

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

6th May, 2014, Hotel Peace Palace, Baglung

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 Bishnu Aryal, representative of Women and Child Development Office (WCDO), Baglung; Punya Prasad Poudyal, Local Development Officer (LDO of District Development Office (DDC)), Parbat as chief 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 of CSC; Lucky Cheetri, President of Empowering Women in Nepal (EWN)/member 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 Gaja Yuba Club (GYC) Nepal; partner of Plan Nepal. Mr. Hom Bahadur Thapa, member of GYC 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. As he has physical disability he advised to include the girls having disability in the network for their welfare.

The objective of the program was delivered by Lucky Karki from Empowering Women in Nepal which is as follows;

- ✓ To identify the issues that is seen in the field of child
- ✓ To address those felt issues for securing the children's rights and wants
- ✓ To identify the need and formation of district wise child advocating loose network

Rashmila Shakya, National Coordinator, CSC presented the need and importance of the interventions on the issues of girls during the initiation of the program. The major child issues with facts were discussed in the floor such as 14.17% children are boy and 8.86% are girls nationally while 49% are male and 51% are female. This indicates that the ratio seems to be reverse. The issues identified and realized the importance and scope of civil society formation which would raise voice to the concerned agencies. 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 describe 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. She has also explained that the CSO formed at the end will 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.

During the programme, Ram Thapa, Nepal journalist federation of Baglung shared his opinion to act a single unit in securing children's rights. He also took oath in raising voice in favor of child rights and issues. Sambhu Thapa, NGO Federation told that children's should be taught well in the field of education, health and should be provided assets of their parents. The children's rights should also be secured in the upcoming constitution. Ram Bahadur K.C., Police Commissioner, Baglung shared that few crimes in the field of children's and the criminal had punished. For this, community needs to support them and women's should also be created awareness regarding the rights and duties. Similarly, Haridatta Kandel, Interim officer, Baglung Municipality suggested forming child clubs at different levels for raising voice regarding their rights. Some budget should be allocated in favor of child sector. Chief Guest, LDO also added that the DDC has been working in favor of child right and the similar work has been initiated by the Ministry of Women's Affairs. Other guests also addressed different issues in the field of children and suggested to manage and reduce child/ girls violence in the district.

At last, few words and experiences were shared by the president of the program regarding child rights and issues and the opening program was formally ended.

Second Session

This was the last session for the district level CSO formation and was the major stage of the program aim to form the loose forum which will address the child and girls issues and protect their rights. Before entering to the subject, participants were introduced by playing balloon game. Soon after the participants were divided into four groups and were provided three issues of Baglung district. Discussion was made within each group and finalizes the problems and scenario of child/girls in Baglung district. The queries provided to each group for discussion are as follows:

- 1) What are the major issues/challenges in the field of children in Baglung district?
- 2) What are the tasks/workouts done by different organizations to address those issues?
- 3) What must be done for addressing those issues by the organizations?

Major issues in the field of children in Baglung district as identified in group work is listed below.

- a) Household crimes
- b) Caste-wise discrimination/gender discrimination
- c) Lack of opportunity
- d) Early and Multi Marriage/Traditional thinking
- e) Lack of information and awareness regarding rights
- f) Social discrimination
- g) Low participation
- h) Lower availability of modern services and facilities
- i) Educational discrimination

After the facilitation by resource person, the participants realized the importance of formation of loose network. As a result Girls Advocacy Network (*Balika Pairabi Sanjal*), Baglung formed. The members of this newly formed network are enlisted:

Table1: Name list of Members of Girls Advocacy Network, Baglung

Executive Committee		
S.N.	Name	Position
1	Sabitri B.K.- Young Women Organization, Secretary	President
2	Anjana Pariyar	Vice-President
3	Jamuna Khadka- Facilitator, GYC	Secretary
4	Yamuna Gharti- Young Women Organization, Secretary	Vice-Secretary
5	Mina B.K.	Treasurer
6	Juna Nepali	Member
7	Binita Sharma	Member
8	Yamuna Shahi	Member
9	Mamata B.K.	Member
10	Manu Rasaili	Member
11	Radhika Pariyar	Member
12	Gyanu Thapa- NGO Federation, Member	Member
13	Shyam B.K.- Programme Officer, DEC	Member
14	Dhan Prasad Paudel- Program Coordinator, SAHAMATI	Member
15	Nunumaya Thapa-SATKARMA, Board Member	Member
16	Kalika Sapkota- SETOGURANS, Member	Member

Advisory committee		
1	District Development Committee, Baglung	Coordinator
2	Women and Child Development Office, Baglung	Member
3	Civil Society Network, Baglung	Member
4	NGO Federation, Baglung	Member
5	Bar Association, Parbat	
6	District Child Welfare Committee, Parbat	

After the formation of loose network/forum from the participants, they were congratulated by guests and resource persons. Lucky Chhetri, has shared thankful speech, and hand over the ballones to new committee. She advised them to work in union as balloon to overcome the obstacles related to child/girls in the district. Finally, a closing speech was delivered by the newly formed president Miss Sabitri Bishwokarma.

Soon after the closing program, a short meeting was organized under the chairmanship of Sabitri Bishwokarma to finalize the next date of meeting and further planning of the forum. The meeting declared to prepare annual work plan and present to the concerned agencies. For this, three member committee were formed which are as follows:

- a) Sabitri B.K. – President
- b) Mina B.K. – Member
- c) Binita Sharma – Member

They will prepare annual work plan and then present it in the upcoming committee meeting. For continuation and sustainability, the forum came in conclusion to organize its meeting in the last week of Jestha, 2071. For the effectiveness, all the members promised to work jointly and sincerely to show its effect in the Baglung district in the field of children.

Outcomes

- All of the organizations working in the field of children are agreed to raise the joint voice through CSO network
- Government Line agencies are agreed to take the responsibility of quick response to address the girls issues
- District level stakeholders are put their commitments for backstopping support to the CSO Network
- Civil Society Network (committee) to strengthen Girl Power was formed in the district. The network was formed with the coordination of GYC Nepal, along with 16 members and 6 advisory committee

Conclusion

Plan Nepal and its implementing partners working in various aspects of child, girls, women, disadvantaged, discriminated and disable people organized a common event of district wise civil society formation to identify the major issues in the field of child and boost up for their advocacy for their rights. The major issues/challenges existing in Baglung district are malnutrition, gender discrimination, low ownership, improper education, school dropout, girls trafficking, sexual harassment, low participation, abortion etc. To address these issues to the concerned agencies, there is a need of loose network, which can address the issues and provide necessary support to the marginalized child/girls. The program organized to develop civil society that will guide and raise voice in case of any issues that are non-rewarding in the field of children/girls. Different issues that have to be addressed in favor of children have been identified during the discussion and the newly formed loose network act as a bridge to provide immediate response and address them for running their normal daily life.

Glimpse of CSO Network Program



Photo 1: Welcome speech by Mr. Hom Bhadur Thapa



Photo 2: Inauguration of programme by LDO, Baglung



Photo 3: Discussion during group work



Photo 4: Presentation of the findings from the group



Photo 5: Congratulating the CSO member



Photo 6: Group photo after group formation