

# DNF Capacity Building Support Project (DCBSP)

Annual Progress Report  
January- December 2006

Submitted to  
DanidaHUGOU  
Panipokhari, Kathmandu



Submitted by

Dalit NGO Federation (DNF)  
Kamalpokhari, Kathmandu  
Phone: 4413589,4413517,2003124  
Email: [dnf@dnfnepal.org](mailto:dnf@dnfnepal.org)  
Web: [www.dnfnepal.org](http://www.dnfnepal.org)

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## **Annexes**

## List of Abbreviations and Acronyms

ALC	American Language Centre
ARMDD	Advocacy, Research and Monitoring Division
CERD	Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination
CPN UML	Communist Party of Nepal- United, Marxist and Leninist
DanidaHUGOU	The Human Rights and Good Governance Advisory Unit
DCBSP	DNF Capacity Building Support Project
DHRW	Dalit Human Rights Watch
DNF	Dalit NGO Federation –Nepal
DNGOs	Dalit Non-Governmental Organizations
FECOFUN	Nepal, Federation of Community Forestry Users
FEFIN	Nepal Federation of Indigenous Nationalities
G.R. XXX	General Recommendation
GCAP	Global Campaign Against Poverty
HR	Human Rights
INSEC	Informal Sector Service Centre
LAAD	Legal Aid and Advisory Davison
MOs	Member Organizations
NFD	National Foundation for the Deaf
NFIWUAN	National Federation of Irrigation Water Users' Association, Nepal
NFN	NGO Federation of Nepal
OD	Organizational Development
OHCHR	Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights
PABSON	Private and Boarding Schools' Organization
PIL	Public Interest Litigation
POCAP	Participatory Organizational Capacity Analysis Process
SWOT	Strength, Weakness, Opportunities and Threats
ULCI	Universal English Language and Computer Institute
VMGOs	Vision, Mission, Goal and Objectives

## **Acknowledgement**

Dalit NGO Federation (DNF-Nepal) is a pioneer federation of Dalit NGOs in Nepal. It has, since its inception, been actively involved in raising the voices of Dalit community both at national as well as international level, thereby, drawing the attention of the government, development partners, civil society organizations and international community, so that they are able to address the issues of Dalits of Nepal.

DNF had implemented "DNF Capacity Building Support Project (DCBSP)" from February 2004 to December 2006, with support from DanidaHUGOU. Now the project is completed. This project has abundantly contributed in capacity building of DNF, its regional offices and district chapters including MOs working in various nook and corner of the country. First and foremost, DNF is highly obliged to DanidaHUGOU, for providing support to DNF, which, in turn, has significantly contributed for the cause of Dalit community. However, DanidaHUGOU has become the first bi-lateral cooperating agency for DNF in providing support to implement such nature of project, irrespective of other projects implemented through the support of other development partners.

Subsequently, I would like to express my sincere thanks to the executive board members of DNF for their continued support as well as guidance in successfully implementing the project activities as planned.

Similarly, I am very much grateful to DNF member organizations (MOs), who duly contributed for the timely implementation of project activities. My sincere thanks goes to all collaborating Dalit and pro-Dalit NGOs and individuals for their continued support for the successful implementation of the project.

I am equally indebted to my other colleagues, who are deputed in different divisions, regional offices of DNF for their untiring efforts to successfully implement project activities as well as to bring out this report in this form.

Once again, I would like to thank all those, who directly or indirectly cooperated from their own to complete this assignment.

Tirtha Burma  
Executive Director  
Dalit NGO Federation (DNF)

Name of the Organization: Dalit NGO Federation (DNF)

Name of the Project: DNF Capacity Building Support Project

Reporting Period: January – December 2006

## 1. Introduction

The 1990's popular movement brought political change by restoring multiparty democracy in Nepal. Soon after the reinstatement of democracy, several cooperating nations and development partners expressed their desires and interests to support Nepal in her all round socio-economic as well as political development. Since the dawn of 1990, Danish government, among others, came to frontline to provide support for the development of Nepal. However, Danida's support to human rights and good governance was initiated accordingly. Since then, Danish assistance in human rights and good governance increased considerably with broadened scope and has been a priority area since 1998. The Human Rights and Good Governance Advisory Unit (HUGOU) was established in 1999 to support the implementation of Danida's Human Rights and Good Governance Programme.

Danida has, since 2000, been providing support to Dalit organizations in Nepal, whilst the Human Rights and Good Governance Programme was kicked off. Dalit NGO Federation (DNF-Nepal) is one of the organizations to receive such support from Danish government. It is Kathmandu-based federation of Dalit NGOs working all over the country. More specifically, DNF has received Danida support from August 2000 for the implementation of legal aid, organizational development and advocacy activities. The support was continued till July 2003.

In February 2004, Danida/HUGOU agreed to provide financial support to DNF to implement "DNF Capacity Building Support Project (DCBSP). Meanwhile, both have entered into an agreement to implement the project. The project was agreed for three years, covering the period February 2004 to December 2006. On the last of December 2006, the project has completed.

During the course of project implementation, work plan and budget were planned and approved on annual basis, despite the agreement was made for three years. It means that the project activities and budget were approved by Danida/HUGOU in the beginning of each year. Project activities for the year 2006 were formally approved in March, 2006. Due to late approval of work plan and budget coupled with the political instability in the country, DNF faced difficulties to complete all activities as planned originally.

This is the annual progress report, covering the period January to December 2006. However, this report covers the major outputs achieved under the major components of this project; and presents key learning and narration of major activities. The major components of the project are: (1) organizational development, (2) identification and launching of advocacy initiatives and campaigns, (3) internationalize Dalit issues through alliances/networks, (4) sensitization and domestication of international laws/ conventions/treaties, and (5) provide legal aid and services through MOs to the victims of caste-based discriminations and other forms of discriminations against Dalits. As the focal umbrella organization, DNF implemented the overall activities as specified in the project document across the country through its regional offices and district chapters including MOs.

During this year, there occurred historic changes in the country together with a change in the organization itself. In the case of state: a decade-long political instability reached into its climax followed by a 19 days general strike, reinstatement of parliament, declaration of truce, declaration of constituent assembly, among others. In the case of organization: DNF successfully concluded its 3<sup>rd</sup> national convention, which was held from 9-11 June 2006 in Pokhara. The convention was participated in by more than 200 Member Organizations (MOs), who elected a new executive board with the new commitments. The board has ensured inclusion within itself and has set seven points strategic directions for three years. Likewise, the executive board has also set the target to expand the number of member organizations from 200 to 500, which are in pipeline to acquire affiliation.

The report has been prepared through participatory process by involving divisional staff of DNF Central Office. Likewise, information was also sought from DNF regional offices. Advocacy, Research and Monitoring Division (ARMD) was assigned the main accountability to complete this report. However, ARMD collected various reports including bi-annual reports as well as event reports from DNF Headquarters, five divisions and its regional offices. ARMD compiled various reports and collected desired information from various stakeholders and prepared a draft report. Draft report thus prepared was shared to all divisions in central office. Necessary feedback and inputs were obtained from each division and incorporated them accordingly. A series of meeting was held to fine-tune the report. Finally, DNF management approved it for submitting to DanidaHUGOU. DNF is, now, awaiting comments from DanidaHUGOU. Upon receiving comments and suggestions, DNF will incorporate these comments in the final report and disseminate to its regional offices and MOs, who received direct support from this project.

The main purpose of this annual progress report is to share achievements and key learning from the project among the stakeholders including DNF itself, regional offices, district chapters, MOs, and DanidaHUGOU. This apart, other stakeholders associated to DanidaHUGOU will also be knowledgeable from this report.

## 2. Project overview

### Achievements against objectives and outputs during January to December 2006

Immediate Objectives and Outputs of the Project	Indicators	Targeted Activities	Results
<p><b>Output 1</b> DNF has revisited and developed organizational policies, structures, systems, skills, cultures, core values, competencies, developed strategic plan (both for OD and advocacy) and implemented them effectively.</p>	DNF has emerged as an effective organization	Review polices, guidelines, procedures, systems, structures and develop strategic plan (Translation and publication of major policy documents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ DNF has formulated its 5 and 3 years strategic plan;</li> <li>➤ The constitution of DNF, membership distribution guideline, and code of conduct has been published.</li> <li>➤ The financial policy and Human Resources (Staff) Policy are in the process of publication; which are being translated</li> </ul>
		Implementation of strategic plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Based on the existing plans and polices, DNF has developed 7 points strategic directions and goals.</li> <li>➤ DNF has started to implement policies and plans (central as well as regions).</li> <li>➤ One strategic workshop organized on 28-30 August, 2006, which reviewed existing plans and developed a new strategic plan for 3 years.</li> <li>➤ DNF has published its code of conduct, membership distribution guideline and statute on its own website.</li> <li>➤ DNF has published its brochure and has printed membership certificate.</li> </ul>
		Implementation of PR and marketing plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ DNF has developed networking and coordination guideline;</li> <li>➤ Dalit Solidarity Coordination Forum meeting is continuously organized. On the meeting, DNF presents any further development that took place in the country in it's and/or member organizations' initiative.</li> <li>➤ DNF is organizing various lobbying meetings with donor agencies as well as ministries and governmental service agencies.</li> </ul>
		Training on English Language	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Two person completed 6 weeks English language training from ALC (American Language Centre).</li> <li>➤ 9 persons (two regional coordinators, five central office officers and one central executive board member) completed 6 weeks English Language training from Universal Language and Computer Institute.</li> </ul>
		Exposure visit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Organized an exposure visit to Bangladesh from 13 to 18 February, 2006 6 personnel took part in the visit - 3 from central and 3 from regions.</li> </ul>
		Capacity building training on OD and advocacy for 15 MOs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Organized a five-day Advocacy Skill Development Training on 23-27 May, 2006, for 15 selected MOs.</li> <li>➤ Organized Organizational Development training on 20-24 Sep. 2006,</li> </ul>

