

Consultation meeting for the formation of Civil Society Network on girls issues in Parbat District

5th May, 2014, Hotel Bandana, Parbat

Background

One day consultation program on the formation of civil society network on girls' issues has been successfully accomplished on 5th may 2014 with the coordination of CWIN Nepal, Plan Nepal, Empowering Women in Nepal and local right holders. The program was chaired by Raju Poudel, Executive Director of Environmental Preservation Services for Development (ENPRED), Parbat; Krishna Lamshal, Local Development Officer (LDO of District Development Office (DDC)), Parbat as chief guest; Chudaraj Bhattarai, Assistant CDO as special guest and marked the presence of Madhav Pradhan, President of CWIN Nepal/Chairperson of Girl Power Country Steering Committee (CSC); Hem Raj Poudyal, Livelihood and Microfinance Coordinator, Plan Nepal/member of CSC; Rashmila Shakya, National Coordinator, CSC and representatives of government/non government officials as guests of the program. The program was conducted with the objective of forming a civil society network to work on the issues of girls in the district was marked by the organization working in the field of children and their rights in the district.

First session

It is the inauguration session. The event was officially started by ENPRED Nepal, partner of plan Nepal. Sangita Subedi, Enterprise Development Facilitator (EDF), ENPRED heartily welcomed all the participants in the program and highlighted that the civil society network working in girls' issues have been formed at the end of the program.

Rashmila Shakya, National Coordinator, CSC presented the need and importance of the interventions on the issues of girls during the initiation of the program. She also explained the objective of the program as follows:

To identify the major issues related to the girls of the district along with the identification of immediate interventions for overall protection and development of the girls.

To form a civil society network, addressing the problems of child/girls in the district, she emphasized a need of women education through a short film 'girl effect' which describes the changes appear in a girl life if she is fully supported on her health and education regardless of her poverty situation. She also describes the girl empowerment and various laws related to child right and protection highlighting on status of girls awareness, girls issues in Nepal and challenges of girls empowerment in our country.

During the program, a representative from Journalist Federation, FECOFUN, Civil Society, NGO Federation, Women and Child Development Office (WCDO), LDO, Assistant CDO, CSC and Plan Nepal shared their experiences on the formation of civil society network on issues of girls respectively. Media coverage in different activities provides opportunities to search issues on girls, focus on age group and their issues help them to unite and claim their rights has explained by the representative of Journalist federation. This also helps them in lobbying and advocacy to strengthen their power. Madhav Pradhan, CSC chair, has shared about the Civil Society Organization (CSO) network of other districts. Nationally nine CSOs were formed and this will add one more. Some of them possess very good initiation like started doing different activities and have remarkable changes in their life. He also explained that CSC has prepared national planning to access the participation of CSOs members in different girl issues. Hem Raj Poudyal, member of CSC, shared his experiences on girls issues. Moreover, the CSO formed afterward will focus on girl issues though it is the integration of all right holders' organizations working in the field of child rights. This will work in union. He also committed that the CSC play an active role in Making CSO network functional. Chief Guest, Krishna Lamsal has explained the social and legal initiation of child friendly local governance is in the process of formation. *"I am thankful to the organizer for the invitation in the program and it is good initiation to invite all the right holder organizations in the formation of civil society. District Development Committee helps the CSO in their operation. I would like to acknowledge that new formed network should be inclusive so that DDC commit to support for the sustainability of the network and request to keep DDC in an advisory committee."* People have shared their experiences to increase the effectiveness of the interventions to address girls' issues in the Parbat district. Thus, giving the direction of group towards the formation of the committee.

Finally, the inauguration session was concluded by the chair of the program. He has also provided good luck for upcoming committee for their success.

Second Session

Second or last session was for the district level CSO formation. It was the major stage of the program which aims to form the loose forum which will address the child and girls issues and protect their rights. The participants were divided into four groups and were provided by two issues of Parbat district. Discussion was made within group and finalizes the problems and scenario of girls in Parbat district. The queries provided to each for group for discussion is as follows:

- 1) What are the major issues/challenges in the field of child and girls in Parbat district?
- 2) What are the tasks/workouts done by different organizations to address those issues?

