

WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP ACADEMY (WLA)

Report on Effective Legislative Practices/Mock Parliament Program for Women Constituent Assembly/Parliament Members



National Democratic Institute for International Affairs (NDI)



United States Agency for International Development (USAID)



Forum for Protection of Public Interest (Pro Public)

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Acknowledgements

This program report was prepared jointly by NDI-Nepal and Pro Public after successfully completing Effective Legislative Practices/Mock Parliament program in ten districts (Jhapa, Udaypur, Terahthum, Mahottari, Sarlahi, Chitwan, Kavrepalanchok, Gorkha, Baglung and Banke).

The Institute gratefully acknowledges the support of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), which provided funding for this program. The Institute would like to thank the Women's Leadership Academy (WLA) steering committee members for their valuable input throughout the program and give special thanks to all the women Constituent Assembly (CA) members for their valuable contribution and presentations. The Institute would also like to thank Pro Public for providing logistic support during the entire program period. Finally, the Institute highly appreciates the contributions and involvement of NDI-Nepal staff members for making this program a success.

Map of program districts

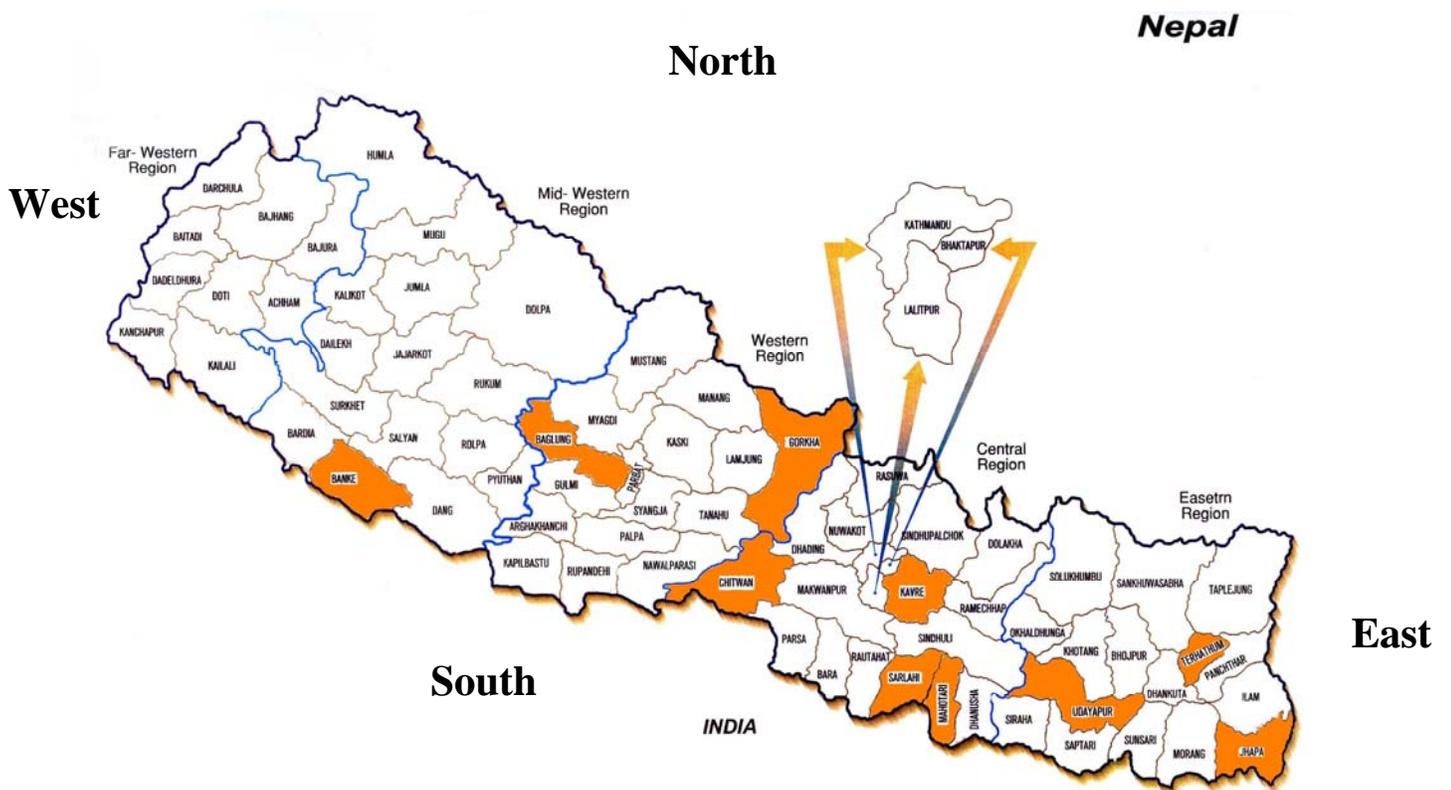


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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Since 2009, the National Democratic Institute – Nepal (NDI) has administered an Effective Legislative Practices program, funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). In February 2010, NDI launched a Mock Parliament project as part of this program.

The objective of this project was to provide opportunities for district-level political party members, representatives of civil society organizations (CSOs) and representatives of media organizations to improve their knowledge of parliamentary processes and to interact with Constituent Assembly (CA) members. By training 60 women CA members (all graduates of NDI's Women's Leadership Academy (WLA) program) to conduct the Mock Parliament workshops, the Institute also contributed to achieving that program's objective of demonstrating the effectiveness of elected members (**Please refer to Appendix 1 for the list of CA members**).

In February and March 2010 NDI, with local logistics partner, Pro-Public, conducted three-day Mock Parliament workshops in ten districts across Nepal. Approximately 60-70 local women attended each workshop. These workshops emphasized participant interaction with the presenting CA members and a practical Mock Parliament session to reinforce information provided in theoretical sessions. Similar workshops will be run until 2014, at a rate of ten districts per year.

Feedback was overwhelmingly positive with participants from all districts reporting improved knowledge of parliamentary procedures as well as improved confidence in their understanding of these issues. NDI plans to conduct similar Mock Parliaments in a total of 50 districts over the next five years. Detailed below is a description of the methodology and conduct of each session, evaluations, and lessons learned from the program.

INTRODUCTION

Civics education programs play an important role in developing and sustaining robust democracies. They promote greater awareness of the rights and duties conferred by citizenship. They encourage better understanding of the roles and responsibilities of political leaders, and they disseminate information on the ways in which constituents can become engaged in political decision-making.

When a political landscape is making the transition to democracy, many citizens (if not most) often lack the knowledge, behavior and values necessary for democracy to become institutionalized. In established democracies, these attributes have been instilled over many years. In developing countries, by the time a young adult reaches maturity, he or she will have already experienced years of exposure to political debate, courtesy of an open media. They have often received various types of civic education, been exposed to electoral campaigning, and possibly accompanied his or her parents when they cast their own votes. In established democracies, the casting of a first vote is often seen as a milestone in a young adult's life.

In developing democracies, however, the requisite attributes have not been ingrained in individuals through years of exposure. Citizens may possess the desire to engage in the political process but lack the confidence or knowledge of “how to” become involved. They may ardently support the right to ‘make their voice heard’ and understand the importance of doing so, but lack the skills and values necessary to make an independent decision regarding how their vote should be used. In developing countries, civics education programs for both adults and young people can play a crucial role in promoting the knowledge, values and behavior necessary for the survival of a fledgling democracy until such time as these attributes become institutionalized.

METHODOLOGY

NDI and USAID determined that a program that combined training and civic education for parliamentarians was necessary to encourage the participation of women in the political process and to increase public knowledge of parliamentary proceedings during a period of rapid political change. A number of principles guided the development of the program: first, the information provided had to be at a level easily understood by participants; second, the program had to be targeted to women, and third, the program must be interactive and include opportunities for debate. Following these principles, and training of Women CA members on Effective Legislative Practices, NDI held Mock Parliaments in ten districts in February and March 2010. Similar workshops will be held through 2014, at a rate of ten districts per year.

Given the importance of political parties in Nepal, NDI determined that the program would be most effective if material was presented by CA members. This approach would allow participating CA members to increase and institutionalize their own knowledge of certain parliamentary procedures as well as provide participants with an opportunity to interact with parliamentarians shortly before the promulgation of the new constitution.

The CA members selected to take part in the program were all first tier graduates of NDI’s WLA program. In addition, all had identified constituencies or districts from which they had been elected or that they chose to represent. In addition to the Effective Legislative Practices training, each participating CA member had to make herself available to attend a two-day Mock Parliament orientation session in Kathmandu and travel to at least one district for a three-day Mock Parliament workshop.

The criteria used to select the ten districts for the 2010 program were that: workshops must be held in each of Nepal’s five development regions; districts in which NDI had conducted public hearings in the in 2009 were excluded; and, each selected district must be represented by at least one first tier WLA graduate.

Preparation

1. Research and consultation with the WLA Steering Committee was undertaken to determine which topics would be of most use to participants and should, therefore, be covered in the sessions. (The list of topics covered is discussed below in the Mock Parliament section)

2. Following a competitive process, local NGO Pro Public was selected to assist in the running of each workshop. Pro Public was selected because of its experience in running community-based programs throughout Nepal and its extensive district-level networks. In addition, NDI and Pro Public had successfully worked together in the past, most recently during the public hearings conducted in 2009.
3. Materials were prepared for the training of all persons to be involved in conducting the programs. These included detailed briefing notes on all topics to be covered during the sessions and had been presented in the Effective Legislative Practices training.
4. A briefing book was compiled for distribution to all participants. This included written versions of all presentations to be made by CA members and sample questions to ask during the practical Mock Parliament session, to encourage audience participation.

Comprehensive Training

1. Workshop for CA members

In November 2009, NDI conducted a five-day workshop on Effective Legislative Practices providing a platform for women CA members to discuss comparative governmental, electoral systems and federalism options under consideration for the new constitution. The objective of the program was to raise the level of awareness of the participants on these issues and enhance their parliamentary skills through interaction.

Sixty CA members from ten political parties, representing a wide cross section of ethnic and regional affiliations, took part in the program. Members of the WLA Steering Committee also actively participated in the program (**Please refer to Appendix 2 for workshop report**)

2. Re-Orientation for CA members

Forty-four CA members from nine political parties, all WLA graduates, attended a two-day orientation workshop in Kathmandu, held at Hotel Malla. A number of male CA Steering Committee members also attended, as did the Honorable Narhari Acharya, speaker on the past experiences of the parliament, and Mukunda Sharma, Spokesperson of the Legislative Parliament Secretariat, who assisted in the conduct of the orientation.

During the first day of the orientation, NDI staff members gave presentations on the topics to be covered during each Mock Parliament. While the information provided was not new to the politicians, many commented that these sessions provided a valuable ‘refresher course on the intricacies’ of certain parliamentary procedures. Renowned Nepali Congress (NC) politician Narahari Acharya also presented a number of topics, encouraging the active participation of other CA members, who vigorously debated several points.

The second day of orientation consisted of a Mock Parliament session, modeled on those that would be conducted in the districts. CA members were introduced to the mock bill that would be debated with session and techniques for increasing audience participation

were discussed. The Mock Parliament session was opened and very ably led by Parliament Secretariat representative Mukunda Sharma.

3. Pro Public training and activities

In each of the ten districts, a district logistics coordinator and assistant were selected and briefed by Pro Public. NDI together with a Pro Public staff member from Kathmandu was identified to travel to each district as a central logistics coordinator. NDI held training for these coordinators the necessary components required to organize and conduct the Parliamentary session

NDI prepared detailed guidelines for the selection of participants, and following discussion with local CA members, were then invited by Pro Public. Of the 55 participants invited in each district, 45 were members of political parties, seven were representatives of CSOs and three were representatives of media organizations. Invitations were issued to members of political parties in proportion to each party's presence in the relevant district. In Chitwan, for example, 12 participants were invited from each of the NC and Communist Party Nepal-Unified Marxist Leninist (UML) parties, and one participant was invited from the Tarai Madhes Loktantrik Party (TMLP) and Madhesi Jana Adhikar Forum (MJF). In Sarlahi, however, six participants were invited from each of these four parties.

Pro Public also made the arrangements for the venues at which the programs would be held and arranged other local logistics matters including meals and refreshments.

Conduct of the Mock Parliaments

The ten districts selected to host Mock Parliaments in 2010 were: Jhapa, Udayapur and Terathum in the east; Kavrepalanchowk, Chitwan, Sarlahi and Mahottari in the central; Gorkha and Baglung in the west; and Banke in the mid-west.

Each Mock Parliament was held in a hall and moderated by a local Pro Public staff member. NDI and Pro Public representatives introduced themselves and outlined the role of their organizations. CA members introduced themselves and gave brief outlines of the routes by which they had entered politics, information that was very well-received by participants. Once participants had introduced themselves, the presentations on the issues of parliamentary process commenced. **(Please refer to Appendix 3 for Program Agenda)**

The first two days of each three-day workshop were dedicated to presentations by the CA Members; participating CA members divided amongst themselves the responsibility for the numerous topics. The presentations made on the first day focused on matters of legislative procedure and the law-making process. Specific topics included were:

- Roles and responsibilities of members of Parliament;
- The purpose of a constitution;
- The difference between a Constituent Assembly and a Legislature/Parliament;
- Functions of a Parliament;

- Plenary sessions (Full House);
- Parliamentary committees;
- Types of legislation;
- Introducing, debating, amending and passing bills;
- The roles of interest groups, external agencies, and citizens; and,
- The role of the media.

Presentations made on the second day focused matters related to the budgetary process and ‘people, party and Parliament’. Specific topics included:

- The role and importance of the national budget;
- The role of members of Parliament and central and local government agencies in relation to the budgetary process;
- Gender budgeting;
- The role of political parties;
- The role of caucuses;
- Advocacy; and,
- Individual access to parliamentary procedures.