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ for 30 participants of 15 MOs.</li> <li>➤ 15 MOs are implementing local level advocacy activities by receiving one-shot grant.</li> </ul>
		OD support to member organizations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ DNF supported to two member organizations of Kathmandu. Beside the above mentioned 15 MOs, DNF supported to Dalit Helping Centre and SAMATA Nepal to organize 2 ways workshop for developing their strategic plan, clarifying VMGOs and more</li> </ul>
		Organize internship on OD and management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Personnel have been selected for the internship. The selected personnel are corresponding with possible institutions and planning for the last of January 2007.</li> </ul>
<b>Output 2</b> DNF has identified national and local issues and launching advocacy initiatives and campaigns in a systematic way along with member organizations.	The government, civil society organizations and the donors at various levels have addressed many Dalit issues.	<b>Central Level</b>	
		Two Workshop/seminars on identification of advocacy issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) A national level workshop was organized on 17 May 2006 on the issues of (a) Reservation for Inclusive Democracy, (b) Scholarships for Dalit students in higher level education, and (c) Education for all Dalits.</li> <li>2) Issue Identification workshop was organized on 14 Kartik at Hotel Himalayan</li> </ul>
		Four Network alliance building	Six network alliances building have been completed against the four (targeted).
		Launching advocacy activities as per DNF's need	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>One event of Human Rights Day was observed on December 10, 2006</li> <li>One event of Condolence on the demise of Mohanlal Kapali observed</li> <li>A two days Youth Social Forum was organized in Padmodaya School from 15-16 December 2006.</li> </ul>
		Forty lobbying visits	Instead of 40, only 36 visits were organized.
		Seven publications	Six publications of "Mukti ko Awaaj" have been completed and one is under process.
		<b>Eastern Region</b>	
		Two Workshop/seminars on identification of advocacy issues	1) Organized an advocacy issue identification workshop on 7 May, 2006 on the issues of (1) proportional representation of Dalits in the Interim Government, (2) proportional representation in the forthcoming constituent assembly; and (3) develop networks in different levels against caste-based discrimination.
		Network alliance building task is not planned for the regional level	-
		Launching advocacy	Seventeen press releases were issued

		activities as per DNF's need	Three times delegation was made to government Six case studies were conducted, Three rallies were organized
		Forty lobbying visits	Altogether, 46 visits were organized by involving 20 MOs
		<b>Western Region</b>	
		Two Workshop/seminars on identification of advocacy issues	1) Third General Convention of DNF was held from 9-11 June 2006 in Pokhara. At the same occasion, workshop on Constitution Assembly, State Restructuring was also coincided there. 2) One event of workshop on advocacy on 30 March 2006 was organized by covering the issues of (i) Dalit empowerment for the inclusive democratic process, (ii) elimination of caste-based discrimination, and (iii) citizenship certificate according to Dalits surname ( <i>Thar</i> ) and <i>Gotra</i> .
		Network alliance building	One network alliance was built in
		Launching advocacy activities as per DNF's need	One event of advocacy was organized on 21 March, 2006 on the occasion of International Day for Elimination of Racial Discrimination. One event of press conference was organized One Rally was organized One interaction was organized
		Forty lobbying visits	Thirty two visits organized by involving 14 MOs
		<b>Mid Western Region</b>	
		Two Workshop/seminars on identification of advocacy issues	(1) Organized a workshop on 7 Jestha 2063 at Nepalgunj by inviting civil society organizations and political parties on the issues of (i) meaningful representation of Dalits in the new structure of the state; (ii) citizenship certificate for all Dalits; (iii) constitutional provisions for equitable distribution of lands to landless people (Dalits); and (iv) constitutional provisions to entirely end of malpractices of the society.  (2) Organized a workshop on 10 Mangsir 2063 at Salyan by inviting civil society organizations and political parties on the issues of proportionate representation and inclusion of intra-Dalits in the election to the constituent assembly and double voting rights, separate constituency for Dalits as well as the representation of Dalits in interim constitution, interim parliament and interim government (at least 20%)
		Network alliance building task is not planned for the regional level	-
		Launching advocacy activities as per DNF's need	Altogether, six advocacy activities were carried out in Nepalgunj (three times), Dailekh, Bardiya and Jajarkot,

		Forty lobbying visits	Altogether, 49 visits were organized including 18 (two times) in Bardiya, 20 (two times) in Surkhet, and 11 (one time) in Banke district.
		<b>Far Western Region</b>	
		Two Workshop/seminars on identification of advocacy issues	1) Organized a workshop on 1 April, 2006 in Martadi, Bajura district on the issuer of (1) reservation for Dalit; (2) elimination of Kamarakamari Partha; and (3) violence against Dalit women.
		Network alliance building	Three network alliances are built in
		Launching advocacy activities as per DNF's need	1) One press release was issued 2) Two rallies were organized 3) Five interactions were organized 4) Two gatherings were organized 5) One demonstration was staged 6) One public hearing was organized
		Forty lobbying visits	Altogether, 36 visits were organized.
<b>Output 3</b> DNF is able to utilize national and international alliances/networks in advocating, campaigning nationally as well as internationally building.	Participation in at national and international events, raise voice and share experiences	Two times participation in national and international events and lobby (one person)	More than seven visits in national as well as international level were organized. In the visit, DNF staff as well executive board members participated.  Achievement has exceeded the target.
		Collect, compile and disseminate information and outcomes and updates of international programmes of events and link up national initiatives with this (one report to be prepared by DNF each year and initiatives taken on this report)	In the target, three compilation reports (year-wise) were to publish and disseminate. Till now, only one report of the first year is published and completed.  "Role and Achievement of DNF IN Internationalization of Nepali Dalit Movement" has been published in a souvenir entitled "A Decade of DNF in the Rights of Dalit Movement-2063".
<b>Output 4</b> Civil society and government agencies have been sensitized about international law/conventions and influenced on the need for a comprehensive policy action for the affirmative action for the Dalit people.	More pro-Dalit legal interventions	Organize one time workshop/seminar and sensitization programmes for domestication of international HR instruments	A workshop on "New constitution and issues of Dalits" organized on 29 May 2006 at Kathmandu
		Internationalize	Shadow report writing is nearing completion. .

		implementation status of HR instruments, CERD, G.R. XXX (shadow report)	
		Follow up of the recommendation paper on affirmative action	This activity was of last year (2005) and it was completed then.
		To make one time Review policies and laws and make recommendation to the State for updating and formulation (existing laws, constitution, draft bill on the elimination of caste based discrimination, draft bill on welfare court, periodic plan, annual plan etc.)	DNF organized the followings: 1) Interaction Programme on "Agreement between seven party and Maoist and issues of Dalits" on November 19, 2006 at Hotel Himalaya, 2) Recommendations submitted to Interim Constitution Drafting Committee on 3 August 2006 3) Interaction Programme on "Issues of Dalits in interim constitution" on 8 August 2006 at Hotel Himalaya.
		Mini library with reference materials on Dalit legal rights and human rights (Regions/central) -5 regions	Mini library has been fully established. Overall, 386 copies of books and other publication have been collected (218 copies in 2005 and 168 in 2006 including regional).
		Conduct two legal research studies	One study on "Impact study on legal aid and support provided by different organizations" is completed and the other is nearing completion.
		Organize 2 times public hearings (Regions/central)	Two public hearings were organized on: 1) Constituent assembly, restructuring of state and inclusion of Dalits on 26-27 Jestha 2063 at Pokhara. 2) Doti, Shaileswari temple event on 29 Aswin 2063 at Dhangadhi, Kailai.
<b>Output 5</b> LAAD is able to give legal services to civil society organizations, Dalit organizations, victims of caste discrimination and government agencies in collaboration with pro-Dalit alliances/networks	Increased number of advisory activities given during 2004; more PIL and other cases filed; more MOs have received legal capacity building and paralegal training; and more Dalit have received legal assistance from the help line	Formation of 12 core teams and meetings	Of the 12, only eight teams were formed on different dates including 24 March, 13 April, 17 May, 11 July, 25 August, 2 November, 14 November and 25 December 2006, respectively.  Remaining four teams and meetings are also formed. Reports have not yet received from the regions.

