



Human Rights Status

Annual Report 2016

KARNALI REGION

Building the Foundation of Human Rights Based Approach in Local Development
Process for Promotion and Protection of Human Rights in Mid-west Nepal

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Introduction

This report is prepared based on partial requirement of AADHAR project funded by Governance Facility. AADHAR is a Nepali term coined to understand the project in short: ***Building the Foundation of HRBA in Local Development Process for Promotion and Protection of Human Rights in Mid-west Nepal***. It intends to disseminate issues and concerns of Karnali people in regard to human rights and local development. It is a serious concern that the people of Karnali still faces serious challenges at the dawn of 21st century. Poverty is surely a human right violation. However, many people in the region consider poverty as a fate and lack reasoning linking poverty to human rights violation. In this regard, this status report aims at discussing some of the rights related to economic social and cultural (ESC) rights and promote rights based approach to development

focusing on government's obligation to promote and protect human rights for local development.

Human rights based approach (HRBA) to development is not a new phenomenon to Nepalese shifting development paradigm. Nonetheless, evidences from the ground suggest less people's engagement in promoting HRBA to development in practice. As a result, marginalized and excluded group of people continue to suffer from local development process. Besides, most of the HRBA principles are difficult to capture in practice, perhaps due to lack of sufficient use of tools that help evaluation of HRBA interventions. On the other hand, it is important to see evidences and linking them with failing to promote HRBA at local levels. Therefore, events like this is essential to let concerned authorities and stakeholders know about national and international human rights



Right based approach to development demands no discrimination; empower marginalized and excluded people; meaningful participation; accountability is maintained; and there is rule of law

principles and how important they are in terms of obligations Nepalese government have. This can only be possible when stakeholders are aware of issues occurring in remote areas, like Karnali, come forward and conduct hardcore discourse on the topic.

Human Rights obligation of Nepal

Nepal as legal entity has obligations towards its citizen, both national and international, including moral and legal obligations. At national level, Nepalese Constitution provides for protection of a number of key human rights issues, many of them as fundamental rights. Internationally, Nepal has entered into a number of agreements (conventions/treaties) on the protection of human rights and have made commitments to fulfil them. Many of them fall under the United Nation's instruments and mechanisms.

Economic, Social and Cultural and Civil and Political rights: under two bill of rights

Principally there is no distinction between rights. They are all universal, interrelated, inalienable, and related to each other. But practically, evidences have surfaced on the ground that people have distinguished between civil and political (CP) rights on the one hand and economic, social and cultural rights on the other based on justifiability. On the other hand, there are significant differences in how they are implemented. Right to life, Freedom of expression, freedom of assembly and the right to a fair trial are examples of civil and political rights while examples of economic, social and cultural (ESC) rights are the

right to health and the right to an adequate standard of living, education etc. It is claimed that the civil and political rights are of immediate effect while ESC rights are progressive in nature. Nonetheless, one must be aware that many of the States' obligations in fulfilling ESC rights requires immediate action. It is evident that promotion of ESC rights as human rights have been difficult to establish. It is on that note that this report is initiated to highlight ESC rights but does not exclude CP rights.

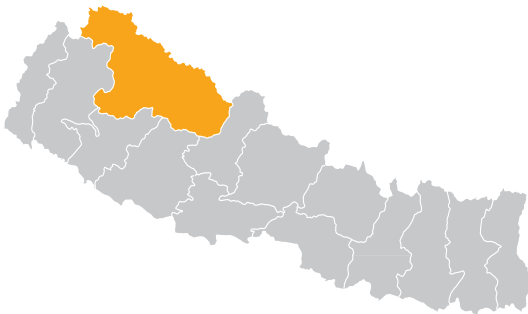
Monitoring and Evaluation of human rights

When a convention or treaty has been adopted/ratified by a country, the member state is obliged to comply with the contents of the agreement in its national law and practice. Within the United Nations framework, member states will be monitored with respect to the human rights obligations that they have undertaken. This is carried out mainly by the committees associated with the various conventions, through the UN Universal Periodic Review (UPR) and through UN's special procedures. An external monitoring body (often international mechanism) is necessary due to States' involvement in violation of human rights.

It is unfortunate that most of the monitoring and evaluation of human rights related issues revolve around extra judicial killing, unlawful detention, arrest without warrant, disappearance, detention torture and freedom of expression issues that fall under Civil and political rights category. Monitoring and evaluation of human rights situations of ESC rights have been overshadowed by civil and political rights

around the globe, mostly due to justiciability issues and progressive nature of ESC rights. Likewise, monitoring ESC rights violation has been difficult due to States' negligence as a result of limited resources. On the other hand, articulating or seeing ESC rights as a human right violation has been a very challenging issue due to lack of insufficient advocacy and human rights knowledge at local level. Monitoring and evaluation require multi cross cutting verification and caution with authentic knowledge in the area to rightfully claim the right.

Human rights obligations of Nepal in Karnali is no different from any other obligation Nepalese government. In fact, the universal human rights principles seeks proper and increasing attention



Karnali region (highlighted)

to those areas that are geographical remote, economically backward and needy people, which we call marginalized and exclude people in human right language.

