

# **Need Identification of CBOs in the Suddodhan Municipality**

## **A Study**

**March 2020**

**Kalika Self-reliance Social Center**

**Kapilvastu, Taulihawa**

**Province No 5, Nepal**

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

The Need Identification of six CBOs in the Suddodhan rural municipality was carried out amidst the onset of Covid -19 pandemic. The 2<sup>nd</sup> week of March had already seen sporadic outbreaks of Covid -19 infections, particularly amongst India-returned youth who fled the country with Corona virus post nationwide lock-down in India.

I acknowledge the fact that the field study, visiting organized group of CBOs at different Wards of the municipality, had to expedite and to accomplish within a short span of time as opposed to the time slated for it, and hence, the report may leave lot more to desire.

Having said that, as a matter of fact, we left no stone unturned to unearth as much as information as we could possibly do, in spite of time constraints and the looming threat of Covid-19 pandemic.

The Need Identification report is informed and shaped by the information supplied by the young leaders of the CBOs and their groups over the course of face-to-face discussions.

I would like to give the due and deserving credit to GRANT project focal person, Ramendra Singh Rawal, who demonstrated extra-ordinary energy in arranging the meeting with the CBOs and lending incredible support in data collection. Without his diligence and dedication to the study, the report would have not come out in this shape.

Credit also goes to Arjun Thapa Magar, Executive Director of Kalika Self-reliance Social Center, who arranged the logistics of the study and liaised with the stakeholders to make the study hassle-free.

Last but not the least, the young leaders of CBOs and their team deserve kudos for braving the pandemic and talking to us extensively demonstrating zeal and enthusiasm.

Finally, I am thankful to Kalika Self-reliance Social Center for entrusting me with the responsibility to undertake the study and accomplish the task of CBO Need Identification.

Thanks

Prakash Dahal

Senior Advisor

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The CBOs, grassroots organizations, based on different wards/clusters of the Suddodhan municipality are loosely organized groups of adolescents, led mostly by young girls, who dream, who are fired up to play the change maker, demonstrate great zeal, full of vigor, passion, eager to see the transformation of the community they are born and brought up, bring changes into the lives of adolescents, bring changes into perceptions and mindset of parents and the community by playing the role of a catalyst or an agent of change.

These young girls, who belong to multiple ethnic and caste groups, are hungry to become 'champions' or 'leaders' and look to help and support to make their dream come true.

However, what they lack is the know-how, the trick, the strategy, sense of direction, information, knowledge, organizational functioning, operational modalities, capacity and skills for identifying and prioritizing issues, lobbying & advocacy, pressing their points, influencing the authorities, and mobilizing local resource, to list a few. Besides, they are loosely organized body, play an organized role or make an organized effort on prod, lack organizational shape, not yet registered with the local administration or the local government, do not have a statute, positions papers, or other policy documents, lack basic infrastructure & equipment required for systematic functioning, and have received small trainings few and far between, mobilized small resources to fund charity works and social activities.

They appear to have been crying for help but their words so far have fallen in deaf ears.

The study brought to the fore the fact that these young leaders of the organized group of adolescent girls have creative spark. All they need is someone or some organization to put the spark into flame.

The young leaders and their team are found to have been deeply concerned with SRH issues as well as with other issues related to women's rights, adolescent rights, domestic violence, child marriage, sexual abuse, superstitions, dowry, cultural taboos, and negative traditions detrimental to physical and psychological health of rural young girls/adolescents in their community.

Unfortunately, they have little or no knowledge about plethora of laws and policies of the State governing sexual & reproductive health such as; Women's *reproductive rights* figuring prominently in Article 38 (b) of the constitution which states that "*every woman shall have the right to safe motherhood and reproductive health*". The 15<sup>th</sup> Plan of the National Planning Commission of the Government of Nepal that acknowledges the need for all programs related to *safe motherhood* and *safe abortion* to be treated as rights and implemented on rights-based approach. In 2018, the parliament of Nepal enacted ***The Right to Safe Motherhood and Reproductive Health (SMRH) Act, 2075 (2018)*** which came into force immediately and which recognizes and deals extensively with rights to safe abortion in Chapter 4 of the Act. The ***Public Health Service Act 2075 (2018)*** in Chapter 2, Section 4 (b) deals with and include SAS services as basic health rights of citizen and ensures their access to it. Similarly, the National Civil Code that treats child marriage, polygamy, domestic violence, sexual abuse etc. as criminal offense.

Likewise, they barely have knowledge about local governance act that gives enormous power to locally elected leaders, and thus, are responsible and accountable for their actions to the citizens for providing services citizens are entitled to.

The young leaders of the CBOs and their team need to be capacitated and empowered on a rights-based approach. Their capacity-building training package need to be designed on rights-based approach anchored in legal & constitutional rights components *vis-à-vis* the national laws, acts, policies, prominently figuring in it.

The other area that needs to be considered in the capacity-building training of the organized group, the CBOs, is the issue of local resource tapping and mobilization. The federal constitution has given enormous power to the local governments. They have total and effective control over local resources and enjoy the rights to mobilize resources within the municipal territory in the interest of citizens. Empowered and capacitated CBOs on rights-based approach could be potential partners of the local government in prioritizing development needs, planning and implementation. There is the need for interfacing the CBOs with the local government and forging partnership in view of the fact that the local government controls and runs almost all the service agencies. The CBOs must be empowered and capacitated to influence the planning, policy-making, budgeting, and implementation of the local governments.

Similarly, basic infrastructure and equipment support besides legal requirements for their official existence as legitimate civil society organizations network is something that must be pursued for their growth and expansion. And hence, efforts must go into helping them write down their statute, draft policy papers, action plan, get duly registered with the local administration, have a functional office with basic facilities and a strategy paper to regularly engage in SRH and other social, economic, and cultural issues through advocacy, movements, and campaigns to enhance their own visibility and recognition.

Their capacity need to be built up for independently designing small project or program proposals based on issues identified and prioritized by them, those related to adolescent girls, and to enable them approach local government and other locally based resourceful organizations for resources to fund activities prioritized by them. In this way, the young CBO leadership needs to be empowered through capacity-building training and armed with tools like; advocacy skill, lobbying, networking, building alliance and coalitions, building social movement around issues, drawing attention of media, and rallying like-minded organizations for the cause the champion.

In the subsequent section, this report analyses different aspects of the CBOs under study (i) status of the CBOs, (ii) their makeup, (iii) need and aspirations, (iv) capacity-building needs, (v) issues & concerns and (vi) way forward, and (vii) suggestions and recommendations.

## **SECTION ONE**

### **METHODOLOGY, TEAM, TIME, CONSTRAINTS, CHALLENGES**

#### ***I. METHODOLOGY***

A plain and simple METHODOLOGY was employed in data collection. Close interaction with young CBO leaders and their team, at their places (different wards of municipality where they were based) on the basis of a set of questionnaire and checklist was the methodology all about. Besides, an open and all-out discussion was held with them with the aim to solicit as much information as possible about their own vision, mission, plans, and ideas behind coming into an organized shape of a CBO.

So, in short, the METHODOLOGY employed was as follows:

- ✓ Checklist and questionnaire for data collection.
- ✓ Open and all-out discussion,
- ✓ Interviews

#### ***II. TEAM***

The TEAM composed of 3 key personnel apart from indirect support received by GRANT projects community empowerment facilitators, and the CBO young leaders.

Members of the TEAM directly involved in the Need Identification study were as follows:

- 1) Prakash Dahal (Lead)
- 2) Ramendra Singh Rawal (Support)
- 3) Arjun Thapa Magar (Support)

#### ***III. TIME***

A total of THREE DAYS (full time) was spent on field study (data collection), interview, open and all-out discussions. Two CBOs were covered in ONE day which means a total of 3 days were spent on covering all the 6 CBOs. Another FOUR days were spent on data processing, analyzing, report writing, and finally producing the report. So, a total of 7 days were spent on completing the Need Identification Study.

#### ***IV. CONSTRAINTS***

Needless to say, a huge psychological constraint was caused by the outbreak of the pandemic Covid -19. Nearly all members involved in the study including CBO young leaders, community facilitators, and the Study Team lived under constant fear of contracting the corona virus. So, it wouldn't be an exaggeration to say that the zeal and energy put into the field work was affected if not completely eaten up by the pandemic. Owing to the threat the field study had to be expedited and that too, taxed the brains of study team.

## ***V. CHALLENGES***

One of the challenges was the restrictions on mobility and that required responding to the stressful queries of law-enforcing agents more often than not. The other challenge was the fear-psychosis which made the Study Team suspicious of the groups of adolescents and CBO members who might turn out to be infected and transmit the corona virus.

## SECTION TWO

### **FINDINGS & ANALYSES**

In this SECTION, we look at the overall status of the 6 CBOs as observed during the empirical study. In doing so, we throw focus on all the 6 CBOs individually and separately, to ascertain the facts about each of them, such as; (i) their makeup, (ii) organizational shape, (iii) leaders & members, (iv) activities & experiences, (v) vision, objectives & goal, (vi) problems & challenges, (vii) infrastructure & equipment need, (viii) capacity building need (ix) networking need and (x) their knowledge & skills etc.

