



2019

Capacity Building

Year - I
Issue - IV

Capacity building of the local government, civil society organizations (CSOs), political party leaders, media organizations, academia, networks and community people on issues of peace building and conflict transformation; gender equality and social inclusion; human rights; governance; rule of law; environmental justice are some of the key working areas of Pro Public. As such, between October and December 2019 Pro Public carried out different activities briefly presented below.

Non-violent Communication Wrokshop

With support of GIZ/ZFD, Pro Public organized a five-day residential workshop on Nonviolent Communication (NVC) for elected representatives from various municipalities & rural municipalities of Saptari, Province-2 and Ilam, Province-1, from November 14 to 18, 2019 in Ilam Bazar of Ilam. The workshop was designed for elected representatives of local bodies from Saptari and Ilam districts as well as for the staff of the Human Rights Forum Nepal (HURF), Ilam. The training adopted andragogic method of teaching that included theories, group works, role play, and refresher/games. The main objective of the training was to provide knowledge and skills on NVC to the participants who were mostly elected representatives, to help them foster communication/dialogue between people and build empathy as foundation of their community. Non violent Communication and Facilitation Skills Training



FORUM for PROTECTION of PUBLIC INTEREST (Pro Public)

Quarterly E-Bulletin: October-December, 2019

Message from Chair

We are pleased to come out with this forth quarterly e-bulletin of the year 2019 that encapsulates the latest activities conducted by Pro Public. This e-bulletin briefly shed lights on various activities ranging from capacity building, social dialogue, enacting dialogue, to sharing and dissemination, publication and the litigation carried out during the quarter, October to December 2019. We feel happy that the activities carried out across different communities contributed to the promotion of peace and social harmony and ensured justice to the people from different backgrounds.

At this point, I would like to take the opportunity to extend my sincere thanks to all national and international partners for their invaluable support in the implementation of the activities under different projects. Similarly, Pro Public would like to express its gratitude, especially to the local government, Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), media organizations, political parties, intellectuals and other community members for their collaboration and participation in the efforts towards making it a success.

Last but not the least, Pro Public appreciates the great work put up by the Project Team for the successful implementation of the activities.

I would like to invite you to have a look at the works of Pro Public and encourage you to be the part of our unceasing efforts in the promotion of peace, harmony and justice in Nepalese society.

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

Dialogue

Fifth Theatre Dialogue

The fifth event of the Theatre Lab was organized in Dillibazar, Kathmandu in the presence of 33 school students and teachers, 44 differently able students and 60 college students on 29th December 2019. It was new learning during the theatre lab since the special target was college students, a particular audience. The performances targeting particular category of audience becomes effective since it creates harmony in the special targeted group who works and spend most of their times

together and enables them to know each other's internal feelings and stories more deeply for mutual respect.



Sharing and Dissemination

National Level Experience Sharing Meeting

A National Level Experience Sharing Meeting, under the Dialogue Facilitation and Mediation for Strengthening Peace and Social Harmony, was organized on October 21, 2019 in Kathmandu

A short presentation was made showcasing the achievements, lessons learnt, experiences, and challenges of the project, followed by the screening of a documentary detailing activities



A Group photo of the participants participated and the national level experience sharing meeting Sharing Meeting

towards the end of the completion of activities planned under the project. Hon'ble Ms. Niru Devi Pal, Chair of the Women and Social Committee in the House of Representative was the chief guest of the meeting. Other guests included Hon'ble Mr. Lilanath Shrestha, Member of Parliament from Siraha-3; Hon'ble Mr. Bishnu Ojha, President of the Commission for Inclusive Society; Hon'ble Mr. Bishnu Chaudhary, President of the Tharu Commission, Mr. Yub Raj Bhusal, Former Secretary of the Government of Nepal and Mr. Mani Ram Gyawali, Under Secretary of the Commission for Investigation on Enforced Disappeared Persons (CIEDP) Nepal.

carried out under the project, good practices, & the impact of the program on DFs, members of the SDGs and their communities. The documentary captured the past and the current perception of the community people in terms of relationship between the community members from different community groups.

In the National Level Experience Sharing Meeting, the chief guest and other guests also expressed their views about the project. DFs, representatives of the municipalities and members of the Advisory Committees shared their impressions on the interventions in the project communities. Some of their remarks are given in the box below. For detail, you can find at <http://propublic.org/wp-content/uploads/Book1.pdf>

Organization of Cluster Level Outreach Program

Cluster level outreach programs were organized in both the project clusters. The objective of the program was to share the project interventions, results and impacts with the provincial level policy makers. Program of the east cluster organized on November 15, 2019 at Bardibas, Mahottari and subsequently the west cluster program organized on November 22, 2019. A three -days of preparation workshop was organized for DF artists facilitated by theatre trainers and project staffs prior to organizing the outreach events in both the clusters. DF artists, theatre trainers, and project staffs jointly prepared and shared the project outcomes and impact through theatrical performance. The key presentation for the outreach event was the theatrical performance prepared by the DF artist with support from the Theatre Trainers. Mr.Suresh Chand led the session and the performance became the most powerful tool to present the results of the project. The performance was able to establish the theater facilitated dialogue method effective in the community and it was deemed necessary to promote and extend it to the other local government units as well.

