

A Study Report

Shrinking Civic Society Space in the Context of COVID-19 in Karnali Province

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For Human Rights and Social Justice

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A Study Report on Shrinking Civic Society Space in the Context of COVID-19 in Karnali Province

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Abbreviation

AGM	Annual General Meeting
CBO	Community Based Organization
CDO	Chief District Officer
COVID-19	Coronavirus Disease 2019
CS	Civil Society
CSO	Civil Society Organization
DAO	District Administration Office
FGD	Focus Group Discussion
HRD	Human Rights Defender
HRV	Human Rights Violation
ICU	Intensive Care Unit
INGO	International Non-Government Organization
INSEC	Informal Sector Service Centre
KIIs	Key Informant Interviews
LGCDP	Local Governance and Community Development Program
LNB	Leave No One Behind
MoHA	Ministry of Home Affairs
MOSD	Ministry of Social Development
MoWCSC	Ministry of Women, Children and Senior Citizens
NGO	Non-Government Organization
NHRC	National Human Rights Commission
SWC	Social Welfare Council
SWNCC	Social Welfare National Coordination Council
VAT	Value Added Tax

Preface

Civic space in Nepal has had a longstanding correlation with democracy and human rights. The debate over the expansion or limitation of civic space by tightening regulatory framework and imposing restrictive legislation is a matter of power politics. The chief minister of Karnali Province announced in 2018 that the Karnali Province Government would limit the scope of NGOs and INGOs within the development assistance program, contrary to the fundamental tenets of the Constitution and previous legislation. The existing socio-cultural differences, caste-based hierarchy, structural societal barriers, along with the guiding principles of the governing forces also play a vital role in determining the scope of civic space. This study reveals through mixed methods research design that during the transition towards federalism and the concurrent COVID-19 pandemic, CSOs' visibility and grassroots activities have shrunk in Karnali Province.

It defines that the pandemic instilled a degree of fear to hamper CSOs and Human Rights Defenders' engagement in advocating for human rights issues. The study has explored how civic space or freedom can be maintained through virtual platforms during difficult periods like the COVID-19 pandemic. Furthermore, it has summarized some of the status of the hurdles faced by the marginalized community, including Dalits and women, due to the limitation of civic space during the pandemic and its aftermath.

INSEC extends its heartfelt gratitude to Trio Research and Development and its Team Leader Dr. Kundan Aryal, Member

Tarak Dhital, and Research Coordinator Madhu Sudhan Dawadi for their invaluable contributions to the study. The participation of government representatives, major political parties, human rights defenders (HRDs), civil society organizations (CSOs), and representatives in the pre-test, key informant interviews (KII), focus group discussions (FGD), and sample survey is greatly appreciated. Furthermore, INSEC acknowledges the tremendous support from DCA contribution and enabling the successful execution of the study.

Bijay Raj Gautam
Executive Director

Executive Summary

Shrinking Civil Society Space in the Context of COVID-19 in Karnali Province study aimed to explore the challenges faced by civil society organizations (CSOs) and human rights defenders (HRDs) during the COVID-19 pandemic and its aftermath. The study objectives were to assess the restrictions imposed on CSOs and HRDs, examine the lack of support for women and Dalit-led CSOs, understand the shrinking civic space for CSOs, and identify opportunities for collaboration between government agencies and CSOs. The study employed qualitative research methods, including focus group discussions and key informant interviews, and sample survey to gather data from various stakeholders.

The findings of the study highlighted the significant restrictions faced by CSOs and HRDs, especially those led by women and from the Dalit community, in dealing with the administration's efforts to control the pandemic. These restrictions affected their mobility, activities, and monitoring of human rights violations. Additionally, women-led and Dalit-led CSOs encountered difficulties in accessing resources from government and development partners, which limited their opportunities compared to other CSOs.

CSOs in Karnali Province experienced a shrinking space due to resource limitations, mobility restrictions, administrative hurdles, and complex governmental provisions. Smaller CSOs and community-based organizations were particularly affected, posing challenges to their functioning and service delivery. Dialogues should be initiated to bridge communication gaps and build trust,

while CSOs should prioritize transparency and eliminate nepotism to rectify any anomalies. The study also underscored the crucial role of CSOs in responding to emergencies, disasters, and pandemics. Their contributions in saving lives and restoring livelihoods were significant. It recommends that government agencies recognize and support CSOs in these efforts. HRDs faced mobility and monitoring restrictions, highlighting the need for official accreditation cards and increased human rights education and awareness among the public.

To widen the civic space for HRDs and CSOs, the study recommended strengthening collaboration between government agencies and CSOs, enhancing public trust through awareness initiatives, and establishing an atmosphere of mutual respect and understanding. Inclusion of marginalized groups, such as women and the Dalit community, in CSOs and decision-making processes was essential, requiring changes in power dynamics to ensure equal access to resources. Lastly, international donor agencies and international non-governmental organizations (INGOs) are encouraged to increase their support to CSOs, conducting programs that bring sustainable human rights realization, especially the fundamental rights that guarantees by Constitution of Nepal.

In conclusion, the study highlights the importance of dialogue, collaboration, and cooperation between government agencies and CSOs to address the challenges faced by CSOs and HRDs. By fostering transparency and inclusivity, the civic space can be widened, enabling CSOs and HRDs to effectively contribute to the well-being of marginalized communities.

SECTION I

Introduction

1.1 Background

According to UN report, “civic space is the environment that enables people and groups, or ‘civic space actors’ to participate meaningfully in the political, economic, social, and cultural life of their societies.” The report emphasizes that civil society actors, which include human rights defenders, women rights advocates, children, youths, members of minority groups and indigenous communities, trade unionists, and journalists should be able to express themselves freely in full security and peacefully¹. Nepal acceded to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) in 1991 and accepted all international obligations under the treaty, including freedom of expression, assembly, and association.² Before the end of the Panchayat system, funds from foreign donors were directed to a consolidated fund managed by the government, while fund access was directed to Nepalese Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) after the 1990s, increasing their numbers and activity³, including organizations established on caste and ethnic identity. See S.I. Hangen, *The Rise of Ethnic Politics in Nepal: Democracy in the Margins* (New York: Routledge, 2010), for more details on the growth of identity based

- 1 UN, 2020. United Nations Guidance Note: Protection and promotion of civic spaces, United Nations
- 2 Articles 18, 21 and 22. UN General Assembly, International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, 16 December 1966, United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 999, p. 171.
- 3 Nazneen and Thapa, ‘The Implications of Closing Civic Space for Sustainable Development in Nepal’.

movements in Nepal since the middle of the 20th century.⁴ Despite the increase in the number of civil societies, the legal framework in Nepal is formed such that the full utilization of civic space is curtailed. One such legal obstacle included a provision in the Social Welfare Act (1992) which states that foreign and domestic CSOs seeking resources from international and government agencies need to obtain affiliation with the Social Welfare Council (SWC).⁵

Another obstacle to civic spaces was induced by then proposed National Integrity and Ethics Policy (2018), which prohibits strong vigilance over the non-government and private sectors.⁶ The proposed policy restricted the engagement of CSOs in projects related to drafting legislation and policies in the country.⁷

The Constitution of Nepal, formulated in 2015, states that it is the jurisdiction of the Nepal Government to regulate civil society organizations. Articles 17(2)(a), 17 (2)(c), and 17(2)(d) guarantee an enabling environment for civil society organizations (CSOs) by protecting freedom of opinion and expression, and freedom for political parties, unions and associations. Regarding the right to freedom of association, civic rights have also been somewhat curtailed in the aftermath of the promulgation of the 2015 Constitution of Nepal, with questions being raised about the international funding of rights-based social movements. The Ministry of Home Affairs (MoHA) introduced an Instruction of Security and Protection for Human Rights Defenders-2020. It addresses issues of the protection

4 See S.I. Hagen, *The Rise of Ethnic Politics in Nepal: Democracy in the Margins* (New York: Routledge, 2010), for more details on the growth of identitybased movements in Nepal since the middle of the 20th century.

5 Social Welfare Council, 'Social Welfare Rules 2049' (Kathmandu: SWC, 1993).

6 T.R. Pradhan, 'Integrity policy draft draws NGOs' flak', *The Kathmandu Post*, April 16, 2018, <https://kathmandupost.com/national/2018/04/15/integrity-policy-draft-draws-ngos-flak>

7 M. Bader, 'In Nepal, proposed INGO regulation has sector fearful', *DevEx*, May 01, 2018, <https://www.devex.com/news/in-nepal-proposed-ingo-regulationhas-sector-fearful-92647>.

and security of human rights defenders while protecting human rights violations. The instrument's legal standing, however, is weak.

Amidst the restrictions on the operation of civic space during the COVID-19 pandemic, the civic spaces in Karnali province were also equally affected. In the guise of pandemic safety, CSOs at the local level were denied access to mobility. Karnali province drafted provincial legislation in the name of regulating CSOs, which was withdrawn after criticism by stakeholders.

During the COVID-19 period, regular conduction and renewal of in-person Annual General Meetings (AGMs) were restricted. Some District Administration Offices (DAOs) did not accept the CSO virtual minute for renewal. NGO Federation Nepal reveals COVID-19 had a significant impact on the affiliation of new organizations in the fiscal year 2076/77. The annual affiliation numbers for the prior two years were 2,134 and 2,113, respectively. However, the number fell to 1,120 (declined by 89%) in the 2077/78. Similarly, there was an 8% decline in the number of new project approvals. In the interactive hearing session of Universal Periodic Report (UPR) on human rights around the globe, more than three countries strongly recommended Nepal to promote CSOs. In regard to the program and service delivery of CSOs during the first wave of the pandemic, 87% of CSOs reported a reduction in their ability to provide programs and services (NGO Federation Nepal, 2021). In line with global recommendations, Latvia recommends 'taking measures to foster a safe, respectful, and enabling environment for civil society and human rights defenders, especially women human rights defenders, free from persecution, intimidation, and harassment, and to relax the requirements for registering NGOs'⁸.

Against this backdrop, this study attempts to examine the situation and status of civic space in geographically remote and developmentally backward Karnali, with a low Human Development Index (0.53 as of 2021) in comparison to other provinces. The

8 UPR III Cycle National Report Nepal, 2021, Para 159.83.

assessment is based on five elements presented by the European Civic Forum. The first is a conducive political, cultural, and socio-economic landscape. The second is respect for civic freedom, third is a supportive framework for CSOs' financial viability and sustainability, the fourth is dialogue between civil society and governing bodies and the fifth civil society's response to challenges to democracy, the rule of law, and fundamental rights.

1.2 Objective of the Study

This study aimed at examining the status of civic space in Karnali. The overall objective, with a strong focus on gender, is to understand the level and extent of shrinking civil society space within the context of COVID-19. Following specific objectives:

- ▶ To examine the consequences faced by women and Dalit human rights defenders (HRDs) and the community due to the shrinking civic space during the COVID-19 pandemic in Karnali.
- ▶ To explore the current state of civic space in Karnali and make an assessment concerning the challenges faced by CSOs and HRDs to function and continue their work for/with the poor and marginalized people during a period of health emergency created by COVID-19 and its aftermath.
- ▶ To provide relevant recommendations with innovative ideas and approaches for addressing the challenges and barriers in defending civic space in Karnali province.

SECTION II

Literature Review

2.1 Review of the Policies towards Civic Space

Civic space comprises “All non-market and non-state organizations outside of the family in which people organize themselves to pursue shared interests in the public domain. Examples include Community Based Organizations (CBOs) and village associations, environmental groups, women's rights groups, farmers' associations, faith-based organizations, labor unions, co-operatives, professional associations, chambers of commerce, and independent research institutes and not-for-profit media.⁹ An online platform, ‘Civic Space Watch’, which collects information from civil society actors across Europe, states, “Civic space is the political, legislative, social and economic environment which enables citizens to come together, share their interests and concerns and act individually and collectively to influence and shape their societies”. Civic space enables people to pursue multiple, at times competing, points of view¹⁰. Civil society is the multitude of associations around which society voluntarily organizes itself and which represent a wide range of interests and ties. OECD defines CSOs as “all non-market and non-state organizations outside of the family in which people organize themselves to pursue shared interests in the public domain. Examples include community-based organizations and village

9 OECD. (2012) Partnering with Civil Society: 12 Lessons from DAC Peer Reviews.

10 Civic Space Watch (2022). What is civic space? Retrieved through <https://civicspacewatch.eu/what-is-civic-space/>

associations, environmental groups, women's rights groups, farmers' associations, faith-based organizations, labor unions, co-operatives, professional associations, chambers of commerce, independent research institutes, and the not-for-profit media.¹¹

The history of CSOs in Nepal can be dated going back to a relatively short period, especially when compared with other South Asian countries like Bangladesh and India. Until 1990, the Panchayat regime (1961–1990) exercised tight control over society and its governance. The Social Services National Coordination Council (SWNCC) regulated and supervised NGOs as well as handled the majority of funding agencies. The Queen was the chairperson of the SWNCC, and the presence of international NGOs in Nepal was regulated by the Palace. During this period, it was illegal for anyone to engage in developmental activities in Nepal without the government's permission. During the Panchayat regime, the number of NGOs grew slowly - from 10 in 1960, to 37 in 1987. Two significant changes in regulating NGOs and funding agencies occurred after the Panchayat regime was overthrown, and parliamentary democracy was established in 1990. First, the SWNCC was reorganized into the Social Welfare Council (SWC), which became a government agency under the Ministry for Social Welfare, chaired by its minister. The SWC is composed of representatives from ministries and other government agencies. Second, funding regulations were changed. During the 40 years preceding the 1991 Constitution, foreign assistance to Nepal had to flow through the Government's consolidated fund. This provided the Government with information on foreign assistance and a large measure of control over such assistance. Since 1991, foreign funds have been directed directly to NGOs. Due to these changes, the number of NGOs operating in Nepal has dramatically increased to reach about 60,000 today. However, some strict regulations still prevail - any organization wishing to engage in development activities must

11 OECD. (2012) Partnering with Civil Society: 12 Lessons from DAC Peer Reviews.

first obtain official approval from the local government. NGOs are required to register at the DAO with their registration needing to be renewed annually. In addition to registering with the DAO, NGOs receiving funds directly from donors must register with the SWC and renew their registration yearly by submitting accounts audited by a government-approved auditor. If these requirements are not fulfilled, their registration will be revoked. The SWC has a federal office located in Kathmandu. However, there is lack of coordination, mentoring, and enhancing the capacity of CSOs exist in remote districts among NGOs and DAO. The government must approve each project or program before foreign funding can be accessed. Generally, the objectives of NGOs in Nepal are social reform and building citizen awareness.

2.2 Legislation on NGO Activities

After parliamentary democracy was restored in Nepal, the newly elected government loosened some restrictive legislation previously governing INGOs during the Panchayat era. However, several new rules have also been introduced, with some former privileges being revoked by government agencies that currently regulate the presence of INGOs in the country. For example, INGO representatives no longer receive a visa free of charge, and some international staff members of INGOs have only been issued temporary tourist visas, which require holders to leave the country every 150 days. INGO representatives previously received a permit to visit any part of Nepal, but this is no longer the case¹².

The situation started to change after 1990 when the number of CSOs started to escalate. However, after 2005-6, the working environment became difficult. CSOs started to face hassles in receiving grants, either from the Government, or external foreign grants. The international community started appealing to 'safeguard freedom of expression and foster civil society participation; ensuring

12 Overview of Civil Society, ADB, July 2005, Aziz Sunderji

NGOs working in the field of human rights, including those receiving foreign grants are free to operate'¹³.

Two major acts govern both domestic and international NGOs, with additional legislation governing activity at the local administrative level. The first is the Association Registration Act of 1977 (2034), which defines an NGO as an institution with the following attributes: a legal established entity; organized sector; corporate in structure; nonprofit in nature; social-service oriented; voluntary based; autonomous and independent; democratic structure (with open membership); and community-based organization (CBO). The second act is the Registration of Associations Act, “Sangh Samstha Ain” (amended in 1991). As per the act, any seven or more citizens may apply to register an NGO, specifying the name of the institution, its objectives, the names and addresses of the management committee members, sources of funding, and office address of all 77 chief district offices. NGOs are required to present audited accounts each year for registration renewal. Although registration with the SWC is not mandatory for NGOs, it allows for tax deductions and facilitates access to local and international funding. INGOs must obtain permission from the SWC to work in Nepal. Most NGOs are registered under this act, although some are registered under the Company Act as not-for-profit organizations.

The Social Welfare Council Act 1992 (2049) which restructured the SWNCC into the SWC, assigned it the following functions: promote, facilitate, coordinate, monitor, supervise, and evaluate NGO activities. Furthermore, it assigns the SWC as a coordinating body between the government and NGOs and providing advice, recommendations to the government to formulate policies, plans, and programs related to social welfare and the service sector. It also outlines the establishment of trust funds for social welfare activities and encourages others to do the same towards conducting training and undertaking research on social welfare issues. Similarly, it also outlines duties towards carrying out direct supervision of the

13 UPR III Cycle National Report Nepal, 2021, Para 159.75

property of NGOs in Nepal; and use national and international NGO assistance effectively. As the SWC was initially established as an umbrella organization for NGOs involved in welfare activities, some NGOs have suggested dealing directly with the appropriate ministry rather than registering through the SWC. The government introduced Social Welfare Ordinance (First Amendment) in July 2005. The Ordinance provided the Ministry of Women, Children, and Social Welfare with the authority to issue directives on NGO activities. The government even tried to develop a code of conduct for NGOs. Civic Society representatives and human rights defenders made a remarkable contribution towards the elimination of the autocratic monarchy regime, equally stepping with political parties towards restoring democracy with a republican federal system. However, fragmentation and party politicization within the CSOs and HRDs lately have contributed to reducing their influence on the issues they broach to government and parliament. This has further resulted in several legal and procedural attempts taken by the government to curb the space and activism of CSOs, although the government has not succeeded yet. The proposed bill related to Social Associations and Organizations Act 2019 is also suppressive to CSOs; apart from other constraints and administrative footraces, it harshly restricts the emergence of CSOs at public protests or demonstration for a cause; it curtails freedom of expression as well as the freedom of association.

The National Integrity Policy proposed in 2018 also stressed strong vigilance over the non-governmental and private sectors; along with burdensome reporting and procedural requirements, it also increased restrictions on the scope of activities as well as access to funding¹⁴. Apart from the aforementioned legislation, Sadachar Niti (2018), 9.2.3 (1); the classification of CSOs based on foreign aid accepting and non-accepting, along with the thematic work nature has also been found to be responsible for shrinking civic space in Nepal.

The noble spirit of the Constitution, including the progressive provisions of the fundamental rights have not been translated into practice. The Organization Registration Act is an umbrella act that is unable to deal with the specific nature of CSOs and CBOs. The existing laws cannot ensure a vibrant civic space in line with the spirit of the Constitution. Hence, though Nepal has a vibrant civil society movement, due to a lack of appropriate laws as per the spirit of the Federal Democratic Republic, the situation is not inspiring.

