

Annual Report

2019





Social Development Path, Nepal

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Social Development Path, Nepal (SODEP)

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Acknowledgement

Social Development Path (SODEP) Nepal established in 1992 AD (2049 BS), is duly registered at District Administration Office, Dhanusha and affiliated with Social Welfare Council as a non-governmental, non-profit making and non-political organization. SODEP has the vision of: building a society where no socio-economic discrimination prevails, and the poor and marginalized people such as Madheshi, Dalits, Janjati (indigenous nationals), women and children enjoy their life equally and with dignity. SODEP has been educating and empowering the grassroots level people ceaselessly to make them able to voice against violation of fundamental human rights, and peace and security situations and to work against poverty.

SODEP believes that capacity development of target communities is necessary to make them able to claim and enjoy their rights and for bringing the positive change in their life. SODEP is committed and encouraging the community in self mobilization for the development. SODEP in coordination and collaboration with other civil society organizations and community people and with support of government agencies, UN agencies and development partners has been standing against the deep rooted social evils such as; untouchability, exploitation, poverty and all forms of discrimination among the people. As in past years, in the year 2019 too, SODEP has been actively involved in facilitating marginalized and disadvantaged people to claim their rights and to move ahead for the betterment of their life.

SODEP has been working in the issues of inclusiveness, community empowerment, cooperative strengthening, promotion and protection of human rights, disaster management, and good governance, and in implementing programs such as; social transformation campaign, open defecation free campaign, flood recovery, local governance, business promotion of disables and child development. Working together with different local community groups of the districts has been instrumental in conducting need based, service and development oriented social and economic empowerment campaigns and movements with right based approaches. SODEP is committed to fulfill its social responsibility of ensuring civic rights in the community where government service is yet to be accessed and thus contributing in achieving the objectives of the three year plan.

In the pursuit of such endeavors SODEP greatly acknowledge and appreciate the significant role of the community people and community groups for their active and meaningful participation. Similarly, SODEP greatly acknowledge Action Aid International Nepal (AAIN), GEF/SGP/UNDP and Lutheran World Federation for their valuable financial and technical supports. I would also like to thank Chief District Officer of Dhanusha as well as other government line agencies and local government for their cooperation in SODEP's initiatives.

SODEP gratefully acknowledges the assistance of the people who contributed directly or indirectly in the course of preparing this report. The Executive Committee and staff of SODEP deserve special thanks for their commitment, solidarity and dedication without which this report would not have been produced in this form. My sincere appreciation also goes to, Dr. Shree Govind Shah , Mr. Toya Gautam, Mr. Raja Ram Shrestha, Mr. Bechan Mandal, Mr. Sankar Sahani, Dr. Jaysingh Sah and Mr. Ram Prabodh mandal for their contribution and assistance in preparing and finalizing this report. Last but not the least, my special appreciation goes to Mr. Awadh Narayan Yadav for valuable professional inputs contributed on its production in the current shape.

Sunita Devi Mestarni
Chairperson, SODEP

Foreword

SODEP has the vision of: building a society where no socio-economic discrimination prevails, and the poor and marginalized people such as Madheshi, Dalits, Janjati (indigenous nationals), women and children enjoy their life equally and with dignity. Since its establishment, SODEP has been dedicated towards eliminating all kinds of social, cultural, and economic discrimination in community and foresees an enjoyable place for people of all caste, creeds with perpetual peace and security. In coordination and collaboration of communities and likeminded organizations and with the support of government agencies, UN agencies and development partners SODEP endeavors towards social inclusion, empowerment and mainstreaming the downtrodden and distressed people. SODEP has in many cases succeeded in making the community people to claim their rights.

In facilitation and support of SODEP, wider and active participation of capacitated and self motivated community people and groups in movements and campaigns, has been always encouraging us in reaching the unreached people. As in previous years, in 2019 also it has been successful in contributing in improving quality of life of the targeted people, in the deprived and disadvantaged rural areas, through initiatives directed towards promotion and protection of human rights as well as sustainable socio-economic and human resource development.

During 2019, SODEP continued to design plans and programs and implemented various activities focusing mostly in the areas of human rights, including rights of women and children, public awareness, social inclusion, social security, social transformation, good governance, social mobilization, flood recovery, open defecation free community. SODEP working with Woman groups, Child Clubs, Child Rights Forums, Women Rights Forums, Cooperatives, Community Organizations and also organized Land Rights Forum (LRF), Senior Citizen's Rights Forums (SCRF) facilitated in mobilizing the target community in claiming their rights. With the continued endeavors of SODEP, various networks and alliances at the community level has been formed for institutionalizing the collective efforts. Networks, groups/organizations and consortium partners has been encouraged in pursuing various advocacy, lobbying and campaigning activities in strengthening rights claiming endeavors of the people.

As in previous years, in 2019, SODEP continued its facilitation in increasing members in woman cooperatives and saving-credit groups and in engaging the women members in saving and getting loan for their income generation activities.

SODEP, in 2019, as in previous year, received support of various governmental and national/international non-governmental organizations, individuals, dignitaries and communities to act upon its vision, mission, goal and objectives. SODEP is highly obliged and generously extends its thankfulness to all the government agencies, UN agencies and development partners: Action Aid International Nepal (AAIN), GEF/SGP/UNDP, Lutheran World Federation for their valuable financial and technical supports. Similarly, we would like to thank Provincial government, Chief District Officer of Dhanusha and all others who supported us in our development endeavors towards overcoming social evils, injustice, discrimination, untouchability, social insecurity and exploitation in the community especially in most deprived and excluded groups of society.

We, the executive team of the organization, are very thankful to general members, Executive Committee, and advisors for SODEP for their kind support and appropriate guidelines and policy to implement the activities. We also like to thank media for their cooperation and all well wishers of SODEP. With full determination, faith and confidence SODEP expresses its commitment to move ahead with its partners hand in hand towards developing an egalitarian society with justice, equality, peace and security in the country in the days ahead.

