



# e-Newsletter



• Volume 10

• Issue 6

• June, 2014

## Nepal makes Strides in the Implementation of Int'l HRs Treaties: NHRC



Acting Secretary Bed Prasad Bhattarai along with the resource persons and participants at a program entitled the implementation status of the international human rights treaties held in Lalitpur district

Photo: NHRC Central Office

**L**ALITPUR: NHRC Treaty Monitoring Division organized a three day workshop entitled “Implementation Status of International Human Rights Treaties” on 12<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> June 2014, which discussed the Implementation Status Reports on 8 International Human Rights Treaties prepared by NHRC thematic officers on the related themes with government / non-governmental stakeholders.

Inaugurating the program, Acting Secretary Bed Prasad Bhattarai said that in the context of Nepal being the state party to various international human rights conventions, it is obligatory on its part to submit the state party report. ‘The Commission is obliged to provide its advisory inputs in those reports prepared by the government following the

consultation held with the stakeholder organizations and agencies,’ he stated.

Wishing success of the program, he expressed his hope that the program held on implementation status of international human rights treaties, therefore, pave ways to analyze the progress together with the gaps in the implementation of those instruments.

Speaking on the occasion, Ms Sadhana Ghimire, National Project Manager of SCNHRC/UNDP program said that having the program conducted with adequate intervals is a positive endeavor as it helps to sketch the future roadmap with proper analysis for overall implementation of key human rights conventions and treaties to which Nepal is a party.

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The team headed by the NHRC sub regional chief Loknath Ghimire during the prison monitoring in Bhojpur district prison

Photo: Khotang Office

The monitoring of the Bhojpur prison is in accordance with the written NHRC directives to mention about the implementation status of the directives issued by the district judges of the respective districts courts from time to time following the resolution passed during the mega work shop held on the use of writ jurisdiction in Biratnagar and Dhangadhi respectively.

## District Prison monitored

**BHOJPUR:** The team deployed by the NHRC Sub Regional Office Khotang has monitored the district prison of Bhojpur district from May 29 and 30, 2014.

The objective the monitoring was to inspect the physical condition of the district prison and the overall human rights situation of the inmates serving their jail term. The monitoring also aimed at inspecting the implementation status of the

directives issued by the district judges via district courts from time to time.

During the process of monitoring the team comprising the regional Head Lok Nath Ghimire and Assistant Lal Bahadur Rai met with Jailor, security personnel, and inmates. Meanwhile, the team held an interaction on the policy wise process and existing administrative problems including the basic human rights of the inmates serving their terms.

Upon monitoring, the team has made a number of recommendations with regard to the wretched physical condition of the prison and human rights of the inmates serving their term.

Meanwhile, the monitoring report unveiled the fact that prisoners, who were supposed to get amnesty during the republic day every year as a customary, were learnt to have been deprived of such advantage despite their good behavior.

## Stakeholders interact on HRs situation in Parbat and Myagdi Districts



Deputy Director Dr. Tikaram Pokharel of NHRC Pokhara Office along with the resource persons and participants during an interaction program in western district of Parbat

Photo: NHRC Western Regional Office

district level state actors. 30 participants participated in the program.

NHRC Deputy Director Dr. Tikaram Pokharel responded to the queries and concerns raised by the participants during the program.

The participants came up with the view

**KASKI:** The team deployed by the NHRC Regional Office, Pokhara organized interaction on human rights during the course of monitoring on human rights situation in the western districts of Parbat, Myagdi and Baglung respectively.

Aiming at having coordination with the other stakeholders including the civil society in the respective district, the program was conducted among the representatives of the civil society organizations, human rights defenders, media and other

that the incidents of human rights violations have decreased gradually since the post war era began in the country

Human Rights Officer Jyoti Prasad Ghimire facilitated the program.

## 13 Children rescued from Church

**MORANG:** 13 children between the age of three to thirteen were rescued from a church in Morang district. The Children, who were kept as hostages in dire condition, have been rescued from Sarobagh based church in Morang.

It is learnt that these children were brought from Humla and Morang to the church a month ago and made to live there in very inhuman condition. A team of officers from the District Child Welfare Board (DCWB) of Morang, District Police Office (DPO) and Regional Office of National Human Rights Commission led by DAO, Morang jointly raided Emanuel Church and set the children free. The children were later handed over to CWIN-Nepal for emergency protection. Of the rescued, 11 were from Humla, Syada and 2 from Indrapur of Morang.

Children were rescued from the resident of Joseph Marandi of Sarobagh, VDC-3. He had been reportedly operating the Church without official permission. The Church appeared to have evaded all the legal processes laid out for establishing a Church.

The rescued children, who were learnt to have been engaged in extreme labor, were rescued from a locked room and brought to Biratnagar.