This would give us a picture of whether all the 6 CBOs are similar or different in one or many ways and whether they are on the same page or on different pages in terms of their mission, goal, ideas and objectives. The findings will feed into the KSSC strategy that the organization develops in building the CBO capacity and addressing their most important needs.

So, now we have a look at each of the 6 CBOs;

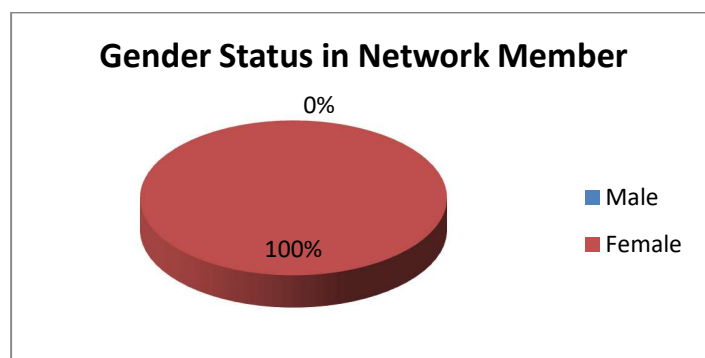
#### **1. SHREE MAYA DEVI ADOLESCENT NETWORK (CBO)**

Shree Maya Devi Adolescent Network is based in Ward No 5, *Hattihawa* village of the Suddodhan rural Municipality. It is a young CBO founded on 2019, a year ago. The CBO is an organized group of 28 members, all within the age range of 12 -19. The interesting fact about the CBO is that all of its members are adolescent girls between 12 and 19 Age and none boys.

##### *1.1 Organizational makeup & shape*

The CBO is a community-based loosely organized body of 28 members (adolescent girls). It is yet to take shape of an officially recognized grassroots non-government organization, for it has not been able to draft its own statute nor is it legally registered with the local administration or local government under the existing Non-Government Organization Registration Act 2031. The disadvantaged CBO is also bereft of organization governing policies, rules for systematic operation of the organization, and position papers. The Adolescent girls led CBO is crippled by lack of its own functional office and basic infrastructure (furniture) and basic equipments. It appears to be a spontaneously organized group of like-minded fired-up girls who want to work for change and who see scores of social evils and maladies afflicting their community to work against but they don't know how to proceed, where to get the resource, how to raise issues, how to press their points, how to network, find partners and allies, and how to get their voices heard.

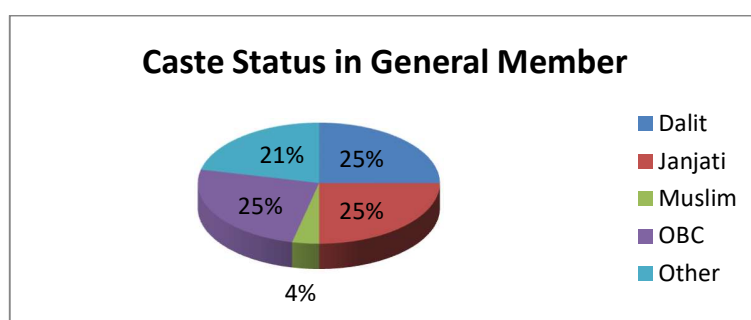
Gender Status in Network Member		
Male	Female	Total
0	28	28



### 1.2 Leaders & members

Rekha Pandey, 19, leads the grassroots community based organization. She belongs to the community/cluster the CBO is based on and so are the other 27 members. Although they all belong to one and the same ethnic community – the *Madhesi* community (people of Indian origin) – the organized body has representation from a heterogeneous mix of various caste groups within the *Madhesi* community. It has members from Dalit, Muslim, Yadav, Kurmi, Janjati and Brahmin and so on. So, from social inclusion perspectives, the CBO may be said as an organized body of multi-caste groups. Similarly, from gender perspective it may be called an inclusive feminist community-based organization.

Caste Status in Network Member					
Dalit	Janjati	Muslim	OBC	Other	Total
7	7	1	7	6	28





### *1.3 Activities , Experiences & Training*

Not much of a past activities and experiences were reported by the members. The organized group of adolescent girls in the capacity of a CBO had so far implemented only one community-based activity. They called it *Rupantaran Kakcha* (Transformational Class) conducted at the community level for community members. The Transformational Class, they conducted, had some 52 sessions out of 14 books dealing with issues like Child Marriage, Violence against Women, Women Empowerment, and Sexual Reproductive Health etc.

As to the training that the CBO members received over the past one year, they received limited training like Candle making training (skill transfer) and the Transformational Class training.

When asked what type of training they think they need or aspire for, they said that they would be happy to receive trainings such as: (i) leadership training, (ii) empowerment training, (iii) networking, and (iv) office management training etc.

### *1.4 Vision, Objective & Goal of the CBO*

On the Vision, Objectives and Goal of the CBO, the young adolescent leader and her team could say very little. There lacked clarity of vision. They didn't really know where they want to reach or what destination they have in head or what goal they are chasing through their organized shape & strength. They appeared to be confused about it. However, they knew the objectives they exactly want to achieve through the organization. They could count it in fingers. The objectives they said are; (i) End of Child Marriage, (ii) End of Violence against Women, (iii) Adolescents' social, economic and mental empowerment. Upon asked what they do really mean when they say the social, economic, and mental empowerment, they said that they need to empower adolescent girls so as to enable them resist the unhealthy & unscientific practices of society against girls, and also, empower them economically through training and resource access so as to help them stand on their own feet, and to help them grow strong psychologically.

### *1.5 Problems & challenges*

On the problems and challenges putting physical or psychological constraints on them or seriously undermining their efforts as CBO leaders and members, and the problems and challenges the CBO as an organized body faces operating at the community level, they didn't have much to say about it. They pointed at 1 key problem that the CBO encounters in carrying out planned activities and 2 major problems they personally face as CBO functionaries. The one key problem they underlined is that the local government doesn't provide budget, or they fail to tap and mobilize local resources to fund planned activities. The other two major problems the adolescent girls as leader of the CBOs constantly struggle with are the non-cooperation or discouragement from parents to go out on networking pursuits or other CBO-related activities, and there have been gender discrimination in perception, attitude and behavior of parents.

### *1.6 Basic Infrastructure & Equipment need*

The CBO is found to have been operating from a very poor support base with small and basic things like logs, brown/white papers, punching machine, stapler, and wall paper and so on. That leaves lot to desire. They are bereft of the minimum facilities like; desk, table, chair, rack, fan, and a working telephone line. They hold meetings on the matted floor sitting in a circle. When asked what minimum or basic facilities they think would enable them function more efficiently and smartly, they asked for things like: microphone, tarpaulin, chair, table, rack, water jug for drinking water, trash can, bucket, stationeries, etc.

### *1.7 Capacity-building need*

The fact about the young/adolescent girls at CBO leadership is that they have little or no exposure, have been engaged in small one-time activities, poor knowledge-base, and far from knowing what they really need to know to effectively and efficiently function. The problems plaguing the community they are meant to serve by their own reckoning are child marriage, sexual and reproductive health issues of adolescents, violence against women, gender discrimination, prejudices and bias against girls, sexual abuse, the low standing of women socially and economically etc.

They need the capacity, knowledge, skill and know-how to fight these issues. Their confidence must be built and boosted through rights-based capacity building trainings. They must be made to see for themselves what rights and resources they are entitled to being citizen of federal democratic Nepal and how the Federal, provincial and local governments have obligation to serve them and how elected governments are accountable to the citizens for their actions. The Policies, Acts and Laws should provide the basis for such capacity-building training. And they must be armed with non-violent weapon and tools like; advocacy tool, lobbying technique, carrying out issue-based social movements, organizing people around issues and mobilizing them, interfacing them with local governments, and provided basic skills of prioritizing issues, of proposal development, of networking, of building coalition and partners, of media linkages etc.

### *1.8 Knowledge & skills*

As regards knowledge, the adolescent girl leaders of the CBO leave lot to desire. Their knowledge base is deplorably poor. What they know very well about is the social maladies and evils plaguing their own community, and the problems and challenges adolescent girls face in the community they are born and brought up. What they don't know about is how they could fight and stamp out those social evils and maladies.

As far as their knowledge about their rights, duties and obligations of government service outlets, legal/constitutional provisions, procedures, rights provisions *vis-à-vis* child marriage, polygamy, violence against women, all forms of discriminations and violence against women, national laws, international covenants, protocols and treaties of which the State is a signatory, penal codes, etc. it can be safely said that they are at their infancy and have long way to go.

They lack advocacy skills, lobbying strategy, networking tricks, prioritizing issues, building movements around issues, rallying people behind issues, influencing and mobilizing media,

exploring allies and partners and forging partnership with them, creating visibility of their actions, bringing pressure to bear on local governments, and so on.

