



Annual Report 2015

August 2014- July 2015

Action Works Nepal

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Message from the Founder President:

I am pleased to share our Annual Report 2015. The report includes highlights of our programs and achievements in terms of how our programs and campaigns contributed to improve the lives and livelihoods of poor, vulnerable and socially excluded women, men and children together with experience and lessons we learnt.

Though there were various challenges seen in the way while implementing programs and campaigns due to lack of financial resources, human resources, hardship in the program areas, and also the unstable political situations, we tried our best to translate our commitment into action through our projects, humanitarian supports and social movements. Major progresses were achieved in women empowerment, basic education, and access to health, peace building, research and networking areas. Women empowerment program made some significant progress in Jumla and Kalikot districts where poor and marginalized women organized and mobilized in different groups and started claiming their rights and social justice. As women are gradually empowered to claim their rights they are also influencing and mobilizing men and their societal constituency in their favor. As we initiated our campaigns against ill cultural practices such as "*Chhaupadi*" there are many individuals and organizations becoming a part of anti *Chhaupadi* campaigns. As a result of this campaign, many women started living inside the house that used to live in the cow sheds during their menstrual cycle for generations. Our struggle against the ill practices and against all forms of violation against women is ongoing. We have completed a research to explore status of utilizing sexual health rights by women and local women participation in peace building process.



Various capacity building initiatives were carried out to train local leaders, traditional healers, local CBOs and NGOs on gender, social inclusion and peace building. Based on our learning in the last four years, we are planning to revise our strategic plan. Likewise, we have a plan to carry out gender-equality assessment to further enhance our understanding and capacity to respond to the challenges. We will continue to run our 'Miteri Gaun: Let's live together' campaign to help the poor and marginalized communities in across Nepal. Whatever we talk, we do is always guided by the peace culture. Working in one of the most remote and conflict affected areas we are always keen to learn about the peace culture across the globe. To honor the people who lost their lives in war and to create the peace building culture among all; we have initiated construction of a Miteri Peace Learning Center in Jumla.

The devastating earthquake 25 April 2015 remained one of the shocking and challenging events for AWON. About 9000 people were killed, more than 22,000 injured and over 3 million houses were damaged. AWON team immediately responded the disastrous impacts of the earthquake and reached to serve more than 12,000 people from Sindhupalchowk, Kavreplanchok, Dhading, Dolakha, Ramechhap, Makwanpur, Kathmandu and Lalitpur districts with relief and rehabilitation supports.

We are receiving supports in terms of financial resources, technical expertise and emotional support from local communities, as well as individuals and organizations at national and global levels. On behalf of our team, I thank all of our MEETs, well-wishers, supporters, volunteers and donors across the globe. Without your continuous generosity, we would not be able to continue to ensure that all women and children from Karnali region can exercise their rights and start dignified life to fulfill their ambitions.

Abbreviation

AWON	Action Works Nepal
ANM	Auxiliary Nurse Midwife
CAC	Comprehensive Abortion Care
CDO	Chief District Officer
CBO	Community Based Organization
DPHO	District Public Health Officer
DDC	District Development Committee
GBV	Gender Based Violence
GBVIMS	Gender Based Violence Information Management System
MA	Medical Abortion
MCLC	Miteri Child Learning Center
MGDPA	Miteri Ganga Devi Peace Award
MRC	Miteri Recycle Center
MPLC	Miteri Peace Learning Center
MBC	Miteri Birthing Center
NAWHRD	National Alliance for Women Human Right Defender
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
SMC	School Management Committee
VAW	Violence against Women
VDC	Village Development Committee
WHRD	Women Human Rights Defenders
MGDP	Miteri Ganga Devi Peace Award
SMC	School Management Committee
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
MCLC	Miteri Children Learning Center
FP	Family Planning
SRHR	Sexual and Reproductive Health Right
SA	Safe Abortion
SAAF	Safe Abortion Action Fund
SRH	Sexual and Reproductive Health

1. Organizational background

Action Works Nepal (AWON) is a non-profit, non-governmental and independent organization, which is dedicated for poor, excluded and vulnerable women and men, girls and boys for their social equality, human rights and result driven programs around political, economic, social, cultural, and environmental empowerment. Informally it has initiated its work from 2001 and it has been working from 2010 formally. For the past five years, its activities are mostly focused in Karnali, a most remote and backward region of Nepal, and conducted advocacy program in different parts of the country.

Action Works Nepal (AWON) has been working in an integrated approach to address the extreme poverty and human rights through "**MiteriGau-Let's Live Together Campaign.**" AWON has initiated this campaign which is guided by the philosophy that "**Birth Place of an individual is not a Choice**", and "No one has the right to discriminate and everyone is obligated to contribute for living together, no matter who are you, where you are from and what are you doing". We raise funds through different activities to help marginalized and excluded people who

Organizational Philosophy

The birthplace of an individual is not by their choice. Therefore, everyone has right to be treated as a human being with respect and dignity, without any discrimination on the basis of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, age, marital status, physical or mental disability. Action Works Nepal (AWON) believes on a theme 'let us live together'; let us respect, and support each other in borderless manner as a brother and sister.

are deprived of even the basic facilities.

2. Organizational mission

AWON is determined to work with poor, excluded and vulnerable women and men, girls and boys for their socially equal, dignified and just lives through partnership, human rights and result driven programs around political, economic, social, cultural and environmental empowerment and the nation move towards peace, growth and sustainable development

Objectives

- To empower poor, excluded and vulnerable women and men, girls and boys ensuring establishment of their human rights especially focusing on education, health, employment and environment
- To improve livelihoods of poor, excluded and vulnerable communities through vocational training, employment opportunities and economic empowerment activities led by local communities
- To mobilize civil society, media and other likeminded organizations and networks for policy advocacy and good governance.

To achieve its organizational objectives, Action Work Nepal has been working intensively at the national level and in the priority project districts such as Jumla, Kalikot, Dailekh. This annual report presents highlights and brief presentation of major activities performed by the organization during the period of August 2014 to July 2015.

3. Major activities and achievements

As the major activities, Actions Work Nepal has carried out women empowerment, education support, health, peace building and humanitarian support to earthquake disaster. It has been working in an integrated approach to address multiple and underlying causes of poverty and social injustice in the most remote and rural area of Nepal. All thematic programs are overlapped and interlinked with each other for community development and are crucially important to establish peace in the community for sustainable development. AWON's main program strategy is to bring together regardless of caste, class, region and religion to everyone across the globe for social cause, realizing their role as human being and citizens in the campaign "Miteri Gaun-Let's Live Together". A culture for peace building across globe with mutual love and respect beyond marriage and blood relationship'

The report brief all the major program, project and activities carried out during 1st July 2014 to 30th July 2015 a fiscal year.

3.1. Women empowerment

Women's & Girls empowerment has been one of the most significant focus areas. Women's rights primarily seek to reorient power relations between men and women so that gender equality can be achieved. AWON promote and strengthen women's leadership, advocate ending and taking actions against discriminatory legal provisions and violence against women in line with CEDAW's provisions. It also take a lead on campaign, and collaborate with like-minded institutions, networks to ensure women's access and control over productive resources and decision making role. AWON is also taking lead role on policy advocacy to make gender friendly constitution. AWON is working towards engaging men, boys and traditional healers to promote gender-equitable attitudes and behaviors among them to advance gender equality. Men Engagement is taken as program strategy in women and girls empowerment programs and projects. AWON is continuously working in women empowerment with various activities on awareness raising and empowering to poor, vulnerable and marginalized rural women to address the power relation between men and women, discrimination and ill cultural practices.

For this, AWON had formed 32 Miteri Women Groups, 15 Male Supporting Groups, 19 mix groups (both men and women) 5 Adolescents Groups. These groups are the entry point for empowerment. The community identified their own community facilitators as per the criteria of program, each group have their own group leader and they meet in weekly basis for discussion on various issues in community, gender based violence, women rights and social inclusion. Male supporting and adolescents groups meets on every fortnightly and discuss, support the issues raised by women groups. These all group is mobilized based on the REFLECT principles and methodology.

