

## School of Democracy Activity Report

<b>Program title</b>	<b>Debate on Democratic Role of youth in Political Process</b>
<b>Date</b>	3 July 2012
<b>Venue</b>	Tanahu
<b>Participants</b>	50 persons (youth from different walk of life and political parties, civil society, media and other ladies and gentlemen)
<b>Collaboration &amp; Funding</b>	<b>Friedrich Ebert Stiftung Nepal</b>
<b>PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To aware youth on politics and current political situation</li> <li>• To realize youth as pillar of sustainable development and democracy.</li> <li>• To develop the sense of ownership in youth for the political and policy engagement.</li> <li>• To promote a culture of dialogue on politics and youth participation at district level.</li> </ul>
<b>Brief introduction of the program</b>	<p>Realizing the necessity of discussion on the areas of democracy, politics and youth, School of Democracy in collaboration with FES organized a program "Debate on Democratic Role of youth in political process" on 2<sup>nd</sup> June, 2012 at Kawashoti, Nawalparasi.</p> <p>The main motive of the program was to ensure youth participation in political process and engage them as social volunteer for development of the nation. Moreover, the program was focused on the role of youth in politics to change the social and economic status of Nepali society.</p> <p>The youth from different walk of life and political parties, civil society, media and other ladies and gentlemen were participants of this program. The program was divided into two session; inauguration and discussion session.</p>
<b>First Session</b>	<p>The first session was inaugurated by Krishna Chandra Nepali, Central Committee member of Nepali congress and the chairman for this session. a number of youth from different walks of life delivered the speech during the program were Rishab Dev Ghimire, Secretary of School of Democracy, Bhim Kandel, District Committee member, Kapil Dev Shah, District Committee Member of Nepali Congress, Chandra Dev Bhatta, representative from FES, Kashi Raj Dahal expert of constitutional laws and Nain Singh Mahar, chairman of School of Democracy.</p> <p>The speakers of the program emphasised unemployment as major problem of the nation. They further said that the cause of brain drain is unemployment in the country. Speakers highlighted severe unemployment as enemy to youth, which is forcing youth to become servant in foreign land.</p> <p>Krishna Chandra Nepali, Central Committee member of Nepali congress and the chairman for this session told the mass that if political forces will be able to bring a vision of national development</p>

by resolving the problem of unemployment problems and create employment opportunities inside the country, youth will be involved in the process of nation development and their active involvement can be seen in political sector as social volunteer.

Kapil Dev Shah District Committee Member of Nepali Congress told that the revolution only can succeed by youth. He further said that history is witness; youth are the main agents of change in the society and social status from the previous time in Nepal and elsewhere. Therefore, youth must be involved in income generation activities and development for the nation. .

Om Kala Gautam, central committee member of Nepal women union said that youth have been used in unproductive activities due to the political parties. The parties have used them only in the activity of strike and as ladder of parties but they have not got proper chance and opportunities in career development. Many youth have been participated during the period of revolution but only the leaders have captured opportunities in various sectors of the nation. Therefore, the degree of frustration on youth is high.

Chandra Dev Bhatta, the representative of FES highlighted the importance of youth in policy making. He said "If youth can be involved in the development of nation, we will be richer than our neighbouring countries. The nation has been running only through the remittance. 90% of people are still poor and only 10 % are rich. Still our economy is used in import foreign goods; For instance, we have to import food and other necessary things from other country. There should not be barrier; poor also should get opportunities in policy making in order to sustain and feel sense of ownership in democracy and nation.

At the end of the programme Mr. Kashi Raj Dahal, said politics is the organ of social change and law helps to change the society in proper way. Democracy is the sense of ownership that changes the life style of people. If there is no destination, the constitution cannot give right for the people. There should be destination equality, system; policy and accountability in people are the basic things of democracy. So qualified person can easily get chance in motherland. He further said that Nelson Mandela also said that urban leadership can't develop the democracy in each country. There should be clear vision on youth and the vision should be used by the political powers in major political issues in the context of Nepal.

Dahal stress a key determinant of stability and prosperity of any nation are laborious people, the constitution will be durable if people respect their duty. So, common ruling of the country is the symbol of democracy.

The chairman of the programme Krishna Chandra Nepali Said "the discourse of communism and mushrooming communist party are the problem of democracy in the context of Nepal. Interestingly, he stated "all are equal and some are more equal" using the analogy of animal farm. American and European Developed countries have given chances for poor people but this is not in the Nepal. So, our country is not well developed till now. The chairman ended the opening

	ceremony.
<b>Second Session</b>	<p>This session of the program was started at 11 am and continued 3 hours. Om Kala Gautam, the chairman of this session moderated the program. During the programme, Banja Natha Chaudhary, Central Committee Member of Communist Party of Nepal United Marxist and Leninist presented his action plan. He had emphasized the crucial role of youth in the homeland if we really desire development of our country. Furthermore, he stated "youth should be used in the sector of social and political work and activities". Due to the poverty, unemployment, illiteracy etc the youth of Nepal are moving out of the nation day by day and serving in foreign land as unskilled cheap labour.</p> <p>So, all political parties, governmental organizations, non-governmental organizations etc should think important role of youth to build the nation. During the programme, audiences also asked some questions to know the concepts of politics from youth leaders regarding the role of youth in the nation.</p> <p>The questions are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How can the youth be involved in farming?</li> <li>• What is the role of youth towards their parents?</li> <li>• How can youth be civilized and disciplined in the context of Nepal?</li> <li>• Why research is not conducted in the role of youth from political parties?</li> <li>• Do you think the vision of existing political leaders can stop the brain drain from our country?</li> <li>• Why politics became a dirty game and criminals are getting patronage from top political leaders at central and district level?</li> <li>• How can we create constructive role for youth in political parties instead of making gang star?</li> <li>• How political leaders define youth? Youth is age or spirit? If youth is determines by age, almost youth leaders are above 35, can they represent youth?</li> </ul> <p>The paper "Youth, Nation and National Politics" was presented by Lekh Nath Neupane and Gopi Sharma take responsibility of chair person of this programme.</p> <p>In his working paper, Neupane has suggested that the program was not held in an appropriate manner. The modality of program should be changed as discussion format rather than long speeches while we conduct next program.</p> <p>He emphasized the role is pivotal even to make a new constitution. In Constituent Assembly of Nepal, 40% of youth were involved but the old and traditional leaders did not give chance to youth to go ahead. Youth did not involve in the right business. So, we need to revise our thinking and working modality in a new way. For instance, the</p>

	<p>ambassador of foreign country involved in the internal meeting of political party. Do you think that represent our sovereignty and independence? For me, its domination on our independence and freedom.</p> <p>Youth are the drivers of politics and there should be a room to discriminate on the basis of caste, class and region. All kinds of caste, classes should be equal in politics and political parties. The person who is aware in politics, he/ she should be the political leaders instead of ongoing trend of money and power politics.</p> <p>Thus, political parties should think it seriously. The program however was fruitful for youth and further debate and discussion is must on this issue to unite youth for the sake of nation and its development.</p>
<p><b>OUTCOMES:</b> lessons learned</p>	<p>School of democracy has realized the format of program is somehow inadequate and guest speakers dominated most of the time in the program and discussion time was reduced. Therefore, it needs to review for next program. Furthermore, the participants of the program were inclusive, however the target group- youth presence was not satisfactory, which also needs to think for next program.</p>
<p><b>COMMUNICATIONS RESOURCES:</b></p>	<p>Photographs and audio clips were taken during the event.</p>
<p><b>FOLLOW-UP:</b></p>	<p>School of democracy will follow up the program in future days.</p>