Day two also included preparation for the practical Mock Parliament session scheduled to take place the following day. Preparation included discussion of the mock bill, assignment of specific roles for each of the participants and examination of the way Parliament functions.

Day three’s practical Mock Parliament session was undoubtedly the highlight of the program for participants. Participants assumed their pre assigned roles for the session:

- Speaker (assigned to a CA member);
- Prime Minister (assigned to a CA member);
- Ministers;
- Leader of the Opposition;
- Opposition members of Parliament;
- Ruling members of Parliament;
- Committee Chair;
- Committee members;
- Chief whip and whips;
- Media personnel; and
- Lobbyists.

The Mock Parliament incorporated as many parliamentary procedures and traditions as possible. The Speaker was sworn in and all participants stood as the national anthem was played to open the session. Seating had been rearranged into a ‘U’ set-up with Government members on one side and Opposition members on the other. Reading notes for the Speaker has been drafted in consultation with the representatives of the Legislative Parliament Secretariat.

NDI staff members had drafted a mock bill for passage through the legislative process, the subject of which was women’s representation in the public sector. Similar to the legislation currently before the Indian Parliament, the mock bill called for 33 percent of all public sector appointments,

including appointments by Cabinet and appointments to committees and commissions, to be reserved for women.

Once the national anthem had been played and the Parliamentary session declared open, the CA members led the participants in progressing the bill through all stages of the legislative process. The bill was introduced, debated and referred to committee for consideration. Media personnel interviewed Government and Opposition leaders and lobbyists met with them to advance their agenda. Party whips ensured the party discipline necessary to the legislation's timely passage.

Even those participants not assigned a specific task played an active role in the Mock Parliament. CA members were kept busy responding to well-articulated questions, and during debates interjections from the floor were common. Upon the conclusion of the session, each participant was presented with a certificate of attendance. These certificates were very much appreciated and contributed to the growing awareness amongst participants that 'politics is not just for politicians.'

Monitoring and Evaluation

In accordance with the goals of the Effective Legislative Practices program, NDI designed an evaluation methodology that would enable it to measure both change in participants' knowledge of parliamentary processes and change in their confidence in their own level of understanding of such processes.

Accordingly, the methodology had two components: a pre-evaluation form and a post-evaluation form. Participants completed the pre-evaluation form on day one of the program, after introductions had been made (by which time they were more at ease in what was, for some, a relatively formal setting) but before any presentations had been made. The post-evaluation form was distributed on day three and included questions to generate narrative responses regarding perception of the program, as well as the multiple choice and subjective 'rate your level of understanding' questions that were repeated from the pre-evaluation form.

It was perhaps a mark of participants' enthusiasm for the program that there was a very high return rate of completed evaluation forms. The majority of respondents also took the time to include thoughtful responses to the narrative questions, thereby providing NDI with valuable material in planning its future Mock Parliament programs.

**REPORT OF THE PROCEEDINGS
SUBMITTED BY PRO PUBLIC**

**Effective Legislative Practices/Mock Parliament Program
Report Submitted by Pro-Public**

Introduction

The Forum for Protection of Public Interest (Pro Public) in collaboration with the National Democratic Institute for International Affairs (NDI) conducted three day long "Effective Legislative Practices/Mock Parliament Programs" in ten districts (Jhapa, Udayapur, Terathum, Mahottari, Sarlahi, Chitwan, Kavrepalanchowk, Gorkha, Baglung, and Banke) for approximately 550 women. Forty five local leaders of different political parties, seven representatives from the civil society organizations and three representatives from media attended the program in each district. The CA/Parliament members were used as the resource persons and the facilitators in each of the districts. Topics for all the district level sessions included: legislative procedures, law making process, budgetary process, role of the people, party and the parliament as they later simulated parliamentary sessions as well as the very basics of all the legislative practices.

Before organizing this program in all the districts, the CA/Parliament members were trained by both international and national resource persons during the workshop organized by NDI in November 2009 in Kathmandu.

The main objective of this program was to increase the level of awareness among the participants on all topics mentioned above. Similarly, it was also expected that the program would enable participant to develop general awareness of the parliamentary procedures and activities. Furthermore, these session helped establish a strong and active triangular (state, civil society, and grassroots) development paradigm on strengthening democracy, the legislative process and on the policy development.

The district for these workshops had been selected on the basis of their geographic distribution, party wide presence and ethnic/caste divergence of the CA/Parliament members.

A short report of all the events of the ten districts is given below separately:

Jhapa

The Effective Legislative Practices/Mock Parliament Program was organized on February 19 to 21, 2010 in hotel Heaven, Birtamode, Jhapa. The first day of the three day workshop on Legislative Practices/Mock Parliament with the objective of strengthening democracy as it also happened to be the Democracy Day of Nepal. It also aimed at the capacity building of politically active women of Jhapa district.

Registration of the participants was followed by a tea break thereafter; the informal inaugural session was chaired by Sunita Sharma, Central Logistic Coordinator of Pro Public. The Chief District Officer, political party district level leaders were present in the inaugural session delivered their short speech on the positive aspects of the program that was being organised. Likewise, introduction of the CA/Parliament members, NDI and Pro Public staff along with the participants was done amidst much enthusiasm. The CA/Parliament members also put forward their opinion along with their introduction and on how they became Parliamentarians.

The participants of this district seemed to be aware of their rights and had fair level of political consciousness as well. This was due to the reason that Jhapa district had played a major role during the democratic movement in Nepal. Also the roles of their ancestors and some of the CA/P members themselves had played key roles for the restoration of democracy in the country during the historic movements in Nepal.

Sunita Sharma, Central Logistic Coordinator of Pro Public and Ram Guragain, Senior Program Advisor of NDI respectively delivered welcome speech, brief introduction and objectives of the program that were highlighted along with further information on the program activities of Pro Public and NDI.

Hon. Mahalaxmi Upadhyay spoke on the parliament, parliamentary practices, roles and responsibilities of a CA/Parliament member, constitution and its various committees. She further made presentation on all the aspects of constitution making process, the importance of working in a unified manner towards the cause of women in the country amidst all diversities.

Similarly, Hon. Neelam K.C. further facilitated on the difference between the CA and the Parliament, a full house session in the parliament and the role of a parliamentary caucus, committees, nomination of its members and their tenure. Hon. Usha Kala Rai spoke on the law making process, draft bills, roles played by different committees and on the entire process involved towards formulating laws. She further emphasized on how bill is amended and the roles of a citizen, various agencies, stakeholders, parliamentarians, lobbyists and the media in law making process.

On the second day of the workshop, after registration and some brief recap on the previous day session, some question was also put up by the participants. Hon. Usha Gurung took a session on budget; the entire process of budget making and roles of the CA/P members during the formulation of a budget, roles of government agencies like; Ministry of Finance (MoF), National Planning Commission (NPC), District Development Committee (DDC), the municipality and the Village Development Committee (VDC). She also highlighted on the gender budgeting and its importance in the current times for the real empowerment of the women.

Ram Guragain and Hon. Neelam Khadka provided further information on people, political parties, the parliament, and the political caucuses. In addition, they also outlined various roles played by the media, stakeholders, lobbyists and general citizen entire parliamentary process.

Mock Parliament Session

Ram Guragain explained the roles of all the key positions for conducting the mock parliament session. A parliamentary setup with appointment of the speaker (Hon. Neelam K.C.) and the Minister for Women, Children and Social Welfare (Hon. Usha Gurung) along with the main opposition leader acted by a participant were all appropriately seated as in the real parliament. Thereafter, the speaker announced the zero hour session when the opposition leader pointed out on the problems due to lawlessness and lack of security on the lives of all Nepalese people. Prime Minister (Hon. Mahalaxmi Upadhyay) clarified questions raised on the zero hour. After that, the speaker announced Special Hour session in which the opposition leader pointed on the current extravagancy of the Prime Ministerial Jumbo Cabinet that accompanied him to Copenhagen for the global warming summit, the unnecessary use and therefore misuse of the hard earned tax revenue paid by the people.

Thereafter, a bill (to ensure the “Representation of women in all units and levels of the state” year 2066) was tabled by the Women Minister, for further discussions in the parliament which eventually took the form of law after being passed by the majority. The participants came to an understanding on how a bill is put up and eventually turns to law.

Udaypur

The Effective Legislative Practices/Mock Parliament Program was organized on February 24 to 26, 2010 in the Gaighat Municipality meeting hall of Udaypur district. The three day workshop initially started with registration, introduction of CA/Parliament members along with NDI and Pro Public representatives. Later it was followed by the program highlights, its overall effectiveness and the aspired objectives. Ram Guragain gave welcome remarks along with introduction of NDI and its program activities. Sunita Sharma from Pro Public chaired the session and also gave an introduction of Pro-Public and its program activities.

All the CA/Parliament members explained how they became parliamentarians while giving introduction. Hon. Durga Pariyar herself represented the Dalit (untouchable) community in the parliament and facilitated on the roles and responsibilities of being a people's representative. Moreover, she explained what the constitution of a country is and constitutional committees. She further emphasized on the importance of solidarity among all the women CA/Parliament members irrespective of their ideological and political differences.

Thereafter, Kalyani Shah (WLA Steering Committee Member) facilitated a session on the roles and duties of a CA/Parliament member and the responsibilities that comes along with it. She explained the differences between a CA and a Parliament, functions and practices of the House of Representatives which is also known as the legislative parliament. She also explained the importance of women representation at all levels of the state. She further explained on a full house session of the parliament, importance of a parliamentary caucuses.

Similarly, Hon. Pramila Rai spoke on the law making procedures; what is a bill; its types; and on how it takes form of law after undergoing a series of procedures within the parliament. She further mentioned on the bill amendment process and the roles of the various government agencies, the common citizen, parliamentarians/committee, stakeholders, lobbyists and the media.

During second day, Ram Guragain did a recap of the previous day along with providing the answers to the questions raised by participants.

Likewise, Hon. Laxmi Pariyar started her session with what is known as budget; the various units involved in the budget making process; why it is crucial for the parliamentarians and how and what they can contribute to the people of their district by being effective in the entire process of budget formulation. She further explained on the roles and responsibilities of a CA/Parliament members, roles of the government agencies, the different ministries, role of the National Planning Commission (NPC), DDC, municipality and VDCs. She also gave presentation on gender budgeting and why it is necessary for the upliftment of women, their equal participation as well as their empowerment.

Similarly, Hon. Durga Pariyar explained the role of people, political parties, parliament political caucuses, media, stakeholders and lobbyists. And, why it is important to ensure the access of the common people in the parliamentary processes.

Mock Parliament Session

On the third day, Mock Parliament session was conducted with a parliamentary setup comprising of the Speaker (Hon. Pramila Rai), Minister of Women, Children and Social Welfare (Hon. Durga Pariyar) and main opposition leader role played by Kalyani Shah

The speaker Hon. Pramila Rai announced the zero hour session when the opposition leader pointed out lawlessness on the rise and lack of security on the lives of all Nepalese due to the ineffective ruling government for not being able to provide any relief to the people. She asked for clarifications from the Prime Minister. Hon. Durga Pariyar brought to notice on the unnecessary expenses of the Kalapatthar environment meeting attended by the council of ministers.

Later a bill (**33% representation of women in all levels of the state 2066**) was put up for discussions in the parliament by Women Minister.

Terahthum

The Effective Legislative Practices/Mock Parliament Program was organized on February 12 to 14, 2010 in the meeting hall of the Federation of Nepal Chamber of Commerce and Industries (FNCCI) at Myanglung, the district headquarters of Terahthum.

On the starting of the program a short inaugural session was conducted in which Jhabindra Pd. Adhikary, representative of Pro Public chaired the session. Similarly, the Chief Guest of the event was Hon. Mahalaxmi Upadhyay, central committee member of Nepali Congress. The program started with a welcome note to all the participants from Ram Guragain, Senior Program Advisor of NDI. Thereafter CA/Parliament Members put forwarded their remarks along with their brief introduction and on how they became Parliamentarians after taking up active politics. Representatives from various political parties, civil society organization and the media persons of Terathum district participated in this session that was facilitated by Ram Krishna Niraula, the District Logistic Coordinator (DLC).

The technical session started with Hon. Mahalaxmi Upadhyay, who facilitated on the functions and the roles of a CA/Parliament member; to represent the people, law making and oversight. Further she explained the differences between a Constituent Assembly and the Parliament, the main functions of the House of Representatives, women's representation at all levels of the state and the role of the National Women Commission (NWC). Similarly, Hon. Sita Gurung gave her presentation on Full House session of the parliament and the role of the parliamentary committees.

Likewise, Hon. Bishnu Maya B.K. emphasized on all aspects of the law making process. She further explained on how bills is drafted and amended as well as the roles of the various parliamentary committees in the entire law making process.

On the second day of the program a short review session on the previous day's program was done by Ram Guragain. Following review session, Hon. Mahalaxmi Upadhyay explained on; what is budget, what are the budget making procedures and why it is crucial for a parliamentarian?. Similarly, she gave her presentations on the roles and responsibilities of a CA/Parliament member, roles of government agencies along with the ministry of finance and other ministries towards the drafting and preparation of the budget. In addition, she also explained the roles of the NPC, DDC, the municipality and VDC in the entire budgetary process.

Hon. Sita Gurung explained gender budgeting and its importance for the development of the entire Nepalese women.