Mrs. Krishna Maya Gautam, Deputy Mayor of Bardibas and Mr. Dambar Bahadur Kshetri, Chairperson of Bateshwar Rural Municipality shared the dais as guests. Likewise Mr. Ramdev



Yadav, President of District Coordination Committee (DCC) Dhanusha as special guest and Mr. Suresh Prasad Singh, President of DCC Mahottari as well as president of ADCCN of providence no 2 as chief guest delivered their remarks during the program from the dais. Mr. Babu Ram Dumre, Team Leader of external evaluation (EE) presented the findings of EE in the program. Mr. Babu Ram Poudel, Deputy Executive Director of Pro Public delivered remarks while Mr. Jhabindra Adhikari from Pro Public conducted the program and gave vote of thanks to the guests and participants for their valuable time and participation.

In the outreach program of the west cluster, Mr. Madhav Oli, Ward Chair of ward no 18, Mr. Ghan Shyam Pandey, Mayor of Tulsipur sub-metropolitan city shared the dais of guests and delivered the remarks on program. Likewise, Mr. Jitendra Ne-



Sharing Program at Tulsipur, Dang

pali President of DCC Dang and Hon'le Mr. Amar Dangi Providence Assembly Member also addressed the program. Chief Guest Hon'le Mr. Dilli Bahadur Chaudhary, ex- state minister and Chairperson of Public Audit Committee of the Province no 5 delivered his remarks in the program. Mr. Jhabindra Adhikari of Pro Public presented the findings of EE in the absence of Evaluation team. Mr. Babu Ram Poudel deputy executive director of pro Public, delivered welcome remarks and gave vote of thanks. . Mr. Ram Ashish Chaudhary, Senior Project Officer conducted the program.

The Theatric performance was aimed at increasing social harmony among and between diverse groups i.e., Madheshi, Pahadi & Pahadi Tharu and was applauded and appreciated by all the



Chief Guest Hon'ble Mr. Dilli Bdr. Chaudhary Delivering the Remarks

participants. The event provided space for the contributors and the project acknowledged each other's efforts as well and interacted for future collaborative initiatives. The project interventions made in the selected communities was successful in connecting the diverse groups and it also contributed to "Prosperous Nepal, Happy Nepali" slogan of the government by creating peace and harmony across the communities. Altogether 175 (89 in east and 86 in west) participants including Mayors& Deputy-Mayors of other rural/urban Municipalities, representatives of political parties, civil society, media participated in the program.

IPTN 2019 Conference



Sharing the project outcomes through performance in workshop of IPTN Conference, Bangalore

An eight-member team of theatre trainers and project staff members which includes Mr. Jhabindra Adhikari, PC, Mr. Ram Ashish Chaudhary, Ms. Anne Dirnstorfer, Mr. Rajan Khatiwada, Ms. Saraswati Chaudhary, Mr. Suresh Chand, Ms. Srijana Adhikari and Ms. Renuka Karki participated in the International Playback Theatre Network (IPTN) conference 2019 in Bangalore, India from December 3 to 8, 2019. The team offered a three hours' workshop on December 5, focusing on the project outcomes, impact and experience sharing through theatrical performance, documentary screening and group discussion. On other days, the conference team actively participated in the home groups, workshops, and observed performances by different groups from different countries.

Publication

Production of Documentary and a Book

A documentary and a book have been produced capturing all major activities carried out under the project. They include learning, experiences, results, impacts and the impressions of the key actors and the beneficiaries. They reflect the past and the current perception of community people in terms of relationship between community members from different faiths groups, race, class, sex, ethnicity, geographical location and political belief. Both the documentary and the book elucidates how the project intervention contributed to building the relationship and brought about social harmony and peace among the community people.

Litigation

1. Petition filed to Protect Forest of Nijgad

On September 10, 2019, Pro Public filed a Public Interest petition at the Supreme Court claiming that the approved Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) was erroneous and that the Government's decision to make an international airport at Nijgad felling 2.4 million trees was arbitrary, and hence, it must be nullified.

A two days post conference workshop was organized in Dhulikhel on 10th & 11th December 2019 on their return from IPTN conference. Altogether eight persons (theatre trainers and project staffs) participated in this workshop. Dr. Jonathan Fox, co-founder of Playback Theatre facilitated the first day event deepening the learning and experience sharing from IPTN conference as well as addressing the different queries from participants. Ms. Jo Salas, co-founder of Playback Theatre facilitated the second day of workshop strengthening the skills on the method of music component through practicing different form of the Playback Theatre.



