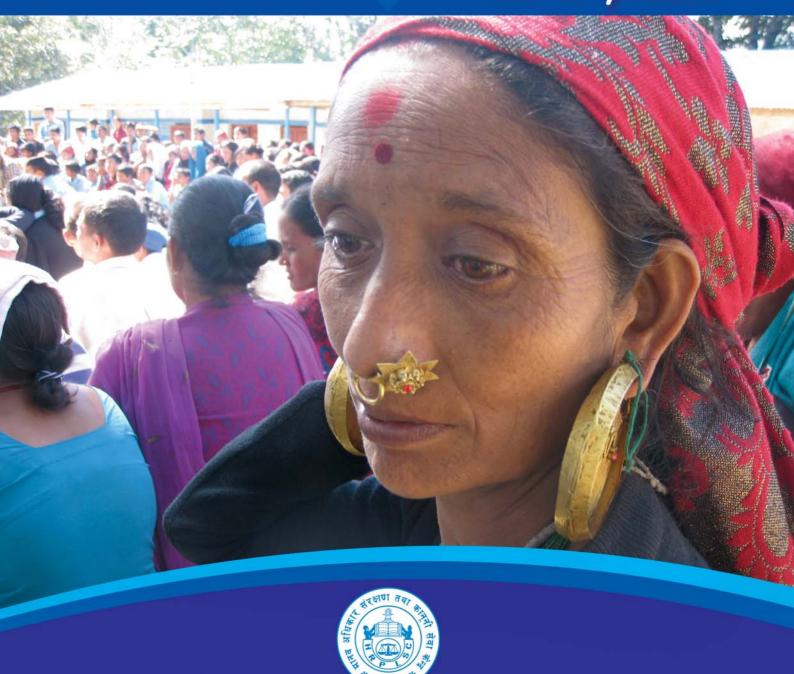
# Some SUCCESS STORIES

at a Glance



**Human Rights Protection and Legal Service Centre (HRPLSC)** 

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BUILDING LOCAL CAPACITY TO PROMOTE THE RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS



#### **Human Rights Protection and Legal Service Centre (HRPLSC)**

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**Supported By:** 



#### **Foreword**

Human Rights Protection and Legal Services Centre (HRPLSC) is a regional NGO established in 2000 to mitigate the immediate effect of armed conflict from a human rights perspective, and work towards constructive conflict transformation in the long-run. Based in Rukum, HRPLSC has been working in the area of human rights protection and promotion through awareness-building activities, advocacy campaign and community mobilization. It works in partnership with youth clubs, media and human rights networks in Rapti zone.

HRPLSC has been implementing Building Local Capacity to Promote the Respect for Human Rights (BLCPHR) programme in Rukum, Rolpa, Salyan, Pyuthan and Dang districts of Rapti zone with the support of ESP/RDIF since 2010. The main objective of this programme is to establish peace through protection and promotion of human rights. This programme aims to make life of people in Rapti zone independent and free of, terror as well as dignified.. This programme promotes the involvement of local stakeholders, teachers and youth clubs in protection and promotion of human right by strengthening their capacity. This is expected to to maintain lasting peace and thereby make life of the local people independent, dignified and peaceful.

The HRPSLC has been implementing the two-year project and thereby helping create an environment conducive to reducing human rights violations and, creating an active pool of youth's networks and human rights defenders.

This compilation of some successful case studies is a learning of the BLCPHR project. We sincerely hope that the experience and lessons learnt generated by this project would be useful to other likeminded organizations in Nepal.

Finally, I extend my sincere thanks and congratulations to all our stakeholders, the communities, human rights defenders, youth club members, media persons and government line agencies who contributed to the successful implementation of the project. My heartfelt thanks to RDIF team whose generous funding support and their regular programmatic directions proved significant in achieving the success in the project.

Lalit Budha Magar

Chairperson HRPLSC

#### **Acknowledgement**

It is our great pleasure to share the compilation of successful cases studies of one of our projects the Building Local Capacity to Promote Respect for Human Rights (BLCPHR). The goal of the project is to enable the people of Rapti zone to live in an independent, fearless and peaceful environment where all human rights are respected.

This collection of case studies is the reflection of the two years of the BLCPHR project initiatives from January 2010 to November 2011 in 50 VDCs of five districts in Rapti zone. The Project that HRPLSC implemented has been able to contribute considerably to the protection and promotion of human rights and peace building measures; establishing youth networks at the five districts to defend human rights and lobby for meaningful conclusion of the peace process. In this process, the media proved to become an effective tool for HRPSLC to collect, gather as well as to disseminate the required information.

However, there are still number of emerging issues in the current social and political context of Rapti zone that are very important to address to ensure promotion and protection of human rights and contribute to the peace building process. They include human rights peace education program for school students and incorporating it in the school curriculum in a formal way. This will bring direct benefit to the students. There is need to mobilize the media at the local level to make the local governance accountable and garner support for the marginalized groups of people. Similarly, there is a strong need of strengthening district-level human right network to monitor, undergo fact findings, carry out publication and advocacy against cases of human rights violations taking place at the local level. Likewise, the youths in Rapti zone have come together through a network, as at this hour it is very important to strengthen the youth power and mobilize them for promotion of peace and support for human rights awareness among the communities.

I sincerely acknowledge that the credit for the achievement of BLCPHR project largely goes to the project staff, community, human rights defenders, youth networks, local FM stations/media, human rights class facilitators and teachers who worked hard with full commitment. Besides, key stakeholders at district such as the District Administration Offices, DDCs, VDCs and political parties played a key role in contributing to the success of the project. I would also like to acknowledge the support of the Executive Committee of HRPLSC and RDIF regional and national staffs whose continuous strategic directions and support has been instrumental in achieving the success.

