



E-Newsletter

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Preparing Single Women as Future Politicians

Women for Human Rights (WHR) with the support of Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES) held a three day workshop on “Promoting Single Women for Political Participation in Peace Building” from July 4th to 6th, 2012. There were 30 participants from all 5 development regions.

The 30 dynamic single women were selected and trained as political leaders to represent their respective districts. They will educate their single women groups on gender, political and electoral issues. Workshop focused on potential gender issues in elections, electoral cycle, quota debates and affirmative actions.



There was an intensive panel discussion on women in political world, barriers women face in accessing electoral process and sharing past best and worst practices from local, regional and global levels. The panel also discussed on strategies to increase single women’s participation at policy level and fostering peace.

Ex-CA members shared lessons learnt, what the future leaders can expect, and to discuss challenges and obstacles they will face in the days ahead. The later session focused on strategies for advocacy, awareness, campaigns, networking nationally, internationally and role of single women groups in politics.

At the end of the workshop, the 30 selected single women were fully prepared to become an active and successful political leader in their region, to work on post conflict peace building process in Nepal.



First Steps Towards Fighting for the Rights of Vaikalyas

Women for Human Rights, along with Pro Public filed for the rights of Vaikalyas (child widows) on 28th December, 2009. Often Vaikalyas are unaware of who they were married to nor in which village. They are deprived of basic human rights such as regular meals clothing, access to education, freedom to travel.

After 3 years, on 16th May, 2012, the Supreme Court announced that such traditions are ill practices. The Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare will establish a working committee to see, this practice is eliminated. The Ministry will also collect data on the number of Vaikalyas and their conditions. It will also raise awareness on this issue and see that various programs are established to help Vaikalyas.

Regional Planning



On June 1st and June 2nd the Staff Projection Workshop was held at Chhahari Services. The main objective of the workshop was to ensure the roles of staff, clear visioning of the staffs

work in their respective district as well as coordination between central, regional and district offices.

During the workshop the following decisions were made that district office, regional office must submit the board meeting minutes every month to central office.

The regions also shared some of their districts achievements. Dadheldura shared that single women have planted green coriander with support of members of the group and will register soon. Sunsari announced that they were able to purchase a Maruti van from their personal assets.

The workshop was effective and all the staff from 5 regions and districts were clarified about their roles and responsibilities. Every district project staff and regional staff have made their six month action plan and based on this they will implement their activities in their regions and districts.

WHR Radio PSA has been running since June 15th 2012 the first PSA 50 seconds runs at 12:00 pm before Khulla Manch and at 7:30 pm between Khulla Manch. The second PSA 60 seconds runs at 8:00 am and 4:00 pm before Halchal News in Sagarmatha Radio.

WHR TV PSA is also being currently aired in Nepal Television starting August 2nd Thursday before Tito Satya or on Tuesday night before Meri Basai.

Training on Mushroom Farming



With support from Municipality, Women for Human Rights, single women group, provided 7 days training on Mushroom Farming to 38 single women of Bhaktapur. The training was held on June 22nd to June 28th, 2012. After receiving the training, the participants planned on starting their own mushroom business.

Strengthening Regional Offices

GIZ held a workshop at WHR on July 2nd and July 3rd 2012, about establishing an Action Plan for the Development Intervention July 2012 - June 2013. As part of Organizational Development and Decentralization Process. WHR has set up development offices in all five development regions in order to make them more sustainable.



One of the urgent needs of WHR is to strengthen regional networks of single women and enhance capacity of its staff as well as members. In order to strengthen regional networks, the capacity development of staff and its members of central and regional offices are needed. Therefore a decision was made to recruit 2 local expert in Surkhet in Midwestern region and Kailali in Farwestern region.

The local experts will help the two districts to coordinate with the central office, write accurate reports as well as facilitate in organizing and developing Kailali and Surkhet.

Securing the Rights of Older Citizens

From 28th July to 2nd August 2012, Reshma Thapa Project Coordinator of WHR visited Older Citizen Monitoring Group (OCMG) in Jhapa, Ilam, Sunsari and Chitwan. The main purpose of the visit was to monitor the project activities and its proper implementation.



Earlier visit to Bhaktapur on July 9th older citizens provided numerous suggestions on problems and challenges as well as their expectation from WHR. The major outcomes of the project has been sensitization on the issues of older citizens and promotion of their rights as well as realization about the importance of older citizens and their contribution in development process.