Post Conference Workshop, Dhulikhel

They also establish the fact that social dialogue process is a powerful tool to build and restore relationship among people who harbored "enemy images" of each other. The publications present community dialogue on different burning issues identified by the communities. Moreover, they capture the impressions/remarks from elected representatives, representatives from the government of Nepal, DFs, members of the SDGs and members of the advisory committees. They also reflect on sustainability prospects beyond the project period.

The petitioners sought certiorari order from the court to quash the faulty EIA, and the arbitrary decision of the office of Prime Minister and the council of ministers in favor of building international airport in the dense forest of Bara district. Similarly, the petitioner asked mandamus to declare the for-

est as protected forest, form a committee to come up with master plan to protect this forest, besides punishing the experts involved in preparing the erroneous EIA and the government employees approving the faulty EIA. The petitioner had claimed for interim order stating that should the deforestation starts it will mean irreparable loss to the ecology and environment. The division bench ordered the Nepal Government to present all the relevant documents to the court and decided to send the case for full hearing in 3 judges bench as the opponent had already submitted their defense note.

Later, a new petition was filed by Environmental Activists in response to which the Supreme Court issued interim order by asking not to cut the trees considering the sensitivity of the issue.

2. Support to protect Astabahu Narayan of Changu Narayan Temple

On 17th November 2019, the idol of Astabahu Narayan was stolen from Changu Naryan Monument Zone(World Heritage Site).The locals requested Pro Public for legal help and Pro Public drafted the complaint letter and filed a complaint letter on 18th November 2019 with the Department of Archeology on behalf of the locals.

3. Monitoring and Submission of Report on the Contemporary situation of the Kathmandu Valley 2019

The ICOMOS State of Conservation Report (1998) stated that even though many of "principal religious and public monuments are secure and require only normal maintenance, the traditional houses and commercial buildings, which form their essential setting are at great risk and are subject to extreme pressure. If redevelopment continues at the present rate and is not curbed by effective development controls, the authenticity of the WHS (World heritage Site) will be so severely damaged as to compromise its outstanding universal value." And in 2003, Kathmandu Valley was placed in the World Heritage Site's Danger List and was removed from Danger List in 2007 after creating buffer zone and Integrated Management Plan.

The Reactive Monitoring Mission visited Nepal for observing the situation of Kathmandu valley's world heritage sites with an objective to report to the world heritage committee on whether or not to place the Kathmandu world heritage site in danger list. The legal officer of Pro Public visited the seven monuments sites of Kathmandu valley's world heritage site along with the reactive monitoring mission, UNESCO and department of Archeology. Mr. Sanjay Adhikari, Legal Officer Pro Public, submitted a report to the Mission on behalf of civil society and

activist, briefly explaining the real threats to world heritage sites along with recommendation.

4. Legal representation on Namo Buddha Brick Kiln Case:

The people of Kavre district filed a case at the High Court of Patan requesting the court to protect their fundamental right to live in healthy environment guaranteed in the constitution of Nepal under article 30. The locals requested Pro Public for legal help to which Pro Public responded by representing the local community in this case since it has already received a positive judgment in similar cases from the Supreme Court of Nepal. The Supreme Court issued an order prohibiting installation of brick Kiln industries near the area of touristic significance, school area and densely populated area.

5. Survey of Bagmati and its tributaries:

A three days field survey of the Bagmati River and its tributary was carried out in order to present to the court the actual condition of the rivers in the upcoming hearing. The Supreme Court has issued an interim order asking government to stop the pollution and encroachment of Bagmati, Bishnumati, Hanumante, Manhara and other rivers of Kathmandu Valley

6. Research on single use PlasticM

In partnership with Friends of Earth, Sri Lanka, a 2 months research on "Breaking the plastic cycle in Asia" was carried out by PIL team of Pro Public. This research took place on November and December, 2019. In this research, the area covered were; the data of plastic product import, the decision of the government to ban polythene bag less than 30 micron, and other policies of local as well as state government with regard to control the plastic pollution, the laws and rules in place, were the part of study in this research. Aside from government, the research also focused on steps taken by many NGOs' towards the control of plastic pollution and awareness generated on the effect of plastic in the environment and impact on the people.

7. Submission of Advocacy letter of Compliance of Court Order:

The full bench of the Supreme Court on April 16, 2015, issued order of continuous Mandamus to close marble mining in Godawari/Fulchoki hill and also gave order to declare it a conservation area / protected area. The government has not yet complied with the court order. A letter is sent to the Ministry of Forest and Environment reminding it that if they continue to defy the court order with regard to protecting Godawari/Fulchoki Area, Pro Public will be compelled to file contempt case against the authority.



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