

Annual Report 2015



Rural Community Development Service Council (RCDSC)

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Rural Community Development Service Council (RCDSC)

Chairperson's Remark

Rural Community Development Service Council (RCDSC) realizes its visions and mission in the course of implementing different strategic programs that aimed at strengthening the capacity of community living in the extreme conditions of deprivations and ignorance. I am glad to note that RCDSC's work in 2015 has been largely informed by the new perspective to social security through the promotion of livelihood promotion initiatives. Intervention of Agro Based activities funded by C4C, European Commission, NADEF, Poverty Alleviation Fund, MEDEP/UNDP and Swiss Contact have established significant contributions to the disadvantaged community living under social and economic suppressions. The Fiscal year 2014/15 has again set landmark for the continuity of different projects such as; Rural Water Supply and Sanitation, Nepal, Integrated Development Program, World Bank assisted Poverty Alleviation Fund (PAF) etc.

During the implementation of different projects/programs in the field, RCDSC has made remarkable achievements for capacitating and improving livelihoods of poor and marginalized communities; and such achievements would not have been accomplished without continued support from donors (C4C, European Commission, PAF, NARDF etc) and partners which were then compounded with the cordial efforts carried out by the dedicated and committed project personnel, members and social activists.

The annual report - features, in brief, about the status of the entire program implemented in the F/Y 2014/15, and comprises of the program essence as an abstract taken from the periodic reports of concerned program/project which were prepared and submitted to the respective donor/partners. This report also includes general background, achievements of the intervened program, and a brief introduction of organizational vision, mission and objectives along with financial statement of the financial year 2014/15.

I would also like to express my sincere gratitude to all the target communities, RCDSC Team/Staffs, stakeholders, partners and donors who supported RCDSC to the best for getting the project activities accomplished and adding-up contribution for the livelihood promotion of poor, disadvantaged and marginalized communities of Mahottari district.

Ram Aadhar Kapar
Chairperson
RCDSC

Part 1

A Glimpse of the Experiences of RCDSC in the year 2015

Rural Community Development Service Council (RCDSC) completed 17 years from the end of the fiscal year 20014/15. RCDSC has been in a journey of innovations, partnerships, extension of both geographical and community (population) outreach. The focus of the year was on promoting livelihood status of poor community of Mahottari district with continuous awareness raising initiatives for ensuring rights of the disadvantaged and marginalized community.

RCDSC is a Non Governmental Organization (NGO) working in the mid-terai region of Nepal. It has been working for promoting the rights of socially, culturally and politically excluded groups/communities through the intervention of several program and activities. A second area of inspiration has been an opportunity to work in Mahottari, Dhanusha, Sarlahi and Rautahat districts through projects on deepening democracy and promoting citizen participation on protecting and promoting rights of marginalized and vulnerable people. This not only has increased our geographical outreach but also provided an opportunity to enhance the organizational capacity of playing a facilitative and advocacy role to contribute for sustainable development of New Nepal. Similarly, RCDSC has been initiated strategies of interventions to overcome the challenges of social changes in the issues of human rights and democracy.

In this Annual Report of F/Y 2014-15, a glimpse of the progress of the different projects mentioned. During the year projects like Poverty alleviation, Water and Sanitation, Saving & Credit Cooperative, Promoting human rights and inclusive governance and democracy, Youth Employment generation, Youth Partnership program on Agriculture Management and some others were implemented. These projects are very important for the poor and excluded community people. Similarly Community FM program also has effective broad casting to aware community people. RCDSC also has own cooperatives for the betterment of the community people. The theme that runs across this report is the issue of maintaining coherence in our perspective and programs as we undertake many different interventions with many different constituencies, locations and sites.

2. AN OVERVIEW OF RCDSC

2.1 VISION

Enabling an equitable society with improved social, economical and political situation

2.2 MISSION

- Organize and capacitate Dalits, Women, Children and Marginal Farmers against Untouchability, Child labor, Child Marriage, Human trafficking, Caste/class violence, Gender violence and all forms of social discrimination and violence.
- Strengthen community to have equal share in the resources and ensuring their dignified participation in the decision-making process
- Fostering democratic methods to strengthen the democratic fabric in the society; and to bring good governance, peace and progress.
- Empowering men and women for their equal multidimensional development.