Top Bahadur Khadka

Top Bles

Executive Chief, HRPLSC



## The Relief Process was Facilitated After Resolution of Inter-conflict within the LPC

The Ministry of Peace and Reconstruction has formed Local Peace Committees (LPCs) at all the 75 districts of the country. The LPCs were formed to maintain peace and support the conflict victims at the local level. Their role is to bring together political parties, NGOs, and relevant local government agencies to prevent potential conflict, resolve them as they arise, and promote peace in the district. The Ministry of Peace and Reconstruction has recruited 75 district officers to work as peace committee secretaries in each of the districts.

In the districts of Rapti zone, HRPSLC has been jointly organizing programs with LPC. It had organized interactions programs, peace day's celebrations, human rights meetings etc in the districts under Rapti zone. The HRPSLC has supported in regularize the meeting of LPC in Salyan district, raised the voice of the conflict victims and facilitated to form the VDC level peace committees in Pyuthan district.

In Salyan district, the HRPSLC coordinated

with LPC members. But it was found that even after the 3 years of formation of local peace committee in the district, it failed to function properly due to differences among the committee members while selecting coordinator of the peace committee. The 11 members of taskforce committee in the local peace committee could not carry out their respective functions properly in the district. In this situation, the HRPLSC arranged a coordination meeting with LPC members and held discussion on the existing district level human rights situation, peace process and role of LPC. At the program, the coordinator of the local peace committee presented a progress report of the activities and shared the situation. At the meeting the members also committed to organize the meeting regularly, and realized their respective responsibility. After the implementation of the coordination meeting's decision, certain important achievements were seen. The stakeholders received information of the activities conducted by the peace committee and as a result the relationship between conflict victims and



LPC became stronger. The meeting was organized regularly after a long time and the taskforce started to work on the registered cases and some cases had also been submitted to the Ministry of Peace and Reconstruction. Following this the joint monitoring team of peace committee and stakeholders conducted investigation into the human rights incidents.

It is the responsibility of the LPCs to support and maintain peace process at the districts as well as village levels. So, as per the demand raised by the local community members, HRPLSC facilitated Local peace committee to form VDC level peace committees in Phopli and Damri VDCs of Pyuthan district. The HRPLSC facilitated this process and as a result it has become easy to coordinate the peace activities at the VDC level. Thus, Local peace committee formed VDC wings at two VDCs of Pyuthan district. In this process, it has become easy to coordinate the peace activities in VDC level too.

Likewise, in Rukum district, the issue that the LPC had recommended only their party members and favoured some victims was raised. In this situation, HRPLSC had organized meeting with peace committee and the issue was discussed in an open forum. Later, common understanding was developed among the participants. Likewise, a scenario of the students, who were deprived of scholarship, were also presented. As a result, Local peace committee recommended scholarship for 26 poor students through the Ministry of Peace and Reconstruction in Kathmandu.

Likewise, in Pyuthan district, CPN (Maoist) party had seized the land owned by Major Hariman Pun. The incident took place during the days of conflict (2059 BS). The captured land was utilized by the Maoist party; the land was totally in the control of Maoist party during the last five years of the conflict. The land owner Hariman Pun neither tills the land nor receives any earnings from the land, As a result he was mentally disturbed. In this situation the HRPLSC with joint initiation of local peace committee at the district organized an interaction program in Pyuthan district on the issue of the captured land. The concerned authorities of the district such as LDO, CDO and Local peace committee showed concern in it. Thus, HRPSLC raised the issue with joint initiative of administration office Pyuthan, members of LPC, INSEC, journalists and the VDC office. After the interaction program, Hariman Pun received his land back.

Thus, with the facilitation support of HRPSLC, LPC became active in the district in promoting peace and the conflict transformation process.



#### **Students' Access to Rights to Health**

Chhayachettra VDC is one of the remote VDCs of Salvan district. The VDC has limited facilities such as VDC office, health post, schools etc. The people of the VDC are also getting facilities from the health post but at the same time the health post is neglecting and ignoring the rights of the children. The children have right to education, rights to proper care and similarly right to health. In the case of Chhayachettra VDC, the local health post used to provide medicines and other medical facilities to the students only based on a reference letter from their respective school. As a result of this lengthy process, students rarely had received any medical support. Especially the girl students being introverted in nature, found it difficult to share to the teachers about their problem and thereby get the referral letter. This process adopted by the health post had created difficulty for the students to get the facilities from the health post. In this sense,

they are deprived of their right to health. In the mean time when HRPLSC conducted VDC level interaction program at Chayachhetra VDC, the health assistant (HA) of the health post had also participated in the program.

At the program when the students raised the issue and then the HA internalized the process. After that she committed to resolve the problem. After few days, she initiated the process allowing students to enjoy facilities at the health post without any references and it was beneficial for both the girl and boy students. Now the students have access to the right to health at Chayachetra VDC. This became possible because of the sharing of the issues at the open interaction and the concerned were also made aware of the problem facing the students. Thus, child rights was respected by the health post and the problem was solved.

## Santi Jagaran Radio Programs Advocates for the Voiceless People

The HRPLSC has been producing and broadcasting the message of peace and human rights for the last 10 years in Rapti zone through a community radio program called Santi Jagaran or Peace Awarness. During the period of one and a half year, it produced 48 episodes of radio programs and broadcasted it for 240 times in local FM stations of Dang, Rukum, Rolpa, Salyan and Pyuthan districts. For the broadcasting of the program, HRPLSC has selected local FM radio stations as partners for the media coverage. This supported in the awareness rising at the community as well as district level. The HRPLSC had also compiled different human rights issues for the radio broadcasting programs and broadcasted the issues through the FM stations. For the production of the program, HRPLSC has its own equipped radio studios and staff.

