

Annual Report 2018



Feminist Dalit Organization (FEDO)

For a just and equitable society

About FEDO

Vision

FEDO envisions a just and equitable society where Dalit enjoy their rights and have opportunities to life, equity, development and participation.

Mission

The mission of FEDO is to create a movement against caste and gender-based discrimination in order to protect and promote civil and political rights of Dalit women and to support their socio-economic empowerment.

Goal

The goal of FEDO is to eliminate caste and gender-based discrimination against Dalit women by making duty bearers responsive and right holders pro-active towards enhancing equal rights and opportunities.

Message from President



It is our pleasure to present you FEDO's annual report for the year of 2018, the achievement that we reached. FEDO for the past 25 years has been providing its efforts in Nepal to raise the issues of caste and gender-based discrimination in protecting and promoting civil and political rights of Dalit women and uplifting their socioeconomic status. We have been working with the issues of Dalit women in the area of socioeconomic empowerment, education, health, leadership development, lobbying and advocacy for its establishment. FEDO refers to all its program activities as a Human Rights-Based Approach (HRBA) to empower and enhance the capacity of Dalit women at the local and national level for asking questions, claiming rights, making decisions and holding institutions to account. It reaffirms the role of the feminist movement and civil society actors for eliminating caste and gender-based discrimination against Dalit women.

Since its inception FEDO has worked to build the capacity of Dalit women groups and leaders, to bring a positive change in society. Due to our conscious and concerted actions, Dalit women leaders are now able to make the government and concerned stakeholders responsive and accountable to address the issues of Dalit women. Our movement has helped to change people's perceptions and bring transformation in the society by engaging in the human rights of Dalit women and their overall economic justice with increased meaningful participation of Dalit women in decision-making level building their confidence. A series of capacity building initiatives have been taken in 2018 for locally elected Dalit women representatives to benefit them. A year that has informed them about their roles and responsibilities and encouraged them to effectively work for local development. As a result, they are playing a significant role to represent the voices of Dalit women in local planning and lawmaking process.

The issues related to violence against Dalit women, quality education for Dalit girls, caste-based discrimination and untouchability were discussed at the local and national level to sensitize right holders and duty bearers. The concerned stakeholders, such as Dalit and non-Dalit communities and their representative groups, government agencies, people's organizations, NGO and INGO partners, and other civil society actors were sensitized to make them accountable towards the new and emerging issues of Dalit women. We have been able to support and encourage a large number of Dalit women, who are fighting for their human rights, dignity, social justice and meaningful participation. Our project activities empowered Dalit women and made them successful at the community level. The current context requires greater transparency and accountability, so FEDO has realized that its own processes must stand for scrutiny leading to a critical review of its policies, systems, and procedures, which would address the needs of transforming society and its aspirations.

We call for a more comprehensive approach and collaboration to more effectively address the issues of Dalit women by understanding of the underlying causes of poverty and also examines how violations of rights continues to hinder sustainable changes in order that the lives of women and girls from the Dalit community and other marginalized groups can bring about improvement in their current conditions. Next five years strategic plan (2019 – 2023) of FEDO will be implemented to address the current issues and priorities of Dalit women and the entire Dalit community to make a prosperous society and happy Dalit women. Our main priority is to contribute to advancing the human rights of Dalit women by making the duty bearers responsive and right holders proactive towards promoting gender friendly and inclusive governance with Dalit women's perspective.

This annual report offers an insight into our work – and into the wide-ranging challenges we, together with our target communities, continue to face. We are thankful and obliged to all our supporters and look forward to everyone's continued support from donors, national and international I/NGOs, government agencies, political parties, civil society organizations and relevant stakeholders and individuals to obtain better results and new opportunities in the future.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kala Swarnakar'.

Kala Swarnakar
President
Central Executive Board

Acknowledgement from Executive Director



This annual report highlights the achievement of FEDO projects carried out during the year of 2018. We focused through several projects on advancing human rights of Dalit women, equitable service delivery, access to justice, leadership development, humanitarian support to disasters affected people, gender responsive and inclusive governance from Dalit women's perspective. Our efforts helped to strengthen Dalit women movement to undertake its advocacy campaigns, constructive engagement with civil society actors, learn from and collaborate with them in FEDO action.

We always look at the vulnerable situation of Dalit women in conjunction with challenges, strengths, opportunities and accountability within the organization. Taking into account the human rights violation and social injustice of Dalit women; FEDO has been providing great effort on advancing human rights of Dalit women and their access to social justice. As an organization, we are working towards enabling and empowering Dalit women groups, Dalit women frontline leaders, collective action groups and social movements taking into consideration the key issues for a just, dignified and equal society for Dalit women and girls. We kept Dalit women and girls at the center and effectively worked with men and women from Dalit and non-Dalit communities, policy makers, implementers, media and its allies.

Dalit women are oriented and empowered to voice their concerns and advocate rights and entitlements. Dalit women leaders have launched advocacy campaigns as a result of increased awareness and empowerment on the importance of gender-responsive and inclusive governance. All of our work is very challenging, but we know we will be reached at the destination. Despite the challenges, FEDO has been able to raise the issues of Dalit women at local, national, regional and international level and success with its movement. The achievement we gained has enabled us to learn from what we do, contribute to get further learning for others, and improve the capacity to translate learning into practice and challenges to mitigate. It is believed that we cannot succeed alone, but collectively we can generate a prosperous and happiest in the lives of Dalit women. FEDO commits to continuously support the Dalit women and their families in its fight against gender and caste-based discrimination and instituting the human rights of Dalit women. It will further intensify its efforts to strengthen the feminist movement in Nepal. The commitment and enthusiasm of members and staffs of FEDO is great.

I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge all our key partners including the government agencies, donors, international and national NGOs, civil society organizations, and communities and work towards external funding for FEDO's programs. I would also like to offer sincere thanks to all FEDO staffs and board members at the central and district level for their support in preparing this annual report. Finally, I would like to thank all my colleagues and MsArunaGhimire, Communication and Documentation Officer for her hard work in bringing out this annual report.

We hope you will be enjoying to see and read this report; we expect your constructive feedback and valuable suggestions for improving it in the future.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bharat Nepali'.

Bharat Nepali
Executive Director

Acronyms

CAG	Collective Action Group
CBDU	Caste Based Discrimination and Untouchability
CBOs	Community Based Organizations
CSOs	Civil Society Organizations
CTEVT	Council of Technical Education and Vocational Training
DADO	District Agricultural Development Office
DCA	DanChruchAid
DLSO	Department of Livestock Service Office
DWG	Dalit Women Group
FEDO	Feminist Dalit Organization
FLL	Front Line Leaders
GBV	Gender Based Violence
HRBA	Human Right Based Approach
IMADR	International Movement Against all forms of Discrimination and Racism
NCDC	Namsaling Community Development Center
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organisations
NHRC	Nepal Health Research Council
RtF	Right to Food
SAARC	South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation
SGBV	Sexual and Gender Based Violence
VAW	Violence against Women
VDC	Village Development Committee

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FEDO in Nepal

Feminist Dalit Organisation (FEDO) is one of the leading Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) in Nepal, working for Dalit women empowerment through their social and economic transformation; increasing access to basic needs, education, health and sanitation, providing them with various economic opportunities, skill and leadership development trainings, among others and ultimately combating the existing caste-based and gender-based discriminations and violence through activism, advocacy and policy engagement. It incorporates the issues of Dalit women and the entire Dalit community vowing for just and equitable society.

FEDO has its 56 district chapters in all seven provinces of Nepal. It has over 2154 women's groups with 53,850 Dalit women group members and 812 frontline women leaders united, organized and mobilized to fight against caste and gender-based discrimination at all levels. FEDO has a partnership with a number of donors, government agencies and development agencies and is committed to further expanding its funding base. FEDO has also been working with several alliances, 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 approaches of the organization.

