

WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP ACADEMY (WLA)

Report on Public Hearing, Community Dialogue and Round Table 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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Acronyms

ADB	-	Asian Development Bank
CD	-	Community Dialogue
CDO	-	Chief District Officer
CPLC	-	Central Project Logistics Coordinator
DLC	-	District Logistics Coordinator
DDC	-	District Development Committee
DDRF	-	District Disaster Relief Fund
FNCCI	-	Federation of Nepalese Chamber of Commerce and Industries
INGO	-	International Non Governmental Organization
JICA	-	Japan International Cooperation Agency
LDO	-	Local Development Officer
NDI	-	National Democratic Institute
NGO	-	Non Governmental Organization
Pro Public	-	Forum for Protection of Public Interest
SWAN	-	Social Welfare Association of Nepal
USAID	-	United States Agency for International Development
VDC	-	Village Development Committee
WCA/PM	-	Women Constituent Assembly/Parliament Member
WLA	-	Women's Leadership Academy

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Women's Leadership Academy (WLA), a program funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), and administered by the National Democratic Institute (NDI), has provided Nepali women Constituent Assembly/Parliament Members (WCA/PMs) with professional development trainings since 2008. In September 2009, NDI launched a WLA outreach program in ten districts in Nepal. Twenty-five graduates of the first tier of the Training Academy were selected to participate. In addition, all women CA/Parliament members available in the ten districts, as well as WLA Advisory Committee members were invited to participate. The objective of the outreach program was to demonstrate the effectiveness of elected members and to involve the public in a discussion of community issues of concern. The tools used to accomplish this in each district were, in sequential order: public hearings, community dialogues and round table discussions involving all segments of society. At each of the district events between 150 and 200 citizens attended and participated. The program was extremely successful in each district because it made the WCA/PM participants feel they were in control of the process while they learned what the citizens needed and wanted. The positive input from experts and audience members regarding the one issue selected for discussion increased the productivity of each session. The response from each district has been very surprising, with citizens claiming that they had never had such a positive and productive experience with government before. Detailed below is a description of the methodology and conduct of each of these sessions, NDI's follow-up to the outreach in each district and lessons learned from the program.

INTRODUCTION

Democracy, as a system of government, demands either direct or representative involvement of the people being governed. The voice of the people is absolutely essential in a democracy. As such, a democratic decision-making process, in which groups, organizations and the citizenry can express themselves as to their needs and desires regarding the political process, must occur if policy and legislation are to reflect citizen input. In developing democracies, establishment of mechanisms to ensure this citizen input is provided and incorporated may be difficult to effectively initiate. There may be historical antecedents that have been employed in years past that did not incorporate such citizen inclusion, and there may be a reluctance to recognize that a change may bring inclusive results that reflect the will of the citizens.

Establishment of such mechanisms is especially critical to the proper functioning of the most representative institution in government – the house of the people, which is generally the lower house in a legislature. In Nepal, members of the Constituent Assembly/Parliament are members of the house elected to represent the people of Nepal. As a consequence, provision must be made to ensure ongoing representative mechanisms are institutionalized. These mechanisms are for information gathering, to inform and listen to the public, to analyze policies and proposed laws, to oversee implementation of policies and legislation, and to investigate possible malfeasance. Most often, these mechanisms include public hearings, community dialogues and/or round table discussions. The program described in this report incorporates many of the best features of all of these forms of citizen input to produce an effective model for Nepal.

Traditionally in Nepal, while public hearings have been held, they have often tended to be a debate event that may become confrontational. Participants have most often been representatives of political parties who tend to propose and defend their party's platform on an issue or issues instead of examining ways in which the issue can be resolved by compromise or consensus. The public response to this type of public hearing has been one that expects negativity and/or finger pointing as opposed to constructive, positive, and productive dialogues.

METHODOLOGY

Given the background of public hearings in Nepal, NDI and USAID determined that a parliamentary-citizen outreach program would be most effective if it was targeted, focused and comprehensive. The criteria used to select the ten districts throughout Nepal were: geographic distribution; selection of districts that are represented by CA/PM first tier graduates; and selection of districts that would be ethnically representative of Nepal's diversity. The districts selected were: Tanahu, Illam, Morang, Sunsari, Rautahat, Dhanusa, Rupandehi, Dang, Kailali and Bardiya.

Selected members of the CA/Parliament were not only women members who had completed the first phase of the NDI Women's Leadership Academy but who also had identified constituencies and/or districts that they chose to represent. It was further determined that a dialogue between members of the CA/Parliament and citizens of districts throughout the country must:

- 1) Be manageable;
- 2) Be effective;
- 3) Instill ownership of the project with both parliamentarians and the citizenry; and,
- 4) Allow outcomes that could be implemented and duplicated.

Organizational structure

In order to fulfill these goals, it was determined that the best format would include a combination of the outreach programs in order to reach all segments of society. These formats included: first, a public hearing; second, a community dialogue; and third, a round table discussion. The organizational structure took the following points into account.

1. A comprehensive structure must be able to accommodate input from all segments of society.
2. Local NGOs should be selected to assist with the arrangements and conduct of the programs within each of the ten districts because they understand the issues and the players at the local level.
3. The program must be positive and productive, as opposed to previously held outreach programs that were often negative and produced little of substance.
4. One issue or subject, as opposed to a discussion of all possible issues, should be the focus of the outreach. Such an approach would allow for attention to be drawn to one area in which recommendations and possible solutions could be sought and discussed by all.

5. There must be on-going coordination between the WCA/PMs, the district NGOs, experts who would be involved in the discussions and NDI, which is directing and implementing the program.
6. Each section of the program should be designed to be a stand alone segment but also one that would build on the information obtained in the previous segment, thus producing an integrated whole that would include input from the entire community.
7. Adequate evaluations of each step of the process are essential.
8. Follow-up work on suggestions and recommendations must be targeted to the appropriate agency, official or organization for resolution and implementation.

Preparation

1. Research was undertaken to determine which issue was the most critical one in each district and required discussion and action. NDI conducted interviews with district officials, consulted district media and discussed with the selected NGOs and women WCA/PMs to determine which issue was most important to the citizens of the area.
2. Materials were prepared in relevant languages for the training of all persons to be involved in the programs.
3. The NGO, Pro Public, was competitively selected to assist in the organization of each district. Pro Public was selected based on their experience in conducting public hearings in Nepal and their on-going district organizations.
4. A briefing book was prepared for each WCA/PM participating in the program. The briefing book contained information on the district and the issue selected, including media reports and information on projects or steps that had been previously regarding the specific issue chosen. In addition, sample questions were provided for WCA/PMs to provide possible talking points.
5. Sample press kits were provided for each Pro Public district communications coordinator.

Comprehensive Training

1. Training of WCA/PM participants.

WCA/PMs received a two-day training on holding public hearings. The training included: use of a manual, comparative public hearing materials, and a simulation on the conduct of a public hearing, in which all members participated.

2. A one-day review course was conducted on the public hearing training. This was held the week before the public hearings began. This training included WCA/PMs, Pro Public staff, NDI staff members who would be working in a specific district and individual CA/Parliament staff members. In addition, training was held on an individual basis for those members who were not available for the review session.

3. Pro Public Training and Activities.

In each of the ten districts a moderator, a communications coordinator, a logistics assistant and district logistics coordinator were selected by Pro Public. A job description for each person was developed by NDI to ensure uniformity of job performance and that each public hearing/community dialogue and round table discussion was held on the same model. (See **Appendix 14: Job Descriptions.**) NDI brought each of the selected persons to Kathmandu for two days of training on their specific job assignments. This included simulations for each person on his/her responsibilities.

- a. NDI prepared invitations for Pro Public to distribute within each district. These invitations announced the venue and the issue to be discussed and invited participants to come to the hearings with specific ideas or recommendations. Reaching a balance between women, men, and marginalized communities was strongly recommended in sending these invitations to potential attendees.
- b. Pro Public, in consultation with WCA/PMs and NDI, selected and invited expert witnesses who could testify and present written testimony on the subject under discussion. The expert witnesses were to testify during the public hearing and answer questions from the WCA/PM participants. These expert also attended the community dialogue in order to respond to questions from participants in the audience. It was stressed that selected experts must represent a balance between those who supported and those who opposed the issue under discussion. It was also emphasized that women and other marginalized groups should be well represented.
- c. Pro Public invited media representatives and prepared additional information on the selected issue.
- d. Pro Public made the arrangements for the venues of the programs.

Conduct of the hearings

Each public hearing was held in a hall large enough to accommodate up to two hundred people with the moderator opening the event by introducing the WCA/PMs and the experts who were to present, and welcoming the audience participants. The WCA/PM participants were seated in front, on a slightly raised platform; experts were seated to one side facing the audience, and the moderator was at the podium on the opposite side. Representatives of NDI and Pro Public welcomed the audience and reiterated that the hearings were to be positive and focus on the single issue that had been decided upon by district representatives and WCA/PM participants. The reasons for stressing the positive nature of the hearing were to differentiate that hearing from the traditional public hearings and to help the audience understand that involvement and recommendations made by them and the experts would help identify solutions to the articulated issue.

After the moderator's welcome, each WCA/PM gave an opening statement of approximately three to five minutes in which she acknowledged the importance of the subject to be discussed and the need to obtain the views of the experts and audience members. Following these brief

presentations, each expert was allowed approximately 10 minutes for comments. In addition to an explanation of the issue, each expert's comments were to include recommendations for how to deal with or solve the problem. Each expert had been requested to provide written comments that could be included in a briefing book or distributed for public information. Following these presentations, WCA/PM participants could ask the experts questions or explore different solutions to the issue. The moderator also had the option of rephrasing statements or questions and posing additional inquiries.

The public hearings were scheduled to last two hours. Media attended and in some locations the hearings were broadcast live on radio/FM. Numerous follow-up articles appeared in local and regional newspapers highlighting the positive experience of the public hearings, community dialogues and round table discussions. Following the public hearings, the sessions were opened for public questions and statements on the issue.

Community dialogues

The moderator welcomed the audience once again and restated the issue under discussion. He/she informed the audience that they could address questions to either the WCA/PM participants or the experts.

The floor was then opened to statements and questions. Two portable microphones were available. Instructions were given to the persons handling the microphones to ensure that 50 per cent of the questions came from women and underrepresented groups. The moderator instructed audience members to ensure their comments were relevant to the subject and to not take longer than two or three minutes in making their statements or questions. Audience members asked questions or made statements while WCA/PM participants and experts took notes. After several questions or statements had been made, the members and experts responded. This exchange lasted for approximately sixty to ninety minutes. The questions and statements made by the audience were positive, issue relevant and well-articulated.

At the conclusion of the community dialogue, the moderator thanked the audience, the WCA/PM participants and the experts. Each WCA/PM made a closing statement thanking the audience for their participation and excellent suggestions.

Round table discussions

The round table discussions were held either the evening following the public hearings and community dialogues or the next morning. It was decided that since many of the participants had to travel, it would be best if the events could be kept to either one day or a day and a half.

The round table discussions were designed to bring another segment of society, community leaders, into the discussion. The participants included district and municipal officers, political party leaders, NGO representatives, civil activists, academics, businesspeople and others involved in various aspects of the particular issue under discussion.

Discussion during the round table was more casual and was generally held around a table, thus facilitating an easier dialogue. Most of the participants had taken part in the earlier discussions and were aware of the many questions asked and statements made. The discussion focused on the proposals previously made, to decide which were legitimate and which could possibly be implemented. These discussions were in depth and substantive and although they were designed to last one hour, often continued for three or more. At the conclusion of each discussion, a monitoring and follow-up committee was formed so that the momentum of the day would not be lost. It was also important to form this committee for oversight purposes, to ensure that action would be taken.

Dinner or lunch was served at the conclusion of the round table programs. This allowed for further interaction and discussion.

BEST PRACTICES

1. One factor that led to the success of the hearings and dialogues was the fact that they all centered on one issue or subject that research had found to be very relevant to each district. This research allowed the WCA/PMs, experts, community leaders and audience to remain focused on the issue and to attempt to find a workable solution in which all sectors of society could be involved.
2. While there were three different forums, all with different formats, each shared a focus on only one issue. Consequently, each forum was able to build on the information obtained in the previous one, ending with the possibility of establishing guidelines on which to move forward in order to solve the problem. The formation of a monitoring and oversight committee is often needed in democratic forums in order to ensure there is appropriate and timely action.
3. The idea of keeping the sessions positive was extremely important. Positive ideas and suggestions kept the focus on a productive outcome. Rather than accusations that elected officials never tended to their districts or paid attention to the needs of the citizens, the fact that the Members of Parliament were there not just to listen to problems, but to help find ways to solve major issues, was very encouraging to all.
4. The intensive and comprehensive training was a key component to the success of the program. The training did not consist of one session or one workshop but instead included additional individual consultations and review workshops. These were combined with trainings for the logistics providers. In addition, there were meetings between the district workers and the members before they left for the district, and there were meetings with the Parliamentarians, moderators and experts the day before the events occurred.
5. The organization of the events was coherent and flowed easily from one to the other, building on the information gleaned and enthusiasm generated in the previous discussion or hearing. These hearings were organized to the smallest detail to ensure that everything functioned properly. Too often, the focus is only on the Member of Parliament and not on the information to be delivered, who will deliver it, how it will be delivered and in the

development of a format in which everyone can participate. A great deal of practice and coordination took place. This is essential for a smooth flowing, productive event.

6. The insistence that women be included at 50 per cent was critical to the proper functioning of this event. An emphasis on inclusion of marginalized groups also contributed to the program's success. These groups were included in the planning, in the delivery and in the statements and suggestions made by the audience.
7. It is extremely important to include a follow-up that brings members together to discuss the findings issued in the reports and that emphasizes being proactive in the development of a strategic plan for future action. This demonstrates to politicians and members of the public that government can listen, be responsive and act for its constituents.
8. The public hearing sessions turned out to be such a welcome new addition to Nepali politics that individual relevant ministries held follow up meetings on specific issues raised in the districts. The ministries brought in district representatives, at the ministry expense, provided meeting rooms and refreshments. These meetings generally lasted four or five hours. As one CA member stated, "we never talk about an issue for this long." NDI and Pro Public, although it was not in their contract since the response was so unexpected, helped arrange the meetings with the CA members and civil society. These sessions provided a rare opportunity for all levels of government and civil society to interact and attempt to solve a specific issue. Funding for these follow up activities needs to be included in future projections.

LESSONS LEARNED

1. While there was an emphasis on the inclusion of women both as audience members and as panelists, it was difficult to locate enough women experts. Increasing emphasis needs to be placed on locating women experts before the next sequence of public hearings, community dialogues and round table discussions occurs. Women have traditionally not been in positions where they were considered to be experts. As a consequence, additional efforts need to be made to ensure these women are selected and placed in the position of role models.
2. Often the moderators tended to talk too long. While it has been the tradition in Nepal for moderators to play a primary role, this takes up an appreciable period of time away from discussion. More emphasis needs to be made of the fact that they are facilitators and not experts, and that they are not there to interpret explain or repeat what each person says.
3. The panels of experts need more balance. While this was stressed, and great effort was made, more experts on differing sides of the issue need to be located and invited to participate. In addition, a greater number of women and marginalized groups must be included. Different panels of supporters and opponents should be structured and allowed different space.
4. More effort needs to be placed on ensuring that all political party leaders are invited and included. While this was very successful in certain areas, additional effort must be made to ensure this participation. With political parties as important as they are in Nepal, they need to be involved in all relevant, substantive discussions.

5. Evaluation forms and processes need to be improved. Random sampling was used, ensuring that an equal number of women and men were questioned. **(See Appendix 15)**. The objective evaluation forms were comprised largely of multiple-choice questions, with a few narrative questions. 341 participants took part in the roundtable discussions, of which 188 returned completed evaluation forms. The lessons learned are highlighted below.
 - The survey forms must be short and simple.
 - Future programs must include plans for the collection and storage of data.
 - The survey forms had multiple-choice options. In some cases, participants appeared confused by the multiple-choice options. We may have to consider this for future reference.
 - The Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) methodology took into account the education level of participants. Although the form was relatively simple, some participants had difficulty following the instructions. In future, this could potentially be addressed by providing clearer verbal instructions to participants.
6. Sample questions for the WCA/PMs should be included in the briefing book and in trainings. The idea of including questions conveys to the members the importance of interactive involvement with both the experts and the audience.
7. More emphasis needs to be placed on the importance of the follow up meetings with the ministries to the CA Members/Parliamentarians. Since this was an unexpected addition to the program, members were not sufficiently prepared for the ministries' reactions and desires for in depth discussions. It needs to be stressed to the CA Members their need to be fully prepared to discuss the issue and be prepared to engage in productive solution-oriented meetings.

FOLLOW-UP

In addition to the final report, NDI examined all of the solutions and suggestions from each district and determined which ones would best be handled by the municipal officers, which would be best handled by the district officials, and which would be best handled by the WCA/PMs. After circulating the suggestions to the relevant offices in the district, the NDI staff who, worked within each district worked with the WCA/PM who attended those events and discussed the major issues and suggestions that evolved from the public events. Following the discussion with the members, strategic planning sessions were held with WCA/PM participants to determine what actions could be taken before the next round of public hearing, community dialogue and round table discussions in six months. This strategic planning helped formulate a plan of action based on the three priorities members identified as the most crucial and ones on which they could have input and impact. NDI assisted by recommending which actions to implement.

Follow-up meetings

Three follow-up meetings have been held with WCA/PM participants, government officials and concerned experts in order to progress recommendations made during the round table programs. The follow-up meetings focused on three topics: tourism; irrigation, land cutting and flooding; and domestic violence and kamlari (bonded labour). A fourth meeting is planned to follow up on recommendations related to health.

The below reports outline the follow-up meetings that have taken place to date.

FOLLOW-UP MEETINGS

ISSUE: TOURISM

Districts:	Ilam, Dhansuha, Tanahu and Rupandehi
WCA/PM participants:	Hon. Nirmala Parsai, Hon. Juli Kumari Mahato, Hon. Krishna Thakur
Date:	December 16, 2009
Venue:	Nepal Tourism Board Meeting Hall

The follow-up meeting on tourism in the districts of Ilam, Dhanusha, Tanahu and Rupandehi was very productive. In addition to the WCA/PM participants, Subash Niraula, Acting Chief Executive Officer, Nepal Tourism Board, and Laxman Bhattarai, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Tourism, actively participated in the program. A commendable feature of this follow-up meeting was the voluntary presence of Hari Singh Gurung and Padam Bahadur KC, experts on tourism from Tanahu. The extent of NDI's outreach and the name it has earned for itself are reflected in the facts that Pro Public arranged the meeting on its own initiative and that the Nepal Tourism Board took the lead in facilitating discussion.

Program details

The program focused on including these districts in Nepal Tourism 2011, which aims to draw a record number of tourists from around the world.

The district of Ilam was highlighted as an example of how CA members can work in coordination with each other despite their party affiliations. To facilitate the construction of a domestic airport in Ilam, CA members from this district have utilized their Parliamentary Development Fund. There is a small tourism section in the DDC of Ilam, an area famous for its herbs and tea. In the case of Tanahu, the birthplace of the great poet Bhanu Bhakta, discussion focused on creating better tourism prospects by developing suitable hiking/trekking routes and renovating the existing historical landmarks. Discussion regarding Rupandehi and Dhanusha revolved around safeguarding historical sites, as these districts are the birthplaces of Buddha and Sita and draw a large number of pilgrims every year.

Among the challenges identified was the lack of an adequate budget for tourism development. Under-development of infrastructure has prevented these districts from utilizing their natural resources to their maximum advantage. For example, Sandakphu, in Ilam – a botanist's paradise with great potential – has not been developed to its full capacity. Another challenge identified was the power of political appointees, especially in the Lumbini Development Fund.

On a concluding note, it was agreed that the Nepal Tourism Board would facilitate another follow-up meeting for the promotion of tourism in these districts. All present pledged to work to the best of their ability to promote tourism.

ISSUE: IRRIGATION, LAND CUTTING AND FLOOD

Districts: Bardiya, Sunsari and Morang
WCA/PM participants : Hon. Prativa Rana, Hon. Navodita Chaudhary, Hon Yasodha Adhikari, and Hon. Asha Kumari Sardar
Date: January 6, 2010
Venue: Irrigation Department

Representatives from the Department of Irrigation: Dhruva K. Shrestha - Chief Engineer Water Induced Disaster Management, Vinay K. Singh - Sunsari Morang Project Chief, Irrigation Project, Jageswor L. Karn - Division Chief, Purwanchal Irrigation Chief, Ramesh Basnet - Groundwater Resources Development Committee, Indu Bhushan Jha, Follow up Committee Coordinator, Bardiya

The follow-up meeting was well attended and extremely illuminating. The Department of Irrigation was well represented and the WCA/PM participants took an active interest in the discussion. Even though some of the experts gave technical presentations, the politicians made a point of questioning what they did not understand, and there was a lot of interaction and discussion. As one of the WCA/PMs acknowledged, it is essential that they have a sound knowledge of such issues since, as elected representatives, they are directly responsible for the betterment of the districts from which they are elected. In a break from tradition, the Department of Irrigation representatives actively participated in the discussion well after 1730, despite government offices closing at 1600 during winter.

The WCA/PM participants were equally committed and even missed a CA session to attend the meeting. Hon. Prativa Rana summed up the importance of the event, saying, “We have been discussing on a single issue for the last five hours. This meeting is very useful and effective as we are discussing these issues with the experts of our own districts”.

Program details

One of the major drawbacks identified during the discussion was the insufficient and untimely allocation of government funds. It was recommended that WCA/PMs lobby for the creation of an emergency fund to provide immediate emergency relief.

There is currently a lack of integrated planning within Government ministries. Representatives from the Department of Irrigation recommended that each ministry establish an environmental department. Currently, human resource constraints greatly limit the role departments can play in responding to disasters as, in some cases, a single office is responsible for the management of more than ten districts. For example, the Department on Water Induced Disaster Management is located in Banke rather than Bardiya.

WCA/PM participants assured representatives from the Department of Irrigation of their commitment to protecting the environment. For example, the Committee on Natural Resources has directed the government to immediately stop exporting boulders, crushed stones and sand to India.

There is also an acute need for an agreement with India for the sharing of water from mid-size rivers as donor agencies do not work in areas where there is no demarcation of water ownership between two countries.

A number of other issues were also raised. It was pointed out that silt build up in the Koshi Tappu wild life conservation area may increase the likelihood of flooding and must be removed. However, stakeholders disagreed over whether human safety is of greater priority than conservation. Such issues must be resolved before proposed solutions can be implemented.

Participants also discussed the need to offer farmers subsidies in purchasing hand pumps, seeds, and fertilizers, which are provided even in developed nations.

ISSUE: DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND KAMLARI SYSTEM

Districts:	Kailali and Dang
WCA/PM participants :	Hon. Ishwori Neupane, Hon. Mohammed Siddqui
Date:	January 19, 2010
Venue:	National Planning Commission Conference Hall

The follow-up meeting on public hearings, community dialogues and round table discussions on domestic violence and kamalari in the districts of Kailali and Dang was well attended. The interaction between the government representatives, including the different ministries, Gender Task Force committee Advisor, Nepal Police and the WCA/PMs was productive. Hon. Sarbadev Prasad Ojha, Minister, Ministry of Women, Children, and Social Welfare (MoWCASW), Binda Handa Bhattarai, Secretary, MoWCASW, Ratnakaji Barjracharya, Joint Secretary, MoWCASW, Parwati Thapa Magar, Deputy Inspector General (DIG), Gender Focal Persons and representatives from the National Planning Commission (NPC) participated in the program. The MoWCASW took the lead in facilitating the discussion program.

Program Details:

The program focused mainly on identifying ways to address the issues related to domestic violence and kamalari. Poverty, lack of awareness and education, are some of the key factors, which have contributed to violence against women. Hon Sarbadev Prasad Ojha, stated that through education and awareness programs, gender discrimination can be controlled. Nepal has signed a significant number of international treaties on discrimination against women and children. However, for policies and laws to be successfully implemented, education is an important pre-condition. The meeting also highlighted the rise of impunity in the country. The law enforcing agencies cannot provide justice as “criminals” have powerful political backing. The media has played a vital role in raising awareness on discrimination against women. One of the factors for the rise in the number of reported cases of violence against women is the effective intervention of governmental and non-governmental agencies. However, women in the far-western region have not been empowered enough to report cases of violence against them. Shelters for victims of domestic violence as well as rehabilitations centers for freed kamlaris have been established in different parts of the country.

Conclusion:

The Institute has received positive feedback from all stakeholders, including government agencies, for the public hearings, community dialogues and round table discussions in the districts. The hearings have generated a lot of interest and as many as fifteen Gender Focal Persons from various ministries attended the program. The experts as well as the concerned ministries have pledged their full support to the Institute and the WCA/PMs. In conclusion, Secretary Binda Handa Bhattarai, added that better coordination and cooperation between different ministries such as Ministry of Health and Population, Ministry of Education and Home Ministry is required. The government is fully committed to address discrimination against women and have trained government staff, including women police officers and lawyers to handle such cases in a sensitive manner. However, she added that greater commitment from WCA/PM would be appreciated.

**REPORT OF THE PROCEEDINGS
SUBMITTED BY DISTRICT COORDINATORS**

1. Ilam

Topic: Prospects and challenges for tourism development in Ilam

Background

Ilam is well-known for its scenic landscapes and tea gardens and has great potential to become a leading tourist destination. This will require the implementation of government infrastructure plans and programs that make use of local participation and donor contributions. The lack of tourism development to date is perceived as being due to negligence and the state's inability to oversee the necessary development works.

Summary

Given this context, the district program was very effective and the level of participation was quite satisfactory. The program resulted in the development of a clear concept for promoting tourism and for consulting with relevant stakeholders and politicians.