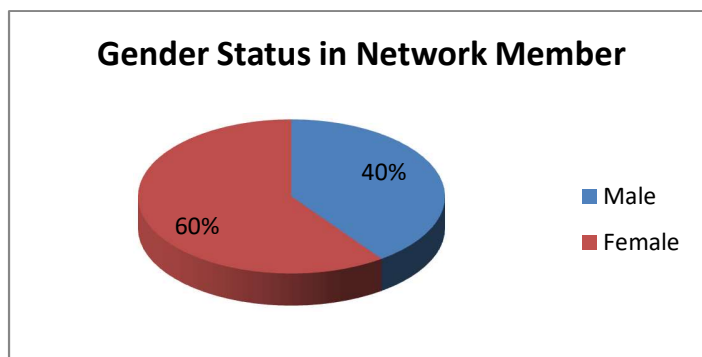
## 2. SARASWASTI ADOLESCENTS NETWORK

Saraswati Adolescents Network is based in Ward No 4, *Bithuwa* village of the Suddodhan rural Municipality. This CBO too, like Maya Devi, is a young CBO founded in the year 2019. Saraswati Adolescents Network is an organized group of 25 adolescents members, all within the age group of 12 -18. Unlike the Maya Devi Adolescent Network, this organized group has representation of both boys and girls. The CBO has balanced gender representation. It has altogether 15 young girls and 10 young boys.

### 2.1 Organizational makeup & shape

Like Maya Devi Adolescent Network, this CBO too, is a community-based loosely organized body of 25 members. But, unlike Maya Devi, the Saraswati Adolescents Network is a mixed-gender community-based organization which has nearly equal representation of adolescent boys and girls. The Saraswati, like Maya Devi, is yet to grow into shape of an officially recognized grassroots non-government organization, for it is not legally registered with the local administration or local government under the existing Non-Government Organization Registration Act 2031. The community-based CBO lacks required, necessary papers like; organization's statute, governing policies, rules for systematic operation of the organization, and position papers. The disadvantaged CBO, like Maya Devi, is crippled by lack of its own functional office and basic infrastructure (furniture) and essential equipments. It appears that the young boys and girl from the community spurred by zeal and drive to bring changes into the community against social ills like; child marriage, gender discrimination, domestic violence, abuse, antiquated and superstitious beliefs etc. banded together under an umbrella of an organized body known as CBO.

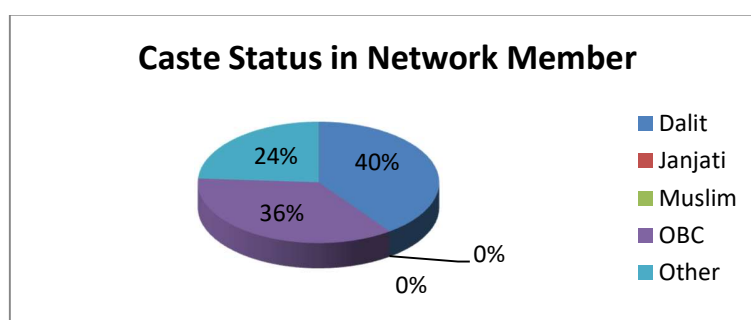
Gender Status in Network Member		
Male	Female	Total
10	15	25



## 2.2 Leaders & members

The CBO is led by an 18 year old young girl named Poonam Harijan. She is a *Dalit* (untouchable or the lowest caste in Hindu caste hierarchy). Poonam comes from the community/cluster the CBO is based and meant to serve and so are the other 25 members. The interesting fact about the Saraswati Adolescent network is that it has altogether 10 *Dalit* members of which 5 are girls and the other 5 boys. The other 15 members are non-*Dalit*. Among the non-*Dalit* members, there are different caste groups such as; Muslim, Yadav, Gupta etc. So, the organized body has representation from various caste groups within the *Madhesi* community. From gender and social inclusion perspectives, the Saraswati Adolescent network is sound, for it has representation of both young boys and girls and its members come from both the *Dalit* and *Non-Dalit* caste groups within the Madhesi community.

Caste Status in Network Member					
Dalit	Janjati	Muslim	OBC	Other	Total
10	0	0	9	6	25



## 2.3 Activities , Experiences & Training

In terms of experiences, the fledgling CBO is yet to have a feather in its cap. However, unlike Maya Devi Adolescent network, Saraswati Adolescent network appears to have been engaged in numerous activities over a short span of one year. Apart from conducting Transformational Classes in the community, the CBO has conducted small time activities like; First Aid support to adolescent victim of abuse and violence, school enrolment of drop-out adolescent boys and girls, relief package distribution to Corona infected people in quarantine, homemade masks distribution, and conducting candle making and incense sticks making training classes. From the small, sporadic activities the CBO conducted over the past one year, it appears that, unlike Maya Devi, the Saraswati Adolescent network has been able to tap and mobilize resources at the local level.

With regard to the training that the CBO members received over the past one year, they haven't received any training other than conducting Transformational Classes in the community.

To the question, 'what type of training provided to them can help them better perform?' The CBO leader and her groups came out with a list of training they looked for that included; Leadership development training, Proposal writing training, Exposure visit to the works of other

NGOs and CBOs, CBO Management training, Networking training, Advocacy skills, Capacity-building training on issues related to Child Marriage, Women Rights, Child Rights and so on.

#### *2.4 Vision, Objective & Goal of the CBO*

Again, different from Maya Devi, the Saraswati Adolescent Network has some blurred or rather vague vision/goal for the community based organization. The CBO leader and her group envisage a community free from the evil of child marriage. They also envisage a society where eligible adolescent meeting legal requirements should rightfully obtain the citizenship without bureaucratic hassles. And they also envision a society that is free from all forms of violence and discrimination.

As to the objective of the CBO, they want to achieve twin objectives of (i) End of Child Marriage, (ii) End of all forms of violence against adolescents.

#### *2.5 Problems & challenges*

The leadership and members of the Saraswati Adolescent Network faced and encountered similar problems & challenges, both organizationally and individually, like the ones faced by Maya Devi. As a community-based organization advocating the rights and interest of the adolescents, they champion the freedom of mobility and freedom of expression to young and adolescents, irrespective of their caste, ethnicity, and religion and so on. However, in the Muslim community the parents often behave rigid guided by religious zealotry and a cultural frame of mind that put their daughter under *burqa* (veil) and put restrictions on their freedom of movement. As an organized group, the CBO's effort faces resistance to change from this community. At the individual level, some members of the group live with non-cooperation and discouragement from parents when they are asked to go out for networking or other CBO-related works. Also, the general perception of the community is negative and disapproving, particularly when a girl member of the organization crosses the threshold of the house for various CBO works. The other challenge is that some parents in the community still disfavours girl's education and don't easily agree to enroll their daughters in schools. In this way, there are scores of problems and challenges that must be fought and overcome.

#### *2.6 Basic Infrastructure & Equipment need*

Like Maya Devi, this CBO too, is found to have been running its small office from a very poor support. They make do with small and basic things like logs, brown/white papers, punching machine, stapler, and wall paper and so on. That certainly leaves lot to desire for a CBO operating in the rural community. They don't have the minimum of the office facilities like; desk, table, chair, rack, fan, computer and a working telephone line. They too, hold meetings on the matted floor sitting in a circle.

They were asked, given a choice to make, what they would want to see in physical facilities for their organization. They asked for (i) tarpaulin, (ii) rack and informative books, (iii) some sport like cricket & volley ball, (iv) white board & marker, (v) fan, (vi) table & chairs, (vii) trashcan, (viii) laptop, (ix) telephone, (x) water jug etc.

### *2.7 Capacity-building need*

The fact about the CBO, its leadership and members, is that they have little or no knowledge and exposure, have been engaged in one-off, small activities on paltry resources, operate from poor knowledge-base, bereft of minimum office facilities, and far from knowing what they really need to know for their own growth and to effectively and efficiently function. The problems and challenges plaguing the community as listed by them are child marriage, violence against adolescents, parent's restrictions on mobility of adolescents, gender discrimination, negative perceptions of the community towards girls being involved in organizational activities etc.

There are no two opinions about it that they need the capacity, knowledge, information, skill, facilities, and know-how to fight and to overcome these problems and challenges. Their confidence must be built and boosted through rights-based capacity building trainings which are anchored in national laws, policies, and acts governing the issues afflicting them, organizationally and individually. They must be made to see for themselves what rights and resources they are entitled to being citizen of federal democratic Nepal and how the Federal, provincial and local governments have obligation to serve them and how elected governments are accountable to the citizens for their actions.

The Policies, Acts and Laws should provide the basis for such capacity-building training. And they must be armed with non-violent weapon and tools like; advocacy tool, lobbying technique, building issue-based social movements, organizing people around issues and mobilizing them, interfacing them with local governments, and provided basic skills of prioritizing issues, of proposal development, of networking, of building coalition and partners, of media linkages and so on.

