



**LEGAL AID & CONSULTANCY CENTRE
(LACC)**

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**MESSAGE FROM
CHAIRPERSON DESK**



It is my immense pleasure to present the first edition of e bulletin of the organization. The maiden e bulletin will cover the glimpse of the activities, success cases and other key issues. In the recent past, we realized its urgency in the wake of the rapid transformation- both electronic and print media. As a result, we came up with the first edition of e bulletin.

I hope that bi annual e bulletin will play an instrumental role in information dissemination and reaching out to wider audience on regular basis. I also believe that it will give us an impetus to further expedite our efforts in sensitizing and informing people about their rights and entitlements and subsequently consolidate their access to justice and forge just and democratic society.

In this regard, I extend my gratitude to my LACC colleagues who have tirelessly worked hard to bring out this first edition of e bulletin. I also expect the similar zeal and support from my colleagues in the process of development e-bulletins in years to come.

BACKGROUND

As this is the first issue of e bulletin, the document covers a short introduction about the organization with its objective, mission and vision. In addition, the maiden e bulletin has revisited and highlighted the key activities, achievements and its contribution in consolidating the access to justice and empowerment of women in claiming their rights and entitlements enshrined in the constitution of Nepal. Furthermore, the first edition has spotlighted the actions to strengthen good governance and rule of law to ensure responsive and accountable government. Besides, it also talks about the message from the desk of Chairperson and visits of LACC's staff and executive board to attend the international trainings and conference in Asia and beyond.



Legal Aid and Consultancy Centre is a nongovernmental and non partisan organization. It is a pioneer organization established nearly three decades ago with an objective to provide legal aid support to the survivors primarily women belonging to the disadvantaged groups. Its activities strive to empower women and contributes in improving the access to justice to forge just and democratic society. LACC has its central office at Manbhawan in Lalitpur.

The organization's vision is "Creation of an equitable society" while its mission is to "establish rule of law, strengthen law enforcement mechanism and institutions, non discrimination, inclusive and equitable society for women and children". In this regard, it has laid its huge emphasis on improving the access to justice, w o m e n empowerment and human rights and good governance through several engagements and interventions.



GLIMPSE OF THE ACTIVITIES

The activities implemented under the aegis of different funding agencies over the past six months are covered in this newsletter. Key among them are summarized below.

1. Free Legal Aid Services

At a time when government's effort in providing legal aid was very nominal, LACC as a pioneer organization reached out to the people and provided legal aid services to the needy people. With its legal aid support since its inception, LACC has helped over 21,000 women and children in terms to claim their rights and entitlements of legal identity document, through its several interventions.

The legal aid services include legal counseling, family mediation, paralegal services and litigation including financial support for court procedures. Currently LACC has its district offices in Kaski, Banke, Sindhupalchowk, Kavrepalanchowk, Jhapa and Kanchanpur district of the country. The districts offices have been providing its legal aid services under various donor funded project. LACC has been providing legal aid support to 3000 cases yearly.

During Jan to June 776 cases has been supported with free legal aid services. The cases usually include domestic violence, witchcraft, rape, marital rape, divorce, partition of property, forgery, alimony and so on.

Year	Cases
1987-1999	3500
2000-2002	2957
2003	746
2004-2005	1142
2006	1053
2007	1307
2008	817
2009	1411
2010	1176
2011	1218
2012	1226
2013	2011
2014	1679
2015	877
2016	719
Total	21839

2. Outreach programs

Various initiatives have been carried out by LACC during these six months to aware women and children on the rights and available remedial aspects under the prevailing Nepalese legal system. As part of the outreach, mobile legal camps, radio programs, publications etc are conducted project districts. Altogether 7 mobile camps have been organized in 5 districts (Kavrepalchowk, Sindhupalchowk, Kaski, Banke and Lalitpur) reaching out to 250 people in total.



Likewise, public Service announcement on disaster and gender related violence cases have been regularly disseminated through local FM in Sindhupalchowk and Kavrepalnchok districts. Similarly, informative calendar with messages enclosed on the issues of disaster management and gender based violence is published and disseminated widely in the project districts. It has been found that these publications have been used by the scholars as a reference material while undertaking their researches. Booklet related with issues on gender based violence and women's right has been

published as an advocacy tool in the grass root level. The motivating success stories of the trainees has been published and disseminated that inspires the community people to act in similar way.

3. Database Management

LACC has always been guided by the fact that data management is central in assessing the situation of the context. It believes that well documented information and data will help to identify the gaps and challenges for further action.

During the six month period from Jan to July 2017, altogether 776 cases have been provided legal aid services through projects being implemented under three different subject matter for woman and children ; i.e; legal aid for sexual and gender based violence, legal aid for disaster affected groups and legal the state. Out of 776 cases, 266 cases have been registered in various courts for further litigation purpose. Similarly, 1773 cases have been facilitated for legal identity documents during the six month period (Jan – June 2017).



