



Social Families

In the Empowerment of Marginalized People



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Celebration of SAMAGRA's 14th Anniversary

On 28 Baishakh, the annual ceremony of SAMAGRA was observed jubilantly at different places in various modalities. Celebrating the occasion at the central office in Chabahil, Kathmandu, an interaction programme was organized serving the invitees with tea and snack. The Gorkha-based regional office held a social audit at Beshisahar in Lamjung. It was attended by dignitaries representing various government offices, NGOs, district SFs in addition to the SAMAGRA staff and field level representatives. Similarly, the regional office of Lahan celebrated the occasion by organizing a public awareness rally and meeting at Kachanari VDC in Siraha. In the evening, the lamps were lit in the central, regional and district offices.



Convening of Social Audit

The regional office of Gorkha, together with the central office of SAMAGRA, convened social audit meetings under the framework of Marginalized People's Empowerment Campaign in Lamjung, Gorkha and Dhading districts on 28th, 29th, and 30th of Baishakh respectively.

A social audit programme was organized at the conference hall of Association of Industry and Commerce, Lamjung, at Beshisahar under the chairmanship of Chitra Kumar Thapa – the Chairperson of Lamjung Disteict SF and the chief guest was LDO Peshal Kumar Adhikari. Altogether there were 59 persons, including District-based SFs, representatives of district Government offices and NGOs. On the occasion, a short introduction of SAMAGRA, an overview of progress, and expenditure statement were presented.

Speaking on the occasion, chief guest LDO expressed his pleasure in knowing that SAMAGRA has been undertaking, for the last 14 years, various development activities related to livelihoods improvements, construction of infrastructure and human rights advocacy, exhibiting its transparency in the implementation. He observed if other NGOs could follow the suit, there will be no room for questioning their transparency. He concluded that LDO office is ready to work with SAMAGRA as local development partner. On behalf of various SFs, Jamal



Singh Dulal of Baglungpani made his remarks as follows” Thanks to SAMAGRA, we have been enabled to speak in such public forums like this. We have developed the capability to resolve local conflicts amongst the SF members from the date of formation of our SF. It stands in contrast until then our communities approached District Administration office or District Police office, seeking their assistance in resolving our family-related conflicts that numbers about 3-4 cases, on an average, every month. For the last four years, the cases of family conflicts have never crossed the local boundary.



The social audit event organized in Gorkha was convened under the chairmanship of Purna Bahadur Thapa, Chairperson of District SF, and LDO Raj Kumar Shrestha attended the event as the chief guest. Commenting on the development activities of SAMAGRA and programme activities in the fiscal year 2066/67, several speakers commonly observed that SAMAGRA has set a good example of its organizational transparency for adoption of the system by other NGOs. The speakers, who emphasized this feature of SAMAGRA included LDO, Sthaneshor Duwadi - the Central office member of Human Rights and Peace Society, Kaji Ram Roka – the Chairperson of Federation of Gorkha-based NGOs, Bhim Lal Shrestha – the Chairperson of Rural Reconstruction Center. One of the important

remarks, made in regard to SAMAGRA was that the organization was well familiar with the local people because SAMAGRA had undertaken infrastructure development works in the remote rural region of Gorkha district. Currently, the organization is implementing human rights advocacy programme through the promotion of SF and this is appreciable. They have recommended that SAMAGRA should carry on development approaches, covering human rights advocacy, livelihood improvement and infrastructure development in future.

Participants representing various SFs observed that they have experienced capacity enhancement in themselves in the field of social awareness and personality development once they got involved in SFs. The participants, giving those observations, included Mansuri Tamang, Chairperson of Annapurna SF of Khoplang, Kamala Kumal, Chairperson of Phulbari SF of Borlang etc, There were altogether 72 participants, comprising of 50 women and 22 men.

Similarly, under the chairperson of Binda Thapalia, the vice-chairperson of District SF, the social audit programme was organized at Gajuri, Dhading and there were the attendance of Shukla Bahadur Upreti, the district committee member of UML/NCP), Vinod Pathak, VDC chairperson representing R.P.P., Vinod Aryal – the officer of Dhading DDC, Representative of Sub-branch office of Agricultural Development Bank, Gajuri office, representative of FOCUS, WDC and other SF representatives and there were altogether 65 participants, including 40 women. The speakers in the



event commonly remarked that SAMAGRA has been serving as a development agent and is very effectively empowering various marginalized communities towards their livelihoods improvement through the rights-based advocacy approach.

Partnership with Poverty Alleviation Fund (PAF)

There has been an agreement for partnership between SAMAGRA and PAF for the implementation of poverty alleviation programme. Under the programme, the concerned activities will be implemented starting from Tasarpu VDC in the south of Dhading district, and Reegaun VDC in the northern part. The process of recruitment of personnel and several interaction meetings with the officials of VDC and members of ward-level households are being organized for the same.

