

Empowering women to fight against Gender-Based-Violence in Nepal

OCTOBER 15, 2025





Empowering women to fight Gender-Based-Violence

1.Introduction

WACN undertook several activities aimed at addressing gender-based violence (GBV) and empowering women. One key initiative was an inception workshop titled "Prevention and Response to Gender Violence Society through Economic Empowerment of Women" held at Banepa Municipality. The workshop engaged stakeholders, including local leaders, financial institutions, and community groups, to discuss strengthening legal aid services, organizing awareness campaigns, promoting entrepreneurship, and forming Women Dialogue Groups (WDGs). The program sought to empower women legally and economically while addressing GBV, with a commitment to collaborate on program goals.

Legal support for GBV survivors was emphasized through an orientation program for WDGs. This initiative focused on raising awareness, creating safe spaces, and empowering women economically and socially. The program also addressed challenges such as societal stigma against advocates, resistance in conservative communities, and the reluctance of victims to voice their concerns.

A five-day training program on gender violence, women's legal rights, and social justice equipped participants with the skills to raise awareness about GBV and provide legal assistance. The training enhanced participants' communication and advocacy skills while highlighting challenges like complex topics, resistance in communities, and societal stigma.

Economic empowerment activities included training on organic incense and leaf plate making, which provided women with practical skills to generate income and promote sustainability. The training focused on production techniques, business management, and market opportunities, enabling participants to reduce their vulnerability to GBV while improving livelihoods.

The advocacy and policy workshop brought together stakeholders, including parliament members, legal experts, and civil society leaders, to address GBV and promote women's empowerment. The workshop emphasized collective responsibility, grassroots action, and robust legal frameworks as critical strategies. Across all activities, the program demonstrated the importance of community engagement, systemic support, and sustainable economic empowerment in creating a safer and more inclusive society for women.



2.PROGRAM OVERVIEW

| Activities | Key Details |
|---|---|
| <p>Building social capital against GBV- enhancing local women awareness by leveraging the capacity of groups.</p> | <p>The program started with an inception meeting titled “Prevention and Response to Gender Violence in Nepali Society through Economic Empowerment of Women” at Banepa Municipality. The event was attended by 37 participants, including key stakeholders such as the Chairperson and Vice Chairperson of Banepa Municipality, the Chairperson of the Banepa Network, news reporters, and representatives from financial organizations and community groups in Banepa.</p> <p>The program's primary goal is to empower women both legally and economically by enhancing access to legal services, developing livelihood support initiatives, and fostering a shift in societal values. Discussions during the meeting covered several critical topics, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthening Legal Aid Services: Improving current legal aid mechanisms and fostering collaboration with local legal authorities. • Awareness and Training Initiatives: Organizing workshops on women’s rights, capacity-building training programs, and awareness campaigns against gender-based violence (GBV), leveraging social media influencers. • Economic Empowerment Activities: Promoting entrepreneurship opportunities and creating livelihood support systems. • Community Engagement: Establishing a Women Dialogue Group (WDG) and identifying Local Resource Persons (LRPs) to support and sustain the program's objectives. <p>The chief guest highlighted the pivotal role of education in empowering women economically and socially, emphasizing that women constitute more than half of the population in the community. This program seeks to address gender violence by equipping women with the necessary tools and resources to assert their rights and achieve independence.</p> |



| | |
|--|---|
| <p>Training program for women on “Gender Violence, Women's Legal Rights, and Social Justice”</p> | <p>Five-Day Training Program on Gender Violence, Women’s Legal Rights, and Social Justice</p> <p>WACN successfully conducted a five-day training program aimed at equipping facilitators with the skills needed to raise awareness about gender-based violence and provide legal assistance to affected individuals. The program aimed to contribute to the long-term goal of promoting social justice and improving women’s livelihoods through enhanced legal knowledge and support mechanisms.</p> <p>Key Training Topics</p> <p>The training covered critical topics designed to deepen participants’ understanding and capacity to address gender violence, legal rights, and social justice. These included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Laws and Policies: Overview of existing laws and policies concerning gender violence and women’s legal rights.• Legal Frameworks: Importance of robust frameworks to support victims and survivors of gender-based violence.• Legal Documentation: Accurate methods for documenting gender violence cases, with a focus on maintaining legal precision.• Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI): Promoting GESI principles as a cornerstone of societal transformation.• Role of Media in GESI Awareness: Leveraging media to advocate for marginalized women and raise awareness about GESI. <p>The sessions were facilitated by advocates Krishna Pyari Nakarmi, Jamuna Pasachein, Tara Devi Shrestha, Ramita Manandhar, and media expert Nagendra Adhikari. Their insights provided a comprehensive understanding of laws, policies, legal documentation formats, and the critical role of media in promoting gender equality.</p> <p>Participant Engagement</p> <p>The training adopted a participatory approach, engaging representatives of the Women Dialogue Group (WDG) in discussions and activities to strengthen their understanding of program objectives. Participants learned about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The role of WDGs in minimizing gender violence.• The responsibilities of WDG members in advocating for legal rights and promoting social justice. <p>Real-life case scenarios were incorporated to provide practical insights and ensure participants could apply their knowledge effectively in real-world situations.</p> <p>Achievements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Participants gained practical knowledge about the role and responsibilities of WDGs in addressing gender-based violence.• The training helped participants enhance their communication skills, enabling them to advocate for women’s legal rights and promote social justice.• The interactive format, combined with expert facilitation, ensured high |
|--|---|



engagement and better retention of key concepts.

Challenges Encountered

While the training was successful, a few challenges emerged

1. Complex Subject Matter: Some participants felt that additional time was needed to explore certain topics and case studies in greater depth.
2. Resistance in Communities: Participants expressed concerns about the difficulty of implementing learnings in conservative communities resistant to change.
3. Need for Continued Support: Without ongoing guidance, the knowledge acquired during the training may not be sustained.

Expectations from the Training

Participants highlighted several key areas of interest

- In-depth knowledge of gender-based violence and relevant laws.
- Skills to raise their voices and advocate publicly.
- Strategies for supporting and counseling victims of gender and domestic violence.
- Practical methods to minimize violence in society.
- Capacity-building to spread awareness about gender violence and social inclusion.
- Clarity on property rights, citizenship rights, and divorce laws within the GESI framework.

Nari Chetana Kendra Nepal

(Women Awareness Centre, Nepal)- WACN

P.O. Box: 2245 Gyaneshwar Kathmandu, Nepal

Email: wacn@mos.com.np ; Phone: +977-1-4417355