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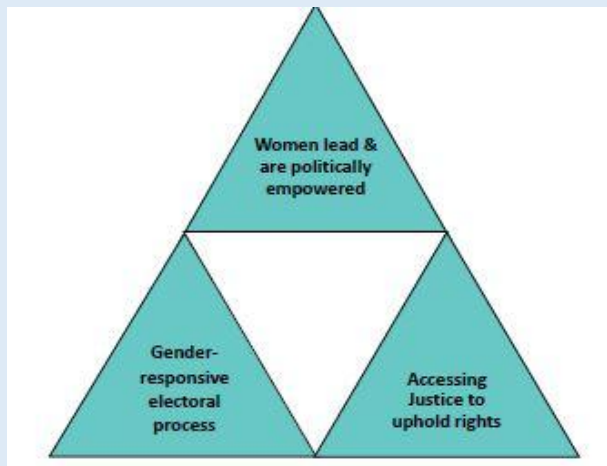
Dear Sankalpa Community,

This issue discusses about women's political empowerment, Sankalpa's partnership and some district reports and updates on media coverage of women issues. We thank you all for your unfailing support and partnership that enables us to be effective and to help increase the number of women leading and participating in decision making process at various structures.

The Sankalpa Team @WomenSankalpa

Women's Political Empowerment

Sankalpa has been continuously making efforts through advocacy and lobbying with government and stakeholders for gender equality so that women lead and participate in decision making process at all levels. It has been advocating to influence the new constitution, existing policies and legal frameworks to increase women's leadership and political participation.



Through its member organizations and government and its field partners, Sankalpa seeks to promote gender balance in electoral frameworks and political institutions. Furthermore, it also has been lobbying with various stakeholders

for gender responsive legislation and justice policies and budgets sanctioned in such themes. It seeks to train women political leaders enhancing diversity and capability. Sankalpa believes that women are equally legitimate and effective political leaders as men and advocates for the same. Women should be empowered for their access & participation informal and informal justice delivery.



Sankalpa and G/S & W/S Department Partnership



Sankalpa and Gender Studies & Women Studies (G/S & W/S) Department of Padma Kanya Campus, T.U. partnership is under process and will be working together to create an information lab on women rights and empowerment.

Sankalpa and G/S & W/S Team soon to commence research in focused 75 VDCs of 15 districts covering all 5 development regions. (Mid West- Surkhet, Banke, Dailekh; Western – Gorkha, Kaski, Nawalparashi, Central - Kavre, Kathmandu, Makwanpur; Far West- Dadeldhura, Kanchanpur, Doti, East- Dhankuta, Siraha, Illam.

The main objective of the research is to:

- Collect , compile and analyses the status of women in focused districts
- Collect information on service delivery to women
- Design thematic and issue based programmes w.r.t. analysis

Coaching and Monitoring

In fifteen focused districts of Sankalpa, social activists of 75 VDCs are being coached and monitored by district focal persons in monthly basis to guide and support social activists at VDC level. The monthly meeting has created platform to discuss on women's right issues as well as resolve the conflict/issues and also ensure justice for VAW victims at the VDC level. Apart from this, challenges and problems of social activists while working at community are also being shared and discussed in that platform.

Social activists receive regular support and guidance from district focal persons to implement Sankalpa's activities at community level through monthly coaching and monitoring which has further strengthened their capacity. As a result, social activists are being capable to manage activities on their own effort at community level.



Public consultation on women rights at VDC level

Public consultation was successfully completed in 5 focused districts by taking into account the selected VDCs from each of these districts

Government officials, leaders of political parties, representatives of women's networks/groups, police officers and other local stakeholders were invited in public consultation to interact on women's rights issues

which has contributed to raise awareness on women's rights and received public support and commitment for addressing gender inequalities .

Public consultations also facilitated the discussion on obstacles and challenges of women representation in politics. Furthermore, challenges and opportunities of women representation in the local election were also concerned authoritative bodies.

Two days training to districts focal person & social activists

Training on anti-violence, existing laws and policies and advocacy was provided to district focal persons and social activists of Makwanpur, Doti, Surkhet and Kaski with the support of local legal experts.

Through this training, district focal persons and social activists became aware on existing polices and laws and were also able to enhance their advocacy skills and learn from peers experiences in the plenary. In the training, district focal persons and social activists also discussed different forms of domestic violence prevalent the community and legal advice taken to deal with such cases.



- ✓ 13 cases of domestic violence referred to police by social activist in Dailekh.
- ✓ Doti, Surkhet & Kaski formed district level coordination committee.

Success Story

Amna is one of the social activists of Sankalpa, who now is widely known as “Netaiin” in her community. She is popular by this name because of her continuous support to her community and her active participation to advocate for women rights and to resolve different women related issues. Mohamadi Siddique (Board member of Sankalpa) met Amna during the field visit in Banjare, Indrapur, VDC. Amna shared her experiences of dealing with VAW and other women related cases and how she puts her courage and motivation in her works.

Earlier she was afraid of public speaking and to attend social gathering but now she is very hard working, confidential and motivating. She speaks and communicates effectively despite her poor education background. Her involvement in different organization and women groups is exemplary and inspiring for women and girls. Her involvement is not confined to just dealing with women and VAW issues and supporting earthquake victims but she also actively takes part in different decision making committees in her VDC.

She also serves as a treasurer for Drinking Water & Sanitation Programme and actively engages herself in UNSECO club and SAC Nepal to reverse the trend of child marriage in her VDC.

Media Monitoring

August - October, 2016

S.N	Media Org.	No. of coverage of Sankalpa's work	No. of Coverage on Women issues
1	Kantipur Daily		12
2	Kathmandu Post	1	14
3	Himalayan Times	2	8
4	Annapurna Post	2	9
5	Republica		10
6	Gorkhapatra	2	9
7	Naya Patrika		7
8	Nagarik		9
9	Rising Nepal	2	5
10	Rajdhani	1	
11	Mahila News(online)	3	5

Annual General Meeting

Sankalpa founders and executive Board members recently attended the 6th AGM Meeting at the Sankalpa premises on 5 October 2016.



To have your story/article considered for the next issue of the Sankalpa Newsletter, email us on Sabina.a@sankalpa.org.np no later than 20th of each month. Remember that all stories should include at least one HD picture. *Readers are also invited to submit feedback on the newsletter via email.*

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