



## **Annual Report 2016**

August 2015- July 2016

### **Action Works Nepal**

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## **Abbreviations:**

AWON	Action Works Nepal
NGO	Non- governmental organization
MCLC	Miteri Children Learning Center
MGDPA	Miteri Ganga Devi Peace Award
MRC	Miteri Recycle Center
MPLC	Miteri Peace Learning Center
MBC	Miteri Birthing Center
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
ANM	Auxiliary Nurse Midwife
CAC	Comprehensive Abortion Care
MA	Medical Abortion
SMC	School Management Committee
VAW	Violence against Women
VDC	Village Development Committee
WHRD	Women Human Rights Defenders
SMC	School Management Committee
EC	European Commission
FP	Family Planning
SRHR	Sexual and Reproductive Health Right
SA	Safe Abortion
SAAF	Safe Abortion Action Fund
SRH	Sexual Right Health

## **Introduction:**

Action Works Nepal (AWON) is a non-profit, non-governmental and independent organization. AWON started working informally since 2001 and was officially registered with District Administration Office Kathmandu in 2010. The focus is on political, economic, social, cultural, and environmental empowerment. From its inception, AWON has been involved in humanitarian and development activities in the remote mountain regions of Nepal. The major projects implemented in the past and at present focus on education, livelihoods, health, women empowerment, climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction and disaster relief and humanitarian works.

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.

## **Mission:**

AWON is determined to work with the 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 so that Nepal moves forward to peace, growth and sustainable development.

## **Vision:**

A young, committed, dynamic, enthusiastic and multi-disciplined group of people will be organized, and seek peace, prosperous and just society in and beyond Nepal.

### **Framework to address underlying causes of poverty and social injustice**

*Immediate benefits and welfare*

Improving Human Conditions (Food, income, response to disasters)



*Ensure basic needs and enhanced capacity*

Organize, Aware, Empower and Capacitate



*Ensuring Human rights and dignified social position of the marginalized*

Influence for Enabling Environment (structures, policies, governance)

### **Our Strategies:**

- Stakeholder mobilization at local, national, regional and global levels
- Social marketing and media campaign
- Networking and advocacy
- Behavior change communication (BCC)
- Monitoring, documentation and dissemination
- Research and training

### **Where We Work:**

Our areas of work range from Karnali, the most marginalized and underdeveloped, to other vulnerable and needy areas of Nepal. In the aftermath of devastating earthquake in April 2015, the working areas have been expanded to the earthquake affected areas as well.

### **Objectives:**

- To empower poor, excluded and vulnerable women and men, girls and boys through their human rights especially focusing on education, health and employment.
- To improve livelihoods of poor, excluded and vulnerable communities through innovative vocational, employment opportunities and other economic empowerment activities as driven by communities.
- To mobilize civil societies, media and other like-minded groups for evidence based policy advocacy, networking and media campaign.
- To be recognized as a professional institute for trainings, research and dissemination around human rights, natural resource management and climate change adaptation for poor, excluded and vulnerable communities.

## **Different programs and activities carried out during the period August 2015 – July 2016**

### **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.

AWON had created a strategy to involve and integrate the male, female and traditional healers at one place to create awareness through creating different groups in the communities of the working areas.

- ***Miteri Women Groups / Mothers Groups:***

Altogether 105 women groups were formed in three different working districts of Jumla, Kalikot and Mugu districts. More than 2500 poor, vulnerable and excluded women are directly engaged in the groups and participate in the weekly discussions. Mostly they discussed about the key issues of the group as well as of the whole society. Main key issues discussed on the groups are Chhaupadi, Gender Based Violence, Women Rights, social security, sanitation, Girl education, parents role in quality education, Sexual and Reproductive rights, gender discrimination, importance of institutional delivery, pre and post-natal care, importance of immunization, citizenship right, government facilities at local level like aging, disability allowances 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 10 other organizations, working in **Gender Based Violence Information Management System (GBVIMS)** in Nepal. 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 and Kavreplanchok districts. This year the several local staffs from Jumla, Kalikot and Kavreplanchowk received this training so it would be able to collect the cases from the villages. 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.

