



A report on Social Entrepreneurship District Workshop Lalitpur

"Fostering Change, Empowering Innovators"



Organizer Details:

Organization Name : Nepal Development Initiative (NEDI)
Organization Address : Koteshwor, Kathmandu, Nepal
Website : <https://www.nedi.org.np/>

In collaboration with:

National Social Entrepreneurship Forum (NSEF)
Catalyst 2030
Yuwalaya
NGO Federation of Lalitpur

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Social Entrepreneurship District Workshop Overview:

The Social Entrepreneurship District Workshop in Lalitpur, Nepal, was organized by the Nepal Development Initiation NEDI, which brought together a diverse group of social entrepreneurs, including women entrepreneurs, development professionals, and stakeholders. The workshop aimed to address challenges and gaps faced by social entrepreneurs in the country, focusing on Lalitpur. It included discussions on the government's role, challenges, and future actions. The event also introduced Business and Human Rights (BHR) and Catalyst 2030 as platforms for global connections. The workshop fostered collaboration and aimed to establish the Social Entrepreneurship Lalitpur Network Chapter. Overall, it empowered participants and facilitated dialogue between sectors for promoting social entrepreneurship in the district.



Objectives

The event aimed to achieve the following objectives:

1. To identify and discuss the gaps and challenges social entrepreneurs face in Nepal.
2. To foster collaboration and networking among social entrepreneurs, development professionals, and stakeholders.
3. To introduce Catalyst 2030 and the National Social Entrepreneurship Forum as platforms for supporting social entrepreneurs.
4. To establish the Social Entrepreneurship Lalitpur Network Chapter to facilitate ongoing support and collaboration among social entrepreneurs in the Lalitpur region.

Participants:

The workshop included the participation of social entrepreneurs, including women and youth, government representatives, and stakeholders. This diverse group came together to foster collaboration, share experiences, and explore opportunities in social entrepreneurship.

Highlights of Sessions/ Activity Description:

Opening and Introductory Session

The opening and introductory session of the "Social Entrepreneurship District Workshop in Lalitpur." During this session, the event host facilitated the formal introduction, briefed the participants about the workshop's agenda, and managed the presence and involvement of the guest chef. Mr. Narendra Dangol delivered the welcome speech, expressing gratitude to the attendees and emphasizing the importance and objectives of the workshop.

"Keynote Address: Empowering Social Entrepreneurship for Sustainable Impact" by Arjun Bhattarai

Soon after, the inaugural speech was delivered by Mr. Arjun Bhattarai, a renowned figure in the field of social entrepreneurship. Mr. Bhattarai, the founder and coordinator of the Nepal Development Initiative (NEDI), co-chair of Catalyst2030, and a member of the Social Welfare Council (SWC) and Social Enterprise Fund (SEF), captivated the participants with his insights.

During the session, Mr. Bhattarai shed light on the concept of enterprises and provided a comprehensive understanding of social entrepreneurship. He emphasized the global significance of this field and shared NEDI's efforts in collaborating with universities to educate students about social entrepreneurship. The audience was intrigued by Mr. Bhattarai's discussion on the growing body of publications and research in social entrepreneurship. He also highlighted various social entrepreneurship initiatives, notably mentioning the impact of the Social Entrepreneurship Symposium 2023 in securing commitments from the government and stakeholders regarding policies supporting social entrepreneurship.

Moreover, Mr. Bhattarai underlined the importance of national and international networks such as NESF and Catalyst 2030 in promoting social entrepreneurship and fostering stakeholder collaboration. Throughout the presentation, Mr. Bhattarai addressed key questions to deepen understanding, including the definition of social entrepreneurship, the challenges social entrepreneurs face, and the necessary environmental factors that contribute to their success.

The session not only provided valuable insights into the field of social entrepreneurship but also inspired attendees to actively engage in the workshop's activities. The event successfully set the stage for further exploration and learning in social entrepreneurship, leaving participants excited and motivated to make a positive impact in their communities.

