
ANNUAL PROGRESS
REPORT 2075

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FOREWORD

Periodic election is the one of the fundamental essence of democracy. The Preamble of the Constitution of Nepal (2015) has ensures competitive multiparty democratic system of governance, civil liberties, fundamental human rights, adult franchise, and periodic elections however, the local periodic election of Nepal was not undertaken since two decade which was created uncertainty, underdevelopment, corruption and monopolization of the certain caste, class and parties. Every citizens of the country were eagerly waiting for the elections but the political parties and the government of Nepal were reluctant. The political institutions and the state organs are/were not proportional representativeness and the electoral system also not inclusiveness. Participation of most marginalized people, people with disability, religious minority and youths was not fair and discourses focusing on the acquisition of civic knowledge and voting skills to engage and act on election and electoral process also was not adequate.



Election Commission, Nepal (ECN) with the full support of the Government of Nepal has successfully completed local level election 2017 phase I and II dated respectively on 14th May and 28th June 2017 in 67 districts of six provinces of the country except province two. For the political consensus and valued participation of Terai based political parties, ECN postponed the election at province two and rescheduled for Asoj 2, 2074 (18th Sept. 2017). Newly adopted polling system based on federal structure of the country made confusions among voters and stakeholders. ECN organized a limited voter education programs all over the country but, remote area and marginalized and uneducated community could not be participated properly which affects for increasing the ratio of invalid votes. There were insignificant voter education and awareness campaigns by CSOs as well. Comparatively, province two is less aware about the voter education than other province because of socio-economic and education status which may directly affect the upcoming election. So, number of interventions and voter education program is precondition for avoiding the ratio of invalid votes. Hereby, the numbers of voters education and awareness campaign need to be undertaken targeting to III phase of local level election.

Similarly, NVRF re-connected with marginalized, forgotten society such as Dalit, women, indigenous nationalities, person with disabilities, sex cum religious minorities, youth and remote areas through voter education and capacity development in House of Representative (HoR) and State Assembly (SA) Election. Within six districts, 18269 peoples were enlightened through voter education, mock polling, power point presentation and audio/video demonstration.

Hence, NVRF has been devoting continuously in favour of voters' rights, sustainable democracy, good governance, social inclusion and right based advocacy.

I would like to extend my gratitude to board member of NVRF, Mr. Ian Smith, Ms. Radhika Regmi, Ms. Samhita Malla and whole family of IFES for supporting, encouraging and motivating in civic education project implementation and more. Also, would like to thank Mr. Chandra B. Sartunge, Mr. Dinesh Kumar BK and Mr. Rabi Maharjan (The Creation) for continuous efforts to make it possible. All NVRF committee have rights to be honored.

Thank you.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bhakt Bahadur Bishwakarma'.

Bhakta Bahadur Bishwakarma
National Chairperson

Executive summary:

In the history of Nepal, most of the time of Nepal was consumed to establish democratic system in Nepal. People were sacrificed themselves or by ruler in the name of democracy. From past to present, a lot of historical movement were organized by different political parties and got success some extent to end tyrannical political system in Nepal. Because of the lack of well flourish democracy, people were being obligated to stay without the rights of rule of law, personal as well as political freedom, human dignity, human rights, right to information etc. So, to establish the rule of people, periodic election is inevitable factor in democratic system.

Nepal, after promulgation of new "Constitution of Nepal" in September 2015 successfully completed three level of election within single year. It helps to strengthen the democratic system and raise people voices in floor which are listened. Three tiers of governments are established as per the federal system in Nepal and successfully conducted election on September and December 2017.

To make election effective as per the need of people, NVRF started to work on the subject of voter education and awareness raising about election process in Nepal with the close coordination of IFES and Election Commission of Nepal. The activity of voter education was needed. Indeed, most of the voter did not know about newly adopted election system in Nepal. Voter educations in 25 districts were successfully conducted in local level election and 6 districts in HoR and SA Election. The interventions with the coordination of election related stakeholders were effective to minimize the invalid vote ratio in Nepal and update election modality of local level election and HOR and SA Election in community level. NVRF coordinated with ECN, district election offices, IFES, political parties, like minded CSOs, youth, women group and so on.

