

"Women as an engine for fostering and promoting democracy."

Women for Peace and Democracy-Nepal

Uniting passion for building a peaceful and democratic Nepal

Issue VII 2019

Women for Peace and Democracy Nepal

Women for peace and Democracy-Nepal (WPD-Nepal) has been working to empower women and marginalized individuals, specifically in the rural parts of Nepal, since 2010, where they are still treated as unworthy of the right to education, the right to freedom of speech, the right against domestic violence and the right to participation. WPD-Nepal strives to empower women and build a peaceful and democratic Nepal. WPD-Nepal seeks to improve the living conditions, livelihoods and empowerment among the rural women, with particular attention to the women that have been deprived of basic rights and justice due to caste, religion and ethnicity. Respect for human rights, participation, accountability and rule of law are the pillars of the organization's work.

WPD-Nepal is dedicated to the empowerment and upliftment of women and marginalized individuals through implementing various empowerment programs in the rural areas of Nepal. WPD-Nepal has been providing knowledge and skill-based training to women and marginalized, helping them to become socially and financially independent. WPD-Nepal has been organizing awareness programs at both the community and national level on gender equality, women rights, domestic violence, women's participation in politics and climate change. WPD-Nepal aims to end the misconception of Nepalese society that men are superior to women and that women should only be limited to household activities. WPD-Nepal has helping thousands of women to become socially and economically independent, allowing them to contribute to their family, society and country. WPD-Nepal is committed in working together and with all likeminded groups to build peace in our communities, so that everyone can live in peace and harmony with respect for dignity and human rights.

Vision: A Just Society where Nepalese people can live in Peace and Prosperity.

Missions

Promote equitable access to resources and economic opportunities to end poverty and hunger (SDGs) and ensure that all targeted communities can fulfill their potential in dignity and equality in a healthy and secure environment.

Ensure all women and marginalized can enjoy prosperous and fulfilling lives and that economic, social and technological progress occurs peacefully.

Promote sustainable consumption and production, manage natural resources sustainably, and reduce the effects of climate change.

Advocate for peaceful, just and inclusive society, which is free from human rights violations and armed violence.

Objectives

Empower women and marginalized to improve their own wellbeing by enhancing their access to resources and livelihood skills.

Promote economic opportunities for the women and marginalized which enhance their capacities and consider their needs and aspirations.

Strengthen the capacities of women and marginalized so they may participate in peace building measures actively and constructively.

Lobby with the key stakeholders to use the resources effectively and efficiently for the enhancement of security within the society.

1. Socioeconomic Empowerment Program for Women and Marginalized (SEWAM)

SEWAM completed its 8th year as a WPD-Nepal program and will continue running into its 9th year. SEWAM has been working with marginalized and deprived women groups in Chitwan, Makwanpur, Sarlahi and Dhanusha for the upliftment of women. For the past eight years, SEWAM has helped in developing women's leadership through strengthening women groups and ensuring their personal security through the enhancement of economic opportunities. The main objective of the program is to establish a peaceful and harmonious society in target villages where women and marginalized can enjoy economic opportunities, respect, and peace through holistic approaches encompassing capacity and awareness.



The major activities of the SEWAM program include providing skill oriented trainings, income generating programs, vocational trainings, agriculture development, and awareness programs to the women groups for their socioeconomic empowerment. The program has created a positive change in the lives of 428 women of 15 women groups from the Sarlahi, Makwanpur, Chitwan and Dhanusha districts of central Nepal. SEWAM has helped in improving women's participation in income generating activities by providing them training and micro credit loans. This has helped women to be independent and self-reliable.

2. Nepal Earthquake Rebuilding Program (NERP)

The earthquake that occurred on April 25th, 2015 destroyed houses and caused immense damage. The Nepal Earthquake Rebuilding Program (NERP) was initiated by WPD Nepal in response to the earthquake with the goal to improve the lives of people affected by the earthquake in Nuwakot and Sindhupalchok. NERP focuses on rebuilding the affected communities through socio-economic empowerment for the women and marginalized of Sindhupalchok and Nuwakot. The program aims to support the poorest of the poor within earthquake affected areas by enhancing their economic opportunities. NERP has inspired women to stand on their feet, and altogether, 60 shelter homes (20 in Sarkigaun, 20 in Tindhara, Sindhupalchok and 20 in Sunkhani, Nuwakot) have been built.