During the group discussion each group have highlighted different points as a major issues. The finding from the group is attached in annex 1. After presentation from all the groups, major

issues of girls in the district were prioritized and newly formed CSO have highlighted to work in the proposed area. The major issues of girls in the district were listed in the following points;

- a) Early and Multi Marriage
- b) Caste-wise discrimination/gender discrimination
- c) Dowry system
- d) Sexual violence
- e) Work load to women/girls
- f) Child Labor
- g) Educational discrimination
- h) Low paid in the same work

Rashmila Shakya has clarified the issues by giving examples and sharing the data of the country. Lucky Chhetri-president of EWN Nepal, member of CSC, presented on the need and importance of the interventions on the issues of girls during the closing stage of the program that was accompanied by the formation of various groups. Each of the groups discussed on the issues related to the girls, the interventions that are in existence for the overall protection and development of girls in the district and the interventions that are to be brought into action to ensure overall protection and development of girls in the district. The issues and challenges of the girls and young women that prevail in the district are in vulnerable situation. Thus, the discussions emphasized in working together among all the CSOs' and government organization. Thus a network among all the CSOs' working in the girls issue is needed.

It was accompanied by the selection of members of the civil society network on girls' issues thus, forming the network in the district. The members of the network thus formed are attached in annex 2.

Outcomes

1. Presentation of Girl Empowerment by Rashmila Shakya revealed various laws related to rights and child protection. A presentation of short film 'girl effect' described the change in a girls' life despite of her poverty situation. This helps to realize the need of education in girl life.
2. During the workshop, participants discussed on the major issues and challenges of the girls. After that, prioritization of the issues that are to be addressed. The group realizes the need of CSO network and ready to form immediately.
3. A network was formed including the representatives working in different issues and organizations; however they provide opportunity to young girls and select a young girl as a coordinator after facilitation. The newly formed network has planned to prepare a detail plan of action to be performed in this year along with estimated budget. The network was formed with the coordination of ENPRED Nepal, along with 17 members and 7 advisory committee

4. Civil Society Network (committee) to strengthen Girl Power was formed in the district
5. The first meeting held on the same day decided to conduct a next meeting on 5th July, 2014 at 11:00 AM. The meeting will be conducted at the office of NGO Federation

Conclusion

As a final point, program conducted led to the formation of girls' power civil society network named Girl Concern Network (*Kishori Sarokar Sanjal*) in Parbat district. The representatives from various organizations, adolescent girls working in the districts discussed thoroughly on the girls issues prevailed in the district. Along with the discussion on the predictable interventions for the protection and overall development of girls in the district, the participants of the program prioritized the major issues to be addressed through collective efforts. It is no doubt that the formation of committee in the district, is a great achievement though the committee should exercise enough in encountering the challenges on the way ahead.

Annex 1: Summary of the group work

Issues and challenges to child/girls in the district	Responsibility to be carried out by different organization/stakeholders	Activities to be carried out for the protection and development of girls in the district
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Discrimination in education 2. Gender discrimination 3. Child Marriage & Love marriage at childhood age 4. Harassment during menstruation 5. Work load 6. Dowry system 7. Control in democracy 8. Discrimination in Labor ways on gender basis 9. Home labor/child labor 10. Domestic violence 11. Trafficking 12. Low priority in decision making process 13. Superstition (cultural and traditional practices that have negative impacts on girls) 14. Lack of meaningful participation of girls 15. Lack of implementation of girls centered budget at local institutions/organizations 16. Lack of freedom as compared to the boys 17. Drop out from school education 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Parents/teachers/guardians 2. Self empowerment 3. Awareness campaigns 4. Local governance for lobbying and advocacy 5. Formation of child clubs at V.D.C and district level 6. Security and Protection by District Police Office 7. Establishment of Women and Children Service Center 8. District Child Welfare Board 9. Women and Children Development Office 10. District Court 11. Local Stakeholders 12. District Education Office 13. local Institution 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Inclusive and equal access of female participants 2. Compulsory participation of girls and child in decision making process 3. Equal treat/ behavior of gender 4. Willingness to carry lobby and advocacy for child and girls issues 5. Adolescence education and establishment of counseling center for girls 6. Access of health and employment to girls and women by the government 7. Provide scholarships for girls and is working for the creation of girl friendly schools 8. Allocation of budget by District Development Committee 9. Effective and proper utilization of budget allocated by the government in the sector of children 9. Ensuring the meaningful participation of girls at local organizations 10. Ensuring the participation of girls at policy level 11. Creation of girls friendly social structure

