

## ANNEX 2

### Intellectual Disability in Community Activities 2014

#### *Inception Report*

#### **(1) A brief National Profile: Nepal**

**Nepal is located in the southern part of the Asia. It is a landlocked country surrounded by China and India. It has the covered area of 1,47,181 square kilometers. It has divided into three geographical regions i.e mountains, hills, and Terai (plane area). In fact, 17 percent of the area has covered by mountains. Similarly, 68 percent of the land has covered by the hills. The rest of the area has been covered by the plain areas. Topographically, it is situated 70 to 8848 Meters far from sea level. The highest peak of the world the Mount Everest also falls in the country. In fact, this country is surrounded by many rivers, green forests, vegetation and animals that is very much helpful for the tourism. On the other hand, the country has divided into five developmental regions, 14 zones, 75 districts, 58 municipalities and 3915 village development committees administratively.**

**According to the census (2011), the total population of the country has 264,49,504. Among them, Female population is 13645463 and male population is 12849041. The data has proved that the female population is a bit higher than the male population. The population density is differed from mountain to Terai. It is found that only 6.73 percent population lives in mountain whereas 43.00 people residence at hill and 50.27 percent people lives in plain area.**

**While talking about the life expectancy rate of the people living here, it has been increasing in comparison to the past years. We have the life expectancy of 67 years now. As far as the maternal mortality is concerned, it has seemed better rather than before. But even still, 229 mothers have been facing untimely death among the 100,000 persons. It is worried to say that the infant mortality has not been improving much. The census of 2011 has portrayed that the 13 child has been dying below the age of one within the year. Similarly, the 61 number of infant has died already before the age of five among the thousands children. It has a short glimpse over our situation. While analyzing the literacy rate of the country, it has been improving now. Altogether, 65 percent of the country's population has been counted in the literacy rate. But it is regret to mention here that 57.1 percent women have been literate only whereas 75.4 percent male have been literate now.**

While observing the population as per the districts, it has found more differences between the rural and urban areas. Similarly, the population density is higher in the plain areas rather than hills and mountains. The data has shown that Kathmandu (the capital city) is mostly densely populated area in the country. Manang district has been listed as the least populated district within the country. This district has located in the mountain areas where the majority of the population are ethnics. (The districtwise population can be send as an ANNEX.1).

#### **Education system:**

Education enables individuals to lead the dignified and independent life. Our Government has also invested a large amount of money to provide education to the people. According to the census of 2011, there are 4,030,045 primary Schools within the country, As data mentioned here has shown 49,000 schools and 415 colleges has been running by the Government. The data has shown that 6,373, 003 children has got enrolment in schools. Similarly, Government has been launching special education programme for persons with disabilities. According to the data mentioned by the department of education, there are 210 schools which are providing education to the special needs children. Even still, there are many issues has to be addressed by the government to maintain the quality of the education. The disparity has been remained the same based on gender, ethnicity, economic class that needs to be addressed to reach the millennium development goal.

#### **Health system:**

Health is a crucial factor for any human beings. The overall purpose of the Department of Health Services (DoHS) is to deliver preventive, promotive and curative health services throughout Nepal. According to the institutional framework of the DoHS and MoH, the sub health post (from an institutional perspective) is the first contact point for basic health services. However, in reality, the SHP is the referral centre of the volunteer cadres of TBAs and FCHVs as

well as a venue for community-based activities such as PHC outreach clinics and EPI clinics. Each level above the SHP is a referral point in a network from SHP to HP to PHCC, on to district zonal and regional hospitals, and finally to specialty tertiary care centres in Kathmandu. This referral hierarchy has been designed to ensure that the majority of population receives public health and minor treatment in places accessible to them and at a price they can afford. Inversely, the system works as a supporting mechanism for lower levels by providing logistical, financial, supervisory, and technical support from the centre to the periphery. To achieve the goal, the Government has been providing primary health care without free of charge within the country.

According to the data, there are 10 Ayurvedik hospitals, 83 major hospitals and more than 700 health centre within the country. On the other hand, there are too many private hospitals, clinics and medicals run by the different companies and individuals as business. But these hospital facilities are limited in the urban areas. People who lives in rural area are not able to get proper health service. So far as the services are concerned, the health services have not been provided in need basis. The concerned authority is not much serious about the public health. Sometimes the Government has been announced for more allowances to the doctors to encourage them to work in remote areas with rural people. Even still, the situation has not been changed that creates hindrance to achieve the millennium development goal.

### **Major industries:**

The contribution of the industry is very low in the gross domestic product of the country. Due to the instability of the Government and the unhealthy political competition, some industries have been closed down though their contribution is immense in the country. The data has shown that there are 152 major industries all over the countries. Similarly, there are many other small cottage industries has been providing employment to the people. The Government has been established the district cottage and small industry office to provide the skill to the people. But it has not able to bring significant change in the lives of people. It has noted that there are 7 types of industrial services available in the country. But it is regret to mention here, only 6 Percent of the people have been employed in these industries. So the Government has to address the problem of power cut, water and skill human resources immediately to create favourable situation to the industries that is automatically helpful to improve the lives of people.

