

# THE FEDO QUARTERLY POST

*The Official newsletter of Feminist Dalit Organization*



## 16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM AGAINST GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

Like every year, this year too FEDO celebrated the 16 days of Activism against Gender-based violence across the country by coordinating with the local stakeholders and human rights defenders as a call for the prevention and elimination of violence against women and girls.

Coinciding with this annual international campaign (kicked off on 25 November till 10 December), FEDO organized different events to increase awareness on the campaign and also on the rapidly growing violence and crimes against women in order to galvanize advocacy efforts of stakeholders and to hold them accountable toward their role of safeguarding rights of Dalit women.

### WHAT'S IN OUR LATEST ISSUE:

Expanded its Dalit women network at Lumbini province.

Concluded Provincial women conference at Butwal and Kathmandu

Distributed seed money to elected and community women of Achham and Dadeldura district

Conducted Review and Planning work with district team at Kaski district.

Local level meeting organized at Doti district to discuss on the Dalit women's access to Local level policy, budget, and development.



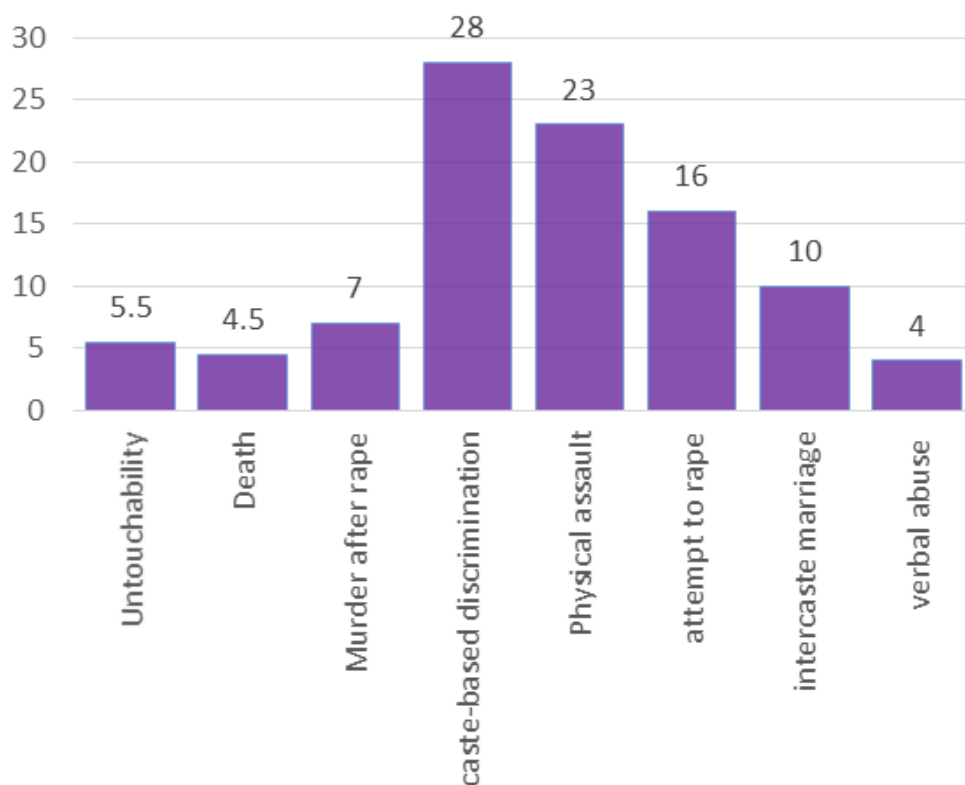
At the national level, FEDO organized an interaction meeting including different concerned stakeholders like police department, CSO's, other working organizations, media personnel's, representatives from National Human Rights Commission, National Women Commission, Dalit Commission to share the findings of the study completed by FEDO and also to aware them about the situation of Dalit women and the crimes they have faced in 2021. By using this platform, we also shared the hand-book, which was basically the study done by FEDO on the facts and figures of crime and violence faced by Dalit women and children in 2021. Along with the reported cases documented by Nepal Police, that study also incorporated the current status or response to the cases by the concerned authorities.