The team of NHRC Biratnagar Office including the officials from DCWB, DPO and DAO during a rescue mission

Photo: Biratnagar Office

### Rescued Children

- |                            |                          |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Ram Tamang, Morang      | 8. Rupendra Budha, Humla |
| 2. Laxman Tamang, Morang   | 9. Charan Budha, Humla   |
| 3. Gorkha Budha, Humla     | 10. Ganesh Budha, Humla  |
| 4. Ramraj Budha, Humla     | 11. Mahesh Budha, Humla  |
| 5. Dipendra Airee, Humla   | 12. Manish Budha, Humla  |
| 6. Khagendra Bohara, Humla | 13. Suraj Budha, Humla   |
| 7. Kailash Bohara, Humla   |                          |

Upon the rescue, one of the rescued boys from Gorkha said that Church’s operator Joseph and his wife Loula Marandi made them do various household chores. If they were unable to do the work, the couple beat them frequently, the boy added.

He said, ‘Uncle Joseph loved us while aunty used to beat us so much that we receive bruises and wound on us’. According to him, the children were even deprived of food at times. The children were hungry, covered in rags and looked unhygienic.

Child Rights Officer Sunita Tamrakar shared, ‘In the beginning, they were very afraid of us but they started sobbing and slowly shared their pain’. According to her, even though there was a school nearby, none of them was sent to the school.

Bishwa Raj Pokhrel, Superintendent of Police (SP) of Morang, said, ‘The children were held captive in a small room by Joseph Marandi and his wife Loula Marandi and action will be taken against the guilty for the violation of law.’

## Dispatch Medicines properly: NHRC Report

**KHOTANG:** Khotang is facing problems related to transportation and distribution of medicines. This problem came to the surface after National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) Sub-regional Office (Khotang) paid a visit to District Health Office (DHO) in Khotang and had a discussion on health rights-related issues of people.

Quoting the version of Mani Dhakal, nongazetted staff of DHO, an NHRC monitoring report says that DHO (Khotang) is facing hardship to dispatch medicines to a Health Posts and Sub-health Posts.

According to the report DHO (Khotang) has already reported the Health Service Department about

the seriousness of the problem. However, DHO (Khotang) is yet to receive sufficient budget to transport medicines into the desired locations, the report says.

The report has suggested that medicines should be stored properly. They should be handed out to the needy people at right time, and Health Service Department should act upon these issues seriously, the report adds.

## NHRC organizes Consultation on Supplementary Report on UN CRC

**L**ALITPUR: Former NHRC Member and Spokesperson Gauri Pradhan has said that though Nepal Government has ratified international conventions and other vital human rights instruments, it turns out to be sluggish in preparing relevant laws, policies and mechanisms for necessary implementation and monitoring.

Facilitating his consulting expertise on CRC's Civil Society Supplementary Report at a program jointly organized by the NHRC and CRC Reporting Coalition Nepal, Mr. Pradhan said that dilly dallying in preparing the state report has made us stagnant or rather pushed backward in international level.

He raised his voice saying that the education and awareness is only means to protect and promote the rights of child wherein the national and international instrument provide support to achieve the goal.

At the program, Officiating Secretary Subarna Karmacharya said as the Chair of the program that apart from state party CRC report, supplementary report on CRC is the need of the hour but the supplementary report does not serve as a counter for the state report.

He observed that this was a small

effort made to ensure the rights of the child and this will help UNCCRC (United Nations Committee on the Convention on the Rights of Child) to recommend Government of Nepal for the wider protection and promotion of the child rights in Nepal in the days ahead.

Assistant Professor of the Kathmandu School of Law Kapil Aryal made the presentation on the draft report prepared to submit at UNCCRC. In his brief presentation, he focused on the key areas of child rights violation and pervasive child rights situation of Nepal.

He called on the NHRC Officials and participants to provide feedback and comments on the report lest there could be any shortcomings in the report. He also pointed out some critical existing issues of the child rights in relation to life, health and security. During the presentation, Mr. Aryal portrayed the existing challenges in social recovery and rehabilitation of children victimized with rape, sale and prostitution.

During the program, Human Rights Officer Manju Khatiwada also provided her comments on the report with her presentation. She pointed

out some of the issues which need to be incorporated in the report such as exact definition and age of the child, four principles of child rights and strong legal mechanism for child correction home. She also enumerated on importance of the supplementary report and concluding observation of the committee because NHRC is not submitting any written note or report to the UNCCRC this time. She also urged the government to establish the specific mechanism to implement state obligations.

Yagya Prasad Adhikari, the Head of the Investigation and Planning Division responded to the questions relating to the Commission. He also highlighted the NHRC initiative for the protection and promotion of child rights and also shared the past experiences as to how the Commission in central and regional level collaborating its child rights activity related works with the civil society. He also brought forth various issues and child rights situation in Nepal based on the Commission's investigation and complaints.

