

Training for Women's Rights and Environment Justice Groups on Municipal Level Participatory Planning and Budgeting Process



20, 21 & 22 May 2019

TEWA Centre, Lalitpur, Nepal



Objective:

The main objective of the training was to familiarize participants with the planning cycle and budget preparation process at Ward and Municipality levels, functioning of local government level executives including the provision of six sectoral committees and space of CSOs in local governance. The objective was achieved through presentations, group works, case simulations and discussions.

Participants:

A total of 26 women representatives from 10 grassroots organizations participated in the training. They represented Ojaswee Women's Development Centre, Pragatisheel Women's Agricultural Group, Karambot Agricultural Group, Maiti Manch Dolakha and Saraswati Women's Cooperatives and saving directly involved in BE-supported project. Three participants each from these five groups and two each from TEWA grantee partner organisations from five other municipalities and rural municipalities attended the training. All the participants were women working in gender and environmental issues in their respective municipalities.

Sessions:

The three- day training was composed of sessions on environmental issues in Nepal; introduction to climate change and its impact in Nepal; gender and climate change; sustainable development goals; environmental issues in federal Nepal; local government level planning and budgeting process; and roles and responsibilities of elected representatives. At the end of the training participants from each municipality prepared one proposal each for submission to the ward committees seeking their inclusion in the local government fiscal plans.

Day 1

Opening session:

Pradeep Bhattarai, Programme Officer of PRC, while welcoming the participants and guests, highlighted the importance of the training in increasing participants' understanding of various aspects of CC, federal structure and women's role in pushing for integration of gender and climate considerations in municipal level planning and budgeting. Pradeep then called on two representatives from TEWA and PRC programme Director to address the participants.

Nirmala KC, President, TEWA

She informed the participants that in its 24 years long service to Nepalese women, TEWA has succeeded in reach out to over 14,000 women from different parts of the country. With TEWA's support they have been able to organize, grow as organizations, and start up livelihood and income generating activities. Underlining the timeliness of the training in the present context of Nepal, she stressed the importance of grassroots women's groups' engagement in municipal level planning and budgeting process for making them gender and environmental friendly. She also asked the participants to share the knowledge they gain from the training to their colleagues back in their communities.

Urmila Shrestha, Executive Director, TEWA

She spoke about how TEWA grants have supported grassroots women's groups to build their capacity and work for improving their livelihoods. She also thanked PRC for collaborating with TEWA for the awareness and capacity building of women's groups, which are also TEWA grantee partners on issues of climate change and environmental conservation. She expressed the hope that the participants will be familiar with the local government level planning and budget making process, and contribute to making the plans and budget environment and gender-responsive.

Prabin M. Singh, Program Director, PRC

He informed the participants that PRC is working with wider stakeholders at national level on climate change, DRR and resilience, environmental sustainability, and gender and social inclusion and governance as cross cutting issues. He also spoke about effective collaboration among PRC, TEWA and HIMAWANTI in increasing the capacity of women on environment conservation and addressing impacts of climate change. The training is also a part of the collaboration, which has been made possible by Both Ends' support, he said.

Training Sessions:

Training objective and participants' introduction: Initiating the technical sessions, moderator of the programme and PRC PO Pradeep facilitated introduction of the participants that required each of them picking up a piece of paper with a word written on it from a basket and finding another participant with a piece of paper bearing a word

which made sense when put together. When all participants found their 'match', they interviewed each other quickly and introduced each other. This helped them know each other, mix up, shed inhibitions and open up.



Expectations Collection: Bed Prasad Sapkota, resource person for the technical sessions, asked each participant to note down her expectation on a Meta card. Majority of the participations wanted to learn about environmental and climate change issues in Nepal, local level planning and budgeting process, and how they can engage in the process in their communities.

Pre-Test: Earlier at the outset of the training, the resource person had conducted a pre-test based on a simple multiple choice questionnaire to assess the participants' level of knowledge and understanding of the training themes and to compare the outcomes with the results of a post-test conducted at the end of the training.

Introduction of Training Agenda: The resource person shared the agenda for three days, which were as follows:

- Environmental and climate change status in Nepal.
- Current structure of federal democratic republic of Nepal.
- Functions of federal, provincial and local governments.
- Steps of planning and budgeting process at local government level.
- Preparation of proposals on making local level plans climate and gender smart.

Session 1: Environmental Issues at Municipality Level

Pradeep facilitated this session encouraging the participants to put forward any common problems (preferably, environment related) existing in their communities with the objective of helping them to identify environmental problems and distinguish between climate-induced and other problems.

