

THE FEDO QUARTERLY POST

The Official Quarterly Newsletter of Feminist Dalit Organization



NATIONAL-LEVEL WEBINAR 'IMPACT OF CASTE SYSTEM IN NEPAL'

On the auspicious occasion of FEDO's 28th Anniversary, FEDO organized a webinar under the topic "Impact of Caste system in Nepal" to broaden the concept as well as to clarify the concept that this conventional caste system has further complicated the lives in more complex ways.

In Nepal, the caste system appeared in the ancient era. The higher caste group holds the power and monopolizes the system. Therefore this structure has been badly impacting the lives of Dalits for ages, the power dynamics on different caste groups have been beholding the situation moreover, taking lead in the social, economic, and political strata ultimately resulting in not just discrimination towards the Dalit community but to the community of another caste group too.

So in this context, this webinar was organized across the nation by involving different concerned stakeholders, frontline leaders, and media personnel who presented their thoughts on the impact of the caste system that has been faced by a different section of the people.

WHAT'S IN OUR LATEST ISSUE:

Relief distributed to flood victims and COVID affected vulnerable groups

Orientation given to Dalit women and girls on caste-based discrimination and sexual violence

FEDO Draws attention towards the increasing number of Rapes

Concluded training on Safeguarding

Likewise, in the course of the discussion, the speakers pointed out and shared their valuable suggestions with FEDO as to design a way forward in developing short term as well as long term strategies to address Food Security, Economic opportunities, shelter, and WASH for the Dalit community focusing more on Dalit women in coordination and collaboration with government, civil society, and other concerned authorities. We also got an opportunity to hear out the efforts made by concerned stakeholders toward mitigating the problems faced by Dalit women in Nepal

DURGA SOB, FOUNDER PRESIDENT OF FEMINIST DALIT ORGANIZATION (FEDO)



We have all witnessed, lobbied, and advocated for women facing gender-based discrimination and patriarchy which has overshadowed the worth and voice of women, and now its high time we deflect the issue where Dalit women have been facing socio-economic and political problems as well as being women facing problems living in the patriarchal country. The layered discrimination has further bound them to move forward and in the urgency of this FEDO has been working to create a just and equitable society. The power dynamics, class hierarchy, and superiority should be dismantled for every citizen to live a dignified life.

DR. SANJEEV UPRETI – WRITER AND ACTIVIST



Speaking at the event, he shared to fight against discrimination, the collective effort of an individual, national and international level of action, lobby, advocacy is required. He even committed to working more for the welfare and well-being of Dalit women and women in general, he further said until and unless strong collective effort, voice, and action is not taken, change is long-awaited thus the support from different stakeholders, individuals, government officials, media is indispensable.

PRASHAANT SINGH – LEADER OF PEOPLE'S SOCIALIST PARTY AND ACTIVIST



He congratulated all the FEDO members for the 27 years of successful endeavors and agreed on the fact that FEDO is the pioneer for raising the suppressed voices of Dalit women and heightening the movement. He further added that we should be more thoughtful on how to eradicate the issue of caste discrimination. This chronic state of discrimination has been prevailing in the South-Asia especially in India and Nepal which has further accelerated the social, political, military, and economic problems.

DOVAN RAI– WRITER & RESEARCHER



We have to work forward in a collective approach for the change where all the people are treated as equal humans in a just and equitable society. People should be very clear about the fact that wanting the caste system to eliminate does not have to and need to end the caste-based reservation and the merits they are supposed to get from the state. It should be crystal clear that the services they are getting are the one-step solution to the problem certain groups in society are facing.

