

## **From the Chairperson's Desk**

**Ms. Sharmila Karki**

**Chairperson Jagaran Nepal**

Jagaran Nepal has completed a decade long journey of working for women rights, peace and governance. Contributing in the overall development of the nation, keeping women at the centre Jagaran Nepal has been working to ensure at least 33% women participation in all state level and political bodies. Meanwhile, it has also been prioritizing the involvement of male in the protection and promotion of women rights. It has played a vital role in the area of women in politics contributing to ensure the inclusive participation of women in Nepali politics by conducting lobby & advocacy, building awareness of the community, building capacity of the women leaders.

Jagaran Nepal has also contributed in the success of two historic events- Peoples' Movement in 2062/63 as well as in both Constitutional Assembly elections through awareness campaigns, capacity building as well as policy advocacy. Recently, Jagaran Nepal in partnership with local partner organisation has been implementing programs in all 5 districts of Karnali region about the significance of electoral education, human rights, governance, issues related to the rural people; development of human resource and institutionalising democracy.

Jagaran Nepal has been making the future plans on the basis of the decade long working experience, suggestion from the Advisors, interaction at different level with the stakeholders and also on the basis of need identification of the local rights holders. Programs have been made and implemented on Right based Approach. In this regard, promotion of democracy, proportionate representation of women and economic empowerment has been kept at priority.

Jagaran Nepal has been publishing and disseminating a document annually compiling all the activities conducted in a year time incorporating programs, achievements, challenges as well as learning. Thus, this book is a compilation of all the activities conducted by Jagaran Nepal in a period of 3 years.

Here, I would like to extend my sincere thanks to all partner organisations who made it possible to work at the local level, dedicated staffs, all government as well as non government organisation for their support, their co-ordination and co operation leading to the effective

implementation of the programs. Similarly, I would also like to extend my sincere gratitude to all the leaders of different political parties, women leaders of the sister organisations of the political parties, youth leaders, students and other associated directly or indirectly for their precious time and support.

On behalf of Jagaran Nepal, I would like to extend my sincere Gratitude to National Election Commission, National Human Right Commission, National Women Commission, different Ministries as well Social Welfare Council for their special suggestion, feedback and support was helpful for the effective implementation of the programs in this long run. I want to remember the Media Personals, Advisors, Human Right Activists contributing in the Human Right movements remaining at national and international networks as well as National and International supporting organisations. I would also like to thank the dedicated and devoted staffs for bringing the year long efforts and journey of Jagaran Nepal in a book form. Lastly, on behalf of Civil Society Organizations, I would like to show the commitment of Jagaran Nepal in the process of nation building with new zeal in the days ahead and sincerely hope for the continuation of your co operation and co ordination like in the bygone days.

## Part 1: About Us

### 1.1 Introduction

Jagaran Nepal is a nongovernmental organization that believes in empowering women and marginalized communities for their increased participation in decision making process for ensuring women right, sustainable peace and governance. For this Jagaran Nepal is committed in raising awareness at local level along with the capacity building with regular discussion, interaction and organizing training, conducting lobby & advocacy programs for the effective implementation of national plans and policies as well as international treaties. With the vision of establishing a society with prosperity, equality and social justice, Jagaran Nepal was established on 26<sup>th</sup> Paush 2058 and has been actively participating in the identified areas since then.

In this long run of a decade, Jagaran Nepal has implanted different programs associated with women rights, peace and governance- Inclusive representation of women in politics as well as ensuring of at least 33% women representation in all the state mechanism, economic empowerment programs to internally displaced women during the decade long Arm Conflict, Reproductive Health of women as well as of Girl Child, Status of women CA members in Nepal- a study, Women Empowerment for Sustainable Peace, Governance as well as promoting their access in decision making level. In the process of implementation of these programs, equal attention has been given to lobby, advocacy, awareness raising, capacity building and economic empowerment of women with the effective mobilisation of media.


In this regard, Capacity Building of women for Women's inclusive participation in politics program was initiated in 2006 A.D which continued till 2013 in different phases. This program reached 55 VDCs of 11 districts and to 25 districts in its last phase. This program has lead Jagaran Nepal to be recognised as **Resource Organisation** in the issue of Representation of women in politics as well as the issue of Inclusion.

Apart from women rights, Jagaran Nepal has also been centralising its works in Governance and Civil Rights. Jagaran Nepal at present has been putting forward the issue of Democratic Governance through mobilization of local civil societies, women groups at village and district level networks which contribute to establish the base of the Local Governance as gender friendly, inclusive and equitable. This attempt is reflected in 75 VDCs of 5 districts of Karnali region as well as 3 VDCs of Sunsari district.

In this manner, Jagaran Nepal has been implementing its programs focusing on the issues of inclusive participation of women, democratic governance, economic empowerment of conflict

affected women and children, women empowerment, different aspect of women rights in their relation to empowerment, inclusive Constitution making, sustainable development, peace and governance.

## **1.2 Goal of Jagaran Nepal**

 Jagaran Nepal envisions in the establishment of self reliant and equal society with the optimum participation and capacity building of marginalized.

## **1.3 Objectives of Jagaran Nepal**

Jagaran Nepal has the following objectives:

- Taking effective initiation to make government authorities, social organisations, political organisations work as per the principle of Democratic Governance.
- Lobby & advocacy, discussion as well as interaction along with the regulation of Capacity Building programs for women in order to ensure their Economic, Social, Cultural) rights as well as CPR( Civic as well as Political) rights.
- Lobby & advocacy as well as Capacity building from grassroots to central level for the promotion of Proportionate Participation of women in politics.
- Capacity building of marginalised community- women, Dalits, Janajatis, Madhesis, Muslim, differently able people as well as other minorities enabling them to lead the Policy advocacy campaigns for their sustainable growth.
- Creating a self- reliant community for sustainable development of the society - to assist poor, marginalized and excluded community for their better livelihood by engaging them in community development activities with the optimum utilization of locally available resources to create self-reliant society.
- Taking necessary actions like establishment, strengthening and sustainability of Women Resource Centre for collecting different data and information related to Women and Human Rights, to make analytic review and research as well as launch capacity building program.
- Partnership, Co ordination and Collaboration with government, non government, private as well as international Non Government organisations for taking effective actions and proper management of available means and resources for the sustainable development of the society.

- Taking necessary steps for solidarity, awareness raising and capacity building in regard to contemporary and genuine issues directly effecting women in co-ordination with national and international organisations.

#### **1.4 Working strategies/Approach**

Jagaran Nepal has been implementing different programs since its establishment. These are the major strategies of the organization

- Research based development
- Meaningful participation of Right Holders
- Men engagement for women rights
- Neutrality
- Unconditioned implementation of Human and Women Rights
- Right Based Development
- Policy Advocacy
- Partnership and Pressure
- Empowerment of Right Holders (Socio economic, political....)
- Gender Equality and Social Inclusion
- Media Mobilisation
- Solidarity and networking with likeminded organization
- Optimum utilisation of locally available means and resources for Localization of the issues and sustainable development.
- Partnership and Co ordination with local organisation for the implementation of the program at the local level

#### **1.5 Target Groups**

Following are the direct and indirect beneficiaries of the Jagaran Nepal.

##### **Right Holders**

- **Women:** marginalised and backwarded women, community level women groups, women associated with co-operatives and networks, women leaders of different political parties, women at the decision making level, conflict affected, domestic workers, employee, poor at the cities and trafficked women

- **Youths:** Youth leaders and activists of sister organisations of the political parties, students at the schools and colleges, youth leaders, conflict affected youths, youth associated with social organizations.
- **Marginalized Community:** very poor, excluded communities, dalit, muslim, ethnic community, minority Groups and endangered communities
- **Teachers:** Teachers, Professors and Intellectuals at the schools and colleges.
- **Leaders:** Leaders from the grassroots to central level of different political parties, leaders of civil society organisations
- **Citizens:** residing at geographically challenged location, poor, conflict affected, dalits, janajatis, indigenous, muslims
- **Traditional leaders:** Traditionally established leaders at religious , cultural, social and political areas.

### ***Stakeholders***

- Human rights activists and women rights activists
- Organisations working in Human Rights and Women Rights sector
- Organisations and individuals working in field of natural resources(land, water, forest) as well as social field- education, health
- Organisations and individuals working in Women Right, Sustainable Peace and Governance,
- Media Personals
- Occupational Organisations
- Local Government Institution (DDC/VDC/Municipality)
- Community Based Organizations
- Civil Society Organisations as well as Federations
- Women Groups, Networks and Co operatives
- Ward Management Committee/Users Committee
- Federations(VDC Federation, Municipality Federation and DDC Federation)
- Government Authorities ( Ministries, Department as well as district and regional government offices )
- Different Constitutional Commissions (NHRC, National Women Commission)

## 1.6 Networking & Collaboration

Jagaran Nepal has been working in close collaboration and co ordination with different local, national as well as international networks for achieving its set goals. From the date of its establishment, it has been showing its solidarity and has been actively participating in different campaigns and initiatives of national and international networks working in field of women rights. Jagaran Nepal is part of following national and international civil society organisations:

### 1.6.1 *National Organisations and Networks*

Realising that voice of women rights organization is usually unheard by the Stakeholders, Jagaran Nepal has affiliated to different thematic networks and alliances as per the strategy of the organisation to make the voices heard from national to international level. Thus, Jagaran Nepal has been playing an active role in the issues of Women Rights from the day of its establishment showing solidarity with the national networks. Organisations and networks that Jagaran Nepal is working in co ordination are as follows:

- **NGO Federation of Nepal:** Ms Sharmila Karki- President of Jagaran Nepal has been working at the Central Committee of NGO Federation of Nepal. Her journey from General Member, Secretary, and General Secretary to being the Chairperson of NGO federation (head of all Civil Society Organizations) shows her decade long determination and contribution. She is first female Chairperson in the history of NGO federation which has its branch in all 75 districts and affiliation with more than 5500 Civil Society Organizations.
- **Shanti Malika:** Shanti Mallika is a strong network of grassroots to central level organisation of activities working in the women right sector. This network is very much active in peace building process. The network established in 2003 A.D with active participation of 18 different Civil Society Organisations, aims to make all organisations- as the beads of a single garland work in peace building process
- **Alliance Against Trafficking of Women and Girls In Nepal(AATWIN) :** AATWIN is the network of organisations working in the field of women right, child right and Human Rights. Jagaran Nepal has been playing active role remaining at different positions in AATWIN. Ms Meena Bista- Manager of Jagran Nepal at present is Vice Chairperson to

AATWIN who has already been the General member, Treasurer and Secretary of AATWIN. Meanwhile, Jagaran Nepal too is actively co coordinating with AATWIN and been in policy advocacy through different programs in regard to issues against trafficking. At present, 30 different organisations have been affiliated to this network.