Introduction of NVRF:

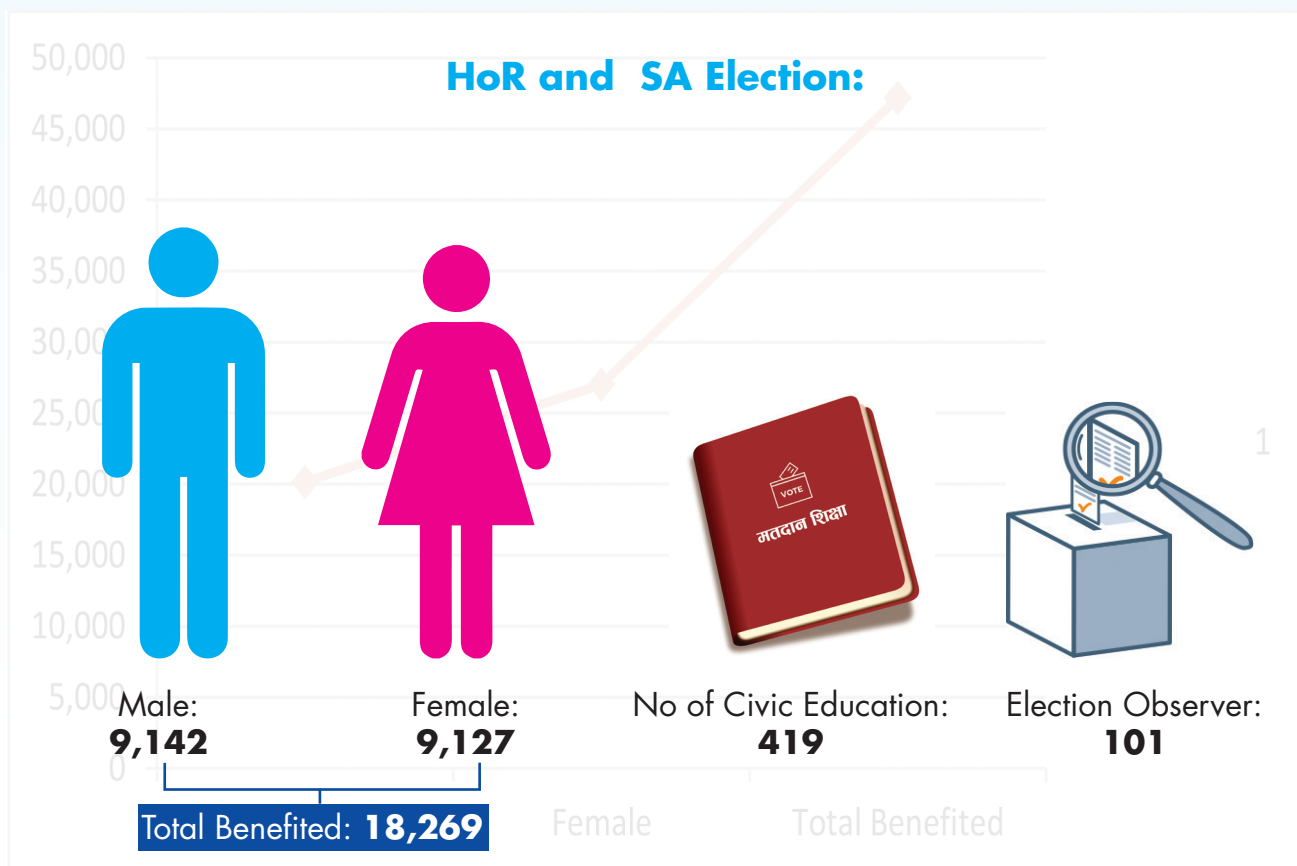
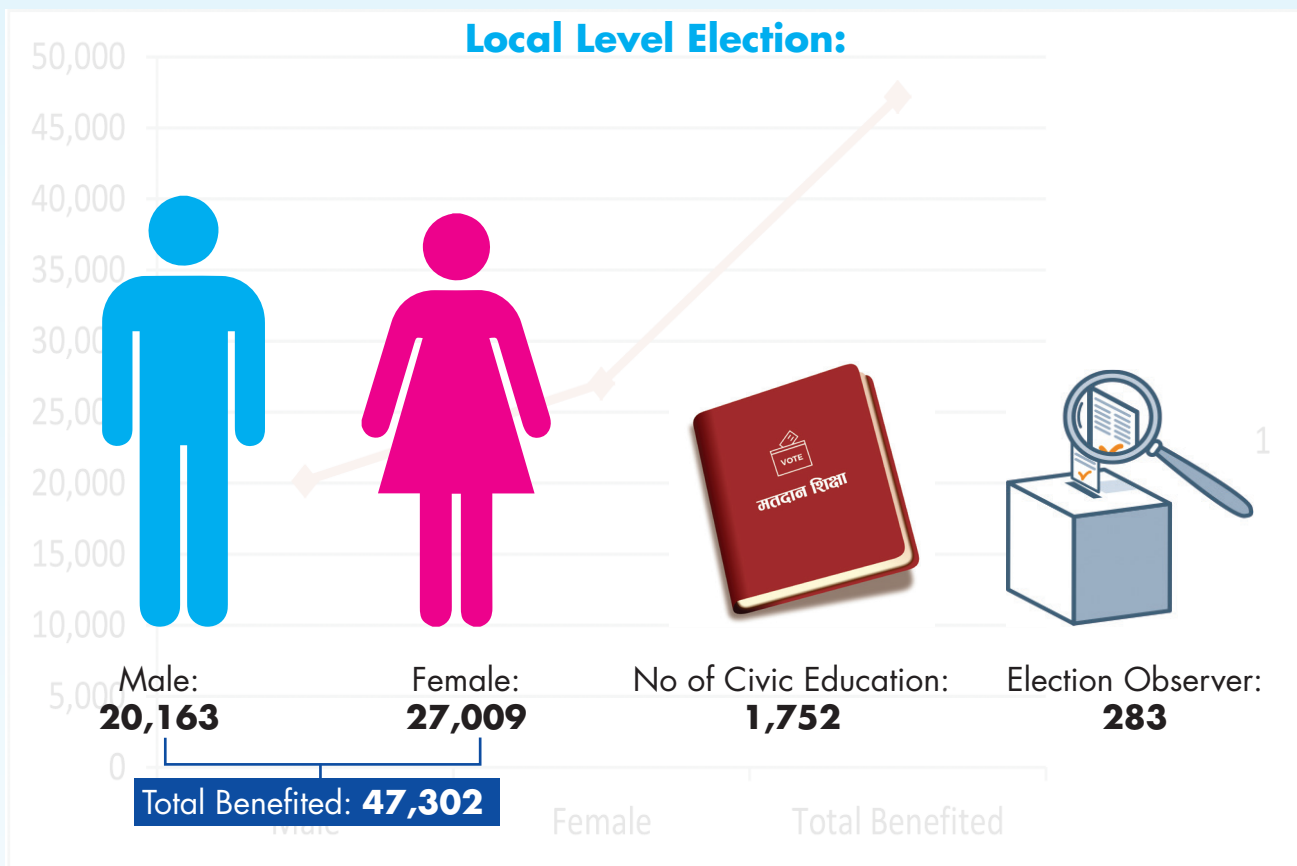
Nepal Voters' Right Forum (NVRF) is a non-partisan civil society-led formal network working on voters' issues, aiming to support the conduct of free, fair and inclusive elections. It is a forum that advocates for the rights of voters to participate in periodic elections and choose their own representatives. It also campaigns for the elected representatives to be responsible and accountable towards the people and works on strengthening the democratic practices, values and systems with meaningful participation of civil society. The NVRF is led by 25 national level steering committee member organizations working in the field of election, democracy and governance. Under the NVRF umbrella, there exists 58 District Voters' Rights Forum (DVRF).