On the above note, among all other State's obligations, KIRDARC Nepal is particularly seeking to draw attention on right based approach to development

and focus on ESC rights and rights that are related to local development, including localization of National Human Right Action Plan (NHRAP). We are committed to work towards promoting peoples' participation in local development process, accountability, equality, non-discrimination, and legal compliance. We firmly believe that NHRAP should be fully implemented and incorporated in district and local level plans. We are positive that integration of human rights action plan will contribute towards reduction of ESC rights violations.

Having discussed the complexity in articulating ESC rights violation and mapping Monitoring and Evaluation of human rights obligation of Nepalese government is extremely difficult in Karnali region. States' obligation under ESC rights fulfillment demands States to respect, protect and fulfill entitlements enshrined under national and international human rights commitment. In addition, States are also supposed to protect and promote human rights, particularly for marginalized and excluded people. One of the prime difficulty and lack of concrete data on ESC right violation is due to negligence of major Nepalese society to consider ESC rights as human rights. In addition, lack of awareness among local people to raise their voices against State on basic fundamental obligations of State towards its citizen. Most people consider fulfillment of basis necessity as a charity work of government rather than its obligations. Accordingly, we do acknowledge the State's effort to respect rights by ensuring neutrality. However, serious concerns have surfaced in regard to State's failure to protect and fulfil ESC rights. We strongly believe that Nepalese government has failed in some aspects of promotion and protection issues.

Sources of information:

There are couple of sources used for this report to be produced. A baseline survey was conducted by KIRDARC Nepal in the midst of June-July 2016, with the objectives to extract information on overall human rights situation in Karnali region, which also focused on understanding knowledge, attitude and practices of human rights among the target groups and concerned stakeholders of human rights promotion program districts. All the study were conducted focusing on 25 VDCs of Jumla, Kalikot, Mugu, Dolpa and Humla with a total number of 918 HHs for baseline. Likewise, other information were extracted from field staffs, human right defenders (HRDs), AADHAR Kendra groups. On the other hand, a large section of the information are also drawn from local newspapers. Apart from these, activities conducted within the projects have also been included to indicate works going to promote human rights protection.

The status report of Karnlai region demonstrates how a large portion of community are still suffering from daily necessities. Though many other parts of Nepal has similar scenario, the people of Karnali represents the most severe form of discrimination in regard to State's attention to tackle with the problem. Karnali region still facing serious challenges at the dawn of 21st century. Large number of people are still under poverty and belong to the least developed in human development indicator. However, many people in the region consider poverty as a fate and therefore hesitate to consider poverty as human rights violation. Interestingly, very nominal people are aware about human rights. Only about 17 % of the people said they have sufficient knowledge in regard to human rights while most people were reluctant to explore about what exactly the human rights is.

During the survey only about eight percent of the surveyed people said they had somehow managed to attain trainings related to human rights while 92% of them said they haven't had any opportunity to attain

trainings related to human rights.

Although HRBA to development is not a new phenomenon to Nepalese shifting development paradigm evidences from the ground suggest less people's engagement in promoting HRBA to development in practice. As a result, marginalized and excluded group of people continue to suffer from local development process.

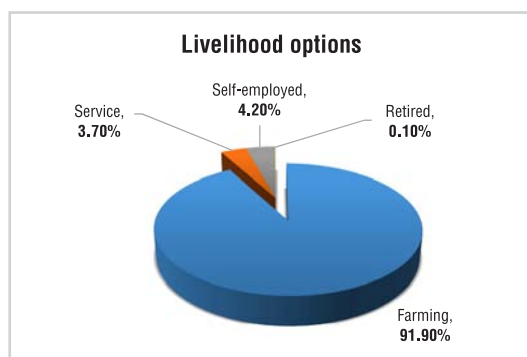
Besides, most of the HRBA principles are difficult to capture in practice, perhaps due to lack of sufficient use of tools that help evaluation of HRBA interventions. On the other hand, it is important to see evidences and link them with failing to promote HRBA at local levels. Therefore, events like this is essential to let concerned authorities and stakeholders know about national and international human rights obligations of Nepalese government. This can only be possible when stakeholders are aware of issues occurring in remote areas, like Karnali, come forward and conduct hardcore discourse on the topic.

Key Observation

The observation on violation of rights in Karnali region have been documented on issues like food security, education, health facilities, discrimination, marriages, social security, governance, national action plan on human rights, and other social mal-practices. The finding are just a few representatives of many similar events occurring in the field and experienced by the local people almost every day of their life.