- **Women in Policy Advocacy Alliance (WIPAA)** - In an initiation of Jagaran Nepal to carry out the Policy Advocacy related to women Rights and Social Change, Women In Policy Advocacy Alliance(WIPAA ) was established with the special aim to advocate in the issues of increasing the participation of women in politics. This network has been able to draw special attention of related stakeholders by raising the issues identified by Beijing Platform of Action (BPFA). In fact, it is the network of the organisations working in 12 thematic issues raised by Beijing Platform of Action (BPFA). It is much active in issue related to women friendly policy formulation. Jagaran Nepal has been the Founder organisation and Secretariat of WIPAA and Ms Sharmila Karki- Chairperson of Jagaran Nepal is one of the Founder of this network.
- **National Forum for Women Rights Concern (NFWRC)** – Jagaran Nepal once was working directly with 1000 Grassroots level women in 13 districts forming women groups and working for their empowerment and income generation. In the meantime, Care Nepal was also working in 22 districts in education, health, awareness raising, reproductive health and leadership development issues at local level. Thus, with the view to form a strong national network of grassroots women from 34 districts - incorporating 13 working districts of Jagaran Nepal and 21 district of Care Nepal to bring women and their issues to national level, National Forum for Women Rights Concern (NFWRC) was formed in the patronage of Ms Sharmila Karki- Founder Chairperson of Jagaran Nepal. This network has been doing policy advocacy in the issues related to economic, social, cultural as well as civic rights of women at national level. Presently this network is led by the Grassroots level women.
- **Right to Food Network (RtFN):** Right to Food is the basic right of all human beings. Right to Food Network (RtFN) is a national level network formed of ..... different organisations. Jagaran Nepal being affiliated to this network has been doing advocacy as well as awareness raising activities on food security, food sovereignty and women issues.



- **Men Engage Alliance** –Realising the significance of engagement of men in ending Gender Based Violence, Men Engage Alliance have been playing an active role. The General Assembly on 17<sup>th</sup> February 2014 placed Ms Meena Bista – Manager of Jagaran Nepal to be in the management committee who has been effectively performing the given roles.
- **National Women Rights Monitoring Network:** With the view to establish solidarity among organisations working for the protection and promotion of Women Rights, a network has been formed in the co ordination of National Women Commission. Recognised as 'National Women Rights Monitoring Network', has been undertaking the monitoring – data collection and analysis about the incidents of women right violation through networks in 50 different districts. Thus, Jagaran Nepal one of the members of this network has been undertaken the role of directly monitoring women rights violation cases in the districts. Ms Meena Bista- Manager of Jagran Nepal, has been co coordinating in the management committee whereas, Ms Sharmila Karki- Chairperson of Jagaran Nepal, has been contributing by taking major decisions at times of need and special cases.
- **Human Rights Treaty Monitoring Coordination Committee (HRTMCC )-CEDAW Subcommittee:** Member –CEDAW signed by Nepal in 1992, is one of the most significant conventions of big 9 treaties ratified by the Government of Nepal which was signed by Nepal without condition. Thus, Jagaran Nepal has been playing n active role being a part of the network formed for the advocacy of women rights. Currently, it is being co ordinated by Beyond Beijing Committee (BBC).
- HR Alliance

### **1.6.6 International Organizations & Networks**

**Jagaran Nepal** has been continuously playing an active role for establishment of rights showing the solidarity with International networks and support in internationalisation of the issues from the day of its establishment. The international networks with whom Jagaran Nepal has been associated are as follows:

- **Synergos Fellow Award Program:** Ms Sharmila Karki- Chairperson of Jagaran Nepal is one of the 3 Nepali fellows of this international fellowship program. She got this fellowship in.....Synergos- an International Network, serves as a bridge to eliminate the social and economic disparities in the world working with the International partners and mobilising them. It aims to contribute in eliminating poverty in the world and establish equality. Jagaran Nepal has been playing an important role in programs organised for mitigating Poverty in South Asia. Chairperson Karki was honoured with this fellowship as an appreciation of her huge contribution in developing participation of women in politics. Thus, she has been contributing and sharing her experiences in different parts of the world.
- **JUBLIEE South Asia Pacific Movement on Democracy and Development(JS APMDD) –** Jagaran Nepal has got the membership of JUBLIEE South Asia and international network working in Development Right in Asia Pacific region. This network has been playing a vital role in campaign for waiving of development debt and loans given to the Least Developed Countries. The international network of 40 countries of Latin America, Caribbean, Africa and Asia Pacific has got 85 Groups. Jagaran Nepal has been playing an active as a member of Executive board at its regional level.
- **International Movement Against All forms of Discrimination and Racism (IMADR)-** is a International Non Governmental Organisation. Formed in 1988 by **Buraku Community** the largest marginalised community in Japan, has now spread to Asia, Europe, North America, Latin America with regional and International committees. It has got its Secretariat in Japan and Communication Office in Geneva. It aims to abolish discriminatory practice by enhancing the solidarity among Minorities against the Caste Based Discrimination in the world. Jagaran Nepal has been active participating in this network after getting the membership in 2011 A.D.

- South Asia Alliance for Poverty Eradication (SAAPE)- Core Committee Member
- Association of Women In Development- USA (AWID)

## **Part 2: Programs (Major Achievements, Challenges and Lesson Learnt)**

Jagaran Nepal in its journey of 12 years has been conducting different programs in the field of Human Rights, Women Rights, Sustainable Peace and Democratic Governance. The major programs conducted so far have been Women's' Inclusive Participation in Politics, Women Rights, Empowerment and Advocacy, Electoral Education for Sustainable Peace and Governance, Economic Empowerment of Women and Establishment of Women Resource Centre for Capacity Building of Women. The major achievements, challenges and learning realized and faced during this decade long journey has been briefly described below:

### **2.1 Major Achievements**

#### **2.1.1 Women Inclusion in Politics**

Though Nepalese women have larger population share than men but their role in the decision making process has been found very limited. A prosperous society without meaningful participation of the women in every sphere of the society is unimaginable. So, to increase the inclusive participation of the women in decision making process, Jagaran Nepal from its initiation phase has been conducting activities for capacity building of women, awareness raising along with the regular lobby, advocacy and pressurising activities with those at decision making level.

Now, Jagaran Nepal is recognized as a pioneer organization for ensuring political right of the women, as it has been working on the issue of inclusive participation of the women in politics since the day of its establishment. It has conducted different projects with the support of development partners (ESP/RDIF, UNIFEM, CARE, DCA) and initiated different activities mobilizing its own resources

It has been carrying out lobby, advocacy and different empowerment program to ensure at least 33% women participation at different level of political parties and state mechanism. It has been contributing by conducting different programs for political empowerment of women to increase the meaningful participation of women in all decision making levels, to bring change in patriarchal mindset of society through awareness raising, increase access to national and international networks actively working in Women Rights as well as co ordination with such networks for the internationalisation of the issue. The achievements under this program are as follows:

## Major Achievements:

- Contributed in increasing women participation in politics 9.1% to 16% at central level as well as 9.5% to 22% at district level committees of the major political parties.
- 2 participants of “**Capacity Building for increasing the Participation of Women in Politics**” contested as candidates under first-past-the-post FPTP for the CA 2013. **Bijaya Dhital** of CPN-UML, Banke constituency no: 3 and **Ambika Bista** of CPN- ML from Kailali constituency no: 6.
- 14 participants of the regional level training have been nominated under Proportional Representation (PR) from the major political parties like Nepali Congress, CPN- UML; Madhesh based political parties like Madhesi Janaadhikar Forum Nepal, Forum Lokatantrik, Ganatantrik etc.
- Effective contribution in establishing a civil society women network named **Collective Campaign (Nirwachanma Mahilako Samaan Sahabhagitaka Laagi Saajha Abhiyan )** consisting of major women networks, organizations, alliances and individual s for Policy advocacy on issue of ensuring at least 33% women participation.
- 52 leaders at central level, 300 leaders at district level and 2000 women leaders at grassroots level has become trainers in the issues like women rights, human rights, democratic governance, advocacy, leadership etc.
- Mobilization of more than 50 media across the nation for advocacy and lobby on the issue of ensuring inclusive participation of women.
- More than 1000 participants of 10 political parties, sister organizations, youth leaders, experts and other related stakeholders participating in more than 36 discussion and interactions at different period of time have given the commitment to advocate for taking social inclusion under consideration in their related political parties
- 462 youths have been directly benefitted by the series of interactions on “**Role of Youths for Enhancing the Participation of Women in Politics**”.
- 14 participants of Capacity Building for Increasing the Participation of Women in Politics have been listed in Proportionate list submitted by different Political Parties in Constitutional Assembly election 2070. Meanwhile, 52 women were able to be recommended from constituency level to central committee of their respective political parties.
- Women have been working at different management committees such as Local Peace Committee, School Management Committee, Health Management Committee, Local Consumers Committee, Co operatives and others.

**Women are capable to contribute in the policy making of the nation and not only in managing the household chores.**

**Dr Dila Sangraula** has been associated with the **Women in Politics** program from the year 2063 B.S. Her journey as member of Nepal **Women Wing Morang of Nepali Congress** (the largest party in 2<sup>nd</sup> CA election) made her the **Central Chairperson** of the wing. Her success in political journey isn't limited to this only as she has been selected as PR candidate in CA election 2013. But this isn't the result of her small efforts.

There are many helping hands behind her success. Among them, Jagaran Nepal is the one sharing this happiness with her as it got the opportunity to make her participate in many of the trainings with the support of Enabling State Program (ESP). Being the part of this program, she got the opportunity to participate in many of the Capacity Building trainings like-Women Rights, Leadership development, Gender analysis of Laws and Provisions and Training of Trainers (ToT). These led her to become a good trainer of Women in Politics, Leadership development, Women Rights, Lobby and Advocacy, She has developed her expertise as a Resource Person in many of the trainings conducted at Eastern Development Region.

Jagaran Nepal is much committed for the ensuring of at least 33% women representation of women in all state mechanism and others provisioned by the state law. In this regard, Jagaran Nepal implemented "**Capacity Development for Participation of Women in Politics**" with the support of ESP in 11 districts for 7 years. In middle of 2013, this program was extended to 25 districts keeping the 2<sup>nd</sup> Constitutional Assembly election under consideration. This has not only contributed for women to be involved in politics but also enabled them to claim for their representation in portfolio and lobby for their participation in decision making levels.

Because of the Jagaran of Jagaran Nepal, presently, **Manju Malasi**, currently is **Vice –Secretary of District committee of CPN-UML**(2<sup>nd</sup> largest party in 2<sup>nd</sup> CA election) was an active district committee member of CPN-UML in Doti . She is also selected as PR candidate by CPN-UML like Dr Sangraula.