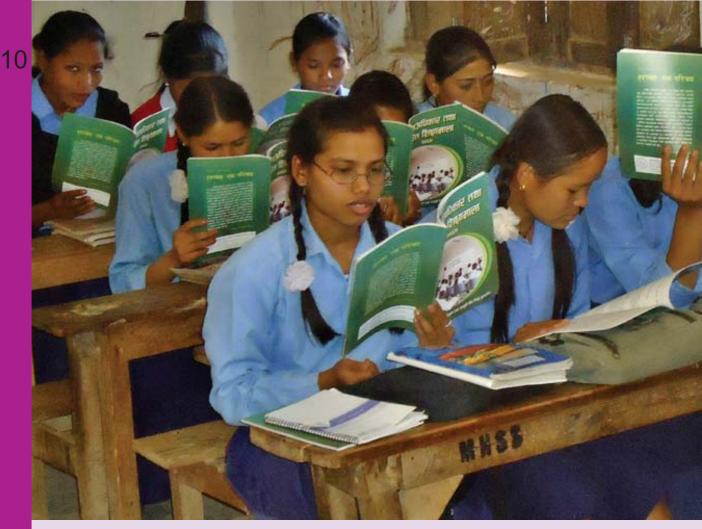
Similarly, it had broadcasted the plight of family members of the people who 'disappeared' during the 10-year-long internal conflict in Nepal. The program had also highlighted on the need of the family members and remedies provided to them from different organizations. The trouble of the family with disappeared members was broadcasted and the victims' voices were highlighted. The victim families have lost hope to receive their near and dear ones after so many years of uncertainty. The victims also demonstrated before the human

rights organizations and government offices for their rights.

The expression of victims "We have no hope of getting information about our lost family members. But, we want to know that either our lost one is died or live." "We still have hope that our son will return back home. We will continue to search for him". "I am 60 years old and the son was my only hope, but unfortunately he is missing and I have no information, his children always ask about their father. And I have no answer to their questions" were also broadcasted in the program. Similarly, there are also some demands raised by the victim families. They want information of their disappeared members at any cost. They want that their children should get facilities for their education. There should be a provision to transfer the land and other property in the name of other family members as in the case of disappearing persons. Similarly, the victims hope that the formation of the Disappeared Commission would provide them some relief.

In this manner, the Santi Jagaran Radio Program has highlighted the issues of the conflict victims and advocated for their rights. It has increased the awareness of the community people, covered the burning issues of the country, shared the information related to law and order and also shares positive learning.





## Human Rights and Peace Education Classes Enhanced Knowledge of the Students

Rapti zone remained as the most conflict affected zone during the 10 years of the internal conflict. The people of Rapti zone were not able to enjoy access to information, had no security for their life. They had to bear a lot, many also lost their lives. Present the people in the zone are practicing their traditional culture and still lack democratic practice. In this context, HRPSLC started human rights and peace classes in 25 schools of Rapti zone for the last two years. At the initial period, it was found that the students especially the high school students were totally ignorant about human rights concept, child rights and their duties towards the family and community where they reside. As in most of the districts of Rapti zone, the students were used as weapons and as shields during the conflict period. The political parties had used them as per the

party interest and political party had no concentration towards the future of the children and their roles and duties towards their family and community.

At this period, HRPSLC has started human rights and peace classes in 25 schools with support of peace facilitators of HRPSLC. To organize the HR classes, HRPSCL organized coordination meeting with the District Education Office. It was designed in such a way that the regular classes wouldn't be hamper. It was decided to provide the knowledge of human rights to the students of 9 and 10 once a week as per acceptance of the school routine and management committee. The students had received the basic knowledge in the classes. HRPSLC had also published part one of education books for the students and run the classes. From



the education of one period in once a week in each school has raised awareness among students. They used to share the knowledge to their families and also got knowledge about their roles and responsibility for the maintaining peace and mitigate local disputes. Similarly, in the second year of its HR and peace classes, HRPLSC has published human rights book of second part, in which most of the chapters were kept as per providing practical cases of violations to share with the students. Like wise, in the second year, the school teachers were also mobilizes to facilitate the classes. To support the classes, there have been organizing school meeting at every school with participation of management committee and school teachers.

As a result of the school program, the district education officer visited Damachour VDC of Salyan district to monitor and encourage the students of Human Rights and Peace classes. The objective of the visit was to monitor the activities of the school management committee. The DEO inquired

about the Human Rights education's materials (books), its importance and usefulness in the school. He met with the peace facilitators of HRPLSC and supervised the reading materials.

Similarly, the students of HR and peace classes did praised worthy efforts by stopping child marriage in their VDC. The students were from Janakalyan high School Dhudhras informed the police about child marriage at their locality. The case was highlighted by national and local media and the students succeeded to prevent child marriage against the law of the land. Thus, by stopping child marriage, they proved themselves as true human right defender. Thus, the students become active towards stopping human rights violations at districts.

Like wise, school zone was declared as Peace zone with the joint initiation of Khalanga Santi Jagaran Youth network. The Mahendra High school Khalanga was declared as peace zone by the students and teachers. The declaration was made in an interaction program organized at Khalanga with the participation of political leaders, district education office, school teachers, journalists and civil society organizations. The declaration was signed in the 16 points of commitments by the participants. The participants agreed with the commitment of not using students and teachers in political affairs and conflict activities. The street dramas and cultural program added effectiveness to the program.

