

Summary Report on “Training of Trainer (TOT) for Reinforcing Women of Chepang Community as Change Agents for Promoting Local Governance in Nepal”

Development Exchange Center (DEC-Nepal) organized a four days Training of Trainer (ToT) program from 12th Baishak to 15th Baishak 2072 BS in its office at Sauraha, Chitwan. United Nation Development Fund (UNDEF), USA was the supporter of this program and South Asia Partnership Nepal (SAP) its partner organization.

Altogether 21 participants from 6 Chepang dominant VDCs of Chitwan district- Siddhi, Korak, Kaule, Chandibhanjyang, Shaktikhor and Lothar- attended the training. Of these 18 were Chepang women selected on the basis of their education and active association with village development groups, and 3 were potential influential Chepang men, who were associated with Village Development Committee and were members of Chepang Community Promotion Group. All the resource persons and facilitators for the training were from SAP Nepal and DEC Nepal except for a guest speaker from a District Development Committee. Despite of the earthquake all sessions of the training program was held smoothly.



The objectives of the training were five-fold: 1. To enhance leadership skills of selected Chepang women facilitators for social mobilization; 2. To enhance knowledge and skills of Chepang women to participate in various dimensions of Local Self Governance; 3. To increase participation of Chepang women in local planning and implementation process; 4. To Increase regular communication and coordination between Chepang women and Local Government; 5. To increase accountability among stakeholders and service receivers for promotion of local good governance.

A mix of different methods was used in the training. These included lecture, group work, role play, power point presentation, flip charts, videos, storytelling, and pictures. Contents of the training were mostly presented in power point slides followed by visual display (picture and video) question and answer, group work, story-telling.

On the opening day some Journalist and VDC secretaries from project sites were present along with participants, resource persons and facilitators. After the formal opening session Mr. Janak Karki, Co-coordinator of the project briefed about the objectives of the training and the project.



The four day training program was focused on five issues: 1. Women Leadership and Gender Equality 2. Good Governance and Development 3. Social Accountability 4. Social Mobilization 5. Plans and Policies of Government

Women Leadership and Gender Equality

Ms. Shikha Shrestha, Chairperson of DEC-Nepal, adopted a participatory approach and tried to convince the participants that women are also as capable as men in taking any responsibility. She emphasized that the difference between men and women is only biological- women can give birth but men cannot. She highlighted that since women don't read newspaper and engage themselves in intellectual discussions, their intellectual capacity has not developed as compared to men.



Good Governance and Development

Mr. Janak Karki from DEC Nepal introduced the topics and its importance. He discussed the aspects of good governance like Accountability, Transparency, Rule of Law, Equity and Equality, Legality. Types of development like human development, infrastructure development, economic development etc.



Social Accountability

Mr. Narendra Joshi ED from SAP Nepal discussed about 21 tools of Social Accountability. Among them he highlighted on 1. Community Score Card 2. Public Hearing 3. Social Audit. Three groups, each comprising 7 participants, were formed and were asked to fill a Community Score Card for three different organizations - 1. Government Organization 2. Organization and 3. Chepang Women's Group. The Community Score Card consisted of a list of questions which were arranged under four headings a. Participation b. Transparency c. Rules and Regulations and d. Monitoring and Evaluation. Then each group was encouraged to provide feedback on 'Community Score Card' filled by other groups.



Social Mobilization

Mr. Janak Karki from DEC, Nepal, highlighted the importance of social mobilization and discussed about its components including Reflect Model. He asked the participants to

repeatedly chant a slogan 'I am the change agent' a number of times. This was aimed at inspiring and convincing the participants that they can bring the change in their community. Participants were asked to list good qualities to be a social mobilizer

Participants were thoroughly briefed about the concept to form 'Chepang Women Advocacy Forum'. Such forum would help to advocate issues concerned with empowering Chepang women. Participants were advised to form five different chepang women's groups in each VDC with minimum 5 members in each group. In this way a total of 125 members would be formed in each VDC and 750 members in six VDCs.

Social mobilization is the most important issue discussed in the training because the selected participants are future facilitators who are going to their community to mobilize other chepang women to meet the project objectives.

Plans and Policies of the Government

Mr. Bishnu Kumar Shrestha, a guest speaker from District Development Committee, made presentation on Plans and Policies of the government. He discussed various issues of government like centralization and decentralization approach, their advantages and disadvantages, local governance and more. He clarified how the 10 percent budget allocated for women and another 10% for children and 15% for others have been deviated in other activities due to lack of information in Chepang women about these budgets. He encouraged the participants to keep track of these budgets and demand projects for their community benefit.



Conclusion

Despite of the earthquake all the sessions of the training was held smoothly. Thanks to the coordinator of the project and Resource persons for pacifying the participants. Management part was seen strong in this training program, a separate caretaker was provided to look after individual infants. This helped mothers of infants concentrate on the training. The training program focused more on participatory approach with lots of group work, role play and interactions. Most of the participants were active and showed maximum involvement throughout the training. The evaluation report prepared and readout by nominated participants every next day in the training hall proved their good understanding level and expression skills in mass. These gestures are proof the participants have potential to be a good social mobilizer if they are provided a proper guidance. At the end of the program the participants were distributed Participation Certificate with commitment to share their learning in their respective community. Before separating participants and trainers sang group songs, committing to work together and help each other to empower the community.