Annex 2: Name lists of newly formed CSO committee and Advisory committee

Executive Committee		
S.N.	Name	Position
1	Rita Sunar- Young women organization-member	Coordinator
2	Sarita Khadka-ENPRED Nepal	Member Secretary
3	Sukamaya nepali- BLOP Facilitator	Member
4	Uttam Adikari- Program Manager, NESDO	Member
5	Goma Giri- Young women organization, member	member
6	Heena Pariyar- Young women organization, member	Member
7	Kamala B.K- Young women organization, member	Member
8	Pinki B.K Young women organization, member	Member
9	Sushma B.K.- Young women organization, member	Member
10	Keshab Das Bairagi- President, NCCDC	Member
11	Laxmi B.K- Member, SEED	Member
12	Puspa Bhushal- Secretary CeCrED	Member
13	Sangita Subedi- Enterprise development Facilitator,ENPRED Nepal	Member
14	Manmaya Nepali- BLOP Supervisor, NDDO	Member
15	Bhim Bahadur Nepali-Tresesur, NDDO	Member
16	Kabita B.K- member, SODEC	Member
17	Neetu Thapa Magar- Young women organization-member	Member
Advisory Committee		
1	District Development Center (DDC), Parbat	Coordinator
2	Women and Children Development Office, Parbat	Member
3	Civil Society Network, Parbat	Member
4	NGO federation, Parbat	Member
5	Journalist Federation, Parbat	Member
6	Bar Association, Parbat	Member
7	District Child Welfare Committee, Parbat	Member

Annex 3: Activities details

S.N.	Activity	Time	Responsible
	Registration/ Tea Coffee	8:00–8:30 am	Bikram Malla/ Sarita
	Program Host		Rishi Poudel
	Introduction	8:30-9:00 am	
1. Opening session			
1.1	Invitation to Dash	9:30–10:00 am	Rishi Poudel
	Chair- ENPRED Bord		
	Chief guest : Chief District Officer		
	Special guest: LDO		
	District Education Officer		
	Senior Agriculture Devt. Officer		
	Livelihood Coordinator_Plan Nepal CO		
	Project Manaager_Plan Nepal Baglung		
	ENPRED Chair person		
	Chairperson, NGO Federation Parbat		
	Guest : Chairperson, Bar Association		
	Chairperson, NRCS Myagdi		
	Chairperson, Nepalese Journalist Federation Parbat		
	Child Rights Officer		
	Other government official (DHO, DFO,W &CO etc)		
	VDC Secretary, Shiwalaya VDC		
	Invite guests from Media, journalists, NGOs, Women Cooperatives, Young Women Organizations and ENPRED colleagues to take seat		
1.2	Opening by Chief guest lighting on candle	10:00 am	
1.3	Welcome and shed light on objectives	10:00-10:15 am	Sangita Subedi
1.4	Issues of girls and young women in Nepal	10.15-10.45 am	Rashmila Shakya
1.5	Few words by guests	10:45-11:15 am	
	1. NFJ Chairperson		
	2. Bar Association Chairperson		
	3. NGO Federation Chairperson		
	4. PM Plan Nepal, Baglung		
	5. Women & Child Devt. Officer		
	6. LDO		
	7. Chairperson, GP civil society network		Madhav Pradhan
	8. Chief guest CDO		
1.5	Vote of thanks and closing of opening session	11:15-11:20 am	Chairperson
2. Network Formation Session			
2.1	Tea Break	11:20–11:30 am	

S.N.	Activity	Time	Responsible
2.3	<p>Group Work: Issue Identification Major issues and challenges related to girls in Parbat district</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Activities being carried out for promotion and protection of girls rights (Who is doing what) ▪ Activities to be carried out for the protection and development of girls in Parbat district 	11: 30–12.30 am	Moderator: Rashmila Shakya Group discussion
2.4	Group work finding from each group	12:30–1:00 pm	Presentation from group leader
Lunch Break		1:00–2:00 pm	All
2.5	Finalize major issues of girls and develop plan of action.	2:00-2:30 pm	Hem Poudyal
2.6	Experience sharing of CSO network of other districts	2:30-2:45 pm	Lucky/Rashmila
	Tea Break	2.45-3:00 pm	
2.7	Network Formation	3:00–4:00 pm	Rashmila/Hem
2.8	Remarks from newly formed Girl Power CSO Network Coordinator, Parbat	4:00–4:10 pm	
2.9	Vote of thanks	4:10–4:15 pm	
2.10	Planning for organizing first network meeting	4:15–4:25 pm	Newly elected Coordinator

Annex 4: Glimpse of CSO Network Program:



Photo 1: Participants of CSO formation programme, Parbat



Photo 2: Thematic issues provided to newly formed CSO committee member by CSC members



Photo 3: Participant sharing the findings of group works



Photo 4: Members of newly formed CSO network, Parbat