### **Employment status:**

The Government has been introducing various programmes and policies to provide the employment to the people. There is the ministry of labour and foreign affairs that leads the major role for the employment of Nepali youths. Simultaneously, there is the self-employment fund which has been working to promote the self-business by providing the loan to the youths.

The Government has already adopted the employment policy in the year 1999 to ensure the rights of employment of Nepali citizens. Yet, the large population has been dependent on agriculture sector for the employment. The data has shown that 74 percent of people (among employed portion) have been engaged in the agriculture. So the contribution of the agriculture is 35.3 percent in the gross domestic products. But the employment of those persons is dependent upon the seasonal based. On the other hand, the large portion of the youth has been migrated temporarily to the other countries as a labour force. As recorded in the data, 21 percent of the youths have been migrated for foreign employment. It sounds good because the country has been getting money as the remittance. At the same time, the country has been suffering with brain drain. So the Government has to take new steps to promote the employment ratio of the people. Similarly, the ministry of women, children and social welfare has been running the micro-credit programme for the self-employment of the rural women. Similarly, many non-governmental organizations have been launching vocational trainings, micro-credit programme, career based orientation aiming to increase the employment status of the people. However, the country has been suffering with poverty, diseases and other types of problem. If the country has been able to adopt the new constitution and settle down the political problems on time, the lives of the people would become better to work within the country.

## **2. Intellectual Disabilities**

### **Background**

In our country, the disability has been taken as a penance of the sins or bad deeds committed in the previous birth. That superstition towards disability is still existed in the society more in rural area. According that data provided by WHO, there are more than 10 percent people living with disabilities. But the Government could not provide the exact statistics of the PWDs. They don't have trained enumerators on the one hand, on the other hand, the parents of disabled child don't want to demonstrate their children in the questions of prestige. Due to the low statistical figure, PWDs has been left behind as minority. It is no doubt, the persons with intellectual disabilities has been suffered much rather than other types of disabilities. . They are helpless,

marginalized and isolated from the society. They could not raise their voice by themselves. Though the parents of those children have been taken initiatives to work for their own children, they don't have much more knowledge in regard of their needs and issues. Even the human rights defenders don't raise this issue. They seem to busy to advocate the rights of persons those who are already unified. So the persons with intellectual disabilities has been compelling to live ridiculous life in the society even in this 21<sup>st</sup> century.

### **(Laws concerned with persons with Intellectual Disabilities)**

Nepal has adopted the first act entitled "Disabled Protection and Welfare Act-1982" after celebrating the international disabled year in 1981. It is a special law related to the disabilities. It has created more space for persons with disabilities in many sectors. It has also given some spaces for the severely affected disabilities alike to the intellectual disabilities. Even still, there is not been significant change in the life of persons with intellectual disabilities. After adopting this law, the regulation has also come into force for its effective implementation. Thereafter, the Government has started to provide the "disabled identity card". As mentioned in the definition of the Government, the persons with intellectual disabilities comes under the persons with mentally unhealthy. Within this categories, there are three main categories; a. Persons with intellectual disabilities, b. Autism, c. Mental illness.

Yet, the state has not introduced any special laws for the persons with intellectual disabilities. Now, Nepal has ratified the UNCRPD in the year of 2010 and become the state party of it. So, the Government has obligation to review all the laws and legislation in line of UNCRPD. On the other hand, our country has been building new constitution. The persons with disabilities including the human rights advocates do lobby and advocacy to give the special space to ensure the rights of PWDs. That's why, there remains space of hope in the future days.

### **Financial Assistance for persons with Intellectual Disabilities**

As recorded in the National federation of Disabled Nepal (NFDN) and the council of social welfare, there are 37 parental organizations have already been registered as NGOs. Similarly the ministry of education has been opened the day care centre in 63 districts to provide the daily living skill including vocational skill to those intellectually affected children. Not only this,, the ministry of local government has been started to provide rs. 1000 allowances in monthly basis to the persons with disabilities who holds the disabled identity card grading A (red colors). On the other

hand, the ministry of women, children and social welfare has taken initiation to establish the rehabilitation centre for the severely affected persons with intellectual disability. Further more, this ministry has also supported financially to a few parental organizations aiming to enhance their capability. But these types of token support couldn't bring significant change in the lives of persons with intellectual disabilities because the parents living in the rural areas don't have such awareness to rehabilitate their children. They are compelled to treat them as an pity animal. So the Government has a challenge to provide financial support upto grassroots level.