They are not the only women to gain political achievement and height because of Jagaran Nepal's facilitation with support of ESP. **Durga Jayanti Rai**, is also the beneficiary of Jagaran Women in Politics (WIP) Project in Khotang who was CA member in CA 2008. In CA election 2013 she was the candidate contesting election from Khotang – 1 under FPTP but couldn't get the success. Likewise, **Ms Gyanu Gaire** of Dadeldhura has become CA member in 2<sup>nd</sup> CA whereas, **Ms Neera Jairu** of Dadeldhura has been elected in the Central Committee of CPN UML from recently held 9<sup>th</sup> General Convention.

Not only to Himalyan and Hilly region, Jagran Nepal has made it journey to Terai as well. **Ms Rajkumari Yadav** is one such example who is Chairperson of Women Wing of Madhesi Janaadhikar Forum Nepal, She was highly enthusiastic to participate in Capacity building training organized by Jagaran Nepal on Negotiation, advocacy and persuasive public speaking skills. She participated as a Resource Person in one day Orientation at the VDC level on Political Participation of Women. She shared her experience of gaining enough courage to put her things in Radio program most importantly in the Party meetings being no less than her male counterparts. In her own words, Jagaran Nepal is a pioneer organisation working for political participation of women. The contribution of Jagaran Nepal is praiseworthy for bringing change in status of women lagging behind in politics, ideological knowledge as well as lack of inefficiency to take part in dialogue and discussions."

Jagaran Nepal has been carrying out different programs along with capacity building and awareness raising trainings. The above mentioned women were directly involved in programs carried out at different period of time.

### 2.1.2 Women Rights, Empowerment and Advocacy

In regard to working in field of Women Rights, Jagaran Nepal has been much more in ensuring the proportionate representation of women in all levels of state mechanism, formulation of gender friendly plans and policies as well as in their effective implementation conducting various programs for enhancing the capacity and empowerment of women at grassroots, district and centre levels. Meanwhile, it has been equally contributing with discussion, interaction and lobby advocacy initiatives for establishment of women rights and creating an opportunities for the effective utilization of such established rights.

Jagaran Nepal thrives to bring changes in patriarchal mindset of the society and aims to build a prosperous Nepal by making nation, political parties, and civil society organisation inclusive. For this, it has been conducting Women Rights, Empowerment and Advocacy programs. For the establishment of women rights and empowerment of women it has been working in co ordination with national networks such as women groups at the local level, civil society organisations, other organisations and federation as well as with the international networks. Thus, in achievements gained in course of carrying out the advocacy initiatives at the central level as well as empowerment programs at different programs are listed as below:

#### Major Achievements:

- Regular discussion, lobby and advocacy initiatives have been conducted by Jagaran Nepal itself and sometimes in coordination with other civil society organisations and to different networks for ensuring at least 33% women representation in all the state mechanism.
- The capacity building, advocacy and lobby initiatives conducted by Jagaran Nepal hold a share in 17 % women participation central level committees of major political parties and 22 % women participation at the district level ( **9 % at the central level as well as 16% at the district level- according to Research conducted by Jagaran Nepal in 2006**)
- Many discussion, lobby and advocacy initiatives were taken by Jagaran Nepal on its own as well as with Common Campaign for ensuring proportionate representation of women in Constitutional Assembly election.
- Regular lobby and advocacy conducted for effective implementation of provision for at least 33 % women representation in all state mechanism also more than 150 memorandums were prepared and submitted to political parties, Ministries, Constitutional Bodies as well as local government authorities.

- 197 women members of 1<sup>st</sup> Constitutional Assembly were benefitted with the programs on economic, social and political rights of women related to Millennium Development Goals and contributed to address the women related issues remaining at different Thematic Committees and sub Committees.
- Different advocacy initiatives were taken for formulation of Women Policy along with the effective implementation of existing women related laws in joint venture with Common Campaign. Pressurising activities have been conducted to concerned authorities for bring women friendly policies and budget accordingly after the review and analysis of Annual Plan Policies as well as Annual Budget of the Government.
- Review and analysis of statute, laws, and bylaws, manifestos of major 10 political parties was done from inclusion and gender sensitive perspectives. Findings of the reviews were formulated into memorandum and Report of 36 point Recommendation related to economic, social, political, civic and cultural rights of women which were later submitted to the head of the political parties during the advocacy campaign to make their documents inclusive and gender friendly. This document is being used as Advocacy Document.
- Memorandums have been submitted to the Political Parties during their General Convention for ensuring at least 33 % women representation in all the Central Committees of the party as well as all the levels of Party mechanism
- Solidarity been shown on behalf of the Civil Society Organisations in different programs organised by **Unified Women Committee (Samyukta Sangarsha Samiti)**- alliance of all the sister organisation of different political parties for ensuring proportionate representation of women in politics.

*Note: Unified Women Committee- A common advocacy forum of sister organisations of different political parties*

- In order to facilitate the access of Women in Communication, Women Leaders have been given the platform to keep their views as being invited as a Guest Speaker in Radio and Television programs- Media Advocacy.
- Contributing in Regular lobby advocacy for increasing the participation of women in politics with report preparation – being used as Advocacy tool done after the analysis of status of women in other countries as well as the provision there for increasing the participation.



- Celebrated different national and international days.

### **2.1.3 Support to Governance for Strengthening Peace & Democracy**

Governance is a globally popular term. There has always been a debate of one or other form about about it. Human Rights and periodic election are guaranteed by Governance. Transparency and Accountability to the people are considered to the attraction of Governance. Good governance promotes equity, participation, pluralism, transparency, accountability and the rule of law, in a manner that is effective, efficient and enduring. In translating these principles into practice, holding of free, fair and frequent elections, representative legislatures that make laws and provide oversight, and an independent judiciary to interpret those laws come under it. Good governance always contributes to strengthen democracy and promote sustainable peace. As we know that the greatest threat to good governance comes from corruption, violence and poverty, all of which undermine transparency, security, participation and fundamental freedoms in the developing country like Nepal. Governance is the one of the focused programs of the Jagaran Nepal aiming to contribute for strengthening democracy and ensuring sustainable peace. It has been launching Good Governance project in all five districts (Dolpa, Humla, Jumla, Kalikot and Mugu) of the Karnali Zone as well as in 3 VDCs of Sunsari district. It has also been supporting better implementation of government policy, provision, decision etc that will contribute to governance. Jagaran Nepal has been emphasising to implement program in partnership approach for localizing the issues as well as enhances the capacity of the local partners to ensure sustainability of the achievements.

Moreover, Jagaran Nepal has initiated awareness raising program to create critical mass, conducted various actions for building capacity of the leaders (Local/National) and mobilized local resources to Support for Strengthening Peace & Democracy. The major areas of the program are raising awareness on electoral education, governance, lobby and advocacy for effective implementation of the government policy, provision & decision, build capacity of the leaders on leadership development such as public speaking, communication, campaigning, governance as well as provide support to the conflict affected household. The below listed achievements have been gained so far in course of this program.

## Major Achievements:

- 150 Traditional leaders were trained on Human Rights, Good Governance, Electoral Education and mobilized for conducting similar trainings at the local level for the promotion of Good Governance at Grassroots and district level in all 5 districts (Mugu, Humla, Jumla, Dolpa and Kalikot) as well as selected 75 VDCs (15 VDCs from each district). Likewise, 2300 Potential leaders have been capacitated under this.
- 180 local leaders of Karnali region and Sunsari district were capacitated with Leadership, Electoral Education, Governance and Advocacy trainings.
- 30 Potential leaders were capacitated on Leadership Development, Governance and Advocacy Skill and were mobilized to conduct training at VDC level.
- 250 members of the Civil Society Organizations were trained on Election Observation and Gender Friendly Election Monitoring and were deployed in all 11 districts along with 5 districts of Karnali for Election Monitoring during the time of 2<sup>nd</sup> CA election.
- Work in close coordination with government authority to conduct Vital Registration which provided the legal documents to the people of Karnali deprived of the facilities provided by the government as well as of using their Political Rights- to VOTE for getting the citizenship card (55 person), Social Security Card(43 person), Disable Identity Card(33 person).
- Mobilized more than 500 volunteers of the civil society in 75 VDCs of Karnali region at the time of 2<sup>nd</sup> Constitutional Assembly Election for conducting Voters' Registration, Electoral Education Campaign and assist at the time of election which led 3700 people to be listed in Voters' Registration list with photo.
- 3700 people were involved in awareness raising activity on electoral education and good governance in rallies(75 events) at VDC level as well as electoral education interaction programs in school and college( 75 school- each VDC each school and 10 college- each district 2 colleges).
- Awareness raising about Democratic Governance at central and district level with Radio Programs- 5 in Karnali region, 1 in Sunsari, 1 in centre- Citizen FM and a TV program- Sagarmatha Television in the issues related to Electoral Education, Governance and Local Governance.

### **Happiness and the opportunity to cast the Vote to the people of Karnali on getting Citizenship**

Karnali is the most remote region of Nepal. It has a very difficult land topography. It is a bitter fact is that there lies a distance of a day between VDCs of the same district. Even the districts' headquarters are about 5 days or more from some of the VDCs which has led people of Karnali into marginalized community such as women, dalit, janajatis and poor without citizenship. This deprivation has lead the people of Karnali being unable to claim the services and facilities provided by the nation such as old age, disability, single women and other allowances. More pathetic situation is that that they are unable to participate in the democratic process such as election because of not having citizenship. Because of this many people of Karnali were unable to participate in the 1<sup>st</sup> CA election in 2008 A.D and similarly in time of 2<sup>nd</sup> CA election in 2013 A.D.

**Belkosha Shahi of Suketiya VDC of Kalikot** district expressed her happiness on getting the Citizenship in her 60s, *"I am so happy to get the citizenship and feel like being the true citizen of Nepal now. I had a fear of dying without being the true citizen of Nepal. It was a real hard to manage time to go to district headquarter to get the citizenship as it is 2 days walk and there is no one to support the family. In lack of the citizenship I was not allowed to participate in 1<sup>st</sup> CA election. But I could use my voting right in this election and happy that I can use this right now onwards. I hope to get the Single women allowance and other services provided by the nation."*

**Hasta Bdr Sunar of Limi VDC of Dolpa** has a similar story like that of Belkosha. He too was unable to participate in any of the election earlier and even in 1<sup>st</sup> CA election in 2008 A.D. *"Because of not having the Citizenship card, I wasn't allowed to participate in any of the election conducted so far and this time also I didn't have a hope to participate. I really didn't have time to go through the tedious process to get the card. When the mobile camp came to our place, it took no such time and I got the citizenship without any tediousness. I am so happy to have it and my wife and children also got them. All of us got our name registered in Voters Registration list and we participated in the CA election, this November. We are so Thankful to those supporting us to get the citizenship and the opportunity for us to participate in election and enjoy our Voting Right."*

**Support to Dalit, women and Poor to get Citizenship and Voter's Registration** is one of the significant activities under ***Electoral Education at Grassroots and district level for Democratic Governance (EEDG)*** funded by European Union. The mobile camps launched by respective District Development Office and District Election Commission was accompanied and assisted by district partners of EEDG project (HCDA in Humla and HuRENDEC in Kalikot) reached to the people and handed over the people the Citizenship card and get them listed in Voters Registration. About 2200 people were benefitted with this facility.