Since its establishment in 1994, it has been raising the various issues of Dalit women: systemic and structural discrimination; poverty and social injustice, poor political participation among others. It has been fostering a social movement from the grassroots to the national level, with a mission to liberate Dalit women and their families from all forms of discrimination owing to gender, caste and disgrace of untouchability. One of those remarkable social movements was for the increasing political participation of Dalit women. The movement that witness series of lobbying, various campaigns and piling pressures at the various different level, ended up on a happy note as Local Level Election Act introduced in Nepal, mandating that two of the ward members elected for each ward must be women and one of the two women must be a Dalit. Thanks to this provision,

the local-level election held in Nepal in 2017 witnessed a record number of Dalit women electing in the local unit, especially in the ward. FEDO has been continuously organizing various program to expand knowledge and build the capacity of those elected Dalit women with a goal to ensure the meaningful participation of the locally elected Dalit women in the decision meaning. In the year 2018, the capacity of locally elected Dalit women was enhanced through orientation, training, public dialogue, interaction and discussion program with the stakeholders as well. They have been informed and prepared to enact the pro-active role, creatively exercise the rights and public service entitlements and fulfil the responsibilities for the people at the local level as per the mandate of constitution, laws and policy.

Moreover, with the FEDO's continuous effort, the participation and representation of the Dalit women have also been increased in political parties, local level planning committee, community forest users groups, women groups, school management committee, health committees and other community development committees with decision making authority on identifying issues to raise to the political and governance structures and for overall local development. Likewise, Dalit women are trained and are empowered to voice their concerns and advocate rights and entitlements. Dalit women leaders have launched advocacy campaigns as a result of increased awareness and empowerment on the importance of gender-responsive and inclusive governance with Dalit women's perspective.

FEDO pledges to continuously support the Dalit women and their families in their struggle for the social change and working effortlessly at the same time to bring change in the societal perceptions that would translate behavioural and attitudinal treatment given to the Dalit women in a positive way by creating public understanding and favorable public opinion. FEDO would accelerate its activities so as to bring a positive change in the lives of the Dalit community, especially Dalit women. It is committed to continue and increase its support to Dalit women in accessing the government programs and enjoying their rights as guaranteed by the constitution.

Increasing Access to Equitable Service Delivery

Thanks to poverty, patriarchal norms, social injustice, poor governance, historical domination, lack of self-consciousness and awareness, Dalit women have always been deprived of various services such as primary health care, education, safe drinking water, sanitation and hygiene and criminal justice. They have no or very limited access to public services. There is a practice of discrimination even in delivering the public service as the concerned authority do not deliver it in an equitable manner. All these have not only limited their livelihood opportunities but also have left them in extreme marginalization, poor health condition and in a vicious cycle of poverty. Thus, in order to ensure equitable access of Dalit women in various services and opportunities, FEDO has been conducting wide-range of programs under different projects in various districts.

Considering the fact that access to water, sanitation and hygiene is prerequisites to the well-being of the Dalit women, FEDO has provided its efforts to address the problems faced by Dalits in WASH sector with demonstrated coordination mechanisms at the local level. Its activities are focused to improve the WASH service delivery for Dalit women and doing advocacy to increase their access to safe water, sanitation and hygiene. Advocacy has played a significant role to change the scenario of only 4.6% of Madhesi Dalit community having private latrines.

Dalits lacks self-consciousness and self-awareness as they are not well-educated. The number of Dalit children in school is significantly low as due to the poor economic status they could bear the school expenses. Moreover, due to discriminatory treatment in the school, many Dalit students prefer to leave their studies in the middle. Hence, FEDO works towards creating favourable

learning environment by improving school governance and providing inclusive quality education. In order to increase the access of Dalit children to education; least 200 children from Dalit and marginalized groups who were either dropped-out or have never joined the school have been enrolled in school are regularly attending school in Palpa and Rupandehi. This was found highly effective after the enrollment campaign and orientation to the parents and teachers to create a child-friendly environment. Stationary materials and uniform were also distributed to poorest school-going Dalit children which has created a positive impact to continue their presence in school and increment of retention. District education office and other concerned stakeholders in these districts are committed to check and balance that scholarship are received by those intended.

To ensure the access of Dalit women to justice, FEDO has established linkage with the Legal Aid Center so as to ensure socio-legal service provisions for Dalit women and the Dalit community at the local level. FEDO has created and expanded justice fund to support victims or survivors of social violence and untouchability. It has become a financially sustainable part to continue the interventions for providing justice to exploited, excluded and rights violated people.

FEDO has organized Dalit women and formed Dalit Women Group (DWG) in local units of the districts. With the intervention of FEDO, they have been able to unite and raise voice for their rights. They have also been able to participate and contribute to decision making. The DWGs itself runs several campaigns against caste-based and gender-based discrimination; dowry system, alcohol consumption and several other malpractices.

Empowering Dalit for Socioeconomic Transformation

Since the centuries, in the developing countries, caste and gender always play an influential role in determining the process of empowerment and Nepal is no exception to this. Nepalese caste system assigns the lowest rank to the Dalits in the hierarchy of caste, leaving them to face oppression and discrimination at almost of every

level. Being kept in the disadvantaged position socially economically and culturally for centuries, Dalit is one of the most backward community in Nepal. Due to poverty coupled with illiteracy, Dalits are compelled to live a life of social backwardness that does not seem to end any time soon.

Within the Dalit community, the situation of Dalit women are more vulnerable as they are against three times over: they are poor, they are women, and they are Dalits. Owing to their helpless condition, they often get subjected to several forms of violence like charges of witchcraft, tortures for touching public taps and dug-wells and even rapes outside their families. Unfortunately, the violence against them is often justified citing various reasons as they are voiceless and not in the position to see justice due to their poor socioeconomic status. In addition to this, the consumption of alcohol highly fueled by poverty is rampant within the Dalit families, which often aggravates domestic violence. Dalit women often get beaten by their husband and could not oppose it as they are financially dependent on their husband. This affects the holistic development of their children and also hinders the socioeconomic development of the society. Moreover, the violence against Dalit women will continue as long as they are socially and economically disempowered.

Considering the fact that socioeconomic empowerment is the key to combat gender inequality and caste-based discrimination, poverty, exclusion and marginalization, FEDO launches several programs targeting socioeconomic transformation of the Dalit women. In order to address the poverty and development issues related to Dalit women, FEDO created and mobilized Dalit women groups to improve socio economic and political status of rural Dalit women. FEDO has organized Dalit women in saving and credit groups/SHGs and cooperative to motivate and equip them in bookkeeping, leadership management and decision making, communication and negotiation, gender equality, human rights, advocacy, health, sanitation and hygiene, community development etc. They were given orientation, regular meetings were held, group discussions were facilitated, awareness programs, training, exposure visit were given to women in order to build their leadership.

Training on group management and leadership, microfinance, business development were conducted involving reputed and eminent resource persons

for entrepreneurial promotion among Dalit women. Empowerment classes and orientation sessions were conducted with a focus on building entrepreneurship skill for socioeconomic empowerment as well as for self-sustenance of Dalit women. The matching fund was provided to individual and Dalit women group for their entrepreneurial development. Its additional focus was also on human rights and access to justice issues, which helps Dalit women become aware of discriminatory practices.

The projects implemented by FEDO had a sequence of interventions during the year of 2018 related to the promotion of microcredit and microenterprise development among the Dalit women in groups. In this periphery, we worked in Dang, Bardiya, Surkhet, Bara and Doti to create and mobilize over 100 'credit and savings' or livelihood empowerment groups, who received technical support, matching funds and orientation on livelihood development. Most of the micro loans supported agriculture and livestock endeavors, and small shops. Through livelihood orientation, members in the credit and saving groups of Dalit women were provided with seed and other agriculture materials, goats and chicken.