Livelihood

The people of Karnali region still face serious challenges in regarding to earning their livelihood. While most people survive from farming their best alternative is seasonal migration. All most all family have some people migrating to earn their livelihood. The below pie-chart represent the number of respondents by their occupation in each research

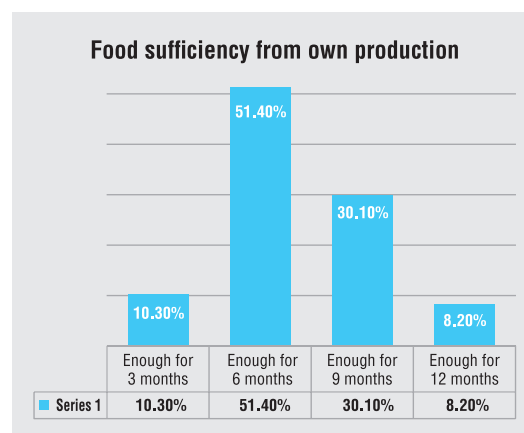


district. Out of 916 respondents, 842 (91.9%) respondents claimed agriculture as their primary source of living, 34 (3.7%) respondents engaged in service, 27 (2.9%) respondents were self-employed, 1 (0.1%) was retired and 12 (1.3%) daily wages labours. On the contrary, the study shows that most people (53.5%) buy food from the market. Likewise, about 24.5% of them told that labour to earn food;

8.4% of them told that they maintain their food from government subsidies and 5.9% of them told that they bring food from their regular merchant on credit and about 0.7% of the people said they get help from NGOs. This means that market is the main source food for them while for some others their 'labor work' becomes the source of food in case they run out of their food stock at home.

Food scarcity

While most of the people in Karnali region appears to be mostly engage in agriculture and their prime livelihood option, it is unfortunate that majority of people have their crops sufficient only for about 6 months. More than half (51.4%) of the total respondents said they can manage foods only for



6 months. Similarly, about 30.1% of them told that their stock of food grains would serve them for about 9 months while only 8.2% claimed to have stock of food grains enough for 12 months. On the contrary, roughly 10.3% of them responded that they do not have stock of food grain for more than 3 month. This shows growing food scarcity in the region.

It was reported that more than 1 billion Nrs. was allocated by council of ministry for supplying food to Karnali region. But, the food supply could not reach Karnali region for more than 5 months, according to many news media that reported from the region and national media.¹ In fact, it was reported that Shreenagar and Sarkedue VDC in Humla, Dunai, Kaigaun, Likhu, Sarmi in Dolpa, Thirpu and Pahun dhara in Kalikot, and Pulu and Sorukot in Mugu had zero stock of rice supply. In some cases, even though the supply has reached, it didn't reach house that required it the most. It was cited that poor financing resulted to such situations. To make the matter worse, in Mugu, the rain and flood in May caused huge loss to crops and landslides that resulted in to now drinking water and food production.



Children collecting Conifer cone

More specifically, it was reported that food shortage has emerged at a Dalit settlement in Photu VDC-1 of Mugu because of crop failure after a prolonged drought. Thirty-two families in Rawalbadaare settlement were reported to have difficulty in managing even one square meal a day. Many families cannot even afford to buy the subsidised rice sold by Nepal Food Corporation (NFC). Mugu district has not received enough rain since 2015 July, reported the media. Besides Rawalbadaare, the Dalit families in 21 other villages of Mugu, including Natharpu Jima, Rara, Kalai, Dhainakot, Bihi and Ruga, were also reported to be reeling under the food shortages.

Similar stories have surfaced throughout Karnali region, which had great adverse impact on the



Women gathering to discuss local problems

welfare of people living, particularly in health related issues in the region. 5 year child named Pwan Nepali died of malnutrition in Mugu. Likewise, Susila yogi of Sipkhana in Kalikot died in November who was only 14 months old due to same reason. In a similar manner, many children are found to have been suffering from malnutrition in Kalikot. Sita BK

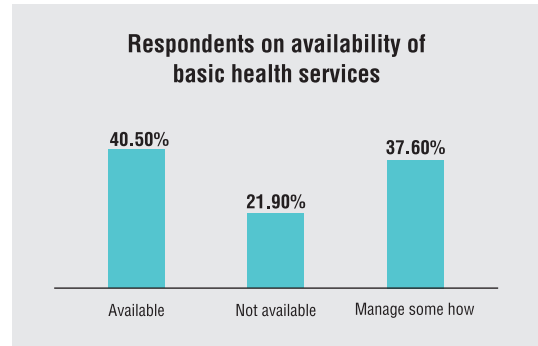
¹ <http://annapurnapost.com/news-details/54000>

of Dhaulagoha, Sukla Subedhi of Raku VDC of Kalikot district, Dhan Rokya of Rodikot and Debika Shahi of Syada, Devraj sunar of Simikot in Humla were found to be severely undernourished. As matter of fact, these 10 names of different places are only representative of about 50% children suffering from malnutrition. About 64% of children in Humla alone are stunted. Kalikot is the most effected (55%) district in regard to children suffering from malnutrition, according to various reports. In addition to malnutrition in many children, food shortages has severely affected pregnant mothers many of whom are reported to be surviving in one meal per day in Humla.² In the news, it estimated that about 13 hundred and 92 women were pregnant in 27 VDCs of Humla according to the information officer in Humla.

Karnali region is mostly covered by hills and mountain and only few lands are irrigable. Most of them heavily rely on rainfall. Growing impact of climate change has also contributed to food shortages in the region. However, apart from production side of the food security problem, distribution side of the story is very poorly managed. Government of Nepal has failed to oblige with the respect, protect and fulfil dimension of food security in the region. In the context of recognizing food as the fundamental rights in Nepalese constitution and as agreed in various international standards, it is very unfortunate of Nepalese government to have failed to tackle the problem of food security in the region.