Satya Narayan Shah
Executive Director, SODEP

Acronyms

AAIN: Action Aid International Nepal
CA: Constitution Assembly
CAG: Civic Action Groups
CBO: Community Based Organization
CDO: Chief District Officer
CDP: Child Development Project
CEIEG: Community Empowerment for Inclusion of Excluded Groups
DAO: District Administration Office
DDC: District Development Committee
DEO: District Education Office
DJKYC: Dalit Jana Kalyan Youth Club
EC: Executive Committee
GA: General Assembly
HIV: Human immunodeficiency virus
ILO: International Labour Organization
INGO: International Nongovernment Organization
LDTA: Local Development Training Academy
LGCDP: Local Governance and Community Development Programme
LWF: Lutheran World Federation
M&E: Monitoring and Evaluation
NC: Nepali Congress
NCG: National Consensus Government
NGO: Nongovernment Organization
NRs: Nepalese Rupees
PAF: Poverty Alleviation Fund
RDIF: Rights, Democracy and Inclusion Fund
RSS: Rastriya Samachar Samiti (National News Agency)
RWSSFDB: Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Fund Development Board
SCRF: Senior Citizen's Rights Forums
SODEP: Social Development Path
SWC: Social Welfare Council
UCPN-M: Untied Communist Party-Maoist
UML: United Marxist-Leninist
UN: United Nations
UNDP: United Nations Development Programme

Executive Summary

As in past years, in the year 2019 SODEP has been actively involved in facilitating marginalized and disadvantaged people to enjoy their rights and to move ahead for betterment of their life. SODEP continued its efforts in community empowerment, poverty alleviation, restoring peace, institutionalizing democracy and good governance at local level.

This report aims at sharing SODEP's achievements and learning amongst the stakeholders including community based organizations, government authorities, non-governmental organizations, supporting partners, political parties, and people in general apart from documenting institutional learning and knowledge for its future reference. This annual report is a summary document of experiences and learning of SODEP while working with its target group, local government, development partners, and other stake holders; Civil society, political activists, and others during the year 2019 and also covers an overview of progress made during the period in line with set objectives and outputs from the perspective of right holders, supporting partners and SODEP itself.

SODEP is a national level non-government, non-political and non-profit-making social development organization established in 1st November, 1992 (2049-7-15). SODEP envisions a society where people have been living dignified lives with self reliant livelihoods. SODEP strives to empower the poor and excluded communities such as Dalits, Madhesis, indigenous people, women and children, among, other to improve their quality of lives through enhancing their capacities and promoting opportunities. Similarly, SODEP has the goal to improve the living status of the poor and excluded communities especially Dalits, Madhesis, children, indigenous people and women through participatory development process.

General Assembly (GA), the apex body of the organization, presently comprised of 115 members that include 7 Life Members and 108 General Members (47 male and 68 females including 27 dalits and 22 indigenous communities). GA meets once a year to provide guidance and directives to the organization and approves annual policies, plans and programs for the succeeding year. Twentieth one Annual General Assembly (AGM) and Twenty six anniversary of SODEP have been observed in 7 Ashad, 2076, (22 June, 2019) 118 members including guests attended the AGM. AGM approved organizations financial and programme reports and discussed on various issues on effective implementation of programme activities and in ensuring institutional development of the organization.

Nine-member executive committee, elected by General Assembly is responsible to implement plans and policies as decided in the General Assembly. The executive committee members are committed and attentive for the organizational upbringing and advancement. The executive committee advices on policy matters and provides guidelines for efficient management of the organization and its activities.

Altogether 20 staffs that include 14 fulltime staffs (9 male, 5 female), 6 part time staffs (5 male and 4 female) and 5 volunteers - non salary including 6 dalits 2 Janjati and 10 from backward community and 2 from high cast, supported the organization to undertake field level activities and official works.

SODEP, with aim of developing itself as a centre of excellence and as an effective learning institution has institutionalized; Financial management policy, Human resources management policy, Planning, monitoring and evaluation policy, Institutional good governance policy, Gender and social inclusion policy, Procurement policy, and Strategic plan and has been following them in practice.

In the process of leading effective and motivating approaches on breaking the ground for positive change drawing upon an amicable support and integration from all the concerned agencies and stakeholders and development partners, achievements of SODEP in 2019 are;

In partnership with Action Aid international Nepal (AAIN) SODEP has been implementing 'Social Transformation Campaign Project' in Dhanusha district. Achievements made in 2019 are focused in; Strengthening and capacity building of community groups for promotion and protection of rights, Increased access of people to and control over land, water and agriculture resources, Increased access of women and other marginalized people to and control over land, water and forest resources, Initiatives for improved livelihood, Strengthening cooperative organizations, Building disaster resilient communities (BDRC), Promotion of good governance in local level; formal and non formal groups and committees, Supporting promotion and protection of women rights and Promotion and protection of rights to education.

SODEP Nepal has been implementing Open Defecation Free Campaign in Dhanusha District. SODEP facilitated the campaign in 10 VDCs. Achievements so far in this program are; 10 VDCs (Naktajhijh, Bafai, Basbitti, Yadukuha, Gidha, Thadhi, Nagarain, Bindhi, Deuri-parbaha and Paureswar) have been declared ODF; Sanitation coverage of program VDCs has been raised from 28% to 100%. SODEP accomplished 100% targets and got best achievement award in Tarai sanitation movement and it became a first organization that has brought 100% results within timeframe in 2017.

SODEP Nepal has implemented Nepal Flood Recovery Program in Lalbandi, Sarlahi district with support of Lutheran World Federation, Nepal successfully and effectively in 2017-2018. SODEP Nepal has been implementing "Nepal Development Program" in support of Lutheran World Federation, Nepal with the Thematic Intervention: Disaster Risk Reduction, Emergency Preparedness and Response, Sustainable Livelihood, Community Led Action for Governance and Justice and Organizational Effectiveness in Sahidnagar Municipality Ward no.- 4 and 6 Dhanusha district in 2019.