SECTION III

Methodology

3.1 Methodology

A mixed method of data collection was applied, which included quantitative and qualitative (quan-qual) methods, to obtain the relevant data. Both the qualitative and quantitative data, obtained from the questionnaire survey, interviews (KII), and focus group discussion were collected and analyzed to present the conclusion and findings of the study. Desk review was conducted focusing on the CSOs' space, prioritizing inclusion hurdles for women and Dalit within CSOs and for those working with government agencies. Relevant research documents were reviewed by correlating with CSOs of Karnali province, especially secondary data related to females and Dalits. Likewise, the quantitative approach, a sample survey based on a questionnaire was conducted among the CSO members; 210 human rights defenders and CSO representatives took part in the survey from all 10 districts of Karnali Province. Respondents were 60% female and 40% male, selected on a random basis. The qualitative and quantitative data were then analyzed using Microsoft Excel.

3.2 Limitation

The reliance on self-reported data from questionnaire surveys, interviews, and focus group discussions introduces the potential for bias and inaccuracies due to social desirability and recall bias. The desk review of research documents and secondary data is subject to the availability and quality of existing literature, which may limit the depth and comprehensiveness of the findings. The online

sample survey using Google Forms and stratified random sampling methods and aiming for diverse representation within the universe may be affected by non-response bias, limited access to technology, and potential sampling errors. Regarding the delimitation and challenge, FGD and KII were conducted in Surkhet and Dailekh through in-person meetings. Active CSOs in Mugu and Humla are less than a dozen, compared to the anticipated 30 respondents with proportionate distribution in the province, as it falls within 6 to 30 CSO representatives and HRD respondents took part in the survey by limiting a female and others males.

3.3 Sample Population Demonstration

In this sample survey, based on a questionnaire that has been conducted among the CSO members, 210 human rights defenders and CSO representatives took part in the survey from all 10 districts of Karnali Province. This section incorporates the presentation and analysis of data collected from the above-listed methodology. The questionnaire, FDG, and KII methods were applied to collect the data.

3.3.1 Demographic representation of the respondent

Figure 1 illustrated that the 60% of respondents were female and rest were male.

Figure 2 shows that among total respondents, 60% were Bramhan/Chhetri, 24% were Dalit, 11% were Janjati and 5% were from other ethnicities.

Figure 1: Respondents by sex

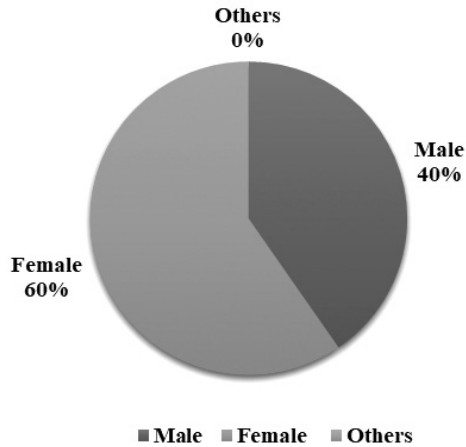
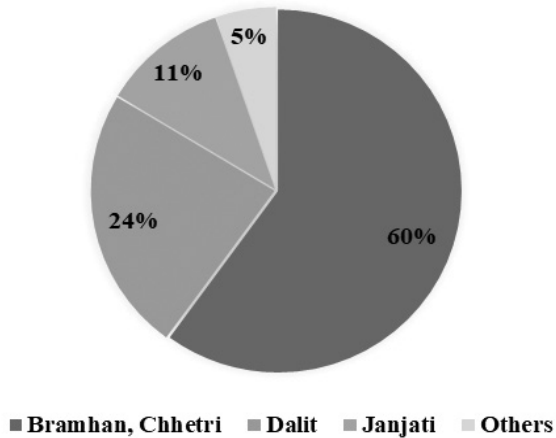


Figure 2: Ethnicity of respondents



SECTION IV

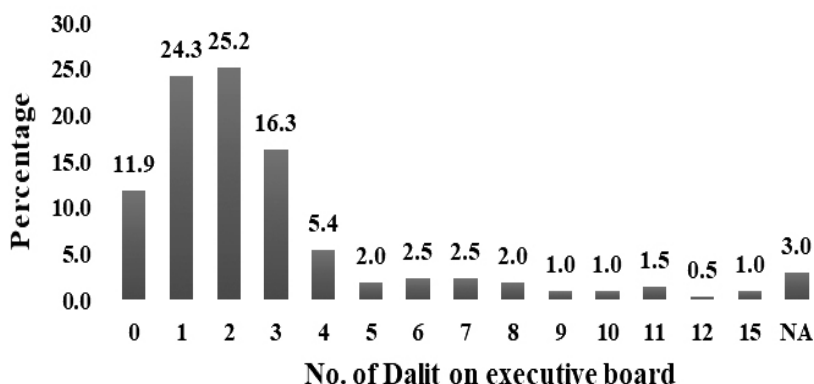
Data Presentation, Discussion, and Analysis

4.1 Women and Dalit Participation in CSOs

1 1.9% of CSOs do not have members from Dalit community on the executive board of their organization. 25.2% reported 2 board members from Dalit communities, followed by 24.3% reporting 1 member. 16.3% of respondents indicated 3 members, while 5.4 % indicated 4 members (Figure 3).

3.5% of respondents indicated that there are no female members on the executive board (Figure 4). 22.8% of respondents mentioned that there are 3 females on the executive board, followed by 20.3% reporting 4 female members, 15.3% reported 5 female members, and 10.4% reported 2 female members. About 1% of respondents

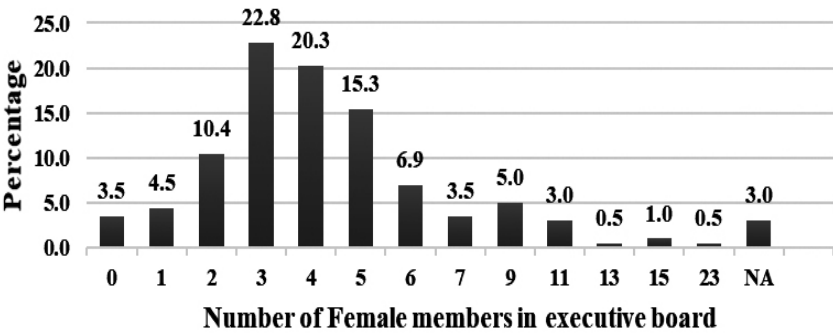
Figure 3: Number of Dalit members on executive board of CSOs



indicated that there were 15 female members and 0.5% mentioned 23 female board members.

Nearly one-third of respondents (30.2%) indicated that there is no representation of Dalit female members on their executive board (Figure 5). However, almost the same amount i.e., 31.7% of respondents reported exactly one Dalit female board member. 17.8% reported 2 Dalit female members, 5.4% reported 3 members and 4% reported 4 members. 1% and 0.5% mentioned 9 and 11 Dalit female board members, respectively.

Figure 4: Number of female members on executive board of CSOs

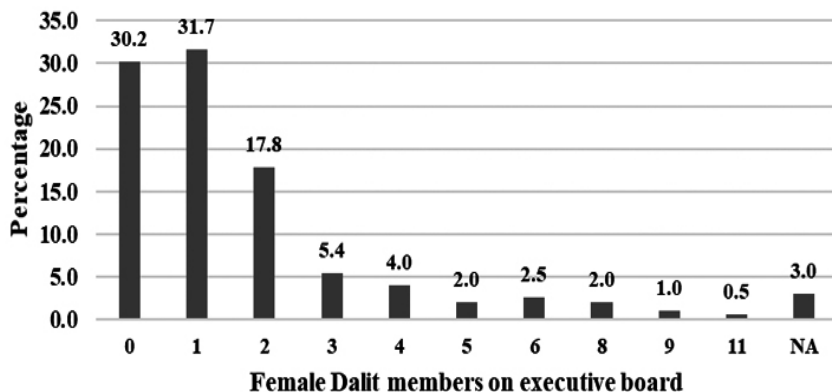


reported 4 members. 1% and 0.5% mentioned 9 and 11 Dalit female board members, respectively.

32.2% of respondents indicated that there is no staff member from the Dalit community in their organization, while 21.8% reported there is one Dalit staff member, 13.9% reported two staff members, and 9.4% reported three staff members. About 5.4% mentioned that there are 6 to 10 Dalit staff members, 2% have 16 to 20 staff members, and 1% reported 21 to 25 Dalit staff members (Figure 6).

Almost one forth (24.8%) respondents reported not having any female staff members in their organization, while 14.9% reported 1 female staff member, 13.4% reported 2 female staff members, 5.9% reported 3 female staff members, 8.4% reported 4 female staff members and 4% reported 5 female staff members in their organizations. Similarly, 11.4% indicated there are 6 to 10

Figure 5: Female Dalit members on executive board of CSOs



female staff members, 3% reported between 16 to 20 members, 2% reported between 21 and 25, members 5.9% reported between 26 and 50 members, and 0.5% reported 145 female staff members in their organization (Figure 7).

Nearly half (44.1%) of respondents indicated that there is no female Dalit staff member, while 21.8% reported one member, 13.4% reported two members, 7.4% reported 3 members, while 2% reported 5 female Dalit staff members in their organization. 7.4% reported

Figure 6: Dalit staff of CSOs

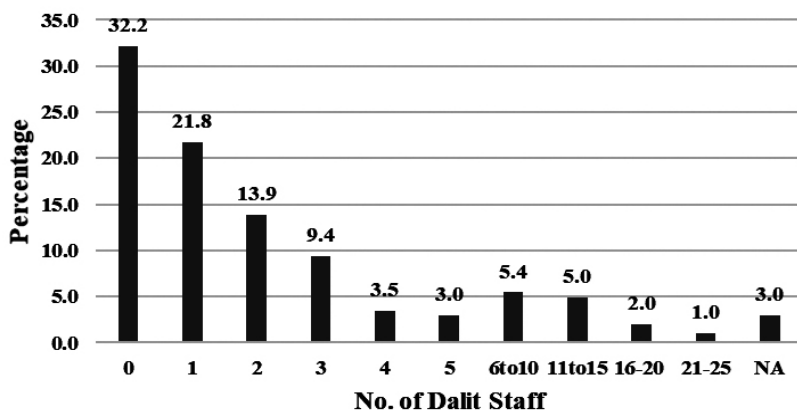
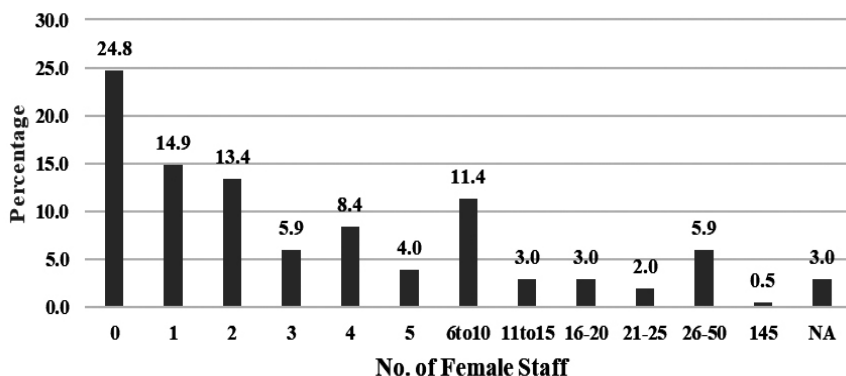


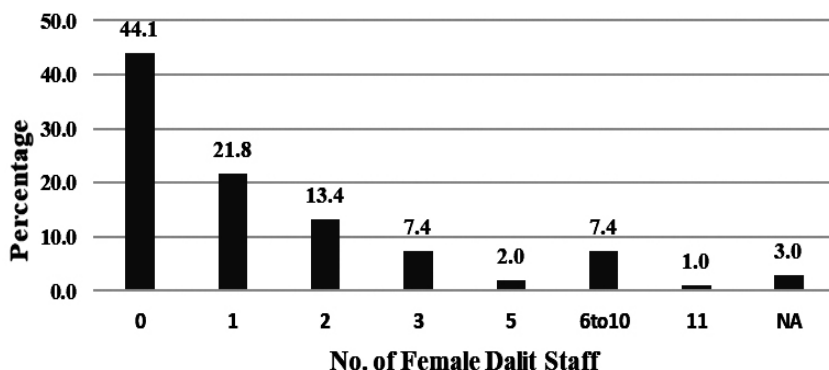
Figure 7: Total number of female staff in CSOs



there are 6 to 10 female Dalit staff members, while 1% claimed to have 11 female Dalit staff members in their respective organizations (Figure 8).

FGD participants shared that discrimination based on caste and gender is still prevalent, both directly and indirectly. Though the participation of Dalit and women only seems fair, a so-called

Figure 8: Total number of female Dalit staff in CSOs



hierarchy exists even within the Dalit community. Generally, CSOs are inclusive in their policy, but the application is not effective in this case, where meaningful participation and an influential role in the decision-making process are very meager. Women and Dalits are underrepresented in the labor force, even though the criteria for inclusion appear ideal considering the vacancy. For instance, community forest users' committees are more inclusive. For example, according to a legal provision, either the chairperson or secretary of an organization must be of a separate gender. The lack of awareness among women and Dalit, along with a patriarchal society are the driving factors of exclusion. A female activist from Surkhet expressed dissatisfaction at the situation and opined, “the culture of the mustache is acceptable and respected in all settings and situations”.

Even though the representation of women and Dalit in higher positions, such as the executive board of the CSOs is increasing, the representation of non-Dalit and males is still relatively higher. A professor during FGD shared, “This procedure is done as an approach to meeting quotas of inclusion. In conjunction with such participation, state mechanisms and all non-state institutions need to flourish in an enabling environment, especially for awareness and profit for the nation in the long run.” A professor at Midwestern University's Department of Sociology revealed, “The provision of inclusion is only set in the policy of CSOs to fulfill the requirement, such as 33% female and a representative from the Dalit community, which is based on nepotism and favoritism of the influential person on the board of CSOs.” The Executive Director of a leading CSO in Karnali Province also agreed that there isn't a satisfactory participation of women and Dalits at the decision-making level. Proactive disclosure of the interventions by CSOs from project design to phase-out is only carried out in name to fulfill necessary requirements. The Executive Director recommended, some thresholds to improve the space of civil society - including funds, yearly turnover based on audit, eligibility to apply to government and development partner

calls, and the opportunity to make small grants to CBOs without fulfilling tedious procedural requirements.

The mayor of Birendranagar Municipality revealed that female participation in all settings, including CSOs is merely a showcase for documentation and that they are not able to plead or file issues that they are suffering from. According to the mayor, there is a record of sharing program modes and interventions by CSOs with the municipality; however, most of the programs are usually designed prior to any consultation with the municipality. Nonetheless, in case of COVID-19 pandemic, municipality collaborated with CSOs and development partners while responding to the COVID-19 pandemic. Social mobilization during COVID-19 was not satisfactory, as experienced by the mayor of Birendranagar. Thus, mostly health-focused CSOs were collaborating with local governments to respond to COVID-19. The mayor blamed the federal government for not realizing the contribution and capacity of CSOs during the pandemic though the municipalities have made provisions for collaboration with CSOs for development initiatives. However, the mayor of Narayan Municipality, Dailekh, shared that CSOs have been submitting program interventions before their execution and reports after completion to the municipality. Municipalities and CSOs even jointly distributed COVID-19 response materials for the needy.

Only 35% of respondents revealed that their respective organization has a separate policy on inclusion, while 49% expressed that the inclusion policy is included in their overall main policy. 6% of respondents said that they neither have a separate inclusion policy, nor is anything mentioned in the main policy about inclusion, 10% of the respondents were not aware of this issue (Figure 9).

Only 30% of respondents felt that the inclusion policy is fully implemented. 24% said that it is well implemented, and 27% responded satisfactorily implemented. 12% revealed that the inclusion policy is slightly implemented. 1% said that it exists just in name, and about 6% were unaware of it (Figure 10).

Figure 9: Inclusion policy within CSOs

Does your organization have an inclusion policy?

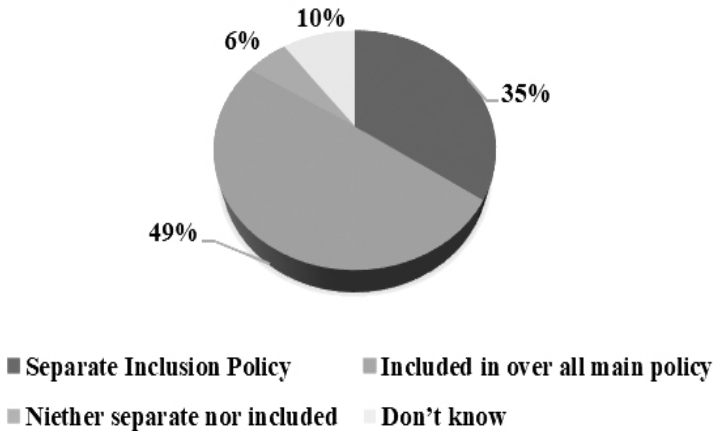
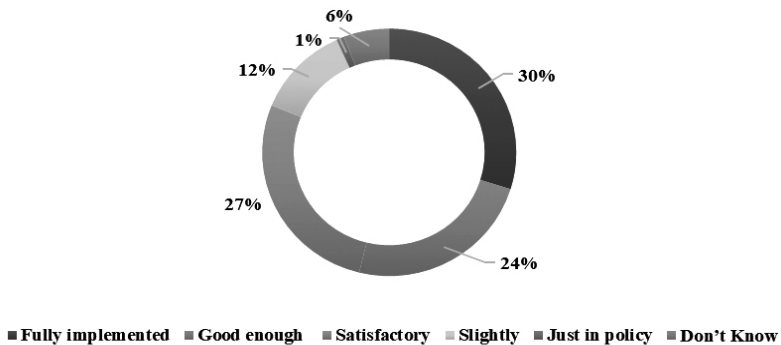


Figure 10: Application of inclusion policy within CSOs

Do you feel the inclusion policy applies literally?

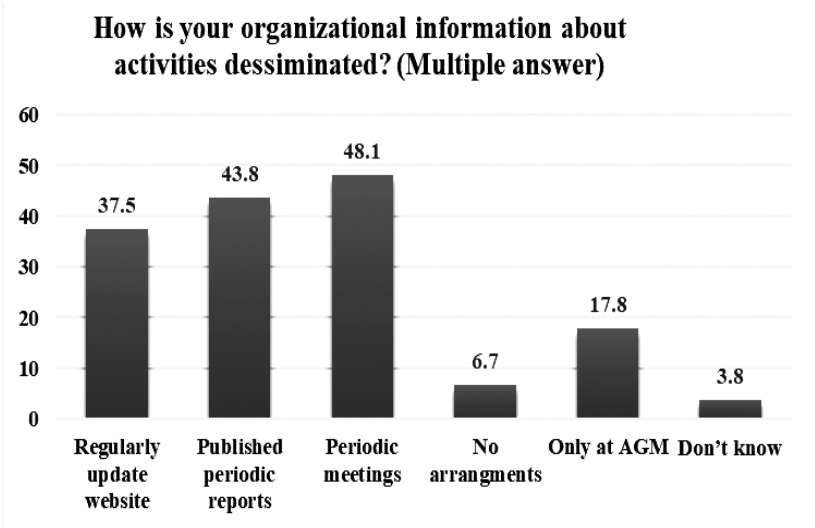


4.2 Situation of Civic Spaces in Karnali during COVID-19

37.5% respondents indicated that they disseminated information about organizational activities through updating the website, 43.8% responded they did so by publishing periodic reports, 48.1% through organizing periodic meetings, while 6.7% mentioned

that there were no such arrangements, and 3.8% were unaware about it. 17.8% disseminated their organization's information and activities only during the AGM (Figure 11).

