

# Social Families

In the Empowerment of Marginalized People

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**"Let peace, prosperity and happiness prevail  
on you and your family and let the whole country  
experience sustainable peace".**

This is what we wish and also send you all our best wishes  
on the occasion of glorious

**Vijaya Dashami, Deepawali and Chhath festivals !!!**



**Chairperson and SAMAGRA family**

## Social Audit Programme

In order to ensure transparency and accountability, SAMAGRA has been undertaking social audit of the ongoing programme in all districts under its coverage every year. In that process, social auditing events were conducted / organized in five districts, namely, Dhading, Gorkha, Lamjung, Saptari, and Udaypur.

The social auditing event, organized in Rajbiraj on 29 September was chaired by Saptari district SF chairperson, Patiram Sada and the chief guest was CDO Ram Prashad Ghimire. The attending participants were drawn from SFs stationed in VDCs Bhangaha, Mohanpur, Rampur Jamuwa, Basbalpur, Patthargadha, Malhanma, Malhania, Partewa, Tikulia, Lohajara, Diman, Goithi, Trikoul, Pipra Pashchim, Hardia, Doulatpur. There were the presence of Livestock development office chief Dr. Kashinath Yadav, Land Reforms Office chief Sarsyu Lal Das, Women Development Office representative Anita Choudhari, District Cottage Industry Development Officer Radhubar Shah, Dalit NGO representative Boubalal Sharma, and local press media representatives. In all, there were more than one hundred participants. Facilitated by

SAMAGRA's senior motivator Ram Prashad Chaudhary, Regional Programme Coordinator Durga Prasad Mahato gave a presentation on the status of current and past year's programme activities, including a budget overview for the periods under review. The speakers in the event on the whole observed that the presentation was brief



and some of the data presented were not clear as they should. However, they all wished progress and prosperity for SAMAGRA over time. The conclusive vote of thanks was given by Executive Director Dornath Neupane who observed that the progress made so far was the result of concerted

efforts of all well-wishers. He also assured that the valuable comments would be addressed in due course.

Similarly, another social auditing event was organized at Ghaighat, Udaypur and it was chaired by GA member Durga Bahadur Sharki and the chief guest was CDO Basant Kumar Upadhyaya. The other key participants included LDO Mahan



Nath Maskey, Dalit Network representative Bala Dev Bika, Madhesi Janadhikar Loktantrik Forum's Vice chairperson Moharbox Ali, Agricultural Development Office representative, Satyadev Mandal, Livestock Development Office representative Dev Narayan Singh; HURUNDEC's representative Vidyadevi Rawat. From amongst the primary stakeholders, there were representatives from 26 SFs drawn from Risku, Triveni, Jogidaha, Hadiya, Sundarpur, Basaha, Bhalayadanda and Triyuga Municipality. On that occasion, some speakers suggested that the programme should have received prior endorsement of the DDC.

Similarly, in Mountain/Hills region, a social audit was organized in Dhadingbeshi on 29<sup>th</sup> September. The event brought together representatives of 12 SFs, 22 representatives from various NGOs and GOs, political parties, and local media, altogether



57 representatives. On that occasion, general introduction to SAMAGRA, progress overview for the financial year 2009/10 and the planned budget for 2010/11 were also presented, pertaining to Dhading District. The presentation was followed

by open discussion. Finally, all the queries emerging from the floor were addressed.

On 30<sup>th</sup> September, a social audit was conducted in Gorkha Bazaar. It was chaired by SF chairperson Purna Bahadur Thapamagar and the chief guest was CDO Kamalmani Kafle. In the event, SAMAGRA's Programme Manager gave a short introductory overview of SAMAGRA, the progress review of the past year and the planned activities of the current year, including the budget allocations in regard to Gorkha District. The open discussion on the presentation took place. While some of the direct beneficiaries/stakeholders, that were present at the event, spoke openly in appreciation of the positive effects / impacts emanating from the programme activities, some other participants put up some queries / observations.