		Alliance building, collaboration and meetings-central level (4)	Altogether, three alliance building, collaboration and meetings have been completed in different dates including March 1, November 8, 2006 and 10 January 2007. One meeting could not be organized as planned.
		Alliance building, collaboration and meetings-regional level (16)	Altogether, 16 meetings have been completed. Reports of six meetings, three each in western and far western regions have been received at the center and 10 are yet to arrive.
		Operation of one telephone helpline	Altogether, 86 cases of victims were provided legal aid through this helpline.
		Formation of "Dalit human rights watch" and investigation and monitoring of violation of Dalit rights (one in central and 4 in regional level)	DHRW carried out "fact-finding study" on the case of a Dalit student, who was expelled from Durga Ma. Bi. in Mahottari District.  DHRW carried out "fact-finding study" on the case of Reekma BK, in Siraha District.  DHRW carried out "fact-finding study" on the death case of Daya Ram Pariyar at Janakpur.  DHRW carried out "fact-finding study" on the death case of Man Bahadur Sunar, who was killed after abduction, at Kailali District.
		Training on basic legal procedures, monitoring and investigation for MOs (3 days for 15 participants at one event)	One basic legal training was organized from June 26-27, 2006.
		Identification, preparation, filing and follow up of PIL cases (including pleading and use of case agents)- 5	Two PIL cases have been filed (Pashupatinath Temple Priest Case, and Sanskrit School admission case). Three could not be filed due to political instability and frequent change of staff.
		Filing of 300 general cases	Altogether, 209 cases have been filed (55 cases in eastern, 23 in central, 75 in western, 39 in mid western and 17 in far western regions respectively).
		Follow up of on-going cases (also includes pleading, use of consultants and case agents) - 150	It has exceeded the target (162 against 150).
		Five legal awareness raising publications including the publication of survey report on caste-based discrimination)	Two publications including (a) Big Six Treatise, and (b) Reservation Modalities have already been published, and two others including (a) Supreme Court Verdict, and (b) Reservation Modalities (English) have been sent to press for publication. One compilation report is under process.

		Exposure and internship for LAAD lawyers (national/international level)	Mr. D.B. Sagar, the Chairperson, Mr. Tek Bahadur Raika, Vice-chairman, and Mr. Arjun Bagale, Mr. Shyam BK, Mrs. Gomati Sunar, the lawyers at LAAD Division, visited Delhi, India
		Monitoring of the enforcing process of existing Dalit related legal provisions -1	Monitoring was carried out on Shaileswari temple case in Doti district.
		Development of one LAAD guideline	LAAD guideline has been completed.

## **2.2 Major achievements during the reporting year**

### **Achievements of Output-1:**

- The implementation of developed policies, plans, procedures and structure of the organization has geared up the organization towards further inclusiveness and good governance. As a result, the newly elected boards including central as well as regional have ensured the inclusion of Dalit women, Terai Dalits and marginalized one within Dalits community.
- The capacity of DNF itself and its MOs has been enhanced, so some additional donors have shown their interests to work with DNF regional chapters and MOs in Dalit issues. Few MOs from mid western and eastern regional chapters of DNF have received small supports to run their activities in the region.
- The networks and alliances of DNF have been further extended and consolidated with national and international civil society organizations. At present, DNF and other federations including NFN, NEFIN, FECOFUN, PABSON, NFIWUAN Women Security Pressure Group, NFD, are working together for different programmes viz. GCAP, Peace and development initiatives and other campaigns.
- DNF regional chapters and MOs have emerged as professional organizations which have helped to raise unheard voices of Dalit community.

### **Key learning**

While providing grant support to member organizations; there should be a certain criteria for selecting them. After the selection, the organizations should be provided a proposal writing training. Then, the federation should call proposals from those organizations and based on their working concept, capacity and clarity, the organizations should be provided support. Such process capacitates and helps them search and find to others also. Policy level decision will not be enough to select member organizations.

### **Achievements of Output-2:**

- Political parties of Nepal have, to the maximum possible extent, been sensitized for ensuring the rights of Dalits in state restructuring as well as the equal distribution of state recourses.
- Proportionate representation of Dalits to the election of constituent assembly is guaranteed.
- Pro-Dalits, Non-Dalits and other stakeholders have been sensitized to be more serious and sensitive for the rights of Dalits in the days to come.
- DNF has, through a series of interaction programmes, pressurized the political parties for the proportional representation of Dalits in the state restructure. Consequently, various political parties have begun to appoint Dalits in their party cadres as well as in the government organs. However, Maoist party and Janamorcha Nepal have nominated, approximately 20% of Dalits in the recently promulgated interim legislature.

- DNF has, in several occasions, raised the voices of Dalits and provided candid suggestions and feedback to the concerned stakeholders to design and implement pro-Dalit interventions for their sustainable development.
- Strong network between Dalit, pro-Dalit organizations and media has been built in, both at national and international level.
- Reservation issue has been seriously raised from grassroots to national level political and social fronts.
- Dalit community, through the initiation of DNF, has greatly to reinstate absolute democracy by expressing solidarity and participating during the historic popular movement II -2063.

### **Key learning**

- Policy, plans and strategies contributing for the welfare of Dalit community could not be ensured without exerting pressure upon political parties and the government.
- An important lesson has been learnt that, for the inclusion of Dalits in the mainstream of national development, there is the need of solidarity of the entire Dalits of Nepal. Similarly, alliance building between Dalit activists and pro-Dalits is equally important.
- DNF's local level advocacy programmes are effective, whilst they are organized in collaboration with the member organizations. Likewise, mobilization of district chapters of DNF, will be more useful to enact its policy and guidelines.
- Alliance building will also play a key role for effectively carrying out Dalit related activities including social, political inclusion and cultural transformation of Dalits.

### **Achievements of Output-3:**

Altogether, seven national as well as international visits have been organized and participated in by DNF staff as well as board members.

Dalits' issues have internationalized and international solidarity increased for fighting against caste-based discrimination.

International communities including UN are extensively sensitized regarding work and descent based discrimination.

DNF has been involved in the regular follow ups and monitoring to the declarations made during the historic event on "International Consultation on Caste-based Discrimination" on 2004 by involving representatives from 15 countries.

"Role and Achievement of DNF IN Internationalization of Nepali Dalit Movement" has been published in a souvenir entitled "A Decade of DNF in the Rights of Dalit Movement-2063". For further details, see DNF SMARIKA (Souvenir)-2063.

DNF has participated in "Participating Civil Society Parallel Events on the Occasion of 62<sup>nd</sup> Session of the UN CHR: Public Briefing on Caste Based Discrimination" held in Geneva from 13-

17 March 2006. The overall objectives of the participation was to internalize Dalit agendas and gaining solidarity and intervention of international communities. The specific objectives were: (i) Brief human rights situation of Dalits in front of international communities, (ii) Present about fighting caste-discrimination in the context of conflict in Nepal, (iii) Contribute to the principles and guideline and questionnaires prepared by the Special Rapporteurs on caste based discrimination, and (iv) Attend the meeting of IDSN and executive group.

However, the event has realized five outputs including (i) the international networking of DNF has been further consolidated, (ii) international communities including UN CHR on concurrent human rights situation of Nepalese Dalits have been updated and the chances of contribution and solidarity have been further increased, (iii) The OH CHR has realized the seriousness of impact of caste discrimination and has decided to organize a national consultation in Kathmandu, (iv) The possibility of addressing spirit of Nepalese in the principles and guidelines on work and descent in the UN CHR has been increased, and (v) Contribution to the research study of Special Rapporteurs on work and descent in Nepalese Dalit perspectives.

DNF has been involved in the regular follow ups and monitoring to the declarations made during the historic event on "International Consultation on Caste-based Discrimination" on 2004 by involving representatives from 15 countries. For this, DNF is sensitizing government, the UN and private sector to fully implement the declarations. The Kathmandu declaration includes: (i) RECOGNIZING that caste discrimination affects, in the most severe forms, at least 260 million people worldwide and is particularly acute in South Asia, Africa and Japan, (ii) RECALLING the terms of universal declaration of human rights according to which all human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights and are entitled to the rights and freedoms therein without distinction of any kind, including race, color, sex, language, religion, , social origin, birth or other status, (iii) RECALLING the terms of Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action of the World Conference on Human Rights according to which it is the duty of States, regardless of political, economic and cultural system, to promote and protect all human rights and fundamental freedoms, (iv) RECALLING the condemnation of discrimination against persons of Asian and African descent and indigenous and other forms of descent in the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action of the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, xenophobia, and Related Intolerance, (v) RECALLING also General Recommendation XXIX on descent-based discrimination of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, (vi) RECOGNIZING the relevance of the Discrimination (Employment and Occupation) Convention, 1958 and the accompanying recommendations (No.111) Dalit Human Rights, (vii) HIGHLIGHTING the reinforcing between poverty, landlessness, and caste discrimination, (viii) AFFIRMING the need for the full implementation of the Millennium Development Goals as key mechanism for the elimination of extreme poverty and the fulfillment of other rights-based human needs, (ix) FULLY SUPPORTING Resolution 2004/17 of the U.N. Sub-Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights to appoint two Rapporteurs with the task of preparing a comprehensive study on discrimination based on work and descent, (x) SUPPORTING also the UN Sub-Commission Norms on the Responsibilities of Transnational Corporations and other Business Enterprises with regard to Human Rights, (xi) CONSCIOUS of the difficulties faced by Nepal's Dalits who represent a significant sector of Nepal's population and economy, and who are being caught in the crossfire of the conflict being waged in the country, and (xii) RECOMMEND that concerned governments, international and national human rights bodies, the UN and aid agencies, the EU, donor countries, international financial institutions, the private sector, and non-governmental organizations adopt the following measures:

1. To governments in Caste-Affected Countries:

CONCERNED GOVERNMENTS MUST ACT TO UPHOLD THEIR CONSTITUTIONAL PRINCIPLES AND INTERNATIONAL TREATY ORGANIZATIONS

AND WORK TOWARD THE FULL ENJOYMENT OF RIGHTS BY ALL CITIZENS, REGARDLESS OF CASTE OR DESCENT.