Figure 11: Proactive disclosure of CSOs

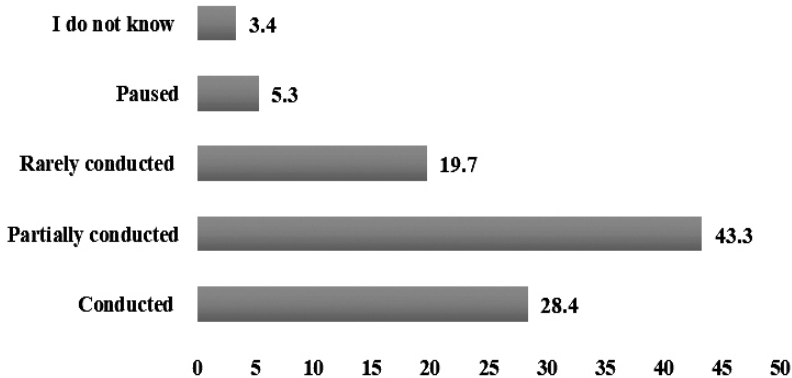


B. Freedom and rights to associate

During the COVID-19 pandemic, 28.4% of respondents indicated that CSOs and human rights defenders were able to conduct activities, provide counseling and other services to the community by maintaining health protocols, 43.3% responded they could do so partially, 19.7% indicated the activities were rarely conducted, 5.3% of the respondents claimed all activities were halted, and 3.4% responded they were unaware (Figure 12).

Figure 12: Obeying health protocols

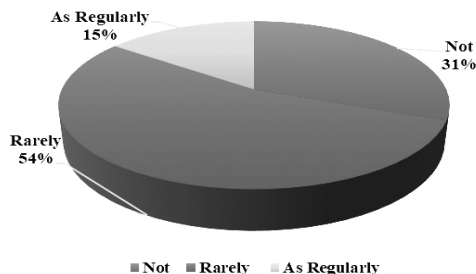
Did your CSO and human rights defenders conduct necessary meeting/consult with communities by applying safety protocols?



31% of respondents indicated that they were not invited by the district or local level emergency response bodies during the COVID-19 pandemic, 54% said they were rarely invited and only 15% were regularly invited (Figure 13).

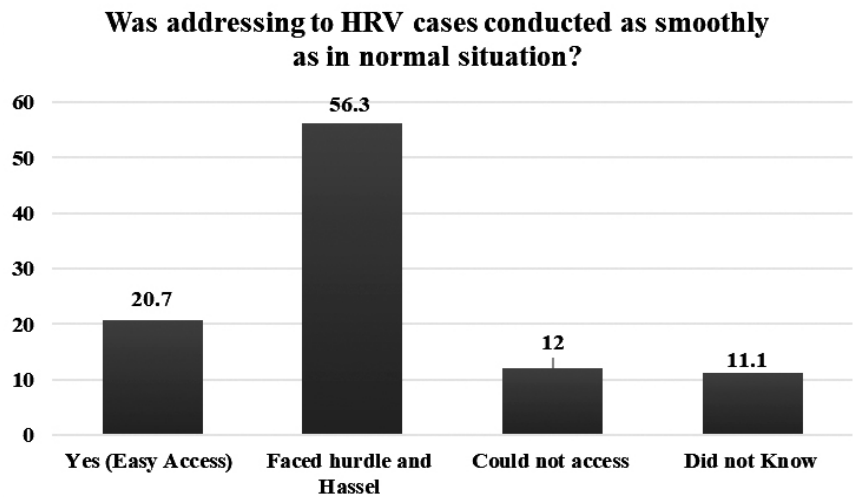
Figure 13: Engagement at district level emergency response mechanism

Did district or local level emergency response body invite your organization during COVID-19?



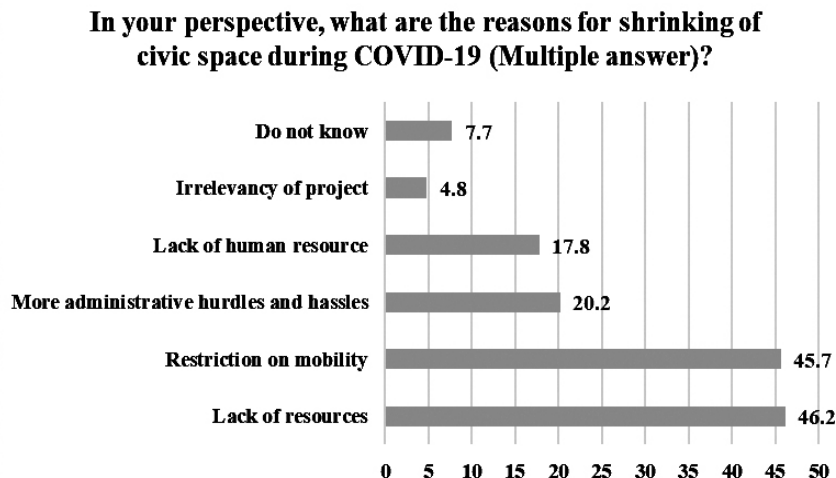
During the pandemic, 20.7% of respondents and their organizations felt easy access as usual to demand or recommend addressing human rights violation cases, 56.3% faced hurdles and hassles, 12% did not have access, and about 11.1% of respondents were unaware (Figure 14).

Figure 14: Easiness to HRDs while responding to HRV cases



46.2% of respondents viewed that the trend of CSOs' space shrinking is on the rise because of the COVID-19 pandemic and its underlying reason included lack of resources, 45.7% responded it was because of restrictions on mobility. 20.2% indicated additional administrative hurdles and hassles, 17.8% responded it was attributable to a lack of human resources, while 4.8% stated due to irrelevancies of projects, and 7.7% did not know the issue (Figure 15).

Figure 15: Causes of shrinking civic space during COVID-19



During the FDG, the challenges for CSOs and other organizations to access resources were discussed. Development partners, including bilateral organizations, UN agencies, and INGOs mostly provide support to well-established organizations that meet a designated number of requirements to run projects. However, while applying for projects under different themes, small CSOs were found to be unable to inscribe policies on various aspects, from gender to environment, child protection, anti-terrorism, and human resources. Small and newly established CSOs run activities with insufficient budget. Supply chain is a persisting problem for such local CSOs to run different departments like procurement and human resources. More than 80% of participants viewed CSOs as affiliated with major political parties – with stated well-established and renowned CSOs largely acquiring resources from bilateral organizations, UN agencies, and INGOs. A threshold of funding for CSOs by the government and development partners needs to be introduced based on the fund scale and nature of community support by allocating small, medium, and large-scale grants.

The government and its appendages consider that CSOs are doing 'Business of Dollar' - not social development. CSOs, on the other side, have perception that the government administration is far more corrupt. There is a gap in mutual understanding between the government administration and CSOs - with a need to minimize this misunderstanding based around legal framework to act towards a common goal. A senior staff of a reputed CSO in the Karnali Province implores to introduce national legislation for HRD and CSOs including their dignity and identity, grading of CSOs based on fund-work nature and credibility. The staff stated that they are facing accusations from government officials such as, "NGOs make us monitor and set field visits for the quality delivery and public hearing of the government intervention". This has increased accountability of government interventions. Such practices are, part of democracy and governance with people and CSOs being happier with the increase in transparency. NGOs' interventions are completed on time with greater quality in comparison with similar government interventions. The public has the perception that there is delay and corruption during government service delivery. Another CSO's Executive board member states, "Identification and national recognition of HRD from National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) could play the accreditation role jointly with the Ministry of Women, Children, and Senior Citizens (MoWCSC) and the Ministry of Social Development (MOSD)".

The government's provision of mandatory payment of VAT bills during the last 5 years, has led 19 CSOs not be able to renew, as stated by a leading CSO's Executive Director in Dailekh. Most CSOs were unable to pay the VAT amount, with 19 CSOs closed in Dailekh due to this provision.

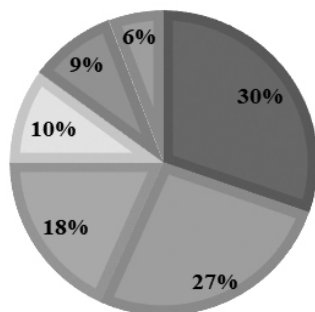
4.3 Activities Conducted by CSOs during COVID-19 in Karnali

During the COVID-19 pandemic, 30% of respondents indicated that their organization conducted its annual general meeting (AGM) through virtual online platform, 27% stated it was conducted physically, 18% responded it was conducted in a hybrid or mixed way. 10% responded it was not conducted, 9% stated that it was done only on paper, while 6% were unaware about it (Figure 16).

Figure 16: Conduction of Annual General Assembly by CSOs during COVID-19

How did your organization conduct its annual general assembly during COVID-19?

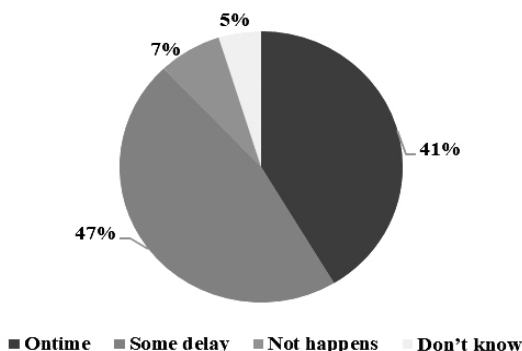
■ Virtually ■ Physically ■ Mixed way
■ Not Happens ■ Only on Papers ■ Don't know



Among the respondents, 41% indicated that even during the pandemic, their organization conducted their annual financial audit on time, while 47% said it was conducted later. 7% of respondents said it was not conducted during the pandemic, and 5% were unaware of it (Figure 17).

Figure 17: Financial auditing of CSOs during COVID-19

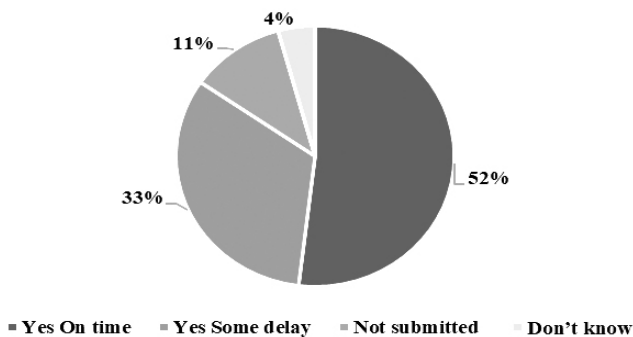
Did your organization conduct its fiscal audit regularly during COVID-19?



More than half (52%) of respondents indicated that even during the pandemic, their organization submitted an annual report to local government and concerned agencies, while 33% stated that they submitted it late. 11% responded that they did not submit and 4% were unaware of it (Figure 18).

Figure 18: Accountability towards state mechanism

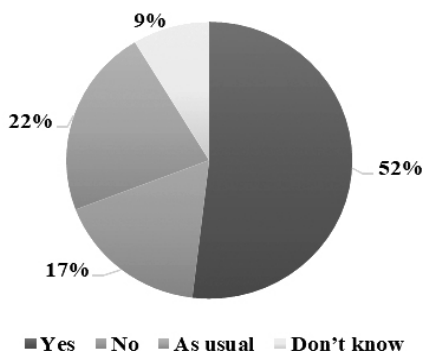
Did your organization submit yearly report to local level or concerned agency during COVID-19 pandemic?



52% of respondents indicated that their organization revised their procedure to conduct their activities during the COVID-19 pandemic, 17% stated to having made no changes, 22% responded they had conducted it as usual, and 9% were unaware of it (Figure 19).

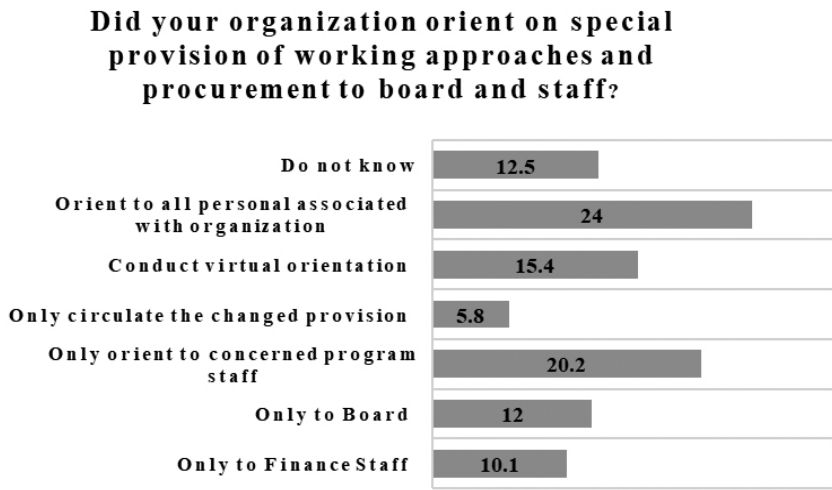
Figure 19: Working approach of CSOs during COVID-19

Did your organization introduce special provision for working approaches and procurement during the COVID-19 pandemic?



10.1% of respondents observed that orientation for changes in procedure to conduct activities during the pandemic was circulated only to finance staff, 12% stated orientation was provided only to the executive board, 20.2% responded that orientation was conducted for limited and concerned staff only. 5.8% stated that information on changed procedure was circulated without orientation, 15.4% responded orientation was given online, while 24% stated that it was conveyed to all concerned. 12.5% respondents were unaware of it (Figure 20).

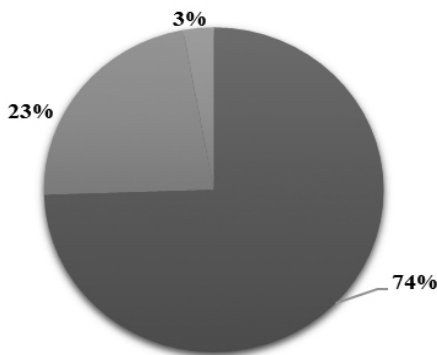
Figure 20: Measuring special provision to operate CSOs during COVID-19



74% of respondents followed all health protocols during the pandemic to conduct their activities, 23% followed the health protocol in general, and 3% only followed the protocols occasionally (Figure 21).

Figure 21: Applying health protocols during COVID-19 by CSOs

Did you follow the health protocol during your mobility at COVID-19?



From the FGD, it was found that the major component of governance is proactive public disclosure; however, only a few CSOs conduct self-initiative proactive public disclosure while designing the program, sharing in the website, and consulting with major stakeholders at all stages; designing, inception, mid-term, and sharing and hearing of final achievements. There is a trend of not submitting annual and semi-annual progress of CSOs to local bodies as required by law. Some CSOs issued special provisions regarding work approach like accepting work from home modality during the COVID-19 pandemic, inviting only necessary staff members, and revised their budget to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. According to the FGD participants in Dailekh, most of the CSOs develop their proposals without consulting the targeted population, which derails their connectivity and the full acceptance of CSOs in spirit; driving a push to delimit the space of CSOs in public. Many CSOs do not disclose their programs and interventions, with disclosure and public hearings done based on project requirements.

4.4 Government Intervention and Challenges of CSOs during COVID-19 in Karnali

A. Access to resource from government

35% of respondents agreed that only established CSOs get resources from government and development partners, 48% partially agreed, 12% disagreed, and 5% did not know about the issue (Figure 22).

21% of respondents indicated that they received government resources as usual even during the pandemic, while 30% stated they did not receive resources. 41% responded to have partially received resources while 8% stated they had not applied for government resources (Figure 23).

Figure 22: Resource grabbing perception

Does only well established CSOs get resources from government and development partners?

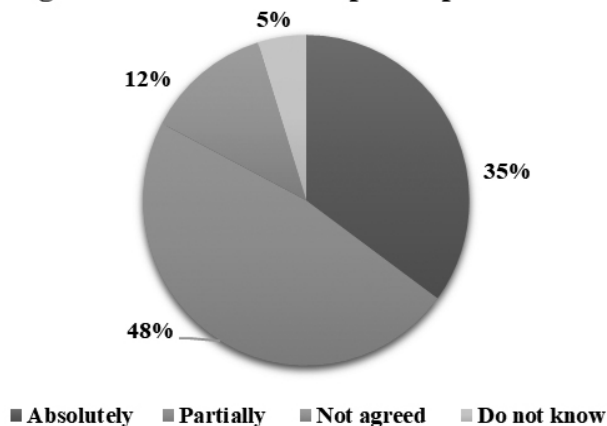
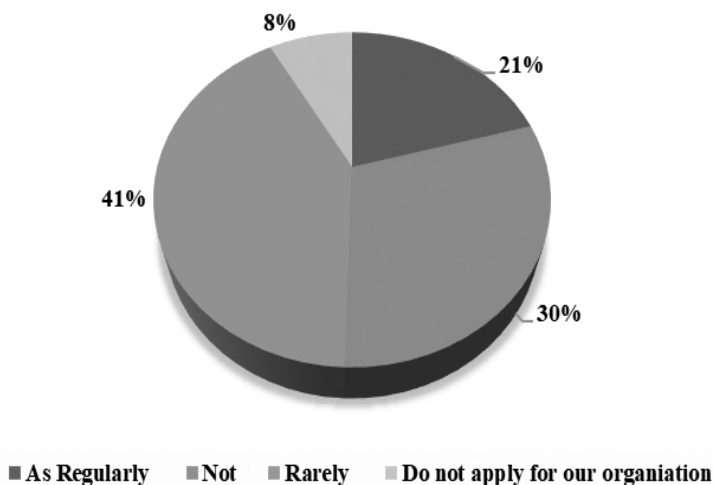


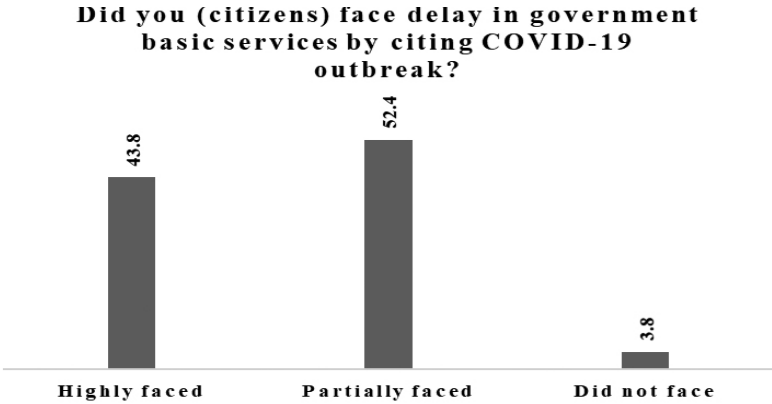
Figure 23: Access to government resources during COVID-19

Did you get government resources as usual during COVID-19 outbreak?