Availability of health facilities in study area

In addition to having so many children and women



suffering from malnutrition and food shortages that leads to many health problems, access and availability to accessing health services have been immensely difficult for the people of Karnali region. Health facilities are not available in the districts. Out of 869 respondents, 352 (40.5%) said that health facilities are available for them, 327 (37.6%) said that health facility for them is not good but they somehow manage it while 190 (21.9%) of them told that health facilities for them is always difficult. Regarding this



Demonstration for better health facilities in Kalikot

² <http://mahilakhabar.com/news/2016/06/06/14641.html#sthash.QeS8EhIA.dpuf>

24 (25.5%) out of 94 disables claimed that they get health facilities at the time of their need while the maximum number 50 (53.2%) of them denied to get health facilities in easy way. In the same way, for 20 (21.3%) of them health facilities are rather difficult. This means that a large number of disables are prevented from health facilities in the research districts.

Birthing facility

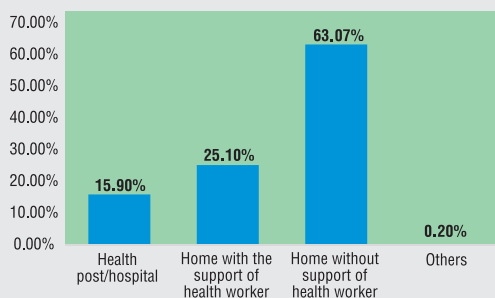
While the global and national Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) and Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) are improving significantly, scenario of giving birth environment has not changed much in Karnali region. Needless to say, IMR and MMR improvement also depends on health workers' support during delivery. Government of Nepal has already committed to improve the situation and formulated numerous policies to

birth. Similarly, about 25% of the households gave birth at home but with support from health worker. It is painful to witness only about 16% of the births taking place in health posts or hospitals. Entitlement to health right is one thing, but government of Nepal has also failed to create environment for accessing services. Evidences clearly suggest government's attention.

Education

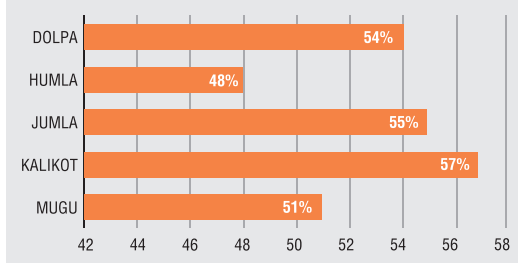
Karnali region is one of the region with the least number of educated people and have very low literacy rate. In the last census (2011), over all literacy rate for the region was only 53%. Apparently, the highest is Kalikot with 57% and lowest with only 48% is Humla. Jumla, Dolpa and Mugu stand at 55%, 54% and 51% respectively. Though the whole nation is yet far away from having significant number of literate

Birthing practice among respondents



address the issue. Nonetheless, government of Nepal has definitely failed to reach remote areas and therefore failed to ensure enjoyment of health rights of the people. About 63% of the households didn't had any support of health workers while giving

Literacy rate in Karnali region



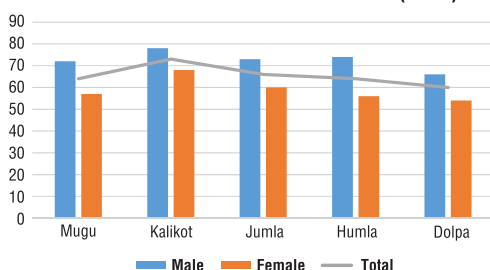
people, it is a pity situation for the whole nation to have such a large number of people who can't read and write. Nepal has already identified primary education as free and moving forward to promote right to education from compulsory modality. While theoretically government of Nepal respects the

rights to education, protecting and fulfilling aspects of right to education seem weak. At the moment the national data of school attendance in the region also seems very poor. Except for Kalikot (73%) all the other districts are in their 60s in regard to school attendance in the region (see table below).

While the national policy doesn't discriminate in regard to education, accessing quality education is a far fetch dream for many Nepalese people. There are many instances in the remote area where the teachers are key reason for not running the school. On the other hand, the headmasters and school management committees are equally responsible. But, lack of text among school

played crucial role in making education accessible, affordable and available. However, in some cases poverty and lack of livelihood opportunities, which causes many young students leave their schools to collect yasrgumba, has also ignited abandoning schools. A newspaper in the recent days published news of Humla, where no one has passed class 5 for the past 42 years. There are very little number of students in the school and the teacher is said to be absent almost every day. In a situation like this, who is to be held responsible? Government of Nepal should also be responsible for ensuring that schools are functioning. It is not sufficient for the government to establish a school and hire some teachers to protect and promote right of the children to get education. The tripartite obligation of the State under the international human rights law obliges the government of Nepal to play crucial role to remove barriers that prevent children from accessing education.