Participants from each municipality discussed and listed out environmental problems facing their respective municipality. Most of them came up with solid waste management, air pollution and water resources depletion as a common problem in every municipality. It could be concluded that Manthali Municipality is facing the problem of drought, waste management and flooding, while Bhimeshwor municipality is struggling to cope with problems emanating from lack of proper management of solid waste, landslides, deforestation and unplanned urbanization. Bhethanchowk and Kageshwori Monahara rural/municipalities are witnessing excessive use of pesticides, flooding, and water pollution as major environmental problems.

Session 2: Environment Conservation/Climate Change Related Roles and Responsibility of Local Government

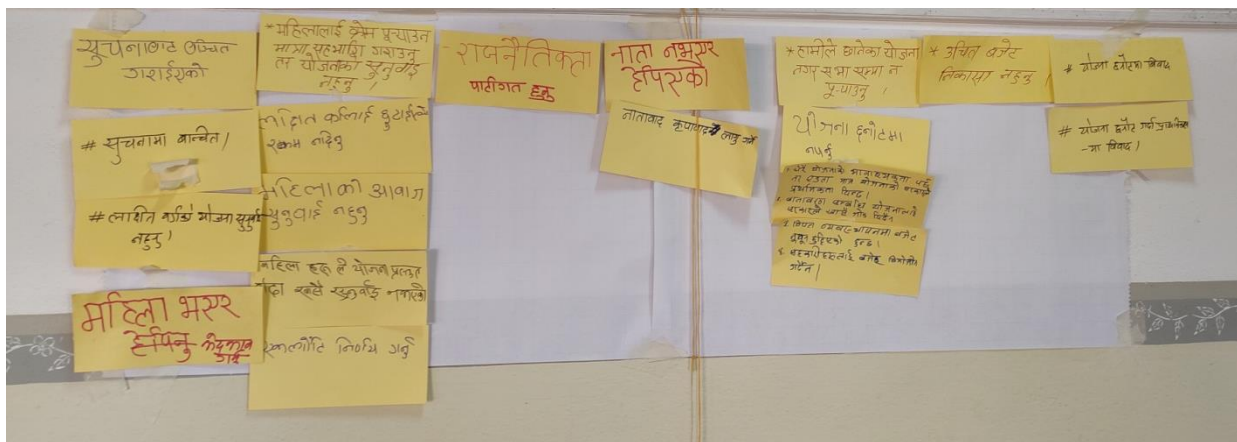


PRC Programme Director Prabin made a presentation on environment related mandate of local governments as laid out in the Constitution of Nepal and Local Government Operation Act. They are mandated to work in the areas of environmental and biodiversity conservation, disaster management, watershed and wildlife conservation, and promotion of hydroelectricity and renewable energy. In line with this mandate, he

said the municipal plans and budget need to prioritize and finance adaptation and mitigation actions. He also shed light on the importance of women’s involvement in municipal planning and budgeting process to make them gender and climate smart.

Session 3: Preparation and Implementation of Plan and Budget at Municipality Level

Resource person Bed Prasad Sapkota, while elaborating on the steps of local government budgeting and planning process, familiarized the participants with annual and periodic plans. Periodic plans are of longer term nature, while annual plans are short term or for a year and designed to achieve the objectives of periodic plans. Whether it be periodic or annual plan, it is required to be developed in a transparent and participatory manner. Before dwelling on the participatory planning and budget formulation process, he asked the participants whether any of them have been involved in local government level planning and budgeting process. Majority of them answered in the negative. A brief group discussion on the obstacles to public engagement in planning and budgeting process followed. The obstacles included:



- Lack of access to proper information;
- Discrimination against women that, among other things, denies their right to participation;
- Some of the local governments limit women’s participation to tokenism, hence issues raised by women usually go unheeded;
- Lack of required number and dignified status of women in political parties;
- Nepotism and favouritism a big obstacle.
- Less priority to the women’s issues;

- Municipalities prefer to avoid public consultations for preparation of their plans and budget; less priority to most needy target groups during budget and plan preparation.

Day 2

The second day of the training started with some of the participants reviewing and reflecting on the previous day's sessions.

Session 4: Participatory Plan and Budget Making Process at Local Government Level

This session focussed on the eight steps and timeframe of plan and budget formulation process (given below) at the municipality level. Before, talking the participants through the steps, the resource person said a participatory process requires that all sections of the municipality population (eg: women, children, youth, political party representatives, social activists, marginalized groups, people representing different cultures, teachers, journalists, and indigenous people) take part and have a say in the process.