At the time of 2<sup>nd</sup> CA 2013, 55 people got Citizenship, 428 (206 male and 222 female) people got registered in Voters Registration list, 33 got Disability Identity card and 43 got Social Security Card in Humla district while the number of people to get registered in Voters Registration list was 330 (190 male and 140 female) in Kalikot district, 385 (216 male and 169 female) in Dolpa and 355(189 male and 166 female) in Mugu. Thus, a total of 2126 (1213 male and 913 female) got registered in Voter's Registration list during CA 2013.

## **2.4 Women's Economic Empowerment**

Economic empowerment has brought real challenge throughout the world. It seems very hard to deal with this issue in the developing country like Nepal. In Nepal, as per [Wikipedia](#), 2010 data shows that the percent of total population living under the poverty line of 1.25 USD is 24.82 percent and those that live under 2 USD is 57.25 percent of the population. Somehow, Nepal is still in conflict transition position, eight years after the ten years civil unrest came to an end.

As we know that Government of Nepal and Civil Society organization have been launching various interventions to fight with poverty but till date the expected results has not been achieved. Yet, there is a need to bring about the change in this situation. In this regard, Jagaran Nepal implemented different programs to support for the economic empowerment of the women affected by the armed conflicts. It was aimed at contributing in conflict management and establishment of sustainable peace by enhancing the involvement of women, children and other marginalized and conflict affected group in empowerment as well as social development.

For this, women were organized in group and provided necessary support to handle saving & credit and then provided necessary support to initiate key interventions for economic empowerment. Capacity building, skill development, linkage development and seed money support are some examples. The program in Kavre, Kathmandu, Bhaktapur, Lalitpur, Dolakha, Ramechhap, Sindhupalchok, Sindhuli, Jhapa, Morang, and Sunsari districts gave the following achievements.

### **Major Achievements:**

- 2160 women have been directly benefitted with Saving and Credit activities in 72 Groups in which 5 women groups have registered women cooperatives while 40 others have join to local co operatives.
- 1767 women engaged in women groups have been involving in income generation activities by getting loan from group and cooperatives.
- 50 women groups have been conducting different programs on receiving local resources and utilizing that for economic empowerment of women.
- Empowerment of 2160 women of 72 Women Groups through awareness trainings, skill trainings, workshops and interaction.
- Women groups have been conducting different programs for economic development and capacity building searching the locally available resources and utilising them.

### **The change in life of Maya with Jagaran (Enthusiasm) of Jagaran Nepal**

**Maya Tamang of Jaisithok, Kavre** had a very difficult life. She was struggling hard to support herself and the family in lack of the any income generating activities. When Jagaran Nepal under the project, **“Economic empowerment for Women Rights and Sustainable Peace”**, reached her village, she too managed to become a member of the Women Saving and Credit Group and that gave a turning point in her life.

*Recalling her past, she shares “I really can’t say about others but in my case, Jagaran Nepal really brought Jagaran - a zeal to live in my life. I used to have a very difficult time then supporting my family. It was when I became the member of Women Group supported by Jagaran Nepal, there was a change in my life. We used to save Rs 20 per month in the beginning which was yet difficult to some of us. I took Rs 3,000 as a loan at 6% rate which was very much minimal and bought a goat. I reared that goat well and sell it and get the loan paid back. I invested the remaining money again on buying two goats. This was the beginning of my journey to a new life. My business got expanded slowly and now I own many goats. It has now become family business and we sell many goats specially during Dashain and other occasions. I have been able to save Rs 2,00,000 at present which was started with the investment of Rs 5,000 . This has been a source of inspiration to many others in the community. This has led a change in the way I was treated in the family and community now and then. Now, everyone respects me as I have been the good supporter to the family and other people in need. I am having a good life with my family and other members in the family are supportive to me as well.”*

Maya benefitted by the economic empowerment project is now having a good life. Being the member of the Women Group, she too got the opportunity to take part in many of the trainings and workshops organized by Jagaran Nepal and got to know about the rights the opportunities. Her family is supporting the good education of their children and can afford good health facility to other members.

Having started her business with Rs 3,000 and now being able to save more than Rs 2,00,000, she expresses her happiness, *“Being economically self reliant gave me the feeling of dignity for which I am very much obliged to Jagran Nepal and want to extend my Sincere Thanks. Had there been no Jagaran, my life won’t have taken this turn and I would have been living a miserable life. So, I strongly say that Economic Empowerment of women needed for the Social Empowerment of Women.”*

## **2.5 Women Resource Centre for Building Capacity (Knowledge & Skill)**

21<sup>st</sup> century is the era of information & technology. It is the source of power and everyone is crazy for getting latest information. Realizing the importance of information in today's modern world and also taking the fact under consideration that women are lacking behind in different aspects of development due to the lack or insufficient access to information, Jagaran Nepal has established Women Resource Centre in 2006 (2062 B.S) . It has been providing services for easy access of women to information. Recently, women resource centre has been established in Biratnagar hoping to provide similar services to women of the Eastern Development Region.

Now, women resource centre is established as a common platform for women leaders, politicians, Social workers, Professors, Researchers, Journalists, Students as well as the individuals interested in carrying out studies in Women Rights more specifically Women and their Political inclusion, governance and peace. Besides, it is a hub for different resource materials regarding Human Rights, Women Rights, Democracy, Good Governance and Peace.

From the date of its establishment, it has been facilitating women political leaders at the central level for enhancing their knowledge and skill on computer, English language, use of email and internet services. It has been offering different facilities such as well equipped library, photocopy, scanning, multi-media, voice recorder, music system and daily national newspaper and magazines to the women leaders. It has also been organizing regular sharing session on emerging issues like aid governance, gender friendly constitution, global warming, right to food etc. Moreover, Women resource centre prepares and disseminates monthly bulletin, half yearly Jagaran Abhiyan, different research and publications.

### **Major achievements:**

- At present, more than 350 Women leaders, students, youths, journalists, women rights activists as well as civil society members have been directly benefitted with the facility of resource centre.
- More than 300 women have been directly benefitted with the email and internet facility and also the use of computer.
- 37 Women Political Leaders are trained on 3 months training on the use of Computer and technology at Women Resource Centre at Biratnagar.
- More than 600 women have been benefitted with the regular interaction and discussions have been organized in different emerging issues such as Human Rights, Gender, Leadership Development, Mobilisation of Local Resources and women

participation as well as on the emerging issues such as Constitutional Assembly Election and Proportionate Representation of women, Election Monitoring from Gender Prospective, Gender Budget, Truth and Reconciliation Commission and Women Representation, Policy Programs of the Government and the issues of women.

- It has been developed as the common hub for the women leaders for interaction and discussion regardless of their political parties and the ideologies.
- Developed Training Manual for Electoral Education, Leadership Development, Women Rights, Human Rights, Gender & Social Inclusion.
- Published desk review on “**Inclusive Participation of Women in Politics: Status, Achievements and Lesson Learnt**”.
- **E bulletin** on the emerging issues (Gender analysis of Manifestos of 4 major political parties, Policy Advocacy for the formation of Women Policy in Nepal, Gender Analysis of Constitutional Assembly election, Constitution Building Process and a year Roadmap, Truth and Reconciliation Commission, its composition and women issues, Detailed study of 16<sup>th</sup> Parliamentary election in India 2014 and women issues, Policy Programs of Nepal Government, FY 2070/71 and the issues of Nepali women ) is prepared in monthly basis and massively disseminated to all the related stakeholders.
- Publication and wide dissemination of articles and reviews on timely and other emerging issues in the form of **Jagaran Abhiyan at centre** (Inclusion for Governance, Electoral Education for Democratic Governance, Constitutional Assembly, Local Election and Governance and Human Rights, Election and Democracy) and **Karnali Pradesh** at region (Our campaign for free and fearless election) to related stakeholders, targeted beneficiaries as well as the partner organization.
- **Gramin Awaj** is published once a year (1000 piece) and widely disseminated to related stakeholders, targeted beneficiaries as well as the partner organization. It covers voices of local people and raise Local Issues at national level.
- More than 2000 women are benefitted with the facility of more than 1000 books on **Human and Women Rights** as well as national dailies and occasional newspapers and magazines (Kantipur, Nagarik, Nepal smachar Patra, Gorakhpatra, The Kathamandu Post, The Himalayan Times, Saptahik, Himal, Nepal and Naari)

- **Posters and Pamphlets** : massive production and dissemination of posters and pamphlets(*Domestic Violence : Crime and Punishment Act - 2066, Provision of Punishment in the Act, Governance and Sustainable Peace: Guarantee to Women Rights, "Lets' ensure the Proportionate Representation of Women in Constitutional Assembly", Proportionate Representation of Women in Politics: Ensurance in Policy formulation, Gender is not only about women and children but also Men being together, Lets' ensure the representation of women in Conflict Resolution and Peace Making*). During the time of 2<sup>nd</sup> CA election, the posters (11,000) and pamphlets (3,00,000) with the message of '**WHY TO VOTE FOR WOMEN???**' were published and massively disseminated to all the political parties office, political women at the central, regional and district level were disseminated.