### *2.8 Knowledge & skills*

As to knowledge, the leaders of the CBO including her group fall far too short of what it takes to effectively and efficiently run a community-based organization. Their knowledge level is only too low. What they are well aware of is about the problems and challenges plaguing their community, and the problems and challenges adolescent girls face in the community they are born and brought up. What they don't know about are the ways and know-how to fight and overcome those problems and challenges.

Their knowledge about duties and obligations of State service agencies, legal/constitutional provisions, procedures, rights provisions, penal codes *vis-à-vis* child marriage, polygamy, violence against women, restrictions on movement, and many other forms of discriminations and violence against women & adolescents, national laws, policies and acts, international covenants, protocols and treaties of which the State is a signatory, etc. is almost naught. It wouldn't be unfair to say that they are a fledgling CBO and have long way to go.

They need advocacy skills, lobbying strategy, networking tricks, prioritizing issues, building movements around issues, rallying people behind issues, influencing and mobilizing media, exploring allies and partners and forging partnership with them, creating visibility of their actions, bringing pressure to bear on local governments, and so on.

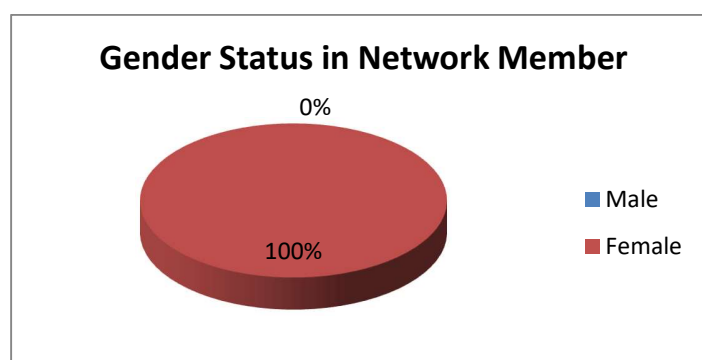
### 3. BIKASHIL ADOLESCENT NETWORK

Bikashil Adolescents Network is based in Ward No 6, *Banskhori* village of the Suddodhan rural Municipality. This CBO too, like the aforementioned CBOs, is at its infancy, founded in the year 2019, barely one year old. Bikashil Adolescents Network is an organized group of 27 adolescents members, all within the age group of 15 -19. Like Maya Devi Adolescent Network, and unlike Saraswati Adolescent network, Bikashil organized group has representation of only girls from *Madhesi* ethnic group with heterogeneous mix of caste groups.

#### 3.1 Organizational makeup & shape

Bikashil Adolescent Network, like the other two talked about above, is a rural community-based loosely organized body of 27 members. Like the other two, this CBO too, is yet to take shape of an officially recognized grassroots non-government organization, for the organization is not legally registered with the local administration or local government under the existing Non-Government Organization Registration Act 2031. Bikashil Adolescent Network is devoid of necessarily required papers like; organization's statute, governing policies, rules for systematic operation of the organization, and position papers and so on. The disadvantaged CBO, like Maya Devi and Saraswati Adolescent network, is hamstrung by lack of its own functional office and basic infrastructure (furniture) and necessary equipments. But again, the adolescent/girls (CBO leader and her comrades) demonstrated remarkable zeal and drive in talks about taking some landmark initiatives and leaving imprint on the community they are born and brought up. They appear to have been fired-up, showed passion in contributing to change in the community.

Gender Status in Network Member		
Male	Female	Total
0	27	27

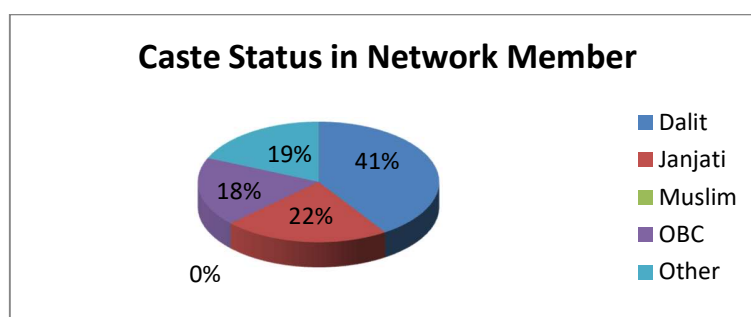


#### 3.2 Leaders & members

The CBO is led by Ms. Renu Morya, a 19 years old young girl. All the 27 members of her organization are from *Madhesi* ethnic group, representing various caste groups from the *Madhesi* community the organization is based on. The Community-based organization has representation of 11 adolescent girls as members from the *Dalit* household, 6 adolescent girls from *Janjati*

(ethnic group), and 3 members from other backward groups. From gender perspective, Bikashil Adolescent Network is all girls' organization, or rather a feminist organization. However, from social inclusion perspective, it has representation of almost all caste groups living in the community making it a CBO of both the *Dalit* and *Non-Dalit* caste groups.

Caste Status in Network Member					
Dalit	Janjati	Muslim	OBC	Other	Total
11	6	0	5	5	27



### 3.3 Activities , Experiences & Training

The activity the CBO has carried out over the past one year is quite similar to the ones carried out by Sawraswati Adolescent Network. They too, implemented the Transformational Classes that dealt with issues like; child marriage, violence against women, sexual & reproductive health and women empowerment. This apart, they carried out activities like; providing first aid services to adolescent victims of violence & abuse, conducted training on candle-making and incense sticks making etc.

In terms of experiences, the fledgling CBO doesn't have much to count on the fingers of one hand. What is good about the CBO is that, like Saraswati, they have been able to mobilize small resources at the local level to carry out few, one-off, sporadic activities. That gave them a little experience, leaving lot to desire.

With regard to the training that the CBO members received over the past one year, they appear to have had better opportunity compared to the aforementioned other two. According to the CBO leader and her group, they received trainings like; (i) Conducting transformational classes in the community, (ii) Leadership development training, (iii) Capacity-building training on violence against women, (iv) WASH training, and (v) NCC training.

When asked what type of training would they go at if given an offer, the CBO leader and her group preferred trainings as given below;

- ✓ Skill development training for adolescents
- ✓ Capacity-building training on equality & equity
- ✓ Organizational management training
- ✓ Network building training



- ✓ Capacity-building training on fighting Child Marriage
- ✓ Capacity-building training on Gender, women rights, child rights, violence against women etc.

### *3.4 Vision, Objective & Goal of the CBO*

The CBO leadership and members hardly had a word or two to say about VISION of the organization. In fact, they are not clear about where they want to go from here and what the end goal they want to reach is. Perhaps, it never occurred to them that they should give any serious thought to it. So, there was nothing in their imagination that could define their vision for the community they are working in.

However, they were absolutely clear about the objectives they were chasing. They could categorically point out the objectives they wanted to achieve through their organization. And the 6 objectives the CBO has are;

- i. End of Child Marriage
- ii. Protection and promotion of adolescent rights
- iii. End of violence against Adolescent and women
- iv. End of Discrimination between son and daughter
- v. End of caste/gender based discrimination
- vi. Girls' rights to education

### *3.5 Problems & challenges*

The problems and challenges faced and encountered by Bikashil Adolescent Network is hardly any different from the other two Community-based organizations. Both, at the organizational level and individual level, the CBO and its functionaries, are to deal with similar nature and type of problems and challenges. That is also because the community at different wards across the Suddodhan municipality is almost identical with the same ethnic groups and caste groups inhabiting everywhere.

While on the one hand, the CBO operates from a weak organizational capacity, poor infrastructure, inadequate resource to perform the task, small knowledge & skills, little or no tools and equipments; on the other hand, problems and challenges posed by the community is far too large. The CBO leadership and her team gave a count of major problems and challenges they face as follows:

- ✓ Individual potential members cannot give enough time blamed at family's poor economic condition
- ✓ Family being non-cooperative and discouraging for CBO members to go out for CBO works
- ✓ The community has negative perception about adolescent girls going out of house for CBO works
- ✓ Social discrimination and disfavor to adolescent girls
- ✓ Poor awareness amongst community of parents

### *3.6 Basic Infrastructure & Equipment need*

Like Maya Devi and Saraswati Adolescent Network, this CBO too, is hardly any different in terms of its physical existence. As organizational property all that they own are frugal and small things like logs, brown/white papers, punching machine, stapler, and wall paper and so on. That certainly is far too less than what it takes for a CBO to operate in the community. They too are devoid of the basic office facilities like; desk, table, chair, rack, fan, computer and a working telephone line. They too, hold meetings on the matted floor sitting in a circle.

When asked what they would want to see in physical facilities for their organization, they were quick to give a list of things which went like; (i) tarpaulin, (ii) dictionary, (iii) informative books (iv) white board & marker, (v) fan, (vi) table & chairs, (viii) computer (ix) telephone, (x) additional stationeries.