Steps	Steps of plan and budget formulations	Time frame
8 th	Publication of plans and budget	By Shrawan 15
7 th	Approval from rural/municipality council	By end of Asar
6 th	Submission to rural/municipality council	By Asar 10
5 th	Approval from meeting of executive council	By Asar 5
4 th	Integrated budget and plan formulation	By end of Jestha
3 rd	Plans/projects prioritization and formulation at ward level	By Jestha 15
2 nd	Submission of budget source forecast and budget ceiling to Ward committee and sectoral section	By Baishak 15
1 st	Budget source forecast and budget ceiling determination	By Baishak 10

Further elaborating on the steps, he stressed the importance of 2nd and 3rd steps as these are the key occasions in which the community people and/or groups can submit their proposals/plans based on their felt needs for inclusion in the integrated plan and budget. As consultations were to take place at Ward level for collecting public inputs, while the training was under way, the resource person stressed the need for the

participants to fix meetings with ward chairpersons, submit their proposals or actively participate in the community level input collection gatherings and ensure that their plans and proposals are accepted. Sharing his previous experience, participant from Ilam **Sanu Das** said the Ward committee completed changed the proposal her team had submitted. Another participant from **Nagarjun municipality** shared that as local representatives mainly focus on physical infrastructure they do not give due consideration to environmental issues.



Session 5: Understanding Climate Change and Its Impacts

Prabin familiarized the participants with basics of climate change, its impacts in Nepal, national and international initiatives, and adaptation and mitigation measures for addressing impact of climate change. He also made the participants aware of the difference between 'weather' and 'climate'. He said weather is the condition of the atmosphere over a short period of time and climate is the average of the condition of weather over relatively long periods of time. He briefly talked about the natural and man-made Green House Effect and sources of Green House Gases. Nepal is one of the countries contributing the least (0.027%) to global GHG emissions. However, it is experiencing increased impacts of climate change. Using examples and illustrations, he highlighted some of the proven impacts in Nepal including glacial lake outburst flood, increase in climate induced disasters, lower crop yield, loss of biodiversity and effects on human health. He also talked the participants through some of the adaptation and mitigation actions taken in Nepal to address the impacts of climate change. He shared some examples of adaptation and mitigation measures that can be replicated by participants in their communities. He advised the participants to include such

adaptation measures in their proposals that they were going to prepare towards the end of the training.

Session 6: Plans Formulation by Women's Groups

In this session, the participants learned basic steps of preparing proposals and issues to consider in the proposals. The key steps the resource person suggested included identification of problems, prioritization of the problems, setting of objectives, selection of activities, ensuring sustainability of the project, budget preparation and finalization of the proposal.

Group Work for Identification of Problems



The participants divided in six groups, identified the main environmental problems they are facing in their localities and after some discussion identified solutions to the problems. The problems they identified mainly included lack of proper management of solid waste, depletion of water resources, deforestation, excessive use of pesticides in agriculture, increasing diseases and pests in agriculture and increasing disasters such as flood and landslides. Based on the above problems, they did a role play on how to lobby the Ward/ Municipalities for allocating budget for addressing such problems. Some of the participants played the role of Mayor, Deputy Mayor, Ward Chairperson and some acted as community representatives. This session greatly helped them get the idea of lobbying and negotiating with the municipality officials.

Session 7: Preparation of Proposal

All 10 organizations attending the training were asked to discuss and prepare proposals to submit to during ward consultations back in their communities right after they

return home. Each of the 10 groups discussed and prepared their proposals as following: was:

S.N	Group/Municipality	Identified issues	Title of the proposal
1	Kageshwori Manahara Municipality	Flood	Plantation Programme along the Mahadev river.
2	Didibahini Mahila Krishi Sahakari Sastha/Jawalamukhi Rural Municipality	Excessive use of pesticides in agriculture	Training on organic farming to women's groups.
3	Shree Saraswati Nari Chetana Saving and Cooperatives Limited/Bhethanchowk Rural Municipality	Unmanaged Solid Waste	To initiate waste segregation (disposable/non-disposable) and waste management in the rural municipality.
4	Sahayatri Nepal / Illam	Water sources depletion	Conservation of <i>Patpate</i> water sources.
5	Maiti Manch Dolakha/Bhemishwor Municipality	Unmanaged solid waste	Solid waste management and municipal sanitation programme
6	Karambot Krishak Mahila Samuha/Manthali Municipality	Increasing drought and decreasing agriculture production	Water conservation and irrigation management in Karambot.
7	Janajagarad Mahila Samuha	Unmanaged Solid Waste	Solid waste management in specific area
8	Ojaswee Mahila Bikash Samuha/Nagarjun Municipality	Increasing plastic use	Initiative to build plastic free Ward
9	Bikash ko lagi Sakti Nepal/KMC	Unmanaged Solid Waste	Solid waste management awareness programme
10	Shrijanshil Mahila Samaj Nepal/Tarkeshwor Municipality	River Pollution	Awareness and river cleaning programme

Each group presented its proposal, collected feedback from other groups and based on that finalized the proposals.