3.1.1. Miteri women groups

A total 637 poor, vulnerable and excluded women are engaged in weekly discussions through 32 women groups among which 24 percent are dalits (in Nepali culture so called untouchable) in project intervened areas namely Lamra, Kudari, Sunnaigaun of Jumla and Rachuli and PhoiMahadev of Kalikot district. They represented from dalit, poor, and marginalized family identified by the community themselves through power mapping. They discussed their practical issues as well as strategic issues at the group as well as village level. The key issues are Chhauapdi, domestic violence, sexual harassment, gender discrimination, social security, parental role in quality education, sexual and reproductive health rights, safe abortion, importance of institutional delivery, infant care and immunization, VDC budget and planning, land rights, sanitation at house and community, women's rights etc. Women also served as mediator by facilitating dialogues, negotiation around disputes, misunderstandings, and debates at their communities. Sometimes, they also visited police office, village council to pursue their rights, legal services etc.

AWON is also working on recording the cases of **Gender Based Violence (GBV)** along with other eight organizations, working in Gender Based Violence Information Management System (GBVIMS) in Nepal, in order to maintain the similarity while collecting and compiling the cases. The system helps to collect, store, analyze and share the GBV cases and also helps to maintain confidentiality of the survivors. AWON is collecting cases from its working areas like, Jumla, Kalikot, Kathmandu, Achham, Chitwan and Kavreplanchok districts. During six months period from January to June 2015, AWON is able to collect 17cases from Jumla, Kalikot and Kathmandu districts. The cases are mostly related to physical assault, forced marriage, denial of resources and polygamy. All the collected cases were reported to National Women Commission of Nepal.



Women participating in the weekly discussion

3.1.2. Engaging men for women empowerment

The entire Karnali is intensively influenced by the superstitious values, norms and practices followed by the patriarchal cultural values and thoughts. Specially, women and girls are more affected from such gender values, norms and behaviors. In order to get greater impact on the women empowerment, AWON critically engages with men's groups in the respective villages. Altogether 286 men are engaged in 15 male groups; among them 28 % are dalits. The men group members also meet fortnightly and discuss the issues related to women and girls. . As a result of engagement of men for women empowerment, women feel more confidence and comfortable to join the groups and are getting support at home especially in household chores and community for participation and organizing meetings and other activities. ..AWON is also working with five traditional healer groups in different VDCs. The healer groups meet fortnightly,

discuss key issues and be mobilized on various social activities. These groups and individuals play a critical role to influence various social and cultural norms in the community.

3.1.3. Miter adolescent groups

Youths are considered as the strong pillar and change makers for the development of any country. AWON has engaged young girls and boys in the schools and communities to aware and educate them in various social issues such as child rights, sanitation, quality education, sexual and reproductive health and education. . The youth groups are also encouraged to initiate various dialogue programs with community leaders on issues like Chhaupadi, sexual and reproductive health rights and child rights. The groups also led and celebrated various day celebration programs and campaign at the community. Five adolescent groups are engaged in five VDCs.

3.1.4. Saving and Credit schemes by Miteri women groups:

Economy plays vital role to empower women, thus AWON initiated many saving and credit women groups since more than four years. Supporting credit facilities from the groups, many women are able to start a small social business and many of them started their own animal husbandry. This helps them to make independent and confident. There are altogether 32 Miteri women groups involved in the saving and credit groups.

Most of the groups in the communities collect monthly savings ranging from NRs. 10 (\$ 0.1)to NRs.100 (\$ 1). . They mobilize this money among the needy people within the group as a soft loan where the interest rate is 1%. The loan is used for retailed business, animal husbandry for income generation activities at individual and household levels. This practice had reduced the burden and the incidences of exploitation from the high interest rate of taking loan with landlords and elite people in the community. Altogether 60 women took loan from the group and start their own small business.

Till July 2015, NRS.285,860 (\$2,859) has been collected and invested in groups for income generating activities likewise; retail shop, poultry, vegetable farming and rabbit farming. This year altogether 70 women took loan from the groups and did invest in small local business, most of them focused on animal husbandry. Some of the women become self-confident and started to earn money to support their families from their own business. They feel happy to tell their stories of success and dignity that achieved from economic empowerment.

Success Story: 1

Starting Income generating activities

Ms. Sarita Koirala, is a housewife in the rural village of Kalikot district Rachuli. Sarita is now become a member of Jagaran Miteri group. She is saving money on monthly basis and also utilizing credits on income generating activities.

She borrowed Rs. 5,000 from the group and started her own business of vegetable farming last year. She started cultivating seasonal and off-seasonal vegetables in her own agricultural land. She cultivates different vegetables like spinach, radish, carrot, cauliflower, coriander, tomato, brinjal etc. Being in a remote village she has to walk for more than 2 hours to reach to the local shops in the nearby Karnali highway to sell the products and even by walking two hours she used to sell those goods to the market. While part of her vegetable production consumes in her own village.

Now she is able to earn Rs. 6,000. 8,000 every month from the sale of vegetables and able is to manage her households expenses including education expenses to her children. She is satisfied and happy where she earns good sum of money and she is willing to continue this business.

She promises that she will help other people if they are willing do similar business. For this business Action Works Nepal supports her from where she learns that small amount of money is also useful to run a business and that helps to manage daily expenses in an effective way. For all this she thanks to Action Works Nepal family. From the household activities she moves toward the business where now she can contribute to manage her family and to bear economic burden of the family. She is an example for her village women where she plays the good role in her society.



Ms .SaritaKoirala in her farm

3.1.5. Miteri Anti Chhaupadi campaign

The word Chhaupadi means a social cultural taboo, where girls and women are kept in cowshed during the menstruation and child birth period in the name of impurity. It a socio-cultural practice that promotes gender based violence. Many women get raped, die due to snake bites and have serious health problems while staying in the cowsheds. The women are also even restricted to eat hygienic foods like milk and milk products and vegetables during this period because the milk products are considered as the pure thing. Some women and girls also feel isolated from family, school and their relatives and communities. Menstruating girls and women even miss their schools every month during the period.

By seeing the very pathetic condition, AWON is working on the issue since its inception and currently working with 63 groups in the five Village Development committees (VDC's) of Jumla and Kalikotdistricts. AWON is working with 4 more VDCs in Jumla with two local organizations.

Major awareness activities are group discussions, health related day celebrations by showing street drama and conducting awareness raising programs in the schools and at community levels. The issues raised so far in the groups are discussed in various groups (women, men, adolescents), and community stakeholders such as teachers, FCHVs, traditional healers, local political leaders. The discussion focuses menstruation and Chhaupadi practice from the perspective of sexual and reproductive health rights. As traditional healers are considered as barriers in the community, AWON has developed a strategy to involve traditional healers in series of dialogue sessions. The women and youth leaders had also made folks songs, poem and speech in local community function and dance to aware through innovative ideas. The groups had made their own campaign and activities to address the severity of Chhaupadi in the village and communities. First the groups declare them self Chhaupadi free group and raise their voice together to end this ill practices in the village. They develop their own guideline and plan of action to declare the village Chhaupadi free.

During the year, 395 women (61%) from the Miteri groups end practicing Chhaupadi, they started to stay in their own home, in their own bedroom, eat nutritious food and care of sanitation and hygienic. Altogether two villages had been freed from Chhaupadi practices, one in Ranchuli, Kalikot where 156 households had declared their village as free from Chhaupadi practice. AWON through research and field experiences noticed that the majority of young girls hesitate to go to schools at the time of menstruation due to fear of getting leaking and spotted from the blood and being shame. They were also found poor in menstrual care education. A two days training on making homemade sanitary pad with the menstrual care education was organized where 27 participants from 8 VDCs of Jumla and Kalikot was trained and now they have trained more than 800 women and girls about menstrual care and homemade sanitary pad. More than 600 women and girls are using this sanitary pad and are happy to get good solution from home in the time of menstruation. A young girl from Kudari, RatnaShahi expressed her gratitude to AWON community volunteer as she trained her and her mother to make sanitary pad and she now confidently goes to school in her period also. She also taught her friend to make and use the sanitary pad. Now her all friends enjoy their class at school in the time of menstruation.

A British Film maker **Alena Maria Dirstaru** highlighted Jumla women's and girls' struggling in Chhaupadi in the film "*But They Can't Break Stones*". This movie was also premiered at London Film Festival. The movie was shooting out in Jumla.

Success Story: 2

A Journey towards Chhaupadi free society

I am Sabina Sahi, from Kudari, Jumla, where I live with my family. Recently I turned 26 years old. I remember when I was 14, I began to menstruate. My parents made me stay in a cowshed. I was not allowed to go to school and eat food like meat, milk, rice and green vegetables. I asked my parents for permission to go to school, but they did not allow me. They told me that on the way to school there is a temple. Because you are "impure" during menstruation, therefore, you would be committing sin by going through the temple.