**Achievements of Output-4:**

- Policy makers are highly influenced on current issues of Dalits (amendment of discriminatory National code and other enacting laws) through the promotion and publication of HR instruments provisions.
- Political parties/leaders have been sensitized to promote and protect Dalits Human Rights and their proportional representation in policy making level.
- Establishment of mini library has contributed to raise the awareness level of Dalits regarding constituent assembly, Legal Rights and Human Rights.
- Research study revealed that Dalits were found ignorant about free legal aid services and political leaders were committed to ensure proportional representation of Dalits in the mainstream of national development.
- Political leaders have been influenced about the newly promulgated interim constitution, which has ensured the legislation against untouchability and caste-based discrimination, reservation policy, and compulsory education for Dalit children.

**Achievements of Output-5:**

- Altogether, 12 core teams – eight at centre and four at regions have been formed, and 19 alliance collaboration meetings have been organized (three at centre and 16 at regional level).
- Eighty nine online legal counseling services have been delivered to Dalit victims. Dalits Human Rights Watch carried out four "fact-finding" investigations for Dalits Human Rights violation at different places of Nepal. It also observed and monitored the 19 days long historical people's movement II against the royal regime.
- A two days training has empowered MOs on the common understanding of case filling, human rights, existing legal provisions and resistance against racial caste-based discrimination.
- Discriminatory behaviors based on caste have been eliminated to the greater extent through public interest litigation (PIL). Three cases filed in 2005, have been settled, and two other PIL cases filed in 2006 are under process of settlement at supreme court. The court has issued the verdict by allowing sure name citizenship and equal access to Hostel. And it also endorsed the racial discrimination as a criminal case.
- Altogether, 209 Dalit victims received legal aid services across the country. Similarly, a culprit was fined Rs. 500 at Ramechhap court. However, an alleged was fined Rs. 3,000

along with apology at Police District Office, Surkhet. Most of the cases registered so far, have been followed up by DNF. MOs, board members together with Dalit people are capacitated to lodge and file legal cases and other procedures for legal remedies. Majority of the cases have been able to bag decision in favor of Dalit victims.

- Five books have been published including (i) to disseminate collect filed cases of PIL discriminatory legal provisions under verdicts of Supreme Court. (ii) to disseminate model and policy for Reservation modality in English and (iii) in Nepali (iv) To disseminate provisions of Big six Human Rights Instruments, and (v) Compilation Report.
- International network has been built up to address the issues of Dalits by joining hands to fight against racial discrimination and disseminating information and documentation.

### **Key learning**

- Despite a series of interaction, recommendations, pressure, and dissemination of violation of Dalits human rights to political parties and government, the enforcement has not been appropriately in real practice.
- LAAD activities could not be fully achieved as planned originally due to lack of required staff lawyers at regional level. However, staff lawyers are mostly based in DNF Headquarters. On top of it, central level lawyers were also unable to move swiftly to their assignment due to delayatory practices of central management as well as time taking process to reach out to the case sites. .
- Despite the positive impact realized through the PIL and general cases throughout the country (sure name, order to Government to set up special policy), MOs involvement in the implementation of project is equally important for achieving the vision, mission and goal of umbrella organization through the building of external as well as internal network.
- DNF's MOs are required impart training including basic legal training; Human rights training, so that they will be able carry out fact finding, monitoring, and investigation and file cases to the concerned institutions for the protection of Dalits rights.
- Publication on various issues is most necessary for disseminating information to MOs, political parties and government as well as international community.



**2.4. Status of the project implementation in relation to the implementation schedule explanations for major delays, and proposed remedial actions.**

Outputs	Activities	Status	Reason for delays	Proposed action
<b>Output 1</b> Organizational policies, system, skills cultures, competencies, and developed strategic plans (both OD and advocacy )	Financial support to MOs	The selected MOs are implementing the assigned activities by receiving the grant.	Most of Dalit NGOs are those organizations formed and lead by the persons who have very few knowledge on organizational matter on one hand and on the other they are in learning process for designing as well as implementing programmes.	The organizations will accomplish the assigned activities within Jan-Feb 2007.
	Organize OD and Management Internship	Planned	Took more time to seek appropriate place for internship.	Planned to organize on 2007
<b>Output 2</b> DNF has identified national and local issues and launching advocacy initiatives and campaigns in a systematic way along with member organizations.	<b>Central Level</b>	-	-	-
	Two Workshop/seminars on identification of advocacy issues	Two workshops have been completed according to plan.		
	Four Network alliance building	Six network alliances have been built up	Due to historic people's movement, DNF organized many network meetings with the civil society and mobilized its members and staff. As a result, two more network alliances were added.	
	Launching advocacy activities as per DNF's need	Several activities were held	-	
	Forty lobbying visits	Thirty seven visits were completed	Three visits remained incomplete due to transitional period triggered by the political change.	
	Seven publications	Six publications have been completed and one is nearing completion.		
	<b>Eastern Region</b>			

	Two Workshop/seminars on identification of advocacy issues	Four workshops/interactions were organized. These events were particularly focused in popular movement.		
	Network alliance building task is not planned for the regional level	-		
	Launching advocacy activities as per DNF's need	Seven press releases, three delegations, six case studies, and three rallies were organized.		
	Forty lobbying visits	Forty six were organized		
	<b>Western Region</b>			
	Two Workshop/seminars on identification of advocacy issues	Two have completed		
	Network alliance building	.Three alliances were built in for people's movement. .		
	Launching advocacy activities as per DNF's need	One press conference, one interaction programme, one rally were organized.		
	Forty lobbying visits	Thirty two visits were organized.		
	<b>Mid Western Region</b>			
	Two Workshop/seminars on identification of advocacy issues	Two were completed one each in Nepalgunj and Salyan respectively.		
	Network alliance building task is not planned for the regional level	-		
	Launching advocacy activities as per DNF's need	Altogether, six advocacy activities were carried out in Nepalgunj (three times), Dailekh, Bardiya and Jajarkot,		
	Forty lobbying visits	Altogether, 49 visits were organized including 18 (two times) in Bardiya, 20 (two times) in Surkhet, and 11 (one time) in Banke district.		
	<b>Far Western Region</b>		.....	

	Two Workshop/seminars on identification of advocacy issues	Two workshops completed,		
	Network alliance building	Three alliances were built in for people's movement.		
	Launching advocacy activities as per DNF's need	One press release, two rallies, five interaction programmes, two gathering meetings and one demonstration, and one public hearing were completed.		
	Forty lobbying visits	Thirty six visits were completed.		
<b>Output 3</b> DNF is able to utilize national and international alliances/networks in advocating, campaigning nationally as well as internationally.	Two times participation in national and international events and lobby (one person)	Altogether, seven national as well as international visits have been organized and participated in by DNF staff as well as board members.  Achievement has exceeded the target.	-	-
	Collect, compile and disseminate information and outcomes and updates of international programmes of events and link up national initiatives with this (one report to be prepared by DNF each year and initiatives taken on this report)	In the target, three compilation reports (year-wise) were to publish and disseminate. Till now, only one report of the first year is published and completed.  "Role and Achievement of DNF IN Internationalization of Nepali Dalit Movement" has been published in a souvenir entitled "A Decade of DNF in the Rights of Dalit Movement-2063"..	Less priority	Three years single compiled report is under preparation, for which required documents are collected.
<b>Output 4</b> Civil society and government agencies have been sensitized about international law/conventions and influenced on the need for a comprehensive policy action for the	Legal research study	Going on	Due to change in issue.	It is likely to complete within January 2007.

affirmative action for the Dalit people.				
	Internationalize implementation statues of HR instruments	Going on	Due to change in issue and staff change in DNF.	It is likely to complete within January 2007.
<b>Output 5</b> LAAD is able to give legal services to civil society organizations, Dalit organizations, victims of caste discrimination and government agencies in collaboration with pro-Dalit alliances/networks	Formation of 12 core team and meeting	Still going on	Due to delay in fund release.	It will be completed within 20 January 2007
	Alliance building collaboration	One is remained.	Due to political instability and members' less seriousness	
	Identification, filing and follow up PIL cases	Three are remained.	Due to political instability and unable to identify issues.	
	Filing of general cases	Ninety one still remained.	Due to political instability and delay in signing project agreement	
	Publication	Two are under process.	Preparation has not been completed on time due to delay in verdict from supreme court, along with the waiting for interim constitution and research report.	It is likely to complete within January 2007.

## 2.5 Major deviations and problems related to implementation of the project.

Immediate Objectives /Outputs	Problems	Recommendations
<p><b>Output 1</b> DNF has revisited and developed organizational policies, structures, systems, skills, cultures, core values, competencies, developed strategic plan (both for OD and advocacy) and implemented them effectively.</p>		
<p><b>Output 2</b> DNF has identified national and local issues and launching advocacy initiatives and campaigns in a systematic way along with member organizations..</p>	<p>DNF faced major hurdles in implementing its activities during January to April 2006, due to complex situation. Because, the erstwhile royal government and Maoists were fighting each other, thereby, creating unfavorable circumstances for development works and social activities.</p> <p>Due to late release of budge, activities of regions and district chapters caused delay to complete.</p>	
<p><b>Output 3</b> DNF is able to utilize national and international alliances/networks in advocating, campaigning nationally as well as internationally.</p>	-	-
<p><b>Output 4</b> Civil society and government agencies have been sensitized about international law/conventions and influenced on the need for a comprehensive policy action for the affirmative action for the Dalit people.</p>	Frequent change of responsible persons at DNF.	DNF has proposed to complete within January 2007
<p><b>Output 5</b> LAAD is able to give legal services to civil society organizations, Dalit organizations, victims of caste discrimination and government agencies in collaboration with pro-Dalit alliances/networks</p>	<p>Insurgency and political instability hampered to collect cases.</p> <p>Central lawyer staffs and MOs could not fulfill their commitment.</p> <p>Problems of PIL issues could not be properly identified.</p>	DNF is mulling to deploy or depute lawyers staff at Regional and Districts level.