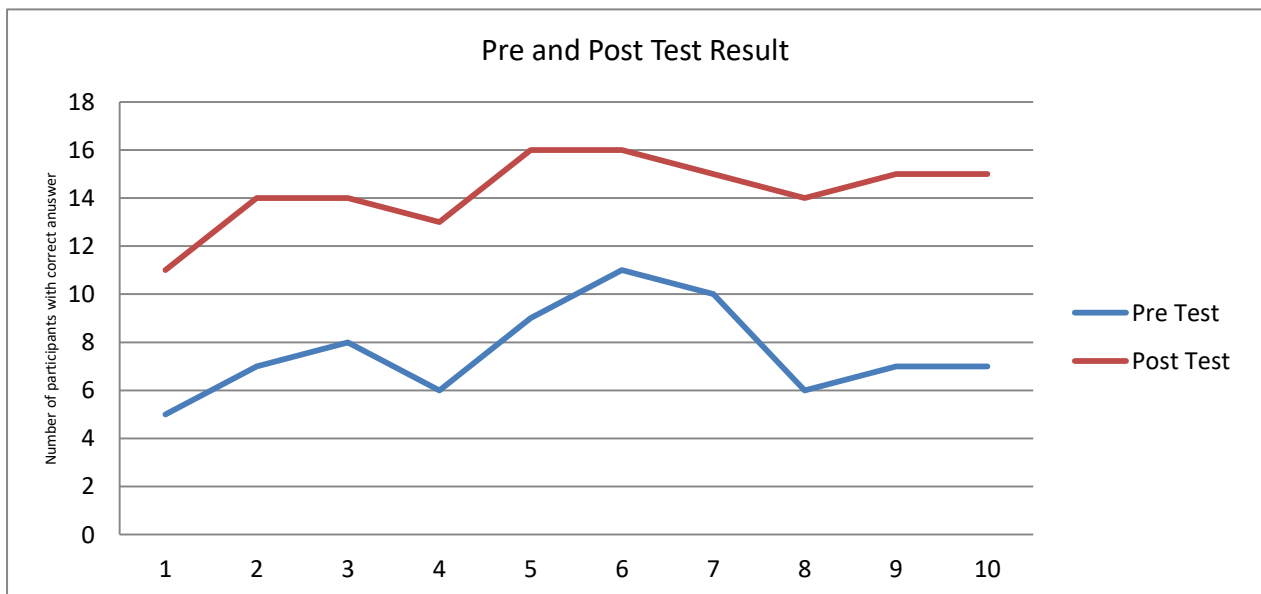
Day 3

The third day of the training started with the review of the previous day. Participants themselves briefly reviewed the sessions of the second day and also shared their learning.

Session 8: Making Plans Gender and Climate Friendly

After reviewing the proposals developed by the participants, the resource person drew their attention to the need for making their plans gender and climate friendly and provided some tips for improving their proposals accordingly. He also asked them to relate their plans and activities with SDG goals 6, 13, 15.

Post-test: The participants once again filled in the same questionnaire used in the pre-test towards the end of the training. An analysis of their scores in the tests presented the following picture, which is very encouraging in terms of their increased understanding and knowledge after the training.



Closing Session:



Binay Dhital, Advisor of PRC appreciated the women's active participation and engagement, and expressed the hope that they will share their learning and contribute to bringing about positive impacts in their society. Urmila Shrestha from TEWA thanked the trainers, resources person and all participants for making the training a success. Highlighting the importance of women's engagement in environmental conservation, she expressed the hope that the training will become a landmark in the participants' journey to environmental conservation. She also appreciated PRC and Both ENDS for thinking of and organizing the training.

Sri Krishna Basnet, Chairperson of PRC congratulated all participants on their successful completion of the training. He further assured that PRC will continue its support for capacity building of the women's groups and provide technical support in the days to come.

The training concluded with all the participants receiving certificates of participation in the training.



"Being an elected woman member in the municipality, I am already quite familiar with municipal budget and plans formulation process. But, including gender and climate change in the process was new to me. This training has been an eye opener for me. Now, when I am back to my municipality I will start to discuss and advocate for making our municipality plans and budget gender and climate friendly. I will also encourage women from my community to engage and work for environmental conservation."