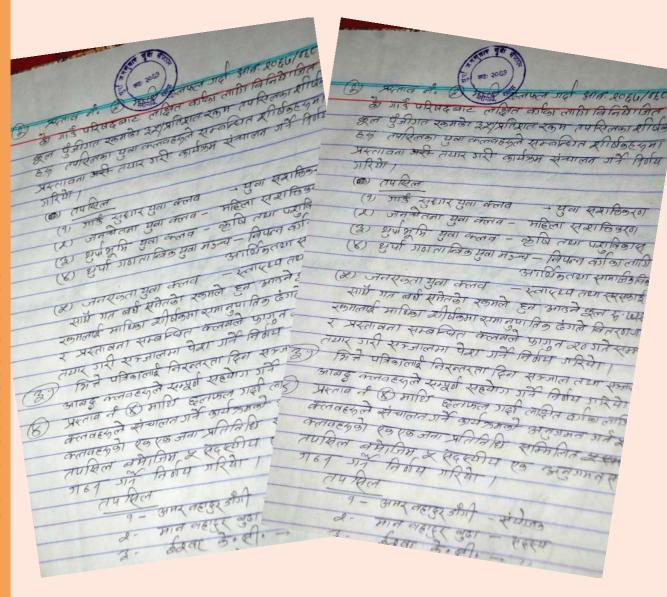
In the case of Syalapakha VDC of Rukum district, when the teacher didn't allow the students to participate and play in the president running shield competition program at Rukum district, then the students of 9 and 10 requested the principal and shared about their rights to play. As a result the principal allowed them to participate in the game. Thus, the students succeeded to raise their rights and can able to talk about it. It was also monitored that other schools also demanding the human rights and peace education classes in their schools. The voice of demand was raised in different interaction programs.

### **VDC Councils Allocated Budget for the Youth Initiatives**

There is growing demand today that children and youths need to be engaged in positive activities; and that they have much to contribute to peace processes, reconstruction and peace building initiatives. Children and youths have already been making effective contributions to various programs, including those focused fpr peace initiative programs. In this situation HRPLSC united the scattered youths in 5 districts of Rapti zone. The youths networks were formed, they were provided various supports and human rights trainings. The youths are need to be support for building social relationships, developing cultures of peace, rehabilitating education systems, and promoting livelihoods and economic recovery.

In the promotion of the human rights and peace, HRPSLCS facilitates to unite the scattered youths at Rapti zone. The youths in the VDCs are engrossed in the youth clubs and the youth clubs at each VDC formed youth network of the HRPLSC program districts; Rukum, Rolpa, Dang, Salyan and Pyuthan district. During this period, 143 youth clubs and 2391 youths have involved in the HR and peace process along with HRPSLC. Similarly, 50 youth clubs in this program district have been in the process of institutional development.

The youths in the districts have been concerning in the mediation of conflicts at their locality, organize campaigns, and they are committed towards peace building

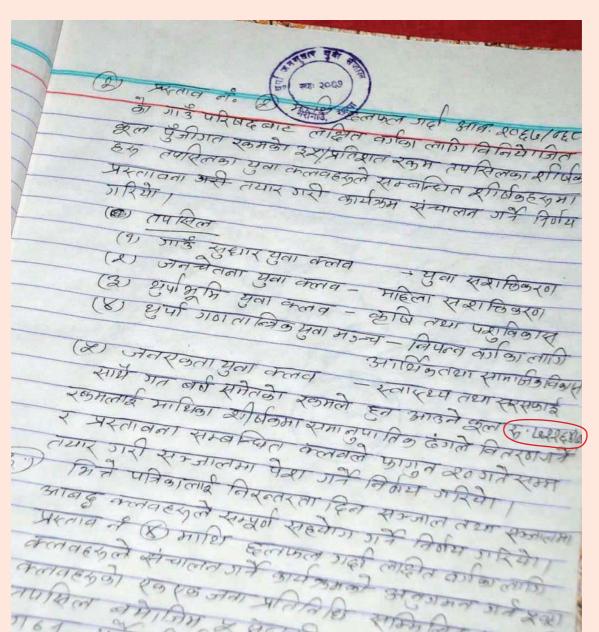


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process and respect of human rights.

In the meanwhile, the youth clubs networks are situated at the 50 program VDCs and they have been developing linkages with different local level government and nongovernmental organizations. HRPSLC has been supporting to these youth networks formation and youth clubs institutional development process. During this process, the youth networks of Rukum district has succeeded to influence the VDC Kanda, Kancri, Mahat and Morabang. Thus, the VDC councils have allocated 50 thousand rupees to each youth networks for the fiscal year 2067/68 to work for human rights promotions. Similarly, In Rolpa district, Thurpa Jagaran youth network has succeeded to receive 7 Lac 22 thousand for the youth empowerment and women empowerment program. The fund was received from Gairi Gown VDC council as a support to the youths clubs. Like wise, in

Dang district, VDC Gadawa has allocated the sum of amount 10 thousand, Satbariya VDC has allocated 15 thousand and Rampur VDC has allocated 25 thousand amounts for the youth networks. Similarly, in Pyuthan district, VDC Sari and Liwang has allocated budget for youths. They have allocated 15 thousand in Liwang and 5 thousand in Sari VDC. Likewise, Danda gown VDC has allocated 30 thousand, Damachaur has allocated 30 thousand and Sidheshawari VDC has allocated 51 thousand amounts in Salyan district for the youth activities. The youths can able to influence the VDC council by their joint efforts and their human right activities in the locality, earlier they were not united and VDC didn't use to belief them. The activeness of youths clubs make the authorities to belief them. Thus, all these VDCs has declared the amount in the VDC councils which will be expenses in human right activities, peace process activities, youth friendly programs at the VDC levels .