For SODEP, the year 2019 has not been free from challenges in moving forward towards contributing in social transformation. The challenges have justified SODEP to be more innovative, hard working and efficient thus, creating an opportunity to work more in the community. Some of the challenges SODEP faced in the year 2019 are; Political instability, Less accountability and Corruption, Bureaucratic monopoly and poor governance, Perceived deformities in the social values and the culture

Being a learning and pro-people organization, even in present difficult political, social, economical and conflict prone circumstances, SODEP has been implementing its program and activities capitalizing its past experiences as well as the support of the concern agencies and the people for whom it is working. Learning's in the course of development intervention this year are; it realized that at least one has to put forward his or her step to claim own rights, economic empowerment is the means to make the people able in claiming their civic, political, social and cultural rights, in working with people living in poverty requires transparency, pro-people behavior of its staffs and activists and articulation of mission based on set values and principles and poverty alleviation is not possible in short interval of time, it takes significant period and the process moves ahead slowly, and one should have patience to follow it and to invest more.

Section One 1

Introduction

1.1 Purpose and Process of SODEP

As in past years, in the year 2019 SODEP has been actively involved in facilitating marginalized and disadvantaged people to enjoy their rights and to move ahead for betterment of their life. SODEP continued its efforts in community empowerment, poverty alleviation, institutionalizing democracy and good governance at local level. It has been educating and empowering the grassroots level people in six Tarai districts of the country (Dhanusha, Mahottari, Sarlahi, Rautahat, Bara and Parsa) continuously to make them able to make voice against violation of fundamental human rights, and peace and security situations and to work against eliminating poverty. This year, SODEP focused its program at Dhanusha district only due to financial limitation, however, Civic Action Groups (CAG), public concern forum formed earlier by SODEP in Mahottari, Rautahat, Bara and Parsa, has been engaged in community awareness in collaboration with other groups of community and SODEP.

During 2019, SODEP continued to design plans and programs and implemented various activities focusing mostly in the areas of human rights, including rights of women and children, public awareness, democracy, social inclusion, social security, good governance, social transformation, water and sanitation, flood recovery, open defecation free community with capacity building and social mobilization as the major strategies.

SODEP working with Civic Action Groups (CAGs), Child Clubs, Child Rights Forums, Women Rights Forums, Cooperatives, Community Organizations and also with organized Senior Citizen's Rights Forums (SCRFR) facilitated in mobilizing the target community in claiming their rights. With the continued endeavors of SODEP, various networks and alliances at the community level has been formed for institutionalizing the collective efforts. Networks, groups/organizations and consortium partners has been encouraged in pursuing various advocacy, lobbying and campaigning activities in strengthening rights claiming endeavors of the people. As in previous years, in 2019, SODEP continued its facilitation in increasing members in consumer's cooperatives and saving-credit groups and in engaging the women members in saving and getting loan for their income generation activities.

Adopting participatory and rights based approaches SODEP has been counseling, coordinating and campaigning for empowering the deprived, marginalized and excluded communities (Dalits, Janjati and other excluded communities) in claiming and enjoying their rights in right based approaches. And SODEP has also been educating on their duties and responsibilities. SODEP concentrated its efforts on improving the quality of life of poor, disadvantaged and excluded communities through proper education, better health, increased income, empowerment and good governance.

1.2 Process and Purpose of Annual report 2019

This annual report is a summary document of experiences and learning of SODEP while working with its target groups, local government, development partners and other stakeholders: civil society, political activists and others during the year 2019 and also covers an overview of progress made during the period in line with set objectives and outputs from the perspective of right holders, supporting partners and SODEP itself. This report is the consolidated document of all the information collected and analyzed through the process of: collecting qualitative and quantitative information from the community through its own monitoring and evaluation mechanism and reflections of programme planning, implementation, M & E with regards to input, outcomes, impacts and learning drawn during the periodic internal reviews of organizational staffs and program staffs. This report also reflects opinions of community people, stakeholders, and activists.

This report aims at sharing SODEP's achievements and learning amongst the stakeholders, including community-based organizations, government authorities, non-governmental organizations, supporting partners, political parties and people in general apart from documenting institutional learning and knowledge for its future reference.

Section Two 2

Organizational Overview

2.1 SODEP at a Glance

SODEP is a national level non-government, non-political and non-profit-making social development organization established in 1st November, 1992 (2049-7-15 B.S.). It is registered with District Administration Office (DAO), Dhanusha in 10th April 1995 (2051-12-27 B.S.) with the Regd. no 235/051/52, as per the NGO-Act of the Government of Nepal 2034 BS. SODEP has been affiliated with Social Welfare Council (SWC) in 18 April 1995 (2052-1-5 B.S.) with the Registration No 2682. SODEP has the PAN number: 301525709.

SODEP envisions a society where people have been living dignified lives with self reliant livelihoods.

SODEP strives to empower the poor and excluded communities such as Dalits, Madhesis, indigenous people, women and children, among, other to improve their quality of lives through enhancing their capacities and promoting opportunities.

Similarly, SODEP has the goal to improve the living status of the poor and excluded communities especially Dalits, Madhesis, children, indigenous people and women through participatory development process.

Objectives of SODEP are: i) To enable community capacity to improve livelihoods situation of poor and excluded communities; ii) To promote humanity, peace, right to information, information and counseling, rights and duties; iii) To overcome social, economic, cultural and political discrimination and speed up equitable and sustainable development process; iv) To improve good governance and democratic practices at community, civil society, policy and government agency level so that people receive basic services efficiently and equitably; v) To promote environment conservation and respond to the causes and consequence of climate change and vi) To promote the inclusion of Dalit and other excluded groups within the political process and decision making levels

Regarding to the organizational philosophy, SODEP believes in the core values of: Promotion and Protection of All Human Rights for All, Respect for Plurality and Diversity, Social Inclusion, Promotion of Non-violence, Equality between Women and Men, Mutual Respect, Dignity and Value the Diversity, Equity and Justice, Accountability and Transparency, and Solidarity with Poor and Excluded People.

