



# Observation Report

• on Nepal's 2026 •

**House of Representatives Election :**  
*A Gender, Disability, and Social Inclusion Perspective*



**FWLD**

Working for Non-discrimination and Equality



# **OBSERVATION REPORT**

— on Nepal's 2026 —

## **HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ELECTION: A GENDER, DISABILITY AND INCLUSION PERSPECTIVE**

COORDINATED BY



**FWLD**

Working for Non-discrimination and Equality

PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS



# ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Democracy gets its legitimacy from the free, fair, and meaningful participation of its citizens in elections. Elections are not just an administrative process; they are something deeper - a genuine expression of the people's sovereign will and a key pillar of accountable and representative governance. And it is in this same conviction that FWLD undertook the observation of the 2026 House of Representatives election from a GEDSI perspective.

Election observation by national and international organizations has, over time, become a part of the election process. Election observation reports serve as an indicator to measure the credibility of elections, not only inside the country but also beyond borders. FWLD has long been committed to advancing and safeguarding women's rights, gender equality, and social justice through legal reform, policy advocacy, and civic engagement. Still, consistent with that institutional direction, FWLD's election observation mission was undertaken from a Gender Equality, Disability, and Social Inclusion (GEDSI) perspective. It is our firm belief that elections cannot be truly free and fair unless every citizen, no matter their gender, disability, caste, ethnicity, religion, age, sexual and gender orientation, or where they live geographically, can take part fully, safely, and meaningfully in each phase of the electoral process, whether as a candidate, a voter, or as an election official.

FWLD, upon receiving approval from the Election Commission of Nepal, jointly conducted election observation in collaboration with 14 other CSOs (Awaaz, Beautiful Nepal Association, Centre for Women's Awareness & Development, Community Development Society, Disabled Women Society, Mitini Nepal, Nepal Disabled Women Association, Nepal Muslim Women Welfare Society, Saathi, SSAN, Tewa, New Friend's Club, Women's Security Pressure Group, Women for Human Rights) including but not limited to organizations working for the rights of women, women with disabilities, Dalit women, Muslim women, Madhesi women, single women, and sexual and gender minorities. A total of 160 observers were appointed and trained to cover all 7 provinces, maintaining intersectionality and geographical representation. The observation was carried out in 23 districts, 46 election constituencies, 55 local levels, and 156 election centers. The observation was carried out in three phases: the pre-voting phase, voting Day, and the post-voting phase, with special attention on the participation of women, marginalized communities, persons with disabilities, and other groups that have, historically, faced deep structural obstacles to political participation.

This report presents FWLD's findings, observations, and recommendations based on the direct field observations of its deployed observers. It documents both the commendable achievements and the persistent challenges observed during the election, to contribute constructively to the ongoing strengthening of Nepal's electoral process. It is FWLD's firm belief that evidence-based observation, conducted with impartiality and professional integrity, is one of the most meaningful contributions that civil society can make to democratic governance.

FWLD acknowledges the Election Commission of Nepal for its efforts to conduct this election under challenging circumstances and within a compressed timeline, as well as for providing the space for election observation. We also extend our sincere appreciation to all 14 CSOs and observers who devoted their time, energy, and commitment to this mission. We are equally thankful to voters, election officials, polling center staff, security personnel, and the candidates whose cooperation and openness made this observation possible. We would like to thank Advocate Seema Dhama and Advocate Luma Singh Bishwokarma for preparing the report, and Advocate Sagar Pathak and Advocate Smriti Moktan for overall coordination. We also express our heartfelt gratitude to UN Women Nepal for the invaluable support provided in conducting the election observation.

**Advocate Sabin Shrestha**

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# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Elections in Nepal are a key instrument for strengthening democracy, ensuring representation, and promoting equality among its diverse population. Nepal, being a multi-ethnic, multi-lingual, and multi-cultural country, the Constitution of Nepal guarantees inclusive participation in all political processes. From a gender and inclusion perspective, elections play a crucial role in transforming these constitutional provisions into practice by ensuring that women, persons with disabilities, and marginalized groups are fairly represented in all the bodies of government and decision-making structures.

Following the political transition triggered by the Gen-Z protests of September 2025, the Government of Nepal, in close coordination with the Election Commission, acted swiftly to safeguard the electoral process. A series of comprehensive measures was undertaken across legal, administrative, security, and logistical domains to ensure the successful conduct of the House of Representatives election on 5 March 2026. These coordinated efforts established a resilient framework that, despite prevailing challenges, enabled the nationwide polls to proceed as scheduled. The election was completed across all seven provinces without major incidents of violence or disruption, reflecting the effectiveness of the governments and the Commission's preparedness. In this regard, FWLD observed the elections in select constituencies across all seven provinces by mobilizing observers while maintaining intersectionality. The observation was conducted from a GEDSI perspective, encompassing the pre-election phase, Election Day, and the post-election phase. This report is based on findings from the constituencies covered by FWLD affiliated observers.

## PRE-VOTING DAY PHASE

### Key Findings

- The GEDSI-focused election observation covered all seven provinces and monitored 156 polling stations across 23 districts and 55 local levels in Nepal.
- The Election Commission Nepal demonstrated institutional commitment toward peaceful and inclusive elections through voter education, coordination, and polling preparation.
- Despite constitutional commitments to inclusion, no separate quota or affirmative mechanism existed under the First-Past-the-Post (FPTP) system to ensure representation of women and marginalized groups.
- Accessibility preparation remained inadequate, particularly due to the absence of Braille ballot papers, tactile voting materials, and disability-friendly assistive devices.
- Women and inclusion groups remained underrepresented in election leadership and decision-making structures.

### Key Conclusion

- Nepal demonstrated progress in institutional preparedness for inclusive elections; however, structural gaps in representation, accessibility, and inclusive planning remained significant.

### Key Recommendations

- Introduce legal and policy reforms to strengthen representation of women and marginalized groups under the FPTP electoral system.
- Ensure mandatory provision of Braille ballots, assistive devices, and disability-friendly election infrastructure.
- Expand inclusive voter education and outreach targeting marginalized and remote communities.

## VOTING DAY PHASE

### Key Findings

- The election held on 5 March 2026 was generally peaceful, orderly, and procedurally credible across observed polling stations.
- Most polling stations provided separate queues for women and men, and priority support for women, senior citizens, pregnant women, and persons with disabilities.
- Approximately 88% of polling stations that were observed met basic accessibility standards, while 94.2% mobilized both male and female volunteers.
- Significant barriers remained for people with disabilities due to the absence of Braille ballots, the physical infrastructure of the polling centre, and assistive voting materials.
- Many polling stations lacked first aid services, ambulances, breastfeeding spaces, drinking water, and adequate resting facilities.

### Key Conclusion

- While polling day operations were largely peaceful and partially inclusive, accessibility barriers, inadequate voter support services, and weak institutional accountability limited substantive inclusion.

### Key Recommendations

- Enforce universal accessibility standards in all polling stations.
- Ensure minimum standards for health, sanitation, and voter support facilities.
- Institutionalize mandatory GEDSI and disability inclusion training for polling officials and volunteers.
- Strengthen collection and reporting of disaggregated electoral data.

## POST-VOTING DAY PHASE

### Key Findings

- Ballot transportation and counting processes were generally transparent, peaceful, and efficiently managed.
- Most polling stations conducted all-party meetings before vote counting; however, some meetings lacked inclusive participation of women and marginalized groups.
- Some counting centres lacked adequate safety, sanitation, and support services from a GESI perspective.
- Limited availability of disaggregated electoral data restricted a comprehensive post-election inclusion assessment.

### Key Conclusion

- The post-election process was generally credible and peaceful, but meaningful inclusion of marginalized groups in coordination, monitoring, and post-election management remained limited.

### Key Recommendations

- Ensure inclusive participation of women and marginalized groups in post-election coordination and decision-making.
- Improve GEDSI-responsive facilities and safety measures at counting centres.
- Publish comprehensive disaggregated election data to support inclusive electoral reforms and accountability.

# CONTENTS

Background .....	1
Observation Method .....	1
Areas of Observation.....	2
Subject Areas of Observation.....	2
Nepal's Electoral Legal Framework from a GEDSI Perspective .....	2
Findings and Analysis	
Pre-Voting Day Phase Observation .....	6
During-Voting Day Phase Observation .....	25
Post-Voting Day Observation .....	44
Conclusions and Recommendations	
Conclusions .....	52
Recommendations .....	53
Annexes	
1. Collaborating Organizations .....	59
2. Media Sources .....	60
3. Questionnaire for Election Observation .....	61
4. Gender Responsive Election Coverage in Media .....	69
5. News Published in the Media regarding the Election Observation .....	70
6. Areas Covered During Observations .....	71
7. Name of Observers .....	74

## BACKGROUND

Periodic, fair, accessible, and inclusive elections—as mandated by the Constitution, national laws, and various international human rights instruments—form the bedrock of every democratic country. Elections are widely recognized as the most effective mechanism for citizens to exercise their sovereign will, grant a mandate to their representatives, and hold governments accountable. Through the exercise of adult franchise, sovereign citizens establish, legitimize, and institutionalize democratic governance. Without elections, there is no democracy; without inclusivity, there is no full democracy.

The principles of gender equality, disability, social inclusion (GEDSI), and non-discrimination are not peripheral aspirations but core, non-negotiable dimensions of democratic elections. An election that excludes or marginalizes women, Dalits, Adivasi Janajatis, Madhesis, persons with disabilities, gender and sexual minorities, or any other group cannot be considered free or fair. Therefore, no modern electoral process can be credibly imagined without deliberate, systematic attention to the participation and representation of all segments of society.

To determine whether elections have been conducted in a free, fair, and inclusive manner, independent observation is indispensable. The observations made by accredited observers, monitoring reports by regulatory bodies, and the final analyses submitted to the Election Commission collectively establish the integrity, independence, and impartiality of the electoral process. Such observation not only validates the legitimacy of the election results but also provides evidence-based recommendations for strengthening future electoral cycles. Election observation—particularly from a GEDSI perspective—is therefore not an optional add-on but an essential pillar of democratic accountability and continuous reform.

Pursuant to the authority vested under Section 6 of the Election Commission Act, 2073 (2017) and Section 6 of the Election Observation Directives, 2078 (2021), the Election Commission of Nepal mandated this organization to undertake a comprehensive Gender Equality, Disability and Social Inclusion (GEDSI)-focused observation of the House of Representatives election held on 5 March 2026. This report presents a rigorous evaluation of the entire electoral cycle—spanning the pre-election, polling day, and post-election phases—with a specific emphasis on the participation and representation of marginalized groups. Based on these findings, we have formulated strategic recommendations aimed at bolstering electoral integrity and ensuring a more inclusive administrative framework for future polls.

## OBSERVATION METHOD

Pursuant to the Election Commission's call for applications from interested organizations to observe the elections, Forum for Women, Law and Development (FWLD), in collaboration with 14 civil society organizations, conducted an observation of the House of Representatives election from the perspectives of gender, disability, and social inclusion. The observation assessed the following areas:

- The independence and impartiality of the electoral process.
- The determination of the election period and schedule.
- The credibility of the electoral system, including relevant laws, rules, standards, and procedures.
- The application of gender equality and social inclusion principles, benchmarked against election laws and credible best practices.

The methodology included direct observation of polling stations in selected districts, structured questionnaires, and checklist verification involving candidates, election officials, voters, and security personnel, as well as question-and-answer sessions with voters and election officials. All collected information was analysed through a gender and inclusion lens.

Furthermore, the observation examined any violent incidents that occurred or had the potential to occur during the “election period”.

## AREAS OF OBSERVATIONS

The observation mission deployed its observers across all seven provinces, with the consent and collaboration of partner organizations operating in those regions. Coverage included Jhapa, Ilam, and Morang districts of Koshi Province; Bara and Rautahat districts of Madhesh Province; Kathmandu, Bhaktapur, Lalitpur, Sindhupalchowk, Makwanpur, Nuwakot and Chitwan districts of Bagmati Province; Gorkha and Kaski districts of Gandaki Province; Rupandehi, Kapilvastu, Banke, and Dang districts of Lumbini Province; Dailekh, Jajarkot, and Surkhet districts of Karnali Province; Bajura, Kailali, and Kanchanpur districts of Sudurpaschim Province.

The election observation was conducted in 5 constituencies of Koshi Province, 3 constituencies of Madhesh Province, 16 constituencies of Bagmati Province, 3 constituencies of Gandaki Province, 7 constituencies of Lumbini Province, 5 constituencies of Karnali Province, and 8 constituencies of Sudurpaschim Province.



## SUBJECT AREAS OF OBSERVATION

This report presents findings from observations conducted across the pre-election, polling day, and post-election phases. It evaluates the extent to which the election code of conduct was adhered to, with particular attention to the use of appropriate language by political parties, government institutions, civil society organizations, and other stakeholders—including those distinguished by gender, ethnicity, membership in targeted groups, or religious affiliation.

The analysis further examines whether the Government of Nepal and the Election Commission of Nepal fully implemented their Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) policies in election management, particularly in the deployment of human resources. Media coverage of gender-insensitive incidents occurring before, during, and after polling day has been incorporated to provide a comprehensive perspective.

Additionally, the report assesses whether an environment free from fear and intimidation was ensured for elderly persons, women, sexual and gender minorities, Dalits, marginalized communities, and persons with disabilities. Based on these observations, the report offers recommendations to relevant authorities to:

- Strengthen the integrity and success of electoral processes.
- Address shortcomings in the application of GEDSI principles during elections.
- Ensure full implementation of gender and inclusion policies endorsed by the Government of Nepal.
- Enhance coordination with stakeholders to fulfil Nepal's international human rights commitments, particularly those related to gender equality and social inclusion.

## NEPAL'S ELECTORAL LEGAL FRAMEWORK FROM A GEDSI PERSPECTIVE

### Nepal's International Human Rights Obligations

Nepal is a signatory to binding international human rights instruments that guarantee non-discriminatory political participation. These include the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR, Article 25), the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW, Articles 7 & 8), the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD, Article 29), and the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (ICERD). These treaties obligate the State to take all appropriate measures to ensure that every citizen—without distinction of any kind—has the right and opportunity to take part in the conduct of public affairs, directly or through freely chosen representatives.

### Constitution of Nepal (2015)

The Gender Equality, Equity and Social Inclusion (GESI) perspective has become a cornerstone of Nepal's electoral legal framework, representing a fundamental shift from traditional formal equality to substantive, results-oriented inclusion. Following the promulgation of the Constitution of Nepal (2015) and subsequent electoral reforms, Nepal has developed comprehensive legal architectures for ensuring marginalized groups—including women, Dalits, Adivasi Janajatis, Madhesis, Tharus, Muslims, persons with disabilities, and those from backward regions—gain meaningful political representation and participation.

The Constitution of Nepal establishes a comprehensive framework of fundamental rights designed to institutionalize gender equality, equity, and social inclusion within the national political order. Central to this mandate is Article 18, which enshrines the fundamental right to equality, together with the proviso to Article 18(3)<sup>1</sup>. This proviso provides the constitutional basis for affirmative action by expressly authorizing the State to enact special measures for the protection, empowerment, and substantive mainstreaming of historically marginalized groups.

This inclusive vision is reinforced by a constellation of interrelated rights: Article 19 guarantees the right to communication; Article 24 provides an unequivocal safeguard against untouchability and discrimination, thereby ensuring a secure environment for political participation; Article 27 affirms the right to information; and Article 28 secures the right to privacy. Collectively, these provisions guarantee transparency, personal security, and

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1. The proviso to Article 18(3) reads:

(3) The State shall not discriminate citizens on grounds of origin, religion, race, caste, tribe, sex, economic condition, language, region, ideology or on similar other grounds.

Provided that nothing shall be deemed to prevent the making of special provisions by law for the protection, empowerment or development of the citizens including the socially or culturally backward women, Dalit, indigenous people, indigenous nationalities, Madhesi, Tharu, Muslim, oppressed class, Pichhada class, minorities, the marginalized, farmers, labours, youths, children, senior citizens, gender and sexual minorities, persons with disabilities, persons in pregnancy, incapacitated or helpless, backward region and indigent Khas Arya.

dignity in the exercise of political rights. Furthermore, Article 35, which guarantees the right to health, ensures that marginalized communities are not only legally empowered but also practically equipped to participate equitably in the democratic process.

Furthermore, Articles 38(4)<sup>2</sup>, 40(1)<sup>3</sup> and 42(1)<sup>4</sup> &(3)<sup>5</sup> of the Constitution of Nepal guarantee the proportional participation of women and of economically, socially, or educationally marginalized communities—including Dalits, indigenous nationalities, Madhesis, Tharus, Muslims, minorities, persons with disabilities, gender and sexual minorities, farmers, labourers, oppressed groups, citizens of backward regions, and indigent members of the Khas Arya community—in State bodies, in accordance with the principle of proportional inclusion. Similarly, Article 41 provides that senior citizens are constitutionally entitled to special protection by the State.

Article 84 of the Constitution of Nepal establishes a mixed electoral system for the 275-member House of Representatives (HoR), the lower house of the Federal Parliament. Of these, 165 members are elected through the First-Past-the-Post (FPTP) system<sup>6</sup>, which does not contain provisions for mandatory quotas for women and other inclusive groups, while 110 members are elected through the Proportional Representation (PR) system based on closed party lists<sup>7</sup>—the principal mechanism for enforcing Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) requirements<sup>8</sup>. Article 84(8)<sup>9</sup> mandates that women must comprise at least one-third (33%) of each political party's total representation in the Federal Parliament, combining both FPTP and PR seats. Where a party fails to secure the required proportion of women through FPTP, it is constitutionally obligated to remedy the shortfall through its PR list.

## Electoral Laws

The House of Representatives Member Election Act, 2017, operationalizes constitutional provisions through detailed GESI mechanisms. The First Amendment Ordinance of 2025 (2082 BS) represents an update, revising PR quota allocations based on the population data from the National Census 2021. Section 28(5) requires political parties to submit closed PR lists that precisely reflect demographic percentages for each protected group<sup>10</sup>. As per the Ordinance<sup>11</sup>, the updated quota allocation has been listed as follows –

<b>13.44%</b>	<b>28.72%</b>	<b>30.28%</b>	<b>16.15%</b>	<b>6.52%</b>	<b>4.89%</b>
Dalit	Adivasi Janjati	Khas Arya	Madhesi	Tharu	Muslim

2. Rights of women: (4) Women shall have the right to participate in all bodies of the State on the basis of the principle of proportional inclusion.
3. Rights of Dalit: (1) The Dalit shall have the right to participate in all bodies of the State on the basis of the principle of proportional inclusion.
4. Right to social justice: (1) The economically, socially or educationally backward women, Dalit, indigenous nationalities, Madhesi, Tharu, Muslims, backward classes, minorities, marginalized communities, persons with disabilities, gender and sexual minorities, farmers, labourers, oppressed or citizens of backward regions and indigent Khas Arya shall have the right to participate in the State bodies on the basis of principle of proportional inclusion.
5. (3) The citizens with disabilities shall have the right to live with dignity and honour, with the identity of their diversity, and have equal access to public services and facilities.
6. Article 84 (1, A)
7. Article 84 (1, B)
8. Article 84 (2 & 3). It reads:  
Article 84 (2) - The Federal law shall provide that, in fielding candidacy by political parties for the election to the House of Representatives under the proportional electoral system, representation shall be ensured on the basis of a closed list also from women, Dalit, indigenous peoples, Khas Arya, Madhesi, Tharu, Muslims and backward regions, on the basis of population. In so fielding candidacy, regard shall also be had to geography and territorial balance.  
Explanation: For the purposes of this clause, "Khas Arya" means Kshetri, Brahmin, Thakuri, Sanyasi (Dashnami) community.  
Article 84 (3) - In fielding candidacy under clause (2), political parties shall provide for representation of the persons with disabilities as well.
9. Article 48(8) - Notwithstanding anything contained elsewhere in this Part, at least one third of the total number of members elected from each political party representing in the Federal Parliament must be women.
10. Protected groups included are Dalit, Adivasi Janajati, Khas Arya, Madhesi, Tharu and Muslim.
11. Schedule 1 of the Act as per Section 28(5) and 60 (6).