- ***Miteri Men Groups :***

AWON is working with engaging men and boys at local level since its inception. This is also a strategy which helps to minimize the gender based violence in the community. 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 created different male groups in the working areas. Altogether 42 male groups were created where dalits (so called untouchable), traditional healers, priests, teachers, social leaders, politicians were included. The groups meet regularly in the weekly meetings and discuss on the different social issues. Some male groups in Lamra, kudari and Sannigaun also developed a male charter right and made commitment to help women and girls of the community. The males are also involved in different programs of the community like, day celebrations, meetings, trainings etc. 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.

- ***Miteri Saving Credit Group:***

Economy plays vital role to empower women, thus AWON created many saving and credit women groups in its working VDCs. Altogether 19 saving and credit groups are there in the community. 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. More than 70 women took loan from the group and start their own small business. From the 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.

Till July 2016 ; 233, 230 Rupees has been collected and invested in groups for income generating activities likewise; retail shop, poultry, vegetable farming and rabbit farming 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**

#### ***From small beginning comes great thing***

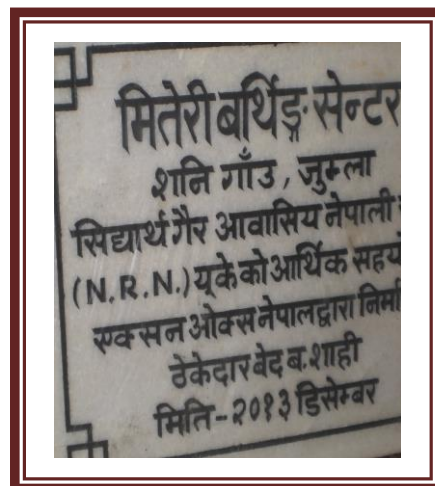
**Nainakali Rawat**, a 35 years old small- scale vegetable grower and her family of two daughters and son from Lamra VDC-07 of Jumla district, have become the example for the market-oriented vegetables production in her village. In the past, even though she worked very hard, her children did not have enough to eat and used to cry in hunger. I was looking for the best way to change my life and to manage my family life. In the meantime, I heard about Action Works Nepal and its Miteri Group. Then I joined miteri group, called Jagriti Miteri Group. I am the president of Jagriti Miteri Samuha and we have fourteen members. In the weekly monthly meeting, we discuss many



topics like women empowerment, women rights, saving and crediting, gender based violence, and other community related issues. Also in the monthly meeting, we save the money and give loan to group member who wants to grow vegetable. In the initial period, we had deposited twenty rupees but now we deposit fifty rupees. By taking loan from our fund, I am producing market-oriented vegetables such as tomatoes, beans, cauliflower, cabbage, and chilies. It brought unexpected changes in my life. I earned more than one lakh per year from a small patch of land. I continue to raise my production levels and it surely supports me to educate my children, she says. She gives thanks to Action Works Nepal for supporting and group formation. Her farm is now full of seasonal and off-seasonal vegetables that are ready to be sent to the markets.

## 2. Miteri Birthing Center, Jumla:

Miteri Birthing Center, come in to into operation since 2013 which was established with the support of NNA, UK and Siddhartha Nepali Samaj. 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. 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.



AWON strongly involved with 5 women and 5 men groups in the VDC and conduct discussions twice in a month in each groups to make aware about sexual and reproductive health rights, women rights, GBV and other local issues of the community. These awareness program and activity had helped 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.

*The progresses of birthing center during one year duration are as follows:*

SN.	Activities	Number of beneficiaries
1.	Antenatal checkup	198
2.	Postnatal checkup	58

3.	Use of Depot Provera	99
4.	Use of Oral Contraceptive pills	41
5.	Implant insertion	31
6.	IUCD insertion	15
7.	Number of referred postnatal cases	3
8.	Recipient of counseling on safe abortion care	43
9.	Recipient of safe abortion care	10