NVRF with the support of International Federation of Electoral System (IFES) conducted 1,875 voter education programs in 25 districts of Nepal. Through the voter education program, 47,302 voters were being educated and perceived technical and non technical aspects of local level election. It is believed that voter education program is key foundation for successful and effective election where every people and political parties are actively participated.

Similarly, NVRF with the coordination of Election Commission of Nepal (ECN), IFES, District branches of NVRF, district election offices and related stakeholders, launched 419 voters' awareness raising program in six districts. Along with 90 district facilitators, 9142 male voters and 9127 female voters were directly benefitted through education and awareness program. Mock polling, flip-chart presentation, radio PSA, pamphlet, posture, leaflet and question and answer session were organizes through voter education.



Results in Number:



Section: One

Voter Education

Local level Elections were held in Nepal in three phases on 14 May, 28 June and 18 September 2018 after the promulgation of Constituent of Nepal 2015. As per constitution, three tier of government was introduced with national, provincial and local level. To strengthen the democratic culture and establish accountable and responsive local government to the people, local level election was inevitable.. There were 753 local units were formed and Election Commission of Nepal completed local election with support of political parties, civil society, experts and related stakeholders in three phases. The voters were actively participated in election process of Nepal where 73.81 % in first round, 73.38% in second round and 77% in third round were participated. Election system also changed than previous election of Nepal.

Nepal Voters' Rights Forum (NVRF) has implemented voter education program with support of International Foundation for Electoral System (IFES), Nepal was by. It focused education and awareness program in that communities which are traditionally marginalized and forgotten. The methodology of education program was thematic presentation, group discussion, and demonstration of flip-chart, posture, pamphlet, question and answer session. Mock polling session also conducted during education program. Voters who were participated in very first time in election process are benefitted and been confidence for local level election. The system of local level election also changed as per new election rules and regulations. After participating to the education program voters were able to cast their vote to their favored political leaders. The program was success to minimize the invalid votes. There were 375 facilitators were deployed by NVRF for education program and 47,302 people were directly participated as well as benefitted from voter education program in 25 districts of Nepal.

Similarly, NVRF initiated education and awareness program in six districts of Nepal focusing to HoR and SA Election. . With the standard samples and IEC materials approved by ECN and IFES in Nepal, district focal persons and education facilitators of NVRF conducted voter education program in targeted districts focusing to marginalized communities. There were 30-40 local activists engaged in a voter education program in each districts. Mock polling, group discussion; lecturing, experience sharing, question and answer session with the coordination of district election offices were conducted at education program.



Media Mobilization:

NVRF applied multiple ways and means in its voter education program for educating general voters including radio program. Before, during and after election, NVRF spreads voter's rights through radio, newspaper, online media and social media too. To make voter education more effective, NVRF aired radio PSA in six districts through three different F.M. radios in two themes at two languages (Nepali and Tamang). The content of radio PSA was fixed with the coordination of IFES and partner organizations. The main theme of radio PAS was to teach process of voting, its confidentiality, importance of vote and its role on development and sustainable democracy.

Key Findings of HoR and SA and Local level election:

- Most of the voters were unknown about newly introduced election system of local level election.
- To influence the support of voters, political parties and their leaders/cadres shared non-reachable promises.
- Election commission of Nepal scheduled door to door visit program for voter education. It looks like less effective and impractical than mock polling program.
- NVRF shared its election related materials and conducted mock polling in project area. It resulted that mock polling was effective than other initiatives.
- Lack of voter education in all over the country was high.
- Voters were confused in voting system, so, it affected in valid votes.
- Political parties and their cadres falsified by sharing more promises which were not reachable. It resulted that the respect to political leaders is minimal point.
- The polling centre did not look easy for person with disability (PwDs) and senior citizen.

