

# Annual Learning Report, 2010



National women Rights Forum (NWRF)  
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## 1. Introduction

This report has been developed based on the reports sent from District and National Chapter of National Women Rights Forum (NWRF) and its members which also include the activities done by National Secretariat. The members of District Women Rights Forum (DWRF) actively carrying out issue based activities in their respective districts. The network of WRF covers 24 districts i.e. Rasuwa, Dolakha, Parbat, Baglung, Dhanusa, Sarlahi, Dang, Bara, Parsa, Mahottari, Makawanpur, Chitwan, Udayapur, Sindhuli, Saptari, Kailali, Banke, Jhapa, Kaski, Lalitpur, Kapilbastu, Jumla, Nawalparasi and Bajura. Although this report doesn't cover all the activities of the districts, it tries to cover the institutional strengthening of WRF, and the impact and achievement of campaign against women violence 2010.

The major activity of this year was an evaluation of WRF which took almost a whole year (since January to September). Action Aid Nepal (AAN) observed and evaluated all the activities of DWRF and discussed with its members. During this evaluation period too, the relation and contact among National Secretariat, AAN, DWRF, and other secretariat agencies became stronger. At that time AAN supported for various activities to be conducted including Meeting of NWRF, Capacity Building Training for DWRF members, Street Drama etc. Thanks to AAN which has added its support for three months more (since October to December). The major activities of 2010 and its impact are described below.

## 2. Initiatives to Build the Capacity of Forum Members

- Capacity Development of Forum Members:** Three days training workshop was successfully completed on the occasion of 100<sup>th</sup> International Women Labour Day from which 19 women members have been benefited. Likewise 3 members (*Sarita Shrestha, Ganga Pariyar and Ranjana Ghimire*) have taken benefits from proposal writing training supported by AAN.
- ToT Training on Violence against Women:** In coordination with BBC Nepal, 5 days Training of Trainers training was organized in Kathmandu and Nepalgunj in which total 22 forum members have been involved. Out of which 13 in Kathmandu and 9 in Nepalgunj have been participated. After getting the training, most of the participants have enhanced their capacity and ready to facilitate same of kind of training in future.
- Activists Mobilization:** To manage DWRF offices one activist in each district has been mobilized in the nine districts of Nepal which includes Lalitpur, Chitwan, Mahottari, Jhapa, Udayapur, Banke, Kaski and Sindhuli.
- Representative from NWRF at the Secretariat:** To enhance the capacity of NWRF members, represent in the campaign of NWRF, and to increase coordination and communication with DWRF, one forum members, *Ms. Ganga Pariyar* have been working at Secretariat office since 24<sup>th</sup> October 2010.
- Meeting of NWRF and Secretariat Committee:** Regular meeting of forum was held four times in this year which formed *National Secretariat Committee* with five members including *Sarita Shrestha*-Coordinator and members-*Bimala Ghimire, Aabha Setu Singh, Ramrati Ram* and *Sita Pariyar*. Meeting was focused on the issues such as Joint Land Registration Certificate (*Lalpurja*) Campaign, Proposal Writing, National Council Meeting, 16 Days Campaign etc.





The meeting of NWRP Secretariat was organized once, which not only reviewed the programs of 2010 but also suggest to National Secretariat to make planning for 2011.

- f) *Cultural Drama /Programs*: Cultural program/drama was conducted entitled “Women Campaign for Socio-Cultural Change” on various districts i.e. Lalbandi-Sarlahi, Kawasoti-Nawalparasi, Lele-Lalitpur, and Birgunj-Parsa. Program has contained messages of women violence and women rights. This program was shown by *Kritika Cultural Group*, in which the women from community and members of village level WRF of each district participated. To be more specific, this program was observed by 1000 people in sarlahi, 1800 people Nawalparasi, 1200 people in Birgunj and 500 in Lalitpur.



### 3. Day Celebration/Campaign

- a) *World Rural Women Day*: With the coordination/initiation of DWRF, World Rural Women Day was celebrated in Saptari, Bara, Sarlahi, Jhapa, Chitwan and Udayapur. On the occasion of this international day, various other activities also conducted such as interaction program on ‘Women Existence and Land Ownership’ and ‘Women Violence and Hunger’. Similarly ‘Handover 24 Points Citizen Charter to CA member’, ‘Providing Lemon Water to Drink, hanging the banners with message on major junction of the city, rallies on villages etc were other activities that have been carried out.
- b) *16 Days Campaign on Violence against Women*: 25 November is an International day for all types of violence against women and 10<sup>th</sup> December is an International Human Rights Day that has been celebrating worldwide since 1995. In Nepal these two international days have been celebrating as a campaign not only for two days but for 16 days (25 Nov to 10 Dec). In this regard, WRF also has been conducting every year various programs aiming to raise the awareness on violence against women among public and to give pressure to the authorities for the effective implementation of laws as well. During this period, WRF has conducted the followings:



**Lamp (Diyo) Lightening Program**: Most of the women from South Asian countries face the patriarchal system in their own countries so they are celebrating 15<sup>th</sup> November as South Asian Women’s Day since 2002 AD for practicing peace, justice, human rights and democracy. On this occasion NWRP Secretariat has also conducted lamp lightening program for solidarity, peace and democracy. The program was organized at *MaitiGhar Mandala*, Kathmandu in which Ms. Mona Sherpa from Action Aid Nepal and Indian Human Right Activist Ms. Kamala Bhasin delivered the speech on the significance and relevance of this program. And then all the participants lighted the lamp by making a row. In this program 34 members from NWRP and other human rights activist from Action Aid and other organizations also got participated.



**Interaction between CA Members and WRF Members:** An interaction between CA members and WRF members was organized in which CA members informed about the women rights issues to be incorporated in an upcoming constitution whereas participants asked about various issues based questions to members. This program was conducted in coordination with BBC Nepal in which CA members-Kalpana Rana, Dama Sharma, and Bina Gyawali and 57 members from WRF involved. In between the program participants performed few street drama and satirical songs too.

**Empowerment Rally (Jagaran Yatra) for Joint Land Registration Certificate and Demand Letter Presentation:** On the occasion of 16 day campaign on violence against women, DWRf Nawalparasi and District Advocacy Forum initiated two days empowerment rally/Jagaran Yatra for creating pressure to implement the joint land registration certificate system. This was supported by Bijaya Development Resource Centre,



Social Development Forum, Majhi, Musahar and Bhote Welfare Service Committee, and NWRF Secretariat. Similarly through CDO, the demand letter was sent to the Prime Minister. After receiving the demand letter, Chief District Officer, in response, has shown his commitment to send the letter as soon as possible and gave thanks for this initiation and wish for the success.

**Key Points Demands Presented to CDO Nawalparasi**

1. Rights for land should be established as constitutional rights and joint land registration certificate system should be formulated for equal rights of male and female.
2. Traditional land system should be replaced by public oriented land act.
3. Food, Clothes and Shelter should be established as fundamental rights of the people.
4. A system must be ensured at upcoming constitution in which women have equal rights in every sector as man.
5. Immediate implementation of social security laws/decisions on behalf of women.
6. Tenant rights on land should be secured by ending dual ownership.
7. Impunity must be ended in the sector of women violence and women rights should be taken as human rights.
8. For reproductive health of women, effective health services should be immediately implemented.

**Musical Program against Gender Violence:**



Musical program was conducted at Lalitpur in coordination with DWRf on the occasion of 16 day campaign against women violence. In that program women from VDC sang various songs related to women violence and gave a message to the people with raising awareness among them.

**Street Drama and Documentary Show against Women Violence:**

On the occasion of 16 day campaign, DWRf Dhanusa organized a program on gender violence against women by coordinating all the likeminded organization at the district. A grand demonstration was held at Ganaki Temple premises of Janakpur, taking the banners and placards with the slogans “Make Success 20<sup>th</sup> International Day

against Women Violence and Make Gender Violence Free Nepal”, different types of booklet, pumplet, and locally produced materials. That also included street drama focusing on various social evils such as dowry system, Dhimi-Jhankri and witchcraft etc. A documentary was shown including events taken



place on different places related to women violence. In that program representative from 22 organizations and 29 members from WRF were participated.

#### 4. Free Legal Aid Camp

Two days free legal aid camp was successfully completed at Udayapur, Siraha, Saptari and Bara district. 160 women have been benefited from this camp. Out of 160, although almost all cases were created from women violence, majority of cases (37) were from domestic violence. Rest of the cases did include: polygamy- 23, land dispute-21, witch & witchcraft-14, Rape-9, Land rights-6 and neglected from the state and conflict affected (husband was killed in civil war) and others-38. The district level management was done by WRF of Udayapur, Saptari and Bara along with other supporting organizations whereas in Siraha district it was managed by 7 NGOs.