The second phase of the discussion program was facilitated by the Human Rights Officer Shree Ram Adhikari. He shared that the NHRC has already given written comments and feedbacks to the Government report earlier on its third, fourth and fifth periodic report to the UNCCRC upon which the discussion will take place at the UN sometime in September, 2014.

During the program, human rights defenders Charan Prasai, Gopal Shiwakoti, former NHRC member Prof. Kapil Shrestha admired the work and function of the Commission for the protection and promotion of child rights and also encouraged NGOs collaboration in CRC Reporting.

The consultation program was participated by more than 80 NGOs actively working in the field of protection and promotion of the child rights in Nepal. Likewise program was also observed by the UNICEF, Save the Children and other donor agencies.



Former NHRC Member Gauri Pradhan, Director Subarna Karmacharya, Assistant Professor Kapil Aryal including the participating stakeholders at a consultation program held on the supplementary report on UNCCRC

Photo: Janak Raj Bhatta, Central Office

## By-election monitored in Kailali

**KAILALI:** National Human Rights Commission (NHRC)/ Regional Office (Dhangadhi) monitored by-election of Constituent Assembly in Kailali Constituency No. 6, which was

held on June 22, 2014. The NHRC monitoring team observed some the scenes of by election.

Despite some efforts made by Election Commission of Nepal, voters' education does not seem to be implemented properly; especially some voters remained unfamiliar with the system about how to use electronic voting machine. According to the monitoring report, some of the voters could cast their votes only after other people assisted them to use the electronic voting machine.

The violation of 'election code of conduct' was seen in the use of vehicles. The report says that some political parties were found to have used vehicles in the Election Day without taking permission from District Administrative Office.

The monitoring team found that contesting parties violated 'election code of conduct' by posting posters over already posted publicity materials.

The monitoring team observes that amidst the widespread violation of 'election code of conduct' by the political parties, the local media in Kailali do not seem to have a record of the incidents of the breach of election code of conduct' and 'journalistic code of conduct' during the periods of pre, during and post election.

The report unveils that the contesting parties used a full range of right to opinion and expression through mass meetings, rallies and other means of expression to influence their voters.

The NHRC monitoring team monitored the human rights situation pre and during the by-election in Kailali.



Senior citizen exercising the adult franchise rights during the CA By-election

Photo: Dhangadhi Office

## Workshop on ESC Rights taps Impetus in Western Districts

**KASKI:** NHRC Regional Office Pokhara organized two day long orientation cum workshop on economic, social and cultural rights in Gorkha and Lamjung District from 27<sup>th</sup> till 28<sup>th</sup> June, 2014.

At the program, the Regional Head Dr. Tikaram Pokhrel presented the paper on the ESC rights. Following the presentation, the representatives of civil society organizations,

human rights defenders, chiefs and representatives of the political parties, government offices such as education department, health department, agricultural including women district development committee provided their comments and suggestions on the working paper of Dr. Pokhrel. The queries and concerns raised by the participants were responded by the chiefs of various district based government offices.

During initial days, the Commission was concentrated to deal with the incidents of the rights violations related to civil and political rights, but ESC rights being the root cause of the incidents of human rights violations, the Commission has deviated its attention towards the realization of ESC rights lately.

The program being the first of its kind held in Lamjung and Gorkha district in western part of the country, it was made known during the program that the prototype program would be taken to other parts of the country as well.

The participants of program comprised the chiefs and representatives of the government offices including District Administration Office, District Education office, District Development Committee Office, Office of the Municipality, Public Health Office, Nepal Police, local level chiefs and representatives of the political parties, civil society, media persons of various media houses among others.



CDO Bed Prasad Kharel of Lamjung district responding to the queries raised by the participants during a program on ESC Rights in Lamjung district

Photo: NHRC Western Regional Office

## 17<sup>th</sup> Int'l Day in Support of Victims of Torture observed

**L**ALITPUR: The Convention against Torture (CAT) Committee Member Sapana Pradhan Malla, unveiling about 154 states as the state party to CAT, said that Nepal as the member state is obliged to submit the report to the Committee within the stipulated timeframe.

Speaking as the Chief Guest of the program organized to mark the **Int'l Day in Support of Victims of Torture** at NHRC on 26<sup>th</sup> June, 2014, she lamented that Nepal has failed to submit the 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> periodic reports to the CAT committee.

She, however, expressing her solidarity with the victims for their pain and suffering, urged the Ministry of Home Affairs to take necessary initiative to turn in the CAT periodic report from the side of the Government.

Similarly, she expressed her concern over the lack of medical test of the detainees prior to taking them under the police custody. She also made strong objection against the act of keeping the detainees in solitary confinement.

