



2019

FORUM for PROTECTION of PUBLIC INTEREST (Pro Public)

Quarterly E-Bulletin: July-September, 2019

Capacity Building

Year - I
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 Message from Chair

Capacity building of the local government, Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), political party leaders, media organizations, academia, networks for social issues and community people in different areas such as peace building and conflict transformation, gender equality and social inclusion, human rights, governance, rule of law, environmental justice and so forth, is one of the major areas of work of Pro Public. As such, between July and September 2019 some of the capacity building activities were carried out. They are as follows:

Capacity Building of the Staff Members

Non-violent Communication Training for Pro Public staff

Pro Public with the support of CPS/GIZ organized three days training on Nonviolent Communication (NVC) for its staff members in Godavari, Lalitpur, from August 28 to 30 2019. This training was facilitated by Ms. Louise Romain (trainer certified with CNVC). In total 14 Pro Public staff members participated in the training. The purpose behind the training was to strengthen and build meaningful, long-term connections within Pro Public by co-journeying into a deeper level of living NVC consciousness and commitment and collaborative motion.



Pro Public staff members during the training

We are pleased to circulate this third quarterly e-bulletin to all of you with the latest activities of Pro Public. This e-bulletin briefly provides information about our activities related to capacity building, community dialogue, enacting dialogue, advisory committee meetings, social audit and project closing events including litigation and advocacy carried out during these three months. We feel happy that the activities we have carried out in different communities have been able to enhance peace and social harmony among the people from various backgrounds.

At this stage, I would like to take an opportunity to extend my sincere thanks to all national and international partners for their continued support for the implementation of these activities under different projects. In the same way, Pro Public would like to express its gratitude, especially to the local government, Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), media organizations, political parties, networks, intellectuals and other community members for collaborating and participating in the efforts we have made during the period.

Last but not the least, Pro Public would like to appreciate the performance of staff members for the successful implementation of the activities and efforts they have made to bring out this e-bulletin. I would like to invite you to read about the work of Pro Public and hope these few pages will inspire you to join us in our journey.

We look forward to hearing your comments and suggestion for further improvements of the works we have been doing.

- Sr. Advocate Mr. Prakash Mani Sharma
Executive Chair

Training on Community Mediation in Gorkha

Pro Public technically supported an eight-day long basic training on community mediation organized by the Chumnubri Rural Municipality of Gorkha district from May 26 to June 2, 2019. Similarly another training was facilitated in Nagarayan rural municipality of Dhanusha district in June 2019. The objective of the training was to train selected candidates on mediation and establish them as mediators, as a part of the Judicial Committee, for resolving the local disputes through facilitation of them as per

the provision envisioned in clause 47 of Local Government Operation Act (2074). Sr. Advocate Mr. Kumar Regmi and Mr. Babu Ram Poudel and Ms. Bidha Poudel facilitated the training in Gorkha and Ms. Shova Regmi, Mr. Jitendra Singh and Mr. Ram Chabila facilitated the training in Dhanusha. Total of 23 and 35 participants from different wards of the Chumnubri and Nagarain the training respectively.

Leadership Training

Mr. Babu Ram Poudel, Deputy Executive Director of Pro Public received a training on “Leadership in Civil Society - How to Become an Exceptional Civil Society Leader” that was taken place in Siem Reap of Cambodia on August 12 to 16, 2020. The training was organized by Civil Society Academy (CSA), New Delhi, India and it was basically focused for the overall leadership skills that are meaningful to run the civil society organizations.

Dialogues

Pro Public organizes and facilitates different dialogues such as; Community Dialogue and Theater/Lab Dialogue. The dialogues organized from July to September are presented below:

Community Dialogues

Chhaupadi



A photo during a community dialogue on Chhaupadi

Chhaupadi is one of the most discriminated and bad culture in Nepal where women are not allowed to inside of the residence during the menstruation period and are lived in the small cottages outside of the building that are mostly unsafe. Due to this system in Nepal many Nepali women has been raped, burned and bitten by the snakes and lost their life.

In this context, community dialogue on Chhaupadi was organized in Tikapur of Kailali

on Last week of July 2019 which is one of the burning social problems in the region. Elected representatives of the respective communities, representatives from police office and municipalities, representatives from the collaborative partners were as the panelists and the other key stakeholders, including women, representatives from marginalized groups and victims were participated. Overview presentations from police, municipality and the collaborative partners were made and a short documentary was screened on



Participants during the dialogue and raising questions

Chhaupadi in the beginning of the dialogue. Later, many queries were raised regarding the planning, budgeting and implementation to be facilitated from the local government that were addressed by the panelists of the session. Similarly, many suggestions for the future interventions, pains and experiences were shared by the participants.