Section 28(6) of the House of Representatives Election Act obliges political parties to ensure representation of candidates from backward regions and persons with disabilities in their closed proportional representation (PR) lists. In addition, Section 28(3) requires that women constitute at least fifty percent of the total candidates included in such PR lists. Complementing these provisions, Section 70 of the Act grants a fifty percent concession on the candidacy deposit under the First-Past-the-Post (FPTP) system for women, Dalits, members of minority communities, and individuals from economically marginalized backgrounds, thereby facilitating their participation in the electoral process.

### The Election Commission of Nepal's Gender and Inclusive Policy, 2077 (2020)

The Policy's strategies outline how the Election Commission will integrate gender equality and social inclusion (GESI) into its operations. The main focus areas are:

- **Mainstreaming Operations:** Embedding GESI principles into all policies, plans, laws, and election processes.
- **Tracking Participation:** Developing systems to encourage, monitor, and record the participation of women and inclusive groups.
- **Improving Accessibility:** Making all physical infrastructure (like offices and polling stations) and informational materials accessible and friendly for women, marginalized groups, and persons with disabilities.
- **Collaboration & Capacity Building:** Partnering with stakeholders (such as government bodies, political parties, and civil society) and training them to effectively implement these inclusive policies.

### The Election Commission of Nepal's Policy on Social Media, 2077 (2020)

The Commission's social media strategy integrates institutional strengthening with inclusivity. While enhancing transparency, accountability, and voter education through digital platforms, it places particular emphasis on gender equality and social inclusion (GESI). Key measures include:

- Ensuring gender-friendly and accessible voter education materials tailored for women, persons with disabilities, youth, and marginalized groups.
- Expanding inclusive access to election information via social media, thereby reducing barriers for traditionally underrepresented populations.
- Promoting collaboration with stakeholders to regulate social networks in ways that safeguard inclusive participation.
- Identifying and mitigating risks that could disproportionately affect vulnerable groups in election conduct and management.

Overall, the framework positions social media not only as a tool for transparency and efficiency but also as a driver of inclusive electoral participation, ensuring that diverse voices are informed, represented, and protected throughout the electoral process.

### Supreme Court decision on voting rights for Nepalis living in foreign countries<sup>12</sup>

In a landmark ruling on 21 March 2018, the Supreme Court of Nepal issued a directive order to the government to ensure voting rights for Nepali citizens living in various foreign countries. The division bench of Justices Sapana Pradhan Malla and Purushottam Bhandari emphasized that these rights must be ensured in line with both domestic and international legal frameworks. The decision marked a significant step toward inclusive electoral participation, recognizing the rights of the diaspora and reinforcing Nepal's commitment to democratic principles and international obligations. However, the judgment has not yet been implemented.

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12. *Prem Chandra Rai vs the Office of the Prime Minister and Council of Ministers et al.* Writ no. 073-WO-1149 decided on 21 March 2018 (2074/12/07). Ne.Ka.Pa. 2075 Vol. 6. Available at: [https://nkp.gov.np/full\\_detail/9091](https://nkp.gov.np/full_detail/9091)

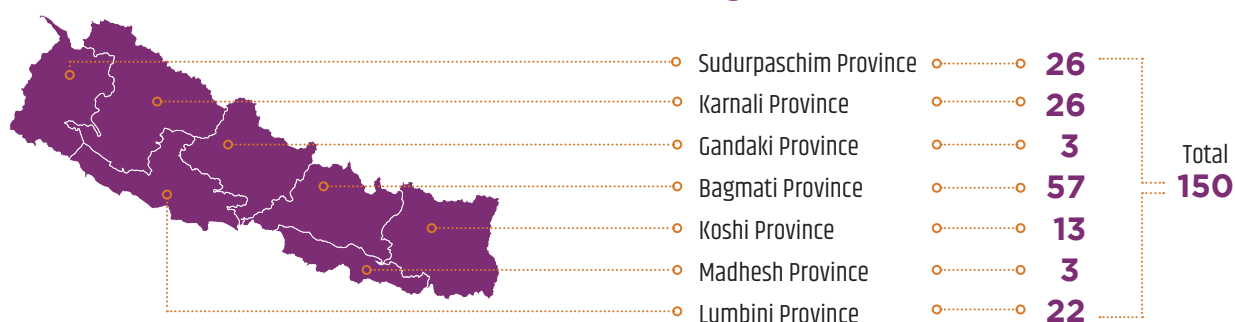
# FINDINGS AND ANALYSIS

## PRE-VOTING DAY PHASE OBSERVATION

### Polling Stations observed across Nepal

A comprehensive observation of the 5 March 2026 House of Representatives (HoR) election was undertaken from a Gender Equality, Disability, and Social Inclusion (GEDSI) perspective. The initiative covered all seven provinces, encompassing 23 districts, 55 Local levels, and 150 polling Stations. To execute this, a total of 150 observers were deployed, representing a coalition of 15 civil society organizations across Nepal.

### Provinces and numbers of Polling Centres Observed

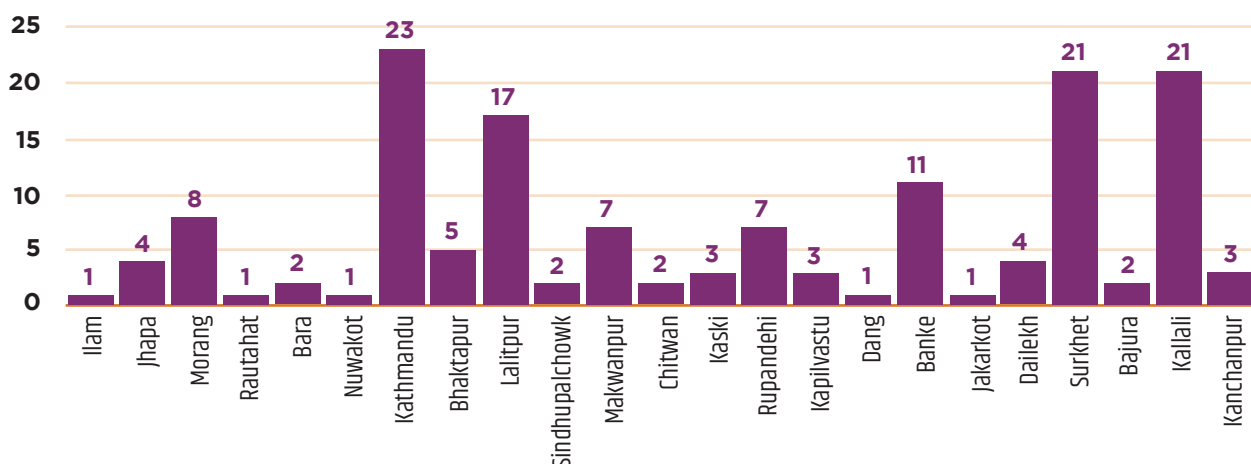


A total of 150 Polling Stations of all seven provinces of Nepal were observed. Bagmati Province accounts for the largest share of the dataset with 57 observed Stations, making up approximately 38% of the entire sample. It is followed by Karnali Province and Sudurpaschim Province, each with 26 Stations, and Lumbini Province with 22 Stations. In contrast, 13 Polling Stations were observed in Koshi Province, while Madhesh and Gandaki Provinces had the smallest representation with only 3 Stations each.

### Districts and Number of Polling Stations Observed

A comprehensive field observation was conducted across 23 districts in Nepal, encompassing a total of 150 polling Stations. Kathmandu district had the highest number of observations with 23 polling Stations, closely followed by Surkhet and Kailali with 21 Stations each, and Lalitpur with 17 Stations. The remaining Stations are distributed across the other 19 districts, capturing a diverse but varied sample size per location.

### Districts and Number of Polling Stations Observed



## Disability Friendly Polling Stations

The chart below presents a detailed assessment of the accessibility and disability-friendliness of polling stations, categorized by province. The observation evaluated these Stations against the primary variable of accessibility, with responses classified as “Yes” (accessible) or “No” (inaccessible). The findings indicate that out of a total sample of 150 polling Stations observed across all seven provinces, a significant majority of 132 Stations (88.0%) were accessible. Conversely, 18 Stations (12.0%) were identified as inaccessible to persons with disabilities.

### Disability-friendly and accessible Polling Stations by Province



	✓ YES	✗ No
Sudurpaschim Province	24 (92.3%)	2 (7.7%)
Karnali Province	23 (88.5%)	3 (11.5%)
Gandaki Province	3 (100%)	0 (0%)
Bagmati Province	47 (82.5%)	10 (17.5%)
Koshi Province	12 (92%)	1 (8%)
Madhesh Province	3 (100%)	0 (0%)
Lumbini Province	20 (90.9%)	2 (9.1%)

A province-by-province breakdown reveals varied levels of accessibility across the country:

- **Bagmati Province:** This province had the largest sample size (n=57 or 38%) and registered the highest number of inaccessible Stations (n=10, or 17.5%), meaning that it accounts for the majority of the access issues. However, the remaining 47 Stations (82.5%) are considered accessible.
- **Karnali Province:** Out of 26 Stations observed, 23 Stations (88.5%) were reported as accessible, while 3 Stations (11.5%) were inaccessible.
- **Lumbini Province:** Out of 22 polling Stations, 20 Stations (90.9%) were accessible, with 2 Stations (9.1%) inaccessible.
- **Sudurpaschim Province:** Of the 26 polling Stations observed, 24 Stations (92.3%) were accessible, and 2 Stations (7.7%) were inaccessible.
- **Koshi Province:** Out of 13 observed polling Stations, 12 Stations (92.3%) were accessible, leaving 1 Station (7.7%) inaccessible.
- **Madhesh Province and Gandaki Province:** Both provinces show 100% accessibility with 3 Stations each observed, though their sample sizes were significantly smaller compared to the other provinces.

## Observation on Accessibility of Polling Stations

It was observed that, in most locations, polling Stations were established in places that were easily accessible to voters of short stature, persons with disabilities, and senior citizens. However, exceptions were noted: one polling Station each in Koshi, Madhesh, Lumbini, and Karnali Provinces, and six polling Stations in Bagmati Province were not set up in locations that ensured such accessibility. In total, 10 out of 150 polling Stations (6.7%) did not meet accessibility standards for these groups of voters.

### Was the polling Station placed in a place easily accessible to the voters of short stature/disability/senior citizens? (by province)



Polling station at Ilam municipality Ward no. 6



✓ YES

✗ No

Province	YES (%)	No (%)
Sudurpaschim Province	26 (100%)	0 (0%)
Karnali Province	25 (96.2%)	1 (3.8%)
Gandaki Province	3 (100%)	0 (0%)
Bagmati Province	51 (89.5%)	6 (10.5%)
Koshi Province	12 (92.3%)	1 (7.7%)
Madhesh Province	2 (66.7%)	1 (3.3%)
Lumbini Province	21 (95.5%)	1 (4.5%)



## Observation on Gender-Sensitive Voter Management

The observation data confirm that the arrangement of separate lines for men and women voters was implemented almost universally across provinces. In Koshi, Madhesh, Lumbini, Karnali, and Sudurpaschim, all polling Stations reported full compliance, with 100% of responses affirming the practice. Minor deviations were noted in Bagmati and Gandaki, where 94.7% and 95.3% of Stations respectively established separate lines, leaving only a small proportion without such arrangements. Overall, among 150 polling Stations observed, 147 (98%) ensured separate lines for men and women voters, while just 3 Stations (2%) did not. These findings highlight a strong nationwide commitment to gender-sensitive voter management, with only isolated gaps that merit targeted follow-up to achieve full consistency in accessibility and inclusivity across all regions.

### Were separate lines arranged for men and women voters?



Lamkichuha, Kailali



✓ YES

✗ No

Province	Yes (%)	No (%)
Sudurpaschim Province	26 (100%)	0 (0%)
Karnali Province	26 (100%)	0 (0%)
Gandaki Province	3 (100%)	0 (0%)
Bagmati Province	54 (94.7%)	3 (5.3%)
Koshi Province	13 (100%)	0 (0%)
Madhesh Province	3 (100%)	0 (0%)
Lumbini Province	22 (100%)	0 (0%)



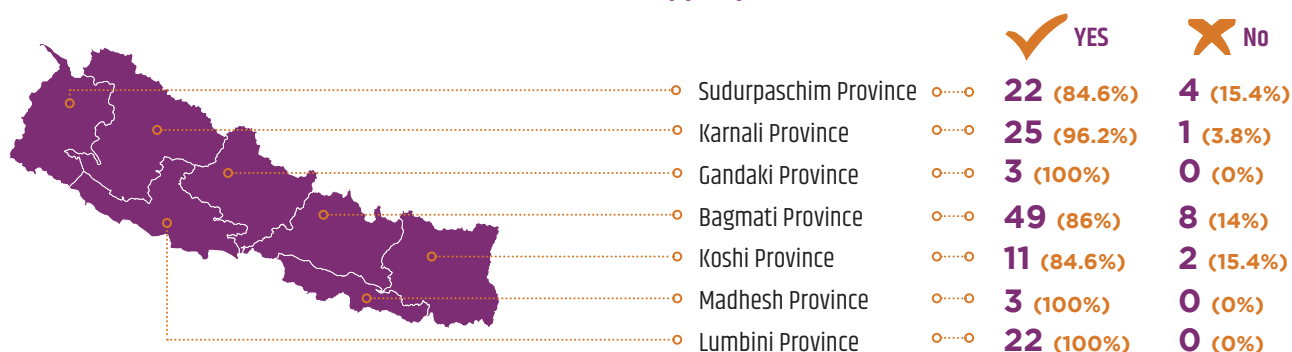
## Convenience of Polling Stations for Women, Senior Citizens, and Voters Requiring Additional Support

### Convenience for recently postpartum women

The observation data show that polling stations were generally set up in a manner convenient for women who had recently given birth. Across most provinces, a high proportion of Stations reported compliance, with Bagmati and Lumbini achieving full coverage (100%). Other provinces also demonstrated strong performance, though with some variation. In total, 135 out of 150 polling Stations (90%) confirmed that arrangements were convenient for women in this category, while 15 Stations (10%) did not.

This overall figure reflects a commendable level of attention to the needs of recently postpartum women, though the presence of 10% of Stations without such arrangements highlights areas where accessibility standards could be strengthened. Targeted measures in provinces with lower compliance would help ensure uniform inclusivity and reinforce commitments to voter-friendly environments nationwide.

### Convenience for recently postpartum women



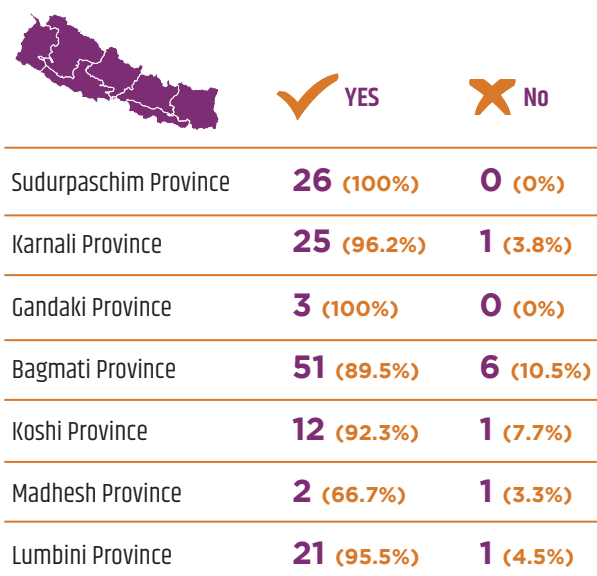
### Convenience for Senior Citizens

The observation data show that polling stations were largely convenient for senior citizens across provinces, with overall compliance reaching 91.3%. Full adherence was reported in Madhesh, Gandaki, and Lumbini, where all Stations confirmed arrangements supportive of elderly voters. High levels of compliance were also observed in Koshi (92.3%), Karnali (96.2%), and Sudurpashchim (92.3%). The lowest compliance was noted in Bagmati, where 84.2% of Stations reported convenience, leaving a notable 15.8% without adequate arrangements. In total, 137 out of 150 polling Stations ensured convenience for senior citizens, while 13 Stations (8.7%) did not.

### Convenience for Senior Citizens



Bhimdutta Municipality, Kancharpur



This pattern reflects strong nationwide attention to the needs of elderly voters, though the gaps in Bagmati and, to a lesser extent, Koshi and Sudurpashchim, suggest the need for targeted improvements. Addressing these shortcomings would help ensure uniform accessibility and reinforce commitments to inclusive electoral participation.

### Accessibility of Polling Stations for Sick or Voters Requiring Additional Support

The observation data reveal that a significant majority of polling stations were convenient for voters who were sick or required additional support. Overall, 133 out of 150 Stations (88.7%) reported arrangements that facilitated access for these voters, while 17 Stations (11.3%) did not. Full compliance was achieved in Madhesh, Gandaki, and Lumbini, where all Stations confirmed convenience. High levels of accessibility were also noted in Karnali (96.2%), Koshi (84.6%), and Sudurpashchim (88.5%). Bagmati showed the lowest compliance, with 46 (80.7%) of Stations reporting convenience and a notable 11 (19.3%) gap.

This pattern demonstrates strong nationwide attention to the needs of sick or required additional support voters, though the gaps in Bagmati and, to a lesser extent, Koshi and Sudurpashchim, highlight areas requiring targeted improvement. Strengthening arrangements in these provinces would help ensure uniform inclusivity and uphold commitments to accessible electoral participation for all voter groups.

### Accessibility of polling stations for sick or required additional support voters



Bhimdutta Municipality, Kanchanpur, Helping severely ill voter

	✓ YES	✗ No
Sudurpaschim Province	23 (88.5%)	3 (11.5%)
Karnali Province	25 (96.2%)	1 (3.8%)
Gandaki Province	3 (100%)	0 (0%)
Bagmati Province	46 (80.7%)	11 (19.3%)
Koshi Province	11 (84.6%)	2 (15.4%)
Madhesh Province	3 (100%)	0 (0%)
Lumbini Province	22 (100%)	0 (0%)

### Accessibility of Exit Arrangements for Vulnerable Groups Across Provinces

The data indicate that, overall, exit setups during the election were largely designed to accommodate vulnerable groups, including senior citizens, recently postpartum women, chronically ill individuals, mourners, and persons with disabilities, though with notable provincial variation. 125 (83.3%) out of 150 Polling Stations were set up for such vulnerable groups, whereas 25 (16.7%) out of 150 Polling Stations were not set up considering the needs of these vulnerable groups. Among provinces, Madhesh and Gandaki reported full compliance (100%), reflecting strong adherence to inclusive electoral practices. Sudurpashchim (88.5%), Lumbini (86.4%), Koshi (84.6%), and Karnali (84.6%) also demonstrated relatively high levels of accessibility. However, Bagmati (77.2%) showed comparatively lower performance, while Madhesh (in absolute numbers) and Gandaki recorded minimal or no

negative responses. Despite generally positive trends, total aggregate 25 polling stations—suggests persistent gaps in uniformly implementing inclusive exit arrangements. This highlights the need for targeted interventions to ensure consistent accessibility standards across all polling locations.