Urging the Prison Management Department to be independent, she revealed her observation on wider definition of increasing rate of domestic violence, discriminatory practice and ill social cultures such as the accusation of witchcraft practice.

Meanwhile, she urged the

government to implement the NHRC recommendations sent to the Government from time to time. She also stressed that the act of inflicting torture should be looked at through the perspective of Rome Statute.

At the program, throwing light on the objective and rationale of the program, NHRC Director Subarna Karmacharya said that since the Int'l Day in Support of Victims of Torture being observed at the presence of the CAT Member Ms Pradhan, the occasion bears special significance in international level.

He informed about NHRC facilitating the training programs on human rights to the Nepal Police. The program conducted in close coordination with the Nepal Police as such would not only foster uprightness to eliminate torture but also help minimize impunity in the country, he added.

On the occasion, Head of Investigation and Planning Division Yagya Prasad Adhikari said that the Government of Nepal as a state party to CAT is obligated to prevent inflicting of torture, conduct investigation on the incidents of torture and drag the accused involved in the incidents of torture into justice for legal action.

At the program, the victims of torture and the members of their families narrated their stories and what the state has done so far with regard to their plight endured due to the

incident of torture.

Similarly, Jamuna Poudel from CVICT-Nepal expressed her anxiety about how the victim of torture was defined by the government. She also urged the government to make necessary arrangement for the relief package to the victims of torture.

Citing the brunt of the burden endured by the family members of the torture victims, she raised her concern as to how would-be formed Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) would address the issues of torture.

Stressing on the adoption of zero tolerance policy towards the incidents of torture, she suggested psycho-social support to be provided to the victims of torture.

Bigyan Sharma of NGO Federation said that the implementation of law becomes a subject of mockery while the person is detained on the ground of making comment on social network such as Face book. Can't the person enjoy the right to express in such platform?, he asked.

Representing the Forum Loktantrik Basudev Chaudhari, yet another participant suggested that it's high time that the police administration revamped the way of unscientific approach of investigation in order to evade the unnecessary criticism.

The representative from the Tribhuvan University Teaching Hospital (TUTH) said that the incident of torture leaves long term effect on the minds of the family members specially on their mental health. Adding that psychological scars are usually more devastating than death, awareness between both the torture inflicting and torture receiving persons has become the need of the hour, he observed.

Bharat Poudel, Director of the Prison Management Department said that the prisons in the country are compelled to accommodate the inmates beyond their capacity. Moreover there is a problem of treatment due to the lack of budget. He went on to inform that the department is to coordinate with the ministry up front for the rights



CAT Committee Member Sapana Pradhan Malla, former NHRC Member Subodh Pokhrel at a program held on the occasion of the 17<sup>th</sup> Int'l Day on support of Victims of Torture

Photo: Janak Raj Bhatta, Central Office

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Professor Dr. Rajendra Kumar Rongong, ( third from left ), Curriculum Expert Hari Binod Adhikari and Director Subarna Karmacharya along with other resource person at a workshop entitled human rights education

Photo: Janak Raj Bhatta, Central Office

## Workshops on HRs Education concluded

**LALITPUR:** One of the series of the workshops following the workshops held in Bhaktapur on May 9-10, 2014 and in Kathmandu on May 16-17, 2014 on human rights education concluded in Lalitpur on June 1-2, 2014.

Earlier in Kathmandu, delivering the inaugural speech at the program held in Kathmandu, curriculum development expert Prof. Dr. Rajendra Kumar Rongong, highlighted that Curriculum in simple terms is a means to students develop as a total person who includes their knowledge and skills and attitudes – or their cognitive, motor and affective domains.

Congratulating NHRC for a very important ingredient of the curriculum development – a resource material for teachers and students, Dr. Rongong suggested that first the teachers or the concerned experts should make a thorough survey of the existing courses and find out if there are topics related to human rights. Such study will help to either emphasize the topic as human rights topics, or plug in some related ideas. The other method would be the expansion of the related topic.

Inaugurating the program held at Lalitpur, Acting Secretary Bed Prasad Bhattarai, as the chief guest, said that the need of the hour is that we got to be clear about the integration of human rights in school curriculum before we take it to the classrooms.

Throwing light on the objectives and rationale of the program, Director Subarna Karmacharya the special

guest of the program said that the NHRC has been, in a feat to incorporate human rights education in school curriculum, carrying out a series of advocacy programs including training and workshops among the school level teachers of all three districts viz. Kathmandu, Bhaktapur and Lalitpur in first phase.

The session of the work was entailed with several group assignments among the participants mostly the school teachers from Lalitpur district. The themes of the workshop were based on the role of parents, teachers and schools (inclusive of principal management committee and organizing committee), the role of the government including resource centre, DEO, Regional education Directorate, curriculum development centre, National Centre for Educational Development (NCED) and ministry etc.