### Success Story: 2

#### *Dudhjira got new life.*

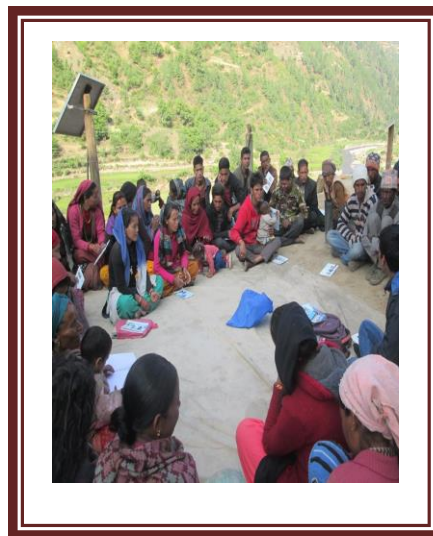
**DudhjiraRawat**, lives in Sanigaun VDC Ward no 03 Jumla. She is living with four members in her family: husband and three children. After her second child, she was again pregnant with the expectation of having baby boy. But her economic condition was very poor and her health condition was also getting worse day by day. I was suffering from anemia and I went for ANC checkup in birthing center, she said. After her health checkup, she was told to take nutritious diet and reduce the work load and take rest. Her family members worried about her health. When she went for checkup in 9 months they told that the condition of her child was very bad and they suggested her to come for delivery in the birthing center. Later labor pain started and continued for two days. But she did not informed about her health condition to her family members. After that other women of her village tried to deliver the baby at home forcefully. At last her condition was getting very worst so other people in the village took her to the birthing center. She was unconscious at that moment. The baby was presenting face as leading part complicating the normal delivery. The condition of the child was serious. It was impossible to reach to the district hospital due to the difficult geographical condition. After two hour, the baby was finally born in the birthing center. They got a baby girl. Rawat told that "Thank u God I got new life". She was very much happy and glad that her life and her child life was safe and were out of danger. She was glad that AWON built birthing center in their village. If it was not in her village, she would have died in the lack of health service. She was very much thankful to the AWON and was very much grateful that other women in her village would also get benefitted from the service of the birthing center. Both Dudhjira Rawat and her husband Dhan Bir Rawatare happy now.





### 3. 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.



Considering the very pathetic condition, AWON is working on the issue since its inception in Jumla and Kalikot district and recently implanting the programs in the different villages of Mugu district too. Altogether 105 male and female groups were created in the different villages of three working districts in order to create awareness on *Chhaupadi*. Different awareness raising programs, group discussions and day celebrations were conducted focusing to create awareness to the local people. Different Five villages of Jumla and Kalikot were declared as model chhaupadi free villages till this date. The groups themselves declare them self Chhaupadi free group and raise their voice together to end this ill practices in the village.

- ***Elimination of Chhaupadi practice in Karnali, Nepal***

With the support of European Commission, Action Works Nepal {AWON} recently implemented a project named “*The elimination of Chhaupadi practice in karnali Nepal*” at 14 VDCs of Jumla and Mugu, and with its implementing partner Bheri Environmental Excellence Group {BEE Group} at 7 VDCs of Kalikot district. The main objective of this project is to empower women and girls at the individual and group levels, as well as, build capacity and improve understanding of the policy and advocacy issues.

#### **Success Story: 3**

#### ***Change is hard at first messy in the middle and gorgeous at the end.***

My name is **Nainikala Rawat**, I reside on Lamra VDC ward no. 01 with my husband, 2 daughters and one son. I am forty two years old. I am one of the members of Jagirti Miteri Group. We discuss different topics as mensuration, violence, women rights, women participation and so on, in the weekly meeting. In the past time, women stay in the cowshed during their

menstruation period but because of the many activities of many organizations helps to make aware about health, how to care, how to do work, and so forth. I had also bitter experience of staying at cowshed during period time. Change isn't easy; it takes time, when I became the member of JagirtiMiteri Group, it changes my life and my family member's thinking. From the weekly meeting, I knew the demerits of Chhaupadi in our health, violence during menstruation period, and so on. I told the discussed topic of disadvantages of Chhaupadi to my family members but they didn't support me and didn't listen my voices. They said if we keep the menstruated woman in our home, God will punish us, family members will suffer from sick, neighbors will hate us and do not enter our home. As there is a saying ***“Change is hard at first messy in the middle and gorgeous at the end”***, I tried to convince many times but at last they will agree to support and listen me. Now, I am facilitating at various programs and meetings about disadvantages of Chhaupadi, health care during menstruation period, women rights and so on. My daughters also cook meal during menstruation period after taking bath. I want to give thanks to Action Works Nepal for different awareness program at Lamra VDC and in future, this type of program will aware many girls and women.