FEDO also worked with food security governance project in Doti where the food deficit is high due to the fall in agricultural production. Farmer groups and network members from the Dalit community, particularly Dalit women are working to improve agricultural and nutritional practices that address the neediest families of Dalit community. In an effort to provide for Dalit families in the absence of local employment, many young Dalit men leave the district to obtain work in India and Gulf countries. This has resulted in a need for Dalit women to have added responsibilities. FEDO now places an emphasis on promoting the needs and involvement of Dalit women to improve food security governance through promotion of eco-friendly indigenous best practices in agriculture production.

Promoting Equal Access to Justice and Legal Empowerment

FEDO always vows for the just and the equitable society where each can enjoy social, economic and political life on equal terms regardless of their caste, gender, social status among other. It has been working continuously

to promote gender and caste equality through running various social movement and campaign at regional and international level. With a belief that a just society is not possible without proper legal empowerment of



Group photo taken following the conclusion of the conference

the Dalits and other marginalized community, FEDO in collaboration with Nepal Human Rights Commission (NHRC) and Open Society Justice Initiative/ Alliance for Social Dialogue (ASD), organized a three day conference on “Equal access to justice for all: Using law to dismantle caste based discrimination in South Asia.”

The conference witnessed the participation of human rights practitioners and advocates key state champions and regional actors from Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, Macedonia, Moldova, Romania, USA, UK who discussed on different themes like Understanding and addressing the justice needs of Dalit communities, Legal empowerment and advancing equality: Making law work for marginalized communities, Social Movements for the legal empowerment of Dalit in South Asia, Dalit women and the struggle for justice, Advancing equality using justice data and legal strategies, Scaling up basic justice services: Institutional Reform and Role of NHRIs and other key actors.

The conference help to develop the concrete actions by civil society organizations, national human rights institutions, women and Dalit right defenders to make government responsive and accountable in equal access to justice for the Dalit community especially women. It also highlighted the state and national efforts to advance the rights of Dalit and marginalized communities.

The conference issued 35-point declaration recognizing caste-based discrimination as a violation of international human rights law affecting more than 260 million people

worldwide, mainly in South Asia violating a wider range of civil, political, economic, social, cultural and religious rights.

The conference call on United Nations and the member state to take necessary steps towards legal empowerment of women affected by DWD/CBD through enabling community leaders, paralegal practitioners and sub-national governments; to prioritize and arrange for DWD Desks and to give representation to the DWD/CBD communities at the National Human Rights Institutions and proactively address such human rights violation cases; to ensure that UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) identify Caste and DWD as a system which excludes communities and, therefore, make proactive measures to address DWD and caste and gender based discrimination across targets with necessary indicators; to give due recognition to the rights of the growing population of DWD/CBD affected children and youth, plans specially among others.

The conference also call on the nation states which have a large number of population affected by DWD/CBD to take urgent steps to fulfill the commitments made by the Busan Partnership for effective Development Cooperation on promoting Sustainable Development Goals in situations of conflict and fragility by donors; to invest more in legal empowerment to build the capacity of Dalit community Paralegals, particularly Dalit women; to build and strengthen legal frameworks and enforcement of justice systems and administration of justice and implement etc.

FEDO at the International Forums: CEDAW and CERD

Convention on Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)

As previous year, FEDO continues to have its prestigious presence in the international forums in the year 2018 as well. One of those remarkable presence was at the 6th periodic review of Nepal, at 71st session of Convention on Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) committee at Geneva, Switzerland held on 23 October 2018.



Founder President of FEDO Durga Sob delivering her statement at CEDAW

On the occasion, FEDO presented the shadow report on Nepalese Dalit Women. The reports incorporates several forms and examples of

the discrimination against Dalit women prevailing in the Nepalese Society including under-representation of Dalit women in government, vulnerable public life, existing stereotyping and cultural prejudices against Dalit women, poor socio and economic status of Dalit women, poor access of Dalit women in health, education and employment etc.

The report made the several recommendation based on the social, economic, and cultural issues of the Nepalese Dalit women. Some of those recommendations includes:

- Ensuring proportional representation of Dalit women at all levels including executive, legislative, judiciary, bureaucracy, security forces, and political parties;
- Adaptation of legal and educational measures to remove social, economic and cultural barriers for effective participation of the Dalit women in political and public life;
- Establish an Equality Commission for proactively promoting gender and social equality and practically abolish caste system;
- Adaptation and implement law that can monitor the discrimination against Dalit women and punish the perpetrator in the work place;
- Expand the definition of affirmative action beyond quota to include wide range of special measures required to address the situation of Dalit women for advancement of Dalit women in political, social, economic and cultural fields.
- Devise mechanism to identify discrimination in providing health care services and prosecute the

offenders discriminating against Dalit women in their access to reproductive health services; Adaptation of plan and policies to guaranteeing employment opportunities, vocational training and micro-credit support for entrepreneurship of Dalit women;

- Adaptation of legislative measures to inquiry into inter-caste marriage and induced violence and discrimination against Dalit women and develop provisions for appropriate punishment for perpetrator;
- Reform educational curricula and textbooks and implement transformative training for school teachers, police, community and religious leaders, political activists, bureaucrats and local representatives to provide information on Dalit human rights, remove language that humiliates Dalit women and men.
- Addressing the women's concern in the Freed Haliya programme for their appropriate rehabilitation of Dalit women member of the household.

FEDO also highlighted on the need for proportional representation of Dalit at the judiciary, as they continue to face multiple forms of discrimination due to their economic vulnerability, persistence of deeply rooted gender discriminatory and stereotyped attitudes and behavior.

Convention on Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD)

FEDO also had its presence on 95th Session of Convention on Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD)'s Hearing

on Nepal Periodic Reports at Geneva, Switzerland held on 30 April to 1 May 2018.

In advance of Nepal's review by the CERD, the joint report prepared by the FEDO along with the other organization working for Dalits, was submitted. The report offers Dalit CSOs perspective and intends to highlight areas where Nepal could make further advances in meeting its obligations under the ICERD and protection of Dalit human rights. The report provides several recommendations on Discrimination against Dalits in Nepal; Definitions of racial discrimination;

Measures to eliminate discrimination and promote equality; Prevention, prohibition and eradication of racial segregation and apartheid; Measures to eliminate all propaganda and organizations based on theories of racial superiority; Measures to promote equality and non-discrimination in the enjoyment of civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights protection and remedies through judicial and non-judicial mechanisms; Measures to combat prejudices and promote understanding and tolerance.

Some of those recommendations include:

- Ensuring an effective implementation of court decisions and recommendations of the NHRC and other national human rights institutions, in relation to the cases of caste-based discrimination and untouchability;
- Widely disseminate the constitutional provisions, the Anti-Untouchability Act, and provisions of ICERD amongst the Dalit communities, law enforcement officials as well as the general public.
- Prohibition of all direct and indirect forms of caste-based discrimination and pave the way for remedying such forms of discrimination;
- Strengthening legal framework dealing with CBD and Untouchability including through improving a number of normative flaws regarding statute of limitation, penalty, reparation, compensation and protection;
- Ensuring a proportional political representation of Dalits at all levels of governance including executive, legislative, judiciary, bureaucracy, security

forces, political and diplomatic appointments and constitutional bodies as guaranteed by the constitution of Nepal among others

- Amend the CBDU Regulation to detail the processes and procedures for victims and witness protection.