On the occasion, shedding light on the rationale of the inclusion of human rights education in school level curriculum, the representative of District Education Office of Lalitpur district said that such holistic initiative of the NHRC is commendable and everyone from his/her own side extend support in this regard.

During all the three workshops, the participants involved themselves in extensive groups discussion and review the curriculum of grades 6 to 10 in order to locate human rights contents on the curriculum. They also had thorough brainstorming on the assessment of human rights related objectives, activities and text books.

On the first day of the workshop, the participants were divided into various groups and involved them in discussion to explore the space for vital human rights education in the social studies textbook and on the second day the participants made their presentation upon the comprehensive discussion on the role of the school, government, teachers and community as a whole with regard to imparting of human rights education to the students of school level.

The session was facilitated by Hari Bonod Adhikakri, a curriculum expert. In the meantime, the queries posed by the participants were answered by the resource persons.

The NHRC Director Subarna Karmacharya facilitated the program on the action plan which would subsequently lead to the incorporation of human rights education in the school curriculum in effective manner. He threw light on the role of parents, teachers and school (Principal, Management committee and the director) thereafter the role of the government (Resource centre, District Education Office, Regional educational directorate, Curriculum Development centre, educational human resource development centre, education department and the ministry) on the whole.

At the program, upon gathering the necessary suggestions and advisory on the incorporation of human rights education in school level curriculum, NHRC is all sent to place the recommendations before the Government of Nepal for the needful.

The participants comprised 85 school teachers from various secondary and higher secondary schools of Bhaktapur, Kathmandu and Lalitpur districts. The program was held at Everest English School, Vyashi, Bhaktapur, Grammar Public Higher Secondary School, Koteswar, Kathmandu and Gyanodaya Bal Batiak Higher Secondary School, Sanepa, Lalitpur respectively with the technical support extended from the Finnish Project.

## HRBA related Programs stressed

**SYANGJA:** Participants of an interaction program have urged the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) to increase the volume of Human Rights Based Approach (HRBA) to development related programs in the days to come.

This was urged at an HRBA related interaction program organized by NHRC Regional Office (Pokhara) in Syangja. The participants' common voice was that HRBA related programs are needed in every sector in a regular interval.

They said in unison that such programs play a vital role on making common understanding on what HRBA is and what it does.

Addressing the participants, Yagya Prasad Ahikari, the Head NHRC Regional Office (Pokhara), said that NHRC aims at creating human rights-friendly environment across the country through such programs. Mr. Ahikari responded to the concerns

and queries raised by the participants accordingly.

The program was attended by 125 participants including teachers, civil servants, human rights defenders, students and general people among others.



Participants at a program held on HRBA to Development in Syangja district

Photo: NHRC Western Regional Office

## State and Non-State Actors trained on HRBA to Development



Resource persons and participants at a training entitled HRBA to Development held in Khotang district

Photo: Khotang Office

**KHOTANG:** NHRC Sub Regional Office, Khotang organized program entitling the workshop on Human Rights Based Approach to Development (HRBA) for the chiefs and representatives of the district based government offices and private sector financial institutions including both government private sector airline companies of Khotang district.

The sole objective of the workshop was to help the chiefs of the district level government offices and the private sector financial institutions adopt the HRBA to development while formulating the development plan, human rights friendly plans and programs and the swift service

delivery that would help protect the human rights of the general citizens.

Chaired by the Khotang based NHRC Sub Regional Head Lok Nath Ghimire, the program was inaugurated by the district judge of Khotang district Iswari Prasad Gautam. Delivering the welcome address, NHRC Director Subarna Kumar Shrestha threw light on the rationale and objective of the program.

On the occasion, District Judge Iswari Prasad Gautam, Chief District Officer Govinda Sapkota, Local Development Officer Yuva Raj Adhikari expressed their views on the adoption of the HRBA to development in public services thereby keeping human rights at the pinnacle.

At the program, the participants comprising chiefs of 33 government offices, private sector financial institutions including both government and private sector airlines participated in the two day long workshop. The program was facilitated by the NHRC Director Subarna Karmacharya, former member of the National Women's Commission and former Professor of Tribhuvan University Amuda Shrestha and the NHRC Regional head Loknath Ghimire. During the program comprehensive discussions were held also on the implementation of the National Human Rights Action Plan (NHRAP) of the Government of Nepal.

Human Rights Based Approach (HRBA) to development supports country analysis, advocate for priorities in the national development framework. HRBA leads to better and more sustainable outcomes by analyzing and addressing the inequalities, discriminatory practices and unjust power relations which are often at the heart of development problems. There are two stakeholder groups in rights-based development—the rights holders (who do not experience full rights) and the duty bearers (the institutions obligated to fulfill the holders' rights). HRBA eventually help maintain the cleavage between the both.

