



PEOPLE'S DEVELOPMENT JUSTICE REPORT

Report on National Review and Monitoring of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Nepal



A Scoping Study on

A report on national monitoring and review of sustainable development goals in Nepal @ 2017

Organisation's Full Name

Women's Rehabilitation Centre (WOREC)



WOREC is the national human rights organization which has been continuously advocating for social justice as a prerequisite for peace and sustainable development for the past 26 years. Aiming to advance social and gender justice while also eliminating all forms of discrimination, marginalization and



exclusion that pervade our communities, WOREC is monitoring and reviewing the SDGs in order to ensure that it leads to gender sensitive policies and development justice. This research was carried out by WOREC as part of an eight country project on monitoring and review of the SDGs with the Asia Pacific Forum on Women, Law and Development (APWLD).

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Abhiram Roy Programme Director WOREC Nepal

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Opening Statement: This report is a result of nine months qualitative and quantitative study on the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 3, 5, 8, 13, out of which Goal 3 and 5 are being reviewed in High Level Political Forum (HLPF) as the government presents the Voluntary National Review (VNR) stating the national progress on SDGs.

Objective: The main objective of this research was to review and assess the implementation status of SDGs in Nepal through monitoring the specific goals 3, 5, 8 and 13 from development justice framework and advocate to advance human rights and development justice by holding the government accountable to SDGs framework.

Methodology: For the review and monitoring, the literature on national policies and plans and their implementation as per the specific goals and targets were reviewed. A total 81 Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) and 73 Key Informant Interviews (KII) were conducted in 9 different districts namely Kailali, Dang, Bardiya, Sindhuli, Udayapur, Siraha, Dhanusha, Morang and Sunsari with the community women and young women, returnee migrant workers, informal sector working women, women and children officers, local development officers, chief district officers, district public health officers, district judges, district lawyers, trade union representatives, recruiting agencies representatives in regards to collecting the ground realities on goal 3, 5 and 8. Similarly, FGDs with farmers on goal 13 were conducted in Salyan district as well as aforementioned districts for WOREC has its offices and human resources in these regions. Regional and National consultation was organized with civil society organisations to share the preliminary findings and further information from different meetings and consultations hold by Nepal SDGs Forum and its constituencies was incorporated into the report.

Findings- Goal 3: Nepal is making progress on the reduction of maternal mortality ratio reducing it to 258 per 100,000 live births and improving the maternal health. However, women and girls' sexual and reproductive health rights lack effective implementation while the policies fail to recognize women's sexual rights as their fundamental rights. Reproductive morbidities such as uterine prolapsed, vaginal discharge, vaginal itching, lower abdominal pain, backache, headache, dizziness, throat pain, anaemia, abdominal swelling, mental and physical weakness, irregular menstruation and obstetric fistula are overlooked in the policies and plans for its prevention. Also, the increasing issue of women's mental health have not received adequate attention.

Findings- Goal 5: Gender equality being the stand alone goal as well as the cross cutting goal without which no goal can achieve its targets, requires adequate budget allocation but the government allocates 0.34% of total budget in this section. Patriarchy and its agents are the key systemic and structural barriers to achieving gender equality leading to discrimination and violence against women and girls. Similarly, harmful traditional practices like child marriage/ early marriage, dowry, chhaupadi etc. are barriers for their empowerment. Moreover, the policies and plans formulated in this regard are merely in paper which needs rigorous implementation. Similarly, the private sector and cooperatives investment is leveraged by the government for SDGs implementation which risks privatization, capitalism and deregulation. However, the government lacks appropriate monitoring mechanism of taxation system to these sectors holding them accountable in gender friendliness in their investment despite just corporate sector responsibility. Likewise, women and girls' empowerment is possible with their inclusion on the structure of the nine thematic groups government has prepared while there is no stand-alone structure of SDGs implementation committee for addressing women and girls' issues. Additionally, gender equality is not dealt with inter-sectionality approach provided all women don't possess same level of education, marital status, caste, class, religion, and ethnicity, geographical region which needs substantive equality.

Findings- Goal 8: Decent work and safe migration has been a great issue provided Nepal has not yet ratified ILO Conventions concerning decent work for domestic workers (C189) neither UN Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (1990) and working women in informal sectors including labours (reconstruction site) and entertainment sector. They are yet not covered in national labour code. Due to denial of recognition of these works as decent work and productive work, the working women are facing problems. Similarly, women migrants are exploited multiple of times by the recruiting agencies, employers in the recipient countries as due to the continuous control by the government on women's mobility right (sometimes putting age ban and lifting age ban) they end up choosing the illegal channels and risk from trafficking. Moreover, the right at work and right to work of women are not addressed by the policies in Nepal.

Findings- Goal 13: Climate action is the global issue and Nepal is one of the least contributors of emission of carbon di-oxide but is bearing the brunt. Women are facing the impacts of climate change from the flood, erratic rainfall, drought and temperature rise as they are mostly the farmers and it affects the crops directly. Eventually, as the food insecurity arises, women search for alternative ways of livelihood and poverty hits the female headed households mostly. The increase in work burden in women causes women's sexual and reproductive health rights violated. However, the policies have not yet addressed these issues.

Key Recommendations: Goal 3: A comprehensive policy and guideline needs to be adopted to address reproductive health (RH) morbidity issues like Uterine Prolapsed, obstetric Fistula, cervical cancer, Pelvic Inflammatory Diseases (PID). Similarly, an indicators related RH morbidity needs to be set up in the national indicators to monitor and report RH morbidity. Psycho-social First Aid (PFA) and Psycho-social counseling's services need to be included as a basic and essential service for the management of stress, trauma and Women Mental Health problems. Goal 5: Government should ensure that communities including families members know about the cause and consequences of VAW and also ensure that communities particularly men and boys understand the rights of women and girls to prevent and response the cases of VAW. Similarly, adopt preventive measures including public information and comprehensive sexuality education among adolescent boys and girls to raise awareness about gender equality reduce child/ early marriage including other harmful traditional practices. Goal 8: Recognise domestic work as one of the income earning categories and ratify ILO Convention on Domestic Workers (C189) and UN convention 1990 to bring domestic workers into the formal sector. Recognize women's work in informal sector and ensure better living and equal wage and implement policy related to free visa and free ticket to reduce economic burden and ensure safe migration as a choice for women. Goal 13: State should move beyond 'project based approach' and ensure multi-sectoral coordination and accountability mechanism to including the issues of sexual and reproductive health and rights into the National Adaptation Plan of Action (NAPA) and Local Adaptation Plan of Action (LAPA) for the advancement of women's and girls' SRHR impacted by climate change.

Challenges: Unavailability of disaggregated data on the specific targets and goals created difficulty with the analysis of implementation of SDGs. Similarly, some of the local stakeholders with whom the key informant interviews were held were not supportive provided they were used to charging the allowances though it was our right to information to implementation of SDGs at the grass roots.

Key words: Sustainable Development Goals, Development Justice, Gender equality, sexual and reproductive health rights, climate justice, safe migration

LIST OF ACRONYMS

ANC: Antenatal Care

AP-RCEM: Asia Pacific Regional Civil Society Organization Engagement Mechanism

APWLD: Asia Pacific Forum on Women, Law and Development

CC: Climate Change

CCI: Chamber of Commerce and Industry CDM: Clean Development Mechanism

CEDAW: Convention on Elimination of All forms of Discrimination against Women

CRC: Convention on Rights of Child CSE: Comprehensive Sexuality Education

CSO: Civil Society Organization
CTIP: Combating Trafficking in Person
DDC: District Development Committee

DJ: Development Justice

DPHO: District Public Health Officer FGD: Focussed Group Discussion

FNCCI: Federation of Nepalese Chambers of Commerce and Industry

GBV: Gender Based Violence
GoN: Government of Nepal
GDP: Gross Development Product
HLPF: High Level Political Forum

HIV/AIDS: Human Immunodeficiency Virus/ Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome

INGO: International Non-government Organisation
ICCPR: International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights

ICESCR: International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

ILO: International Labour Organization

I/NGOs: International/Non-Governmental Organization

KII: Key Informant Interview

LAPA: Local Adaptation Plan for Action
LDCs: Least Development Countries
MDG: Millennium Development Goal
M&E: Monitoring and Evaluation
MMR: Maternal Mortality Ratio

NAPA: National Adaptation Plan of Action

NER: Net Enrolment Rate

NGO: Non -Government Organisation
NMR: Neonatal Mortality Ratio
NPC: National Planning Commission
PFA: Psycho-social First Aid

PID: Pelvic Inflammatory Diseases
PWD: People with Disability
RH: Reproductive Health
SBA: Skilled birth Attendant

SDGs: Sustainable Development Goals
SRHR: Sexual and Reproductive Health Right

STDs: Sexually Transmitted Diseases

UN: United Nations

UNFPA: The United Nations Population Fund UNGA: United Nations General Assembly

VAW: Violence against Women

VAWG:
Violence against Women and Girls
VDC:
Village Development Committees
VNR:
Voluntary National Review
WHO:
World Health Organisation
WOREC:
Women's Rehabilitation Centre

WWD: Women with Disability

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CHAPTER INTRODUCTION



1.1 Background

As the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) era comes to a conclusion with the end of the year 2015. On 25th September 2015, the 193 member states of the United Nations unanimously adopted 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which includes 17 goals aiming to transform the world over the next 15 years. These goals are designed to eliminate poverty, discrimination, abuse and preventable deaths, address environmental destruction, and provide equitable life in an era of development for all people, everywhere. The SDGs are ambitious, and they will require enormous efforts across countries, continents, industries and disciplines.1

As part of the follow-up and review mechanisms, the 2030 Agenda for SDGs encourages member states to conduct regular and inclusive reviews of progress at the national level known as Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs). These national reviews are expected to serve as a basis for the regular reviews by High Level Political Forum (HLPF) to share their experiences, including successes, challenges and lessons learnt with a view to accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Regular reviews by the HLPF are to be voluntary, stateled, undertaken by both developed and developing countries and involve multiple stakeholders.2

1.2 National Social and Economic Context

Nepal is one of the signatory countries to the global initiative of SDGs. Although, Nepal is among the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) in the world characterized by slow socio-economic growth as well as a low level of human development, it has a plan to graduate to a middle-income country by 2030 and raise per capita income by more than three folds to \$2500. Currently, the underdevelopment stems from a politically and socially fragile post-conflict situation, structurally-generated poverty and inequality, deeply entrenched forms of social exclusion, and weak governance structures in all spheres of the state. With a Human Development Index of 0.463, Nepal ranks 157th out of 187 countries listed in the United Nations Development Programme's Human Development Report 2013.

Nepal, despite being engulfed in a decade-long armed conflict during the initial years of MDG implementation, has achieved significant progress on few MDG targets. Substantial progress has been made in child health with the MDG targets on infant mortality and under-five mortality already being met and rates of malnutrition substantially decreased. The MDG for reducing maternal mortality is progressing. The increase of HIV/ AIDS prevalence has been halted and reversed.³ In the same way, the country has made successful strides in reducing poverty from 25.2 percent in 2011 to 23.8 percent in 2013. However, the disaggregated data on poverty reduction shows that the people of far western development region compared to other regions has slow progress and similar is the condition of Dalit women.4 Likewise, despite improvement in the net enrolment rate (NER) in primary education to 96.2 percent, the dropout rate in secondary education is significant especially among girl child due to poverty, social norms and lack of child (girl) friendly school environment. Many girls are married before 15 years of age and are deprived of educational opportunities. In addition to that, they face severe health issues due to early pregnancy.

http://nepal.unfpa.org/en/news/unfpa-and-sustainable-development-goals

https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/inputs/

https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/rio20.html

https://www.adb.org/sites/default/files/linked-documents/cps-nep-2013-2017-pa-detailed.pdf

The situation of the country exacerbated as the development efforts faced a serious jolt from the large earthquakes and aftershocks of April and May 2015. This disaster affected almost one third of the country's 26.4 million population, killing nearly 9,000 people, injuring nearly 25,000 and resulting in the loss of more than 700 billion Nepalese Rupees (NPR) of damages to human settlements, infrastructure and archaeological sites. Consequently, Nepal's annual GDP growth rate also saw a 3% drop in 2015 from the previous year. However, Nepal's GDP is forecast to grow between 5.2% - 6.2% in fiscal year 2017 (Asian Development Bank). Remittance has been the significant contributor to increased GDP.

Nepal's social, political, and economic context presents development asymmetries between it and other countries, subjecting it to political interference from other countries. Nepal underwent nine months unannounced blockade by India right after the earthquake which had detrimental effects on people's lives especially women, marginalized including people with disability, indigenous people, rural people, urban poor and disadvantaged people and worsened the postearthquake recovery. The blockade choked imports of not only petroleum, but also medicines and earthquake relief materials. As Nepal is a landlocked country, it relies heavily on the import and export of goods and services from India on a daily basis.

Additionally, Nepal has a new constitution promulgated in 2015 with amendments of many gender discriminatory laws. However, this constitution is influenced by an institutionalized gender inequality and fails to confer citizenship to women, especially unmarried women, in the same way as men. Some of the progressive policies like fast-track court, free-visa freeticket policies and the Domestic Violence Act are not effectively implemented, so the women are still denied social justice. One of the main reasons for Nepal's poverty is the prevalence of patriarchal society that has made women more vulnerable to violence. Women are yet not entitled to reproductive and sexual rights, property rights, educational, health and economic rights. Similarly, due to inadequate knowledge of constitutional and legal guarantees, poor cannot access remedies to their issues. ANBESI5, a publication on Gender Based Violence issued by WOREC Nepal reported 1775 VAW cases in 2016. However, there are

many undocumented cases of Violence against Women (VAW) for which justice is but a dream.

Nepal has a huge economic inequality within the country as Nepal's minimum wage is USD 900 (per annum) while the richest individual's net worth is USD 1.3 billion. Over 30 percent of Nepalese live on less than US\$14 per person, per month, according to the national living standards survey conducted in 2010-2011. While the overall poverty rate for Nepal is 23.8 per cent, this figure increases to 45 per cent in the Mid-Western region and 46 per cent in the Far-Western region. About 80 per cent of Nepal's people live in rural areas and depend on subsistence farming for their livelihood. The agriculture is not systematic resulting inadequate and low quality products. Household food insecurity and poor nutrition are major concerns in these areas, where about half of children under five years of age are malnourished. The gap is increasing each day as the cheap labourers are attracted by the multinational companies in the Gulf countries and Malaysia. As the poor and marginalized groups including women, rural poor and urban poor get allured to these opportunities, they are imposed upon to do dirty, dangerous and daring works without receiving salary and incentives. Despite awareness campaign on 'safe and legal migration' for overseas employment, many women continue to migrate illegally and as a result, human traffickers take advantage of their innocence.