Lesson Learned:

- Voter education program should be organized regularly.
- Advocacy programs are needed for enlightening the knowledge and importance about election and its process.
- For effective documentation of overall election process, inter-government as well as civil society coordination is needed.
- Voter education program should start very soon.
- Election should be in digital system as soon as possible.
- The observation of violation of code of conduct by political and non-political parties should be made more active.



Section: Two

Election Observation

Election Year 2017

NVRF conducted election observation missions for all three levels of elections having approval of Election Commission of Nepal. NVRF deployed 386 election observers for all three (local level, HoR and SA) election across the country. It helped to make election free, fair and fearless. As per the NVRF observer, local level election as well as HoR and SA Election were conducted in peaceful environment. Before the Election Day, NVRF organized orientation program about election observation and managed questionnaire, election code of conduct. Observer agreed with the code of conduct delivered by ECN and NVRF. They were committed and focused to observation in election. NVRF reached 56 districts of Nepal in local level and HoR and SA Election. The presence of election observer helped to follow election code of conduct to related stakeholders. Voters also encouraged casting their vote without any political and non-political impression. (How many districts we reached and what was the main impression about it)



Section: Three

Capacity Development

NVRF believes on training, orientation and capacity development initiatives for achieving expected high degree of achievement of the projects implemented by of the organization so the results are only possible through capacity development of organization's members, staffs, community people as well as concern stakeholders including elected representatives. The efficiency of the performance can be enhanced, accelerated and achieved when actors are well equipped and capacitated. It is the assets of the organization.

NVRF organized regular capacity building trainings, finance training, skill enhancement training, training for advocacy. During election period, NVRF conducted political accountability training in project districts. Two days ToT (Training for Trainers) training were successfully organized and mobilized in community level. In local and HoR and SA Election, 470 people were directly participated in ToT trainings.

NVRF staffs and concern stakeholders were participated in the special Training of Trainers (ToT) organized by IFES in Kathmandu. The trainings aimed to provide practical knowledge and information for making participants sharp and sound for delivering and facilitating respective trainings smoothly and effectively in each project districts. It also aimed to conduct voter education/civic awareness programs rapidly. The trainees were able to deliver their gained skills and knowledge to the people in a practical manner.



Section: Four

Coordination & Donor partners :

Nepal Voters' Rights Forum (NVRF), being a network organization, is promoting coordination and collaboration with various members and multiple stakeholders. During election periods, NVRF coordinated closely with ECN, district election offices, IFES, NEOC, GEOC, and other election observation groups and electoral community. NVRF also coordinated with AYON, Samagra, WHR, NFDN, district branches of NVRF for effective implementation of voter education program.

NVRF was to be connected with different INGOs and NGOs for planning, discussing, interacting for the success of local level and HoR and SA Election in Nepal.

NVRF closely worked with International Foundation of Electoral System in Nepal (IFES) which was the major partner for undertaking voter education in Nepal. It also extended collaboration with other INGOs and NGOs for institutionalizing democracy, promoting political accountability, social responsibility, advocacy for marginalized people, through voter education, capacity development and election observation.



Section: Five

Success Stories:

Voter Education Programme Clears Confusions

Mira Mijar is a 35-year-old resident of Nilkantha Municipality, Dhading. She is the chairwoman of Naba Kapila Dalit Mahila Samuha. The main purpose of her organization is to unite under the umbrella of Dalit network and spread awareness programme in the community.



She is educated woman and organized so many awareness classes to non/dalit communities. Though, she has so many confusions about local level election. She says, "voter education programme clears a lot of confusions. It helps to know about local level election, its formation, inclusiveness, and polling process."

She was excited when she was participated in the voter education programme and shared what she knows, in her organization. Before voter education programme, no one were lunched any voter education campaign in her village. Senior citizen, woman and youth were strongly participated in voter education programme. Political parties also appreciated this programme.

Mira suggests such as proper availability of voter education materials, accessibility of the people in information materials, big size of sign of political parties for upcoming election in Nepal. She satisfied with the management of election commission in voting centre. She point out some loop holes like unavailability of toilet, drinking water etc.