# Interaction on Human Rights in Non-Formal Education program organized

**SINDHULI/RAMECHHAP:** With an objective of enriching the beneficiaries of non formal education program with human rights education and developing and integrating human rights friendly curriculum in non-formal education program, NHRC Nepal organized one day interaction program on Human Rights in Non Formal Education program in Sindhuli and Ramechhap separately in coordination with District Education Office of the respective districts.



Human Rights Officer Samjhana Sharma facilitating the program held on the non-formal education held in Ramechhap district

Photo: NHRC Central Office

The program was participated by multi stakeholders of the districts involved in non formal education and human rights including officials of District Education Office. The program was participated by civil society, journalists, teachers, beneficiaries of non formal education program etc.

At the program held in Sindhuli, the district education officer, Mr Ganesh Prasad Dhakal and under secretary Mr Devi Adhikari jointly presented the scenario of the non-formal education in the district.

Similarly Human Rights officer duo of NHRC Ms Samjhana Sharma and Mr Suresh Malla made their presentation on National Human Rights Commission, NHRC initiatives towards the promotion of HRE and situation of human rights.

Mr Ganesh Dhakal said that the district will be declared as 100 percent literacy within the year. Ms Samjhana Sharma shed light on the objectives of the program. Speaking at the program, Mr Ganesh Dhakal highlighted the importance of the human rights promotion through non formal education program. He further highlighted the role of journalists in promoting human rights through non-formal education program.

Similarly, in the separate interaction program conducted in Ramechhap,



Human Rights Officer Suresh Mall observing while the resource person facilitating the program on non-formal education held in Sindhuli district

Photo: NHRC Central Office

the District Education Officer of Ramechhap Mr Yub Raj Poudel made his presentation on situation of non-formal education program conducted in Ramechhap by the district education office. Human Rights Officer duo of NHRC Ms Samjhana Sharma and Mr Suresh Malla made their presentation on National Human Rights Commission, the initiatives of NHRC towards promotion of HRE and situation of human rights.

Speaking at the program, Mr Yub Raj Poudel highlighted the importance of human rights education in non-formal education program which will help take the issues of human rights to the grassroots level. He further said that NHRC should work in coordination with ministry of education to streamline the issues of human rights in the education sector. He added that non-formal education program remained very fruitful in eradicating illiteracy. At the program, various participants raised their concern about human rights and role of NHRC for the promotion and protection of human rights.

## Good Governance and Protection of Consumer Rights urged

**ARGHAKHANCHI:** The Sub Regional Office of the NHRC, Butwal organized an interaction program on the Role of Stakeholders and Consumer Rights in collaboration with district based Forum for the Protection of Consumer Rights and INSEC. The program was attended by the government offices, human rights NGOs, consumer rights activists, Federation of Nepalese Chambers of Commerce, journalists and lawyers among others.

Most of the participants of the program requested the NHRC to make its voice aloud to protect the rights of the consumers and monitor the local administration and also to stop meddling of the administration in the incidents of involvement of the person in illegal trade.

During the program, CDO Gyan Prasad Dhakal assured that administration would take action against the perpetrators. He also added that the

issue raised by participants are valid and will take legal action against the perpetrators in accordance with law and will establish good governance within the district.

Office Chief of the NHRC Butwal Office Deepak Jung Dhawaj Karki said if the consumers are aware about their rights it will be easy to protect their rights and also requested them to file the complaint for justice in the event of the violation of their rights.

## NHRC Staff trained on Media and Communication Skills



Resource Person facilitating the training entitled *Media & Communication Skills* among the NHRC staff in Lalitpur district

Photo: Mandira Shrestha, Central Office

**LALITPUR:** NHRC organized a three day training entitled “Media and Communication Skills” for its staff members effecting from 15-17<sup>th</sup> June, 2014.

Having mainstream media as well as social media as the pivotal role player in shaping public opinion on pressing human rights issues, the program aimed at equipping the NHRC central and regional level staff members with media and communication related knowledge and skills.

Blended with all basic skills needed

for pro-active ways to deal with all branches of media and enhance their in-depth knowledge on how the print and broadcast media operate, the participants learnt camera handling, editing, newsroom skills, documentary and short video stories making, social media usage, media advocacy, anchoring and other skills related to media and communication.

At the program, Editor of Annapurna National Daily Gunaraj Luitel, Associate Editor of Republica National Daily Somesh Verma, IFJ South Asia Coordinator Ujjwal Acharya, Senior Documentary and Film Maker

Brazesh Khanal, NTV News Presenter Manisha Ghimire, Cameraperson Hari Maharjan, Editor Arun Sharma along with NHRC Secretary Bed Bhattarai, Director Subarna Karmacharya and SCNHRC NPM Sadhana Ghimire shared their experiences regarding media and communication skills and shared some tips and techniques of media handling and usage.