Every month, during my period, I shared a cowshed with my domestic pets. After few years, my sister joined me to share the cowshed. One day I felt very weak and suffered from severe abdominal pain. I became unconscious. After that I do not remember what happened to me. Later I came to know that my little sister called my mother, and she took me to the health post. After two hours I became regained my consciousness. The doctors reported that I had infection in my uterus, thus gave me medicines. From that day onwards, I started taking care of basic sanitation.

When I participated in the group discussions, I became aware of the importance of menstruation, and how my age girls and other women suffer from the ill practice of *Chhaupadi*, I began to stay inside my own house during menstruation. I committed myself not only to help other women in the group, but also make the entire group *Chhaupadi* free. I wanted to end the 12 year of ill practice that I suffered in my own life. That evening I discussed it with my family members about the group discussion and our mission to end *Chhaupadi* from our group and community.

I was happy to see that my family did not show any interest neither disdain towards me. Despite the fear of god, I become committed to abolish the practice. I began to stay inside my own bedroom during menstruation. I realized that god did not punish, and neither my fellow group members were punished. From May 2014 I have been staying in my own bedroom during menstruation. I succeeded to break this age old ill practice.

3.2. Miteri education support program

One of core programs of AWON is to increase literacy rate with quality education among children of Karnali region. As part of this strategy, the organization is implementing various education support activities such as: supporting additional teachers in the schools, full and partial scholarship to the students, distributing stationary items to the needy students, repair and maintenance of school buildings, distribution of first aid kits supporting school libraries and to strengthen school management committees.

AWON is strengthening institutional capacity of the targeted schools in the program area by capacity building in governance of school management committees and of teachers by providing scholarships for needy students, mobilizing parents for quality education and library supports. Tripartite meetings with teachers, parents, and school management committee are organized on monthly basis to review the quality of education and institutional performances of the schools and school management committees. This program is implementing in three VDCs of Jumla (Kudari, Sunnigaun and Lamra) and in two VDCs of Kalikot (Rachuli and PhoiMahadev) district.

During the year, AWON is supporting different types of scholarships in 23 different schools of Jumla and Kalikot districts. The types of scholarship are as follows:

- Supporting bridging classes: AWON is supporting bridging classes to the girl students of the schools of Jumla and Kalikot. AWON selected 26 students who were failed in English, Math and science subjects and continuously supporting them from 8 class till now, they successfully passed out grade 9 annual exams and now studying in grade 10.
- Teacher support: Where there are not enough teachers in the schools AWON is supporting three primary teachers in two schools of Jumla. One teacher support in Shree Bhairab Primary School, Kudari and two teachers in Shree Kalika Primary School Hiyakhola, Lamra.
- Full scholarship support: The students who are from the very poor economic background are providing full scholarship. All together four girls are getting the full scholarship on their education including one Auxiliary Nurse Midwife (ANM) and one staff nurse are also given full scholarship.
- School uniforms and stationary items: AWON is also providing partial scholarship to some of the students who are disable, orphan, conflict survivors and from the very poor economic background.



Mr. Lalsingh Kami teaching Primary Level Students

During the reporting period 35 students are getting, full and partial scholarship (for detail see table below)

S.No.	Name of Student and School	Support type	Grade of the students	Total number of students	Support
1	Mahadev Higher Secondary School, Kalikot	Bridging Course	8 class	12	Kinderhilife, Germany
2	Durga Higher Secondary	Bridging Course	8	14	Kinderhilife, Germany
3	Amrita Devkota/ Shree Ratna Chudeshowr H.S S	Full scholarship	2 class	1	Ms. Garima Aryal, Canada
4	Bal Kumai Bhandari; Shree Ratna Chudeshowr H.S S	Full scholarship	From 5 class	1	
5	Birkha Nepali, Setibada S.S. Kudari	School, dress, bag, Stationary items	4 class	1	
6	Anjana Neupane, Gaurigaun	School, dress, bag, Stationary items	5 class	1	Ms. Tuka Chhetri, Uk
7	Dil Maya Rawat, Sunnigaun, Karnali technical School (KTS)	Full scholarship support	ANM Nurse	1	NRN, UK
8	Kalo Nath Yogi, teacher support, Shree Bhairab P.S, Jogibada, Kudari	Primary level Teacher Support		1	Project Nepal, USA
9	Lal Singh Kami, Kalika P.S, Hiyakhola, Lamra	Primary level Teacher Support		1	Charles Sturt University, Australia
10	Dilli Bahadur Rokaya, Shree Kalika P.School, Hiyakhola, Lamra	Primary level Teacher Support		1	Charles Sturt University, Australia
11	Bimala Mahat, Karnali Academy of Social Science	Full Scholarship Staff nurse support		1	Sahadev Chhawan, Nepal
Total number of Students				35	

Success Story: 3

Support makes me to think more about study

Balkumari Bhandari from Chandannath Municipality in Jumla wanted to continue her study but she found her parents in high burden to send their 3 daughters in the school and manage day to day life. When she hear such difficulties in a conversation between her parents, she was so sad and worried if she had to leave her studies in between. It was a great school day to her when she came to know from her class teachers that she was selected for scholarship support from Action Works Nepal. She, with her sisters and parents, was very happy and thankful to AWON and class teachers for the opportunity.



Balkumari Bhandari, (girls in Green sweater) in her class room

She with her innocent smiles now explains that “now, my only duty is to study hard and stand first in class and school.” She is now in Grade 7 at Ratna Chudayswor Higher Secondary School, Bohara Gaun and was successful to stand first in her class.

Through education support program, AWON is providing her all the expenses for school dress, bag, shoes, stationary items which supports for her education. If she doesn't have this scholarship she won't be able to study in the way she is doing. This Miteri education support program had ensured the right of a girl child for her education and it had opened her door for future.

3.3. Miteri Recycle Center (MRC)

AWON has been collecting second hand clothes and distributing to rural areas since 2010. But to make it more effective and official it has been lunched as Miteri Recycle Center in August, 2014. The project is based on the social business concept.

AWON collects clothes and other necessary items whatever people wanted to donate in the peace culture Miteri- Gaun donated clothes from Kathmandu and other places, cleans, fold them and pack in the plastic bags and make like retail items and distributes them to women in remote villages to sell. These areas are so remote that aid does not often reach and the need is dire.

AWON's program has been a massive success, with several thousand of cloths were distributed and sold by local (marginalized) women.



Packing clothes in MRC

The MRC provides affordable clothes to needy people in remote areas of Nepal. We believe that in order to maintain peace, we should first ensure basic commodities to everyone. Buying clothes to resist winter is a dignifying act and a necessity for people. MRC also empowers women to start their own sales business as local retailers, creating income-generating activities for the most marginalized women. Till date, it reached to the four districts Jumla, Kalikot, Dailekh and Humla.

On monthly basis 1200 clothes are collected and 700 clothes are sent and out of which 80 percent are sold. Total 8,000 pieces of clothes were sold during the year. The total income of the year is NRs 423,330 (\$ 4,233) and total expenses of the year are NRs. 184,416 (\$ 1,844). Through MRC, during the earthquake emergency response, AWON distributed warm clothes to women, girls, pregnant mothers, elderly people and people staying in the death rituals (more than 250 affected people were benefitted). The total cost of the clothes distributed in the earthquake response amount NRs. 219,400 (\$ 2,194).

- **Volunteers contributions at MRC**

Many national and international volunteers are contributed this year at MRC. This year altogether four national and four international volunteers contributed at the MRC. They all help AWON collection, financial update, for making a five year strategic plan, making a video of MRC for the collection. Some developed a website, brochure and different email account. Some conducted online collection through blog, face book etc. and some help by initiating online sell of the items made from the recycled clothes.

- **Opening online sell for the MRC Production**

A business student, from USA Mr. Sahil Segal created a history in the MRC by starting online sell. Different productions are produced from the recycled clothes at MRC which also help to make environment friendly. The items like Tea- mats, jean bags, small purses, door mats etc. are produced. And these items are sold to the offices and training centers. The amount from the sells goes to cooperation of MRC and livelihood improvement activities for marginalized women. A five year strategic plan was also developed in this year for MRC.