Mock Parliament Session

On the last day of the program Mock Parliament session conducted with a parliamentary setup comprising Speaker (Hon. Mahalaxmi Upadhyay), Prime Minister (participant), Minister for Women, Children and Social Welfare (Hon. Sita Gurung) along with Hon. Bishnu Maya B.K. as the main opposition leader who were seated appropriately as in the parliament. And other roles that is required in the real parliament were given to the participants. The speaker announced zero

hour session when the opposition leader pointed of lawlessness on the rise and lack of security on the lives of all Nepalese due to the ineffective ruling government for not being able to provide any relief to the people. The main opposition leader asked for explanations from the Prime Minister on the unnecessary expenses of the Government. Thereafter, the Speaker announced the special hour session where contemporary issues were taken up to be addressed by the parliament members. The participants also came to know on how the Prime Minister gave clarifications on all the accusations made by the opposition leader.

After that a bill (**33% representation of women in all levels of the state 2066**) was tabled by the women minister for further discussions in the parliament which eventually took the form of law after being passed by majority.

Mahottari

The Effective Legislative Practices/Mock Parliament Program was organized on February 24 to 26, 2010 in the Meeting hall of the Nepal Chamber of Commerce and Industries (FNCCI) in Jaleshwar, Mahottari.

Inauguration session was organized in the first day of the training. Lalita Pradhan from NDI gave welcome remarks along with the introduction of NDI and its program activities. Similarly, Babu Ram Poudel, Central Logistic Coordinator of Pro Public briefed about the activities of Pro Public and also highlighted the objectives of the Mock Parliament workshop.

The first session opened with the introduction of CA members and participants. The members explained how they entered politics and then gave presentations on the functions and procedures of Parliament, the law-making process, and the roles and functions of committees. The second day covered the budget making process and people and political parties in Parliament. The third day focused on a practical mock Parliament session to improve participants' understanding of how Parliament functions.

Mock Parliament Session

The Mock Parliament session was very successful. Hon. Meenakshi Jha did a super job as Speaker and Hon. Bashanti Jha acted as Prime Minister, Hon. Surita Sah took the role of Minister for Women, Children and Social Welfare while Hon. Ram Shila Thakur played a role as the main opposition leader. The remaining roles were played well by the participants.

Later a bill (**33% representation of women in all levels of the state 2066**) was put up by Women Minister for discussions.

Sarlahi

The Effective Legislative Practices/Mock Parliament Program was organized on February 19 to 21, 2010 in hotel Simrik, Malangwa, Sarlahi.

A three day workshop on parliamentary practices and procedures for the capacity building of women was attended by representatives of various political parties and CSOs of Sarlahi district. Inauguration session was organized at the first day of the program.

Inauguration session was organized in the first day of the training. Lalita Pradhan from NDI gave welcome remarks along with the introduction of NDI and its program activities. Similarly, Babu Ram Poudel, Central Logistic Coordinator of Pro Public briefed about the activities of Pro Public and also highlighted the objectives of the Mock Parliament workshop.

The first session opened with the introduction of CA members and participants. The members explained how they entered politics and then gave presentations on the functions and procedures of Parliament, the law-making process, and the roles and functions of committees. The second day covered the budget making process and people and political parties in Parliament. The third day focused on a practical mock Parliament session to improve participants' understanding of how Parliament functions.

The program began a little late due to a Hariwan strike, called after a faction supporting Mr. Babu Thapa, former Vice President of Churebhawar Rastriya Ekta Party, attacked the son of party president Hon. Keshab Mainali. As a result, most participants were stuck in traffic. However, the strike did not affect day two or three of the program.

Mock Parliament Session

The Mock Parliament session was very successful as Hon. Meena Pandey played the role of Speaker, Hon. Jaya Ghimire as Prime Minister, and Hon. Kiran Kumari Ray played the role of Minister for Women, Children and Social Welfare. Hon. Shalma Khatun acted as opposition leader. Remaining roles were played effectively by the participants.

Later a bill (**33% Representation of women in all levels of the state 2066**) was put up by the Women Minister for further discussions in the parliament that took form of law after being passed by the majority.

Chitwan

The Mock Parliament/Effective Legislative Practices Program was organized on February 14 to 16, 2010 in hotel Ice Land, Bharatpur, Chitwan.

A three day workshop on parliamentary practices and procedures for the capacity building of women was attended by representatives of various political parties and CSOs of Sarlahi district. Inauguration session was organized at the first day of the program.

Inauguration session was organized in the first day of the training. Prakash Mani Sharma, Executive Director of Pro Public gave a short welcome speech and gave information of the organization. Similarly, Dr. Sherrie Wolff, the Country Director of NDI expressed her welcome note, a brief introduction of NDI and its forthcoming programs on the capacity building of the women parliamentarians and strengthening democracy programs and also highlighted the objectives of the Mock Parliament workshop.

The first session opened with the introduction of CA members and participants. The members explained how they entered politics. Thereafter, Uma Regmi facilitated efficiently on the topic of roles and responsibilities of a CA/Parliament member and further explained on what is the constitution, its various committees. She further mentioned all aspects of constitution making provisions, its necessity as well as requirements emphasizing on the importance of solidarity among all women to work together.

Similarly, Hon. Sundevi Joshi facilitated session on the functions and roles of a CA/Parliament member such as: represent the people, law making and oversight.

Similarly, Hon. Prabati Mahato Kumal and Hon. Sita Kumari Poudel explained the differences between a constituent assembly and a parliament, functions of the House of Representatives, on the representation of women at all levels along with the role of the NWC. Thereafter information was given on the full house session in parliament and the main role of a parliamentary caucus and the parliamentary committees.

Hon. Uma Regmi facilitated session on what is law and the law making procedures. She further explained on bill, its types, how it is amended as well as the roles of various Parliamentary Committees in the entire law making process.

Mock Parliament Session

On the last day a recap on all highlights of the previous day was done by Prakash Mani Sharma. Thereafter different roles was assigned: the Speaker (Hon. Uma Regmi), Prime Minister (Hon. Sundevi Joshi) and Minister for Women, Children and Social Welfare (Hon. Prabati Mahato Kumal) and the main opposition leader was enacted by Hon. Sita Kumari Poudel. The other roles were selected from among the participants. The Speaker announced zero hour session when the opposition leader pointed out on the lawlessness and lack of security on the lives of all Nepalese due to the ineffective functioning of the ruling government who had not been able to deliver any relief to the people. Further asking for the clarification from the Prime Minister who role played

head of the Government. Thereafter, the Speaker announced the special hour session in which the opposition leader pointed on the current extravagancy of the Prime Ministerial Jumbo Cabinet that accompanied him to Copenhagen for the global warming summit, the unnecessary use and therefore misuse of the hard earned tax revenue paid by the people for unnecessary expenses.

The participants came to know on how the Prime Minister himself gave clarifications on all the accusations made at the government. Then the Prime Minister addressed to the problems raised in the parliament.

Later, a bill (**33% representation of women in the various levels State mechanism to ensure equal opportunity 2066**) was tabled by the Women Minister for further discussions in parliament. The objections raised on the proposed bill by the opposition leader, its relevancy and necessity put up by the WCSW minister to the house convincingly that enabled to get the required majority and pass the bill as prospective law which later after being signed by the president of the country, thereafter will be included in the Red Book as a new law.

Kavrepalanchok

The Effective Legislative Practices/Mock Parliament Program was organized on February 8 to 10, 2010 in the Dhulikhel municipality meeting hall of Kavre district.

A three day workshop on parliamentary practices and procedures for the capacity building of women representing from various political parties and other key organisations of Kavre district was organised amidst a vibrant gathering of women in the municipality hall, Dhulikhel.

Welcome note and introduction of Pro Public as well as information on the parliamentary practices was done by Mr. Prakash Mani Sharma, the Executive Director of Pro Public. Similarly, Dr. Sherrie Wolff, the Country Director of NDI expressed her welcome note, a brief introduction of NDI and its forthcoming programs on the capacity building of the women parliamentarians and strengthening democracy programs and also highlighted the objectives of the Mock Parliament workshop.

Thereafter all the CA/Parliament members participating in the program explained how they became parliamentarians by involving in active politics. Hon. Kamala Thapa facilitated session on the roles and responsibilities of a CA/Parliament member, explained on the constitution, its various committees. She further mentioned all aspects of the constitution making provisions, its necessity as well as requirements emphasizing on the importance of solidarity among all women to work together as one on issues related to women despite all diversities.

Hon. Pratibha Rana facilitated on the functions and role of a CA/Parliament member which are to represent the people, law making and play the role as watchdog on performance of the government. She also explained the differences between a Constituent Assembly and the parliament, functions of the House of Representatives, women representation at all levels and the role of NPC to ensure women rights. Furthermore she spoke on a full house session.

Thereafter, Hon. Ambika Basnet emphasized on the law making procedures and further explained on what is a bill, its types, how it is amended as well as the roles of various parliamentary committees in the entire law making process. Similarly, Hon. Kamala Thapa provided information on how bill amendment is done and the roles of a common citizen, parliamentarians, agencies, stakeholders, lobbyists and the media persons.

On the second day, a recap on the previous day activities was done by Prakash Mani Sharma, Executive Director of Pro Public and Mr. Jay Nishaant, Deputy Director of NDI. Thereafter, Hon. Lalita Kingring facilitated a session on budget and the budget making process and why it is crucial for a parliamentarian. Similarly, she explained on the roles and responsibilities of a parliament member, roles of government agencies along with the Ministry of Finance and other related ministries, NPC, DDC, municipalities and VDCs.

Hon. Ambika Basnet made her presentation on gender budgeting and why is it necessary for the overall development of women. Hon. Pratibha Rana conducted a session on people, political parties and parliament. She also explained the roles of various political parties in any parliament, definition and role of a political caucuses, and role of the media, stakeholders/lobbyists.

At the end of the day, Mr. Mukund Sharma, Spokesperson of the Parliament Secretariat, facilitated a session on legislative procedures in a parliamentary system, its key positions and how a House session is conducted. Preparations and briefings were conducted for the set up and functions of a mock parliament by providing information on all the procedures.

Mock Parliament Session:

On the third day of the workshop, a recap was done by the District Logistic Coordinator G. N. Sapkota on the highlights of the previous day's session. Then the mock parliament session was conducted with a parliament like setup comprising of the Speaker, Minister for Women, Children and Social Welfare along with the main opposition leader who were seated appropriately as in the parliament. The main opposition leader (Hon. Kamala Thapa), Prime Minister (Hon. Pratibha Rana), Speaker (Hon. Ambika Basnet) and the Minister for Women Children and Social Welfare (Hon. Shila Katila). The speaker announced the zero hour session when the main opposition leader pointed of lawlessness on the rise and lack of security on the lives of all Nepalese people. The main opposition leader asked for clarifications from the Prime Minister on the unnecessary expenses during the Kalapatthar environment meeting at the Everest base camp.

Later a bill (**33% representation of women in all levels of the state 2066**) was put up for discussions in the parliament by Women Minister.

Gorkha

The Effective Legislative Practices/Parliament Program was organized on February 14 to 16, 2010 in hotel Bisauni, Gorkha Bazaar, Gorkha. A three day workshop on parliamentary practices and procedures for the capacity building of women representatives of various political parties and CSOs. At the start of the program, inauguration then the introduction of the WCA/P members, the organisers (NDI and Pro Public) along with all participants was done.

Welcome note was given by the District Logistic Coordinator Bimala Pulami Magar who facilitated the entire program in all the sessions. Central Logistic Coordinator of Pro Public, Sunita Sharma chaired the session and provided information about Pro Public and also the objectives of the program. Anamika Rai, Senior Program Manager from NDI gave her remarks, brief introduction of NDI and also highlighted the objectives of Mock Parliament program.

After this session, all the CA/Parliament members participating in the program explained how they became parliamentarians by getting involved in active politics. Hon. Kamala Pant facilitated on the roles and responsibilities of the CA/Parliament members, what is a constitution and what all is involved during the entire process of constitution making. She also explained on the various aspects of constitutional provisions, its necessity as well as the requirements.

Similarly, Hon. Padma Acharya facilitated a session on the role of a CA/Parliament member, the difference between a CA and a parliament, functions of the House of Representatives, ensuring the equal participation of women in all levels of the state, role of the NPC, NWC, a full house session and functions of the parliamentary committees and the selection procedures of its members and their tenure.

In the same manner, Hon. Tham Maya Thapa Magar gave her presentation on law making; what is a bill and its types, and the roles of the parliamentary committees in the entire law making process. She further mentioned about the role played by a citizen, parliamentarians, various government agencies, stakeholders, lobbyists and the media.

On the second day of the program, a recap session was done on the activities of the previous day by Bimala Pulami Magar as she asked the participants if they had any difficulties pertaining to the subject matter that was facilitated by the CA/Parliament members.

Hon. Kamala Pant started a day's session on budget and budget making process. She also explained why a budget is very crucial for a parliamentarian and explained the role of a parliamentarian, role of various government agencies, MoF, DDC, municipality, NPC, MoLD and the involvement of VDCs.

Hon. Padma Acharya facilitated a session on gender budget budgeting and why is it necessary for the development of women in the country. She also explained facilitated a session on People, Political Parties and Parliament and roles played by various political parties in the parliament and the role of a political caucuses. She further mentioned about the role played by a citizen, parliamentarians, various government agencies, stakeholders, lobbyists and the media.

At the end of the day, Hon. Kamala Pant and Anamika Rai from NDI gave an orientation session on the parliamentary structure for the preparation of next day's mock parliament. Hon. Pant explained role of all key positions and how a house session is conducted. Hon. Padma Aryal gave briefings on how the setup is done and all the necessary procedures involved in conducting the Mock Parliament session. Orientation was done on the roles of Speaker, Prime Minister, Opposition Leaders, Ministers, Chief Whip, Whips, government staff such as general secretary and support staff, Committee Chairs, members, individual parliamentarians.