Similarly, FEDO jointly with government agencies and civil societies organized successful rallies and interaction meetings in its district chapters to show and build solidarity to fight against any form of violence against women and girls. Not only this but, meetings were held with the group members to shield light on the importance of conducting the campaign and to aware the Dalit women of the alarming number of violence and crimes experienced by women and girls across the country. Along with this, the case reporting mechanism was also shared among the members to make them strong enough to advocate and raise their voices against any kind of discrimination.

# THE SITUATION OF VIOLENCE AGAINST DALIT WOMEN IN NEPAL

This handbook incorporates all the facts and figures of violence and discrimination experienced by Dalit women and girls between June 2020 and July 2021. So, coinciding with the 16 days of Activism, we shared its findings with the concerned authorities to make them committed toward their individual and collective effort to foresee the changes and safeguard the rights of Dalit women.

## Pattern of violence



**ACCORDING TO THE STUDY, A TOTAL OF 67 INCIDENTS OF VIOLENCE AGAINST DALIT WOMEN AND GIRLS HAVE BEEN REPORTED FROM JUNE TO JULY 2021. AMONG WHICH, 19 EXPERIENCED CASTE-BASED DISCRIMINATION AND UNTOUCHABILITY, 5 ATTEMPTED SUICIDE, 3 FACED ORAL ABUSE, 15 DALIT WOMEN FACED DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND 7 WERE THE VICTIM OF INTER-CASTE MARRIAGE.**

**LIKEWISE, 11 CASES OF ATTEMPTS TO RAPE HAVE BEEN REGISTERED DURING A YEAR. HAVING SAID THAT, OUT OF 7 WOMEN, 3 DALIT WOMEN WERE MURDERED AFTER RAPE IN THAT PARTICULAR YEAR. SO, WITH THE HIGHEST PROPORTION OF 61.19, WE CAN SAY THAT DALIT WOMEN HAVE SUFFERED MORE FROM DIFFERENT PATTERNS OF VIOLENCE THAN THOSE DALIT MEN IN THE DALIT COMMUNITY.**

The recent six-month study carried out by WOREC shows that Dalit women make the highest percentage (i.e.18%) of a total of 1673 cases of violence against women and children between 2077 Baisakh to Ashoj.

Besides, the study was done by COCAP also clearly depicts Dalit women to be the most vulnerable among all the other members. Among 648 incidents of caste and gender-based violence being registered, 115 cases are of Dalit women which makes 17.74% of total.

## 16 DAYS CAMPAIGN IN DISTRICTS



During the 16-day campaign against gender-based violence, various district chapters of FEDO organized as well as participated in events related to the uplifting and advocacy of Dalit women. With consideration of the Covid-19 situation, measures were taken while conducting these events.



To enlighten the Dalit women of Nepal, FEDO conducted different rallies and awareness raising campaign in different district chapters. In collaboration with local government, FEDO worked on enhancing the knowledge and ideas of Dalit women and girls on the major objectives of the activism, how the violence can be prevented and its reporting mechanism.

Similarly, in Dadeldura and Achham districts, FEDO conducted different workshops and awareness-raising campaigns aimed at preventing and eliminating violence against women and girls (VAWG) across the districts calling for prompt action to increase awareness, galvanize advocacy, and create opportunities for discussion about challenges and solutions.