For Details can go through below link:

<http://actionworksnepal.blogspot.com/2013/08/miteri-recycling-centerclothing.html>

<http://miterirecyclecenter.wix.com/awon>

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Miteri-Recycle-Center-Nepal/508155022598780>

<https://www.etsy.com/ca/people/MiteriRecycleCenter>

<http://www.actionworksnepal.com/>

Success story: 4

MRC helps me to be independent

Single women Durgapati Nepali is the resident of Lamra V.D.C. of Jumla who has 3 children whom she need to look after. Also she is the Vice President of the Miteri Parisramik Group and also involve in different groups in the community. Tailoring is her business, beginning from tailoring she had started selling clothes from the MRC. She mentioned that this has attracted various types of customer to her shop and they are very happy to get the cloths in very cheap price with good quality compare to local market shops. People found easy to come and buy clothes whatever they want because if there is big sizing available she immediately fixed it.



Durgapati Nepali at her Miteri shop

She expressed that due to the MRC clothes in her tailor her business is becoming profitable and good. The demand of clothes is very high in local festivals and she also order to AWON district officer as per the local demand and needs. She also explain that in early days it was very hard to survive with her family for daily life. But she was inspired to start her own work/shop when she came in to Miteri women groups and the group's member and local staff encourage her to use her skills for income generating instead of just being a house wife. She is getting help from the group member as the members are helping her to find new customers and she heart fully thank to AWON providing the opportunity to be independent women in the village.

3.4. Health Program

AWON is committed to reduce maternal mortality rate of women with reproductive age in its program areas. It is working to create awareness on Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights (SRHR) and increase access of local community to health services in Jumla and Kalikot.

3.4.1. Miteri Birthing Center (MBC)

With the support of NRN UK and Siddhartha Nepali Samaj, Miteri Birthing Center (MBC) come in to operation at Sunnigaun, a remote village of Jumla, since more than two years. It is especially established in order to create awareness on the sexual and reproductive rights of women, to reduce neo-natal and maternal mortality rate and to access the health services by local communities. One local Auxiliary Nurse Midwife is working as full time staff providing pre and post-natal care to the local women. MBC is already handed over to the government and site is listed. Due to the awareness programs and weekly discussions with the local groups, the awareness level on the sexual and reproductive health rights and sanitation is increased. In comparison of the previous years the number of beneficiaries for institutional delivery and pre and post natal care is increased. About 446 households of the village are directly benefited from the MBC. During the year altogether 20 women have institutional delivery service, 50 women

got the pregnancy checkup service and around 250 women got counseling on family planning and safe abortion services. There is clear referral mechanism for the complication to PHC and KAHS. AWON is strongly involve with 5 women and 5 men groups in the VDC to make aware them about sexual and reproductive health rights, women rights, GBV and other local issues of the community. These awareness program and activity had help to realize men to be responsible and help their wives and women members in the household chores and accessing health cares. Few male members are also started coming to visit birthing center and health post with their wives for pregnancy checkup and counseling services. For the capacity enhancement of the Nurse, the nurse is provided different trainings on the SRH issues from AWON and District Health Office.

This year Ms. Lisbeth Tron, a midwife from Germany, had been to Jumla and worked at Birthing Center for five weeks. She helped to make the good internal management of the medicines and things inside the BC. She has visited door to door home visit for the awareness rising on institutional delivery, pre-natal and post natal health care service in the village. She also visited and helps to give quality service in the other village birthing centers of Jumla. Based on her experience she found very poor health service in the remote villages and people are not getting basic health service from the health centers. Collecting her all local level experiences of the health service, she also conducted a sharing meeting with the senior level health personals, Ministry of Health at national level where she brief about her field observation and experiences and focused to strengthen the health facilities in Jumla with frequent and efficient monitoring mechanism.



Success Story: 5

Courage works, when there is no option

“Their blessings and satisfaction influenced on my determination to work in the center. I got eternal peace and satisfaction with my work. This incident reminds me of my responsibilities and seriousness of my job.”

I am SharadiRokaya, working as an Auxiliary Nurse Midwife at the AWON Birthing Centre at Sunnigaun village, Jumla. I have been working at the Sunnigaun Birthing Center for the last 1 year. At the Birthing Center in a nearby village health post, a few health workers are assigned, but unfortunately, most of the time, I am the only one working there. During that period, I came across many challenges.

In the winter of January 2015, I got a case from Sunnigaun ward no- 6. The woman was 18 year old Chandika Nepali. She was brought in by a few women and was about to die due to incomplete removal of placenta. She gave birth at home; her placenta could not be removed

completely. She was brought to the birthing center with the placenta and umbilical cord, bleeding heavily in an unconscious state. It was a very complicated case, the case was supposed to be referred to the district hospital, but it was late evening and I was afraid what if she died on the way to the hospital – a 10 hour walk and 4 hour bus ride. I had no option but to take the risk. With the consent of the patient's relatives, I took the responsibility, and consulted my seniors on the cell phone about the case. I was anxious but with courage I safely removed the placenta and saved her life. After observing her for 4 to 5 hours, I discharged her. I was proud to be midwife, seeing saving the life of a mother, and seeing her smiling face.

There are so many such cases in Jumla, still untreated and neglected, where women die soon after giving birth. The success story of SharadiRokaya, cries for attention towards safe delivery and postpartum care, requiring skilled health workers working 24 hours and also the access to the referral centre/district hospital.

3.4.2. Miteri Safe abortion and family planning program

AWON with funding support from Safe Abortion Action Fund UK, safe abortion and family planning related activities were carried out in Sunnigaun, Lamra and Kudari VDCs of Jumla district, where abortion is considered as 'taboo'. Women here are not aware of their reproductive health rights and have little access to services. This project is addressing gender norms, values and behaviors with regards to reproductive and sexual rights, particularly safe abortion and family planning. 21 women groups from three VDCs are directly mobilized for awareness raising activities on sexual health rights. The program also engage with 21 male supporting groups where (key stakeholders, spouse of women groups and traditional healers), are facilitated. To impacting the greater population adolescents are focused for awareness rising through school based program and SRHR mobile based counseling, mobilizing youth leaders on breaking stigma and taboos in abortion.



Hoarding Boards with SRH Message in the project area

To increase the access of the poor, vulnerable and marginalized women on health service, health professional from the grass root level to District Health Office are trained and capacitated.

21 women groups and 21 male supporting groups are oriented on the safe abortion rights, family planning various methods, other reproductive health issues. When women and men groups knows about sexual and reproductive health rights, they reflected and expressed series of problems and issues they are facing due to lack of such information, stigma in the community and poor access to health facilities. Male Supporting Groups are helping women and girls to access service in the village and nearby. They are also helping women and girls in household chores and providing opportunities to participate in various program, meeting and campaign for women rights. Male groups are also joining women in such program and speaking about their role in sexual and reproductive health and women rights. Male groups had developed charter right with their role and responsibility as a Husband, Father, and Brother in family and even in community as supportive men to increase access on safe abortion and sexual and reproductive

health rights. This year a total number of 23 women from women groups took safe abortion service and 120 women from group received family planning services and counseling. The local health facilities in the area also reported that the number of women accessing abortion service from the village is increased. They confidentially asked the service and expressed their problem. SPN center in headquarter provide service to the women refer from village in minimum price they can afford.

Major activities on sexual and reproductive health rights

- AWON had also provided training for project team, female health volunteers, health post management committee members in gender, SRHR two times in a year.



Street drama on SRHR in Kudari, Jumla

- Interaction, meeting, orientation on SRHR is frequently organized and held in the community, which had help to sensitize women and men groups and community.

- Male Supporting Groups in the project areas are being mobilized and consultation held on finding

their role to help women and girls in accessing health services and their overall empowerment. The male supporting groups have shared their commitment on it and develop charter right. *See the Annex for detail charter right.*

- 3 days helpline and balance counseling training was provided to operate helpline service. One day orientation on gender and youth friendly health service was conducted to 21 service provider from various health posts in the district. A mobile based helpline (Mitenididi) is operated in the district for SRHR counseling, it is operated from 10:00 am to 5:00 PM from Sunday to Friday.

- Different health related day celebrations like, Family planning day, Safe abortion day, International Peace day, Menstruation hygiene day ,International Women’s Day (March 8) 16 days VAW were remarked and celebrated locally. All together more than 2,500 people were indirectly benefited from this event in the working area.