### Was the exit set up to facilitate to senior citizens, recently postpartum women, chronically ill people, mourners, people with disability?



Exit after voting at Ilam Municipality Ward no. 6 (Dripa Devi School)



✓ YES

✗ No

Province	YES (%)	No (%)
Sudurpaschim Province	23 (88.5%)	3 (11.5%)
Karnali Province	22 (84.6%)	4 (15.4%)
Gandaki Province	3 (100%)	0 (0%)
Bagmati Province	44 (77.2%)	13 (22.8%)
Koshi Province	11 (84.6%)	2 (15.4%)
Madhesh Province	3 (100%)	0 (0%)
Lumbini Province	19 (86.4%)	3 (13.6%)



Exit set up at Imadol Ward Office, Mahalaxmi Municipality, Lalitpur



Exit after voting at Kathmandu Metropolitan City Ward no. 1

The observation photos indicate that the exit arrangements at the polling stations were not designed to accommodate voters with disabilities or those requiring additional assistance. The absence of accessible pathways, support mechanisms, and disability-friendly infrastructure may have created barriers for voters with mobility limitations, thereby affecting their ability to exit the polling station safely and independently. This reflects a gap in inclusive election management and highlights the need for accessible infrastructure and targeted support measures to ensure equal participation of people with disabilities in the electoral process.

### Provision of Resting Spaces for Vulnerable Voters

Observation shows a moderate level of preparedness in arranging resting spaces for vulnerable voters—such as pregnant women, senior citizens, individuals requiring additional support, recently postpartum women, and those who are ill or mourning—across polling locations. 114 out of 150 (76.0%) Polling Stations arranged for resting places to these vulnerable groups, while a notable 36 out of 150 (24.0%) Polling stations did not arrange for any resting places for these vulnerable groups, indicating gaps in inclusive service provision.

There is considerable variation across provinces. Madhesh Province stands out with 100% compliance, reflecting strong implementation of voter-friendly measures, though only three polling stations were observed. Relatively high levels of provision were also observed in Sudurpashchim (88.5%), Karnali (80.8%), and Lumbini (77.3%), suggesting generally positive efforts in these regions. Koshi (76.9%) aligns closely with average.

However, Bagmati (66.7%) and Gandaki (66.7%) show comparatively lower performance, indicating that approximately one-third of polling locations in these provinces lacked adequate resting facilities.

### Was resting place arranged for pregnant, support needed, senior citizens, ill persons, mourning people, recently postpartum women voters?



Resting benches made available at Lalitpur Metropolitan City

	✓ YES	✗ NO
Sudurpaschim Province	23 (88.5%)	3 (11.5%)
Karnali Province	21 (80.8%)	5 (19.2%)
Gandaki Province	2 (66.7%)	1 (33.3%)
Bagmati Province	38 (66.7%)	19 (33.3%)
Koshi Province	10 (76.9%)	3 (23.1%)
Madhesh Province	3 (100%)	0 (0%)
Lumbini Province	17 (77.3%)	5 (22.7%)



Nepalgunj Sub-Metropolitan City-5, lack of resting space

### Wheelchair Accessibility at Polling Stations

The observation found that wheelchair access to polling stations for voters with disabilities was available in most cases, but with notable gaps across provinces. In total, 111 (74.0%) out of 150 polling stations were wheelchair accessible, while 39 (26.0%) out of 150 were with absence of such access, pointing to persistent barriers to fully inclusive electoral participation.

Provincial disparities are evident. Gandaki Province achieved 100% accessibility, demonstrating strong compliance with disability-inclusive standards. Higher levels of access were also observed in Sudurpashchim (80.8%), Lumbini (77.3%), and Bagmati (75.4%), reflecting relatively better infrastructure or preparedness. Koshi

### Was there a wheelchair access to the polling station for voters with disabilities?



Nepalgunj Sub Metropolitan City-3

	✓ YES	✗ No
Sudurpaschim Province	21 (80.8%)	5 (19.2%)
Karnali Province	17 (65.4%)	9 (34.6%)
Gandaki Province	3 (100%)	0 (0%)
Bagmati Province	43 (75.4%)	14 (24.6%)
Koshi Province	9 (69.2%)	4 (30.8%)
Madhesh Province	1 (33.3%)	2 (66.7%)
Lumbini Province	17 (77.3%)	5 (22.7%)

(69.2%) and Madhesh (66.7%) fall below the national average, with Madhesh also recording a comparatively high proportion (33.3%) of not having wheelchair accessible set up of polling station, indicating significant accessibility challenges. Karnali (65.4%) shows similar concerns, with over one-third of polling stations lacking wheelchair access.

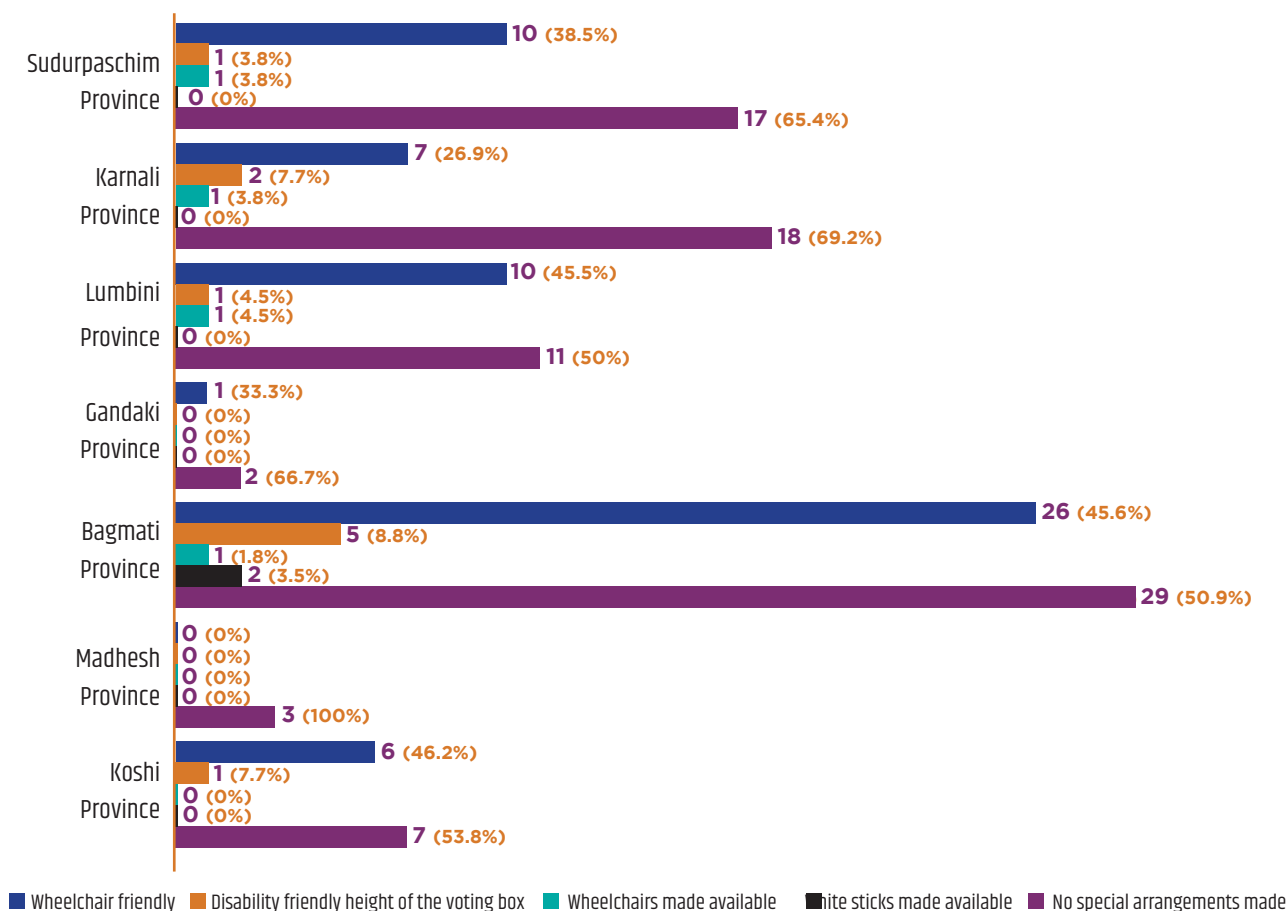
In absolute terms, 111 polling stations reported having wheelchair access, while 39 did not, underscoring that more than one in four locations still present physical barriers for voters with disabilities. These gaps suggest inconsistencies in the enforcement of accessibility standards and highlight the need for targeted infrastructure improvements, stricter compliance monitoring, and resource allocation to ensure that all polling stations are fully accessible. Strengthening these measures is essential for advancing GESI-responsive electoral processes and safeguarding the equal voting rights of persons with disabilities.

### Disability friendly voting materials

The observation data highlight significant gaps in the provision of voting materials accessible to the people with disability across provinces. In most regions, the dominant finding was that no special arrangements were made, indicating limited attention to the needs of voters with disabilities. Madhesh stands out with 100% of centres reporting no special arrangements, while other provinces also showed high proportions in this category. Positive measures such as wheelchair-friendly setups, availability of wheelchairs, disability-friendly height of voting boxes, and provision of white sticks were reported only sporadically and at relatively low percentages.

This pattern suggests that while some isolated efforts were made to accommodate voters with disabilities, the overall approach lacked consistency and scale. The absence of standardized accessibility provisions across provinces undermines inclusivity and may hinder the participation of persons with disabilities. Strengthening national guidelines, ensuring uniform implementation, and replicating best practices where supportive measures were introduced would be essential steps toward achieving equitable electoral participation for all.

### Were the voting materials designed for the people with disability-friendly and accessible?





Bheriganga-11, Surkhet, priority and support to voter with visual disability

### Special arrangements for vulnerable voters

The observation data reveal that special arrangements for vulnerable voter groups—such as pregnant women, senior citizens, sick individuals, persons with disabilities, women with children, mourners, and gender and sexual minority voters—were unevenly implemented across provinces. The most common measure reported was giving first priority without requiring voters to wait in line, accounting for 66 out of 150 (44%) polling stations. Arrangements for rest and the establishment of separate lines were far less frequent, at 9.2% and 7.3% respectively. Notably, a significant proportion of centres, 28% in total, reported that no special arrangements were made.

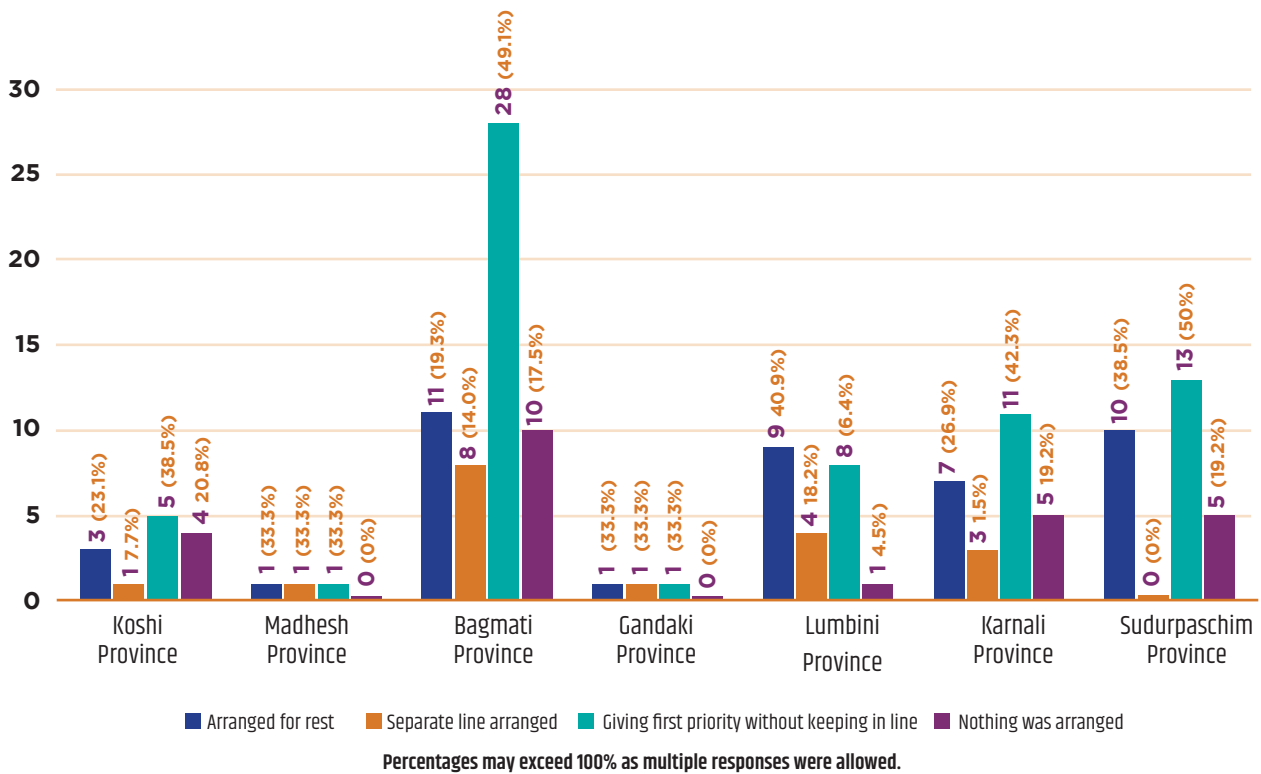


Nepalgunj Sub Metropolitan City-3, priority given to voters during mourning period

Regional variations were evident. Gandaki and Lumbini showed relatively higher levels of proactive measures, with nearly half of centres in Gandaki (49.1%) and 40.9% in Lumbini prioritizing vulnerable voters. In contrast, Koshi and Sudurpashchim reported higher proportions of centres with no arrangements (54% and 50% respectively). Bagmati displayed mixed performance, with 48 (28%) polling stations prioritizing vulnerable voters but 26 (17.3%) polling stations reporting no arrangements.

Overall, while the practice of prioritizing vulnerable voters was the most widely adopted measure, the limited use of other supportive arrangements and the notable share of centres with no provisions highlight gaps in inclusivity. Strengthening consistency across provinces and expanding the range of supportive measures would be essential to ensure equitable access and a voter-friendly environment for all groups.

**Were special arrangements made for pregnant women, required additional support, senior citizens, sick, mourners, women with children, persons with disabilities and other (gender and sexual minority) voters to make it easier to vote?**



Nepalgunj Sub Metropolitan City-3, priority given to person with disability



Bojepokhari, Mahalaxmi Municipality, Lalitpur. Lactating mother carrying her child while voting.  
Resting area for voter with visual disability

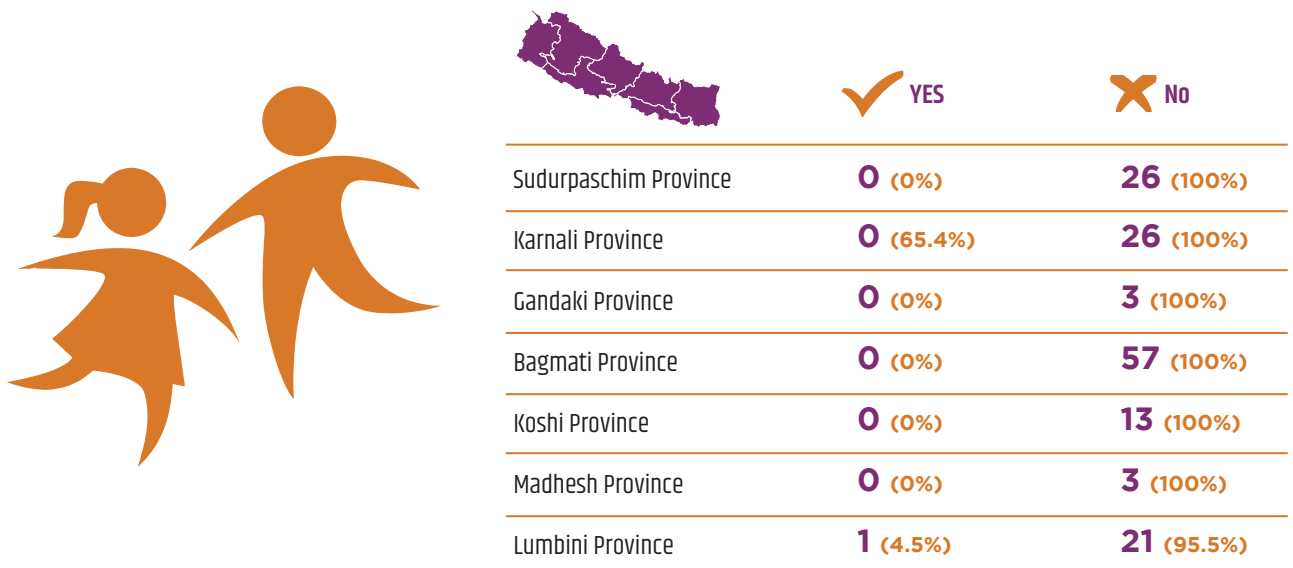
### Deployment of employees and women’s participation

The minimum number of employees deployed to conduct election in one polling Station was five in Bagmati Province, while the maximum deployment reached forty-five employees. This peak figure was recorded across one polling Station each in Koshi and Sudurpaschim Provinces, and two polling Stations in Bagmati Province. With respect to the deployment of women employees among them, the lowest figure observed was one, whereas the highest reached thirty, noted in Koshi Province. This variation highlights both the uneven distribution of overall staffing and the significant differences in gender representation across provinces.

### Use of children in the distribution of publicity materials and political party meetings during the forty-eight hours

The observation reveals a strikingly consistent pattern across most provinces: Koshi, Madhesh, Bagmati, Gandaki, Karnali, and Sudurpaschim all reported that children were not involved in distributing publicity materials or attending political party meetings during the forty eight hours observed. In Lumbini Province it was observed that there was an instance of use of children in the distribution of publicity materials and political party meetings during forty-eight hours.

