

ROADMAP

on Equal Citizenship Rights

Goal	Equal citizenship rights of women.
Objective	A comprehensive national campaign on equal citizenship rights.
Opportunities	<p>Revision of the Constitution</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Constitutional amendment ■ Interim Constitution ■ Constituent assembly and new Constitution through assembly
Basis for movement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ A proposal and declaration endorsed by House of Representatives ■ Inclusive democracy and political commitment ■ International human rights treaties/ conventions to which Nepal is a party state and concluding comments of the committee ■ Supreme Court's decisions on equality
Obstacles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Lack of strong political will ■ Minimal women's participation in decision making ■ Patriarchal mindset and argument of national sovereignty ■ Gaps amongst women activists
Partners of the movement	Women's right activists, political parties, civil societies, media, various professional organizations, artists, homemakers, and citizens are the partners of the movement.
Mode of operation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Comprehensive national network ■ District level network
Strategies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Political strategy ■ Social mobilization strategy ■ Local community mobilization strategy ■ Legal strategy ■ Media strategy

POLITICAL STRATEGIES

- To create a persistent pressure on the political parties to implement the endorsed proposal by the House of Representatives on May 30, 2006 that provides mother equal rights to transfer citizenship to their children.
- To form caucus or committee to work on women's rights among the women parliamentarians from various political parties.
- To strengthen collaborative and cooperative relations between the sister organizations of political parties and among the organizations working for women's rights.
- To create pressure on political parties to include an equal citizenship rights provision in the interim Constitution and new Constitution to be formulated through the Constituent Assembly. Also to have political parties to publicly commit such inclusion in their manifestos.
- To initiate collaboratively to ensure women's proportionate participation in decision making level.

SOCIAL MOBILIZATION

- Most the people consider that the citizenship movement is a subject of political people. In the context, a continuous awareness program to educate people on the importance of citizenship rights is necessary.
- Conduct awareness programs to minimize the gaps between those that do and don't recognize the value of citizenship.
- Men and women should collectively be mobilized as this is not only a women's issue; it is rather a human rights issue.
- The movement needs to trickle down to target groups as intended and not just remain at the surface; this requires awareness at all levels of society.
- Ethnic women's groups also need to be aware of the issue.
- Sufficient voice is needed to implement the endorsed proposal into practice.
- Civil society network should be strong, comprehensive and effective. District and central civil society networks should work collaboratively.
- Right to citizenship is the gateway to other rights and therefore, cannot be dealt with in isolation. It should be considered relatively with other human rights.
- Women's participation at political and decision making levels should be enhanced from grassroots to central levels to implement the endorsed proposal.
- Dissemination of the proposal to grassroots levels is necessary. Community/street drama can be an effective means to convey the proposal.
- Local networks of central level civil societies should be mobilized for the purpose.

- Civil society can play a responsible role in minimizing the gaps between grassroots and central level organizations to reflect the proposal into practice.
- Initiate capacity building programs for civil societies.
- Prepare counter arguments to tackle concerns from opponent of equal citizenship rights to build a common consensus.

LOCAL COMMUNITY MOBILIZATION

- District level group should be formed at every district.
- VDC level group should be formed at every VDC representing the members of the ward committee.
- Ward level group should be formed at every ward of the VDC.
- An orientation program on the importance, necessity, advantage and procedural provisions to acquire citizenship should be conducted to the groups formed at ward level.
- Every ward group should conduct an awareness programs on citizenship and a systematic record of those who have and have not acquired citizenship and the data should be sent to the district level group to initiate providing citizenship to those without.
- Mass mobilization should be conducted to ensure equal citizenship rights of women at every ward and VDC level group.
- Disseminate information regarding citizenship through local radio and F.M.

LEGAL STRATEGIES

- Initiate legal reform activities (e.g. amendment proposal, lobbying with interim constitution drafting committee, political parties and members of the Constituent Assembly).
- Conduct advocacy programs (advocacy and information leaflets, publication and dissemination of posters, advocacy meetings with concerned stakeholders, victim hearings, and voice collection of intellectuals).
- Application of international human rights conventions (pressurizing state on its obligation under international instruments, to submit international reports on time, shadow reports, dissemination of concluding comments and advocacy to ratify international human rights instruments, such as OP-CEDAW).
- Training and orientation program for the effective implementation of laws (to CDO, employees of the citizenship section of the district administration office, representatives of the local bodies, judges, and law and policy makers).
- Establishment of legal aid cell to assist victims of discriminatory citizenship law.
- Public interest litigation (identification of test cases, creation of enabling legal environment, application of different approaches on a case by case basis).

- Advocacy to change negative arguments, and social/cultural values and norms (training to the change advocates, awareness programs on the importance of citizenship and procedural provisions, and sensitization against discrimination).
- Application of international complaint mechanisms, such as application of optional protocol to ICCPR.
- Coordination with key stakeholders/ bodies.
- Networking and coordination for a unified movement.

MEDIA STRATEGIES

- Media should play a crucial role for bridging the gap between grass roots to central level to raise the issue.
- Highlights victim's hearing through media.
- Sensitize media with providing comprehensive information on citizenship.
- Raise the issue of equal citizenship rights from the right based approach through print as well electronic media.
- Aware about the declaration of House of Representatives on mother's right to confer citizenship to their children and advocacy for the implementation of the declaration.
- Dissemination of the issue through hoarding board in the public places, use of slides in theater, leaflet and posters etc.

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