Public hearing, community dialogue and round table programs were held at DDC Hall, Ilam, on September 9, 2009. WCA/PMs Hon. Shakuntala Lepcha and Hon. Nirmala Parsain participated, as did expert panelists Mr. Youddha P. Baidya (former Campus Chief), Mr. Udaya Chapagain (tea estate entrepreneur), Mr. Rameshwar Dangal (LDO), Mr. Sitaram Ghimire (Lecturer, Ilam Campus) and Mrs. Gita Biswokarma (Dalit activist/journalist). The experts presented their testimonials and actively participated, greatly contributing to the identification of recommendations for the development of tourism in Ilam. A seven member follow-up committee was formed to monitor the progress of the program, which ended with a commitment being made by all participants to work together to cultivate the environment necessary for the tourist sector in Ilam to flourish. In total, 173 persons participated in the public hearing and community dialogue sessions and 31 persons participated in the road table discussion.

Recommendations/conclusion

- That all WCA/PMs need to devote more time and attention to the development of tourism related infrastructure in Ilam and to the passing of legislation and development of policies that will enable this goal.
- That importance must be placed on implementing the recommendations made by the expert panelists.
- That similar community dialogues should be held in Ilam on a regular basis.
- Explore the possibilities of developing some pocket areas of Ilam as the Film City of Nepal for cinematography purpose.

Note: Please refer to Appendix 1 for program details.

2. Morang

Topic: Irrigation problems in Morang district

Background

Morang district, in the Terai, is responsible for a significant proportion of Nepal's agricultural output. Effective irrigation is vital to the development of the agricultural sector and, when properly managed, can significantly increase yields. To date, however, there has been insufficient investment in irrigation. The resulting paucity of systems and facilities is perceived to be largely due to state level neglect, corruption and a lack of funding. Effective plans for sustainably addressing this problem are required. A well-managed, effective irrigation system would contribute to increased production and help lower the district's high level of unemployment and poverty.

Summary

Public hearing/community dialogue and round table programs were held at Hotel Ratna, Biratnagar on September 7, 2009. WCA/PMs Hon. Mrs. Yashoda D. Adhikari, Hon. Mrs. Kabita Sardar and Hon. Mrs. Asha K. Sardar participated, as did expert panelists Mr. Jageshwar L. Karn (Sunsari Morang Divisional Chief), Mr. Tanka B. Dahal (Water Consumers Federation, Morang), Mr. Ram B. Sah (Senior Engineer, Morang/Sunsari Irrigation Project) and Mr. Nabin Gautam (Assistant Lecturer, Rural Development Division). In total, 131 persons participated in the public hearing/community dialogue sessions and 38 persons participated in the road table discussion, including Dalits, Madhesis, Janajatis and others, many of whom traveled from other VDCs. A seven member committee was formed to follow up on recommendations and to monitor progress during the next six months. The program concluded on an optimistic note with participants making a commitment to find a solution to the problems regarding irrigation in the Morang district.

Recommendations/conclusion

- That all participants must commit to contribute to the effective planning and management of the irrigation sector, given the government's failure to manage it thus far.
- That all relevant government plans should be compulsorily implemented, scientific irrigation systems adopted, water consumer committees activated, and priority given to developing underground water irrigation systems.
- That there should be legislative provision for the resettlement of persons from encroached canal areas.
- That in order to address the problem, steps should be taken to create awareness of irrigation issues among local people, to minimize political interference, to increase co-operation among stakeholders, and to ensure the allocation of the necessary funds in a timely manner.

Note: Please refer to Appendix 2 for program details.

3. Sunsari

Topic: Flood management and relief

Background

For many decades, the Koshi River and its seven tributaries have caused flooding in Sunsari during the monsoon season, negatively affecting the lives of those living on the Koshi's banks and in the surrounding areas. The district is one of the least developed in the Terai.

Dams and barrages to harness the river waters have created more problems than they have solved for the people of the district. Causal factors identified include an unequal bilateral treaty between the Indian and Nepali governments, the presence of armed groups, an open border with India, and indifference on the parts of national and local authorities from all parties. Very little has been done to develop plans and measures to identify and address the causes of recurring flooding and to provide disaster relief in the district.

Summary

Successful public hearing/community dialogue and round table programs were held at the Phoolbari Hotel, Inaruwa on September 9, 2009. WCA/PMs Hon. Sabita Devi Yadav and Hon. Navodita Chaudhary participated, as did expert panelists Mr. Dhruva Shrestha (Senior Engineer, Irrigation Department), Mr. Guru P. Subedi (LDO), Mr. Purusottam Ghimire (academic/activist), Mr. Mahfooz Ansari (Overseer, Water Disaster Relief Committee) and Mr. Tom P. Acharya (Save the Children, Norway). A multi media presentation and written testimonials were given by the expert panelists to enhance awareness of the current situation and existing problems. In total, 196 persons participated in the public hearing/community dialogue sessions and 32 persons participated in the road table discussion, more than 50 per cent of whom were women.

Recommendations/conclusion

- That the bilateral issue between India and Nepal should be reviewed in a timely manner and the relevant legislation amended to improve common water management.
- That both India and Nepal should closely manage security of the Afflux Bond and conduct the necessary maintenance in a timely manner.
- That damaged spurs 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12 should be strengthened and additional spurs built.
- That pilot and porcupine channels should be built between spurs 10 and 11, and 11 and 12, to minimize the risk of flooding.
- That Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve be properly managed conserved and monitored.
- That political leader have a role to play in the development of effective tools to manage the problem of flooding in Sunsari, and that responsibility and accountability should be apportioned appropriately between government agencies.
- That coordination between Indian and Nepali technical experts should be improved to develop plans for the diversion of the Koshi River to the Kamala or another river.
- That socio-economic development programs should be implemented within six months.
- That regular awareness and social mobilization programs should be conducted.

- That the victims of the flooding should be returned to their previous standard of living within one year.
- That psycho-social, economic and political counseling, capacity building, and skill development training sessions should be held.

Note: Please refer to Appendix 3 for program details.

4. Dhanusha

Topic: Tourism promotion and the development of tourism infrastructure

Background

Dhanusha is well-known as the birthplace of both the Goddess Sita and the God Rama and is a Hindu pilgrimage destination of global importance. As a result, there is significant potential for the development of tourism in the district, particularly religious tourism.

Summary

Public hearing/community dialogue and round table programs were held on September 15, 2009 at the district Bar Association Hall, Dhanusha. WCA/PMs Hon. Juli K. Mahato, Hon. Minakshi Jha, Hon. Kashi D. Jha, Hon. Krishna Thakur and Hon. Surita K. Shah participated, as did expert panelists Dr. Rajendra Bimal, (Professor, Dhanusha Campus), Mr. Rajeshwor Nepali (journalist), Mr. Yugeshwar Lal Karn (social activist) and Mr. Yugal Kishore Lal (advocate). A nine-member follow-up committee was formed to monitor progress during the next six months and to report on existing hindrances and constraints. WCA/PMs participants all expressed their commitment to contribute to the development of the necessary policies, plans and programs. In total, 147 persons participated in the public hearing/community dialogue sessions and 30 persons participated in the road table discussion.

Recommendations/conclusion

- That maintenance be carried out on the roads and sewage systems at all historic sites.
- That local peoples be involved in the development and implementation of strategies to sustainably promote the ‘city of temples’.
- That local and central government agencies developed and implement conservation plans.
- That media campaigns to promote tourism in Dhanusha be conducted.
- That the development of tourism in Dhanusha be conducted free from interference by any political party.
- That WCA/PMs formulate legislation and policies to promote tourism in Dhanusha and in Nepal as a whole.

Note: Please refer to Appendix 4 for program details.

5. Rautahat

Topic: The delivery of health-related services

Background

The Rautahat district is among the least developed in the Terai, lacking basic health sector infrastructure and services. In addition, it must address a number of security concerns, many of which stem from its location on the Nepal-India border. Lack of awareness, economic stagnation, and political indifferences are perceived to be the main causes of the problems facing the region.

Summary

Public hearing/community dialogue and round table programs were held at the Employees Centre Hall in Gaur on September 9, 2009. WCA/PMs Hon. Sarala Yadav, Hon. Rambha Devi and Hon. Chandan Shah participated, as did expert panelists Mrs. Nisha Koirala (Public Health Care Officer), Mr. Sitaram Wagle (Plan Nepal Health Coordinator), Mr. Akhileshwar Chaudhary (NGO Federation member), and Dr. Rama Shankar Thakur (District Health Office Superintendent). The experts provided suggestions for improving Rautahat's health services and an active exchange of ideas took place. WCA/PM participants made a commitment to work together to address the problem.

Recommendations/conclusion

- That integration between all stakeholders is necessary to improve health services in Rautahat.
- That health post at the grassroots be run by professional and dedicated staff.
- That outreach clinics be well-equipped and manned by appropriately-qualified staff.
- That campaigns be conducted to improve local knowledge of basic health care and preventative health measures.
- That step be taken to improve security in Rautahat in order to increase the willingness of highly-skilled doctors from Kathmandu to deploy to the district.
- That the effectiveness of district government administration units be enhanced, to better ensure a 'development-friendly' atmosphere and a safe working environment for health professionals.

Note: Please refer to Appendix 5 for program details.

6. Tanahu

Topic: The prospects for, and challenges facing, the development of tourism in Tanahu

Background

The district of Tanahu is famous as the birthplace of the first Nepali litterateur and poet, Bhanu Bhakta. It is also well-known for its many sites of religious significance. Its location at the picturesque centre-point of the Prithivi Highway means it enjoys easy access from all directions and enhances its tourism potential.

Summary

Public hearing/community dialogue and round table programs were held at the FNCCI Hall in Damauli on September 5, 2009. WCA/PMs Hon. Urmila 'Parbati' Thapa and Hon. Hasina Miya Begum participated, as did expert panelists Mr. Hari Sing Gurung (tourism expert), Mr. Padam B. K.C. (former Joint Secretary, Ministry of Tourism), Mr. Kashi Nath Neupane (local litterateur) and Mr. Hari P. Dahal (LDO). Both WCA/PMs expressed their commitment to developing Tanahu as an international and domestic tourist destination and all participants contributed to the discussion of the opportunities and challenges this will entail. A nine member follow-up committee was formed to monitor progress. In total, 157 persons participated in the public hearing/community dialogue sessions and 59 persons participated in the road table discussion.

Recommendations/conclusion

- That WCA/PM participants work with party leaders and relevant committees to enact and amend the legislation necessary for the development of tourism in Tanahu.
- That all participants work together to promote tourism in Tanahu, putting aside ideological differences.
- That district-level stakeholders work in coordination with central government agencies.
- That additional NGOs and service providers be established within the health sector, under the supervision of the Health Ministry, to provide services to the people of Rautahat.

Note: Please refer to Appendix 6 for program details.

7. Rupandehi

Topic: Tourism development in Lumbini

Background

Lumbini, in the Rupandehi district, is well-known as the birthplace of Lord Buddha and, as such, is a pilgrimage destination of global importance. The potential for further development of tourism in the district is significant but requires a concerted and coordinated effort from WCA/PMs, political parties, local activists and experts.

Summary

Successful public hearing/community dialogue and round table programs were held at the FNCCI Hall on September, 9 2009. WCA/PMs Hon. Radha Gyanwali, Hon. Sabitri Singh, Hon. Babita Devi Dhobi participated, as did expert panelists Dr. Geetu Giri (Lecturer, Bhairahawa Campus), Mr. Dipendra P. Poudel (LDO), Mr. Deepak Chettry (tourism entrepreneur), Mr. Hari Rai (Lumbini Development Trust Officer), and Mr. Dev Raj Acharya (journalist). The experts' testimonials highlighted the need to develop effective tourism plans and programs and to improve the district's infrastructure. The active engagement of all participants led to the identification of constraints, solutions and recommendations, and the formation of a follow-up committee. In total, 177 persons participated in the public hearing/community dialogue sessions and 35 persons participated in the road table discussion.

Recommendations/conclusion

- That WCA/PM participant supports the development of relevant policies and programs and engages all stakeholders in their implementation.
- That political parties and WCA/PM participants put aside ideological differences to support the development of tourism in Lumbini.
- That program be organized to increase local awareness of the importance of development and to encourage local participation in development projects.
- That the development of tourism in Lumbini be free from political interference.

Note: Please refer to Appendix 7 for program details.

8. Dang

Topic: Kamlari traditions in Dang and sustainable solutions for their abolition

Background

Kamlari, the exploitation of girl-child labor for little or no compensation, is prevalent in the Dang district. To date, little has been done to abolish the deeply-rooted tradition, despite Kamlari girls often being deprived of basic human rights and suffering physical, mental and/or sexual abuse at the hands of their employers. NGOs, such as SWAN and Friends of Needy Children, are already working to end Kamlari practices and to re-establish the rights of all Kamlari girls. Current legislation is sufficient to outlaw the practice but it continues due to a lack of rehabilitation programs and meaningful options for freed Kamlaris.

Summary

Public hearing /community dialogue and round table programs were held in the Ghorahi Municipality hall on September 9, 2009. WCA/PMs Hon. Shanta Chaudhary, Hon. Bimala Nepali and Hon. Rukmini Chaudhary participated, as did expert panelists Mr. Rishiram Dhakal (CDO), Ms. Rashmi Pandey (child rights activist), Ms. Goma Mahara (advocate), Ms. Sheila Adhikari (Kamlari researcher), Mr. Krishna K. Chaudhary (Chairman, SWAN) and Mr. Shreeman Neupane (social activist/reporter).

All participants actively contributed to the discussion of Kamlari and identification of the steps necessary for its abolition. Some participants were themselves freed Kamlaris and provided a unique and very valuable viewpoint. A follow-up committee was formed to record, evaluate, and monitor progress over the next six months. In total, 126 persons participated in the public hearing/community dialogue sessions and 38 persons participated in the road table discussion.

Recommendations/conclusion

- That all Kamlaris in Dang be freed at the earliest opportunity.
- That well-equipped rehabilitation centers be established.
- That free education be provided up to high school level and that school programs to increase awareness of Kamlari practices be conducted.
- That skill development and income-generating programs and trainings be offered to Kamlaris and at-risk communities.
- That programs be conducted to increase awareness of Kamlari practices, the relevant legislation and the services available.
- That program be conducted to ensure the safety and other basic needs of Kamlaris until such time as the practise is abolished.
- That legislation to abolish Kamlari be strengthened, enforced and enshrined in the new constitution.
- That program be developed to include Kamlaris in political, social and economic society.
- That additional funding be provided for the abolishment of Kamlari practices.

- That female property rights be strengthened in order to provide economic security to at-risk girls.

(Note: Please refer to Appendix 8 for program details)

9. Bardiya

Topic: Sustainable solutions to erosion/river land cutting in Bardiya

Background

Frequent flooding and resultant erosion/river land cutting has been a concern in Bardiya district for many decades. Relief measures and the identification and implementation of sustainable solutions have, to date, been insufficient.

Summary

Public hearing/community dialogue and round table events were held at the Gulariya DDC Hall on September 9, 2009. WCA/PMs Hon. Prativa Rana, Hon. Beena Gyawali and Hon. Sharada Nepali participated, as did expert panelists Mr. Bed B. Karki (Member, DDRC), Mr. Dinesh P. Shrestha (NGO Federation), Mr. Hari Gyawali (Deputy Mayor, Gulariya Municipality), Mr. K. P. Sigdyal (senior columnist), Mr. K. K. Verma (President, Rajapur Water Consumers Committee), Mrs. Geeta Adhikary (civic society member) and Mr. Indu B. Jha (Chief, DDRC). All participants expressed their commitment to working together to formulate and implement sustainable plans for the provision of relief to flood victims and the prevention of further erosion/river land cutting. A follow-up committee was formed to monitor and evaluate progress over the next six months. In total, 137 persons participated in the public hearing/community dialogue sessions and 38 persons participated in the round table discussion.

Recommendations/conclusion:

- That JICA's master plan for disaster relief works in Bardiya be implemented.
- That a diplomatic solution be found regarding the construction of the Indian dam.
- That the existing composition of the Bardiya Development Forum including solidarity from all concerned stakeholders be fully functional.
- That the master plan for Bardiya should classify the four major rivers.
- That the Rajapur Irrigation Office be transferred from Baidi to Rajapur, in order to facilitate sustainable short and long term planning.
- That a Water Disaster Office be established in Gulariya.
- That effective legislation be enacted to limit the effects of flooding and other related natural disasters and to provide effective relief measures.

Note: Please refer to Appendix 9 for program details.

10. Kailali

Topic: Reducing domestic violence

Background

Domestic violence in the Kailali district is increasing, with a growing number of cases being reported to local police. Kailali's population is predominantly Tharu, many of whom are illiterate, poor, and with limited access to state-driven development opportunities.

Summary

Public hearing/community dialogue and round table programs were held at the FNCCI Hall in Dhangadhi on September 9, 2009. WCA/PMs Hon. Malamati Rana Tharu and Hon. Ishwari Neupane participated, as did expert panelists Mr. Dipendra Singh (human rights activist), Mrs. Indira Jaisi (Nepal Red Cross Society), Mr. Prem B. Khadka (District Police Office) and Mr. Jiwanti Poudel (women's rights activist). The programs resulted in the identification of number of mechanisms to curb the growth in domestic violence. These included social awareness campaigns, the enactment and enforcement of effective legislation, the punishment of criminals, and campaigns to increase female literacy and skill levels. All participants expressed their commitment to work together at both central and local levels. In total, 177 persons participated in the public hearing/community dialogue sessions and 31 persons participated in the road table discussion.

Recommendations/conclusion

- That local media campaigns to increase awareness of domestic violence be conducted.
- That district police, media, the legal sector, and human rights organizations act in coordination.
- That rehabilitation shelters for victims of domestic violence be opened.
- That politicians be prevented from misusing their power and interfering with the justice system by protecting alleged criminals.
- That the judiciary be made aware of the correlation between female suicide and domestic violence.

Note: Please refer to Appendix 10 for program details.

APPENDICES

District	:	Ilam
Venue	:	DDC Hall, Ilam
Date	:	September 9, 2009
Topic	:	Prospects and challenges for tourism development in Ilam

WCA/PM participants

1. Hon. Nirmala Prasain
2. Hon. Sakuntala Lepcha

Witnesses/expert panelists

1. Mr. Youdha Prasad Baidhya, former Campus Chief
2. Mr. Udaya Chapagain, tea entrepreneur
3. Mr. Rameswor Dangal, LDO, DDC, Ilam
4. Mr. Sita Ram Ghimire, Lecturer Ilam Campus
5. Ms. Gita Biswakarma, journalist/Dalit activist



Hon. Mrs. Nirmala Parsai and Hon. Mrs. Shakuntala Lepcha

Testimonials presented

1. The history of Ilam’s culture and tourism: Mr Yudha P. Baidya
2. The current situation of tourism in Ilam: Mr. Sita Ram Ghimire
3. Tea tourism: Mr. Udaya Chapagain
4. Tourism infrastructure developments: Mr.Rameshwar Dangal
5. The role of women in the tourism sector: Ms. Gita Biswokarma

Demography of participants

Women	Men	Dalit	Janajati	Madhesi	Others	Total
46	127	6	9	2	156	173

Discussion points

- The scope and potentia for tea tourism.

- Tourism infrastructure.
- Tourism in Ilam to date: opportunities and challenges.
- The role of women in developing and participating in tourism.
- Major tourism destinations in Ilam.
- Problems facing the development of tourism in Ilam.
- The roles of various stakeholders in developing tourism.
- The establishment of an immigration office in Pashupatinagar.
- The construction of Sukilumaba Airport at Golakharkha, Ilam.

Issues raised by WCA/PM participants

- The potential for tea tourism.
- The current role of women in Ilam's tourism industry.

Issues raised by other participants

- Why the Government has not done more to promote tourism in Ilam.
- Plans and programs for development in the district must take into consideration the civilization and culture of the indigenous population.
- The absence of local youths is a problem that must be addressed. ?
- Any strategy to increase tourism in Ilam must be results oriented.
- A new airport for the district should be considered.
- The use of CA/PM funds to date.
- There is great potential for the development of sports, health, tea, religion and eco tourism..
- Whether the DDC has undertaken any for feasibility or other plans for the development of tourism in Ilam.
- The role of the private sector in the development of tourism in Ilam.

Response of witnesses/ experts

- Tourism conventions, the publication of brochures and the erecting of advertising hoardings will increase awareness of Ilam as a tourist destination.
- Establishing organised tours in Sandakpur would be effective, particularly if the DDC encourages the participation of local stakeholders.



Public hearing participants in Ilam

- The construction of Sukilumaba Airport is the result of diplomatic and governmental efforts.

Response of WCA/PM participants

- Five million rupees has been apportioned to the development of tourism in Ilam.
- The CA/PM fund has contributed four hundred thousand rupees to the construction of Sukilumaha Airport.
- Support was pledged for the implementation of the solutions proposed by the expert panelists.

Summary

The public hearing/community dialogue and round table programs were very effective and resulted in the development of a concept for the promotion of tourism in Ilam and a commitment by all participants to work together on the issue.

Round table participants

Total: 31

- Mr. Sita Ram Ghimire
- Mr. Deepak Paudel
- Mr. Bishnu Prasad Kafle
- Mr. Kedar Thapa
- Mr. Himalaya Karmcharya
- Mrs. Sushila Sapkota
- Mr. Youdha P. Baidhya
- Mr. Bishma P. Baidhya
- Mr. Shiba Khanal
- Mr. Meelan Gurung
- Mr. Sudarshan Kadariya
- Mr. Ram Devi Shrestha
- Mr. Sudarshan P. Dhakal
- Mr. Ram Kumar Shah
- Mr. Youba Raj Dahal
- Mr. Rameshwor Dhangal
- Mr. Rohit Chandra Bhattarai
- Mr. Bhumi Dhungana
- Mr. Rudra Sampang Rai
- Mrs. Sakuntala Lepcha
- Mrs. Nirmala Prasain
- Mrs. Gita Biswakarma
- Mr. Bijaya Shekhar Bhattarai
- Mr. Prem Acharya
- Mrs. Renuka Rai



- Mr. Ganesh Baral
- Mr. Rajendra Baral
- Mr. Dharma Gautam
- Mr. Sudip Shresths
- Mr. Som Nath Acharya
- Mrs. Sangita Basyal

Recommendations/conclusion

- That the solutions proposed by the expert panelists be implemented as soon as possible.
- That greater resources be devoted to the development of the tourism sector in Ilam.
- That Ilam's tourism sector be developed in a holistic manner.
- The tourism sector should be accorded priority in budget determinations.
- That the promotion of tourism in Ilam be recognised as the key to the district's development.
- That the need for investors to realise quick returns be considered in the development of tourism-related projects.
- That importance be placed on agricultural and human resource development.
- That local industries primarily utilise local raw materials and products.
- That research be undertaken into the needs and behaviour of tourists in Ilam.
- That the expert panelist participants be consulted on an ongoing basis.
- That similar public hearing and community dialogue programs be held frequently to increase awareness and harness momentum.

Members of the follow-up committee

- Mr. Sudarshan Prasad Dhakal
- Mr. Dharma Gautam
- Mr. Deepak Paudel
- Mr. Bishnu Prasad Kafle
- Mr. Ram Kumar Shah
- Mr. Bijaya Shekhar Bhattarai
- Mrs. Gita Biswakarma

Appendix 2

District : **Morang**
Venue : Hotel Ratna, Biratnagar
Date : September 7, 2009
Topic : Irrigation problems in Morang district

WCA/PM participants

- Hon. Yashoda D. Adhikari
- Hon. Kabita K. Sardar
- Hon. Asha K. Sardar

Witnesses/expert panelists

- Mr. Jageshwar Lal Karna
- Mr. Tanka B. Dahal
- Mr. Ram B. Sah
- Mr. Navin Gautam



WCA/PMs of Morang on the dais

Demography of participants

Women	Men	Dalit	Janajati	Madhesi	Others	Total
55	76	11	16	17	87	131

Discussion points

- The development of irrigation and programs for its sustainable management
- The major problems facing the development of irrigation in Morang and their possible solutions
- The Chatara canal as part of the Morang Sunsari Irrigation Project.
- The obstacles facing the development and maintenance of irrigation facilities at major and sub branch canal levels.
- Problems related to the supervision, maintenance and conservation of existing canals.
- The roles of government, water consumer committees, and political parties in irrigation management.
- The tax liability of consumers for improved irrigation.
- The issue of Canal Encroachment settlements.
- The importance of and future prospects for underground irrigation.
- The differences between surface and underground irrigation projects and the importance of both.



Issues raised by WCA/PM participants

- Steps that local individuals could take to improve irrigation.
- The identification of sustainable solutions to irrigation concerns in Morang.
- The use of legislation and constitutional provisions to systematize irrigation in Morang.
- Methods for establishing a scientific agricultural system.
- Options for improved management of rivers for irrigation purposes.
- Options for levying irrigation taxes on the local population.

Issues raised by the participants

- The need to understand the root causes of insufficient development of irrigation in the Morang district.
- Reasons for the lack of legislation introducing a compulsory water levy.

- Problems related to the formation and reform of water consumer committees?
- The need to end political interference in water consumer committees.
- The extent to which irrigation management should be politicized and the extent to which control of irrigation management should be passed to local communities.
- The need for coordination between government, political parties, water consumer committees and local populations.



- The reasons for insufficient funds being apportioned for irrigation.
- The type of assurance of funding required for successful implementation and management of irrigation projects.
- Whether political assurance is important in irrigation management.
- The need to resolve the current situation whereby appointments to the Morang – Sunsari Irrigation Project are politically motivated.
- Whether conflicts related to water distribution systems are due to mechanism problems.
- Coordination between the Morang – Sunsari project and other areas experiencing irrigation problems.
- The problem of unplanned settlements near canals.
- The need to understand the most recent scientific systems for canal management.