#### The wallpaper in Kham Language Becomes an Effective Means of Information for the Magar Community

Rukum district is one of the remote district of Rapti zone. There are 43 VDCs and among them Mahat, Taksera, Morabang and Kankri are the most remote VDCs, where the majority of the populations are from the Magar community. Most of the people in the community of Rukum speaker and understand only their mother tongue that is Kham magar language. They are also deprived from other technological benefits to enjoy their right to information. The socioeconomic conditions are also very poor in the VDCs. The community people are deprived from access to the services of local institutions and development process. They lack knowledge about their rights. On the other hand, the state has inadequate mechanism to provide services to the people in this remote part of the country.

In the mean time, HRPLSC organized the youth of this community and provided capacity building trainings including some

office establishment materials and support for awareness building at community level. As a result, the VDC level network was formed. Likewise, the youth began conveying and disseminating the information to the community through wall news papers. The network used to prepare the wallpaper in Nepali language only, but community people didn't showed interest in it nor did respond to it. Realizing about the language problem in these VDCs, the youth published wallpapers covering human rights, the peace process and community's role in Magar kham languages, which was understandable to all the community. The wall newspapers, which was published in their own language, has helped spread the message among more and more people about human right and peace. The community people have now begun responding to it proactively. Now the people in this community are getting active in local youths activities and HRPLSC activities in the VDCs.

## **Social Consciousness was Created Against Caste Based Discriminations**



Despite constitutional abolition, the practice of untouchability still remains very much a part of rural Nepal . Nepal's 1990 constitution prohibits discrimination on the basis of caste (along with religion, race, sex, and ideology). But is a reality that the so called higher castes do not drink from the same wells, do not visit the same temples,

or drink from the same cups in tea stalls. Likewise, in cultural rituals the dalits are not allowed to enter or participate. They are also often kept from entering hotels, shops, or homes, and are even excluded from cowsheds due to the belief that they will pollute the milking cows. But there have been protests and the intervention of NGOs,

human rights organizations and state mechanism running for the equal opportunity and equality for all.

HRPLSC always advocates for the rights of all. The case of Uma showed how the untaouchability still prevalent in the mind set of people. Uma Nepali has been residing in Laxmipur vdc -6 from Dang district. She had spent her childhood in India and returned back to Nepal after seven years. After returning to Nepal, she did inter-cast marriage with Prem Narayan Chaudhary, a tharu community man. After five years of her marriage with a child, the feeling was never raised that she was born on low caste family. But suddenly one day when her relatives died and she was restricted to participate in the rituals along with her father in law and husband. She was badly affronted as being a dalit girl in the chaudhary society, not only she but also her family members such as father in law and husband was categorized as untouchable caste. Her family members are forbidden to participate in the funeral ceremony in Chaudhary society. Her father in law was discriminated saying that his son had married to a dalit girl so he and his son are dalit so, they will not allowed entering their houses nor any funeral ceremony. This was happened in the society of Chaudhary community so, the father in law Lal Bahadur Chaudhary felt very humiliating situation. Likewise, Uma Nepali, have no knowledge about law related to untauchability. In this situation, her sister who has been studying Human Right and Peace Education organized by HRPLSC at Dang had supported her. Uma with the support of her sister dropped an application for the justice at HRPLSC Dang briefing that it was a case of caste basted discrimination. They had reported to HRPSLC office on 20 Falgun 2067. After getting the application from the victims, HRPLSC staff Santosh Dalit organized a press conference relating the problem; the news was published in the newspapers. HRPLSC, regional staff had also studied the case of Uma Nepali and aired the case through radio program. On the other hand, after the process initiation, HRPSLC staff had to face warning and threatening call from the perpetrator. After all, the case of victims were filed in the police

station, both the parties were attended there, the perpetrator accepted his misdeed in caste based discrimination. They also apologized for the crime in public, in this situation Uma Nepali and her family forgives the perpetrator for the one time mistake. Along with this, she came to know that the caste-based discrimination is a crime that if any person misbehaved with any other about caste, there will be punishment for the perpetrator. Above all, both the families are together and social consciousness was created that discrimination is prohibited at any society.

Likewise, HRPSLC has been encouraging e stopping discrimination too. Lila Basnet, inhabitant of Tharmare vdc of Salyan district reared a Dalit girl as a daughter. Lila kept her daughter in her house. But the community and relatives didn't like her intimacy with Dalit girl .. The relatives still have a notion of keeping Dalit in house is bad forecast. Lila's relatives and neighbors hated and misbehaved with her due to her attachment with a Dalit girl. On the other hand Lila found herself unaccompanied in her relatives. In this case, HRPLSC had monitored the incident and submitted a report to district administration office. The monitoring team also praised Lila of her brave decision of rearing a Dalit girl and promised to support her morally. The women Leela Basnet become confident and enthusiastic in her step for the societal change. The society also except her in her brave start.

Similarly, HRPLSC also conducted meetings with school management committee for the support of human rights and peace education programs. While conducting meetings at school of Syalapakha and Mahat VDC, there was found no attendance of Dalit members at meeting minute. Seeing the situation of exclusion of Dalit representative in the decision making body, HRPSLC raised the issue at committee. As a result the committee decided to attend and include compulsory membership of Dalit in the meetings by sending letter of motivation to the Dalit teacher. Thus, it was found that the meeting organizes in inclusive way with participation of Dalit, ethnic and others caste groups together.

#### Referral and Recommendation Mechanism Became the Basis of Conflict Victims' Relief

HRPLSC has organized monitoring visits, organize interactions/discussion, media mobilization and joint programs at Rapti zone. There were many violations cases that HRPSLC has referred to the other organizations as per the need and joint initiations.