## 2.6. Quantitative and Financial Performance

### **3. Depiction of the Major Activities**

#### **A. Organizational Development Initiatives**

##### **1.16 Organization of strategy planning/participatory decision making workshop**

DNF organized a three-day workshop on strategy planning/participatory making at Chetana Kendra, Banepa from 28-30 August, 2006. The main purpose of the workshop was to bring clarity about DNF's policies, review plans and decision making. Altogether, 38 participants including all central executive board members, all central staffs and a representative of regional board and a staff attended the event.

However, the workshop analyzed the existing decision making processes, conducted a SWOT analysis, and POCAP. The workshop concluded by affirming a three years strategic plan of DNF (2006-2009), which was unanimously agreed by both central and regional board and staff. DNF's strategic plan includes: (i) Expand, facilitate at least 500 MOs/membership and enhanced their institutional capacity, (ii) Pro-Dalit Polity to ensure Dalit Rights /Representation into national socio-political process through activism, research, civil society monitoring and constituent assembly, (iii) Facilitate and support legal aid and advisory assistances to MOs, Dalit communities, government as well as other stakeholders, (iv) Focus to empower Dalit Women, Madhesi Dalits and Marginalized Dalit within Dalit movements and national process, (v) Build international national solidarity and supports towards Nepalese Dalit movements and Human Rights, (vi) Improve good governance of DNF and its MOs, and (vii) DNF's sustainable institutional and human resource development.

DNF has, now, started to implement policies and plans (central and regional) in pursuant with this strategic directions.

##### **1.17 Organization of Exposure Visit**

DNF facilitated to organize an exposure visit to Bangladesh from 13-18 February 2006. Six persons including three from central office and three from regions participated in the visit. For further details, please refer to Exposure Visit Report 2006.

##### **1.18 Organizational Development Training**

DNF organized a five-day organizational development training for the representatives of the selected 15 member organizations from 20-24 September 2006. Despite two participants were invited from each organization, only 27 participants attended the training. However, the training covered the subject on OD introduction, themes of OD, integrated management house, management and leadership, communication, organization structure and process, project cycle, among others.

After receiving the training, the member organizations have, with the grant support from DNF, been carrying out different programmes i.e. advocacy issues identification workshop, interaction on Dalit issues, alliance building meeting with stakeholders, lobbying with government and non-governmental organization, press conference and press release on the issues, interaction with media agencies on Dalit issues, pamphlet/leaflet publication and dissemination, mediation counseling, and issues identification for advocacy.

### **1.19 English Language Training**

DNF provided support for a six weeks English language training to a total of nine persons (two regional coordinators, five central office officers and one central executive board member). Universal Language and Computer Institute (ULCI) conducted the training.

### **1.20 Publication of Articles of Association, and others**

DNF has completed the publication of its articles of association, membership distribution guideline, code of conduct, financial policy and human resource policy. For further information, refer to the published documents and literature.

## **B. Advocacy initiatives**

### **1.1 Organization of Workshop/Seminars on Advocacy Issues**

DNF organized a national level workshop on 17 May 2006 at Hotel Sangam, Kathmandu on the issues to identify Dalit issues for coming six months, for sharing the information on the performance completed by MOs, and collecting of feedback for launching advocacy activities. Altogether, 25 persons attended the workshop. However, the workshop identified seven issues including (i) proportionate representation of Dalits in the constituent assembly, (ii) proportionate inclusion of Dalits in political parties, and (iii) increased access of Dalits to education, (iv) Dalits' rights upon land, (v) implementation of government programmes and budget related to Dalit issues, (vi) acquiring of citizenship on the basis of surname, and (vii) empowerment of National Dalit Commission. Of them, first three were given top priority in the plenary session.

Likewise, DNF organized an issue identification workshop on 14 Kartik at Hotel Himalaya. More than 60 persons participated in the workshop. The main objectives of this workshop were (i) to make review of three issues identified in the previous workshop, (ii) to design the strategy on how to reach out to the district for the election to the constituent assembly, and (iii) role of civil societies.

### **1.2 Building of Network Alliances**

DNF has been able to build in six network alliances against the four (targeted). Number of alliances was increased due to the growing demand from the aspirant organizations. Mainly, the network alliances were established with human rights organizations and activists, pro-Dalit civil societies, PABSON, and NGO federation, among others. These alliances substantially contributed in raising the issues of Dalits in state affairs and mechanism and to ensure their rights and inclusion.

### **1.3 Launching of Advocacy Activities**

Two interaction programmes were organized during this year. One was organized on May 5, 2006 at SAAP-Nepal, Kathmandu on "participation of Dalits in state restructuring, which was attended by more than 60 participants. And, the next was organized on June 20, 2006 at Hotel Malla by involving more than 100 people. The theme of the programme was "Dalit issues in interim constitution and interim government".

DNF also celebrated 21<sup>st</sup> March, Elimination of International Caste and Racial Discrimination Day IN Kathmandu by involving more than 300 persons. Likewise, it also observed Human Rights Day on December 10, 2006, followed by the condolence observation of on the demise of Mohan Lal Kapali. However, a two day Youth Social Forum was also organized in Padmodaya School from 15-16 December 2006,

In addition, DNF launched other advocacy activities, which influence political parties and government in the issues of Dalit community. For different activities, see various reports in the annexes.

#### **1.4 Organization of Lobbying Visit**

DNF made a total of 37 central level lobbying visits to different stakeholders including government bodies, political parties and civil societies. DNF board members and staff participated in the visits, which were organized at different dates. Despite the target was 40, DNF could organize only 37, due to various reasons. Lobbying visits thus made during this year were concentrated on influencing the government, political parties, civil societies, among others for the proportionate representation of Dalit community in state affairs including social, political and economic respectively. For more details, see different lobbying visit reports.

#### **1.4 Publication**

DNF has already completed six publications of "Mukti ko Awaaj" and one is under process (this annual progress report is the seventh publication, which is under process).

#### **1.5 Regional Achievements**

##### **In the eastern region,**

##### **Organization of Advocacy Issue Identification Workshop**

DNF eastern regional office organized an advocacy issue identification workshop on 7 May, 2006. Altogether, 30 participants from different member organizations and other civil society organization attended the workshop including Mukti Samaj, Nepal Dalit Sangh, Nepal Dalit Samatamula Samaj, Jana Chetana Samuha, Tuhure Samaj Sewa Samitee, Jan Jyoti Samaj, five Dalit activists and two Journalists. At first, participants shared experiences each other about Dalit problems. The contents of the workshop were (1) proportional representation of Dalits in the Interim Government, (2) proportional representation in the forthcoming constituent assembly; and (3) develop networks in different levels against caste-based discrimination, which were discussed through participatory process. The workshop was facilitated by regional coordinator Mr. Biru Rasaili and followed by the welcome speech from the president, Mr. Jeevan Ghatani.

##### **Celebration of 21 March as Elimination of Racial/Caste-based Discrimination Day.**

DNF regional office celebrated the 21 march at Dhankuta and Itahari by organizing rally and interaction program. However, the rally was organized with various peace slogans including "implement the Dalit related law", "Implement international Convention and treaties to .punish the perpetrator of caste based discrimination, and open the public places". Nearly, 500 people attended the mass rally. Prominent personalities of Dalit and Non-Dalit people were also present in the rally. This Program was organized on the collaboration with Jana Chetana Samuha Itahari, SEEDA Dharan and Dalit Network Dhankuta.

### **Rally organized on "Inclusive Loktantra and Constitution Assembly"**

DNF eastern regional office organized a rally program on "**Inclusive Loktantra and Constitution Assembly.**" on 18-22 April 2006 at Biratnagar. It was organized in association with political parties, Dalit sister organizations, Dalit NGOs and NGO Federation Eastern Regional office Biratnagar. Around, a mass of 2, 000 people participated in the rally. However, political Dalit sister organizations including Nepal Mucti Samaj and Nepal Dalit Sangh together with Mr. Bhim Baraily and Mr. Khem Nepali attended the rally and stressed on the inclusive Loktantra and constitutional assembly.

### **Interaction Programme on "Participation of Dalits in Inclusive Democracy and Constitution Assembly"**

DNF regional office organized an interaction program on "**Participation of Dalit in Inclusive Democracy and Constitution Assembly**" on 23 May 2006 at Siraha, Golbazar, in the collaboration of its MOs including Dalit Samaj Sewa Sangh and Lahan, Siraha. Approximately, 5, 000 people participated the programme. The programme was conducted in the chairmanship of Mr. Rajendra Mochi, DSS President. Mr. Ram Prit Paswan, honorable Vice-President of Upper House was the chief guest. Mr. Paswan and other Dalit leaders expressed their views on the participation of Terai and hill Dalits in different sector of the government agencies. He added that the government must be serious and honest for the participation of Dalits in constitutional assembly according to demographic composition.