2.3 Objectives

- To organize and capacitate dalits, men and women against untouchability and gender discriminations/violence.
- To initiate advocacy, lobby and campaign against various kinds of traditional obscurantism like, dowry system, veil system, child marriage, child labor, belief in "dyan" (witches), and to eliminate bonded/ semi bonded labor and child labor etc.
- To provide short term relief and support for rehabilitation to the victims of conflict and natural disaster.
- To raise awareness on disaster preparedness and protect the natural environment of the rural areas.
- To raise consciousness of the community about their rights to health and sanitation.
- To raise awareness on human rights, democracy and rights based development to foster human dignity and peace in the community.
- To make aware and provide services to the men, women and children of rural areas in their reproductive health, family planning, sexually transmitted diseases, HIV-AIDS etc.
- To organize the small and marginal farmers for their economic and social development.
- To promote 'Mithila Art' and facilitate in its market extension to boost economic condition of rural community people as well as to promote cultural heritage of Eastern Terai, Nepal.
- To work in partnership with other agencies and group in pursuit of these aims and objectives.

2.4. Organizational Structure

An executive board consisting of a President, one Vice President, one Secretary, one Treasurer 5 Executive members governs RCDSC. Out of 9 board members, 4 (44%) are female, and 2 (22%) dalits with Vice-President Female. There are 125 (Female 46, Male 79) general members in RCDSC. Out of total members, there are specialized two separate committees (i) Gender committee and (ii) Dalit committee which are responsible to look after gender and dalit issues.

There is of small team of administrative staff (Three male and two female) for smooth functioning of office and the program. Besides, there is 37 staff that are hired and mobilized as per the needs of different project, implemented by RCDSC. Out of the total staff, 17 staffs are female. In addition, all the staff have been oriented and trained on gender and dalit

issues

2.5 Source of Funding

As RCDSC is a non profit organization, a larger portion of funding comes from donor individual and Agencies and International NGOs as well as Government of Nepal. Besides, RCDSC has been mobilizing its internal resources to generate its own fund. Membership contribution, rent from training equipments and hall, overhead from mobilizing cooperatives organizations are other sources of generating fund for the organization.

Part 2

Progress Details of F/Y 2014/2015

Inspiring Young People Program

RCDESC has been implementing Inspiring Children and Young people program from financial and technical support for C4C international in Simardahi and Bisanpur VDCs of Mahottari district.. The project has been instrumental for sensitizing and capacitating marginalized rural communities for their engagement for holding duty bearers accountable for improving services for increasing access of education of marginalized and vulnerable children and youths. The project has been successful to increase school enrollment of marginalized and vulnerable children and reduce their school drop-out. The project worked with School Management Committee (SMC), Parent Teacher Association (PTA), Youth and Child Clubs, District Education Office, DDC, District Child Welfare Broad (DCWB),



District Child Protection Committee (DCPC) for taking coordinated and collaborative efforts to improve services for marginalized children and safeguard their basic rights. The project became successful in developing and strengthening working relation between civil society organizations and local authorities to address child rights issues collectively with synergetic approach.

Objective of the project:

The main objective of the project is to empower children and youth for their holistic development through increasing access of quality education to marginalized and vulnerable children and youths.

Major Achievements:

- School going students were oriented about the project and sensitized to engage in community development activities through collective efforts
- Students were informed about importance of Hygiene and Sanitation
- School drop out rate has been decreased in project VDCs and communities are aware of importance of education.
- Students are encouraged in extra curricula activities which has increased their aptitude skills

Learning from the project:

1. School should have child friendly environment and all schools should have separate toilet facility for girl students.
2. In order to promote quality education, proper students and teacher ratio should be maintained and school class rooms should be properly maintained.
3. Youths and women should be trained in vocational skills and they should be provided with seed money to start their own enterprises.
4. There should be household door campaign on importance of education where the school dropout ratio is high.
5. Youths, women and male groups are effectively mobilized to minimize gender based and domestic violence.