Likewise, Sarad D.C. of 17 years was hailed from Dang district. He was abducted by a criminal group. Later on with the initiation of police he was released. The teen was released after 13 days of abduction. When the parents found him, he was nervous and disturbed and needed immediate counseling support. HRPLSC has organized interaction program on the security situations at the districts. He was disturbed and couldn't able to share his feeling. At these condition, HRPSLC recommended him to the CEWIN Nepalgunj office for the counseling support. With the support of CEWIN, he regained his self-confidence and became normal.

Similarly, HRPLSC has monitored the case of an old lady suffering from leprosy case in Rukum. In Khara VDC of Rukum district, 61 years old woman Belmati Khadka was found abandoned in a remote forest. She had been residing there in a small cottage alone. After the death of her husband, she was neglected by her family members as she had been suffering from leprosy disease for the last 2 years. HRPLSC Rukum had collected information of the victims and monitored the case and found that the victim in pitiful condition. HRPLSC exposed this case through national and local media; a team of activists and journalists had visited the site at the forest and studied the situations of the victim. It had provided help to her. Then Belmati was taken to Kathmandu for treatment with the support of International Nepal fellowship (INF) office. She was rescued and INF had provided her health support. After treatment she returned back to her family at Rukum. Now she has been living with her family member at Rukum.

In the same way, HRPLSC has also referred the case of 44 years of women at Salyan district. Tika BK was mentally disorder women and used to survive her life in the street of Shrinagar of Salyan district. Suddenly her plight became deep when she had to give birth to unwanted baby at the street. With her pitiful life in the streets, she was abundant by the community and family members of her own. When she gave birth to a baby at street, the staffs of hospitals also ignored her. At that time, HRPLSC had monitored the situation and organize press conference meeting with the joint initiation of Chaya Chettra Santi youth Network, HR Network, DDC, CDO, local journalists have supported jointly. HRPSLC has referred her for the medicine treatment at Lalitpur hospital, provided food and education support to her 4 children at home. Thus, the mentally disorder women was referred and rescued.

Likewise, HRPSLC monitored the case of assaults in Bhalubang at Dang district. The district police officers had assaulted the 4 local merchants those who were sleeping at the streets accused of vehicle hostage taker. The local merchants were severely beaten by police as some of them had their fracture. When HRPSLC with local journalists had monitored the case and found the guilt of police and recommended for the compensation for the merchants and justice. As results, the police provided the treatment to the victims and case filed against the perpetrators.

## Media Mobile Camp Became an Advocacy Tool for Development

Media mobile camp is a tool adopted by HRPLSC to raise the issues of the human rights violations and share in the formal meetings at the community levels where local officials and marginalized groups of people have the opportunity to exchange information, opinions on community affairs and raised the voice of the people and ask about the services. It is a new tool of advocacy to share the issues at the public. It is by its name is mobile in nature and it is organized from one place to another and reach to the community where the problems reside. It facilitates by media person and seeks the active participation of victims and government representatives. It organizes with two way interaction with marginalized groups with state official.

These camps are open to the general public

and therefore an important tool for citizens to raise their concerns in front of elected officials and bureaucrats on the one hand and an important feedback mechanism for the officials to gain a better understanding of the citizens' experiences and views on the other hand. In the camp, live broadcasts program organize by 5 FM of Rapti zone and the commitments. solutions to the problems seek of the concerned authorities towards their duties to the conflict victims, marginalized groups and needy peoples.

Media mobile camp becomes a successful tool of advocacy for the rights of people to achieve some considerable outcomes in the two years periods. The media mobile camps became popular because it deals with local issues in local languages and cultural context, relating to local problems and



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concerns. The mobilizations of media were done in such a way that the programs are based on audience access and participation and reflect the need of the community. In the two years of period, HRPSLC has raised the issues of rights of health at Rolpa and diareah issues at Rukum, social security allowance, compensation to the conflict victims, caste based discriminations, the budget allocated for the child labor, children abduction and social security, domestic violation and problems of badi communities, the role of LPC in districts, the issues of Bali ghare pratha, the problems of freed kamaiyas.

Similarly, the diarrhea epidemic in Rukum was addressed by the media mobile camp in a program. The message helped to share the plight of Rapti people. The health workers become conscious about the problems. As a result, medicines and Jivan jal (dehydrating water) had reached at the headquarters timely, consequently bringing a decrease in mortality rate in Rapti zone.

Likewise, HRPLSC had conducted media mobile camp at Salvan on the issues and

problems of the Badi community by bringing CDO, LDO, representatives of NGO, CBO, political parties and women rights organizations to their community and thus had held the discussion among them. HRPLC has referred the case and as a result Badi people received identity cards, scholarships for deserving students, tin roof for their houses and a project of 500000 NPR by the government. Like wise, the political parties and DDC has committed to bring out the data and information of balighare people into public. Thus, the committed authority became conscious and committed to collect the data of dalit people those who were victim in the bali ghare pratha.

Similarly, it was found that the RRN has constructed health post after the commitment made in a media mobile camp at Rolpa district. In media mobile camps the people raised their concern about lacking health post at their locality as a result one health post was formed in the area. Likewise, a local NGO has constructed drinking water facility after the sharing of the issue in media mobile camps at Dang district. In the same way, the DDC Rukum published the book of social security allowance information and data at Rukum district after the media mobile camp. The issue was shared at the mobile media camp at Rukum and the DDC committed to provide the information to the general public. The book supported to share the information at the districts.