While presenting his personal opinion, the chief guest Mr Kafle observed that social audit had been conducted and we had thus been oriented on that although we were not in a position to comment on how well it was conducted. We were told that SF members had made significant progress and were empowered at the instance of the facilitating services extended by SAMAGRA. It was confirmed because the women participants spoke to that effect. Their initial impression was that the programme was meant exclusively for women folk because the participants from SFs were mostly women. They corrected that impression later with the observation that both the men and women were actively involved in the empowerment programme on the whole. One needs, of course, to have public speaking skills. But that was not enough, they should collect information on what resources could be tapped from which agents. They should try to be self-reliant. That was how one could assist in the process of transformation of the society. He wished all the best to all in that endeavour. The concerned officers of local / district government offices related to livestock, agriculture, cottage industry, education, and public health observed that they would offer their assistance to the participating SFs after having briefed them on the type and quality of services that their offices are extending. The representatives of the NGOs, expressed their best wishes for the continued progress of the organization. Along with that, the chairperson of the Federation of NGOs expressed his pleasure in observing that transparency has been institutionalized by SAMAGRA through the

practice of publicly sharing with the participants the programme details along with the related data.

In the same way, on 30<sup>th</sup> September, a social audit programme was organized at Beshisahar in



Lamjung and it was chaired by Shera SF chairperson Rana Bahadur Suyal and the chief guest was the acting CDO Baburam Lamichhane. The event was facilitated by Kishan Sangeet, chairperson of the Federation of Nepal Journalists'-Lamjung. Speaking on the occasion, the chief guest Mr. Lamichhane observed that he was highly pleased with SAMAGRA for organizing the event. He stressed that this was an appropriate model for development embracing self-reliance. With scanty budget, it has managed to produce significant outputs including capacity-

building. Besides, it preaches transparency. The representatives of SFs have reported that the SAMAGRA's programme brought about positive results in their communities. Various enquires were raised from the floor and these are related to the process of SF formation, the relation between cooperatives and SFs; the procedure for enrolment in a SF, how SAMAGRA/SFs have helped conflict management and facilitated the peace building process, what will SAMAGRA do with the revolving fund; whether it takes back the fund or is transferred to other SFs; the ways the fund is utilized; and so on. If each organization is to form new community groups, all the time and every of people will be used up for the meetings conducted by those different organizations. So, the recommendation, that surfaced strongly, was that it would prove very economic and time-saving if all the concerned organizations were to coordinate among each other and organize meetings jointly as it would result in more productive outputs. "This is one of the important aspects of the "Social Family" model", SAMAGRA representatives informed.

The actual budget expenses with details in each of the above mentioned social audit events were informed to all the participants at the end of the same event.

## Annual Audit Report

The institutional financial audit of the SAMAGRA for the FY 2009/10 was carried out. The income-expenditure statement and the balance-sheet for the year, as audited, are as follows :

### Income & Expenditure Statement (16 July 2009 to 16 July 2010)

Amount in Rs.			
Income	Sch	Current Year	Previous Year
Program Grant Received		-	3,788,000.00
Basket fund Income	8	8,380,854.66	-
Other Income		-	752,343.43
<b>Total Income (A)</b>		<b>8,380,854.66</b>	<b>4,540,343.43</b>
Expenditure			
General Expenses			1,012,680.00
Program Activities		-	3,789,992.40
Depreciation	1	124,870.02	163,058.07
Basket fund Activities	8	8,380,854.66	-
<b>Total Expenditure (B)</b>		<b>8,505,724.68</b>	<b>4,965,730.47</b>
<b>Excess of Income over Expenditure (A-B)</b>		<b>(124,870.02)</b>	<b>(425,387.04)</b>
<b>Surplus balance transferred to B/S</b>		<b>(124,870.02)</b>	<b>(425,387.04)</b>