Response of witnesses/experts

- The Government has attempted to better manage irrigation but a lack of funds prevented canals being repaired.
- Irrigation rules have been passed but have not been enforced.
- Scientific irrigation systems should be adopted.
- Compulsory irrigation service taxes must be levied.
- A sufficient number of rivers and streams must be utilized for irrigation purposes.
- Greater emphasis needs to be placed on the importance and potential of underground irrigation.



- The Government should pay particular attention to resolving the issue of encroachment of land alongside canals.
- Both central and local level political parties should refrain from interfering in the management of irrigation systems.
- The Morang and Sunsari canals must be reconstructed as their 40 year life of type has already passed.
- Local populations should be engaged in conservation projects and ensuring that irrigation systems and related projects are environmentally friendly.

Response of WCA/PM participants

- A commitment was made to work with local experts and local populations to support the increase of agricultural production levels in the Morang district.
- A commitment was made to raise awareness of the irrigation problems facing Morang amongst other CA/PM and party leaders and to encourage cross-party cooperation in solving them.
- A commitment was made to advocate against the politicization of water consumer committees and Government agencies active in the irrigation sector, and to support the allocation of additional funding.
- Constitutional provisions are required for the effective management of irrigation
- The issue will be referred to Parliament's Natural Resources Committee.
- Consumer committees should coordinate with political parties to identify solutions.
- Plans and programs will take into consideration measures to address the lack of skilled human resources in the irrigation sector.
- It is necessary to increase local awareness of the importance of irrigation and the problems the sector is facing.

Summary

The public hearing/community dialogue and round table programs were very effective. They concluded with all participants making a commitment to cooperate to improve irrigation in Morang.

Round table participants

Total: 38

- Mrs. Yasoda D. Adhikari
- Mrs. Kabita K. Sardar
- Mrs. Asha K. Sardar
- Mr. Medini P. Sedai
- Mr. Binod Sah
- Mr. Mohan K. Sah
- Mr. Mrityunjay K. Jha
- Mr. Tanka B. Dahal
- Mr. Dev Narayan Gachhar
- Mr. Buddha Narayan Khawas
- Mr. Tharka B. Basnet
- Mr. Ram K. Biswokarma
- Mrs. Geeta Silwal
- Mr. Keshab Sardar
- Mr. Yadu Bista
- Mr. Narendra Khatri
- Mr. Jageswor lal Karna
- Mr. Kamal P. Regmi
- Mr. Dhruba K. Shrestha
- Mr. Ram B. Sah
- Mr. Som Raj Thapa
- Mrs. Shanti Modi
- Ms. Lalita Pradhan
- Mr. Ram Guragain
- Mr. Nabin Gautam
- Ms. Sunita Sharma
- Mr. Rabin Dahal



- Mr. Khadga B. Basnet
- Mr. Mahesh Regmi
- Mr. Bharat Timsina
- Mr. Anirudra Timsina
- Mrs. Meena Sedai
- Mr. Ramhari Devkota
- Ms. Roma Subedi
- Mrs.Mamata Bhattarai
- Mrs. Nilima Kafle
- Ms. Bhuwana Dahal
- Mr.Dinesh Thapa.

Recommendations/conclusion

- That all government irrigation plans be compulsorily implemented.
- That scientific irrigation systems be adopted and water consumer committees activated.
- That priority be given to improving underground irrigation and resettlement of the local population from encroached canal areas.
- That constitutional provision and legislation be enacted to better manage irrigation and to limit political interference in the sector.
- That campaigns be conducted to raise local awareness regarding the importance of irrigation and the problems facing the sector.
- That timely support be given to increasing the budget allocation for irrigation in Morang.

Appendix 3

District : **Sunsari**
Venue : Phoolbari Hotel, Inaruwa
Date : September 9, 2009
Topic : Flood management and relief

WCA/PM participants

- Hon. Navodita Chaudhari
- Hon. Sabita Yadav

Witnesses/expert panelists

- Mr. Dhruva P. Shrestha
- Mr. Guru P. Subedi
- Mr. Purusottam Ghimire
- Mr. Mahfooz Ansari
- Mr. Tom P. Acharya



Hon. Navodita Chaudhari and Hon. Sabita Yadav

Demography of participants

Women	Men	Dalit	Janjati	Madhesi	Others	Total Participants
45	151	4	12	158	22	196

Discussion points

- Case studies of flooding in the Sunsari district.
- Sustainable options for the prevention and management of flooding in Sunsari.

Issues raised by WCA/PM participants

- The present Afflux Bond situation.
- Preventative and response options to limit the damage caused by flooding in Sunsari.
- The likely affect of a breach of Pulthegaunda Afflux Bond..

Issues raised by other participants

- Whether action is already being taken by WCA/PMs.
- The impementation of disaster relief packages must be closely monitored.
- The need for the DDRC to be transparent.
- Options for minimizing the likelihood of flooding.

- Options for improving the disaster response shelters located at schools, colleges and madrassas.
- Whether the Koshi Treaty signatories entered negotiations on an equal footing and whether it needs to be reviewed.
- Options for dealing with the build-up of sand and silt in and around canals and reservoirs.
- Where responsibility lies for the prevention and management of any breaches of the Afflux Bonds.
- The need for political parties to make honest and realistic commitments when drafting the constitution and whether this is likely to occur.
- The feasibility of changing the directional flow of the Dudhkoshi and Sunkoshi Rivers to minimize the likelihood of them flooding.
- Why the Government does not manage to distribute emergency flood relief funds each year.
- The mobilization of local youth is a necessary component of effective crisis management.
- Actions the government can take to penalise those who breach the bonds.
- For solutions to the problem of flooding in Sunsari to be sustainable, they will require minimal ongoing dependency on the Government.
- Rescue and relief efforts in the Koshi Tappu area.
- Whether adding additional spurs will decrease the likelihood of flooding.
- The use to which the 200 crore INR donated by the ADB will be put.
- Resourcing the temporary hospital at P. Kushaha.
- Whether barrages are controlled by the Nepali or Indian Government.
- Whether data regarding flood victims can be relied upon.



Response of witnesses/experts

- There is a high likelihood of the Koshi Barrage flooding due to its age, fragility and lack of maintenance.
- Relief packages for victims of the Koshi flooding are being distributed in a timely manner.

- The ADB fund is for investment in agriculture, irrigation, water supply and construction of roads.
- A Disaster Management Cycle is an important component of managing the flooding.
- Disaster management has three stages: pre-disaster; during a disaster; and, post-disaster.
- The management of Koshi flooding is an important bilateral issue for India and Nepal and should be treated as such.
- Local individuals need to be made more aware of the problems caused by cutting the wires of spurs.
- The Government needs to take a strong leadership role.

Response of WCA/PM participants

- WCA/PMs will lobby and advocate at the national level, and with their Indian counterparts, to resolve the issue.
- Parliament's monitoring report on the Koshi floods is yet to be analysed.

Summary

High-quality satellite mappings, presentations, and documentaries were well-received by the audience and contributed to the overall success of the programs. The local FM station broadcast live commentary for approximately four hours and the event was also covered by the Kantipur and Blast Daily newspapers.



Local participants in the community dialogue session

Round table participants

Total: 32

- Mr. Manoj Yadav, Madhesi Janadhikar Forum, Nepal
- Mrs. Raj Kumari.Yadav, Madhesi Janadhikar Forum, Nepal
- Ms. Sunita Biswas, Madhesi Janadhikar Forum, Nepal
- Mr. Gulab Sharma, Madhesi Janadhikar Forum, Nepal
- Mr. Indra N. Saha, Rastriya Prajatantra Party
- Mrs. Babita Shankar, Rastriya Prajatantra Party
- Mrs. Navodita Chaudhary, Rastriya Prajatantra Party
- Mr. Debashis Mehta, Nepali Congress
- Ms. Sabita Yadav, Madhesi Janadhikar Forum
- Mr. Ram N. Yadav, Nepal Sadhvawana Party (Anandidevi)
- Mr. Avtaar Yadav, WSC

- Mr. Mohan Gautam, KORESP/PMC
- Mr. Dip N. Mehta, TDC, Nepal
- Mr. Mahendra Mehta, TDC Nepal
- Mr. Sandes K. Mehta, TDC, Nepal
- Mr. Prakash Mehta, VPC
- Mr. Sandip N. Mehta, ADC
- Mr. Satya Narayan Mehta, NTA
- Mr. Rameshwar Mukhiya, SYC Nepal
- Mr. Bindeswar P. Singh, Chronic Poverty Research Centre
- Mr. Chaggan Sharma, Norwegian Refugee Council
- Mr. D.N.Mehta, Meteorological Forecasting Division
- Mr. Ram Bilas Mehta, land officer
- Mr. Dhanik L. Mehta, human rights activist
- Mr. Mohan Bhattarai, water disaster officer
- Mr. Guru Subedi, DDC activist
- Mr. Purusottam Ghimire, secondary school teacher
- Mr. Ganesh P. Mehta, Sharada Higher Secondary. School
- Ms. Sarita Lamsal, Sunsari campus
- Mrs. Khusbu Mandal, student
- Ms. Sunita Sharma, Pro Public
- Ms. Ranjana Sah, Pro Public

Recommendations/conclusion

- That the Koshi Treaty be reviewed in a timely fashion.
- That penalties be enforced for the encroachment of river and canal banks, with the identification of a clear demarcation line beyond which encroachment will not be permitted.
- That the Afflux Bond be closely managed by both the Nepali and Indian Governments.
- That damaged spurs 8, 9,10,11, and 12 strengthened and additional spurs built.
- That pilot and porcupine channels be built between spurs 10 and 11 and spurs 11 and 12 to minimise the likelihood of flooding.
- That more effective management of the Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve be ensured.
- That procedures be introduced for the regular monitoring and evaluation of flood prevention and response mechanisms.



Media coverage of the program

- That clear lines of responsibility and accountability be identified.
- That better coordination between the Nepali and Indian technical experts be encouraged.
- That socio-economic development programs be introduced within the next six months.
- That regular awareness and social mobilization campaigns be conducted.
- That the standard of living of flood victims be returned to previous levels within one year of flooding occurring.
- That regular counseling and capacity building and skill development sessions be offered to flood victims.
- That a feasibility study be conducted to examine whether waters from the Koshi River can be diverted to the Kamala or other river.

Members of the follow-up committee

- Mr. Sarbajeet Yadav, (District Agriculture Development Office, Sunsari)
- Mr. Ram Kumar Sah (advocate)
- Mr. Purushottam Ghimire (civil society member)
- Mr. Prem Pd. Bhattarai (LDO, DDC Sunsari)
- Mr. Mahendra Mehta (Pro Public, Sunsari)
- Mr. Dev Nandan Mehta (SYC Nepal)
- Ms. Ranjana Sah (ProPublic and media representative)

District	:	Dhanusha
Venue	:	Bar Association Hall, Janakpur
Date	:	September 15, 2009
Topic	:	Tourism promotion and the development of tourism infrastructure

WCA/PM participants

- Hon. Mrs. Juli K. Mahato
- Hon. Mrs. Kashi D. Jha
- Hon. Mrs. Krishna Thakur
- Hon. Mrs. Minakshi Jha
- Hon. Mrs. Surita Shah

Witnesses/expert panelists

- Dr. Rajendra Bimal
- Mr. Rajendra Nepali
- Mr. Yugal Kishore Lal



WCA/P members on the dais during active participation

Demography of participants

Women	Men	Dalit	Janajati	Madhesi	Others	Total Participants
47	100	3	3	134	7	147

Discussion points

- Priority should be given to effective management of religious sites and temples.
- Priority should be given to road construction, sanitation projects and the provision of a regular garbage disposal service.
- The Government should support the development of tourism in Dhanusha.
- Revenue from the Brehattar Janakpur Development Trust and Guthi sansthan should be used for development and maintenance purposes.
- National-level programs celebrating the Mithila culture should be held.
- Dhanusha's lakes and ponds should be developed for recreational use.
- There is great potential for religious tourism in Dhanusha.
- A website should be created to increase the profile of the Janaki temple.

- A feasibility study should be conducted into the construction of an international airport in Dhanusha.

Issues raised by WCA/PM participants

- Options need to be identified for raising awareness of the beauty of Dhanusha and its significance as the birthplace of Goddess Janaki, in order to attract international Hindu tourists
- WCCA/PMs from Dhanusha will work together to develop tourism in the region.
- Use could be made of that fact that the Tourism Minister is from the Dhanusha district.
- Legislation may need to be amended to ensure effective management of the tourism sector.

Response of witnesses/experts

- There is potential for Dahnusha to become a significant pilgrimage site for Hindus worldwide.
- Greater support from central government is required to further develop Dhanusha's tourism prospects.
- Necessary developments include construction of a ring road, reforestation, maintenance of religious sites, and promotional programs.
- Cooperation of all stakeholders and strong local and political leadership are necessary.



Summary

The program concluded with all participants committing to cooperate to further develop tourism in Dhanusha.

Round table participants

Total 30

- Mr. Ram Ratan Mishra
- Mr. Pawan Jha
- Mr. Dharendra M. Jha
- Mr. Sushil K. Sah
- Mr. Satrughna Yadav
- Mr. Raj K. Sah
- Ms. Nirmala Pandey.
- Mr. Bajrang Sah

- Mr. Digambar Rai
- Ms. Surita Shah
- Mr. Rajeshwar Nepali
- Dr. Rajendra Bimal
- Mrs. Rama Pant
- Ms. Sunita Sharma
- Mrs. Shammi Karn
- Mr. Surendra Lal Karn
- Mr. Deepak Biswokarma
- Mrs. Sudina Jha
- Dr. Sherrie Wolff
- Mr. Jay Nishaant
- Ms. Aditi Kharel
- Dr. Bhogendra Jha
- Mrs. Juli K. Mahato
- Mrs. Kashi Devi Jha
- Mrs. Minakshi Jha
- Mrs. Krishna Thakur
- Mr. Yugeshwor Lal
- Mr. Yugal Kishor Lal
- Mr. Jibachh Karn
- Mr. Ajaya Kumar Jha

Recommendations/conclusion

- That more effective roadside clean-up, sanitation and garbage disposal systems be developed.
- That there be transparent management of state-run heritage sites.
- That profit generated by tourism be used for the development of the sector, free from political interference.
- That central government must urgently contribute to the development of the Janakpur area.
- That effective legislation be enacted to support the development of tourism.

Members of the follow-up committee

- Mr. Digambar Rai
- Mr. Rajeshwor Nepali



Dr. Sherrie Wolff , NDI Country Director

- Prof. Rajendra Bimal
- Mr. Bajrang Sah
- Mrs. Nirmala Pandey
- Ms. Shammi Karn
- Mr. Ram Ratan Mishra
- District Development Committee representative
- Chief of the Trust Corporation (Guthi Sansthan)

District : **Rautahat**
Venue : Employees' Centre Hall, Gaur
Date : September 9, 2009
Topic : The delivery of health-related services

WCA/PM participants

- Hon. Chandan Shah
- Hon. Rambha Devi
- Hon. Sarala Yadav

Witnesses/expert panelists

- Dr. Rama Shankar Thakur
- Mr. Sitaram Wagle
- Mr. Akhileswar Chaudhary
- Mrs. Nisha Koirala



WCA/PM and other participants

Demography of participants

Women	Men	Dalit	Janajati	Madhesi	Others	Total Participants
64	95	8	10	5	136	159

Discussion points

- Options for developing health-related infrastructure in the Rautahat district.
- Identification of the obstacles blocking the development of a professional medical environment.
- The problems posed by armed groups and criminal activity.
- The lack of Government funding and support for the development of health-related services in Rautahat.
- Options for WCA/PM to improve health services in Rautahat through legislative change and coordination of government agencies.
- The role of the Ministry of Health in budget allocation, corruption prevention, and monitoring (in conjunction with the District Local Administration).



Community dialogue participants

Issues raised by WCA/PM participants

- The need to understand ‘best practice’ models for health care delivery in the Rautahat district, and current service levels.
- Reasons for the lack of central Government support to date.

Response of witnesses/experts

- Political commitment and stakeholder coordination is necessary to improve health care in Rautahat.
- Projects should include the construction of a health post and well-equipped surgery and emergency wards, and the employment of a sufficient number of with a range of specialities.
- Local media should be used to conduct campaigns to increase awareness of the importance of good hygiene and sanitation practices.
- Political interference should be minimized.
- Effective stakeholder cooperation will be necessary.
- Projects should be output focused.
- The affect of armed groups and corruption should be minimized.



Summary

The program concluded with all participants expressing their optimism that the health sector in Rautahat will continue to develop. The allocation of sufficient funding in a timely manner, monitoring and evaluation were identified as crucial in improving health service delivery.

Recommendations/conclusion

- That stakeholder cooperation is needed to improve health care delivery in Rautahat.
- That sanitation systems must be improved.
- That the views of the expert panelists be given particular weighting in designing health-related development projects.
- That medical education institutions be established in the district.
- That hygiene and sanitation awareness campaigns be conducted.
- That the local population should be encouraged to actively participate in the development of effective health care services.
- That action be taken to ensure a safe and secure environment in which service providers can operate.



Members of the follow-up committee

- Mr. Yogendra Yadav
- Mr. Prem C. Jha
- Mr. Shailendra Gupta
- Mr. Sitaram Wagle
- Mr. Akhileshwar Chaudhary

District : **Tanahu**
Venue : Federation of Industry and Commerce Hall, Damauli
Date : September 5, 2009
Topic : The prospects for, and challenges facing, the development of tourism in Tanahu.

WCA/PM participants:

- Hon. Urmila ‘Parbati’ Thapa
- Hon. Hasina Miya Begum



Witnesses/experts

- Mr. Hari Singh Gurung
- Mr. Padam B. K.C.
- Mr. Kashi N. Neupane
- Mr. Hari P. Dahal

Demography of participants

Women	Men	Dalit	Janajati	Madhesi	Others	Total Participants
51	106	10	65	1	81	157

Discussion points

- Prospects for the development of tourism in Tanahu and associated problems.
- Identification of tourist attractions in Tanahu.
- Existing tourism plans and programs.

Issues raised by WCA/PM participants

- Recognition of the need to understand the local situation.
- Tanahu’s prospects as a major destination for domestic and international tourists.

- Both local and central political support will be required for the development of the tourism sector in Tanahu.

Issues raised by other participants

- Budget allocation should only take place after the DDC has prioritised locations for development.
- A comprehensive strategy must be developed before infrastructure can be built.
- Tanahu should be promoted as a ‘complete’ tourist destination, offering such components as religious tourism and eco tourism.
- Options and timelines for WCA/PM support to tourism in Tanahu.



A tourism expert presents his testimonial

Response of witnesses/experts

- Tanahu, an area of great scenic beauty, has the potential to become a ‘complete’ destination for both domestic and international tourists.
- Tanahu is a site of great literary significance.
- Tanahu’s geographic location means it is easily accessible from all other areas of Nepal.

Response of WCA/PM participants

- WCA/PM participants will coordinate their efforts to ensure party support for the development of the tourism sector in Tanahu.
- A master plan should be developed to coordinate all tourism-related plans and programs.



The community dialogue program included performances by a local cultural group

Summary

Skaeholder cooperation, transparency and a sincere commitment to Tanahu’s development are necessary for tourism in the district to flourish.

Round table participants

Fifty-nine persons participated in the round table program.

Recommendations/conclusion

- That CA/PM participants and experts must coordinate their efforts to develop Tanahu’s tourism sector.

- That national level policies be developed to guide the development of tourism, within the existing legislative framework.
- That political parties put aside ideological differences to support the development of Tanahu's tourism sector.
- That interference by political parties and other groups with vested interests be minimised.
- That local participation in the development of Tanahu's tourism sector be strongly encouraged

Members of the follow-up committee:

- Mr. Shishir Poudel
- Mr. Hari S.Gurung
- Mr. Yam B.Ale
- Mr. Rajeswor Harkhale
- Mr. Padam Bahadur .K.C.
- Mr. Pawan Poudel
- Mr. Krishna H.Gaire
- Mr. Basant Kandel
- Mr. Dirgha B.Darai



A local activist shares her opinion

District : **Rupandehi**
Venue : Industry and Commerce Federation Hall, Siddharthanagar
Date : September 9, 2009
Topic : Tourism development in Lumbini

WCA/PM participants

- Hon. Radha Gyanwali
- Hon. Sabitri Singh
- Hon. Babita Devi Dhobi



WCA/PMs on the dias in Rupandehi

Witnesses/expert panelists

- Dr. Geetu Giri
- Mr. Dipendra Raj Poudel
- Mr. Deepak Chhetri
- Mr. Hari Rai
- Mr. Dev Raj Acharya

Demography of participants

Women	Men	Dalit	Janajati	Madhesi	Others	Total Participants
95	82	32	48	70	27	177

Discussion points

- Options for developing the infrastructure in the tourism sector.
- The potential for Lumbini to become a destination for international tourists.
- Problems related to the effective management and development of the tourist sector in Lumbini.

Issues raised by WCA/PM participants

- The need to understand best practices for the development of a world heritage site.
- Reasons for the the lack of public and private support to date for the development of Lumbini's tourism sector.
- The need to make use of local and expert knowledge regarding the current state of Lumbini's tourism sector.

- The need to consider compensation to any locals whose land will be affected by the development of tourism infrastructure.
- Why more women are not employed by the Lumbini Trust.
- Whether the Lumbini Trust operates in as disciplined and transparent manner as it should.
- The expectations that local persons have of their CA/PMs.

Response of witnesses/experts

- Government, political party and CA/PM commitment is necessary for the development of Lumbini's tourism sector.
- Funding will need to be provided for the construction of roads and dedicated tourist facilities.
- Public awareness campaigns should be conducted to increase local awareness of the prospects for tourism development.
- Political interference in the development of the sector should be minimized.
- Corrupt practices and negligence by central and local authorities should be minimized
- Legislative change may be necessary to most effectively develop Lumbini's tourism sector.



Ninety-five women participated in the Rupandehi program

Summary

All participants made a commitment to cooperate to develop Lumbini's tourism sector. Stakeholders from all sectors of local society were present, including representatives of youth and activist groups. It was agreed that funding and domestic and international promotion of the district both need to be increased.

Round table participants

Total:35

- Hon.Radha Gyawali
- Hon. Sabitri Singh
- Hon.Babita Devi Dhobi
- Mr. Dinesh Tripathi
- Mr.Gopal Psd Pandey
- Mr.Ramchandra Nisad Tripathi
- Mr. Keshar Ram Tripathi
- Mr. Dipendra Raj Poudel
- Ms. Nirmala Acharya
- Ms. Sulochana Nepal
- Ms. Til Kumari Bagale
- Ms. Bal Ram Sunwar
- Mr. Prahalad Yadav



Some of the 35 participants in the round table program

- Mr. Binod Kumar Barahi
- Ms. Rama Aryal
- Mr. Hem Raj Aryal
- Dr. Gita Giri
- Mr. Ram Lal Shrestha
- Mr. Debendra Raj Shakya
- Mr. Dev Raj Acharya
- Mr. Abdul Mobin Khan
- Mr. Ramesh Pandey
- Mr. Hari Dhoj Rai
- Mr. Dilli Raj Bhandari
- Mr. Mahendra Pandey
- Mr. Lekha Nath Pokhrel
- Mr. Ashok Kumar Gorkhali
- Mr. Ram Kesh Dhawal
- Mr. Rangilal Dhobi
- Mr. Rakesh Chand
- Ms. Barun Shila Gyawali
- Ms. Bishnu Koirala
- Mr. Bhoj Raj Bhusal
- Mr. Khimananda Banjade

Recommendations/conclusion

- That media promote both domestic and international tourism in Lumbini.
- That the recommendations of the expert panelists be given particular weighting in developing tourism plans.
- That transportation services be improved.
- That the hygiene standards of public facilities be improved.
- That Nepal Tourism Board can play a vital role in promoting tourism in Lumbini and increasing awareness of the needs of tourists in remote locations.
- That a website to promote Lumbini be created.
- That action be taken to increase the safety of tourists in Lumbini and to improve medical facilities.
- That banking, immigration and information facilities for tourists be developed.
- That the Nepal Tourism Board, the Civil Aviation Authority and the Tourism Ministry develop a network with other Buddhist organizations to promote Lumbini as an international tourist destination.



Participants in Rupandehi included representatives from all sectors of society

Members of the follow-up committee

- Mr. Gopal Prasadd Pandey (Teacher and Social Worker)
- Mr. Tara Bdr.Karki (LDO-Rupandehi)
- Mr. Ananda Man Singh Shakya (Professor)
- Dr. Gita Giri (Experts)
- Mr. Bishnu Chauhan (Media)
- Mr. Siddhicharan Bhattari (NGO Federation and Media Representation)
- Mrs. Prabha Khanal

Appendix 8

District : **Dang**
Venue : The Meeting hall, Ghorahi Municipality
Date : September 9, 2009
Topic : Kamlari traditions in Dang and sustainable solutions for their abolition

WCA/PM participants

- Hon. Shanta Chaudhary
- Hon. Bimala Nepali
- Hon. Rukmini Chaudhary

Witnesses//expert panelists

- Mr. Rishiram Dhakal
- Ms. Rashmi Pandey
- Ms. Goma Mahara
- Ms. Shila Adhikari
- Mr. Krishna Kumar Chaudhary
- Mr. Shreeman Neupane



Demography of participants

Women	Men	Dalit	Janajati	Madhesi	Others	Total Participants
74	52	9	54	4	59	126

Discussion points

- The current living conditions of Kamlaris in the Dang district.
- Analysis and identification of action points to improve the conditions of Kamlaris.
- How to provide a livelihood for freed Kamlaris.
- How to liberate the approximately 166 Kamlaris in Dang.
- Enacting and implementing Kamlari-relevant legislation and policy.
- Rehabilitating and re-establishing freed Kamlaris in society.
- Funding for the abolishment of Kamlari practices.
- The need for collaborative action and mobilization of resources amongst stakeholders.
- Reasons why the Kamlari tradition continues.
- The need to understand why existing legislation has failed to end Kamlari practices.
- Kamlari practices as systemic slavery.
- The programs being conducted by government organizations and NGOs to abolish Kamlari practices and their achievements to date.