Male and female school attendance (in %)



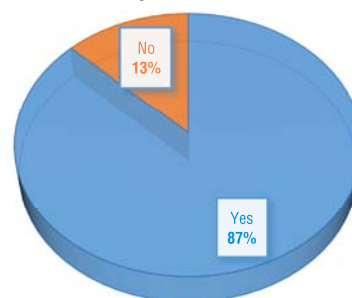
District	Male	Female	Total
Mugu	72%	57%	64%
Kalikot	78%	68%	73%
Jumla	73%	60%	66%
Humla	74%	56%	64%
Dolpa	66%	54%	60%

children and absence of teacher have surfaced as the main problem for frequent closure of schools. For example, for nine months many VDCs in Mugu did not have text books in schools. This has seriously caused to violate the right of the children to fetch education. The government of Nepal from the center has seldom

Caste based discrimination

The study shows caste-based discrimination is rampant in the region. Asked about state of caste-based discrimination, more than 87% of the household

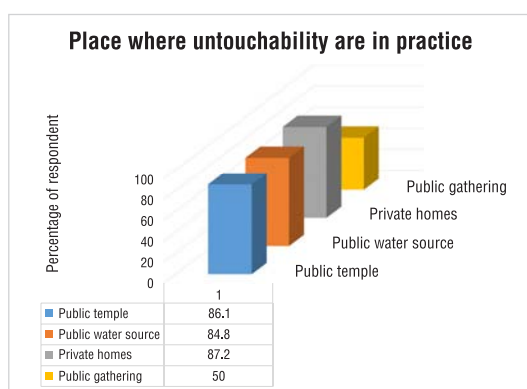
Percentage of people who believe untouchability exists in their locality



asserted to have practice of untouchability in their community. Similarly, about 85% of the people complained of denying from fetching water while 50% of the total surveyed households said that they are discriminated in public gathering, local development planning process, decision implementation, or monitoring in relation to development works or any meetings. Such discriminations were also rampant in schools.

Practice of Untouchability

The research team also inquired about the practice of untouchability in community under this research. Out of 902 responses, 116 (12.9%) denied to have the practice of untouchability while 786 (87.1%) asserted that there is the practice of untouchability



in their community. This means that the practice of untouchability is still prevalent in the community under this research. Even local media house believe the problem exists enormously. For instance, local news media of Kalikot claimed that about 77% people are still suffering from caste based discrimination.

The research team also held FGDs with the respondents to inquire about the practice of untouchability in the research sites. One of the respondents reported that untouchability is their tradition and that they have been following it as part of their culture. The other participant in an FGD told that though it creates problems, it can't be avoided because they are bound to follow it by their socio-cultural rule. Untouchability however was variously criticized by many in FGDs naming it as a crime and one of the factor to divide the people in the society promoting hate, humiliation and discrimination.

The research team also inquired about whether the respondents have access to fetch water from the public place. Out of 696 responses, 590 (84.8%) reveal that they have the access to fetch water from public place while 106 (15.2%) of them asserted they do not have this access. This means that there still some sections in the community who are prevented from getting access to water at public place. The research team also inquired with the respondents that whether they have access to participate in the public gatherings. In response, 147 (50%) responded as "yes" and the remaining 147 (50%) responded as "no". This means that still 50% of the respondents in the research districts are prevented from getting access to participating in public gatherings.

Untouchability as problems are also seen in schools. For children at schools, out of 145 respondents, 16 (11%) told that teachers' behavior is the source of problem about untouchability while 115 (79.3%) told that untouchable behavior is performed by

the students.. This means that both teachers and students' behavior contribute to heighten the problem of untouchability at school and that students' behavior affects more than those of teacher in relation to the problem of untouchability.

Gender based violence

Nepal has made immense progress in regard to achieving equality. Most organizations, including government of Nepal claims to have invested a lot in this regard. Accordingly, to some extent it is true that people are now more aware of the principle and theory. However, the dream is yet far away from reality as incidents related to domestic violence, other gender based violence have surface time and again. It occurs as a result of normative role expectations, unequal power between gender, superstitious society, traditional cultures etc.

There were numerous stories heard in the region of the scenario on how women and girls are living their life. Few of the documentation here are only representative of those. A 72 year-old man was found guilty of raping a 5 year-old girl in Jumla, Raralihi VDC on April. 29 year old women of Kulalwada, Jumla and 42 year old lady of Bhijre VDC, Dolpa complained against her husband for physically assaulting and threatening to kill. Likewise, a 24 year-old women of KaiGaun VDC of the same district marched for one week on foot, with her son on shoulder, without food, to escape her husband's brutality. In similar manner a 24 year women also complained of forceful physical relation in the same district. Likewise of the same district, 41 year lady of Liku VDC and 48 year-

A 24 year-old dalit women reached Dunai, the district headquarter of Dolpa by foot after walking for six days with her son without any food. She was married for 5 year now, which was a love marriage. According to her, her husband's brutality and misbehaving started after one year of their marriage. They now have 2 year old son. She complains that the whole family members were involved in beating and mistreating her. The treatment become so unbearable that she had to make decision to leave the house and make painful way for justice.



old women of Likuri VDC filed a case against their husband for content beating. In Tripurakot VDC, a 32 year women was beaten and treated badly for being a witch.

