



# Project Completion Report on Strengthening Advocacy Initiatives of Dalit Community (SAID) -Project



Grant/Project Period:

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## ACRONYMS

RTI – Right to information

PAR- Promoting Advocacy and rights

USAID- United State Agency for International Development

MEAL- Monitoring Evaluation and learning

BMET- Bureau of Manpower, Employment and training

CDC- City Development Committee

KCC- Khulna City Corporation

FGD- Focus group discussion

IR- Intermediate result

TTC- Technical training center.

DSS- Department of social welfare

CSO- Civil society organization

LG- Local government

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

| Grant Summary                               |   |
|---|---|
| <b>Project goal</b>                         | To enhance space for local CSOs to address governance issues that are affecting the life and livelihood of a marginalized population. |
| <b>Geographic area(s) of implementation</b> | 3, 4, 5, 7, 14,16,21,25,32 ward of Khulna City Corporation & Digholia Sub-district of Khulna district                                 |
| <b>Amount of the award (BDT)</b>            | BDT 1,260,000 (\$ 15,000)   |
| <b>Timeline of implementation</b>           | 1 April 2022 to 31 December 2022  |
| <b>Consortium partners</b>                  | N/A   |
|   |   |

### Summary of the development issue addressed and technical approach:

The project titled SAID under PAR activity addressed the key issue of dalit and excluded community challenges, constraints what they facing throughout their lives. Dalit's within the society are socially excluded/discriminated, treated as so-called untouchable by hierarchy system in caste customs, Excluded from participation, representation, basic rights, education, health, Under privileged, Economically exploited/Bonded Labor, Politically neglected, Women/Youth are less empowered. Those sufferings impacted to the lifes and livelihood of dalit peoples. They faced unequal citizenship to have basic services, less access to information, lack of access to proper justice, leadership crisis at it is. In the aim of enhance space for local CSOs to address governance issues that are affecting the life and livelihood of a marginalized population Dalit with the technical support of Counterpart international and financial support of USAID implemented social inclusion program at Khulna city corporation and digholia upazila under Khulna district.

### key achievements aligned to the PAR goal and intermediary results;

Objective 1: To improve Dalit's organizational capacity in program management. This objective is related to PAR IR-1.

Achievements:

- Improved Dalit's management capacity in advocacy and networking as well as advocacy programming for inclusion of rights holders communities
- Dalit staffs' skills on advocacy. Organizational Development, Financial Management, Report writing, Monitoring has been increased
- Dalit participated and representing in National Women Org., Social welfare platform, Citizen Forum/Sampriti Forum, And Shushilan Consortium to improve access to equal facilities for dalit community

Objective 2: To mobilize existing networks, platforms to increase the Dalit community's participation in district and national level, advocacy platform to raise their collective voice is related to PAR IR-2.

### **Achievements:**

- Expanded connection of Dalit communities with the Upazila, District and Divisional level service providing institutions
- Enhanced level of knowledge of Dalit communities about their rights to access to basic service
- Increased capacity of Dalit community and their forum to raise their issue at the Upazila, District and Divisional level forums
- TTC, as the provision of 5% dalit, PWD quota are provided their facilities information among dalit youth that resulted to engage youth in vocational training and related services.
- Counselors promised to raise the demand of dalit peoples in KCC coordination meeting.
- Horijon (Cleaner's) issues (Job, Living facilities), drawn special attention of KCC mayor/Counselors to reduce their vulnerability, Mayor provided ordered to set a water point in horijon colony and CDC map out the needs of colonies water, sanitation, drainage, road repairing, nutrition support for children among dalit community. Even Mayor of KCC trying to fulfil cleaning job quota from horijon dalit community.
- Dalit community's unity has increased as they thought youth initiatives / voice can establish their rights.
- Assertiveness emerged among youth whether they raising their own voice to larger platforms.
- 3 youth forum improved capacities to facilitate meeting and conduct FGD