Issues raised by WCA/PM participants

- How to incorporate the rights of Kamlari in the new constitution.
- The role of the state in ending Kamlari practices.
- The Government's current plans to free and rehabilitate Kamlaris.
- Enacting and implementing relevant legislation and policies.
- Whether current legislation is sufficient to end Kamlari practices.
- Whether the continuation of Kamlari practices is due solely to poverty or whether the limited enforcement of existing legislation is also a contributing factor.
- The role of Child Protection Committees in ending Kamlari practices.



Participants included freed Kamlaris and NGO and government representatives

- How the 12 000 000 rupees apportioned for abolition of Kamlari practices should be used.
- The number of Kamlaris who will live in rehabilitation centres and the length of time for which each should remain a resident..
- Which NGOs are supporting Kamlaris and who would fill this role in the NGOs' absence
- What is preventing the current 166 Kamlaris being freed.
- Solutions for Kamlari's abolition must be sustainable and able to be enforced.



Almost 60% of participants were female

- A substantial amount of DDO's annual budget remains frozen due to the failure to develop a Plan of Action. It may be possible to use these funds for the abolition of Kamlari practices.
- Whether the Government can provide funding for the higher education of Kamlari girls and the level to which such girls should receive free education..

Response of witnesses /experts

- Existing legislation is adequate for the legal abolition of Kamlari but an insufficient number of rehabilitation centres prevents its practical abolition..
- Kamlari is driven by poverty. Free education and skill development and income generation programs are necessary to break the Kamlari cycle.
- Additional funding is required.



126 individuals participated in the public hearing program

Response of WCA/PM participants

- WCA/PM are working to include the abolition of Kamlari practices in the new constitution.
- A commitment was made to establish additional Kamlari rehabilitation centres and increase funding for the education of freed Kamlaris.
- WCA/PM participants will work towards establishing property rights for freed Kamlaris to ensure their livelihood.

Summary

Kamlari practices allow the systemic exploitation and mental, physical and sexual abuse of young girls. The community dialogue program was organized to seek sustainable solutions to the abolition of this deeply-rooted tradition; an undertaking in which both the public and private sectors have a role to play.

The program concluded that poverty is the single greatest cause of Kamlari practices. Property rights were identified as the key factor in ensuring female economic security and thus breaking the Kamlari cycle.



Freed Kamlaris gave first-hand accounts of their experiences

Round table participants

Total: 38

- Ms. Shanta Chaudhary, WCA/PM
- Ms. Bimala Nepali, WCA/PM
- Ms. Rukmini Chaudhary, WCA/PM
- Mr. Ramji Chaudhary, NCP Maoist
- Mr. Rishiram Dhakal, CDO Dang
- Ms. Goma Mahara, District BAR Dang
- Ms. Shila Adhikari, Martin Chautari
- Ms. Rashmi Pandey , Women Development Office Dang
- Mr. Krishna Kumar Chaudhary, SWAN
- Mr. Faluram Chaudhary, SWAN
- Mr. Navraj Acharya, SWAN
- Mr. Chandra Raj Pant, FNCCI Dang
- Mr. Um Bahadur Oli, Cottage and small Industries development office, Dang
- Mr. Rajendra pd. Poudel, Land Reform Office Dang
- Ms. Pratibha Chaudhary, Plan Nepal
- Ms. Urmila Chaudhary, Kamlari Mukti Manch
- Ms. Anarkali Chaudhary, Kamlari Mukti Manch
- Mr. Indra Chaudhary, BCD, Dang
- Mr. Durgalal K.C., Kantipur National Daily
- Mr. Ambika Poudel, Sahayog samaj Dang
- Mr. Jit Bahadur K.C., Hotel Association
- Ms. Nirmala Gautam, Family Planning Association, Dang

- Ms. Manjeeta Chaudhary, Chairperson
- Mr. Gaddulal Chaudhary, Sahayog samaj Dang
- Ms. Huma D.C., Women Concern Center, Dang
- Mr. Netraraj Chaudhary, Tharuhat
- Mr. Sabin Priyasan, Journalists Association, Dang
- Mr. Raj Chaudhary, local media representative
- Mr. Ram Prasad Chaudhary, local media representative
- Mr. Raj Kumar Chaudhary, Dang resident
- Mr. Shreeman Neupane, Dang resident
- Mr. Bholu Adhikari, Pro Public
- Mr. Laxmiman Chaudhary, Pro Public
- Ms. Bimala Sharma, Pro Public
- Mr. Sudeep Gautam, Pro Public
- Mr. Animesh Upadhyay, Pro Public
- Ms. Jagat sharma, Pro Public
- Ms. Binny Subba, NDI

Recommendations/conclusion

- That the cooperation of all stakeholders will be required to abolish Kamlari practices in Dang.
- That programs should be conducted to increase awareness of the Kamlari Issue and the current legislation.
- That counselling be offered to Kamlaris and freed Kamlaris.
- That the safety of Kamlaris and freed Kamlaris be ensured.
- That legislation to abolish Kamlari practices be enforced.
- That steps be taken to ensure the inclusion of Kamlaris in political, social and economic society.
- That additional rehabilitation centers for freed Kamlaris be established.

Members of the follow-up committee

- Mr. Bholu Adhikari
- Ms. Bimala Deokota
- Mr. Laxmiman Chaudhary
- Ms. Goma Mahara
- Mr. Sudeep Gautam

Appendix 9

District : **Bardiya**
Venue : DDC Hall, Gulariya
Date : September 9, 2009
Topic : Sustainable solutions to erosion/river land cutting in Bardia

WCA/PM participants



- Hon. Pratibha Rana
- Hon. Sarada Nepali
- Hon. Bina Gyawali

WCA/PM participants

Witnesses/expert panelists

- Mr. K. P. Sigdya
- Mr. Bed B. Karki
- Mr. Dinesh P. Shrestha
- Mr. Krishna Kumar Verma
- Mr. Indra Bhushan Jha
- Ms. Gita Adhikari
- Mr. Hari Gyanwali

Demography of participants

Women	Men	Dalit	Janajati	Madhesi	Others	Total Participants
59	78	7	55	16	59	137

Discussion points

- Management of the Babai, Geruwa, Orai, and Maan Rivers.
- Reforestation and conservation.
- The development of a master plan for river management in Bardiya.
- Implementation of the JICA master plan for management of the the Babai River.
- The need for additional Government funding.
- Implementation of the RiverConsumer Policy.
- The need to introduce sustainable short and long term planning practices.
- The establishment of a Water Disaster Management (Jal Utpanna prakop) Office in Gularia.
- The need for legislative reform and for politicians to be held accountable.
- The establishment of a Bardia Development Forum.
- The benefits of transferring the Rajapur Irrigation Office from Baidi to Rajapur.

Issues raised by WCA/PM participants

- How much additional funding is required.

- Whether three key solutions to the problem of river management in Bardiya can be identified.

Issues raised by other participants

- Whether political commitments can be relied upon.
- Reasons for the failure to complete a progress report on river management to date.
- The establishment of a Bardiya Development Forum to undertake development projects.
- The management of Bhada Bridge, Jabdi Ghat, Bairiya Ghat, Guruwa Gaon, and Kusumba Ghats.
- Immediate bridge and river management of Kathy Ghat.
- Management of the Orai River.
- The need for diplomacy in negotiating the construction of the Bardiya Dam with the Indian Government.
- Establishment of a Water Disaster Relief Unit (Jal Utpanna Prakop) Office in Bardiya.
- Reasons for insufficient budget being allocated to river management.
- Protection of Janata Secondary School, Gola.



Response of WCA/PM participants

- Recognition that this is a very important issue for Bardiya and requires an appropriate policy and legislative response.
- Recognition of the need to provide relief measures to persons affected by flooding and resulting erosion.
- The role of WCA/PMs in representing Bardiya's communities.

Response of Witnesses/experts

- Successful resolution of the problem will require the participation of locals and cooperation among all stakeholders.

Summary

All stakeholders expressed their commitment to work together to resolve the problems caused in Bardiya by flooding and the resulting erosion.

Round table participants

Total: 38

Mrs. Prativa Rana, WCA/PM
Mrs. Beena Gwali, WCA/PM
Mrs. Sarada Nepali, WCA/PM
Mr. Bed Bahadur Karki , CDO
Mr. Meghnath Adhikari, RPP
Mrs. Sarada Singh, RPP
Mr. Hari Gwali, CPN (UML)
Mr. Suggi Yadav, CPN-UML
Mr. Manju Yadav, CPN-UML
Mr. Bidhya Khanal, Nepali Congress
Mr. K P Yadav, MJF
Mr. Kesav Yadav, TMLP
Mr. Ramsurat Yadav, CPN (United)
Mr. Mahesh Gautam, Red Cross
Mr. Sanjiv Karn, District Bar
Mr. Shivman Shrestha, District Technical Office
Mr. Himalaya Khanal, FSU
Mr. I B Jha, Jal Utpnna Prakop
Mr. N P Subedi, Jal Utpnna Prakop
Mr. K K Verma, Rajapur Jalupabhokta Sanstha
Mr. Amar Are, Armed Police
Mr. Gyanendra Rawal, Nepal Teacher Association
Mr. Indra B. Gurung, Siddhibox Gand
Mr. Basant Adhikari, DDC
Mr. Shyam Gyawali, District Police
Mr. Rajendra Kandel, Chamber of Commerce
Mr. Balkrisna Oli, civil society member
Mr. Nirmal Ghimire, ABC Television
Mr. Om Sharma, Sagarmatha T.V.
Mr. Suresh Yogi, flooding victim
Mr. Matiram Sharma, Nepal Teacher Association
Mr. P M Sharma, Pro Public
Mrs. S Manandhar, Pro-Public
Mr. Yam Ghimire, Pro-Public
Mr. K P Subedi, Pro Public
Mr. Laxman Dhungana, Pro Public
Ms. Sunita chaudhary, Pro Public

Recommendations/conclusion

- That WCA/PM participants formulate a policy of National River Conservation, Control and Management.
- That WCA/PM participants and the National Planning Commission prioritise the development of a master plan for management of Bardiya's three largest rivers.
- That readiness measures, such as alarm systems, be introduced to reduce casualties due to floods and other disasters.
- That the green belts along the riparian margins be expanded as an environmental protection measure and to decrease the rate of erosion.



WCA/PM Hon. Prativa Rana responding to the participants question

- That Ministry of Finance's funding of Bardiya's Water-induced Disaster Management Unit be timely, sufficient and appropriately monitored.
- That the main rivers be bridged at the points where traffic is heaviest.

Members of the follow-up committee

- Chairman: Mr. Rajendra Kadel, GCCI
- Secretary: Krishna Prasad Subedi
- Mr. Yam Ghimire

Representatives of:

- Nepal Bar Association
- NGO Federation
- Federation of Nepalese Journalists
- Water Consumer Unit
- Network of Women Inter Party
- Tharu Women Upliftment Centre
- Federation of Community Forest Users Group
- Network of River Management Committee

Appendix 10

District : **Kailali**
Venue : Chamber of Commerce and Industries, Dhangadhi, Kailali
Date : September 9, 2009
Topic : Reducing domestic violence

WCA/PM participants

- Hon. Malamati Rana Tharu
- Hon. Ishwori Neupane

Witnesses/expert panelists

- Mr. Dipendra Shingh, National Human Rights, Regional Office, Kailali
- Mr. Prem Ba. Khadka, District Police Office, Kailali
- Mrs. Jibanti Poudel, Women Human Rights Network
- Mrs. Indria Jaishi, Central Vice President of Nepal Red Cross Society, Kailali, Dhangadhi



WCA/P M participants during the community dialogue

Demography of participants

Women	Men	Dalit	Janajati	Madheshi	Others	Total
107	70	15	68	4	90	177

Discussion points

- Definition of domestic violence.
- Causes of domestic violence.
- Methods to eliminate domestic violence.
- Domestic Violence Act, 2066.
- Stakeholders in the elimination of domestic violence.
- The role of civil society in eliminating domestic violence.

Issues raised by WCA/PM participants

- The extent to which the public has been made aware of the Domestic Violence Act, 2066, which was enacted to reduce the incidence of domestic violence.
- How can we control Domestic Violence? Can polygamy be included under domestic violence?

Issues raised by other participants

- How the Domestic Violence Act can be better enforced or amended to protect women
- The need to increase reporting of cases of domestic violence.
- The reluctance of women to report cases of domestic violence due to the patriarchal nature of Nepali society and the alleged indifference of the police.
- A first person account from a victim of domestic violence, whose case was neglected by local police.
- A growing awareness of labour exploitation as a form of domestic violence and one that is most likely to occur when women are financially dependent on men.
- The high rate of domestic violence towards women in Western Nepal, Dalit women and ethnic women, and the consequent need for a rehabilitation center in Dhangadhi.
- The lack of information regarding domestic violence in the Kailali district.
- The lack of development opportunities for women in the Kailali district.
- The need to implement at the VDC level programs to reduce domestic violence and to reduce claims that the victim provoked the abuse.
- The Kamlari system as a form of domestic violence and options for rehabilitating its victims.
- Whether measures to reduce domestic violence can be included in the constitution.
- The problem of homelessness caused by domestic violence.
- The role that female education, healthcare and employment play in reducing rates of domestic violence, and the need to guarantee these rights in the constitution.
- Options for increasing awareness in the public sector of women's rights.
- The Domestic Violence Act provides for cases to be filed at the local level, but Kailali lacks the legal representation to allow women to take such action.
- Options for providing free legal services to women, children and marginalized communities.
- The need to increase penalties meted out to those convicted of domestic violence and to develop options to rehabilitate offenders.



- The need for sociological and psychological training to be provided to members of Nepal's police force to better enable them to deal with domestic violence cases.
- The need for property to be held jointly between husband and wife.
- The need for increased cooperation among NGOs.
- Prohibition of alcohol and abolition of the dowry system would reduce rates of domestic violence.

Response of WCA/PM participants

- Recognition of the need to implement the Domestic Violence Act and raise awareness of it.
- The possible need to amend the Domestic Violence Act,
- Domestic violence programs should be implemented at the VDC level.
- The extent to which Nepal's patriarchal society and the culture of joint families increases rates of domestic violence.
- Recognition of that fact that domestic violence includes Kamlari practices, child labour and prostitution.



Victims of domestic violence shared their experiences

Response of witnesses/experts

- The need to improve systems and processes for dealing with cases of domestic violence and other human rights abuses.
- The need for alleged human rights abuses to be investigated free from political interference.
- VDC level networks should be established to provide support to victims of domestic violence and to encourage women to report abuse.
- The main causes of domestic violence are gender discrimination between sons and daughters, Nepal's patriarchal society, and a reluctance to report abuse due to the perceived indifference of the police and politicians;

Round table participants

Total: 31

Hon. Ishwori Neupane, WCA/PM

Hon. Malamati Rana Tharu, WCA/PM

Mrs. Ishwori Neupane, CA

Mr. Govinde Raj Joshi, NC

Mr. Maheshwor Pathak, CPN-UML

Mr. Om Prakash Pun, NCP-United
Mr. Prem Khadka, SP
Ms. Goma Acharya
Mr. Yakindra Timilsina, journalist
Ms. Loksari Kunwar, journalist
Mr. Bhanuram Chaudhary, Chairman, Tharu Welfare Society
Ms. Janaki Tuladhar, lawyer
Mrs. Renu Pradhan, lawyer
Mr. Surya Bhandari, lawyer
Mr. Khagendra Joshi , Chairman, Bar
Mr. Dipendra Singh, Human Rights Commission
Mr. Nabin Ojha, Maiti Nepal
Mrs. Tulakha Devkota, FecoFon
Mr. Jeevan Rana, Chairman, Rana Tharu Society
Mrs. Jivanti Poudel, Alliance for Womens Rights
Mrs. Sarswoti Pandey, Single Women Alliance
Mrs. Sarswoti Pandey, Single Women Alliancec
Mrs. Indira Jaisi, teacher
Mrs. Chitra Paneru , human rights activist
Mrs. Parbati Agri, Alliance for Women
Ms. Parbati Chauduary, Alliance for Women
Mrs. Dibyasori Shah, Alliance for Women
Mr. Balaram Bhattarai, co-ordinator
Mr. Saryu P. Chaudhary, media representative
Ms. Kabita Pande, Pro Public
Ms. Anamika Rai, NDI

Recommendations/conclusion

- That a rehabilitation center be established in Dhangadhi
- That domestic violence awareness campaigns be conducted at the VDC level.
- That the constitution guarantees womens rights to education, healthcare, property and employment, in recognition of the fact that dependency on male family members is a key contributor to violence towards women.
- That provision be made for domestic violence cases to be filed at the local level, by hiring hte necessary legal representatives.

- That options be explored for providing free legal services to women, children and marginalized communities.
- That need for sociological and psychological training provided to members of Nepal's police force, as provided for in the Domestic Violence Act.
- That options for limiting access to alcohol and the prevalence of the dowry system be explored.

Members of the follow-up committee

- Mr. Tulasi Devkota
- Mrs. Indira Jaisi
- Mr. Surya Bhandari
- Mr. Bhanuram Chaudhary
- Ms. Jibanti Poudel
- Mrs. Dibyaswori Shahi
- Mrs. Saraswoti Pandey
- Mr Navin Ojha
- Inspector Prem Khadka
- Mrs Loksari Kunwat
- Mrs Janaki Tuladhar
- Mrs Manju Mishra
- Mr Maheshwar Pathak

Gender and ethnicity of participants in public hearing, community dialogue and round table programs

Name of District	Public hearing /community dialogue Program							Round table program	
	Gender		Ethnicity					Total	Total Participants
	Male	Female	Madeshi	Dalit	Janjati	Others*			
Ilam	127	46	2	6	9	156	173	31	
Morang	76	55	17	11	16	87	131	38	
Sunsari	151	45	158	4	12	22	196	32	
Dhanusha	100	47	134	3	3	7	147	30	
Rautahat	95	64	5	8	10	136	159	40	
Tanahu	106	51	1	10	65	81	157	59	
Rupendehi	82	95	70	32	48	27	177	35	
Dang	52	74	4	9	54	59	126	38	
Bardiya	78	59	16	7	55	59	137	38	
Kailali	70	107	4	15	68	90	177	31	
Total	937	643	411	105	340	724	1580	372	

Source: Field report, 2009

* 'Others' includes Brahmin, Chhetri and indigenous groups.

WCA/PM participants

Participant	Party
Eastern Region	
Ilam	
Nirmala Parsain	Nepali Congress (NC)
Sakuntala Lepcha	Communist Party of Nepal-Unified Marxist Leninist (CPN-UML)
Sunsari	
Nirmala Parsain	NC
Sakuntala Lepcha	CPN-UML
Morang	
Kabita Kumari Sardar	NC
Yasodha Devi Adhikari	CPN-UML
Asha Kumari Sardar	Madheshi Janadhikar Forum Nepal (MJF-Nepal)
Central Region	
Dhanusha	
Juli Kumari Mahato	CPN-UML
Krishna Thakur	NC
Surita Kumari Sha	MJF-Nepal
Minakshi Jha	NC
Kashi Devi Jha	Tarai Madhesh Loktrantik Party (TMLP)
Rautahat	
Chandan Sha	TMLP
Neelam Verma	MJF-Nepal
Rambha Devi	MJF-Nepal
Sarala Yadav	CPN-UML
Western Region	
Rupandehi	
Radha Gyanwali	CPN-UML
Sabitri Singh	NC
Babita Devi Dhobi	Rastriya Prajatantra Party (RPP)
Tanahun	
Hasina Miya Begam	CPN-UML
Urmila Thapa	NC
Mid-Western Region	
Dang	
Bimala Nepali	NC

Rukmani Chaudhary	Federal Democratic National Forum (FDNF)
Santa Chaudhary	CPN-UML
Bardiya	
Bina Gyanwali	CPN-UML
Pratibha Rana	RPP
Sharada Nepali	Communist Party of Nepal-Marxist Leninist (CPN-ML)
Far-Western Region	
Kailali	
Malamati Rana Tharu	Sadbhawana Party (SP)
Ishwori Neupane	NC

Pro Public support staff

A. Central support staff

- Mr. Prakash Mani Sharma, Chief Logistic Advisor
- Ms. Sunita Upadhyay Sharma, Central Project Logistic Coordinator (CPLC)

B. District support staff

District	District Coordinator	Moderator	Communication Coordinator	Logistic Assistant
Ilam	Mr. Sudeep Shrestha	Mr.Dharma Gautam	Mr. Som N. Acharya	Ms. Sunita Basel
Morang	Ms.Mina Sedai	Mr. Sandesh Shrestha	Ms. Roma Subedi	Mr. Ramhari Devkota
Sunsari	Mr.Mahandra Mehta	Mr. Ram K. Sah	Ms. Ruma Rizal	Mr.Dip Narayan Mehata
Dhanusha	Mr.Surendra Lal Karn	Dr. Bhogendra Jha	Mr. Dipak K Biswokarma	Ms. Sudina Jha
Rautahat	Ms. Chandrakala Ghimire	Mr. Dipak Regmi	Mr. Ram Naresh Yadav	Mr. Ramsaran Timilsina
Tanahu	Mr Mr. Krishna Subedi	Mr. Tikaram Dahal	Ms. Sarita Acharya	Mr. Narayan Khanal
Rupandehi	Ms. Til K. Bagale	Mr. Gopal P. Pandey	Mr. Bhoj R. Bhushal	Mr. Bishnu Koirala
Dang	Mr. Bholu Adhikari	Mr Sudeep Gautam	Mr. Laxmiman Chaudhari	Ms Bimala Sharma
Bardiya	Mr. Krishna Subedi	Mr. Yam Ghimire	Mr. Laxman Dhungana	Ms. Sunita Chaudhary
Kailali	Mr. Balaram Bhattarai.	Mr Yakindra Timilsina	Mr. Sarju Chaudhari	Ms. Nirmala Bhatta

Job descriptions for Pro Public support staff

Position: District Logistics Coordinator (DLC)

The DLC will work under the direct supervision and guidance of the CPLC and assist her/him in the execution of the public hearing/community dialogue program for WCA/PM in the appointed district. The DLC's duties and responsibilities will include:

- Familiarizing himself/herself with the project concept, objectives and activities before, during and after the program;
- Assisting the CPLC in compiling the district profile and identifying the district's key issues for discussion;
- Recommending and confirming panelists, and ensuring that the panel's composition will result in the expression of a wide range of views;
- In close coordination with Pro Public, identifying and recommending participants in the public hearing, community dialogue and round table programs, ensuring that women and other marginalized groups are well-represented;
- Providing media reports and other relevant information to Pro Public and NDI for their inclusion in a briefing book for CA members;
- Assisting the CPLC and district team in the timely organization of all aspects of the programs;
- Arranging for the distribution of invitations to selected participants and panelists as per a list to be provided by Pro Public;
- Locating a suitable venue, making seating arrangements, and organizing refreshments;
- Organizing the provision of any required stationery and audio-visual technologies;
- Overseeing the Communication Coordinator's preparation of the press kit;
- Arranging the pickup and dropoff of the WCA/PM participants, and Pro Public and NDI staff members prior to and following each program;
- Informing district security agencies, including the District Administration Office, of the planned arrival of WCA/PM participants, and requesting the provision of security agency escorts;
- Monitoring expenses as per the advised budget and the guidelines provided by Pro Public and maintaining all financial paperwork for reporting purposes;
- Preparing and submitting the final progress and financial reports as per guidelines provided by Pro Public; and,

- Performing other duties as per the instructions of the CPLC as required.

Position: Moderator

The Moderator will work under the direct supervision and guidance of the CPLC and in coordination with DLC and will assist them in executing the public hearing/community dialogues program for WCA/PM in the appointed district. The Moderator's duties and responsibilities will include:

- Familiarizing himself/herself with the project concept, objectives, activities, guidelines and key issues prior to commencement of the program;
- Assisting the CPLC and DLC in compiling the district profile and identifying the district's key issues for discussion;
- Working closely with the District Coordinator to conduct the public hearing and round table programs;
- Moderating the district level public hearing and round table programs, avoiding confrontations and inappropriate exchanges;
- Maintaining political, ethnic and gender neutrality whilst moderating;
- Using correct titles and salutations and maintaining a proper degree of formality in all communications;
- Ensuring questions from audience members are relevant to the issue under discussion;
- Assisting the DLC in preparing a comprehensive progress report; and,
- Performing other duties as per the instructions of the CPLC and DLC as required.

Position: Communication Coordinator

The Communication Coordinator will work under the direct supervision and guidance of the CPLC, DLC and Moderator and assist them in the execution of the public hearing/community dialogues program for WCA/PM in the appointed district. The Communication Coordinator's duties and responsibilities will include:

- Familiarizing himself/herself with the project concept, objectives, activities, guidelines and key issues prior to commencement of the program;
- Assisting the CPLC and DLC in compiling the district profile and identifying the district's key issues for discussion;
- Assisting the DLC in identifying and recommending participants in the public hearing, community dialogue and round table programs, ensuring that women and other marginalized groups are well-represented;

- Assisting the DLC in organizing the district level programs;
- Establishing effective working relationships with local media and identifying those media representatives who should be invited to the programs;
- Preparing press kits and distributing them to appropriate media representatives in a timely manner;
- Monitoring media coverage of the program;
- Arranging interviews between local radio stations and WCA/PM participants;
- Assisting the DLC in preparing a comprehensive progress report; and,
- Performing other duties as per the instructions of the DLC and Moderator as required.