### **“Manabi’s Laptop”**

**Shanta Manavi** is a prominent women leader of CPN UML. She is also a Vice chair to Kisan Sangha. Manavi who is now in her 60s has contributed her life for the major political and social changes that the country has gone through. Though she lacks formal education, she never let her political status go down. She was one of the participants of English language and Computer class course meant for the Capacity Development of the Women Political leaders organised by Jagaran Nepal under **“Capacity Building Programs for Women in Politics”** which was funded by RDIF/ESP. She shares her experiences as :

*“Though I hold a prominent position in Nepali politics, I had some constraints of Language and the Technology. Back in my days, it was very difficult for the girls to gain formal education though some of the contemporary women leaders managed to do it. Sometimes, there were situations when I had to abandon good opportunities such as participation in important National and International forums for not being educated and techno illiterate. So, I wished to overcome these barriers and learn English and Computer but was unable because of my age. There was a feeling of hesitation in me despite of having a great zeal for it. But my dreams came true when Jagaran Nepal initiated English language and Computer Course specially meant for Women Political Leaders. Then, I thought, this is what I wanted and what I was looking for. So, with not much delay I joined the class and my enthusiasm was much more when I got many other companions having the same constraints and the same interest. The simplicity and the easy going behaviours the tutors- Hemanta Dahal and Lekhnath Pathak from NELTA made our learning much easier and comfortable. I felt like a child and was much enthusiastic to learn new things. I really felt like being a child who has a hunger to learn things and started practicing English despite of making many mistakes. It gave me the much Confidence and helped in my personality development as well. Moreover, there were also the women leaders who had educational qualification and gained the political height, their presence was a kind of motivation for us. There was a time when it was very difficult to make the presence in International forums because of the language and most of the time needed translators. Now, this has got an end as I have now been able to understand English language and prepare and make the speech in English on my own. I am so happy that I can make people understand my things in both Nepali and English.*

*Computer class used to be an after hour English class which was also much exciting to me. I remember a time when I was afraid even to touch the computer but now **I own a Laptop and started doing all the necessary things on my own using email and internet.** Not only being connected to the world by email and internet, I have started searching and getting all the information needed with the use of technology which was never in my thought. This is like my dream coming true for which I am really Thankful to Jagaran Nepal and the entire family for the well management of the course. I wish Jagaran Nepal to give continuity to such great initiation which I believe to contribute a lot in the lives of young women leaders helping them grow and develop yet further.”*

Realising the fact that English language and Computer skill which is the need of the present globalised techno world, Jagaran Nepal regulated a 100 days course on English language and Computer. This course was specially designed for women political leaders with the view to capacitate them and make them able to overcome the language and computer skill constraints. There was also the provision of the morning meal taking the constraints of women leaders under consideration. There were altogether 37 participants who though had a different life experiences hold the common view like that of Manavi.

## 2.2 Challenges

In a decade long journey, Jagaran Nepal has achieved significant achievements. At the same time has acquired the experience of working in different sectors. Though being recognised as pioneer organisation in field of political participation of women, it has come to face the following challenges in course of working in the field of women rights, peace and governance:

- ❖ The successful implementation of programs has been threatened by instability due to the existing political instability.
- ❖ Local Governance related to the participation of local people and the accountability of concerned authority is questionable in a situation where no local election for 15 years has been held in country election of Constitutional Assembly.
- ❖ It has been a real challenge to institutionalize and sustain the achievements thus gained in inclusive participation of women in politics
- ❖ The existing patriarchal structure and the inability to bring about the positive change about the prospective of society towards women are also the challenges
- ❖ The trend of not accepting leadership of marginalized community such as women, dalit, janajati has also been an ever-persistent challenge.
- ❖ The limitation in regard to access and control of marginalised community- women, dalits, janajatis etc over the locally available economic and other resources is challenge.
- ❖ Sustainability of Jagaran resource Centre in Kathmandu and Biratnagar established with the purpose of making it a common hub for Women leaders, Youths, students, Journalists, Researchers, lawyers, teachers and other interested individuals with the facility of email and internet as well as availability of data and statistics and other resource materials.
- ❖ There lies a challenge in possible degradation of foreign aid due to the negative impact of global economic inflation in Nepal.
- ❖ Problems due to the differentiation in the Policy provision of the partner organisation while working in Partnership is also a challenge
- ❖ Challenge in timely implementation of the programs due to Geographical hindrances, seasonal and environmental variance (especially in Karnali and other remote places)

### 2.3 Learnings:

In a decade long journey, Jagaran Nepal has realized the following learning on the basis of working experience in different sectors, research, discussions and their monitoring and evaluation.

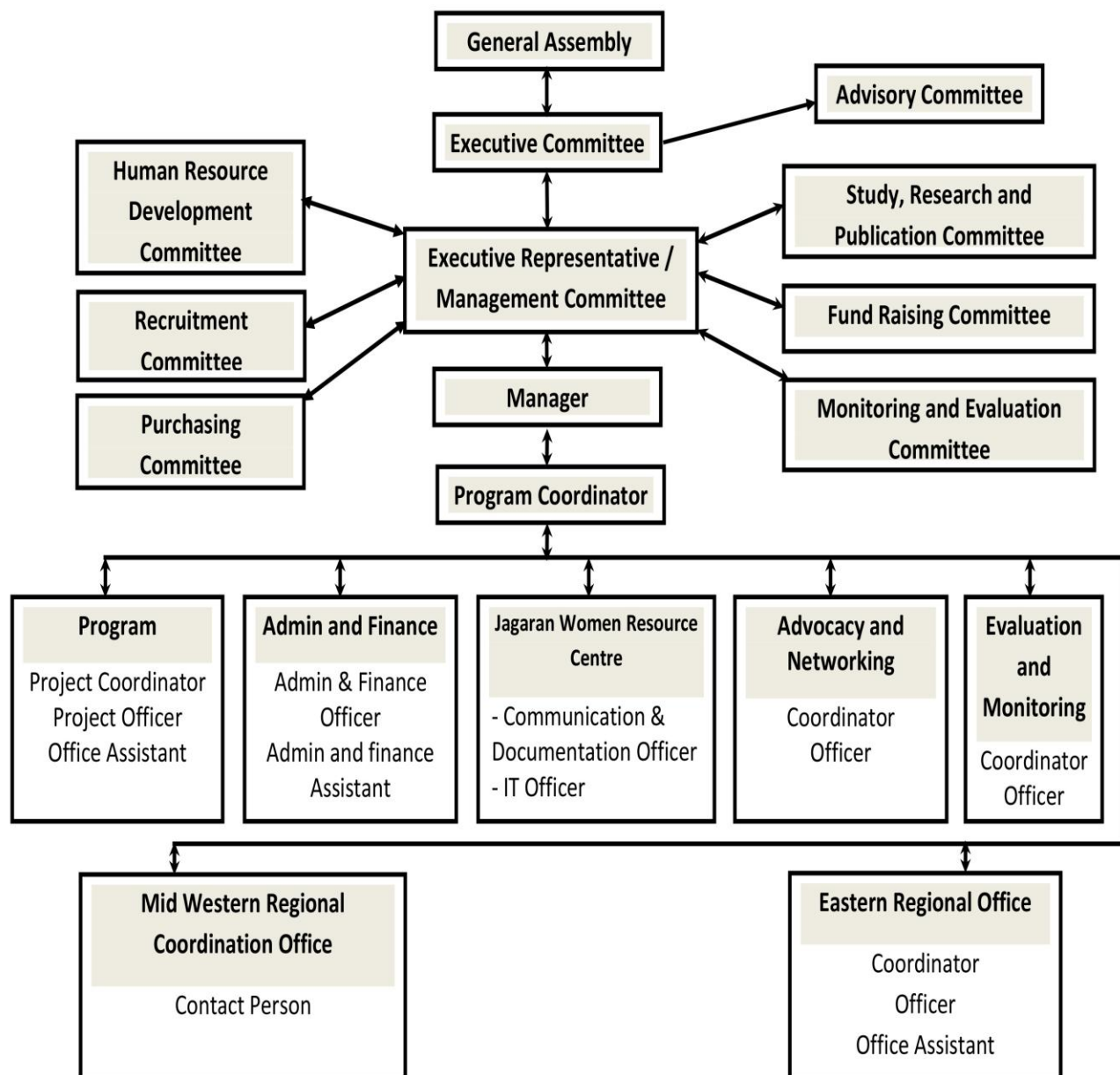
- ❖ While implementing the programs, capacity building of Right Holders and awareness activities are found effective along with the Policy advocacy initiatives.
- ❖ Activities for economic empowerment of women needs to be carried out for social and political empowerment of women along with their Leadership development
- ❖ Need of mobilization of media- the fourth organ of government at present is found effective to carry out with the activities of awareness creation, lobby and advocacy.
- ❖ For the establishment of women rights and effective utilization of those achieved rights, the participation of men is equally needed as that of women.
- ❖ The sensitization of Youths in the matter of Women Rights always yields positive result leading to sustainability.
- ❖ Though there have been some changes in the matter of participation of women in politics, there still remains a situation of women leaders facing a tough time to make their positions in the structural institutions.
- ❖ It's really important to establish relation and work in co ordination with the government authorities, strategic partners as well as the related stakeholders for ensuring achievement and protection of it as well as enhancing the effectiveness of the work.
- ❖ The economic empowerment of women groups can be made possible by providing the women groups some sorts of seed money
- ❖ It has been found much effective to recommend and pressurize the policy makers while carrying out the activities of policy advocacy on the basis of the necessities pointed out in course of capacity building and awareness of right holders. So, the activities of capacity building of right holders should go together with policy advocacy giving them opportunity to know about the provisions in policies and drawbacks.
- ❖ The localization of issues and sustainable development is significantly contributed by the optimum utilization of locally available resources and the capacity development of the local organizations by working with local partners on the local specific issues.
- ❖ Opportunities should be created for reuse and change of skills for making capacity building programs more effective, enhancing the skill yet further and sustaining them.
- ❖ It's obvious that there can be a situation of misunderstanding and conflict while working in partnership due to variation in plans and policies among the partners but there should be a situation of transparency and accountability towards each other.

- ❖ The accountability towards people is threatened in absence of local representatives responsible to work to fulfil the local needs of people and working in real close to local people.
- ❖ There has been a situation of progressive change in proportionate representation of women in politics which is one of the working area of organization but there still remains the situation of women leaders struggling within their respective political parties to get in the decision making level thus needed to be carried out by the organization like in the bygone days.
- ❖ There is still lack in the access of information among the women so there is gap in the service delivery prohibiting women to enjoy their rights and life chances meant for them. So, much of activities have to be conducted for ensuring the Right to Information of women.
- ❖ There is a need of sensitization activities such as trainings and workshops among women about the genuine issues such as National and International Avenues in regard to Human and Women Rights as well as Development issues such as Millennium Development Goals, Sustainability Development for Post 2015 to keep them updated about the issues of rights and development and act accordingly.

## Part 3: Institutional Governance

### 3.1 Organizational Structure

#### Organogram of Jagaran Nepal



### 3.2 Executive Committee

S.N	Name	Position	Remarks
1	Ms. Sharmila Karki	Chairperson	
2	Ms. Samjhana Pokherel	Vice Chairperson	
3	Ms. Dharmita Mijar	Secretary	
4	Ms.Meera Dhakal	Treasurer	
5	Mr. Kul Bdr. Bishwakarma	Member	
6	Ms. Lila Sharma	Member	
7	Ms. Meera Shah	Member	
8	Ms. Sushila Shrestha	Member	
9	Ms. Phulmaya Tamang	Member	

### 3.3 Strategic Plan of Jagaran Nepal

Jagaran Nepal established in 2002 A.D has been actively involved in the area of human rights, women rights, governance and sustainable peace. It is a nongovernmental organization that believes in empowering women and marginalized communities for their increased participation in decision making process. The organization is committed for protecting and promoting economic, social, cultural and political rights of poor, vulnerable, marginalized and excluded communities like women as well as contributing in strengthening democratic processes of the nation.