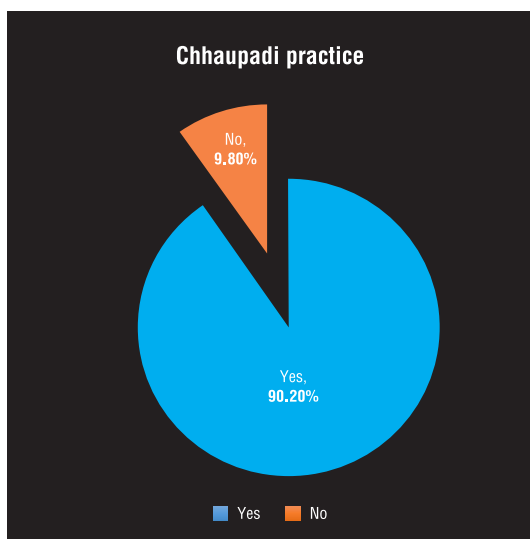
Practice of *Chhaupadi*

Traditional practices such as *Chhaupadi* have also affected the peoples' right to live dignified life. Even as Supreme Court outlawed *chhaupadi* in 2005, most of women in mid and western regions of the country are forced to live in cowshed during their menstruation. More than 90% of the households said that they are practicing *chhaupadi* in the region. This considered as one of the worst forms of gender

based discrimination.

About 50% of surveyed households said they have food restriction during the period while nearly 6% of the families said their girls were not sent to school during their period.

Although *chhaupadi* was outlawed by Nepal's Supreme Court in 2005, it is still widely practiced in far and mid-western part of the country to great length, majority of them banished to cowsheds. UN reports as well as various national findings have already suggested that this practice endanger the practitioner to various life threatening health issues like diarrhea, pneumonia, respiratory illness, danger of snake attacks, rape and abuses, high infant and maternal mortality rates. This are clearly an indication of human rights violation, which is a state where Nepalese government has failed to intervene. While these may seem like a personal issues of women and girls, these life threatening events and the practice itself have immense impact in the development process. While human rights based approach is preaching



Women in Jumla staying in cow shed during mensuration

participation, non-discrimination, empowerment and rule of law, nothing has worked in eliminating this practice. The practice, leads to women not being able to participate in various forums, many of which may directly relate to their development and governance issues. Confinement to household works and limiting to cowshed living may have adverse effect on the ability of women and girls to claim rights and hold government accountable at various instances.

Various initiatives, such as those from AADHAR groups in Kalikot and Mugu have constantly pressured CSOs to act against the practice, in both the instances District level committee has been formed, to advocate, to lobby for chhaupadi education in schools for class 6 to 12 and conduct various dialogues session based on need.

Marriages

According to the 2011 census, more than 750,000 women in Nepal “were married between 10 and 14 years of age”. More than half of girls/women between 15 and 19 (2.7 million out of 4.3 million) reported they were married, meaning more than 73 percent

of girls are married by the time they turn 19. Though Nepal outlawed child marriages in 1963, the practice is still rampant in this part of the country.

In the research conducted by KIRDARC Nepal, it was found that boys and girls rarely decide about their future. Most of them are arranged by their parents. Such decision were found to be made by parents before the legal age of marriage of their children. On the other hand, only about seven percent of households were observed to carry on with inter-caste marriage, where no serious concerns were noted that led to further damage or loss. Similarly, about 14% of respondents were involved in giving dowry while, about 16% of the households were found to have observed under age marriage (child marriage). About 70% of them were either forced or managed by parents. Likewise, about 70% of the marriages were found to have arranged without consent of couples (men or women). Among many of them are considered as child marriages that have surface all over Karnlai despite legal approaches rampant.



Women in action (rally against polygamy)

All the districts have many instance of child marriages. In fact, the problem appear to have existed more among Dalits. For instance, it was reported that most of the Dalit students of Shankar Higher Secondary School at Serijula in Raku-4, Kalikot got married even before they turned 19. School records showed that 33 students from grades six to ten got married in early ages. Of the 33 students, 27 are girls. Of the 27 married girls, 25 are from Dalit families. It was reported that around 80 percent of households in Tirkhu village get married before the legal age prescribed by Nepalese government. It is a similar story around the Karnali region. As a matter of fact, CSOs in Mugu district have united religious leaders of the district to create awareness about adverse impact of child marriage.

This depicts question on various issues such as child marriage, marriage without consent, dowry issues and inter-caste marriages. The prevalent culture suggests serious human right violations of individual rights to make decisions, marriage age provided by government law, and our belief son no marriages outside one's caste. On the other hand, such practice has many adverse impact and violets the rights of the individuals. According to a 2012 report, girls who marry young suffer from pregnancy-related complications, uterine prolapse, infant and maternal mortality, malnutrition of both mother and child as well as psychological problems, including depression, violent marital relations and suicides.

On the other hand, only about 41% of the household responded to have marriage registration. It is a

serious concern in regard to adjoining rights such as property, multiple marriage, citizenship issues, and void from government services etc.

Social security

Old age allowance

Many old aged people have complained of

not receiving old age allowance. Informal talks with them have revealed lack of citizenship as the main reason for not receiving the allowance. Apart from it, difficulty in mobility is also part of the reason for many people not getting the allowance.