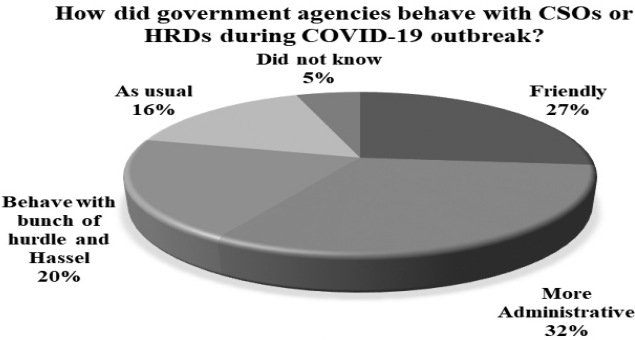
43.8% of respondents felt that basic services from the government for citizens were delayed in the name of the pandemic, 52.4% felt it was partly delayed, while 3.8% did not observe any delay (Figure 24).

Figure 24: Basic services from government during COVID-19



27% of respondents observed that during the pandemic, government dealings with civil society organizations and human rights defenders were friendly, 32% felt it was more administrative, while 20% encountered several hassles. 16% stated that it felt as usual, and 5% were unaware on this issue (Figure 25).

Figure 25: Attitude and behavior of government officials during COVID-19

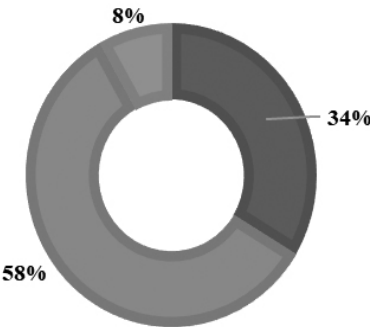


During the outbreak of the pandemic, 34% responded that they could not have proper access to government mechanisms for coordination and collaboration; while 58% had limited access and 8% told that they had the same access as before (Figure 26).

Figure 26: Collaboration opportunities with government mechanism during COVID-19

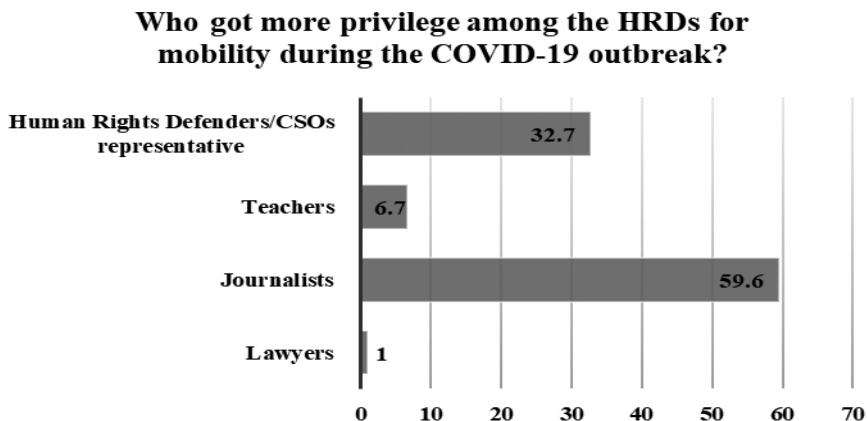
Did your organization get access to collaboration with government during COVID-19 outbreak?

■ Could not access ■ Limited access ■ Access as normal



59.6% of respondents indicated that during the pandemic, journalists had privileged access to conduct their activities, 32.7% believed that human rights defenders and civil society representatives had privileged access, while 6.7% mentioned teachers, and 1% stated lawyers to had easy access to conduct their activities (Figure 27).

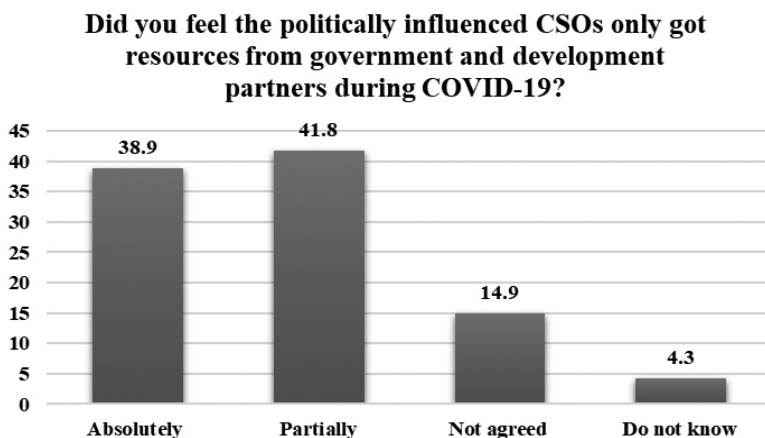
Figure 27: Privilege of mobility for HRDs during COVID-19



B. Power dynamics to resources

38.9% of respondents agreed that only politically influenced CSOs got resources from the government and development partners, 41.8% partially agreed, 14.9% disagreed, and 4.3% were unaware on this issue (Figure 28).

Figure 28: Privilege of mobility for CSOs during COVID-19

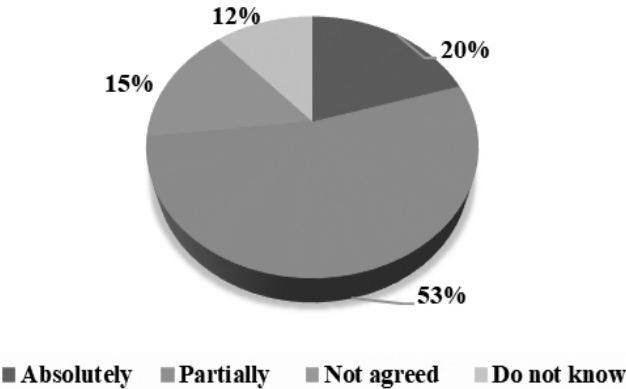


C. Administration hassle with government

20% of respondents agreed that they faced unnecessary hurdles while renewing their registration during the COVID-19 pandemic, 53% partially agreed, 15% disagreed, and 12% did not know about the issue (Figure 29).

Figure 29: Hurdles regarding administration

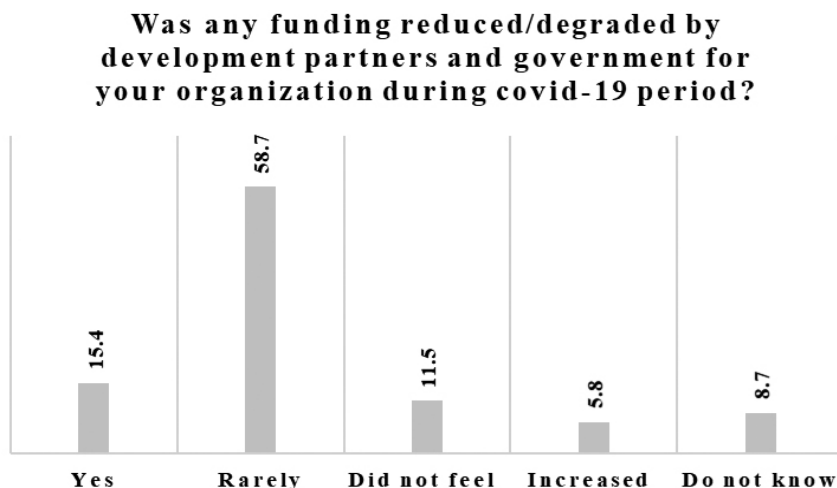
Did you face unnecessary hurdles while renewing your organization during COVID-19?



D. Access to resource

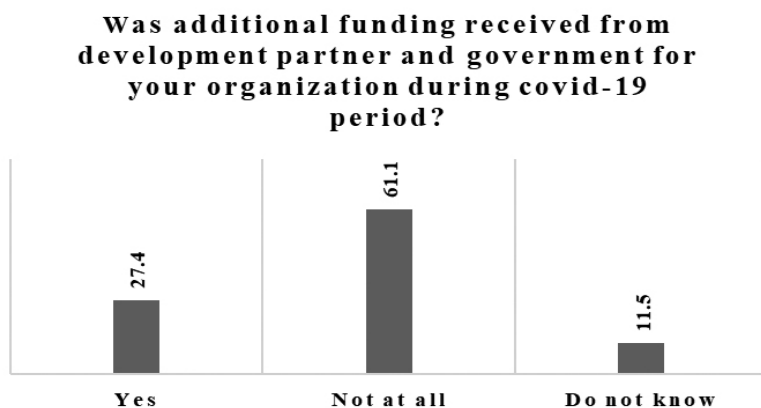
15.4% of respondents indicated that their funding from government and development partners was significantly reduced during the COVID-19 pandemic, 58.7% expressed that the funding partially decreased, 11.5% did not feel funding decreased, 6.8% indicated that resources increased, and 8.7% did not know about the issue (Figure 30).

Figure 30: Reduction in funding during COVID-19



27.4% of respondents indicated that their organization got additional resources from government and/or development partners during the COVID-19 pandemic, while 61.1% did not get additional funding, and 11.5% did not know about the issue (Figure 31).

Figure 31: Funding experiences during COVID-19



The Local Governance and Community Development Program (LGCDP) is a national program with an overarching goal to contribute towards poverty reduction through inclusive, responsive, and accountable local governance and participatory community-led development. The respondents from FGD revealed that some CSOs got LGCDP grants. To take the grant, Value Added Tax (VAT) registration at Inland Revenue Office was mandatory. It is assumed that all types of grants should abide by the VAT arrangement. This arrangement hampered the audit process. Generally, local governments provide support to issue pre-approval letters for program implementation.

During the discussion, a question was raised to NGO Federation Nepal on whether the federation's veracious character and efficacy to uplift its members are either novices or limbo in profession. The federation plays a rugged role in enlisting CSOs in mechanisms and structures based on its efficacy, resources, and expertise in all three tiers of governments legally including their development process during pandemics, emergencies, and disasters. Regular primary vaccinations were almost paused during the peak period of COVID-19 for more than 4 months in both Surkhet and Dailekh districts. A defender lawyer during FGD stated, "Administration has only taken relief support from CSOs, and worryingly, the mobility of CSOs and human rights defenders were virtually stopped". He further added that primary vaccination of children during the peak of the COVID-19 period was almost stopped for two months in Dailekh.

Though CSOs have lots of knowledge on health safety awareness and could promote healthy and safety behaviors in the community; the role of CSOs and human rights defenders were curtailed by government especially by administration during COVID-19. Health safety items such as sanitizers, masks, and hand-washing equipment were distributed earlier to ordinary citizens without categorizing people at risk, including women and Dalit community.

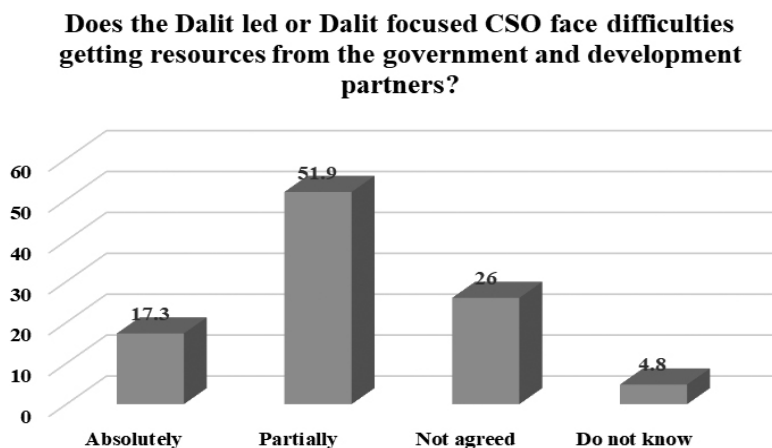
District administration during KII confessed that services

of registration, renewal, and amendment of CSOs were closed to maintain health protocol during the peak time of the pandemic, and while the cases began coming down - services were resumed. The district administration is liable to execute all directives issued by the federal government.. Most of the CSOs' governance is questionable here in Dailekh, apart from numbered CSOs, and administration is supportive of those CSOs who have good governance, said Chief District Officer (CDO).

4.5 Condition of Dalit and Women Led CSOs in Karnali

17.3% of respondents agreed that Dalit-led or/and Dalit focused CSOs faced difficulties getting resources from the government and development partners, 51.9% partially agreed, 26% disagreed and 4.8% did not know about this issue (Figure 32).

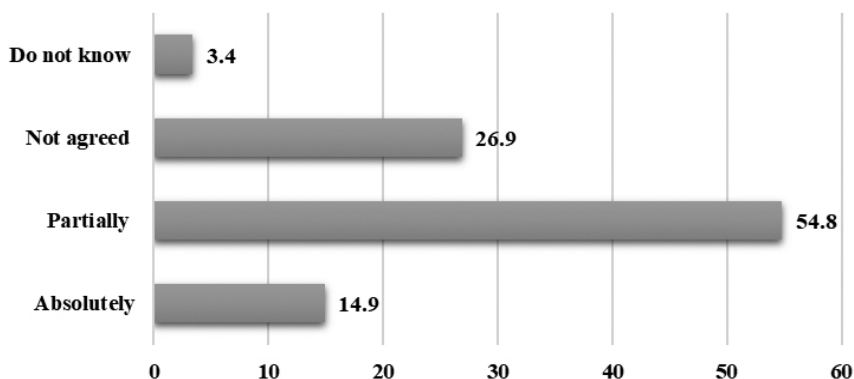
Figure 32: Resource grabbing perception of Dalit CSOs



Regarding the female-led or/and female focused CSOs, 14.9% of respondents agreed that they faced difficulties getting resources from government and development partners, 54.8% partially agreed, 26.9% disagreed and 3.4% did not know (Figure 33).

Figure 33: Resource grabbing perception of female focused/led CSOs

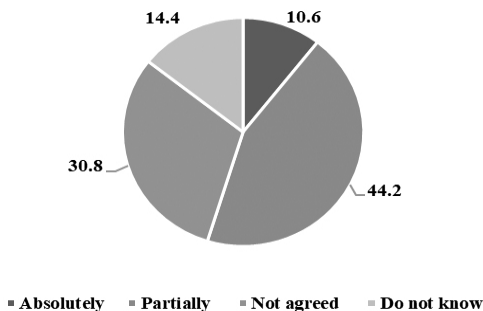
Do female led or female focused CSOs face difficulties getting resources from government and development partners?



Nearly 10.6% of respondents agreed that they received discriminatory attitudes being Dalit-led or Dalit-focused CSOs, while working with government machinery, 44.2% partially agreed,

Figure 34: Dealing with Dignity

Did you feel any discriminatory attitude being 'Dalit' while working with government agencies?

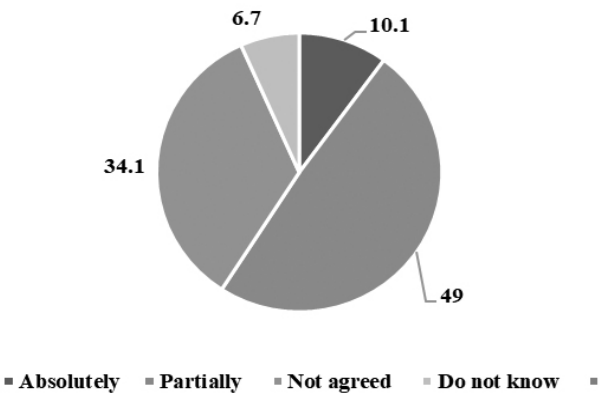


30.8% disagreed, and 14.4% did not know (Figure 34).

10.1% of respondents being female-led or/and female-focused CSOs faced difficulties while working with government machinery, 49% partially faced such, 34.1% did not face anything as such, and

Figure 35: Difficulty in getting resources

Have female led CSOs faced difficulty getting resources from government and development partners?



6.7% did not know about it (Figure 35).

Only 8% of respondents indicated that they easily proceeded with program amendment proposals based on SWC COVID-19 guidelines, 43% faced some hurdles and hassles, while 4% stated that the SWC did not amend their proposal. 20% did not feel it necessary to amend, and 25% were unaware on this issue (Figure 36).

32% of respondents indicated that there were special priorities given to women for services provided by districts or local-level COVID-19 response mechanisms, while 45% observed that there were no such priorities, and 23% did not know (Figure 37).

Figure 36: SWC intervention in program amendment during COVID-19

Did SWC easily proceed with your program amendment proposal based on COVID-19 guidelines of SWC?

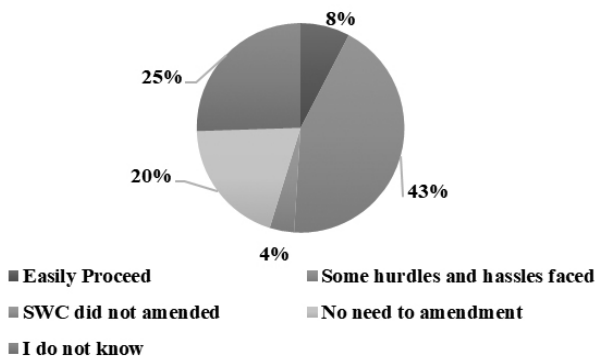
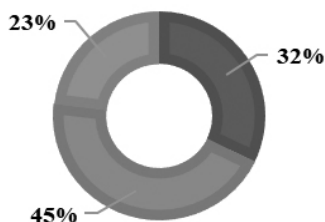


Figure 37: Services prioritization to Women

Did the COVID-19 response district mechanism prioritize or provide special services for women?

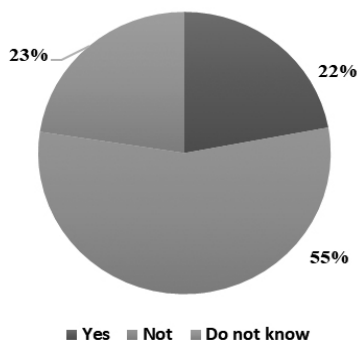
■ Yes ■ Not ■ Do not know



22% of respondents indicated that there were special priorities given to the Dalit community for services provided by districts or local-level COVID-19 response mechanisms, while 55% observed that there were no such priorities applied, and 23% did not know the issue (Figure 38).

Figure 38: Services prioritization to Dalit

Did the COVID-19 response district mechanism prioritize or provide special services for Dalit?



Responding to the COVID-19 service delivery, an associate professor, who suffered from COVID-19, recalled his dismal experience stating, “Powerful and position holders got proper isolation, Intensive Care Unit (ICU) and schemes of government, while ordinary citizens did not.” The public should be provided easy access with complaining, and the response needs to be strong and immediate during pandemics, disasters and any kind of emergency. State led dissemination of information, awareness, education, and communication related to COVID-19 was not accessible to those who did not have smartphones and internet access.

The respondents shared that the ruling political leaders are slightly arrogant towards CSOs and HRDs; CSOs and HRDs are demanding in nature and, to some extent, almost all CSOs and defenders have ideological affiliations with existing political parties. The duty of state machinery, while delivering services and protecting citizens, is to deal with dignity and within the legal framework. Unfortunately, in some cases, the administration deals based on influence and public accreditation of CSOs and HRDs. People believe that Dalit and women cannot lead politically and socially, even though they know that holding such a perception is a criminal offense

as per the law. In achieving equality, dignity, and empowerment of women and the Dalit community, low confidence and internalization of political and social leadership are major challenges.

“Engagement and participation of political parties in social interventions conducted by CSOs' are almost innumerable where, we do not know the work and spirit, so how can we protect or speak in favor of the initiatives done by CSOs” a ruling party district leader opined. He also stated that CSOs should invite elected local representatives from almost all political parties to participate in program conducted by CSOs. The political leader of the ruling party argued that elected representatives and political parties are available to listen to the concerns of CSOs.