Mock Parliament Session

The parliament session seating was done in an appropriate manner. The selection of the Speaker, the Prime Minister, the minister for women, children and social welfare and the main opposition leader was from among the participants and the CA/Parliament provided guidelines to the Speaker, PM, Minister and Opposition Leaders. The Speaker made an announcement of zero hour when the main opposition leader criticized on the ineffective functioning of the government and what further strategies were being taken to control the current situation. During the special hour session announced by the Speaker the members spoke on urgent issues related to the people. The participants understood the importance of speaking up on the key issues makes the Prime Minister give explanations to all the questions.

Later, a bill (**33% representation of women in all State mechanism to ensure equal opportunity 2066**) was put up by the Women Minister for the for further discussions in the parliament. The objections raised on the proposed bill by the opposition leader, its relevancy and necessity put up by the WCSW minister to the house convincingly that enabled to get majority and pass the bill to be ratified as prospective law after being signed by the president of the country thereafter to be included in the Red Book in the form of a new law.

Baglung

The Effective Legislative Practices/Mock Parliament program was organized on February 19 to 21, 2010 in Hotel Peace Palace, Baglung. A three day workshop on parliamentary practices and procedures was organized for the capacity building of women representing from various political parties and CSOs.

In the inaugural session, Chandi Prasad Dhakal of Chaartaare Yuba Club and District Logistic Coordinator for the Mock Parliament program from Pro Public welcomed all the participants and CA/Parliament members. Anamika Rai, Senior Program Manager of NDI expressed her views along with a brief introduction of NDI and its forthcoming programs on the capacity building of women parliamentarians. Likewise, Ramesh Parajuli, representative of Pro Public spoke on the activities and ongoing programs of the organization.

After this session, all the CA/Parliament members participating in the program explained how they became parliamentarians by getting involved in active politics. Hon. Mohammadi Siddiqui facilitated session on the topic of roles and responsibilities of a CA/Parliament member, constitution making process and functions of various CA committees. She further mentioned briefed on the status of the constitution making process and its importance as well as requirements emphasizing on the importance of solidarity among all women to work together as one on issues related to women despite all diversities.

Hon. Rama Guragain facilitated a session on the functions and roles of a CA/Parliament member, such as: to represent the people, to make law and oversight. Thereafter, she also explained the differences between the Constituent Assembly and the Legislative Parliament, and functions of the House of Representatives. Hon. Padma Aryal briefed on the importance of representation of women at all levels of the state and also explained the role of National Women Commission (NWC) to ensure women rights and work for their empowerment. In addition, she explained detailed process of the full house session in parliament.

Similarly, Hon. Narayani Ghimire facilitated a session on law making process. She further explained on bill, types of bill, how it is amended as well as the roles of various parliamentary committees in the entire law making process. She further mentioned about the role played by a citizen, parliamentarians, various government agencies, stakeholders, lobbyists and the media.

On the second day of the program, a recap session was done on the activities of the previous day by District Logistic Coordinator and asked the participants if they had any difficulties understanding the subject matter that was discussed in the previous day.

Hon. Ratna Sherchan started a day's session on budget and budget making process. She also explained why a budget is very crucial for a parliamentarian and explained the role of a parliamentarian, role of various government agencies, MoF, DDC, municipality, NPC, MoLD and the involvement of VDCs.

Hon. Narayani Devi Ghimire and Hon. Mohammadi Siddiqui facilitated a session on gender budget budgeting and why is it necessary for the development of women in the country. She also

explained facilitated a session on People, Political Parties and Parliament and roles played by various political parties in the parliament and the role of a political caucuses. She further mentioned about the role played by a citizen, parliamentarians, various government agencies, stakeholders, lobbyists and the media.

At the end of the day, Hon. Ratna Sherchan and Anamika Rai from NDI gave an orientation session on the parliamentary structure for the preparation of next day's mock parliament. Hon. Sherchan explained role of all key positions and how a house session is conducted. Hon. Padma Aryal gave briefings on how the setup is done and all the necessary procedures involved in conducting the Mock Parliament session. Orientation was done on the roles of Speaker, Prime Minister, Opposition Leaders, Ministers, Chief Whip, Whips, government staff such as general secretary and support staff, Committee Chairs, members, individual parliamentarians.

Mock Parliament Session

The parliament session seating was done in an appropriate manner. The selection of the Speaker, the Prime Minister, the minister for women, children and social welfare and the main opposition leader was from among the participants and the CA/Parliament provided guidelines to the Speaker, PM, Minister and Opposition Leaders. The Speaker made an announcement of zero hour when the main opposition leader criticized on the ineffective functioning of the government and what further strategies were being taken to control the current situation. During the special hour session announced by the Speaker the members spoke on urgent issues related to the people. The participants understood the importance of speaking up on the key issues makes the Prime Minister give explanations to all the questions.

Later, a bill (**33% representation of women in all State mechanism to ensure equal opportunity 2066**) was put up by the Women Minister for the for further discussions in the parliament. The objections raised on the proposed bill by the opposition leader, its relevancy and necessity put up by the WCSW minister to the house convincingly that enabled to get majority and pass the bill to be ratified as prospective law after being signed by the president of the country thereafter to be included in the Red Book in the form of a new law.

Banke

The Effective Legislative Practices/Mock Parliament Program was organized on February 24 to 27, 2010 in hotel Royal, Nepalgunj, Banke.

A three day workshop on parliamentary practices and procedures was organized for the capacity building of women representing from various political parties and CSOs. On the first of the program a inauguration of the program and introduction of both the joint organisers NDI and Pro Public was done followed by the introduction of the WCA/P members and all the women participants in a vibrant atmosphere.

In the inaugural session, Bishnu Pokhrel District Logistic Coordinator for the Mock Parliament program from Pro Public welcomed all the participants and CA/Parliament members. Anamika Rai, Senior Program Manager of NDI expressed her views along with a brief introduction of NDI and its forthcoming programs on the capacity building of women parliamentarians. Likewise, Ramesh Parajuli, representative of Pro Public spoke on the activities and ongoing programs of the organization.

After this session, all the CA/Parliament members participating in the program explained how they became parliamentarians by getting involved in active politics. Hon. Mohammadi Siddiqui facilitated session on the topic of roles and responsibilities of a CA/Parliament member, constitution making process and functions of various CA committees. She further mentioned briefed on the status of the constitution making process and its importance as well as requirements emphasizing on the importance of solidarity among all women to work together as one on issues related to women despite their ideological differences.

Similarly, Hon. Janak Chalise facilitated a session on the role of a CA/Parliament member, the difference between a CA and a parliament, functions of the House of Representatives, ensuring the equal participation of women in all levels of the state, role of the NPC, NWC, a full house session and functions of the parliamentary committees and the selection procedures of its members and their tenure.

Hon. Sabitra Bhusal gave her presentation on law making; what is a bill and its types, and the roles of the parliamentary committees in the entire law making process. She further mentioned about the role played by a citizen, parliamentarians, various government agencies, stakeholders, lobbyists and the media.

On the second day of the program, a recap session was done on the activities of the previous day by Bishnu Pokhrel and asked the participants if they had any difficulties understanding the subject matter that was discussed previous day.

Hon. Janak Chalise started a day's session on budget and budget making process. She also explained why a budget is very crucial for a parliamentarian and explained the role of a parliamentarian, role of various government agencies, MoF, DDC, municipality, NPC, MoLD and the involvement of VDCs.

Hon. Sabitra Bhusal and Hon. Mohammadi Siddiqui facilitated a session on gender budget budgeting and why is it necessary for the development of women in the country. She also explained facilitated a session on People, Political Parties and Parliament and roles played by various political parties in the parliament and the role of a political caucuses. She further mentioned about the role played by a citizen, parliamentarians, various government agencies, stakeholders, lobbyists and the media.

At the end of the day, Hon. Mohammadi Siddiqui and Anamika Rai from NDI gave an orientation session on the parliamentary structure for the preparation of next day's mock parliament. Hon. Pant explained role of all key positions and how a house session is conducted. Hon. Janak Chalise gave briefings on how the setup is done and all the necessary procedures involved in conducting the Mock Parliament session. Orientation was done on the roles of Speaker, Prime Minister, Opposition Leaders, Ministers, Chief Whip, Whips, government staff such as general secretary and support staff, Committee Chairs, members, individual parliamentarians.

Mock Parliament Session

The parliament session seating was done in an appropriate manner. The selection of the Speaker, the Prime Minister, the minister for women, children and social welfare and the main opposition leader was from among the participants and the CA/Parliament provided guidelines to the Speaker, PM, Minister and Opposition Leaders. The Speaker made an announcement of zero hour when the main opposition leader criticized on the ineffective functioning of the government and what further strategies were being taken to control the current situation. During the special hour session announced by the Speaker the members spoke on urgent issues related to the people. The participants understood the importance of speaking up on the key issues makes the Prime Minister give explanations to all the questions.

Later, a bill (**33% representation of women in all State mechanism to ensure equal opportunity 2066**) was put up by the Women Minister for the for further discussions in the parliament. The objections raised on the proposed bill by the opposition leader, its relevancy and necessity put up by the WCSW minister to the house convincingly that enabled to get majority and pass the bill to be ratified as prospective law after being signed by the president of the country thereafter to be included in the Red Book in the form of a new law.

NDI-Nepal Field Observation Report

Jhapa (Eastern Region)

Observers: Ram Guragain and Pankaj Rai, NDI-Nepal

Venue: Hotel Heaven, Birtamode

Date: February 19-21 2010

Name of the parliamentarians: Hon. Usha Gurung, NC
Hon. Neelam KC, CPN-ML
Hon. Ushakala Rai, CPN-UML (Khotang/Expert CA)
Hon. Mahalaxmi Upadhyay – NC (Makwanpur/Expert CA)

District Coordinator: Yek Raj Giri

Introduction

Pro-public, with the technical support from the National Democratic Institute (NDI) and USAID helped organizing an Effective Legislative Practices/ Mock Parliament in Birtamode, Jhapa District, the Eastern Region of Nepal.

During the inauguration session political party leaders/representatives from major parties included- the Nepali Congress (NC), Communist Party Nepal Unified Marxist Leninist (CPN-UML), Rastriya Prajatantra Party (RPP), Rastriya Prajatantra Party-Nepal (RPP-Nepal), Rastriya Janamorcha Nepal, Sanghiaya Limbuwan Rajyaparishad, Tarai Madesh Loktantrick Party, Shadbhawana party, Madhesi People's Rights Forum-Laoktantrick, and Churebhawar party were present. Chief District Officer Kumar Shrestha and representatives from district level civil society organizations were also present. Mr. Ram Guragain, Senior Program Advisor of NDI-Nepal briefed about the Institute's activities and the objective of the program. In a 45 minutes long inauguration session party leaders, CA members and the civil society representatives gave their congratulatory speeches for the success of the program. Political party leaders/representatives expressed their happiness for having such an important program for the district level women activists and hoped that such programs will help enhancing the capacity of women. They also expressed that such program is essential for all district level party activists and probable candidates for the parliamentary elections.

Participation

Total number of participants was 66; out of which 15 of them were Janajaties, 11 were Madheshe, 7 were Dalits and the rest were from other casts respectively. Ten participants were from civil society and media organizations. Very active participants were selected from the respective political parties and other organizations.

The CA members tired their best to deliver the messages of the topics they presented. Participants were very active and aware in many issues of the legislative processes/practices and sometimes MPs were in a difficult position in responding their queries. Discussions focused on the subject matter presented to them. Participants were more inquisitive in the budgetary process and the role of the MPs in receiving more projects in their respective districts/constituencies. They also made inquiries in the CA process and the stressed that the new constitution must be completed in the stipulated time. Overall performance of the CA members was good. MP Mahalaxmi

Upadhayay's presentation was very good. She made presentations on the budgetary process and the role of people, party and parliament. Participants liked her presentation as she focused on the subject matter and was well prepared too. Other MPs presentation was also good but more political speech type.

The practical mock parliamentary session of the last day became memorable to all participants. About 10 participants from the NC and UML were the candidates for the propositional representations. All were actively involved parliamentary activities such as Zero hour, special time and committee discussions on the bill. The scene seemed the real parliament. They expressed the view that time was not sufficient for the thematic presentations.

Political parties

Members of the following eleven political parties attended the program:

- Nepali Congress (NC)
- CPN-UML
- CPN-ML
- CPN-Unified
- Tarai Madhesh Loktrantik Party (TMLP)
- Madheshi Janadhikar Forum Nepal (MJF-N)
- Madheshi Janadhikar Forum-Democratic (MJF-D)
- Sadbhawana Party (SP)
- Rastriya Prajatantra Party (RPP)
- Rastriya Janashakti Party
- Chure Bhavar Rastriya Ekata Party Nepal

Political party's sister organization

- Nepal Student's Union (NSU)
- Nepal Teachers' Union
- RPP Youth Wing
- Nepal Women's Organization (NC)
- All Nepal Women's Association (UML)
- All Nepal Women's Association-Revolutionary (ML)

Civil society organizations

Representatives of the following CSOs attended the program:

- NGO Federation
- Janajati Network
- Marginalized Group Network
- Dalit Group Network
- Nari Chetana Sangh
- Women Human Rights-WHR (Single Women)
- WAN Nepal

Media

Representatives of the following media organizations attended the program, reporting on it each day:

- Nepal FM
- FM Mechi Tunes
- Kanchanjunga FM

Management of the program

The management of the whole program was good. Overall program management and coordination was good. District Coordinator was very active and familiar with the political party leaders and civil society activists. Venue was perfect and well managed.

Conclusion

It was a good opportunity for both the MPs and their voters to meet each other and discuss their day-to-day concerns including the CA process and current political development. Conducting Mock Parliament for the MPs was also a challenge, as they had to prepare a lot for their presentations. For the participants it was a new and interesting program, which they enjoyed discussing with their MPs. For the MPs it was an opportunity to hear their voters' concerns/grievances at their doorsteps. For the local level political activists and the civil society leaders it is not always an easily accessible thing meeting their national level representatives and chat with them. Party leaders stressed the need and importance of the program for all probable candidates who will be contesting the parliamentary elections from their respective parties. They also mentioned that individual political parties should take initiatives in organizing such programs before and after the elections.