Voter Education Opened my Eyes

Sarmila Tolange Mijar lives in Panchkhal Municipality-6, Kavrepalanchok. One day, when she was roaming aroud in Kavrepalanchowk bazaar, she came across a notice to participate in civic awareness raising program for HoR and SA Election organized by Nepal Voters' Rights Forum, Kavre. As she became curious, she joined the program.



Having participated in the program, she smiled and said, "I voted in local level election but HoR and SA Election and its process is completely different. It is easier than before. She also said that many people still must be thinking of the same way of voting so should also go to the remote places.

Even after listening to the orientation provided by the facilitator, she made a mistake while voting. She folded ballot paper randomly and did not ink properly. After the facilitator informed her about the mistake she did, she then became clear.

Election as the foundation of Peace, Prosperity and Development

Buddhimal Tamang, 49 is a resident of Siddicharna Municipality-3, Okhaldhunga. He lives with his family and does small business in his district.

He has voted in the Legislative Election 1994, Legislative Election 1999, Constituent Assembly Elections 2008, Constituent Assembly Election-II 2013 and Local Level Election 2017. He has experienced different kinds of elections but had never participated in any form of voter education programmes.

It was his first participation on HoR and SA election voter education programme organized by NVRF. Having participated, he said that he was very happy to know about the purpose of HoR and SA election in Nepal and the election process. He also added that political party members do come to their hometown during elections asking for votes but never teach how and why to vote.

He also found very interesting the materials used by the facilitators. It became crystal clear to me after watching the video, says he. He also told the facilitators that he will teach his family members and colleagues on how to vote as it is a very necessary subject. He also suggested that along with voters, voter education is also necessary for party cadres at the local level. He wished that this election would hopefully bring peace, prosperity and development in the country.



Mock Polling Event Taught Me What Should Do In Election

Ram Kumari BK is a Dalit women. She is 30-years-old and lives with her family in Okhaldhunga district. Even though she has studied till grade 10, she works as a farmer in her village.

First time in her life, Ms. Ram Kumari voted in the local level election 2017. Having no idea on how to vote, I went to the polling station. I just stayed in the line and listened to people talking on how to vote. I voted on the basis of whatever I picked from their conversation, and still don't know if I voted correctly.

However, for this election, I am very fortunate that I came across your event.

Now I am fully confident on voting, she added after participating in NVRF voter education program. I also folded the ballot incorrectly in the last election. So I am very much sure either one way or other, my vote must have been invalid, she added.

With a face full of concern, she said that many of us from the Dalit community are illiterate and it is far beyond our reach to understand elections and related topics. We just want development and opportunity for us to work and end this poverty. Before you came, I didn't even know why election was so important, she told the facilitator.

After participating in the mock poll event, she then learned how to fold the ballot correctly and to put the ballot papers in the correct ballot box.

In the end, she said that she will definitely teach her family members and friends on how to vote.



Voter Education Programme is What We Need

Indra Bahadur Thapa is a 51-year-old resident of Devghat Rural Municipality-2, Tanahu. By profession, he supports the people as a "Lekhapadi" in government offices. He lives with his family and serves as a social activist in the community.

He is so curious and enthusiastic by the announcement of local level election after two decades in Nepal. He also worried that the process and system of local level election is so complicated and people cannot understand easily. So, he searches here and there for voter education programme but did not find quickly. Then, he contacted a member of Nepal Voters' Right Forum, District branch Tanahu.

He participated in the voter education and awareness programme organized by DVRF, Tanahau. He appreciated the programme which was needed for voters in his village. He says, "the voter education programme is what we need and it helps to cast our vote to the right person without any wrong."

Thapa says, "the programme is very very fruitful for us. Sharing materials are very useful and we also expect more voter education programmes in upcoming election." The attendance of senior citizens, females, children, youth and ethnic community was very strong in the programme. He shared his experiences that local level election in 2054/56 BS was so easy and every person can vote without any confusions. So, he suggests that the election commission should make small ballot paper and visible signs of political parties.

