

Project Name: Decentralization Project for Inclusion and Peace Building
Funding Partner: Swiss Agency for Development Cooperation (SDC)
Start Date: 2004 A.D
End Date: 2009 A.D

Project Summary

Driven by the need to strengthen voices, agency and organization of citizens at the grassroots, the project conceptualized citizenship rights as entry point and promote the process for building citizen collectives (citizen groups) in six districts of the country Rupendhi, Chitwan, Lamjung, Kapilvastu and Palpa. The project focused on capacity building of rural women in particular to assert their rights as citizens and contribute to participatory governance and peace building at the grassroots level. The awareness and capacity was linked to engage with local bodies for local planning, budgeting, and service delivery to promote participation in the public sphere. Moreover, the project produced relevant and appropriate knowledge on citizenship, local governance and participation. The materials have been used by citizen groups and shared among civil society organizations. The Project monitored, backstopped the citizen groups in different domains as provided such support to citizen groups in the following areas:

- Plan and execute collective civic actions, network and engage with public service providers, formulate action plans and use local capacity/ resources to carry them out, raise and maintain collective fund to sustain core actions even after withdrawal of the IGD, At present the above 80 citizen groups are federated into 13 networks and carrying out collective actions based on the local needs.



street shows and dramas to increase awareness of local communities on social issues



Participants at Civic Education Meeting, Kapilbastu District

Detailed Description of the Actual Services provided

- Citizen groups were empowered to plan and execute collective civic actions, network together and engage with public service providers, formulate action plans and use local capacity/ resources to carry them out, raise and maintain collective fund to sustain core actions even after

Domains of Trainings

- Visioning/ group building
- Advocacy and communication skills
- Human rights and Right-based citizenship
- Networking/ coalition building
- Social skills/citizen duties
- local governance system
- Democracy & civil society
- Leadership skills
- Mediation skills
- Right to information and citizenship etc.

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- The Project encouraged citizen groups to consolidate into representation based organic network. The Project has supported them to organize and register with the respective District Administration Offices (DAOs). A total of 13 federation/ networks have been successfully consolidated.
- Citizen Groups have accessed resources from local VDCs and other agencies including DDCs to initiate execution of actions. The coverage and range of subjects and participation of local citizens in different activities indicate that local participation is critical in assuring implementation of rights and issues. The mode of implementation of citizen actions included rallies/processions, folklores/songs, trainings and so on.
- Citizen groups organized dialogues on participation in local governance, peace building, constituent assembly and its importance in which local citizens participated. The Project gave backstopping support to citizen groups to make these activities effective. Moreover, relevant materials/literacy texts/flier/booklets etc were also provided to citizen groups.

Participants at rallies and procession to aware people on their rights and challenges social evils and injustice