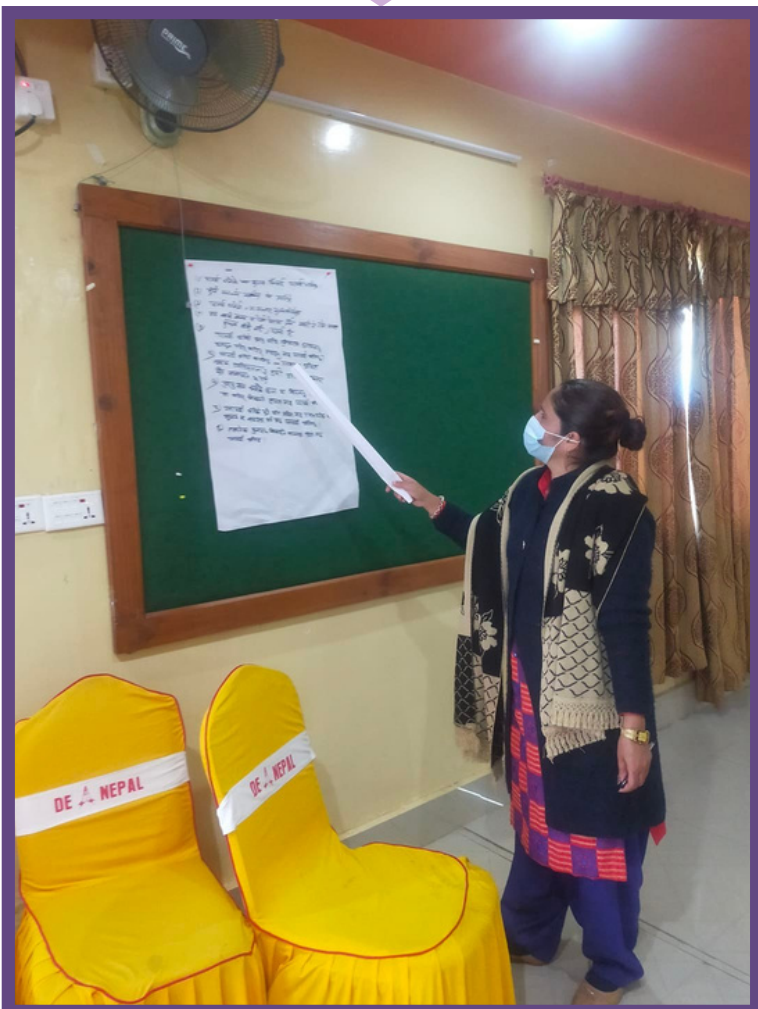


Importance and reason for conducting the campaign were discussed during the monthly meeting of women groups created by FEDO. Door to door campaigning was done to increase awareness on the violence faced by women. Also, youths at schools were given orientation while women representatives from FEDO participated in ward level programs to support the campaign. Frontline Dalit leaders were given an orientation on sexual violence and discussions on advocacy of Dalit women were facilitated.

Neither women nor men can flourish without one another and there is no sustainable path to development, poverty reduction, and eradication of hunger without gender equality. So with an aim to enlighten the mother and local representatives on girls' empowerment, FEDO conducted an interaction program to discuss the decisive role played by them in the food security, health and nutrition, and education of their families, specifically of female counterparts. While the determinants of education and women's empowerment seem to be complex, there are several areas where changes to policy, legislation, and planning can play a critical role in empowering women to act as key agents of change for an improved lifestyle. So, the local representatives were also presented in the event to hold them accountable toward the issue of children and work on creating a better place for them to sustain themselves.



*This interaction program has created a great learning platform for me and other mothers to understand our roles and responsibilities toward promoting girls empowerment*



## STORY OF SUCCESS- CHANDRAWATI RAIDAS

*Because of FEDO, I'm now capable enough to bear my children's expenses on my own.*



This is the story of independent Madhesi woman Chandrawati Raidas who lives in Kapilvastu with two beautiful children: one son and a daughter. With not so economically stable family, it was really hard for Chandrawati to manage everything for the family as their main source of living was farming. Because of the deeply rooted caste-based discrimination, they were confined to work for others and hence were deprived of getting respectable work for earning. So with no academic qualification and no skills in hand, she was confined to be a homemaker with no earning of her own.

Her life took a major setback when she started joining hands together with her husband in agriculture. There she saw an opportunity that strived her way toward getting linked up with many different organizations including FEDO. She got a chance to enhance her skills in vegetable farming through various occupational and skills-oriented training provided by FEDO and which was later on recognized by local authorities as well.

Now, with skills in hand, Chandrawati, and her family earns good money from the vegetable farming business. By farming on 6 acres of land, they earn up to NRs 1, 50,000 to 2, 00,000 annually.

Chandrawati is setting an example to a lot of other women from her group. "During our meetings, I share my experience of running the vegetable farming business to other women and tell them how I am enjoying my financial independence." She is not just is becoming financially independent but also has earned respect from her family and community. Being a part of FEDO and establishing this business has only got me into benefits- she claims

### CONTACT US

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

Email: [dms.fedo@gmail.com](mailto:dms.fedo@gmail.com)  
Website: [www.fedonepal.org](http://www.fedonepal.org)  
Like us:  
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