### **Learning and recommendations;**

- Youth platform needed to expand at other districts for raising dalit voice whether the project has impacted to bring positive changes among dalit peoples
- Community based CBO needed to establish in particularly women/girls led CBO could be organized
- Visit and observation in community by govt. officials needed to extend for inclusion of dalit in local development plan
- National level advocacy and lobbying could be strengthened for sensitize the policy makers towards dalit rights
- Platform among dalit community needed to work together for make pressure to political parties and influential's for socio-economic development as well as inclusion in social and political power structure
- Youth should be empowered for strengthen dalit rights based movement
- Advocacy initiatives needed to extend at grassroots to national level and like minded CSOs can be included in advocacy initiatives.
- Documentation on human rights of dalit peoples could be taken by CSO

## INTRODUCTION

### **Context:**

The estimate of the number of Dalits in Bangladesh is around 6.5 million. In Bangladesh, Dalits are poor and marginalized with extremely limited access to education, employment, housing, health, and public services. More specifically, Dalit women are subjected to discrimination because of their caste, gender, and low economic status. A survey conducted by a local Dalit organization in 2021 describes that.

- No more than 5% Dalit representatives participate and represent in the decision-making process.
- At least 55% Dalit's have limited access to social safety net programs
- About 75% Dalit peoples have no voice raising capacity and most of them have no negotiations capacity and space in govt. private, local govt. local elite and other actors

The also report describes that caste customs remain in society and Dalit's often victims of exclusion from social activity due to the lack of absence of anti-discrimination law and other development policy inclusion of Dalit. Lack of leadership, poor networking, negotiation, and facilitation skills of the Dalit communities are major barriers to have access to health service, education, and resources to improve their livelihood. Moreover, they are denied enjoying the constitutional rights including access to social justice. Anecdotal evidence depict that these communities are systematically, consistently, and historically excluded from the mainstream of development. These situations prevail in every Dalit community living across Bangladesh.

**Dalit peoples facing leadership crisis:** the maximum Dalits and excluded peoples have no leadership due to societal power structure and various sectors don't accept them. Dalits are discriminated community throughout their lives.

**Unequal citizenship practice:** The people especially the Dalit community do not have social dignity and access to the local government, city corporation-provided services (*f.e. social safety nets, education, health etc.*). Sometimes, school-going Dalit children are forced to clean the school toilet, floor.

**Social exclusion of Dalits:** Most Dalits can't access public places like hotels, saloons, restaurants, temples, and mosques as it is. Even, it has been found that lower caste is always being forced by upper caste to use separate cremation ground for burn dead body.

**Lack of access to information:** Access to information is the process of empowerment and improvement of livelihoods but due to lack of right to access to information Dalit and excluded peoples are not quite enough capable of living with dignity and power.

**Lack of access to justice:** There is so much evidence about violence against Dalit, women, and children across the country. Dalit people sometimes being victims of murder, physical abuse, mental trauma, social stigma, the fire set to home, land grabbing, women and girls are victims of rape, gang rape.

### **Technical approach:**

The SAID project under PAR activity implemented at Khulna city corporation with the approach of advocacy, Assessment and building of capacity: Establishing and mobilizing networks: Community

Participation: Documentation to guide the intervention to take future action for policy inclusion, inclusion in development services of Dalit community peoples.

**Goal and purpose:**

To enhance space for local CSOs to address governance issues that are affecting the life and livelihood of a marginalized population. The project goal is under the PAR activity goal to strengthen the enabling environment for sustained civil society institutions advancing democratic governance and citizen participation in Bangladesh.

The project objectives are ;

- To improve Dalit’s organizational capacity in program management. This objective is related to PAR IR-1. And
- To mobilize existing networks, platforms to increase the Dalit community’s participation in district and national level, advocacy platform to raise their collective voice is related to PAR IR-2.

**Key stakeholders engaged:** Khulna city corporation authority, Local elected bodies of Khulna district and dighlia sub-district, local service providers i.e Department of youth development, social welfare, women affairs, child academia, education institutions, National women forum, job providing initiations, BMET, technical training institutions, District commissioners office, NHRC.