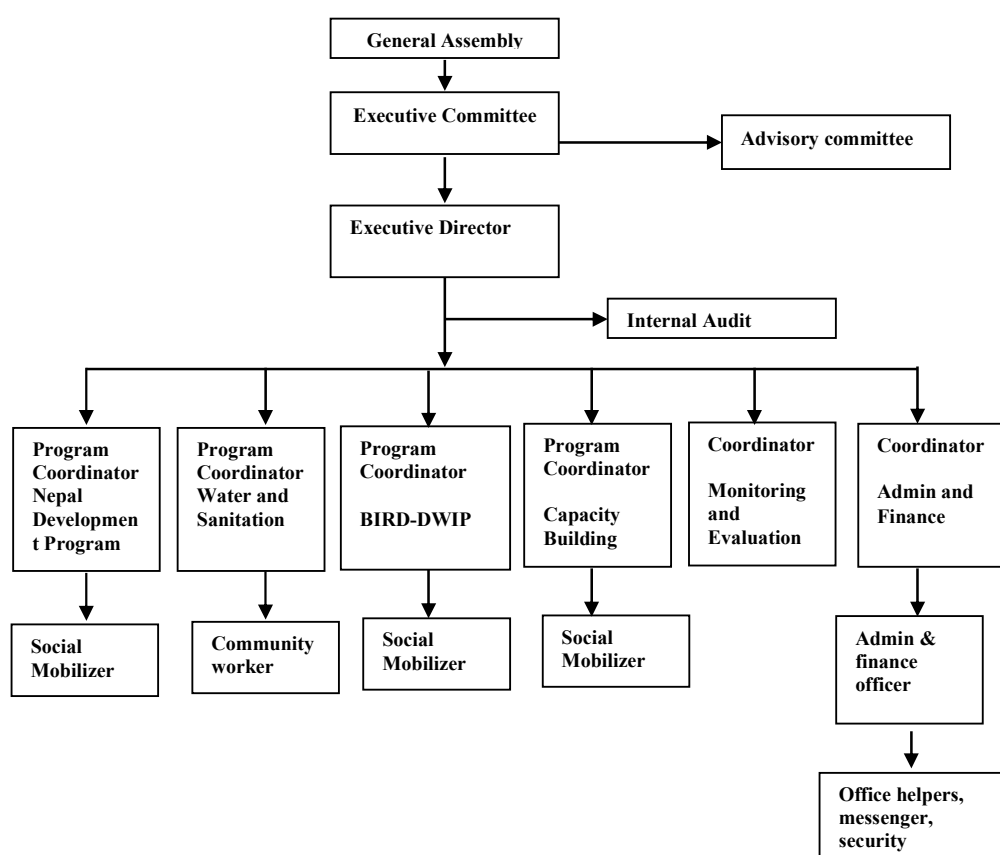
The strategic approaches of SODEP are: Organizing poor and excluded groups and balancing power relations within the family and the society, Promoting rights-based empowerment, Strengthening collaboration and partnership with community, government and non-government actors, Establishing organizational role as facilitator and enabler, Generating and mobilizing local resources, Promoting good governance standards and democratic practices and Strengthening community institutions and civil society networks/alliances.

The major thematic areas of interventions of SODEP are: promotion and protection of human rights, good governance, conflict transformation, food security and socio-economic development.

SODEP is a member-based organization where membership is open to all who are interested to support and contribute in attaining organizational goals and objectives and willing to participate in the campaigns for social justice, poverty alleviation, peace and security.

SODEP believes in practicing democratic system, participatory working approach, gender equality, justice and accountable and transparent development initiatives at all levels of the society. Strengthening institutional culture abiding by principles, values and convictions such as; gender and inclusion sensitivity, non-partisan, non-communal, innovation, mutual respect, working with the excluded and disadvantaged sections of the community are the major beliefs of this organization. It is firmly committed to transfer these values and beliefs in its institutional activities and to materialize them into practice. Democratic leadership, collective accountability and consensual decision making process are the overarching principles of SODEP.

The organizational structure of SODEP



General Assembly (GA), the apex body of the organization, presently comprised of 115 members that include 7 Life Members and 108 General Members (47 male and 68 females including 27 dalits and 22 indigenous communities). GA meets once a year to provide guidance and directives to the organization and approves annual policies, plans and programs for the succeeding year. Twentieth one Annual General Assembly (AGM) and Twenty six anniversary of SODEP have been observed in 7 Ashad, 2076, (22 June, 2019). 118 members including guests attended the AGM. AGM approved organizations financial and programme reports and discussed on various issues on effective implementation of programme activities and in ensuring institutional development of the organization.

Nine-member executive committee, elected by General Assembly is responsible to implement plans and policies as decided in the General Assembly. The present nine-member executive committee

consists of two male and seven females that includes; five Dalits and four from backward community, materializing the commitments of organization regarding to gender and inclusion sensitivity in its institutional arrangement. The executive committee members are committed and attentive for the organizational upbringing and advancement. The Executive Committee advises on policy matters and provides guidelines for efficient management of the organization and its activities.

Altogether 20 staffs that include 14 fulltime staffs (9 male, 5 female), 6 part time staffs and 5 volunteers - non salary including 6 dalits 2 Janjati and 10 from backward community and 2 from high cast, supported the organization to undertake field level activities and official works.

2.2 Organizational Development of SODEP

SODEP, with aim of developing itself as a centre of excellence and as an effective learning institution has institutionalized the following Systems and Policies and has been following them in practice:

- Financial management policy
- Human resources management policy
- Planning, monitoring and evaluation policy
- Institutional good governance policy
- Gender and social inclusion policy
- Procurement policy
- Child Protection policy
- Code of Conduct
- Strategic plan

This year, four meetings of executive committee have been held for the effective implementation of guidelines and directions of General Assembly and for effective implementation of program initiatives. These meetings provided guidelines to the Executive Director and other staffs to execute the plans and programs effectively.

