

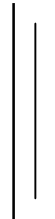
Progress Report

Workshop on: 'Civic Education Reporting for Mid-career Journalists'

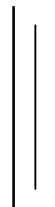
Organized by National Media Development Center (NMDC) in cooperation with FES Nepal

26-27 July 2014 (10-11 Saun 2071)

Biratnagar, Morang



Submitted to:
FES Nepal
Sanepa, Lalitpur



Submitted by
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Executive Summary:

National Media Development Center (NMDC) has organized its 79th journalism training on 'Workshop on Civic Education Reporting for Mid-career Journalists' in Biratnagar, Morang from 26 to 27 July, 2014. The civic education reporting training supported by FES Nepal and was focused to local reporters. Morang is the 61th district of NMDC where it has conducted different theme focused trainings. In reference to civic education training, it was 11th program conducted in association with FES Nepal since 2007. So far in civic reporting (except Morang), FES supported trainings/workshops in 10 districts, they are: *Lalitpur, Surkhet, Baitadi, Makwanpur, Bajhang, Saptari, Achham, Rupendehi, Kaski and Kapilbastu* and has provided civic education to 336 (83 women) working journalists participating from 42 districts.

Figure 1 Inaugural Session

In this programs, there were 30 journalists. Out of them 18 were mid-career male, 8 mid-career female and 4 senior reporters working in local vernacular which includes daily, weekly FM radio stations and online. They were from Jhapa, Morang, and Saptari districts. Both male and female participants represented from Terai, hill and ethnic as well Madesh community. It was inclusive in nature and participatory in approach.



In a two-day long training workshop, the participants learned principles and importance of civic education, role of rule of law in democracy building and role of local media in strengthening democracy in transitional political situation.

They also learned civic issue reporting tools, civic issues, and methodology and research mechanism to write interesting and inspiring civic news locally. Discussion on media's role from legal perspective, civic education perception and journalistic angle provided wider knowledge to the reporters. All of them actively participated in the discussion on the 'role and importance of citizen journalism and main stream journalism'.

At the end, Ms. Archana Aryal participant from Jhapa evaluating the workshop said, " **I have learned as per my expectation. I was reporting on the issues, but this workshop taught me to focus on several civic issues.**" This workshop inspired me to write about civic issues that are directly linked with citizen. The also taught me the importance of participation in social activities through various means – professionally and individually.

Kashi Raj Dahal enlightened participants on the theme of democracy, essences of democracy, rule of law and importance of the rule of law to strengthen democracy. He gave several examples of different cases and asked participants to response their views on case by case basis. Participants understood that the principle of rule of law was developed to protect people's freedom, equality, respect to dignity and good governance.

Prof. R. K. Regmee's presentation provided in-depth knowledge on citizen journalism and he underlined the need of civic sense in journalism. Reporters participated in various class room practical exercises and presentations. His presentation elaborated the boundary of their civic-reporting.

C. D. Bhatta, from FES Nepal presented on principles of civic education. He threw light on historical part and compared Nepal's contemporary situation on civic issues. He asked the participants to be more open to report on civic issues to make citizens aware on freedom of expression and democracy building.

Dr. Mahendra Bista FNJ Center President presented on media organization's role and civic education reporting. Likewise, Mahendra Khadka Information Officer of Local Development Office presented on the development agendas and efforts taken by the District Development Committee and media's coverage on the development programs. Mahendra Bista, President of FNJ Morang branch presented one week research study of the civic news coverage in local print media. Civic issues were found less prioritized. In one week period, there were between two to five civic stories in local tabloid dailies.

Inaugurating the two day workshop, Chief District Officer of Morang district Ganesh Raj Karki said,



"Journalism is the backbone of democracy. It is only the media that saved democracy since 1950. It is the mirror of society as people 's interest, desire and movement are made public through media.

At the session, senior journalists Yagya Sharma and Mohan Bhandari, representatives of media organizations, civil society members had also wished for the success of the two day workshop. All of them wished that the high level gathering of the experts and their presentations will definitely enhance the civic reporting capacity of the journalists.

Figure 2 Workshop participants

Participant journalists repeated their commitment for a continuous reporting on civic theme. Participants were found inspiring and happy. NMDC executive director Bishnu P Sharma had welcomed the guests and participants and had highlighted the objective of the program.

Day 1: 26 July 2014, (10 Saun 2071) Saturday

Inaugural Session: I

The Workshop on Civic Education Reporting for mid-career Journalists was chaired by Mahendra Bista, President of Federation of Nepalese Journalists (FNJ), Morang branch. Ganesh Raj Karki, Chief District Officer of Morang district inaugurated the workshop.

Chief District Officer Karki, stressed that journalists should not hesitate to prioritize development news. He said independent media is the backbone of democracy and it is the mirror of the modern society.