### Balance Sheet As of 16 July 2010

Amount in Rs.			
S.N.	Assets	Current Year	Previous Year
<b>1</b>	<b>Current Assets:</b>		
1.1	Advances & Receivables	26,000.00	12,000.00
1.2	Inventory		
1.3	Cash and Bank Balances	2,003,421.97	5,995,494.03
<b>2</b>	<b>Revolving fund utilization in districts.</b>	<b>9,995,400.00</b>	<b>9,755,089.54</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>Non Current assets</b>		
	Fixed Assets	650,075.89	518141.31
	<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>12,674,897.86</b>	<b>16,280,724.88</b>
S. N.	Fund and Liabilities	Current Year	Previous Year
<b>1</b>	<b>Surplus &amp; Reserves</b>	<b>10,912,360.70</b>	<b>10,540,115.66</b>
1.1	Surplus	785,026.12	1,210,413.16
1.2	Addition during the year	(124,870.02)	(425,387.04)
	<b>Total Surplus</b>	<b>660,156.10</b>	<b>785,026.12</b>
1.3	Revolving fund	9,995,400.00	9,755,089.54
1.4	Capital Reserves (Basket Fund Assets)	256,804.60	
	<b>Total Reserves</b>	<b>10,252,204.60</b>	<b>9,755,089.54</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Project Funds:</b>		
2.2	Basket Fund Balance	372,817.34	5,000,000.00
2.3	Restricted Fund	152,446.00	
2.4	Internal Fund	9450.00	
<b>3</b>	<b>Current Liabilities &amp; Provisions</b>		
3.1	Provident fund	1,009,921.70	602,707.10
3.2	Creditors & Payables Central	217,902.12	137,902.12
	<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>12,674,897.86</b>	<b>16,280,724.88</b>

### Kamala, Representative of Kumal Community of Kyamuntar

About one year ago, when senior Motivator Bharat Prasad Shrestha and Motivator Sanumaya Shrestha visited Kumal Basti at Kyamuntar, Borlang VDC-8 in Gorkha in connection with the formulation of Social Family, the local people were too scared to speak with unknown persons and they simply took off from the sites, concealing their faces. The poor Kumal community has small land holdings that could hardly sustain their lives and, therefore, their other source of livelihoods was catching fish in Jyadul stream. While being engaged in the business, they spend several nights on the bank of the river. On several occasions, some Kumal lost their lives after being swept away by the river flood in the night. The kids of the Kumal community also spend most of their time on the river bank, catching fish instead of going to the school. They were virtually ignorant of the fact that the VDC, DDC and other similar governmental organizations were in existence to extend financial support / assistance for the development of their community.

Having been advised by Panmaiya Kumal, who was familiar with SAMAGRA's activities, Kumal families became ready to organize themselves into Social Family and thus the Phulbari SF was formed and Kamala Kumal, mother of two sons and two daughters became its chairperson. As a result of the awareness creation and capacity development at the facilitating initiative of SAMAGRA through SFs, she, along with other Kumal SF members including both males and females, were gradually empowered. Kamala, for example, who used to be scared of speaking with an unknown person, reached Gorkha Bazar and was presenting progress report in the public with confidence in the presence of the chiefs of government offices including many other participants while a Social Audit event was in progress. This is what she spoke - "We belong to the extremely poor community who depends totally on fish-catching business as the main source of livelihood. Now, as you can see, we are organized in the form of SF and we have developed capability to speak out our mind in the public event. We have the



provision of family toilet services at home and have become very conscious about sanitary concerns. Our children go to the schools. That has become possible because of the capacity improvement that took place under the programme implemented by SAMAGRA. We have enriched our knowledge that was inaccessible to us in the past."

One might get a general impression that SAMAGRA gave sole emphasis on empowering women since almost all the participants were women. In response to that general query, she reacted in the following words- "Please don't get the wrong impression from the dominance of women amongst the participants; yes in the past, there was the majority of women, but currently, men have increasingly participated in the programme and they have extended full cooperation with the women".

Since the SF is aware of what kind of public services/utilities is available, it has been able to tap resources. For example, the VDC has already allocated the budget to install a drinking water facility for the SF. Besides, the SF members have started undertaking poultry farming and goat farming for income generation utilizing the fund accumulated through the collective monthly savings done by the SF members. As it is evident, Kamala, along with Kumal community, is on the way to self-empowerment ...

*Note : All Social Family members are welcome to contribute their articles that deal with their experiences, progress overview, planned perspectives and other constructive activities; such articles will be given due places in the publication.*

### Contact Address:

**Holistic Development Service Center (SAMAGRA)**

Hospital Road, Chabahil, P.O. Box 13278, Kathmandu

Tel: 4469649, Email: [info@samagra-nepal.org.np](mailto:info@samagra-nepal.org.np), Website: [www.samagra-nepal.org](http://www.samagra-nepal.org)