In addition to that, the rural households distant from the district headquarters have little or no access to primary health care, education, safe drinking water, sanitation, transportation or proper roads. Despite such situation, government invests more on military than on health as Nepal's health budget is \$308 Million USD while the military budget is \$343 Million USD. Hence, delivering efforts for successful contribution to achievement of SDGs is an enormous challenge.

1.3 National context as it pertains to the 2030 Agenda

With the set of 8 MDGs, the progress has been tremendous in the last 15 years. Extreme poverty and hunger is down by nearly half. More children are going to school and fewer are dying due to lack of nutritious food and preventable diseases. With the aim of building on the successes of past 15 years, SDGs have been created and deliberate efforts are being made. Here the

⁵ A yearbook of WOREC on violence against women

national context pertaining to SDGs 3, 5, 8 and 13 are presented.

SDG 3: Good health and well-being

Good health affects everything from enjoying life on a daily basis to our everyday work that we perform. The goal ensures everyone has health coverage and access to safe and effective medicines and vaccines. We have made big strides-the neonatal mortality lies at 23 per thousand however the goal is to reduce it to 12 per thousand. Furthermore, government has been providing 72 different kinds of free of cost medicines for chronic and infectious diseases. However there lies a gap between recipients and the provider due to lack of public awareness that government has failed to raise along with the loopholes in availability and accessibility to the public. Similarly, state has not been able to provide adequate priority to basic and primary health care programs in rural and urban settings, women and adolescent friendly health services, health for senior citizens, mental disorders, environment and sexual and reproductive health of adolescents and women and health promotion at school-age children. Furthermore, access to robust and well-equipped quality health services and medicine for all people is not effective and lack availability of health services.

SDG 5: Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women and Girls

There has been a great progress in creating a fair and just world for the women and girls. And yet, the women and girls lag behind in every aspect. To ensure women participation in local governance, a female in chief or deputy chief of each municipal council or village council is mandatory in the ongoing electoral process. As a result many women stood up for candidacy and developed interest in the political process. A young girl of 21, named Ranju Darshana stood up for election candidacy as chief of Kathmandu Metropolitan city. Also a female candidate as a ward member is mandatory in the election process. This has increased women participation in parliament and in the decision making role. Due to increased awareness on women's right, more cases of domestic and other forms of violence are getting registered and women have a hope for justice. More girls are in school now compared to in 2000. Most regions have reached gender parity in primary education. The percentage of women getting paid for their work is on the rise. However, these progress and benefits are enjoyed by those who are vocal and already closer to power while those from far western region, dalits, women with disability, indigenous women, urban and rural poor and women working in the

informal sectors are yet living a stagnant lifestyle since years. Moreover, there has been increasing inequality among women instead. As a result, while addressing gender equality, inter-sectionality approach of analysis and dealing is a must.

SDG 8: Decent work and economic growth:

An important part of economic growth is that people have jobs that pay enough to support themselves and their families. Although job opportunities have increased, job growth is not keeping pace with the growing labor force. Every year at least 300,000 to 400,000 youth arrive in the Nepali job market in search of a job, but only five per cent of them are able to land a job in the country, according to the Nepal Labor Survey 2015. According to the Central Bureau of Statistics 2014, a total of 4,000,200 people are not getting jobs befitting their qualification and skills. It further reveals that the illiterate unemployment (unemployed and illiterate) is 2.1 per cent in the country, whereas literate/educated unemployment (unemployed despite having a college degree) rate is 4.1 per cent. Further, although women contribute to the national economy their engagement in atypical or informal sector and entertainment is being overlooked by the state. Mostly, women working in entertainment sector are stigmatized on the basis of their work. They are forced to hide their identities and tolerate all kinds of abuses. The benefits of such employment are not sufficient to lead a standard life, because such employment rarely comes with social protection, good working condition and adequate wages. Its major role is in employment creation, production, service delivery and income generation, but the government has not recognized and valued them.

After the earthquake, people especially rural poor including women have migrated to Malaysia or Gulf countries in cheap labor to support themselves and their family with financial need necessary for food, education, medical expenses. These situations have adversely affected economic growth and pose a threat to the government plan of graduating to a middle income country. However, different policies to encourage entrepreneurship and job creation within country have been promoted by government and the implication is on its way.

SDG 13: Climate change and its impact

The drastic effect of climate change is seen in our everyday life. The impact of global warming is getting worse and affecting individual life. Nepal being a mountainous country is seeing rise in melting snow

every year. This has posed threat to the rising water level of the lakes. Many times the lakes such as 'Sunkoshi' have burst and brought devastating flood destroying innocent lives and properties. Also, there has been an increase in the intensity and frequency of thunderstorm due to climate change. We have seen more storms, thunder than ever before. The increase in emissions has brought the threat of Acid rain which has adverse effect on general health of human and animals and on the crops while mostly affecting the sexual and reproductive health (SRHR) of women. Climate change is one of the biggest threats to human survival and it is important that every individual become aware and work towards climate change before the situation gets irreversible. Government has encouraged banning plastic bags, and reducing carbon emission. Campaign on climate change awareness and action has been gradually launched by government but it hasn't been able to link women's SRHR issues with climate change.

The key issues of implementing the SDGs are that it requires preparing SDGs based on long term national development strategy and periodic plans. Localization of SDGs from international to national and from Federal to Provincial and Local Levels has been difficult. Targets and indicators are to be localized at provincial and local levels; as many SDGs are to be implemented at provincial and local levels. Integrating SDGs into development plans and annual budgets are tough as local governments do not have periodic plan (although the plans are at state level prepared by National Planning Commission, they are not relevant to the local and rural level provided the government structure has changed to federal states this year), implementation rigour, motivation, or capacity to implement. Moreover, there is no adequate financial resource, human resource for implementation at all levels & sectors. Therefore, in cooperation with developing and developed countries, national and international agencies, domestic stakeholders such as community based enterprises & CSOs including youth groups it would be possible to implement in a desired manner.

1.4 WOREC's Intervention

WOREC played an important role for contribution to MDGs, and continues to deliver efforts for attainment of SDGs. As the Nepal government prepares for their VNR during 2017 HLPF, WOREC has been engaging with both CSOs and government agencies for preparation of collective report relating to the effective

implementation of the SDGs. As the CSOs collective platform "Nepal SDGs Forum" is formed, WOREC is its active member.

For the study, the four SDGs were reviewed as such WOREC has been relentlessly working since twenty six years on women's health, gender equality, safe migration and advocacy on decent work and climate action in 9 different districts namely Kailali, Dang, Udayapur, Morang, Sunsari, Siraha, Dhanusha, Bardiya and Sindhuli. Though goal 8 and 13 are not being reviewed in HLPF this year, WOREC reviewed these goals being these its expertise areas so that the human and financial resources can be maximised in reviewing the implementation of SDGs at local level. WOREC's human resources in aforementioned districts were mobilized to carry out focus group discussions and key informant interviews. During the data collection at the grassroots level, the community people were oriented on the basic knowledge on SDGs. Realizing that the local government officers such as women and children officers present in all the districts of Nepal are the key people to implement SDGs, WOREC facilitated orientations on SDGs, making them accountable to its execution. Additionally, awareness was raised among the networks and groups at the grass roots including women human rights defenders.

With the data analysis and interpretation, WOREC organized the national consultation on Voluntary National Review (VNR) and National Review and Monitoring of implementation of SDGs in Nepal. The consultation aimed to share the preliminary findings and propose development justice indicators provided the national indicators pushed by the government are inadequate in terms of gender perspectives. The development justice indicators are proposed by the Women's Major Group (WMG) and the Asia Pacific-Regional Civil Society Engagement Mechanism (AP-RCEM). Likewise, how to generate, record, report and consolidate data from different levels of government and other stakeholders for regular monitoring was also an issue in setting the indicators which were discussed in the national consultation.

The findings of the national consultation were such that the patriarchy, fundamentalism and globalization have impacted in the implementation of these goals. Nepal dominated by patriarchal values and gender stereotypical roles has controlled and denied women's reproductive rights, sexual rights, right to sexuality,

right to citizenship, right to work and right at work, right to access to justice and so forth. This was thus, assumed to hinder the achievement of SDGs.

Objective of the research: The main objective of this research was to review and assess the implementation status of SDGs in Nepal through monitoring the specific goals 3, 5, 8 and 13 from development justice framework and advocate to advance human rights and development justice by holding the government accountable to SDGs framework.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES:

- 1. To analyze the current situation, implementation status, gap/challenges and way-out for the implementation of goals 3, 5, 8 and 13 of the sustainable development framework.
- 2. To assess the impact of development policies, practices and programs on women and girls at national level by monitoring SDGs through the Development Justice indicators.

CHAPTER

BRIEF ASSESSMENTS ON THE COUNTRY'S SDGS COMMITMENTS

Despite the prolonged political instability, with a dozen of governments coming and going in the last 15 years, the MDGs guided Nepal's development. As in the past, Nepal is likely to repeat its success in following the SDGs, which will guide development for the next fifteen years. SDGs offer a chance to countries like Nepal to meet its citizen's aspirations for a more peaceful, prosperous, and sustainable future. With male literacy at 75.1 percent, female literacy 42.8 percent, life expectancy birth 68.41, GDP per capita 712 and human development index 0.463, ranking 157 out of 187 (UNDP 2013), Nepal needs to accelerate its development activities at higher pace. Nepal is still facing poverty, inequality and climate change. This is likely to be addressed by SDGs. Although Nepal has

made a tremendous progress in many sectors, it has still a long way to go in ending hunger, achieving full gender equality, improving health services and achieving decent work and living wage.

The Government of Nepal (GoN) has taken up the SDGs enthusiastically by giving priority to 2030 Agenda including it into its national 14th 3 years periodic plan that was prepared by the National Planning Commission (NPC) for 2016/17- 2018/19. As per the draft SDGs VNR report prepared by NPC, the 14th plan has no detail budget breakdown on SDGs rather the annual work program and budget 2016/17 emphasizes on mainstreaming SDGs into national and local level plans and programs.

Table: Program budget allocation by SDGs in 14th plan and annual work program and budget (2016/017)

Sector	Sustainable Development Goals	% of program budget allocation in annual work program and budget 2016/2017	% of budget allocation in 14thPlan
Economic growth	Goal 1: Poverty alleviation	3.42	
and the poverty	Goal 8: Inclusive economic growth	1.44	
alleviation	Goal 12: Sustainable Consumption and production	0.00	
	Goal 17: Means of implementation and Partnership	0.18	
Sub total		5.04	25.7
Environment and	Goal 13: Climate action	0.34	
climate change	Goal 14: Sustainable use of ocean	0.00	
	Goal 15: Sustainable environment	1.42	
Sub total		1.76	11.7
Social Sector	Goal 2: End Hunger	9.88	
Development	Goal 3: Healthy life	5.17	
	Goal 4: Inclusive education	5.24	
	Goal 6: Water and sanitation for all	5.49	
Sub total		25.78	13.7

Infrastructure	Goal 7: Modern energy for all	8.80	
sector	Goal 9: Sustainable infrastructure	27.59	
development	Goal 11: Safe and modern cities	28.59	
Sub total		64.98	41.9
Governance	Goal 16: Sustainable & Inclusive society	1.38	4.9
Cross cutting	Goal 5: Gender equality	0.34	
Issues	Goal 10: Reduce inequality	0.72	
Sub total		1.06	2.1

Source: NPC, 2016b and 2017-06-28

Above table shows that only 0.34% of program budget is allocated to gender equality which is very less and this cannot include the empowerment programs of women in inter-sectionality approach. In contrary, infrastructure sector development has high budget allocation.

Similarly, for the implementation of the SDGs, the institutional arrangement, NPC is the focal agency of SDGs. The government has formed two highlevel committees and nine thematic working groups. One of the high level committees formed is High Level SDGs Steering Committee chaired by Prime Minister with members from different stakeholders and the other is the Implementation, Coordination and Monitoring Committee chaired by NPC vice chairperson.⁶

The structures of Central Steering Committee and Implementation, Coordination and Monitoring Committee on SDGs are given below:

Central Steering Committee on Sustainable Development Goals

- Prime Minister
- Vice chairperson of National Planning Commission
- Minster, Ministry of Foreign Affair
- Minister, Ministry of Finance
- Chief Secretary of Government of Nepal
- Secretary, National Planning Commission Secretariat (Member Secretary)
- SDGs Implementation, Coordination and Monitoring Committee
- Vice Chairperson of National Planning Commission
- Member of NPC (Economic development)

- Secretary, Ministry of Finance
- Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affair
- Umbrella organizations of private sector (Federation of Nepalese Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FNCCI), Confederation of Nepalese Industry (CNI), Nepal Chamber of Commerce (NCC))
- Joint Secretary, Financial management section, National Planning Commission (Member Secretary)

Similarly, the nine thematic groups comprise of members from concerned ministries, private sector, civil society and senior officials of the National Planning Commission Secretariat.

- 1. Dr. Swarnim Wagle (Economic Development)
- 2. Dr. Chandra Kanta Paudel (Industrial Development)
- 3. Dr. Sunil Babu Shrestha (Urban Development)
- 4. Dr. Geeta Bhakta Joshi (Social Development)
- Dr. Kripa Sindhu Prasad (Employment Management)
- 6. Dr. Prabhu Budhathoki (Agriculture, Climate and Environment),
- 7. Prof. Hirendra Man Pradhan (Physical Infrastructure),
- 8. Dr. Arbind Kumar Mishra (Energy Development) and
- 9. Secretary of the NPC, Mr. Chandra Kumar Ghimire (Peace, Justice and Inclusive Institutions).