## **ACTIVITY NARRATIVE:**

### **Activity 1: Project Inception Meeting organized by Dalit**

The SAID project under the Promoting Advocacy and Rights (PAR) with the financial support of USAID as well as technical support of Counterpart International (CPI) organized an inception Meeting on May 22, 2022, at Nagarbhaban, K.C.C, Khulna. The event brought success with the participation of 54 individuals (women-12, men-42). The Chief Guest of the event was Aminul Islam Munna, Mayor In-charge, Khulna City Corporation, Chair of the event was Md. Moniruzzaman Talukder, honorable Deputy Commissioner, Khulna, Mr. Mainuddin Ahmad, Chief of Party, Promoting Advocacy and Rights (PAR) was present as a guest of honor. The others invited special guests were Loskor Taizul Islam, Chief executive officer of K.C.C; Md. Shofiqul Islam, Assistant Director, Department of Social Welfare; Runu Iqbal Bithar, Chairperson, National Women Organization, Khulna branch; Mrs. Hasna Hena, Deputy Director, Department of Women Affairs, Khulna District; Md. Moniruzzaman, Senior Instructor, Department of Youth Development, Khulna; Mr. Kazi Borkatul Islam, Principle, TTC, Khulna, Riaz Sharif, Principle, TTC-Female, Khulna. Moreover, the Counselors of Ward no. 21, 25, 28 and 30 were also present in the meeting. Bikash Kumar Das, Head of Prgogram (Rights and Humanitarian Response), Dalit was presented the project details by power point presentation. The meeting facilitated by Israt Nuery Hossain, Monitoring officer of Dalit. NGO representatives, CSO, journalists, Dalit Staffs, Bangladesh Dalit Association leaders, Leaders of Sampriti forum, Leaders of Youth Committee, Leaders of Horijon, Dalit community members, Marginalized community peoples were also a vital part of the meeting. The inception meeting accomplished immediate outcomes as following ;

- Different stakeholders including Higher Govt. Officials, LG Representatives, Media, Activists, CSO, NGO and Marginal Community People learned about the project clearly.
- Different stakeholders including higher level govt. officials, LG representatives committed to provide their support to implement the activities of the SAID project in a fruitful manner.
- Local Level Government Officer, LG Representatives, Media, Activists, CSO and others NGO got sensitized more towards the rights of Dalit community.

In the meeting total 54 were participated includes 42 men, 12 women from academia, local government, KCC, Deputy commissioner, Media, CSOs, and targeted communities.

### **Activity 2: Peassessment of organizational capacity**

With a view to improve Dalit's advocacy and networking capacity and to mobilize existing network and platforms to increase Dalit community's participation in district and national level advocacy platforms, Dalit has initiated a United States Agency for International Development (USAID) funded project titled "Strengthening Advocacy Initiative for Dalit community (SAID)" at Khulna City Corporation and Digholia Upazila with the technical support of Counterpart International (CPI). As a part of the project, this rapid capacity assessment has been conducted to understand the present status of Dalit's



organizational program management capacity in terms of advocacy and networking. The analytical components used for OCA tool and SWOT analysis. Governance, organizational management, Program Management, financial management, human resource management were in the OCA framework. Consigleri as hired external consultancy firm was conducted the pre assessment and produced a report.

In addition that, Dalit with the support CPI organized a day long key stakeholders mapping meeting. The meeting was facilitated by Iffat Jarin, Advocacy specialist of CPI. After day long practice in matrix there were project related key stakeholders identified.

### **Activity 3: Formation meeting on establishing three Dalit Youth Forum and three Follow up Meeting among the youth forum members**

The SAID project under the Promoting Advocacy and Rights (PAR) organized three Dalit youth forums formation meeting successfully. These events have brought favorable outcome and achievement with the spontaneous participation of Total 52 (Men-31, Women-21) includes 17 individuals (women 7, Men 10); 18 individuals (women 7, Men 11) and 17 individuals (women 7, Men 10) respectively in June 11, 12 and 13, 2022 at the Hall room, of Dalit Head Office, Khulna.

Youth forum comprised with President(01), Co-President(02; Male-01,Female-01), Secretary(01) and General Executive members(11) Different stakeholders including Higher Govt. Officials, Community People and the Youth Participants learned about the importance of Dalit youth formation meeting. A bridge between the Youth Forum's members and SAID team was initiated and they have become aware of the project initiatives and committed to raise their voices for community development and social inclusion. Govt. officials from TTC, Officer of Youth development office, Dalit Leaders, CSO representatives and youth were participated in the meeting.