Quotes

"The bill designed for this mock parliament must be passed from the current House so that it will ensure representation of women in all sectors. In the third day practical session I felt as if I was in the parliament myself, I learned a lot from this and I am going to train my colleagues in my party."

Bimala BK, District Committee member, CPN-UML

"From this program I got opportunity to learn many things related to the legislative procedures, I am very much interested to learn more on gender budgeting issues. I think time was not enough to discuss all the details".

Draupati Ganesh, Member, Nepal Sadbhawana Party.

Udaypur (Eastern Region)

Observers: Ram Guragain and Pankaj Rai, NDI-Nepal

Venue: Triyoga Municipality, Udayapur

Date: February 24-26, 2010

Name of the parliamentarians: Hon. Pramila Rai, NC
Hon. Laxmi Pariyar, NC
Hon. Durga Pariyar, CPN-UML
Ms. Kalyani Shah, CPN-United (Steering Committee Member)

District Coordinator: Pradeep Kumar Chaudhari

Introduction

With the technical support from the National Democratic Institute (NDI) and USAID' Pro Public assisted organizing an Effective Legislative Practices/Mock Parliament in Udayapur district.

First session, started from the inauguration and introduction of the program. Political party leaders/representatives from major parties were present. Chief District Officer and representatives from district level civil society organizations were also present. On behalf of NDI, Ram Guragain, Senior Program Advisor briefed about the Institute's current program activities and highlighted the objective of the program. Political party leaders/representatives expressed their happiness and hoped that such programs will help building capacity of women leaders at the district level. That also suggested that similar program needed for the male leaders as well.

Participation

Total participants were 77; out of which 25 of them were from Janajati, 17 from Madheshi, 12 from Dalits and the rest from other casts- Chettri and Brahims respectively. 10 of them were from civil society and media organizations. The CA members did their best in delivering the messages of the topics they presented. Participants actively took part in the discussions on the topics such as gender budgeting, role of various national and district level agencies in the budgetary processes etc. Participants asked questions regarding the role of the MPs in the National Planning Commission and other governmental agencies for obtaining more budgets in the district level projects. They asked many questions regarding the progress in the CA process and expressed their hope that they will have new constitution in time. Overall performance of the CA members was just satisfactory as they themselves were not very clear or prepared in their presentations.

Mock parliament/practical session became very effective as the participants got to know about the real job of their MPs. During the mock session all of them played an active role as if they were in the real parliament.

Political parties

Members of the following fourteen political parties attended the program:

- Nepali Congress (NC)
- CPN-UML
- CPN-ML

- UCPN-Maoist
- CPN-Unified
- Tarai Madhesh Loktrantrik Party (TMLP)
- Madheshi Janadhikar Forum Nepal (MJF-N)
- Madheshi Janadhikar Forum-Democratic (MJF-D)
- Sadbhawana Party (SP)
- Rastriya Prajatantra Party (RPP)
- RPP-Nepal
- Rastriya Janashakti Party
- Chure Bhavar Rastriya Ekata Party Nepal
- Rastriya Janamorcha

Political party's sister organization

- GFONT
- Nepal Student Union
- Farmers'/Peasants' Association

Civil society organizations

Representatives of the following CSOs attended the program:

- NGO Federation
- CeLLARD
- Federation of Journalists
- Paralegal Committee
- Dalit Women Organization
- Dalit Network
- Mitra Udaypur
- Chelibeti Club
- Pact Nepal
- Youth Organization
- WOREC
- Mahila Adhikar Manch
- Chetanshil Triveni
- Dalit Sangh
- Khumbuwan Rajyaparisad

Media

Representatives of the following media organizations attended the program, reporting on it each day:

- Radio Triyuga
- Udaypur Post
- Purnapusti Weekly
- Khabardari Weekly
- Radio Udaypur

Management of the program

Overall management of the program was good. District coordinator Pradeep Chaudhari was very sincere, hard working and friendly. Venue was perfect and well managed. Local FM radio did good coverage of the program.

Conclusion

Women leaders from various political parties expressed their view that this program gave opportunity for them to discuss with their MPs on the very important topics related to the parliamentary functions/business. Conducting Mock Parliament for the MPs was also a challenge as they had to prepare a lot for their presentations. For the local level women leaders it was great moment being involved in the parliamentary business for three days. Meetings and interactions with the MPs is not always easy thing for the local leaders and the event provided opportunity for sharing their concerns with them. As in other districts party leaders (male) appreciated the contents of the program. They also demanded such program was needed for the male leaders as well.

Quotes

"From the practical session we learned many things about Bill making process and the role of committees in parliament."

Sunita Chaudhari, District Committee Member- CPN-UML

Terahthum (Eastern Region)

Observers: Ram Guragain and Pankaj Rai, NDI-Nepal

Venue: Nepal Chamber of Commerce Hall

Date: February 13-15, 2010

Name of the parliamentarians: Hon. Sita Gurung, NC
Hon. Bishnumaya B. K., CPN-UML
Hon. Mahalaxmi Upadhayay, NC (Makwanpur/Expert CA)

District Coordinator: Ram Krishna Niraula

Introduction

Pro-public, with the technical support from the National Democratic Institute (NDI) and USAID helped organizing an Effective Legislative Practices/ Mock Parliament in Terahthum District in the Eastern Region of Nepal.

Inauguration session of the three-day long program started in the presence of the political party



Political Party Leaders and CA members during inaugural session

leaders from major parties that include the Nepali Congress (NC), Communist Party Nepal-Unified Marxist Leninist (CPN-UML), Rastriya Prajatantra Party (RPP), Rastriya Prajatantra Party Nepal (RPP-Nepal), Rastriya Janamorcha Nepal, Sanghinya Limbuwan Rajyaparishad etc. Assistant Chief District Officer and representatives from district level civil society leaders were also present. Mr. Ram Guragain, Senior Program Advisor of NDI-Nepal briefed about the Institute and the objective of the program. In a 45 minutes long inauguration session party leaders, CA members and the Civil Society representatives were given 2-3 minutes time to express their congratulatory messages for the success of the program. Party leaders appreciated the program and marked that such program was a first one in the hilly district Terhathum.

Participation

Total number of participants was 76; out of which 29 of them were from Janajatis, six from Dalits and the rest were from other casts respectively. Seven of them were from civil society organizations and three from the local media respectively.

The CA members tired their best to deliver the messages of the topics they presented. Participants seemed very inquisitive to the subject matter presented to them. Lively discussions held on various issues including the constitution making process and the role of the women CA members for the cause of women issues in the new constitution etc. Overall performance of the CA members was good. MPs Sita Gurung and Mahalaxmi Upadhayay were very good in their overall performances/ presentations; they precisely focused on the subject matters and responded the queries of the participants in an amicable manner.

The practical mock parliamentary session of the last day became very interesting to all participants as they got opportunity to be involved in the parliamentary activities and also experienced the real roles and responsibilities of their representatives at the highest legislative body.

Political parties

Members of the following eight political parties attended the program:

- Nepali Congress (NC)
- CPN-UML
- CPN-Unified
- CPN-United
- Rastriya Prajatantra Party (RPP)
- RPP-Nepal
- Rastriya Janamorcha
- Rastriya Janamukti Party



Hon. Mahalaxmi Upadhyay facilitating a session on law making process

Political party's sister organization

- Nepal Student's Union
- Tarun Dal
- Farmers' Association

Civil society organizations

Representatives of the following CSOs attended the program:

- Federation of NGOs
- District Bar Association
- Federation of Journalists
- FECOFUN
- Mahila Samaj
- WHRD
- Human Rights Alliance
- Teachers' Association
- Jagaran Alliance
- Disabled Association
- Single Women
- Sanghiya Limbuwan

Media

Representatives of the following media organizations attended the program, reporting on it each day:

- Sanjivani FM
- ABC Television
- Kantipur Television

Management of the program

The management of the whole program was good. Mr. Ram Krishna Niroula deserves appreciations for overall program management and coordination. We found him very active and familiar with the political party leaders and civil society activists. Venue was very good and well managed. He moderated the program during the inaugural session.



CA members and participants during Mock Parliament session

CA members to meet and communicate with their voters and share the current political issues including the progress of the Constituency Assembly.

Conclusion

Conducting Mock Parliament for the CA members was a first experience as they had to prepare a lot for their presentations. For the participants it was a new and interesting program but they had to struggle hard to

grasp the technical aspects of the bill making and budgetary processes. It was a good moment for the CA

Quotes

"NDI and Pro Public gave us great opportunity to be familiar with the functions of parliament and roles of the MPs at the highest body. I really enjoyed the practical session".

Jyoti Limbu, Student leader, NC

"This program is very timely as we are entering into the federal system of governance in the future and the legislative processes will be the same at the provincial levels as well I think. Within a short span of time we learned a lot on the important aspects of the Legislative practices such as bill making and budgetary processes".

Renuka Tumbahamfe, Member, Sanghinya Limbuwan Rajyaparishad

Mahottari (Central Region)

Observers: Jay Nishaant, Lalita Pradhan and Pushpalata Poudel
Venue: Udyog Banijya Sangh Hall
Date: February 24-26, 2010

Name of the parliamentarians: Hon. Kiran Yadav – NC
Hon. Bashanti Jha – TMLP
Hon. Ram Shila Thakur – CPN United (Samyukta)
Hon. Meenakshi Jha - NC (Dhanusha/WLA Steering Committee member)
Hon. Surita Sah – MJF-Nepal (Dhanusha/WLA Steering Committee member)
Hon. Neelam Verma – MJF-Democratic (Rautahat/WLA Steering Committee Member)

District Coordinator: Shyam Sha

Introduction

NDI-Nepal, in collaboration with Pro-Public, held an Effective Legislative Practices/Mock Parliament program in Mahottari district from February 24-26, 2010. The program targeted women who were district level members of political parties, civil society organizations (CSOs) and media organizations. The main objective of the program was to increase participants' awareness of legislative procedures.



Participants during thematic discussions

The first day of the three-day program opened with the introduction of CA members and participants. The members explained how they entered politics and then gave presentations on the functions and procedures of Parliament, the law-making process, and the roles and functions of committees. The second day covered the budget making process and people and political parties in Parliament. The third day focused on a practical mock Parliament session to improve participants' understanding of how Parliament functions.

Each CA member outlined how she had become involved in politics and the difficulties she had faced. Bashanti Jha explained that she voted in all local elections despite belonging to a VDC where women are denied the right to vote and remains grateful to her husband for encouraging her participation in politics. She also continues to fight for the enfranchisement of women in her VDC and has enjoyed some success. In the 2046 election, only two women voted. In 2056 this number increased to seven and in 2064, 56 women cast their votes. Jha's hope is that all women from the district will one day exercise their right to vote.

Hon. Kiran Yadav, on the other hand, comes from a politicized family, which allowed her to bypass many of the challenges facing women who seek to enter politics. Despite this, she too has had to work hard to attain her present position.

Hon. Meenakshi Jha entered the political arena without being aware she was doing so, having first become involved in politics when in the eighth grade. She supports the recent growth in the number of political parties operating in Nepal, pointing out that when she the first became engaged in politics, it was very difficult to find a platform that suited her views. Similarly, Hon. Ramshila Thakur also joined her political party when she was just 13 years old.

Political parties

Members of the following ten political parties attended the program:

- Nepali congress (NC)
- CPN-UML
- MJF-Nepal
- MJF-Democratic
- Tarai Madhesh Lokatantrik Party (TMLP)
- CPN-United (Samyukta)
- Sadvawana Party – Anandidevi
- Sadvawana Party – Mahato
- Rastriya Prajatantra Party (RPP)
- RPP – Nepal.

Civil society organizations

Representatives of the following CSOs attended the program:

- Federation of NGOs
- NGO CC
- Federation of Journalists
- Madheshi NGO Federations.

Media

Representatives of the following media organizations attended the program, reporting on it each day:

- Appan Mithila FM
- Jaleshowar Nath FM.

Participants

A total of 47 participants with varying levels of education and from numerous ethnic backgrounds attended the program. Care must be paid to the selection of participants as in some cases political parties instructed party favorites to attend, rather than those who might benefit more from participating.

Ethnic Background of Participants

S.N.	Background	No. of participants
1.	Madheshi Janajati	4
2.	Madheshi Dalit	3
3.	Muslims	2
4.	Brahmins, Chettri, Thakur, Pathak, Singh, Yadav, Mishra, Das, etc.	38

Mock Parliament Session

The Mock Parliament session was very successful. Hon. Meenakshi Jha did a superb job as Speaker and Hon. Bashanti Jha acted as Prime Minister, Hon. Surita Sah took the role of Minister for Women, Children and Social Welfare while Hon. Ram Shila Thakur was the opposition leader. The remaining roles were played by participants.



CA members conducting Mock Parliament

Sarlahi (Central Region)

Observers:	Lalita Pradhan and Pushpalata Poudel
Venue:	Hotel Simrik
Date:	February 19-21, 2010
Name of the parliamentarians:	Hon. Meena Pandey – NC Hon. Kiran Kumari Ray – CPN-UML Hon. Shalma Khatun Mikarani – MJF-Nepal Hon. Sumitra Devi Ray Yadav - TMLP Hon. Jaya Ghimire – CPN-UML (Siraha/Expert CA)
District Coordinator:	Jitendra Kumar Singh

Introduction

NDI-Nepal, in collaboration with Pro-Public, held an Effective Legislative Practices/Mock Parliament program in Sarlahi district from 19 – 21 February 2010. The program targeted women who were district level members of political parties, civil society organizations (CSOs) and media organizations. The main objective of the program was to increase participants' awareness of legislative procedures.