Fifteen Women Affinity Groups (WAGs) were formed in five communities (Sipapokari, Jyamire, Tindhara, Chapdada, and Dumindada of Sindhupalchok) and four WAGs were formed in Sunkahni, Katahare of Nuwakot. Each WAG consists of 15 women. NERP has conducted different programs such as adult education, cornerstone training, recruitment of motivators and institutional support for local partners and women groups, and also provided training such as goat raising, tailoring and organic vegetable farming followed by micro credit loans which led to strengthen the capabilities of women.

3.The Fourth Conference of States Parties to the Arms Treaty , CSP 2018

The Fourth Conference of States Parties to the Arms Trade Treaty was held in Tokyo, Japan, from August 20th to 24th 2018. CSP 2018 was attended by representatives from a total of 77 ATT States Parties, 22 Signatories, 8 Observer states, 7 international organizations, and 26 observer delegations. Ms. Shobha Pradhan Shrestha of Women for Peace and Democracy-Nepal represented Control Arms, and shared two powerful stories of survival, one from Nepal and one from Yemen.



4. Daikichi Anan San Visit to Sunakhani, Nuwakot, 2018



Our sincere gratitude goes to Daikichi Anan San and the team for the valuable support to build earthquake resilient building for Sri Kumbeshore Secondary School in SunKhani, Nuwakot. Our sincere thanks also go to Sri Kumbeshore Secondary School Management Committee and Mr. Om Pradhan for valuable guidance.

5. Report Writing Training



On March 26th, 2019, WPD-Nepal organized report writing training for central office staff and field staff of Sindhupalchok and Nuwakot. One day training session was conducted at Hotel Lapha. Report writing training was given by Mr. Binod Upadhyaya. The training mainly focused on how to write reports. In addition, the training involved activities like introductions through acting, playing games and so on. Moreover, Mr. Binod Upadhyaya provided some important techniques to improve report writing skills.

6. Training on "Existing Laws for Women"



On February 19th and 20th, 2019, WPD-Nepal organized training on existing laws for women for the field staffs of Chitwan, Makwanpur, Sarlahi, and Dhanusa. A two day training session was conducted at Sauraha, Chitwan. Training was given by Mr. Rup Narayan Shrestha. Training focused on existing laws made for women, as well as fun activities such as introducing their friends through drawing, group discussions, and playing games. Mr. Rup Narayan Shrestha facilitated throughout the training and provided knowledge on existing laws made for women.

7. Celebrating "Gun Free Valentine Campaign" 2019



WPD Nepal participated in the February 14th to March 8th Gun Free Valentine Campaign. Women from four different parts of Nepal expressed their desire for an end to intimate partner violence, the danger of which is exponentially raised when a gun is present in the home. The women also showed their support for Sustainable Development Goal 5.2, which aims to end all violence against women and girls by 2030. This goal is in the context of Goal 5 (achieving gender equality) of the

Global Goals for Sustainable Development. According to UN Women, 25% of partnered women aged 15-49 years' experience intimate partner physical and/or sexual violence at least once in their lifetime in Nepal. We are grateful to WPD-Nepal for working to end this.

8. Womankind Partner Workshop




WPD-Nepal organized a one-day womankind partner workshop on the topic “Working on Consortia for Gender Equality” which was held on March 15, 2019 in Kathmandu, Nepal. This workshop was conducted to highlight the meaning, importance, purpose and benefits of working in consortia for gender equality. The workshop had participation from 11 feminist and women rights organizations in Nepal to learn about working in consortia for gender equality, so that they could work in collaboration through consortia in future. Ms. Shobha Shrestha, executive chair of WPD-Nepal, facilitated the workshop. The workshop was well attended by all the participants. Feedbacks and recommendations were also collected for womankind.