Position: Logistics Assistant

The Logistics Assistant will work under the direct supervision and guidance of the DLC, Moderator & Communication Coordinator and assist them in the execution of the public hearing/community dialogues program for WCA/PM in the appointed district. The Logistics Assistant's duties and responsibilities will include:

- Familiarizing himself/herself with the project concept, objectives, activities, guidelines and key issues prior to commencement of the program;
- Assisting the DLC in compiling the district profile and identifying the district's key issues for discussion;
- Assisting the DLC in identifying and recommending participants in the public hearing, community dialogue and round table programs, ensuring that women and other marginalized groups are well-represented;
- Assisting the DLC, Moderator and Communications Coordinator in organizing the district level programs;
- Distributing and following up invitations selected participants;
- Assisting the DLC in locating a suitable venue for the programs, making seating arrangements and arranging refreshments;
- Registering participants at the programs;
- Assisting the Communications Coordinator in distributing press kits to media representatives; and,

- Performing other duties as per the instructions of the DLC, Moderator and Communications Coordinator as required.

Appendix 15

Public Hearing Evaluation Form: Random Sampling

1. How would you rate the following issues in your district?

Issues	Issues	High Priority	Medium Priority	Low Priority	Don't know
Water Supply					
Sewerage					
Waste management					
Roads					
Schools					
Health Centers					
Jobs					
Agriculture					
Tourism					
Law and order					
Flood management & relief					
Domestic violence					
Bonded female labourers					
Irrigation					

2. Are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the way your representative is doing her job as a CA member of your district?

Response	
Very satisfied	
Fairly satisfied	
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	
Fairly dissatisfied	
Very dissatisfied	
Don't know	

3. Please rate the quality of these services in your district.

Services	Excellent	Fair	Poor	Don't know
Police protection				
Local government				
Local planning				
Public transportation				
Road maintenance				

Water				
Sewer				
Public health				
Garbage collection				

4. Would you like to participate in a future session?

- Yes No Don't know

5. Did you find the dialogue environment positive and respectful?

- Yes No Don't know

6. Why did you join the event/program?

- Interviewee is Male Female
Interviewee's age is 18-29 years 30-50 years Over 50 years

(Check all that apply)

- It has changed how I normally vote
- It has influenced my vote in specific elections
- It has changed one or more of my political opinions
- It has had some impact on my political opinions
- It has had no impact at all
- Don't know

4. Are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the way your representative is doing her job as a CA member of your district?

Response	
Very satisfied	
Fairly satisfied	
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	
Fairly dissatisfied	
Very dissatisfied	
Don't know	

5. Why did you join this event/program?

6. What are your expectations?

7. Were you comfortable participating in the discussion?

8. Was the dialogue climate/environment positive and respectful?

9. How might it have been improved?

10. Would you like to participate in a future session?

11. What additional comments do you have?

12. Please put a tick mark against the correct option:

- Male Female
 18-29 years 30-50 years over 50 years

Appendix 16

NDI-Nepal observation report

Ilam (Eastern region)

- Observer:** Jay Nishaant, NDI-Nepal
- Topic:** Tourism development in Ilam: its prospects and challenges
- WCA/PM participants:** Hon. Shakuntala Lepcha, CPN-UML
Hon. Nirmala Prasai, NC
- Witnesses/expert panelists:** Mr. Yuddha Prasad Vaidhya, former Campus Chief, Ilam Campus
Mr. Sitaram Ghimire, Lecturer, tourism studies
Mr. Udaya Chapagain, tea entrepreneur
Ms. Dipa Bishwokarma, journalist and social activist
Mr. Ram Prasad Dangal, LDO
- DLC:** Ms. Sudip Shrestha
- Moderator:** Mr. Dharma Gautam
- Logistics Assistant:** Mr. Som Natha Acharya
Ms. Sunita Basel

Introduction

NDI and USAID held community dialogue/public hearing and round table programs in Ilam, in eastern Nepal. Logistics support was provided by Pro Public.

The moderator opened the programs with an introduction of the WCA/PM participants, expert panelists, and NDI and Pro Public representatives. Following opening remarks by NDI's deputy director and the WCA/PM participants, each expert panelist gave a presentation regarding tourism in Ilam. The programs concluded with closing remarks by WCA/PM participants who made a commitment to improve Ilam's tourism sector.

Public hearing/community dialogue

The public hearing ran from 1200 until 1400 and the community dialogue ran from 1400 until 1500. The 173 participants included the Chief District Officer, the LDO, political party representatives, and 46 women. WCA/PM participants and expert panelists responded articulately and thoughtfully to questions from the audience. The discussion remained both topic and outcome focused.

Witnesses/expert panelists

The five experts gave relevant and innovative presentation, with the majority also providing written testimonies. The experts responded to questions from WCA/PM participants and audience members alike.

Round table program

The round table program ran from 1730 until 1900. The 31 participants included the CDO and LDO, political party representatives, 46 women, and media representatives. For the most part, the discussion remained on topic and valuable suggestions were made, with the moderator ensuring that the environment was conducive to a lively and informative discussion. The CDO made especially insightful remarks and the WCA/PM participants fielded questions admirably, making a commitment to return in six months time. Dinner was served at the conclusion of the program.

Follow-up committee

A five member 'Monitoring Committee' was formed under the coordination of Mr. Sudarshan Pd. Dhakal, CDO.

Management of the program

The program was very effectively and professionally managed and the coordinators are to be commended on their identification of relevant stakeholders. Due to the large turnout, the venue was slightly cramped, despite being the largest in town, but this did not hamper proceedings. While the district had no electricity for two consecutive days, the DLC ensured that a generator was available and that refreshments were served.

Moderator

Mr. Dharma Gautam was very professional, with excellent time management skills.

Media

The event was broadcast live by the most popular local radio station, 'Radio Nepalbani'. A number of print journalists were present, representing both local and central media organizations. Local radio stations also conducted interviews with WCCA/PM participants.

Conclusion

- Participants commented favourably on the format of the whole event and the time allotted to each program. The format helped prevent the confrontations and recriminations common at community meetings in Nepal and contributed to the creation of a positive atmosphere.

- WCA/PM participants were comfortable with the concept of the programs. They considered that the programs gave them an opportunity to appear in a good light and that they benefitted greatly from the exercise.
- Pro Public was a very satisfactory local logistics provider.
- Similar events should be conducted in as many districts as possible.

Morang (Eastern region)

Observers:	Ram Guragain, NDI-Nepal Lalita Pradhan, NDI-Nepal
Topic:	Irrigation problems in Morang district
WCA/PM participants:	Hon. Yasoda Devi Adhikary, CPN-UML Hon. Kabita Kumari Sardar, NC Hon. Asha Kumari Sardar, MJF-Nepal (Democratic).
Witnesses/expert panelists:	Er. Jageshor Lal Karna, Director General, Sunsari Morang Irrigation Project Er. Ram Bahadur Sah, Senior Divisional Engineer, Sunsari Morang Irrigation Project Mr. Naveen Gautam, Lecturer, Mahendra Adharsa Campus Mr. Tank Dahal, President, Irrigation Project Users Group
DLC:	Ms. Meena Sedhai
Moderator:	Mr. Sandesh Das Shrestha
Logistics Assistants:	Ms. Roma Subedi Mr. Rabin Dahal

Introduction

NDI and USAID held community dialogue/public hearing and round table programs in Biratnagar, in the Morang district of eastern Nepal. Logistics support was provided by Pro Public.

Three hours were allotted to the community dialogue and public hearing programs with the round table program taking place in the evening of the same day. Civil society representatives, local professionals and political party leaders were all in attendance.

The program opened with an introduction of the WCA/PM participants, expert panelists and other distinguished attendees. Mr. Ram Guragain, Senior Program Advisor, NDI-Nepal commented on the role of NDI and the objective of the program, and Ms Sunita Sharma, Coordinator, Pro

Public, welcomed attendees and outlined Pro Public's role in the event. WCA/PM participants then made their opening remarks.

Witnesses/expert panelists

The panelists were well prepared. Each had a sound understanding of the problems regarding irrigation in Morang and their possible solutions. Er. Ram Bahadur Sah presented a technical paper on irrigation programs in the district, and Mr. Naveen Gautam proposed the introduction of an alternative system, such as underground irrigation. Mr. Tank Dahal then highlighted the problems end users are facing.

WCA/PM participants and panelists ably answered questions posed by the audience, which remained focused on the topic at hand.

Follow-up committee

A seven member follow-up committee was formed, to be coordinated by Ms. Meena Sedhai. Committee members are:

- Yadu Bista, District Committee Member, Nepali Congress, Morang
- Mr. Binod Chaudhary, President, Users Group, Irrigation Project, Biratnagar Branch.
- Ms. Mohan Kumari Sah, President, Babiyavirta Users Group, Irrigation Project, Babiyavirta
- Mr. Ram Kumar Vishwokarma, President, Nepal Dalit Sangh, Morang
- Mr. Khadga Bahadur Basnet, former LDO, CPN-UML
- Ms. Gita Silwal, President, Nepal Mahila Sangh, Morang
- Mr. Harka Bahadur Basnet, District-in-charge, UCPN-M, Morang

Management of the program

Management of the program was excellent with Ms. Meena Sedhai proving to be an exceptional coordinator. The venue was well-chosen and the logistics well-run.

Moderator

Mr. Sandesh Shrestha was a very professional moderator who managed the programs very effectively.

Conclusion

- All stakeholders must contribute to the development of an agreed framework for managing irrigation projects.
- Policy makers must address the current lack of coordination between user groups, planners, donors and other stakeholders.
- Political interference in irrigation projects, such as the appointment of party cadres to management positions, must come to an end.
- Priority should be given to small projects which will provide immediate relief to local farmers. .

Sunsari (Eastern region)

Observer: Ram Guragain, NDI-Nepal
Lalita Pradhan, NDI-Nepal

WCA/PM participants: Hon. Navodita Chaudhary, RPP
Hon. Sabita Devi Yadav, MJF-Nepal

Topic: Flood management and relief

Witnesses/expert panelists: Mr. Dhruva Shrestha, Divisional Engineer, Water Induced Disaster Management Office, Morang
Mr. Guru Prasad Subedi, LDO, Sunsari
Mr. Tom Prasad Acharya, Chair Nepal Red-Cross Society, Sunsari
Mr. Mahafuse Ansari, social activist
Mr. Purushottam Ghimire, Principal, Bhagawati Higher Secondary School.

Moderator: Mr. Ram Kumar Sah

DLC: Mr. Mahendra Prasad Mehta

Logistics Assistant: Ms. Ruma Rizal

Introduction

NDI and USAID held community dialogue/public hearing and round table programs at the Inaruwa District Headquarters of the Sunsari district. Logistics support was provided by Pro Public.

Community dialogue and public hearings ran from 1030 until 1330 and were followed by a round table program.

The program opened with an introduction of the WCA/PM participants, expert panelists and other distinguished attendees. Mr. Ram Guragain, Senior Program Advisor, NDI-Nepal commented on the role of NDI and the objective of the program, and Ms Sunita Sharma, Coordinator, Pro

Public, outlined Pro Public's role in the event. WCA/PM participants then made their opening remarks.

Witnesses/expert panelists

The panelists were well prepared. Each had a sound understanding of flooding and disaster relief and proposed solutions to the problems Sunsari is facing.. Mr. Dhruva Shrestha, Divisional Engineer of Water Induced Disaster Management Office, gave a video presentation on the Koshi Dam and associated problems. Mr. Purushottam Ghimire briefed participants on the damage done by 2008's Koshi floods and response mechanisms. Mr. Tom Prasad Acharya presented on the Red Cross's involvement, while Mr. Guru Prasad Subedi, LDO, provided options for limiting the damage caused by future floods.

WCA/PM participants and panelists candidly answered all questions put to them and were open to discussing possible suggestions. All participants remained focused on the topic at hand.

Follow-up committee

A six member follow-up committee was formed to pursue the issue with CA/PMs. Members are:

- Mr. Purushottam Ghimire, Principal, Bhagawati Higher Secondary School
- Mr. Sarbajit Yadav, Department of Agriculture, Sunsari
- Mr. Mahendra Prasad Mehta, Pro Public
- Mr. Dev Nandan Mehta, President, Suryamukhi Youth Club Nepal
- Ram Kumar Sah, Pro Public
- Ms. Ranjana Sah, Tarai Development Council

One additional female member is to be named.

Management of the program

There were a greater number of participants than expected, so seating proved to be a problem. The audience remained positive, however, and it was acknowledged that although the venue was not entirely satisfactory, the district offered no better alternative. The overall management of the program was satisfactory, as was Mr. Mahendra Mehta's role as DLC.

Conclusion

- A solution to the Koshi flooding problem requires the strong leadership of both the Nepali and Indian governments.
- Indian control of water management in the barrage should be handed over to Nepal.
- Relief distribution should be managed by national-level NGOs or by INGOs with local level assistance.
- The Koshi Barrage should be reconstructed as an urgent priority, as its poor condition increases the likely impact of future floods.

Dhanusha (Central region)

Observers:	Dr. Sherrie Wolff, NDI-Nepal Jay Nishaant, NDI-Nepal
Topic:	Tourism promotion and the development of tourism infrastructure.
WCA/PM participants:	Hon. Juli Mahato, CPN-UML, Hon. Minakshi Jha, NC Hon. Kashi Devi Jha, TMLP Hon. Krishna Thakur, NC Hon. Surita Kumari Shah, MJF (participated only in Round Table Meeting)
Witnesses/expert panelists:	Mr. Rajendra Prasad Bimal, Professor of Culture and History Mr. Rajeshwor Nepali, journalist and social activist Mr. Yugal Kishore Lal, lawyer and social activist Mr. Digamabar Raya, Chief of <i>Brihatar Janakpur Bikash Kosh</i>
DLC:	Mr. Surendra Lal Karna
Moderator:	Dr. Bhogendra Jha
Logistics Assistants:	Mr. Dipak K Bishwokarma Ms. Sudina Jha

Introduction

NDI and USAID held community dialogue/public hearing and round table programs in Dhanusha, Janakpur. Logistics support was provided by Pro Public.

The moderator opened the programs with an introduction of the WCA/PM participants, expert panelists, and NDI and Pro Public representatives. Following opening remarks by NDI's country director and the WCA/PM participants, each expert panelist gave a presentation regarding tourism in Dhanusha.

Public hearing/community dialogue

The public hearing ran from 1200 until 1415 and the community dialogue ran from 1415 until 1510. The 147 participants included 47 women, 124 Madhesis, three Janajatis and three Dalits. WCA/PM participants and expert panelists responded articulately and thoughtfully to questions from the audience. The discussion remained both topic and outcome focused, for most participants were either directly or indirectly associated with the tourism sector. Notably, the majority of questions and proposals came from female participants.

Witnesses/expert panelists

The four experts gave relevant and useful presentations. Each was obviously well-prepared for the occasion and two provided written as well as oral testimonies.

Round table program

The round table program ran from 1800 until 1930. The 30 participants included representatives of political parties and a number of women. Most participants remained topic-focused and made valuable suggestions. The WCA/PM participants responded positively to proposals and made a commitment to return in six months time. The program concluded with dinner being served.

Follow-up committee

A nine member 'Observers Committee' was formed. Mr. Digamabar Raya, Chief of *Brihatar Janakpur Bikash Kosh*, was appointed committee coordinator.

Management of the program

The program was satisfactorily managed, with appropriate participants invited. The venue was well-chosen and a suitable level of hospitality was offered.

Moderator

Dr. Bhogendra Jha created a very positive and conducive environment for both the public hearing/community dialogue programs and the round table discussion.

Media

Representatives of local and central media organizations attended the programs.

Conclusion

- Participants commented favourably on the format of the whole event and the time allotted to each program. The format helped prevent the confrontations and recriminations common at community meetings in Nepal and contributed to the creation of a positive atmosphere.
- WCA/PM participants were comfortable with the concept of the programs. They considered that the programs gave them an opportunity to appear in a good light and that they benefitted greatly from the exercise.
- While Pro Public was a satisfactory local logistics provider, the moderator could have invited a greater number of participants and better qualified participants.
- Similar events should be conducted in as many districts as possible.

Rautahat (Central region)

Observer:	Manish Bisunke, NDI-Nepal
Subject:	The delivery of health-related services
Venue:	Karmachari Milan Kendra, Gaur, Rautahat
WCA/PM participants:	Hon. Sarala Yadav, CPN-UML Hon. Rambha Devi, NC Hon. Chandan Shah, TMLP
Witnesses/expert panelists:	Dr. Ramashankar Thakur, District Health Officer, Rautahat Mr. Shankar Wagle, Plan Nepal, Rautahat Mr. Akhilesh Chaudhary, civil society member, Rautahat Ms. Nisha Koirala, Staff Nurse, District Hospital, Rautahat
DLC:	Ms. Chandrakala Ghimire
Moderator:	Mr. Dipak Regmi
Logistics Assistant:	Mr. Ram Naresh Yadav

Introduction

NDI and USAID held community dialogue/public hearing and round table programs in Gaur, in the Rautahat district, on September 9, 2009. Logistics support was provided by Pro Public.

Public hearing/community dialogue

The program ran from 1230 until 1600 and opened with the introduction of the WCA/PM participants, expert panelists, and NDI and Pro Public representatives. Mr. Manish Bisunke, NDI's Office/Finance Manager, and Dr. Bhogendra Jha, Pro Public, briefed participants on the purpose of the program. Each WCA/PM participant and the CDO made opening remarks before the expert panelists gave presentations regarding health services in Rautahat. The WCA/PM participants and expert panelists ably answered all questions posed by the audience and the discussion remained focused on the matter at hand.

Round table program

Forty participants took part in the round table program, which opened at 1830. Discussion centered on the current delivery of health services in Rautahat and ways in which they could be improved. All participants played an active role in proposing solutions to the ongoing problems the district is facing.

Follow-up committee

A five member follow-up committee was formed to monitor progress until the next public hearing program is conducted.

Conclusion

- The programs were professionally managed by Pro Public.
- Forty per cent of the 159 public hearing/community dialogue participants were women.
- Ten per cent of the 40 round table participants were women.
- WCA/PM participants made a commitment to raise the issue of health services in Rautahat with the Government.
- Participants responded positively to the opportunity to share their opinions and receive direct feedback.

Tanahu (Western region)

Observers:	All NDI staff
Topic:	The prospects for, and challenges facing, the development of tourism in Tanahu.
Venue:	Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Damauli
WCA/PM participants:	Hon. Urmila Thapa, Nepali Congress Hon. Hasina Miya Begam, Communist Party of Nepal – Unified Marxist Leninist
Witnesses/expert panelists:	Mr. Hari Singh Gurung, President, Tanahu Tourism Board Mr. Hari Prasad Dahal, LDO, DDC, Tanahu Mr. Padam K.C., tourism activist Mr. Kashi Nath Neupane, litterateur
DLC:	Mr. Krishna Pokhrel
Moderator:	Mr. Tika Ram Dahal
Communications Coordinator:	Ms. Sarita Acharya

Public hearing/community dialogue

The program opened with the introduction of the WCA/PM participants and panelists. Mr. Jay Nishaant, NDI-Nepal and Mr. Prakash Mani Sharma, Pro Public, outlined the roles of their organizations and the purpose of the program. WCA/PM participants made opening remarks and the panelists presented their testimonies. Thirty-two per cent of the 157 participants were women.

Each panelist focused on a different aspect of tourism in Tanahu, such as the historical importance of the district; problems facing the development of the sector and their solutions; and the need for improved infrastructure.

Following the panelists' testimonies, questions and suggestions were taken from the audience. These included:

- The need to capture lessons learned by soliciting feedback from tourists.
- The need to prioritize the development of tourism-related infrastructure.
- The need to establish an information center so that tourists are aware of all options available to them in the district.

Round table program

A round table program was held to discuss in further detail issues raised at the public hearing and community dialogue. The 59 participants included representatives from civil society organizations, political party leaders, and government officials.

Participants concluded that district level tourism committee should also have access to the VDC funding and that monitoring and coordination should be managed jointly. WCA/PM participants committed to raise the issue with their party leaders.

Management of the program

The program was well run with Pro Public providing all necessary logistics support. As a pilot program, it proved to be a valuable learning experience.

Rupandehi (Western Region)

- Observer:** Vickal Deep Khadka
- Topic:** Tourism development in Lumbini
- Venue:** Siddhartha Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Bhairahawa
- WCA/PM participants:** Hon. Radha Gyanwali, Communist Party of Nepal – Unified Marxist Leninist
Hon. Sabitri Singh, Nepali Congress
Hon. Babita Devi Dhobi, Rastriya Prajatantra Party
- Witnesses/expert panelists:** Dr. Gitu Giri, Associate Professor, Tribhuvan University, Bhairahawa Campus
Mr. Dipendra Raj Poudel, LDO, DDC, Rupandehi
Mr. Deepak Chettri Neupane, President, Siddharthanagar Hotel Association
Mr. Hari Rai, Section Officer, Lumbini Development Trust
- DLC:** Ms. Til Kumari Bagale
- Moderator:** Mr. Gopal Prasad Pandey
- Communication Coordinator:** Mr. Bhojraj Bhusal
- Logistics Assistant:** Ms. Bishnu Koirala
- Number of Participants:** Out of 177, 54% were women.

Public hearing/community dialogue

The program was opened with an introduction of the WCA/PM participants and panelists. Mr. Dinesh Tripathi, Pro Public, outlined the roles of NDI and Pro Public and the purpose of the program. WCA/PM participants made opening remarks and the panelists presented their testimonies.

Each panelist presented on a different aspect of the development of Lumbini, such as its historical significance, the problems facing the development of tourism and their possible

solutions, and the need for improved infrastructure. Questions were then taken from the audience and very ably answered by WCA/PM participants and expert panelists.

Round table program

A round table program was held to discuss in greater detail the issues raised during the public hearing and community dialogue. The 35 participants included representatives from civil society organizations, political party leaders, and government officials. All agreed that the appointment of government officials in the tourism sector must be free from political interference and must extend beyond the life of the parliament. To date, the high turnover of government officials has prevented ‘corporate knowledge’ about Lumbini being developed.

Management of the program

The program was well-managed and all logistics needs were met. Pro Public ensured that all stakeholders were represented and that a majority of the local VDC attended.

Dang (Mid-Western region)

- Observer:** Binny Subba, NDI-Nepal
- Topic:** Kamlari problems in Dang and sustainable solutions for their abolition
- Venue:** Ghorahi Municipality Meeting Hall, Dang
- WCA/PM participants:** Hon. Shanta Chaudhary, Communist Party of Nepal – United Marxist Leninist
Hon. Bimala Nepali, Nepali Congress
Hon. Rukmani Chaudhary, Sanghiya Loktantrik Rastriya Manch (Federal Democratic National Forum)
- Witnesses/expert panelists:** Mr. Rishiram Dhakal, CDO
Ms. Rashmi Pandey, Child Protection Officer
Ms. Goma Mahara, advocate
Ms. Shila Adhikary, bonded labour expert
Mr. Krishna K. Chaudhary, Chairman, Social Welfare Association of Nepal (SWAN)
Mr. Shreeman Neupane, reporter and social society member
- DLC:** Bhola Adhikari.
- Moderator:** Sudeep Gautam
- Communication Coordinator:** Laxmiman Chaudhary
- Logistics Assistant:** Bimala Sharma

Introduction

The moderator outlined the roles of NDI and Pro-Public and the purpose of the program before introducing the WCA/PM participants and expert panelists. The WCA/PM participants made opening remarks before the panelists presented their testimonies and questions were received. The audience, which included freed Kamlaris, took an active part in the discussion.

Public hearing/community dialogue

All participants agreed that poverty is the single greatest cause of Kamlari practices and that the state must take an active role in establishing rehabilitation centres and providing education and training to freed Kamlaris. A lively discussion increased awareness of the issues associated with Kamlari practices. These include:

- The need to incorporate the rights of Kamlaris in the Constitution.
- The role of the state in ending Kamlari practices.
- Implementing legislation abolishing Kamlari practices.
- Establishing Dang as a Kamlari-free district.
- Identifying sustainable solutions to the abolition of Kamlari practices that do not solely rely on short-term NGO projects.
- Providing employment opportunities for freed Kamlaris.
- Utilizing the district's development budget for the rehabilitation of Kamlaris.

The expert panelists made the following recommendations for abolishing Kamlari practices:

- Establishing a rehabilitation center for freed Kamlaris.
- Providing free education to Kamlaris.
- Providing income generation and skill development training.
- Implementing awareness programs.
- Providing security to freed Kamlaris.
- Supplementing existing legislation.

In response, the WCA/PM participants committed to:

- Support the establishment of a rehabilitation centre.
- Make provision in the Constitution to guarantee free education and reservation quotas for Kamlaris.
- Support the granting of property rights to Kamlaris.

Round table program

The 38 round table participants represented a wide range of stakeholders, including social activists, politicians and civil servants. The discussion focused on the need to end bonded labour practices in Dang, with all participants agreeing that this will require the cooperation of all political parties. WCA/PM participants committed to raise the matter with their party leaders. There was agreement that all members of society have a role to play in ending Kamlari and that the inaccurate perception that NGOs can singlehandedly resolve the problem must be addressed.

Follow-up committee

A follow-up committee was formed, consisting of:

- Mr. Bhola Adhikari
- Ms. Bimala Devkota.
- Mr. Laxmiman Chaudhary
- Ms. Goma Mahara
- Mr. Sudeep Gautam.