Efforts and Achievement so far from Lalitpur Metropolitan City

Ms Rojina Shakya, a representative from Lalitpur Metropolitan City, shared valuable insights and experiences. She discussed the various endeavors undertaken by the city to support and empower women in the enterprise sector.

Ms Shakya highlighted the challenges in gathering reliable data on social enterprises within the Lalitpur district. Despite the district's population of 3 lakhs, with 50% being women, there is a lack of comprehensive data on entrepreneurs. Out of 8473 registered enterprises, only 2209 are registered under women entrepreneurs. The industrial sector presents an even greater gender disparity, with only 16 out of 116 registered enterprises being led by women.

She emphasized the importance of Women's Entrepreneurship Empowerment initiatives launched by the Lalitpur Metropolitan City government. These initiatives include organizing two annual conferences, the Lalitpur Metropolitan Women Entrepreneurs Conference, and providing facilities for women entrepreneurs. However, she highlighted the challenges women entrepreneurs face regarding limited knowledge of documentation and accessing necessary services. The government offers grants and funding to address these issues, including five lakhs for team-based entrepreneurs and One lakh for individual entrepreneurs. Capacity enhancement training programs have also been provided, focusing on innovative training ideas, such as a boot camp in collaboration with Kathmandu University that covered basic accounting management and daybook maintenance.

Ms Shakya emphasized the importance of sharing success stories to motivate women entrepreneurs. The Lalitpur Metropolitan City has been actively documenting success stories and organizing the Women Entrepreneur Summit. In addition, plans are underway to introduce software and a mobile app to facilitate women entrepreneurs' understanding of government services.

During her presentation, Ms Shakya identified several major issues social entrepreneurs face in Lalitpur Metropolitan City. These include challenges related to multiple tax payments, limited market value or exposure, and difficulties in manufacturing labeling and packaging. The Lalitpur Metropolitan City has been actively collaborating with various institutions, including educational and governmental bodies, as well as the South Asian Women Forum (SAWDF), to collectively work towards supporting women entrepreneurs.

Lastly, the session provided valuable insights into the efforts, challenges, and achievements of Lalitpur Metropolitan City in empowering women entrepreneurs. Ms Rojina Shakya's comprehensive presentation shared information about the initiatives undertaken, the ongoing support provided, and the vision for the future in fostering a thriving ecosystem for women entrepreneurship in Lalitpur Metropolitan City.

A words of appreciation from Mr. Deepak of Udhami Ghar

Mr. Deepak Karki from Udhami Ghar, an inspiring social entrepreneur, expressed his sincere appreciation for the valuable insights Miss Rojina Shakya and Mr. Arjun Bhattarai shared during the session on empowering women entrepreneurs in Lalitpur Metropolitan City. He commended the organizers, presenters, and speakers for shedding light on the various challenges faced in the field of social entrepreneurship, the importance of data collection, and the initiatives taken by the government to support women entrepreneurs.

Furthermore, Mr. Karki took the opportunity to provide a brief overview of Udhami Ghar and its significant role in helping vulnerable and marginalized individuals. He emphasized how Udhami Ghar has created opportunities for these individuals to become economically independent, fostering empowerment and sustainable livelihoods.

His expression of appreciation showcased the acknowledgment of the valuable insights shared during the session and the alignment of Udhami Ghar's mission with the objectives discussed. It highlighted the collective effort and dedication toward empowering women entrepreneurs and creating positive social impact.

Closing remark from Mr. Tika Ram Dahal, central member representative at Non-Governmental Organization, Sanitation Entrepreneur.

In his closing remarks, Mr. Dahal expressed his sincere gratitude to all the participants, organizers, and esteemed speakers for their valuable contributions in making the workshop a resounding success. He acknowledged the efforts and achievements shared throughout the event, which focused on empowering women entrepreneurs in Lalitpur Metropolitan City.