Representatives of FEDO at CERD

- Ensure prompt enactment of the necessary laws to enforce fundamental rights, including Dalit rights, guaranteed under Article 40 of the Constitution, in consultation with Dalit communities.
- Empower and enhance the capacity of women Dalit representatives at the local government positions for quality representation of Dalit issues in the local level policy making and implementation.

With its presence at the international forums, FEDO was able to make the international community to understand the present human rights situation of the Nepalese Dalit women and influence them to adequate concluding observation to government of Nepal for upholding the rights of Dalit women to live with equality, freedom and human dignity by creating an environment where no caste and gender discrimination prevails.

Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women Visits FEDO

We had to honor to welcome the United Nations Special Rapporteur (SR) on Violence against Women, Ms. Dubravka Šimonović at our central office who was in Nepal to examine the issues and challenges of caste-based discrimination and violence against women in Nepal.

FEDO organized discussion meeting with the Special Rapporteur, Parliamentarians, activists, civil society organizations as well as development practitioners on the issues and challenges of Dalit women with the focus on violence, gender based-discrimination; implementing the necessary legislative or other measures to prohibit mandatory mediation and conciliation, in relation to all forms of violence against women covered by the CEDAW Convention and its General Recommendation

On the occasion, FEDO presented the situation of Dalit women based on a study conducted by FEDO on the “Status of Violence against Dalit Women and Children.” The report helped us to bring forth the evidence of different forms of violence faced by Dalit women, and sometimes without their realization.

It was opined that despite the adoption of Caste-based discrimination and Untouchability (Offence and Punishment) Act 2017, the system still fails to address the issue and provide justice and people’s attitude which portrays harsh reality of the perception and attitude towards Dalit and Dalit women. To address this sort of situation, the SR suggested to reach out to the mass as vigorously, make press release so that it creates pressure as well as reach out to the Optional Protocol to Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against women. She urged Government to adopt a specific National Action Plan on violence against Dalit and indigenous women, in line with the



Group photo taken following the discussion with Special Rapporteur

commitments made under Article 22 and 23 of the UN Declaration on the Rights of indigenous peoples.

She also urged for Strengthening the capacity of the police force and judiciary; ensuring adequate training for members of Judicial Committees of the local government; raising awareness among women and girls, particularly in rural and remote areas of the country, about the new laws that are in place, as well as the mechanisms that they can avail of in order to report incidents of violence

She congratulated Nepal on increased political participation of women and also appreciated the Nepalese society for taking steps to openly acknowledge the levels of violence against women in the country. She believed that with the government implementing effective policies on eradicating violence against women, in cooperation with civil society, Nepal could accelerate the eradication of harmful practices such as Chhaupadi, to ensure gender equality and the right.

Journey from group member to local public representative

Mina Devi B.K., 37, had always witnessed hardship in her life. She was raised by her family in extreme poverty condition owing to which she was also deprived of formal education.

She continued to suffer economic crisis even after getting married at the age of eighteen. She had to look after medicinal expenses of her unhealthy husband along with the family. Due to extreme poverty, tradition, custom and values, she was bounded within household works and was not able to get out of it.

Fortunately, she came in contact of one of the Dalit women groups formed by FEDO Kailali. She joined the group as a member. There she got opportunities to participate in trainings and interactions which contributed to raise her confidence level to do something for herself as well as society. She also gave her active contribution when the group was reformed under Combating Discrimination for advancing human rights of Dalit women in Nepal project during March of 2018. With attending various interactions, seminars, training and other programs organised by FEDO, she developed the skill of leadership and also realised the importance of political participation. Eventually, she got elected as a ward member in Bardgoriya RMP-6.

Now, she is making every effort for the socioeconomic transformation of the women for



her community. She played vital role in obtaining local budget total of 5 lakhs for conducting tailoring, embroidery and computer training and awareness in gender violence to community women and Dalit students. She also coordinated for distribution of goats and mushroom cultivation training for income generation through ward-level program. She did strong lobby in ward no-6 office to released budget for hooding boards which disseminate awareness message against caste-based discrimination & untouchability in many places of her ward.

She is appreciated for her effort. In fact, she is treated as the real hero of her community. She is now living a life full of dignity for which she thanks FEDO.

ACHIEVEMENT OF PROJECTS

1. Combating Discrimination for Advancing Human Rights of Dalit Women in Nepal

Project Duration	January 2018 - December 2020
Project Partner	Foundation for Just Society
District	Kailali and Bardiya
Working Areas	Dhangadi Sub Metropolitan, Godawari Municipality ward no 1,2,3,5,7& 8; Bardgoriya Municipality ward no 1,2,3,4,5 & 6; Guleriya Municipality ward no 1 &2; Badhaiya Tal Rural Municipality ward no 1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8 and 9

The project was implemented with an aim to organize and empower women from the Dalit and the other minority community against gender violence and caste-based discrimination untouchability, social exclusion, marginalisation and economic deprivation. The project also aimed at the protection and promotion of their human rights.

In order to meet its aim, several activities such as paralegal & human rights training to frontline leaders; capacity building training to frontline leaders; legal aid support to survivors; regular meeting of Collective Action Group (CAG); monthly meeting of Dalit Women Groups (DWG); matching fund to Dalit women groups; training on public policy and new structure of the government; interaction



Capacity building training for locally elected Dalit women

with human rights and law enforcement institutions, etc. (at Rural Municipality); capacity enhance of elected Dalit women; dialogue between local Justice committee and CAG (at Rural Municipality); public dialogue on implementation of Caste-Based Discrimination and Untouchability (CBDU) and Gender-Based Violence (GBV) act; media mobilization among others were conducted under the project.

Likewise, coordination and collaboration with government institutions, NHRC, CSOs, women rights campaigners and media houses were carried out so as to construct the joint effort to abolish issues of violence and caste-based discrimination form the society.

Under the project a total of 50 frontline leaders i.e. 25 activists from each district, Kailali and Bardiya were oriented with the anti-discriminatory laws. Frontline leaders along with the Collective Action Groups (CAG) have become reliable and effective network at the local level to advocate human rights for social justice by making service and justice providers accountable and responsible for the implementation of state laws and policies in favour of them.

Overall, the project played the major role to implement protective laws and other human rights legislation and policies in the favor of Dalit women and other marginalized and excluded groups.

2. Strengthen Economic Rights of Dalit Women in South Asia (SERDWSA)

Project Duration	April 2016-March 2018
Project Partner	UN Women
Working Areas	Nation-wide

The project aims at strengthening regional and national policy and budgetary frameworks to fulfil Dalit women’s (DW) economic rights, with a particular focus on land, higher education and

livelihoods by the use of five-tier approach of intervention such as: Policy Analysis; Recommendation; Movement; Capacity Building and Advocacy.

Following the continuous effort, the project witnessed an increased response of parliamentarians and government officials to integrate and implement gender-responsive provisions for Dalit women in public and fiscal (budget) policies on land, higher education and skills (for employment). Through the project, FEDO and other partner organizations were able to contribute to increasing Dalit women’s political representation in the local governments of Nepal.

Under the project, a total of 97 women from 21 districts were provided with skill development training for livelihoods. The skills and topics covered were doll-making, beauty parlour, plumbing, sewing, knitting, animal rearing, vegetable farming, boutique, hotel management, dairy, handicrafts, fishery, candle making, poultry farming, mushroom farming, Dhaka weaving, pig rearing, pot making, bamboo craft and tika making.

The project regularly engaged with media persons and men to sensitize them on the constraints faced by Dalit



Group photo taken after the conclusion of conference

women and the need to overcome these. In recent days, the media personnel have been responsive towards Dalit women’s issues. Similarly, there is increasing realization among men and boys that they are key actors to protect and promote Dalit women’s economic rights. FEDO also developed a cordial relationship with the Council of Technical Education and Vocational Training (CTEVT), which promised to link interested Dalit women with training providing institutions.