### *3.7 Capacity-building need*

They need capacity, knowledge, information, skill, physical facilities, and strategic know-how to fight and to overcome the problems and challenges besetting the community they are based on. Such capacity-building training must be anchored in national laws, policies, and acts governing the issues afflicting them, organizationally and individually. They must be made to see for themselves what rights and resources they are entitled to being citizen of federal democratic Nepal and how the Federal, provincial and local governments have obligation to serve them and how elected governments are accountable to the citizens for their actions.

The Policies, Acts and Laws should provide the basis for such capacity-building training. And they must be armed with non-violent weapon and tools like; advocacy tool, lobbying technique, building issue-based social movements, organizing people around issues and mobilizing them, interfacing them with local governments, and provided basic skills of prioritizing issues, of proposal writing, of networking, of building coalition and partners, of media linkages and so on.

### *3.8 Knowledge & skills*

As to knowledge, the CBO and its leaders and members are only too short of what it takes at minimum to effectively and efficiently run a community-based organization. Their knowledge level is very poor, to say the least. What they all are well aware of is about the problems and challenges besetting their community, and the problems and challenges adolescent girls or the member of CBO network face in the community they are born and brought up. What they don't know about are the ways and strategic know-how to fight and overcome those problems and challenges.

Their knowledge about duties and obligations of State service agencies, legal/constitutional provisions, procedures, rights provisions, penal codes *vis-à-vis* child marriage, domestic violence polygamy, SRH rights, violence against women, restrictions on movement, and many other forms of discriminations and violence against women & adolescents, national laws, policies and acts, international covenants, protocols and treaties of which the State is a signatory, etc. is almost non-existent. They too, like others, are fledgling CBO and have long way to go.

They need advocacy skills, lobbying strategy, networking tricks, identifying & prioritizing issues, building movements around issues, rallying people behind issues, influencing and

mobilizing media, exploring allies and partners and forging partnership with them, creating visibility of their actions, bringing pressure to bear on local governments, and so on.

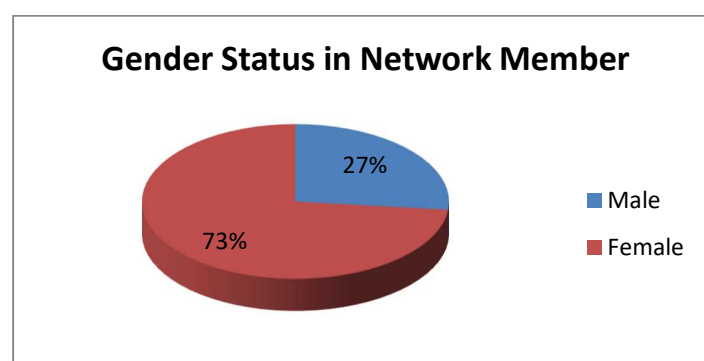
#### 4. BUDDHA ADOLESCENT NETWORK

Buddha Adolescents Network is based in Ward No 2, *Nandanagar* village of the Suddodhan rural Municipality. The Buddha CBO network too, like the aforementioned CBOs, is at its infancy, founded in the year 2019, and only one year old. Buddha Adolescents Network is an organized group of 30 young/adolescents all within the age group of 15 -21. The CBO is an umbrella network of 22 young/adolescent girls and 8 young/adolescent boys. The community-based organization has all its members coming from the *Madhesi* Community with representations from diverse caste groups inhabiting the community.

##### 4.1 Organizational makeup & shape

Buddha Adolescent Network, like other CBO network in the rural municipality, is a loosely organized body of 30 members. Like several other CBOs, it too, is yet to take shape of an officially recognized grassroots non-government organization, for the CBO network is not legally registered with the local administration or local government under the existing Non-Government Organization Registration Act 2031. The CBO network lacks necessarily required papers like; organization's statute, governing policies, rules for systematic operation of the organization, and position papers and so on. This CBO network too, is hamstrung by lack of its own functional office and basic infrastructure (furniture) and necessary tools & equipments.

Gender Status in Network Member		
Male	Female	Total
8	22	30

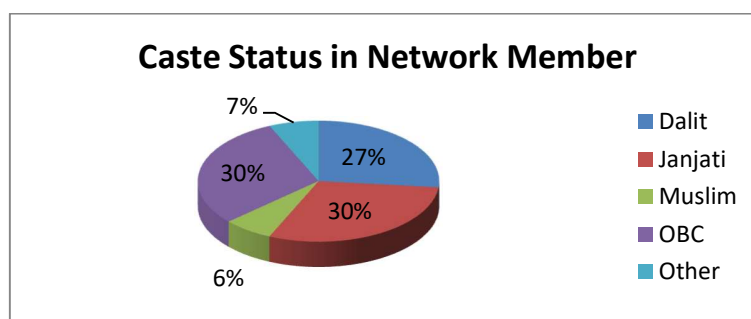


##### 4.2 Leaders & members

The CBO network is led by Ms. Premshila Pasi, a 20 years old *Dalit* girl. All other 30 members of her organization are from *Madhesi* ethnic group, representing various *Dalit* and *non-Dalit* caste groups. The CBO network has representation of *Dalit* girls (3) & *Dalit* boys (5) making it

altogether 8 members from the *Dalit* household, 9 young/adolescent boys/girls from *Janjati* (ethnic group), 2 Muslims, 9 other backward groups and 2 *non-Dalit* members. From gender perspective, Buddha Adolescent Network appears to be a gender-responsive organization although it looks tilted towards adolescent girls with only 8 boys representing in a 30 member network. However, from social inclusion perspective, it has representation of almost all caste groups living in the community making it a CBO network of both the *Dalit* and *Non-Dalit* caste groups.

Caste Status in Network Member					
Dalit	Janjati	Muslim	OBC	Other	Total
8	9	2	9	2	30



#### 4.3 Activities , Experiences & Training

Very limited activities have been carried by the CBO network over the past one year and they are similar to those carried out by other CBO network. The CBO network too like others, implemented the Transformational Classes that dealt with issues like; child marriage, violence against women, sexual & reproductive health and women empowerment and the candle-making as well as incense-sticks making skill-based activities.

As to the experiences, they hardly have any to boast of. They too, like others, have been able to tap small resources at local level to fund their activities. That gave them a little experience, leaving lot to desire.

As far as trainings they received over the past one year is concerned, they received small trainings that included; (i) Transformation Class conducting training, (ii) Leadership Development Training, and (iii) sexual & reproductive health training.

Asked about what type of training would they prefer to have if and when offered, they preferred the following:

- ✓ Skill development training (sewing, cutting)
- ✓ Leadership development training
- ✓ Hair-cutting Training
- ✓ Computer operation training
- ✓ Beauty Parlor training

- ✓ Sanitary pad making training
- ✓ Organization Management Training
- ✓ Networking training
- ✓ Capacity-building training on gender, women rights, child rights, SRH rights, etc.

#### *4.4 Vision, Objective & Goal of the CBO*

The CBO leadership and members involved over the course of interaction didn't carry any VISION or GOAL as such of the organization. In fact, it never occurred to them that the organization needs to have a vision or goal to pursue. They appear to have been organized to collectively fight social ills, abuses and violence, social & cultural shackles, superstitions and antiquated traditions. But, they don't really have any strategic planning or strategic know-how to do it.

However, what they are absolutely clear about are the objectives of the CBO network. They have 8 objectives for the network to chase and achieve. They are:

- i. End of Child Marriage
- ii. End of dowry System
- iii. End of domestic violence
- iv. End of violence against women
- v. End of discrimination between son and daughter
- vi. Girls right to education
- vii. End of caste-based discrimination
- viii. End of violence against women, children and adolescents

#### *4.5 Problems & challenges*

The problems and challenges Buddha Adolescent Network faces, both at organizational level and individual level, are no different from the problems and challenge other CBO networks facing in the municipality. They are almost similar in nature, and require similar actions & strategy to fight and overcome them. They range from poor awareness level of the community, negative perceptions, antiquated mindset, down to physical and infrastructural as well as capacity limitations & constraints. Some of the major problems and challenges they face are:

- ✓ Family being non-cooperative and discouraging for CBO members to go out for CBO works
- ✓ The community holds negative perception about adolescent girls going out of house for CBO works
- ✓ Poor awareness amongst community of parents
- ✓ Lack of space for holding monthly meetings of the CBO network

#### *4.6 Basic Infrastructure & Equipment need*

Not much need to be written about the CBO Network's existing physical facilities, equipments, tools and operational base etc. Like several other CBO networks across the municipality, Buddha too, is hamstrung by lack of both hardware and software facilities. As organizational property all that they have are the same as others like logs, brown/white papers, punching machine, stapler, and wall paper and so on. That certainly is far too less than what it takes for a CBO network to operate in the community.

When asked what could help them perform better or enhance their capacity, they too, like others came up with a list of things like; computer, tarpaulin, dictionary, books, racks, tables & chairs, and some sport items like cricket and football.