Similarly, District welfare committee at Pyuthan district had made commitment to collect the data of child labor in the media mobile camp at district, so as per commitment they started the process of information collections and informed to the media about it. Likewise, as allocated in the VDCs, the 10% of the budget was allocated for the Dalits. But the budget was not allocated and used for the Dalits. This issue was raised in mobile camp and the VDCs provided the fund to Dalits. Like wise, the people in the bahane of Pyuthan district strictly followed the rule of not to use the awful words to the Dalit people. Thus, these are some of the positive results that were evaluated during the project period.



## Youths have been Democratic Practicing for Institution Development

HRPLSC has facilitated to support for youth club networks. It had provided trainings, office materials etc. At the same time it has supported for the youth club guidelines for the effective working procedures. In this way, HRPLSC supported for publications youth clubs guidelines 2067 with the funding support from Right Democracy and Inclusion Fund (RDIF). The guidelines has 3 parts; in the first part it shared the introduction, youth clubs and its networks formation process. roles and responsibilities of the executive members, working procedures of EC members, code of conducts of youth clubs and networks. In Part 2, the guidelines contains working procedures ad fund management of youth networks. In the 3 part, the guideline focused on the role of local support organizations.

After the publication of the youth guidelines, it was distributed to Rukum, Rolpa, Dang, Pyuthan and Salyan districts to the youth club members. The 16 pages guidelines somehow is a good support to youth members who were just wondering and seeking support for the formation process. They were also confused of Youth networks working procedures and role and responsibilities of the youths. It became a good support for the youth clubs institutional development process.

Similarly, the youth conference was organized in Khalanga Pyuthan. The youths have expressed that they are happy to be recognize as human right defenders in the community levels. The community people have been respecting and honoring their works as peace volunteers. They are grateful towards HRPLSC for the motivations and supports. Involvement in the youth clubs also taught them how to operate clubs and organize the members. Youths also get knowledge and skills on rights based approach and fundamental human rights concept in different trainings provide by HRPLSC said chairperson of the Sari youth

network. Youths have expressed that they can support to build the peace in the country if the opportunity provided to them. In the mean time., they expressed that government failed to involve youth in some creative works. The issues concerns to the youths are



neglected as a result many youths are migrating towards foreign country or nearby country to earn the money. The youths' migration rate is increasing and it has hampered the development pace of the Rapti zone.

Similarly, youth conference was also organized at Dang district. President of human right network participated in the program and motivated youths in the human rights promotion activities. Following the

common slogan "Sustainable peace through human right protection and promotions" DSP, journalists, DDC communication officer, civil society organization representatives had also participated in the conference. The concerned society members showed their hope from the youths. There were 67 youths in the program which had selected 15 members executive board among them 2 were dalits, 3 were ethnic members and 10 were other caste group members.



## **Nepal Army Gained Knowledge on Human Rights and Peace Promotion**



HRPLSC has developed linkage with security personnel at Pyuthan district. On the request of Nepal Army Pyuthan, HRPLSC field office Pyuthan has facilitated two days training on human rights and peace to the army man at Pyuthan district. The two days training was facilitated by HRPSLC District Program

Coordinator Kheshab Bhusal. The major content of the training were elements of human rights, sustainable peace through conflict transformation and the role of security in the situation. More than 100 army man received the training that was from chandidal.

#### **Teacher Apologized for the Fault**

HRPLSC staff had exposed the case of sixth standard student Hari Sharma in Pyuthan district. The team has visited the school, met the victim student and did conversation with the teacher, students and victim family. It was found that the student was badly scolded by the teacher at school. The students were wounded and he had sign of spotted mark on his body. The teacher and the school management team tried to conceal the case. But, the monitoring team conducted the in-depth study and submitted the case report to District Administration

Office, Pyuthan. After the submission of the monitoring case report to district administration office pyuthan by HRPLSC monitoring team, the administration initiated the process. The district administration reproached the teacher and ordered him penalty. The teacher had to provide medicine treatment to the student and apologizes for his misdeed and cruelty. The community people, school management team and district administration offices also supported HRPLSC in this process.

### **Local Dispute was Solved with Joint Initiations**

In Salyan district, the dispute was emerged between the local transportation committee of Rukum and Salyan district leading to road obstruction for months and so. As a result, hundreds of peoples suffered.. The cause was the first rotation basis to run the vehicles from the districts. In this situation HRPLSC with the support civil society, human right

network and youth club members started negotiation between the two conflicting parties and played the role of mediator and created environment to talk. Thus, the dispute was solved with joint initiation of HRPLSC, youth club members and local people.



## Badi Community Received Development Budget and Identity Through Media Advocacy

There's a small village called 'Santinagar' at Khalang-2, Salyan, where approximately 173 families of Badi community reside. Badi

traditionally had profession of flesh trade. Though they ceased to run the flesh trade long ago, they are still deluded as social stigma. They are forced to bear mental pain and agony, besides their existing problems of basic needs so much so that a woman committed suicide 2 years back in the same village. The problems pertaining to sustain their fundamental needs is stark and their plight is still the same even after the restoration of democracy.

Badi people are involved in other manual jobs like crushing pebbles and security guard duties. The so-called higher casts have always considered them undignified and have treated inhumanely. Many of them live beside the riverbank, and in every monsoon; they have to bear the catastrophe brought by nature. The government programme for Badi community wasn't that effective and the 'Ghar Bikas Karyakram' by women development office was not also developing as it should be.