9. Celebrating "The Global Week of Action", 2019



On June 7th, 2019, WPD-Nepal celebrated global week of action by organizing a poem competition on the topic “Rise up for humanity: Control the guns” where 4 different schools from Kathmandu participated. Its main objective was to educate students and local individuals about the illicit use of small arms, its effects on disrupting peace, and the need for an arms trade treaty. The competition was held at a grammar public school in Kathmandu. Two students from each school participated. The event was supported by the International Action Network on Small Arms (IANSA), UNSCAR and WPD-Nepal.

10. SEWAM Hero

	Name: SaritaAdhikari
	Age: 25
	Group: Phulbari women group
	Address: Hadikhola, Makwanpur

"The knowledge and skill which I have gained from the program has helped me to become an independent person today".

SaritaAdhikari, aged 25, lives in Manahari village in the Makwapur district of Central Nepal. Her family consists of 4 members: her husband, her son, and her daughter. Saritacame from poor family. She and her husband used to work as seasonal laborers, and used to struggle to meet their daily household expenses.

Sarita was encouraged to become a member of Phulbari women group by a motivator of SEWAM program. After getting involved in the group, she participated in different trainings like cornerstone, goat raising, vegetable farming, and vocational training on doll and cushion making.

After attending trainings and gaining knowledge, Saritabought a goat through taking a loan of Rs.10,000 from the trust fund and sold it for Rs.20,000. She took a loan of Rs.9600 and started vegetable farming, and after 45 days she earned Rs.35,000. She has paid back her loans with interest. Again she took a loan of Rs.10,000 and, adding some of her own money, she bought a buffalo. She sells milk and earns Rs.15,000 monthly. She has paid back her loan with interest. Again she took a loan of Rs.11000 from the trust fund and, adding some of her own money, she has opened a canteen in the village and earns Rs.4000 every day.

Sarita says, "The knowledge and skill which I have gained from the program has have helped me to become an independent person today". She shares that the trainings and low interest loans have given her confidence to start her business. Today she is just one of many successful entrepreneurs in the village. She extends her gratitude to her supporters for helping her to become what she is today.

11. NERP Hero



Name: Bishnu Maya B.K

Age: 38

Address: Indrawati

Municipality: 7, Sindhupalchowk

Group: Makhamali Women Group

“Being a member of the group has enhanced my knowledge and built my confidence to utilize my skills. Today I am able to give my children a good education. If we have skills and the ability to work hard, we will be able to make a good income.”

Bishnu Maya B.K, age 38, is resident of Indrawati Rural Municipality 7, Sindhupalchowk. There are 4 members in her family: her husband, son and daughter. The earthquake of April 2015 destroyed her house and other properties. She lost of everything.

After the earthquake, WPD-Nepal supported her family with relief items such as food, cloths, and medicines. Bishnu Maya's family was also supported with a temporary shelter house by WPD-Nepal. Later, she became a member of Makhamali Women Affinity Group formed under the Nepal Earthquake Rebuilding Program (NERP).

Through being involved in group she participated in various trainings like cornerstone, vegetable farming, goat raising, and poultry farming. On October 7th, 2016, she took a loan of Rs.6, 225 from the group savings and began making copper and brass utensils (pots and vessels). After one month, she sold those utensils for Rs.20, 000 and made profit of Rs.10, 000 after cutting all the expenses. On November 11th, 2016, Bishnu Maya again took a loan from the trust fund of Rs.5, 000 and made copper, brass and metal utensils. This time she was able to make profit RS.40, 000 after 1 month. On August 11th, 2018, she again took a loan from both trust fund and group savings of Rs.11, 120 and Rs.10,000 respectively. With this loan she expanded her shop, adding equipment which is needed to make utensils. This time she was able earn RS.50,000 after one month. Recently, on December 13th, 2018, she again took a loan from the group savings of Rs.9, 055 and started mobile repairing shop for husband. The mobile repairing shop is doing well and is receiving a lot of business. She has gain expanded the shop and added equipment of Rs.3 lakhs.

Bishnu Maya says, "Being a member of the group has enhanced my knowledge and built my confidence to utilize my skills. Today I am able to give my children good education. If we have the skills and ability to work hard we will be able to make a good income."

Bishnu Maya extends her gratitude to the supporters Hope International Development (HIDA) and WPD-Nepal for all the supports.