The project organized three Dalit youth Follow-Up meetings successfully. These events have added a new dimension for attaining the project's objectives with the spontaneous participation of total 47 (Men-27, Women-20) includes 15 individuals (women 7, Men 8); 16 individuals (women 6, Men 10) and 16 individuals (women 7, Men 9) respectively in July 5; 6; and 7, 2022 at the Hall room, of Dalit Head Office, Khulna.

In the meeting youth forum members shared the basic needs of community and how it can be present in larger platforms. In to this, youth were got motivation from TTC and Dalit. They were decided to conduct Focus group discussion and advocacy for inclusion fo dalit peoples in service delivery institutions.

### **Activity 5: Capacity building training on advocacy and networking for staffs, relevant network members, CSOs, Dalit youth forum and other relevant stakeholders focusing gender, human rights, good governance**

The project was organized Capacity building training on advocacy and networking for staffs, relevant network members, CSOs, Dalit youth forum and other relevant stakeholders focusing gender, human rights, good governance. There are three batches of training held on 6-7, 10-11, 13-14 August 2022. The training participants included staff members of Dalit organization, CSOs, and youth forum representatives. Total number of participants was 89 (males: 49; females: 40) where 72 participants belong to age group 18-35; and other 17 participants belong to above 35.

Before starting of training program, a comprehensive training module was developed. The training module was developed in a participatory manner following a step-by-step method. Firstly, an inception meeting was held between Helios (contractor of this training program) and Dalit in presence of representative from Counterpart International. After the meeting, a training need assessment was conducted using participatory rural appraisal tools for understanding participants' need and expectation. This strategy also ensured stakeholders participation in program designing. Then a draft content was submitted to Dalit and after their approval a comprehensive training module was developed and shared with Dalit for their review. After receiving feedback from Dalit and addressing their comment training module was finalized and accordingly training materials were prepared. The training module was divided into 10 different sessions. Sessions are;

Session 1: Introduction, Training Expectations And Pre-Test

Session 2: Issue Selection Criteria And Problem Tree

Session 3: Stakeholder And Power Analysis Session 4: Smart Objective Setting

Session 5: Advocacy Basics: Definition, Slogan Development, Media Advocacy, Writing Advocacy

Session 6: Networking With Organizations Of Similar Interest

Session 7: Understanding The Basics Of Community Mobilization

Session 8: Assertive And Effective Communication, Lobbying And Negotiation

Session 9: Risk In Advocacy For Dalit Rights And Management

Session 10: Monitoring Advocacy

As the result of pre and post test of training it has revealed that, In the pre-test, 30 participants scored 40% marks, 30 participants scored in between 40% to 60% marks, and 29 participants scored more than 60% marks. In post-test, only 2 participants scored 40% marks, 56 participants scored in between 40-60% marks and 31 participants scored more than 60% marks.

### **Activity 6: Organize dialogue/discussion with stakeholders**

**Meeting with Department of Social Welfare:** The Strengthening Advocacy Initiatives for Dalit Community (SAID) project under the Promoting Advocacy and Rights (PAR) with the generous support of USAID and technical support of Counterpart International (CPI) organized a Dialogue Meeting on November 2, 2022, at Hall Room in the Department of Social Service Office, Khulna. The event brought success with the participation of 43 individuals (women-13, men-30) including Government Officials, Ward Councilors, Journalists, NGO, and CSO representatives' community leaders, marginalized community people, activists, Dalit Youth Forum Members, etc. The Chief Guest of the event was Khan Motaher Hossain, Deputy Director, of the Department of Social Service, Khulna. The president of the event was Shilvi Harun, President, of Samprity Forum, Khulna. The others guests were Md. Ainal Haque, Assistant Director, Department of Social Service , Khulna; Md. Shofiqul Islam, Assistant Director, Department of Social Service, Khulna; Nigar Sultana, Probation Officer, Department of Social Service, Khulna; Amit Somadder, Probation Officer, Department of Social Service, Khulna; Md. Hossanur