In course of institutional capacity enhancement for developing itself as a centre of excellence and as an effective learning institution SODEP has also continued strengthening its organizational linkages and networking at different levels for collaborative action and synergy effect, they includes:

- At local level: NGO Network Group Janakpur; Dalit Alliance, Janakpur; Citizenship Right Concern Committee, Janakpur; Human Rights Association Madhesh, Janakpur
- At national level: NGO Federation Nepal, NGO Coalition, Kathmandu
- At International level: Nature-Human Centric SAARC Movement, Delhi; Humanist Movement, Brazil and Global network, USA.

Similarly, in course of institutional capacity enhancement SODEP has been encouraging its executive members and staffs in attending capacity development initiatives both in-house and outside the organization.

2.3 Annual General Assembly (AGM)

The General Assembly is the apex body of SODEP. Annual General Assembly (AGM) meeting are held annually for approving the organization's annual policies, plans and programs. This year SODEP has celebrated its 26nd anniversary and also organized its 21st AGM. The AGM discussed on:

- Election of New Chairperson and executive committee members
- Amendment of constitution of SODEP
- Approval of annual audit report 2074/75
- Approval of estimated expenditure of the fiscal year 2075/76

- Delegation of authority

Major Decision Made by the AGM

- The third amendment of the constitution of SODEP has been made and sent to District Administration Office Dhanusha for approval.
- The audit report of the fiscal year 2074/75 has been approved
- The estimated budget and expenditure of the fiscal year 2075/76 has been approved.
- The authority to decide the general daily work and to make decision in emergency has been delegated to Mr. Satya Narayan Shah, Executive Director SODEP.

Details of new Executive Committee are presented below:

S.N.	Name	Sex	Position	Ethnicity
1	Ms. Sunita Devi Mestarni	Female	Chair Person	Dalit
2	Lalita Das	Female	Vice Chair Person	Dalit
3	Anuradha Pasman	Female	Secretary	Dalit
4	Sumitra Mahara	Female	Joint Secretary	Dalit
5	Kumari Rekha	Female	Treasurer	Backward Community
6	Dr. Hare Krishna Sah	Male	Member	Backward Community
7	Sunita Paswan	Male	Member	Dalit
8	Ram Kumari Shah	Female	Member	Backward Community
9	Ram Krishna Mahasheth	Male	Member	Backward Community

2.4 Partnership and Resource Mobilization

Partnership in 2019: For achieving its objectives SODEP has been working with different GON/ UN agencies/ Local governments/ Development partners. Ongoing programs of SODEP in 2019 are:

S. N.	Name of organization	Working theme/sector/Program	Period of work (AD)
1	Lutheran World Federation, Nepal	Nepal Development Program	July 2019- ongoing
2	Acton Aid Nepal, Kathmandu	Social Transformation Campaign Program in Dhanusha district	June 2019- ongoing
3	UNDP/GEF/Small Grant Program	Belhi Integrated Rural Development, Drinking water and Irrigation Project (BIRD-DWIP)	December 2019 - ongoing

SODEP partnership:

SODEP have experiences of working with different development government agencies, UN agencies and development partners, below is the list of partnerships made in the past, among them some of the partnership is still continuing:

S. N.	Name of organization	Working theme/sector/Program	Year
1	District Education Office, Dhanusha	Non-formal Education program	1997
2	PACT Nepal	Non-formal Education	1997
3	District Water Supply Office Dhanusha.	Dug-well Construction	1997
4	Social Welfare Council, Kathmandu	Goat farming income Generation	1997
5	CARITAS	Development Program for Poor Community	1997
6	Canadian Cooperation Office, Kathmandu	Drinking Water, Sanitation and Income Generation	1997-1998
7	Ministry for Women, Children	Sweater Weaving Training	1999

	and Social Welfare, Kathmandu		
8	UNICEF, Kathmandu	Parenting Education	2000
9	District Education Office, Dhanusha.	Community-based Childhood Development	2002
10	PACT and the Asia Foundation, Kathmandu	Women Empowerment	1998
11	Canadian Cooperation Office, Kathmandu	Empowerment of Musahar Community	2000-2002
12	Rural Water supply and Sanitation Fund Development Board (RWSSFDB), Kathmandu	Drinking Water, Health and Sanitation	2000- to date
13	Canadian Cooperation Office, Kathmandu	Dalit Community Development Strengthening	2003-2005
14	National Development Network, Kathmandu	Empowerment and Mobilization of Local Civil Society for Sustainable Peace	2003-2005
15	SUUKH Foundation, Kathmandu	Female Child Education Scholarship	2003-2010
16	CGISP/CECI, Kathmandu	Community Ground Water Irrigation	2003
17	Canadian Cooperation Office, Kathmandu	Emergency Humanitarian Support for Flood Victims	2004
18	Action aid Nepal, Kathmandu	Emergency Relief for Flood Victims	2004
19	Austcare, Australia, Kathmandu	Disaster Relief and Rehabilitation	2007
20	Danida HUGOU, Kathmandu	Dalit empowerment campaign project	2006-2008
21	ILO, Kathmandu	Local economic development for peace building.	2008-2009
22	Community Based Water Supply and Sanitation, Kathmandu	Water supply and sanitation	2008-2011
23	Rights, Democracy, Inclusion Fund (RDIF) Lalitpur	Community Empowerment for Inclusion of Excluded groups in Dhanusha, Mahottari, Sarlahi, Rautahat, Bara, & Parsa districts	2010-2011
24	SPCBN/UNDP, Kathmandu	Support for Constitution Building in Dhanusha, Siraha and Saptari Districts	2009-2011
25	LGCDP, DDC, Dhanusha	Local Governance and Community Development Program	2010-2013
26	UNDP Global Environment Facility SGP	Promoting Sustainable livelihood project in Dhanusha district	2014- 2016
27	GSF/UN Habitat Nepal	ODF Campaign	2014 to 2017
28	Lutheran World Federation Nepal	Nepal Flood Recovery Program	2017- 2018
29	Lutheran World Federation Nepal	Nepal Development Program	2019