Management of the program

The program was exceptionally well organized, with Pro Public providing very professional logistics support. The moderator performed very well and there was much media interest in the event.

Conclusion

The topic garnered a lot of interest from the community, as bonded labour is still very prevalent in the Dang district. Almost 60 per cent of the 126 program participants were women, some of whom had served as bonded labourers themselves. Participants represented a wide range of communities, including Dalits, Janjatis and Madheshis.

WCA/PM participants and panelists represented a number of stakeholder communities, allowing them to build rapport with audience members. WCA/PM participants represented the Dalit community, the Tharu community (from which a high proportion of Kamlaris come), and the Kamlari community itself, as one WCA/PM was herself a bonded labourer.

Comments from participants

“We are very grateful to NDI and Pro-Public for giving us this opportunity to voice our concerns as well as discuss on ways to find a sustainable solution to the existing problem of bonded labourers”. **Karmu Chaudhary, Dang**

“NDI has provided a very strong platform in highlighting the issue of bonded labourers. I hope now, with all the attention this subject has gained among the people, bonded labourer, will be eradicated from not only Dang, but the entire country”. **Sarswoti Gautam, Dang**

Bardiya (Mid-Western region)

Observer:	Sushmita Subba Manandhar, NDI-Nepal
Topic:	Sustainable solutions to erosion/river land cutting in Bardiya
Venue:	District Development Hall, Bardiya
WCA/PM participants:	Hon. Prativa Rana, RPP Hon. Bina Gyanwali, CPN-UML Hon. Sharda Nepali, CPN-ML
Witnesses/expert panelists:	Bed Bahadur Karki, CDO, Bardiya Indra Bhushan Jha, Head, Water Induced Management Dinesh Shrestha, social worker Gita Adhikari, reporter Hari Gyanwali K.P. Sigdel, columnist Krishna Barma
DLC:	Krishna Subedi
Moderator:	Yam Ghimire
Media Coordinator:	Laxman Dhungana
Logistics Assistant:	Sunita Chaudhary
Total Number of Participants:	137, 43% women

Summary

The public hearing/community dialogue program provided the first opportunity for WCA/PMs to interact face to face with members of Bardiya's communities. The politicians expressed their willingness to learn more about the problems relating to flooding in the district and emphasized the need to focus on identifying solutions. The programs provided an opportunity for all

stakeholders to communicate their concerns, with participants included representatives of political parties, civil society and government agencies.

Public hearing/community dialogue program

The public hearing commenced at 1230 and concluded at 1400 and the community dialogue ran from 1400 until 1630.

The program opened with the introduction of WCA/PM participants and expert panelists. Sushmita Subba, NDI, and Prakash Mani Sharma, Pro Public, outlined the roles of their organizations and the purpose of the program. Following opening remarks by WCA/PM participants, the seven panelists presented their testimonies. A substantive question and answer session followed with all participants remaining focused on the topic at hand.

Round table program

Hon. Pratiba Rana chaired the round table discussion, the 38 participants at which included the CDO, LDO and local army and police commanders. The program resulted in the following recommendations being made:

- That projects be prioritized according to both the short and long term needs of the district.
- That priority be given to resettling flood victims and compensating them for loss of land due to erosion/land cutting;
- That the feasibility of irrigation, electricity, canal and fishery projects be examined.
- That priority be given to cultivating Bardiya's most fertile land.
- That JICA's master plan for disaster relief be circulated to all CA/PMs.
- That river banks be replanted to reduce erosion and that a green belt be established in which forestry is prohibited.
- That political interference in the management of flooding preparedness and response be prohibited.

Media

The programs were broadcast live on Bageshwory FM and they were widely reported by local print media organizations.

Conclusion

WCA/PM participants made a commitment to develop a National River Consumption Control and Management Plan. There was agreement that the highest priority must be given to enforcing a green belt zone and resettling and compensating flood victims.

Kailali (Far Western region)

Observer:	Anamika Rai, NDI-Nepal
Topic:	Reducing domestic violence
WCA/PM participants:	Hon. Ishwori Neupane, Nepali Congress Hon. Malamati Tharu Rana, Sadbhawana
Witnesses/expert panelists:	Mr. Dipendra Bahadur Singh, Officer, National Human Rights Commission Mr. Prem Bahadur, Inspector, District Police Office Ms. Indira Jaisi, District President, Nepal Red Cross Society Ms. Jiwanti Poudel, Central Committee Member, Women Human Rights Network
DLC:	Mr. Balaram Bhattarai
Moderator:	Mr. Yakindra Timilsina
Communication Coordinator:	Mr. Sarju Chaudhary
Logistic Assistant:	Ms. Nirmala Bhatta

Introduction

NDI and local partner Pro-Public conducted public hearing/community dialogue and round table programs for women CA members/parliamentarians in Dhangadi, Kailali district, in order to improve interaction between local politicians and members of the community and to raise the profile of women in politics.

Public hearing/community dialogue

One hundred and seventy seven participants, more than 60 per cent of whom were female, attended the 4.5 hour long public hearing/community dialogue program. Many participants had themselves been victims of domestic violence and their testimonies introduced a particular poignancy to the event. WCA/PM participants commented favourably on the opportunity to hear

first hand of the damage domestic violence does to Kailali's communities. They also praised the effort gone to by NDI and Pro Public in providing detailed briefing materials.

Presentations from the four expert panelists were followed by questions from the audience. Both WA/PM participants and experts responded ably, with a majority of questions focusing on the Domestic Violence (Offence and Punishment) Act, 2008.

Round table program

The round table program ran from 0830 until 1200 on September, 10 September. The 31 participants included representatives from civil society organizations, political parties, the media and academic institutions. The closed door meeting provided an opportunity for WCA/PM participants and experts to hold an indepth discussion to identify ways to eliminate domestic violence.

Media

A majority of the local newspapers reported on the program.

Conclusion

The topic garnered a lot of interest from the participants, as domestic violence in the Kailali district is increasing, with a growing number of cases being reported to local police. Almost 60 per cent of the 177 program participants were women, some of whom were the victims of domestic violence themselves. Participants represented a wide range of communities, including Dalits, Janjatis (Tharus) and Madheshis.

The programs resulted in the identification of number of mechanisms to curb the growth in domestic violence. These included social awareness campaigns, the enactment and enforcement of effective legislation, the punishment of criminals, and campaigns to increase female literacy and skill levels.

Follow-up committee

A 'Domestic Violence Monitoring Committee/Network' was formed to monitor progress. Its members are:

- Mr. Maheshwor Pathak, (coordinator)
- Ms. Tulsi Devkota, Federation of Community Forestry Users, Nepal
- Ms. Indira Jaisi, District President, Nepal Red Cross Society
- Mr. Surya Bhandari, advocate
- Mr. Mr. Bhanu Ram Chaudhary (Rana), Janjati Adhivasi Group
- Ms. Jiwanti Poudel, Central Committee Women's Human Rights Network
- Mr. Dibswari Shah, District Chairperson, Inter Party Women's Alliance
- Mr. Sarwati Pandey, Single Women's Network
- Mr. Nabin Ojha, Maiti Nepal
- Mr. Prem Bahadur Khadka, Inspector
- Ms. Lobsari Kunwar, Women journalist
- Ms. Januka Tuladhar, Women advocate
- Ms. Manju Mishra, youth Activist
- Ms. Parbati Atre, Dalit Community.

Feedback

“Thanks to NDI and USAID for organizing and supporting public hearing and community dialogue program on “Domestic Violence: Problems and Challenges” in Kailali district. I would have never known the case of Rita Chaudhary, one of the victims of domestic violence from Pratapur Village Development Committee (my own home village) if NDI had not organized this program.”

Hon. Ishwori Neupane, CA member, Nepali Congress (NC), Kailali

“I had been tortured by my husband and mother-in-law for not bringing enough dowry. I had made complaint against her in the local administration but till now I have not received any legal actions against her, as my mother-in-law is an active member of one of the major political parties in Dhadheldhura district. Due to persistent torture I had to move to my parental home in Kailali district. This is the first time that I got an opportunity to reveal my personal and social problems in front of CA members, media and local government representatives. Thanks to NDI and USAID for providing me an opportunity to put forward my issues and directly interact with the CA members. Because of this program district police officials and CA members have committed to take action against my complaint.”

Ms. Bijaya Badal, Victims of Domestic Violence

Sample press clipping

Translated Version

Midwestern National Daily

Public Hearing and a Round Table Discussion

Bardiya, September 9. With technical support from USAID and NDI, Pro Public organized a Public Hearing and a Round Table Discussion in Bardiya on Land Cutting and its Solutions. Hon. Prativa Rana Bina Gyanwali and Sharda Nepali were present during the public hearing. The Chief District Officer (CDO) Bed Bahadur Karki, Dinesh Shrestha, Krishna Prasad Sigdel a social activists, Krishna Kumar Barma of Rajapur Water Users Committee, Geeta Adhikari reporter, Hari Gyanwali and a Head of Water Induced Disaster Management Nepalgunj, Indra Bhusan Jha presented their testimony.

Yam Ghimire moderated the event. Executive Director of Pro Public Prakash Mani Sharma highlighted the objective of the event while Sushmita Subba, Program Manger of NDI briefed about NDI. All party representatives and civil society participated in the event. A round table discussion was held on Thursday formed an eleven members of follow-up committee to effectively implement the commitment.

In the leadership of Rajendra Prasad, President of FNCCI, eleven members include Krishna Subedi and Yam Ghimire of Pro Public, FNJ, Water Induced Committee, and FECOFUN. Hon. Prativa Rana chaired the round table discussion. A decision has been made to request the government of the National River Users and Controlled Management.

Yugbodh Reporter

Collective Efforts Required for Abolishing Kamlari System

Ghorahi September 9. The state should promulgate specific laws for abolishing the Kamlari (girl-child indentured labourers) system and initiate special programs for the livelihood of the freed Kamlaris. This was expressed by the speakers at a talk program in Ghorahi organised by Pro-Public on *Sustainable Strategies to Abolish the Kamlari System in Dang*.

The speakers stressed that the Kamalari system is a residue of the slavery system and there should be collective readiness for abolishing it for ever.

Speaking at the same program, CA member Shanta Chaudhari demanded that the Kamlaris should be rehabilitated with the provision of land ownership, and stated that she has been raising the issue on the problem in the Constituent Assembly. Stating that there should be a concrete provision in the new Constitution for promulgating laws, Chaudhari further her said the state should provide free education, health and employment for the freed Kamlaris. Another CA Member Bimala Nepali informed the audience that preparations were being made to pass a resolution for abolishing the Kamlari system. Another CA member Rukmini Chaudhari said that there is a need for positive thinking to end the system.

Chief District Officer of Dang Rishi Ram Dhakal informed the audience that over 3000 Kamlaris had been freed in Dang and there were still 166 others to be freed. District Child Welfare Officer Rashmi Pandey said the system could be abolished if all stakeholders get together.

Advocates Goma Chaudhari, President of SWAN Krishna Kumar Chaudhari and Martin Chautari's Shila Adhikari presented working papers at the program. Other speakers who addressed the program included Secretary of Civic Society of Dang district Chandra Raj Pant, Secretary of The Federation of the Nepalese Journalists Sabin Piyasan, Journalists Sharad Adhikari, Ranjita Sharma, KP Ghimire, Advoate Madan Pokhrel, Rita Chaudhari, Devendra KC, Megh Bahadur BC, Leela BK, Jeet Bahadur KC, Shreeman Neupane, Sushila Poudel, Chinta

Mani Poduel, Kalpu Chaudhari, Rishi Ram Rijal, Shanta Poudel, Babita Chaudhari, Maya Chaudhari, Sanjeeta Chaudhary, Urmila Chaudhari, Ram Kumari Chaudhari, Rima Sharma, Rajendra Prasad Poduel, Keshav Kumar Sharma, Huma DC, Nirmala Gautam, and Saraswati Gautam. Journalist Sudip Gautam facilitated the program.

Kamlari Rescue Work Held Back

Ghorahi September 9. Due to the lack of the housing space for the freed Kamlaris, the rescue work has been held back. The rescue work stopped after the two hostels in Deukhuri were filled with the freed Kamlaris. SWAN President Krishna Chaudhari stated that the hostels that can house 55 persons already have 53 Kamalaris. This has led the main committee and three sub-committees formed for the rescue work (raid) to suspend the work. In Dang district, still 166 Kamlaris are to be freed. "Dang was declared a Kamlari-free district on Magh 1, 2065 BS, however, there are still 166 Kamlaris yet to be freed," said the President of SWAN Krishna Bahadur Chaudhari. For the rescue purpose, one main committee has been formed with the Chief District Officer as the Coordinator and three sub-committees under it. The committees raided the households in the beginning and thirty-three Kamlaris were rescued. Now, the committees have stopped the rescue work citing the cause of the housing for the freed Kamlaris. Chief District Officer and District Child Welfare Committee Coordinator Rishi Ram Dhakal said that due to the lack of housing facilities, the rescue work has not been effective. He said, "What can be done with the rescue only? There is no place to keep them." According to Dhakal, in two months all the remaining Kamlaris can be freed. He further added, "Rescue is not a big deal. Proper rehabilitation is the major task." The Hostel Coordinator Bhagi Ram Chaudhari said that maximum five others can be adjusted. "The hostel does not have further capacity," he said, "Adding new Kamlaris will create problems in food and accommodation." The two hostels have maximum 55-person capacity. SWAN spends Rs. 80,000 per month on the Kamalaris living in the hostels.

Demand for Including Kamlaris' Rights in the Constitution

Ghorahi September 9. The participants of a talk program organised in Ghorahi have demanded that there should be provision in the Constitution to end the Kamlari system, which is a residue of the slavery system of the past. Stating that only words are not enough for Kamlari emancipation, the speakers expressed their view that only a proper provision in the Constitution for the rights of the Kamlaris can ensure their emancipation.

The speakers at the public dialogue organised by Pro-Public on *Sustainable Strategies to Abolish the Kamlari System in Dang* expressed their worries that though the district of Dang is declared a Kamlari-free district, Kamlaris are still kept under wraps. They said that the system persisted because the previous feudal state constitution did not have any provision for emancipating the Kamlaris.

The participants were informed that though Dang was declared a Kamlari-free district on the 1st of Magh 2065, still 166 Kamlaris are yet to be freed. It was also informed that with the initiatives of the organisations active in the district and with the cooperation from the administration, 3861 Kamlaris were freed. The speakers said that though the rescuing is a challenge in itself, the rehabilitation should not be forgotten. The government should take initiatives for rehabilitating the freed Kamlaris, demanded the speakers of the program.

Addressing the dialogue participants, CA member and ex-Kamlari Shanta Chaudhari said that prevalent unequal land reform system is the root cause of the slavery systems such as the Kamlari and Haliya. She said that the other causes of the slavery system are poverty, lack of education and public awareness. Responding to the queries raised by the participants, Chaudhari said that she has been raising the issue in the Parliament.

Likewise, another CA member Rukmini Chaudhari said that she has been raising voice for the end the Kamlari system and was ready to start a movement inside the Parliament if required. She further added that considerations were being made to pass a resolution in the Parliament for

establishing the rights of the bonded labourers, Kamlaris and backward classes. Another CA member Bimala Nepali said that there must be legal provisions in the new Constitution to end all the traces of the Kamlari slavery system. Nepali also demanded that the Government should make reservations for the Janajatis in every job sector.

Speaking at the program, Chief District Officer Rishi Ram Dhakal claimed that the existing law was adequate to end the Kamlari system. He said there was a need for will power, understanding and commitment to enforce the law. SWAN President Krishna Bahadur Chaudhari, Advocate Goma Mahara and Shila Adhikari presented concept papers. Presenting his paper SWAN President Chaudhari said that the organizations would cooperate only in freeing of the Kamlaris and the government should take full responsibility. District Child Welfare Officer Rashmi Pandey also informed the participants about the activities of the office.

At the program, CeLRRD's Dang Coordinator Advocate Madan Pokhrel claimed that the law is not capable for freeing the Kamlaris. He opined that the state should be responsible for abolishing the system. Other speakers who addressed the program included SAFMA Nepal's Sharad Adhikari, Rajendra Poudel of District Land Reform Office, Secretary of Dang Civic Society Chandra Raj Pant, Huma DC of Widows' Concern Centre Dang, Acting District Education Officer Rishi Ram Rijal, District Land Rights Forum President Lila BK, Human Rights Concern Centre for the Handicapped Dang's Chinta Mani Poudel, Keshav Sharma, Shreeman Neupane, Common Forum for Kamlaris Emancipation Dang's President Urmila Chaudhari, Federation of the Nepalese Journalist Dang Branch Secretary Sabin Priyasan, KP Ghimire, Jeet Bahadur KC, Kalpana Chaudhari. Journalist Sudip Gautam facilitated the program.

Commitment for appropriate shelter

Ghorahi September 9. The three CA members from the district have made commitment for the rehabilitation of the freed Kamlaris. The CA members Shanta Chaudhari, Bimala Nepali and Rukmini Chaudhari made their commitment at a talk program on *Sustainable Strategies to Abolish the Kamlari System in Dang* organised by the Pro-Public and National Democratic Institute on Wednesday. The CA Members made a conclusion that lack of access to land is the major cause of becoming a Kamlari. They said that they would take initiatives for land rights, as the system will persist unless there is access to land. They made commitment for taking initiatives for their employment, education and health. Chief District Officer Rishi Ram Dhakal, District Child Welfare Officer Rashmi Pandey, Advocate Goma Mahara, SWAN President Krishna Bahadur Chaudhari and Shila Adhikari who is doing research on Kamlaris presented working papers on the Kamlari system and sustainable strategies. Journalist Sudip Gautam facilitated the program.

Yug Samacharpatra National Daily

Violence on Women by Women

Dhangadhi, September 9

The participants of a public dialogue program on *Domestic Violence in Kailali District: Problems and Challenges* have revealed that women mostly cause domestic violence on women.

The participants of the program raised their concerns on the women's plights caused by domestic violence before the CA member of Nepali Congress Ishwari Neupane, CA Member Malmati Rana and experts including Human Rights Commission Regional Office Dhangadhi Director Dipendra Singh, Police Inspector of District Administration Office Prem Khadka, Principal of Galaxy Higher Secondary School Indra Jaishi and Jibanti Poduel. Most speakers stated that women suffer from domestic violence from men, but they suffer more from the violence caused by women.

One female participant claimed that when the victims go to the local administration and when the women visit the police office to report the cases, the police administration takes the cases very lightly and the cases are settled them for one thousand to five thousand rupees.

The program facilitated by Ekindra Timalsina was organised by National Democratic Institute (NDI) with support from the USAID.

Morning Bell Nepali Daily

**Domestic Violence Control Laws lacking
Domestic Violence Control Act 2009 not implemented**

Dhangadhi September 9. Speakers of a program have stressed that domestic violence has perpetrated due to the lack of domestic violence control laws.

The speakers stated that women are not safe even within the households due to the lack of law, social stigma faced by the victims and no compensation for the victims. They said that the police do not register a case caused by a family member saying the case is from within the family.

The participants of the public hearing and community dialogue program on *Domestic Violence in Kailali: Problems and Challenges* organised by the Pro-Public and NDI in Dhangadhi complained that the Domestic Violence Control Act 2009 has not been effective. They stated that the Act is not capable of providing justice to the women and making the culprits realise the crime.

A testimony presented by Officer National Human Rights Commission Far-Western Regional Office Dhangadhi Dipendra Bahadur Singh recommended the perpetrators should be removed from the public offices if they hold any, and they should also be banned from associating to any social, cultural and political organizations.

Likewise, another testimony presented by Women's Rights Activist Jibanti Poudel stated that 112 domestic violence cases were reported last year to different organizations working in Kailali district. Police Inspector of District Police Office Kailali Prem Khadka informed that no cases were reported to the District Police Office in that period.

Speaking at the same program Principal of Galaxy Secondary School and Women's' Rights Activist Indira Jaishi demanded that all women should be informed about the Domestic Violence Control Act and all women's rights activists should get together for the rights of the violence inflicted women.

Special Guests duo CA Members Malamati Rana and Ishwari Neupane responded to the issues raised on the domestic violence and promised that they would play special roles in the Constitution in the making.

So far, there was no law on domestic violence and even in the Act of 2009, there has been a feeble provision of a fine of Rs 3000 to Rs 25000 or three to five months of imprisonment or both.

Samachar Saransh Nepali Daily

Public Hearing and Community Dialogue Program Organised

Dhangadhi, September 9. A public hearing and community dialogue program on *Domestic Violence in Kailai: Problems and Challenges* has been organised in Dhangadhi on Wednesday.

In the program organised by the Pro-Public and the National Democratic Institute (NDI), Constituent Assembly Members, human rights activists, women's rights activists, representatives from the security bodies and other organizations, teachers, districts leaders of the political parties, journalists, Chiefs of government offices in the district, and intellectuals participated the program.

Nepali Congress CA member Ishwari Neupane and other CA member were among the participants. Present in the program as the experts included National Human Commission Officer Dipendra Bahadur Singh, Police Inspector of Prem Khadka District Police Office, Jibanti Poudel of Women's Rights Activists' Network and Indira Joshi of the Red Cross.

The experts initiated discussions on the condition of women in Kailali, domestic violence, and strategies and current initiatives to control it. They also responded to queries from the participants.

**Survey: Roundtable discussions
NDI-Nepal
September 2009**

Sustainable solutions for the abolition of Kamlari Pratha (bonded labor) in Dang district

Survey of roundtable discussion participants

Thirty-eight participants attended the round table discussion to identify options for abolishing Kamlari practices. Out of these, twenty-four participants took part in the survey. Participants considered that while legislation has a role to play in achieving this goal, social and economic change will bring greater benefits. In addition to Kamlari, which was identified as the most critical issue in the district, participants were asked to identify other local issues. These issues were categorized and rated by participants according to their degree of significance. For example, issues related to jobs, agriculture and animal husbandry were grouped as “Economic Development”. Figure 1 depicts the issues identified.

Figure 1;

Local issues identified by participants according to their importance

Category	First	Second	Third
Infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Schools 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Health center Road maintenance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water supply
Economic Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agriculture 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote industry and business 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jobs Tourism
Social Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Education 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Women empowerment schemes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public health
Strengthen local governance by:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Awareness raising and social mobilization 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Publicizing the local government’s decisions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitoring and evaluation
Ways to monitor the government’s accomplishments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Direct monitoring 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Periodic accountable meetings with the elected officials. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participate in local council meetings

To improve understanding of how the discussion would influence citizens and decision makers, participants used a scale of 1 to 5 to measure the level of perceived impact. “1” denotes there is no impact, “3” denotes some impact and “5” denotes a large impact.

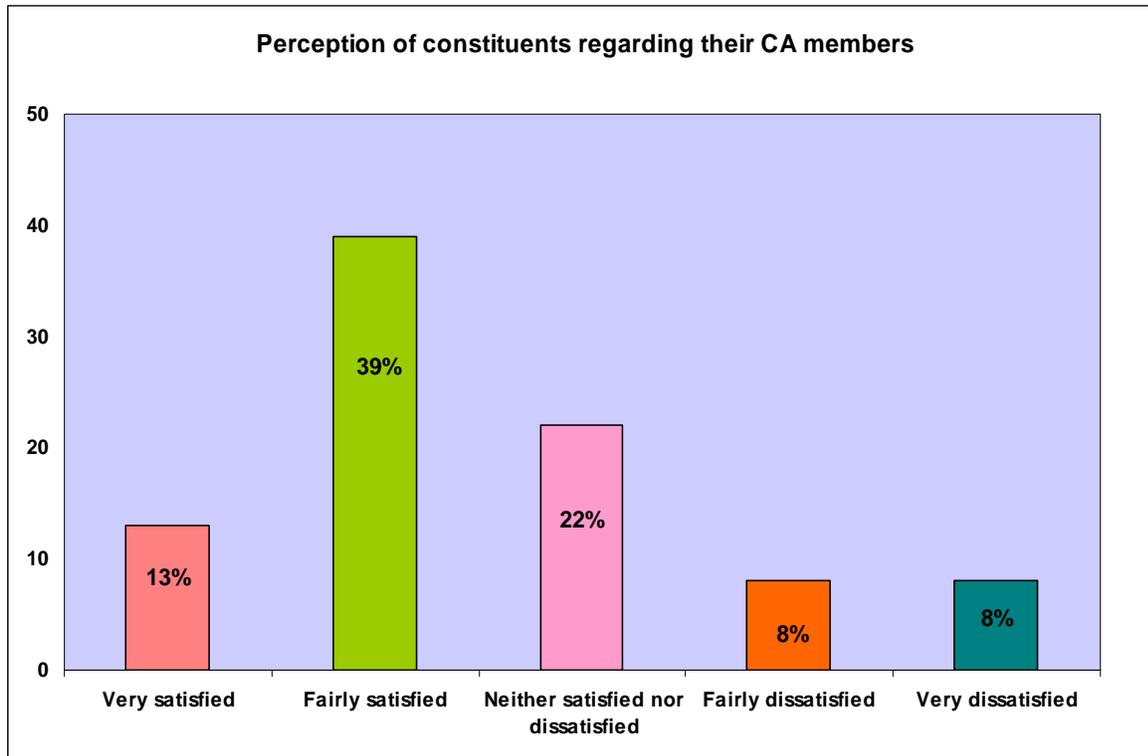
- While 38% of respondents said that the discussion would have a large impact on influencing political decision makers, 8% said that there would be no impact.
- 42% of respondents stated that the discussion would have a large impact on media coverage of political and community issues while 4% said that it would have no impact.
- 21% of respondents stated that the discussion would have a large impact on public life or community relations while a further 46% stated that it would have a significant impact.