SRHR Baseline report sharing program in KTM

- Street drama on SRHR were prepared and demonstrated in 4 different places of project area, altogether it reach to 821 people who directly watched. (397 women, 424 men, 300 adolescents)
- Radio jingle with the Safe abortion message is aired every day four time from 2 local FM radio reaching out to two district of Mid-west covering a total population of 245,869. Radio Program on safe abortion is produce and aired in weekly basis.
- Hording boards with SRH message are prepared and placed in seven different project areas. It contains the legal conditions on SRH, safe abortion and helpline information (SPN and AWON both) to raise the visibility of this project work and make aware to greater level of communities and youth. The venue where hording board are placed are finalised looking the high mobility of community people and youths.
- Baseline findings is shared at district and national level with various stakeholders, policy makers, MOPH and media person to raise the issue of sexual and reproductive health condition in Karnali and address by duty bearers.

Success Story: 6

My body, My Choice

"Bearing child is always a matter of pleasure to a woman, but this time my pregnancy was painful and a matter of shame to me. I was 40 years old and I was pregnant again. I was embarrassed and ashamed. I did not want this baby." This is what Kali Kami, a resident of Lamra VDC of Jumla district, confided to a community facilitator of Action Works Nepal. Thus she was given consultation on safe abortion to avoid unwanted pregnancy. The community facilitator asked Kali why she did not want the baby. Kali replied "I am 40 years old and already have 4 sons and a grandson. Now, I do not wish to bear baby, and also I cannot take responsibility for its education, health and up-bringing. "

She added *"I was stressed, abort the pregnancy. I tried many traditional methods, but every attempt failed."* She got an abortion after the first trimester. She said "at first I felt insecure and uncomfortable to share my problem to the facilitator from Action Works Nepal. He explained to me and to the other group members about the risks of unsafe abortion and the reproductive rights of women. After I learnt that abortion is legal in Nepal, I got courage to take the decision to abort." I was already on 11 weeks of gestation, so facilitator suggested that I visit Marie Stops Center, located in the district head quarter, for safe abortion. During the follow up after the abortion, I said that I was really thankful to Action Works Nepal and the nurse in Marie Stops. I am now safe and free. I had the choice to decide what to do with my body.

Women in Jumla, like Kali Kami, are still forced to reach full term of their unwanted pregnancies due to lack of awareness about abortion rights and services.

Major Findings of Baseline Study on SRHR in Jumla

Awareness on SRH, mainly FP and SA

- Radio or television were the most common sources for SRH related information
- More than 90% of the respondents had heard of at least one type of FP method, but only 12% of them had heard of all methods of FP.
- Majority of the respondents reported that they knew where to obtain FP method, 73.8% reported that they had heard of abortion while only 51.6% of them reported of knowing the legal status of abortion in Nepal. Amongst those who knew abortion is legal, none of the respondents were aware on all
- Only 21.4% were aware of safe abortion logo.
- The most common source of information on SA were friends, family and neighbors who had previously used the service

Attitudes towards FP and SA

- Only 40% of the respondents had had a favorable attitude towards abortion.
- More than 99% of the respondents had had at least one or more myths and misconception about abortion.
- Less than one third of the respondents responded that contraception is solely a woman's business and 35% of the respondents thought women using contraception may become promiscuous.

Usage of FP and SA services

- About 70% of the respondents reported of using FP method at the time of interview, mostly sterilization (46%) followed by injectable (17%) and Implant (12%).
- Majority (87%) of the respondents reported that the decision to use contraception was a joint decision between the spouses.
- Most common method used for abortion was taking unsuspected tablets (28.6%) followed by medical abortion pill. 40% reported that they had undergone abortion procedure at their own home.

Intimate Partner violence

- Nearly half of the respondents agreed to the statement that a husband can beat/hit his wife for any reason. The most common reason where respondents felt husband beating/hitting his wife is justified was when she goes out without informing the husband (46.6%).
- More than half of the women said that their husbands do not trust them with any money and 45.5% responded that husband do not permit their wife to meet female friends.
- Nearly half of the respondents reported of experiencing some form of violence in their life time (emotional (16%); physical (25%), and sexual violence (23%).

Health Facility Assessment

- All six health facilities reported of providing short term method of FP at the time of study. However, long acting reversible contraceptives (LARC) were available only in district hospital and NGO run centre.
- Comprehensive Abortion Care (CAC) was offered only at the district hospital and NGO run centre (Marie Stopes Centre). The NGO run CAC centre had the maximum share of CAC services provided in the district. Only one listed CAC service provider was reported in each centre.
- District hospital reported of receiving FP commodities monthly from the government while majority of the facilities in the survey reported of receiving commodities quarterly. When asked about commodity stock out incidence, two of the facilities responded of experiencing stock out in the past one year.

3.5. Peace building

AWON evolved through conflict to transform the conflict and create peace culture from one of the most conflict affected, isolated and remote area; Jumla Mid –west of Nepal. AWON focus and promotes peace education in its every project and programs. Peace education activities promote the knowledge, skills and attitudes that help people either to prevent the occurrence of conflict, resolve conflicts peacefully, or create social conditions conducive to peace. Peace education is being delivered to people of all ages, in both formal and informal settings in schools and community groups, with local stakeholders and media. These include nonviolence, conflict resolution techniques, gender equality, human rights, social and environmental responsibility, communication and listening skills, coexistence and understanding and tolerance of diversity.

AWON had initiated to honor and make recognition to community peace leaders from various age groups across the country. Miteri Ganga Devi Peace Award is announced from 2014 to be for hidden peace hero from the bottom of community to be honor and acknowledge. To promote

the peace culture through peace education and research AWON is going to construct Miteri Peace Learning Center in Jumla.

3.5.1. Miteri Peace Learning Center (MPLC)

Miteri Peace Learning Center is a form of memorialization in Jumla. AWON focuses every program for peace within a person, family, community, and nation and at global level. Our main campaign "MiteriGaun: Let's Live Together" is a non-violence culture for uniting all the peace makers, youths, well-wishers across the globe in a notion of mutual love and respect. Founder President, Ms. RadhaPaudel, is a war survivor. She had near to death in 14 November 2002, in 13 hours long cross-firing between Nepal army and Maoists. It is a long story, already published as a WAR memory "*KhalangamaHamala*". This war memoir published after 12 years and she donated her 100 % royalty (10% secured) against her book for peace commemoration.

Objectives of this center are

- To honor people who were died during war
- To cultivate peace (non-violence culture) among youths and communities
- To establish a comprehensive peace learning center for all (domestic and international)

Who will Use this Center and Why?

The center will be for everyone but specifically focus on

- Adults: have coffee, morning/evening walk, use physic library, participateindiscussion, use information, participation indiscussion
- Youths: IT education,forums for start discussion on social, local and global issues, platform to get connected with national and global networks
- Children: play, enjoygarden, Child friendly spaces with a platform for learning
- Employees: recreation, refreshment, learning, sharing andventilation
- CSOs/GO: use multipurpose hall, meetinghall, organize event
- Researchers/Trainers/Travelers: accommodation,internet

Who Can Contribute?

Peace is everyone business no matter where, who, what? Miteri is respects and loves to everyone, connects globally. This center is common property of all. Thus, spontaneously, anyone can contribute in such novel cause by many ways; cash, physical volunteering disseminating the info, raising funds, buying book and positive mindset.

Establishment of the peace sculpture:

A peace sculpture was made by HelgaPalasseand Michael DavidGfrerrer (Helga's Son), who came to volunteer and support AWON from Austria. They stayed almost one month for the

establishment of it and some of the community peace lovers/ peoples also contributed significantly on it. In the sculpture, the artists wrote the message of Peace in Four languages German, English, Nepali and *JumliKhas* (Local Language)

The main message of peace mentioned in the sculpture is as below:

“This garden commemorates the people who died or suffered during a decade long conflict in Nepal. It is a symbol of mutual love and respect regardless of caste, class, gender, age, region, religion or race across globe in order to respect diversity, promote inclusion and cultivate a culture of peace.”

