

**Report on**

**Weaving the web: single women in peace building**

14-16 August, 2013

**Submitted by:**

Women for Human Rights, Single Women Group (WHR)

**Submitted to:**

FES Nepal

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## **Background:**

Women for Human Rights (WHR) with the assistance of Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES) organized a three days training on “Weaving the Web: single women in peace building”, August 14 to 16, 2013, in Kathmandu. There were altogether 30 participants from Kathmandu, Bhaktapur and Lalitpur of Nepal. These 30 energetic single women were selected and trained on civic education, political education and voter education to aware them of their roles and responsibilities in the upcoming election.

## **Objective:**

- Ensuring single women’s participation in future elections by making them aware of civic, political and voter’s rights.
- To engage single women in peace keeping process.

## **Proceeding:**

### ***1st Day:***

#### **Inaugural session**

Program was formally inaugurated by Ms. Chandrika Bhattarai, chairperson of WHR and Mr. Dev Raj Dahal, Country Director of FES Nepal.

The workshop started with the welcome speech by Ms. Kunda Sharma, Treasurer of WHR. She also mentioned the objective behind conducting this workshop. She added that our responsibility is limited not only to vote but also to aware our society on importance of voting. In last constitutional assembly there were 33% of women’s

representation but the question is, was that representation meaningful? So, to prepare women for next election we must capacitate them to be able to raise their voice for their rights. This being our first initiative we have selected 30 women from Kathmandu, Lalitpur and Bhaktapur, who will later disseminate their learning to their respective community.

Mr. Dev Raj Dahal started the session by informing the participants about the history of his organization. He told his organization was named after Former President of Germany, Mr. Fredrich Ebert. This organization was founded after his death as his last wish to promote students of outstanding intellectual and personality. This institution works in 4 main areas:



- Freedom comes from democracy
- Social justice
- Working together in a group
- Peace (no development without peace, no implementation of rights without peace)

According to Mr. Dahal, in democracy, every citizen is treated equally and entitled to enjoy all the rights. Unfortunately in Nepal, politicians who are mere representative of public at policy making, acts like they are superior to others. Political leaders are supposed to act for the benefit of the nation but instead they are busy fulfilling their own interest. So, to bridge these gap lots of awareness is needed. Lastly, he committed in supporting single women and WHR whenever needed.

Inaugural session was ended with thank you speech by Ms. Chandrika Bhattarai.

### **Session 1:**

After the inaugural session, expectations were collected from participants. Some of the common expectations were as follows:

- To learn about political and civic rights
- Whom and which party to vote and how to vote
- Role of women in politics
- Importance of single women and their role in politics and the ways of involvement in politics
- Knowledge about constitution
- Voting and the role of voters
- What is human right?
- Learn new things
- Importance of constitution and election in democracy
- Know about politics

From the expectation collection it was clearly noticeable that everyone was positive towards the topic and was very much interested to learn about voting rights and duties.

### **Session 2:**

After break, Ms. Tara Dahal, Guest form FES, recited a poem written by her on single women. Followed by this, participants were given to fill up a questionnaire. Responses were as follows:

#### *1. What is an Election:*

- Voting for the right candidate and selecting the right people
- For the development of country and for conducting country
- Voting day
- To elect a leader

- Country cannot function without an election.
  - To ensure public's right
  - Selecting a party who can lead the nation
  - Election is selecting people for the development of nation
  - Person who work for the benefit of nation
2. *Need of participation of women in politics?*
- To confirm the right of women
  - For empowerment of women
  - To make voice of women reach the right place
  - Women are forced to stay backward.
  - Even though there is 33% provision for women, still lacking meaningful participation.
  - For equality.
  - To stop violence against women
  - To fight against discrimination.
3. Are women and men equal in the eyes of law?
- No
  - Legally they are but practically they are not.
  - Even if there are laws, women lack support and awareness for implementation.
  - Discrimination by service providers.
  - There are still many discriminatory laws prevail.
  - Son can automatically inherit his parent's property whereas there are certain criteria set for daughter.
4. What are the differences between woman and man in law?
- Property rights: not practically implemented.
  - Women are willingly not opting from legal help.
  - More than legal, society treats woman and man differently.
5. Reach of women in education.
- Mostly in rural areas, girls are sent to school only when there is no work at home.
  - Marriage of girls at early age acts as a barrier for further studies.
  - Priority is given to male child even in educated family. Sons are sent to expensive boarding school than daughters.
  - Daughters do not get same facilities as sons.
6. Is the participation level of male and female equal in election?
- More male than female

- Population of female is more so automatically women's participation is more
- It depends upon the geographical location. In some part, the booth may be very far.
- Lack of awareness may result in less participation of female
- More in Kathmandu than outside.