The table below showing the free legal aid services catered by the organization since its inception

4. Trainings and Workshops

LACC organized several trainings and workshops under different projects in different locations. The major purposes of the training was to strengthen the knowledge and understandings of the participants on issues related with gender equality, local disaster risk management system, paralegal, and VCCHT among others. Altogether 16 trainings have been conducted during this reporting period.

At the same time, 1 staff orientation training was conducted in Kathmandu district while 2 paralegal trainings were conducted in Jhapa and Kanchanpur on legal identity issues.

Likewise 3 leadership trainings were organized in Dolakaha, Dhading and Ramechap for local women leaders.

Furthermore, 4 trainings in disaster management for LDRMC members was conducted in Sindhupalchok and Kavrepalanchowk districts.

In two districts, the Village Committee to Combat Human Trafficking were formed and 4 capacity strengthening training on Anti human trafficking issue were conducted in Kavrepalnchowk, Sindhupalchowk, Makwanpur and Kanchanpur districts.

The strategic planning and annual plan workshop was also organized towards the end of the December, 2016. The strategic planning and annual workshop revisited the annual plan and develop the program accordingly.



5. Public Interest Litigation

LACC has filed several Public Interest Litigations which has been positively responded by the Supreme Court. In recent past between Jan to July 2017, the apex court delivered its verdict in favor of three WRIT Petition filed by LACC. The writ include immediate relief fund for the victim of the gender based violence, property rights related with missing or disappeared people's family, and citizenship in the name of mother. The Supreme Court's verdict has benefitted large section of the population to use the property, primarily women, displaced and survivors of gender based violence whose family members were disappeared or missing from a long time ago.



On 2068 Jyestha, the writ petition regarding property rights of disappeared person's family was filed by Adv. Anita Neupane Thapaliya on behalf of Legal Aid and Consultancy Centre (LACC). According to existing Nepali law, if the person who holds the property is missing or if the person is disappeared, the family members of such person cannot use or entertain the family property for twelve years. On the other hand, the duties and liabilities towards family are automatically transferred to the second guardian of the family.

Due to these complexities of law, LACC filed the petition demanding order to the Nepal government to make a new law to prevail over this situation. On 20 Poush 2073, the Supreme Court has given the verdict (through the bench of Justices Hon'l Om Prakesh Mishra and Hon'l Kedar Prasad Chalise) by issuing the mandamus on behalf of the petitioner.

On 12th Chaitra 2071, (writ no.071-WO-0753), the PIL was filed by Legal Aid and Consultancy Centre (LACC) together with Jury Nepal. The issue was relating to providing the immediate interim victim relief fund to the victim of gender based violence cases immediately after filing the FIR in the police.

On 21st Magh, 2072, the Supreme court has given the directive order to the Government for providing the immediate relief fund to the victim of sexual offence and gender-based violence cases. The directive order was given by the Full Bench of the Supreme Court of Nepal headed by Chief Justice Kalyan Shrestha and Justice Devendra Gopal Shrestha. This is one of the landmark judgment by the Supreme Court in favour of the victim of SGBV cases

On 19th Magh, 2071, the writ petition regarding the issue of citizenship through mother's relationship was filed by LACC. The fact of the case is that women born in Lalitpur district got married with man from Tibet who was living in Nepal since 30 years running his own business. Later, he expired after birth of his two daughters. Finally, the day has come when the daughters needed their citizenship, for the further study, they were refused by the concerned authority to provide them citizenship certificate by their mother's relationship as it is guaranteed by Nepalese constitution.

On 10th Ashoj, 2073, the final verdict was given by the Supreme court in favour of the petitioners for providing the citizenship through mother's relationship.

SUCCESS CASE

*Leadership development training enhanced my skills and knowledge:
Urmila Tamang*

SUCCESS CASE

Leadership development training enhanced my skills and knowledge: Urmila Tamang

Urmila Tamang, a resident of Dhading, is a teacher in government school based in Dhading district. While working as teacher, she was invited to become a member of the Village committee to combat human trafficking (VCCHT). Soon after, she took part in the training on women empowerment and leadership and skill organized by LACC representing the VCCHT. The participation in the training augmented her leadership



and advocacy skill which opened the floodgates of opportunities. She filed her candidacy as a deputy chairperson of the rural municipality in the recently concluded first phase of local polls and emerged victorious. Now, she has vowed to fight against the social evils such as human trafficking and gender based violence and mitigates the crime against humanity for once and all. Alike Urmila Tamang, other participants of the training have also been elected in different positions in local bodies.

When asked about the role of LACC and training conducted by it, Urmila says that "I am able to reach the present position mainly due to the training on leadership development training which infused a sense of confidence and gave impetus to file my candidacy as a deputy chairperson of rural municipality"

E BULLETIN TEAM

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National and International Exposure



Participation in 'Legal Empowerment Leadership Course' at Central European University, Budapest, Hungary



Regional workshop on Human Rights in disaster management and response, Philippines



Participating in Anti Human Trafficking Study Tour to USA - with Judiciary and Nepal police



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