Dalit women; Dalit women’s civil society organizations (CSOs) and community-based organizations (CBOs); Dalit men, parliamentarians, government officials and media have been the key beneficiaries and stakeholders of the project.

3. Chicken as Gift Programme for Livelihood Promotion

Project Duration	January-June 2018
Project Partner	DanChruch Aid (DCA)
District	Banke
Working Areas	Baijanth Rural Municipality and Khajura Rural Municipality

The project was implemented with the goal to contribute to increasing livestock production and productivity so as to create the income generation through livestock rearing practice through sensitize and chicken support.

The project was implemented in two rural municipalities of Banke districts: Baijanth and Khajura, targeting especially Dalit women, single women, female-headed households and the households with the low income or no extra source for earning money. The project provided chicken support including technical knowledge also for commercial Poultry farming to a poor, disadvantaged and marginalised community. Off the 100 selected households, each household got 19 Giriraj Chicken as a gift to start poultry farming. Moreover, the selected farmers were also given training in handling and caring the chicken so as to have a safe and healthy environment in the farm for preventing any sort of viral diseases. They were also trained to prepare chicken shed. The project

also formed the saving and credits groups so as to help the farmer financially.

With such support, all Poultry farmers were able to construct the improved Chicken Shed. They also become able to consult to local service centres like DADO, DLSO service centre, Agro-Vet. In fact, poultry farming in the targeted areas turned into a sustainable source of household income to meet the basic needs for their daily life.

With the project intervention, 100 Females were correspondingly benefited. Likewise, 50 HHs of Baijanath Rural Municipality and 50 HHs of Khajura Rural Municipality were also benefited. The project has made meaningful contribution to the development of the livestock sub-sector in both Rural Municipalities and has, thus, will improve its contribution to the marginalized peoples economy.



Beneficiary of the project receiving chicken as a gift for poultry farming



Training on poultry farming

Towards Economic Empowerment

Pabitra, B.K, 38, who hails from Baijanath Rural Municipality- 3 is an active member of Pragatisil Dalit Women Group, formed by FEDO. Energetic and enthusiastic Pabitra had always desire to do something worth for herself, her family and the community. However, due to poor socio-economic status of her family, she was deprived of education. Moreover, she got married at the age of 16 and become the mother of four sons at the very early age and thus her daily routine was confined within household chores only.

As soon as she joined the Pragatisil Dalit Women Group, she got chance to the part of various awareness programs and skillful trainings conducted by the FEDO. She had have the active participation on various trainings on governance, leadership development, local level participatory planning process, Dalit and Women Rights among other.

As FEDO always vowed for the economic empowerment of women, Pabitra, under the project “Chicken as a gift for livelihood program” received 19 Giriraj Chicken to start poultry farming. She, along with the other the selected farmers were also given training in handling and caring the chicken so as to have a safe and healthy environment in the farm for preventing any sort of viral diseases. They were also trained to prepare chicken shed. The project also formed the saving and credits groups so as to help the farmer financially.

With such support from FEDO, she has been able to add more chicken in her farm. She is now earning by selling eggs and chicken. She aims at add more chicken and expanding her business.



4. Strengthening and Scaling up Justice Services of Dalit Women

Project Duration	October 2016 - December 2018
Project Partner	Open Society Foundations
District	Surkhet and Bara
Working Areas	Kalaiya Municipality ward no 16,14,25 74; JeetpurSimra Sub-Metropolitan ward no 19&20; GurbaKot Municipality ward no 8 & 10; Lekbesi Municipality ward no 7; Birendranagar Municipality ward no 11 & 1

The overall purpose of the project was to promote the access to justice of Dalit women in a sustainable and integrated way. The specific objectives of the project were: empowering Dalit women in a collective way for their access to justice and use of law; help to establish an

integrated and sustainable approach of community legal services by the government for Dalit women through an evidence based advocacy and to establish and demonstrate a model of financial sustainability of justice services of Dalit women.



Monthly meeting of Dalit Women Group



Training on Access to Justice

In order to achieve the project objectives, FEDO conducted the activities include: baseline study on Dalit women's access to justice, public services and their legal awareness; capacity building of Dalit women groups on justice, their rights and legal empowerment; development of frontline Dalit leaders at the district level; training on paralegals; orientation, meeting and interaction with Dalit women group members on their issues of violence, justice and empowerment; case documentation; establishment of district level response mechanism and quarterly meeting of response mechanism; interaction with law enforcement agencies, influential figures, service providers and civil society actors.

With the intervention of the projects, Dalit women of the project implemented areas have been empowered

and organized to know and claim their rights and justice. So far, a total of 400 Dalit women from 16 Dalit women groups (200 from 4 VDCs of Bara and 200 from 4 VDCs of Surkhet)³ were oriented to break the silence around Gender Based violence (GBV) and Caste Based Discrimination and Untouchability (CBDU). They are actively raising the issues of caste and gender based discrimination at the community level.

The project helped to establish an integrated and sustainable approach of community legal services by the government for Dalit women through an evidence based advocacy. Dalit women are able to identify the issues and do issue-based advocacy which help to increase the access for Dalit women to the community justice services.

5. Dalit women Strengthening and Support program (DWSSP)

Project Duration	May 2017-December 2019
Project Partner	Namsaling Community Development Center (NCDC)
District	Dang
Working Areas	Tulsipur Sub-metropolitan ward no 1,2,4,6,7,8,9,12,18 &19; Ghorahi Sub-metropolitan ward no 5,8,11, &12; Sub-metropolitan ward no 3 &6

The project was successfully in Tulsipur Sub-metropolitan, Ghorahi-Sub metropolitan and Dangisharan Rural Municipality benefitting 20 Dalit women groups. The projects aims at improving household income of the Dalit

Women, strengthening civil organization, local institution and achieving gender equality at the same time.

In order to improving household income of the Dalit Women, they were given IGA Training. Moreover, through



Central and district staffs of FEDO with beneficiaries of the project during project monitoring

micro finance, each Dalit women group were provided Rs 24,000 as revolving fund support. To involve the group members on micro entrepreneurship, the selected group members were provided the micro enterprise training to raise the knowledge and skills on the production of commercialized products activities. After the training the support of Rs 16,000 was provided to the selected individual to conduct and expand their business.

Likewise, to strengthen the civil organization and

local institution, orientation were given to group members on planning process, Coordination and collaboration meeting with local political parties, ward/ rural municipality/municipality members for budget allocation, Orientation about social accountability tools (Public hearing, social audit, community score card etc.) to hold local government accountable, Meeting with local government representative to participate Dalit community and Dalit women in the process of public hearing of the local level programs were conducted.



Group photo taken after public hearing program with locally elected dalit women

6. Empowering Dalit Women and Girls for Education and Economic Activities

Project Duration	April 2017-December 2018
Project Partner	Karuna Trust
District	Rupandehi and Palpa
Working Areas	Tinahu Rural Municipality ward no 2; Ramba Municipality ward no 3 and 44; Tansen Municipality ward no 2,3,6,8 and 12; Butwal Sub-Metropolitan ward no 7 and 11; Devdaha Municipality ward no 7,10, and 12; Kanchan Rural Municipality ward no 5; Tilotama Municipality ward no 2 and 5

The project works to empower and capacitate Dalit women and girls against caste based discriminations and untouchability in school and public places. The project also focuses on promotion of girl child education and improve household income of the Dalit women through micro-finance and various income generating activities.

enrolled in school are regularly attending school.