### **Session 3: Civic Education**

Session 3 of the first day was facilitated by Jeevan Sharma. He started with a story of a frog; the story sends the message that if we want to achieve something really hard we must ignore all the negative thoughts and comments and should keep on working hard; sooner or later we will surely achieve that target.



In his session he mentioned, election is the only way to ensure rights of the public. He further stressed the importance of constitution in the country. Nepal is now in the process of making its 7<sup>th</sup> constitution. He also explained about the structure of government in democracy. The whole session was interactive and the participants gained a lot of information which is required for a responsible citizen of the nation.

*Presentation in Annex*

### **Day 2**

Second Day started with a very important eye opener by Founder of WHR Ms. Lily Thapa. She focused on various issues of women. She explained the need of reading manifesto of political party before choosing one and should cast our vote to only those who have given space for single women.

The second day formally started with the recap of previous day. One of the participants was chosen to present the previous day report. The main intention behind doing a recap from a participant was to make them attentive about how they present themselves.

### **Session 1: Political Education**

First session of second day was facilitated by Ms Ranju Thakur, an Advocate and also a member of CPN/UML.

She highlighted the importance of women's participation in politics. Till today women themselves used to think politics is meant only for



men and always kept distant from it. She cleared politics is not a dirty game and misunderstood by the wrongdoing of men politicians. Women cover more than half the total population and their voices should be taken up by themselves. Plus to ensure equal participation in policy making, women's involvement in politics is must.

She also gave few examples of different countries, such as in Turkey women are not allowed to take part in election and would put into jail if they demand for it. In Bihar (a state of India), there are 70% women's representation in state government. 50% from quota system and 20% of them won seat from direct election.

*Presentation in AnnexII*

### **Group Work: Partner of Politics**

Then the participants were divided into 3 groups and were given to write the roles of Local body, civil society and Media in election.

Summary of the group work was they all play and contribute important role in fair election process. Local body motivates people to take part in election, civil society trains people about electoral process and Media conveys awareness raising messages to mass population.

Few queries raised by participants after this session:

- Is it possible to train the politicians regarding election, voter education, women empowerment and other aspects?
- How can we actively participate in political party or in the system?
- Our country is not in system. How to systematize it?



Answers by Ms. Thakur:

- Be ambitious but do not be highly ambitious
- After 5 yrs at least 33% women will work actively in politics.
- The involvement of women and youth is extremely low. New generation should be empowered and guided by the older generation. We should cast vote to capable women who lobby for women, whichever party she may be involved in. If such women are elected then if not 33% we can at least get 22% and around.

## Session 2: Voters Education

Following the lunch the second half of the day was facilitated by Ms. Radhika Regmi, National Training Advisor from International Foundation for Electoral System (IFES).

In her session she highlighted the importance of need of Voter education. She briefly explained about voting process, who can register their name in voters list and who can be nominated as candidate. She also briefed the preparation National Election Commission is doing for this upcoming election



Following a brief introduction, she provided a questionnaire which consisted of 4 topics; voter education, civic education, voter information awareness and electoral education.

People in rural areas are unaware about their voting right specially the single women group. Voter education helps to increase participation in electoral process. In last election only 65% came to cast their vote where 7% votes were

invalid. 128 political parties have already registered for upcoming election making Nepal one of the countries with largest no of political parties.

*Presentation in Annex II*

### Ice breaking session:

Participants were given to pick up a cheat that includes: no citizen ship, not registered voters, living outside the country, mistakes found in voters card and properly registered with voters ID. The main aim of this activity was to aware participants regarding the different status of voters and its impact in election process.

## Day 3

### Session 1: NEC visit

Third day was scheduled for a visit to National Election Commission's Information Center. The whole visit was facilitated by Ms. Mamata Shrestha from NEC. During the visit participants got to see a documentary on the history of election in Nepal. She gave short description on the process of election and from among the participants; one participant was allowed to conduct a demo of the voting process. Overall visit was very informative and interactive; participants got practical knowledge of things they learnt in past two days.





## **Session 2: Gender issues in election**

Participants were divided into 3 groups and given three different topics to prepare a skit describing gender discrimination in electoral process. Topics were:

i) During registration process, ii) Media and iii) Day of election

All 3 groups performed the role and described the prevailing gender differences very well. After this session participant realized the existing gender discrimination in every process of election.

## **Conclusion:**

The overall outcome of three days training was that the participants were clear about the role and importance of women in election and politics. They committed on sharing this knowledge to the women of their community and those who missed to register their name for upcoming election have promised to register.

