

NewsLetter

February 2023

WAWCAS Women Launch Anti-Violence Campaign in Lamjung

Domestic violence is a huge tabu in Nepal and affects most women in the society. Consequently, it is one of the major topics addressed by WAWCAS when supporting the WAWCAS Women Groups and the individual women participating in the programme. It is painful, it is humiliating, it is not acceptable – but it continues to compromise the ability of many Nepali women to unfold their lives according to their dreams. And their rights.



Two years back, WAWCAS conducted a series of meetings with the WAWCAS women in the Lamjung district, i.e. in excess of 2.000 women previously completing the WAWCAS programme, to encourage them to start and register their own local organisation. Their support was overwhelming and WAWCAS assisted them in joining their Women Groups into a Local NGO, which has been registered with Articles of Association and a democratic organizational structure.

One of the first initiatives they took in their new community was to launch an Anti-violence Campaign to break the tabu around domestic violence. And they did a fantastic job.

The women took advantage of the traditional power in Nepal of songs. They arranged public song contests in two regions and more than 600 locals attended. Importantly, the mayor in both areas inaugurated the events.

To participate, your team should perform a song around the theme of suppression of women through violence. A panel of three professional folk singers had the responsibility of selecting the best performance/song.

A total of 19 song groups competed in the competition, and eventually the judges voted in favour of the song, which is translated below.

The Winning Team.



And the winning song:

It's enjoyable, the village is enjoyable, and the world is enjoyable
First of all, we welcome everyone
Listen, listen elder sisters, younger sisters, and brothers
We are talking about violence against women
In this country, women are very much raped
Small girls are being hunted
People who spoil the country have done violence to women
Own brothers and husbands kill the women
We are the victims inside the house
Increase of smoking, drinking alcohol and gambling day by day
Religion, culture customs, and wealth are destroyed
Making money by hiding the rapist become normal
There are many laws but it is only on paper
From now on we will not accept the violence towards us
No action was taken towards the murderer of Nirmala and Sushmita
Sabita was poisoned inside the house
Deukipratha and Chaupaddi still exist¹

Let's unit together, implement all the policies
Let's start developing in small, small steps
Let's take our children on the right path from their childhood
Make them capable to reach high and higher
Others will learn from our place
Peace at home, peace in the world, peace in the society
Is only possible by us (women)
if necessary, we can fly warplanes
we can make flowers bloom in the desert
All should remove violence against women
Saying goodbye to all
We are ending our song here

Namaskar Namaskar Namaskar

¹Note. Deukipratha is a socio-religious tradition where a young girl is offered to the local temple and has to stay there the rest of her life. For the people to get good blessings and protection from God.

Chhaupadi is a tradition practiced by girls and women in Nepal during menstruation. Women are kept in the cow shed (also called a chhau goth) for 13 days during their first period and for 5–7 days each month during menstruation. For the rest of their lives. Both taking place in the western part of Nepal.

Radha found help in the group when she couldn't pay the next bill

At first, Namaste to all my readers. Talking about my current situation, I am doing fine with my Goat Farming business and also with my new additional Bee Farming Business. My Husband is helping me to run both businesses very smoothly. We are very happy to announce that we are running our own businesses by ourselves.



Today I am going to share with you my learning and experience regarding the Saving Meeting and usage of group loan in a very difficult time. Our Saving Meeting is held every third week of a month. At the beginning of the training, Sajan taught us how to attend and host the meeting. After a few months we actively participated in the Saving Meeting and did all the calculation ourselves. Sajan encourages everyone in the group to increase the optional and child saving, as it would be easy for everyone in the group to utilize the group loan.

Last month in the saving meeting, I requested a group loan because I need to pay my son's school fee within a week. After calculating all the savings, I had Rs.2000, this was not enough. Therefore, I requested everyone in the saving meeting to help me with Rs.2000 as a group loan. After hearing my problems, my group members decided to help me, and I got the Rs.2000 as a group loan for 3 months. I was very happy and blessed everyone in the group as they understood my problems and helped me in this very difficult time. This is how our group members support each other. I thanked everyone in the group.

In the beginning, right after the 7-days training had finished, many members of the group didn't do optional and child saving. But now, almost all are saving for child education and optional savings which is very good.

In every Saving Meeting Sajan teach us very nicely of the importance of saving and also the calculation part. And now we can host the meeting very confidentially and do all the calculation parts correctly ourselves. Nowadays, Sajan does more observations, and we take more actions in

the meetings. And talking about the Group Loan, it has helped everyone very greatly to solve their difficulties and problems. Previously we used to take a loan from Cooperative and relatives and had to pay high interest, but now we have our group saving which we can use during difficult times.

Therefore, I feel very lucky and blessed to be part of the WAWCAS program and thanks to Sajan and Slisha Organization for including me in the group and WAWCAS Program.

More Women Stories

Every month, four WAWCAS women add a new blog to their story on the website. You can get insight into the daily struggles and happy moments in the lives of Sunita, Radha, Binita and Durga by clicking the link below.

[Meet the Women • Wawcas International](#)

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