Leadership development training was also organized, benefitting a total of 53 Dalit women to develop their leadership to deal with the cases of caste and gender-based discrimination. Likewise, coordination and linkage



Students after receiving stationaries as supported by the project

Under the project, school enrollment campaign was conducted to increase enrolment of Dalit children. Likewise, a total of 141 parents (female – 97 and male – 34) were oriented on children education and increasing school enrolment and regular school attendance of Dalit children. The stationary items were distributed to 66 Dalit students (36 – girls and 29 – boys to encourage

continuing their school. Likewise, interaction with school teachers, school management committee and teacher parent association members and social activists on caste and gender based discrimination to create untouchability free school environment. With this, at least 200 children from Dalit and marginalized groups who were either dropped-out or have never joined the school have been

with local agriculture service center and livestock service center has been established to promote semi-commercial vegetable farming and pig rearing for Dalit women. Government officials have provided commitment to include Dalit women in their planning of horticulture and livestock program from next year. At least 60 Dalit women are empowered and capacitated to improve household

income through micro-finance and income generating activities.

Through the different trainings, meetings, interactions, dialogues and orientation programs, at least

250 Dalit women have been made able to combat caste and gender based discrimination

7. Increasing Access for Women from Dalits and Marginalized Groups to Service and Resources

Project Duration	April 2017- December 2019
Project Partner	DanChurch Aid (DCA)
District	Banke
Working Areas	Duduwa Rural Municipality, Baijanath Rural Municipality and Khajura Rural Municipality

The project aims at increasing the participation and access of women from Dalit community and other excluded communities such as Muslim and Madhesi to local resources and services such as social security schemes, health and agricultural services for dignified life. The project also targets making local government accountable towards the issues of Dalits and Marginalized groups.

In order to meet the target of the project, several women groups and networks of women were formed at local level to do advocacy for participation and representation of women and linked with province and national level. Likewise, coordination and linkages established with like-minded organizations (organizations from Dalits, women and other excluded groups) and government mechanism (local judicial committee, National Women Commission, National Dalit Commission, National Muslim Commission, National Human Rights Commission, Police Offices) at local, province and national level to effectively implement

anti-discriminatory laws and policies for human rights of Dalit women and men.

Under the project, the selected women were given orientation and trainings on CBDU Act & Regulation and on GBV Act/ regulation and Regulation. Likewise, elected representatives at the local level were given training on Dalit and Women Rights; budget and plan formulation, monitoring and evaluation; and social accountability tools.

With the intervention of the projects, 7913 Dalit women capacitated and organized to do advocacy with concerned stakeholders for their rights and development opportunities. Now, they are able to do processing themselves for making birth certificate, citizenship certificates among others. Likewise, they are also able to take the advantages from the services provided at the local level such as maternity allowance.

Setting Example for Muslim Women



BanoBagwan, a 42 years old Muslim women and resident of Daduwa rural municipality-4, was always occupied by the household works and was bounded by the various religious and cultural taboos.

Due to the common practice of not sending girl child to the school, she was never fortunate to go the school. She got married to Babu Ali Bagwan in India just at the age of 12. Her married life also did not go well as her husband left her and got married to another women.

Thanks to various social restriction and poor economic condition, she was not able to do anything herself for her living. However, her life took a new turn when she came in contact of FEDO and joined the Himmat Dalit Women Group formed by FEDO. No longer than had she joined the group, she got opportunity in participating

various discussion program on child marriage, polygamy, participation in the local level structures, budget, economic empowerment. She also received training on governance, leadership development and advocacy. With this, she become aware of various things and her self-confidence also built up. Thus, she took loan of Rs6000 from group and started business of flower garland. She also started cultivating flower in her garden with the purpose of selling them. She now earns good enough money for her living. With her earning, she has been able to run her family in better manner than earlier.

Apart from her business and family, she is also involved in various social works. She shows her concern in the rural municipality budgets. Moreover, she is playing leadership role to demand the service and resources. She has set an example in Muslim community.

8. Equal Power for Equal Rights

Project Duration	April 2016-March 2019
Project Partner	Sankalpa
District	Dailekh, Makawanpur and Siraha
Working Areas	Duduwa Rural Municipality, Baijanath Rural Municipality and Khajura Rural Municipality

The project targets addressing the issues of Dalit women through public consultation and interaction meeting with the concerned stakeholders. Under the projects various public consultations on Dalit women related issues were conducted at the local-level in order to create an environment for meaningful participation of Dalit women in social movement as well as to ensure the accountability of the government and the concerned authority for the same.

The project also focused to interact on women's issues related topics, access to public services and resources, addressing SGBV and VAW issues, women participation and representation in public structures and local bodies through monthly meeting of Dalit Women's groups. To ensure the values of meaningful participation, group meetings, interaction and trainings were facilitated by the district focal person. The interactions and the discussion revolve around different issues having direct links with the empowerment of Dalit women to increase

equal power for equal rights.

Awareness raising campaigns on contextual local issues on SGBV and VAW were also conducted.

Further, trainings are conducted for the participants on VAW related policies and laws. Those trainings are mainly focused to take leadership in planning process, allowing the Dalit women and social activists to identify needs and plans accordingly to meet these needs. It aims to promote participation of Dalit women themselves in the planning of resource allocation and public service delivery. The project also stressed in the cooperation and coordination with all of the key stakeholders and believes that interaction and group discussion among Dalit women will solve the problem they are facing.

SGBV and VAW cases are being collected by social activist with the support of district focal person and deal with the referral mechanism



Discussion program on 'Issues of Women at Local Level'



Monthly meeting of the Dalit women group

9. Reducing Violence against Dalit Women

Project Duration	April 2016-March 2020
Project Partner	IMADR
District	Parsa
Working Areas	Birgunj Metropolitan, ward no 2,5,8,16, and 25

The project was implemented with the target of Dalit women empowerment by reducing oppression and violence faced by Dalit women and children through advocacy, lobbying and several other measures.

Under the project, various activities were conducted to make Dalit women aware of gender-based violence and capable to combat such violence. Some of those activities include awareness based training, leadership development training, awareness rallies, local level coordination meeting, couple training to address the consequences of domestic violence among others. Likewise, with the help of this project, cooperative named “Dalit UtthanBachatTathaRinSahakariSanstha” was established to support women’s group for their financial requirements and to encourage them for entrepreneurship. The cooperative has a membership of 150 people.

With the intervention of the projects, women have now shown solidarity against the violence and have always stood against it. They have now become able to speak up for justice and also for their rights and thus they do not feel any hesitation to register cases of violence. Dalit women’s group have also started working to stop alcoholism by making the local people aware of the negative impact of alcohol consumption on one’s health and society.

Women are being self-employed and independent. With the help of the loan provided by the cooperatives, they are able to establish their own small business like grocery shops while some are engaged in animal husbandry. They have started giving priority to education as a significant requirement.

10. Regional Food Security Governance Project

Project Duration	October 2013-September 2018
Project Partner	DanChrchAid (DCA)
District	Doti

The project was successfully implemented in Doti district with the right based approached intervention in connection with Right to Food/Food security for the small and marginal farmers. The project was focused on agricultural support and income generation activities as well providing of modern farming technologies. The project also focused on increasing the participation of small/marginal farmer organizations in decision making processes linked to food and nutrition security.

Under the project, various activities including orientation, training, workshops, interaction, public dialogue etc on Right to Food (RtF)/ local food security issues; social audit program; coordination with local level government

offices; participation and campaign based programs were conducted to empower and building capacity of RtF Leaders on Right to Food, Food security and Advocacy issues. A total 170 numbers of farmer groups were mobilized and facilitated through the Ward level Leader Farmers of target 18 wards of Rural Municipalities and Municipality. The project was successful in developing the knowledge and on lobbying and advocacy skills to the RtF leaders to grasp the local govt. resources and services.