Budget Mobilization: Budget mobilization in different years, 2007 onwards is presented below:

2007 – NRs. 11,273,357
 2008 – NRs. 12,361,116
 2009 – NRs. 13,904,955
 2010 – NRs. 22,315,216
 2011 – NRs. 30,408,142
 2012 – NRs. 27,028,987
 2013 – NRs. 15,531,828
 2014 – NRs. 9,610,597
 2015 – NRs. 12,728,691
 2016 – NRs. 10,219,101
 2017 – NRs. 5,648,885
 2018 – NRs. 6,515,635
 2019 – NRs. 3,826,244

Organizational income and expenditure for the year 2019

A registered Auditor, appointed by General Assembly, conducted financial auditing of SODEP for the year Nepali fiscal year 2075/2076. The detail is mentioned in the annex.

2.5 SODEP in Social Awareness

SODEP as a social organization believes on capacity development and social awareness for the development. From its resources and in collaboration with likeminded organization SODEP has been engaged in such capacity development and social awareness related activities

In the year 2019, SODEP conducted following activities from its own resources:

- Physical contribution in Clean Janakpur Program
- Campaign for Hand-Washing with soap with hotel entrepreneurs of Janakpur
- Awareness about sanitation in Chhath Celebration

Section Three 3

Context overview

3.1 Political situation

After two decades, local election has accomplished and local governments are established in the Metropolitans, Sub-metropolitans, Municipalities and Rural municipalities under the new constitution of 2018, Currently Federal parliament and provincial assembly's election has been completed and Federal Members of Parliament and Provincial Members of Parliament initiated to work for the entire development of Nepal.

In its, 2019 report, Transparency International ranked Nepal 124, among 180 countries and territories in Corruption Perception Index (CPI), with the score of 31 and 29 in 2017 and 2016 respectively. Nepal has achieved 31 score in the year 2018 that place Nepal at 122 rank among 180 countries. The index shows that Nepal is not so concerned about minimizing corruption and promoting integrity. Corruption is a problem for all countries. A poor score is likely a sign of widespread bribery, lack of punishment for corruption and public institutions that don't respond to citizens' needs. Based on expert opinion from around the world, the Corruption Perceptions Index measures the perceived levels of public sector corruption worldwide, and it paints an alarming picture. Not one single country gets a perfect score and more than two-thirds score below 50, on a scale from 0 (highly corrupt) to 100 (very clean).

Current Challenges

- Nepal has a unique chance to end extreme poverty and spur more inclusive and sustained economic growth by removing major bottlenecks to **public and private investment**.
- **Poor infrastructure:** unreliable electrical power and low-quality transportation networks are the country's most important economic bottlenecks and hinder job creation and the delivery of services.
- **A difficult regulatory environment** constrains the private sector as businesses are required to comply with 130 processes from over 40 ministries and government agencies. A high degree of informality, characterized by reluctance toward taxation, regulation and inspection, also prevails and diminishes the quality of goods and services.
- **Stability in the financial sector:** Some financial institutions remain at risk of insolvency, due to inadequate risk management practices, poor corporate governance and high credit exposure

compounded by under-resourced supervision and weak enforcement of prudential norms. The regulatory framework remains weak; operational capacity to manage the fiscal costs of a financial crisis is limited; and so the capacity to prevent and manage potential crises remains a concern.

- At one-third of GDP, **Agriculture** represents an important source of growth and remains, at least over the medium-term, the largest employment sector for over three-quarters of the population.
- **Human development:** Nepal has made good progress on many social indicators, but the rates of childhood malnutrition and chronic energy deficiency among women remain high. Poor infant and child feeding practices are prevalent. Access to health services remains unequal and of low quality.
- Despite good progress in enhancing **equal access to basic education** (grades 1-8), children, especially the poorest, do not continue to post-basic education and the quality of education at all levels remains a problem.
- **Poverty reduction:** despite recent encouraging trends, Nepali households remain vulnerable to the vagaries of life as the existing social protection system does not provide reliable safety nets. Social assistance schemes – including cash transfers and scholarships – have had a limited impact on poverty, due to limited benefits and weak targeting.
- Nepal is also heavily vulnerable to **climate change and natural disasters**. Recent records show an increasing number of droughts, floods, hailstorms, landslides and crop diseases, mostly affecting the livelihoods of the poor. Nepal is located on the edge of a tectonic plate and is subject to high earthquake risks, particularly in the Kathmandu valley.
- Nepal will benefit from strengthening its governance and the management of its public expenditures. The country still ranks low on international governance indicators such as Transparency International's Corruption Perception Index 2018 (124 out of 175 countries) and the World Governance Indicators (declining trend over the last decade).

Since a decade, the Nepalese economy is basically supported by Remittance sent to home by Nepalese laborers from outside the country. Almost 1500 Nepalese youth are flying everyday from Nepal to international labor market especially in middle-east, South Korea, Malaysia and others. This trend is found continued in the year 2019 too. The remittance is mostly used to procure assets and education. Most of the remittance is spent in unproductive matters; very few use that in productive works.

3.3 Situation in central Tarai/Madhesh

People had thought that the new constitution would bring new hope of peace and prosperity but the reverse has happened. Almost 50% of the total population of Nepal is against the some of the provision of new constitution; Citizenship issue, proportional representation, representation to parliament according to population percentage of Tarai and inclusion in every sector of government i.e. Army, police along with judiciary are the main issues the public are demonstrating for. The new constitution, as it is said has gone back than that of the interim constitution and agreement between government and Madheshi front on these issues. Government mobilized even army to demolish the agitation in Tarai. The 8 Tarai districts that are in the province no. 2 from Saptari to Parsa is less than the average of the development index of Nepal though the region is considered as the easy zone.