### **Lobbying Visit Program**

DNF regional office organized 46 visits by involving 20 MOs. The visits were made to 11 organizations. Mr. Biru Rasaili and Mr. Bhabindra B.K. led the team. Among the 11 organizations visited, were World vision Nepal Itahari and LWF Damak, Human Right Organization, Journalist Federation such as OHCHR Nepal, INSEC Biratnagar, Journalist Federation Sun sari and Morang and four political parties such as Nepali Congress, CPN-UML, Nepali Congress (Democratic), and Rastriya Prajatantra Party. During the visit, the participants demanded to implement and enforce the Dalit related laws and regulation, inclusion and proportionate representation. The visiting team handed over the memorandum letters for the enlistment and inclusion of Dalits in different sector of development.

### **Other Activities**

#### **i) Activism Programme**

DNF regional office continued the activism program with support from ActionAid Nepal, Eastern Regional Resource Center, Biratnagar. It deployed and mobilized 10 activists to raise the local level issues of Dalits and advocate them through alliance, so that the specific problems are solved. In like manner, the activists also coordinated and helped the concerned agencies to look into a Dalit woman's rape case and provide justices for caste base discrimination victims.

## **ii) Proposal Submitted to Different Support Organizations**

DNF regional office has, with support from Plan Nepal, Eastern Regional Office, Biratnagar, conducted "Dalit Situation Analysis and Empowerment Program" study and submitted to Plan Nepal. The survey report has recommended the future possible interventions in seven districts. In this regard, Plan has reciprocated positively to provide support. Program interventions will be implemented in partnership with DNF's MOs in the respective districts.

### **In the western region,**

Third General Convention of DNF was held from 9-11 June 2006 in Pokhara. Subsequently, a workshop on Constitution Assembly, State Restructuring was also synchronized at the same venue. In addition, other activities were also concluded, which are follows:

### **Organization of Advocacy Issues Identification Workshop**

DNF western regional office organized one workshop on advocacy issues identification on 30 March 2006.. Altogether, 25 participants from various DNGOs of western region attended the programme.

In the workshop, Mr. Lokdarshan Lammichhane, Mr. Durga Bahadur Sunar, Mr. Dil Bahadur Nepali, Ms. Anju Bishwakarma from DNF, Pokhara participated. Through the participatory method, discussions were done by covering the issues of (i) Dalit empowerment for the inclusive democratic process, (ii) elimination of caste-based discrimination, and (iii) citizenship certificate according to Dalits surname (*Thar*) and *Gotra*. These three major issues have been identified for the regional level advocacy for six months.

DNF Western Regional Committee and its member organizations will place priority on the above identified advocacy issues, while launching advocacy activities for the six months. DNF, Western regional Office has enthused its MOs and internalized in the identified issues.

### **Launching of Advocacy Activities**

#### **a) Marking of 41<sup>st</sup> International Race and Color base Discrimination Eradication Day**

On the occasion of 21<sup>st</sup> March, DNF western regional office, its MOs and other DNGOs jointly marked the "41<sup>st</sup> International Race and Color base Discrimination Eradication Day" by organizing peace rally for meeting and reestablishing Dalits rights. Participants and guests marched more than

three KM distance by holding placards with right based slogan. Mr. Khagendra Sangraula, the chief guest spoke that Dalits are vital community of the state building. But in the given social set up, Dalits are put in the lowest hierarchy. Representatives from Dalit sister organizations, Mr. Lal Bahadur Bishwakarma, Mr. Rajesh Bishwakarma and Mr. Bom Bahadur Bishwakarma underscored to enforce to mainstreaming the Dalit community in policy making level and development process.. Party representatives from local level emphasized that political parties should first address the issues of Dalit community, and Dalit community also should be empowered himself. Participants added that intellectuals are neutral and political parties are partial for the cause of Dalits. Dalits sister organizations, together with activists most fight against this trend.

#### **b) Dalit Student Scholarship Distribution Ceremony**

T.U. Prithvi Naraya Campus, Sociology and Anthropology Department had established Dalit scholarship for 2006. DNF, Pokhara as a member of scholarship distribution and management committee selected three students including Mr. Rudra Bahadur Nepali, Kaski Mrs. Basanti Pariyar, Chitwan and Mr. Rajan Kumar Pariyar, Palpa. These students received the first quarter budget amidst a scholarship distribution ceremony. On behalf of chief guest, Professor, Dr Murari Subedi assured that If the students from Dalit community are meritorious, budget and donors are expected to increase. From the chair, Dr. Bishowkalyan Parajuli described that that Sociologist and Anthropologist can provide proper logic to transfer the society.

#### **c) Participation in Jana Aandolan- II**

Pokhara remained one of the integral cities of Nepal to support and cooperate the historic popular movement II-2063, which was continued for 19 consecutive days at the call of seven political parties' alliance. DNF western regional committee members, MOs and total staff directly involved in the movement to establish people's fundamental rights in state.

#### **d) National Consultation Meeting**

DNF had held a national consultation meeting in Pokhara by involving DNF member organizations and other experts from Dalit and pro Dalit side. The consultation meeting was particularly focused for the upliftment of Terai Dalit, Dalit women and marginalized Dalit (Sarki and Badi communities).

#### **e) Press Conference and Press Release**

DNF, Pokhara released more than 12 press notes along with one press conference. Of them, nine are associated with national movement 062/63 and two relayed with the collection of treatment fund for kidney and heart failure cases of Dalit girl and boy.

### **3. Mediation/Counseling**

DNF western regional office initiated to register a case of child rape in district police office, Kaski. Pooja B.K. a child girl of 9 years was raped by Mr. Naniram Shrestha, whose age is 22. However, the case was taken up by the government advocate and finally the culprit was sent to Kaski Jail.

Similarly, Kaski District Court decreed in favor of Samita Sunar, Lahachowk- 4, while she was implicated in the case of untouchability.

Mr. Pahale Pariyar, who hails from Nagdanda, Kaski, sustained severe injury in a motorbike accident. DNF initiated pressure against motorbike rider for the proper treatment and compensation to the victim.

### **Lobbying Visit**

DNF regional office carried out a lobbying visit from 3 to 5 May, 2006. Delegates of DNF, handed over memorandum to different political parties and civil societies. Mainly, they met with Nepali Congress, Nepal Communist Party UML, Kaski, and Zonal Committee of UML. In the visit, Mr. Lokdarshan Lammichhane, Mr. Durga Bahadur Sunar, Mr. Bhoj Bahadur Gandharva, Mr. Chhabilal Bishwakarma, Mr. Ram Lakhan Harijan, Mr. Bir Bahadur Kisan, Mr. Dil Bahadur Nepali from DNF, Pokhara participated. Despite belatedly, lobbying visit was completed.

### **Dalit Human Right Watch (DHRW) in Pokhara**

Dalit Human Right Watch (DHRW) formed Network of Oppressed Community for the Social Justice in Pokhara. The network called a series of meetings to assess and review different agendas and achievements of people's movement II. The network has been active and careful about Dalits' agendas, particularly the case of human rights violation of Dalits.

### **In the mid western region,**

One workshop was organized on 7 Jestha 2063 at Nepalgunj by inviting civil society organizations and political parties on the issues of (i) meaningful representation of Dalits in the new structure of the state; (ii) citizenship certificate for all Dalits; (iii) constitutional provisions for equitable distribution of lands to landless people (Dalits); and (iv) constitutional provisions to entirely end of malpractices of the society.

Likewise, a workshop on 10 Mangsir 2063 at Sallyan was also organized by inviting civil society organizations and political parties on the issues of proportionate representation and inclusion of intra-Dalits in the election to the constituent assembly and double voting rights, separate constituency for Dalits as well as the representation of Dalits in interim constitution, interim parliament and interim government (at least 20%).

Altogether, six advocacy activities were carried out in Nepalgunj (three times), Dailekh, Bardiya and Jajarkot, respectively. Similarly, altogether, 49 visits were organized

including (18-two times) in Bardiya, (20-two times) in Surkhet, and (11 –one time) in Banke district.

### **In the far western region,**

A workshop was organized on 1 April, 2006 in Martadi, Bajura district on the issuer of (1) reservation for Dalit; (2) elimination of *Kamarakamari Partha*; and (3) violence against Dalit women.

### **Issue Identification Workshop**

DNF far western regional office organized a regional level advocacy issue identification workshop on 8 Mansir, 2063. The workshop was organized in association with Nepal Dalit Adhikar Mancha, Kanchanpur. Altogether, 121 participants from different member organizations, civil society organization and local people attended the workshop. In the beginning of the workshop, Mr. Birshalal Bisowkarma (Regional Program Coordinator) clarified about the program. Subsequently, participants shared experiences about Dalit's problems. Acting President (Regional) Mr. Hari shreepaili facilitated the workshop throughout. Likewise Mr. Nirp Sunar welcomed all participants of workshop, which was conducted on the chairmanship of Mr. Shekhar Nepali (President, Nepal Dalit Adhikar Mancha, Kanchanpur). However, the workshop identified three issues including (1) Equal participation of Dalit on constituent assembly, (2) Reservation for Dalit, and (3) Landless.

