

Association for Dalit Women's Advancement of Nepal (ADWAN)

Annual Progress Report 2016

Association for Dalit Women's Advancement of Nepal has entered to 17th years after completing fiscal year 2016. As compared to the previous years, this fiscal year went through the peak of ups and downs. ADWAN US which had been supporting us since its establishment left us in the mid of the project whereas more allegations and controversies arose in the working committee. Ultimately the organization divided in two parts and some of our dissatisfied friends/ co-workers left our organization. Despite these unimaginable, incredible and painful ups and downs, I am very pleased to inform you that the organization conducted some achievable programs successfully.

Formation of New Group-

ADWAN has been forming groups of the women in an organized way who are suppressed and oppressed by various types of discriminations in remote places of different districts. Aiming to promote and make capable and strong to the group affiliated Dalit & Marginalized Women; the organization has formed five groups of women in Chitrawan Municipality, Chitwan in fiscal year 2016. The organization used to provide Rs. 1500 for investment in seeds while forming new groups,. But realizing the given amount insufficient, it decided to provide Rs. 5000 instead of 1500 to newly formed women's groups.

Mobilization of saving and credit, and cooperative:

Mobilization of saving and Credit is a successful program of this organization. It has developed the habit of monthly saving of the groups in an organized way. We have realized that such savings have played vital role in strengthening general Dalit & other Marginalized Women, and to involve the group of Dalit & Marginalized Women in it. Examples of various occupations can be observed at different places that had been conducted successfully by the group members. Following the integrated cooperative principle, objective of the organization is to transform the collection of common capital, deposited through this program into saving and credit cooperative Accordingly, there are one hundred and seventy four members in the cooperative situated at Taklung of Gorkha running by ten groups of women whereas mobilizing capital increased about 14 to 15 Lakhs. The objective of the organization is also to expand this process in other sectors from this year.

Education for Preschool children:

ADWAN has been conducting preschool classes to encourage the poorest and before school children of this organization - affiliated Dalit and Marginalized groups for the enrolment in education sector, to support deprived children in education, and to utilize leisure time. At present altogether three children classes are being conducted in Taklung- 2, Burtiwang-1 in Baglung district.

Sponsorship Program:

Since 2016 ADWAN has been conducting programs targeted to the poorest and diligent children of women's group affiliated to this organization. It has been providing Rs 8000 from foreign helping hands to per student in its initiation selected by the group members. The organization had a

compulsion to stop the sponsorship program in middle of the project at end of the year. The financial help supported by our foreign partners was stopped because of the organizational differences, contradictions, controversies, and hence we could not be able to hand over the second installment of the sponsorship.

Micro loan program:

ADWAN has been conducting various types of activities, forming groups of Dalit & other Marginalized Women. Realizing the fact that only by group formation, scholarship distribution, sponsorship distribution, and Ambitious Girls Fund distribution could bring no changes in life style and income generating activities as targeted, the organization has distributed micro loan of 2000 to each group which was formed by the organization. We have made available an easy loan mobilization to Shree Chandi Saving and Credit Cooperative that is running in Taklung. The microloan has been distributed to ADWAN affiliated Women's Groups in Gorkha, Arghakhachi, Baglung, and Chiwan districts. The group members are taking loan for the occupations under the program that counts direct income generation through goat rearing; white-pig rearing, poultry farming, retailer's shop, and shop for electric items etc. Presently, we have availed short term loan to sixty seven women's group in which all women groups have repaid the loan except five groups. We have also availed the loan sum of Rs. 50,000 to the women who are able to run the occupation successfully and make more profit from the occupation. About 800 Dalit and other Marginalized women have been benefitted from this program. Majority of the women's economic condition has been transformed through this program.

Dalit and other Marginalized women directly benefited by such program can be seen from observation and monitoring report of the organization. The organization has been running about Rs. 15 lakhs microloan to ADWAN affiliated Women Groups and its Individual members.

8. Various trainings:

ADWAN has been conducting Capacity Building, Skill Development, Personal Development, and Refreshment Training etc to its affiliated individual, and staff of Working Committee, Executive Committee, Trainings for Project Writing, Group Mobilization, Human Rights, Women and Reproductive Health also etc have been conducted under the program to the field workers in fiscal year 2016. The trainer's training (TOT) has been conducted Representation of Development for trainers in its office. The organization does believe in overall development of individual and organization through such trainings.

Coordination with VDC:

In fiscal year 2016, the organization distributed seeds to the women who have received training for agricultural production in support of European Union funded project "Ensuring Rights through Skill & Voice "in coordination with Taklung VDC of Gorkha district.

Activities allocated under the project:

Rights through Skill and Voice Project of European Union:

Ensuring Rights through Skill and Voice project (Dec 2014 to June 2017) has been running activities with the financial support of European Union, in collaboration with British Council and ADWAN in

the VDCs (Ghairung, Taklung, Manakamna, Bakrang, Yangli chowk, Phujel, and Makaising) of Gorkha District. In this project, Dalit & other Marginalized Women have received Skill Development and Basic Human Rights Trainings. Other trainings e.g., Goat Rearing, Sewing and Cutting, Poultry Farming, Mushroom Production, Handmade Stool, Ginger Farming, Incense Making, Social Accountability, Group Formation, community scoring letters, Public Hearing, Participatory Budgetary and Strategic Workshop, Seminar etc have been conducted.