Strategic planning is defined as the process of determining an organization's long-term goals and then identifying the best approach for achieving those goals. It is the roadmap of the organization for their further actions that includes set of activities to be performed to achieve the overall goal of the organization. Every organization sets their long term and sort term strategy as per their need.

Jagaran Nepal has developed long term strategy to achieve the organizational goal in the beginning. First three-year strategies have been developed based on the long term strategy in

2002. Till date, 4 strategy planning have been developed for identifying best approaches and setting the roadmap of the organization in short span of time. Jagaran has been carrying out strategy planning in participatory approach. The members of the organization, staffs, advisors, volunteers and concerned stakeholders have also been involved in the process by organizing various meetings, workshops, discussions etc. The feedback from the external evaluation of the **10 year's journey of Jagaran Nepal** has also been considered during the drafting process of strategy planning.

Following is the list of the strategy planning developed by Jagaran Nepal for covering different period.

- Three years strategy planning of Jagaran Nepal (2002-2004)
- Five years strategy planning of Jagaran Nepal (2004-2009)
- Three years strategy planning of Jagaran Nepal (2010-2012)
- Three years strategy planning of Jagaran Nepal (2013-2015)

### **3.4 Summary of External Evaluation of Ten Years Journey**

There is a need for any organization for monitoring and evaluation by the external source or person as there are provisions for the monitoring and evaluation of the project at the periodic level. Besides, there is a need to monitor and evaluate the activities of organization at the organizational level so as to ensure the functioning organization as per vision, mission and goal of the organization or in accordance to institutional development. Jagaran in its journey for a decade had done its first internal evaluation in its first 5<sup>th</sup> year. Thus, on the basis of the feedbacks, a Strategy was prepared for the next five years. Meanwhile, the external evaluation of decade long journey of the organization was done by the professionals.

The external evaluation team submitted a report after the 3 months study and research about the different organizational documents as well as the field visit of the project areas. This external evaluation is believed to be proved very much useful for the institutional development getting the familiarity about the design of the programs, necessary changes to be adopted, contribution of the organization in the social development and change also revealing the challenges faced by the organization in course of working and provided the things to be done in the days ahead in form of recommendation which has been prepared in brief here. It gives a glimpse of provisions fulfilled by the organization to be recognized as a national level organization.

## **Conclusions and Recommendations from the Report:**

The following conclusions and recommendation can be drawn from the study, research and evaluation about Jagaran Nepal - an active organization in creation of equitable and just society contributing in Women Empowerment, Sustainable peace and Democratic Governance by the means of lobby, advocacy, discussion and capacity development.

### **Conclusion:**

Jagaran Nepal, an organization actively participating and contributing for the creation of equitable society by the means of capacity building, raising awareness, lobby and advocacy for women rights, sustainable peace and governance with the study, analysis and evaluation of its work for a decade concludes the following things:

- ❖ Demarcation between the vision, mission, goal and objective of the organization and programs being carried out accordingly.
- ❖ The organization having being started from a room has been expanded to 2 flats with all the necessary infrastructures in a decade long period. There have been separate departments and well equipped working place and computers for the proper functioning of all the staffs.
- ❖ The organization having being started from the personal financial contribution of founder members has been able to conduct different programs with the funding of different national and international donor agencies as well as mobilisation of its own resources.
- ❖ For the effective institutional management of the functioning of the organization, there has been proper management of Executive Board, General members, Honorary members, Advisors along with the Volunteers.
- ❖ The organisational works have been carried out effectively with the decision and pro active action of Management Committee, Project Management Committee, Project Advisory Unit as well as Regular Staff Meeting.
- ❖ Organisational activities are being done in accordance to Constitution, amendments done at various periods of time and strategic plans.
- ❖ As for the financial transparency, computer software has been developed and being used and there is a provision of Financial Audit in the annual basis.
- ❖ The public relation has been well maintained with the national as well as international donor agencies along with solidarity maintenance in different International forums.
- ❖ In course of implementing different projects, more emphasis has been given to Right base advocacy and capacity development for the purpose of promoting the social,



economical, political and cultural rights of women. Activities for promotion of democracy and economic empowerment were done simultaneously.

- ❖ In regard to election, the issue where women are to be contested; priority to women candidate rather than to men adopting the principle of **Positive Discrimination** for a certain period of time were found advocated.
- ❖ Awareness programs, Capacity development as well as advocacy have been found done on the emerging and genuine issues.
- ❖ Regular advocacy has been found done for ensuring proportionate representation of women (at least 33% ) in all the state mechanism.
- ❖ Youth, students and the sister organizations of different political parties were targeted and better engaged in the programs related to political inclusion.
- ❖ Realizing the importance of involvement of men for ensuring the areas of Women Rights, formulation of policies for ensuring the participation of men has been found.
- ❖ Policy advocacy and awareness raising has been made much effective with Media Mobilisation.
- ❖ Information in regard to different aspects of organization and its functions has been found massively disseminated through different regular publications- Jagaran Abhiyan (twice a year), E bulletin (monthly), WE (bulletin twice a year), Training manual, Research Reports and others.
- ❖ Jagaran Resource Centre has been established and mobilized with the production as well as the compilation of books, articles, reports, data collection and training materials along with the systematic service of books of different genre.
- ❖ Women Resource Centre was found providing members the facility of well equipped library and meeting hall as well as easy access to the authentic data and information.
- ❖ Organisational website was found improvised and updated.
- ❖ Press release in regard to issues of Women Rights was found done at different period of time.
- ❖ Monitoring and evaluation about the implementation status of the programs of different projects done for ensuring regularity, frugality as well as the authenticity.
- ❖ Internal as well as External monitoring has been found done by the committees as well as the experts about the achievements of the projects.
- ❖ Jagaran Nepal has been successful enough to prove the fact that involvement in mainstreaming is needed for ensuring women rights by holding the leadership of the biggest umbrella organization.

## Recommendations:

- ❖ It is a fact that Jagaran Nepal hasn't been successful enough to establish women rights as per its vision, mission, goal and objective to work for Women Rights, Peace and Governance especially taking the instability of country under consideration. It has come to conclusion that small effort of Jagaran Nepal is not sufficient enough as the country hasn't been able to restore the peace.
- ❖ There is a higher need for decentralization of the programs as the promotion of access of women in limited number by the means of advocacy and pressure initiatives carried out in targeted VDCs of selected districts though it is committed to establish the proportionate representation of women (at least 33%) in all state mechanism as well as the promotion of access of women in all areas.
- ❖ The continuity has to be given to the good practice of taking social inclusion under consideration while forming Executive committee, Management committee or selection of the staffs.
- ❖ Though the conduction of **Girls Child Education** initiative purposed for Sustainable peace and women empowerment is admirable, there is a need for the expansion of the project to the remote areas so as more marginalized community would be directly benefitted as limited number of people are being benefitted from it presently.
- ❖ There is need for Jagaran Nepal to extend its program targeted to women in Kathmandu districts which has always remained over looked.
- ❖ There is a need for the advocacy for the legal provision ensuring the contestation of women candidates to women only in election.
- ❖ Members of Jagaran Resource Centre are found increasing which itself is insufficient so there is a need to make the functioning parallel for enhancing its effectiveness.
- ❖ Most of the representatives of Women Groups and the networks have the common complaint about the working of the organization in partnership basis with the local organization and wish Jagaran to implement income generating as well as sustainable projects on its own.
- ❖ As per the reaction of the members of networks of 25 members in Sirubari VDC of Sindhupalchowk district, they are thankful to Jagaran Nepal but have felt the need of assistance from the central level as local organizations have started working on their own limited their membership to 25 limited members.

### **3.5     Audit Reports**

## Part 4: A Decade Journey

### 4.1 Beginning the Journey

I was born as a first child in a well-to-do family in Hauchur VDC of Khotang district. After completing my lower secondary grades in the village school, I had to migrate to Topgachhi Jhapa, where I completed my SLC from Mahendra Ratna Secondary School. I started my college in Mahendra Morang Campus, Biratnagar. Meanwhile, I also started working as school teacher in Arniko High school in Biratnagar. It is evidently true that a self determined person is always ambitious and creative. Therefore, to pursue my Master's degree in culture and humanities, I joined Tribhuvan university campus in Kirtipur. During my dissertation for fulfilment of Masters' degree, I did my research on "*Ethnic Culture of Maharjans in periphery of Kathmandu*". I became well acquainted with the women of Maharjan community and got an opportunity to understand how their lives were miserable in terms of gender equality. Though at a short distance from the country's only University (then) at Kirtipur, women and girls of this region were discriminated. They were subjected to early marriage and hence early pregnancy leading to different health related problems and complications. I was astonished and realized that though I belonged to the far off village where we had no road and electricity and had to walk 3-4 days to reach home, I was here at Kirtipur to pursue my masters degree whereas these women of Chobar who were just few kilometres away from Tribhuvan university, never got chance for the higher education, rather they were married off and taking care of their families and children.

After completing my studies, I had options either to go back to my own place because there were very few masters degree holders in our district or I could join the public service as government employee or others like bank, lecturer etc. But I realized that I should work for the women who were more than half of the total population but lived very miserable life. With commitment to work for this majority of this population, I first joined CWD (Center for Women and Development) as volunteer where during the learning process, I was able to understand the issues of women rights, gender equality. Later, I also started some research on women and was also involved in evaluation of some women projects as a freelancer.

I got enrolled for women in management course at Lulu University in Sweden, in 2003. This course was very helpful for clarity in understanding that throughout the world women are made to suffer various discriminations due to deep rooted existence of patriarchal mindset though it differed from culture to culture, society to society. I learnt that throughout the world whether Africa, America, Latin America or Asia; women have been suffering from different forms of discriminations, injustice and torture. Learning helped me understand- it is the state

which should be accountable and responsible to achieve gender equality and empowerment through its interventions like formulation of women friendly provisions, Acts, policies and laws.