Most of the local levels do not have adequate data and information regarding people's need; special protection or priority areas required for immediate intervention. The design of projects without knowing the needs of the community has meant that CSOs work seems project driven rather than community need based. The issue-based campaign and advocacy are areas for improvement, said a district leader of Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist) in Surkhet.

Political parties acknowledged the engagement of CSOs in the 1990- and 2006-people's movements for democracy and building an inclusive republican state. The parties believe that civil societies are pillars of state and civic engagement, and collaboration with CSOs in development processes is necessary for development.

“Well-functioning CSOs are about 20% in the district. If civil societies are divided politically, the voices for demand and role of watchdog become implausible”, a major leader from a major political party revealed. His criticism is, “CSOs are highly operated with nepotism and favoritism, which drives to incredibility and morally weak to play the role of watchdog”. The previous chairman of the local government in Surkhet, who is leading a major political party, had experienced that most of CSOs were on board with the response to the COVID-19 pandemic. He experienced that some CSOs were not eager to respond, and the local level formally requested them to

work jointly during COVID-19. Such behavior by some CSOs might also lead to a diminishing civic space. Among HRDs, journalists are more privileged to access information and lodge complaints. The hidden causes are non-transparency and prejudice of political parties and government administration, said a senior district leader.

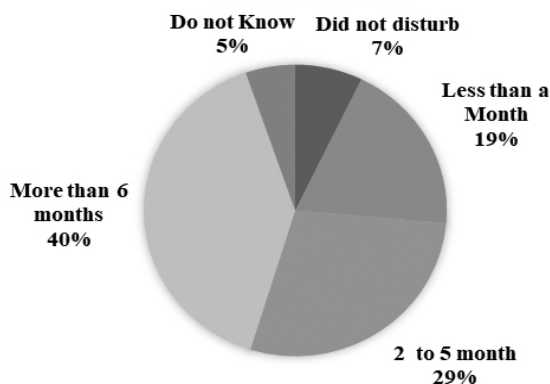
For easy access to fundamental delivery of services to citizens in emergencies, disasters and pandemics; a ward level impartial focal person, apart from ward chair and local representatives, would be a good approach. Local level government, for the meaningful participation of Dalit and women, at local structures, including non-state parties can endorse legal procedural provisions.

4.6 Situation of HRDs during COVID-19

40% of the respondents shared that their mobility was restricted for more than 6 months during COVID-19, 7% stated that they did not have any disturbance, and 5% were unaware about the issue (Figure 39).

Figure 39: Disturbance to mobility of HRD during COVID-19

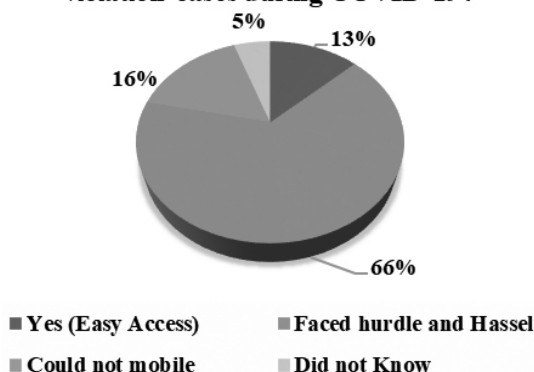
How many months of disturbance were observed in mobility to office and defending human rights violation cases?



66% of HRDs stated that the restrictions on their mobility affected their monitoring of human rights violations. 16% of respondents reported that they could not freely move from one place to another, while 5% said that they do not know anything about this issue (Figure 40). However, 13% said that they were able to easily access as usual.

Figure 40: Freedom for defending HRV cases

Did you feel easy mobility defending human rights violation cases during COVID-19?

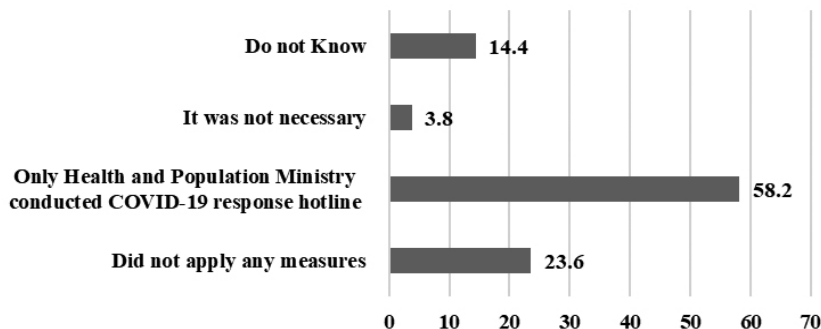


Nearly 23.6% of respondents stated that there was no provision introduced by government to listen to public complaints and concerns on human rights, 58.2% stated that there was only a COVID-19 response hotline at the federal level, 3.8% understood such a measure was not required during COVID-19, while 14.4% did not know about the issue (Figure 41).

During the period of mobility restrictions due to COVID-19, awareness campaigns about fundamental human rights issues almost ceased. Only health professionals, journalists, and security forces were given access to mobility, which could be considered a pseudo perspective of administration, while other CSOs and HRDs were restricted from movement. One of the HRDs from Surkhet said, “We do not have special identities as media, security, or health

Figure 41: Experiences of public complaints during COVID-19

What kind of measure was introduced by government to respond to public voice and concerns on human rights, apart from public or mass demonstrations, during COVID-19?



personnel, so administration almost halted our mobility”. A defender, Women Dalit Rights Activist, revealed, “Government authority, especially DAO and local level allowed CSOs to mobilize if they had sufficient funds for relief package, while remaining were not allowed.” According to most of the CSO representatives in Dailekh, apart from journalists, other human rights defenders were banned from activism to defend human rights violations.

“State Mechanism is almost unable to utilize human resources and expertise from CSOs sector while responding during such a pandemic” a defender during focused group discussion revealed. CSOs who work for social justice and human rights are largely categorized under NGOs. Many non-profit making organizations,

A human rights defender annotates, "I was embarrassed by security and health official, while brining my blind pregnant colleague to check her forth scheduled pregnancy checkup, by saying, "You as a disabled person must stay at home during the pandemic", said a security person by degrading my physical appearance. We were not able to meet doctor to show her report card. I was shocked.

apart from CSOs, are also perceived as NGOs. Most of HRDs belong to CSOs but are devalued however; they too have constitutional and legal rights for association and contribution within society especially in social and human development sectors.

One of the HRDs who have been advocating human rights for two decades opined that, “Journalists are comparatively privileged in terms of mobility; fact is, if restrictions apply to them, they disclose the illegal and corruption within the authority, where most of the authorities have, to some extent, been involved in the illegal works, violated the code of conduct, or were involved in corruption”. A representative and a defender from one of the biggest CSOs in Karnali province proudly argues that “Social sector and CSOs are the first respondent, apart from state, to save people's lives and restore their livelihood and development dynamics in pandemics, disasters or any kind of emergencies.”

The participants of KII shared about hurdles they faced while taking approval or recommendation from the local level to renew their CSOs, either by paying for refreshments or giving a bribe amount. They further added that government officials orally asked a precondition to recruit staff as recommended by them. In a renowned CSO, the Executive Director stated that development partners restrict funds to small CSOs and CBOs in the name of procedures and requirements for application in projects, with the same applying to government agencies. Such small and medium scale CSOs and CBOs are declining due to fund deficiency, contributing to the shrinking space of CSOs and CBOs.

4.7 Open-ended Informal Discussion among Local HRDs in Karnali

A discussion was held in Surkhet among 38 human rights defenders and CSO representatives from eight districts in Karnali. The discussion was based on the two questions:

1. What are the challenges faced by CSOs and HRD?

2. What would be the possible pathways for widening the civic space- the space for HRDs and CSOs?

The representatives of the HRDs and CSOs groups argued they have been facing the following challenges:

- a. CSOs are not fully able to work on specific issues and areas; the development of a model area to present exemplary works before the government and other CSOs to create replications could be done.
- b. Protection of HRDs while protecting and dealing with human rights violation (HRV) cases is an everyday challenge.
- c. Even though most of the CSOs are delivering their services in a timely manner and with quality, the official process and the attempts at co-ordination are time consuming and government officials do not trust the human rights community.
- d. Human rights communities are, to some extent, divided by ideologies and political affiliations.
- e. Most government officials do not realize the democratic and human rights principles and the role of civil society, as envisaged by the Constitution and as guaranteed by law.
- f. While responding to the HRV cases, ultimately, responsibility for protection and justice is mandated to state mechanism and institutions. However, the officials are not eager to respond to the cases under different circumstances.
- g. HRDs across the Karnali Province are facing threats while responding to HRV cases.
- h. Government institutions normally take human rights community as an opposition instead of an entity to collaborate with.
- i. Civilians' participation in the decision-making process is limited merely on paper. The government agencies are unable to motivate the public to undertake contributions on development process – resulting in people's participation in socio-political and economic spheres scaling down.

- j. Difficulties are being created by DAO while registering new CSOs.
- k. Government authorities are facing undue pressure from political actors in the case of HRVs. HRDs are being deprived of protection, reintegration, and legal support, in dealing with HRV cases.
- l. CSOs have not been able to carry out 'Leave No One Behind (LNB)' approach in Karnali.

HRDs and the representatives of CSOs recommended the following way forward to expand the civic space of HRDs and CSOs:

- a. In the absence of an accredited identity, HRDs responding to HRV cases face many barriers to rescue, protect, and provide legal support. They should be provided with official accreditation cards.
- b. Rural and unprivileged people must be provided with human rights education and awareness.
- c. The government should endorse guidelines regarding human rights education to educate its officials and political actors, and make sure all abide by such guidelines.
- d. Human rights community should gain a higher level of trust among the public. They need to create an opinion among people that they are impartial and work for social justice by abiding to ethical values.
- e. There should be a collaborative approach between various government agencies and CSOs to succeed in the areas of intervention. Together they can create synergy, while both would fail in case of isolation.
- f. Volunteerism by HRDs and CSOs for social justice has been declining.
- g. Human rights education should be provided to the younger generation.
- h. Inclusion and LNB approach should be continued as cross cutting issues while promoting initiatives concerning human rights.

SECTION V

Findings

A study of the current state of civic space was conducted in Karnali which assessed the challenges faced by the CSOs and HRDs to function and continue their work for/with the poor and marginalized during the health emergency of the COVID-19 pandemic and its aftermath. Women and people from the Dalit community faced restrictions while dealing with the administration in curbing the pandemic.

Women and people from the Dalit community faced restrictions while dealing with the administration's efforts to control the pandemic. The inclusion of women and Dalit is not effectively prioritized during board formation, staff management, planning, and implementation of programs in CSOs. The major reason is the presence of a patriarchal society and lack of awareness. About 32% respondents claimed that special priorities were provided to women for the services provided by district and local level government agencies during the COVID-19 response, while about 23% were unaware about such services. In exploring the current state of civic space in Karnali, the study has shown that to achieve equality, dignity, and empowerment of women and the Dalit community, the internalization of their issues within the political and social arena is a major challenge. Most people perceive that Dalit and women cannot lead politically and socially, where 17% of respondents agreed on such perception. They stated that Dalit-led or Dalit-focused CSOs face difficulties getting resources from government and development partners (52% partially agreed).

Civil society members expressed that for about 6 months, restrictions were imposed on monitoring of human rights violations in the region. Most of the members of the CSOs shared that they faced hurdles while defending the civil, political, economic, or social rights of the public due to the restrictions imposed in the name of controlling the pandemic.

The study indicates the necessity of understanding, collaboration, and cooperation between government agencies and CSOs by widening the sphere of dialogue to serve the best interests of the public. Hence, if both parties are willing to respect and fulfill the constitutional obligations, CSOs and government agencies should coordinate with innovative ideas and approaches to address the challenges and barriers in defending the civic space in Karnali province. Similarly, government entities undermine the capability of CSOs in times of pandemics, disasters, and emergencies. The health oriented CSOs provided relief by collaborating with local governments to respond to COVID-19. 31% of respondents claimed that district and local level government did not coordinate with CSOs during their emergency response.

According to the HRDs, their regular activities such as mobility and program conduction were restricted to some extent, 28% felt that they conducted their activities without any intervention, whereas others claimed they were affected either totally or to some extent.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, 46% felt that the increase in CSOs' spaces shrinking is due to the lack of resources and budget, mobility access and activity conduction restrictions, administrative hurdles, and tedious governmental provisions and procedures. The smaller CSOs and CBOs are affected most. However, new working modalities such as working using virtual media have been introduced. The work from home modality, attending meetings through video calling, and virtual AGMs were conducted. Likewise, 44% of respondents felt that basic services of the government towards citizens were delayed in the name of the pandemic, with 52% observing it was partly delayed.

SECTION VI

Conclusions and Recommendations

6.1 Conclusions

In contrast to the right to association and movement enshrined in the current Constitution, the activities of the CSOs in Karnali have been restricted over the years. The restrictions that were imposed under the pretext of COVID-19 are continuously rising. Members of CSOs, including women and people from the Dalit community face hassles while dealing with the state administration in the name of restrictions imposed to control the pandemic. Hence, the attitude of government authorities hampers the functioning of the CSOs in Karnali. Restrictions on mobility, activities, and functioning during the pandemic were imposed. Even HRDs were restricted from working on human rights violations.

Though to an extent, almost all CSOs and defenders have indulged in ideological and partisan stances; the government agencies, instead of making hue and cry, need to handle the situation as per the legal framework. As the state machinery must deal with dignity under the legal framework, political actors and parties need to instruct their lawmakers to form comprehensive legislation to address the current demand in this regard. Issues concerning professional practices, integrity, and transparency within the CSOs could also be addressed with such legislation.

There is a perception that women and Dalits cannot effectively handle and operate CSOs. Similarly, respondents believed that women-led and Dalit-led CSOs are not provided with the opportunity to get resources and support from governmental and private agencies.

Even if people are aware that discriminating against Dalit and women and holding attitudes that they cannot lead in political and social aspects, is against the law, such mindset exists. In the province of Karnali, internalization and self-confidence as well as bias from political and social leaders are significant obstacles to the equality, dignity, and empowerment of women and the Dalit population.

6.2 Recommendations

1. As the study highlights the communication gap between the government authorities and members of civil society during the outbreak of COVID-19 and even its aftermath, there should be a series of dialogues among civil society organizations, government agencies, including political actors, and the public to get rid of such misunderstandings.
2. Political actors should pursue policies and narratives for empowering citizens and civic space to ensure their meaningful engagement in public debate and policymaking. CSOs should ensure transparency, eliminate nepotism and favoritism, and be ready to rectify anomalies.
3. The local authorities or the administration in Karnali should recognize that even during a health emergency, normal functioning of CSOs would help people during difficulties. The political actors and government agencies at the federal, provincial, and local levels should accept CSOs as the watchdog or surveyor of the overall socio-political environment. CSOs could raise their effectiveness by enhancing the level of trust among the public.
4. CSOs should continue to serve public interests in the socio-political and economic spheres without compromising their integrity and transparency. Regular coordination meetings should be organized with government agencies at all levels. National-level civil society organizations should collaborate with local-level CSOs to address local concerns. National-level civil societies could cooperate with local-level organizations with thematic guidance. They should support the local CSOs to

enhance their capacity and expertise. The NGO Federation would coordinate and facilitate in this regard. Conducting an awareness initiative in partnership with the media to sensitize concerned agencies and make people aware of the role of civil society would be effective. The CSOs themselves need to prove by working effectively in areas of public need, such as disasters, rescue, and relief operations. The dignitaries of the board and staff should consider social work as their responsibility – it is paramount for social organizations to win trust within community.

5. To uphold the dignity of HRDs, there should be an atmosphere of mutual respect and understanding between government officials and the representatives of CSOs as well as HRDs. It is essential for a wider level of realization for the promotion and protection of human rights among political actors and bureaucrats. It is sine-qua-non to establish the importance of human rights education for government officials, political actors, and the younger generation. Specifically, in the context of Karnali, national as well as provincial level CSOs need to be cautious towards revoking restrictive legislation, which was pulled back after strong disapproval from stakeholders. Likewise, there should be continuous efforts to change the power dynamics in order to create a conducive socio-political and economic atmosphere where disadvantaged and marginal groups including Dalit and women can also have access to resources.
6. The Government of Nepal should develop civil society-friendly policy at the provincial and local levels and create an environment where all the governmental agencies work in partnership to increase the role of civil society organizations, especially by introducing a separate act for CSOs and HRDs by consulting with stakeholders. The government should develop a mechanism to get feedback and hear the opinions and ideas of civil society. The government agencies should work in coordination with all stakeholders accordingly. To ensure the active role as well as the reach and access of CBOs to the resources available, authorities

should regulate the number of proposals that a resourceful and influential national NGO can submit in a year. It is essential to encourage the diversity of CBOs in terms of socio-political, economic and other walks of society. Members of Civil Society and human rights defenders need accredited identities to make their roles effective in difficult circumstances. There should be a mechanism to recognize a civil society member or a HRD to facilitate their mobilization as per the situation and to help flourish their expertise in supporting the survivors of HRV cases.

7. Government agencies should expand access for all to the government resources available to CSOs. Likewise, CSOs should be provided freedom of movement by following necessary protection measures and security standards during a disaster or/and emergency period. International donor agencies and INGOs should increase their support and conduct programs with sustainable benefits by using available resources appropriately.

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ANNEXES

Annex I

- a) The outline of the set of questions for KII, FGD, and of questionnaire survey:
 - i. Formation (Inclusion)
 - ii. Operation (Inclusion, Governance and Accountability)
 - iii. Freedom of assembly and expression
 - iv. Access to resources (Allocation to CSOs, Inclusion and Quality)
 - v. Civil society- Government relations (perception of government officials to CSOs and vice versa, way forward: Inclusion, Governance and Accountability)
 - vi. Registration and Renewal (Adequacy, Unnecessary hurdles and Power relation; Female and Dalit)
 - vii. Program/Service Delivery (Transparency, Relevancy, Time-bound, Local Priority and Accountability)
 - viii. Operating concerns (Female and Dalit Inclusion both in Staff and Board, Transparency, Time-bound, objectives of the organization and projects.
 - ix. Concerns over meeting the needs of the communities
 - x. Way of collaboration with the government
 - xi. Lobby stakeholders and advocacy for pacing space
 - xii. Factors affecting the CS operating environment positive and negative
 - xiii. Improving CS-government relations and collaboration
 - xiv. CSO Governance and (Self-) Regulation: Policy and procedures within the CSOs in line with prevailing Constitution and laws.
- b) Focus Group Discussion 10 people from each district: 2

Dalit females, 1 Dalit male, 2 from government agencies (one female and one Brahmin/Chettri community; may support understanding the hegemony), two representatives from the NGO Federation district chapter, a youth aged between 20-25 and a mother group or Female Health worker.

- c) Key Informant Interview: conducted the following interview with institutional and individual representation for Key Informant Interview (KII) in 5 districts of Karnali Province.
 - i. DAO -1
 - ii. Head Quarter Municipal Mayor/Chairperson or Deputy Mayor/Vice Chairperson-1
 - iii. Teacher/Professor-1
 - iv. NGO Federation Chair or portfolio of the district chapter-1
 - v. INSEC District/Project representative-1
- d) Open-ended informal discussion among local human rights defenders in Karnali
- e) Online Survey among the stakeholders of the CSOs representing with appropriate sample size from each district of Kanrali Province. The sample size of the respondents was 210 randomly selected among the executive members and seniors staff of CSOs and HRDs of the total 101 CBOs in Karnali.