### **Lobbying Visit Program**

DNF far western regional office and its MOs organized lobbying visits in government offices, political parties, NGOs and other stakeholders. First of all, DNF organized memorandum preparation meeting and then conducted the lobbying visit. However, regional members and staff prepared memorandum for Dalit upliftment to the government and non-government organizations. MOs also visited different organizations in local level. DNF team presented memorandum letters demanding the Dalit agendas. These agendas were focusing on Dalit uplift and the involvement of Dalits in the mainstream of state.

### **Launching of Advocacy Activities**

#### **Rally and Interaction**

DNF far western regional office organized a rally and interaction programme in association with other organizations on "Go against the Saileshwari KANDA and Save Dalit Human Rights on 10 Kartik 2063, at Dhangadhi, Kailali. Political leaders, sister organization representatives, Human Right organization representatives, journalists and other media people attended the programme.

Mr. Nandraj Bhatta (Janamorcha central member), Mr. Tilak Shing (Janmorcha Secretary), Mr. Nepali Ale, district committee member. Kailali), Mr. Nir Bahadur Sunar (Central Member Nepal Student union), Mr. Double Bisokarma (District Treasurer, Janamorcha Nepal Amik Serchan district committee Kailali) Mr. Tek Bahadur Raika (Central acting president of DNF). Mr. Chhatra Bahadur Tallor (Nepal Dalit Shangh Central vice president), Mr. Bhanshin Bisowkarma (Mukti Samaj Nepal, district chairman). and Miss Santi Bhul were guests and speakers in the rally and interaction programme.

Dalit leaders spoke that Saileswari KANDA was a big threat to the current democratic government. They urged that Dalit must participate in constituent assembly according to the population ratio. All speakers focused their voice on Dalit and constituent assembly, constitutional reservation for Dalit and Dalit inclusion and including the Saileshwari KANDA.

Before the interaction program a rally was organized with slogans from Dhangadhi Chauraha to District Development Committee hall in Kailali. A banner bearing "Go against the Saileshwari KANDA and Save Dalit human rights rally" was exhibited in the rally.

### **Public Hearing**

DNF far western regional office organized a public hearing program on Aswin 29, 2063 at Dhangadhi for Dalit victims of Saileshwari KANDA, Doti. The program was concluded in the chairmanship of Mr. Tek Bahadur Raika (Central acting president of DNF). In the public hearing, victims expressed their voices of grievances. They demanded the right to enter and worship in the temple. They also demanded that the guilty be punished. They also expressed their voices for Dalit representation on Saileshwari temple management committee. After hearing the voices of victims, political leaders committed to open the Saileshwari temple for Dalits too. CPN UML District Member, Yagya Bastola, Nepali Congress District Secretary, Premraj Joshi, Janamorcha Nepal District Member, Jayaraj Bhandari, Nepali Congress (Democratic) District treasurer, Naranrayan Shah, Hari Sreepaili (Acting president of DNF regional office), Ganesh B K (RDN President), student leader Nirp Sunar, Yagyaraj Dhungana, were among the speakers. In the hearing, Dalit and Non-Dalit organizations, local people and journalists were also the participants.

### **World Human Rights Day Observed**

DNF far western regional office celebrated the world human rights day on December 10, 2006 in Dhangadhi, Kailali by organizing rally and gathering. It was jointly organized with other organizations. First and foremost, the rally, holding placards and slogans commenced from Chauraha, Dhangadhi to district development committee office, Kailali. DNFFWR exhibited a banner bearing with the slogan "**equal participation on constituent assembly is Dalit right and inclusive re-structure of state is our concern**". The rally after completing march past converged into gathering. Mr. Kosh Raj Neupane (Regional Director, Nepal National Human Rights Commission), was chaired the programme. Mr. Susil Pyakurel (former member, Nepal National Human Right Commission) was the chief guest. Likewise, Mr. Sure Bahadur Bhandari (Co-coordinator, Peace and Democracy Public Society), DNF far western regional acting president Hari Shreepaili, Mr. Bir Bahadur Jethara (president of Nepal Bar Association unit, Kaialli) were among the speakers of the program. DNF member organizations, political leaders, district government agencies, human rights organizations, journalist and local people were also invited in the programme. However, a mass of approximately 5,000 people attended the rally and gathering.

### **Sit-in Staged (Dharna Karyakram) to enroll the Dalit Children**

In the initiation of DNF regional office, a sit-in was staged on 22 Aswin, 2063 at the main gate of District Administration Office in Kailali to ensure equity and equality to Dalits in public places and equal opportunity to enroll the Dalit children in government school. The programme started from 11 am to 1 pm. Before the wrap up of the sit-in stage, Dalit leaders raised voices on the Saileshwari KANDA.

### **Press Note Released**

DNF Far western Regional Office released a press note for providing security and compensation to Dalit people in Doti. Altogether, 70 Dalits were injured by a group of non-Dalits in Saileshwari KANDA. Before releasing the press note, DNF and other Dalit organizations organized meeting with political parties about the Saileshwari agreement.

### **Launching of Advocacy Activities at Local level (MOs)**

#### **Interaction on constitutional Assembly and Dalit**

Nava Partibha Samuha, Kailali organized an interaction programme on Mansir 13, 206 at Dhangadhi Kailali on "Dalit's representation in the constituent assembly. Altogether, 41 persons were the participants.

Likewise Samudayik Janasaki Bikash Muncha, Tikapur organized an interaction programme on Mansir 27, 2063 in Tikapur, Kailali on "constituent assembly and Dalit". A total of 153 participants were involved. Dalit Utthan Samanwaya Samiti, Bajura also organized an interaction programme on Mansir 2, 2063 at Martadi, Bajura on "Dalit participation in constituent assembly" by involving 64 participants.

#### **Pamphlet Publication and Distribution**

DNF regional office published and distributed DNF regular magazine "Mukti ko Awaaz" (Voice of Liberation) and Saileshwari KANDA poster to its MOs and other organizations. Likewise DNF also provided support to its two MOs, namely, Nava Partibha Samuha, Kailali and Dalit Utthan Samanwaya Samiti, Bajura to publish pamphlets on Dalit issues in the present context. Published agendas are concerned with the equal participation of Dalits in constituent assembly, progressive reservation, Dalits' participation in Interim government/interim parliament/local body of government, employment to Dalit and free education. After publishing, they were distributed to different stakeholders.

#### **Alliance Formation and Meeting**

DNF FWR office organized three alliance meetings in Dhangadhi. The meetings were organized on 2063/5/22 and 2063/6/11 for Saileshwari KANDA, and on 2063/3/21 for Dalit issues on constituent assembly. Likewise DNF supported MOs to have alliances.

### **C. International Networking and Relation Building**

Altogether, seven national as well as international visits have been organized and participated in by DNF staff as well as board members.

Dalits' issues have internationalized and international solidarity increased for fighting against caste-based discrimination,

International communities including UN are extensively sensitized regarding work and descent based discrimination, DNF has been involved in the regular follow ups and monitoring to the declarations made during the historic event on "International Consultation on Caste-based Discrimination" on 2004 by involving representatives from 15 countries.

"Role and Achievement of DNF IN Internationalization of Nepali Dalit Movement" has been published in a souvenir entitled "A Decade of DNF in the Rights of Dalit Movement-2063". For further details, see DNF SMARIKA (Souvenir)-2063.

DNF has participated in "Participating Civil Society Parallel Events on the Occasion of 62<sup>nd</sup> Session of the UN CHR: Public Briefing on Caste Based Discrimination" held in Geneva from 13-17 March 2006. The overall objectives of the participation was to internalize Dalit agendas and gaining solidarity and intervention of international communities. The specific objectives were: (i) Brief human rights situation of Dalits in front of international communities, (ii) Present about fighting caste-discrimination in the context of conflict in Nepal, (iii) Contribute to the principles and guideline and questionnaires prepared by the Special Rapporteurs on caste based discrimination, and (iv) Attend the meeting of IDSN and executive group.

However, the event has realized five outputs including (i) the international networking of DNF has been further consolidated, (ii) international communities including UN CHR on concurrent human rights situation of Nepalese Dalits have been updated and the chances of contribution and solidarity have been further increased, (iii) The OH CHR has realized the seriousness of impact of caste discrimination and has decided to organize a national consultation in Kathmandu, (iv) The possibility of addressing spirit of Nepalese in the principles and guidelines on work and descent in the UN CHR has been increased, and (v) Contribution to the research study of Special Rapporteurs on work and descent in Nepalese Dalit perspectives.

### **D. Legal Initiatives**

#### **1.4 Workshop on Dalit human Rights in the New Constitution**

DNF organized a central level workshop on Jestha 15, 2063 in Hotel Orchid, Kathmandu. The main purpose of the workshop was to ensure the human rights of Dalits in the new constitution. Altogether, 85 human/Dalit rights activists participated in the workshop. Advocate Tek Tamrakar

presented a concept paper on “Dalit Human Rights in the New Constitution”. Advocates Bhimarjun Acharya and Tikaram Bhattarai made a comment on the paper. For details, see the workshop proceedings.

### **1.5 Domestication of International Human Right Instruments**

To ensure reservation for Dalits through lobbying and advocacy, DNF has published *Reservation Modality for Dalits in Nepal* (in Nepali), 2005. In view of the essence of this book, DNF has translated this book into English version. Translation was done external expert.

By making review on the existing constitution, laws and policies pertaining to Dalits, a recommendation paper to the Interim Constitution Drafting Committee was prepared and submitted.