For more detail about MPLC go to the below links:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0_wkFKpEZR0

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Miteri-Peace-Learning-Center-to-Commemorate/492407570870104>

Marked International Peace day (21st September 2014)

On the occasion of International Peace Day (21st September) different programs were conducted in the center. On 21st September 2014 the peace sculpture was inaugurated and Founder/President Ms. Paudel announced to award “Miteri Ganga Devi Peace Award” for unseen, community peace leader from 21st September 2015 every year, 4 people from adult and youth (each one man and women) will be awarded. This award nomination will be open to all Nepalese citizens. Two social community leaders were honored for their community work. Local women groups and community celebrated peace day by organizing different programs like; peace rally, debate, art and *deuda* (a local folk song) competition were conducted with the local level schools

“MiteriGangaDevi Peace Award (MGDPA)” is a founded by Ms. RadhaPaudel, a Peace Leader in the memory of her mother Late Ganga Maya Paudel and her father Devi Prasad Paudel who always inspire her to devote her life for poor and marginalized people. In 2014 September, Radha's book "Khalanga ma Hamala" a diary of war survivor was awarded by Nepal, one of the great literacy award Madan Prize 2070. She announces that the amount of the prize will go to form this award and with the aim to honor two local peace leaders one man and one women across country each year on 21 September.

*This award will encourage the community leaders to continue their journey for Peace in their community and also inspire youths to pave out their way for Peace. This award aims to starts a culture of peace where everyone can contribute; join together for Peace besides of the region, religion, caste and groups. This Award will be provided every year on **International Peace Day (21st September) from 2015.***

Please visit AWON website @ www.actionworksnepal.com for more details on MGDP Award.

3.5.2. Miteri Children Learning Center (MCLC)

Miteri Children Learning Center (MCLC), initiated by Action Works Nepal at Jumla, Khalanga targeting to educate the poor, vulnerable and most marginalized children with Montessori approach. This center has already been started from the 1st of April. Altogether 12 dalit children are studying in this center including 4 boys and 8 girls. The age of the children is between 3 to 7 years. The class starts from 10 AM in the morning till 4 PM in the evening. During this time period, nutritious breakfast is served two times daily. The students are provided with the learning materials and the learning is made through fun with games.

The center is focused to provide enjoyable learning environment to the students. One class room and one kitchen is rented for this learning center and one female teacher and an assistant is hired from the same community for daily operative tasks.

3.6. Earth quake relief work:

A devastating 7.8 magnitude earthquake struck Nepal on 25 April 2015. It was followed by hundreds of aftershocks and damaged lives and property. Millions of people became homeless, and lost their beloved ones. One of the major program themes of Action Works Nepal (AWON) is humanitarian Support. AWON has always proved to be with the survivors for their help. AWON team decided to help earthquake survivors though the team members were struggling mentally and physically in temporary shelter. The commitment to vulnerable communities and working in team spirit motivated to start the relief work in action from 27th May 2015 (3rd day of the first earthquake).

AWON mobilized more than 100 technical and non-technical international and national volunteers for the emergency relief work in the field to serve earthquake survivors. The volunteers and AWON team are gearing with collective effort to provide relief to as many affected people as possible and, in an efficient manner. AWON has inclusive package of relief materials focusing the various needs of infants, lactating mothers, pregnant mothers, elderly people, people with disability, family in death rituals. AWON directly reached out to eight most affected districts; Sindhupalchowk, Kavreplanchok, Dhading, Dolakha, Ramechhap, Makwanpur, Kathmandu and Lalitpur districts serving more than 12,000 population in 1,460 HHs with special attention to postnatal mothers (129), Children under 5 years (160), People with disability (62), adolescent girls (377) widows (154), elderly people (355), pregnant women (134), and families who have lost their members (16). The medical camp including first aid service is the entry point to reaching out all unreached areas of respective districts. AWON provided first aid kits to 272 family and 1117 people were provided medical treatment through medical camps. AWON mobilized more than 100 volunteers (both technical and non-technical) for the relief work and also had developed various program and project for recovery phase in the Kavreplanchok district for the earthquake survivors.

The immediate relief was distributed depending on availability of resources and demand of the community distributed in:



Students Reading in Children Learning Center, Jumla

- Medical items: 15 items listed by MOHP: Dettol liquid, soap, beta dine ointment and lotion, masks (#5), ORS (#5), sanitary towel (#1), CTZ (1file), Bandage (1), cotton role (1), Cetamole (1File), Handipalst (#5), Metronidazole (15 Tabs), Cipros eye drop (1), De-cold (1 file)
- Food items: Beaten rice, mixture, noodles, biscuits, super floor, and salt.
- Clothes: Inner garments, baby blankets, sanitary pad, warm clothes etc. to pregnant mothers, lactating mothers, infants, elderly people, family in death rituals and teenage girls
- Medical camp- Master's Nursing staff, treated and refer the cases accordingly includes caring of wound, respiratory tract infections, diarrheal diseases, counseling (trauma and FP) etc.
- Sanitation Kits: Soap (washing and bathing), tooth paste and brush, water filter, phenyl, chlorine tablets, water purifier
- Residential medical camp: include Doctors and more medical responses
- Nursing volunteers at hospital
- Shelter Kits: Tents, rope, mat, blankets
- Rice bags



Distributing Relief materials in the Earth Quake affected areas

3.7. Other trainings and advocacy programs

- **Farming training (nursery management)**

In order to enhance the skills of local people AWON supported four days Nursery management training in Kavreplanchok for two Local people of Jumla. After having the training they are using their skills in apple farming and also helping community in their apple farm.

AWON as a strategic partner of Sarbodaya Nepal is continually working from 2014 to enhance the capacity, change behavior and attitudes towards gender issues, social inclusion and sexual and reproductive health rights of project team, partner organization and village and district stakeholders in Jumla. AWON had provided various trainings, orientation and workshop as below;

- **Engaging Female Community Health Volunteers (FCHVs) in gender equality and women empowerment**

Two slot of trainings, each of two days in every six months was provided to 30 FCHVs from seven VDCs. In order to make realize the title and roles/responsibilities of the volunteers, discussion focused on the concept and practices of FCHVs in Nepal and the expected roles of

the FCHVs in changing scenario of Jumla and Nepal at large. Each FCHV spoke and shared their activities in front of the group that created enabling environment for cross learning, built confidence and mutual bonding among them. They also discussed on challenges and difficulties while working in communities and brought out the ways to overcome in coming days which require more disciplinary language and behavior in the community e.g. FCHVs are volunteers not for incentives.

Although FCHVs in Nepal have great role to reduce maternal and child health in Nepal, make aware and give information to community people. They are the one who are working tirelessly in volunteer basis. After the presentation of their work the discussion find out many gaps in their work such as;

- FCHVs are more focus on curative practices than preventive measures
- The knowledge what they possess more stereotyped from the RBA
- There is lack of coordination with gender facilitators (FCHVs are working in isolation)
- The key concerns of women empowerment in Jumla such as Chhaupadi, early marriage, poor quality specially health and education are not address at all

This training focuses on fulfilling the gaps and providing them knowledge and skills on women rights, GBV, leadership and also connecting with various social leaders and community worker and working together. They need continuously coaching, mentoring and onsite monitoring to boost up their confidence as well as sustain the ongoing activities. At the end of the training they make their four months action plan which specially focused with menstruation, early marriage, violence against women and children, uterus prolapsed, role of schools and health post.

- **Engaging school teachers on gender equality, sexual and reproductive health in Jumla**

Two days training on gender, sexual and reproductive health to teachers and school management committee from seven working villages was organized in Khalnga, Jumla. There were 18 participants in the training. After reflecting their knowledge, attitudes and behavior on Gender equality, sexual and reproductive health, they were found with very poor foundation on gender, gender equality, human rights, violence against women and girls at school and outside of the schools. They fully occupied by negative perceptions towards gender e.g. men are getting violence; women would get second marriage or dominate once they educated or have property. Through the group exercises, statement, examples, they made gender tree, they discussed on gender and sex and identified the existing violence against girls and women inside and outside of the school. They also internalized the role of teachers and schools in minimizing the gender discrimination and violence against women and girls because school is a key institution on gender tree. They even don't have compatible knowledge and skills on their text book specially focus on reproductive health including menstruation. The more than 80 % teachers are practicing Chhaupadi practice during menstruation. They strongly believed that staying in cowshed is scientifically rationale and culturally accepted thus it should be continued. They considered that the menstrual blood is impure so it has to isolated from entering house, temple, not allow to touch fruits, not allow to eat milk and meat products, not allow to participate in social gatherings etc. The facilitators challenged them by sharing many examples, sharing evidence (AWON research report 2013) drawing pictures and proven that the Chhaupadi is the key

barrier of girls disempowerment since childhood through continuously observation of their sisters, mothers and other family members.