Kashi Raj Dahal, constitutional expert and resource person of the workshop while addressing the inaugural session he said, "Nepali society is suffered from experimentation. People fought for responsible and accountable governance system but that is not achieved. To have laws, rules and regulations are not enough unless they are implemented honestly. Media plays important role to make authorities and people responsible. There should be change in attitude and this program supports to bring change in the society through information. The mission of media should be focused for the end of transitional political system

Figure 3 Inauguration of the workshop



" People expects from media, so media persons should develop their skill. Technology has been developed, but it has not reached to news desk. Journalists should be able to prioritize civic issues in respective media", Prof. R. K. Regmee, media expert addressing the session said. C.D. Bhatta from the FES while addressing the session said , " Democracy will not be stable unless civility is not maintained in society and is reflect in various sectors. Though there are some achievements in education and media sectors but the state of our democracy has not improved. We are still a fragile democracy and inorder to strengthen it there is an urgent need to inculcate civic culture in our society".

Yagya Sharma and Ganesh Lamsal also expressed their views in the inaugural session.

Bishnu Prasad Sharma, Executive Director of National Media Development Centre (NMDC) welcomed guests, resource persons and participants in the program; he introduced the activities of NMDC and highlighted the contents of the workshop. He briefly informed the guests and participants about the nine sessions and contents.

Mahendra Bista, FNJ district President, addressing inaugural session said," This is a national level workshop as we have distinguished experts in journalism and media law, so we have to get maximum benefit from this program". He asked the participant journalists to pay deep attention and learn as much as possible from the workshop.

Presentation Session:II

Introduction, Experience Sharing and Expectation Collection:

At the beginning, participants and resource persons introduced each other. In introduction, participants had shared their personal reporting experience, interesting moment of reporting and name of media where they work. At that time, they also mentioned their expectation from the workshop.

All participants were reporters having different level of experience. Some of them were senior reporters too.



Figure 4 Training session

There were 30 participants including eight women and four senior reporters. They were enthusiastic to learn.

Resource Person: R. K. Regmee started presentation on: "*Civic education reporting in media, Review of principles of civic education, Citizen journalism and journalism for civic sense, The rationale for civic components in media of Eastern Nepal*"

What a reporter can do in civic reporting? Journalists should keep in mind that they should report for all not only for majority.

Both citizen and civic journalism are two faculties. Citizen journalism is out of mainstream journalism and there is no gate keeping.

In civic journalism the citizens become the focal person. For example, it prioritizes to a child who is taking a *Vitamin A* capsule rather than the inauguration of a minister. Civic reporting increases social capital.

Civic sense is developed from civic news. There is people's issue in the news of a bridge construction. Control of misuse of food is focused on food shortage news. Journalists should always be careful on the point that the relation between people and culture is like relation between vein and blood.

Participants actively participated in the session. Mid-career reporters learned that there are several civic issues around them and they can cover them during daily work.

Session III

Mr. Kashi Raj Dahal presented on *"Role of Rule of Law for Accountability and Strengthening Democracy: need for citizens to follow Rule of Law , Orienting citizens about due process of law, Media - contribution to law-abiding citizenry "*

Figure Training session



During presentation Mr. Dahal told the journalists that rule of law is the indicator of human civilization. Rule of law accept the principles of constitutionalism, democracy and good governance. The principle developed to end any sort of autocracy is the rule of law. The public power exercised by the authorized officials should be legal and appropriate.

In democracy, as there is an important status of freedom of press, it is media's role that it should provide and disseminate information to the citizen about their right, citizen's responsibility towards society, citizen's honesty towards nation and their dutifulness towards the country and their role to create civilized society.

He gave several examples of legal decisions that were taken during different period of time. The examples were worthy to conceptualize at local level.

Session IV

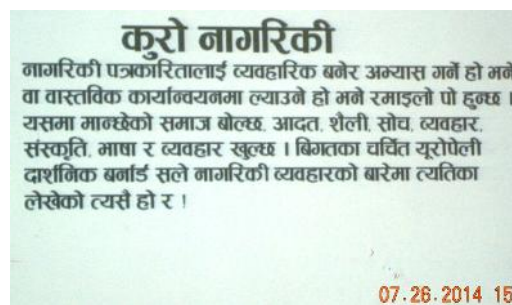
In the fourth session media trainer Prof. R.K.Regmee presented on practical part. He presented on the following topics:

Figure 5 Training session

"Newsroom for producing civic knowledge, civic skill and civic disposition, Writing news for facilitating citizens, Producing news for promoting civic conversation, Informing people for cultivating attitude and habits, Developing media products for forming opinion."

5 Participants in class room

In this session, participants were asked to practice listening and reading skill. They were asked to read the slides individually which were also associated with civic education and inserted agendas for civic reporting. This sessions was focused both to electronic and print journalists. They learned on how correct and fluent speaking is important to deliver message correctly.



Session VI

Chandra D. Bhatta, resource person from FES-Nepal, presented on: *"Civic education: Principles & Theories; Nepali context"*, He said that civic education is for enlightenment. Media always support in democracy building, people's participation and good governance.



"Civic education is social as well as political education", he said. In the context of Nepal he explained, "Though there is satisfactory development in the number of media both print and electronic, but the coverage of civic issues is less. Education is not only for livelihood but it is also for social welfare. Civic education is necessary to: help people, develop nation, love each other, respect and help the helpless. Media should aware citizens about their rights and duties. Democracy is the rule of people. Civic education increases civic skills and civic sense."