To do away with the yearlong racial base discrimination along with the comparative analysis of ICERD, a shadow report has been prepared and is about to completed within January 2007.

### **1.6 Mini Library Established**

With the intention of providing reference materials to Dalit activists, professionals and researchers,, DNF/LAAD had earlier established a mini library in its central office in 2005. Coming to 2006, it has added some materials in the library. Likewise, it has established mini library in each of its regional office in 2006.

### **1.7 Impact Study on the Services of Legal Institutions**

DNF has conducted a study on "Impact study on legal aid and support provided by different organizations" with the aim of finding out case status of Dalit victims, who have received free legal support and service by DNF, its MOs, and NBA.

Similarly another research study on “*The policy of inclusion and its impact to Dalits community*” is also completed. The research is primarily concerned for the documentation of policy adopted for the inclusion of Dalits by political parties and other stakeholders of mainstream national development. The report is nearing completion, which is likely to bring out within January 2007.

### **1.8 Public Hearings**

DNF organized a public hearing on "Constituent Assembly and Establishing Dalit Agendas" on 27 Jestha, 2063 at Pokhara. DNF's member organizations, political parties, sister organizations of political parties, independent Dalit organizations, Janajaties, disabled and other stakeholders including Human Right organizations, civil society leaders, parliamentarians, and Dalits activists attended the hearing.

Concurrently, on 29 Aswin 2063, a regional level public hearing on Dalit rights and the Constituent Assembly was synchronized in Dhangadhi. Fifty nine persons including human rights activists, representatives of civil society organizations, government authorities and Dalit rights activists participated. Officiating president of DNF, Mr. Tek Bahadur Raika chaired the function.

## **1.9 Meetings**

### **1.9.1 Alliance Meeting Attended (Central and Regional)**

DNF/LAAD has regular activities on alliance building and meetings with legal service institutions including Nepal Bar Association (NBA). In this regard, DNF/LAAD advocates Mr. Bimal Bishwakarma, Mr. Rajan Sunar and Ms. Gomati Sunar participated in NBA National Conference and Golden Jubilee, which was organized from 1-4 March 2006 at BICC, New Baneshwar. DNF LAAD staff made active lobbying by raising Dalit issues.

### **1.9.2 Core Team Meetings Organized**

A core team, the forum of Kathmandu valley based organizations working on legal issues has been formed. The primary objective of this team is to muster collective efforts at the time of pleading and raising the issues of Dalit rights. To make it happen so, the team has been regularly organizing meetings. To date, 12 meetings have been organized. Each meeting has extensively done discussion on the pertinent issues of Dalit human rights.

## **1.10 Operation of Helpline**

Since 2005, a helpline telephone is in operation at DNF Headquarters with the aim of providing instant counseling and legal aid service to victims. Henceforth, the line has provided legal aids and required counseling to Dalit victims. However, DNF has been providing help to the victims through this helpline telephone. DNF has also carried out spot visit to observe and investigate the facts-finding by mobilizing its LAAD staff as necessary. Sometimes, it has also provided services to the victims through mail services. Service and support thus provided through the helpline and other means to the needy victims has been recorded and maintained in database software.

During 2006, more than 89 Dalits victims have been provided legal support. The poor Dalit victims from remotest villages are not in position to afford for telephone charge. DNF has been providing counseling services to them by calling back at their contact number. After analyzing the facts – finding, cases are preceded further as required.

### **1.11 Dalit Human Rights Watch –DHRW- (Regional and Central)**

DNF has, since its inception, been striving for Dalits' rights and long lasting peace in the country. It has formed a loose alliance -Dalit Human Rights Watch (DHRW), which comprises of lawyers,, journalists and human rights organizations. DNF as the secretariat of DHRW has been mobilizing a team of human rights defenders before, during and after the people's movement. Currently, it is engaged in the protection and promotion of Dalits'/human rights.

In the year 2006, DHRW team made visits to Mahottari, Sunsari, Janakpur and Kailali, where a number of incidents of exploitation and discrimination upon Dalits severely occurred. Likewise, the team also worked as human rights defenders in historic people's movement II -2063 and several other demonstrations and protest rallies.

### 1.12 Training on Basic Legal Procedure

DNF organized a weeklong advocacy skill development and basic legal procedure training in LDTA, Lalitpur on 23-27, May 2006. Altogether, 32 persons from 15 MOs participated in the training programme. Mr. Tej Sunar, Mr. Tirtha Burma, Mr. Bimal Bishwakarma, Mr. Rajan Sunar, Mr. Shyam Kumar Bishwakarma, Mrs. Gomati Sunar and Mr. Arjun Bagale contributed as the resources persons. The training has covered the contents including general information on the constitution of Nepal 2047, *MULUKI AIN*, Dalit related rules, role of facilitators in the community to eliminate caste discrimination events, skill of the counseling and meditation.

### 1.13 Filing of Public Interest Litigation (PIL) Cases

PIL is one of the major activities of DNF CBSP, LAAD program. Three PIL cases filed in the year 2005 have been won by LAAD from the Supreme Court in 2006. Of them, one is *Tindhara Sanskrit Hostel* case. On Magh 6, 2063, the Supreme Court has issued an order to the Tindhara Sanskrit Hostel to frame and enact necessary rules and procedures to extend admission to the Dalit, women and indigenous nationalities (*Janajatis*). Before, there was discriminatory provision in Tindhara Sanskrit Hostel Regulation, 2048, which was against of Mahendra Sanskrit Vishwa Vidhyalaya Act, 2043. And this provision is contradictory to the provisions made in the constitution of 1990. However, three PIL cases are as follows:

**(a) Surname:** The Supreme Court issued mandamus and other necessary orders in the name of Nepal government to give citizenship to Dalit people in accordance with their original surname instead of their occupational caste titles. More specifically, the court has issued the orders to the concerned authority focusing on:

1. Provide citizenship according to the surname;
2. Provide recommendation to the concerned people who want to get the citizenship as surname;
3. To make re-correction of the citizenship as his/her surname, which is earlier provided.

**(b) PIL Case:** A PIL case on the issue of remuneration of Dalit's occupations called *Khalo Pratha*<sup>1</sup> (Khalo Custom), which was previously identified and is in the process of registration. With the technical support of DNF, Pidit Jana Sewa Bikas Karyakram, Banke raised this issue and DNF is going to register the issue (as PIL) in the Supreme Court.

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<sup>1</sup> A custom which is in practice since generations, where Dalits do serve (sewing, making pots and weapons) for others in annual basis by receiving grains from *Khalo*.

### **(c) The Writ of Habeas Corpus**

The DNF/LAAD played a vital role to release Dalits leaders (including non-dalits) from jail during the people's popular movement-II. Ramlakhan Harijan and Bom Bahadur Bishwakarma were arrested from Koteshwar, and Lal Bahadur Bishwakarma, the president of Mukti Samaj and Bhagawat Biswasi from Kalanki. DNF/LAAD and NBA registered writ petitions in the Supreme Court and pleaded in their favor. Eventually, 42 leaders including the above mentioned leaders were released on 17 March, 2006.

A writ of habeas corpus of Rajendra Bahadur Gautam (B.K.), the Editor of Jijibisha, a monthly publication of DWO, was arrested in the same movement. DNF/LAAD registered writ petition and pleaded in his favor. Immediately, he was released by the verdict of Supreme Court. Likewise, several cases were followed-up during the period.

#### **1.14 Filing of General Cases (including FIR)**

Filing of general cases is one of the major activities of DNF CBSP. DNF has been providing legal aid services to the victims through its member organizations. During this year, DNF/LAAD has filed 209 general cases for providing legal aids to dalits related cases. DNF is still making follow ups at centre and regional level.

#### **1.15 Follow-up of Ongoing Cases (including pleading)**

DNF/LAAD has been registering cases against discriminations and injustice since 2000. DanidaHUGOU has provided support to helped file and follow-up those cases and get justice. During 2006, DNF has been continuing follow ups in the on-going cases across the country..

#### **1.16 Legal Awareness Publications**

DNF is publishing different IEC materials and research studies. DNF/LAAD has published the followings:

- (i) Caste-based Prejudice and Discrimination in Nepal, a Survey Report (500 copies in English)
- (ii) International Convention Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination or Provisions of Conventions against Human Rights Big Six (*Sabai Kisimka Jatiya Bhed Unmulan Game Mahasandhi tatha Manab Adhikar Sambandhi Anya Thula Mahasandhiharuma bhedbhab Biruddha Bhaeka Byabastha* - 500 copies in Nepali)
- (iii) Pocket Calendar, 2006 (500 copies in Nepali)

- (iv) Reservation Modality for Dalit in Nepal (500 copies reprinted a Nepali version in January, 2006 and English translation of this book is going to complete.)
- (v) Reservation Modality for Dalit in Nepal (in English )
- (vi) Supreme court verdicts
- (vii) Complied Report

### **1.17 Exposure and Internship for LAAD Lawyers**

To enhance capacity and skills of LAAD lawyers, the project planned to provide short term internship/exposure visit to LAAD lawyers. Mr. D.B. Sagar, the Chairperson, Mr. Tek Bahadur Raika, Vice-chairman, and Mr. Arjun Bagale, Mr. Shyam BK, Mrs. Gomati Sunar, the lawyers at LAAD Division, visited Delhi, India.

### **1.18 LAAD Guideline Finalized**

LAAD guideline has been prepared with clear goals ,destination, procedure and visions of LAAD.