#### *4.7 Capacity-building need*

No doubt about it that the CBO networks desperately need capacity, knowledge, information, skill, physical facilities, infrastructure, and strategic know-how to perform better and to fight and overcome the problems and challenges they face while working in the community. Again, such capacity-building training must be anchored in national laws, policies, and acts governing the issues, problems and challenges afflicting them, organizationally and individually. They must be made to see for themselves what rights and resources they are entitled to being citizen of federal democratic Nepal and how the Federal, provincial and local governments have obligation to serve them and how elected governments are accountable to the citizens for their actions.

The Policies, Acts and Laws should provide the basis for such capacity-building training. And they must be armed with non-violent weapon and tools like; advocacy tool, lobbying technique, building issue-based social movements, organizing people around issues and mobilizing them, interfacing them with local governments, and provided basic skills of prioritizing issues, of proposal writing, of networking, of building coalition and partners, of media linkages and so on.

#### *4.8 Knowledge & skills*

As to knowledge, the leaders and members of Buddha Adolescent network are at same level with other networks in the municipality. Their knowledge base is far too less to effectively and efficiently run a community-based organization and perform well. Their knowledge level is very poor, to say the least. What they all are well aware of is about the problems and challenges besetting their community, and the problems and challenges adolescent girls or the member of CBO network face in the community they are born and brought up. What they don't know about are the ways and strategic know-how to fight and overcome those problems and challenges.

Their knowledge about duties and obligations of State service agencies, legal/constitutional provisions, procedures, rights provisions, penal codes *vis-à-vis* child marriage, domestic violence polygamy, SRH rights, violence against women, restrictions on movement, and many other forms of discriminations and violence against women & adolescents along with national laws, policies and acts, international covenants, protocols and treaties of which the State is a signatory, etc. is almost nil. Buddha too, like others, is a fledgling CBO network at its infancy and have long way to go.

They need advocacy skills, lobbying strategy, networking tricks, identifying & prioritizing issues, building movements around issues, rallying people behind issues, influencing and mobilizing media, exploring allies and partners and forging partnership with them, creating visibility of their actions, bringing pressure to bear on local governments, and so on.

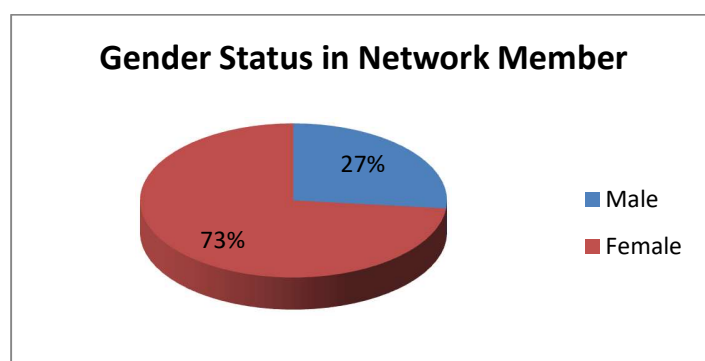
## 5. EKTA ADOLESCENT NETWORK

Ekta Adolescents Network is based in Ward No 3, *Labani* village of the Suddodhan rural Municipality. The Ekta CBO network too, like other CBO networks in the municipality, is at its infancy, brought into existence in 2019, and is only one year old. Ekta Adolescents Network is quite similar to Buddha Adolescent Network in many ways. The CBO network too, is an organized group of 30 young/adolescents; however their age group is different from that of Buddha. Its members are within the age group of 13 -20. Like Buddha, Ekta CBO network too, is an umbrella network of 22 young/adolescent girls and 8 young/adolescent boys, making it altogether 30. This too, is a mixed-gender group. The CBO network has all its members coming from the *Madhesi* Community with representations from diverse caste groups inhabiting the community.

### 5.1 Organizational makeup & shape

Ekta Adolescent Network, like several other CBO network in the Suddodhan municipality, is a loosely organized network of 30 members. It is yet to take shape of an officially recognized grassroots CBO network, for the network is not legally registered with the local administration or local government under the existing Non-Government Organization Registration Act 2031. Like many other CBO network, this too, lacks necessarily required papers like; organization's statute, governing policies, rules for systematic operation of the organization, strategy papers, action plan, and position papers and so on. This CBO network too, is hamstrung by lack of its own functional office and basic infrastructure (furniture) and necessary tools & equipments.

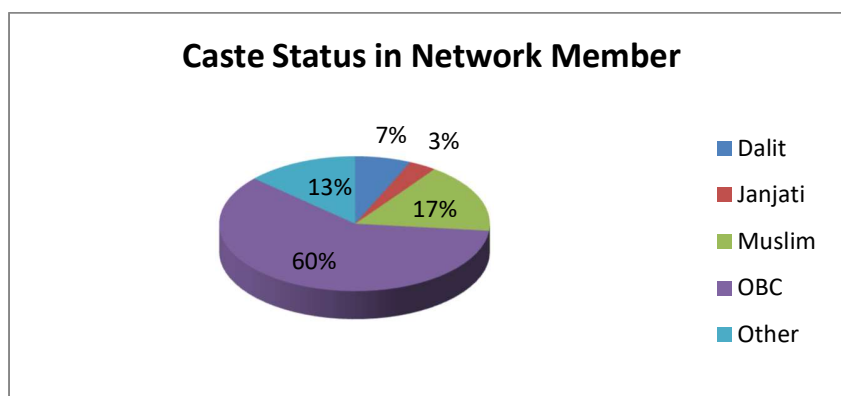
Gender Status in Network Member		
Male	Female	Total
8	22	30



## 5.2 Leaders & members

Ms. Priya Sharma, 20, leads the Ekta CBO network based in Labani village. All other 30 members of her network are from *Madhesi* ethnic group, representing various *Dalit*, *Muslim*, *Janjati*, *other backward class*, and *non-Dalit* caste groups. The CBO network has representation of *Dalit* (2), *Janjati* (1) *Muslim* (5), *other backward classes* (18) and *others* (4), making it altogether 30 members. From gender perspective, Ekta Adolescent Network, like Buddha, appears to be a gender-responsive organization although adolescent girls outnumber boys by 22 to 8. However, from social inclusion perspective, it has representation of almost all caste groups living in the community making it a CBO network of the *Dalit*, *Muslim*, *Janjati*, *backward classes*, and *Non-Dalit* caste groups.

Caste Status in Network Member					
Dalit	Janjati	Muslim	OBC	Other	Total
2	1	5	18	4	30



## 5.3 Activities, Experiences & Training

The Labani-based Ekta CBO network appears to have implemented relatively more activities compared to the other CBO networks in the Suddodhan municipality. Besides conducting the Transformational Classes in the community clusters, they have been engaged in scores of service providing activities as well as sensitization and advocacy activities on social issues across their ward. The list of activities they implemented over the past one year is as follows:

- ✓ Conducting Transformational Classes,
- ✓ Face mask making and distribution,
- ✓ Interaction meetings with parents for the end of Child Marriage,
- ✓ Training on making sanitary pads,
- ✓ Bicycle distribution to poor students and teachers



As with experience, the CBO network leadership and her team do not have much to talk about experience as they admit that they are at their infancy and have done small, one-off works.

As to the training received by the network members, they have mainly received training on, (i) Conducting Transformational Class, (ii) school enrolment training of the drop-outs, and (iii) SRH rights training. They say they have received very little and need a lot more.

When asked what type and kind of training they look for their capacity-building, they gave a list of training they need;

- ✓ Skill-based training (sewing/knitting/off-farm and on-farm training)
- ✓ Leadership development
- ✓ Sexual & reproductive health training
- ✓ Organization management training
- ✓ Network building,
- ✓ Advocacy tools & skills
- ✓ Training on Gender, Women/Adolescent rights, Child Rights, Valence against Women, Local Governance issues, resource tapping & mobilization etc.

#### *5.4 Vision, Objective & Goal of the CBO*

Like other CBO networks, Ekta leadership and her team too are devoid of any VISION or GOAL for the organization. They don't seem to know or realize that they need one. They are organized group of young/adolescent girls and boys who want to weed out social ills, abuses and violence, change the mindset & perceptions of the community people by engaging in different activities in an organized way. What they lack is strategic planning, action plan, or strategic know-how to do it.

As to the objectives, the Ekta CBO network has 6 point objectives that they seek to achieve through organized effort. They are;

- ✓ End of Child Marriage
- ✓ Exercise of SRHR rights by youth/adolescents
- ✓ End of violence against adolescent
- ✓ End of domestic violence, abuse, exploitation and discrimination
- ✓ Accessing children to education through school enrollment
- ✓ End of violence against Children & Adolescents

#### *5.5 Problems & challenges*

Ekta Adolescent Network underlined some important problems and challenges which are hardly any different from the problems and challenges faced and encountered by other CBO networks across the municipality. The problems and challenges they counted ranged from poor awareness level of the community, superstitions, negative perceptions, down to non-cooperation and discouragement to adolescents working for change. These have been the problems & challenge almost every CBO network faced and encountered in the rural municipality.