### Were children used in the distribution of publicity materials and political party meetings during the 48 hours?

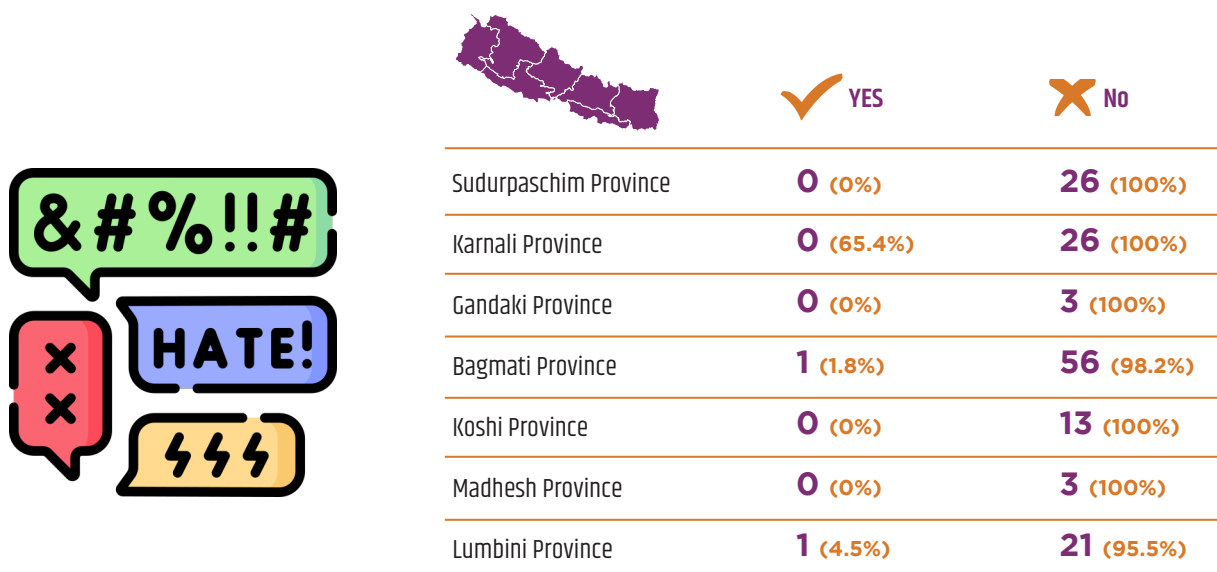


This finding demonstrates strong compliance with child protection standards and electoral integrity, reflecting that political parties and polling stations largely refrained from engaging children in campaign or publicity activities.

### Complaints of incidents of hate speech during a period of forty-eight hours

It was observed that complaints of hate speech during the forty eight hour silence period were rare across all provinces. In nearly every region—Koshi, Madhesh, Gandaki, Lumbini, Karnali, and Sudurpaschim—suggesting that incidents of hate speech were either absent or not reported. Two complaints were registered, one each in Bagmati and Lumbini province. The data reinforce the impression of a generally peaceful and respectful political environment during the monitored period, while the few isolated complaints highlight the importance of continued vigilance to ensure that such incidents remain minimal and do not escalate.

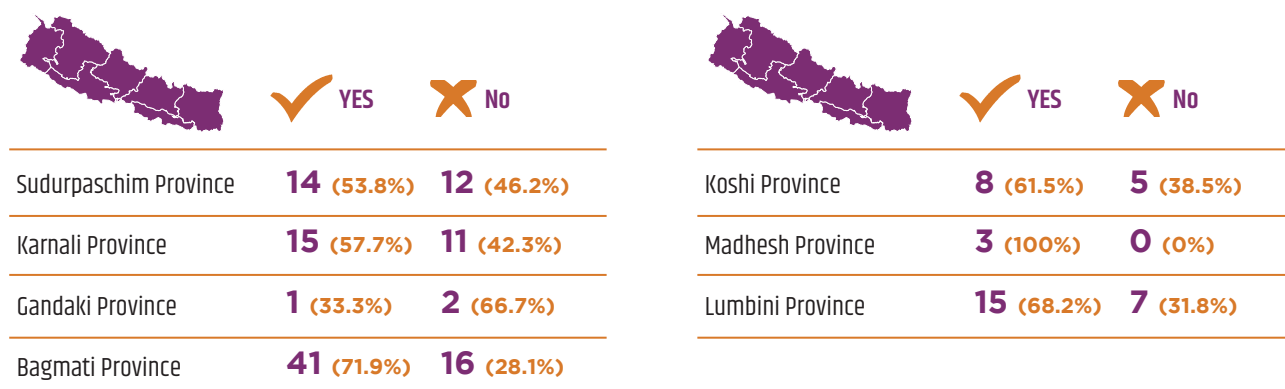
#### Were there complaints of incidents of hate speech during a period of forty-eight hours?



### Women participation in the District Human Resource Management Coordination Committee

The observation data indicate notable disparities in the participation of women representatives within the District Human Resource Management Coordination Committees. Madhesh Province recorded full participation, reflecting strong inclusion of women in district-level coordination structures. In contrast, Gandaki Province reported the lowest participation at only 33%, underscoring a significant gap in representation. Other provinces—including

#### Was there participation of women representatives in the District Human Resource Management Coordination Committee?

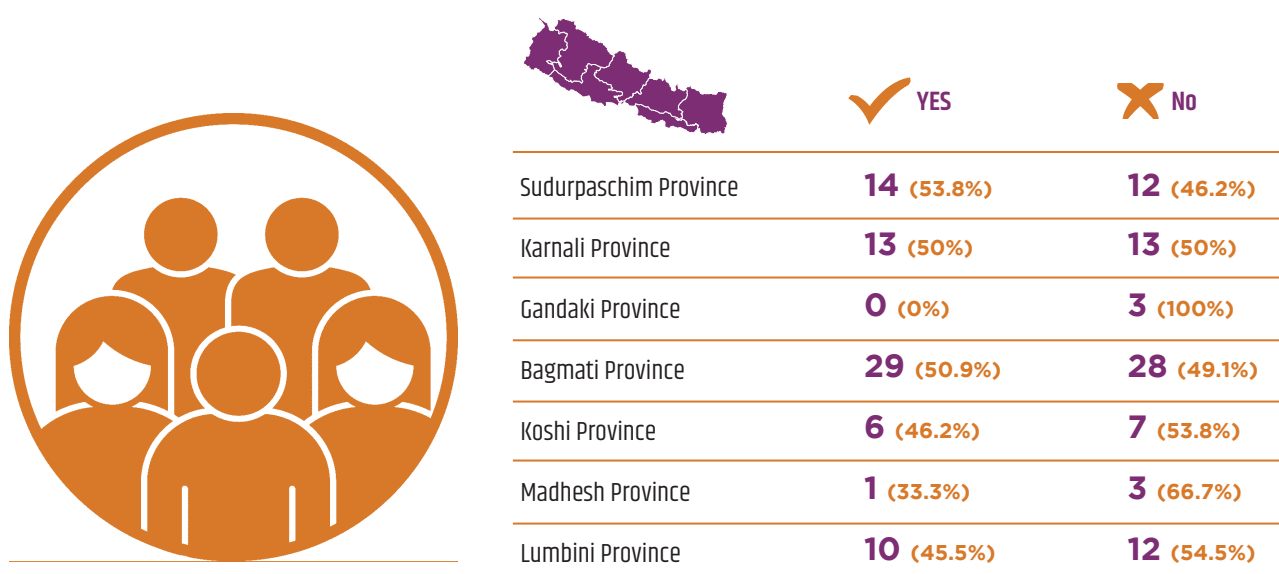


Koshi, Bagmati, Lumbini, Karnali, and Sudurpaschim—showed varied levels of participation, contributing to an overall figure of 64.7% participation. Despite this majority, the data reveal that women's representation remains incomplete, with a shortfall of approximately 35%.

### Selection of party representatives on the basis of inclusive groups

The observation data reveal marked disparities across provinces in the selection of party representatives based on inclusive groups. Sudurpaschim Province reported the highest inclusivity at 53.8%, followed by Bagmati at 50.9%, and Karnali at 50% indicating some progress toward representative diversity. In contrast, Gandaki Province recorded a complete absence of inclusivity. Other provinces demonstrated very low levels of inclusion, with Madhesh at 66.7%, Lumbini at 54.5%, Koshi at 53.8% and Bagmati at 49%. At the aggregate level, inclusivity remains limited: only 48.7% affirmed inclusive selection. This pattern underscores that while certain provinces show modest progress, the majority fall short of ensuring equitable representation of diverse groups. The findings suggest that inclusivity in party representative selection remains insufficient.

#### Were the party representatives selected on the basis of inclusive groups?



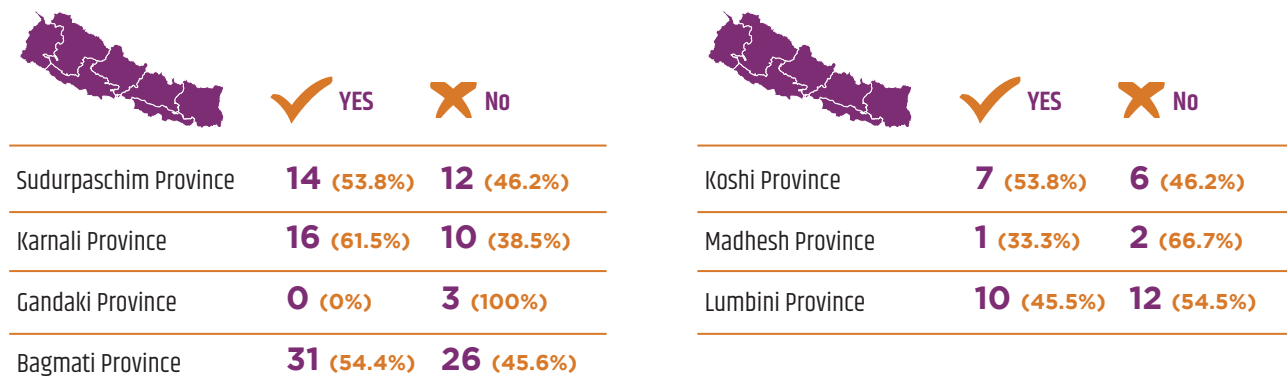
The observation identified notable best practices in the selection of party representatives from inclusive groups. In Bagmati Province, 24 polling stations reported such practices, followed by 11 in Sudurpashchim, 8 in Lumbini, and 6 in Koshi. Additionally, two polling stations each in Karnali and Sudurpashchim selected representatives comprising all-inclusive groups, demonstrating commendable efforts toward gender and social inclusion in party representation.

### Inclusive all-party negotiating team to facilitate the voting process

The observation data show mixed practices in forming all-party negotiating teams on the basis of inclusivity. In total 79 out of 150 (52.7%) of polling stations reported that teams were formed inclusively, while 71 out of 150 (47.3%) did not, reflecting a clear gap. Bagmati, Koshi, and Sudurpashchim demonstrated relatively strong performance, with more than half of polling stations confirming inclusive representation (54.4%, 53.8%, and 53.8% respectively). In contrast, Gandaki reported no inclusive teams at all (100%), while Karnali and Madhesh also showed low compliance, with only 16.7% and 33.3% of stations respectively reporting inclusivity. Lumbini presented a divided picture, with 45.5% of stations affirming inclusivity and 54.5% reporting otherwise.

This distribution highlights that while inclusive practices were adopted in several polling stations, significant inconsistencies remain. The absence of inclusivity in Gandaki and the low levels in Karnali and Madhesh point to structural weaknesses that require targeted interventions. Strengthening guidelines and monitoring mechanisms, alongside replicating positive practices from Bagmati, Koshi, and Sudurpashchim, would be essential to ensure that all-party negotiating teams consistently reflect gender and social inclusion across the country.

### Was the all-party negotiating team formed to facilitate the voting process formed on the basis of inclusive groups?



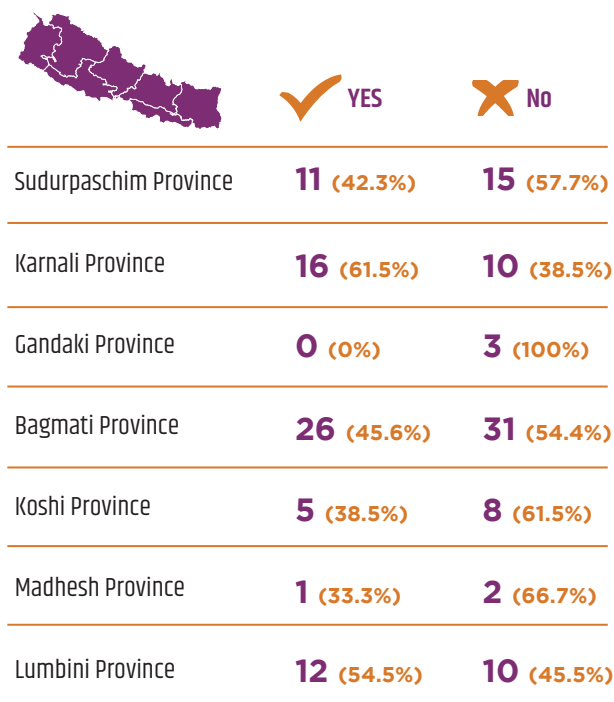
### Women leadership in polling stations and staff from the inclusion group

Observation shows that the designation of polling stations under the leadership of women polling officers and staff from inclusion groups was uneven across provinces. In total, 79 out of 150 polling stations (47.3%) reported such leadership, while 71 polling stations (52.7%) did not. Gandaki stands out with 0 "Yes", indicating a complete absence of women or inclusion group leadership.

### Were any polling stations designated for the leadership of women polling officers and staff from the inclusion group?



Women Polling Officer at Godawari Municipality, Kailali District



This distribution highlights that while nearly half of polling stations nationwide incorporated women and inclusion group staff in leadership roles, significant gaps remain. Strengthening recruitment and designation policies, alongside replicating positive practices, would be essential to ensure consistent gender and social inclusion in polling station leadership across the country.

Observation indicates that discriminatory, discouraging, and character-targeted content on social media targeting candidates—including women, persons with disabilities, and gender and sexual minorities—was rarely observed. Nationally, 149 out of 150 responses (99.3%) reported “No”, while only 1 response (0.7%) reported “Yes.” This demonstrates that such harmful online narratives were largely absent during the observation period.

Regionally, Koshi (13 “No”), Bagmati (57 “No”), Karnali (26 “No”), Sudurpashchim (26 “No”), and Gandaki (3 “No”) all reported a complete absence of discriminatory content. Lumbini was the only province with a minor deviation, where 21 centres reported “No” and 1 centre (4.5%) reported “Yes.” Madhesh also reported no cases, with all responses confirming absence.

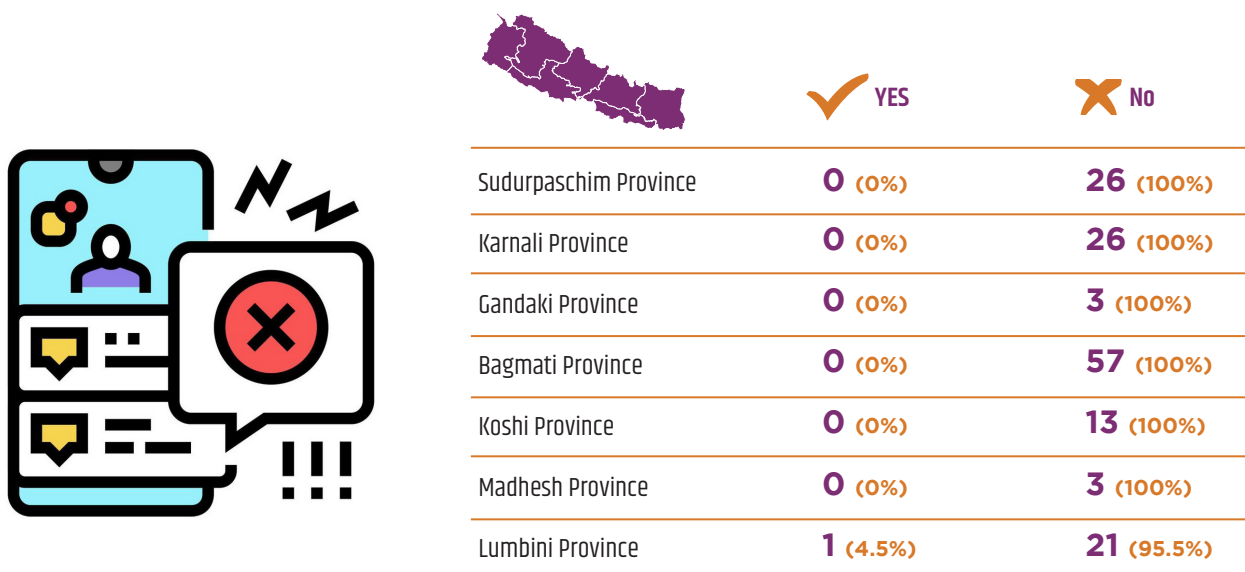
Overall, these findings reflect strong compliance with standards of respectful online conduct and suggest that candidates, including those from marginalized groups, were not widely subjected to discriminatory or targeted attacks on social media. The isolated case in Lumbini underscores the importance of continued monitoring to ensure that such practices remain minimal and do not escalate.

### Discriminatory Content on Social Media Targeting Candidates including women and social inclusion groups

Observation indicates that discriminatory, discouraging, and character-targeted content on social media targeting candidates—including women, persons with disabilities, and gender and sexual minorities—was rarely observed. In total, 149 (99.3%) out of 150 polling stations observed no such incidents, while only 1 (0.7%) incident reported in Lumbini province. This demonstrates that such harmful online narratives were largely absent during the observation period. The observation identified that the incident was a hate speech to a female candidate in Lumbini Province.

Overall, these findings reflect strong compliance with standards of respectful online conduct. The isolated case in Lumbini underscores the importance of continued monitoring to ensure that such practices remain minimal and do not escalate.

### Have you seen discriminatory, discouraged, character-targeted content on social media targeting candidates including women, people with disabilities, gender and sexual minorities?



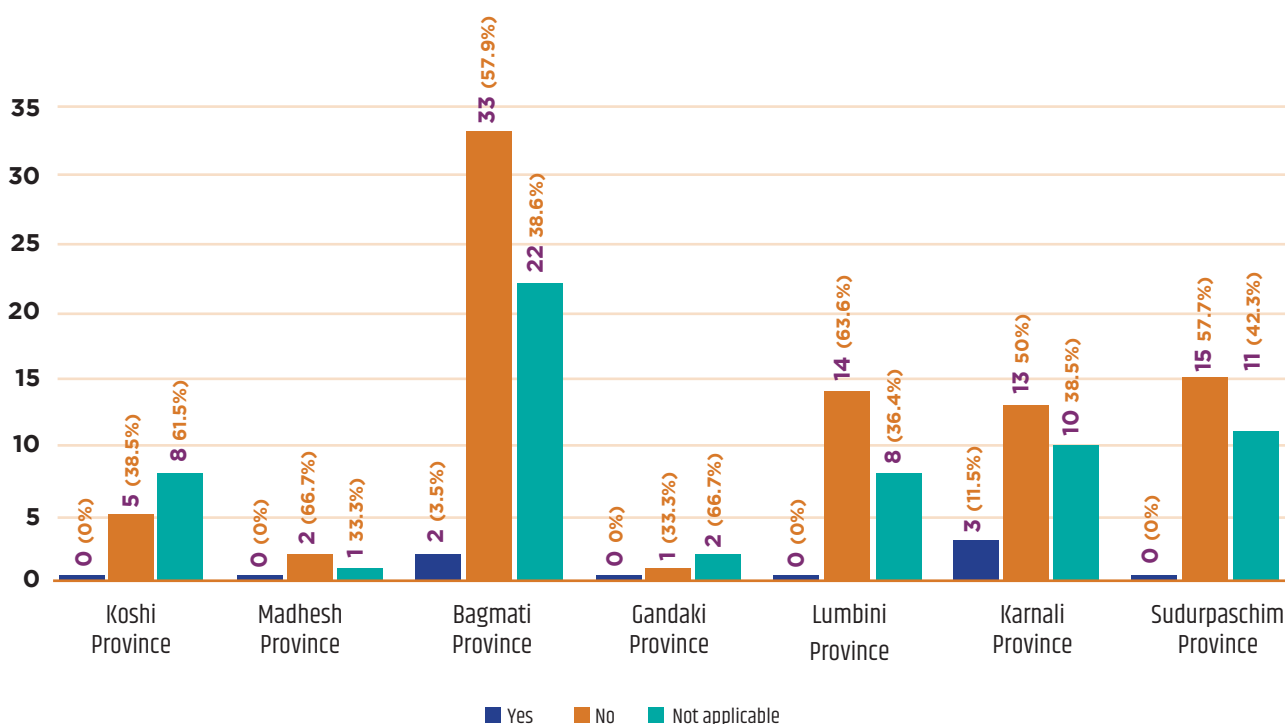
## Gender-Related Discomfort Among Female Polling Chiefs

The observation data show that female polling chiefs generally did not experience discomfort because of their gender while leading polling stations. Overall, the majority of female chief polling officers reported no such issues. In five (3.3%) polling stations out of 150 reported that they felt discomfort due to being a woman. Two polling station in Bagmati and three in Karnali reported that they felt discomfort because of being a woman.