Both the High-Level Official Committees do not contain any provision for ensuring institutional representation of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs). Though the agenda clearly states that "As we embark on

⁶ http://kathmandupost.ekantipur.com/printedition/news/2017-03-24/2-comittees-9-groups-formed-to-implement-sdgs.html

this collective journey, we pledge that no one will be left behind", the committees fail to ensure the participation of diverse social groups such as Dalit, poor, persons with disability, immigrants, women, young people, HIV affected persons, and indigenous people. In contrary, the United Nations, officially recognizing nine "Major Groups", has been facilitating all sectors of society to participate in all kinds of processes of the Sustainable Development Agenda; the Government of Nepal has come up with the decision to form unilateral kinds of High-Level Committees consisting of Government Officials, and having institutional representation of the private sector alone. With a continuous joint lobby and advocacy, the government has added a provision of invitee members to the CSOs in the implementation, coordination and monitoring committee. However, it is unfair for the CSOs to be kept in the same basket provided the natures of CSOs differ with their priority areas. Moreover, the marginalized, women, women with disability, indigenous women might be left behind in the competition among the CSOs.

Nepal government has included the private sectors and cooperatives on board for SDGs with the expectation that a growth rate of 7% projected for the ongoing 14th plan could only be achieved if the private sector meets the target of 55% of total national investment in the plan period (Fiscal year 2016/17-2018/19).⁷ In contrary the Nepal government envisions to increase public investment in public services which contradicts with the partnership of private sectors provided this public private partnership boosts privatization, deregulation and capitalism. Further it affects the livelihood of the marginalised, women and the disadvantaged groups. It increases huge inequality gap within the people. Nepal government has stated in its draft SDGs VNR report to set up taxation system which should be strict in the private sector to control speculation. Additionally, as per the interview with the retired Chief Justice Sushila Karki who has mentioned in her interview that there were Public Interest Litigation (PIL) cases on the government, one of which was government bought the indigenous people's land of Pokhara, district of western development region for Rs. 4000 (\$ 61 USD) to set up public park but gave it to the private investor on lease for 99 years. These sorts of cases are increasing yet the government is positive on leveraging private investment. So, it is an urgent need of the government to hold the private sector hold accountable along with its corporate sector responsibility so that they are gender friendly and reliable in terms of acting as the key actors to the implementation of SDGs in Nepal.

 $http://npc.gov.np/en/pages/public_private_partnership/374/workshop_on_public_private_partnership_policy$

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DwQXhU5bkRo

CHAPTER

FINDINGS AND THEMATIC ANALYSIS THROUGH WOMEN'S PERSPECTIVE

Despite the prolonged political instability, with a dozen of governments coming and going in the last 15 years, the MDGs guided Nepal's development. As in the past, Nepal is likely to repeat its success in following the SDGs, which will guide development for the next fifteen years. SDGs offer a chance to countries like Nepal to meet its citizen's aspirations for a more peaceful, prosperous, and sustainable future. With male literacy at 75.1 percent, female literacy 42.8 percent, life expectancy birth 68.41, GDP per capita 712 and human development index 0.463, ranking 157 out of 187 (UNDP 2013), Nepal needs to accelerate its development activities at higher pace. Nepal is still facing poverty, inequality and climate change. This is likely to be addressed by SDGs. Although Nepal has made a tremendous progress in many sectors, it has still a long way to go in ending hunger, achieving full gender equality, improving health services and achieving decent work and living wage. The Government of Nepal (GoN) has

taken up the SDGs enthusiastically by giving priority to 2030 Agenda including it into its national 14th 3 years periodic plan that was prepared by the National Planning Commission (NPC) for 2016/17-2018/19. As per the draft SDGs VNR report prepared by NPC, the 14th plan has no detail budget breakdown on SDGs rather the annual work program and budget 2016/17 emphasizes on mainstreaming SDGs into national and local level plans and programs.

3.1 Findings of goal 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

a) Maternal Mortality

The matrix below shows that 3.1 target is reviewed along with its respective indicator. Since the indicator has fallen short for it fails to explain the reproductive health services and comprehensive sexuality education, proposed indicator was introduced for it.

Targets	3.1 By 2030, reduce the global maternal mortality ratio to less than 70 per 100,000 live births
National Indicators	3.1.1 Maternal mortality reduced to 70 per 100,000 live births
Proposed Indicators	Proportion of births attended by Skilled Birth Attendant (SBA) (%) to increase to 90 by 2030

In 2008, Nepal launched a program for free essential healthcare for primary health services and access to number of essential drugs for all citizens seeking care at health and sub-health posts. By 2009, the free essential healthcare services were extended to primary health care centres. Since February 2009 institutional deliveries are free of charge to all women nationwide. However, out of an estimated 287,000 maternal deaths occurred worldwide in 2010, with the low income countries accounting for 99% of all maternal deaths; South Asia accounted for one third of the entire maternal mortality.9 Despite, government's positive health related schemes, according to District Health Survey (DHS) 2016, Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) estimates to be 258 deaths per 100, 000 live births which the government envisions to reduce to 70 deaths per 100, 000 live births by 2030.

http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/10665/112318/1/WHO_RHR_14.06_eng.pdf

Maternal Mortality Ratio



births)10 as the pregnant women can't walk such long distances due to centralization of health facilities which is usually in the headquarters. Similarly, as those hospitals also lack specialized doctors, local people have to rush to the city areas for the health check-up where the private

National Indicator 3.1.1 2015

258

Maternal mortality

ratio (per 100,000 live

hospitals charge very high."

2019

127

2022

116

2030

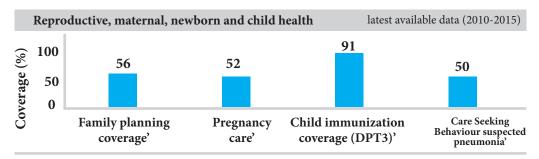
70

Government of Nepal has adopted a policy of SBA to
reduce MMR and Neonatal Mortality Rate (NMR). But
there is not yet adequate number of qualified midwifes
and trained health assistants in fulfilling the need of the
country. ¹² According to the Nepal Demographic and
Health Survey, the proportion of births assisted by a
SBA, which includes a doctor, nurse, or midwife, was
36%, and the total percentage of all births taking place
in a health facility was 35% - both these levels are far
below the levels necessary to meet the SDGs targets. ¹³

The District Public Health Officer (DPHO), Sindhuli states, "There is high prevalence of pregnancy related complications due to lack of accessibility and availability of reproductive health services (such as birthing centres and related equipments including trained health assistants). He added that the birthing centres are not available in all health institutions. Moreover, the delivery of most children occurs at home Similarly, KII of Udayapur states that there is low physical accessibility and lack of awareness among women regarding reproductive health services (ante natal check-up (ANC), post natal check-up (PNC) and family planning service). As per WOREC's data of women health camps, 80% attained the first ANC visit while only 42% completed the 4 ANC visit and 46% attained the post-delivery check-up. Though government has increased the incentives for regular 4 times ANC visit, this data shows that 15% of women don't access the maternity health services in districts like Udayapur.

The latest available data (2010-2015) below shows the percentage of the coverage of several key healthcare services:

11



However, health care delivery system isn't functional as it starts from a health post to a health centre to district and regional hospitals. The health posts and health centres are in dire condition, with many of them operating without doctors. Even the district and regional hospitals are below par. There are some indications that the lack or misuse of resources is to blame for this situation.14

Additionally, government's provision of free distribution of 70 types of medicine is not uniformly executed forcing many women to go to the private hospitals due to the ineffectiveness of government hospitals subsequently

http://en.karobardaily.com/news/3266

https://data.unicef.org/topic/maternal-health/maternal-mortality/

http://library.nhrc.org.np: 8080/nhrc/handle/123456789/610

http://ecommons.aku.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1033&context=jam

http://kathmandupost.ekantipur.com/news/2016-09-19/dr-kcs-call-for-health-sector-reforms-is-legitimate.html

forcing women to pay more in the private hospitals and clinics. One of the participants in Morang shared her experience in the focus group discussion how the government hospitals charge Rs. 50 for general check-up of patients while the private hospitals charge Rs. 350- 400. Additionally, 12 participants of Sunsari reported that availability of family planning devices are only through private medical store which is not easily accessible due to high charges of check-up.

Similarly, the lack of timely supply of medicines and the distribution of medicines nearing the expiry date has been an issue in the local areas¹⁵. Due to the lengthy procurement process of the government for the delay in delivering essential drugs to the government health facilities, women with low status are bearing the brunt.¹⁶

b) Skilled Birth Attendants

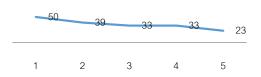
Nepal's topographical complexity further widens the gap in availability, access and the utilization of health services. 42.8% of deliveries were attended by SBAs in Terai region – which has flat topography allowing easier service access – as compared to 18.9% in mountain

region with its harsh terrains impeding easier access. Birth attained by SBA has increased to 55.6% in 2015 from 36% in 2011. As per the proposed national indicator, it is expected to increase to 90% by 2030. Data shows that over 64% of women give birth without skilled attendant.¹⁷ Moreover, adolescent birth rate per 1000 women aged 15-19 years is 71% which depicts that due to inaccessibility and unavailability of SBAs, the young women risk healthy reproductive lives.

Moreover, 95% of females in rural areas in districts of far west region of the country are affected by Chhaupadi¹⁹ (isolation of females during the menstruation cycle). Likewise, the region lacks adequate number of SBAs and birthing centres²⁰. Women of this area continue to follow traditional practices of giving birth at home.

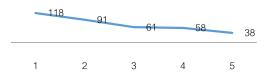
Additionally, the findings of Udayapur note that antenatal and postnatal complication is another problem in the districts for maternal mortality. The data show that only 42% of the deliveries are attained by SBAs. Due to unavailability of specialised doctors, birth complications don't get addressed.

Neonatal mortality rate (per 1,000 live births)1996-2016



Similarly, in under-five mortality, the gap between the poorest and wealthiest has increased since 2001; in 2011 the under-five mortality rate for the poorest income quintile was 75 – more than double the rate of 36 for the wealthiest. Infant mortality rate of 69 among Muslims and 65 for Dalits, as compared to 45 for Brahmin/Chhetri, also typifies the variation in health status between different caste/ethnic groups.²¹

Under five mortality rate (per 1,000 live births) 1996-2016



As per Nepal Demographic and Health Survey, (NDHS) 2011, childbearing begins early, especially in rural areas. Almost a quarter of women in Nepal give birth before the age of 18 and nearly half before they are 20 years old, although the numbers of teenage pregnancies have reduced in recent years, as shown by Nepal Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (NMICS) 2014.²²

¹⁵ http://www.myrepublica.com/news/3345/

http://www.myrepublica.com/news/3345/

¹⁷ http://www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs348/en/

⁸ https://www.hrw.org/report/2016/09/07/our-time-sing-and-play/child-marriage-nepal

http://restlessdevelopment.org/news/2015/07/30/towards-the-abolition-of-chhaupadi-in-nepal

http://library.nhrc.org.np:8080/nhrc/bitstream/handle/123456789/93/594.pdf?sequence=1

http://nepalphysio.org.np/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/NHSS-English-Book-Inside-final.pdf

http://unicef.org.np/uploads/files/597341286609672028-final-report-nmics-2014-english.pdf

C. Sexual and Reproductive Health Services

The table below explains the target 3.7 and its proposed national indicator.

Targets	3.7 By 2030, ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health-care services, including for family planning, information and education, and the integration of reproductive health into national strategies and program
National Indicators	3.7.1 Proportion of youths/young people provided information comprehensive sexuality (sex education/ Reproductive Health services)

Additionally, the focus group discussions among the community women and adolescent girls showed that early births among teenage girls have negative impacts on their reproductive health. Few teenagers shared their experiences on how being mother at a young age restricted their right to education as they had to drop out from school in class 8 and class 9. Though their male partners with the same education background would carry on education even after being a father but they would completely get engrossed into household chores and care work which is taken as unproductive work. Eventually, they would lose employment opportunities leading to low economic status.

Similarly, the NMICS, 2014shows that about 47% of adolescents aged 15 to 19 years who need contraception, do not have it. Moreover, the low awareness on legality of abortion and the existence of safe abortion services, women and teenage girls seek for unsafe abortions leading to 5% of maternal deaths.

The national adolescent sexual and reproductive health program has been introduced which aims to serve all adolescents and is complemented by comprehensive sexuality education (CSE) as part of national curriculum. This program includes counselling, provision of contraceptives and screening for sexually transmitted infections in 63 districts with 1134 health facilities. The remaining districts are expected to be covered by the programme by 2021.²³

Despite these programs, adolescents lack awareness on CSE as most of them are drop-outs. Though it is targeted to the school children of grade 6 and 8 along with the human sexuality education mandatory for the masters' level students of Population and Education, this has not been able to aware the youths who are drop-outs and

marginalized. The findings of national consultation noted that due to inadequate trained teachers and comprehensive teaching contents, the curriculum in schools and colleges don't cover the sexuality education effectively. So, there is an urge to focus CSE among the youths of rural areas in a comprehensive way.

Out of the 9 districts, only Udayapur has started adolescents' friendly clinics as per the health personnel interviewed. He highlighted that the male and female health personnel are trained to provide services to the male and female adolescents respectively so that they can freely express their sexual and reproductive health issues.

Furthermore, there are concerns of uterine prolapsed, even among women under age of 30 resulting from inadequate sexual and reproductive health services.²⁴ WOREC organised 29 women's health camps and ran Women's Health Counselling Centres (WHCC) in districts namely, Udayapur, Salyan, Rukum, Dang, Siraha, Kavre, Sindhupalchok, Bhaktapur and Lalitpur from which 580 cases of first degree uterine prolapsed, 505 cases of second degree uterine prolapsed and 427 cases of third degree uterine prolapsed needing referral for surgery were collected from July 2015 to April 2017.

In addition to this, the KII of Siraha noted the incidence of cervical cancer is found in district with very nominal number of mother completing 4 ANC visit and institutional delivery. Likewise, KII of Udayapur also stated the increase in cases of cervical cancer in the district.

Though free screening of cancer like uterine cancer, ovarian cancer, fistula and so forth are some of the praise worthy initiatives taken by the Government

http://www.who.int/bulletin/volumes/95/2/17-020217.pdf

http://docstore.ohchr.org/SelfServices/FilesHandler.aslx?enc=4slQ6QSmlBEDzFEovLCuWxeiQQmyptl4nBy7D%2Bm2LjuHIQPivYmKbbfu5j1XuCWokWRd6Pnzxv6o4qB15L5R6LFDtjh1%2FHXcCsQWy55votplJA88nI3aa3un05WQuCXG

in respect to women's sexual and reproductive health rights, the grass roots women and girls aren't able to access these health related provision due to low awareness. Moreover, the lengthy process of requiring the related documents and inefficiency in rapidly examining the patients, community women haven't accessed these benefits.

d) Women's Mental Health

Common women health problems identified in 9 districts are uterine prolapsed, vaginal discharge, vaginal itching, lower abdominal pain, backache, headache, dizziness, throat pain, anemia, abdominal swelling, mental and physical weakness, irregular menstruation and fistula. Major problem of Kailali district was reported to be unintended pregnancy due to rape, Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STDs) including HIV/AIDS. Likewise, the study in Sunsari district revealed that early marriage, early pregnancy, unsafe abortion and lack of support from family members including spouse are the major problem.