Rahman, Assistant Director, Regional Training Center, Department of Social Service, Khulna; Md. Rakibul Islam Tarafder, Social Service officer, Urban Community Department-2, Khulna; Md. Saiduzzaman, Social Service Officer, Urban Community Development-3, Khalishpur, Khulna; Masudur Rahaman, Upazila Social Service Officer, Botiaghata, Khulna; Sheikh Moneruzzaman, Upazila Social Service Officer, Digholia, Khulna; Subroto Biswas, Upazila Social service Officer, Dumuria, Khulna; Monoj Kanti Roy, Resource Teacher, PHT Center, Khulna; Shirin Perveen, Accountant Officer, Paribarton, Khulna. The community scorecard and area-based identified problems by the youth were presented as a keynote in the event through the PowerPoint presentation by Israt Nuary Hossain, Monitoring Officer of Dalit. The overall Meeting was moderated by Bikash Kumar Das, Head of Program (R& HR), Dalit.

Marginalized community leaders and Dalit Youth Forum members raised their voice and presented their demands on issues such as education stipend, old age allowance, skill development training, and dalit special allowance. District Social service officers, City Social Service Officers, Upazila Social service officers, councilors, and other stakeholders become more responsive and sensitized about dalit rights. The guests were puts commitment that a comprehensive survey on dalit will implement by DSS to know the situation of dalit peoples.

**Dialogue Meeting with govt. officials**, admin and local elected bodies held on November 17, 2022, at CSS Ava Center in Rupsa, Khulna. The event brought success with the participation of 42 individuals (women-14, men-28), including Government Officials, Ward Councilors, Journalists, NGO, and CSO representatives, community leaders, marginalized community people, activists, Dalit Youth Forum Members etc. The Chief Guest of the event was Muhammad Al-Amin, Senior Assistant Commissioner, Office of Deputy Commissioner Khulna. The president of the event was Sk. Mohammed Ali, Councilor, 5 No Ward, Khulna City Corporation, Khulna. The other guests were Dr. Sheikh Sadia Monowara Usha, Civil Surgeon Officer, Khulna; Jasmin Sultana, Assistant Director, National Human Rights Commission, Khulna District Office, Khulna; Sazia Afren Siddike, Assistant Director, Department of Women Affairs, Khulna; Amit Somadder, Probation Officer, Department of Social Service, Khulna; Syed Josim Uddin, District Cooperative Officer, Khulna; Dr. Sapown Kumar Halder, Chief Health Officer, Khulna City Corporation, Khulna; Bipasa Debi Tenu, UWAO Officer, Digolia, Khulna; Bidhan Chandra, Fisheries Survey Officer, Khulna; Md. Mostak Uddin, Youth Department, Khulna, Mujibur Rahaman Sheikh, Associate Professor, Govt. B.L Collage, Khulna, Iffat Jarin, Advocacy Specialist, Counterpart International (CPI), Dhaka. The area-based identified problems by the youth were presented as a keynote in the event through the powerpoint presentation by IsratNuary Hossain, Monitoring Officer of Dalit. The overall Meeting was moderated by Bikash Kumar Das, Head of Program (R& HR), Dalit.

**Dialogue Meeting with KCC authority** and it's health, education, general services, CDC, Citizen platform, admin held on October 26, 2022, at CSS Ava Center in Rupsa, Khulna. The event brought success with the participation of 48 individuals (women-11, men-37) including Government Officials, Ward Councilors, Journalists, NGO, and CSO representatives, community leaders, marginalized community people, activists, Dalit Youth Forum Members, etc. The Chief Guest of the event was Talukder Abdul Khalek, Mayor of Khulna City Corporation. The president of the event was Shilvi Harun, President, of Samprity Forum, Khulna. The other guests were Jannatul Afroj Swarna, Executive Magistrate, Khulna City Corporation; IffatJarin, Advocacy Specialist Counterpart International; Shiek Mohammad Ali, Councilor, 05 No Ward, Shiek MD. Dalowar Hossain, Khulna City Corporation,