The observation suggests stronger acceptance of women in leadership roles. However, the situation created for women chiefs at the polling stations feeling discomfort raises question about the perception of whole of society toward acceptance of female leadership.

This finding suggests progress in normalizing women's leadership in electoral management. However, the presence of few instances of discomfort underscores the importance of continued efforts to strengthen gender sensitivity and institutional support, ensuring that women chiefs are universally respected and empowered in their roles.

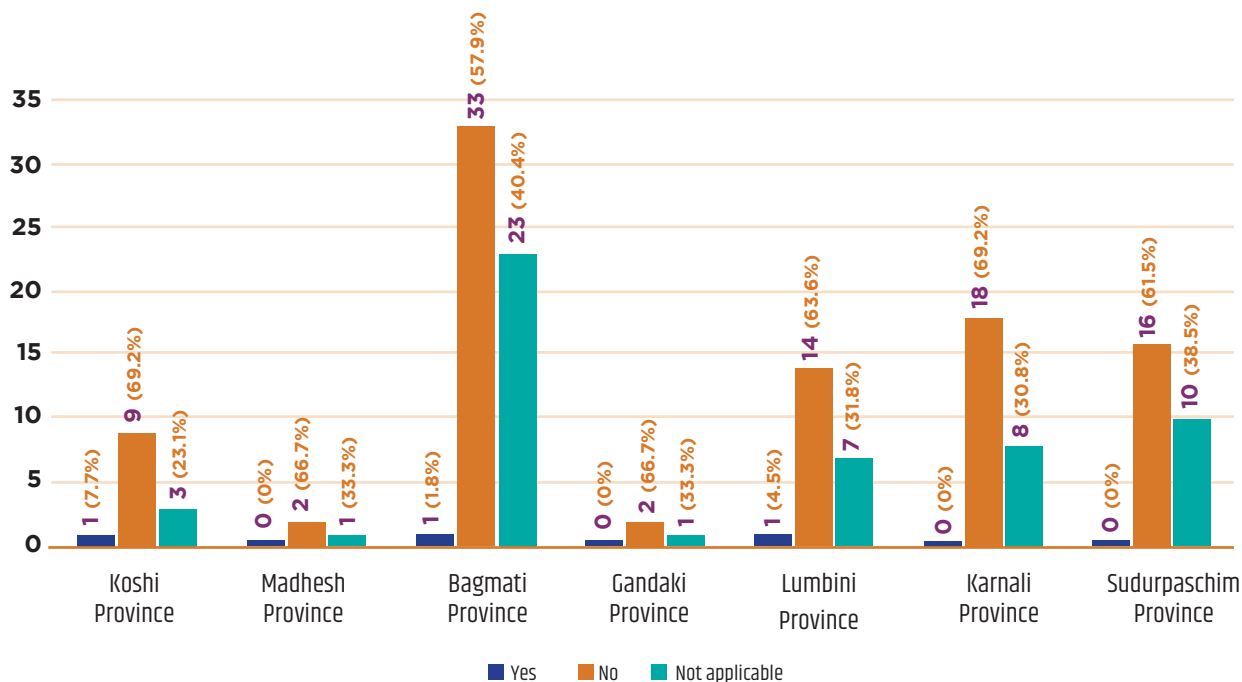
Did the female chief feel any discomfort at a polling station because of her gender?



## Perceptions of Gender-Based Challenges Faced by Female Candidates

The observation data highlights both progress and persistent gaps in perceptions of women's participation in electoral processes. Across all provinces, it was observed that female candidates did not face challenges specifically because of their gender in 94 (62.7%) out of 150 polling stations. This suggests a broad recognition of women's legitimacy as political actors and reflects some advancement in reducing overt gender-based barriers. However, 3 (2%) out of 150 overall should not be interpreted as the absence of challenges; rather, they may point to underreporting, normalization of subtle discrimination, or limited awareness of structural barriers. Female candidates one each in Koshi, Bagmati and Lumbini provinces reported that they faced financial constraint and issues of inclusion. While the data reflects encouraging perceptions of reduced gender-based obstacles, it underscores the need for deeper qualitative inquiry into hidden biases, structural inequalities, and the intersectional challenges women may face in accessing resources, networks, and leadership opportunities. Strengthening gender-sensitive monitoring and ensuring that women's voices are meaningfully represented remain critical to advancing inclusive democratic processes.

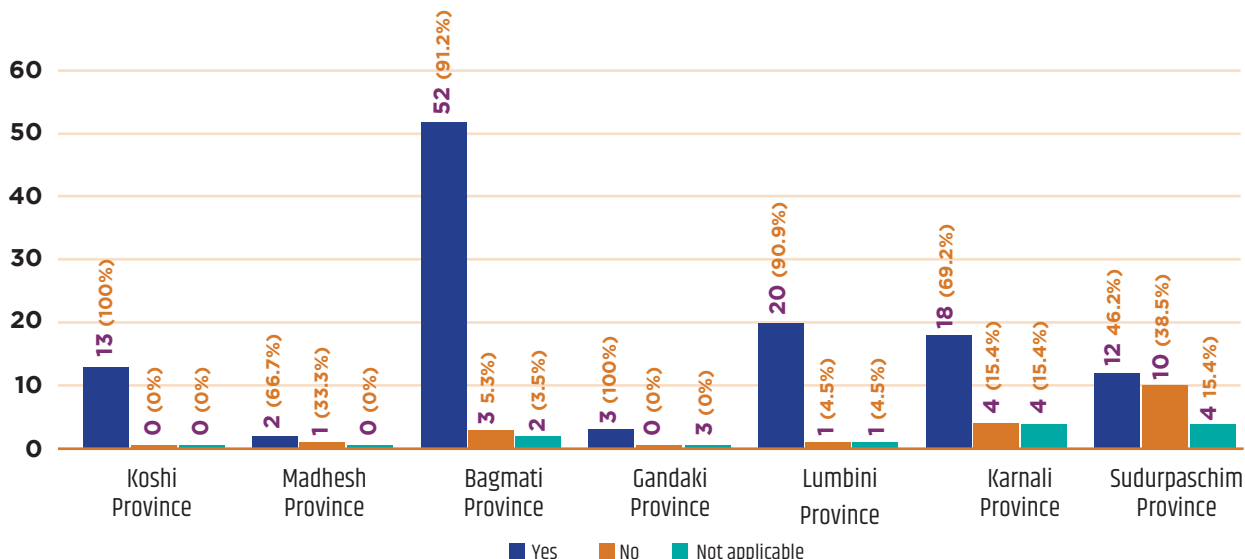
## Did the female candidate face challenges in the entire election process because she is a woman?



## Availability of reproductive health services

The observation on the availability of reproductive health services across hospitals near the polling centers reveals encouraging consistency, though with notable regional variations. Overall, 120 (80%) out of 150 polling stations had the services consistently available, underscoring strong institutional provision in most areas. Provinces such as Koshi and Lumbini reported full consistency (100%). In contrast, except Koshi and Gandaki, other provinces showed lower levels of consistency, suggesting gaps in availability of reproductive health services. This might be due to the geographical locations – hilly and mountainous area. From a GEDSI perspective, while the high overall consistency reflects progress in ensuring equitable access to reproductive health services, the regional disparities highlight the need for targeted interventions to address systemic inequities. Strengthening service delivery in provinces with weaker consistency will be critical to ensuring that reproductive health rights are upheld uniformly across all districts, particularly for women and marginalized groups who are most affected by gaps in access.

## Was the availability of reproductive health services consistent in the hospital of your area or district?



## DURING-VOTING DAY OBSERVATION

On election day, 5 March 2026, a total of 156 polling stations were systematically observed across all seven provinces, encompassing 23 districts and 55 local levels.

### Start of the voting

Voting commenced on time in the majority of polling stations. However, delays were observed in a few locations due to late arrival of party representatives in three polling stations—one each in Bagmati, Lumbini, and Karnali Provinces. In Gandaki and Sudurpashchim Provinces, the start of voting was delayed because voters did not arrive on time, while in Sudurpashchim additional delays were attributed to management issues within the election team.

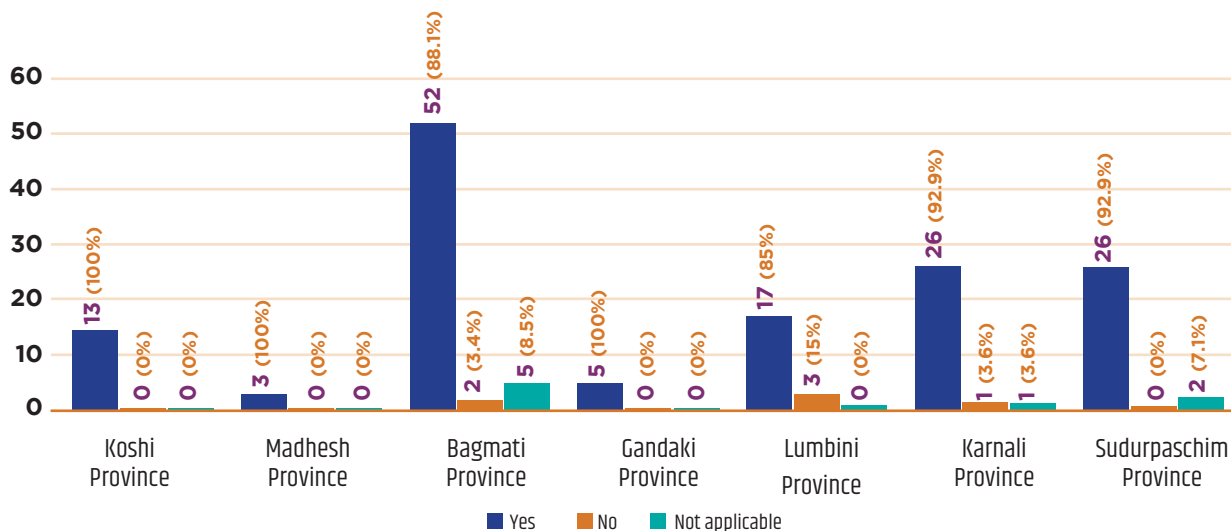
### Facilitating verification of identity documents for vulnerable groups

The observation on facilitation of identity verification for voters with disabilities or those requiring assistance reflects strong inclusivity measures across polling stations. An overwhelming majority of 142 (91%) out of 156 polling stations provided such facilitation, with provincial figures ranging from 85% to full coverage at 100%. This demonstrates commendable efforts by election officials to uphold accessibility standards and ensure that visually impaired, with disabilities, or otherwise vulnerable voters were not excluded from the process. The small proportion of 6 (3.8%) out of 156 polling stations remained in gaps that warrant attention, particularly to guarantee uniform practices across all provinces. These findings underscore significant progress in operationalizing inclusive electoral practices, while also pointing to the need for continuous training, monitoring, and accountability mechanisms to eliminate remaining inconsistencies and safeguard the rights of all voters.

#### Lack of Sensitive Assistance for a Woman Voter with a Child

A woman voter arrived at the polling station in Godavari Municipality Ward No. 12 (b), Lalitpur with a small child on her back to cast her vote; however, she carried only a soft copy of her identity card and did not have a hard copy of the required document. Although she should have been clearly informed at the outset that voting would not be permitted without valid physical documentation, she was instead repeatedly asked to return with additional requirements, including obtaining documents through WhatsApp and bringing photocopies, requiring her to go back and forth up to three times. The incident reflected a lack of sensitive and supportive engagement with a woman carrying a child, as no special accommodation, assistance, or resting arrangements were provided.

#### Was it facilitated in verifying the identity card of a voter who is with visual or other disabilities or required additional support for any other reason?

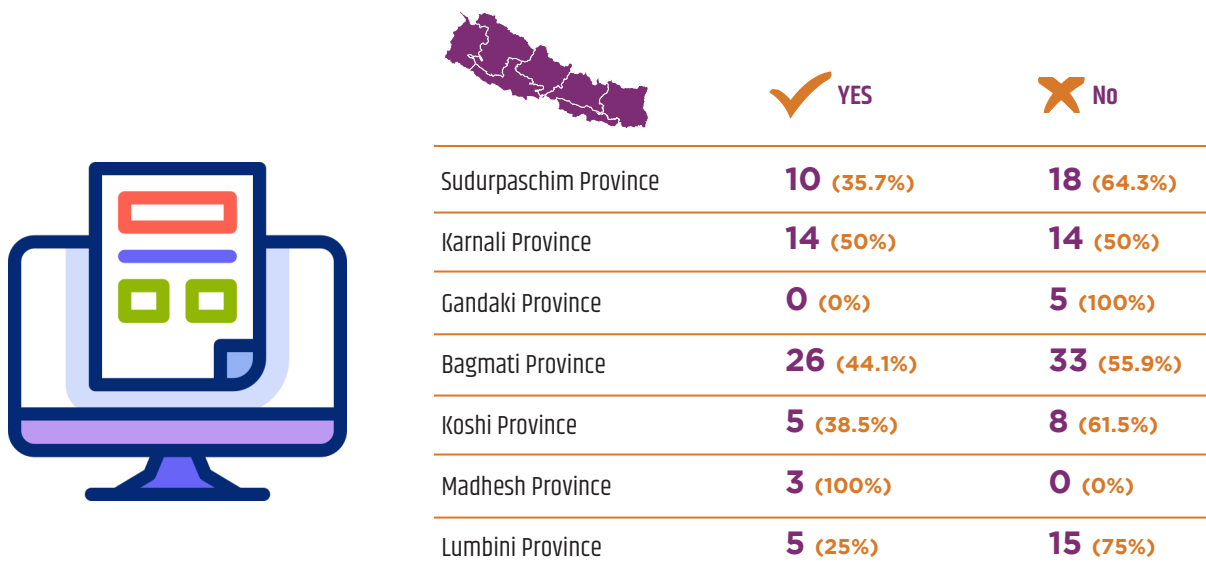


This observation highlights gaps in voter assistance and gender-responsive election management at the polling station level. The repeated requests and unclear communication placed an unnecessary burden on the voter, particularly considering her caregiving responsibilities. The absence of supportive measures, such as priority assistance, clear guidance, or temporary resting arrangements, demonstrates limited consideration for the specific needs of women voters with children. Such practices may discourage participation and negatively affect the overall accessibility and inclusiveness of the electoral process.

### Keeping the disaggregated data

The observation on the use of forms for keeping disaggregated information reveals significant shortcomings in institutional practices that directly affect equity and inclusion. Overall, only 63 (40.4%) out of 156 polling stations reported using such forms, while a majority 93 (59.6%) did not, indicating that systematic collection of gender- and inclusion-sensitive data remains inconsistent. Provinces such as Madhesh demonstrated best practice with 100%, showing strong commitment to documenting disaggregated data. In contrast, all other provinces reported much lower usage, reflecting gaps in awareness, training, or prioritization of inclusive monitoring. These disparities undermine the ability to track participation and experiences of women, persons with disabilities, and other marginalized groups, which is essential for accountability and evidence-based policy. The absence of standardized disaggregated data collection perpetuates the invisibility of vulnerable populations and risks masking structural inequalities. Strengthening mandatory procedures, capacity-building for election staff, and monitoring mechanisms is therefore critical to ensure that disaggregated data is consistently captured across all provinces. This would not only enhance transparency but also provide the foundation for targeted interventions that advance gender equality and social inclusion in electoral processes.

#### Was any form used for the purpose of keeping the disaggregated data?



### Presence of children around the polling stations

The observation on the presence of children around polling stations revealed mixed patterns across provinces, with the majority indicating that children were not present. Overall, 49 out of 156 polling stations (31.4%) reported the presence of children in or around the premises. Gandaki Province stood out with 100%, with no presence of children, reflecting strict adherence to maintaining a regulated environment. In contrast, Lumbini reported equal proportions of 'Yes' and 'No', suggesting that children were as likely to be present as absent. Other provinces—including Koshi, Madhesh, Bagmati, Karnali, and Sudurpashchim—generally leaned toward 'No', though notable instances of children being present were still recorded. The presence of children near polling stations raises concerns about safety, accessibility, and the overall environment for voters, particularly women,

persons with disabilities, and marginalized groups who may feel discomfort or face challenges in crowded or informal settings. While the majority absence of children reflects positive management of polling spaces, the variations across provinces point to uneven enforcement of standards. Ensuring child-free polling environments is important not only for safeguarding electoral integrity but also for creating dignified, inclusive spaces where all voters can participate without distraction or risk. Strengthening monitoring and awareness among election staff can help achieve consistency across provinces.

### Were children present around the polling station?



Presence of children outside the Polling station at Nepalgunj Sub Metropolitan City-5



✓ YES

✗ No

Province	Yes (Count, %)	No (Count, %)
Sudurpaschim Province	8 (28.6%)	20 (71.4%)
Karnali Province	10 (35.7%)	18 (64.3%)
Gandaki Province	0 (0%)	5 (100%)
Bagmati Province	15 (25.4%)	44 (74.6%)
Koshi Province	5 (38.5%)	8 (61.5%)
Madhesh Province	1 (33.3%)	2 (66.7%)
Lumbini Province	10 (50%)	10 (50%)



Presence of children at Polling Station in Birendranagar, Surkhet

## Availability of a First Aid Box for basic health care in the polling station

The observation on the availability of first aid boxes in polling stations highlights significant gaps in basic health preparedness during the electoral process. Overall, only 58 out of 156 (37.2%) of polling stations reported having a first aid box, while a majority 98 (62.8%) did not, underscoring limited attention to the immediate health and safety needs of voters and staff. Madhesh Province stands out positively with 100% with availability though observed in only 3 polling stations, reflecting strong compliance with health-related provisions. In contrast, other provinces show particularly weak performance, pointing to systemic neglect of essential health safeguards. The absence of first aid facilities disproportionately affects vulnerable groups, including women, elderly voters, and persons with disabilities, who may require immediate medical support in crowded or stressful polling environments. Ensuring the consistent presence of first aid boxes is not only a matter of compliance but also a critical step toward safeguarding inclusivity, dignity, and equal participation in the electoral process. Strengthening monitoring mechanisms and mandating minimum health standards across all provinces would help close these gaps and reinforce the credibility of election management.