The program was facilitated by NHRC HR Assistant Janak Raj Bhatta and SCNHRC Media Consultant Sahajman Shrestha.



Participants during the practical session of the training held in Lalitpur

Photo: Janak Raj Bhatta, Central Office

*Continued from page 1...*  
Nepal makes strides

At the program, 8 NHRC officials presented their status report papers on 8 different treaties: Deputy Director Yagya Adhikari on ICESCR, HROs Badri Subedi on CERD, HRO Uma Joshi on CRPD, HRO Shyam Babu Kafle on CAT, HRO Nitu Gartaula on CEDAW, HRO Manju Khatiwada on CRC and HROs Basudev Bajagain and Surya Deuja on ICCPR and ILO 169. After the presentation of the stipulated status report papers, NHRC officials thoroughly discussed on the papers with concerned stakeholders and also included the valuable comments on the related papers.

The stakeholders made their valuable participation representing the Prime Minister's Office, Home Ministry, Nepal Police (Human Rights Cell), National Dalit Commission, *Adibasi*

*Janajati* Uthan Rastriya Pratisthan, INSEC, National Federation of Disabled Nepal and many other stakeholders. Painting the clear picture about the role of their organizations, the participants not only participated actively in the program, but also added the inadvertently missing parts in the papers.

During the program, the participants had comprehensive discussion on the aspects of key HR Treaties together with difficulties and gaps in implementation of those treaties.

NHRC Officiating Secretary Bed Prasad Bhattarai also actively took part in the group works and presentations regarding the papers along with Director Subarna Karmacharya and SCNHRC NPM Sadhana Ghimire.

The program, on the whole, advised NHRC to embark upon taking action

regarding effective implementation of the treaties to which Nepal is a party. NHRC officials, however, admitted the lack of data and research regarding every treaty and likewise NHRC has started the initiation with regard to the related research programs.

As envisaged, therefore, the workshop decided to include valuable comments on the process of preparing final reports to be submitted and also advised NHRC to make concerted effort through consultations and case studies for the improvisation of the draft papers. The program ended with a high energy motivation to work together for the better implementation of all international HR treaties in every sectors in the days to come.

# Dannish Ambassador and UN Country Director at NHRC Dhangadhi Office

**KAILALI:** Danish Ambassador Mr. Kristen Geelan and the UNDP Country Director Ms. Shoko Noda paid their visit to the NHRC Regional Dhangadhi on June 3 and 4, 2014.

During their short visit to the Commission, separate discussions were held with Danish Ambassador Kristen Geelan and UN Country Director Shoko Noda in which they were informed about the regional level human rights situation, NHRC's role for the protection and promotion of human rights and the perennial problems lying ahead of the Commission.

At the outset, Human Rights Officer Mohandev Joshi made his brief presentation on the pertinent human rights issues like caste discrimination, Chowpadi (an act of keeping the girl child in solitary confinement during her first menstrual cycle) practiced mostly in far western region of Nepal, religious offering of young girls, domestic violence, child marriage, poverty, lack of health services and education etc. He concluded his presentation stating that dominance



UNDP-Nepal Country Director Shoko Noda, local stakeholder representatives including the NHRC staff at a program held in NHRC Dhangadhi Office

Photo: Dhangadhi Office

of these issues has slightly diminished over the years.

At the program, the president of Ekal Mahila Samaj Kailai Bedhavasti (Single women group), INSEC officials, Krishna BK of Regional Office Dhangadi, Chiefs and Representatives of civil society organizations, Bir Bahadur Jethara - President of Regional Peace Committee Kailalia, Joharlal Chaudhary - Former Vice Chair of Nepal Bar Association and Dalit Activist Savitri Ghimire expressed their gratitude for the presence of Human Rights Commission in the region. Even in the absence of NHRC officials and other necessary resources,

Former CA Member Ek Raj Bhandari said that internal law should be revamped in accordance with the objective set forth in the CAT adopted in 1984 including the Compensation Act brought in 2053 and the Army Act-2063.

Mr Shiva Pokharel, the representative from Lalitpur District Court said that no lawsuit has been filed against the torture case. With the conventional practice "First detain then listen" should be changed into "First listen and then detain."

Likewise, he lamented that since the criminals taking shelter at the helms of politics, state of impunity is becoming worse in an alarming way. Informing

occurrence of the incidents of human rights cases have been investigated and monitored regularly and effectively, it was revealed during the meeting.

The Ambassador of Denmark said that Denmark has always extended support to Nepal in the protection and promotion of human rights and will continue to do so. Ambassador Kristen Geelan was present along with Danish Human Rights Representative Mie Roesdala, Danish Embassy's first secretary Annie, and Mukunda Kattel.