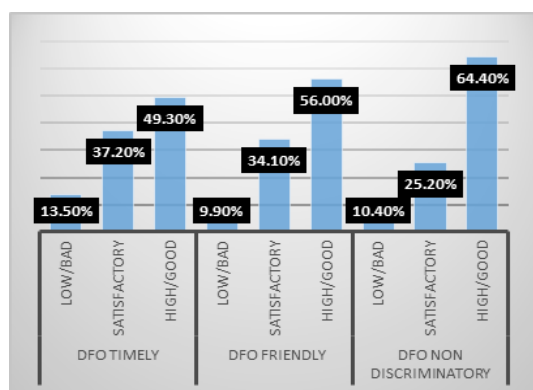
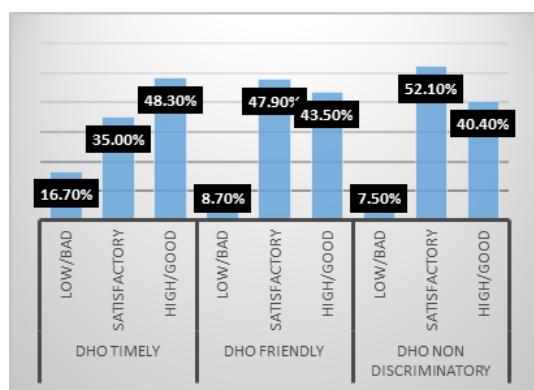
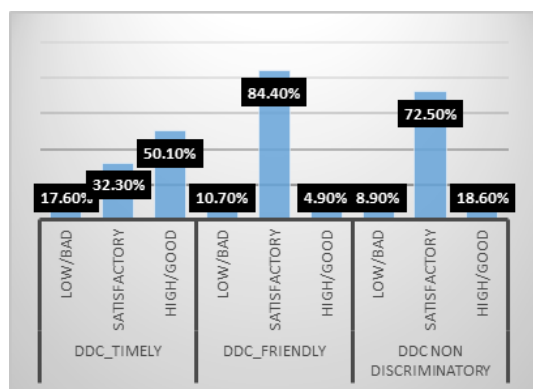
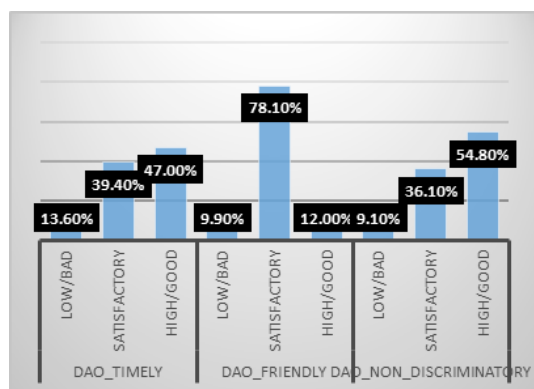
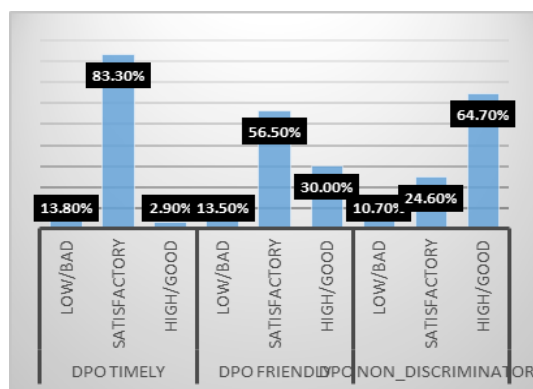
Percentage of people receiving old age allowance



Governance problem

It is essential that the services provided by the government agencies be timely, friendly and non-discriminatory. The study reveals that that most of the people are generally satisfied with the government services. However, it is very alarming that only few of them are highly satisfied with services provided by government agencies. Most importantly, VDC, which is the lowest unit of government agencies that is explicitly connected with local people for basic services, has been considered as least favorite among the respondent. Only about 18% of the respondent were found to be highly satisfied with VDC's timely service. Likewise, only about 20% of the respondent think the services provided are in done in friendly manner. Similarly, only about 37% of the respondents think that the services provided are non-discriminatory, which is very serious issue in regard to HRBA principle. One the other hand, only about 3%

of the respondent think that DEO provide services without discrimination. However, it is a sign of relief to observe district police being considered as one of the institution to conduct services without discrimination, which is an authoritative institution to maintain rule of law and promote non-discrimination. However, timely service is something that needs to be improved by the district police. Most people are concerned about the distance they have to cover to reach nearest police station. Only about 3% of the respondent thought



Perception of respondents on timely, friendly and non-discriminatory services of DAO, DHO, DDC, DPO and DFO

timely service provided by the district police. People in the FGD complained of avoiding police services, even when they require them most, because it's too far. Some claimed a distance to one or two day to reach the nearest police station. Some even claimed to have not faith in police as “they tend to support the elites of the society” according to a respondent from Haku VDC of Jumla district.