All 9 districts stated, women's mental health problems are increasing with a high demand of counselors and psychiatrist as the services are only limited to that of I/NGOs (e.g. women's health counseling center of WOREC). Though government has the scheme of decentralizing women's health counseling centers as part of this fiscal year, the implementation part is yet to see.

According to the Key Informant Interview (KII) of Dang, "Misconception related to the mental health issue is also gradually decreasing due to the women

health counselling centres run by WOREC which is the only point of receiving psychosocial counselling."

Additionally, the data from consultation shows that Women with Disability (WWD) are suffering from psycho social diseases for instance depression, mania, trauma, suicide and schizophrenia. Furthermore, they are not aware about the sanitation, family planning and personal hygiene also.

Similarly, the KII of Morang said that mental health problems are also suppressed in society as women are stigmatized to speak about it freely. The Women and Children Officer in Morang added that the provision of mental health counselors in the women and children's office should be made mandatory for the violence survivors provided continual violence impact their mental health status. In addition, the reports from women's health counselling centres of Udayapur, Dang and Siraha reveal 2794 women visited from July 2015 to April 2017 for the remedies of their mental health issues.

However, the government hasn't taken into consideration, the women's mental health issues. Though the expenditure on health as a proportion of total government's budget in 2015 is 5.5% and this is targeted to increase to 7% by 2030 according to the proposed national indicator, it has failed to allocate budget specifically for the mental health. Recently, the national health insurance program is formulated with the allocation of Rs.2.50 billion in 2016, it is expected that women's sexual and reproductive health along with mental health issues are addressed.

e) Case Study

WOMEN'S HEALTH CASE STUDY

Name: Dila Subedi 38 from Lalaura

I had an arranged marriage at the age of 14. My husband's family had 16 members and I had to take care of the farming and household chores, so I slept very late at night. I used to get scared of my husband so I used to find a secret place to sleep. After 7 days, my husband warned me if I continued to do so then he'd marry another woman.

At the age of 18, I became pregnant. As per the social norms, I did not let anyone know during mu labor pain. I tolerated the pain the whole day. I pushed hard and the baby was out but since there was no midwife, I had to act as one. I later found out my uterine prolapsed to the 1st degree. Despite that, I had to take care of my baby, wash the clothes, and bathe her by myself.

Again at the age of 19, I became pregnant without realizing it. Without visiting the doctor once, another baby was born. At that time, I fainted for 3 hours. Witch doctors were called to cure me. Finally, I gained my consciousness. This time, I realized that my uterine prolapsed was due to inadequate nutritious food. My mother taught me some exercise which I practiced regularly to recover from my 1st degree uterine prolapse.

As per my experience, government health institutions don't have women-friendly health checkups while the private hospitals do provide that service. So, my recommendation is the female doctors should check the women and it should be female friendly as well.

f) Recommendation

- Effective implementation of policy related to reproductive health and adolescent health should be done and monitoring, supervision and evaluation of the program should be conducted by government.
- A comprehensive policy and guideline needs to be adopted to address reproductive health (RH) morbidity issues like Uterine Prolapsed, obstetric Fistula, cervical cancer, Pelvic Inflammatory Diseases (PID). Similarly, an indicators related RH morbidity needs to be set up in the national indicators to monitor and report RH morbidity.
- Psycho-social First Aid (PFA) and Psycho-social counseling's services need to be included as a basic and essential service for the management of stress, trauma and Women Mental Health problems.

- Adopt, integrated comprehensive sexual and reproductive health policies ensuring women and girls access to information, education and services including contraception and sex education.
- Establish more partnership with women rights organisations to effectively address SRHR. Women's empowerment (Social, Economic, and Political) should move parallel to SRHR initiatives. Unless SRHR is assured all other human rights (civil and political, economic and social) have limited power to advance the well-being of women and vice-versa.
- National budget has to increase primary health care coverage and promote health insurance along with ensuring women's sexual and reproductive health rights and mental health issues.

3.2 Findings of Goal 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

a) Gender based Violence

Below matrix shows the target 5.1 and 5.2 with their national indicators. While the National indicator only includes women aged 15-49 years in its calculations, development justice indicator of target 5.2 expands the definition to include women of all ages along with disaggregated data. Moreover, physical, sexual and psychological violence by the intimate partner is not mentioned provided data shows women face violence from their husbands more than any others.

Targets	5.1 End all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere
National Indicator	5.1.7 Gender Inequality Index (as per global indicator) 5.1.8 Gender Empowerment Measurement to reduce to 0.05 by 2030
Target	5.2 Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation
National Indicator	5.2.1 Sex ratio at birth (female to male) to increase to 1 by 2030 5.2.3 Women aged 15-49 years experience Physical / sexual violence (%) to reduce to 0 by 2030
Development Justice	5.2.1 Expand to include women of all ages and include psychological violence: Proportion of ever-partnered women and girls subjected to physical, psychological and/or sexual violence by a current or former intimate partner, in the last 12 months by form of violence. Data for this indicator should be disaggregated by age, income, location, marital status, disability and education level. 5.2.2 Expand to include women of all ages: Proportion of women and girls subjected to sexual violence by persons other than an intimate partner, by age and place of occurrence. Data for this indicator should also be disaggregated by age, income, location, marital status, disability and education level.

Nepal has different groups of women who enjoy different status; a single statement is not applicable for all. For instance, women from indigenous groups enjoy more egalitarian rights, with equal or more access and control of resources; relatively higher degree of social mobility, and freedom within the private sphere. However their participation in public sphere is negligible due to the dominant ideology of higher casts. In contrast, Hindu women have no autonomy within private sphere, but enjoy limited positions in the public sphere. Their oppression stems from the concepts of hierarchy, the caste system, traditional thoughts about food, and the high value of chastity.

Additionally, regional differences affect the status of women. The worst situation is of those women who live in the far-western and mid-western development regions because the government has always ignored

implementation of development programs and allocation of adequate budget. Also, casteism is immense in these regions due to the existence of discriminatory traditional practices between the so called "high" and the "low" castes.

The Gender Inequality Index states that Nepal ranks 115 out of 188 countries.²⁵ A revised mechanism of measurement is the Gender Empowerment Measurement where Nepal falls at 86 of 177.26 While addressing gender equality and empowerment, intersectionality approach is imperative of analysing it. For instance, women with disability, Dalit women, rural women, urban poor women, indigenous women, single women, women with no educational background and women from the marginalized community face multiple layers of discrimination. They are more vulnerable to sexual exploitation, trafficking and

http://hdr.undp.org/en/composite/GII

http://www.rrojasdatabank.info/hdr20072008tab29.pdf

various forms of violence including domestic violence. From the statistics of Morang, 79 VAW cases were reported to police in 9 months. Likewise, the data of Bardiya states that 68% of the VAW has been reported.

During the national consultation, women with disability (WWD) shared that they are in extreme vulnerable condition from the perspective of both domestic and public spheres. They added WWD are sexually violated and divorce rate and marital conflict is increasing in them. On the other hand, in order to reduce sexual harassment in the WWD, they are further exploited as such their reproductive organs damaged so that they don't get sexually aroused.

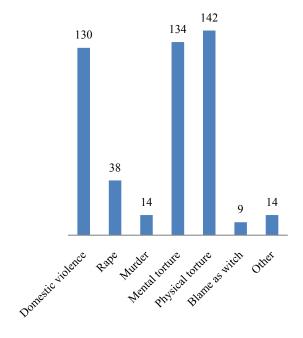
i. Domestic Violence

More than one in five (22%) women aged 15-49 experience physical violence at some point since the

age of 15 years; among whom 9% were physically assaulted either regularly (2%) or infrequently (7%). Another study in six selected districts also revealed that almost half of women (48%) experienced violence at some time in their lives. Of the violence 40.4% was emotional violence, 26.8%, physical violence, 15.3% sexual violence and 8% economic abuse/violence. The study also revealed that one in ten adolescent girls (9.8%) experience sexual violence (OPMCM, 2012).²⁷

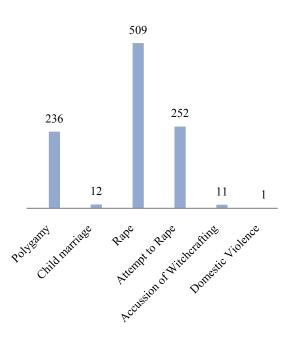
The following figures shows that the types of violence reported in six months (November-April) ANBESI is such that the domestic violence, mental and physical torture is high in number while the data of Nepal Police of six months shows that rape cases are high followed by attempt to rape but domestic violence cases aren't reported.

Types of Violence reported in six months as per ANBESI



Furthermore, ANBESI depicts that the women of age 16 years to 25 years face more violence which is followed by women aged 26 years to 35 years. The

Types of Violence reported in six months as per Nepal Police

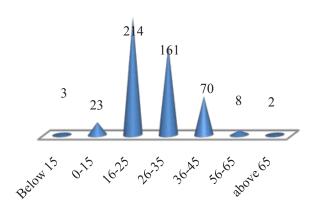


perpetrators as reported are husbands followed by the family members.

²⁷ A Study on Gender-Based Violence Conducted in Selected Rural Districts of Nepal, Government of Nepal Office of the Prime Minister and Council of Ministers November 2012.

https://www.nepalpolice.gov.np/images/statistic/webpage/data/mahila-balbalika/mahila_balbalika_sambandhi_2073_4_to_73-12sammako.pdf

Age of survivors reported in 6 months as per ANBESI



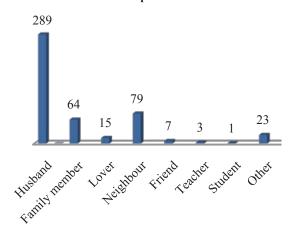
According to ANBESI 2016, WOREC has found that out of 1775 documents cases of violence against women, 1300 women (73%) suffer from domestic violence. It states that 58% of total alleged perpetrators are husband and 15% from other family members in case of domestic violence. Every two in three women never tell anyone about the violence they have experienced as per the ANBESI data of 2016. As the focus group discussion in Dhanusha district state that issues emerge when women try to break the silence on domestic violence. Moreover, the findings showed that marital rape was not considered as crime in some communities of Dhanusha.

Moreover, there are many serious concerns and issues the report raised, notably the absence of adequate genderdisaggregated data and statistics on the incidence of violence and the inadequate documentation and research on domestic violence, sexual harassment and violence against women (VAW) and girls in private and in public, including the workplace.

ii. Laws and Policies

The Constitution 2072 recognizes women's fundamental rights (article 38) and prohibits physical, mental or other forms of VAW, declaring these punishable by law. Gender Equality Act 2006 (commonly known as the Gender Equality Act) was

Prepetrators reportd in 6 months as per ANBESI



repealed and 56 discriminatory provisions were amended by incorporating other provisions such as defining domestic violence to include the act of marital rape, introducing Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) policies to prevent and respond to VAW and increase women's access to public services. Similarly, Gender Based Violence (GBV) or VAW watch groups have been formed at ward level. There have been efforts to engage men in the community to work towards eliminating discrimination and VAW, empowering girls and women, and make society more gender-equal. Likewise, there are Women and Children Service Centres (WCSC) in 75 districts set up by the government to provide increased legal protection and social services to GBV survivors. In addition to this, GBV Unit is present at the ministry which is directly under the surveillance of Prime Minister.

Additionally, the National Strategy and Plan of Action on Gender Empowerment and ending GBV 2012-2017 (hereafter referred to as the National Strategy) proposes to make long term plan for empowerment of women and devise tools to prevent GBV including child marriage and sexual exploitation and address rehabilitation and reparation needs of survivors of violence.

Despite these initiatives that have been undertaken to address the issues of GBV by the government,29 civil

Nepal's commitment has been translated into some national-level laws for addressing VAW in Nepal. Some of the specific laws that are related to GBV are: Muluki Ain (General Code), 1963; The Interim Constitution of Nepal, 2007; The Social Practices reform act 1976; Legal Aid Act, 1997; Local Self-Governance Act, 1998; Gender Equality Act, 2063 (2006); National Women's Commission Act, 2007 and its Regulation, 2009; Domestic Violence (Offence and Punishment) Act, 2066 (2009); Mediation Act, 2011; Castebased Discrimination and Untouchability (Offence and Punishment) Act, 2011; Human Trafficking and Transportation (Control) Act, 2007.

society and international organizations, including the UN, the prevalence of GBV including child marriage and trafficking remains high provided 5,000 to 12,000 girls and women are trafficked each year.³⁰ Another more specific approximation lists the number at 7,000.31 Deep rooted restrictive and discriminative social norms and institutions, including legal subordination, economic dependency, cultural obligation and lower social position of women as compared to men; lack of education and knowledge of sexuality are all noted as factors contributing to the risk of violence.³²

The various areas of impact of discriminatory laws against women are;

- a. Economic: On the economic front, the significant issues are: inheritance, economic decision making and participation, work load, employment, human resource development, and access and control to economic resources.
- b. Social: On the social front, the significant issues are: marriage and family, trafficking, literacy and education, health including reproductive health, rural life, violence against women, and social position.
- c. Political: On the political front, the significant issues are: political and public life, nationality (citizenship), and violation of human rights.
- d. Psychological: On the psychological front, the significant issues are: mental torture, personality disorder, and depression.

e. Legal: On legal front, the significant issues are restricted access to legal remedies and denial of recognition to women at par with men.33

iii. Access to Justice

All the districts reported that the poor intervention of fast track court, the justice has been delayed. Most of the cases were reconciled in monetary compensation/ transaction to the survivor by the perpetrator. Sindhuli's data presents that the survivors approach the government lawyers for advocating their cases due to low economy. At times, the government lawyer and private lawyer of the perpetrators have an understanding where they intentionally play the tricks to defeat the case from the survivors' side. This has impacted on the rape cases as well since the cases get reconciled within the two parties in monetary compensation. This has further stigmatized the survivors as the cases of violence don't get reported due to the fear of losing the case along with the dignity.

b) Harmful Traditional Practices

The matrix explains the target 5.3 and its national indicator and development justice indicator as it amends to account for children below 15, even though the original only looked at those 15-18, since girls are married even younger in Nepal. While the minimum age of marriage for both women and men in Nepal is 20, 37% of girls marry before they are 18, and 10% marry before they are 15.