### *5.6 Basic Infrastructure & Equipment need*

The Ekta CBO network is not at all different in any measure from other CBO networks in terms of basic infrastructure, office facilities, tools & equipment etc. They too operate from very simple, basic things like floor mat, stationery, stapler, pin, wall paper, log, a trunk etc. They hold monthly meetings by sitting in a circle on matted floor.

To a question, ‘what do they need in terms of infrastructure, tools and equipment?’, they listed out things like; Computer, Trapaulin, Dictionary, Informative Books, Racks, Sports, White Board and Marker, Fan, Table, Chairs, Functional telephone, and so on.

### *5.7 Capacity-building need*

It is the same as with other CBO networks. They need capacity, knowledge, information, skill, physical facilities, infrastructure, and strategic know-how to perform better and to fight and overcome the problems and challenges they face while working in the community. Again, such capacity-building training must be anchored in national laws, policies, and acts governing the issues, problems and challenges afflicting them, organizationally and individually. They must be made to see for themselves what rights and resources they are entitled to being citizen of federal democratic Nepal and how the Federal, provincial and local governments have obligation to serve them and how elected governments are accountable to the citizens for their actions.

The Policies, Acts and Laws should provide the basis for such capacity-building training. And they must be armed with non-violent weapon and tools like; advocacy tool, lobbying technique, building issue-based social movements, organizing people around issues and mobilizing them, interfacing them with local governments, and provided basic skills of prioritizing issues, of proposal writing, of networking, of building coalition and partners, of media linkages and so on.

### *5.8 Knowledge & skills*

As to knowledge, the leaders and members of Ekta Adolescent network are hardly any different from other networks in the municipality. Their knowledge base is deplorably poor to effectively and efficiently run a community-based organization and perform well. What they all are well aware of is about the problems and challenges besetting their community, and the problems and challenges adolescent girls or the member of CBO network face in the community they are born and brought up. What they don’t know about are the ways and strategic know-how to fight and overcome those problems and challenges.

Their knowledge about duties and obligations of State service agencies, legal/constitutional provisions, procedures, rights provisions, penal codes *vis-à-vis* child marriage, domestic violence polygamy, SRH rights, violence against women, restrictions on movement, and many other forms of discriminations and violence against women & adolescents along with national laws, policies and acts, international covenants, protocols and treaties of which the State is a signatory, etc. is almost zero. Ekta CBO network, like others, is a fledgling CBO network, and a lot more need to be done to build their capacity. They need advocacy skills, lobbying strategy, networking tricks, identifying & prioritizing issues, building movements around issues, rallying people

behind issues, influencing and mobilizing media, exploring allies and partners and forging partnership with them, creating visibility of their actions, bringing pressure to bear on local governments, and so on.

## 6. SASAKT ADOLESCENT NETWORK

Sasakt Adolescents Network is based in Ward No 1, *Patariya* village of the Suddodhan rural Municipality. The Sasakt CBO network too, like other networks, is at its infancy, only one year old. However, the Sasakt Adolescent Network is the only CBO network among the 6 CBO networks, which is legally registered with the local government.

Sasakt Adolescents Network is all adolescent girls' led and managed community based organization. The CBO network has an organized group of 30 young/adolescents girls within the age group of 16 -20. A CBO network of predominantly *Tharu* (Janjati) women, the CBO has representation of multi-ethnic groups like *Madhesi*, *Pahadi*, and *Tharu* and mixed caste groups like *Dalit*, *Gupta*, *Brahmin*, *Kewat*, and *non-Dalits*.

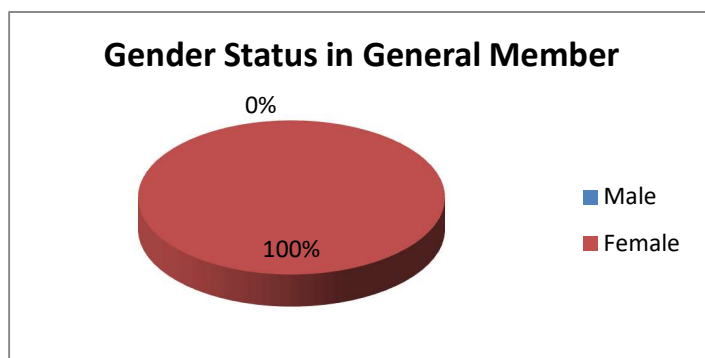
### 6.1 Organizational makeup & shape

Sasakt Adolescent Network, unlike several other CBO network in the Suddodhan municipality, is a legally registered CBO network registered with and recognized by the local government. However, like many other CBO network, this CBO network too, is not in sound shape in want of necessarily required official documents like; organization's statute, governing policies, rules for systematic operation of the organization, strategy papers, and position papers and so on.

The CBO network, however, has drawn up an Action Plan for implementing activities focusing on theme (i) ODF (Open Defecation Free campaign), (ii) SRHR (Sexual & Reproductive rights), and (iii) VAW (Violence against Women).

This CBO network too, faces constraints in want of its own functional office and basic infrastructure (furniture) and necessary tools & equipments.

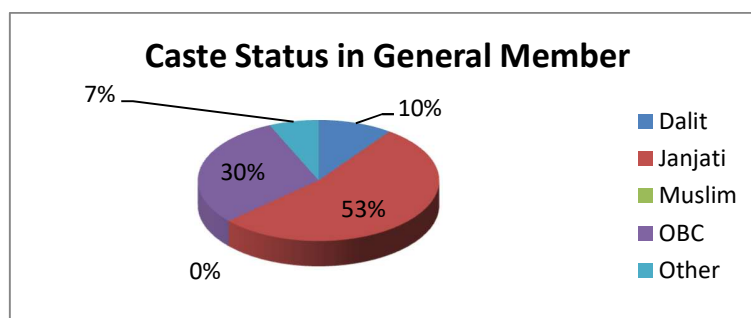
Gender Status of Network Member		
Male	Female	Total
0	30	30



### 6.2 Leaders & members

Ms. Babita Tharu, 20, leads the Sasakt CBO network as its chairperson. Majority of the members of the 30 member CBO network are from Tharu (*Janjati*) community, followed by *Dalit*, *Brahmin*, *Yadav*, *Kewat*, *Gupta* and others. The CBO network has members from both the *Madhesi* and *Pahadi* ethnic communities. The CBO network has representation of *Tharu* (16), *Dalit* (3) *Muslim* (0), *other backward classes* (9) and *others* (2), making it altogether 30 members. From gender perspective, Sasakt Adolescent Network is all young/adolescent girls led and managed organization. So, in that sense, it is more of a feminist CBO network. However, from social inclusion perspective, it has representation of nearly all caste groups living in the community making it a CBO network of the *Tharu*, *Dalit*, *Brahmin*, and *backward classes*.

Caste Status in Network Member					
Dalit	Tharu	Muslim	OBC	Other	Total
3	16	0	9	2	30



### 6.3 Activities, Experiences & Training

The Patariya based Sasakt Adolescent Network has not implemented any activities since its inception in 2019. Apparently, they do not have any experiences to talk about. However, they have had received some trainings organized by different organizations over the past one year. They included; Candle & incense-sticks making training, SRHR training, and skill-based sewing/knitting training. The CBO network leader and its members stressed on their training need and aspired for capacity-building training, knowledge-transfer training, and skill-based trainings. Trainings they asked for included; (i) leadership development, (ii) SRH rights training, (iii) sanitary pad making training, (iv) organization management training, (iv) gender training, (v) women rights training, (vi) women empowerment, (vii) child rights, (viii) local governance, (ix) fund raising, (x) network building, and (xi) proposal writing training etc.

### 6.4 Vision, Objective & Goal of the CBO

Sasakt CBO network is no different from other CBO networks when it comes to talking about VISION & GOAL of the organization. They don't have one nor have they ever thought about it.

As to the objectives, the CBO network has 7 point objectives that they want to achieve through organized effort. They are;

- ✓ Elimination of Child Marriage
- ✓ SRHR awareness & promotion
- ✓ End of violence against women/adolescents
- ✓ End of caste-based and gender-based discrimination
- ✓ End of the dowry system
- ✓ Sanitation/hygiene Promotion
- ✓ End of violence against children

### *6.5 Problems & challenges*

The problems and challenges the Patariya based CBO network talked about are one and the same faced and encountered by other CBO networks. They too, bring to the table the same problems and challenges like; poor community awareness level, negative mindset, wrong perceptions, superstitious belief & antiquated tradition, non-cooperation and discouragement from parents and family to involve in CBO network, and gender-based discrimination.

### *6.6 Basic Infrastructure & Equipment need*

The Sasakta CBO network is not found any better, qualitatively or quantitatively, than the other CBO networks in terms of basic infrastructure, office facilities, capacity, knowledge, tools & equipment etc. They too, like others, run the organization on simple, crude, basic things like floor mat, stationery, stapler, pin, wall paper, log, a trunk etc. They too, hold monthly meetings squatting in a circle on matted floor.