Aiming greater impact and high ownership among the concerned stakeholders, in each community for dialogue program the

Child Labor

Child labor is illegal and a criminal offense, but the actuality in practice and the text resonate differently. The involvement of child labor is widely distributed in both formal and informal sectors but the informal sector mostly hidden beyond the horizon has been a major breeding ground for rampant child labor practices in the urban areas.



A police officer presenting an overview presentation during the community dialogue on Child Labor

In this context, community dialogue on “Child Labor and its Economic, Social and Psychosocial Impacts” was organized in Nepalgunj of Banke on last week of July 2019 which is one of the

Women Violence

Women violence is massive in Nepal as it has a patriarchy system. Domestic violence, marital rape, dowry-related violence, child marriage, polygamy, female infanticide, witchcraft accusations, Chhaupadi, and trafficking of women and girls for sexual exploitation are

collaboration was done with municipality, ward office and one local Civil Society Organization (CSO) working on the theme of community dialogue. Khaptad Sanskriti Pariwar, was collaborated in Tikapur as local CSO. From each cooperating organization, there was a representative to do presentation based on the guidelines given and to take part in the program as panelist. CSO representative, ward chair and resource person were panelists in each community dialogue. Total participants of the dialogue were 63.

burning social problems in this municipality. Elected representatives of the respective communities, representatives from police office and municipalities, representatives from the collaborative partners were as the panelists and the other key stakeholders, including women, representatives from marginalized groups and victims were participated. Rural Society Upliftment Forum, Nepal (RUSUF-Nepal), was collaborated as local CSO for this dialogue. From each cooperating organization, there was a representative to do presentation based on the guidelines given and to take part in the program as panelist. Similarly, municipality and the police office were collaborated. CSO representative, ward chair and resource person were panelists in each community dialogue.

Presentations from police offices, municipalities and the collaborative partners were made and a short documentary was screened to set the environment for the dialogue. Later, participants raised the many questions and shared the experiences and also provided the suggestions to incorporate in the policy and programs to be implemented by the Local Government. Total participants of the dialogue were 58.

practiced in Nepal even there are many laws and policies to stop these all kinds of violence.

In this context, community dialogue on “Women Violence and Social, Economic, Political, Cultural and Psychosocial Impacts” was organized in



Vice Mayor of Lahan Municipality of Siraha addressing the community dialogue on Women Violence

Shivaraj of Kapilvastu and Lahan of Siraha on first week of August 2019. Elected representatives of the respective communities, representatives from police office and municipalities, representatives from the collaborative partners were as the panelists and the other key stakeholders, including women, representatives from marginalized groups and victims were participated. Presentations from police, municipalities and the other collaborative partners were made and a short documentary was screened in the beginning of the dialogue.

Later, many queries were raised regarding the planning, budgeting and implementation to be facilitated from the local government that were addressed by the panelists of the session. Later, participants raised the many questions and shared the experiences and also provided the suggestions to incorporate in the policy and programs to be implemented by the Local Government. Pro Public collaborated with Diyalo Nepal in Shivaraj of Kapilvastu with Samagra Jan Utthan Kendra Nepal with in Lahan/ Shivaraj. Total participants of the dialogue in two communities were 131.



Mayor of Shiavaraj of Kapilvastu addressing the community dialogue

Role of Political Parties in Strengthening of Peace and Social Harmony



As the fourth rounds of the dialogue Pro Public organized a community dialogue entitled "Role of Political Parties in Strengthening of Peace and Social Harmony" in all the project communities. All the political party leaders (Chiefs) of the four project communities were invited as the

panelists of the dialogue and other community members from different walks of life including the political cadres were invited as the participants. At the starting of the dialogue, it was highlighted on the objectives of the dialogue and made a short presentation

(political party activities and incidents at local level and so forth) to set the environment for the further dialogue. After that the queries and questions were put from the participants in several rounds and these were addressed by the leaders. In overall, the participants asked the questions about that the political parties are not collaborating each other for the development activities of the community and they are competing all the time that has led several kinds of conflicts in the communities. They suggested to the political parties to collaborate for the overall socio, economic and

Theater Lab/Dialogue

Community level performances per community:

The project team supported the DF artists in all the project communities, Bardibas/Mahotari;



The Conductor, Manju Mahato encouraging participants for sharing their stories during Community Level Performance in Bateshwar, Dhanusha

Social Audit and Handover

With the aim of presenting the achievements of the project to the key stakeholders of the communities and to hand over the dialogue facilitation and mediation centers set up under the project, Pro Public, DFs, respective municipalities, and advisory committees signed an agreement cutting out the roles and responsibilities of the stakeholders for the sustainability and continuity of the centers. The agreement created scope and space for collaboration among the parties. The agreement also reflects the commitment of the local government in using the DFs as resources in resolving conflicts and promoting peace and social harmony in the communities. Representatives from various walks of life, political parties, municipalities, youth groups, and marginalized communities, journalists, and

cultural development as their ultimate goal is to make prospers communities and happy community people. They have further suggested that competition during the election is fine, but other time collaboration is important to get a better result and promote the social harmony in the communities. The political party leaders have realized and agreed with the suggestions given by the participants about the collaboration. They have expressed that the event has opened their eyes about the importance of the political party's role in overall development in a collaborative way. Total participants of the dialogue in four communities were 310.