Targets	5.3 Eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation
National Indicators	5.3.1 Women aged 15-19 years who are married or in union (%) to reduce to 0 by 2030
Development Justice Indicator	5.3.1 Amend to capture girls under 15, as well as 18 as follows: 5.3.1 Percentage of women and girls who were married or in a union before age 15 and before age 18 (i.e. child marriage).

Though Nepal seems to have made substantial progress in ensuring equal access to education, with gender parity in primary and secondary level school enrolment, to reduce wage gap and harmful practices, and increase women's participation in parliament, the status of women and girls have not yet improved. For example, cases like marital rapes, domestic violence,

accusation of witch crafting, sexual harassment, child marriage, and early marriage have increased.

The data of child marriage is increasing each day with 34% by 2014. But, there is only one case registered in police station on child marriage this year in Udayapur district although child marriage and early marriage are

file:///C:/Users/pc/Desktop/An-Update-of-Discriminatory-Laws-in-Nepal-and-their-impact-on-Women.pdf

emerging issues among the teenagers and adolescents. Although government has prepared the National Strategy against Child Marriage and based on this the different initiative has been undertaken by government and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), there is no friendly environment in family and school for the adolescents to talk openly about the sexuality and the drop outs do not have access to the comprehensive sexuality education. It is also found out that from the focus group discussion in Morang district that child marriage has reinforced the existing practice of dowry where the proportion of dowry increases with the age of females.

In the consultation, discussions on the definition of child concluded to be controversial as the labor law defines those below 14 years old as children, citizenship rights is at the age of 16 and voting right is at the age of 18. The definition should be concrete so that there isn't impunity of the crimes and violence against young girls can be reduced, said the lawyer of Blue Diamond Society in the consultation.

Findings of desk research revealed that women and girls suffer from a variety of types of violence including: sexual exploitation (forced sex, sexual harassment & Trafficking), domestic violence, family abuse, accusations of witchcraft (Boxi) and bonded labour (Kamalari)³⁴, dowry, chhaupadi³⁵, deuki³⁶, badi³⁷, and jhuma³⁸, despite initiatives undertaken to address the issues of GBV by the government, civil society and international organizations, including the UN.39

The discussions in the consultation came up with opinions regarding different factors reinforcing the discrimination against women which included the dominant ideology of patriarchy, male chauvinism, criminalization of politics, lack of equal property rights, restrictions on women's mobility, and domination of men in all political parties and the media.

c) Conditions of work in informal economy

Below matrix shows target 5.4 with national and development justice indicator which focuses on labour, requiring: Percentage of children and other dependents with access to publicly funded or employer funded care.

Targets	5.4 Recognize and value unpaid care and domestic work through the provision of public services, infrastructure and social protection policies and the promotion of shared responsibility within the household and the family as nationally appropriate
National Indicator	5.4.2 (Revised) Social protection coverage of women in informal market
Development Justice Indicator	5.4.1 Percentage of children and other dependents with access to publicly funded or employer funded care (The indicators should measure effectiveness of mechanisms to recognise and redistribute unpaid care work, including public services for reconciling professional and family roles for women and men, such as provision of day care centres for children; paid parental leave; sick leave; and other social services)

Tracking Cases of Gender-Based Violence in Nepal: Individual, institutional, legal and policy analyses, 2013

It is a practice in the far western region of the country where women during menstruation and delivery are kept separately in the cowshed, as they are considered impure

Deuki is a practice, where a person who wishes to gain personal advantage offers a girl or woman to temple.

Badi is a community where the fathers and husbands live on the earning of the women earned through sexual services. Usually, the fathers and husbands cause their daughters and wives to carry on prostitution.

A tradition in the mountain region of Nepal, where second daughter of Sherpa community is sent to the monastery at young age

Nepal's commitment has been translated into some national-level laws for addressing VAW in Nepal. Some of the specific laws that are related to GBV are: Muluki Ain (General Code), 1963; The Interim Constitution of Nepal, 2007; The Social Practices reform act 1976; Legal Aid Act, 1997; Local Self-Governance Act, 1998; Gender Equality Act, 2063 (2006); National Women's Commission Act, 2007 and its Regulation, 2009; Domestic Violence (Offence and Punishment) Act, 2066 (2009); Mediation Act, 2011; Castebased Discrimination and Untouchability (Offence and Punishment) Act, 2011;Human Trafficking and Transportation (Control) Act, 2007; Nepal's commitments at the International Level: International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (1966); Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women; International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights; Convention on the Protection of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD, 2006); Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC, 1989); Convention against Torture (CAT, 1984); Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD,1965);International Conference on Population and Development, 1994 (ICPD); South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC); Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and Post MDGs; The Beijing Platform for Action (1995); The Commission on the Status of Women (CSW); The Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness (PD); The Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women (1993);

Women employed in informal sector are not guaranteed with social protection as unpaid care and domestic works are not recognized and valued. There was discussion in consultation on gender stereotypical roles in men and women which was expected to be redistributed. Similarly, the community women in focus group discussions shared that the family roles have added workload to them as there is no provision of day care centers for children at work place. In addition to this, working women don't get paid parental leave, sick leave and other incentives. As a result, they are compelled with triple burden which

includes reproductive role, economic role and household role. Data shows that only 46 out of 100 married women have decision making within the family / marriage. As there is no any government's plan for making unpaid labour work recognised for gender equality, there has a need for continuous lobby and advocacy.

d) Women's representation in decision making

Below matrix contains target and national indicator which is broken into several categories of participation.

Target	5.5 Ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life
National Indicators 5.5.6 Women in public service decision making positions (% of total employees) to increase 7.5 by 2030	5.5.5 Women's participation in cooperative sector (%) to obtain 50% by 2030 5.4.1 Percentage of children and other dependents with access to publicly funded or employer funded care (The indicators should measure effectiveness of mechanisms to recognise and redistribute unpaid care work, including public services for reconciling professional and family roles for women and men, such as provision of day care centres for children; paid parental leave; sick leave; and other social services) 5.5.7 Ratio of women to men in professional and technical workers (%) to increase 40% by 2030

The main target is to ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life, but this is approached through seven smaller goals. The first is the percentage of parliamentary seats held by women, which, in Nepal, is 29.9.⁴⁰ The results are still being tallied from the most recent election of May, 2017, and last local elections in Nepal were held in 1997. During that year, 20% of candidates were woman, but twenty years later about 40% of the candidates are including 13,000 women, 6,000 of who are Dalits, from the cast formerly known as "untouchable."

Out of 205 members of the House of Representatives elected in the election of 1999, only 12 were women. Similarly, out of 60 members of the National Assembly, only 9 members are women among the dozens of cabinet members and other ministers, only one woman minister used to be there who used to be given very small portfolios. Although the present Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives is a woman, presence of women is grossly minimal in the higher public positions, including secretary, joint-secretary and under-secretary.

The following figure shows the proportion of seats held by women in national parliament.



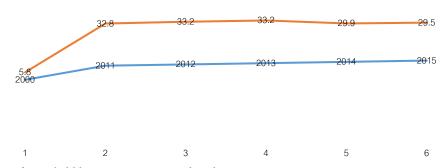


Figure: Proportion of seats held by women in national parliament

⁴⁰ https://www.womenpoliticalleaders.org/parliament/nepal-constituent-assembly-1690/

http://www.monashgps.org/single-post/2017/05/12/MONEY-POWER-AND-MUSCLES-WOMENIN-NEPALESE-POLITICS

Equally problematic are the nominal representation of women in local, provincial and state level. In addition, the National Planning Commission (NPC) which has the main responsibility of implementation of SDGs has no woman member.

In regards to the women's participation in the parliaments, the provision to reduce 50% pledge in case of women candidate in this election has helped. One woman compulsory either as a chairperson or the deputy chairperson and the mandatory inclusion of Dalit woman in the ward can be taken as the positive action by the government. Similarly, there is the provision of 21 years old vying for the local election, 25 years old

for general election and 45 years for the constitutional bodies and government entity. There is the demand for removing the age limitation to vie for the position in government level. However, the age restriction of 28 years to fight for students' union election has encouraged the participation of young people in politics. In youth council, there lacks the women members as out of 60 only one is female. So, there is a need for young women's interest and participation in politics.

Mere representation of women in decision making won't help unless they have the meaningful representation. So, it is necessary for women's effective participation in decision making level.

e) Women's access to and control over land and resources

Below matrix explains the target 5.c and it doesn't have national indicator but development justice indicator.

Targets	5.c Adopt and strengthen sound policies and enforceable legislation for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls at all levels
Development Justice Indicators	5.c.1 Proportion of countries with systems to track and make public allocations for gender equality and women's empowerment (global indicator) 5.c.1 Existence of gender-responsive budgetary resources across the public sector

Data from 10 years ago suggests that 11.3% of the Nepal's budget was directly gender responsive where 33.2% of the budget was indirectly and 55.5% was gender-neutral.42 Despite these allocations, according to KII with women and children officer, Morang, very little money trickled down to local governments, and most was spent on celebrations rather than invested in skill-development. Moreover, gender equality and empowerment of women and girls budget is allocated 0.34% for the fiscal year 2016/2017. As a cross cutting issue and stand-alone goal in SDGs, it is essential to allocate budget across SDGs in gender relevant areas. In addition to this, in other goals there are no adequate gender disaggregated indicators to ensure budget flow on gender equality and empowerment of women which needs to be addressed.

i) Right to property and ownership of land

Similarly, the inheritance right to property (18.5) talks about equality of property rights which is mentioned both in right to equality and right to property seems to be progressive. In regards to ownership on land, though tax rebate for women seems to increase the amount of land registered in women's name, the decision making representation is poor. Moreover, the condition of WWD worsens as there is the need of second person as the protector to register the land in their name which has stigmatized them. Tax rebating in terms of registering the land in women's name is though women friendly is not beneficial for WWD due to the provision of demanding a protector.

ii) Citizenship issues

Statelessness among children born to migrant workers is another grave issue. Nepali women have the right to marriage, which includes the right to marry of one's own choice, whether the spouse is Nepali or foreigner. But if the spouse is a foreigner, the children of Nepali women are only entitled to naturalize citizenship under Article 11.7, whereas the children of Nepali men married to a foreigner spouse are entitled to citizenship by descent. Since vital registration including citizenship, birth registration and legal identity in Nepal is directly linked with the transaction of property, employment in enterprises, issue of travel documents as well as the visa for foreigner spouses of the Nepalese women, this issue has to be resolved which is not addressed in the constitution 2015.

https://www.unisa.edu.au/Documents/EASS/HRI/gender-budgets/nepal.pdf

Additionally, ANBESI explains the aftermath effects of sexual violence which have resulted in suicides, mental trauma and stigma, psychological vulnerabilities,

also nurture and caring of child born as a result of rape, citizenship issues of such children are yet to be addressed.

f) Case Study

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE CASE STUDY

Name: Sabina Rai (Name Changed) Balaju, Kathmandu

Sabina had a love marriage with Basant. The couple had a child after one year of their marriage. The husband was well behaved in the initial phase of the marriage. Gradually, his behavior changed. He started consuming alcohol. After drinking, he used to blame his wife with false accusations and even started to beat her. She said: "when I was pregnant my husband did not care much about my health. Instead he was nowhere to be seen for days and weeks." Even when he was home he used to argue with her for no good reason. "Questioning his occasional visit to home I started to track his behavior and knew that he was involved with different criminal activities and was arrested several times by the police. However, instead of having guilty feelings for his involvement in criminal activities, he used to beat me up and torture me both physically and mentally." She still tolerated all his behavior. "As he did not earn for the family I have started a Chatpate shop to support me and my son. But again my husband accused me of different things and gave me mental torture time and again. I had even reported to the police of the torture I had been facing. He had signed an agreement to stop torturing me. However, his behavior remained the same as before." Unable to tolerate the irrational behavior of her irresponsible husband, she has filed a case for divorce. WOREC is looking after her care which is being processed in Kathmandu District Court.

She opines that opting for the legal procedure of receiving partial property from her husband would be a long procedure. While undergoing all these process her husband will continue the violence until the divorce. So, she would rather not take any property from him and conclude the divorce as soon as possible. Rai says, "Complex legal process, lack of access to resources and lack of proper implementation of law has compelled women to tolerate violence as they don't get to utilize their rights."

g) Recommendations

- Government should ensure that communities including families members know about the cause and consequences of VAW and also ensure that communities particularly men and boys understand the rights of women and girls to prevent and response the cases of VAW.
- Adopt preventive measures including public information and comprehensive sexuality education among adolescent to raise awareness about gender equality reduce child/ early marriage.
- It is recommended that easy access to support and protection mechanism for survivors should be
- effective and efficient. A Fast Track Court should be in place to speed up the justice process for the survivors. Similarly, to increase reporting of VAW cases, women friendly environment and networks should be ensured and quality of service and safety in the safe house should be improved.
- Government should take adequate measures to implement effectively its non-discrimination legislation, in order to allow women to exercise their rights to inherit and to own land and assets in their name. Similarly, government should promote awareness-raising measures in order to ensure that the local administration authorities involved in

- granting the transmission of nationality are fully informed about the legal provisions in place and effectively implement them.
- Government should effectively implement measures to eradicate harmful traditional practices like child and early marriage. Need to expedite the adaptation of bill to criminalize all kinds of harmful practices, and come up with an umbrella policy
- and implement the national strategy to end child marriages.
- As women are given the post of deputy chairperson and most of them have won in this election, the programs should be designed as such we can directly work with the deputy chairperson elected in the community level.

3.3 Findings of goal 8: Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

a) Decent work

The matrix below shows the target 8.5 and its national indicator. Development justice indicator expands the definition of target to living wage and coverage by national labour code.