Advocate Mominul Islam, Bangladesh manobadikar Bastobain Sanghata, Khulna, Israt Ara Hira, Md. Sabir Khan, Salma Jahan moni, Member of Somprity Forum, Khulna; Khan Motahar Hossain, Deputy Director, Department of Social Service, Khulna; Mohammed Abdul Hamid Khan, Ward Secretary, 17 no ward, Golam Mostofa, Khulna City Corporation, Dr. Swapon Halder, Khulna City Corporation; Mohammed Shahin Islam, Project coordinator, Shusilon, Mohendronath Sen, Jonouddog, Khulna. The area-based identified problems by the youth were presented as a keynote in the event through the PowerPoint presentation by Israt Nuary Hossain, Monitoring Officer of Dalit. The overall Meeting was moderated by Bikash Kumar Das, Head of Program (R& HR), Dalit.

The chief guest Mayor of the Khulna city corporation solved three issues. He said that, the Temple committee is entitled to get the special khas land in ward no 3. He strongly recommended and talked to AC Land to communicate with the committee members and solve this issue immediately. To solve the water problem of 05 no ghat Harijan colony he ordered to set up a water tank. Also, he talked to the District Fisheries Officer to provide the list of names of real fishermen to the district Directorate for obtaining the Fishery Card for the Jelepara of Rayermohol.

#### **Activity 7: Organize meeting/consultant ion/dialogue with other networks, platforms and relevant stakeholders;**

The project organized meeting / consultation with ward councilors and other networks. There were total 9 nos. meeting held at ward level under city corporation. These events have added a new dimension for attaining the project's objectives with the spontaneous participation of total 102 (Men-63, Women 38) includes 10 individuals (women 3, Men 7) at 5 no. ward, 10 individuals (women 5, Men 5) at 25 no. ward, 10 individuals (women 4, men 6) at 17 no. ward, 9 individuals (women 3, men 6) at 21 no. ward, 9 individuals (women 3, men 6) at 16 no. ward; 10 individuals (women 5, men 5) at 7 no. ward; 15 individuals (women 4, men 11) at 3 no. ward; 14 individuals (women 4, men 10) at 4 no. ward; 15 individuals (women 7, men 8) at Arongghata Union Parisad of Digholia upazila.

Dalit Youth Forum set a demands and recommendations. The leaders from youth group were presented the problems, demands and recommendation to way forward. According to the placed demands by youth forum **honorable Councilor's in each meeting** has given commitment to take affirmative action for improve living status of dalit peoples in city area. Thereafter, a work plan in specific focus of identified development area, measures to be taken, when and who will responsible to implement the action and required resource. Drainage, establish and reconnect the water point, installation of community center in the horijon colony, job access, Red card for health services, child support, electricity, education support, safetynet support etc were key demands and action area which discussed in the meeting.

#### **Activity 8: Post assessment of Dalit's organizational Capacity**

In order to assess the progress of capacity in terms of quality of the organizational management hired consultant team Consigleri has conducted post assessment. Post-assessment has been conducted to understand the progress status of Dalit's organizational program management capacity in terms of advocacy and networking.

## MANAGEMENT

### **Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning (MEL) Approach:**

According to the MEL plan of SAID project the PAR expert team conducted field visit, check the validity of data, review of activities report, photographs and other deliverables against each milestone. Project team were also conducted and review the training participants category, pre & post test and need assessment that helps to generate effective modules and training framework for beneficiaries. Program personals of PAR team were observed the implementation of activities by attend in execution of activities i.e inception, dialogue, youth forum meetings, training on advocacy, political economy analysis, coordination meeting with local government's as it is.

### **PAR support**

- Feedback received from PAR team in regular basis to fine tune the documentations and improve the quality of deliverables activities. Schedule, outline, one pager, budget, key note were reviewed by PAR team before the implementation of each activity which contribute to enhance the quality in programming and approach.
- Monitoring visit and follow up from PAR team to sustain the immediate outcomes of activities was beneficial
- Assessment of advocacy capacity of Dalit was conducted by PAR team and that helps to rethink of develop the advocacy framework in programming
- Capacity building training from PAR on Advocacy, RTI, Gender, Organization development, financial management, compliance issue for fixed grant awarde, that's enhanced staff capacity

### **Gender and Social Inclusion**

Dalit implemented this project with targeting so called oppressed caste like dalit's community in this project. Ensuring the women, girls participation in the project activities important concerns from inception of project. It keeps equal percentage of men and women at least but must priority given to women participation and raising women voice in different meeting was strategic concerns.