The first day of the three-day program opened with the introduction of CA members and participants. The members explained how they entered politics and then gave presentations on the functions and procedures of Parliament, the law-making process, and the roles and functions of committees. The program began a little late due to a Hariwan bandh, called after a faction supporting Mr. Babu Thapa, former Vice President of Churebhawar Rastriya Ekta Party, attacked the son of party president Hon. Keshab Mainali. As a result, most participants were stuck in traffic. The bandh did not affect day two or three of the program, however.



Participants during thematic discussions

The second day covered the budget making process and people and political parties in Parliament. The third day focused on a practical mock Parliament session to improve participants' understanding of how Parliament functions.

Political parties

Representatives of the following thirteen political parties attended the program:

- Nepali congress (NC)
- CPN-UML
- MJF-Nepal
- MJF-Democratic
- Tarai Madhesh Lokatantrik Party (TMLP)

- CPN-United (Samyukta)
- CPN-ML
- Sadvawana Party – Anandidevi
- Sadvawana Party – Mahto
- Rastria Prajatantra Party (RPP)
- RPP – Nepal
- Dalit Janajati Party
- Chure Bhawar Rastria Ekta Party.

It should be noted that the attendance of a Churebhawar Rastriya Ekta Party representative was despite significant tension within the party.

Civil society organizations

Representatives of the following CSOs participated in the program:

- Federation of NGOs
- FECOFUN
- Teachers' Association
- Women Children Concern Federation (Mahila Balbalik Sarokar Sangh)
- Apang Sangh
- NGO CC.

Media

Representatives of the following media organizations attended the program:

- My FM
- Sarlahi Times.

My FM covered the program for two days and Sarlahi Times also covered the news of the event.

Participants

Fifty-eight participants took part in the program. Many ethnicities were represented and participants had varying levels of education. Some had undertaken higher education while others were totally illiterate and registered using their thumb-print. The wide variance in literacy and prior knowledge posed a challenge for staff and CA members to ensure that the program was pitched at the appropriate level.

Ethnic Background of Participants

S.N.	Background	No. of participants
5.	Pahadiya Janajati	3
6.	Madheshi Janajati	10
7.	Madheshi Dalit	5
8.	Muslims	6
9.	Brahmins, Chettri, Thakur, Pathak, Singh, Yadav, Mishra, Das, etc.	34

Mock Parliament Session

The Mock Parliament session was very successful. Hon. Meena Pandey played the role of Speaker, Hon. Jaya Ghimire was appointed Prime Minister, and Hon. Kiran Kumari Ray played the role of Minister for Women, Children and Social Welfare. Hon. Sumitra Devi Ray took the position of State Minister and Hon. Shalma Khatun acted as opposition leader. All other roles were played by participants.



CA members conducting Mock Parliament

Chitwan (Central Region)

Observers: Sherrie Wolff, Jay Nishaant, Sushmita Subba, Lalita Pradhan and Pushpalata Poudel

Venue: Island Jungle Resort, Bharatpur

Date: February 14-16, 2010

Name of the parliamentarians: Hon Hon. Sundevi Joshi, NC
Hon. Uma Regmi, NC
Hon. Sarada Devi Kumal, CPN - UML
Hon. Sita Kumari Poudel, CPN-UML
Hon. Parbati Mahato Kumal, CPN-ML

Introduction

NDI-Nepal, in collaboration with Pro-Public, held an Effective Legislative Practices/Mock Parliament program in Chitwan district from 14 – 16 February 2010. The program targeted women who were district level members of political parties, civil society organizations (CSOs) and media organizations. The main objective of the program was to increase participants' awareness of legislative procedures.



Hon. Sita Poudel taking session on the functions of the Parliamentary Committees

The first day of the three day program opened with the introduction of CA members and participants. The members explained how they entered politics and then gave presentations on the functions and procedures of Parliament, the law-making process, and the roles and functions of committees. The second day covered the budget making process and people and political parties in Parliament. The third day focused on a practical mock Parliament session

to improve participants' understanding of how Parliament functions.

Political parties

Members of the following ten political parties attended the program:

- Nepali Congress (NC)
- CPN-UML
- MJF-Nepal
- MJF-Democratic
- Tarai Madhesh Lokatantrik Party (TMLP)
- CPN-United (Samyukta)
- Sadvawana Party – Anandidevi
- Sadvawana Party – Mahato
- Rastriya Prajatantra Party (RPP)
- RPP – Nepal.

Civil society organizations

Representatives of the following CSOs attended the program:

- Federation of NGOs
- NGO CC
- Federation of Journalists
- Madheshi NGO Federations.

Media

Representatives of the following media organizations attended the program, reporting on it each day:

- Unique FM

FM station covered most of the program part and aired interview with Hon. Uma Regmi.

Participants

A total of 47 participants with varying levels of education and from numerous ethnic backgrounds attended the program. Care must be paid to the selection of participants as in some cases political parties instructed party favorites to attend, rather than those who might benefit more from participating.

Mock Parliament Session

The Mock Parliament session was very successful. Hon. Uma Regmi did a superb job as Speaker and Hon. Sita Kumari acted as Prime Minister, Hon. Sharada Devi Kumal took the role of Minister for Women, Children and Social Welfare while Hon. Parbati Mahto Kumal was the opposition leader. The remaining roles were played by participants.



Participants during special hour session



Media representatives interviewing CA members during Mock Parliament

Kavrepalanchowk (Central Region)

Observers: All Staff, NDI-Nepal
Venue: Dhulikhel Municipality
Date: February 8-10, 2010

Name of the parliamentarians: Hon. Kamala Thapa Kunwar, NC
Hon. Shila Katila, CPN-UML
Hon. Lalita Kingring Magar, NC
Hon. Ambika Basnet, NC (Kathmandu/Expert CA)
Hon. Prativa Rana, RPP (Bardiya/Steering Committee Member)
Mukunda Sharma, Spokesperson, Parliament Secretariat

District Coordinator: G. N. Sapkota

Introduction

The Effective Legislative Practices/Mock Parliament program provided an opportunity for women members of political parties and media and civil society organizations to interact with local Constituent Assembly (CA) members. The program ran for three days, between 0930 and 1630, and a total of 73 women participated. Participants belonged to a number of civil society organizations and political parties, including the Communist Party of Nepal – Unified Marxist Leninist (CPN-UML) and Nepali Congress (NC).

Participants were appreciative of the program and the opportunity it provided to interact on a personal level with local CA members. The program was designed to be interactive, with participants taking an active role in debating with and questioning CA members on many aspects of legislative practice.

Interactive exercises were highly valued, especially those activities that gave participants an opportunity to put into practice the theory they had learned.

The CA members were proactive and responded with ease and grace to questions regarding such issues as the disbursement of parliamentarian funds. They viewed the program as an opportunity to understand public sentiment regarding the political process as well as to interact with their constituents.

Political parties

Members of the following six political parties attended the program:

- Nepali Congress (NC)
- CPN-UML
- CPN-ML
- RPP - Nepal
- Nepal Workers and Peasants Party (NWPP)
- Rastriya Prajatantra Party (RPP)

Political party's sister organization

- Nepal Student's Union
- Tarun Dal
- Farmers' Association

Civil society organizations

Representatives of the following CSOs attended the program:

- Federation of NGOs
- District Bar Association
- Federation of Journalists
- FECOFUN
- Mahila Samaj
- WHRD
- Human Rights Alliance
- Teachers' Association
- Jagaran Alliance
- Disabled Association
- Single Women

Media

Representatives of the following media organizations attended the program, reporting on it each day:

- Sanjivani FM
- ABC Television
- Kantipur Television

This FM station covered most of the program and program highlights were broadcasted in Television.

Conclusion

The program's success can be attributed to the excellent coordination and collaboration between the Institute and the parliamentarians. As Hon. Prativa Rana, RPP, said, "NDI is the only organization which is non-partisan and promotes women leadership irrespective of party affiliation.

"We have read about parliamentary proceeding countless times before. However, when we conducted the mock parliament session, so many activities became suddenly clear."

Ms. Uma Thapaliya, Representative, Federations of NGOs

Gorkha (Western Region-Hill)

Observers: Anamika Rai Koirala, Fiona McLachlan, and Kanchan Gajurel

Venue: Gorkha Bisauni Hotel

Date: February 14-16, 2010

Name of the parliamentarians: Hon. Kamala Pant, NC
Hon. Tham Maya Thapa Magar CPN-UML (Myagdi/Steering Committee Member)
Hon. Padma Aryal, CPN-UML (Syangja/Expert CA)

District Coordinator: Bimala Pulami Magar

Introduction

The Effective Legislative Practices/Mock Parliament program provided an opportunity for women members of political parties and media and civil society organizations to interact with local Constituent Assembly (CA) members. The program ran for three days, between 0930 and 1630, and a total one of 61 women participated. An equal number of participants were from the Communist Party of Nepal – Unified Marxist Leninist (CPN-UML) and Nepali Congress (NC), while the rest were from other political parties and civil society organizations.

The program opened with the introduction of the CA members, participants and NDI and Pro-Public representatives, Anamika Rai and Sunita Sharma, who outlined the roles of their respective organizations and the program's objectives. The CA members then recounted the challenges they had faced in becoming successful politicians. On the first and second days of the program, Hon. Kamala Pant, Hon. Padma Kumari Aryal and Hon. Tham Maya Thapa Magar gave presentations on a number of aspects of the parliamentary process, interacting well with participants and ably answering the questions posed. In the afternoon of the second day, Hon. Kamala Pant instructed participants in their roles for the upcoming mock parliament. The third day of the program was very successful as participants actively performed the roles to which they had been assigned.

In the second day, CA members along with NDI representatives provided one hour orientation on



Participants taking part in the Mock Parliament Session

the roles of Speaker, Prime Minister, Ministers, Opposition Leaders, Chief Whip, Whips, Committee Chair, Committee Members, General Secretary, Government Officials, Media representatives, Lobbyists and other members in order to prepare the participants for next day's Mock Parliament session. CA members also appointed participants in the above-mentioned positions through consensus. All the respective participants were given guidelines such as Reading Notes for Speaker, instructions for General Secretary to fill up names for the Speaker in

consultation with Chief Whip of the respective political parties. This orientation and guidelines

provided an opportunity for the participants to go through their roles one day in advance so that they can perform well in the Mock Parliament session.

Political parties

Members of the following five political parties attended the program:

- Nepali Congress (NC)
- CPN-UML
- CPN-ML
- CPN-Unified
- Rastriya Prajatantra Party (RPP)



Participants during thematic discussion

Political party's sister organization

- Nepal Student's Union
- All Nepal Women's Association

Civil society organizations

Representatives of the following CSOs attended the program:

- Federation of NGOs
- FECOFUN
- Federation of Indigenous Group
- Mahila Tatha Bal Balika Uthan Samaj
- Teachers' Association
- Protsahit Mahila Samuha
- Saraswoti Women's Group
- Manakamana Women's Group
- Parishrami Saving and Credit Group
- Subhakamana Women's Group
- Pragatishil Women's Group
- Single Women

Media

Media representatives were also asked to report on the cabinet formation in the morning of the third day as a review session. The following media representatives were present reporting live each day:

- Radio Gorkha

Management of the program

The management of the whole program was good. District Logistic Coordinator appreciations for overall program management and coordination. We found her very active and familiar with the political party leaders and civil society activists. Venue was very good and well managed.

Conclusion

During the Mock Parliament session participants themselves played a role as Speakers, PM, Ministers, Chairs, Opposition Leaders which provided first hand experience on how Parliament functions in real.

Programs of this nature should be conducted frequently to raise awareness of parliamentary/legislative procedures. The mock parliament session in particular provided an excellent opportunity for the participants to experience how parliament/CA sessions are conducted.

Many participants stated that too little time was allocated to the program. Five days, rather than three, would have allowed for presentations on a greater number of topics.

Quotes

"Thanks to NDI for giving us an opportunity to be familiar with the functions of parliament and roles of the MPs. I really enjoyed the practical session because I could get first hand experience on how it functions".

Punam Shrestha, Representative, Radio Gorkha

"We used to complain that our women Parliamentarian can not speak properly in the Parliament, but today when we did the mock parliament session and I had to speak for two minutes it was quite difficult. Now I realize how difficult it is in real ".

Rita Kattel, Representative, CPN-UML

Baglung (Western Region)

Observers: Anamika Rai Koirala, Fiona McLachlan, and Kanchan Gajurel

Venue: Hotel Peace Palace, Baglung

Date: February 19-21, 2010

Name of the parliamentarians: Hon. Ratna Sherchan, NC
Hon. Narayani Devi Ghimire, CPN-UML (Palpa/Expert CA)
Hon. Padma Aryal, CPN-UML (Syangja/Expert CA)
Hon. Rama Guragain, NC (Kathmandu/Expert CA)
Hon. Mohamadi Siddiqui (Banke/Expert CA)

District Coordinator: Chandi Prasad Dhakal

Introduction

The Effective Legislative Practices/Mock Parliament program provided an opportunity for women participants from political parties, civil society organizations and media organizations to interact with five local Constituent Assembly (CA) members and to learn about parliamentary functions, processes and roles. The three-day program was comprised of two days of theory, followed by a one day practical session, with sessions being conducted between 0930 and 1630 each day. Thirty-four of the 62 participants were from six political parties and 28 were from civil society organizations and media organizations.



CA members during inaugural session

The first day of the program opened with the introduction of CA members, staff from partner organizations and participants. Anamika Rai from NDI and Ramesh Parajuli from Pro Public outlined the roles of their organizations and the objectives of the program and the CA members recounted the challenges they had faced in becoming successful politicians. Hon. Ratna Sherchan, NC, Hon. Rama Guragain, NC, Hon. Padma Kumari Aryal, CPN-UML, Hon. Mohammadi Siddhiqui, NC and Hon. Narayani Ghimire, CPN-UML, gave presentations on a range of parliamentary processes, actively engaging with participants.