Ms. Juna Rana Magar, Didibahini Mahila Krishi Sahakari Sastha, Dhading

Follow Up of the Training:

As a follow on to the training the women's groups directly involved in PRC's BE-supported project decided to celebrate the World Environment Day 2019, for which PRC committed to supporting their activities financially.

Ojaswee Women's Development Centre celebrated the day by organizing a discussion on environment issues affecting the municipality. In the event attended by the municipality officials, among others, they discussed ways to reduce air pollution.

Maiti Manch Dolakha organized a tree plantation and municipality clean-up programme marking the environment day. They planted about 50 saplings along the road side. They also organized an awareness programme engaging representatives from the municipality, ward, different women's groups and concerned stakeholders.

Shree Saraswati Nari Chetana Kendra of Bhethanchowk Rural Municipality organized a discussion programme at ward number 4 of the municipality. The participants of the training themselves organized a gathering of the group members and other community people in general and shared with them the knowledge gained from the training. They discussed climate change, local level budget and planning process and environmental issues existing in the municipality and how they can address those problems.

Karambot Women's Agricultural Group organized awareness programme and plantation activities engaging the group members and other community people in Manthali Municipality.

Pragatisheel Women's Organization organized a discussion programme in Kageshwori Monahara Municipality on environmental issues facing the municipality. They discussed issues of climate change and its impacts, air pollution, solid waste management and biodiversity conservation etc.

Annex 1: List of Participants

S. N	Participant Name	Designation	Organization	Municipality/District
1	Parbati Khadka	President	Maiti Manch	Bhimeshwor
2	Indira Chaulagain	Secretary	Dolakha	Municipality/ Dolakha
3	Sarada Shrestha	Co-coordinator	Shree Saraswoti	Bethanchowk
4	Durga Dahal	Management Committee Member	Nari Chetana Rin	Rural
5	Manisha Shrestha	Member	Tatha Bachat Sahakari Sanstha Ltd.	Municipality/Kavre
6	Ganga Siva	President	Sahayatra Nepal	Illam
7	Sanu Das	Secretary		
8	Sadhana Thapa	Team Leader	Jana Jagaran Mahila	Bardiya
9	Chandra Malla	Secretary	Sang	
10	Susma Regmi	President	Srijansil Mahila	Kathmandu
11	Hima Bhandari	Member	Samaj	
12	Chameli Ghimire	Member		
13	Juna Rana	Founding President	Didi Bahini Mahila	Dhading
14	Sarmila Shrestha	Coordinator	Krishi Sahakari Sanstha Ltd.	
15	Bhava laxmi Shrestha	Secretary	Bikash Ko Lagi	Kathmandu
16	Nilam rai	Vice President	Shanti Abhiyan	
17	Binita Bhandari	Member	Ojaswee Mahila	Nagarjun
18	Jwala Basnet	Treasure	Samuha	Municipality/Kath mandu
19	Bimala Budhathoki	Member		
20	Padam Kumari Shrestha	President	Karambot Krishak Mahila Samuha	Manthali Municipality/Ram

21	Bipana Khadka	Secretary		echhap
22	Balkumari Magar	Treasure		
23	Sarita Shrestha	Focal person	Himawanti Ramechhap	
24	Santi Baral		Pragatisheel Mahila	Kageshworimanah
25	Anita Chaulagai		Bahuudeshya	ara
26	Saraswati Nepal		Krishak Samuha	Municipality/Kath mandu
Resource Persons and Organizers:				
27	Pradeep Bhattarai	Programme Officer		Kathmandu
28	Prabin Man Singh	Programme Director		Kathmandu
29	SriKrishna Basnet	Chairperson	Prakriti Resources	Kathmandu
30	Smriti Maharjan	Admin and Finance Officer	Centre (PRC)	Kathmandu
31	Sarika Rai	Operation Director		Kathmandu
32	Merina Khadka	Research Assistant		Kathmandu
33	Binay Dhital	Advisor		Kathmandu
34	Bed Prasad Sapkota	Facilitator/ Resources Person		Bhaktapur
35	Anuja Shrestha	Grant Making Manager	TEWA	Lalitpur
36	Nirmala K.C	President	TEWA	Lalitpur
37	Ching Lama Sherpa	Vice-President	TEWA	Lalitpur
38	Urmila Shrestha	ED	TEWA	Lalitpur
39	Mina Phulara	Member	HIMAWANTI	Lalitpur
40	Prachan Bhujel	Photographer		Kathmandu