Collected data through the online form with the cooperation of local human resource who were prepared after the orientation sessions.

The quest of the study is thus employed through qualitative and quantitative approach to examine the perception of HRDs and CSOs representatives on (a) What are the challenges faced by CSOs and HRD? and (b) What would be possible pathways for widening space of HRD and CSOs?

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FGD at Dailekh



KII with Mayor of Narayan Municipality, Dailekh



KII with CPN (US) leader at Dailekh



KII with CPN (UML) leader at Dailekh



KII with chair of NGO Federation and Sewak in Dailekh



KII with Chair of Nepali Congress, Dailekh



KII with Everest Club, one of the leading CSOs, Dailekh



KII with Mayor of Birendranagar Municipality, Surkhet



KII with NHRC representative, Surkhet



KII with Mayor of Birendranagar Municipality, Surkhet

Attendance of perception of HRDs

Annex III: Survey Questionnaire

नागरिक संघ संस्थाको कार्यमा कोभिड-१९ ले पारेको संकुचन अवस्था अध्ययन

कर्णाली प्रदेशमा नागरिक संघसंस्थाको कार्यमा कोभिड-१९ ले पारेको संकुचन अवस्था अध्ययन'का सन्दर्भमा टिओ रिसर्च एण्ड डेभलपमेन्ट (टिओआरडी)ले इन्सेकका लागि अध्ययन गर्दैछ। यस अध्ययनमा सन्दर्भमा तपाइको सबै उत्तरहरु तथ्याङ्क ऐन २०१५ अनुसार गोप्य राख्ने र अनुसन्धान प्रायोजनका लागि मात्र प्रयोग गरिनेछ। सर्वेक्षण प्रश्नहरू नेपाली भाषामा उपलब्ध छन्।

सर्वेक्षण फारम भरिसकेपछि मात्र तपाई आफ्नो र संस्थाका बारेमा नाम उल्लेख गर्ने नगर्ने निर्णय गर्नुहोला।

(कृपया अंक लेख्नु पर्ने उत्तरमा अग्रेजीमा लेख्नु हुन अनुरोध छ)

“Shrinking Civil Space in (Karnali Province)” in the context of COVID-19, focusing on the program implementing districts and Karnali Province through the project ADHIKAR II - Addressing the protection issue of HRDs focused on women and Dalit, in Karnali Nepal”

Survey Questionnaire (सर्वेक्षण प्रश्नावली)

1) Basic Info of Respondent: (Please fill after finishing the all questions)

- a. Name: Surname: (Optional)
- b. Name of CSO you associated with: (Optional)
- c. Caste
 - i. Brahamin/Chhetry
 - ii. Dalit
 - iii. Indigenous
 - iv. Other
- d. Gender:
 - i. Male
 - ii. Female
 - iii. Others
- e. District: Province: (Filling option: insert all choices)

Org within: Self Governance - संस्थाभित्रको सुशासन)

2) Number of Dalit and Female in Board and Staffs (Digit- Number cite) (संस्थामा रहेका दलित तथा महिलाको संख्या बारेको जानकारी)

a. Board (तपाइको संस्थाको कार्यसमितिमा रहनु भएको क्षेत्रगत संख्या)

- i. Total Number of Board Member in # संस्थाको कार्यसमितिको जम्मा संख्या ...
- ii. Number of Dalit in Board in #संस्थाको कार्यसमितिमा रहनु भएका दलित समुदायको जम्मा संख्या
- iii. Female in Board in ##संस्थाको कार्यसमितिमा रहनु भएको महिलाको जम्मा संख्या
- iv. Female Dalit in Board in #संस्थाको कार्यसमितिमा रहनु भएको दलित महिलाको जम्मा संख्या

b. Staff (तपाइको संस्थामा कर्मचारीको क्षेत्रगत संख्या)

- i. Total Number of staff in #संस्थामा कर्मचारीको जम्मा संख्या .
- ii. Number of Dalit staff in #संस्थामो दलित समुदायका कर्मचारीको जम्मा संख्या
- iii. Number of Female staff in #संस्थामा महिला कर्मचारीको जम्मा संख्या
- iv. Number of Female Dalit staff in #संस्थामा दलित महिला कर्मचारीको जम्मा संख्या

3) Operation (Inclusion, Governance and Accountability): संस्था संचालन विधि (समावेशिता, सुसाशन र जवाफदेहिता)

a. Does your organization have Inclusion policy? संस्थामा समावेशिता सम्बन्धी नीति छ?

- i. Yes, exclusive policy समावेशिता सम्बन्धी छुट्टै नीति छ
- ii. Included in master policy संस्थाको मुख्य नीतिमा समावेशिताको विषय समावेश गरिएकोछ
- iii. Not at all समावेशिता सम्बन्धी छुट्टै नीति पनि छैन र अन्य नीतिमा उल्लेख पनि भएको छैन
- iv. Did not know मलाई थाहा भएन

b. Do you feel the inclusion policy applies literally?
(Single option: Board and Staffs are requested to answer separately in case of filling up the form by two persons)

तपाइको विचारमा संस्थामा समावेशिता नीति वास्तविक व्यवहारमा कार्यान्वयन भएको छ? (कुनै एकमा मात्र चिन्ह लगाउने)

- i. Assure पूर्ण रुपमा कार्यान्वयन भएको छ
- ii. Good राम्रैसंग कार्यान्वयन भएको छ
- iii. Satisfactory सन्तोष जनक रुपमा कार्यान्वयन भएको छ
- iv. थोरैमात्रै लागू भएको छ
- v. Only in Policy नीति मात्रै सिमित छ
- vi. Did not know मलाई थाहा भएन

c. Does the staff selection committee/composite have been at least following inclusion? (Multiple choice) कर्मचारी भर्नासम्बन्धी समितिमा वा कर्मचारी भर्ना सम्बन्धी निर्णय गर्ने क्रममा निम्न क्षेत्रको सहभागिता हुने गरेको छ ? (एक भन्दा बढीमा चिन्ह लगाउन सकिने)

- i. Female, कर्मचारी भर्ना निर्णय प्रक्रियामा महिलाको सहभागिता
- ii. Dalit कर्मचारी भर्ना निर्णय प्रक्रियामा दलितको सहभागिता
- iii. Dalit Female कर्मचारी भर्ना निर्णय प्रक्रियामा दलित महिलाको सहभागिता
- iv. Did not know मलाई थाहा भएन

4) How does your organization conduct Annual General Assembly during COVID-19 (March 2020 to January 2022)? कोभिड १९ को महामारीको अवधिमा तपाइको संस्थाको साधारण सभा कसरी सम्पन्न भयो (२०७६ चैत्र देखि पुस २०७८ सम्ममा)?

- a. Virtual भर्चुवल रुपमा भयो
- b. Physical भौतिक रुपमा भयो
- c. Semi Virtual and Semi-physical भौतिक र भर्चुवल विधिबाट भयो
- d. Not Happens हुँदै भएन
- e. कागजमा मात्रै गरी रीत पुऱ्याइयो
- f. Did not Know मलाई थाहा भएन

5) Does your organization conduct fiscal audits regularly during COVID-19 (March 2020 to January 2022)? कोभिड-१९ को महामारीको अवधिमा तपाइको संस्थाको वार्षिक लेखा परीक्षणको काम सम्पन्न

हुन सक्यो ? (२०७६ चैत्र देखि पुस २०७८ सम्ममा?)

- i. On time समयमा नै सम्पन्न भयो
- ii. Some delay ढिलो गरि सम्पन्न भयो
- iii. Not happens हुदै भएन
- iv. Do not Know मलाई थाहा भएन

6) Culture of proactive disclosure (Sharing of information) तपाईंको संस्थाबाट सरोकारवालालाई संस्थाको परियोजना वा गतिविधिबारे नियमित रुपमा सुचना जानकारी दिनका लागि के प्रवन्ध गरिएको छ? (एक भन्दा बढीमा चिन्ह लगाउन सकिने)

- i. Regular updated in notice board or website (नियमित रुपमा वेभसाइटमा सुचना अपडेट गरी राखिन्छ)
- ii. Regular publication (आवधिक प्रतिवेदन वा प्रकाशन गर्ने गरिन्छ)
- iii. आवधिक रुपमा सरोकारवालाको बैठक वा भेला वा छलफल आयोजना गरी सूचित गरिन्छ
- iv. Not done त्यसबारे कुनै प्रवन्ध गरिएको छैन
- v. वार्षिक साधारण सभामा मात्र केही सुचित गरिन्छ
- vi. Did not know मलाई थाहा भएन
- vii. अन्य तरिका कृपयाउल्लेख गर्नुहोस् Option...

7) Does your organization conduct yearly public hearing? (Multiple Option) संस्थाले नियमित रुपमा संस्थाको गतिविधि र योजनाबारे सरोकारवालासंग सार्वजनिक सुनुवाइ गर्ने गरेको छ ?)

- i. Conduct organizational public hearing संस्थाको गतिविधि र योजनाबारे सरोकारवालासंग हरेक वर्ष सार्वजनिक सुनुवाइ गर्दछ
- ii. Conduct based on project requirement संस्थाको परियोजनाको आवश्यकताका आधारमा मात्र सार्वजनिक सुनुवाइ गर्दछ
- iii. Did not happen सार्वजनिक सुनुवाइ गर्ने गरेको छैन
- iv. Did not know मलाई थाहा भएन

8) Does your organization submit yearly report to local level during COVID-19? कोभिड-१९ को महामारीको अवधिमा संस्थाले नियमित रुपमा स्थानीय तह र सम्बद्ध निकायमा नियमित वा वार्षिकरुपमा प्रतिवेदनहरु बुझाएको छ ?

- i. Yes बुझाएको छ

- ii. Submitted, but delay due to COVID-19 कोभिड १९ का कारण केहि ढिला गरी बुझाएको थियो
 - iii. Not submitted बुझाएको छैन
 - iv. Do not know मलाई थाहा भएन
- 9) Did your organization introduce special provision of working approach, procurement during the COVID-19? (eg: ceiling of Quotation, working from home, only invited necessary staff, revision of budget) संस्थाले कोभिड १९ को महामारीको अवधिमा संस्थाका गतिविधिहरु संचालन गर्नका लागि कार्य संचालन प्रक्रियामा केही फरक तथा विशेष व्यवस्थाहरु गरेको थियो ? (जस्तै खरिद लगाएतका कोटेशनको सिमामा लचकता, घरबाट कार्य गर्ने ब्यवस्था, निश्चित कर्मचारीमात्र कार्यालय आउने वा पालो पालो गरि आउने, गतिविधि वा परियोजनाको बजेट शिर्षक परिवर्तन र आवश्यकताका आधारमा कार्य परिवर्तन, आदि)
- i. Yes कार्य संचालन प्रक्रिय, प्रबन्ध परिवर्तन गरेको थियो
 - ii. No थिएन
 - iii. Worked according to regular provision नियमित प्रबन्ध जस्तै थियो
 - iv. Did not know मलाई थाहा भएन
- 10) Did your organization orient on special provision of working approach, procurement to Board and Staff? संस्थाले कोभिड १९ को महामारीको अवधिमा संस्थाका गतिविधिहरु संचालन गर्नका लागि कार्य संचालन प्रक्रियामा गरेका केही फरक तथा विशेष व्यवस्थाहरुबारेमा कार्य समिति र कर्मचारीलाई अभिमुखिकरण गरेको थियो ?
- i. Only to Finance Staff लेखा वा वित्त कर्मचारीलाई मात्र अभिमुखिकरण गरेको थियो
 - ii. Only to Board कार्य समितिलाईमात्र अभिमुखिकरण गरेको थियो
 - iii. कार्यक्रम सम्बन्धी समित र सम्बन्धित कर्मचारीलाई मात्र गरेको थियो
 - iv. Only circulated the provision विशेष व्यवस्थाबारेको परिपत्र जारी गरेको थियो
 - v. Conducted orientation (Including virtual) अनलाइनबाट अभिमुखिकरण गरेको थियो

- vi. Provided to all personnel associated with organization
संस्थासंग आवद्ध सबैलाई गरिएको थियो
- vii. Did not do मलाई थाहा भएन

Access to government सरकारसंगको पहुँच

11) Did you follow the health protocol during your mobility at COVID-19? तपाइले आफ्ना गतिविधि संचालन गर्दा कोभिड १९ को स्वास्थ्य मापदण्ड पुरै पालना गर्नु भएको थियो?

- i. Fully applied पुरै पालना गरेको थिएँ
- ii. Normally applied सामान्यतया: पालना गरेको थिएँ
- iii. Rarely कहिलेकाही पालना गरेको थिएँ
- iv. Did not follow पालना गरेको थिइन

12) Did the local or provincial government assure your freedom of expression when CSO and HRD try to opine COVID-19? कोभिडका कारण सरकारसंग आफ्ना कुरा राख्न कतिको ब्यवधान उत्पन्न भयो भएन?

- i. Complete restriction पुरै ब्यवधान भयो र भेटघाट नै रोकियो
- ii. Restriction to some extent केही ब्यवधान उत्पन्न भयो
- ii. Normal सामान्य अवस्था जस्तै सहज थियो

13) Did you get government resources as of regular basis during COVID-19 outbreak? अन्य बेला तपाईंको संस्थाले सरकारबाट प्राप्त गर्ने श्रोतहरु कोभिड १९ को बेलामा पनि नियमित रुपमा प्राप्त गरेको थियो ?

- i. As Regularly नियमित प्राप्त गरेको थियो
- i. Not थिएन
- iii. Rarely केहीमात्र प्राप्त गरेको थियो
- iv. Do not apply for our organiation हाम्रो संस्थालाई यो लागु हुदैन

14) Did you (Citizens) face delay in government basic services by citing COVID-19 outbreak? कोभिडका बहानामा नागरिकलाई सरकारले दिने आधाभुत सेवामा ढिलासुस्ती भएको वा काम नभएको महशुस गर्नु भयो?

- i. Completely felt एकदम महशुस भयो
- ii. Delayed to some extent केही महशुस भयो
- iii. Did not feel much खासै महशुस भएन

15) How did Government agencies deal with CSOs or HRDs during COVID-19 outbreak? सरकारले कोभिडका बेलामा नागरिक संस्था तथा मानवअधिकार रक्षकलाई गर्ने व्यवहार कस्तो अनुभव गर्नु भयो ?

- i. Friendly नागरिक संस्था तथा मानवअधिकार रक्षकमैत्री थियो
- ii. More Administrative धेरै प्रशासनिक थियो
- iii. Behaved hurdle and Hassel प्रशस्त बाधा व्यवधान जनक व्यवहार थियो
- iv. As usual सामान्य बेला जस्तै व्यवहार थियो
- v. Did not know मलाई थाहा भएन

16) Does your organization access to collaboration with government during COVID-19 outbreak? कोभिडको बेला सरकारसंगको समन्वय र सहकार्यका लागि सहज पहुँचको अनुभव गर्नु भयो ?

- i. Could not access सहज पहुँच हुन सकेन
- ii. Limited access कममात्र पहुँच थियो
- iii. Access as normal सामान्य बेला जस्तै पहुँच थियो

17) Who got more privilege among the HRDs for mobility during the COVID-19 Outbreak? कोभिडका बेला तल उल्लेख भएका मध्ये कसको गतिविधिमा विशेष सहजता भएको अनुभव गर्नु भयो ?

- i. Lawyers वकीलहरु
- ii. Journalists पत्रकारहरु
- iii. Teachers शिक्षकहरु
- iv. HRDs/CSOs representative मानव अधिकार रक्षक तथा नागरिक समाजका प्रतिनिधिहरु

Power Dynamics to resources श्रोतसंग शक्ति सम्बन्धका आयाम

18) Political : Do you feel the politically influenced CSOs only get resources of Government and Development Partner के तपाईंलाई राजनैतिक पहुँच भएको संस्थाले मात्र सरकार तथा विकासका साझेदारबाट श्रोतहरु प्राप्त गर्ने गरेको सही होजस्तो लाग्छ?

- i. Absolutely एकदमै सही हो जस्तो लाग्छ
- ii. Partially केही मात्रामा सही हो जस्तो लाग्छ
- iii. Not agreed म यसमा सहमत छैन
- iv. Did not know मलाई थाहा भएन

19) Already resourceful organization (Wealth): Does the well established CSOs only get resources of government and development partner? के तपाईलाई स्थापीत संस्थाले मात्र सरकार तथा विकासका साभेदारबाट श्रोतहरु प्राप्त गर्ने गरेको छ जस्तो लाग्छ ?

- i. Absolutely एकदमै हो जस्तो लाग्छ
- ii. Partially केही मात्रामा हो जस्तो लाग्छ
- iii. Not agreed म यसमा सहमत छैन
- iv. Did not know मलाई थाहा भएन

20) Caste based: Does the Dalit led CSOs faces difficulties to get resources of government and development partner ? के तपाईलाई दलित नेतृत्व भएको वा दलित समुदाय केन्द्रित संस्थाले सरकार तथा विकासका साभेदारबाट श्रोतहरु प्राप्त गर्न कठिन हुने गरेको छ जस्तो लाग्छ?

- i. Absolutely एकदमै हो जस्तो लाग्छ
- ii. Partially केही मात्रामा हो जस्तो लाग्छ
- iii. Not agreed म यसमा सहमत छैन
- iv. Did not know मलाई थाहा भएन

21) Gender based: Does the female led CSOs face difficulties to get resources of government and development partner ? के तपाईलाई महिला नेतृत्व भएको वा महिला केन्द्रित संस्थाले सरकार तथा विकासका साभेदारबाट श्रोतहरु प्राप्त गर्न कठिन हुने गरेको छ जस्तो लाग्छ?

- i. Absolutely एकदमै हो जस्तो लाग्छ
- ii. Partially केही मात्रामा हो जस्तो लाग्छ
- iii. Not agreed म यसमा सहमत छैन
- iv. Did not know मलाई थाहा भएन

Administration Hassel with government सरकारसंगको काममा प्रशासनिक बाधाका आयाम

22) Registration and Renewal संस्थाको दर्ता तथा नविकरण

23) Did you face unnecessary hurdles while renewing your organization during COVID-19? कोभिड १९ को बहानामा संस्था दर्ता तथा नविकरणका बेला सरकारका संयन्त्रबाट अनावश्यक बाधा अड्चन सिर्जना गरिएको महसुस गर्नु भयो ?