The voting centre was voters' friendly. He thanks the government and the behaviour of EC staff was good. He also feels uneasy when he saw voters lack of proper voter education damaged their ballot paper. So, he desires to launch voter education programme as a door-to-door programme to people.



Chandrimaya Shrestha Casting Vote by Her Own Hands

Chandrimaya Shrestha is over 72 and lives with her family in Manthali Municipality-9, Purano Gaaun, Ramechha. She once voted during the Panchayat System. But in the recent years she has never voted with her own hands.

Her hands are not flexible because of old age but she is very vigilant. She can describe in a single breath the political and socio-economic changes that have taken place over the years in her village. They told her that as she is illiterate and does not know how to vote she might do mistakes and that's why they will vote for her. But they never bothered to teach her how to vote and which election symbol belongs to which party.

However, this time, when NVRF organized civic awareness raising program in her village, Chandrimaya was a person to come to participate. In the beginning, she could not capture what the facilitator was saying and did not understand. But later on, when the facilitator explained to her in person and as she participated in mock poll, she then knew how to vote.

"I can vote too," she said with a smile on her face. "I will choose the candidate whom I want to vote. I don't need my cousin's support. I will take the support of polling officer," she added.

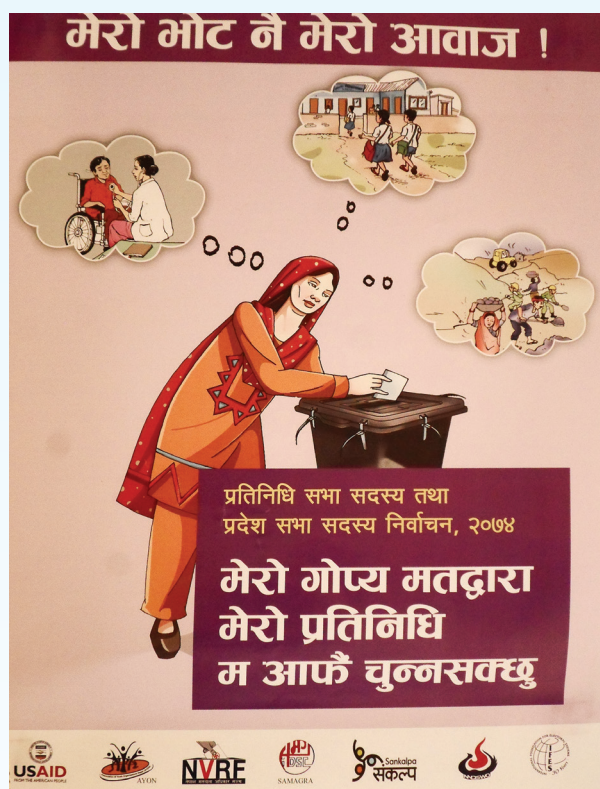
On the day of election, she actually voted with her own hands with the support of polling officer.



Section: Six

Research and Publication

- Right Based Advocacy through IEC Materials
- Posture, Brochure, Leaflets,
- Radio PSA





VOTE

मेरो भोट, मेरो अधिकार ।
समृद्धि र विकास, मेरो सरोकार ।।

मेरो प्रतिनिधि, मेरो रोजाई ।
मेरो सरोकार, मेरो भोगाई ।।



प्रतिनिधि सभा तथा प्रदेश सभा सदस्य निर्वाचन, २०७४ मा माग लिऔ ।
आफ्नो मताधिकारको सदुपयोग गरौ ।



सामाजिक सञ्जाल (facebook, twitter) मा HASH TAG (#) गरी मतदाता विद्यालाई प्रभावकारी बनाऔ ।
#_VOTE_4_MY_RIGHTS #NVRF



नेपाल मतदाता अधिकार मञ्च (NVRF)
email : info@nvrnepal.org
Website: nvrnepal.org

नेपाल मतदाता अधिकार मञ्च
Nepal Voters' Rights Forum(NVRF)

Annex - I

Nepal Voters' Rights Forum (NVRF)