- ***Dhimkot, a village of Kudari, Jumla, declared Chhaupadi free***

With the initiation of Action Works Nepal and KalikaMiteri Women Group, Kudari VDC Ward no. 09 Dhimikot is declared as a Chhaupadi free village. With the continue effort from 2.5 years of AWON, KalikaMiteri Women Group, mothers group, male groups and other related agencies and organizations, it became successful too declared as a Chhaupadi free village. Now, there is no any restriction for women to enter their houses and have nutritious food during the menstruation period. The president of KalikaMiteri Women Group said that because of various anti-chhapadi campaign, awareness programs, trainings, women became aware about demerits of Chhaupadi culture. This village declared as a model village in the district and become example for other near villages. For Details can go through below link:

<http://setopati.com/raajneeti/37798/>

#### **4. Miteri Education Support Program:**

From the inception, Action Works Nepal has paid special attention on education to the needy areas of Nepal. We are deeply committed to giving the chance to the needy students like, Poor, orphan differently able children of the poor and disaster affected areas. Although there are government and private schools in the areas, there are vary less number of regular school going children and even If they are going there is no quality education in the schools of the remote villages of Nepal. To make it more efficient and effective we created some school management committee too. Every month we are conducting meeting with school teachers, parents and SMC (school management committee), where we made the discussion about the importance of education, hygiene and sanitation, preparation of the school calendar, importance of the extra-curricular activities, selection of the needy students for the support etc.

AWON is also providing the different types of scholarship of the needy areas of Karnali as well as supporting the schools and children the earthquake affected areas of Kavreplanchowk. Also we have established learning centers in the areas.

**The List of the Students is as below:**

SN.	Name of the donor	Scholarship Type	Name of the Student	Grade of the student	Name of the School	Supported From (AD)
1.	Ms. Garima Aryal, Canada	Full	Ms.AmritaDevkota	3	Shree RatnaChudeshowr H.S S	2014
2.	Ms. Tuka Chhetri	School, dress, bag, Stationary items	Ms. AnjanaNeupane	5	Gaurigaun	2015
3.	NRN, UK	Full	Ms. Dil Maya Rawat	ANM	Sunnigaun, Karnali technical School (KTS)	2014
4.	Mr. Sahadev Chhawan	Full	Ms. BimalaMahat	Staff Nurse	Karnali Academy of Social Science	2015
5.	Action Works Nepal	School, dress, bag, Stationary items	Ms. Birkha Nepali	5	Setibada S.S. Kudari	2014
6.	Action Works Nepal	Full	Bal Kumai Bhandari;	7	Shree RatnaChudeshowr H.S S, Bohoragaun	2014
7.	Kinderhilife, Germany	Bridging Course	10 students	10	Mahadev Higher Secondary School, Kalikot	2013
8.	NNA UK ( BC project )	School, dress, bag, Stationary items	5 Students	7 and 8	1} Deuti Lower Secondary school, 2} Kailash Secondary school	2016
9.	Teresa Alvarez Diez	Full	Ganga and Jamuna (2 Girls)	1	Kavre	2015
	<b>Total</b>		<b>23</b>			

**List of the Teacher Supported:**

SN.	Name of the donor	Type	Name of the Teacher	Name of the School	Supported From
1.	Charles Strut University, Australia	Full Paid	Mr. Lal Singh Kami Mr. DilBahadurRokaya	Kalika Primary School, HiyakholaLamra	2013
2.	Project Nepal, USA	Full paid	Mr. KaloNathYogi	Shree Bhairab Primary School, Jogibada, Kudari	2013
	Total		3		

**Success story: 4**

**Dream comes true through educational support!**

My name is **Kamala Kami**. I am eleven years old and I am the one of the student of Kalika primary school, Hiyakhola studying at three classes. I live with father, mother, one sister and one brother. The economic condition of my family is not good so it makes difficulties to buy school dresses, books and stationary items. But now Action Works Nepal is supporting my all educational costs since 2 years, it contributes me for studying hard. My dream comes true through Action Works Nepal's educational support program. We all family members are happy from the support of Action Works Nepal and expect these kinds of help in future also.



**Success story: 5**

**It happened just like it has to happen- the Secret behind  
A successful Teacher**

I am Lal Singh Kami, a 22 years old head teacher of Kalika Primary School Hiyakhola, resident of Lamra VDC-7, Jumla district. I was not like this until few years ago. It happened just like it has to happen in my life. In the meantime, when my family's economic status was not good, Action works Nepal appointed me as a supporting teacher at Kalika Primary School Hiyakhola. Since three years, I am teaching there as a supporting teacher. Now I am teaching Nepali subject. In the school we, five teachers are starting early childhood development class. School



management committee gives the responsibility of Head Master by seeing my motivation and works. This decision of school management committee makes to feel that the responsibility is added for me. It changes my life and helps me to become established teacher in my own community school. I am debt to Action Works Nepal for supporting me and expect this kind of funding at future too.