### Was there a First Aid Box for basic health care in the polling station?



YES



No

	✓ YES	✗ No
Sudurpaschim Province	11 (39.3%)	17 (60.7%)
Karnali Province	14 (50%)	14 (50%)
Gandaki Province	1 (20%)	4 (80%)
Bagmati Province	23 (39%)	36 (61%)
Koshi Province	4 (30.8%)	9 (69.2%)
Madhesh Province	3 (100%)	0 (0%)
Lumbini Province	2 (10%)	18 (90%)

## Mobilization of health workers and health volunteers at polling stations

The deployment of health workers and volunteers at polling stations was inconsistent across provinces. Of the 156 polling stations observed, only 67 (42.9%) had health personnel present, while 89 (57.1%) operated without immediate medical assistance. Madhesh Province demonstrated full coverage, with health support available at all observed stations, though the sample size was relatively small. In contrast, major gaps were evident in Lumbini, where 15 of 20 stations (75%) lacked health workers, Bagmati with 44 of 59 stations (74.6%) without coverage, and Gandaki with 3 of 5 stations (60%) unserved. These findings highlight serious disparities that undermine voter safety and inclusivity. The absence of health personnel is particularly concerning for women, elderly voters, and persons with disabilities, who may require urgent support in crowded or stressful polling environments. To ensure dignity and equal participation, consistent mobilization of health workers must be prioritized. Stronger collaboration between election authorities and local health institutions, coupled with clear deployment protocols and accountability measures, is essential to address these gaps and reinforce the credibility of the electoral process.

## Were health workers and health volunteers mobilized at polling stations?



✓ YES

✗ No

	YES	No
Sudurpaschim Province	20 (71.4%)	8 (28.6%)
Karnali Province	16 (57.1%)	12 (42.9%)
Gandaki Province	2 (40%)	3 (60%)
Bagmati Province	15 (25.4%)	44 (74.6%)
Koshi Province	6 (46.2%)	7 (53.8%)
Madhesh Province	3 (100%)	0 (0%)
Lumbini Province	5 (25%)	15 (75%)



Availability of first aid and health professional at Birendranagar-6, Surkhet

### Ambulance to provide emergency health services at the polling station

The observation on arrangements of ambulances at polling stations highlights a critical gap in emergency health preparedness during the electoral process. Out of 156 polling stations observed, only 23 (14.7%) reported having an ambulance available, while the vast majority—133 stations (85.3%)—did not. Madhesh Province shows the highest absolute number and proportion of polling stations with ambulances arranged and Gandaki and Karnali recording 0% availability. In provinces with difficult terrain like Karnali and Gandaki, the lack of emergency transport services directly marginalizes individuals with mobility challenges and those living far from medical facilities, thereby impeding their right to civic participation. Furthermore, the absence of emergency medical transport increases health risks, particularly for pregnant women or elderly voters who may experience medical emergencies during the polling process. This wide gap highlights a lack of inclusive planning to ensure that all citizens, regardless of physical or economic status, can exercise their democratic rights safely. To bridge

these gaps, future elections and health planning must adopt an inclusive approach, ensuring the consistent arrangement of ambulances—or at a minimum, reliable emergency referral mechanisms—should be prioritized as part of standard electoral preparedness.

### Was an ambulance arranged to provide emergency health services at the polling station?



✓ YES

✗ No

Province	YES	No
Sudurpaschim Province	5 (17.9%)	23 (82.1%)
Karnali Province	0 (0%)	28 (100%)
Gandaki Province	0 (0%)	5 (100%)
Bagmati Province	8 (13.6%)	51 (86.4%)
Koshi Province	3 (23.1%)	10 (76.9%)
Madhesh Province	3 (100%)	0 (0%)
Lumbini Province	4 (20%)	16 (80%)

### Arrangements for drinking water at the polling stations

Observation regarding the availability of drinking water at polling stations reveals a mixed picture of essential facility provision across different provinces in Nepal. Overall, out of the total 156 polling stations observed, 107 stations (68.6%) made drinking water available, while 49 stations (31.4%) failed to provide this basic amenity. Looking at the provincial breakdown, Sudurpaschim Province demonstrated the highest relative availability, with 25 polling stations (89.3%) providing water and only 3 stations (10.7%) lacking it. In Koshi Province, 9

### Was drinking water made available ?



Kathmandu constituency No. 1



✓ YES

✗ No

Province	YES	No
Sudurpaschim Province	25 (89.3%)	3 (10.7%)
Karnali Province	20 (71.4%)	8 (28.6%)
Gandaki Province	3 (60%)	2 (40%)
Bagmati Province	34 (57.6%)	25 (42.4%)
Koshi Province	9 (69.2%)	4 (30.8%)
Madhesh Province	3 (100%)	0 (0%)
Lumbini Province	13 (65%)	7 (35%)

stations (69.2%) had drinking water available compared to 4 stations (30.8%) that did not. In Madhesh Province, all 3 observed stations (100.0%) provided drinking water. Bagmati Province presented a more moderate and concerning gap, where 34 stations (57.6%) provided water, but a substantial 25 stations (42.4%) did not. Conversely, critical deficits were observed in the remaining provinces, highlighting geographic inequities in election preparation. In Gandaki Province, while 3 stations (60.0%) had water, 2 stations (40.0%) lacked it. In Lumbini Province, 13 stations (65.0%) made water available, while 7 stations (35.0%) failed to do so. Finally, in Karnali Province, 20 stations (71.4%) provided drinking water, but 8 stations (28.6%) did not. These statistics underscore a clear GESI implication: when nearly one-third of polling stations nationally—and up to 42.4% in provinces like Bagmati—fail to provide water, it creates an unequal environment that compromises the physical well-being of marginalized voters, election staff, and security personnel. To ensure truly inclusive future elections, the Election Commission must mandate and audit the universal provision of basic water facilities, prioritizing provinces with the highest absolute failures.

### Availability of toilets at the polling stations

The observation regarding the availability of toilets at polling stations reveals significant variations in essential infrastructure across different provinces in Nepal. The availability of functional, safe, and accessible sanitation facilities is a fundamental right that disproportionately impacts women, the elderly, individuals with disabilities, and those requiring menstrual hygiene management. The absence of adequate sanitation can deter vulnerable populations from exercising their voting rights. Across the observed polling stations, 137 stations (87.8%) made toilets available, while 19 stations (12.2%) did not have this facility.

#### Denial of Access to Toilet Facilities at Polling Station

*At the polling station in Imadole, Mahalaxmi Municipality, a woman voter requested access to the toilet facilities; however, she was denied permission, which led to her expressing frustration and leaving the polling station.*

#### Was toilet available?



YES



No

Province	YES	No
Sudurpaschim Province	27 (96.4%)	1 (3.6%)
Karnali Province	24 (85.7%)	4 (14.3%)
Gandaki Province	3 (60%)	2 (40%)
Bagmati Province	49 (83.1%)	10 (16.9%)
Koshi Province	12 (92.3%)	1 (7.7%)
Madhesh Province	3 (100%)	0 (0%)
Lumbini Province	19 (95%)	1 (5%)

Looking at the provincial breakdown, Madhesh Province demonstrated the highest relative availability among the smaller sample, with 3 polling stations (100.0%) providing toilets. Similarly, Sudurpaschim Province reported high accessibility, with 27 polling stations (96.4%) providing toilets and only 1 station (3.6%) lacking them. In Karnali Province, 24 stations (85.7%) made toilets available compared to 4 stations (14.3%) that did not, while

Koshi Province recorded 12 stations (92.3%) with toilets and 1 station (7.7%) without. Bagmati Province showed a considerable gap, where 49 stations (83.1%) provided sanitation facilities, but 10 stations (16.9%) lacked them. The most critical deficits were observed in Gandaki Province, where 3 stations (60.0%) had toilets, but 2 stations (40.0%) lacked them. Lumbini Province also presented a notable rate, with 19 stations (95.0%) providing toilets and 1 station (5.0%) without.

### Special arrangements for vulnerable voters

Was special arrangement made for the pregnant, support needed, senior citizens, sick, mourners, women with children, persons with disabilities and other (gender and sexual minority) voters? If so, what arrangements were made?

The provision of special arrangements for vulnerable and marginalized voter groups showed encouraging progress overall, though with notable provincial variation. Out of 156 polling stations observed, 126 (80.8%) reported making such arrangements, while 30 (19.2%) did not. Lumbini had special arrangements 18 of 20 stations (90%) as well as Koshi recorded 11 of 13 stations (84.6%) with arrangements, Madhesh 2 of 3 (66.7%), and Bagmati 49 of 59 (83.1%), reflecting proactive measures to support pregnant women, senior citizens, persons with disabilities, women with children, mourners, and gender and sexual minority voters. Karnali reported 23 of 28 (82.1%), and Sudurpashchim 21 of 28 (75%), all showing moderate arrangement but consistent coverage. Gandaki, however, stood out with the lowest compliance, where only 2 of 5 stations (40%) had arrangements, leaving 60% without such provisions. These disparities highlight the importance of institutionalizing inclusive practices to safeguard the dignity and rights of all voters. While the majority of polling stations demonstrated commitment to accessibility, the uneven implementation across provinces underscores the need for stronger guidelines, staff training, and monitoring to ensure that special arrangements are consistently provided. Doing so would enhance voter confidence and reinforce the credibility of the electoral process by visibly addressing the needs of marginalized and vulnerable groups.

### Was special arrangement made for the pregnant, support needed, senior citizens, sick, mourners, women with children, persons with disabilities and other (gender and sexual minority) voters?



Rupandehi constituency No. 3



✓ YES

✗ No

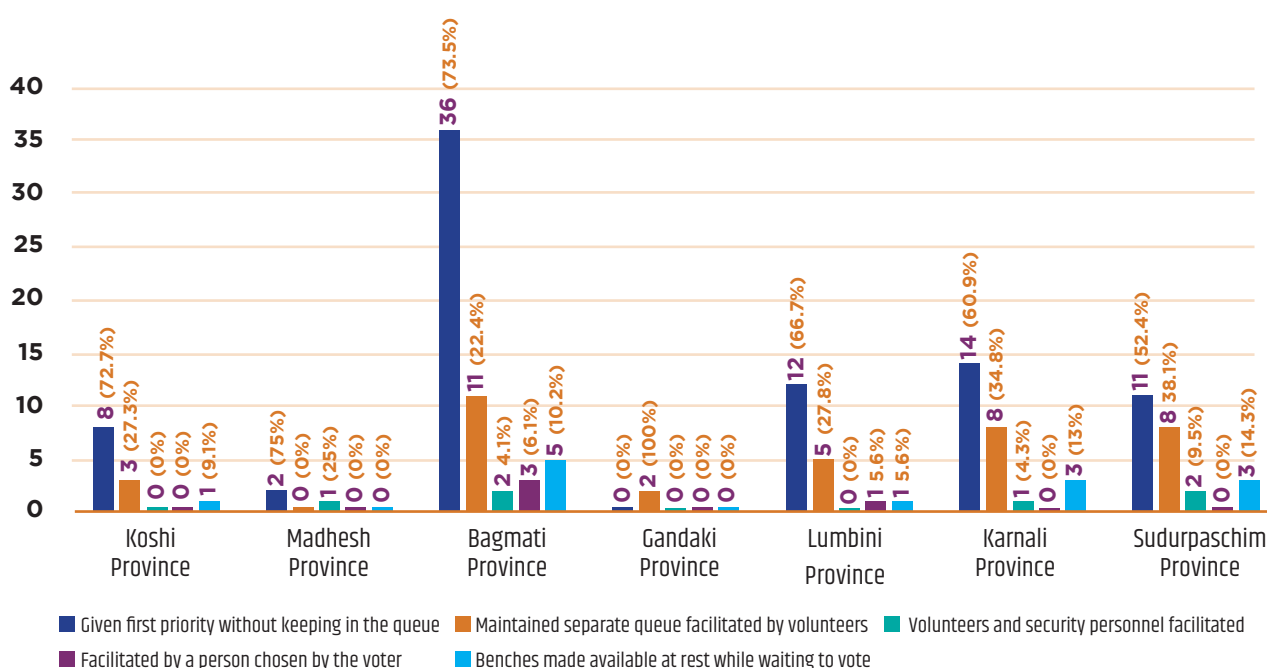
	YES	No
Sudurpaschim Province	21 (75%)	7 (25%)
Karnali Province	23 (82.1%)	5 (17.9%)
Gandaki Province	2 (40%)	3 (60%)
Bagmati Province	49 (83.1%)	10 (16.9%)
Koshi Province	11 (84.6%)	2 (15.4%)
Madhesh Province	2 (66.7%)	1 (33.3%)
Lumbini Province	18 (90%)	2 (10%)

## Types of special arrangements made available

Observations on special arrangements made available to vulnerable and marginalized voters highlight both commendable practices and notable gaps across provinces. Overall, the most common measure was giving priority without keeping voters in the queue, reported in 83 polling stations out of 156 (65.9%). Other arrangements included maintaining separate queues facilitated by volunteers 37 (29.4%), facilitation by volunteers and security personnel (6 polling stations, 4.8%), assistance by a person chosen by the voter (4 stations, 3.2%), and provision of benches for rest while waiting to vote (13 stations, 10.3%).

These findings underscore that while prioritization of vulnerable voters is widely practiced, secondary support mechanisms—such as benches, separate queues, and volunteer facilitation—are unevenly implemented. This inconsistency risks undermining the dignity and accessibility of the electoral process, particularly for pregnant women, senior citizens, persons with disabilities, and gender and sexual minority voters. Institutionalizing a standardized package of special arrangements across all provinces, supported by clear guidelines, staff training, and monitoring, would ensure that inclusivity is not left to discretion but embedded as a core electoral practice.

Type of special arrangements made available




## Assistance for Voters with Disabilities at Polling Stations

Observation on whether voters with visual or other disabilities were permitted to enter the polling station accompanied by their assistants reflects strong compliance with accessibility provisions across provinces. Out of 156 polling stations observed, 146 (93.6%) reported that voters requiring assistance were allowed to cast their ballots with support. Only 4 stations (2.6%) reported not allowed, while 6 stations (3.8%) marked the situation as 'Not applicable.' Provincial breakdowns show consistently high levels of compliance: Koshi (12 of 13, 92.3%), Madhesh (3 of 3, 100%), Bagmati (54 of 59, 91.5%), Gandaki (5 of 5, 100%), Lumbini (19 of 20, 95%), Karnali (27 of 28, 96.4%), and Sudurpashchim (26 of 28, 92.9%). These figures demonstrate that the vast majority of polling stations facilitated the rights of voters with disabilities to participate in the electoral process. This is a positive outcome, as it reflects recognition of the need for inclusive practices and respect for the dignity of voters requiring assistance. However, the small proportion of 'No' responses and the lower compliance in Bagmati, Karnali and Sudurpashchim highlight areas where further training, monitoring, and enforcement are necessary to ensure uniform accessibility standards nationwide.

## Was the voter permitted to enter the polling booth accompanied by their assistant due to visual or other disabilities, or were they unable to cast a ballot for any other reason?




	✓ YES	✗ No	Not Applicable
Sudurpaschim Province	26 (92.9%)	1 (3.6%)	1 (3.6%)
Karnali Province	27 (96.4%)	1 (3.6%)	0 (0%)
Gandaki Province	5 (100%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
Bagmati Province	54 (91.5%)	2 (3.4%)	3 (4.1%)
Koshi Province	12 (92.3%)	0 (0%)	1 (7.7%)
Madhesh Province	3 (100%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
Lumbini Province	19 (95%)	0 (10%)	1 (5%)

### Assistance from polling officers to vulnerable voters

The observation regarding the assistance provided by polling officers to voters who are visually impaired or have a disability or could not cast a vote for any other reason reveals important insights into electoral accessibility in Nepal. Ensuring that polling stations have provisions to assist voters with specific needs is essential for guaranteeing their right to civic participation without discrimination or barriers. Overall, out of the total observations, 99 polling stations (63.5%) reported that polling officers assisted voters. Meanwhile, 25 stations (16.0%) did not provide this assistance, and 32 stations (20.5%) found the question "not applicable."

## Did the polling officer assist the voter in casting vote because the voter was with visual or other disabilities or could not cast vote due to any other reason?



	✓ YES	✗ No	Not Applicable
Sudurpaschim Province	18 (64.2%)	5 (17.9%)	5 (17.9%)
Karnali Province	19 (67.9%)	6 (21.4%)	3 (10.7%)
Gandaki Province	1 (20%)	2 (40%)	2 (40%)
Bagmati Province	37 (62.7%)	5 (8.5%)	17 (28.8%)
Koshi Province	7 (53.8%)	4 (30.8%)	2 (15.4%)
Madhesh Province	3 (100%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
Lumbini Province	14 (70%)	3 (15%)	3 (15%)

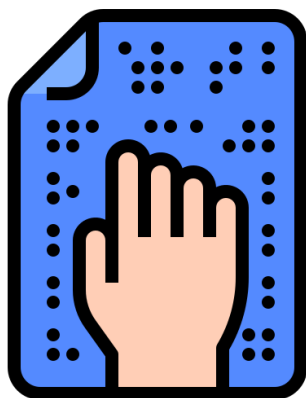
Looking at the provincial breakdown, Madhesh Province demonstrated the highest relative and absolute provision, with 3 polling stations (100.0%) reporting that assistance was provided. It was observed that 4 of 13 in Koshi, 5 of 59 in Bagmati, 2 of 5 in Gandaki, 3 of 20 in Lumbini, 6 of 28 in Karnali, and 5 of 28 in Sudurpaschim did not receive support from the polling officers.

These statistics carry significant GESI implications, as assisting voters with disabilities is critical to enabling independent voting and ensuring that all citizens have an equal voice in the democratic process. To ensure inclusive participation in future elections, election management bodies must mandate targeted training for polling officials to identify and assist voters and enhance physical accessibility at the stations themselves to reduce the reliance on ad-hoc assistance where possible.

### Availability of braille ballot paper for people with disabilities using white sticks

The availability of Braille ballot papers for voters with visual disabilities was found not available across all provinces. Out of 156 polling stations observed, none reported providing Braille ballot papers, with 100% responses recorded as 'No.' This indicates that voters using white sticks or requiring Braille support were entirely excluded from accessing ballots in a format suited to their needs. The complete lack of Braille ballots across all regions highlights a systemic gap in ensuring accessibility for people with visual disabilities. This represents a serious shortfall in upholding the rights of voters with disabilities, undermining both inclusivity and the principle of equal participation. Addressing this issue requires urgent policy intervention, including the mandatory provision of Braille ballots, training of polling staff on disability-inclusive practices, and monitoring mechanisms to ensure compliance nationwide.