In rural part of Nepal, people especially women are unaware of the importance of election to sustain democracy. Hence, it was also realized the need of conducting similar trainings for other women of districts.

# Annex

## I: Agenda

‘शान्ति प्रयासका लागि सञ्जाल निर्माणमा एकल महिला’

३ दिने क्षमता अभिवृद्धि तालिम

२०७० श्रावण ३० -३२

प्रथम दिन

समय	विषय	प्रकृया	उपलब्धि	जिम्मेवार व्यक्ति
९:०० - १०:००	कार्यक्रमको उद्घाटन	दिप-प्रज्वलन गरेर		श्री चन्द्रिका भट्टराई केन्द्रिय अध्यक्ष ज्यू र/श्री देवराज दाहाल निर्देशक भन्ने
	स्वागत मन्तव्य तथा कार्यक्रमको उद्देश्य	मन्तव्य तथा भनाई		श्री कुन्दा शर्मा ज्यू कोषाध्यक्ष
	कार्यक्रम सम्बन्धी केही भनाई	भनाई		सहभागी मध्येबाट एक जना
	मन्तव्य भन्ने निर्देशक ज्यू वाट	मन्तव्य तथा भनाई		श्री देवराज दाहाल निर्देशक भन्ने
	धन्यवाद ज्ञापन	मन्तव्य		श्री चन्द्रिका भट्टराई केन्द्रिय अध्यक्ष ज्यू
	सहभागीहरुको परिचय		एक आपसमा परिचित	सम्पूर्ण सहभागीहरु
	अपेक्षा संकलन	मेटाकार्ड प्रयोग द्वारा	कार्यक्रम प्रतिको अपेक्षा बारे थाहा हुने ।	कार्यक्रम संयोजक
११:०० -१२:००	निर्वाचन, मतदान , राजनैतिक अधिकार र महिला सहभागितामा आधारित छोटो जानकारी	प्रश्न उत्तर द्वारा	सम्बन्धीत विषयमा थाहा हुने ।	कार्यक्रम संयोजक
११:३० चिया				
१२:००- १:००	नागरिक अधिकार भन्नाले के बुझिन्छ ?	टिपोट तथा छलफल	सबै सहभागीहरु जानकार हुने ।	सहभागीहरु
१:०० - २:०० खाना				
२:०० - ४:३०	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● नागरिक शिक्षा के हो ?</li><li>● नागरिक शिक्षाको अवधारणा</li><li>● नागरिक शिक्षाको उद्देश्य</li><li>● संविधानमा नागरिक शिक्षा</li><li>● लोकतन्त्रमा नागरिक शिक्षा</li><li>● मानव अधिकार भित्र नागरिक शिक्षा</li></ul>	छलफल प्रस्तुतिकरण समुह कार्य	सबै सहभागीहरु सम्बन्धित विषयमा जानकार हुने	श्री पुरुषोत्तम मिश्रा अधिवक्ता
४:३० -५ :००	कार्यक्रमको समायोजन			कार्यक्रम संयोजक

‘शान्ति प्रयासका लागि सञ्जाल निर्माणमा एकल महिला’  
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दोस्रो दिन

समय	विषय	प्रकृया	उपलब्धि	जिम्मेवार ब्यक्ति
९:०० - ९:३०	पहिलो दिनको कार्यक्रमको पुनरावृत्ति		सहभागीहरु विचमा पुनरावलोकन हुने ।	सहभागीहरु मध्ये एक जना
९:३० - १:००	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>राजनैतिक शिक्षा के हो ?</li> <li>राजनैतिक शिक्षाको अवधारणा र उद्देश्य</li> <li>मानव पहिचान</li> <li>अधिकार र उत्तरदायित्व</li> <li>लोकतन्त्र र कानून</li> <li>पहिचान र जागरुपता</li> </ul>	<p>छलफल</p> <p>प्रस्तुतिकरण</p> <p>समूह कार्य</p>	सबै सहभागीहरु जानकार हुने ।	श्री रन्जु ठाकुर अधिवक्ता
११:३० चिया				
१:०० - २:०० खाना				
२:०० - ४:३०	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>मतदाता शिक्षा भन्नाले के बुझिन्छ ?</li> <li>मतदाता शिक्षाको अवधारणा</li> <li>मतदाता शिक्षाको महत्वपूर्ण पक्ष</li> <li>निर्वाचन कानून र निर्वाचनमा सहभागिताको महत्व</li> <li>निर्वाचनमा मतदाताहरुको अधिकार र उत्तरदायित्व</li> <li>निर्वाचनमा नागरिकको कर्तव्य</li> <li>निर्वाचनमा उम्मेदवार, मतदाता र संलग्न कर्मचारीहरुको मुमिका</li> </ul>	<p>छलफल</p> <p>प्रस्तुतिकरण</p> <p>समूह कार्य</p> <p>नाटक</p>	सबै सहभागीहरु जानकार हुने	श्री राधिका रेग्मी ज्यू क्षभ्व
४:३० - ५:००	दोस्रो दिनको कार्यक्रमको समायोजन			कार्यक्रम संयोजक