- i. Absolutely एकदमै महसुस भयो

- ii. Partially केही मात्रामा महसुस भयो
- iii. Not agreed म यसमा सहमत छैन
- iv. Did not know मलाई थाहा भएन

24) Did you feel any embarrassing attitude being 'Dalit' while renewing your organization at government agencies? (only apply for 1 c ii) सरकारका संयन्त्रसंग कार्य गर्दा दलित समुदायका लागि कार्य गर्ने र दलित समुदायबाट नेतृत्व भएका कारण हतोत्साहित भएको महसुस गर्नु भयो ? (१ सी आइ आइ को लागि मात्र)

- i. Absolutely एकदमै महसुस भयो
- ii. Partially केही मात्रामा महसुस भयो
- iii. Not agreed म यसमा सहमत छैन
- iv. Did not know मलाई थाहा भएन

25) Did you feel any embarrassing attitude being female while conducting works and taking services with government (as renewing) ? (only apply for 1 d ii) सरकारका संयन्त्रसंग कार्य गर्दा वा सेवा लिँदा महिलाका लागि कार्य गर्ने र महिला भएकै कारण हतोत्साहित भएको महसुस गर्नु भयो ? (१ डी आइ आइ को लागि मात्र)

- i. Absolutely एकदमै महसुस भयो
- ii. Partially केही मात्रामा महसुस भयो
- iii. Not agreed अनुभव भएको छैन
- iv. Did not know मलाई थाहा भएन

26) Does SWC easily proceed your programs amendment proposal of based on SWC COVID-19 guideline? कोभिडका बेला समाज कल्याण परिषद्को परियोजना संसोधन गर्ने निर्देशिका अनुसार परियोजना संसोधन गर्न जाँदा सहजै कार्य भएको महसुस गर्नु भयो ?

- i. Easily proceed सहजै कार्य भएको महसुस भयो
- ii. Some hurdles and hassles faced केही बाधा अड्चन महसुस गरे
- iii. SWC did not amend proposal परिषद्ले परियोजना संसोधननै गरिदिएन
- iv. Organization need not to revised project संस्थालाई परियोजना संशोधन गरिरहनु पर्ने आवश्यकता नै परेन
- v. Did not know मलाई थाहा भएन

27) Does SWC restrict you to allocate fixed percentage as hardware support while taking approval of the project? तपाइको संस्थाले समाज कल्याण परिषद्बाट संस्थाको परियोजनाको स्विकृत लिँदा भौतिक पूर्वाधारसम्बन्धी परियोजनामा निश्चित प्रतिशत छुट्टाउन अनिवार्य गरेको महसुस गर्नु भयो ?

- i. Absolutely एकदमै महसुस भयो
- ii. Partially केही मात्रामा महसुस भयो
- iii. Not agreed म यसमा सहमत छैन
- iv. Did not know मलाई थाहा भएन

Freedom and rights to Associate संगठित तथा अभिव्यक्ती स्वतन्त्रता

28) Did your CSO and HRDs conduct necessary meeting/consult with communities by applying safety protocol? कोभिड महामारीको अवस्थामा पनि संस्था र मानव अधिकार रक्षकले कोभिड १९ को स्वास्थ्य मापदण्ड पालना गर्दै समुदायसंग भेटघाट वा परामर्श वा सेवा दिने कार्यहरु सम्पन्न भए ?

- i. Conducted कार्यहरु सम्पन्न भए
- ii. आंशिक रुपमा कार्यहरु सम्पन्न भए
- iii. Rarely conducted केही थोरै कार्यहरु मात्र सम्पन्न भए
- iv. Paused कार्यहरु रोकिए
- v. Did not know मलाई थाहा भएन

29) Did district or local level emergency response body invite your organization during COVID-19 जिल्ला तथा स्थानीय स्तरको कोभिड १९ को प्रतिकार्य संयन्त्रमा तपाइको संस्थालाई आमन्त्रण गरिएको थियो ?

- i. Not invited आमन्त्रण गरिएन
- ii. Rarely कहिले काँही मात्र आमन्त्रण गर्ने गरिएको थियो
- iii. As Regularly नियमित आमन्त्रण गरिएको थियो

30) Did you and your organization demand and recommend to address HRV cases as normal situation? कोभिड महामारीको अवधिमा तपाईं वा तपाईंको संस्थाले मानव अधिकार उलङ्घन र हननका घटनामा सम्बन्धित निकायमा सिफारिस गर्न सामान्य अवस्थामा जस्तै सहजता थियो ?

- i. Yes (Easy Access) सामान्य अवस्था जस्तै सहज थियो
- ii. Faced hurdle and hassel बाधा अड्चन अनुभव भयो

- iii. Could not access पहुँच नै थिएन
- iv. Did not Know मलाई थाहा भएन

31) Did the COVID-1 response district mechanism prioritize/special services for women? जिल्ला तथा स्थानीय स्तरको कोभिड १९ को प्रतिकार्य संयन्त्रबाट हुने सेवामा महिलालाई विशेष प्राथमिक दिने गरिएको थियो?

- i. Yes विशेष प्राथमिकता दिने गरिएको थियो
- ii. Nos विशेष प्राथमिकता दिने गरिएको थिएन
- iii. Did not know मलाई थाहा भएन

32) Did the COVID-19 response district mechanism prioritize/special services for Dalit? जिल्ला तथा स्थानीय स्तरको कोभिड १९ को प्रतिकार्य संयन्त्रबाट हुने सेवामा दलितलाई विशेष प्राथमिकीकरण गरिएको थियो?

- i. Yes विशेष प्राथमिकीकरण गरिएको थियो
- ii. No विशेष प्राथमिकीकरण गरिएको थिएन
- iii. Did not know मलाई थाहा भएन

Mobility and Resource

33) Did you feel easy mobility to defend HRV cases during COVID-19 ? तपाईं तथा संस्थाका मानवअधिकार रक्षकलाई कोभिड १९ को समयमा मानव अधिकार उलङ्घन र हननका घटनाको प्रतिरक्षा गर्दा हिँडडुल गर्न वा आवतजावत गर्न सहजता थियो ?

- i. Yes (Easy Access) सामान्य अवस्था जस्तै सहज थियो
- ii. Faced hurdle and hassel बाधा अड्चन अनुभव भयो
- iii. No movement was allowed हिँडडुल वा आवतजावत, गतिशिल हुनै दिइएन
- iv. Did not know मलाई थाहा भएन

34) Did the fund reduce/degrade by development partner and government to your organization during COVID-19 period ? कोभिड १९ को समयमा तपाइको संस्थाले सरकार तथा विकासका साभेदारबाट प्राप्त गर्दै गरेको सहयोग वा श्रोतहरु घट्यो ?

- i. Yes सहयोग वा श्रोतहरू घट्यो
- ii. Rarely सहयोग वा श्रोतहरू केहीमात्रामा घट्यो
- iii. Did not feel घटेको जस्तो लागेन
- iv. Increased श्रोत बढेको थियो
- v. Did not know मलाई थाहा भएन

35) Did your organization receive additional support a resources from government and development partners during COVID-19 ? कोभिड १९ को समयमा तपाइको संस्थाले सरकार तथा विकासका साझेदारबाट थप अतिरिक्त सहयोग वा श्रोतहरू प्राप्त गर्‍यो ?

- i. Yes थप अतिरिक्त सहयोग वा श्रोतहरू प्राप्त गर्‍यो
- ii. No थप अतिरिक्त सहयोग वा श्रोतहरू प्राप्त गरेन
- iii. Did not know मलाई थाहा भएन

36) How long your mobility to work at office and defending HRV cases were dosturb ? कोभिड १९ को प्रभावले मानव अधिकार रक्षाका कार्यहरू र कार्यालयको काम तथा हिँडडुल वा गतिशिलतामा अनुमानित कति हप्ता असर गर्‍यो ?

- i. Did not disturb कुनै असर गरेन
- ii. Less than 10 weeks पाँच हप्ता भन्दा कम असर भयो होला
- iii. 2 to 5 months 10 weeks पाँच देखि दश हप्ता असर भयो होला
- iv. More than 10 months दश हप्ता भन्दा बढि असर भयो होला
- v. Did not know मलाई थाहा भएन

37) What kind of measure were introduced by government to listen public voice and concerns on human rights, apart from public or mass demonstration, during the COVID-19 ? सार्वजनिक भेला वा प्रदर्शन संभव नभएका बेला सरकारले मानव अधिकार सम्बन्धी नागरिकका कुरा सुन्न कस्तो विधि अपनाएको थियो ?

- i. Did not apply any measures कुनै विधिको प्रबन्ध गरेन
- ii. Only Health and Population Ministry conducted COVID-19 response hotline स्वास्थ्य तथा जनसंख्या मन्त्रालयले कोभिड १९ प्रतिकार्य हटलाइन मात्र संचालन गरेको थियो
- iii. It was not necessary यस्तो प्रबन्ध गर्न आवश्यक नै थिएन
- iv. Did not know मलाई थाहा भएन

38) Did you feel shrinking of CSOs' space and area because of COVID-19? तपाईंलाई कोभिडको कारण नागरिक संगठनहरूको काम गर्ने क्षेत्र, यसको भूमिका सांघुरीएको जस्तो लाग्छ?

- i. Due to lack of resources श्रोतको अभावले,
- ii. Due to restriction in mobility हिँडडुल भेला आदी गर्न नपाएर,
- iii. Administrative hurdles and disruption प्रशासनिक भन्कट वा व्यवधान धेरै भएर,
- iv. Due to lack of human resources काम गर्ने जनशक्तिको अभाव भएर,
- v. Due to irrelevancy of project परियोजनाको सान्दर्भिकता नरहेर
- vi. Did not Know मलाई थाहा भएन

Annex IV: FGD Question

FGD and KII (as attached in another file) by Trio Research and Development (TrioRD) to study for Informal Sector Service Centre (INSEC) "Shrinking Civil Space in (Karnali Province)" in the context of COVID-19, focusing on the program implementing districts and Karnali Province through the project ADHIKAR II - Addressing the protection issue of HRDs focused on women and Dalits, in Karnali Nepal"

a) Focus Group Discussion

- a. In-person Discussion in at least 2 districts of Karnali Province: Surkhet and Dailekh, 10 people from each district. The composition would be:
 - i. 2 Dalit activists: 1 female, 1 Dalit male,
 - ii. 2 from Social Development Office and local level government agencies (one female and one Brahmin/Chetri community
 - iii. 2 CSOs representatives: Lawyer background CSO and Journalists;

- iv. 2 representatives from NGO Federation district chapter, a youth aged between 20-25 and one from Dalit Community
- v. 1 Female Health worker.
- vi. 1 University Professor/Lecturer 1-2, or Secondary level Teacher on Dailekh if not from CAmplus
- vii. 1 Human Rights Defender

विषय		उत्तर नोट
संस्था भित्रको सुशासना समावेशिता र जवाफदेहिता	तपाइको संस्थामा रहनु भएको दलित तथा महिलाको सहभागिता कस्तो छ ? अर्थपूर्ण छ ? छ भने निर्णयमा प्रभाव पार्ने हैसियतमा छ या कार्यक्रम संचालन गर्ने तहमा मात्रै ?	
	समावेशिताका नीति बनाएको छ ? तपाइको विचारमा संस्थामा समावेशिता नीति वास्तविक व्यवहारमा कार्यान्वयन भएको छ?	
	कर्मचारी भर्ना गर्दा गरिने निर्णय प्रक्रियामा महिला तथा दलित क्षेत्रको सहभागिता कसरी हुन्छ ? (भर्ना समितिमा प्रतिनिधित्व हुने गरेको छ?)	
	संस्थाको साधारण सभा, लेखा परीक्षण कोभिड १९ का बेला कसरी भयो (२०७६ चैत्र देखि पुस २०७८ सम्ममा) कसरी गर्नु भयो (वार्षिक लेखा परीक्षणमा कोभिड १९ ले गर्दा के कस्तो बाधा भयो)	
	सरोकारवालालाई संस्थाको परियोजना वा गतिविधि बारे नियमित रुपमा सुचना दिनका लागि के के प्रबन्ध गरिएको छ?	
	संस्थाले नियमित रुपमा संस्थाको गतिविधि र योजनाबारे सरोकारवालसंग सार्वजनिक सुनुवाइ गर्दछ ? स्थानीय तह र सम्बद्ध निकायमा नियमित वा वार्षिक रुपमा प्रतिवेदनहरु बुझाउन के कस्ता समस्या भयो?	
	कोभिड १९ का कारण सो अवधिमा कार्य संचालनका (खरिद लगायतका) विषयमा के कस्ता थप वा नयाँ व्यवस्था गरेको थियो ? (जरतै कोटेशनको सिमामा लचकता, घरबाट कार्य गर्ने व्यवस्था, निश्चित कर्मचारीमात्र कार्यालय आउने वा पालो पालो गरि आउने, गतिविधि वा परियोजनाको बजेट र आवश्यकताका आधारमा कार्य परिवर्तन त्यस्तो के के भए? (कार्य परिवर्तनबारे कार्य समिति र कर्मचारीलाई कसरी जानकारी दिइयो?)	

सरकारसंगको पहुँच	कोभिडका कारण सरकारसंग आफ्ना कुरा राख्न कतिको व्यवधान उत्पन्न भयो वा भएन? (कोभिड १९ को स्वास्थ्य मापदण्ड पुरै पालना गर्नु भयो?) अन्य बेला तपाईंको संस्थाले सरकारबाट प्राप्त गर्ने श्रोतहरू कोभिड १९ को बेलामा पनि नियमित प्राप्त गरेको थियो?	
	कोभिड १९ को बहानामा नागरिकलाई सरकारले दिने सेवा प्राप्त गर्ने बेलामा आधाभुत सेवा ढिला वा काम नभएको महशुस गर्नु भयो? सरकारसंग आफ्ना कुरा राख्न के कस्ता व्यवधान भोग्नुभयो ?	
	सरकारले कोभिडका बेलामा नागरिक संस्था तथा मानवअधिकार रक्षकलाई गर्ने व्यवहार फरक थियो? समन्वय र सहकार्यका कस्तो थियो ?	
	कोभिडका बेला तल मध्येका कसको गतिविधिमा विपेश सहजता भएको अनुभव गर्नु भयो ? वकीलहरू, पत्रकारहरू, शिक्षकहरू, मानव अधिकार रक्षक तथा नागरिकसमाजका प्रतिनिधिहरूमा कसको गतिविधिमा विपेश सहजता थियो र किन होला?	
श्रोतसंग शक्ति सम्बन्धका आयाम	राजनैतिक पहुँच भएको संस्था, पहिल्यै सम्पन्न र स्थापीत संस्था, दलित नेतृत्व भएको वा दलित समुदाय केन्द्रित संस्था र महिला नेतृत्व भएको वा महिला केन्द्रित संस्थाहरूले सरकार तथा विकासका साभेदारबाट श्रोतहरू प्राप्त गर्दा केही भिन्नता वा विभेद हुने गरेको जस्तो लाग्छ ? त्यस्तो केही भएका थिए वा भै रहेका छन् ?	
सरकारसंगको काममा प्रशासनिक वाधाका आयाम	कोभिडका बेला समाज कल्याण परिषद्को परियोजना संसोधन गर्ने निर्देशिका अनुसार परियोजना संसोधन गरेको अनुभव छ ? (छ भने सहजै कार्य भएको थियो या फरक अनुभव छ)	
	परियोजनाको समाज कल्याण परिषद्बाट स्वकृति लिदाँ भौतिक पूर्वाधारमा परियोजनाको निश्चित प्रतिशत छुट्टाउने भन्ने विषयमा यहाँहरू कस्तो सुझाव दिनुहुन्छ?	
	सरकारका संयन्त्रसंग सेवा लिदा वा मानव अधिकार रक्षाको कार्य गर्दा दलित या महिला भएकै कारण विभेद हुने गरेको महशुस गर्नु भएको छ ? छ भने मुख्य विभेद के के महशुस गर्नु भएको छ ?	

संगठित तथा अभिव्यक्ती स्वतन्त्रता र गतिशिलता	नागरिक संस्था र मानव अधिकार रक्षकले कोभिड १९ को स्वास्थ्य मापदण्ड पालना गर्ने समुदायसंग भेट वा परामर्श वा सेवा दिने कार्यहरुमा के कस्ता व्यवधान आए? कोभिड १९ को समयमा मानव अधिकार उलङ्घन र हननका घटनामा सम्बन्धित निकायमा सिफारिस गर्न सहज थियो?	
	कोभिड १९ को प्रतिकार्यका लागि जिल्ला तथा स्थानीय संयन्त्रको अभ्यास थियो र हाल कायम छ? त्यस्ता संयन्त्रमा नागरिक संस्था र मानव अधिकार रक्षकलाई आमन्त्रण गरियो? त्यस्ता संयन्त्रमा महिला र दलित समुदायको सहभागिता कस्तो थियो ? यस्ता संयन्त्रबाट हुने सेवामा महिला र दलितलाई विशेष प्राथमिकता दिइएको कुनै उदाहरणहरु छन् ?	
	कोभिड १९ को प्रभावले मानव अधिकार रक्षाका कार्यहरु र कार्यालयको हिडडुल वा गतिशिलतामा अनुमानित कति हप्ता, महिना धेरै असर गयो ? कार्यालयनै बन्द पनि भयो की?	
	कोभिड १९ को बेला सार्वजनिक भेला वा प्रदर्शन सम्भव नभएका बेला सरकारले मानव अधिकार सम्बन्धी नागरिकका कुरा कसरी सुनेको थियो? सार्वजनिक भेला वा प्रदर्शन सम्भव नभएका बेला कोभिड १९ जस्ता इमरजेन्सीमा सरकारले मानव अधिकार सम्बन्धी नागरिकका कुरा सुन्न कस्तो विधि अपनाउनु पर्ला? के तपाईंलाई कोभिडको कारण नागरिक संगठनहरुको काम गर्ने क्षेत्र, यसको भूमिका सांग्रुणीएको जस्तो लाग्छ? यदी लाग्छ भने कसरी (जस्तै श्रोतको अभावले, हिडडुल भेला आदी गर्न नपाएर, प्रशासनिक भन्फट वा व्यवधान धेरै भएर, काम गर्ने जनशक्तिको अभाव भएर, परियोजनाको सान्दर्भिकता नरहेर, अन्य)	

- छलफल शुरु हुनु भन्दा अगाडि संवाद रेकर्डका लागि अनुमति माग्ने र यो रेकर्ड यो रिपोर्ट बाहेक अन्यत्र प्रयोग नगरिने र तथ्याड ऐन २०१९ अनुसार गोप्य रहने छ ।
- टिओआरडी प्रतिनिधि वा इन्सेक प्रतिनिधिले रेकर्ड गर्ने छ ।
- माथिका प्रश्नहरु रिसर्चरले कहिँ छुटाउनु भएमा मात्र इन्सेक प्रतिनिधिले प्रतिनिधिले प्रश्न गर्नु हुनेछ ।
- सबैले सबै प्रश्नको उत्तर दिनै पर्छ भन्ने छैन । सम्बन्धित महानुभावहरुले उत्तर दिन आग्रह गर्दछौं ।
- इन्सेकले सम्बन्धित जिल्लाका केन्द्रित समुह छलफलको तोकिएको प्रतिनिधि मात्र बोलाउने ।
- केन्द्रित समुह छलफल कुनै कार्यालय वा होटलमा गर्न सकिने । होटलमा गर्दा रु २०० बराबरको भ्याट सहित खाजाको प्रबन्ध गर्न सकिन्छ ।
- केन्द्रित समुह छलफल सहभागिलाई कर सहित यातायात वापत रु ३०० मा कर कटाइ दिइनेछ ।