Currently door to door surveys are also being conducted in these districts by OCMGs to ensure that the older citizens are receiving their allowances as well as health benefits.

National Workshop



Women for Human Rights, single women group (WHR) with the support from United Nations Democracy Fund (UNDEF) organized a National Workshop on 'Mainstreaming Single Women Issues in Public Policy' on June 3rd 2012.

The reason for the workshop was to update on the activities five development regions have been conducting as well as the challenges and issues faced by them. A decision was also made on drafting a policy recommendation on 'Mainstreaming Single Women Issues in Public Policy' to be presented to the parliamentarians.

The main objectives of the workshop was to mainstream widows issues in public policy, discuss the roles of single women in the women's empowerment movement especially pertaining to the new political situation and developing strong as well as efficient coordination among districts, region and central offices to raise awareness about single women issues.

There was active participation of 131 single women including district committee member and office staff from five development region and 20 districts.

Access to Justice

WHR has been working towards empowering single women through different programs, advocating about their rights and working as a mediator and pressure group.



On June 28th, 2012 WHR supported by UNDEF organized "Single Women's Access and Enhancement Towards Justice" program. The main objective of the workshop

was to review legal status of single women and the role of WHR in protecting their rights.

For the past 18 years WHR has been providing trainings, conducting interactive programs and workshops in gender equality, diminishing violence against women as well as protecting their human rights.



The new Chhahari Showroom opened in Baluwatar in June 2012. It has merchandises ranging from fashion tops, dolls, pasni clothes to decorative items for your home all created by single women.



Political Participation Workshop



Rally to pressure the Government to promulgate the new Nepal Constitution.

SANWED

South Asian Network for Widows' Empowerment in Development (SANWED) was held in Pakistan at Aurat Foundation. The workshop on 23rd May and 24th May 2012, focused on issues and challenges faced by widows and single women across South Asia. It aimed at creating linkages at local, regional and international levels for mainstreaming their rights in public policy and institutional frameworks.



Ms. Lily Thapa, founder of Women for Human Rights (WHR), who is also the General Secretary of SANWED, actively participated in this workshop.

Capacity Building Training at Bhaktapur

On June 5th and 6th 2012, single women group from Bhaktapur organized capacity building trainings. More than 50 single women were able to attend this training.



The facilitators from the central office discussed a variety of topics including empowerment of the group, information on legal rights and policy changes as well as information on savings and credit program.

Asian Paints (Nepal) Pvt. Limited, along with their employees, has once again provided their support to needy children of single women. Thanks to their generosity 83 children are able to continue their studies.



They have donated NRs. 2,49,000, an unforgettable gift for these children. In the two years of continuous support 2068 B.S. and 2069 B.S., Asian Paints (Nepal) and their employees have put these children in the road of success.



Along with Asian Paints, IFP (Incontro fra i Popoli) has also been a big contributor in Opportunity Fund. Your contributions have made a huge difference in the lives of many single women and their children. With the help of IFP scholarship has been provided to 79 children through Opportunity Fund. Also with the support from IFP Chhahari is being constructed in Chandragadi, Jhapa.

WHR would like to express heartfelt gratitude to Asian Paints, IFP as well as all other donors for their continuous support.

Thanks to donors like you Opportunity Fund has so far has been able to send more than 1000 children and 20 single women to school.



Aurat Foundation visit to WHR



Mushroom farming Bhaktapur



Budget Planning with Policy Makers



Dhading Chhahari Foundation Puja

Story of Ganesh G.C.



Ganesh G.C. 45, is a single woman from Dhading, who with the help of her single women group, was able to receive a loan and purchase her truck. In order to drive her truck everywhere as well as at night she changed her name to her husband's name and began to dress like a man. She was honoured by the Dhading single women group on May 30th 2012.



Ganesh G.C. driving her truck



Regional Staff Training

Even with all the dangers she might have to face in quiet roads and thick forests, she continues to drive her truck fearlessly and earn a living.

Ganesh's story forces us to question and look deep into Nepal's societal norms on why a women has to dress as a man and change her name to her husband's name to overcome any insecurities she might face while doing her job?

Despite this she still continues to inspire all of us!



International Widow's Day in Kavre



OCMG Field Visit

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