IFES/ USAID funded Voter Education Program

Kathmandu Metropolitan City - 11, Babarmahal, Kathmandu, Nepal

Income & Expenditure Account

for the period 11th Falgun 2073 to 31st Ashad 2074

Particulars	FY 2073/74 (2016/17)
	NRs
Income	
IFES/USAID	2,782,500.00
Membership Fees	21,000.00
Total	2,803,500.00
Expenditure	3,635,240.87
Programme Expenditure	3,174,802.35
Administrative Expenditure	460,438.52
Surplus / (deficit) during the year	(831,740.87)
Represented by:	
Surplus / (deficit) transferred to Operating Fund	(831,740.87)
Notes to Accounts	As per our report of even date


Dinesh Kumar BK
Admin/Finance Officer


Thakur Prasad Bhandari
Treasurer


Krishna Mani Adhikari
Registered Auditor
Krishna & Co.
Date: 2074/06/17


Tika Devi Dahal
General Secretary


Bhakta Bishwakarma
Chairperson



Annex –II

Name List of Board

S.N.	Name	Designation	Contact	Email
1	Bhakta B Bishwakarma	Chairperson	9851084469	gbkbhakta@yahoo.com
2	Nirmala Sharma Dhungana	Vice Chairperson	9841326029	nirmaladhungana@gmail.com
3	Tikadevi Dahal	General Secretary	9841257521	tikanfdn93@gmail.com
4	Bijaya Khadka	Secretary	9810169965	bijaya@youth.org.np
5	Thakur Pd. Bhandari	Treasure	9841516209	thakurbo1@yahoo.com
6	Rem B. BK	Member	9851068809	info@jagaranmedia.org.np
7	Seema Khan	Member	9803966692	nmwws.seema@gmail.com
8	Trilok Chandra Bishwas BK	Member	9851045906	trichand2001@yahoo.com
9	Nanda Kumari Rai	Member	9841323173	nandakumarirai00@gmail.com
10	Yashodha Adhikari	Member	9851031761	yashoda.adhikari@gmail.com
11	Padam B BK	Member	9851224100	sushilbks@yahoo.com
12	Nirmala Dhital	Member	9851132391	dhital.nirmala@gmail.com
13	Shanta Bhandari	Member	9841298693	shantabhan@gmail.com
14	Krishna Man Pradhan	Member	9851033540	nepallawsociety@gmail.com
15	Renu Sinjapati	Member	9841469644	renu@fedonepal.org
16	Shuveksha Bindu Tuladhar	Member	9841217064	subindu.tuladhar@gmail.com
17	Kalika Khadka	Member	9851156192	kalikarss@gmail.com
18	Sanjaya Sharma	Member	9804372046	sanjaysharma.bds@gmail.com
19	Himal Mahat	Member	9849303918	president@ayon.org
20	Krishna Kumar Shah	Member	9841359181	krishnakshah@gmail.com
21	Jagadish Pd. Adhikari	Member	9851074661	dhrc@wlink.com.np

Annex - III

Member Organization:

- Nepal National Dalit Social Welfare Organization (NNDSWO)
- Dalit NGO Federation (DNF)
- National Federation of the Disable Nepal (NFDN)
- Youth Initiative (YI)
- Federation of Community Forestry Users Nepal (FECOFUN)
- NGO Federation of Nepalese Indigenous Nationalities (NGO-FONIN)
- Association of Youth Organization (AYON)-Nepal
- Federation of Nepalese Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FNCCI)
- Sancharika Samuha
- Jagaran Media Centre (JMC)
- Working Women Journalist (WWJ)
- Women for Human Rights – Single Women Group (WHR)
- Nepal Madhesh Foundation (NEMAF)
- Muslim Mahila Samaj
- Nepal Disable Women Association (NDWA)
- Blue Diamond Society (BDS)
- Human Right Journalist Association (HURJA)
- Nepal Law Society (NLS)
- Dalit Human Right Organization (DHR-Nepal)
- Asmita-Nepal

Photo Gallery