Domestic violence based on gender, cast discrimination, child marriage, dowry system still to be rooted out from Tarai/Madhesh society and poverty, lack of education and awareness, short of health facilities are still the issues.

Status of 6 working districts of SODEP in province No. 2 is presented below:

S.N	Particulars/District	Nepal	Dhanusha	Mahottari	Sarlahi	Rauthat	Bara	Parsa
1	Population total as of census 2011	26,494,504	754,777	627,580	769,729	686,722	687,708	601,017
2	Population Female	13,645,463	376,239	316,564	379,973	335,643	336,464	288,659
3	Average household size	4.88	5.46	5.64	5.79	6.44	6.33	6.29
4	Sex Ratio	94.16	100.61	98.25	102.57	104.6	104.39	108.21
5	Literacy rate of 5 years and above	65.9	50.4	46.4	46.3	41.7	52.0	55.9
6	Population density per Sq Km	180	639.64	626.336	611.38	609.88	577.91	441.21
7	Child Development Ratio (0-14 years)	0.61	0.67	0.75	0.73	0.78	0.73	0.69
8	Elderly Development Ratio (60+ years)	0.76	0.80	0.90	0.86	0.92	0.86	0.81
9	Prosperity rank		29	16	21	54	49	48
10	Poverty Rate		23.14	16.19	17.66	33.35	29.29	29.15
11	Human Development Index Values	0.490	0.431	0.388	0.402	0.386	0.457	0.464
12	Human Poverty Index	31.12	41.72	44.75	43.86	46.43	40.09	36.37

3.4 SODEP's Endeavors

As SODEP believes in power of the common people, SODEP has continuously and effectively working with the people and other related stakeholders in its working areas in; Advocacy and campaigning; Promoting good governance for making their lives better; and supporting essential infrastructure development and services.

SODEP is leading effective and motivating approaches on breaking the ground for positive change drawing upon an amicable support and integration from all the concerned agencies and stakeholders and development partners presently in six districts in central Terai (Dhanusha, Mahottari, Sarlahi, Rauthat, Bara and Parsa) of the country.

In 2019, SODEP in partnership with different government agencies, UN agencies and development partners has been actively engaged in development of the community and the people. Following are the details of the partnership:

1. Lutheran World Federation, Nepal

SODEP Nepal has been implementing “Nepal Development Program” in support of Lutheran World Federation, Nepal with the Thematic Intervention: Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) and Emergency Preparedness in Sahidnagar Municipality- Ward no.-4, Nanupati, Mahuliya, Hauwahi and Simradhi and Ward no.-6, Hathipur, Harabara, Dhanusha district

2. Action Aid international Nepal (AAIN):

In partnership with Action Aid international Nepal (AAIN), SODEP has been implementing ‘Social Transformation Campaign Project’ in Dhanusha district, with the objectives of;

- Strengthening and capacity building of community groups for promotion and protection of rights.

- Increased access of women and other marginalized people to and control over land, water and forest resources.
- Initiatives for improved livelihood.
- Strengthening cooperative organizations
- Promotion of good governance in local level; formal and non formal groups and committees.
- Supporting promotion and protection of women rights.
- Promotion and protection of rights to education.

3. Promoting cooperatives

SODEP has promoted and supporting 5 cooperatives in Dhanusha district, of which, 2 are agriculture development cooperative and 3 are saving and credit cooperatives. At present 1662 (including 1355 female, 786 dalits and 181 Janjaties) are members in those cooperatives. Agriculture development cooperatives are engaged in organic farming, irrigation projects, group-agro-farming, seed production, managing production center for marketing. While, saving and credit cooperatives are lending credits to people such as vendors, retail shops, and rural entrepreneur for running their business. This is one of the sustainable approaches adopted by SODEP for economic empowerment off its target community, as this approach encourages target rights holders to save their small saving regularly and get loan in reasonable interest rate for engaging in income generating activities, if needed.

Section 4

Breaking the ground

Achievements of SODEP in 2019, in the process of leading effective and motivating approaches on breaking the ground for positive change drawing upon an amicable support and integration from all the concerned agencies and stakeholders and development partners are presented in the following pages.

4.1 Towards Empowerment of Madheshi dalits

SODEP has been facilitating Sahidnagar Municipality, ward no.4 Nanupati, Mahuliya, hauwahi, Simrari and 6 Hathipur Harbara to achieve social empowerment status through "Nepal Development Program in Dhanusha" with the objectives of;

- 1: 4 resilient communities have trained task force, updated disaster management plan, emergency funds, linked with early warning system and government structures to increase their coping capacities and reduce disaster risk.
- 2: 250 poor, vulnerable and socially excluded people families will have increased and enhanced food security and improved nutrition status through improving farming technology and maintaining kitchen gardens.
- 3: Strengthen community groups, CBOs, cooperatives and CBOFs to amplify their voice and influence in DRR & EPR and sustainable livelihood in terms of accessing resources and services and improving transparency and accountability.
- 4: A learning organization with effective & efficient HRM & enhanced capacity & performance of staff & LIPs for timely delivery of services ensuring quality & accountability in compliance with CHS, global policies, government regulations & donor requirements

Major achievement made in 2019 is briefly presented below:

Ward level Achievement status

S. N.	Wards/Clusters Name	Municipality	Total HHs	Achievements
1	Nanupati, Mahuliya, Hauwahi, Simarari	Sahidnagar -4	767	Poor, Dalits, marginalized, vulnerable and disables are aware, empowered and benefited. Under this program, 10 landless families got farm for seasonal vegetable farming for their uplift the living status. Five disabled got business promotion program for their uplift the living status. Twenty two farmers got agriculture equipment and trainings for better agriculture/ farming as well as Resilient communities have trained task force, updated disaster management plan, emergency funds, linked with early warning system and government structures to increase their coping capacities and reduce disaster risk, 250 poor, vulnerable and socially excluded people families improved sanitation and hygiene with improved WASH facilities. Strengthen community groups, CBOs, cooperatives to amplify their voice and influence in DRR & EPR and sustainable livelihood in terms of accessing resources and services and improving transparency and accountability./10 communities/ groups participated in advocacy campaigns to reduce caste/gender/age/disability based discrimination and violence to affected priority population, and effective & efficient HRM & enhanced capacity & performance of staffs and local partners for timely delivery of services ensuring quality and accountability in compliances with government regulations.
2	Hathipur and Harbara	Sahidnagar -6	922	Poor, Dalits, marginalized, vulnerable and disables are aware, empowered and benefited. Under this program, 10 landless families got farm for seasonal vegetable farming for their uplift the living status. Five disabled got business promotion program for their uplift the living status. Twenty two farmers got agriculture equipment and trainings for better agriculture/ farming as well as Resilient communities have trained task force, updated disaster management plan, emergency funds, linked with early warning system and government structures to increase their coping capacities and reduce disaster risk, 250 poor, vulnerable and socially excluded people families improved sanitation and hygiene with improved WASH facilities. Strengthen community groups, CBOs, cooperatives to amplify their voice and influence in DRR & EPR and sustainable livelihood in terms of accessing resources and services and improving transparency and accountability./10 communities/ groups participated in advocacy campaigns to reduce caste/gender/age/disability based discrimination and violence to affected priority population, and effective & efficient HRM & enhanced capacity & performance of staffs and local partners for timely delivery of services ensuring quality and accountability in compliances with government regulations.

- Coordination with the ward level stakeholders like youth clubs, cooperatives, users' committees, Community Organization (COs) formed under Poverty Alleviation Fund (PAF) program, support groups under Multi Sectoral Nutrition Program (MSNP) program in the ward level, ward level political parties, mothers' groups and woman groups etc has provided support for smoothly running the campaign. Most of the Ward Citizen Forums (WCF) and Citizen Awareness Centres (CACs) have decided to strengthen the institutions.
- Resource pooling is the remarkable strength of this year in the district. The major activities done from resource pooling is presented below:

4.2. Promotion and protection of rights for Social Transformation

In partnership with Action Aid International Nepal (AAIN), SODEP has been implementing "Social Transformation Campaign Project" in Dhanusha district with the objectives of;

- Enable Right Holders and CSOs to hold the state and non state institutions accountable to promote, protect and fulfill human rights while advocating for their decisions, allocations and practices to reflect rights holders' ideas and aspiration.
- Enable Women and girls to challenge and take actions against all forms of discrimination and injustice to claim control over their bodies
- Support all children and youth to have full attainment of quality education in a safer and equitable environment and help them to develop and grow as key drivers of social transformation for a poverty free society

Major achievement made in 2019 is briefly presented below:

- Coordination/Reformation of one Jan sarokar Manch (Public Concern Forum)
- Reorganize five Women Right Forum
- Provincial level women rights conference with participation of 220 women from 8 districts including members of Women Right Forum (WRF), Cooperatives and local level right holders and duty bearers.
- 16 days Campaign on violence against women in lead of WRF
- Two Dialogue Program on Quality Education organized in Hathipur and Nanupati

4.3. Promoting resilient communities

SODEP Nepal has been implementing “Nepal Development Program” in support of Lutheran World Federation, Nepal with the Thematic Intervention: Disaster Risk Reduction, Emergency Preparedness and Response, Sustainable Livelihood, Community Led Action for Governance and Justice and Organizational Effectiveness in Sahidnagar Municipality Ward no.- 4 and 6 Dhanusha district.

Section 5

Challenges and Learning

5.1 Challenges

For SODEP in the year 2019, was not been free from challenges in moving forward towards contributing in social transformation. The challenges have justified SODEP to be more innovative, hardworking, and efficient thus, creating an opportunity to work more in the community.

Following are the some of the challenges SODEP faced in the year 2019:

- Less accountability and corruption: Lack of accountability and transparency at various local government levels (Ward, Municipality and District) posed serious challenge as some of the concerned stakeholders and duty bearers are found reluctant in releasing information related to policy and resource allocation.
This is not limited only to the government officials and school management committee but also prevailed among the political party members and other segment of the society.
- at local level resulting to increasing misuse of the public resources and corruption.
- Perceived deformities in the social value and culture: In the lack of peace, political instability and declaiming economic growth the number of employed has been increased alarmingly resulting to migration of most of the youth from the rural area in foreign country as unskilled

labors. Mostly women, children and elderly people remained in village. The elderly people have been rigid on their age-old traditional culture, value and superstitions and do not easily accept social changes and the modernity and they even restricted their family to participate in workshop, seminars, meeting and other development activities in the area which has been creating gaps and lapses to fit and keep pace with the modern trend and systems in the community.

5.2 Learning

Being a learning and pro-people organization, even in present difficult political, social, economic and conflict prone circumstances, SODEP has been implementing its program and activities, capitalizing its past experiences as well as the support of the concerned agencies and the people for whom it is working. Following are some of the learning in the course of the development intervention this year.

- SODEP Nepal realized that at least one has to put forward his or her step to claim own rights. Stepping ahead with such realization motivates community people at large in an interval of time. It is also a way to move forward the society and also implies on social accountability.
- SODEP Nepal learnt that economic empowerment is the means to make the people able in claiming their civic, political, social and cultural rights.
- SODEP Nepal has learnt that in working with people living in poverty requires transparency, pro-people behavior of its staff and activists and articulation of mission based on set values and principles.
- SODEP Nepal has learnt that poverty alleviation is not possible within a short interval of time. It takes significant period and the process moves ahead slowly, and one should have patience to follow it and to invest more.

Annex 2. Some Pictures of SODEP's program















THE END