To a question, what physical facility, office support, or equipment and tool support would they want to see in their organization, they said they would want to see (i) computer, (ii) table, (iii) chairs, (iv) racks, (v) fan, (vi) telephone, (vi) stationery materials, (vii) books & IEC materials (viii) tarpaulin etc.

### *6.7 Capacity-building need*

The capacity-building need of Saskta Adolescent Network is one and the same as other CBO networks. They too need capacity, knowledge, information, skill, physical facilities, infrastructure, and strategic know-how to perform better and to fight and overcome the problems and challenges they face while working in the community. Again, such capacity-building training must be anchored in national laws, policies, and acts governing the issues, problems and challenges afflicting them, organizationally and individually. They must be made to see for themselves what rights and resources they are entitled to being citizen of federal democratic Nepal and how the Federal, provincial and local governments have obligation to serve them and how elected governments are accountable to the citizens for their actions.

The Policies, Acts and Laws should provide the basis for such capacity-building training. And they must be armed with non-violent weapon and tools like; advocacy tool, lobbying technique, building issue-based social movements, organizing people around issues and mobilizing them, interfacing them with local governments, and provided basic skills of prioritizing issues, of proposal writing, of networking, of building coalition and partners, of media linkages and so on.

### *6.8 Knowledge & skills*

Again, as regards knowledge, the leaders and members of Sasakta Adolescent network have hardly any better knowledge and skills than the other CBO networks. Their knowledge base is as deplorably poor as that of the other CBOs. What they all are well aware of is about the problems and challenges besetting their community, and the problems and challenges adolescent girls or the member of CBO network face in the community they are born and brought up. What they don't know about are the ways and strategic know-how to fight and overcome those problems and challenges.

Their knowledge about duties and obligations of State service agencies, legal/constitutional provisions, procedures, rights provisions, penal codes *vis-à-vis* child marriage, domestic violence polygamy, SRH rights, violence against women, restrictions on movement, and many other forms of discriminations and violence against women & adolescents along with national laws, policies and acts, international covenants, protocols and treaties of which the State is a signatory, etc. is almost zero. Saskta CBO network, like others, is a fledgling CBO network, and a lot more need to be done to build their capacity. They need advocacy skills, lobbying strategy, networking tricks, identifying & prioritizing issues, building movements around issues, rallying people behind issues, influencing and mobilizing media, exploring allies and partners and forging partnership with them, creating visibility of their actions, bringing pressure to bear on local governments, and so on.

## SECTION THREE

### MAJOR ISSUES & CONCERNS

From the Need Identification Study carried out of the 6 CBO network across the Suddodhan rural municipality and the volume of information gathered from the Network leaders and members, and having analyzed the data collected, some major *issues & concerns* have come to the fore which warrants a serious look. They are:

1. The grassroots CBO networks are fresh and fledgling. They are just a loosely organized group at the community level, mostly led and managed by young/adolescent girls. They have long way to go before they become a robust, effective, influential agents of change. They need support from scratch in different areas i.e. legal registration, capacity-building, knowledge-transfer, tools & equipments transfer, organizational management and functioning, multiple trainings, interfacing with the local government, interfacing with the service agencies like health facility and educational institutions, advocacy skills, issue identification and prioritization, proposal design, resource tapping & mobilization and many more.  
This would take a time span of at least 2/3 years of both intensive and extensive engagement. The GRANT project funded by Amplify Change will run for ONE more year in the Suddodhan rural municipality with a 6 months no-cost extension. After that, an extension of the Amplify Change funding or Amplify Change funded supplementary project is uncertain. Hence, KSSC needs to decide whether it develops a long-term strategic plan to engage with the 6 CBOs for at least 5 years and work in every area of their need to help them grow into a robust, influential and effective organization, or make a short-term strategy to work on limited areas like; legally registering them, providing them with tools and knowledge of CBO governance, management, and one or two capacity-building training on SRHR, Child Marriage, Violence against Women and Adolescent etc.
2. One big question that needs an answer is whether or not in spite of so much effort, resources, time put into strengthening the young/adolescent girls CBO network, can the 6 CBOs sustain, continue, and function independently on the strength of their own capacity by tapping and mobilizing resources at the local level, from local governments, local authorities, or even develop capacity to tap globally available resources!
3. Since the rural communities where the CBOs are based and meant to operate and serve are largely impoverished community inhabited by peasants, laborers, and seasonal migrants, can the members of the CBO network who come from the poverty-ridden community voluntarily contribute their time and energy with no economic gains of their own! Or, should KSSC work on strategy wherein CBO networks are tied to some sort of skill and resource-base activities for income-generation of the members so as to ensure their continuity with the CBO network!
4. The CBO network are meant to work in the rural community where some section of the community are orthodox, zealot, proud, and rigid about their culture, custom, values, belief system and tradition which, unfortunately, abets the negative tradition and belief

system that curbs the freedom of mobility, growth, physical and psychological development of adolescent girls. These sections of community are bound to put up massive resistance to change and even cause harm to the champions, campaigners, and advocates of change. KSSC needs to come up with a strategy to safeguard the CBO network and its members from any possible risk and threat before it get down to building their capacity. And such strategy must be non-violent and anchored on rights of citizens as enshrined in Nepalese laws.

5. KSSC as Grantee and resourceful organization must be prepared to take it upon itself to provide a continued and sustained support in areas of resource exploration, tapping and mobilization, and networking the CBOs with as many districts and province based resourceful organizations as possible so as to ensure their sustained existence and continued operation.



## **SECTION FOUR**

### **SUGGESTIONS**

Based on the study, impressions, discussion with the CBO leaders and their group, we would like to make the following suggestions with regard to CBO strengthening:

- i. All CBO strengthening exercise needs to be sensitive, respectful, and appreciative to the faith, values, and belief systems of local inhabitants while engaged in CBO strengthening,
- ii. Observe caution and refrain from any action and behavior that hurt local sentiments,
- iii. Be gender-sensitive, gender-responsive and socially inclusive in participants selection for training and workshops organized for them,
- iv. Avoid any action and behavior that harms communal harmony and intersectional peace,
- v. Take affirmative action if necessary, when doing so is just and reasonable in the context,
- vi. Treat CBO network as partners and behave with respect and dignity,
- vii. Involve local government and local service outlets i.e. health, education etc. as resource persons in the strengthening process,
- viii. Create an opportunity for the fledgling CBOs to observe functioning of some better performing non-government organizations,
- ix. Take and demonstrate do-no-harm attitude,
- x. Make the entire strengthening process comfortable, fun and worthwhile for the CBO network.

## SECTION FIVE

### RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on overall findings, interactions, discussions, and information, we would like to recommend ‘following steps’ in descending order to be taken by the KSSC towards strengthening the CBO networks across the Suddodhan municipality.

1. *Organize a two-day’s workshop involving at least 3 members from each CBO network to develop statute, action plan, strategy paper, code of conduct, rules and regulations of governance. The workshop should prepare the groundwork for CBO Network legal registration with the concerned authorities, and support them in the process of getting legally registered,*
2. *Organize another three-day’s capacity building training on thematic issues i.e. SRH, Child Marriage, Violence against women, adolescents and children, Casts & gender-based discrimination; involve Health Facility people, Women and Child Rights groups, and Local influencers as resource persons; design the training package in human rights-based approach anchored in Laws, Acts and Policies related to SRHR, Child Rights, Women Rights, etc. The Capacity-building training should provide the CBO Network activists with skills, knowledge and tools like; advocacy tools, identifying and prioritizing issues, building social movement around them, effective communication, media mobilization, building network, allies and coalitions etc.*
3. *Organize a two-day’s workshop for knowledge and skill-transfer on local resource tapping and mobilization, proposal development, ways and method of approaching resourceful agencies both at local and provincial level, ways and method of exploring resourceful agencies, practical tips on handling and operating computer etc. Thus a total of 7 full days must go into strengthening CBO network.*
4. *Supply them with necessary furniture (table, chair, rack, tarpaulin, and stationary) books on relevant Acts, Law and Policies, stationery, logs/register, and a laptop computer,*
5. *Contract out or involve them in activities like; issues identification & prioritization, advocacy with local service agencies, local government, community-level interaction meetings, workshops, debate & discussions, media mobilization etc.*
6. *Attend and facilitate the CBO network monthly meetings; facilitate in picking and discussing issues and agenda, and facilitate and guide them on how to proceed with those issues and agenda, where to go from here, who to approach, and how to redress them,*
7. *If and where possible, invite and involve them in KSSC activities being implemented under different other project and programs with the fund support of other donors,*
8. *Invite and involve them, where possible, in exposure visits undertaken by KSSC,*
9. *Organize quarterly review & revisit meeting with CBO networks to assess the progress, implementation of work plan, issues & concerns, problems & challenges, and way forward,*
10. *Provide a two-day’s refresher training towards the end of the GRANT project.*