After a decade of my work, sometimes as a volunteer, as a staff and a freelancer, I found that women participation in all areas whether social sector, politics, judiciary, everywhere women participation was dismally low. They were under-represented and their participation at decision making level was negligible. Participation of women in politics was around 5%. I strongly believe that politics is the fundamental and foundation for all policies. Therefore, in such situation, need to work for empowerment of common Nepali women and their liberalization through formulation of strong women friendly policies and laws was the immediate need. Realizing this need and importance for women participation, Jagaran Nepal was initiated in 2002 A.D after series of discussion and interaction, with support from close likeminded friend circle. Jagaran Nepal was established with an objective to empower political women through capacity building and advocacy lobby for gender friendly policies in order to increase women participation within the political parties and all levels of state mechanisms. This organization was founded with Devika Timsina, Krishna Thapa, Himmat Singh Lekali, Meena Bista, Sunita Chhatkuli, Jyoti Poudel , Shobha Gautam as founder members. The slogan was " *Rajnitima Mahila Sahabghagita Niti Nirmanma Mahila Adhikar Sunischitata*". The organization was started but during those days, it was very difficult to work on the issue of political participation as the country was entangled on ongoing conflict situation. At first, everyone hesitated to work in the issue of increasing women participation and Empowerment of Women in Politics. District based partner organizations as well as development partners were hesitant as they feared that the issue could be linked with party politics. Often I was accused of trying to be a politician. People tried to discourage me by advising that it is wiser to work actively through the established organizations where I was engaged as executive board and other positions rather than starting a new organization. So, I learned that when trying to get into a new path, one is often discouraged rather than encouraging to work with new spirit. Therefore, through this learning , all these years I have tried to support colleagues and friends who have accepted the challenge and try to start new organizations for contributing to the ongoing social movement, as far as possible sometimes morally or even financially (though with meagre amounts) and physically to add momentum and synergy to their esteem.

Tracing back to the history of Jagaran Nepal, it is important to understand how Jagaran Nepal started to work on different women issues. While working on those days of conflict situation, it was very challenging. In one of the task, I was assigned for human rights situation monitoring by National Human Rights Commission, in Lamjung district. A lady of Dulegauda VDC in Lamjung was a source of inspiration for me to work on the issue of conflict affected women, one of the key priority working areas for Jagaran Nepal. I remember the lady and the incident. In the HR

monitoring team, I was the only woman among 7 members. We were in a mission to monitor different cases of human rights violation. In Dulegauda VDC of Lamjung district, after the team finished talking with a woman, she followed the team and tried to stop only me hinting that she had to share about human rights violation but only with me in privacy. I took her inside a room where I talked with her for more than half an hour. She opened her clothes and showed me the bruises and blue marks all over the body which clearly showed that she was going through physical torture. She was a victim of conflict, receiving both physical and mental torture through continuous harassment by security forces. They claimed that it was a punishment she had to endure for sending her husband to Maoist arm struggle. The lady was in pain, agony and trauma. As she shared about the torture she had been receiving every day, we both were weeping.

This incident made me think and rethink again and again. I was disturbed but determined that conflict affected women's issues were not addressed and we need to work on it. I realized the situation of women who were in such pain had to be brought out so that everyone would be aware. So in the process of meeting different people for fund raising, I reached Danida HUGOU where Mitte encouraged my idea and assured some support. Therefore, with support from Danida HUGOU, we started working in VDCs of Dolakha district – the most affected areas, documented the incidents of violations of human rights on women due to conflict situation from state and non-state actors. We shared the findings in Kathmandu. Based on the findings of this report, which identified the priority and need of the direct victims of conflict, a project for economic empowerment of conflict affected women was designed. The designed program was implemented in Kavre, Sindhupalchowk with support from UNDP/SPDI. A similar program was later extended in Ramechhap and other VDCs of Dolakha districts with support from CCO. This program was acknowledged as a great relief program for all the women beneficiaries who were direct victims of conflict.

Jagaran Nepal's main motto was increased women participation in politics for good governance. Direct participation of women in politics, their role as decision makers and engendering the policies of political parties, government and state is most important for women empowerment and gender parity. Realizing this on my own initiation, I started an action research to find the most essential support looked for by women politicians for enhancing their leadership and meaningful participation. For this, I personally went door to door and interviewed a total of 33 women parliamentarians of both upper house and lower house elected by the election of 2048, 2051 and 2056 in Nepal. The major questions asked were questions like, "For those of you who have reached at this level as women parliamentarians, what is Politics for you? What are the challenges? What support do you expect from political parties, civil society and yourself for increasing women leadership and participation in politics?" Based on the findings of this

research, I was able to materialize and design Women in Politics program which Jagaran Nepal has been implementing for almost a decade now. Jagaran Nepal has been working for women participation in politics through capacity building of political women and strong lobby and advocacy for women friendly policies within the political parties as well as state. In the initial days of its work i.e during 2006, the baseline survey done by Jagaran Nepal shows those women participation was in average 9.1% at district level 9.5% at central level. Results now show that women participation at district level is 22% at district level and 16% at central level. Today Jagaran Nepal has been a pioneer and established national level organization working on the issue of women participation in politics from grassroots to national level. The organization is regarded as resource organization on the issue of women participation. It is a pioneer organization on this issue.

Women in Politics (WIP) program has been extended to 11 districts of all five development regions. We have been continuously working for almost 8 years in these 11 districts from rural community level to district and national level. In this duration, nation underwent a decade long conflict situation, witnessed historical movements like People's Movement (2062/63) due to Nepal achieved historical milestones like secular nation, republic nation, historical Constitution Assembly with historical 33 percent women participation. These are the major achievements. I believe that if today Jagaran Nepal claims that it also has a share and contribution in achieving the historical 33% women participation; all political parties, civil society, human/ women rights alliances and networks as well as the women leaders would easily accept and agree on it.

Lately, especially during and after the Constitutional Assembly election in 2008, many organizations have started working on women political participation issue and the donor community is also interested to support in the issue unlike the initial days. Therefore, these ten years of Jagaran Nepal has been milestones in the efforts of establish the issue of women participation in politics. The idea of importance need of women participation in politics, seeded in my mind is now carried on as legacy by our Jagaran team and has the issue is now transformed as the social movement. Today I feel that my dream has turned into reality. Therefore, starting JN and working on the issue of women participation is not just a project and starting a work place, rather it is a dream and more than a campaign, a social movement for women empowerment.

I was born in remote village in Khotang. Today, I have reached to NGO Federation of Nepal as a leader to lead an umbrella organization of more than 5700 NGOs in Nepal. I have served this institution through my affiliations in different vital positions of central committee member, secretary, General Secretary and as a President since last 2 years as first ever women in history of NGO Federation of Nepal. Jagaran Nepal is my platform which provided me the base for my

contribution to this larger institution. NGO Federation is my foundation from where as a representative and head of civil society organizations, I have been participating in different national and international forums including UN platforms for my contributions towards social transformation and social movement. My continuous journey with NGO Federation in different positions has helped me in learning lot; therefore, in the sector of social transformation, NGO Federation is a living University for me. Here, I get to engage with community to leadership level. I also get an opportunity to closely lobby and advocacy for social movement and transformation with state, government, top leaders of political parties and heads of development partners.

Today Jagaran Nepal is able to prove itself as an organization working for the empowerment of women for their increased participation in politics from grassroots to national level and also has been able to contribute for the movement of women participation in politics. This has been possible due to well wishes, mutual support and positive understanding by women leaders of all political parties from grassroots to central level with whom Jagaran Nepal has been continuously working.

Not only with political women, Jagaran Nepal has also nurtured and supported rural women and community women leaders in more than half of the total districts by forming a national alliance of grassroots level women called National Forum for women rights concern (NFWRC). Jagaran Nepal was directly involved in supporting, nurturing, mentoring and promoting this national alliance for more than five years in the secretariat role. The leadership has recently been handed over to its grassroots level leaders who are now strengthened and able to lead NFWRC at national level.

Jagaran Nepal is recognized as an organization dedicated to empower women in politics through capacity and knowledge building. It has also identified itself as an organization which has initiated to identify role of social movement, civil society as well as different organizations in contribute towards engendering policies and rules of political parties. Many people ask about the model we work and also inquire if it is the replication of any popular model elsewhere in the world. It is difficult to convince people that this is our own model, our own design created out of real need as identified and learned from our own community.

For my contribution and leadership, I have been awarded Synergos award in 2011. Through this award, I am able to share our experience of women participation in politics to the people around the world from many African and Latin American countries. To contribute more on this issue with theoretical aspect, currently I have enrolled myself as PhD student in Tribhuvan University.



In the same way, in the issue of women rights and social transformation mainly with an objective to Policy advocacy for women friendly policies, women in Policy advocacy alliance (WIPAA) has been formed with initiation of Jagaran Nepal. WIPAA is an alliance of likeminded organizations and it is based on the twelve issues identified by Beijing Platform of Action. WIPAA is dedicated on working specifically on the identified 12 issues including women participation in politics. WIPAA remarkably was able to contribute to the state on formulation of Gender Policy for which WIPAA organized different consultation meetings at regional and national level and for the first time on behalf of civil society submitted the recommendations to the ministry of women children and social welfare, National Women Commission. Born due to initiation of Jagaran Nepal, currently the secretariat of WIPAA is also in Jagaran Nepal.

In this way, Jagaran Nepal established in last ten years has now been able to get recognition of a national level organization and is working in more than 20 districts, leading the largest umbrella organization of almost 6000 organizations in Nepal as well as represents in the executive committee of almost a dozen of national alliances and networks. It is a member of around half a dozen of international alliances and networks and also serves in the executive role in some of these networks. Within short period of ten years it has been able to establish itself as an organization working for inclusive and increased participation of women for good governance. This journey has turned dream into reality. The issue is now established and these ten years has been milestone. The journey is continuous. A young organization is now getting into teenage. Challenges and some works for institutional process are yet to be done. For this, we need support from everyone. I trust in running the organization in system so this is a continuous process. My role will be change depending on the need of organization. This is my trust.

The upcoming journey will be on the basis of lesson learnt from the past that unless women are financially secured women cannot reach leadership and cannot lead a violence free life. This is the lesson learnt by Jagaran Nepal in these ten years and the voice my inner soul which says that to institutionalize women rights it is mandatory to be economically empowered.

Advocacy of the existing issues as well as to make women economically, socially and culturally empowered, equal participation of everyone is equally important but the most necessary for women is to be self reliant by ensuring their access over the resources and their participation as decision makers. This is also the experience gained in the last ten years and experience gained by travelling over 25 countries learning and sharing about women rights and human rights.