RAM KARKI – POLITICAL LEADER

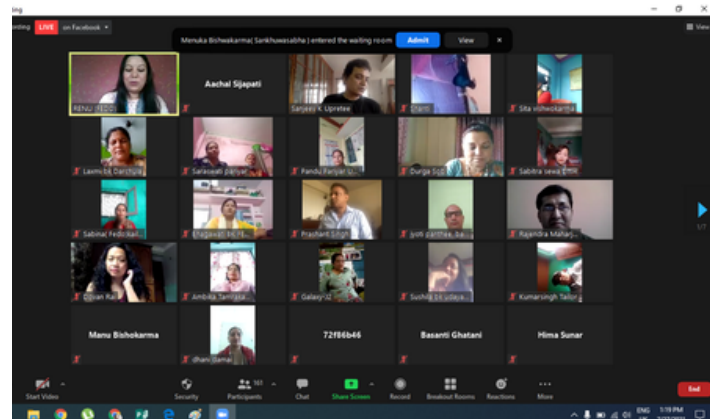
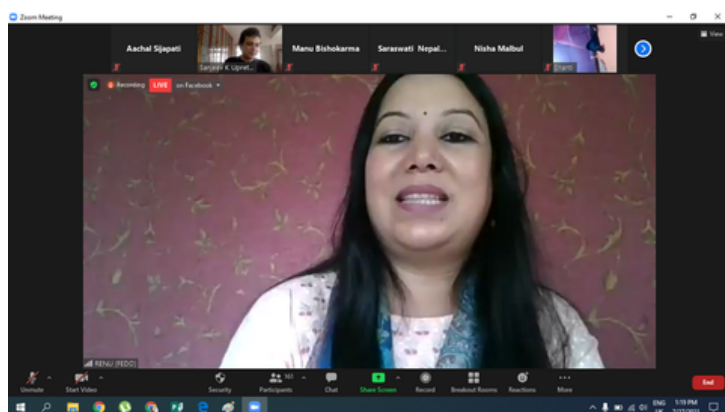


The existing caste system is not a problem, the structure in the society is a problem. Dismantling the social, political structure and moving forward to state restructuring is the only solution to the existing discrimination. The concept of proportionate and inclusion of Dalit, women, indigenous is like more of decoration in the group as they aren't included in prominent decision making. Unless they aren't valued with their existence, individuality, and perception, the change is far-fetched.

KALA SWARNAKAR- PRESIDENT OF FEDO



To honor the auspicious occasion of the 28th year of establishment of the organization she presented her gratitude to every individual, group with a common interest to work for the welfare of Dalit women sowing the change of development. With all these memorable 27 years of journey, FEDO has constantly been a major catalyst to address the issue of caste-based discrimination, gender-based violence, and discrimination, every ounce of willpower has been invested for an issue of Dalit women and Dalit in general which has been booted at the national and international platform to safeguard and secure the human rights of Dalit women.



Screen shots of the webinar

By successfully hosting the event, FEDO was able to enlighten and aware 215 people on the impact of the caste system in Nepal. Numerous recommendations and commitment was made by the concerned stakeholders for the frequent support to uplift the status of Dalit women

RAJENDRA MAHARJAN – WRITER AND ACTIVIST



He enlightened us about the caste structure of Nepal and further added that every intersection of society should have equal access to rights and justice to live a dignified life, where they can enjoy each and every service, opportunity provided by the state. The Dalit, Indigenous community, women, Madhesi have always been oppressed and exploited. So to overcome this situation, rigorous collective effort, collaboration, harmony is required.

BABITA BASNET – WRITER, JOURNALIST AND ACTIVIST



The majority of Dalits working in the informal service sector, mostly in lowest-level jobs, relying on daily wages are more suffering from hunger, deprived from having access to basic services, and right to information. Even though the state government has brought some subsidy programs and vocational programs to the vulnerable families in the agricultural sector, Dalit arent able to use that opportunity since they don't have their own land and investment for production, hence lead to downfall of their livelihood.

This webinar was indeed a great success as there was the participation of powerful speakers from different fields who shed light on the subject matter very informatively. With the active involvement of 200 plus participants, we were able to raise numerous recommendations and suggestions. Not only this, but the concerned stakeholders also showed their commitment toward the issue and pledge to support us in the movement of creating a just and equitable society for all.

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