- हाजिरी अनिवार्य हुनेछ अन्यथा यातायात बापतको रकम दिइनेछैन ।
- ट्रिओआरडी प्रतिनिधि वा इन्सेक प्रतिनिधिले छलफलको दृश्य (फोटो) अनुमति ले खिच्ने छन ।
- केन्द्रित समूह छलफल' दुई घण्टा भित्र सक्नुपर्ने छ ।
- कुनै सहभागिले उत्तर दिन नचाहेमा पुन प्रश्न नगर्ने ।
- सम्बन्धित जिल्लाका इन्सेक प्रतिनिधिलाई प्रति जिल्ला रु ५०० को संचार खर्च ट्रिओआरडीले व्यहोर्ने छ ।
- एक जना मानव अधिकार रक्षक दलित महिला २५ देखि ३५ वर्ष सम्मको प्रत्येक जिल्लामा महिला सहजकर्ताको रुपमा सिफारिस गर्न इन्सेकलाई ट्रिओआरडी आग्रह गर्दछ KII / FGD का लागि । ट्रिओआरडीले प्रति जिल्ला रु ३००० हजार कर सहित फिल्ड प्लानमा भएअनुसार KII / FGD सहयोगीका रुपमा कार्य गर्नका लागि । उहाँको CV र प्यान नम्बर अनिवार्य हुनु पर्दछ ।

4.2 KII Question

“Shrinking Civil Space in (Karnali Province)” in the context of COVID-19, focusing on the program implementing districts and Karnali province through the project ADHIKAR II - Addressing the protection issue of HRDs focused on women and Dalits, in Karnali Nepal”

1. Key Informant Interview:

- a. District Administration Officer -1 (Surkhet and Dailekh)
- b. Head Quarter Municipal Mayor/Chairperson or Deputy Mayor/Vice Chairperson-1/1 (Surkhet and Dailekh)
- c. Teacher (at least plus two level teaching at Dailekh/Professor-1 at Surkhet)
- d. 3 Political Parties: District Chairperson or In charge or Secretary of CPN UML, Nepali Congress and CPN (Maoist)-3 representative 1 (Surkhet and Dailekh)
- e. NGO Federation District Chair- 1 (Surkhet and Dailekh)
- f. National Human Rights Commission-Karnali Province Office-Head-1

2. District Administration Office जिल्ला प्रशासन कार्यालयका लागि

विषय	उत्तर नोट
कोभिड १९ का बेला संस्था नविकरण गर्दा के कस्तो विधि र सहजिकरण गरेको थियो जिल्ला प्रशासन कार्यालयले ?	
कोभिड १९को बेला सार्वजनिक भेला वा प्रदर्शन सम्भव नभएका बेला सरकारले मानव अधिकार सम्बन्धी मानव अधिकार रक्षक र नागरिकका कुरा कसरी सुन्ने गरेको थियो ? कुनै विशेष प्रबन्ध थियो? भविष्यमा कस्तो प्रबन्ध गर्नु पर्ला?	
नागरिकलाई सरकारले दिने आधाभुत सेवा नरोकिन के कस्ता विधि अपनाइएको थियो ? जिल्ला स्थित अन्य कार्यालयले पनि ?	
सरकारले कोभिडका बेलामा नागरिक संस्था तथा मानवअधिकार रक्षकलाई गर्ने व्यवहार पत्रकार वा बकिल भन्दा फरक गरेको भन्ने नागरिक गुनासो किन आयो होला ?	
सरकारका संयन्त्रसंग सेवा लिदा वा मानव अधिकार रक्षको कार्य गर्दा दलित या महिला भएकै कारण हुने मुख्य विभेद के के महशुस गर्नु भएको छ ?	
नागरिक संस्था र मानव अधिकार रक्षकले कोभिड १९ को स्वास्थ्य मापदण्ड पालना गर्दै समुदायसंग भेट वा परामर्श वा सेवा दिने कार्यहरुमा जिल्ला प्रशासन कार्यालयले कसरी सहजीकरण गरेको थियो? मानव अधिकार उलङ्घन र हननका घटनामा सम्बन्धित निकायमा सिफारिस गर्न असहज थियो भन्नुहुन्छ नी मानव अधिकार रक्षकहरु?	
कोभिड १९ को प्रतिकार्य जिल्ला तथा स्थानीय संयन्त्र अभ्यास थियो र छ? त्यस्ता संयन्त्र मा नागरिक संस्था र मानव अधिकार रक्षकललाई आमन्त्रण गरियो? (महिला र दलितको सहभागिता कसरी गरियो?)	

3. Head Quarter Municipal Mayor/Chairperson or Deputy Mayor/Vice Chairperson:स्थानीय तहका प्रमुख /अध्यक्ष वा उपप्रमुख /उपाध्यक्ष सदरमुकामको स्थानीय तह: सुर्खेत र दैलेख

विषय	उत्तर नोट
संस्थामा दलित तथा महिलाको सहभागिता कस्तो छ ? अर्थपूर्ण छ ?समावेशिताका नीति बनाएको छ?	
संस्थाले नियमित रुपमा संस्थाको गतिविधि र योजनाबारे सरोकारवालासंग सार्वजनिक सुनुवाइ गर्दछन् स्थानीय तहमा वार्षिकरुपमा प्रतिवेदनहरु बुझाउनु गरेका छन्?	

नागरिकलाई स्थानीय सरकारले दिने आधाभुत सेवा नरोकिन के कस्ता विधि अपनाइएको थियो ?	
सरकारले कोभिडका बेलामा नागरिक संस्था तथा मानवअधिकार ..रक्षकलाई गर्ने व्यवहार पत्रकार वा वकिल भन्दा फरक गरेको भन्ने नागरिक गुनासो किन आयो होला ?	
सरकारले कोभिडका बेलामा नागरिक संस्था तथा मानवअधिकार रक्षकलाई गर्ने व्यवहार पत्रकार वा वकिल भन्दा फरक गरेको भन्ने नागरिक गुनासो किन आयो होला ?	
नागरिक संस्था र मानव अधिकार रक्षकले कोभिड १९ को स्वास्थ्य मापदण्ड पालना गर्दै समुदायसंग भेट वा परामर्श वा सेवा दिने कार्यहरुमा स्थानीय सरकारले कसरी सहजीकरण गरेको थियो? मानव अधिकार उलङ्घन र हननका घटनामा सम्बन्धित निकायमा सिफारिस गर्न असहज थियो भन्नुहुन्छ, नी मानव अधिकार रक्षकहरु?	
कोभिडका बेला तल मध्येका कसको गतिविधिमा विशेष सहजता भएको अनुभव गर्नु भयो ? वकीलहरु पत्रकारहरु शिक्षकहरु, मानव अधिकार रक्षक तथा नागरिकसमाजका प्रतिनिधिहरुमा कसको गतिविधिमा विशेष सहजता थियो र किन होला?	
राजनैतिक पहुच भएको संस्था, पहिल्यै सम्पन्न संस्था, दलित नेतृत्व भएको वा दलित समुदाय केन्द्रित संस्थ र महिला नेतृत्व भएको वा महिला केन्द्रित संस्थाहले सरकार तथा विकासका साभेदारबाट श्रोतहरु प्राप्त गर्दा केही भिन्नता वा विभेद त्यस्तो केही भएका थिए वा छन ? यस विषयलाई कसरी हेर्नुहुन्छ ?	
कोभिड १९ को प्रतिकार्य जिल्ला तथा स्थानीय संयन्त्र अभ्यास थियो र छु? त्यस्ता संयन्त्र मा नागरिक संस्था र मानव अधिकार रक्षकललाई आमन्त्रण गरियो? (महिला र दलितको सहभागिता कसरी गरियो?)	
कोभिड १९ को प्रतिकार्य जिल्ला तथा स्थानीय संयन्त्र अभ्यास थियो र छु? त्यस्ता संयन्त्र मा नागरिक संस्था र मानव अधिकार रक्षकललाई आमन्त्रण गरियो? त्यस्ता संयन्त्रमा महिला र दलित समुदायको सहभागिता कस्तो थियो ?यस्ता संयन्त्रबाट हुने सेवामा महिला र दलितलाई विशेष प्राथमिकीकरण गरिएको कुनै उदाहरणहरु छन ?	

4. Teacher (at least plus two level teaching at Dailekh/Professor-1 at Surkhet

विषय	उत्तर नोट
संस्थामा दलित तथा महिलाको सहभागिता कस्तो छ ? अर्थपूर्ण छ ? समावेशिताका नीति बनाएको छ?	
नगरिक संस्थाहरुले मासरोकारवालालाई संस्थाको परियोजना वा गतिविधि बारे नियमित रुपमा सुचना दिन्छन? सार्वजनिक सुनुवाइ गर्दछन?	

<p>नागरिक संस्था र मानव अधिकार रक्षकले कोभिड १९ को स्वास्थ्य मापदण्ड पालना गर्दै समुदायसंग भेट वा परामर्श वा सेवा दिने कार्यहरूमा सरकार र सरकारका सयन्त्रले कसरी सहजीकरण गरेको थियो?</p> <p>मानव अधिकार उलङ्घन र हननका घटनामा सम्बन्धित निकायमा सिफारिस गर्न असहज थियो भन्नुहुन्छ नी मानव अधिकार रक्षकहरु?</p>	
<p>राजनैतिक पहुच भएको संस्था, पहिल्यै सम्पन्न संस्था, दलित नेतृत्व भएको वा दलित समुदाय केन्द्रित संस्थ र महिला नेतृत्व भएको वा महिला केन्द्रित संस्थाहले सरकार तथा विकासका साभेदारबाट श्रोतहरु प्राप्त गर्दा केही भिन्नता वा विभेद त्यस्तो केही भएका थिए वा छन ? यस विषयलाई कसरी हेर्नुहुन्छ ?</p>	
<p>कोभिडका बेला तल मध्येका कसको गतिविधिमा विषेश सहजता भएको अनुभव गर्नु भयो ? वकीलहरु पत्रकारहरु शिक्षकहरु, मानव अधिकार रक्षक तथा नागरिकसमाजका प्रतिनिधिहरुमा कसको गतिविधिमा विषेश सहजता थियो र किन होला?</p>	
<p>नागरिक र नागरिक संस्थाले कोभिड १९ जस्तै महामारी वा विपद्का बेला सरकारहरूसंग आधारभुत सेवा लिन वा गुनासो गर्न के कस्तो प्रबन्ध वा कार्य गर्नु पर्ला ? सरकारसंग आफ्ना कुरा राख्न के कस्ता व्यवधान भोग्नुभयो</p>	
<p>कोभिड १९ को प्रतिकार्य जिल्ला तथा स्थानीय संयन्त्र अभ्यास थियो र छु? त्यस्ता संयन्त्र मा नागरिक संस्था र मानव अधिकार रक्षकललाई आमन्त्रण गरियो? त्यस्ता संयन्त्रमा महिला र दलित समुदायको सहभागिता कस्तो थियो ?यस्ता संयन्त्रबाट हुने सेवामा महिला र दलितलाई विशेष प्राथमिकीकरण गरिएको कुनै उदाहरणहरु छन ?</p>	
<p>कोभिड १९को बेला सार्वजनिक भेला वा प्रदर्शन सम्भव नभएका बेला सरकारले मानव अधिकार सम्बन्धी नागरिकका कुरा कसरी सुनेको थियो?</p> <p>सार्वजनिक भेला वा प्रदर्शन सम्भव नभएका बेला कोभिड १९ जस्ता इमरजेन्सीमा सरकारले मानव अधिकार सम्बन्धी नागरिकका कुरा सुन्न कस्तो विधि अपनाउनु पर्ला?</p>	

5. 3 Political Parties: District Chairperson or In charge or Secretary of CPN UML, Nepali Congress and CPN (Maoist)-3 representative 1 (Surkhet and Dailekh)

6. NGO Federation District Chair- 1 (Surkhet and Dailekh)

a. नागरिक संघ संस्थालाई FGD मा प्रयोग गरिएको प्रश्नहरू ?

विषय	उत्तर नोट
राजनैतिक परिवर्तन र संघीय लोकतान्त्रिक गणतन्त्र ल्याउने जस्ता महत्वपूर्ण बेला दल पछि पहिलो भूमिका खेल्ने नागरिक संस्था र मानव अधिकार रक्षकहरूलाई तिनै दलका सरकारले विभेदपूर्ण व्यवहार गर्छन भन्ने गुनासोमा के भन्नुहुन्छ ? नागरिक संस्था र मानव अधिकार रक्षकहरूलाई आफ्नो कार्य र गतिविधि गर्न संकुचन भए जस्तो लाग्छ यहाँलाई ?	
यस जिल्लाका संघ संस्थामा दलित तथा महिलाको सहभागिता कस्तो छ ? अर्थपूर्ण छ ? समावेशिताका नीति बनाएको छ ?	
नागरिक संस्थाहरूले मासरोकारवालालाई संस्थाको परियोजना वा गतिविधि बारे नियमित रुपमा सुचना दिन्छन ? सार्वजनिक सुनुवाइ गर्दछन ?	
नागरिक संस्था र मानव अधिकार रक्षकले कोभिड १९ को स्वास्थ्य मापदण्ड पालना गर्दै समुदायसंग भेट वा परामर्श वा सेवा दिने कार्यहरूमा सरकार र सरकारका सयन्त्रले कसरी सहजीकरण गरेको थियो ? मानव अधिकार उलङ्घन र हननका घटनामा सम्बन्धित निकायमा सिफारिस गर्न असहज थियो भन्नुहुन्छ, नी मानव अधिकार रक्षकहरू ?	
राजनैतिक पहुच भएको संस्था, पहिल्यै सम्पन्न संस्था, दलित नेतृत्व भएको वा दलित समुदाय केन्द्रित संस्थ र महिला नेतृत्व भएको वा महिला केन्द्रित संस्थाहले सरकार तथा विकासका साभेदारबाट श्रोतहरू प्राप्त गर्दा केही भिन्नता वा विभेद त्यस्तो केही भएका थिए वा छन ? यस विषयलाई कसरी हेर्नुहुन्छ ?	
कोभिडका बेला तल मध्येका कसको गतिविधिमा विपेश सहजता भएको अनुभव गर्नु भयो ? वकीलहरू पत्रकारहरू शिक्षकहरू, मानव अधिकार रक्षक तथा नागरिकसमाजका प्रतिनिधिहरूमा कसको गतिविधिमा विपेश सहजता थियो र किन होला ?	
नागरिक र नागरिक संस्थाले कोभिड १९ जस्तै महामारी वा विपद्का बेला सरकारहरूसंग आधारभुत सेवा लिन वा गुनासो गर्न के कस्तो प्रबन्ध वा कार्य गर्नु पर्ला ? सरकारसंग आफ्ना कुरा राख्न के कस्ता व्यवधान भोग्नुभयो	
कोभिड १९ को प्रतिकार्य जिल्ला तथा स्थानीय संयन्त्र अभ्यास थियो र छ ? त्यस्ता संयन्त्र मा नागरिक संस्था र मानव अधिकार रक्षकललाई आमन्त्रण गरियो ? त्यस्ता संयन्त्रमा महिला र दलित समुदायको सहभागिता कस्तो थियो ? यस्ता संयन्त्रबाट हुने सेवामा महिला र दलितलाई विशेष प्राथमिकीकरण गरिएको कुनै उदाहरणहरू छन ?	

कोभिड १९ को बेला सार्वजनिक भेला वा प्रदर्शन सम्भव नभएका बेला सरकारले मानव अधिकार सम्बन्धी नागरिकका कुरा कसरी सुनेको थियो? सार्वजनिक भेला वा प्रदर्शन सम्भव नभएका बेला कोभिड १९ जस्ता इमरजेन्सीमा सरकारले मानव अधिकार सम्बन्धी नागरिकका कुरा सुन्न कस्तो विधि अपनाउनु पर्ला?	
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7. National Human Rights Commission-Karnali Province Office-Head

विषय	उत्तर नोट
राष्ट्रिय मानव अधिकार आयोग बढि प्रसासनिक मात्र भयो भन्ने मानव अधिकार रक्षकहरु र नागरिक समाजको गुनासोमा के भन्नुहुन्छ ? नागरिक संस्था र मानव अधिकार रक्षकहरुलाई आफ्नो कार्य र गतिविधि गर्न संकुचन भए जस्तो लाग्छ, यहाँलाई ?	
यस प्रदेशका संघ संस्थामा दलित तथा महिलाको सहभागिता कस्तो छ ? अर्थपूर्ण छ ? समावेशिताका नीति बनाएको छ?	
नागरिक संस्थाहरुले सरोकारवालालाई संस्थाको परियोजना वा गतिविधि बारे नियमित रुपमा सूचना दिन्छन्? सार्वजनिक सुनुवाइ गर्दछन्?	
नागरिक संस्था र मानव अधिकार रक्षकले कोभिड १९ को स्वास्थ्य मापदण्ड पालना गर्दै समुदायसंग भेट वा परामर्श वा सेवा दिने कार्यहरुमासरकार र सरकारका सयन्त्रले कसरी सहजीकरण गरेको थियो? मानव अधिकार उलङ्घन र हननका घटनामा सम्बन्धित निकायमा सिफारिस गर्न असहज थियो भन्नुहुन्छ नी मानव अधिकार रक्षकहरु?	
राजनैतिक पहुच भएको संस्था, पहिल्यै सम्पन्न संस्था, दलित नेतृत्व भएको वा दलित समुदाय केन्द्रित संस्थ र महिला नेतृत्व भएको वा महिला केन्द्रित संस्थाहले सरकार तथा विकासका साभेदारबाट श्रोतहरु प्राप्त गर्दा केही भिन्नता वा विभेद त्यस्तो केही भएका थिए वा छन ? यस विषयलाई कसरी हेर्नुहुन्छ ?	
कोभिडका बेला तल मध्येका कसको गतिविधिमा विषेश सहजता भएको अनुभव गर्नु भयो ? वकीलहरु पत्रकारहरु शिक्षकहरु, मानव अधिकार रक्षक तथा नागरिकसमाजका प्रतिनिधिहरुमा कसको गतिविधिमा विषेश सहजता थियो र किन होला?	
नागरिक र नागरिक संस्थाले कोभिड १९ जस्तै महामारी वा विपद्का बेला सरकारहरूसंग आधारभुत सेवा लिन वा गुनासो गर्न के कस्तो प्रबन्ध वा कार्य गर्नु पर्ला ? सरकारसंग आफ्ना कुरा राख्न के कस्ता व्यवधान भोग्नुभयो	

<p>कोभिड १९ को प्रतिकार्य जिल्ला तथा स्थानीय संयन्त्र अभ्यास थियो र छ?</p> <p>त्यस्ता संयन्त्र मा नागरिक संस्था र मानव अधिकार रक्षकललाइ आमन्त्रण गरियो?</p> <p>त्यस्ता संयन्त्रमा महिला र दलित समुदायको सहभागिता कस्तो थियो ?यस्ता संयन्त्रबाट हुने सेवामा महिला र दलितलाई विशेष प्राथमिकीकरण गरिएको कुनै उदाहरणहरु छन ?</p>	
<p>कोभिड १९ को बेला सार्वजनिक भेला वा प्रदर्शन सम्भव नभएका बेला सरकारले मानव अधिकार सम्बन्धी नागरिकका कुरा कसरी सुनेको थियो?</p> <p>सार्वजनिक भेला वा प्रदर्शन सम्भव नभएका बेला कोभिड १९ जस्ता इमरजेन्सीमा सरकारले मानव अधिकार सम्बन्धी नागरिकका कुरा सुन्न कस्तो विधि अपनाउनु पर्ला?</p>	

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