Bateshwor/Dhanusha; and Tulsipur/Dang, for organizing the community level performances. The project team with theatre trainers visited the communities and mentored/coached the local DF artists for further performances in the communities. From July 5 to 15, 2019, the DF artists completed 10 performances (6 in the East & 4 in the West). Similarly, from August 10 to 18, 2019 they completed 10 more performances comprising 6 in the east and 4 in the west.

women groups attended the handover ceremony and social audit events organized in all four



Mr. Babu Ram Poudel, Program Manager of the project, handing over a signed agreement among Pro Public, local Government, Dialogue Facilitators/Mediator and Advisory Committee to the Ward Chair Shivaraj Municipality-4 of Kapilvastu

project communities under the project entitled "Dialogue Facilitation and Mediation for Strengthening Peace and Social Harmony".

Advisory Committee



The Theatre Trainer explaining the outcome of Playback Theatre Approach for Social Cohesion in Advisory Committee Meeting, Bardibas, Mahottari

Advisory Committee meetings of Dialogue Facilitation and Mediation for Peace and Social Harmony project were held in all the communities (Tikapur/Kailali, Nepalgunj/Banke, Shivaraj/Kapilvastu and Lahan/Siraha) during the month of July to September 2019 under the project "Dialogue Facilitation and Mediation for Strengthening Peace and Social Harmony". Similarly, the same meeting were organized in

Bateshwar of Dhanusha; Bardibas of Mahottari; and Tulsipur of Dang in August 2019 under the project Enacting Dialogue. AC members in all the four communities were updated about the latest activities carried out till the date and the activities to be carried out in the next couple of months. The advisory committee members have provided their constructive feedback for the closing and handover events.

Monitoring and Supervision

Sr. Advocate Mr. Prakash Mani Sharma, Executive Chair of Pro Public visited Tikapur of Kailali and Nepalgunj of Banke in August, 2019 to meet and discuss with members of SDGs and advisory committee members under the Dialogue Facilitation and Mediation for Strengthening Peace and Social Harmony. Similarly, a parallel team of theatre trainer/s and project staffs travelled to the east and the west clusters twice for monitoring and follow up visits under the Enacting Dialogue Project. As a second & third monitoring visits, the team visited in the working communities in the both clusters during 4th – 8th July, 2019 and during 7th -15th August 2019.

The team guided and supported to the DF artists team in the process of organization of the community level performance and back-stopped by making a short-demonstrated

improvisation session before the performances which enhanced the team work and refreshed the skills of the DF artists in enacting the stories empathetically. Likewise, the team observed and monitored the performances and also provided constructive feedback to the DF artists after each performance by indicating their strengths and the issues to be improved individually in a way to motivate and make the future performances more effective. A one-day workshop organized in both of the clusters during the second and third visit.

During the last week of July and first week of August 2019, a monitoring and evaluation team of Social Welfare Council (SWC) visited the project communities (Lahan/Siraha; Bardibas/Mahotari; Shivaraj/Kapilvastu) of two projects i.e., Dialogue Facilitation and Mediation & Enacting Dialogue to evaluate the impact of

the interventions. During the visit they met with various level of project beneficiaries, political party leaders, elected representatives,

External Evaluation

Pro Public selected the Universal Research & Development Pvt. Ltd to conduct an external evaluation of Enacting Dialogue Project. Once it is selected a team of Universal Research & Development Pvt. Ltd. visited the project communities from September 12 to 23, 2019 and

government employees and so forth. They also attended and observed a community dialogue organized with political parties in Sivaraj of Kapilvastu.

met and discussed with the various level of beneficiaries i.e., audience, political party leaders, elected representatives, government employees and so forth. The Universal Research & Development Pvt. Ltd. will provide the external evaluation report by the mid of November 2019.

Dialogue Facilitation and Mediation for Strengthening Peace and Social Harmony

- Production of documentary
- Publication of proceeding
- National level sharing meeting

Enacting Dialogue

- Cluster level outreach program
- External evaluation
- Participation in the IPTN 2019 conference

Civil Peace Service Program

- NVC workshop for elected representatives



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