An organization should also contribute in practicing human rights, social security, institutionalization of democracy and governance depending on its own capacity and resources. When Jagaran Nepal started this issue, capacitating political women, supporting women leaders

through knowledge building and policy advocacy for women friendly policies were a huge challenge. Global recession and armed conflict within country added challenge in the scenario where Jagaran Nepal had taken an entirely new and challenging issue related to politics. I express my collective acknowledgement and gratitude to all national and international friends so have directly and indirectly supported to overcome this challenge through my learning opportunity with them. Especially this enabling environment is available through my association with central committee of NGO Federation at different instances. I thank all members of the NGO Federation. I thank all the community with whom Jagaran Nepal has worked with apologies to the knowing and unknowing mistake which might have occurred during the course of the program implementation. In this process, I express my commitment to correct the mistake and weakness in the further programs. In this ten years of my journey, my leaders and friends at NFN central committee especially Dr. Arjun Karki, Shanta Lal Mulmi- a learnt a lot from them and is always grateful towards them. In course of working together, I have comfortable and ease working experience with Dr. Netra Timsina who has helped being the immediate Past President as well as supported in the movements of Jagaran Nepal, I am grateful for all his contributions. Past President of NFN – Gauri Pradhan who has supported through advice and suggestions whenever needed. I would like to remember and acknowledge Ms. Rita Thapa, Founder of TEWA who not only supported Jagaran Nepal's views but also supported in fund raising for the organization during those initial days. Jagaran shall always remain indebted to her. I also owe sincere thank to my husband Engineer Bhupal Khadka who continuously provided the support and confidence as well as enabling environment for me to continuously work for the organization through which the organization is able to achieve this height within ten years. As a founder of Jagaran Nepal, I would like to acknowledge him on behalf of entire women movement for his support in bringing out a women leader for the social movement. Devika Timsina who has remained advisor throughout, I believe his efforts has facilitated organization to move smoothly. Founder member Meena Bista who has remained as a backbone, this has enabled the organization for gaining milestone achievements and would like to thank her. I would like to thank Leela Sharma for her contribution since the beginning of the organization.

I would like to thank Dr. Padma Khatiwada, who has always contributed with no hesitation and no reservations, in our movement of inclusive women participation in politics, since the beginning through his intellectual and theoretical expertise. The organization is thankful towards senior journalist Tanka Panta who has incomparable contributions Jagaran Nepal as media advisor. I am grateful to all senior women activists and leaders Sharada Pokharel, Renu Rajbhandari, Saloni Singh, Shobha Gautam, Durga sob, Yasoda Timsina, Mohana Ansari, Meera Dhungana, Nirmala Sharma, Babita Basnet, who have supported us in bringing this issue as a common women issue. At last I thank executive committee, advisory committee, founder

members, honorary members, volunteers and working team – staff of Jagaran Nepal for their support and commitment. I believe that all of the above mentioned Jagaran Family will understand that I have written this ten years experience from the learning, support and commitment from them. I honour every one of us and feel proud that Jagaran Nepal is able to walk few steps in the path of raising awareness for social transformation. For all these, it is very necessary to be educated oneself. I salute my parents for prioritizing my education and providing me favourable environment to pursue higher education despite of being born in the remote village in Khotang.

In this journey, my son has been deprived of his child rights. Currently, he is studying in United World College; I acknowledge that his support is also important for my family life.

Till present moment Jagaran Nepal has been contributing to establish economic, social and cultural rights of women through programs on women rights, peace and governance. Currently, it is also working in all five district of Karnali region which is the most geographically challenged region in the country in partnership with local district based organizations in the issue of electoral education for democratic governance.

## **4.2 Historical Achievement**

### **4.2.1. Inclusive Participation of Women in Politics**

Some of the lesson learnt and remarkable and milestone achievement achieved under this while working on this issue are as follows:

- Statutes, laws, bylaws, policy, programs of the political parties have become more gender friendly than previous.
- Positive attitude of political parties, leaders, cadres towards organizations working on the issue of women participation in politics.
- 'Women in Politics' has been established as a common women issue.
- Increasing trend of inclusive participation of women in different level committees of political parties and state mechanisms.
- Historic achievement of at least 33% women participation in first CA. In second CA it is almost 30%.
- Women participation in politics was 9.1% at central level and 9.5% at district level. By now this participation has increased to 22% at district and 16% at central level. (*Source: Jagaran Women Resource Center, 2013*)

- A self accepted common platform of women leaders has created, irrespective of difference in political ideology and has been utilizing this platform for lobby & Advocacy of common issues of women.
- Many political parties have realized and started including at least 33% women participation within their structures.
- Working with youth wings of the political parties for sensitization on need and importance of women participation at decision making level is necessary.
- Local community level women leaders are ready for the local election.
- Demands and pressure for inclusive participation is realized and practiced in every sector.
- After participating in continuous training around 100 political women of different political parties now have themselves become trainers in women rights issue.

#### **4.2.2. Reaching all five Districts of Karnali in Partnership with Local Partners**

Jagaran Nepal has directly and indirectly worked on women rights, peace and governance with often focusing on women rights. Jagaran Nepal clearly understands the need of strong implementation by all state mechanisms and state agencies to institutionalize women rights. Women can enjoy democracy, human rights, sustainable development and peace, social security and governance only after they are and able to attain gender and social justice strengthened through economic empowerment. Understanding this need, a huge and ambitious project on Democracy and electoral education was prepared by Jagaran Nepal. Under this project, we have tried working not only for the women and women rights but the entire marginalized community of the geographically challenged Karnali region and its people for ensuring democratic governance. As this region has been neglected even by the state and not prioritized in the annual budget of the nation, therefore, this area though rich in natural resources like medicinal herbs, plants, the livelihood and condition of general people is always marginalized and vulnerable. With the effort of civil society and civil society organizations as well as local community and their involvement in social movement, Karnali has been able to move towards the path of development. Whatever be the existing problems of this region, I hope there would be no second opinion if it is said that strengthening of this region needs exercising democratic practices, norms and values. Therefore, Jagaran Nepal being national level NGO, though registered at Kathmandu District Administration Office, decided to work on the issue of democratic governance in Karnali region with district based local partners realizing that the regular and periodic election is also the backbone in strengthening democratic practices in the Karnali region, especially at this time when local election in Nepal has been stalled for a decade and country is in process of drafting a new democratic, equitable and just constitution. This project is supported by European Union and has a timeline of 3 years which

will be ending on March 2015. This program has been very successful and also had effective contributions to the second CA election. In this way, within ten years of its establishment, Jagaran Nepal has been able to reach not only the marginalized, indigenous and gender equality, but also successful in reaching almost all VDCs of the most geographically challenged Karnali region, with its programs. This is one of the best possible outcomes conceivable in cooperation and partnership with district based local organizations.

#### **4.2.3. Jagaran Nepal Chairperson at National Leadership of NGO Federation of Nepal**

Initiating an organization is not important, rather continuation of an organization, its institutional development and elevate the height of organization through its advocacy on pertinent issues and matters is more important. Specially raising voices on the issues of vulnerable and excluded and marginalized cannot be heard and addressed, if it is a sole effort of a single organization. Therefore it becomes important to be consolidated as a network, alliance not only to unite and magnify the raised common voices so that it is heard properly and addressed by the state but also for the welfare of the community and institution itself. From the second year of its establishment, Jagaran Nepal's founder and Chairperson Sharmila Karki has been involved in the central level structures of NGO Federation and has been contributing for women movement as well as entire civil society movement. She has been elected as the first women president in the twenty years of history of the NFO Federation of Nepal – an umbrella organization of more than 5500 NGOs that has its district chapters in all 75 districts of Nepal. She has served NFN Nepal representing Jagaran Nepal in different portfolios like executive board member, chief of women department, General Secretary contributing for almost ten years. This is a legendary achievement because Jagaran Nepal has been successful in establishing the issue that it has been raising and advocating. At the same time, it is also successful in institutionalizing itself as a parent organization which has provided leadership to all civil society organizations and civil society activists.

#### **4.2.4. Establishing a national level network for advocacy on the issues of rural grassroots level women.**

Jagaran Nepal was established with an objective to increase women participation on politics but during the course of working in this sector for ensuring women rights, it was clearly understood that advocacy on economic, social and cultural rights is crucial for women empowerment and has to be carried simultaneously. Rural women of Nepal are deprived of education, rights, access to resources, lack decision making power, employment and income generating opportunities. Hence, to empower and enhance knowledge /skills of grassroots level rural women, trainings and orientation must be provided to combat against

discriminations, superstitions, beliefs, taboos, injustice, poverty, patriarchal mind set, etc. In this process, during the initial days of Jagaran Nepal, when decade long conflict in Nepal had hit hardest, women were the most affected and victims of conflict from both state and non-state actors. Therefore, Jagaran Nepal worked for conflict affected women for their empowerment, income generation, and education for their children in 13 conflict affected districts. In such conflict situation, this program was a great relief to women who were also the victims of sexual violence. Through this program Jagaran Nepal worked with almost 10,000 women through group formation and mobilization based on need identification through action research on these women.

During those days, Care Nepal was also working with women groups in western region of Nepal supporting the local community women mostly deprived, marginalized and dalits. Recognizing Jagaran Nepal's strength, Jagaran women groups from 13 districts and 21 women groups of Care Nepal together formed a national level network – National Forum for Women Rights Concern (NFOWRC) for advocacy on issues of rural grassroots level women. To establish this network at national level was very challenging for Jagaran Nepal, yet we accepted this challenge and moved forward. For the first six months, this national network was coordinated by Chairperson of Jagaran Nepal- Sharmila Karki; the leadership was then transferred to the community leaders themselves. The management team and the entire team of Jagaran Nepal supported in nurturing and mentoring the network including the secretariat role. With support from Jagaran Nepal and Care Nepal, this national network gradually is established and recognized now at national level.

#### **4.2.5. Establishment and Mobilization of Jagaran Women Resource Centre**

When we acquire knowledge, it is essential to have both theoretical and practical knowledge. In regards to the developed nations, it is found that people move ahead with conceptual clarity on the issues, for this habit of referring different documents, investigating and research and incorporating the best practices and lesson learnt. Comparing in our context, investigative studies are lacking. Jagaran Nepal believes that women who are made vulnerable and excluded should get opportunity and the one who get that opportunity should make the best out of it whether it is man or woman. Women can't be left behind from the opportunity because of the under estimation of being women. In this regard, Jagaran believes that it's the right of every woman to get the resources and chances to make the best utilise of their skills and knowledge. This provides the evidence to the fact that the women who are brought in mainstream by the process of Affirmative action needs the special treatment. Keeping this fact under consideration, concept of Jagaran Women Resource Centre has been developed which has

been in regulation in Jagaran Nepal Central Office- Kathmandu and recently in Morang. The resource centre is facilitated with the facility of books and reference materials regarding women right in general and political inclusion of women in specific as well as the facility of email, internet, photocopy and scanning. There is also the facility of Hall with multimedia for conducting the discussion on the different important and genuine issues. The discussion series is held on a monthly basis and sometimes more often depending upon the seriousness of issue and its significance. There can be the arrangement of IT training to the members of Resource Centre as per the need and demand of members. The Resource Centre is envisioned as the Centre for Knowledge and tended to develop as a Common Hub for the women for dialogue and discussion irrespective of their diversities.

There is a membership provision to be the member of Resource centre. Though, everyone can be the member of it, Women Leaders are given much priority as Jagaran Nepal aims to assist women leaders in enhancing their knowledge making an environment for them to approach Resource centre whenever needed and make the best utilise of the facility of email, internet and others.