Empowering Marginalized Madhesi Women for Inclusive Governance and Political Participation

RCDSC has been implementing Empowering Marginalized Madhesi Women for Inclusive Governance and Political Participation in six VDCs of Mahottari district namely Dirapur, Majhaura Bisanpur, Matihani, Simardahi, Suga Bhawani Pati and Mahottari from the financial support from European Commission (EC).

The project has been focused on increasing information and capacity of MMW for making them capable for claiming their rights, strengthening local community capacities and role of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) for their proactive engagement for protecting and promoting rights of marginalized and disadvantaged communities, through constructive dialogues, with local political bodies, local authorities, Public Service Providers (PSP) and CSOs including media and communities. The action fosters political participation and representation of MMW and accountability at local level, and enhances their socio-economic status by providing income generating opportunities for building self confidence and encouragement

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The project has facilitated to form and mobilize 24 Women's Right Protection Groups (WRPGs) and has been helping to organize their monthly meeting in each project VDCs. Total 6 VAWRs have been formed in all project VDCs and they meet in every tri-monthly months. Similarly, a district level District Advisory Committee (DPAC) has been established to coordinate and collaborate among government authorities, CSOs and target marginalized Madhesi women for addressing human rights and inclusion issues of MMWs. The DPAC is

composed of representatives from political bodies, government lines agencies, DDC, Civil society and they meet up in quarterly basis. The steering committee has also been formed and they meet in quarterly basis. However, meetings are organized as per need of the project and urgency of the meeting for making an important decision.

Objectives of the project:

The overall objective of the project is to contribute in promoting inclusive governance and political participation for ensuring human rights and inclusive democratic reform process in Nepal. To contribute to the overall objective, specific objective for the action is to empower Marginalized Madhesi Women (MMW) for improving governance and their political participation and representation by strengthening institutional capacity of civil society on human rights and inclusive democratic reform process and supporting for improved economic



Major Achievements of the project:

1. Formation of 24 Women Rights Protection Groups (WRPGs) at action villages for mobilizing them for promoting human rights, inclusive governance and political participation
2. The village level women alliances have been formed to collective initiatives for advocating and lobbying for protecting and promoting rights of marginalized Madhesi women and promote inclusive governance at local level.
3. Strengthened role of CSOs and enhanced capacity of MMW to involve them in advocacy initiatives for increasing the access of MMW to local political and public decision making bodies.
4. The project supported enhancing capacity of 215 marginalized Madhesi women to claim their rights and promote inclusive governance and human rights.
5. Strengthened coordination and networking among all stakeholders for promoting rights of MMW, inclusive governance and equitable political participation

Poverty Alleviation Program (PAF)

Glimpse of PAF intervention in Mahottari district by RCDSC

Target Household and Population				Target CO and Sub-project		
	HH	Population	Total	Old CO	New CO	Total
Dalit	1960	15540		70	30	100
Janajati	540	3554		Sub-project IG	Sub-project INFRA	Total
Others	368	2703		95	3	97
Total	2868	21797				

The project is funded by Poverty Alleviation Fund (PAF) since June 2004. Its project areas are in Nainahi, Padaul, siwa Katiya, Bathnaha and Prasa Pateli VDCs of Mahottari. In the reporting period the project has benefitted 9,482 populations of which 49% i.e., 4,613 were women beneficiaries from a total of 1315 households. Most of the resources of the project has reached to marginalised caste represented as; 34% Dalit population, 30% were from Ethnic minorities and 17% were from Muslims community.

PAF has supported the poor and disadvantaged community with different Income Generation activities, direct community support programs, training and capacity building. RCDSC has implemented the project through the application of 5 major components implemented as:



1. Community Mobilization and Facilitation

In this programme total 93 community organization (COs) are formed (Nainhi -35, Padaul-29, Saswa Katiya-7, Bathnaha-11 and Parsa Pateli-11. They are registered in GoN/PAF. RCDSC has made a contractual agreement to work with them as per the guidelines of poverty alleviation in all the 5 VDCs. A pocket area has been developed in each 5 VDCs and orientation is provided to the selected farmers.

2. Technical Assistance

Prefeasibility study, survey, design and estimation of the CO demanded project completed.