Targets	8.5 By 2030, achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including for young people and persons with disabilities, and equal pay for work of equal value
National Indicator	8.5a (Revised) Average hourly earnings of female and male employees, by occupation, age and persons with disabilities to achieve 100 by 2030 8.5b Underemployment rate (15-59 y) (%) to reduce to 10% by 2030
Development Indicator	8.5.1 Average annual earnings from all sources by sex 8.5.1 Percentage of workers receiving a living wage (disaggregated by gender, migration status, age, etc) 8.5.1 Percentage of sectors and/or enterprises with collective bargaining agreements; 8.5.1 Percentage of workers covered by the national labour code (disaggregated by gender, migration status, etc) 8.5.1 Enactment in national legislation of the eight ILO fundamental Conventions and other key instruments, including provisions for equality of treatment in respect of employment (in particular wages, social security benefits and skills recognition. 8.5.2 Percentage of workers receiving a living wage (disaggregated by gender, migration status, disability, age, etc)

An estimated two million people migrate annually from South Asia for work. The trend has been increasing every year, as has the share of female migrants. Initially the Gulf was primarily dominated by Sri Lankan and Indian women migrant workers, but changes in demography and increased demand in domestic work in these countries have triggered growing migration among Nepali and Bangladeshi women in recent years. Remittances sent by migrant workers contribute significantly to economic growth and revenue of South Asian countries. In the case of Nepal, remittances account for \$6.73 Billion USD which is 31.7 percent of its Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in 2015.44 Remittance was key in sustaining Nepal's economy during the country's 12-

http://data.worldbank.org/indicator/BX.TRF.PWKR.CD.DT?locations=NP

year-long political conflict, and has been observed to play an indispensable role in recovery after earthquake. 45

Similarly, the Constitution of Nepal (2072) guarantees the right to employment and it states that it is the duty of the state to provide employment to unemployed people. However, the unemployment and underemployment rate of Nepal remains significantly high. The total population of Nepal is 29,158,145 out of which 14,695,609 are women thereby constituting 50.04 percent of the population. 46 Out of 520,000 labor permits issued for Nepalese working abroad, the report by the Labor Migration for Employment notes that 95% of those receiving the labor permits are men.⁴⁷ While other data that captures those working in India (where labor permits are not required) or those who left to work abroad through informal channels indicate that female migration might be as high as 12% of the total workforce abroad.

Everyone has right to decent work which has been enshrined in Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) (Article 23) as well as it is included in the constitutions of Nepal. However, the decent work for domestic workers is not exercised in Nepal neither the measures are taken to ratify International Labor Organization (ILO) Domestic Workers Convention (C189) so that domestic work wouldn't be unrecognized, neglected and ignored.⁴⁸ Many trade union federations have already started organizing domestic workers so, the pressure is on for the Government of Nepal to ratify and implement the Convention.⁴⁹ Likewise, in the focus group discussions with the women working in the informal sectors demanded that Nepal government to ratify ILO Convention on Domestic Workers (C189) and to increase the economic agency of women by providing livelihood opportunities, decent work, and equal wages. In additional to this, the National Human Right Commission has recommended to Nepal government to ratify the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (ICRWM) on November, 2012.50

b) Gender pay Gap

Nepal's new constitution prohibits gender-based discrimination with respect to remuneration and work-related benefits. This constitutional provision means same wage for same work. However,

Our problem is not only discrimination in wages but also inequality in terms of getting access to work. Therefore, the foremost priority is providing men and women with equal access to work at all levels. The traditional roles such as domestic work and recreation, entertaining and nurturing which offer lower pay are dominated by women.

Surprisingly, the farming where more women are involved is discriminated as the focus group discussion in Kavre revealed that women are paid less than the men which is Rs. 450 (\$7 USD) for women and Rs. 700 (\$10.8USD) for men. Likewise, the findings of FGD in Udayapur, Morang highlight that women whose work is in informal (construction work, labour work), domestic and agriculture sectors are affected due to unequal pay gap in men and women. The FGD data of Sindhuli state that males are paid Rs. 800 (\$12 USD) while females get Rs. 500 (\$7.7 USD) for the same construction related work. They complaint that none of them had the contract paper as a result they had insecurity at work place. Moreover, they are not involved with any trade unions so they risk this risk at work place. Those who revolt are more prone to bear the consequences of being fired and getting jobless.

The consultations with the key stakeholders showed that agriculture and industries, which are the main sources of employment in Nepal, are in dilapidated conditions due to deteriorating agricultural productivity, no basic infrastructural development including electricity and transport facilities and the relationship between trade unions and employers. As a result, women are forced to migrate, using clandestine and unsafe measures to find better work opportunities, where they can receive monetary remuneration and recognition for their work.

⁴⁵ http://www.ceslam.org/index.php?pageName=newsDetail&nid=7435

⁴⁶ http://countrymeters.info/en/Nepal

⁴⁷ http://ilo.org/kathmandu/areasofwork/labour-migration/lang--en/index.htm

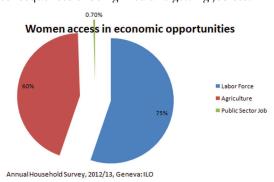
http://mfasia.org/ratify-and-implement-ilo-convention-189-on-decent-work-for-domestic-workers-now/

http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---asia/---ro-bangkok/---ilo-kathmandu/documents/publication/wcms_248195.pdf

http://www.nhrcnepal.org/nhrc_new/doc/newsletter/NHRC_Nepal_UPR_Process_Recommendations_Adoption_Human_Rights_ Council_16Mar2015.pdf

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c) Minimum Wage

The minimum monthly salary for employees in other enterprises (other than tea estates employees) is NPR6, 205 (about US\$59), plus a "dearness allowance" (essentially a cost of living adjustment) of NPR 3,495 (about US\$33), for a total of NPR 9,700 (about US\$92).⁵¹ With high inflation rate of 9%, the minimum wage has made the workers difficult to earn their living. The FGD findings of Siraha stated that women working in informal sector shared that minimum salary is not sufficient for them provided they have family members to look after. Rather they demanded the government for living wage so that their basic survival needs are fulfilled.

Furthermore, the findings of national consultation revealed that women working in informal sectors such as reconstruction work, entertainment sector like dance bar, gajal/ dohori restaurants, massage parlour, open and cabin restaurants and daily wage labour, women are discriminated in terms of minimum wage. As women in entertainment sector are compelled to work in as much as \$23 USD to \$931 USD monthly salary, which is also frequently denied by the business owners according to their will.52

The FGD findings of Sindhuli with the women working in construction and labour work stated that informal sector works being the seasonal works, women have to seek for alternate means to earn their living as such selling their cattle, hens and so forth. The increase in vulnerable situations due to inadequate decent work and living wage, women are bearing the mental stress.

Additionally, the provision of leave, incentives like bonuses, promotion are less likely to be available in the work of informal sectors. Irony is that even if there is any incentive given then it is more influenced by nepotism, favoritism which creates conflict within the workers. Women in Siraha explained that they don't have relaxation areas and rest room facilities due to which they have to work whole day in a monotonous manner.

d) Labour Migration

The below table shows the target 8.8 and its national indicator and development justice indicator that explains the migrants' rights and minimum wage. It basically focuses on promoting safe and secure working environments for the local and migrant workers.

http://www.pioneerlaw.com/images/download/lGUcW-Legal%20Update-Minimum%20Wage%20-%202072.pdf

http://www.wofowon.org.np/index.php/press-release/159-living-wage-of-women-working-in-the-informal-and-entertainment-sectors-innepal-provisions-challenges-and-way-forward

Targets	8.8 Protect labour rights and promote safe and secure working environments for all workers, including migrant workers, in particular women migrants, and those in precarious employment
National Indicators	8.8.1 (Revised) Numbers of fatal and non-fatal occupational injuries, by sex and migrant status to reduce to 15 by 2030
Development Justice	Percentage of workers (disaggregated by sex and migration status) covered by ILO compliant national labour codes. Percentage of workers belonging to an independent trade union. Existence of policies ensuring labour recruitment costs including visa costs are borne by the employer Wage gap between employed migrants and employed nationals Share of migrant workers in regular employment, by gender Number of social security agreements ensuring the portability of social security benefits. Percentage of migrant workers in debt to employers or financial institutions Percentage of workers receiving a living wage (disaggregated by sex, migration status, disability, age) Difference between minimum wage and living wage •Minimum wage as a percentage of median wage •Ratification and implementation of ILO Convention concerning decent work for domestic workers (Convention 189) and related Recommendation No. 201.

From the desk research data, it was found that the ethnic composition and labor migration were related to each other. A member of Janajatis or Dalits community had higher possibility to migrate than Brahman and Chhetris. Similar was the case with those educated ones, as education was found inversely related to foreign employment. Most of the women in focus group discussions had either no education background or were below primary level. Likewise, those with low socio-economic status were found to have migrated. The strong push factors have been landlessness, wage based discrimination and huge debt that persuaded women to choose foreign employment instead of seeking work as daily wage laborers. The data of Udayapur showed that 63% of households depend on foreign employment as their primary means of earning their livelihood.

In the same way, as per the FGD with the returnee migrant workers in Udayapur, the conflicting family relationship also lured women including divorced, widowed and women facing violence and abuses from their spouses to migrate for foreign employment.

Findings of national consultation showed that educated women used lesser irregular channels for foreign labor migration compared to the uneducated women who were dependent much on the brokers for migration management. Eventually, they get trapped in the false promises, and agree on suggestions to adopt irregular channels. They are charged enormous recruitment fees,

offered fake documents, and are supposed to pay high interest rates. Due to disapproval of family members most of the aspirant female migrants have difficulties in managing recruiting fee and preparing documents. So they rely upon brokers or local money lenders which increase the risk of human trafficking.

The returnee migrant workers of Morang shared that they were not easily accepted by the family members and society if they were distressed due to adversities in working stations. They were rather stigmatized and were treated abnormally. This applied for almost all women irrespective of their success status. Further they added that Nepali migrants are made to work under harsh conditions. Many of them are underpaid or have to work for long hours without overtime pay. Likewise, the findings of focus group discussions with the returnee migrant workers in Siraha state that in the Gulf countries and in Malaysia, Nepali migrant workers are paid discriminatorily less than migrant workers from other countries.

Additionally, women migrant workers have been contributing to the empowerment of women in Lebanon, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and other countries by taking care of their prescribed gender roles as domestic workers in their homes, thus enabling them to pursue higher careers in their societies and uplifting the socio-economic status of their families. And yet, their enormous

contributions both at home and abroad are not adequately recognized or welcomed. Their pain and pleas are not acknowledged. They continue to get beaten, abused, and kept in captivity, made to work in unsafe conditions and even tortured or sold into slavery. As a result, Nepal receives an average of three dead bodies per day. 53

According to the provision enlisted in the new guidelines, the recruiting agencies are responsible to ensure rights and welfare of the female migrants, which includes every worker is entitled to free of cost hiring, proper accommodation, 24-hour health and life insurance, weekly holiday and 30-day annual leave and regular contact with their families back home while the housemaid would get \$300 in minimum wage. However, the real scenario is different as the returnee migrant workers in all the districts complaint of having made to do dangerous, daring and dirty works. One of them in Sindhuli during FGD shared that they are oriented to keep one copy of the travel documents at home. But they are not able to practice this because they need to travel to Kathmandu where the travel agencies are located. Due to lack of money, they can't return to their home-town just to handover the copy of travel documents. So, they travel without keeping any documents at home. Similarly, when they have to return in between due to health issues or any other reasons then they wouldn't have evidences of contract or relevant documents to charge against the recruitment agencies and travel agencies.

From the FGD with the returnee migrants in Siraha, about half of returnee migrants reported that, once in the host country, they did not have contract letters of employment. 22% of them reported they did not have official work permits; and around 37% reported they did not receive the salary promised. The government has not been able to negotiate with the host countries to ensure safe working environment for its migrant workers.⁵⁴ For instance, equally well-known and perhaps more widely publicized have been the high levels of suicide among Nepali women migrant workers in Lebanon, the situation of stranded migrants in Libya, Syria and other countries, and the suffering of Nepalese in Qatar working to build stadiums for the 2022 FIFA World Cup.55 Furthermore, government has not been able to implement its

commitment to establish child care centre, regulation of the provision of maternity leave, sick leave, trade union formation and collective bargaining rights of labour, provision of pension, old age benefits and gratuity.⁵⁶ In addition, government policies such as age ban on women under the age of 25 and women with children under two years old to migrate for domestic work and eventually lifting the age ban is causing extra trouble for women going for domestic work provided vulnerability in women increases as many women were going through India with the help of recruitment agencies, unauthorized agents and travel agencies using travel visa.57

From our findings of focus group discussions and key informant interview, it can be summarized that one of the main triggers for unsafe migration is lack of local livelihood options, which particularly affects women, who also suffer from restricted access to political and economic resources in general. Thus, their migration decision is often dictated by a need to provide for their families, but happens under unsafe conditions imposed by recruitment agents. Thus, the origin of this problem is in the lack of employment and livelihood options.

So, the findings of national consultation emphasized on encouraging women to work locally, with migration being an informed but not the only choice. Dissemination of information on employment opportunities and locally available opportunities for women is necessary so that information will be tailored according to the women's skills, and alternative livelihood options particularly encouraging those in male-dominated sectors. This will reduce the number of women who experience distressed migration, thus supporting our overall approach to prevent trafficking: supporting the freedom of movement and right to work, based on a migrant's informed choice.

e) Trafficking in Persons

There is limitation and lack of implementation of laws and policies especially in regard to trafficking of forced labour and unethical recruitment practices. Large numbers of Nepalese youths are trafficked for labour exploitation to Gulf countries and Malaysia. However, Human Trafficking and transportation act, 2067 does not recognize trafficking for forced labour as one of the

http://kathmandupost.ekantipur.com/news/2017-01-13/lost-in-numbers.html

A Civil Society Report on ESCR, 2013

http://kathmandupost.ekantipur.com/news/2016-05-03/joining-hands.html

¹⁹⁹² Labor and Foreign Employment Act

http://kathmandupost.ekantipur.com/news/2016-05-13/ban-on-women-going-for-domestic-jobs-lifted.html

forms of trafficking. As a result most of the cases of human trafficking are filed under fraudulent cases. For instance, the provision of Free Visa Free Ticket (which says, no migrant workers should be made to pay recruitment fees to secure decent work and strongly advocates for zero recruitment fees) has not been properly implemented as a result migrant workers are being deceived by recruitment agencies and charged high recruitment fees.