#### Was the Braille ballot paper made available for people with disabilities using white sticks?



	YES	No
Sudurpaschim Province	0 (0%)	28 (100%)
Karnali Province	0 (0%)	28 (100%)
Gandaki Province	0 (0%)	5 (100%)
Bagmati Province	0 (0%)	59 (100%)
Koshi Province	0 (0%)	13 (100%)
Madhesh Province	0 (0%)	3 (100%)
Lumbini Province	0 (0%)	20 (100%)

### Arrangement of the breastfeeding room

“The arrangement of breastfeeding rooms at polling stations was found to be largely inadequate across provinces. Out of 156 polling stations observed, only 37 (23.7%) reported proper arrangements, while 119 (76.3%) did not. Madhesh Province stood out positively, with all 3 stations (100%) reporting proper breastfeeding facilities. In contrast, Koshi (5 of 13 stations, 38.5%), Bagmati (11 of 59 stations, 18.6%), Gandaki (1 of 5 stations, 20%), Lumbini (6 of 20 stations, 30%), Karnali (5 of 28 stations, 17.9%) and Sudurpaschim (6 of 28 stations, 21.4%) showed particularly weak performance, with more than four-fifths of polling stations lacking such arrangements. The absence of breastfeeding rooms undermines the inclusivity and dignity of women voters with young children, potentially discouraging their participation in the electoral process. Ensuring proper breastfeeding facilities

## Was the breastfeeding room properly arranged or not?



YES



No

	YES	No
Sudurpaschim Province	6 (21.4%)	22 (78.6%)
Karnali Province	5 (17.9%)	23 (82.1%)
Gandaki Province	1 (20%)	4 (80%)
Bagmati Province	11 (18.6%)	48 (81.4%)
Koshi Province	5 (38.5%)	8 (61.5%)
Madhesh Province	3 (100%)	0 (0%)
Lumbini Province	6 (30%)	14 (70%)

across all polling stations is therefore essential to promote equitable access. Stronger enforcement of minimum standards, coupled with monitoring and accountability mechanisms, would help close these gaps and reinforce the credibility and inclusiveness of elections.

This observation demonstrates the persistence of gender-insensitive attitudes and limited understanding of disability inclusion among election officials and political stakeholders. The dismissive response provided by the polling officer regarding breastfeeding facilities and accessibility arrangements reflects inadequate institutional preparedness to address the practical needs of women and persons with disabilities within the electoral environment. Such responses indicate a lack of gender-responsive and disability-inclusive orientation among polling personnel, which may undermine the dignity, confidence, and participation of affected groups.

The remarks made by political party representatives at the counting centre further reveal deeply rooted gender stereotypes regarding women's roles and responsibilities. Comments questioning the ability of women candidates to balance political participation with childcare responsibilities reinforce discriminatory social norms that place disproportionate domestic expectations on women. These attitudes may discourage women from actively engaging in political and electoral processes and contribute to the underrepresentation of women in leadership and decision-making spaces.

Additionally, the indecent comments directed at women candidates who were absent due to family responsibilities highlight the absence of a respectful and enabling environment for women in electoral spaces. The observations collectively suggest the need for stronger gender-sensitivity and disability-inclusion training for election officials, political party representatives, and other electoral stakeholders to promote a more inclusive, respectful, and equitable electoral process.

### Gender Insensitivity and Discriminatory Attitudes in Electoral Spaces

*During discussions with the male polling officer deployed at the polling station, it was observed that there were limited gender sensitivity and inadequate awareness regarding the needs of women and persons with disabilities. In particular, when inquiries were made regarding the availability of a breastfeeding room and accessible pathways for persons with disabilities, the polling officer referred the matters to female staff members and made dismissive remarks such as, "I do not know about women," reflecting a lack of responsibility and sensitivity toward gender and disability-related concerns.*

*(Observation from Bojhepokhari polling station, Mahalaxmi Municipality, Lalitpur district)*

## Volunteers deployed at the polling station to represent men and women

The observation regarding the deployment of volunteers at polling stations to represent men and women reveals a highly positive picture of gender representation and operational support across Nepal. Balanced gender representation among election volunteers is crucial for creating a welcoming environment, ensuring fair processes, and encouraging marginalized and female voters to participate without hesitation. Overall, the data shows that 147 polling stations (94.2%) had volunteers deployed to represent both men and women, while only 9 stations (5.8%) did not.

Looking at the provincial breakdown, Koshi, Madhesh, and Gandaki provinces all recorded a 100.0% deployment rate of representatives, demonstrating that all observed polling stations in these regions met this standard. Karnali Province also showed strong representation, with 27 polling stations (96.4%) deploying representatives and only 1 station (3.6%) without. Sudurpaschim Province followed closely with 26 polling stations (92.9%) deploying representatives and 2 station (7.1%) lacking them, while Lumbini Province reported 19 stations (95.0%) with representatives and 1 station (5.0%) without. Bagmati Province showed a slightly higher number of stations without representative volunteers, with 54 polling stations (91.5%) providing them and 5 polling stations (8.5%) failing to do so.

### Were the volunteers deployed at the polling station to represent men and women?



	✓ YES	✗ No
Sudurpaschim Province	26 (92.9%)	2 (7.1%)
Karnali Province	27 (96.4%)	1 (3.6%)
Gandaki Province	5 (100%)	0 (0%)
Bagmati Province	54 (91.5%)	5 (8.5%)
Koshi Province	13 (100%)	0 (0%)
Madhesh Province	3 (100%)	0 (0%)
Lumbini Province	19 (95%)	1 (5%)

## Deployment of only women volunteers to apply ink on voters' fingers

The mobilization of women volunteers to apply ink on voters' fingers was observed to be highly practiced across provinces. Out of 156 polling stations observed, 141 (90.4%) reported that only women volunteers were assigned this task, while 15 stations (9.6%) did not. Provincial breakdowns show high compliance: Koshi (13 of 13 stations, 100%), Madhesh (3 of 3, 100%), Bagmati (56 of 59, 94.9%), Gandaki (4 of 5, 80%), Lumbini (18 of 20, 90%), Karnali (23 of 28, 82.1%), and Sudurpashchim (24 of 28, 85.7%). These figures demonstrate that the vast majority of polling stations assigned women volunteers to this role, which seems particularly perceived as the women's role. Strengthening monitoring and reinforcing guidelines could help achieve gender parity compliance nationwide, thereby enhancing inclusivity and reinforcing trust in the electoral process.

## Was only women volunteers mobilized to apply ink on voters' fingers?



Tilottama Municipality, Rupandehi



✓ YES

✗ No

Province	YES	No
Sudurpaschim Province	24 (85.7%)	4 (14.3%)
Karnali Province	23 (82.1%)	5 (17.9%)
Gandaki Province	4 (80%)	1 (20%)
Bagmati Province	56 (94.9%)	3 (5.1%)
Koshi Province	13 (100%)	0 (0%)
Madhesh Province	3 (100%)	0 (0%)
Lumbini Province	18 (90%)	2 (10%)

Assigning the task of ink application exclusively to women reflects a gender-biased division of responsibilities within polling stations. While the practice may be normalized, it reinforces traditional gender roles and limits opportunities for equitable participation in all aspects of electoral management. Such bias underscores the need for clear guidelines to ensure that duties are distributed fairly among both men and women, thereby promoting inclusivity and dismantling entrenched stereotypes.

### *Ink application at polling stations commonly assigned to women*

*The election officer stated that the application of ink on voters' fingers is typically carried out by women, noting, "It is usually women who perform this task."*

## Assistance provided to the voters with disability




The assistance provided to voters with disabilities during the voting process was observed to be overwhelmingly positive across provinces. Out of 156 polling stations observed, 153 (98.1%) reported that voters with disabilities were assisted, while only 2 stations (1.3%) reported 'No,' and 1 station (0.6%) marked the situation as 'Not applicable.' Provincial breakdowns confirm this strong compliance: Koshi, Madhesh, Gandaki, Lumbini, and Sudurpashchim with 100% compliance. These figures demonstrate that nearly all polling stations facilitated the participation of voters with disabilities, reflecting commendable inclusivity and respect for their rights. This outcome is highly encouraging, as it shows that election authorities largely recognized and addressed the needs of persons with disabilities. However, the small proportion of 'No' responses and the lower compliance in Karnali, highlight the need for continued monitoring, staff training, and reinforcement of accessibility standards to ensure uniform implementation nationwide.

Some persons with disabilities reported<sup>13</sup> that they had either not completed the voter registration process or had not yet received their voter identity cards. In several cases, they possessed only a copy of the voter registration form submitted during enrolment and did not have a national identity card or other required identification documents.

13. Such as polling station in Shree Nepal National Secondary School, Gurvakot Municipality-7, Kopchi, Surkhet.

## Were the voters with disability assisted during the voting process?



	 YES	 No	Not Applicable
Sudurpaschim Province	28 (100%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
Karnali Province	27 (96.4%)	1 (3.6%)	0 (0%)
Gandaki Province	5 (100%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
Bagmati Province	57 (96.6%)	0 (0%)	2 (3.4%)
Koshi Province	13 (100%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
Madhesh Province	3 (100%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
Lumbini Province	20 (100%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)

This observation highlights significant barriers faced by persons with disabilities in accessing the voter registration and identification process. The lack of voter identity cards and required documentation may indicate gaps in outreach, accessible registration procedures, and follow-up support for persons with disabilities. Reliance on incomplete documentation, such as copies of registration forms, suggests that some voters may not have received adequate information or assistance regarding the documentation requirements necessary for voting.

From a disability inclusion perspective, the situation reflects the need for more accessible and targeted voter education, simplified administrative procedures, and proactive support mechanisms to ensure that persons with disabilities are not excluded from the electoral process due to procedural or documentation-related challenges. Without adequate institutional support, such barriers may disproportionately affect the political participation and voting rights of persons with disabilities.

### End of polling period announcement

Observation regarding the issuance of a public notice by the polling officer about the expiry of the voting period reveals a high level of procedural transparency and adherence to election guidelines across Nepal. Transparent and timely communication at the close of the voting period is vital to ensure that all citizens—particularly those from marginalized or remote communities who may have mobility challenges—are aware of the deadline and can exercise their right to vote before the polling station closes. Overall, the observation indicates that an overwhelming 150 polling stations (96.2%) issued a public notice, while only 6 stations (3.8%) did not.

Looking at the provincial breakdown, Koshi, Madhesh, Gandaki and Karnali provinces all recorded a 100% of announcement of expiry of the voting period, demonstrating that all observed polling stations in these regions successfully notified voters. Six polling stations of Bagmati, Lumbini and Sudurpaschim Provinces observed that they did not announce the expiry of the voting period. This raises the procedural concerns while ensuring the right to vote.

## Did the Polling Officer issue a public notice about the end of the voting hours?



Tilottama Municipality, Rupandehi



✓ YES

✗ No

	YES	No
Sudurpaschim Province	27 (96.4%)	1 (3.6%)
Karnali Province	28 (100%)	0 (0%)
Gandaki Province	5 (100%)	0 (0%)
Bagmati Province	56 (94.9%)	3 (5.1%)
Koshi Province	13 (100%)	0 (0%)
Madhesh Province	3 (100%)	0 (0%)
Lumbini Province	18 (90%)	2 (10%)

## Permission for voters already in the queue to cast their vote after the official closing time

The practice of allowing voters who were still in line after the official closing time to cast their ballots was observed to be inconsistent across provinces. Out of 156 polling stations, 99 (63.5%) reported 'Yes,' confirming that all voters in the queue were permitted to vote, while 10 stations (6.4%) reported 'No,' and 47 (30.1%) marked the situation as 'Not applicable.' It was observed that 2 polling stations in Madhesh, 4 in Bagmati, 1 in Lumbini and 3 in Karnali did not allow voters already lined up in queue to cast vote after the voting time was up. These figures show that while a majority of polling stations upheld the principle of allowing all queued voters to cast their ballots, compliance was uneven. Such inconsistencies risk disenfranchising vulnerable groups—such as

## Did all the voters who lined up in the queue allowed to cast vote even after the time was up?



✓ YES

✗ No

Not Applicable

	YES	No	Not Applicable
Sudurpaschim Province	22 (78.6%)	0 (0%)	6 (21.4%)
Karnali Province	19 (67.9%)	3 (10.7%)	6 (21.4%)
Gandaki Province	3 (60%)	0 (0%)	2 (40%)
Bagmati Province	30 (50.8%)	4 (6.8%)	25 (42.4%)
Koshi Province	10 (76.9%)	0 (0%)	3 (23.1%)
Madhesh Province	0 (0%)	2 (66.7%)	1 (33.3%)
Lumbini Province	15 (75%)	1 (5%)	4 (20%)

women, elderly voters, and persons with disabilities—who may arrive late due to caregiving responsibilities, mobility challenges, or other constraints. Strengthening uniform guidelines, ensuring staff training, and monitoring compliance are essential to guarantee that all voters in line are allowed to exercise their right to vote, thereby reinforcing both inclusivity and electoral credibility.

### Sealing the ballot box following the entire process

Observations regarding the sealing of ballot boxes after the completion of voting reveal an exceptionally high level of procedural compliance and transparency nationwide. Maintaining rigorous and standardized closing procedures is essential to protecting the sanctity of the vote and building trust among all citizens, particularly marginalized and underrepresented groups. Targeted training and monitoring would help ensure that further transparency and credibility are upheld uniformly across the country.

#### After the voting was over, the ballot box was sealed after completing the entire process?



	✓ YES	✗ No
Sudurpaschim Province	27 (96.4%)	1 (3.6%)
Karnali Province	27 (96.4%)	1 (3.6%)
Gandaki Province	5 (100%)	0 (0%)
Bagmati Province	58 (98.3%)	1 (1.7%)
Koshi Province	13 (100%)	0 (0%)
Madhesh Province	3 (100%)	0 (0%)
Lumbini Province	20 (100%)	0 (0%)

### Pressure or inducement to change their decision at the time of voting

The observation regarding whether women, senior citizens, persons with disabilities, Dalit community members, and sexual minorities experienced pressure or inducement to change their voting decision indicates overwhelmingly positive compliance with principles of free choice. Out of 156 polling stations observed, 153 (96.4%) reported 'No,' confirming that voters from these groups did not face undue influence, while only 3 stations (1.9%) reported 'Yes.' Based on the observations, voters in Koshi, Lumbini, and Sudurpashchim Provinces reported facing pressure from volunteers and party cadres, who urged them to cast their votes in favour of their party.

#### *Incident of undue influence and compromised ballot integrity observed at Hetauda polling station*

*On 5 March 2026, during voting at the polling station of Nawajyoti Secondary School in Hetauda, Makwanpur district an incident was observed involving a voter who appeared to have a psychosocial issue and had arrived at the polling station accompanied by his daughter. During the voting process, there appeared to be confusion and disagreement between them regarding the preferred political party. After marking the ballot paper with the swastika stamp, the voter tore the ballot papers before placing them into the ballot box.*

These findings demonstrate that the vast majority of polling stations safeguarded voters' rights to cast their ballots freely, without coercion or inducement. This outcome is highly encouraging, as it reflects respect for the dignity and autonomy of marginalized and underrepresented groups. However, the few instances of reported pressure highlight the need for continued vigilance, monitoring, and accountability to ensure that electoral environments remain uniformly free, fair, and inclusive.

This incident illustrates a breach of the principle of free and independent voting. Although not overt coercion, the daughter's involvement and the voter's subsequent destruction of the ballot papers show that the voter's autonomy was not fully protected. It highlights the importance of robust safeguards, trained polling staff, and clear procedures to ensure that vulnerable voters can cast their ballots without interference or undue influence.

### Did women, senior citizens, persons with disabilities and people from the Dalit community, and sexual minorities experience any pressure or inducement to change their decision at the time of voting?



	✓ YES	✗ No
Sudurpaschim Province	1 (3.6%)	27 (96.4%)
Karnali Province	0 (0%)	28 (100%)
Gandaki Province	0 (0%)	5 (100%)
Bagmati Province	0 (0%)	59 (100%)
Koshi Province	1 (7.7%)	12 (92.3%)
Madhesh Province	0 (0%)	3 (100%)
Lumbini Province	1 (95%)	19 (95%)

### Environment for the election observers

Observations regarding whether the environment throughout the electoral process was conducive to election observers reveal a largely positive and supportive atmosphere across Nepal. An environment conducive to observation promotes transparency, deters intimidation, and ensures that vulnerable or underrepresented groups can participate in or witness the electoral process safely. Overall, the observation indicates that at the vast majority of locations—137 polling stations (87.8%)—the environment was found to be conducive to election observers, while 19 stations (12.2%) reported that it was not.

Examining the provincial breakdown, Madhesh and Lumbini provinces both reported a 100.0% observer friendly polling station, indicating that observers felt entirely supported in all observed polling stations in these regions. Koshi and Karnali provinces also showed high levels of favourability, with 12 polling stations (92.3%) and 26 polling stations (92.9%), respectively, reporting a conducive environment, while only a small minority found it unfavourable. Sudurpaschim Province followed closely with 25 polling stations (89.3%) reporting a positive atmosphere compared to 3 stations (10.7%) that did not.

Bagmati Province showed the highest frequency of challenging environments, with 47 polling stations (79.7%) reporting a favourable atmosphere, but 12 polling stations (20.3%) reporting otherwise. Similarly, Gandaki Province recorded 4 polling stations (80.0%) as conducive and 1 station (20.0%) as not conducive.

## Was the environment throughout the electoral process conducive to the election observers?



✓ YES

✗ No

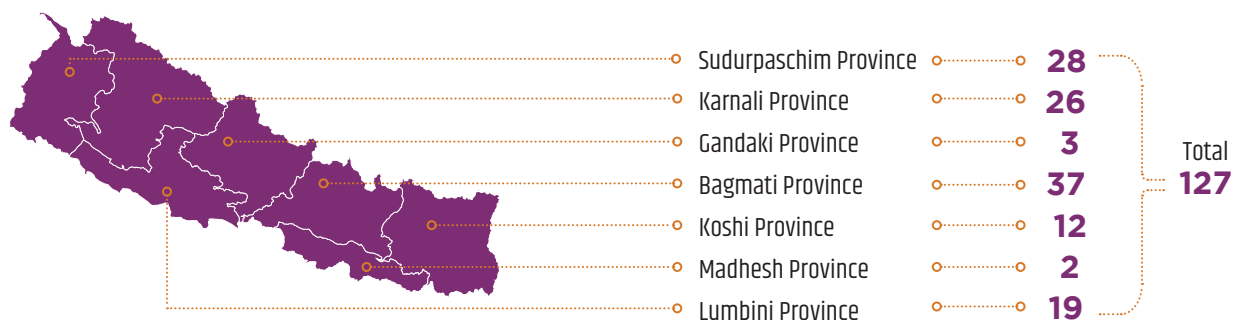
Province	YES	No
Sudurpaschim Province	25 (89.3%)	3 (10.7%)
Karnali Province	26 (92.9%)	2 (7.1%)
Gandaki Province	4 (80%)	1 (20%)
Bagmati Province	47 (79.7%)	12 (20.3%)
Koshi Province	12 (92.3%)	1 (7.7%)
Madhesh Province	3 (100%)	0 (0%)
Lumbini Province	20 (100%)	1 (0%)



## POST-VOTING DAY OBSERVATION

Post-election observation was conducted across all seven provinces, covering 20 districts and 127 vote-counting stations. The distribution of observed stations included 12 in Koshi Province, 2 in Madhesh, 37 in Bagmati, 3 in Gandaki, 19 in Lumbini, 26 in Karnali, and 28 in Sudurpashchim. The districts covered were Jhapa, Morang, Bara, Nuwakot, Kathmandu, Bhaktapur, Lalitpur, Sindhupalchok, Makwanpur, Chitwan, Kaski, Rupandehi, Kapilvastu, Dang, Banke, Dailekh, Surkhet, Bajura, Kailali, and Kanchanpur. This broad geographic scope ensured that the observation captured diverse electoral contexts and provided a comprehensive assessment of the post-election counting process nationwide.