3. Capacity Building of COs

5 VDC level farmers' network has been formulated by bringing representatives of 5 different VDCs and accordingly oriented. The network has now becoming activated to advocate for the livelihood development of CO members and the COs have started facilitating in case of any misunderstanding occurred at the level of COs. A five days lead farmers training in Padaul VDC was conducted among 60 lead farmers of the 5 VDCs. The training was conducted two times in the same VDC providing training on off-season vegetable farming and seed distribution to the selected farmers and farmers groups.

4. Capacity Building of POs

A three day joint training was conducted among 21 staffs that included Project Coordinator, Supervisors and Social Mobilizes of 4 partner organizations in the project period. Similarly, an exposure visit was made to the staffs of 4 partner organizations to Birgunj of Parsa district where a new technology has been developed. The exposure visit was supportive to understand how electricity can be generated from the paddy botch.

5. Monitoring, Evaluation and Coordination

VDC level monitoring was done on regular basis by different project personnel and organizational committee members. A joint monitoring among PAF staff, District authorities were also done. Similarly, a PO level interaction program and District level interaction

program was done to share challenges, best practices and lesson learns from the project interventions.

Achievements:

1. 10 new project proposals were developed and made an agreement with PAF to execute community level development initiatives. First and second instalments from the PAF have been received and income generating activities have been initiated.
2. 25 community based organizations have formulated community level development projects. Among which 13 community plans have been from PAF and under process to execute for improving livelihoods of poor and vulnerable communities.
3. The community organizations have initiated two gravel road improvement projects as community infrastructure activities. The detailed design and estimation of the infrastructure projects have already been finalized to carry out field level infrastructure improvement activities.

Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Program

This project is funded by Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Fund Development Board (Fund board). The project is being implemented since 2008 with 3 drinking water schemes initially in Mahottari district. The water cum sanitation project is implemented in 7 VDCs of the district covering 9798 population from 1551 Households of Muslim, Dalit and other marginalized community through 7 drinking water schemes. The project has supported 238 taps, 700 household toilets and 3 child friendly school toilets. In addition to it, school level awareness raising activities and community training activities are conducted. At this project phase project staffs have provided training to Users Committee on leadership development and community mobilization.

The Users Committees are also linked with District level stakeholders. In order to sustain and develop community ownership, the communities have contributed at least 10% of the total project cost on their own. In



development phase (other activities that started before drinking water system construction) of those scheme different activities already started. Those activities are; toilet construction in each household, user committees formation and provide health/sanitation training to beneficiaries, women group formation and started saving credit programme, training to mothers about personal hygiene and vaccination to children. Most of the development

activities are completed in this reporting period. The detail survey along with designing and



estimation of the 7 projects has been done in this reporting time. The list of projects is:

Sn	Name of Scheme	Population	Households	Tap Number	Schools
1	Majhaura Bisanpur DWSP	1,618	304	42	
2	Khairawa DWSP	1,239	220	30	1
3	Badiya Banchauri DWSP	1,302	223	30	
4	Goth Bardaha DWSP	1,512	194	29	
5	Bardaha 9 DWSP	1,659	250	50	1
6	Atarar DWSP	1,100	224	30	
7	Bathanaha DWSP	1,368	176	27	1
Total		9,798	1,591	138	3

Management of Degraded Agricultural Land in 4 VDCs of Mahottari District

Rural Community Development Service Centre (RCDSC) has been implementing a project on “**Management of Degraded Agricultural Land**” in 4 VDCs of Mahottari District namely Parsa Pateli, Matehani, Dhirapur and Simardahi in collaboration with Mithila Saving and Credit Cooperative, District Agriculture Development Office and Radio Appan Mithila Mahottari, from the financial support from National Agriculture Research and Development fund (NARDF) since 3rd February 2013 . The project is intended to benefit 400 households (HHs) of marginalized households directly and 200 non participants neighbouring HHs indirectly. The project has given priority to active participation of women and youth. In each formed farmers groups there are more than 50% women and in most of the cases they are in the women’s executive committee of the group. The project is empowering them and developing their leadership. The total cost of the project is NRs 3,356,121.



