

Role of Rural Women in Peace & Development

Jumla Declaration Paper

19th November 2014

The National living standard survey of the Government of Nepal, 2011 indicated that Karnali area is marginalized concern with geographical, cast and groups. Two days workshop held in Khalanga, Jumla on 2nd, and 3rd Mansir, 2071 to draw the attention of concerned authorities & stakeholders on the rural women's issues, rights and opportunities with view to representing Jumla district, the most affected in 10 years long war to other governments' classified districts. It was conducted with the coordination & cooperation of the Government of Nepal, women and Children Welfare office, Jumla and in coordination with the other various agencies like Action Works Nepal (AWON), Bheri Environmental Excellences Group (BEE Group), Surya Social Service Soceity (4 S) and Shangri-La Association etc.

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. Thereby, this declaration was prepared and made public in the active participation of 80 representatives of 24 VDCs, by demanding strongly to the concerned authorities for its effective implementation.

Topic wise issues:

1. Issues of women education and training in Jumla
2. Issues of women's roles in local development, political parties, and communication in Jumla
3. Issues of women's poverty and finance in Jumla
4. Issues of women in environment and climate change in Jumla
5. Issues of women's domestic violence, health and human right in Jumla
6. Issues of children rights in Jumla
7. Issues of women participation in peace building process in Jumla

1. Issues of Women Education and Training in Jumla

1. Lack of quality education due to parents' illiteracy and inefficient school management committee
2. Lacking priority and need based practice of the women empowerment
3. Not maintained favorable environment for girl education at home or school, and neither formal education nor informal education is properly utilized for women and girls
4. Inaccessibility of marginalized women in existing educational development projects
5. Women are unable to identify and use of their knowledge, skills and efficiency due to existing social norms, values and cultures like Chhaupadi Pratha, Child Marriage, and low social status.

Solution Measures

1. Arrange specific need based empowerment & capacity building training program for parents and school management committee
2. The need of regular and instant coordination and observation of district education office to its affiliated bodies which run education programs
3. Discourage the social malpractices, values and cultures like Chhaupadi, Child Marriage by incorporating them in school curriculum and extra activities

4. For children education promotion, school should launch children friendly programs like separate girl toilets with sanitary pad in primary health box, reproductive health etc.
5. Declare the school as a sexual abuses free zone

2. Issues of women's role in local development, political parties, and communication in Jumla

1. Nominal participation of women in political parties and development activities in Jumla
2. 10 % allocated budgets for women in local level is used for building canal, temples, and road in the name of women
3. The allocated budgets for back warded women, dalits, ethnicities is in the reach of limited women who have access on it
4. Less exposure of women out of their home due to illiteracy and poverty
5. Inability of women to be organized for raising their voice, women living in headquarter have limited access to the human rightists and lack of constructive support of man in women issues
6. Low circulation and information of women empowerment programs through available media like radio, FM, and newspapers, inefficient and few number of women journalists

Solution Measures

1. Conduct at least one-year fellowship programs for selected women to enrich women's participation in political parties & active participation in the concern program.
2. Conduct women friendly workshops and seminar with specific training in English and computer
3. Conduct effective program and advertisement of existing women right laws through FM and other media.
4. To make active participation of district level women networks to coordinate with the national networks for addressing the issues of women rights & problems

3. Issues of women's poverty and financial status in Jumla

1. No role and control of women in any financial activities however, they have been working for 18hrs per day in informal sector using their traditional skills and knowledge
2. Women's self ignorance in their role, rights and conducting development programs have merely increased number of women and responsibility but not targeted to empowering them

Solution Measures

1. Conduct one year's long fellowship program forming specific groups of women to enrich their control over ultramodern agricultural technology, cooperative and communication
2. Conduct specific trainings on leadership skills, language, and technology to enrich the access of women in women rights and politics
3. Conduct the programs like male model or increasing male participatory programs to reduce the workload of women at home

4. Environmental and climate change issues of Jumla woman

1. Decrease of agriculture production, herbs and family food safety due to long and incessant harvesting of single crops, no use of necessary organic and bio fertilizer, decrease trend of fertilizing land due to climate change, increase of pesticide, drying of water resources, specially women and children are mostly victimized with that change.
2. Population growth along with human need like food, shelter, energy resources, water etc have aggravated river pollution, home environment pollution, increase dust and smoke of road constructions and it has affected on human health and specially women and children have severe problems of it.
3. Lack of awareness of personal and environmental sanitation has resulted on home environment and family sanitation low.