During the second day, there was a high level of interaction between CA members and participants, with the politicians ably addressing the many questions posed and comments made by participants. Participants were assigned roles for the next day's mock parliament, with Hon. Padma Aryal instructing them on their responsibilities. The third day of the program was very exciting with participants actively playing their assigned roles.

Following thematic sessions, CA members along with NDI representatives provided one hour orientation on the roles of Speaker, Prime Minister, Ministers, Opposition Leaders, Chief Whip, Whips, Committee Chair, Committee Members, General Secretary, Government Officials, Media



CA member preparing participants for the Mock Parliament session

representatives, Lobbyists and other members in order to prepare the participants for next day's Mock Parliament session. CA members also appointed participants in the above-mentioned positions through consensus. All the respective participants were given guidelines such as Reading Notes for Speaker, instructions for General Secretary to fill up names for the Speaker in consultation with Chief Whip of the respective political parties. This orientation and guidelines provided an opportunity for the participants to go through their roles a day in advance so that they can perform well in the Mock Parliament session.

Political parties

Members of the following six political parties attended the program:

- Nepali Congress (NC)
- CPN-UML
- CPN-ML
- Rastriya Prajatantra Party (RPP)
- Rastriya Janamorcha
- RPP-Nepal

Political party's sister organization

- Nepal Student's Union
- Teachers' Union

Civil society organizations

Representatives of the following CSOs attended the program:

- Federation of NGOs
- Federation of Journalists
- DFM
- Ekikrit Mahila Sangh
- WHR
- Teachers' Association
- Chartare Sanjal
- Chartare Youth Club Women's Alliance
- COCAP
- CYC, Baglung

Media

Representatives of the following media organizations attended the program, reporting on it each day:

- Pokhara Aawaj

Conclusion

Overall, the program ran very smoothly, adhering to the timetable. It was clear that appropriate selection criteria had been used in identifying participants as all were actively involved in the program and demonstrated their eagerness to learn more. NDI was requested to organize additional similar programs in the near future.

While the program was successful, most participants stated that was too short. Conducting a five day program would allow for presentations on a wider range of topics and for more extensive presentations to be made on bills and the budget-making process.

Quotes

"This program is not only useful for the participants but also for us (CA members) because we got an opportunity to learn much more by practicing in real. It was kind of re-orientation for us in the parliamentary procedures."

Hon. Padma Aryal, CA member, CPN-UML

Banke (Mid Western Region)

Observers: Anamika Rai Koirala and Shyama Karki
Venue: Hotel Royal, Nepalgunj
Date: February 25-27, 2010

Name of the parliamentarians: Hon. Mohammadi Siddiqui, NC
Hon. Sandhya Dev, MJF-Nepal
Hon. Sabitra Bhusal, CPN-UML (Kathmandu/Expert CA)
Hon. Janak Chalise, CPN-ML (Lalitpur/Steering Committee Member)

District Coordinator: Bishnu Pokhel

Introduction

NDI-Nepal and Pro-Public conducted an Effective Legislative Practices/Mock Parliament program in Banke district from February 25-27, 2010. A total of 58 women from political parties and civil society and media organizations attended the three day program.

The program's main objective was to create awareness regarding parliamentary processes, roles and functions among district level female political leaders and representatives of civil society organizations. Participants were invited accordingly.

On the first day, the program began later than expected due to a Federation of Nepalese Journalist (FNJ) event held in Nepalgunj and attended by Nepal's president, the speaker, a number of government ministers and other senior national politicians. While this interfered with the opening session that NDI and Pro-Public had planned, it did not affect day two or three. The CA members who gave presentations remained 'on topic' and interacted well with the participants, ably answering all questions.

The three day program was divided into theoretical and practical sessions. The first two days consisted of presentations on such topics the roles of parliamentary committees, budgets, and the law-making process. The final day was a lively practical session mock parliament session in which participants actively participated, playing the roles of parliamentarians and other individuals involved in the legislative process.

All four CA members present were from different political parties and two, Hon. Sandhya Dev and Hon. Mohammadi Siddiqui, were from the Banke district.

The presence of local politicians was important to the success of the program. Unfortunately, Hon. Sandhya Dev was absent for much of the Program. This put additional pressure on the three



Hon. Mohammadi Siddiqui explaining the role of parliamentary caucuses

members who attended each session as they were obliged to make presentations on her behalf.



Participants submitting recommendations to the CA members

The closing session went very well, with participants being presented with certificates of attendance and a large number of media personnel and district level leaders of major political parties attending. The event was reported in local newspapers and on local FM stations.

Political parties

Members of the following nine political parties attended the program:

- Nepali Congress (NC)
- CPN-UML
- CPN-ML
- CPN-Unified
- Tarai Madhesh Loktrantik Party (TMLP)
- Madheshi Janadhikar Forum Nepal (MJF-N)
- Madheshi Janadhikar Forum-Democratic (MJF-D)
- Rastriya Prajatantra Party (RPP)
- Sadbhawana Party – Anandidevi

Political party's sister organization

- Nepal Student's Union
- Nepal Women's Organization

Civil society organizations

Representatives of the following CSOs attended the program:

- Federation of NGOs
- Forum for Women, Law and Justice
- CARURAST
- Janajati Forum
- Force Nepal
- Fatima Foundation

Media

Representatives of the following media organizations attended the program, reporting on it each day:

- Radio Jana Aawaj
- Radio Krishnanagar

This FM station covered most of the program.

Conclusion

The Effective Legislative Practices/Mock Parliamentary program is very useful for increasing awareness of political activities. Most participants appreciated the program and requested that NDI conduct similar programs in the future.

Although the program ran smoothly, it appeared that Pro-Public's local and central staff seemed somewhat confused as to the division of their roles and responsibilities. This may have been due to a because of either a lack of training or a communication gap between central and district staff. Consequently, in the future, orientation training for local level staff must be provided.



Participants during thematic discussion

Quotes

"Thanks to NDI and Pro Public for providing us this opportunity to interact personally with our representatives (CA members). We hardly get this kind of opportunity to sit and discuss our issues with CA members. Because of this program we (Muslim CSOs) were able to submit recommendations to all four CA members to include Muslim women's issue in the Constitution."

Maimuna Siddiqui, Representative, Fatima Foundation

WCA/PM participants

Participant	Party
Eastern Region	
Jhapa	
Usha Gurung	Nepali Congress (NC)
Neelam K. C.	Communist Party of Nepal-Marxist Leninist (CPN-ML)
<i>Expert CA</i>	
Usha Kala Rai	Communist Party of Nepal-Unified Marxist Leninist (CPN-UML)
Mahalaxmi Upadhayay	NC
Udaypur	
Laxmi Pariyar	NC
Durga Pariyar	CPN-UML
<i>Expert CA</i>	
Pramila Rai	NC
Kalyanai Shah	CPN-United
Terahthum	
Sita Gurung	NC
Vishnu Maya B. K.	CPN-UML
<i>Expert CA</i>	
Mahalaxmi Upadhayay	NC
Central Region	
Mahottari	
Kiran Yadav	NC
Bashanti Jha	Tarai Madhesh Loktrantik Party (TMLP)
Ram Shila Thakur	CPN-United
<i>Expert CA</i>	
Surita Kumari Sha	MJF-Nepal
Minakshi Jha	NC
Neelam Verma	MJF-Democratic
Sarlahi	
Meena Pandey	NC
Kiran Kumari Ray	CPN-UML
Salma Khatun Mikarani	MJF-Nepal
Sumitra Devi Yadav	TMLP
Urmila Mahato Koiri	TMLP
<i>Expert CA</i>	

Jaya Ghimire	CPN-UML
Chitwan	
Uma Regmi	NC
Sundevi Joshi	NC
Sarada Devi Kumal	UML
Parbati Mahato Kumal	ML
Sita Kumari Poudel	UML
Kavrepalanchok	
Kamala Thapa Kunwar	NC
Lalita Kingring Magar	NC
Shila Katila	UML
<i>Expert CA</i>	
Prativa Rana	RPP
Ambika Basnet	NC
Western Region	
Gorkha	
Kamala Pant	NC
<i>Expert CA</i>	
Tham Maya Thapa	CPN-UML
Padma Aryal	CPN-UML
Baglung	
Ratna Sherchan	NC
<i>Expert CA</i>	
Rama Guragain	NC
Padma Aryal	CPN-UML
Narayani Devi Ghimire	CPN-UML
Mohamadi Siddiqui	NC
Mid-Western Region	
Banke	
Mohamadi Siddiqui	NC
Sandhya Dev	MJF-Nepal
<i>Expert CA</i>	
Janak Chalise	(CPN-ML)
Sabitra Bhusal	CPN-UML

**Women’s Leadership Academy
Effective Legislative Practices
Draft Report**

Summary:

To support women Constituent Assembly (CA) members in their efforts to participate effectively in the development of the new constitution, the National Democratic Institute (NDI) launched the Women’s Leadership Academy (WLA) in 2008. Funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), NDI has provided professional development trainings to women CA members since 2008. In November 2009, NDI conducted a five–day workshop on Effective Legislative Practices to provide a platform for women CA members to discuss comparative governmental and electoral systems and federalism options currently under discussion in the CA. The objective of the program was to raise the level of awareness of the participants on these issues and enhance their parliamentary skills through interaction.

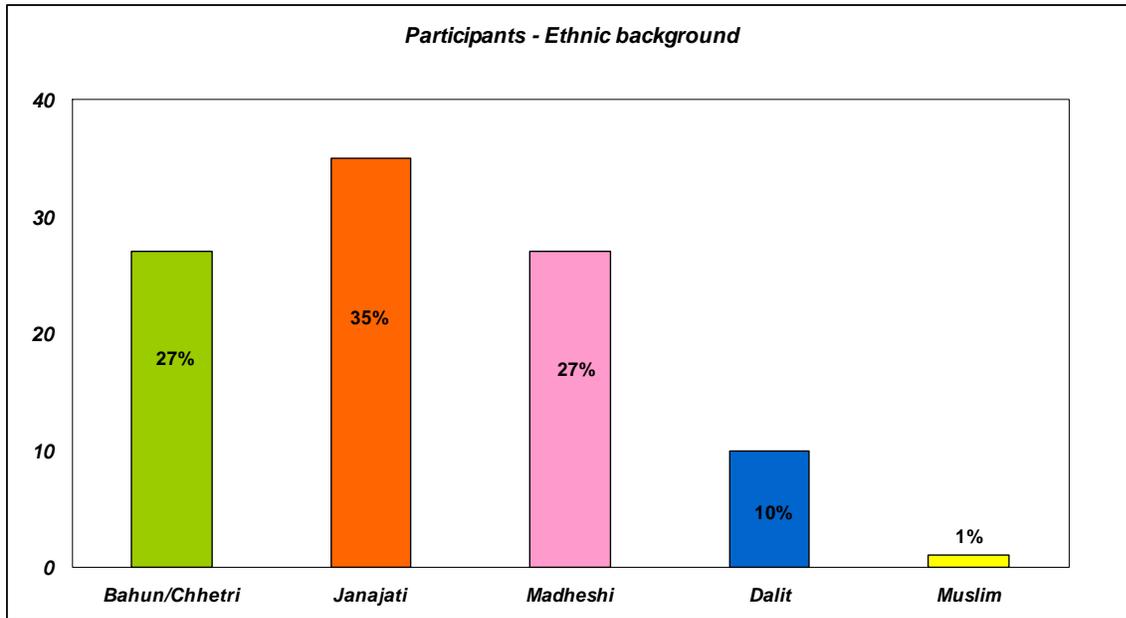
Program Activities:

A five-day workshop on Effective Legislative Practices for women CA members began from November 23 to November 27, 2009. Sixty CA members (**Figure 1**) from ten political parties representing a wide cross section of ethnic and regional affiliations took part in the program (**Figure 2**). Members of the WLA Steering Committee also actively participated in the program.

Figure 1:

S. No	Political Party	No of participants
1.	Nepali Congress	20
2.	Communist Party of Nepal-Unified Marxist Leninist (CPN-UML)	22
3.	Madheshi Janadhikar Forum –Nepal Democratic (MJF-Nepal Democratic)	3
4.	Madheshi Janadhikar Forum –Nepal (MJF Nepal)	2
5.	Tarai Madhesh Loktantrik Party (TMLP)	3
6.	Rastriya Prajatantra Party (RPP)	3
7.	Communist Party of Nepal-Marxist Leninist (CPN-ML)	3
8.	Sadbhawana Party	2
9.	Rastriya Prajatantra Party – Nepal (RPP-Nepal)	1
10.	Federal Democratic National Forum (FDNF)	1
	TOTAL	60

Figure 2:



The workshop aimed to provide the CA members a forum to learn and discuss parliamentary procedures and related issues while utilizing the skills acquired through various trainings and orientations in the first and second tier activities of the WLA. To achieve this objective a host of national and international experts were brought in to share their expertise (**Figure 3**) and also provide a forum conducive for dialogue among the participants on effective legislative practices from around the world. To make the workshop participatory and to provide an opportunity to the CA members to listen first hand to the many international experts, simultaneous translation was used.