## 5. Miteri Recycle Center:

Miteri Recycle Center (MRC) is the social business run by Action Works Nepal. This is started at 2010 AD with the aim to provide affordable clothes to the needy people of the needy areas of Nepal by preserving the environment and generating the economic opportunities to the disadvantaged women. We believe that in order to access peace we should first ensure the basic commodities of everyone, so we focus on the long term sustainable solutions. MRC collects second hand items especially clothes from Kathmandu and other city areas, refine, pack and make them like retail items and sell them to the needy people in the affordable price. 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 9 districts Jumla, Kalikot, Dailekh, Humla, Mugu, Accham

,Dhangadi, Kavrelanchowk, Sindhupalchowk but this year we are regularly selling clothes in Jumla, Kalikot, Dailekh , Kavreplanchowk and Kathmandu as well. MRC also keep stall in the different programs in Kathmandu to explore as well as to collect and sell clothes too.

For the earthquake recovery program, AWON distributed MRC clothes for the pregnant and lactating mothers of Kavreplanchowk district. Onmonthly basis clothes are collected and the clothes are sent and out of which 80 percent are sold. Total 2,336 pieces of clothes were sold during the year.

### Volunteers contributions at MRC

Many national and international volunteers are contributed this year at MRC. This year altogether 5 national volunteers contributed at the MRC. They all helps on collection, financial update, making a systematic way of entry system, update in social update like on face book. Some conducted online collection through blog, face book etc. and some helps by initiating online sell of the items made from the recycled clothes. 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/>

## **6. Miteri Children learning Center**

Miteri Children Learning Center (MCLC) initiated by Action Works Nepal from 2015ADat Jumla, Khalanga with the aim to educate the poor, vulnerable and most marginalized children in Montessori approach. Dalit (So called untouchable) children are studying in this center. 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 are rented for this learning center and one female teacher and an assistant is hired from the same community for daily operative tasks.

## **7. Miteri Safe Abortion and Family Planning Program:**

With the funding support of Safe Abortion Action Fund UK, awareness on Safe abortion and family planning was carried out in the three remote Villages (Lamra, Kudari, Sannigaun) of Jumla. In those remote villages, Abortion is considered as taboo and different harmful traditional practices were applied for the abortion. Women were not aware about their reproductive health rights particularly in Safe Abortion. Altogether 21 male and 21 female groups of the three villages were mobilized for the awareness raising activities on Sexual and reproductive health rights. All the groups are oriented on safe abortion rights, family planning various methods, other reproductive health issues. Also different activities like mobile based counseling and mobile youths for breaking the stigma and taboos in abortion were implemented in order to create awareness for the adolescents. Different Health persons from the working VDCs were trained which helped to access quality health service in the working villages.

Due to the awareness raising programs and orientation to the groups, the people become aware on the sexual and reproductive health rights and they are also able to share their problems openly and go to access the health facilities to the near health centers. Males supporting groups also developed their own charter rights and made commitment to help women and girls to access the services. The number of the women taking the SA service form the certified health centers is increasing every month.

## **8. 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 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.

**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 "Miteri Gaun: 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. Radha Paudel, 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 "*Khalangama Hamala*". 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 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.

**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, participation discussion, 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; enjoy garden, Child friendly spaces with a platform for

learning.

- Employees: recreation, refreshment, learning, sharing and ventilation.
- CSOs/GO: use multipurpose hall, meeting hall, organize event.
- Researchers/Trainers/Travelers: accommodation, internet.

### **“MiteriGangaDevi Peace Award (MGDPA)”**

This award is a founded by Ms. Radha Paudel, 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 "*Khalangama 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.**



### **International Peace Day Celebration:**

Action Works Nepal (AWON) is working in the field of peace building as one of the main thematic areas celebrates this day every year in dedication to world peace, absence of war and violence and for spreading the message of peace from local to national and international level. The **International Day of Peace**, sometimes unofficially known as **World Peace Day**, is observed annually on 21 September. It is dedicated to world peace, and specifically the absence of war and violence. The day was first celebrated in 1982, and is kept by many nations, political groups, military groups, and peoples.





AWON celebrated this day conducting various programs in Jumla like peace rally, poem competition, drawing competition, speech competition and price distribution of chair race competition at the primary and secondary level of different schools.