Organization of Co-feasting and folk-singing (Lok-Dohari) event for raising public awareness

In a drive to minimize the prevalence of caste-based discrimination and untouchability practices, the SFs of Kumpur VDC in Dhading district took the initiative of organizing duet folk-singing competition and co-feasting programme. It was held at Kalika Primary school building in Kumpur. There were eight participating artists / troupes, drawn from Saraswati, Akala, Baraha Devi, Bhumesthan, Baghbhairav, Mahakali, Baghbachhala and Devisthan SFs. The Baghbachhala troupe, who was rated as the best performer, was awarded, along with other participating troupes by SAMAGRA's Senior Motivator Rudranath Koirala. People of different castes, who attended the event, joined the co-feasting programme. There were altogether 110 participants, consisting of 95 females and 15 males. Binda Thapalia of District SF remarked that the event was highly interesting as well as educational.



Regular activities undertaken in the month of Baishakh

Activiteis		No. Of programs	Number of Participants		
			Female	Male	Total
1.1	Human Rights monitoring at the local level	2	32	17	49
1.3	Awareness campaigns against human rights violation	3	295	36	331
1.4	Public Audit / Social Audit / Public Hearing	3	125	81	206
2.6	SF level orientation on human rights, conflict transformation & good governance.	2	50	13	63
2.10	Network / Linkage / Lobbying	7 events, 10 Organizations			
3.1	Inter-caste conciliation / conflict management events	1	17	18	35
3.2	Interaction for peace building	1	7	22	29(21 Org.)
3.3	Post-conflict re-conciliation events	3	75	17	92
3.4	Events on peace & harmony	5	318	106	424
4.1	SF resource management	2	84	38	122
4.2	Orientation to SFs on cooperatives	1	14	20	34
4.4	Cooperative Management training	5			10 Org.
5.1	Vocational / skill development training	2	26	0	26

On the occasion of Interaction meeting held between the SFs members/representatives and CA members, a SF member recited a very touchy and sentimental song with the theme addressing the issues of social and caste-based discrimination, absolute poverty and non-delivery of new Constitution:

Just waiting to see constitution shaping
Keeping people in darkness seems you're lying

Who'll listen to poor people's sorrows & pains
Lingering legs and unable to raise up the heads

Expectations are burning down to asses
You'd promised to transform villages into cities
Just waiting

Dalits should get education, health & employment
If they get opportunities, can make their life set

Having to stay separated in public places
Many wounded while showing protesting faces
Just waiting

How long to face the caste-based discriminations
Let's dig its roots out for complete eliminations

Acceptable to all should be the new constitution
More important is its proper implementation
Just waiting



Shakuntala Pariyar of
Unnatishil SF,
Ramchowkbeshi of Lamjung

Jaman Singh Dulal : a common worker transformed into a Local Leader

Jaman Singh was born on 27 Jestha, 2005 at Bindabeshi, Ward no 9 of Baglungpani in Lamjung District. He was the first child of the parents; father Nepte Sharki and mother Kali Maya. Although very intelligent and progressive during his primary school period, he managed to go through up to standard 4. Beyond that standard, the nearly primary school had no educational facility. He had to travel a long distance if he were to get the higher standard studies, hence it was rejected by his parents. Despite his strong desire to pursue it, he was forced to quit the study, thus causing frustration to him. His parents made an arranged marriage for him at the age of 17 years with a girl named Nammaya of Beshisahar. Till that time, he had acquired professional skills in wood carpentry from his fellow carpenters in his locality. He got separated from his parents at the age of 22. He got two ropanis of farm land as his share of the parental property. He did not get support from anybody in his mission to mobilize the local people to effect local development in the community. His wish got materialized only when SAMAGRA took the initiative of forming Chetanshil Social Family(SF) in his village and he led the SF. Through the SF, 32 Dalit households of Bindabeshi village were brought together, united, under the common slogan.



Jaman Singh further enriched his knowledge in the field of human rights, got orientation in cooperative, conflict management and resource mobilization etc. by undertaking various trainings and this further boosted up his energy, enhancing his capacity and self-confidence combined with his leadership skills. He utilized his skills and knowledge in institutionalizing his SF. Thus Chetanshil SF has made progressive steps towards being a model SF at his leadership. The SF has been undertaking various activities, including ban on liquor drinks, avoid luxurious expenditure, provide compulsory schooling to kids and keep the village neat and clean with sanitation. They are required to devote one day in a month in the development work of the community. Besides, the SF has engaged itself in income generating activities, mobilizing savings, resolving local conflicts, seeking financial support from various public services agents and get the fund utilized for good causes, and undertake human rights advocacy programme.

He says “ SF has really transformed me into a human being, living with dignity”. Jaman Singh is better recognized as a local leader of village, not as a common carpenter. He is currently holding different positions- chairperson of Chetanshil SF, vice-chairman of Mulabari Users Committee, chairman of Vidyalaya Guardian Association, member of Drinking Water Users committee, member of advisory body for Mukti Samaj and so on. He feels that he has the vigour of youth although he is above 60 years. He says he is committed to promoting the concept of SF in practice.

Peace, human rights and sustainable development are interdependent and complimentary to each other.

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