Solution Measures

1. Engage the communities in promotion and conservation of environment friendly technologies in the district like organic fertilizer and bio-fertilizer, pesticide, development of organic production, ensure the equal participation of man and women in the agriculture production, and make favorable environment for the appropriate use and conservation of local herbs and natural resources.
2. Conduct women and children friendly programs to lessen the effect of natural and other disasters in the district.
3. Conduct programs for ensuring the family food safety by making awareness for the proper use of local foods
4. Conduct awareness promotional activities encouraging model house, VDCs, and communities on personal and family's sanitation

5. Issues of women's domestic violence, health and human right in Jumla

1. Women are back warded in socially, financially, culturally, environmentally and technically aspect due to existing cultural values and norms.
2. Women are of victims of physical and sexual violence on job place, family and public places.
3. Women are affected with health related problems like uterus, cancer etc, due to malnutrition, excessive workload, bearing child in early age, ignorance of personal health,
4. Decrease trend of women for receiving the health service due to ineffective existing health service and women's ignorance on the use of it.

Solution Measures

1. Conduct awareness program of the existing laws and proceed punishment on the breach of laws
2. Conduct several awareness programs among family, community and traditional rituals like Dhama Jhankri on the issue of reducing the workload of women and eradicate Chhaupadi Pratha. To run the Chhui boycotting campaign, promote their skills by developing an active group networks.

3. Promote skills by conducting the programs by honoring the man for assisting to reduce the workload and equalize the work of man and women.
4. Make activate and promote the skills of local volunteer women to make women aware of their health.
5. Conduct health education of current available health service and induce them for using it.
6. The government should fully assist the treatment of serious women diseases like uterus, cancer, delivery case etc.
7. District Health office/health post should be responsible to conduct women health related programs in the collaboration of others.

6. Issues of Girls rights in Jumla

1. Girls have been under violence due to discrimination since their birth. For instance: bearing of many children, second marriage, early marriage, unmatched marriage, keeping them in shed and not allowing for school during ministration and delivery, not taught properly in the school.
2. Mother and child health is vulnerable and lead to death due to early age child bearing.
3. Compulsion of school dropouts girls due to the lack of girls friendly school like no separate toilets for girls, getting suffered from sexual harassment , work load in the family etc.

Solution Measures

1. Encourage and award the the model family working on gender equality by advertising and promoting their skills.
2. To make girls friendly separate toilets, sexual abuses free zone, women networks and civil society should enforce the compulsory implementation of government of Nepal's policies.
3. Discourage the social malpractices, values and cultures like Chhaupadi, Child Marriage by incorporating them in school curriculum and extra activities.

4. Encourage the boy's active participation for preserving the girls right by promoting the children clubs in Jumla.

7. Issues of women participation in peace building process in Jumla

1. No actual data of war affected women
2. Unnecessary torture and violence for those man and women who were not involved in the war
3. Women and girls are in sexual violence and other violence from both sides.
4. Lack of sustainable and concrete programs for war affected women and families like crippled, widows, fighters etc.
5. No meaningful participation of all sectors and levels in peace and development activities as stated in the National Action Plan of UN Security council proposes no. 135 and 1820.

Solution Measures

1. Reform some existing system (second marriage, matrimonial system) by recording the war-affected people in single entry system in the leadership of local peace committee.
2. Conduct empowerment programs both long terms (purchasing shares like bank, life insurance, small and medium industries etc.), short terms (skills, training, education, vocational agriculture/animal farming etc.) focusing the necessity, and efficiency of the war-affected people.
3. Make uniformity and access of psychological counseling to all.
4. Ensure meaningful participation of war affected people in all activities by surveying and regular enlistment of transitional laws, war affected policies, programs, and peace building activities.