The survey provided participants with multiple choice options to gauge the affect of the program on their political opinions. The following summarizes the findings.

- 42% of respondents reported that the discussion had changed one or more of their political opinions.
- 33% reported that it had some impact on their political opinions and 13% stated that it had changed how they would normally vote. 4% reported no change at all.

A majority of the respondents expressed their satisfaction with the work of their representative. Figure 2 illustrates the varying levels of satisfaction and dissatisfaction expressed by the respondents.

Figure 2:



The form asked respondents to explain why they participated in the discussion. Their feedback is summarized below.

- 35% of respondents stated that they participated in the discussion to share their views and provide feedback. They expressed their hope that the discussion would facilitate interaction among diverse stakeholders, resulting in identifying ways to end Kamlari.

- 25% of respondents stated that they joined the discussion program in the hope that it would result in finding a sustainable solution, through mutual agreement, to end Kamlari. They also expressed their hope that the discussion would focus on developing rehabilitation programs for freed Kamlaris.
- 20% of respondents stated that they participated in the discussion in the hope that greater awareness of Kamlari would help end the practice. By raising levels of awareness through such discussion programs, they hoped that citizens would become better informed and unite to abolish Kamlari.
- 13% of respondents identified themselves as former Kamlaris and saw the discussion as a medium through which to share their personal trials and tribulations.
- Some respondents stated that they hoped the media would use the program as an opportunity to highlight the seriousness of the plight of Kamlaris. This would in turn encourage the government to formulate policies and laws to abolish the practice.

The respondents had many expectations from the program. The most common expectations are summarized below.

- 30% of respondents expected the program to facilitate an in-depth discussion on the issue of Kamlari and identify a sustainable solution.
- 20% of respondents expected the program to generate enough awareness that Kamlari would be abolished and the rights of children established.
- 20% of respondents expressed their hope that the issues raised during the discussion would be followed-up by CA members and channeled to the relevant departments, to inform legislation and policy development.
- 20% of respondents expected the discussion to facilitate the formulation of concrete laws to end the practice of Kamlari. They expected the government to guarantee basic rights for freed Kamlaris, such as education, health and food.
- Some respondents expressed their hope that the discussion would lead to the establishment of a Kamlari free zone in the Dang district.

Additional comments

- Respondents stated that wider participation would have strengthened the program. All stakeholders, including governmental and non-governmental organizations, women's groups, political parties, social workers, and parents of Kamlaris, should have participated. This would have given participants a wider perspective and been of benefit to the program.
- Respondents highlighted the need for similar, on-going programs that involve large cross sections of society.

- Respondents stressed the importance of rehabilitating freed Kamlaris. Skill development programs to enhance economic independence should be introduced to help freed Kamlaris re-establish themselves in society.

Conclusion

More than 95% of respondents stated that they were very comfortable participating in the discussion and felt free to express their views. The discussion environment was described as positive and respectful.

A majority of the respondents strongly stated that it is not enough to merely conduct hearings. To end a practice as deeply rooted as Kamlari, a sustainable solution has to be identified. All stakeholders, including the government, citizens and political parties, need to work in unison. Only through joint effort and collaboration can such practices be abolished.

**Sustainable solutions for river land cutting in Bardiya district
Survey of roundtable discussion participants**

Thirty-eight participants attended the round table discussion to identify options for preventing erosion/river land cutting in Bardiya and enhancing relief measures. Out of these, twenty-three participants took part in the survey. Better management, coordination between stakeholders and increased funding were all identified as necessary components in achieving this goal. In addition to river land cutting, which was identified as the most critical issue in the district, participants were asked to identify other local issues. These were then categorized and rated by participants according to their degree of significance. For example, issues related to jobs, agriculture and animal husbandry were grouped as “Economic Development”. Figure 1 depicts the issues identified.

Figure 1:

Local issues identified by participants according to their importance

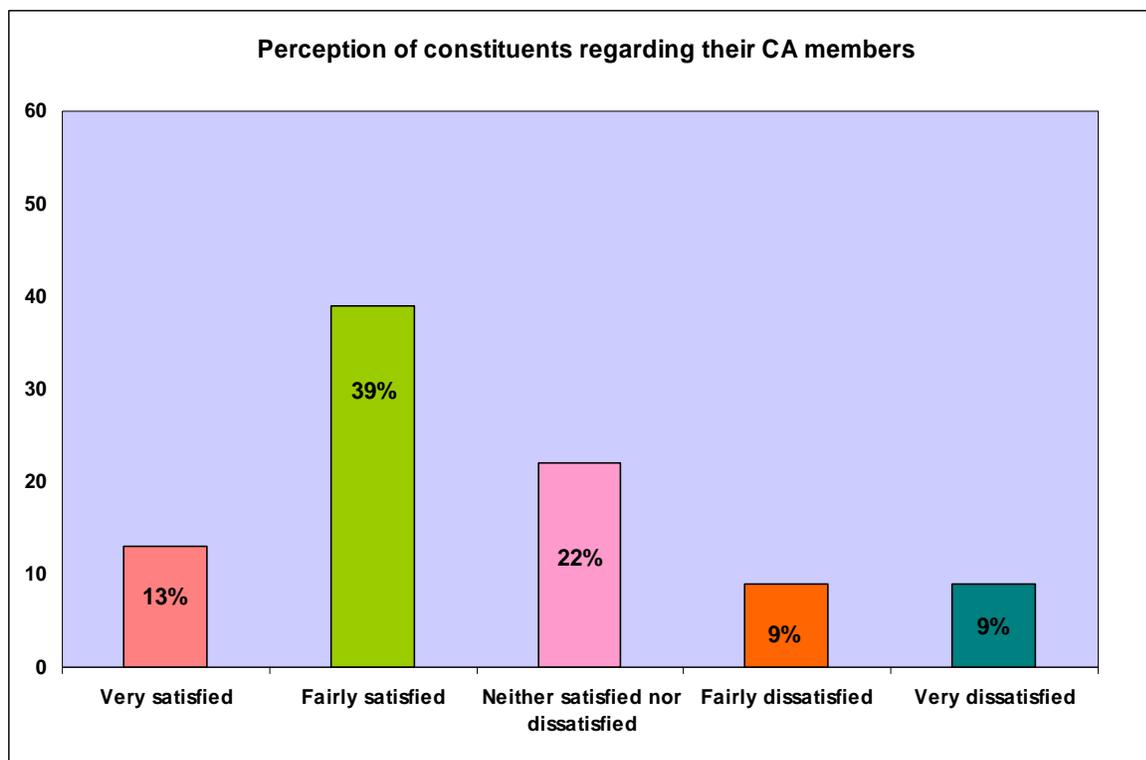
Category	First	Second	Third
Infrastructure	• School	• Roads	• Water supply
Economic Development	• Agriculture	• Tourism	• Promote industry and business
Social Development	• Education	• Public health	• Poverty reduction
Strengthen local governance by:	• Monitoring and evaluation	• Awareness raising and social mobilization	• Information sharing and coordination
Ways to monitor the government’s accomplishments	• Participate in local council meetings	• Periodic accountable meetings with the elected officials	• Direct monitoring

To improve understanding of how the discussion would influence citizens and decision makers, participants used a scale of 1 to 5 to measure the level of perceived impact. “1” denotes there is no impact, “3” denotes some impact and “5” denotes a large impact.

- 43% of respondents opined that the discussion would have a large impact on influencing decision makers while 4% considered that it would have no impact.
- 26% of respondents stated that the discussion would have a large impact on media coverage of community or political issues while 17% stated it would have no impact.
- 30% stated that the discussion would have some impact on public life or community relations and an additional 22% stated it would have a large impact.

Respondents were asked to express the degree to which they were satisfied with the work of their representatives. Figure 2 illustrates the levels of satisfaction and dissatisfaction expressed.

Figure 2:



Respondents were asked why they participated in the round table discussion. Their reasons are summarized below.

- A majority of respondents viewed the discussion as an effective forum to share information and to enhance relief measures. They hoped that their participation would result in identifying an effective and sustainable solution to the issue of erosion/river land cutting.
- Some respondents stated that they participated in the hope that the government would respond to the seriousness of the issue and take appropriate action.
- Respondents said that one of the main reasons for their participation was that, as local citizens, they wanted to be a part of any program involving issues related to their district.

Respondents had many expectations of the program. Common expectations are summarized below.

- A majority of respondents expected the discussion to facilitate better coordination among stakeholders, including the government, CA members, political parties and governmental and

non-governmental organizations. Better coordination and cooperation will increase the likelihood of identifying a sustainable solution to erosion/land cutting.

- Respondents hoped the discussion would influence the government to increase relief measures and measures to prevent erosion/land cutting.

Additional comments

Respondents considered that there is an urgent need for all stakeholders, including CA members, to realize the seriousness of the situation and to work together to identify and address problems.

Conclusion

A majority of respondents expressed their satisfaction with the discussion, which was successful in facilitating interaction among diverse participants. Holding follow-up meetings and ongoing community dialogues would make the program even more effective. Respondents stated that while discussions are an important component of every hearing, it is equally important to focus on only one major issue so that meaningful solutions can be identified. Respondents reported that the dialogue environment was positive and respectful and that they felt comfortable participating in the program.

Irrigation in Morang district and the identification of problems, solutions and effective management techniques
Survey of roundtable discussion participants

Thirty-eight participants attended the round table discussion to identify options for developing more effective irrigation systems in Morang. Out of these, twenty-three participants took part in the survey. Participants considered that, to date, there has been insufficient funding provided for irrigation in the district, and that Government has failed to adequately involve local stakeholders. In addition to irrigation, the district’s most critical issue, participants were asked to identify other local issues. These were then categorized and rated by participants according to their level of significance. For example, issues related to jobs, agriculture and animal husbandry were grouped as “Economic Development”. Figure 1 depicts the issues identified.

Figure 1:

Category	First	Second	Third
Infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water supply 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Schools • Road maintenance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health center
Economic Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agriculture 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Industry and business 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tourism
Social Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Law and Order 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poverty reduction • Domestic violence 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Women empowerment schemes
Strengthen local governance by:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Awareness raising and social mobilization 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitoring and evaluation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Publicize the local government’s decisions
Ways to monitor the government’s accomplishments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participate in local council meetings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Direct monitoring 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Periodic accountable meetings with the elected officials

To improve understanding of how the discussion would influence citizens and decision makers, participants used a scale of 1 to 5 to measure the level of perceived impact. “1” denotes there is no impact, “3” denotes some impact and “5” denotes a large impact.

- 35% of respondents considered that the discussion would have a large impact on influencing decision makers, while a further 35% considered that it would have some impact.
- 22% of respondents considered that the program would have a large impact on media coverage of community or political issues, while 17% stated that it would have some impact.

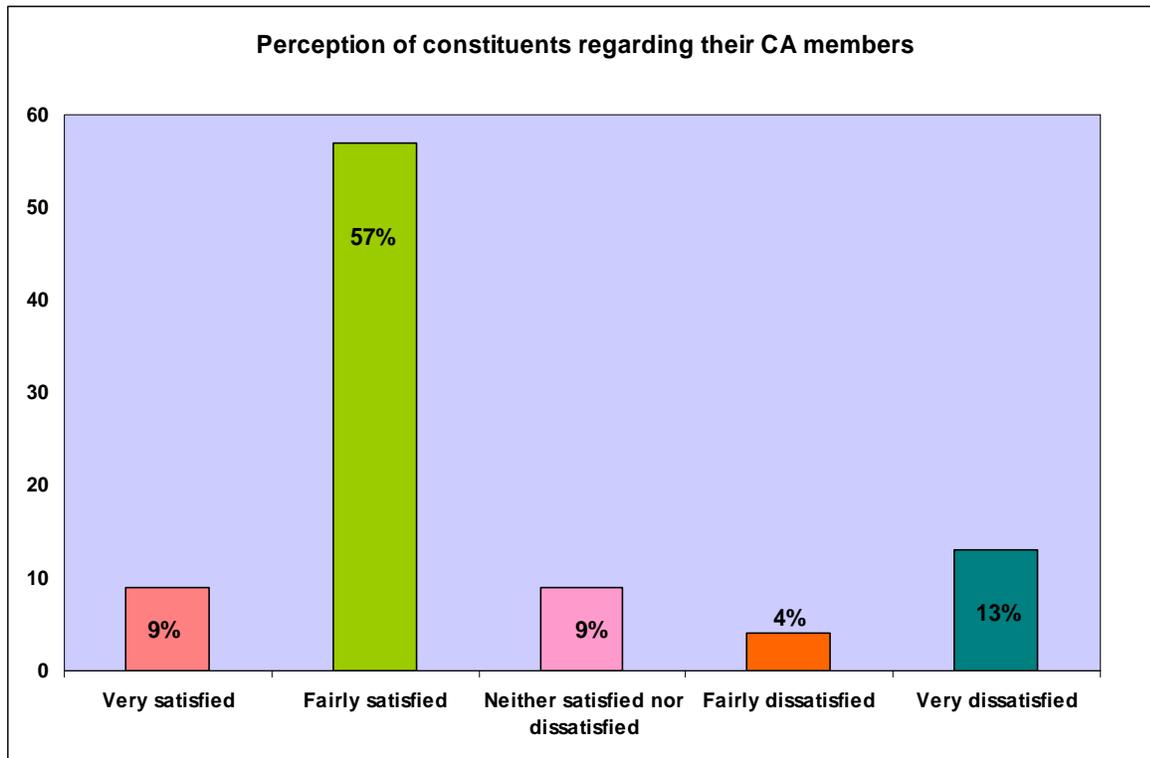
- 26% of respondents considered that the program would have a large impact on public life or community relations, while 9% considered that it would have no impact.

The survey used multiple choice questions to enable participants to measure the degree to which the discussion influenced their political behavior. Below is a summary of the findings.

- 70% of respondents considered that the discussions had changed one or more of their political opinions.
- 30% of respondents stated that the discussions had some impact on their political opinions.

Participants were asked to express their degree of satisfaction with the work of the district’s CA members. Figure 2 illustrates the levels of satisfaction and dissatisfaction expressed.

Figure 2:



Participants were asked why they participated in the program. Their reasons are outlined below.

- A majority of respondents participated in the hope of sharing their knowledge of irrigation systems and to hear others’ views.
- Respondents expressed their hope that laws and policies would be formulated to increase long term agricultural productivity.

- Respondents viewed the discussion as an effective forum in which to represent their district. They considered that the interaction between public sector and private sector stakeholders would result in the identification of sustainable solutions to problems concerning irrigation.

The respondents had many expectations of the program. The common expectations are summarized below.

- A majority of respondents expected the discussion would identify measures for the effective management of irrigation.
- Respondents hoped that the suggestions put forward by citizens would be duly considered by politicians and irrigation managers.
- Respondents hoped that all stakeholders would cooperate to improve irrigation systems.

Additional comments

The respondents considered that there is an urgent need to regularly conduct such programs. Public hearings are an effective forum to discuss local issues of concern and provide opportunities to solicit the views of all stakeholders by encouraging active participation from all sectors. However, the program would have been more effective if a more diverse range of participants had taken part, including political parties.

Conclusion

The respondents were unanimous in their appreciation of the program and stated that they were very comfortable in participating. They described the discussion environment as positive and respectful. Respondents expressed their hopes that the program would strengthen coordination between political parties, the government, and local citizens.

Tourism development in Rupandehi

Survey of roundtable discussion participants

Thirty-five participants attended the round table discussion to identify options for enhancing Lumbini’s tourism sector. Out of these, twenty-five participants took part in the survey. Participants considered that stakeholders at both the state and local levels have a role to play in attracting greater numbers of tourists to the district. In addition to tourism, which had been identified as the most critical issue in each district, participants were asked to identify other local issues. These were then categorized and rated by participants according to their degree of significance. For example, issues related to jobs, agriculture and animal husbandry were grouped as “Economic Development”. Figure 1 depicts the issues identified.

Figure 1

Local issues identified by participants according to their importance

Category	First	Second	Third
Infrastructure	• Schools	• Health center	• Sewerage
Economic Development	• Agriculture	• Promote industry and business	• Animal farming
Social Development	• Education	• Poverty reduction	• Public health • Domestic violence
Strengthen local governance by:	• Awareness raising and social mobilization	• Publicize the local government’s decisions	• Monitoring and evaluation
Ways to monitor the government’s accomplishments	• Direct monitoring	• Participate in local council meetings.	• Periodic accountable meetings with the elected officials

To improve understanding of how the discussion would influence citizens and decision makers, participants used a scale of 1 to 5 to measure the level of perceived impact. “1” denotes there is no impact, “3” denotes some impact and “5” denotes a large impact.

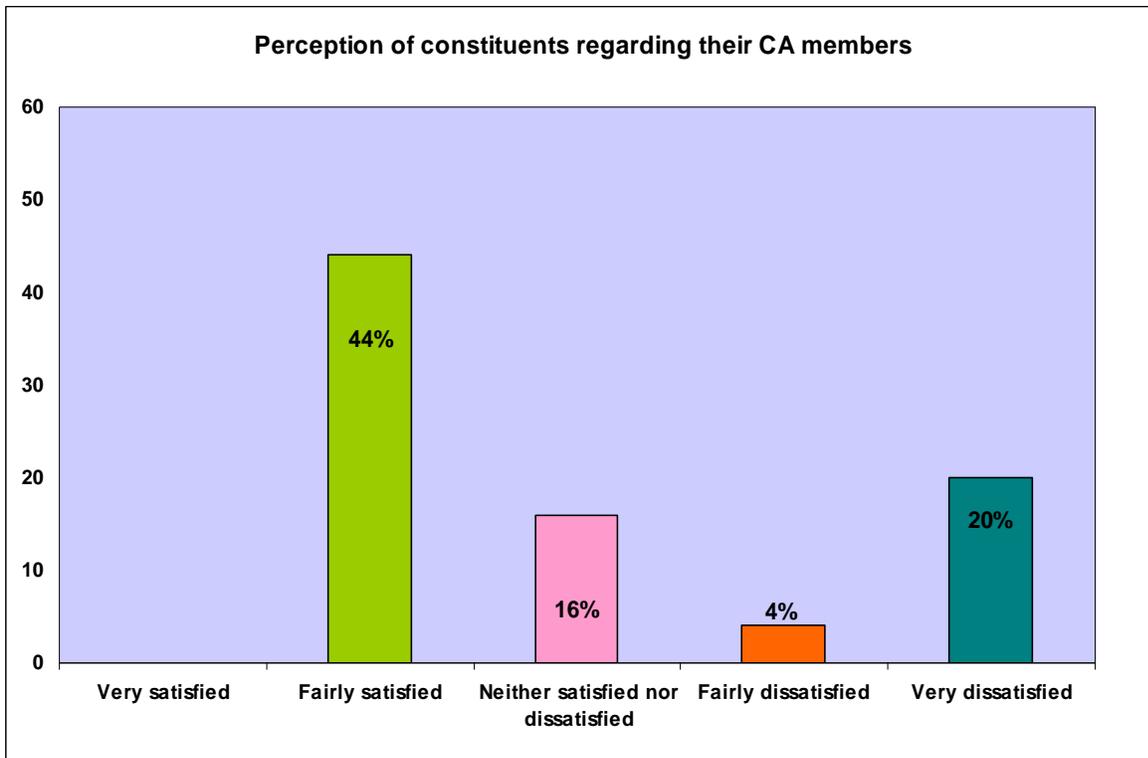
- 36% of respondents said that the discussion would have some impact on influencing political decision makers, while 8% said it would have no impact.
- 36% of respondents stated that the discussion significantly influenced media coverage of community or political issues, while 12% said it would have no influence.
- 16% of respondents stated that the discussion would have a large impact on public life or community relations, while 24% stated that it would have no impact.

The survey used multiple choice questions to enable participants to measure the degree to which the discussion influenced their political behavior. Below is a summary of the findings.

- 60% of respondents reported that the discussion had changed one or more of their political opinions.
- 16% reported that it had changed how they would normally vote, while 8% stated that it had had some impact on their political opinions. 4% reported no impact at all.

Participants were asked to express their degree of satisfaction with the work of the district’s CA members. Figure 2 illustrates the levels of satisfaction and dissatisfaction expressed.

Figure 2:



Participants were asked why they participated in the program. Their reasons are outlined below.

- A majority of respondents participated in order to share their knowledge of tourism development. They hoped that the program would result in better understanding among the local citizens on the prospects for tourism development in Rupandehi.

The respondents had many expectations of the program. The common expectations are summarized below.

- Respondents expected that the discussion would improve coordination and cooperation among stakeholders, which would in turn better facilitate tourism development and the promotion of Lumbini as an attractive travel destination.
- Respondents hoped that the discussion would encourage CA members to take a more proactive role in developing their districts and effectively liaising with the government.

Additional comments

Respondents stated that wider participation, especially from the local citizenry, would have strengthened the program and highlighted the need for such programs to be conducted on an ongoing basis. They considered that development issues can only be addressed through large scale awareness and education programs. Some respondents stated that the hearing should have taken place in Lumbini. They also stressed the need to conduct programs and implement recommendations within the stipulated timeframe.

Conclusion

Respondents considered that successfully developing Rupandehi will require the participation of all its citizens. Public hearings and other awareness programs are considered to be important as they bring citizens together to discuss issues of local importance. Respondents also highlighted the need to monitor the use of funds allocated for Lumbini's development. A majority felt comfortable participating in the discussion and found the environment to be positive and respectful.

The delivery of health related services in Rautahat district

Survey of roundtable discussion participants

Forty participants attended the round table discussion to identify options for improving the delivery of health-related services in Rautahat. Out of these, seventeen participants took part in the survey. Problems identified included a lack of trained medical personnel, a lack of funding, and a lack of integration among stakeholders. In addition to health services, which had been identified as the most critical issue in the district, participants were asked to identify other local issues. These were then categorized and rated by participants according to their level of significance. For example, issues related to jobs, agriculture and animal husbandry were grouped as “Economic Development”. Figure 1 depicts the issues identified.

Figure 1:

Local issues identified by participants according to their importance

Category	First	Second	Third
Infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Schools 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Road maintenance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sewerage
Economic Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agriculture Jobs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote industry and business 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Animal farming
Social Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Education 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Poverty reduction 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Domestic violence Women empowerment schemes
Strengthen local governance by:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Awareness raising and social mobilization 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitoring and evaluation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information sharing and coordination
Ways to monitor the government’s accomplishments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participate in local council meetings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Periodic accountable meetings with the elected officials. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Direct monitoring

To improve understanding of how the discussion would influence citizens and decision makers, participants used a scale of 1 to 5 to measure the level of perceived impact. “1” denotes there is no impact, “3” denotes some impact and “5” denotes a large impact.

- 24% of respondents stated that the discussion would influence political decision makers to some extent, while 29% stated that it would have no impact.
- 29% of respondents considered that the discussion would influence media coverage of community or political issues, with a further 24% considering that the impact would be large.

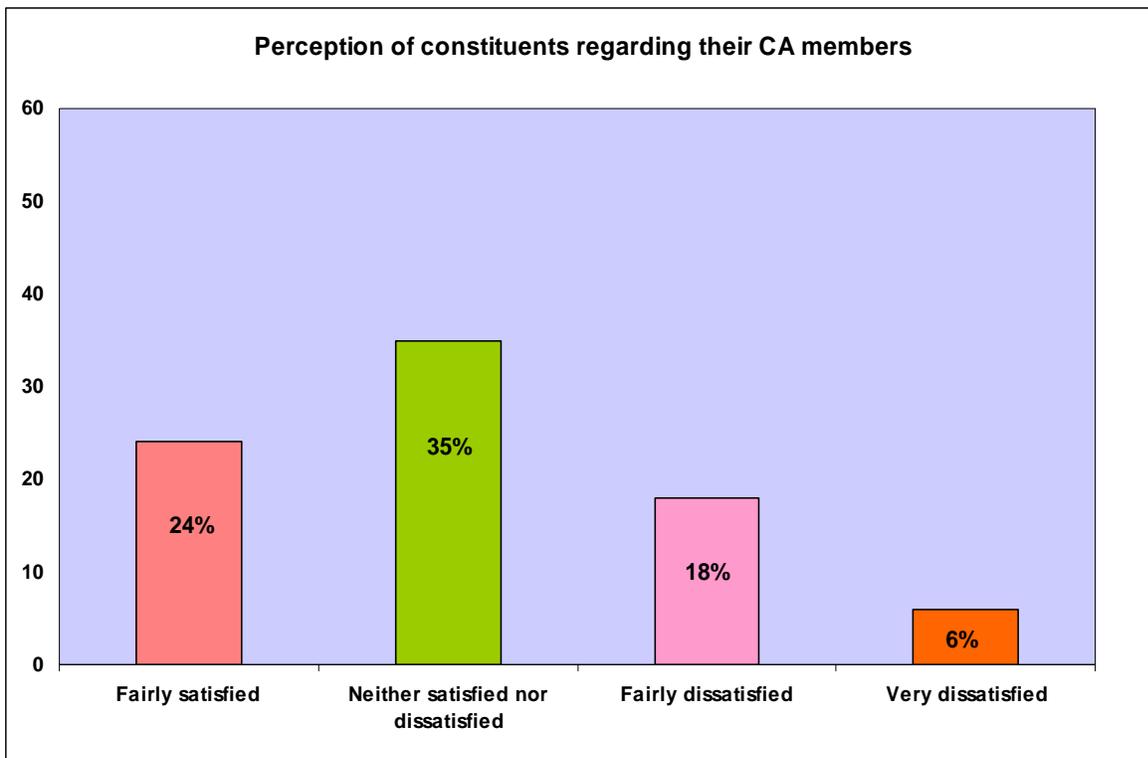
- 24% of respondents stated that the discussion would have a large affect on public life or community relations, while 6% reported it would have no impact.