The findings of FGD in Morang notes that the migrants are imposed to pay more as the visa which

was convenient before is difficult provided the visa processing takes many months these days for the same which would take few hours earlier. Additionally, even if they get visa, they get job opportunities in companies which require lot of physical work and less payment. So, the consultations had the discussion on the plan of action on combating trafficking in person (CTIP) and Human Trafficking Control Act of 2007 which should be implemented. It is further concerned at the lack of information on investigations, prosecutions, convictions and the sanctions imposed on traffickers.

f) Case Study

MIGRANT WORKER CASE STUDY

Name: SaraswatiAdhikari (Name Changed) 40, from Dayanagar, Bhairahawa

Saraswati has 3 sons and one daughter. Five years ago she was going to foreign employment in Oman to work in housekeeping. She traveled there using an Indian airport. She had to pay an agent 50 thousand rupees. She stayed in Bombay for one month and did feel any kind of problem. After a month, she moved to a Muslim house in Oman to work as a housekeeper. She has been working there continuously for three year. Every day she completes 17 hours of work continuously. She told us: "I learned the materials to use from my house owner. At first I had some problems with language, I only know a little Hindi, so my house owner madam taught me a symbolic language. Slowly I understood the Arabic language and felt it was easy to communicate with others. I got only Nepali rupees 10 thousand for the seventeen hours hard work. I cleaned the house, cared for children, washed the clothes, and cleaned the utensils. My house owner madam has two children there. I came back to Nepal after three years. But I did not get four month salary from my house owner."

Saraswati acquired the 3 hundred thousand Nepali rupees from Oman. She made a small house using this amount. She did not own a house before, and she is using some money for her children's schooling. She has not felt any types of discrimination from her family. But she feels some discrimination through the society. She said that: "I learned about the civilization, Arabic language; proper skills for using different types of materials and made the Arabic food too."

Nowadays she is doing the work in VDC level information desk at DayanagarRupandehi. She said to all aspirant migrants: "please get the clear information before joining foreign employment. If we can get the clear information we can safe our migration."

g) Recommendations

- Recognise domestic work as one of the income earning categories and ratify ILO Convention on Domestic Workers (C189) to bring domestic workers into the formal sector.
- Recognize women's work in informal sector and ensure better living and equal wage. The Ministry of Labour and Employment should fully implement
- the Labour and Employment Policy, 2005 and develop a social security system that extends to the informal sector, and which ensures the equal access of women to employment.
- Implement policy related to "free visa and free ticket" to reduce economic burden and vulnerability of migrant workers to forced labor and other abuses by fully committing to zero-cost recruitment system

- and enforce penalties against recruitment agencies that collect visa fees and services charges.
- Comply with internationally agreed definitions of trafficking as including labour trafficking, as contained within the Palermo Protocols to the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and ILO Convention 29 on Forced Labour
- Create employment and, or self-employment opportunities with adequate credit facilities for women, ensuring the dignity and decency of work with the principle of equality in terms of wage, salary and other benefits.
- Maintain a database with socio-economic attributes for aspirants and returnee migrants and analyse these information in a periodic basis to inaugurate different dimensions of foreign labour migration.
- Enhance skills and knowledge of aspirant women migrant workers with special focus on Dalits and Janajatis for functional orientation and related training with negotiating power as well as prospects of finding better jobs.
- Orient women migrant workers with contents of financial knowledge and management skills to maximize benefits of the earnings.
- Make pre-departure training functional, useful, country-language-culture specific and skill based to prepare aspirant women for foreign employment in order to mitigate possible exploitation and abuses.
- Ensure that no charge be imposed on migration aspirant women following Dhaka Principle, for which Nepal is also one of the signatories, and impose sanction against those agencies not following the provision.

- Regulate and monitor the recruiting agencies to ensure ethical recruitment practices and sanction against the recruiting agencies/Agents/sub-agents that do not comply with the laws and policies enforced by the government.
- Enhance the access of migrant women to justice and other support mechanism including voluntary stay at safe house and needful legal assistance. Similarly, create alternative livelihood opportunities for returnees and promote their reintegration to discourage factors causing for forceful migration.

3.4 Findings of goal 13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

a) Climate change

The matrix below states target 13.3 and its national indicator to measure awareness on climate change mitigation among the locals. The study on climate change was conducted in Udayapur, Siraha, Morang, Dang, Salyan and Kailali districts in Nepal representing the Eastern, Mid-western and Far western regions of the country which has witnessed extreme climatic events in recent years. The objective of the study was to establish the linkages between climate change, agriculture, food security and sexual and reproductive health and provide recommendations at the local and policy level to reduce the impact of climate change on sexual and reproductive health. The household survey, focus group discussions and key informant interviews were the methodologies used and the respondents were people who have been farmers between 5-10 years.

Target	13.3 Improve education, awareness-raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning
National Indicator	13.3.1 Proportion of schools covered by climate change education to increase to 100 by 2030 13.3.2 Number of trained persons in climate change mitigation (early warning, etc) 13.3.3 Number of trained persons (local planners) in climate change adaptation to increase to 3000 by 2030

Climate change is a global challenge, which has daunting effects in the developing countries like Nepal with low adapting capacity. The average annual maximum temperature over Nepal is 22.4°C and annual minimum temperature is 11.4°C. The national average mean temperature is around 15° C and increase from north to south with the exception of mountain valleys (FAO 2010). The mean annual precipitation

of Nepal is 1858.4mm. Maximum temperature is in increasing trend in large magnitude than the minimum temperature in almost all the seasons. Nepal's temperature has increased by 1.8°C during last 32 years (Shrestha et al., 1999). It may be due to solar radiation absorbed by glacial lakes as well as radiation absorbed by land because of snow melting in the Himalayan region.

Nepal, responsible for just 0.02percent of global greenhouse emissions, is one of the lowest emitters in the world. Yet Nepal ranks fourth among the 170 countries rated for vulnerability to climate change in Maple croft's Climate Change Vulnerability. Precipitation has become increasingly unpredictable, while biodiversity depletion, deforestation and increased frequency of extreme weather events have all negatively impacted agriculture production.

About 55% of the respondents shared that they had experienced floods and 45% of them had experienced drought since last 5-10 years. Large majority (64.2%) of respondents agreed over increase in temperature. During key informant interviews and focus group discussions, participants reported about increased in temperature. People related the case of increase in temperature with appearance of mosquitoes in month of November and December. Key informants told that few years back they could bask in sun for hours in month of November and December, but in recent years one cannot tolerate heat for same period of time. Moreover, the days are hotter in summer and less cold in winter.

According to the focus group discussions, in recent years, rainfall pattern had become more erratic and rainfall intensity had increased. The increase in rainfall intensity, along with deforestation in hilly areas was blamed for consecutive floods in year 2008 and 2009. They described that earlier rainy days used to lasts for longer period of time and were less intense compared to recent ones. However, respondents mentioned that there was no rainfall at times needed for crops.

b) National Policy on Climate in Nepal

Nepal signed the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) on 12 June 1992, as a step towards controlling greenhouse gas emission or mitigating the impacts of climate change. Since then, Nepal has been regularly participating in conference of parties (COPs) and other subsidiary meeting (HMGN, 2004). Nepal also became a member of Kyoto protocol by submitting its instrument of accession 16, September, 2005. To take advantage of the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) as a source of new investment and technology, Nepal is trying to develop various CDM projects which promote clean energy and sustainable development in the country.

Nepal has recently set up the National Designated Authority under the Ministry of Environment, Science and Technology (MoEST) to approve CDM

project. National Climate Change Policy (2011) and National Adaptation Plan of Action (NAPA) are being formulated. The purpose of the NAPA project is to develop strategic framework of action on climate change that identifies immediate priorities for climate resilient low carbon development behind which the government, the civil society and the donors can align their action in a more synergistic manner. Furthermore, the project will deliver a NAPA document that outlines Nepal's immediate and urgent priorities in climate change adaptation and will guide the provision of follow up funding including financing from the Least Development Country Fund (LDCF) to implement climate change adaptation and climate risk management action in Nepal.

NAPA also acts to support and help people adapt to the adverse impacts of climate change. Nepal has prepared National Framework on Local Adaptation Plans for Action (LAPA) to implement NAPA priorities. It is expected that this framework will contribute to reduce climate change impacts for the security and welfare of the climate vulnerable communities. Additionally, government of Nepal has started the implementation of the Climate Change Policy, 2011 which has the goals of improving livelihoods by mitigating and adapting to the adverse impacts of climate change, adopting a lowcarbon emissions socio-economic development path and supporting and collaborating in the spirit of the country's commitments to national and international agreements related to climate change. The Policy emphasizes, inter alia, the implementation of activities related to climate adaptation and resilience. Both NAPA and the Policy have made mandatory provisions to disburse at least 80 percent of the available budget for the implementation of adaptation and climate change activities at the local level. This is expected to support the most climate vulnerable communities and people to adapt with climate change and improve livelihoods.

The LAPA was designed and piloted in 10 districts namely Illam, Udaypur, Nawalparasi, Kapilvastu, Kaski, Dadeldhura, Pyuthan, Rukum, Achham, and Kalikot in 2010. This LAPA framework will help to integrate climate adaptation and resilience aspects in local and national plans. For this, agriculture, forestry, health, water and sanitation, watersheds and microfinance have been identified as the main entry points. Similarly, education, local infrastructure, disasters and other environment-related areas may also be taken as entry points. The Framework was refined to make it implementable with inputs from regional and national consultation processes and the outcomes of harmonization activities and learning among on-going adaptation related initiatives.

Gender impacts of climate change have been identified as an issue requiring greater attention by the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW). Gender norms, roles and relations are important factors in determining both, vulnerability and adaptive capacity to overcome sexual and reproductive health impacts of climate change (WHO, 2005).

c) Climate Change and GBV

According to the study from different districts namely, Udayapur, Siraha, Morang, Dang, Salyan and Kailali, about 80% of the male members of the sampled households went to India as a seasonal migrant and remaining 20% went to gulf countries to escape the food insecurity, an impact of climate change. Wives of migrated men suffer the stigmatization and other physical and psychological violence at home and in society. Whereas, domestic violence in particular is most prevalent form of VAW as men couldn't make enough money through seasonal migration. 77% of women in the focus group discussions shared that they were tortured by the society and family members or from other male members of the community or relatives itself. This show how detrimental is the situation of women in the community whose husbands are migrated due to climate change.

The study also revealed that women and girls are the ones mostly affected by adverse impact of climate change. The major reason behind this is that after a natural disaster, the burden of work on women had increased. Women and girls are generally expected to take care of the sick people in their homes, particularly in times of disaster and environmental stress, and would often ignore their own health condition. The respondents of focus group discussions shared that after the destruction of their land, women would go out of their house to work as a labour to make the income and ensure food security, health and sustainable livelihood of their family members. This increased work load has occupied the women such that they do not have enough time for sanitation which in turn deteriorated their health. The FGD and KII revealed that food insecurity created by natural disasters would leave women particularly suffering from hunger and malnutrition. Women would feed all the family members and eat only the left over in their home.

It is also reported from focus group discussions that increasing workloads has resulted to families

withdrawing daughters from schools to help out at home, limiting the girls' future opportunities. The withdrawal and drop out of the girls from the school hinders their process of empowerment on sexual and reproductive health. Dropped out girls are not able to learn about sexual and reproductive health rights (SRHR) that is included in the course curriculum to take care of them and maintain their SRHR. The study revealed that the recent flood that occurred in Dang in 2014 has caused trauma in females which has affected their SRHR causing irregular menstrual cycle, white discharge and abdominal pain. The FGD and KII revealed that large numbers of women were displaced during the flood in Dang. They had to sleep in a common place which led to unsafe sex, sex in unhygienic condition which led to stress and led to white discharge. They were not able to seek the services as well since they could not walk to the far off distance as they could not manage their time due to unlimited household chores.

The study also revealed that the low productivity of the crops due to climate change have forced the farmers to use hybrid crop varieties which requires intensive chemical fertilizers and pesticides. Since women are the one involved in all the agricultural activity besides ploughing they are exposed to chemical fertilizers and pesticides. Almost all the respondents of FGDs opined that they did not use any precaution while using fertilizers and pesticides in the field. Therefore they have been facing an adverse impact of it in the health related problems like disturbance in menstrual cycles, white discharge, and cancer in uterus, miscarriage and infertility. The respondents of FGDs also reported that 10-15 years ago women even after giving birth to even 7-8 children were found to be healthy but now when the women give birth just to 2-3 children, their health deteriorates and their body become weak.

Most of the women reported they have to walk to far places like 1.5 hours to 2 hours to fetch firewood and drinking water. About 37% of the women farmers in the focus group discussions who had to walk a long distance to collect the water and firewood reported to suffer from uterine prolapsed. The respondents of FGDs also reported that walking longer distance to fetch water and firewood increased insecurity and vulnerability. During these times they experience particularly sexual harassment and violence. Of the total population 67% of the women farmers from FGD had to walk whole day to collect the firewood. About 65% of the women farmers from the FGD reported that they visited nearby health post to treat their sexual and reproductive health right problems such as uterine prolapsed and stillbirth. Due to poor health condition, women and girls have limited the time they have available for income generation, which, when coupled with the rising medical costs associated with family illness, heightens levels of poverty.

The focus group discussion with the farmers and government line agencies revealed that low economic condition lead to the misuse of the natural resources which devoiced the local farmers to meet their basic needs of food and health which in turn worsened SRHR. Since women are the main collector of water they are exposed to water borne diseases due to climatic changes which affects their reproductive health leading to high infant mortality rate. Due to the change in climate, young girls are the first ones to be affected by economic hardships as they are compelled to drop out of school. It in turn affects their SRHR due to work burden and lack of knowledge on SRHR.

The study also illustrated that most of the women did not get nutritious food which resulted in anaemia, pregnancy and delivery problems, increased rates of intrauterine growth retardation, low birth weight and perinatal mortality. There is increased need of food and water during pregnancy and lactating period but lack of food impacts highly on SRHR of women and girls. They further added that the pre-existing gender inequalities further limit women's economic recovery after a disaster.