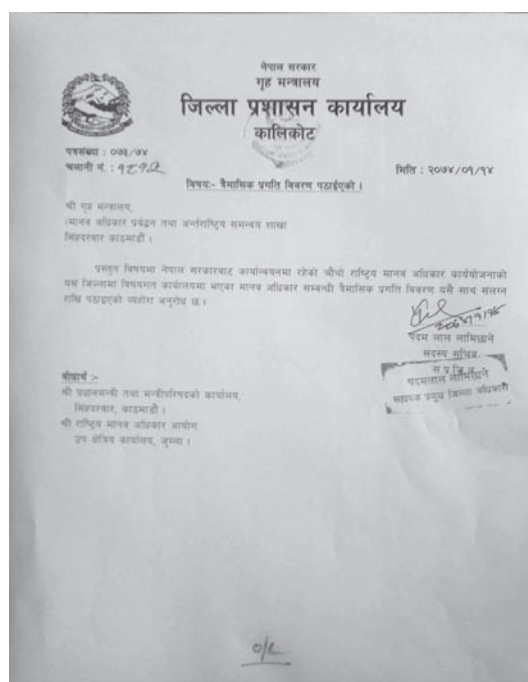
National Action Plan on Human Rights

The government has been implementing National Human Rights Action Plan (NHRAP), and currently fourth five-year national action plan on human rights 2014-2019 is underway, which incorporates six new focal areas - education, health, nutrition and population, and employment. Nepal started to formulate and implement the National Human Rights Action Plan from 2005 in line with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, international conventions on human rights to which Nepal is a party. The country has been prioritizing human rights while formulating periodic development plans.

Despite the country's commitment to promote and protect human rights, the past three national human rights action plans have not been implemented effectively due to various shortcomings. Only around 50-60 percent of the plans are said to have been implemented in the past. However, the picture haven't improved to any better even after experience of four plans.³ Some of the areas focused by the

action plan are: culture, legal reforms, environment, women, persons with disabilities, senior citizens, sexual minorities, marginalized communities, food security and transitional justice. Priorities have also been given to safe housing, social service and security, drinking water, sanitation, electricity and consumption of natural resources, among others.

A recent study conducted in Karnali about the NHRAP raises serious concerns and demands immediate attention. Only about 30-40 percent of



Letter issued by Kalikot DAO on quarterly progress report of NHRAP

the planned actions are articulated (intentionally or unintentionally). Almost no government agencies at the district level were aware of the existence of the NHRAP, let alone its implementation. Thus, not

³ <http://kathmandupost.ekantipur.com/news/2016-11-15/laudable-but-inadequate.html>

a single district meeting on the implementation of NHRAP 2014-18 was observed since the action plan was formulated three years ago.

It is appalling to learn that the national action plan on the promotion and protection of human rights in the country exists only on paper. And we cannot assume the situation to be different in other districts or regions. Almost all other districts in Nepal face a similar situation. According to a letter issued by the regional office of the National Human Right Commission (NHRC), Nepalgunj, the government line agencies at the district level were unaware about being members of district implementation and coordination Committees.

In the study, a few domains were evaluated in Karnali: education; health; food security; human rights education; inclusive development; legal reform and judicial administration; women, persons with disability, senior citizens and sexual or gender minorities. On a positive note, some of the activities planned (about 30-40 percent) in NHRAP 2014-18 have been carried out by the district offices unknowingly, without referring to the action plan.

On July 2016, a news was published regarding a letter which was dispatched by the Ministry of Federal Affairs and Local to development to 34 district, which also included Karnali districts, giving last warning to the LDOs for not listening to National directives. It was a simple request to fill some information in a format, which could not be fulfilled by the district officers. Likewise, in August of the same year a news from Mugu was published about road obstruction and shortages of necessary goods in the districts. Event after long await, the local government could not do anything promptly. Similarly, at around same time, the locals of Dolpa warned the local government to save Dalit communities (about 40 households) in Tripurakot VDC, which was at high risk of landslide but nothing as such is heard of the proper response. Governance problem like this are only representative. In fact, it was also emphasized by some news media that Karnali Development Commission is located in the far corner of Shighadarbar where most of the officials are absent most of the time are slow at work.



A rally by AK members

Some glimpses of AADHAR activities



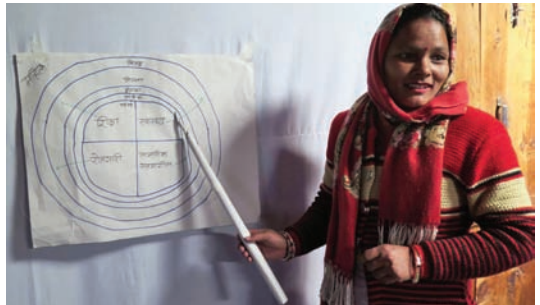
Youths of AADHAR Kendra meeting



Women (AADHAR Kendra) prioritizing their local issue for action through a PRA tool



Women in Kalikot demonstration in front of District Administration Office



A women participating in HRBA training



AADHAR Animator participating in ReFLECT training



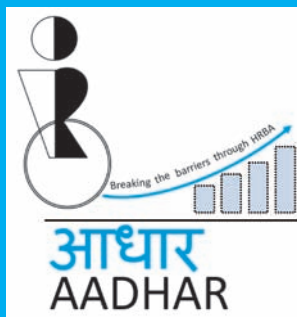
District Officer in Action (Campaign against Chhaupadi pratha in Mugu)



District Implementation Coordination Committee (DICC) of National Human Right Action Plan (NHRAP) in Mugu



An interaction meeting among duty bearers and right holders in Kalikot



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