With the intervention of the project, 4100 numbers of people from VDCs/district/region became aware on food security and nutrition issues as well local government

program and provisions through different types of project actions. Through the mass awareness activities (media radio program/PSA and marking international days (21 March, World food day and Human rights day), above 8000 of people are sensitizing on food security related local government actions and issues. A total 170 farmers groups have collected saving credit amount NPR 500000- and those amount are utilized on their business motif and home consumption. 250 members of farmer group received the local government resources amount of NPR; 2500000/- and utilizing on different schemes as like; poultry, goat farming, sewing trailing, cereal crops/ veg seeds, small irrigation etc.



Beneficiary of the project at the agriculture exhibition



Training on Right to Food

11. Education of Vulnerable Women and Girls Project

Project Duration	April 2017 – March 2018
Project Partner	Soroptimist International (SI)
District	Sindhupalchowk
Working Areas	Thulosirubari and Kunchowk

This project was successfully completed contributing in the education of women and girls of the Sidhupalchowk districts who were in vulnerable and traumatized conditions due to massive earthquake that hit Nepal on 25 April 2015.

Under the project, the girls and the women were provided with the with social literacy classes in which they were informed about the health issues, natural disaster, violence against women, family planning, entitlements. A total of 52 literacy classes were conducted educating

780 women in total. Likewise, school enrollment program was conducted along with providing them with bags, uniforms and shoes so as to encourage them to join the school. Moreover, many damaged schools from the massive earthquakes were renovated from community, government and non-government support in targeted areas.

The learning centre was been established which is more a like multipurpose centre where the women and girls are getting the available information that they ask for,

and improve their life. Lobby and Advocacy meeting was conducted on a regular basis so as to empower Dalit women to be able to raise their voice against caste and gender based discrimination in schools and public places and promote equitable access for their children to

inclusive quality education.

All these resulted in increasing numbers of girl student in school. With the project intervention, the dropout rates on the girl students also get decreased. The benefitted students are attending the school on a regular basis.

12. Ensuring Universal WASH Rights in Nepal

Project Duration	April 2014 – March 2018
Project Partner	Water Aid Nepal (WAN), Big Lottery
District	Siraha
Working Areas	Mirchaiya Municipality ward no. 3 - Raghobpur, ward no. 7, 8, 9 – Fulbariya, ward no 10 Ga - Maheshpur and ward no 4 and 5); Golbazar Municipality (ward no 5, 6, 8 and 9 - Chandralalpur and ward no 4, 5, 6, and 9 - Chandraayodhyapur); Siraha Municipality (ward no 3, 6, 5 and 9); Karjanha Municipality (ward no 1,2,3 and 5 - Badarharmal, ward no – Gautari)

The objective of this project is to ensure water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) rights of Dalit communities by empowering Terai Dalit women to influence WASH policies and practices. The project intends to empower Madhesi Dalit women of Siraha district by increasing awareness and the power to advocate for the serious concerns of water and sanitation; referring to the worst situation of Dalit women in Terai i.e. only 4% of Madhesi Dalit women have access to sanitation.

Total 40 Dalit women group with 15 members from Dalit communities were informed on WASH rights and services, where 240 Dalit women group members were trained on WASH leadership. They helped community people to reach ODF in their respective areas. Dalit women members are motivated to construct toilets in their home which has reached 475 till date. Dalit women are playing an important role in bringing the unheard voice and enabling them to demand and influence policy for access to WASH for Dalit women.

The regular orientation, various information through pamphlets were distributed to the Dalit women. The regular lobby meetings, interactions were conducted with the stakeholders to fulfill the provisions for the Dalit community. The Dalit women are members of local WASH group where they put forward their issues. As a result Dalit women are participating in local budget planning process where they contributed their view the planning process in various working areas. The development budget is segregated in working area and the budget is



Beneficiary of the project in front of her newly constructed toilet

allocated for the various WASH services (ODF campaign) and various income generation skills for Dalit women.

Lessons Learnt and Challenges

Lessons learnt

The year of 2018 was very fruitful with the successful implementation of the project in the various districts. Working with the different women groups, frontline leaders and the allies at the local, district and national level provided FEDO with various new learning that will be very useful for determining future strategies.

- Dalit women don't want to share the violence they are facing because of social norms and family honor prevalent in the community. Capacity of social mobilizers and frontline leaders should be strengthened and they should be mobilized as community facilitator to promote and protect the human rights of Dalit women at local level.
- The concepts of women rights, caste-based discrimination and untouchability, gender-based violence, related legal policies and importance of legal empowerment are needed to be introduced in groups with concrete local circumstances with solid examples that occur in their community. Both women and men should be more oriented with legal provision and legal treatment as mentioned in anti-discriminatory laws and policies.
- Dalit women have been deprived of basic needs along with the access to education, health, sanitation, justice among others due to their poor economic status. Thus, more focused should be given for their economic empowerment.
- Dalit women leaders have very limited access to media when compared to the women leaders of other caste. Thus, they voices are less heard. FEDO should facilitate to increase Dalit women leaders'

exposure to media.

- Successful implementation of the projects has been possible due to the political neutrality of the FEDO. FEDO will continue it in coming years as well.

Challenges

- Low-level of awareness about CBV, CBDU, GBV among the people; weak implementation of the related Acts coupled with the lack of appropriate support from law enforcement agencies.
- Because of the poor economic status, the targeted population were more inclined towards livelihood and income generation program rather than awareness-oriented program.
- Dalit community itself reluctant to break the chain of discrimination due to deeply rooted social stigma within themselves. Moreover, there is another hierarchy of castes among Dalits too.
- Dalit women who have been elected in local-level are not capable enough to take the issue of Dalit women in the decision making level. Moreover, their opinions are not taken into consideration by their so-called upper caste male counterparts when it comes to decision making.
- Financial crisis to launch various campaign targeting large number of people.
- Lack of proper number of staffs in the government organization as their integration as per the federal structure is still underway.

Future Strategies

FEDO kept Dalit women and girls at the center of its activities for last 25 years. With masses of Dalit women and girls, it ran as a movement and at the same time, with sound institutional infrastructure, it aspired to work as a development organization. Now, FEDO intends to work as an organization with movement as one of its strategies to mobilize Dalit women, girls, men, other men and women for justice, dignity and equality. The key priorities of new cycle of FEDO's Strategic Plan (2019-2023) will be: Economic Empowerment; Political Empowerment; Access to Justice and Development; and Inclusive Governance.

FEDO will work through following strategic objectives and interventions logicsto eliminate caste and gender-based discrimination against Dalit women in the future.

1. **Enable Dalit women to secure economic empowerment through enterprises and employment**

- Organize Dalit women in groups with a shared vision of economic empowerment
- Conduct a quick assessment on interest of Dalit women, market, financing, feasibility, employability and entrepreneurship.
- Organize technical and vocational education and training on select occupations or enterprises.
- Establish linkages with local chambers of commerce and industries, financial institutions and other market players.
- Provide mentoring, refresher and technical support.
- Facilitate establishment, operation and development of Dalit women's cooperatives
- Orient Dalit women and duty bearers at the local level to facilitate the former's access to resources.

2. **Develop new leaders, sustain existing ones and promote their participation**

- Form district chapters, on demand of district level Dalit women.
- Develop leadership development modules based on the needs of existing and potential Dalit women and conduct training courses.
- Create leadership development forums with participation of existing and potential Dalit women leaders.
- Establish and mobilise inter-party Dalit women forums at local level.
- Coordinate with local radio stations through district chapters to help elected Dalit women leaders share their experiences.
- Mobilise Dalit women for their meaningful participation in local governments and social spheres.
- Organise dialogues with political parties at the local level and persuade them to increase Dalit women in their structures.