‘शान्ति प्रयासका लागि सञ्जाल निर्माणमा एकल महिला’  
३ दिने क्षमता अभिवृद्धि तालिम  
२०७० श्रावण ३० -३२

तेस्रो दिन

समय	विषय	प्रकृया	उपलब्धि	जिम्मेवार ब्यक्ति
९:०० - ९:३०	पहिलो दिनको कार्यक्रमको पुनरावृत्ति		सहभागीहरु विचमा पुनरावलोकन हुने ।	सहभागीहरु मध्ये एक जना
९:३० - १२:००	मतदान प्रकृया सम्बन्धी जानकारी स्थलगत भ्रमण निर्वाचन शिक्षा तथा सुचना केन्द्र	भ्रमण	सहभागीहरु प्रष्ट जानकार हुने ।	कार्यक्रम संयोजक
१२:०० - १:००	मतदान प्रकृया सम्बन्धी जानकारी स्थलगत भ्रमण सम्बन्धी अनुभव	प्रस्तुतिकरण तथा छलफल	सबै सहभागीहरु जानकार हुने ।	सहभागीहरुको समूह प्रतिनिधि एक /एक जना

<b>१:०० - २:०० खाना</b>				
१:०० - ३:३०	निर्वाचन सम्बन्धी व्यवस्थामा लैङ्गिक सवाल	समूह कार्य तथा छलफल	सवै सहभागीहरु जानकार हुने ।	उपासना राणा कार्यक्रम अधिकृत धज्ज
३:३० - ४:३०	निर्वाचन सम्बन्धी कानून र संवैधानिक व्यवस्था	प्रस्तुतिकरण तथा छलफल	सवै सहभागीहरु जानकार हुने ।	राजिन रायमाझि कानून अधिकृत धज्ज
४:३० - ४:४०	सम्पूर्ण तल्लिम सम्बन्धी केहि भनाई	मन्तव्य		श्री समिरा पौड्याल भम्
४:४० - ५:००	कार्यक्रमको समायोजन तथा धन्यवाद ज्ञापन	-	-	.....

## II. Participants List

S.N	Name	Caste	Contact no.
1.	Ambika Aryal	Brahmin	9841074107
2.	Puspa Limbu	Janajati	9841399952
3.	Monika Giri	Janajati	9813313561
4.	Shanti Maharjan	Janajati	9841833000
5.	Saraswati Nath	Brahmin	9849352114
6.	Sharada Mishra	Brahmin	9741020565
7.	Laxmi KC	Chhetri	9841152036
8.	Mishra Katuwal	Chhetri	9841165009
9.	Prema Acharya	Brahmin	9841342805
10.	Sushila Adhikari	Brahmin	9847137890
11.	Renu Thakuri	Chhetri	9841653360
12.	Dillaxmi Shrestha	Janajati	9841221261
13.	Bimala Rayamajhi	Chhetri	9841379370
14.	Tika Jirel	Janajati	9841946079
15.	Sabita Maharjan	Janajati	9841788545
16.	Jhuma Lama	Janajati	9841337005

17.	Muna Rokka	Chhetri	9841139931
18.	Bhagwati Khatiwada	Chhetri	9841370285
19.	Sujata Basnet	Brahmin	9841560951
20.	Garima Shrestha	Janjati	9841753048
21.	Manita Lama	Janajati	9849287084
22.	Janaki chanda	Chertri	9804587730
23.	Indira Dumrakoti baki	Brahmin	9841685124
24.	Radhika Gautam	Brahmin	9841406602
25.	Sita Gajurel	Brahmin	9841770730
26.	Srijana Maharjan	Janjati, Lalitpur	
27.	Bina Maharjan	Janjati, Lalitpur	
28.	Saminta Dangol	Janjati, Lalitpur	
29.	Bimala Bhudathoki	Janjati, Bhaktpur	
30.	Meera Magar	Janjati, Kathmandu	

### ***III. Presentations***

(Presentations are attached in a folder)