"There should be interlinked between universal and local values.

Figure ? Participants in class room

In the context of Nepal, internal values are neglected, so it is becoming difficult to draft our constitution", he concluded.

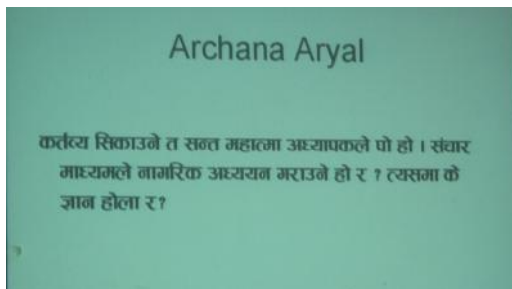
Before ending the session, Bishnu P Sharma, training coordinator asked the each participant to memorize the day's learning. Each participant shared with fellow reporters what they found interesting and useful from the first day learning. Mr. Sharma summarizing the presentations of the first day closed the first day session.

Day-2 27 July 2014 Sunday (11 Saun 2071)

Session VII

In the first session of the second day Prof. Regmee highlighted mainly on: "*Scheduling media productions (text, sound, image) for civic sense, Reporters' responsibilities, Editor's role, Owner's role.*"

He had developed individual slides inserting the name of participants. Each individual slides had the message of civic concept, question and answer. And, the participants had to response the meaning of the slides. This presentation helped the participants to think upon civic issue, response the civic agenda and write stories on the issues.



This practicum supported them to look deeply into the civic issue and response them accordingly.

How to bring civic issue in the media?

Example-1

- Go to daily life of the citizen, select topic for ex. a beggar in Morang bus park
- Do research
- Conceptualize the research
- Develop questionnaire for ex. how many Rs. he/she earns a day
- How many members are there in begger's family,
- does the beggar use mobile

Example-2

- Is there a toilet in the airport who visit there to see-off or welcome their relatives?
- Is there a toilet in the compound of district administrative office where many citizen stand on queue to get citizenship?

Example-3 Tips before disseminating news:

- Identify issue,
- Study the status of previous period,
- Explain the issue,
- Meet and insert the what stakeholders say,
- Examine source authenticity,

Example-4 Civic Issues



- Unmanageable settlement in the town,
- Unavailability of fertilizer to small farmer,
- Scarcity of drinking water and pain of women,
- Services in public office to rural citizen,
- Development activities,
- Foreign employment,
- Cyber café and life style,
- World cup in Brazil and T-shirt business in Nepal,
- Increasing dowry in terai,
- Goal: not to reach on the moon but to have a safe journey.

Session VIII

Another local resource person of the workshop Mr. Mahendra Khada, communication officer of District Development Committee presented on: "*Community –based participation – communication based development projects.*" Mr. Khadka explained the participants about the procedures and mechanism: on project development, project selection and project implementation.

Session IX

FNJ Morang branch President Mr. Mahendra Bista informed the participants about the findings of one week research on the coverage of civic issues in local media.

His primary one week research data demonstrated that the coverage of civic issues were less. For ex. there were only two news on drinking water in '*Ujyalo daily*' and '*Udghosh daily*' during one week period.

Session X

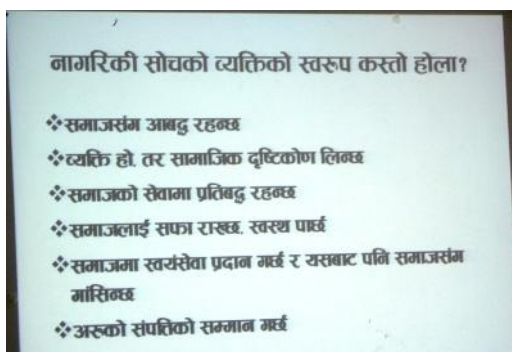
Dr. Mahendra Bista, FNJ central President and resource person, presented on: "**Media organizations' role and civic education reporting.**"

At the beginning, he asked the journalists to be clear on: 'democracy, democratic republic, monarchy, autocracy'. Journalists should have broader knowledge on democratic system, he said. Then he entered into the key topic. He threw light on civic education, civic journalism and citizen journalism and democracy. Reporters should always be cautious for democracy and press freedom. Without press freedom civic rights are not protected.

Civic and professional organizations encourage citizens to participate in the movements organized for the establishment of democracy and protection of freedom of expression. Journalists always should be ready for the protection of citizen's rights. Media is very strong and effective element to provide civic education to the citizen of the country.



Session XI Closing Session:



FNJ Central President Dr. Mahendra Bista, FNJ district President Mahendra Bista, FNJ Central member Ganesh Lamsal, C.D. Bhatta from FES and NMDC Executive Director Bishnu P Sharma and two participants reviewed the two-day's civic education reporting workshop.

Both participants said that they became able to judge their previous reporting. They will focus on citizen rather than events. Most important part they learned from the two day's sessions were identifying civic issues and learning of civic news writing format.

Guests of the closing session thanked FES and NMDC for their initiation to organize the valuable program that provided civic reporting skill to local reporters and supported for professional journalism.