Ms Shoko Noda, the Country Director of United Nations Development Program expressed her appreciation for the NHRC's accomplishment.

At the program, Human Rights Officers Mohandev Joshi, Pawan Kumar Bhatta and Jhakar Rawal elaborated on the complications in investigating and monitoring human rights in this area.

UNDP's Tek Tamata, Bal Krishna Sharma, and Dhan Bahadur Chand were also present in the program.

about the victim protection centre being established in the Appellate Court, he also opined about the universal jurisdiction being ever ready to catch hold of the criminals at large.

United Nations Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, 1984 and the Article 26 of the 2007 Interim Constitution of Nepal guarantees the right against torture.

Also, the Commission has already recommended to the Government of Nepal for the ratification of the Optional Protocol to Convention against Torture which will make monitoring and implementation mechanisms stronger and protect against human rights violation.

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*17<sup>th</sup> Int'l Day in Support*

of prisoners to develop very much essential control mechanism.

Dipendra Poudel of the Ministry of Home Affairs said that the culture of evading from responsibilities is something that makes things go worse. He stated that the Police Department has been issued strong directives with regard to refraining from inflicting torture to the suspects and detainees.

Citing the example of the incidents of custodial torture decreasing from 22 to 16, he opined that the government must ratify the optional protocol to CAT at the earliest.

## Extensive Consultation a must on the Bill related to Contempt of Court

LALITPUR: the NHRC, issuing a press release, has expressed serious concern towards the criticism including worries expressed by various sectors of the country on the recently tabled bill drafted to deal with contempt of court.

The press release says that all the concerned parties including the state agencies must be serious about the issue as the right to information and freedom of expression being one of the people's fundamental rights.

Since the proposed bill is associated with dignity of judiciary and the freedom of expression of the citizens, the Commission urges the concerned stakeholders to advance the process related to the Bill in a way that it does not contravene the international standard of freedom of expression of the citizens, the press release further reads.

## Social Mobilizers equipped with HR Tools



Social mobilizers attending a program on HR tools held in Mahendranagar district of Far Western Region

Photo: Dhangadhi Office

MAHENDRANAGAR: NHRC Regional Office, Dhangadhi organized two day human rights training for the social mobilizer at Mahendranagar. The program was facilitated by

## UK BAR Pays Goodwill Visit to NHRC

LALITPUR: UK Bar Human Rights Committee paid a brief goodwill visit to NHRC. A meeting was organized at NHRC with the UK BAR delegation led by Ms. Kristy Brimelow, the Chair Bar Human Rights Committee including Naina Patel, Director of Education and Training and Lawyer Cortenay Barklem. Representing NHRC, Deputy Director and Head of the Investigation and Planning Division Yagya Prasad Adhikari together with Human Rights Officer of the International Desk Shree Ram Adhikari attended the program.

During the program, both organizations talked about the mutual cooperation and collaboration for the protection and promotion of human rights of the Nepali citizens and explored the ideas accordingly to work jointly in future for the wider protection and promotion of human rights.

Ms. Brimelow highlighted the objective of the visit and expressed keen interest to work with NHRC. The Dy. Director Adhikari highlighted the NHRC activities and efforts made to ensure due realization of human rights of the denizens. Similarly, Human Rights Officer Shree Ram Adhikari explored few ideas as to how UK Bar and NHRC can tie up together for the protection and promotion of human rights in the days to come.

Regional Chief Dr. Tikaram Pokharel. The program specially imparted knowledge and skills about human rights, the rights of the ethnic minority and indigenous including the role and duties of the social mobilizer for the protection and promotion of human rights together with other subjects of the human rights. A total of 18 females and 12 males participated in the program. The participants of the program also



NHRC Head of Investigation and Planning Division Yagya P Adhikari and HRO Shree Ram Adhikari at a meeting held with the UK Bar delegates

Photo: Janak Raj Bhatta, Central Office

At a time when doubt is learnt to have been looming large with the longstanding vacuum in the Commission due to no sign of the appointment of the Commissioners seen as yet, there could be possible difficulties in having much welcomed collaboration.

HRO Shree Ram Adhikari, however, pointed out that both the countries have common law system and therefore it will be an opportunity to work together for the protection and promotion of the human rights in Nepal.

Similarly, Ms. Patel shared the past experiences while working in Nepal and Dy- Director Adhikari commended the work of the UK Bar Human Rights Committee. Both the delegations will have more discussion on pertinent human rights issues and agendas once the Commissioners are appointed, Mr. Adhikari speculated

discussed about the child rights, right to education and right to equality. The participants appreciated NHRC Regional Officer initiative to build up the capacity of the social mobilizers.

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e-Newsletter publication supported by SCNHRC/ UNDP Project

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