Flood has led to displacement which has resulted in unsafe sexual relation, sexual violence, limited the use of family planning devices which has resulted in unwanted pregnancy, unsafe abortion and uterine prolapsed. Therefore, sexual and reproductive health services must therefore be an integral part of shortand long-term government planning processes. Such policies will help ensure that public service provision, such as education and health care, is adequate, and will also ensure efficient government stewardship and regulation of housing, job markets, agriculture, natural resources and public goods.

d) Mitigation Measures

Mitigation measures applied by the farmers of the study area:

i) Early Warning system

In flood affected areas of the Kailali and Udayapur districts, Local Disaster Risk Management Committees were formed which were responsible for reading gauging posts. Readings were taken only during monsoons and events of torrential rainfall. In each district, the committee had to inform and alert communities, including disaster management line organizations in district headquarter. The committee was provided with a CDMA phone by the INGO for the purpose. Similar, setup had been established in upstream and they were informed about prevailing conditions in upstream through headquarter. The communities were alarmed after water level rose above a red mark on the posts.

A manually operating siren had been donated by INGO (Mercy crop and Lutheran Nepal) as an early warning system. During FGDs, participants told that this was crucial for informing and gathering people. This was effective in alarming other nearby communities as well. Moreover, people were trained to escape along with their important documents such as citizenship card, land ownership documents etc. During flood events, people lost their lives because they did not have any access to early warning system. Early warning system allowed communities to prepare well in advance. During group discussion, people told that flood level in 2008 had rise so fast that they did not have enough time for preparation. However, there were no human casualties since everyone had practiced evacuation process during pre-monsoon. This showed that disasters are unexpected and cannot be overwhelmingly relied on single approach. Such preparation practices are necessary for raising awareness to strengthen disaster risk management.

ii) Change in Varieties of Crops

One of the major crops grown in the FGD area is rice. The change in temperature and rainfall has decreased the yield. Therefore, the farmers have been motivated towards the adoption of the improved and hybrid varieties. Altogether 92 percent farmers in the study area reported to have changed the varieties of crops against 8 percent farmers not changing the varieties of crops at all. The improved rice varieties like Barkhe- 1785, Chaite-350, Masuli, Makawanpur-1 and Hardinath-1 have been cultivated in the study area. Similarly, maize varieties like Rampur Composite, Deuti, Sitala and Manakamana are in use. However, it was reported during the FGD and key informant interviews that climate change solely is not accountable for the change in varieties of the crops. Change in climatic patterns along with other factors like increased productivity and early maturing of the crops made farmers to make changes in the varieties of crops.

One of the important conclusions of FGDs and key informant interviews was that the majority of the farmers preferred vegetable crop production rather than cereal/grain production. This was because profit gained from vegetable crops was thrice as much as that from the grain crops. The other reason was that vegetables could be harvested in short time and the growers could get income easily at high rate of return. The vegetable farming was done in plastic tunnels by mulching to conserve the soil moisture. The farmers made usage of organic manures and insecticides to enhance the fertility of soil and to control the insects, pests and diseases.

iii) Changes in Cropping Calendar

The farmers in the study site reported that they had implemented modifications in the cropping calendar owing to the variations of temperature, rainfall and relative humidity. The changes in the cropping calendar varied from 15 days to one month.

iv) Migration for employment to city areas or gulf

Majority of the respondents of FGDs reported that migration for employment to city areas or gulf countries helped them to cope with food insecurity situation. They reported that agricultural production has been declining rapidly therefore they are forced to take into other alternatives to sustain their livelihood.

v) River bed farming

The organizations working in the study areas have trained the farmers for riverbed farming in the flood affected areas. This has helped the farmers to cope with the adverse effect of climate change and make some income to sustain their livelihood.

vi) Construction of plastic ponds/mulching

The farmers reported that during water scarcity situation, they have been collecting the water in the plastic pond which can be used for irrigating their crops in the dry season of the year. Mulching has been practiced to conserve the soil moisture.

e) Recommendations

- State should move beyond 'project based approach' and ensure multi-sectoral coordination and accountability mechanism to including the issues of sexual and reproductive health and rights into the National Adaptation Plan of Action (NAPA) and Local Adaptation Plan of Action (LAPA) for the advancement of women's and girls' SRHR impacted by climate change.
- Integrate VAW in women's reproductive and sexual health policies and programs and ensure adequate resources for their implementation.
- Emphasise sexual and reproductive health and rights related issues through right-based policy frameworks and support civil society organisations to make communities aware of the rights and government central bodies (parliamentary committees, central level ministries) and to civil society groups to work as watchdogs representing people voice.

CHAPTER **CONCLUSION AND** RECOMMENDATION

If Nepal is to achieve SDGs 3, 5, 8 and 13, the government needs to address the structural and systemic barriers such as patriarchal ideologies, fundamentalism and globalization. These have hindered the implementation of laws and policies on gender equality, good health and well-being, decent work and safe migration and climate action at the grass roots provided the people are deeply driven by the patriarchal mind set and fundamentalism. In addition, the globalization and the inequality between and within countries have increased creating huge gap among the people. Thus, it is necessary for the government to strategically adopt the policies such no one is left behind and the voices of the communities at the grass roots are heard.

Following are the recommendations from the overall study of the research to the government:

- There is a need to take urgent steps to improve the quality, coverage and availability of disaggregated data to ensure that no one is left behind. Adequate disaggregated data is currently not available to see the trends related to affordability, and distance, therefore a baseline is a must.
- Develop and implement due diligence framework and its guiding principle to eliminate violence

- against women in five areas, namely, prevention, protection, prosecution, punishment and provision of redress and reparation (5P's).
- The government's taxation, subsidy and spending policies are either gender unfriendly or biased against women. It is recommended that the gender auditing of macroeconomic policies be carried out at the global level and through global support also at the national level. The practices of the international financial institutions and the national financial investors (private sectors) also need reviewing for their gender friendliness.
- The government should fully implement and meet its obligations under the various treaties that it has already signed, notably the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR). It should also move forward with its ratification of the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families and the Domestic Workers Convention (C189).

ANNEXES ANNEX



Districts marked in blue indicate research fields

Participants of Key Informant Interviews of goal 3

ID	Gender	District	Ethnicity	Education	Post
1	Male	Udayapur	Brahmin	Masters in Public Health	District Health Officer
2	Male	Sunsari	Brahmin	Masters	District Health Officer
3	Male	Siraha	Madhesi	M.SC in Statistics Masters in population	District Health Officer
4	Female	Sindhuli	Chhetri	M.A. Sociology	Women and Children Officer
5	Male	Sindhuli	Chhetri	Public Health	District Health Officer
6	Male	Kailali	Brahmin	Masters	DPHOC
7	Male	Kailali	Brahmin	Masters	Statistics and Information officer
8	Male	Dhanusha	Chhetri	Masters	Senior Branch Officer, FPAN
9	Female	Dhanusha	Brahmin	Masters	Women and Children Officer
10	Male	Dhanusha	Dalit	Masters in agriculture and Rural Development	Local Development Officer
11	Female	Dang	Brahmin	Masters	Women and Children Officer
12	Male	Dang	Brahmin	Masters in Public Health	District Health Officer
13	Male	Dang	Chhetri	Masters	Local Development Officer
14	Male	Bardiya	Brahmin	Masters	Local Development Officer
15	Female	Bardiya	Chhetri	Masters	Women and Development Officer
16	Male	Bardiya	Brahmin	Masters	District Health Officer

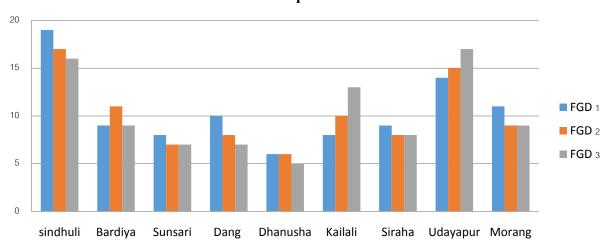
Participants of Key Informant Interviews of goal 5

ID	Gender	District	Ethnicity	Education	Post
1	Female	Udayapur	Ethnic group	Bachelors in Arts	Acting Women and Children Officer
2	Male	Udayapur	Brahmin	Bachelor in Law	District Lawyer
3	Female	Udayapur	Ethnic group	Class 10 pass	In charge of Mahila cell
4	Male	Udayapur	Ethnic group	Masters in Law	District Lawyer
5	Female	Sunsari	Chhetri	Class 12	Chief of Mahila cell
6	Feamle	Sunsari	Ethnic group	Bachelors in Arts	Representative of CDO Office
7	Female	Sunsari	Brahmin	Masters	Women and children officer
8	Female	Siraha	Ethnic group	Class 12 pass	Police Mahila cell
9	Female	Siraha	Ethnic group	Masters	Women and children officer
10	Male	Siraha	Brahmin	Masters in Law	District Lawyer
11	Male	Sindhuli	Brahmin	Masters in Management	Chief District Officer
12	Male	Sindhuli	Madheshi	Bachelors in Science	Police Inspector
13	Male	Sindhuli	Brahmin	Masters in Law	District Judge
14	Female	Kailali	Brahmin	Masters	Women and Children officer
15	Male	Kailali	Brahmin	Masters in Education	Police, Inspector
16	Male	Kailali	Brahmin	Masters	District information officer
17	Male	Kailali	Chhetri	Masters in Law	District Judge
18	Female	Kailali	Ethnic group	Class 12 pass	Police Mahila cell
19	Male	Kailali	Ethnic group	Masters in Business	Social development officer
20	Female	Kailali	Ethnic group	Class 12 pass	Police,Mahila cell
21	Male	Dhanusha	Brahmin	Bachelors in Business studies	Police Inspector
22	Female	Dhanusha	Brahmin	Masters	Women and Children Officer
23	Male	Dhanusha	Dalit	Masters in agriculture and Rural Development	Local Development Officer
24	Male	Dang	Chhetri	Masters in Law, Masters in Public Administration	District Judge
25	Male	Dang	Chhetri	Masters	District Chief
26	Female	Dang	Brahmin	Test pass	Chief of Mahila cell
27	Male	Bardiya	Brahmin	Masters	Local Development Officer
28	Female	Bardiya	Chhetri	Masters	Women and Development Officer
29	Male	Bardiya	Brahmin	Masters	District Lawyer
30	Male	Morang	Brahmin	Masters	District Police officer
31	Male	Morang	Brahmin	Masters	Chief District Officer
32	Female	Morang	Brahmin	Masters	Women and children officer

Participants of Key Informant Interviews of goal 8

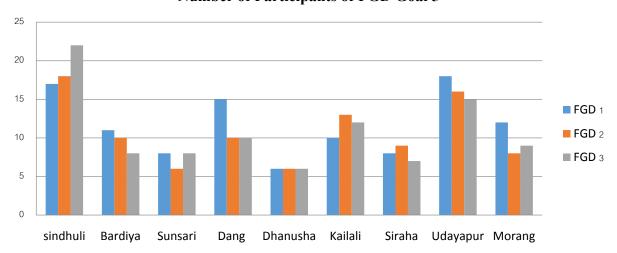
ID	Gender	District	Ethnicity	Education	Post
1	Male	Udayapur	Ethnic group	Bachelors in Arts	Chairperson of recruiting agency
2	Male	Sunsari	Chhetri	Bachelors in Arts	Chairperson of recruiting agency
3	Male	Siraha	Chhetri	Class 12 pass	Chairperson of recruiting agency
4	Male	Siraha	Ethnic group	Class 12 pass	Chairperson of Trade Union
5	Male	Siraha	Madeshi	Class 12 pass	Agent of recruiting agency
6	Male	Siraha	Madeshi	Class 10 pass	Agent of recruiting agency
7	Male	Sindhuli	Ethnic group	Class 4 pass	Agent of recruiting agency
8	Male	Sindhuli	Brahmin	Class 12 pass	Chairperson of Trade Union
9	Female	Kailali	Ethnic group	Class 8 pass	Returnee Migrant Worker
10	Female	Kailali	Brahmin	Class 10 pass	Returnee Migrant Worker
11	Male	Dhanusha	Chhtetri	Class 10 pass	Chairperson of Trade Union
12	Male	Dang	Brahmin	Class 12	Agent of recruiting agency
13	Male	Dang	Dalit	Under class 10	Agent of recruiting agency
14	Male	Dang	Dalit	Class 10 pass	Representative of Trade Union
15	Male	Bardiya	Brahmin	Class 10 pass	Agent of recruiting agency
16	Female	Bardiya	Chhetri	Class 12 pass	Returnee Migrant Worker
17	Male	Morang	Ethnic group	Class 12 pass	Representative of Nepal Trade Union Congress
18	Male	Morang	Brahmin	Masters in Arts	Representative of Trade Union Federation Shakas
19	Female	Morang	Brahmin	Masters in Arts	Entrepreneur
20	Female	Morang	Brahmin	Class 12 pass	Representative of Trade Union federation UML
21	Male	Morang	Ethnic group	Class 8 pass	Agent of recruiting agency
22	Male	Morang	Ethnic group	Class 12 pass	Agent of recruiting agency
23	Male	Morang	Brahmin	Class 10 pass	Agent of recruiting agency
24	Male	Morang	Ethnic group	Class 10 pass	Agent of recruiting agency
25	Male	Morang	Brahmin	Class 12 pass	Agent of recruiting agency

Number of Participants of FGD Goal 3

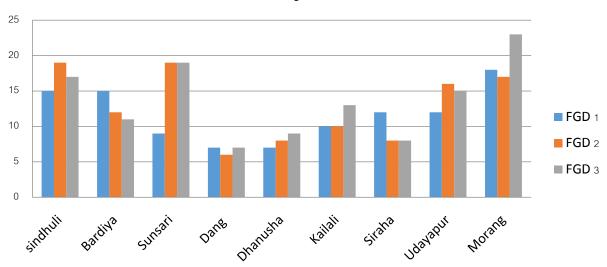


ANNEX

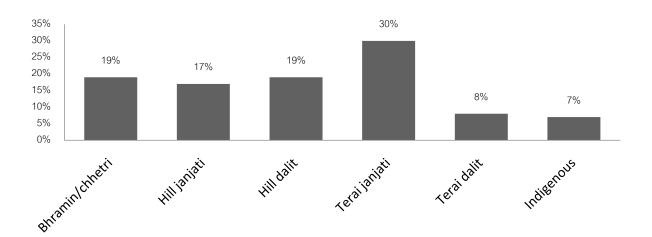
Number of Participants of FGD Goal 5



Number of Participants of FGD Goal 8



ANNEX 8



List of Participants in national consultations

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Photos of focus group discussions













Annex 11: Photos of national consultation on VNR and national review and monitoring of SDGs in Nepal















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