### **Innovations & Adaptive Management**

- Keeping follow up, cooperation and lobbying with Khulna city corporation authority, top managerial staffs of department of social welfare and national women organization that impacted to think about dalit issues in their development work.
- Youth forum members were joint in facebook group of Dalit Youth Platform that kept them update on their roles and responsibilities to highlight the dalit peoples demands in right platforms

- The effective process of planning to address dalits demands by youth forum and ward counselors was contribute to bring crucial changes through dialogue meeting
- From Down to Top approach was helpful to develop dalit friendly budgeting in ward councils
- Memorandum Submitted to Mayor, ADC and Department of Social welfare with demands of dalit
- Beneficiaries support seekers list submitted to Social Welfare, TTC



## REFLECTIONS

### Challenges & Lessons Learned

- Ensuring that targeted participants, especially high-level government officials and LG representatives, attended the event and on time
- Ensuring participation of youth participants in the Dalit community was a difficult task, as they are engaged in different income generating activities.
- Most of the female participants were married, and approximately of Dalit 80% girls face child marriage. Thus, ensuring equal participation of females was a challenging issue to us
- Some of the community people are interested in engaging themselves in income generating activities but have less interest in awareness raising activities, as many participants are living below the poverty line
- Ensuring different categories of participants on time and in the right place was very challenging
- Multi stakeholders' engagement in activities is sometimes difficult & facing obstacle to achieve Milestone deadline.
- Number of staff is very poor than ensuring compliance & smooth implementation of project activities.
- Remaining Political instability & sudden increasing of goods price is sometimes affecting the project budget allocation.

### Lesson Learned:

- To address the above challenge, Dalit communicated repeatedly through different individuals to concerned to make them convinced and finally got cooperation from all and the event went well.
- Unity building and mobilization of dalit youth was great opportunities to building network with larger platforms
- Joint journey and initiatives of Citizen leaders and Dalit youth forum was make stronger the advocacy initiatives
- Problem and needs identification process conducted by Youth forum was helpful to present the authentic community situation to KCC authority and like service providers that's build trust between service providers and demand sides.
- Media focus on dalit issue that's creates opportunities for dalit youth in increase representation and participation
- 

### Localization and Sustainability

\* Advocacy, Networking & Mobilization training skills will practice within organization to establishment of dalit rights.

\* Programme Management skills will transfer among other staffs, CSOs for long term sustainability



- \* Advocacy efforts shall be continued which will help us to be with larger Platforms. Youth Forum and Sampriti Forum jointly will have an advocacy plan of action that could sensitize the local authority for keep and/or create space for dalit peoples in services provision, representation and participation in larger platform.
- \* As self Starter Dalit Youth Forum will take lead of community development and their leadership emerge. Youth leaders taken initiatives to include themselves in technical training of govt. facilities and enable to engaged in mainstreamed job market.
- \* Inter coordination with formal and informal sectors to make relation more active.

### **Future Recommendations**

- Organization capacity development on strategic planning, right based approach, resource mobilization as it is
- Dalit community peoples and their perceived needs and constraints majorly demands to political commitment to end caste based discrimination and mainstreaming of unrepresented communities. Approx. 10 million more dalit communities living across the country and there is a scope to undertake integrated project to development that dalit peoples and their human rights situation whether govt. has positive planning about those downtrodden community peoples as their commitment of election manifesto.
- More research on dalit huma rights is needed and academicians can be incorporate in research purpose for policy inclusion
- National level advocacy and lobbying could be strengthened for sensitize the policy makers towards dalit rights
- Platform among dalit community needed to work together for make pressure to political parties and influential's for socio-economic development as well as inclusion in social and political power structure
- Youth should be empowered for strengthen dalit rights based movement

**Supporting Annexures:**

- Activity Reporting (indicator tables)
- Select photographs
- Media clippings
- Attendance sheets
- 2 Success Stories
- Audio/video clipping/ any link, etc.