Also at this day as per the commitment, AWON awarded and honored community unseen peace leaders by "**Miteri Ganga Devi Peace Award**" where four community peace leaders from Nepal were awarded for their work in the change and development and for being the role models, peace and inspirational social leader encouraging community and youths in their community. The awardees represent grassroots activists, survivor of the conflict and peace makers. Each individual has a fascinating story to tell. The awardees are from diverse community and area across the country but connected for a social cause: to build peace together. The winners of the MGDPA award were **ChaiteeGiri (advancing women empowerment in rural and remote Nepal)**, **Akwar Ansari (An Ambassador of Youth)**, **PadmawatiPangmaLimbu (A Great Educational Philosopher)**, and **Sita Ram Shrestha(A Volunteer for Action)**.



#### **International Rural Women Day Celebration :**

In 15<sup>th</sup> October, 2015 AWON celebrated International Rural Women Day with mass rally at JumlaKhalanga where there were 150 participants and also honoring Lauri Maya Thami who was selected and wined the WWSF Prize for women's creativity in Rural Life – 2015, with an award of US\$ 1000. Ms. Laurimaya was among 10 laureates selected by the WWSF International Prize Jury among the nominations received this year. For more go through the link below: <http://www.actionworksnepal.com/news/2015/10/18/honored-laurimaya-thami-on-the-occasion-of-international-rural-women-day>

#### **9. Earthquake Recovery Program:**

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).

#### **Relief distribution to Pregnant and Lactating mothers:**

- **Distribution of the Dignity Kits to the lactating mothers**

With the support of the United Nations Population Fund we received around 350 dignity kits for the pregnant and lactating mothers we distributed the materials to the mothers of the Four VDC's (Buda Khani, Ghatichhap, Foksingtar, Banakhuchour of Kavreplanchowk. The same existing volunteers were mobilized for the distribution of the Kits. Altogether 350 pregnant and lactating mothers are benefitted from it.

- **Nutritious Food and Clothes Distribution Lactating Mothers:**

The food and hygienic items were distributed to the 250 mothers, in four VDC's, Budakhanai, Phoksingtar, Banakhuchour and Ghartichhap of Kavreplanchowk. The food and hygiene items includes: 2 sets of warm clothes including one baby blanket, 2 pairs of clothes to mothers, hygiene items like powder, lotion, oil and soaps for the babies, food for baby (sarbottamlito)6 packets; 5 types of beans for mothers 5 Kg for each and Mustard oil were distributed on this phase. All the mothers were called in the near health posts, health centres for the collection of the items. After exploring the importance and objectives of the distributing items all were kept in the queue for the registration. The items were distributed in the presence of the local health workers, Female community health Volunteers (FCHV's), local social leaders. The mother's between the ages of 16 to 37 come for the collection of the items. The mothers expresses that they were very happy by getting these items as they are the earthquake survivors and these things will be much benefitted for the babies and themselves too.

## **10. MiteriNepal Earthquake Recovery Project Phase-II (MiteriNERP - II)**

Action Works Nepal (AWON) in partnership with HelpAge International Nepal is implementing a project named "MiteriNepal Earthquake Recovery project Phase-II (MiteriNERP-II)" in 4 different Village Development Committees: NyagaunDeupur; Gairibisauna; Deupur; Jaisithok Mandan, and Anekot of Kavrepalanchowk district of Nepal. The program's activities were for older people health and their social mobilization issues. It is one of the most affected districts by 25<sup>th</sup> April 2015 earthquake and its aftershocks. The overall goal of this project is to enhance the capacity of Older People Associations and aware local stakeholders and community about older people rights and create enabling environment in the project areas.



## **11. Miteri Valuing Pregnant and Lactating Mothers in Emergencies:**

AWON is implementing a project named "Miteri Valuing Pregnant and Lactating Mothers in Emergencies". The project is being implemented in 8 VDCs namely Budakhani, Banakhuchaur,

Foksingtar, Ghartichhap, Anaikot, Jaisithok, Nayagaun and Gairibisauni. The target group of the project are pregnant and lactating mothers of the working VDCs. The main objective of the project is aware and increase access of pregnant and lactating mothers on maternal and child health care. The two main activities of the program have been implemented.