Mr. Dahal thanked Miss Rojina Shakya, Mr. Arjun Bhattarai, and the other presenters for sharing their experiences and insights. He recognized their commitment to addressing the challenges in the field of social entrepreneurship and emphasized the importance of innovative ideas, data collection, and government initiatives in supporting women entrepreneurs.

Furthermore, Mr. Dahal commended the social service provided by organizations like Udhami Ghar, which creates opportunities for vulnerable and marginalized individuals. He applauded their dedication to fostering empowerment and sustainable livelihoods. Mr. Dahal also emphasized the need to prioritize welfare as a basic humanity. He highlighted the workshop's reaffirmation of the importance of collaboration, innovative thinking, and government support in driving positive change. He encouraged continued efforts to work together towards the betterment of communities, upholding the principles of social entrepreneurship and striving for a more inclusive and prosperous society.

Final Discussion Round

During the discussion that followed the session, participants raised several important points:

1. **Sectoral Rules for Social Entrepreneurship:**
Participants emphasized the need for the government to establish specific rules and regulations tailored to different sectors within social entrepreneurship. They highlighted the importance of recognizing various industries' unique characteristics and challenges, enabling a more supportive and conducive environment for social entrepreneurs.
2. **Private Entrepreneurship and Public Sector:**
Participants expressed the need for the government to shift its perspective on private entrepreneurship, refraining from seeing them solely as competitors. They suggested revising and clearly explaining rules and regulations, fostering collaboration and synergy between private and public sectors.
3. **Women's Exposure and Economic Politics:**
The discussion shed light on the lack of space for women's exposure in the economic and entrepreneurial spheres. Participants urged concerted efforts to address this issue, emphasizing the importance of creating an inclusive environment that provides equal opportunities and support for women entrepreneurs.
4. **Collaborative Work:**
Participants stressed the significance of working collaboratively to advance the field of social entrepreneurship. They emphasized the need for stakeholders, including non-governmental organizations (NGOs), to influence the government in shaping policies that align with the sector's requirements and address its unique challenges.
5. **Collaboration with Lalitpur Metropolitan City:**
Participants recognized the importance of collaborative efforts with the Lalitpur Metropolitan City. They emphasized the benefits of working closely with local authorities to leverage resources, share expertise, and jointly develop strategies that foster the growth and impact of social entrepreneurship in the region.

The discussions highlighted the participants' commitment to creating a supportive ecosystem for social entrepreneurship. They called for sector-specific rules, collaboration among stakeholders, improved women's representation, and close cooperation with local authorities to ensure the development and implementation of effective policies that empower and enable social entrepreneurs to thrive.

Conclusion

The Social Entrepreneurship District Workshop in Lalitpur, organized by the Nepal Development Initiative (NEDI) in collaboration with the National Social Entrepreneurship Forum (NSEF), Catalyst 2030, Yuwalaya, and NGO Federation of Lalitpur, successfully brought together social entrepreneurs, including women and youth, government representatives, and stakeholders. The workshop addressed challenges social entrepreneurs face in Nepal, specifically focusing on Lalitpur. Through informative sessions, keynote addresses, and discussions, participants gained valuable insights into social entrepreneurship, the efforts of Lalitpur Metropolitan City to support women entrepreneurs and the importance of collaboration and government support. The workshop fostered networking, knowledge sharing, and the establishment of a Social Entrepreneurship Lalitpur Network Chapter, further empowering participants and promoting sustainable impact in social entrepreneurship.

Organization Introduction:

Nepal Development Initiative (NEDI):

NEDI is a non-profit organization uplifting marginalized communities through social entrepreneurship, sustainable businesses, and value-driven economic development. Balancing individual aspirations and societal good, we promote socializing the economic structure. Social enterprises and responsible businesses generate social and economic capital, benefiting communities with employment and prosperity. Circular economy principles of reduce, reuse, and recycle are integrated, enhancing product utility and minimizing waste. Macro-level focus on social objectives over capital, fostering a social solidarity economy that reinvests surpluses for sustainable development. NEDI strives to empower and inform communities for a prosperous and dignified life.