED-Nepal with an aim to uplift the socioeconomic status of these marginalized women and enhance their access to income generation opportunities by equipping them with the skills in tailoring and sewing.

The training covered the basic course on tailoring and sewing. A total of 20 Dalit women were benefitted from the training.

Following the training, the expressed their commitment to utilize the skills that they learned from the training in income generation. They also request for conducting advanced training on tailoring and sewing.

## Health Post Receives Blankets

In a bid to ease the maternity service, FEDO has donated blankets to a health post of tappopnani, Tulispur Dang.

The President of FEDO's Dang Chapter Yuva Karara handed over the 2 pieces of blanket worth 12,000 to the Chief of the health post amid a program organized on at the premises of the health post.

Addressing the program President Karara said that FEDO donated the blankets considering the problem faced by the pregnant woman seeking delivery service in the health post. She also assured of continuing the support to the health post in the coming future.



## Resource Mobilisation Training Concludes

Feminist Dalit Organisation (FEDO) has organized two-day training on 'resource mobilisation,' for the frontline leaders in Tulsipur, Dang.

The event was focused on orienting the trainees on proper allocation and utilization of the available resources to gain maximum benefits from it.

The training was conducted by the Dalit rights activists duo: Nabin Abhilashi and Nirmal Nepali.

Speaking at the concluding session of the training, the participants said that they have gained the skill for mobilizing available resources in a strategic and thoughtful manner.

A total of 20 Dalit women frontline leaders had attended the training.



## Orientation to MPAs on Legislative Procedure

FEDO organized an orientation on "legislative procedures and the respective committees" to the Provincial Assembly members of Karnali Province, representing Dalit and marginalized community and the disadvantaged group, in Surkhet.

The event was focused on providing an overview of the provincial assembly and information of the procedure and practice of the legislature and the respective committees in a simplified way.

During the orientation, the participants were given orientation on their roles, responsibility, authority and the jurisdiction within their capacity as the MPS. Likewise, they were also taught how to raise the issues of Dalit, marginalized and other disadvantaged group in legislature and how to address their issues while budgeting and policy formulation.



# FEDO Organise Training on Behavioural Change

FEDO in collaboration with Namsaling Community Development Center (NCDC) organized a training on “Behavioral Change and Communication” in Tulispur Sub-Metropolitan, Dang.

In the two-day training, the participants gained knowledge on the importance of behavior change and positive attitude and role of communication in bringing change in behavior and attitude. They also learned various skills to bring positive change in behavior and attitude for socialization.



They were asked to change the behaviour that can affect their life and the society in a negative way. The training was accompanied by highly participatory sessions with short presentations, discussions, group work and tutorials.

Following the training, the participants said that they learned various interactive and engaging behaviour change skills which they will translate into practice with no delay. They also thanked FEDO fo providing them a greater understanding of the possibilities for applying behavior change interventions to their own situation. The training was attended by 20 Dalit women.

# STORY OF SUCESS: RAJU DEVI BK, SHINING LIKE THE SUN



“Amid choices between shine and fade, I opted for shine,” says Raju with the pride.

“Life is all about sun and shadow, it all depends on us whether we opt to shine like the sun or fade like a shadow,” says 35-year-old Raju Devi Bk. BK who has witnessed several peaks and plains in her life. Being married off just at the age of 15, she could not complete her studies. With no academic qualification and no skills in hand, she was confined to be a homemaker with no earning of her own.

Her life took major setback when her husband, the only earning member of the family lost his life due to snake bite, leaving Raju and her 4 children in a devastating situation. Raju recalls the news of the demise of her husband was so shocking to her that it took 2 months for her to gain complete consciousness.

The real challenge of her life begins after the demise of her husband. She faced domestic violence from her in-laws. Being a widow, she began to be treated as impure. "Once during a 'Shraddha', I was working as everyone else did. But my elder sister-in-law stopped me from doing anything and said it would be impure if I touched or did anything for the Puja. I was so hurt. I just quietly stepped out and did not engage in anything. She still recalls how being verbally and physically abused used to be her regular routine."

However, she gathered herself and started to work as a health assistant in a hospital. "My days of hardships had started then, but I knew I could not give up. For my children and for myself I had to work and earn. I recall my days when I left them alone at night when I had to work during night hours. I would come back tired, yet every time I opened the door and looked at my children it would give me peace," says Raju.

As she was working as a Health Assistant, she was also appointed as President of the working staffs. She gradually developed her leadership quality from this position she had held and with that she started to speak up.

She came in the notice to many and was also appointed as President in "Aama Samuha" formed in her community. Besides, she also formed Dalit women's group prior to being engaged with FEDO, of which she also is a President. She recalls her first day of training is a very emotional yet empowering one.

"I never liked the idea that once a woman is widowed, she should be detached from colors. Colors are beautiful, it signifies life and for us widows, it is like we are not worth living. We are even not allowed to put a Tika- something that is considered a married woman's 'dignity'. But that concept is so wrong. I argue that we are put in Tika by our parents at our birth and why do we let being married or a widow- let decide if we are to put Tika or not. I asked with all the women, and they all had this grievance that society discriminates them. Therefore, they all revolted and wore Tika since then."

Raju, had a rough start, but today she is a woman of courage who thrives to empower other women. She has become an example to many and especially Dalit women. "Amid choices between shine and fade, I opted for shine," says Raju with the pride.

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