- **Health Education Training to the local staffs:** It was conducted for 2 days-29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> May in Dhulikhel Training Centre. There were altogether 11 participants (3 resource person and 8 community facilitators each from 8 working VDC). The outputs of the training were: the participants were clear about the project objective, activities and the time frame of the project, the participants were able to get information on reproductive health and reproductive rights, they were aware about the maternal and child health, the participants were able to gain the information on child nutrition and maternal nutrition, the participants gain information on WASH.



- **Community Rapid Need Assessment and Miteri Mothers Group formation:** It started from 6<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> June in 4 VDCs- Budhakhani, Bnakhuchaur, Ghartichhap and Foksingtar. In remaining 4 VDCs- Anaikot, Jaisithok, Nayagaun and Deupur it started from 20<sup>th</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> June. The rapid need assessment is done by asking questions to the village level stakeholders (health post staff, VDC secretary, local leader, pregnant and lactating mothers) related to maternal health, child health, reproductive health. Rapid need assessment of the community helps in the formation of Miteri Mothers Group. 5 Miteri Mothers Group was formed in each VDC with around 25-30 women's (pregnant and lactating mothers) in one group. The total no. of women in mothers group in 8 VDCs is 976: Budhakani VDC- 133, Banakhuchaur VDC-116, Foksingtar VDC-102, Ghartichaap VDC-112, Anaikot VDC-141, Nayagaun VDC-131, Gairibisauni VDC-89, Jaisithok VDC-152.

## **12. Advocacy and campaign:**

### **I} Street Campaign: Collective Campaign for Gender Responsive Constitution:**

AWON with coordination with different organizations related to the field of women and peace building, women right activists, human right defender started **A Collective Campaign for Gender Responsive Constitution** from July 29 for raising the voice and bringing the attention

of the concerned authorities to women's issue and women rights which was not fully addressed in the constitution draft. More than 50 women's networks and organizations joined the hands together demanding for inclusive women's proportionate participation and representation in all state mechanism, equal rights on citizenship in this street campaign.



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

For details of the programs go through <http://actionworksnepal.blogspot.com/>

### **III} Safe Abortion Day Celebration:**

On 26<sup>th</sup> September, 2015 AWON celebrated Safe Abortion Day by organizing an event addressing the SRH condition of the women in Jumla. The event was organized at the Red Cross hall, and the event was 3 hours long. Mr. Laxman Chaulagai from District Health Office and Dr. Kamal Prasad Thami from KASH were the chief guests who presented the progress paper on safe abortion by district health office in Jumla and also reflect policy and program at national level. The organizations working in the field of safe abortion and family planning, various organizations from district were participated in the program.



In the program, Mr. Laxman Chaulagai stated about the necessity of spreading awareness about every woman's right to safe, legal abortion. Due to the lack of awareness about their rights, many women in Jumla are still using unsafe methods to terminate pregnancies. In context and comparison to past year there are 494 women who took the service. There are 16 SA sites where people take medical abortion service and for surgical (CAC) women go to Karnali Academy of Health Science (KASH) or Marie Stopes International Nepal in Headquarter of Jumla. During the interaction with the representative from DHO and KASH the things regarding the importance of counseling women, men and youth about family planning and birth control were discussed.

At the community and local level in 3 VDCs of Jumla and 2 VDCs of Kalikot village level interaction program was organized with local stake holders, women and male supporting groups

regarding the necessity of spreading awareness about every woman's right to safe, legal abortion, family planning methods. There was Community Cleanliness Program to break the stigma and taboos on abortion to celebrate this day. The discussion come to conclusion that there is still a long way to go ahead to address stigma/ taboos, access on quality services and information in rural area of Jumla and Kalikot.

### III} Menstruation Day Celebration:

On 28 May 2016, Action Works Nepal celebrated **World Menstruation Day**.

As the menstrual restriction is found everywhere in Nepal but the level of the restriction may be different in different societies, AWON conducted some awareness raising activities in different working villages of Jumla and Kathmandu. There is a huge participation of male, female and students, makes the program more effective.

X-pose Nepal, worked as a partner organization, celebrated the day in different places Mangal Bazar, Lagankhel and Jaulakhel of Kathmandu. There is a huge participation of students, social activists, people representing various culture and religion in the program. Some social activists, Ms LaxmiGurung, Ms.RadhaPaudel and Fonder president of X-pose Nepal give speech on the issue and explore about the consequences and bad effects of the menstrual restriction to the women and girls. The program become very much effective and the participants share the positive view regarding the program.