Figure 3:

Session	Resource Person
Day One: Government Structure Considerations	
Role of Parliamentarian in a Presidential System	Dr. Sherrie Wolff, Country Director, NDI-Nepal
Role of Parliamentarian in a Parliamentary System (Belgium and Kosovo)	Franklin De Vrieze, Program Manager, UNDP
Role of Parliamentarian in a Parliamentary (Germany) and Presidential System (Brazil)	Dr. Horst Matthaeus, Coordinator Governance, German Development Cooperation
Comparison of political parties concept papers on governmental structures	Dr. Marcus Brand, Strategic Coordination and Policy Advisor Leena Rikkila Tamang, Head of Mission, International IDEA
Federalism	Dominic Cardy, Director-Asia Pacific, Forum of

Session	Resource Person
	Federations
Towards Federalism: A Nepali Perspective	Lal Babu Yadav, Political Scientist
Day Two: Parliamentary Considerations	
Transparency and Accountability – Oversight	Franklin De Vrieze, Program Manager, UNDP
Strategies for dealing with corruption through Parliament Codes of Ethics and Codes of Conduct	Dr. Sherrie Wolff, Country Director, NDI-Nepal
Dealing with Corruption – Legal Provisions in Nepal	Suryanath Upadhayay, Former Chief Commissioner, Commission for Investigation of Abuse of Authority (CIAA)
Nepali Experiences on Parliamentary Practices	Daman Nath Dhungana, Former Speaker
Day Three: Electoral System Considerations	
Provision of electoral laws on CA and its impact on representation Revisit of FPTP, PR and Hybrid Electoral Systems	Raju Malla, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Law
Why International election observation What does it mean to you and Nepal?	Michael Baldassarro, Deputy Country Representative, The Carter Centre Sarah Levit-Shore, Country Representative, The Carter Centre
Experiences and Impact in Nepal	Shrawan Sharma, Political Scientist
Day Four: Legislative Practices	
Indian Experiences on Parliamentary Practices	Dr. Prabha Thakur, MP, India
Role of Public Accounts Committee	Hon. Hridyesh Tripathy, CA Member
Role of Parliament in Checking Corruption/Reporting	Hari Bahadur Thapa, News Editor, Kantipur Daily
Constitutional Needs for dealing with Corruption	Larry Taman, International Project Manager, UNDP
Day Five: Committees, Meeting Management And Advocacy	
Role of Committees and Sub Committees and Role of Parliamentary Caucuses	Dr. Sherrie Wolff, Country Director, NDI-Nepal
Chairing Committees and Meeting Management	Chitrlekha Yadav, Former Deputy Speaker, Nepal
Presentation and Advocacy Skills Advocacy and Media	Dr. Sherrie Wolff, Country Director, NDI- Nepal Tirtha Koirala, Chief of News and Current Affairs, Kantipur Television
Managing CA elections in Nepal (experiences)	Hon. Neel Kantha Uprety, Officiating Chief

Session	Resource Person
and challenges) Future considerations for electoral models Mock Parliament – Practical Session	Election Commissioner, Election Commission Mukunda Sharma, Spokesperson, Parliament Secretariat

Participant’s feedback:

Participants were asked to complete a short questionnaire¹ at the end of the workshop. The questionnaire focused on collecting the views of the participants on topics like - elements the new constitution should incorporate to minimize corruption, a suitable federal system for the country, future electoral model (**Figure 4**) and the system of government that would allow parliamentarians maximum leeway to exercise their potential (**Figure 5**). The comments are summarized below.

1. What basic elements, do you think the new constitution needs to deal with corruption?
 - A majority of the participants opined that the new constitution should make provisions for strong anti-corruption laws and policies. Those guilty of corruption should be punished.
 - Another section of the participants stated that the Commission for Investigation of Abuse of Authority (CIAA) should be an independent entity, free of political influence. The Commission should be impartial and at the same time empowered to punish the guilty.
 - The participants also spoke on the urgent need of a provision in the constitution for a highly trained anti-corruption monitoring unit. The sole responsibility of this unit should be for curbing corruption.
 - According to some of the participants corruption can to an extent be minimized by making provisions allowing greater access and independence to media.
 - Some of the participants were of the view that the CA members, elected by the people, should be responsible for controlling corruption.

2. According to your opinion, which type of federal system will be the most suitable one for Nepal?
 - A section of the respondents were of the view that federalism should be structured on the basis of geographic distribution, historical background and the local economy. Federalism on such grounds would guarantee rights to all citizens.
 - Another section of the respondents opined that federalism in Nepal should be on the basis of geography, ethnicity, language, population and distribution of natural resources.
 - Some of the participants were of the view that the country should be divided into six or seven states in accordance with the mountains, the hills and the Tarai.

¹ A total of 34 participants took part in the survey

- The participants stated that Nepal should consist of fifteen states as different groups of people live in the hills, the mountains and the Tarai.
- According to the participants there should be nine states in the new federation on the basis of economic resources, geographic distribution, ethnicity and language.

Figure 4:

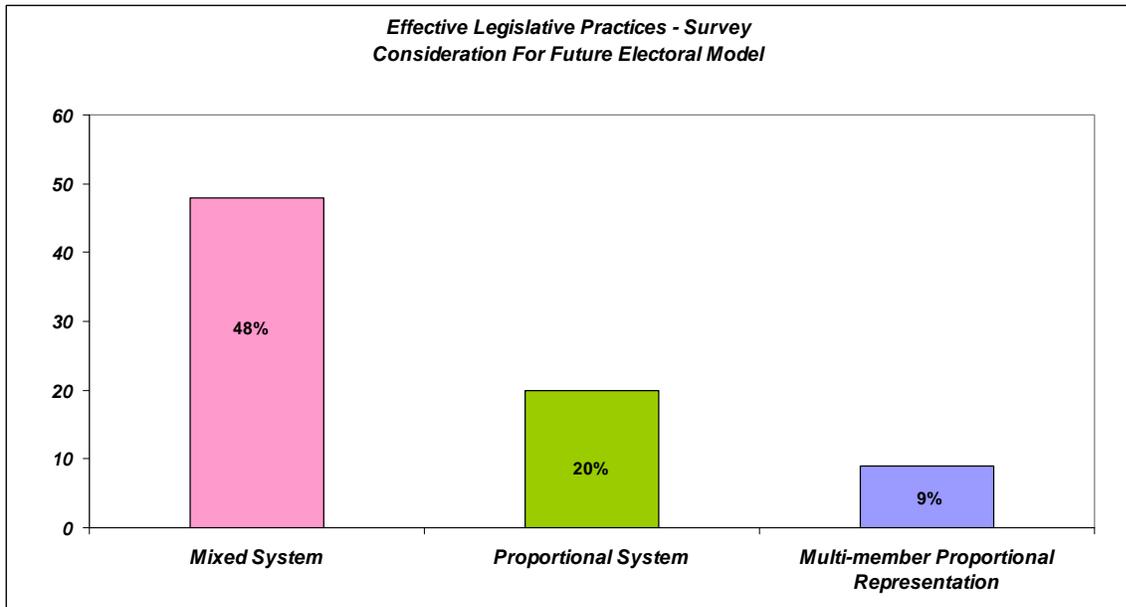
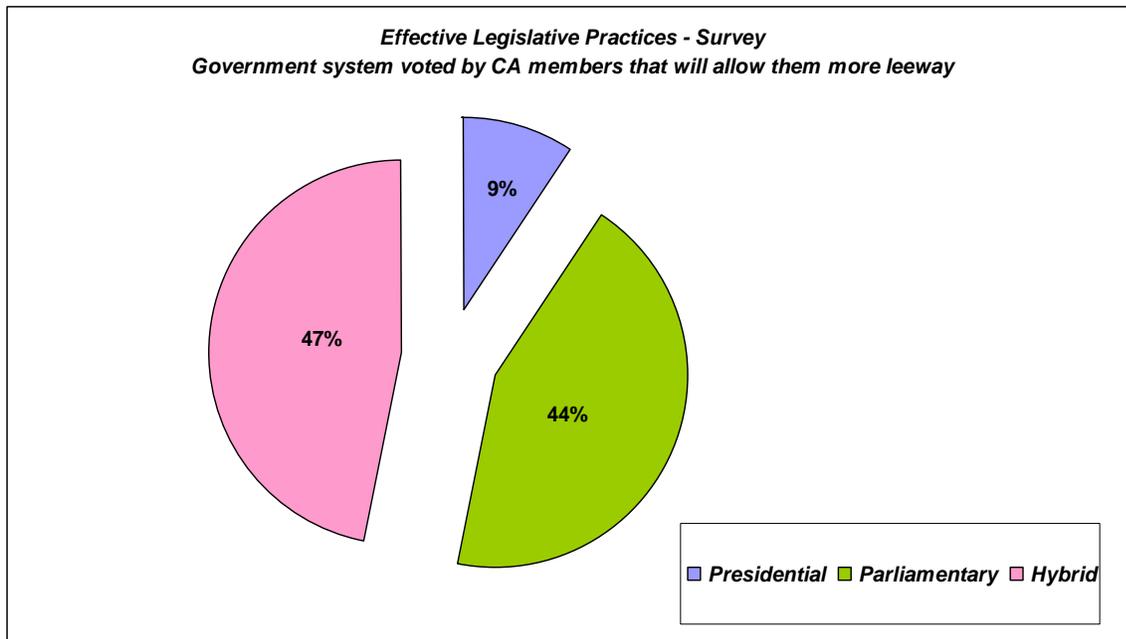


Figure 5:



Assessing the workshop:

A majority of the participants found the workshop very useful. The participants expressed their appreciation for all the sessions and for the opportunity to get an introduction to so many important topics. Enthusiasm and commitment appeared high in the beginning and remained high throughout the workshop for virtually all participants. The success of the program can be gauged by the fact that participants were very punctual, arriving at the training hall at 6:45 am, a tradition still unheard of among Nepali politicians. A few suggestions are highlighted below.

- Conduct such workshops for district level participants.
- There must be continuity to such programs to make it even more effective.
- Feedback from the participants on the potential resource persons will enhance the effectiveness of the program.

Quotes from the participants:

“I receive many invitations from different I/NGOs to participate in their programs. However, I do not usually accept these invitations. But I never miss NDI’s trainings/workshops because I feel NDI’s program activities are more useful and the subject matter are relevant to the present political context.”

Hon. Kamala Thapa (Kunwar), CA member, Nepali Congress, Kavrepalanchowk

“The participants told me that this program was very useful, especially in the every day business of the House”. *Hon. Hridayesh Tripathy, CA member, Vice –Chair TMLP*

Future Plans:

District Level program on Effective Legislative Practices:

The district level program on effective legislative practices will be organized in ten districts/constituencies and will include women CA representatives, local party workers, and civil society members and media representatives. Topics for the district/constituency level mock parliament sessions will include: legislative procedure, budgetary process, and law making process.

These sessions will provide the WLA graduates a forum to discuss local issues while utilizing the skills acquired through various trainings and orientations in the first and second tier activities of the Leadership Academy. This program will help form a common national agenda on the constitution drafting process by presenting recommendations for future directives and a broader understanding of local issues. Furthermore, it will help establish a strong and active triangular (state, civil society, and the grassroots) development paradigm on the constitution making process and policy development.

The constituencies for the mock parliament/CA exercise will be selected on the basis of their geographic distribution, party wide presence and ethnic/caste divergence of the CA members. NDI will only identify locations after detailed consultations with members of the Steering Committee and political parties.



Women's Leadership Academy

Effective Legislative Practices/Mock Parliament Program

AGENDA

DAY ONE

10:00 – 10:30 Registration and Breakfast

10:30 – 10:11 Inauguration, Introduction and Welcome

11:00 - 01:00 LEGISLATIVE PROCEDURES

- A. Roles and Responsibilities of CA Member/Member of Parliament
 - How Did I become a Parliamentarian
 - What is constitution? Updates on Constitution Drafting Process
- B. Difference between Constituent Assembly and Legislature/Parliament
- C. Functions of Parliament
 - Representation
 - Lawmaking
 - Oversight/supervision
- D. Plenary Sessions (Full House)
 - Brief Description
- E. Legislative Committees/Standing Committees
 - Role of Committees
 - Number of Committees and Chairs
 - How Selected for Committees
 - Committee Procedures – CA and Parliament

01:00- 2:00 Lunch

- 2:00 – 4:00 LAW MAKING PROCESS**
- What is a bill?
 - Type of bills? Piece of legislation
 - Debate on bills?
 - Role of legislative committees
 - Passing the bills
 - Amending the bills
 - Role of an individual MP, Role of external agencies/interest groups (Definition of interest groups)
 - Role of citizens
 - Role of media
 - Committees Procedures (Practical sessions – Mock Committee hearing)

DAY TWO

10:00 – 10:30 Registration and Breakfast

10:30 – 11:00 Review of first day activities

- 11:00 – 1:00 BUDGETARY PROCESS**
- What is a Budget?
 - Why is it important to parliamentarians?
 - Role of the MP
 - Role of Government agencies
 - Ministry of Finance and other Ministries
 - National Planning Commission
 - District Development Committees (DDCs)
 - Municipalities
 - Village Development Committees (VDCs)
 - Gender Budgeting

1:00- 2:00 Lunch

- 2:00 –3:30 PEOPLE, PARTY AND PARLIAMENT**
- What is a political party?
 - Role of political parties in parliament
 - Role of caucuses – party caucuses
 - Role of media
 - Role of interest group (advocacy)
 - Individual access to parliamentary procedures

3:30 – 4:00 PREPARATION FOR MOCK PARLIAMENT

- Role Playing – What is it?
- Bill
- Assignment of Roles
 - Speaker
 - Prime Minister, Ministers
 - Opposition Leader
 - Committee members
 - Chief whip and whips
 - Lobbyist/Advocacy
 - Media

DAY THREE

10:00 – 10:30 Registration and Breakfast

10:30 – 11:00 Review of second day activities

11:00 – 1:00 Mock Parliament (Practical session)

1:00 – 2:00 Lunch

2:00 – 3:00 Mock Parliament (Practical session) Cont.

3:30 – 4:00 Closing Ceremony