The general objective of the project is to improve soil condition through the introduction of different farming system/ technologies through introduction through different activities. The

project is planned to be implemented to meet 4 basic objectives as: improving soil fertility for sustainable agricultural practices which ultimately contribute to increase the production, ecological and environmental balance for better livelihood; improving soil status (Acidic soil will be improved to neutral soil and the availability of macronutrients NPK will be enhanced); Poor/marginalized farmers will realize the importance of yam and sweet potatoes as alternative of rice and wheat and then initiate in the promotion and utilization of the product; and Farmers' achievements and success will be extended through media and other sources for replication in the vicinities of the VDC and district level. The project is being implemented by the formation of 20 demonstration plots where all activities are integrated for the improvement of existing soil condition. A total of 400 farmers are trained on different aspect of soil correction endeavours through the formation of 20 farmers' groups and strengthening them with trainings, workshops, exposure visits, and dissemination of information through local media and publications, and joint monitoring initiatives. Accountability and visibility will be made through hoarding boards and documentary preparation. In addition, farmers' capacity will be enhanced for corrective soil improvements and these initiatives will be replicated in other parts of the districts.

Achievements:

1. The project has carried 39 soil samples from 20 demonstration sites to analysis the soil structure and productivity.
2. 51 farmers have been trained to initiate sustainable soil management practices at community level.
3. A farmer learning center has been established to enhance production and productivity of terrace based cropping systems by conserving soil and water (soil moisture) and reducing erosion loss of soil, water and nutrients directly with the rain water, especially during rainy season
4. The project has completed a training activity on compost pit construction to 50 farmers.
5. The local product of Yam and Sweet potato produced by the farmers were marketed in the local market. Mithila Saving and Credit Cooperative have helped them in market promotion.



Micro Enterprise Development Program (MEDEP)

UNDP funded MEDEP program has been implemented by RCDSC in coordination with Regional office APSO of UNDP. The overall objective of this project is to contribute to national economy by enhancing skill to local enterprneurs to restoring the foundations for sustainable development by strengthening the capacities of communities. The program's key target groups are local level Dalit community, Ethnic minorities, Single women, economically disadvantaged and unemployed youths.

As an output of program implementation, 515 targeted community people have become entrepreneurs and they are supported with different entrepreneurship equipments and capacity building initiatives.



With the support of MEDEP, 102 entrepreneurs are supported with business technology and equipments. Under the scale up support, 20 were provided clay-bangle training, 10 were supported bicycle for ice-cream selling, 8 were provided bangles making training, and 24 were supported with cookies and bhujia making training cum equipments support.

Similarly, 40 entrepreneurs were supported with pig farming under skill development scheme.



The entrepreneurs had initially started to establish their own cooperative in Jaleswor and Aurahi market center which was later expanded in Pigauna, Prakoli, Fulhatha, Samsi, Dhirapur and Simardahi VDCs. Micro entrepreneurs are also supported with water lifting pump machine and pipe for commercial vegetable farming, color mixing machine for statue making, poultry farming support, retail shop establishment support and clothes shop establishment support. The entrepreneurs have initiated action plan for further improving their business. The entrepreneurs' achievement has been remarkable and other neighbouring community people have also started replicating the practices and are contributing for sustained livelihood.

During this year, following VDCs and municipality have been covered for implementing project activities to promote micro enterprises which could largely benefit poor and marginalized communities creating environment for doing local level enterprises

S.N	Market Center	Project VDCs expanded
1	Jaleswor Municipality	Pigauna, Prakoli, Fulhatha
2	Samsi	Samsi
3	Balwa	Balwa
4	Ramgopalpur	
5	Aurahi	Aurahi
6	Loharpatti	
7	Bardibas	
8	Pipara	
9	Matihani	Dhirapur, Simardahi
10	Gaushala	



Youth Employment Project - Nepal (YEP- Nepal)

Swiss Contact has been working with Rural Community Development Service Council (RCDSC) from 1st February, 2015 to undertake the Youth Employment project activities in the Mahottari district. RCDSC sees the good potential to grow its business through this partnership which will help expand the training markets in Nepal targeting the youth whilst linking them to employment opportunities. RCDSC has been working closely with the project personnel, local NGOs, employers, industries, Micro Financial Institutions (MFIs), Banks, Skills development training centers in the districts, local industry chambers and associations, District Development Committee (DDC) and local government line agencies.