### **Services including CBR available for persons with Intellectual Disabilities**

The ministry of women children and social welfare is the focal ministry for the protection and promotion the rights of every persons with disabilities. It is a fact that this ministry has been launched CBR programme through out 75 districts (all over the country). But the support provide by the Government has not been sufficient to buy the assistive devices to them. These types of support can be taken as presence of the Government only. On the other hand, it is difficult to say the real statistics of such PWIDs. There is no money to provide parental education, cunselling etc. So it has to maximize the programme in this area.

### **Number of services and those beneficiaries in each district (province)**

It is very difficult to say that the number of beneficiaries among the persons with intellectual disabilities in any districts. The Government has not been emphasized to launch the programme for those disabilities only. Despite these difficulties, I can mention only there are 63 centres under the ministry of education aiming to provide vocational including ADL skill to those children. But some institutions have been empty due to the mismanagement. The ministry of women, children and social welfare has just taken initiation to establish a rehabilitation centre in Kathmandu for severe types of intellectual disabilities. So far as, very few parental organizations has been open day care centre to look after them. But they are hardly providing services to 10-20 children. It is honest to say more than 1000 children have been benefitted from such centres. But they are still kept within the home tied on the ropes as other pet animals. So it needs to do lobby and advocacy along with the programme package to make them independent in the society.

### **3. Outline of your organization**

## **(1) Background, vision, strategy**

This office/organization has been working under the ministry of women, children and social welfare. It is the central department of the ministry which works for destitute women, children and disadvantaged group i.e. Persons with disabilities, senior citizens and single women. It has various sections to address the different issues within the office. One of the major sections is the social protection desk. There are 75 offices all over the country where there is one of the focal persons called as social welfare officer. Under her, there is a CBR committee and Disabled identity committee. She has the responsibility to provide the identity card and monitoring all CBR work. But the implementation part of the CBR work goes to the Disabled people organizations. Then the DPOs who implement the CBR can select the villages in close coordination with social welfare officer to launch their programme. This office has to play a role to develop coordination within the districts to ministry and also has to monitor the programme and provide the training from time to time. In this way, our office has been working for the persons with disabilities.

The vision of the organization is to advance the gender equality for the mainstreaming and providing recognition to the persons with disabilities in the society.

As far as the strategy is concerned, it has developed five strategies for increasing access for the women. But the Government has been applying very few strategies to ensure the rights of persons with disabilities. The one strategy is community based rehabilitation to the grassroots level which has been launched by disabled people organizations. On the other hand, it has been trying to apply a rights based approach. For this, the Government has been providing a grant to many disability specific organizations to build their capacity for their own rights and issues. However, this organization has been working as the part of a coordinating body and information desk as well between ministry and grassroots level. So far as the strategy is concerned, the Government should have to work as the department of social welfare only with new strategies and many more programmes to address the rights of severely affected disabilities.

## **(2) Major programs, covered areas, covered population,**

### **Number of beneficiaries**

The major programme of the organization related to disability should have to provide the disabled identity card as determined by the Government in the official budget. The second major programme is to monitor CBR programmes all over the 75

districts. Similarly, it has been providing referral services to the persons with disabilities to get assistive devices as well as to get education and vocational training.

While talking about the covered area, it is difficult to describe. The CBR programme has been launching two-three villages in yearly basis within each districts. Simultaneously, the Government is going to establish the day care centre for those children in the capital city from this year. There are other centres established by the department of education and a few by the non-government organizations too. It is not exaggerated to say that only less than 20 persons with intellectual disabilities have been getting services from the centres. The responsible authority/persons cannot say how to care those PWIDs intensively. So that the service and the programme will have to adopt in the massive way to ensure their rights in the future indeavours. Simultaneously, the government has also been provided some grant to the NGOs to launch services for those children. . It has seemed that those organization has been rendering good rehabilitation to the PWIDs. From the above mentioned programme, we can estimate that more than thousands PWIDs has been getting services from the programme. But the 95 percent of those persons has been left behind the curtain.

### **(3) Your position and duty**

I am working as section officer and handling the desk of monitoring and evaluation. It is one of the major section of this organization. The duties assigned by the boss has been mentioned below;

- ✚ To prepare the result oriented plans to increase the effectiveness of prgramme,
- ✚ To update the progress by collecting the information/reports monthly, quarterly and yearly basis,
- ✚ To do lobby and advocacy as well as monitoring to overall programme conducted by the organization,

✚ To provide the information to the ministry of women, children and social welfare as well as to the public,

✚ To keep the record of the disabled identity card and to provide the recommendation and support to the Persons with disabilities directly and with the medium of district office.

#### **4. Community Development program which include Intellectual Disability issues as one of the activities. (If you know any)**

Our Government has been attempting to work in the best way after becoming the state party of the UNCRPD. But we could not work much to make the persons with intellectual disabilities as independent citizens economically. I have got experienced that persons with intellectual disabilities could do the number of work, if they can get proper training. So that we should have to develop the curriculum for providing the training more seriously. The other important matter is that we could not provide the training for those children in mainstreaming basis. If it is possible, I wanted to know how can we provide them services in community basis.