3. **Continue evidence-based advocacy for social protection, justice, services and human rights**

- Conduct policy and thematic researches to generate evidences in collaboration with development partners and district chapters.
- Organize sharing forums to disseminate the research findings with state authorities, development partners and other relevant stakeholders.
- Act on emblematic cases, mobilize media, civil society and other national and international allies to create movement for change and against discrimination.
- Ensure protection of Dalit women and girls from disasters, emergencies, violence and

discrimination and provide WASH services.

- Advocate for legal reforms, promote access to justice and services for Dalit women at all levels.
- Create a digital platform for sharing positive and negative aspects of Dalit women's movement from across the country.
- Develop at least one Equality Advocate (SamanataAbhiyanta) in each ward.

4. Promote inclusive governance with increased Dalit women in key public sectors.

- In consultation with district chapters, identify professions for Dalit girls, select competitive

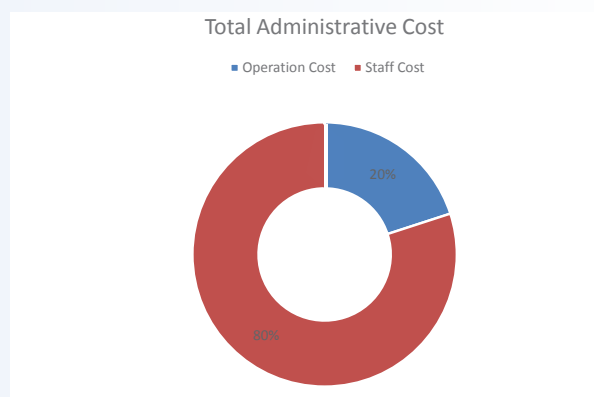
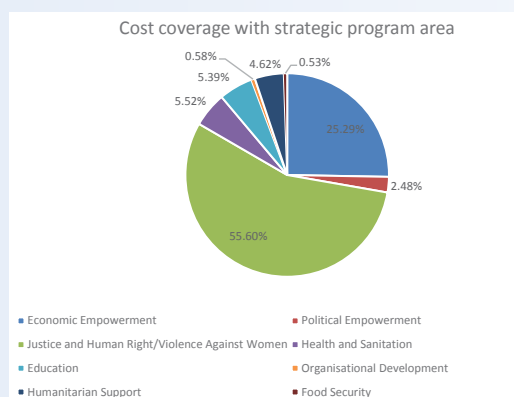
candidates and mobilize support for formal/ semi-formal/non-formal courses.

- Prepare Dalit girls for placement in selected professions (health, education, electricity, drinking water, media, law, security and public service, etc.)
- Monitor progress, award best performers and organize experience sharing events to encourage new entrants.
- Strengthen civil society including FEDO head office and district chapters for good governance, participation and anti-corruption.

Financial Report-2018

Cost coverage with strategic program area

SN	Particular	Total Expenses	Trend %
1	Economic Empowerment	6,148,182.00	25.29%
2	Political Empowerment	602,405.00	2.48%
3	Justice and Human Right/Violence Against Women	13,518,127.00	55.60%
4	Health and Sanitation	1,343,254.00	5.52%
5	Education	1,311,319.00	5.39%
6	Organizational Development	140,187.00	0.58%
7	Humanitarian Support	1,123,188.00	4.62%
8	Food Security	128,238.00	0.53%
Total Program Cost		24,314,900.00	100%
Administration Cost			
9	Operation Cost	3,767,556.00	20%
10	Staff Cost	14,987,878.00	80%
Total Administration Cost		18,755,434.00	100%
Total Expenditure (Program Cost+Administration Cost)		43,070,334.00	



Feminist Dalit Organisation (FEDO)

Statement of Financial Position

As on Asadh End, 2075

Feminist Dalit Organization (FEDO)

Statement of Financial Position

As on 32nd Ashadh, 2075

Liabilities and Fund	Schedule	This Year (Amount NPR)	Last Year (Amount NPR)
Fund Balance		31,266,422	45,823,956
Unrestricted Fund	1	20,714,836	21,025,886
Restricted Fund	1	10,551,586	24,798,070
Current Liabilities		12,286,006	3,878,824
Other payables	2	4,943,218	3,878,824
Deferred Grant Income (Advance Income)	3	7,342,789	-
Total		43,552,429	49,702,780
Assets		This Year (Amount NPR)	Last Year (Amount NPR)
Non-Current Assets		18,622,525	19,468,542
Property, plant & equipments	4	14,819,362	16,025,158
Investment		3,803,163	3,443,384
Current Assets		24,929,904	30,234,240
Trade Advance and Other Receivable	5	7,508,297	3,135,695
Other assets		-	39,110
Cash and Cash Equivalent	6	17,421,607	27,059,435
Total		43,552,429	49,702,780

Accounting Policies and Notes to Accounts

12

As per our report of even date

Schedules 1 to 12 form an integral part of the financial statements.



Kailash B.K.
Finance Officer


Bharat Nepal
Executive Director


Renu Sijapati
General Secretary


Kala Swarnakar
President




Ranju Bishwakarma
Treasurer


C.A. Gyanendra B. Bhari
Partner
BRS Neupane & Co.
Chartered Accountants



Date: 28.09.2018

Place: Jwagal, Lalitpur

Feminist Dalit Organisation (FEDO)

Income and Expenditure Statement

For the period from Shrawan 1, 2074 to Asadh 32, 2075 (July 16, 2017 to July 16, 2018)

Feminist Dalit Organization (FEDO)
Income and Expenditure Statement
For the period from Shrawan 1, 2074 to Ashadh 32, 2075 (July 16, 2017 to July 16, 2018)

Income	Sch.	This year Amount (NPR)			Last Year Amount (NPR)
		Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	
Grant Income	7	-	38,454,035	38,454,035	33,670,910
Contribution Income	8	3,742,079	-	3,742,079	3,505,648
Other Income		67,848	-	67,848	94,534
Bank Interest		294,545	-	294,545	188,159
Overhead		60,113	-	60,113	134,658
Membership fee		6,515	-	6,515	501
Total Income (A)		4,171,100	38,454,035	42,625,135	37,594,410
Expenditure					
Program Expenditure	9	1,561,095	22,753,805	24,314,900	19,756,586
Operational Cost	10	482,315	2,056,795	2,539,110	2,535,502
Depreciation		1,228,446	-	1,228,446	1,383,595
Staff Cost	11	1,344,443	13,643,435	14,987,878	13,747,894
Total Expenditure (B)		4,616,299	38,454,035	43,070,334	37,423,577
Surplus/ Deficit (C=A-B)		(445,199)	-	(445,199)	170,833
Opening Fund Balance (D)		21,025,885	24,798,070	45,823,955	29,826,293
Transfer to Income		-	(13,437,783)	(13,437,783)	-
Fund Transfer (E)		159,145	(808,701)	(649,556)	-
Accumulated Fund (F)		-	-	-	15,826,830
Previous Year Adjustment (G)		(24,995)	-	(24,995)	-
Closing Fund Balance (C+D+E+F+G)		20,714,836	10,551,586	31,266,422	45,823,956

Accounting Policies and Notes to Accounts

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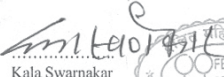
As per our report of even date

Schedules 1 to 12 form an integral part of the financial statements.



Kailash B.K.
Finance Officer


Bharat Nepali
Executive Director


Renu Sijapati
General Secretary


Kala Swarnakar
President

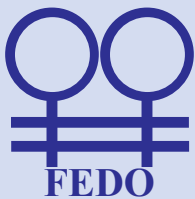



Ranju Bishwakarma
Treasurer


CA. Ganendra B. Bhari
Partner
BRS Neupane & Co.
Chartered Accountants



Date: 28.09.2018
Place: Jwagal, Lalitpur



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