There are five trainings of Skill Development conducted in this short period where 101 Dalit & other Marginalized Women have participated. Similarly, 13 trainings of Basic Skill Development have also been conducted with the participation of seventy seven Dalit & Marginalized Women. Seventy people have received the training of Social Accountability whereas practice of tools on Social Accountability is going on. Entrepreneurship training has been received by six people. Two workshops have been conducted on strategic plan. Similarly, suggestions were received from the meeting held with the project coordination committee at VDC level. It was transmitted through the radio. The coordination and participation with the local government and non government organization were intensified. Midterm evaluation of the project was also conducted. There have been saving and mobilization programs forming the group of Dalit & other Marginalized Women. However, Dalit & Marginalized Women are involved in the income generating activities. Their economic condition has been improved as well as social and political level has also been increased. They have also become aware of their rights.

Temporary Housing Project of ADWAN for Earthquake affected:

ADWAN has been working continuously for the last 15/16 years in the field of Dalit & Marginalized women and children. Similarly, it has been providing financial support in natural calamities in different regions. In this respect, the working area of ADWAN in Gorkha district was badly affected by the devastating earthquake of 30 th apr. 2015. In that disaster Immediately ADWAN had distributed relief items in the VDCs named Taklung, Manakamna, Bakrang, Ghairung. Phujel, Dhunga Gade, Taksar, Tanlichowk, and Tolak. Many houses of Taklung and Manakamna VDCs, colored sheet of asbestos were distributed to fifty nine houses in ward no. 1, Bakreshwari of Manakamna VDC. Under the project of building eight toilets and smokeless stove, during the training period seven smokeless stoves and ten stoves were built after the completion of training. For the construction of roofed house, colored sheet of asbestos have been distributed to 113 household ,11 pot cleaning places and 15 smokeless stoves have been built the earthquake affected area, ward no. 2 and 5, of Taklung VDC.

c. Temporary Housing for earthquake affected and Stove making program of AJWS-It is

known fact that Gorkha, the most vulnerable earthquake -hit district of Nepal has had the worst impact of Earthquake. Phujel VDC was also affected badly by the devastating earthquake dated 30 April 2015. The immediate relief was distributed by ADWAN to earthquake victims in that village development Committee, It was the plan of the project to give training to mason and to distribute sheets of colored asbestos for the damaged fifty to fifty five houses \ in ward no 1, 8 and 9 (of the same VDC) with the financial support of American Jewish World Service in coordination with ADWAN. But being delayed in giving support to reconstruction work by Nepal Government, only asbestos was distributed by increasing the number of households to one hundred thirty nine (Dalit and Non Dalit). Through the same project, eighteen toilets including the repair work of damaged one

and pot cleaning places were constructed in 60 houses of Dalit community. As the plan to make 250 smokeless stoves after the construction of new house in ward no 1, 8 and 9 of the same VDC, the training for smokeless stove was completed by then. In addition altogether 36 smokeless stoves have been built in which seven during the training and twenty nine were built after its completion.

d. Programs of Karuna Trust on Livelihood and Rights for earthquake affected Trust- until Dalit & Marginalized Women become strong economically, they cannot be enriched socially politically, and educationally. ADWAN has been conducting various projects for it related to livelihoods and human rights to make its affiliated women members of women's group economically strong. In 2016, the new projects for livelihoods and rights have been continued through ADWAN in Taksar and Dhungagade of Gorkha Municipality financially supported by Karuna Trust and Friends of ADWAN (FAN).

Programs Executed in Coordination with other Organizations

a. March 21, International Day for the Elimination of Apartheid and Caste Discrimination- Started from the Western countries, every year the Civil Society, Dalit Political Association, and Dalit activists are celebrating the International Day for the Elimination of Apartheid and Caste Discrimination. In such programs, the organization is participating as program organizer and a commentator in its concerned discussions. In fiscal year 2016, the organization had conducted program participated by Iva Kasel, Matilda and women members on 21 March in its branch office situated at Taklung VDC of Gorakha district.

b. In General Meeting of Human Rights:

In General Meeting, held on the occasion of 67th International Day for Human Rights, the organization has played its role as a commentator in various committee of its concern, secretariat and being in leading role within the Management Committee,.

c. Jeshtha 21: Declaration of Untouchable free in Nepal:

On 21 Jeshtha, after the establishment of Democracy, the Democratic Government had declared untouchable free in Nepal. The organization has been participating actively in programs organized by Dalit Civil society, Dalit Political Struggle Committee celebrating the day as an occasion by forming rally and meeting

Summary:

Women's economic, social, educational, political, and cultural standard is lower as compared to men even in twenty first century. The main factor of this prevailing situation of ill practices, violence, rites and rituals, discriminatory social law inspired by patriarchal, social structure and Hindu religion. This bitter truth is visibly seen in women of all ages and levels, living within the orbit of unequal social structure, constructed by patriarchal society which annihilates them from progress. However, ADWAN has been succeeded to accomplish the achievable programs for rights, welfare of Dalit & Marginalized Women.