#### 5. Women Rights Forum Council

- a) **District Council:** Like in every year the meeting of District Council of DWRF was held in this year too. It reviewed annual program and selected the name to be participated in National Council and discussed and decided on future action plan too.
- b) **National Council:** Third National Council meeting of NWRWF was held at Kathmandu. Meeting was chaired by Ms. Sarita Shrestha, NWRWF Chairperson and inaugurated by member of National Women Commission, Ms. Mohana Ansari. In the council meeting total 83 people (57 members from 21 DWRF, 16 representatives from 16 District Secretariat, 6 participants from various



#### Women Life is a toy, Spending Life at Parent's Home



Babita Dev, 33 years, was married with 3 lakhs rupees dowry at 2052 BS. After some time, husband did start to avoid her. He used to beat her and ultimately kicked her out of home. She came to her parent's home.

As an engineer, her husband has been teaching in Pokhara Campus. She also used to stay at Pokhara with her husband. She didn't know why her husband beats her. She couldn't tolerate the torture of her husband and came to Saptari. After sometime her husband married another girl in Pokhara. Before that he married one more girl when he was in Kathmandu. She didn't meet her husband for seven years. She thought to file a case at the district court against her husband but she came to know later that he sold all his property. She was in a dilemma. She didn't know what to do. That was the question of Babita to the lawyer at the free legal aid camp.

In response to her question, advocate Sunita Regmi said that she could get half salary of her husband and immovable property if any. For that she has to file a case against her husband. After knowing all this, she got little bit excited but again said she can't do that without consulting with her brothers. Now she said women's life is a toy of husband.

ons and 4 journalists) were involved. In the meeting, national representative presented the progress report. The meeting reviewed and

analyzed the progress and discussed on the future action plan too. During the annual program review session, representatives presented the issues that were raised over the years and status of issues etc.

**6. WRF Brochure Development**

10,000 brochure of WRF has been developed covering objectives, needs and relevance of WRF that was helpful to the people who wanted to know about it. It is believed that brochure might be useful especially to the members of WRF, and district and national level stakeholders etc.

**7. Information Collection of Single Women**

Information collection form has been created to identify the entitlements that single women have been getting from the government and its current status. The objective to create this form was to develop a strategy, based on that information, to organize a issue based campaign for single women in future. By using this form, information has been collected in the two VDCs of Lalitpur district and it was under discussion in other districts too. The following are the information collected in Lalitpur districts.

S . N .	VDC	Total no. of Single women	Above 60	Below 60	No. of getting widow incentives from govt.	No. of getting pension from govt.	No. of women owning the land	NO. of conflict affected women
1	Jharuwar asi	84	64	20	44	4	4	
2	Chapaga un	99	64	35	50	8	33	1
<b>total</b>		<b>183</b>	<b>128</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>1</b>

The above table shows that out of 183, there are 70% widow are above 60 years of age. Only 73% widows are getting government entitlements and 20% have land in their name. By analyzing the above data, it is necessary for 80% widows to take initiation to have land in their name. Similarly, it is seen that 51% widows are deprived from government entitlements.

**8. Rehabilitation Services for the victims:** Anuradha Singh (name change) was raped 8 months before in Nawalparasi district. She became pregnant and nobody came to support her. Later on, WRF members of Nawalparasi came forward to give pressure for proper punishment of the culprit and justice for the victims. They did advocate and lobby for the rights of the victims. Unfortunately, there voices have not been heard from anyside. Ultimately, Anuradha has been sent to the rehabilitation centre of Saathi, Kathmandu based NGO, with the coordination of National Secretariat and WRF.

**9. Protest Rally against Women Violence:** Three women of a family were killed by Nepal Army at Bardiya district, and one woman was raped by a group in Dhanusa. Considering all these women violence incidents, *Inter Party Women Network* organized a huge protest rally at 5<sup>th</sup> Baisakha, 2067 BS. In that protest rally, WRF members including all human rights activists and organizations have got involved





and shown their solidarity. It involved around 5,000 rights activists from different places. 92 women members from WRF got involved in that rally.

## **10. Lesson Learning**

1. PRERANA has realized that legal aid camp turns to be highly successful as it gave a way to the victims to go to court for getting justice and most of the beneficiaries know about the legal treatment. It has been highly recommended that this type of camp should be expanded in other districts too.
2. It is necessary to enhance the capacity of DWRF member for organization's improvement and finance management which helps them to do their work with more professionally and easily.
3. It is realized that the relation, coordination and contact between forum and secretariat should be strengthened and expedite.
4. Lack of skilled human resource to facilitate to WRF members for raising the issues at district and national level. It will be easy if human resource of the national secretariat (campaigner) would be expanded at regional level to facilitate DWRF closely.
5. It is felt that instead of focusing only on women day and 16 day campaign, it is relevant to raise issue-based-campaign on those special occasions.
6. It is realized that activity monitoring mechanism is poor at the district. So, it needs proper attention on time.