The survey used multiple choice questions to enable participants to measure the degree to which the discussion influenced their political behavior. Below is a summary of the findings.

- 47% of respondents stated that the discussion had changed how they would normally vote.
- 41% reported that the discussion had changed one or more of their political opinions, while 6% reported no change at all.

Some respondents expressed satisfaction with the work of their CA representatives, while others claimed to be neither satisfied nor dissatisfied. Figure 2 illustrates the levels of satisfaction and dissatisfaction expressed by the respondents.

Figure 2:



Participants were asked why they participated in the program. Their reasons are outlined below.

- A majority of respondents participated in order to share their views and provide feedback. They hoped that the program would facilitate the identification of options to improve delivery of health related services.

- Respondents hoped that the program would result in improved health services, especially services for children.
- Respondents hoped that their participation would generate a greater level of awareness in the district of health related issues.

The respondents had many expectations of the program. The common expectations are summarized below.

- A majority of respondents hoped that the discussion would increase awareness of health related issues and consequently improve the delivery of services.
- Respondents expected the discussion to highlight the shortcomings and challenges faced by the health sector and to increase awareness of the need for a more transparent health sector.

Additional comments

Respondents expressed their hope that hearings on important local issues would be organized on a regular basis. They reiterated the importance of the presence of all stakeholders, including political parties. Monitoring health delivery service is a weak component which requires to be given priority. They also stressed on the importance of monitoring and evaluating public hearings.

Conclusion

Respondents appreciated the program and considered that it would have been even more effective if male CA members had also been invited. They also highlighted the need to monitor progress.

Respondents considered that projects to improve women's and children's health should be prioritized, and that the expenditure of government funds should be closely monitored. They described themselves as being very comfortable with participating in the discussion and found it to be a positive and respectful experience.

The prospects and challenges of developing tourism in Tanahu

Survey of roundtable discussion participants

Fifty-nine participants attended the round table discussion to identify options for enhancing Tanahu’s tourism sector. Out of these, twenty-three participants took part in the survey. Participants considered that, with the appropriate funding and political support, Tanahu has the potential to attract significant numbers of both domestic and international tourists. In addition to tourism, which had been identified as the most critical issue in the district, participants were asked to identify other local issues. These were then categorized and rated by participants according to their level of significance. For example, issues related to jobs, agriculture and animal husbandry were grouped as “Economic Development”. Figure 1 depicts the issues identified.

Figure 1:

Local issues identified by participants according to their importance

Category	First	Second	Third
Infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Waste management 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sewerage 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Health center
Economic Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agriculture 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jobs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Industry and business
Social Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Law and order 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Poverty reduction 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Women empowerment schemes
Strengthen local governance by:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Awareness raising and social mobilization 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information sharing and coordination 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitoring and evaluation
Ways to monitor the government’s accomplishments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participate in local council meetings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Direct monitoring. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Periodic accountable meetings with the elected officials

To improve understanding of how the discussion would influence citizens and decision makers, participants used a scale of 1 to 5 to measure the level of perceived impact. “1” denotes there is no impact, “3” denotes some impact and “5” denotes a large impact.

- 35% of respondents said that the discussion would greatly influence political decision makers, while 26% said that it would have no impact.
- 30% of respondents considered that the discussion would greatly influence media coverage of community or political issues, while 13% said it would have no impact.

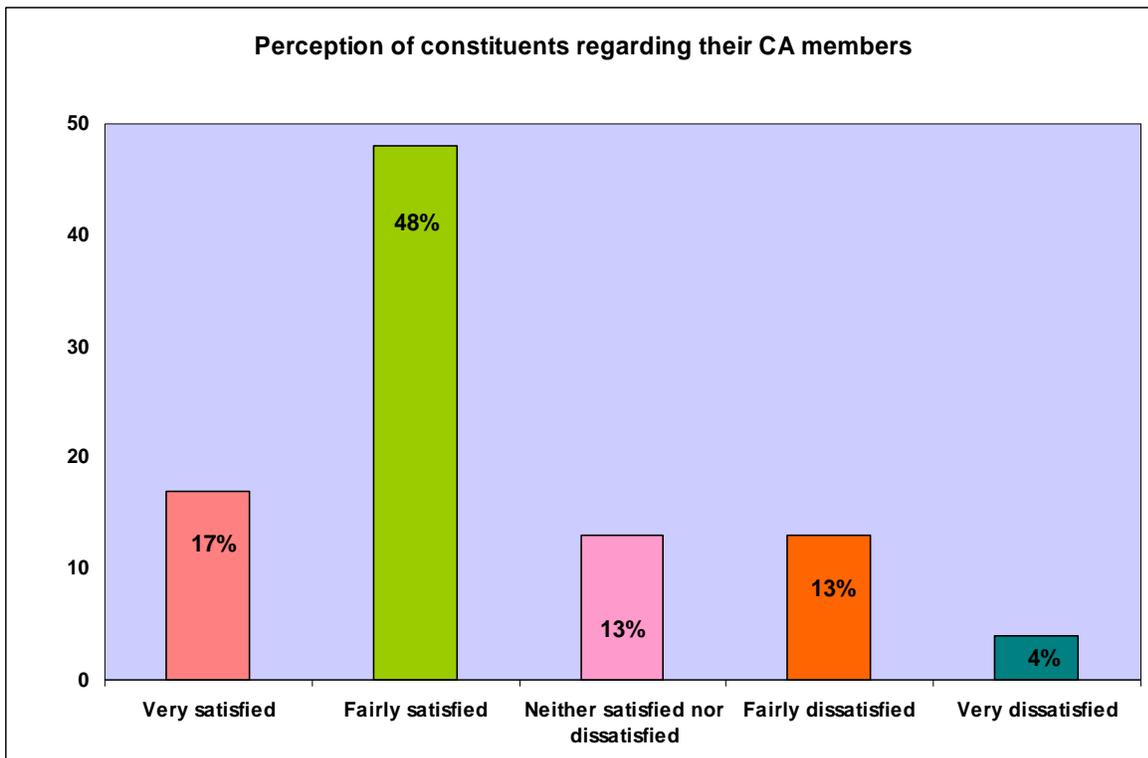
- 22% of respondents stated that the discussion would have a large impact on public life or community relations, while an additional 52% stated that it would have a significant impact.

The survey used multiple choice questions to enable participants to measure the degree to which the discussion influenced their political behavior. Below is a summary of the findings.

- 65% of respondents reported that the discussion had changed one or more of their political opinions.
- 48% reported that it had changed how they would normally vote.
- 30% stated that it had affected their political opinions to some extent.

A majority of respondents expressed their satisfaction with the work of their CA representative(s). Figure 2 illustrates the levels of satisfaction and dissatisfaction expressed by respondents.

Figure 2:



Participants were asked why they participated in the program. Their reasons are outlined below.

- A majority of respondents participated in order to identify options to enhance Tanahu's tourism prospects.

- Respondents participated in order to share information on tourism development and learn others' view points.
- Respondents hoped that the program would identify the challenges facing the tourism sector.

The respondents had many expectations of the program. The common expectations are summarized below.

- A majority of respondents expected the discussion to focus on concrete ways to develop Tanahu's tourism sector. They hoped that with appropriate support, Tanahu will become a major tourist attraction.
- Respondents expected the discussion to pave the way for Tanahu to set an example for tourism development, by attracting appropriate funding and support.

Additional comments

Respondents highlighted the need to continue to conduct similar programs. They considered that the program would be strengthened by improved monitoring and evaluation processes. Respondents hoped that the citizens' recommendations would be implemented.

Conclusion

Respondents considered the discussion to be a very fruitful experience but stated that it should have included a wider range of participants, including political parties and government officials. They commended NDI for raising awareness of local issues of importance but noted the government needs to take a more pro-active role. A majority of respondents found the dialogue environment to be positive and respectful and stated that they were very comfortable in taking part in the discussion.

Flood management and relief in Sunsari district

Survey of roundtable discussion participants

Thirty-two participants attended the round table discussion to identify options for reducing the effect of flooding on communities living alongside the Koshi River. Out of these, twenty-one participants took part in the survey. Participants considered that not enough has been done to date to address the causes of annual flooding or to provide relief to victims. In addition to flooding, which had been identified as the most critical issue in the district, participants were asked to identify other local issues. These were then categorized and rated by participants according to their level of significance. For example, issues related to jobs, agriculture and animal husbandry were grouped as “Economic Development”. Figure 1 depicts the issues identified.

Figure 1:

Local issues identified by participants according to their importance

Category	First	Second	Third
Infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water supply 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Health center Roads 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Road maintenance Public transportation
Economic Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agriculture 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote industry and business 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tourism
Social Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Education 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Law and order Domestic violence Poverty reduction 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public health Women empowerment schemes
Strengthen local governance by:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Awareness raising and social mobilization 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information sharing and coordination 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitoring and evaluation
Ways to monitor the government’s accomplishments.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Direct monitoring Participate in local council meetings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Periodic accountable meetings with the elected officials 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participate in local council meetings

To improve understanding of how the discussion would influence citizens and decision makers, participants used a scale of 1 to 5 to measure the level of perceived impact. “1” denotes there is no impact, “3” denotes some impact and “5” denotes a large impact.

- 19% of respondents considered that the discussion would have a large impact on political decision makers, 19% considered that it would have some impact, while a further 19% considered that it would have no impact.
- 43% of respondents considered that the discussion would have a significant influence on media coverage of community or political issues, while 10% said it would have no impact.

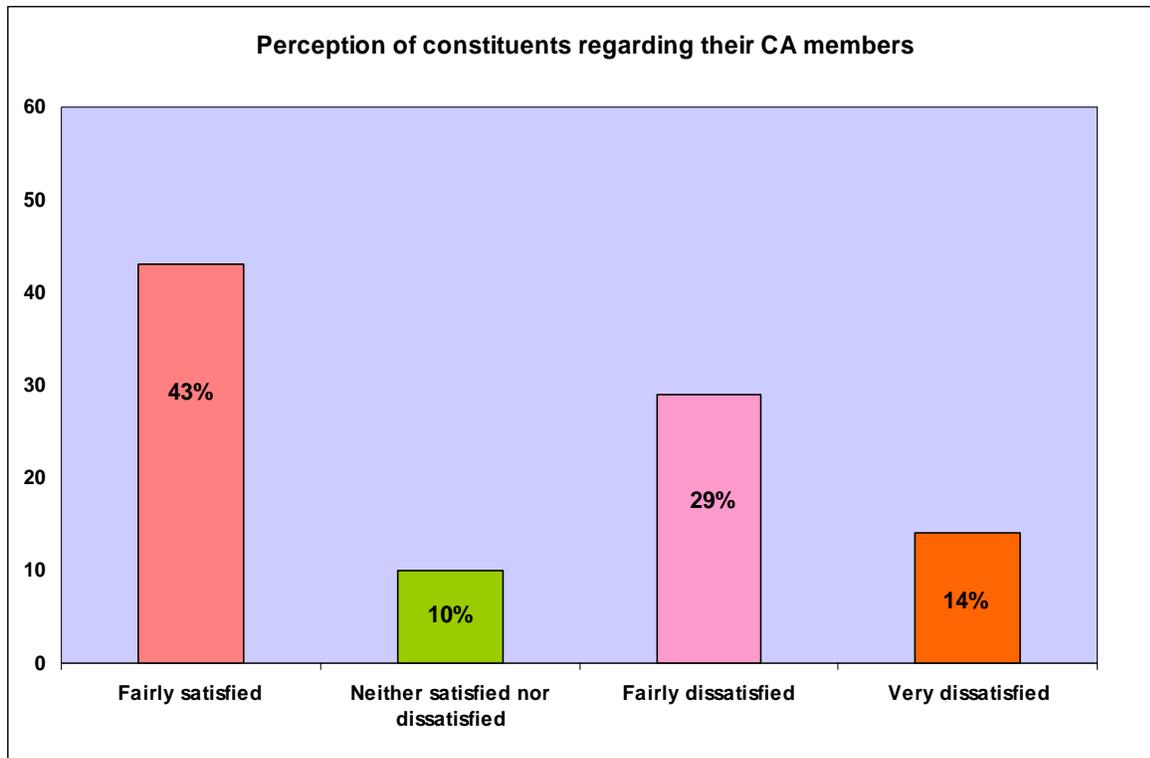
- 24% of respondents stated that the discussion would have a large impact on public life or community relations, while 14% stated that it would have some impact.

The survey used multiple choice questions to enable participants to measure the degree to which the discussion influenced their political behavior. Below is a summary of the findings.

- 76% of respondents reported that the discussion had changed one or more of their political opinions.
- 38% reported that it had changed how they would normally vote, while 52% stated that it had had some affect on their political opinions. 24% reported that it had had no affect at all.

Participants were asked whether they were satisfied with the work of their CA representatives. Figure 2 illustrates the levels of satisfaction and dissatisfaction expressed by respondents.

Figure 2:



Participants were asked why they participated in the program. Their reasons are outlined below.

- A majority of respondents participated in order to share their views on the issue of flooding in Sunsari. They considered that the program would be an effective forum by which to learn

from the community's collective experience. They hoped the discussion would identify options to reduce the effects of flooding in Sunsari,

- Respondents participated in the discussion in order to find out how their CA representatives would address the issue of flooding in their district.
- Some respondents viewed their participation as an opportunity to discuss and measure the government's response to the Koshi flood and to discuss what preventive actions could be taken to reduce the likelihood of future flooding.

The respondents had many expectations of the program. The common expectations are summarized below.

- Respondents expected the discussion to increase awareness of the impact the Koshi's flooding has on local citizens. They hoped that the government would provide adequate relief measures to flood victims.
- Respondents expected the discussion to focus on preventative measures, measures to improve citizens' ability to respond to natural disasters, and the identification of options to address the effects of flooding.

Additional comments

Respondents highlighted the need for better coordination among all stakeholders involved in flood relief, including the government, non-governmental agencies and local organizations. They also identified the need for greater transparency in disaster preparedness and response, noting that citizens should know which organizations are responsible for relief measures and what relief funds are available.

Conclusion

Respondents expressed varying levels of comfort during the discussion. While some reported that they were quite comfortable in participating, others only felt "fairly" comfortable. While a majority of respondents found the dialogue environment positive and respectful, some stated that a greater degree of discipline would have improved the experience.

The prospects for tourism in Ilam
Survey of roundtable discussion participants

Thirty-one participants attended the round table discussion to identify options for enhancing Ilam’s tourism sector. Out of these, seventeen participants took part in the survey. The program concluded with the development of a concept for promoting tourism, in consultation with local stakeholders. In addition to tourism, which had been identified as the most critical issue in the district, participants were asked to identify other local issue. These were then categorized and rated by participants according to their level of significance. For example, issues related to jobs, agriculture and animal husbandry were grouped as “Economic Development”. Figure 1 depicts the issues identified.

Figure 1
Local issues identified by participants according to their importance

Category	First	Second	Third
Infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Roads 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Road maintenance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Schools
Economic Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agriculture 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote industry and business 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jobs
Social Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Education 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Law and order 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Poverty reduction
Strengthen local governance by:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Awareness raising and social mobilization 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information sharing and coordination 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitoring and evaluation
Ways to monitor the government’s accomplishments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Direct monitoring 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Periodic accountable meetings with the elected officials. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participate in local council meetings

To improve understanding of how the discussion would influence citizens and decision makers, participants used a scale of 1 to 5 to measure the level of perceived impact. “1” denotes there is no impact, “3” denotes some impact and “5” denotes a large impact.

- 24% of respondents considered that the discussion would greatly influence political decision makers, while 29% considered that it would have some influence. 24% said it would have no influence.
- 41% of respondents stated that the discussion would have some affect on media coverage of community or political issues, while 18% said it would have no affect.

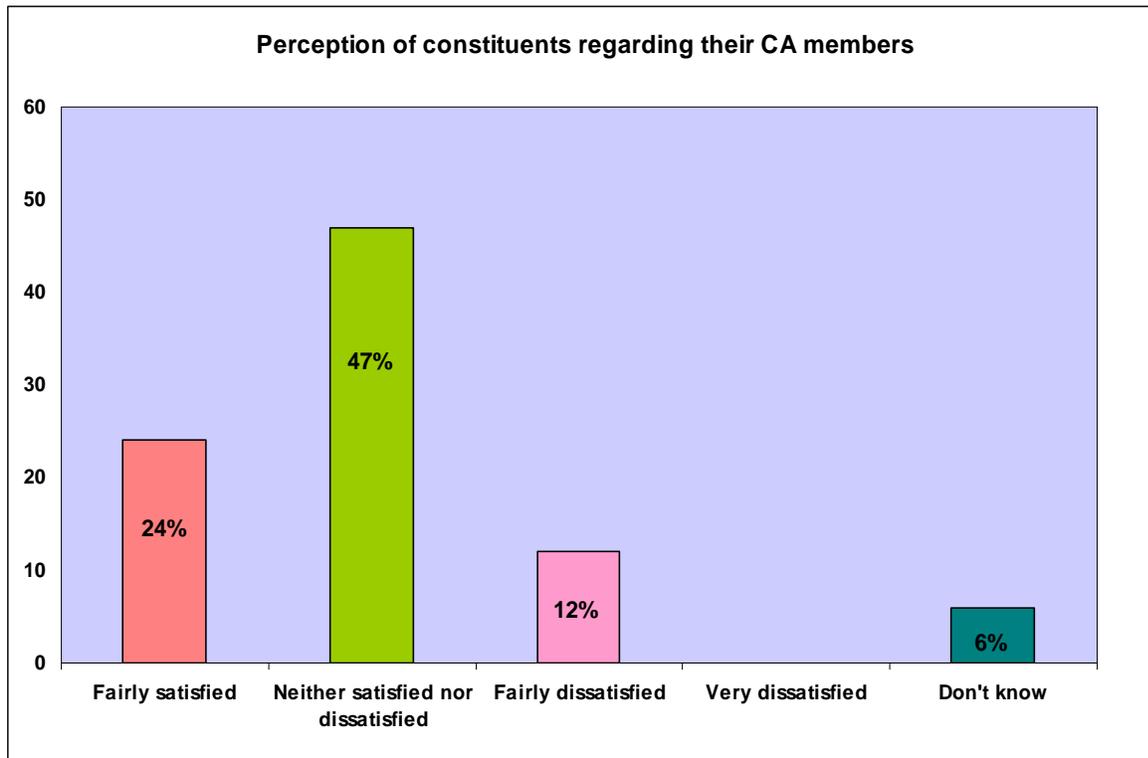
- 24% of respondents stated that the discussion would have a large impact on public life or community relations while 18% stated that it would have no impact.

The survey used multiple choice questions to enable participants to measure the degree to which the discussion influenced their political behavior. Below is a summary of the findings.

- 35% of respondents reported that the discussion had changed one or more of their political opinions.
- 24% reported that it had changed how they would normally vote. 24% reported no change at all.

Participants were asked whether they were satisfied with the work of their CA representatives. Figure 2 illustrates the levels of satisfaction and dissatisfaction expressed by respondents.

Figure 2:



Participants were asked why they participated in the program. Their reasons are outlined below.

- A majority of respondents participated in order to share their views on tourism in their district and to learn from the experiences of other citizens.
- Respondents considered the discussion to be an effective forum to discuss the role of the government in tourism development.

The respondents had many expectations of the program. The common expectations are summarized below.

- Respondents expected the discussion to focus on identifying options for the development of tourism in Ilam. They hoped that all stakeholders, including political parties and CA members, would collaborate to explore tourism opportunities in the district.

Additional comments

A majority of respondents were appreciative of the program and emphasized the importance of regularly having such discussions. Lack of awareness was identified as one of the factors for the underdevelopment of tourism. Public hearings can address this issue by bringing stakeholders together. Respondents also stressed the need to conduct such hearings in the country's more remote villages.

Conclusion

Respondents reported that they were very comfortable taking part in the discussion and that the dialogue environment was positive and respectful. They hoped that the discussion would improve coordination among all stakeholders, especially the government and CA members, to allow Ilam's tourism potential to be fully developed.

The promotion of tourism and the development of tourism related infrastructure in Dhanusha

Survey of roundtable discussion participants

Thirty participants attended the round table discussion to identify options for enhancing Dhanusha’s tourism sector. Out of these, fifteen participants took part in the survey. Participants recommended a two-pronged strategy involving both promotional campaigns and infrastructure development. In addition to tourism, which had been identified as the most critical issue in the district, participants were asked to identify other local issues. These were then categorized and rated by participants according to their level of significance. For example, issues related to jobs, agriculture and animal husbandry were grouped as “Economic Development”. Figure 1 depicts the issues identified.

Figure 1:
Local issues identified by participants according to their importance

Category	First	Second	Third
Infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sewerage • Roads 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health Center 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Schools • Waste management
Economic Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agriculture 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote industry and business • Jobs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Animal farming
Social Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public health 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Women empowerment schemes
Strengthen local governance by:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Awareness raising and social mobilization 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitoring and evaluation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information sharing and coordination
Ways to monitor the government’s accomplishments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Periodic accountable meetings with the elected officials 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participate in local council meetings. 	

To improve understanding of how the discussion would influence citizens and decision makers, participants used a scale of 1 to 5 to measure the level of perceived impact. “1” denotes there is no impact, “3” denotes some impact and “5” denotes a large impact.

- 13% of respondents said that the discussion would influence political decision makers to some extent, while 27% said it would not influence them at all.

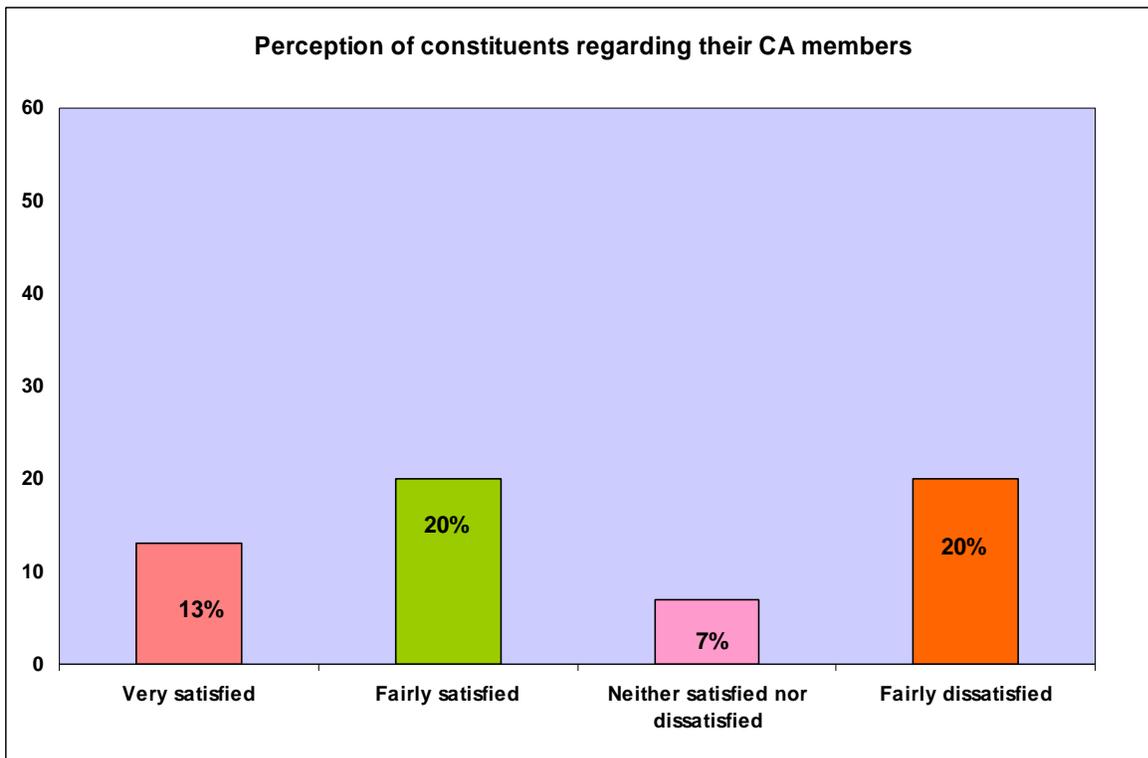
- 20% of respondents stated that the discussion would affect media coverage of community or political issues, while 20% said that it would not.
- 20% of respondents considered that the discussion would have a large impact on public life or community relations, while 13% considered that it would have no impact.

The survey used multiple choice questions to enable participants to measure the degree to which the discussion influenced their political behavior. Below is a summary of the findings.

- 13% of respondents reported that the discussion had changed one or more of their political opinions.
- 20% reported that it had changed how they would normally vote, while 20% stated that it had some impact on their political opinions. 7% declined to comment.

Participants were asked whether they were satisfied with the work of their CA representatives. Figure 2 illustrates the levels of satisfaction and dissatisfaction expressed by respondents.

Figure 2:



Participants were asked why they participated in the program. Their reasons are outlined below.

- A majority of respondents hoped that their participation would create an environment conducive to identifying methods to enhance Dhanusha's tourism sector.

- Respondents expected the discussion to pave the way for all stakeholders to collaborate to develop tourism in Dhanusha.

The respondents had many expectations of the program. The common expectations are summarized below.

- Respondents unanimously expected the discussion to raise awareness of the prospects for tourism in Dhanusha. They hoped that the discussion would result in the development of a concrete set of plans to develop tourism and strengthen local infrastructure.

Additional comments

Respondents acknowledged the effectiveness of the discussion but highlighted the need to conduct such programs regularly. They stated that all stakeholders must work collaboratively and demonstrate their commitment to strengthening local tourism.

Conclusion

Respondents reported that they were very comfortable participating in the discussion and found the dialogue environment to be both positive and respectful. Some respondents stated that the duration of the discussion was too short, and others stated that greater emphasis should be placed on monitoring progress through a follow-up committee.