Electoral Education at Grassroots and District Level for Democratic Governance (EEDG) Project
(DCI-NSAPVD/2021/271844)

Report of 7th Project Advisory Unit Meeting

1st August 2014

Abbreviations

ECN	Election Commission of Nepal
EEDG	Electoral Education at Grassroots and District Level for Democratic Governance
HCDA	Himalaya Conservation and Development Association
NEOC	Nepal Election Observation Committee
NFN	NGO Federation of Nepal
PAU	Project Advisory Unit
PMC	Project Management Committee

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A. **Title of the Event:** 7th *Meeting of Project Advisory Unit of Electoral Education at Grassroots and District Levels for Democratic Governance (EEDG).*

B. **Objectives of the Meeting:** Following were objectives of the Project Advisory Unit meeting.

- *Sharing on the 2nd year's achievements*
- *Sharing on status of Budget and Expenses of 2nd year*
- *Sharing on third year's planning*
- *Open discussion on current issues*
- *Suggestions and feedbacks from the advisors.*

C. Date and Time Duration of 7th PAU Meeting: *1st August 2014(Friday), 3:00 pm to 5 pm*

D. **Venue:** *Jagaran Nepal Meeting Hall, Anamnagar Kathmandu.*

E. **Participation:** *Total 10(Male – 4, Female- 6) participants were present in the meeting.*

F. Proceedings:

1*. Pre-meeting activities*

- *Communication & Coordination with Project Advisory Unit members to schedule meeting.*
- *Invited members by mail & invitation letter.*
- *Conformed invitation by telephone.*
- *Shared the agendas of PAU meeting with invitees.*
- *Updated the progress status of project for PAU meeting.*
- *Prepared power point presentation for meeting.*
- *Prepared and printed handout for participants.*
- *Logistic preparation for meeting.*

2. During Meeting:-

The meeting was chaired by Ms. Sharmila Karki- President of Jagaran Nepal and NGO Federation. The welcome remarks was given by Mr. Rajkumar Sapkota- National Project Coordinator of the EEDG project. The meeting was carried forward with the power point presentation about the major achievements and financial status of the second year as well as the sharing of the activities planned for third year from Mr. Sapkota. The problem faced, copping strategies and the challenges during implementation were also shared in the meeting.

Regarding the concerns about the presentation- the halting of the some of the activities in Jumla as being the headquarter of Karnali he mentioned about the predominance and obstacles created by CPN -Maoist Party. He also shared about the well appreciation and the trust building among the Project Partners, the local level Government Institutions, Political Parties and other

stakeholders in local and central level. At local level District Election Commission and Local Partner have been coordinating at district level for potential collaboration work and sharing the human resources to undertake the task related to electoral education, training and the VR campaign. The project staffs have been contributing voluntarily to execute the election related task at field level. At centre level, Election Commission of Nepal provided training to staff of Jagaran Nepal and has been contributing for the effective implementation of the project by providing valuable suggestions.

Some of the concerns of the participants were clarified by the Chairperson as well. She admired the good impression the project has been able to leave at the central as well as district level (Election Commission). She also explained about the experience of getting the success working at the grassroots level in partnership with the local district partners and the synergy thus created in matter of electoral education and good governance. Stating the project presently has covered selected 75 VDCs among 134, she shared about the demand for further programs in working 75 VDCs and the same type of project in remaining VDCs. She concluded saying that the new project activities would be targeting the local election.

Basanti Shahi- Project Advisor who was also present in the meeting sharing her happiness in the success that the project has been able to achieve till date, clarified about the role of Traditional Leaders and their influence in the election with the traditional practice which was raised by Prof. Kapil Shrestha. She further suggested prepare for Karnali Assembly from very early so as to make it fruitful.

Tanka Panta- Senior Journalists pointing to the strength of being able to work with Government on a very crucial issue in a geographically challenged location suggested moving in the days ahead making the success the base.

Mr Gajadhar Sunar- Chairperson of Dalit NGO Federation said the issue itself was very much significant and needed. Moreover, the working modality of the project that is working in partnership with regional and local partners made the project to leave the expected impacts. He suggested exploring more ways out to work with the traditional leaders as it has been unintervended area which can play significant role to bring the expected change.

Prof. Kapil Shrestha admiring the hard work of the project staffs and other said that the project has built a Bride between Karnali and Kathmandu. He suggested to share and disseminate the success stories at the greater level to a greater mass (national level) for leaving behind a better meaning and greater impact.

Ms Shanta Sedai- Legal Advisor highlighting the success of project in increasing the participation of women and the marginalized community pointed the need to increasing the participation in the third year activities as well.

The meeting was formally concluded by the Chairperson with Vote of Thanks to all the participants for the gracious presence and active participation.

3. Post Meeting Activities:-

- *Prepared report of the meeting.*
- *Shared the findings of the meeting with stakeholders.*

G. **Achievements of the Meeting** :

- *PAU members got updated about the achievements of the second year along with the planned activities of the third year.*
- *Some of the suggestions were collected in regarding Karnali Assembly which is one of the very significant project activities.*
- *PAU members suggested using the lesson learning from the previous years and accomplish the third year activities on time.*
- *PAU members suggested to strengthen the co ordination and collaboration with local government stakeholders as well as the local partner organizations.*
- *Constructive suggestions and feedbacks collected for the effective and efficient implementation of the planned activities in third year.*

H. Visibility and Communication:

A request letter was dispatched to all members of project Advisory Unit which is signed by Chairperson of Jagaran Nepal. They were also requested to join by mail. The text message about financial support of European Union was clearly written in invitation letter. In the beginning of the presentation, logo of European Union, Jagaran Nepal and HCDA was clearly mentioned.

I. Resource

NRs. 10,800 was planned to cover travel cost and cost of refreshment of meeting day.

J. Evaluation of meeting:-

It was 7th meeting of the Project Advisory Unit. It was successful to collect the constructive feedbacks from the advisors for implementing the EEDG project in better way.

K. Problem Faced:-

L. Lessons Learnt:

- *Co ordination with the local stakeholders leads to the successful accomplishment of the project activities in the local level.*
- *The activities targeting the influential mass such as traditional leaders have the better impact to change over the traditional customs and values.*
- *Social inclusion should always be taken at high priority in any of the project activities.*

Report Received by		Report Prepared by:-	
Signature		Signature	
Name		Name	Rajkumar Sapkota
Position		Position	National Project Coordinator
Date		Date	1st August 2014

M. Annexes

1. Participants' structure	Caste	Male	Female	Third Gender	Total
	Brahman/Chhetri	4	5		9
	Janajati/Ethnic Group				
	Dalit		1		1
	Others				
	Total				**10**
2. Photo					

Some Glimpses:

Mr. Rajkumar Sapkota- NPC presenting the agendas of the meeting

Ms Sharmila Karki- Chairperson addressing the meeting

Prof. Kapil Shrestha addressing the meeting