YEP-Nepal has signed MOU with Nirdhan Utthan Bank Limited to orient the trainees on saving and credit process, facilitate them for access to financial support services and provide inputs to the trainees on financial literacy.

Objectives of the project

The overall objective of the project to increase opportunities for gainful employment and income generation for youth, focusing on un(der)employed, and particularly for disadvantaged youth through quality and relevant skills training while contributing to the long term sustainability of the partner training providers.



TARGET GROUP OF THE PROJECT:

The project is focused on the following target groups of young women and men:

- Unemployed or underemployed youths
- Youth aged between 16 and 40 years (Youth definition from youth policy 2010)
- Young women either married and with children
- Dalit and Janajatis (indigenous peoples) youth

Achievements:

- The project has organized Dress Maker training to 60 youths to provide employment opportunities.
- 20 young girls are trained in Beautician training to engage income generating activities to improve their livelihoods.
- The project carried out computer training to 20 youths to develop their skills in computer so that they can get opportunities for employment at local level.

Earthquake Recovery Project

After devastating earthquake in Nepal, RCDSC was intensively involved in relief activities for early rehabilitation and recovery of the earthquake affected victims. RCDSC had been supported food items and medicine as well as medical supplies items from the support of the MedShare Southeastern Regional Distribution Center, USA worked massively in identification of earthquake affected victims and vulnerable families through Dhulikhel Hospital for the Sindhupalchaur, Sindhuli, Gorkha and Kavre districts and provided them the health tool kits to support them for early rehabilitation and recovery from the impact of earthquake.



Objective of the project

The main objective of the project is to provide immediate food items and health services to earthquake affected victims and families of Sindhupalchaur, Sindhuli, Gorkha and Kavre districts for their early rehabilitation and recovery.

Achievements:

- Identification of earthquake affected victims and families in selected VDCs of Gorkha districts to support food items
- Coordination and collaboration with local authorities, community organization and District Disaster Relief Committees (DDRC) for rehabilitation and recovery of earthquake affected victims and families.
- Provided health supplies items to earthquake effected people through dhulikhel hospital for targeted districts for their early recovery.

Ambulance Service

RCDSC has its own Ambulance in Jaleswor, Mahottari. It is for emergency service to transport sick persons mainly delivery cases of women from rural communities to the Hospitals of Nepal and also to India. Before RCDSC there was problem at emergencies of illness for the communities of Mahottari

Community FM service of RCDSC

RCDSC has its own Community radio FM, its name is "*Radio Appan Mithila*" 94.4 MHZ. It was established in Jaleswor, Mahottari in the May 2007. At present there is total 16 staff (Technician 4, Programme 6, News 4, and Marketing 2). There is management committee of FM radio.

It is very useful media in local level to promote and advocate for the rights of Dalit, women, children, poor and excluded people. Similarly to raise awareness on health, sanitation, education and about role of community people on new constitution preparation. It broad cast news/ information's in local language so it is easy to understand by the people in local level.



Mithila Saving Credit Cooperative of RCDSC in Mahottari

Total 1234 shareholders (Women 730 and Men 504) in these cooperatives; those are staff of RCDSC, members of community groups and some others. In this cooperatives total saving so far is NRs.19,434,350 and the total investment through farmers and community is NRS. 19,036,932. 80 per cent of the total loan support - at very minimal rate- is provided to farmers, 10 % to foreign Employment, 5% to business and remaining in other sectors. Through the Cooperative 28 farmers have been supported for commercial vegetable farming, 12 with commercial animal husbandry, 10 for fisheries and more than 100 women members are provided training to skilled them on adaptation technology resulted due to climate change. The major intervention area of the cooperative is on commercial farming and agro based income generation initiatives.

RCDSC has facilitated the Cooperative to implement “Commercial Vegetable Farming” project supported by Project for Agriculture Commercialization and Trade (PACT) Nepal. The program is implemented in 6 VDCs through forming farmers’ groups. Farmers have produced vegetable seeds of brinjal, lady’s Finger, Cauliflower, cabbage, gourds, onion and Brocauli. 2 different vegetable collection centers of the local farmers are also constructed at different community centers to address the increasing demand of vegetables in Kathmandu.