Participants worked in group in order to identify their role in implementation of declaration paper of the rural women's conference in Jumla (Nov 2014). They also owned the important of their roles and come up with way forward on how they endorse in their ongoing activities. They developed work plan for next three months. Their work plan includes elimination of Chhaupadi among school teachers, organize various activities to mobilize girls and boys at school and community, construct toilet for girls, manage the sanitary towels in first aid box and make formed a sexual harassment complaint mechanism in order to make sexual harassment free school. Teachers and school management committee members agreed that they are heavily influenced by party politics; there are many miss management in transfer, training, quality performance etc. At the end of training, they strongly demanded to expand such trainings to all schools, members of school management committee and parents with follow up in future.

- **REFLECT training to social leaders and facilitators**

This year AWON facilitated 2 times REFLECT training (each of 2 days) to gender facilitator, social mobilizer and project staff of BEE Group, 4S and AWON together. There were 30 participants (out of them 4 were male) from seven different VDCs of Jumla. Throughout the two days review and reflection, participants come up with issues and challenges that they faced while working in the community specially VDC budget, anti-Chhaupadi movement, gender based violence and women's participation. Participants discussed at deeper level on their challenges and issues and find the community intervention, process together in the group after deep level of discussion. They also share their success in a team and identify the best practices to replicate in the program. The way they come together with all these practices in a REFLECT bring and unite them together, make a critical team/family to raise the issues from different village together in a louder and greater space for advocacy and challenging the duty bearers and ill practices. Not only that they also help each other with their knowledge and skills and make more accountable and committed to the social cause in their community.

This training is being continued since 2013 lead and facilitate by AWON which has enhance the knowledge, facilitation skills, advocacy skills and make the participants more confident. Now with the progress in the area of claiming rights of women and girls, anti Chhaupadi movement, addressing GBV, coming up with various campaign and day celebration, women participation in decision making at community level are seen as an achievement and success.

- **First rural women conference in Jumla**

Two days' workshop held in Khalanga, Jumla to draw the attention of concerned authorities & stakeholders on the rural women's issues, rights and opportunities with view to representing Jumla district, It was conducted with the coordination & cooperation of the Government of Nepal, Women and Children Development Office. The workshop was held on the rural women's issues concurring the view of the UN General Treaty, **Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)** - 1979, its existing rural women empowerment article no 14, Constitution of Government of Nepal 2063 (8th amendment), National Action Plan for implementing the UN Security Council's proposes no 1325 and 1820, all issued laws, acts, directives and regulations for promoting women empowerment and rights by abolishing all types of women's violence.

The topics were facilitate with subject experts in the discussion classifying 13 issues into seven groups incorporating among the 12 issues of Beijing conference for women rights and an additional issue of climate change. The group with the discussion prepared the declaration paper and presented. Each issue was identified and deeply analysis with the solution measures

to address from the right holder perspectives. All together there were 80 participants from 24 VDCs.

- Issues of women education and training in Jumla
- Issues of women's roles in local development, political parties, and communication in Jumla
- Issues of women's poverty and finance in Jumla
- Issues of women in environment and climate change in Jumla
- Issues of women's domestic violence, health and human right in Jumla
- Issues of children rights in Jumla
- Issues of women participation in peace building process in Jumla

The declaration paper was handed to Chief District Officer of Jumla and requested on effective implementation by all duty bearers in district. A series of program was conducted at national level with CA members from Karnali, law maker and media person to raise and address the issues of rural women from their space. *The detail report is shared in AWON website.*

See the Annex for declaration paper.

- **Rural Women's Network meeting for calmingrights, peace and sustainable development in Jumla**

In order to implement the *Jumla Declaration November 2014 on Roles of Rural Women in Peace and Development* Action Works Nepal, BEE Group, Four S jointly organized a day meeting in Khalanga, Jumla. There were significant participation of government stakeholders, rural and local leaders and district network members. Inclusive Women's Network is the name of the district network that was formed in 19 November 2014. In align with the declaration, rural women leaders who never been to school, they spoke very organized way and asking to fulfill these demands with stakeholders. There was a dreaming exercise for next year and ask to share their dreams in front of the chief officials of the districts such as District Police Officer, District Women and Child Development Officer, District Development Officer, NGO workers, media and civil society leaders. They spoke with confident, evidences and strongly demanded to place the service providers in school, health posts and village councils and also asked to enforcement of policies on Chhaupadi and Gender Based Violence. Further, the participants divided in to two groups; district network and village network, and worked on their roles and responsibilities and relationship between two networks on lobby, advocacy for basic services and GBV prevention and responses. The district network expressed their commitment to support village network and village network committed to support district network. District network identified focal person from 14 villages in order to communicate well between village and district and vice - versa. They commit to review their activities in every six months. However, this is just beginning and the district network is very fragile and dominating as well. They are in transition too. So the constant engagement and strengthening their capacity is very urgent. In many cases, the district women leaders even don't know how to speak in very dignified manner. This program was chaired by district network President, Ms. Laxmi Kanya Buda and district stakeholders also addressed the program and expressed their commitment to support network's activities.

- **Collective campaign for gender responsive constitution**

When the Constitution making is in process in Nepal, the draft of it was taken out. As the women issues were not fully addressed in the draft, the women right activists, human right defenders, started a campaign in order to give pressure to the government to revise the

constitution that guarantees the women's rights. In coordination with organizations working in different sectors, **a collective campaign for Gender responsive constitution was started** from July 29, 2014. More than 50 women's networks and organizations are joining hands together demanding for inclusive women's proportionate participation and representation in all state mechanism, equal rights on citizenship etc.

A core team was formed for it and many emergency planning meetings were conducted and our Founder/ President Ms. Radha Paudel is one of the leading members of the core team. She speaks in the different forums and advocacy programs as a key speaker.

The main demands of gender responsive constitution mainly include:

- Equality in citizenship right
- Women's holistic Reproductive rights
- Proportionate Participation of women in all sectors and levels.

Different programs like Mass Rally, Dharna, Human chain, SadakBahas and Mass sleep protest, press conference, shine the torch light rally, were planned to be conducted during the period. The program were planned to be conducted from Babarmahal to New-Baneshwor Chowk.

- **Media coverage**

AWON various program and workshop activities is covered in news article in print and online media at local and national level. Founder President and executive board team are interviewed in various radio programs, TV talk show to present the work they are conducting in Peace, Rural Transformation and Women Empowerment. AWON also show its solidarity and opinion in national issues releasing press release. AWON from its inception time partnering with outline media and local FM in the program areas. Various informative radio jingle and radio program are produce and broadcasted as per the need of the target beneficiaries to make them aware and informed.

3.8. Global level contribution and networking

Representing AWON, Founder/President, and US coordinator participate and coordinated in the national and international forums, coordination and networking at a higher level to raise funds and involve AWON at global level. This year she had travelled to different countries like USA, Canada, Bangkok, Italy, United Kingdom (UK), welcomed as a guest speaker, training facilitator and key speaker in the different national and international forums and programs. She is also selected and acknowledged in various international level trainings and program. Also facilitates and design different types of trainings in the local, national and international level. Ms. Paudel is selected as a Global facilitator's Training on Engaging Men in Accountable Practice to prevent Violence against Women and Girls. She is tirelessly working to established AWON as one of the action oriented organization at national and global level. After her book "Khalanga ma Hamala" (a memory of war) won one of the renounced literacy award "Madan Purasakar" she had become popular and inspiration to thousands of youths across and beyond the globe. This award had helped her to reach out to a great network.

3.9. Income and Expenditure of FY 2014

The financial statements of total income & expenditure have been prepared on cash basis. The statement includes yearly financial cycle from 16 July 2014 to 16 June 2015. Total grant received from different donors in the reporting period was NRS. 26,459,448.00 (US\$ 261,974.74) Likewise, the expenditure was 10,760,832.00 (US\$ 106,542.89) and next period of remaining fund balance is NRS. 15,698,616.00 (US\$ 155,431.84).