HRPLSC had been making the community aware of the human rights from the very beginning. A media mobile camp from HRPLSC gathered CDO, LDO, DSP, representatives of political parties, journalists, human rights defenders, civil society representatives, representatives of women development and district education office, and provided a forum to have a discussion among them. Badi people asked their questions and raised their voices and issues, while all the other concerned representatives gave their responses and commitments to work for the rights, safety and the best of Badi people. It was a live broadcast program, which gave a stunning outcome. The broadcast posed an unseen moral pressure on the people who gave their commitments. District development Committee then gave a fund of 500000 NPR to the Badi community, and the responsibility of the fund has been given to the Badi community themselves. They have a wall covered with a net of wires surrounding their homes as a safety measure from the flood.

They feel more secure now and because of the direct interaction and discussion with the government representatives, they have a better access to the government bodies and can express their issues confidently. CDO has informed and provided them with their identity cards, due to which they have got their rights to identity. 'HRPLSC had provided us our right to identity. We have planned to work independently, completely free of dominance and exploitation to live a dignified life ahead', says Sita Nepali, a member from the same community.

After the 18 months period of support to Badi community, they are conscious on their rights, developing linkage with local line agencies for the further support. Thus, HRPLSC initiation has awakened the deprived community for their rights and duties.



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#### **Students Stopped Child Marriage**

13-year-old Rita Dangi has been residing with her family members in Bijauri VDC of Dang district. Her parents wanted to marry her in her early age, but she refused to marry. However, after the pressure from the family members, she informed her friends at school. Then two of her friend came to her home to confirm about the situation and meet her parents that Rita is a child and child marriage is a crime, it is against the child right. But when her parents told the students that Rita is mature enough to marry than the students informed HRPSLC staff Ms. Anita Pokhrel and reported the case to her. The students also check the date of birth of Rita at school registered and found that her parents were lying to them. Then after, the students gathered and entered at the marriage venue.

The schoolchildren entered into the wedding venue and disrupted the marriage. They also informed the police about child marriage. The students were from Janakalyan high School Dhudhras crowded the wedding venue shouting slogans against child marriage. They also informed the police about police. After a while, police took Rita's parents and the guardians of the groom under control and released them later on condition that the marriage would be cancelled.

During the last one year, HRPLSC has been conducting Human Right Peace Education classes to the students of standard eight and nine grade at 5 schools of Dang district along with other 4 district at Rapti zone. Janakalyan high School Dhusras is one of those 5 schools at Dang. The students of HR and peace education classes have learnt at class that child right and child marriage is a crime. In front of the national and local media, the students had expressed that when we heard that child marriage is going to happen we foiled the marriage to prevent an underage marriage. They had briefed that in Human Right and Peace classes they had learnt about human right, child right and taken this step themselves. Thus, the students succeeded to prevent child marriage against the law of the land; they proved themselves as human right defender

marriage against the law of the land; they proved themselves as human right defender. Various districts based rights organizations, schoolteachers and HRPLSC staffs had praised the role of the children in launching a drive against child marriage in the area. This was a praised worthy efforts by the children to uproot child marriage.





### Victim's Statement Regarding the Incident

I am Sarad D.C. I am 17 years old and stay in Khaira 6 dang. One day ,Two people (having Mongolian looks) had tried to get close to me 3/4 times prior to my abduction, saying that they and my father used to study together. On 1 January 2010 at about 9.30

am when I was going to school, a red keya van (having a similar color and looks of the van from Ankit's vehicle hiring shop in Dang) stopped near Mechikali school and a man appeared from the window asking me to give a letter to my head sir. As I tried to hold the letter, he pulled me in and the van left as soon as the door was shut. Then, my head was forcefully drowned in a water container inside the van. I was made unconscious and I don't remember when or where I was taken.

couldn't know anything as I had never been out of Ghorahi. I had my mobile phone and 5000 rupees to recharge (the mobile) in my inner pocket. There was a group of 6 people while I was abducted, among which 2 looked like Magars and the rest of 4 looked like Rai or Limbu. All of them had weapons. Along with me, there were also an elderly man and a 12-year old girl abducted and put in a house. During my 10 days of stay there, only 3 days' meal was provided. They often used to beat me and were determined to demand a large ransom from my father. They used to say that a ransom of 40,00000 should be demanded from my father and if he refused, they would murder me. At about 10 pm, the same people took me in van and left for somewhere. I knew they would kill me and I would die anyway, then I decided to escape, rather than sinking



my father in debt and said that I had to go for toilet. They stopped the van and allowed me to go. Slowly, I ran away from there. They came to know and focused the headlight towards the way I had run. I ran and hid inside a large bush.

They searched for me there but couldn't find and even fired thrice. I stayed there silently. Then they talked to each other that they had fired bullet thrice and I should have died but even if I had not, wild beasts would eat me.

After about half an hour of their departure, I walked slowly and about 2/3 hours of walk, I reached the highway. I was very terrified. I used to hide myself whenever a vehicle appeared and again walk on the road after it was gone. At about 5.30 am, a bus carrying students was coming. I got on the bus and reached Butwal. I called my father, informed him and reached home. I came to know that it had already been 13 days of my abduction before I returned my home. After my abduction, father had informed journalists

and human right activists. Papers including Kantipur published the news but the police administration didn't try to search me.

After being abduction free, no report was registered as to the fear that information to the police administration might call forth further problems. The inspector of Area Police Office (APO) Narayanpur had told that he would take information from me later on and that he had no time at that moment. I don't think he cared that much about me.

From my stay there, I could surmise there was a big gang of racketeers who abducted children and demanded large ransom money.

After reaching home, I stayed nearly one and a half months at Ghorahi bazaar and have always been walking with my elder brother since then. I know they will try to abduct and kill me if ever they found me. My body still aches due to the thrashing while staying there. I have recurring nightmares and often get scared while sleeping. I can not concentrate on my studies and often get absent-minded. I can identify the people who abducted me.





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