S.N	Programme	Fund Received (NRS)	Expended during the year (NRS)	Remaining Fund Balance (NRS)
1	Sexual and Reproductive Health Right (Safe abortion right)	14205800	6237398	7968402
2	Education Support Programme	1199113	410732	788381
3	Miteri Peace Learning Center	1375541	181878	1193663
4	Miteri Birthing Center	1364341	346129	1018212
5	Anti Chhaupadi Campaign	202600	20770	181830
6	Project Nepal Education Support	396000	93025	302975
7	Miteri Recycle Center	423330	184416	238914
8	Reconstruction Support Program in Earthquake	200000	-	200000
9	Emergency Learning and Education Support Program to Children in Earthquake (MCLC in Kavre)	956335	69861	886474
10	Miteri Child Learning Center in Jumla	535767	-	535767
11	Women and Girls support program in Earthquake	2686449	-	1686449
12	Emergency Action Fund	755150	-	755150
13	Valuing Older People in Earthquake Project	-	48700	(48700)
14	Earthquake Emergency Relief Distribution	2159021	3142518	(983497)
15	Attention to Pregnant and Lactating Mothers in Relief work	-	25405	(25405)
Total		26,459,448	10,760,832	15,698,616
US\$ 1 = NRS 101				

The total **contribution** from executive board member is amount NRs.45, 60000.00 (\$ 45600) for this year. The total contribution of the advisory committee member is NRs. 10, 00000.00 (\$ 10000). The contribution of the staff member is NRs. 14, 16643.00 (\$ 14166). The national and international contribution during the year is total NRs. 15, 00000.00 (\$15000).

Current Partners:

- Individual donors /volunteers
- Siddaratha Nepali Samaj & NRN UK
- Safe Abortion Action Fund, UK (SAAF)
- Sarbodhaya Nepal
- Youth VIP, Australia support group
- Charles Sturt University, Australia
- Project Nepal, USA
- PACE Nepal , Jumla
- Outline Media , Kathmandu
- Radio Karnali, Jumla
- Radio Naari Awwaz , Jumla
- Nepalese Nursing Association of UK
- Society of American Nepalese Nurses (SANN)
- Shore up Karnali, Australia
- National Women Commission and UNFPA

Annex 1

Charter Right from Male Supporting Groups to Support Women and Girls in Jumla

1. Commit to get information regarding women rights, sexual and reproductive health right (SRHR).
2. Commit to help and support in daily households works to wife, mother and sister in home (fetching water, cooking food, taking care of baby, bringing firewood's and fodder, carrying manure and working in farm etc.)
3. Commit to avoid gender based violence in home as well as in community.
4. Commit to provide support, help and take proper care of women during their menstruation period and pregnancy. And also help and support in their sanitation and hygiene.
5. Commit to increase the participation of women in decision making process of house as well as community.
6. Support and help women for education and treat equally to both son and daughter.
7. Commit to provide opportunities to daughters and daughter- in-laws for higher education and capacity building trainings.
8. Committed to get their children (daughter and son) married after the age of 20 and commit to end and make aware about child marriage for other community members and end child marriage.
9. Help and support women in family to take decision on family planning contraceptive methods and if necessary taking safe abortion services.
10. Commit to take family planning methods and take SRH counselling support if needed.
11. Help and support female members of house for regular checkup during their pregnancy period and taking them to health posts, birthing centers for institutional delivery.
12. Encourage and support women to participate in group meetings, community program and trainings.
13. Commit to create awareness regarding women's right in the community and society.
14. Commit to be a role model man at house as well as in community.
15. Commit to involve and make participation of women and girls in social development activities, groups, and committee and decision making process with position.

21 male supporting groups from Kudari, Lamra, and Sunnigaun VDCs of Jumla realized their important role to help women and girls for their empowerment. These groups were facilitated, mobilized in the local issues and were aware more than a year ago. The men members were bring together in small groups and reflected with the local community issues focusing on SRHR, GBV and women mobility to bring up with the conclusion and their commitment at individual and community level.

After the group work they come up with the various commitments which was drafted and named their Charter Right to support women and girls in their community. Altogether 225 local men participated in the consultation meeting.

The chartered right is more focused on creating awareness among male regarding women rights, safe abortion and creating a safe and enabling environment by male in home and

community to ensure women rights. In brief, this group discussion and training was very inspiring to know various perceptions of male leaders regarding women rights.

Each participant no matter whether they educated or not, new or old presented their experiences and views according to their turn in group while drafting Charter right. Male engagement for women's right in the local level is becoming the matter of high interest which has brought very unique and new ideas in the community. Men were very happy to get the opportunities to be enrolled in this program and also few shared that AWON was the first organization who came to approach making male supporting groups and aware men from the community about women's right, sexual and reproductive health rights.

Annex 2

Men Engagement: A key pathway for women empowerment

Action Works Nepal (AWON) is working towards engaging men and boys to promote gender-equitable attitudes and behaviors among them to advance gender equality. Though it was challenging to go against the traditional patriarchal mindset among men, women and the community, 'men engagement' as a program strategy has been successful to promote a positive shift in gender norms away from attitudes and behaviors that undermine women's rights and well-being. Instead of viewing men and women as oppositional groups, gradually people are realizing the importance of working together to promote mutually supportive equal relationships. This change in attitude can bring about a change in social structures, rules and norms that effect gender stereo types and power imbalances between women and men. Understanding men's own diverse experiences, within the context of deep rooted patriarchal system and structures that enable men to assert power and control over women, will help us to identify and target the underlying drivers of violence against women and girls to stop violence before it starts. Realizing its significance, the working modality with men has been very well received by various stakeholders, community people and government agencies in our working areas.

AWON have been repeatedly receiving feedback from local women and stake holders participating in Miteri Women Groups that our empowerment initiatives have increased their awareness, improved their self-esteem and their confidence. Therefore, AWON came to a conclusion that the impact of our women empowerment efforts would be significantly greater if the men are also made responsible and involved in the process for women empowerment. AWON works with the male supporting groups currently, focusing attention on addressing gender inequity and considering 'Men Engagement' as an important element.

- The male supporting groups represent women spouse, in-laws, and key political leaders, teachers, faith and traditional healers, religious leaders in the community.
- They are a group of rural men who are willing to change the way they behave with their wives and other women and girls.
- They make fortnightly discussion, meetings about women rights, sexual and reproductive health, domestic violence, *Chhaupadi (A local practice where girls and women are send to the cowshed at the time of menstruation. "Menstruation" is taken as*

impure in Karnali) other harmful gender norms and practices and must emerging local issues to get the way forward, solve the problems collectively.

- Male supporting groups also participate and organize meetings, interaction, street dramas, celebrate women day, menstruating day, 16 days VAW day, consultation and men-to-men activities to convince other men to change their behavior and promote their understanding to support in women's rights and gender equality.
- AWON facilitate various tools like: women's mobility mapping, history taking, storytelling and writing, women workload mapping- briefing a whole day activities done by women and men, couple discussion, door to door visit as an empowering process for realization from both men and women.
- AWON provide various capacity building trainings, orientation program to aware men and young boys about the women rights.
- AWON programs promote and inspire men to be model men, identifying and honoring model men locally and bringing them as a guest speaker, capturing their video and stories, making them Hero from local radio on interaction and interview. Locally they work as a social leaders/campaigner for women empowerment.
- Model men are identified based on their behavioral practice in terms of gender equality in their own home as well as in the community. Model men demonstrate gender equitable behavior by sharing household responsibilities. They also create an enabling environment for women to make decision.
- AWON work with young boys based in the schools and colleges to enhance their knowledge and skills understanding gender norms and behaviors promote nonviolent masculinities, develop healthy sexual practices and respectful relationship and communication.
- AWON provide sexual and reproductive health information (family planning, safe abortion) which help to promote human rights, healthy sexuality and respectful relationships.
- AWON strengthen research on various issues related to gender and women empowerment. Support and facilitate to conduct research and study by national and international scholars and researchers.
- Collect data and case of violence against women. Provide psychosocial and legal support to get justice on VAW case.
- Promote and lead evidence based advocacy, policy advocacy bringing to the greater mass and media.
- Capacity building of the local partners, local leaders and likeminded stakeholders on Gender, women rights and empowerment and men engagement.

Who is a Model Man?

- He should be aware about women and girls rights,
- Represent the local communities,
- Must help his wife, mother, sister and daughter in the household chores and inspire female members to get good leadership,
- Must be helping other women in the community and village,
- Need to coordinate and encourage other men and boys in the community to help women and girls,
- Free from alcohol and smoking, gender sensitive, open minded
- Should be always ready to advocate, raise issue against gender based violence,
- Should be socially acknowledged by women and girls and also among the community as model men empowering women.