### Post-Polling Observation - Polling stations by province



District	Province							Total
	Koshi	Madhesh	Bagmati	Gandaki	Lumbini	Karnali	Sudurpaschim	
Jhapa	4							4
Morang	8							8
Bara		2						2
Nuwakot			1					1
Kathmandu			14					14
Bhaktapur			2					2
Lalitpur			9					9
Sindhupalchowk			2					2
Makwanpur			7					7
Chitwan			2					2
Kaski				3				3
Rupandehi					6			6
Kapilvastu					3			3
Dang					1			1
Banke					9			9
Dailekh						4		4
Surkhet						22		22
Bajura							1	1
Kailali							24	24
Kanchanpur							3	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>127</b>

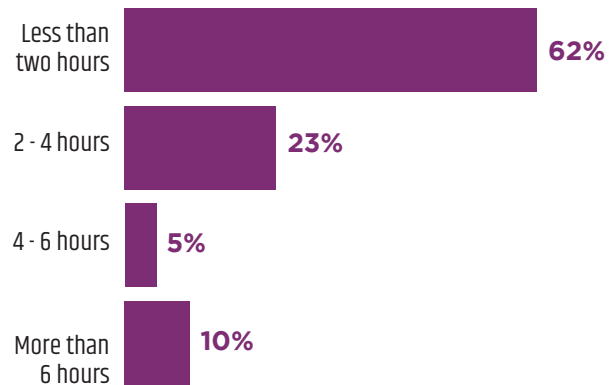
## Duration of Ballot Box Transfer from Polling Stations to Counting Centres

Observation regarding the time taken for all ballot boxes to reach the counting stations after the conclusion of voting reveals highly efficient logistics and transport operations across the observed locations. Swift and secure transport of ballot boxes is essential for maintaining the integrity of the electoral process and preventing any real or perceived tampering, which helps uphold public trust among all communities. Nationally, the majority of ballot boxes, accounting for 62%, reached the counting stations within two hours, while 23% arrived within 2 to 4 hours, and 5% arrived between 4 to 6 hours. However, 10% of the ballot boxes took more than six hours to reach the vote counting stations, which likely represents remote or geographically challenging locations.

Implications of these figures highlight the logistical difficulties faced in remote or mountainous terrains, where the extended transit time can disproportionately affect the timely finalization of election results and place security burdens on election personnel. While the rapid transport of the vast majority of boxes ensures transparency and builds confidence, additional resources and secure transport options are needed to support remote areas. To improve these outcomes for future elections, electoral management bodies should prioritize logistical support for these geographically disadvantaged areas to ensure all ballot boxes are delivered within a standardized and secure timeframe.



### How long did it take for all the ballot boxes to reach the counting center after the voting was over?

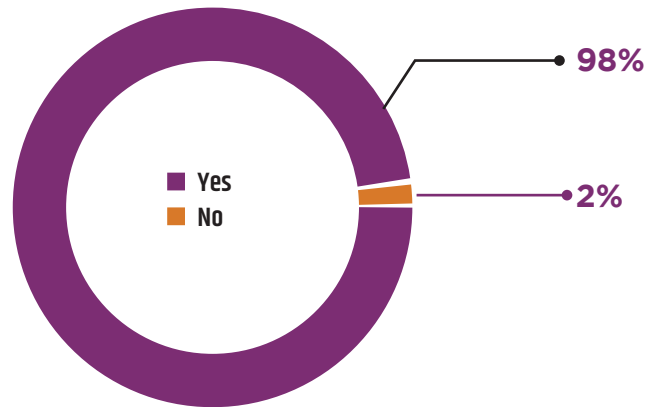


## All-party meeting with the candidates and representatives regarding the counting of votes

An analysis of the data regarding whether an all-party meeting was held with candidates and representatives regarding the counting of votes reveals a very high level of transparency and stakeholder engagement across Nepal. Open dialogue and collaboration among all political actors ensure that the interests of diverse groups—including underrepresented parties and minority candidates—are protected, thereby building confidence in the electoral process. Overall, an overwhelming 98% of polling stations confirmed that an all-party meeting was conducted, while only 2% of stations reported that no such meeting took place.

These figures highlight that the high rate of all-party meetings ensures counting procedures are mutually agreed upon, reducing potential disputes that could disenfranchise or disadvantage voters and candidates from minority groups. Consensus building in pre-counting procedures demonstrates strong compliance with democratic norms and promotes a level playing field for all political participants. To maintain these high standards and address the remaining 2% gap, future electoral planning should emphasize strict compliance monitoring to ensure every polling station engages all relevant candidates before the vote-counting process begins.

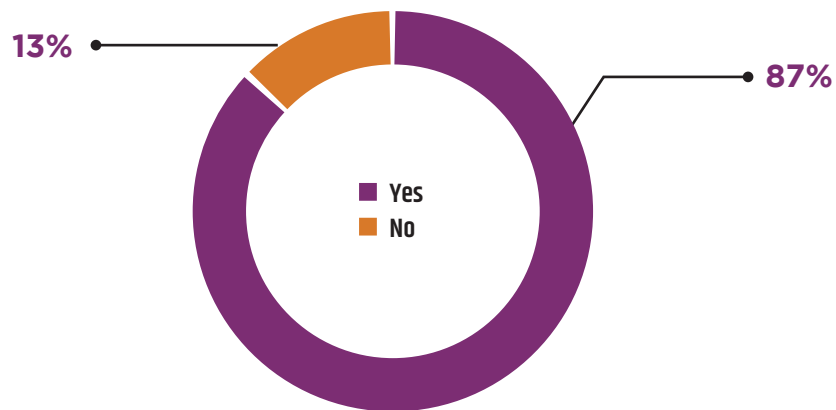
## Was there an all-party meeting with the candidates and representatives regarding the counting of votes?



### Inclusivity of all party meeting

The observation regarding whether all-party meetings were conducted based on inclusivity shows a largely positive outcome. Out of the total responses, 87% indicated that the meetings were inclusive, while 13% reported otherwise. This demonstrates that the majority of political stakeholders recognized and practiced inclusive approaches during these meetings, which is critical for fostering trust, cooperation, and representation across diverse groups. However, the minority of negative responses highlights that inclusivity was not uniformly guaranteed in all contexts. From a GESI perspective, ensuring that all-party meetings consistently reflect inclusivity is essential to strengthening democratic processes, promoting equal participation, and safeguarding the voices of marginalized and underrepresented communities.

## Was the all-party meeting conducted on the basis of inclusivity?

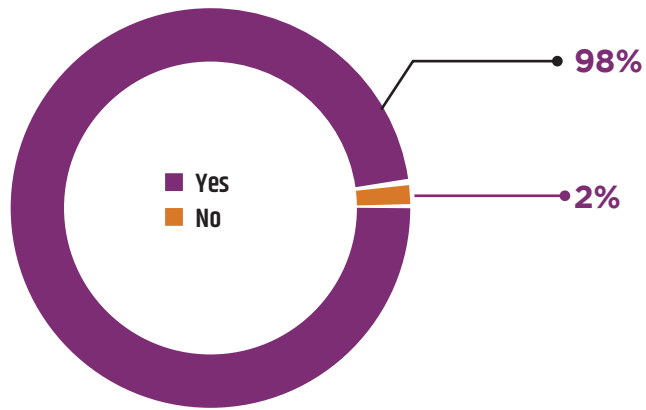


### Publication of Vote Counting Lists

The observation indicates a very high level of transparency in the electoral process regarding the publication of vote counting lists. An overwhelming 98% of polling stations confirmed that the lists were published, while only 2% reported otherwise.

This finding demonstrates strong compliance with electoral procedures and reinforces confidence in the integrity of the counting process. The near-universal publication of results enhances accountability, allows stakeholders to verify outcomes, and reduces the risk of disputes. The small proportion of non-compliance cases warrants targeted follow-up to ensure full adherence in future elections.

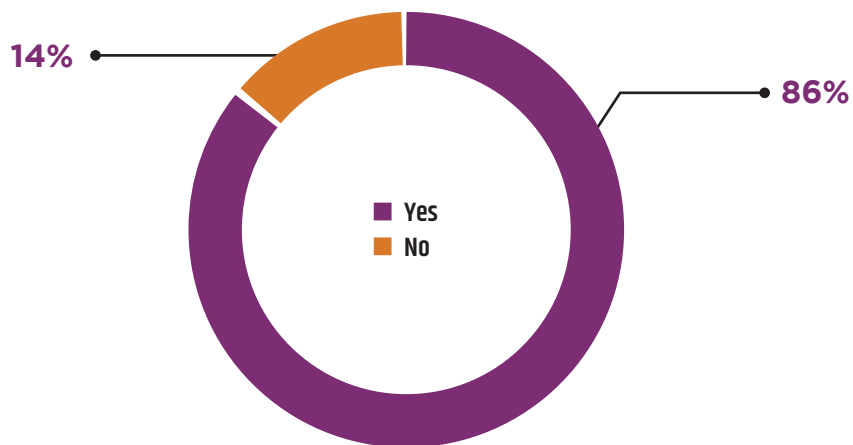
### Was the vote counting list published?



### Timeliness and Causes of Delays in Vote Counting

The data reveals that vote counting began on schedule in 86% of polling stations, while 14% experienced delays. Although the majority adhered to the timetable, the proportion of late starts is significant enough to warrant closer scrutiny.

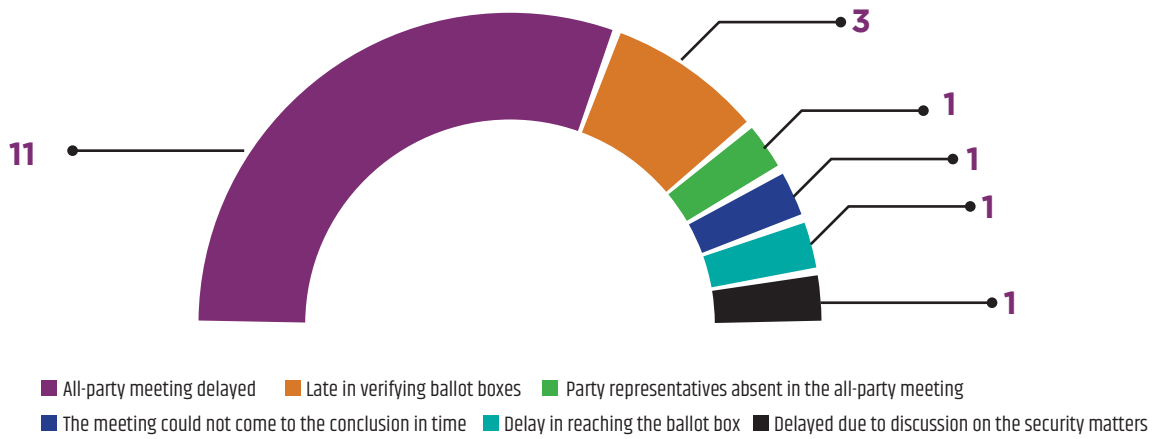
### Did the vote counting start at the scheduled time?



The follow-up breakdown of reasons for delays provides valuable insight: out of 18 reported cases, the dominant cause was the delay of all-party meetings (11 instances). Other factors included late verification of ballot boxes (3 cases), and isolated issues such as delays in reaching ballot boxes, unresolved security discussions, or absence of party representatives. These findings highlight that the delays were primarily procedural and organizational rather than technical.

From an electoral integrity perspective, the punctual start of counting is essential to maintaining trust and minimizing tension. The fact that most delays stemmed from all-party meetings suggests that coordination among political actors remains a critical bottleneck. Strengthening protocols for timely conclusion of such meetings could significantly reduce disruptions.

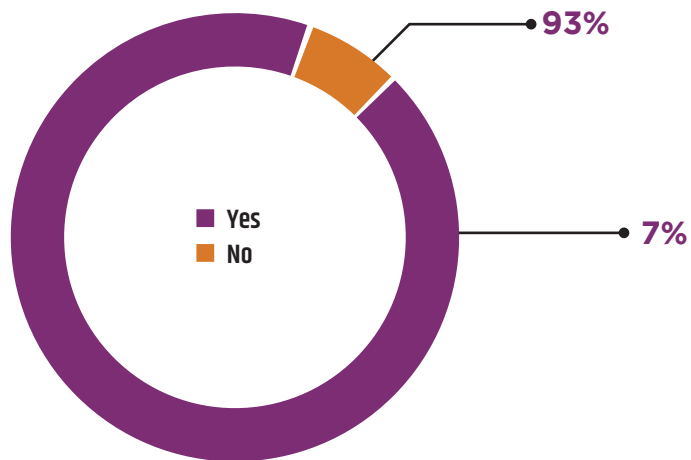
### If not, why?



### Announcement of vote count

The data shows that 93% of polling stations broadcast vote count results periodically to the public using technology such as microphones, while 7% did not. This reflects a strong commitment to transparency and public communication during the counting process. The widespread use of broadcasting mechanisms ensured that stakeholders and community members were kept informed in real time, reducing uncertainty and reinforcing trust in the electoral process.

### Were the results of the vote counted periodically broadcast to the general public using technology including microphones?



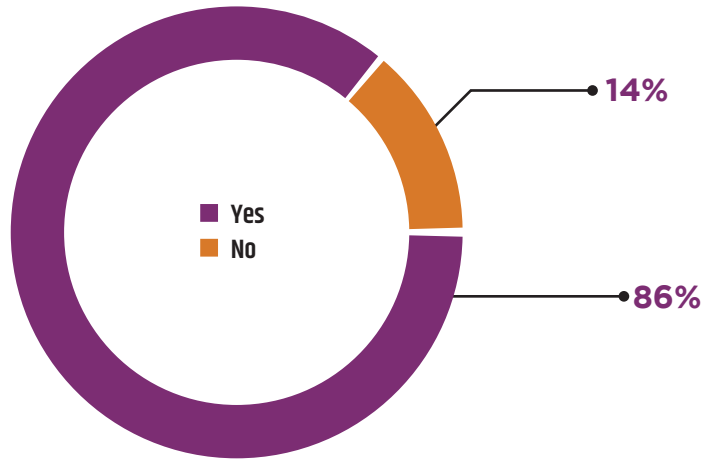
### Inclusion in Vote Counting Arrangements

The observation shows that 86% of polling stations ensured arrangements for the participation of election commission employees from inclusion groups, while 14% did not.<sup>14</sup> This reflects a strong overall commitment to inclusive practices in the vote counting process, ensuring that diverse groups were represented and engaged.

However, the 14% gap is notable, as it indicates that in a significant minority of stations, inclusivity was not adequately guaranteed. This shortfall raises concerns about consistency in implementing inclusion policies and highlights the need for stronger enforcement and monitoring mechanisms.

14. These polling stations include – 1 in Tilottama municipality (Rupandehi district), 5 in Godavari municipality (Lalitpur district), 1 each in Gauriganga, Lamkichuha and Ghodaghodi municipality (Kailali district), 1 in Dhapakhel and 1 in Tyagal (Lalitpur Metropolitan city), 1 in Mahalaxmi municipality (Lalitpur district) and 1 in Hetauda sub-metropolitan city (Makwanpur district).

### Was the participation of the employees deputed by the election commission on the basis of inclusion groups from counting of votes to announcement of election results properly managed?

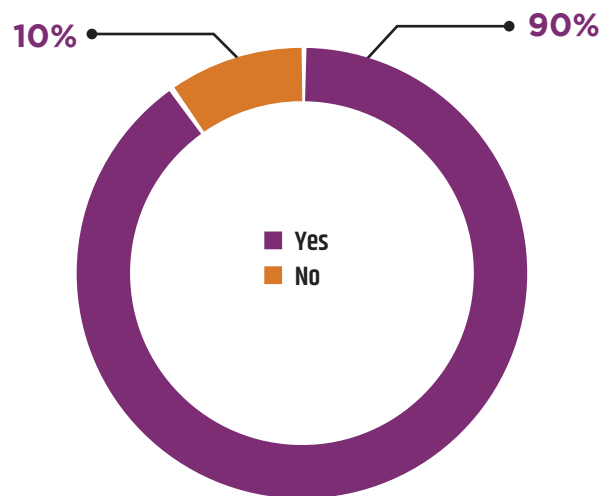


### Deployment of Female Employees in Vote Counting

The observation shows that female employees were deployed in 90% of vote counting teams, while 10% of teams did not include women. This reflects a strong level of gender representation in the electoral process, demonstrating institutional commitment to inclusivity and gender equality. The high percentage suggests that women were actively engaged in critical stages of election administration, reinforcing both transparency and credibility.

However, the 10% gap indicates that gender inclusivity was not fully consistent across all locations. This shortfall highlights the need for stronger monitoring and enforcement to ensure that women's participation is uniformly guaranteed. The presence of women in counting teams is vital not only for representation but also for fostering trust among diverse stakeholders, as it signals that electoral institutions value equitable participation.

### How many percent of female employees were deployed in the vote counting team?



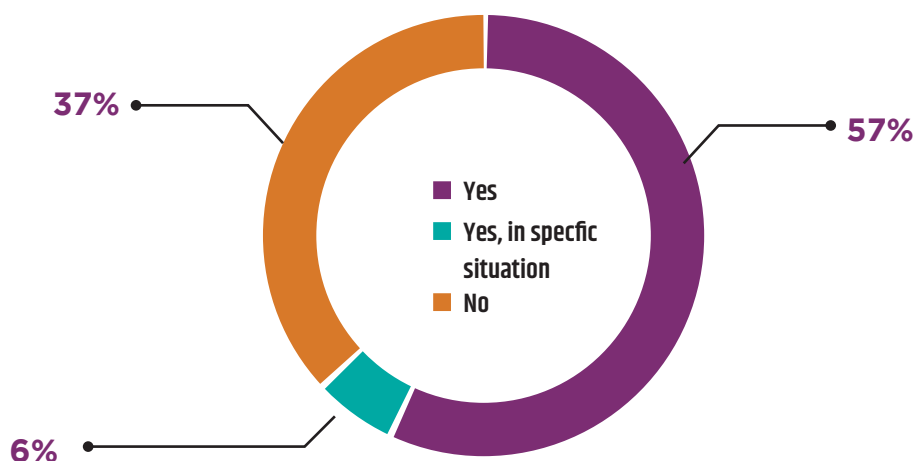
## Deployment of Women Employees During Night Vote Counting

The observation indicates that 57% of polling stations deployed women employees during the night of vote counting, while 37% did not, and 6% reported deployment only in specific situations. This shows that while a majority of stations ensured women's participation, a substantial proportion either excluded them or limited their involvement to conditional circumstances.

From a gender equality perspective, the majority inclusion is encouraging, as it reflects progress toward equitable participation in demanding electoral tasks. However, the sizeable 37% exclusion rate highlights persistent barriers to women's full engagement, particularly in night shifts where safety, logistical support, or institutional attitudes may play a role. The 6% conditional deployment further suggests that women's participation was not always normalized, but rather dependent on situational factors.

The observation found that women security personnel were deployed during night shifts; however, adequate facilities such as lighting and toilets were not arranged, contributing to their insecurity. Recently, postpartum women security personnel were also deployed during night shifts without any special provisions, including designated breastfeeding spaces.<sup>15</sup>

### Were women employees deployed during the night of vote counting?



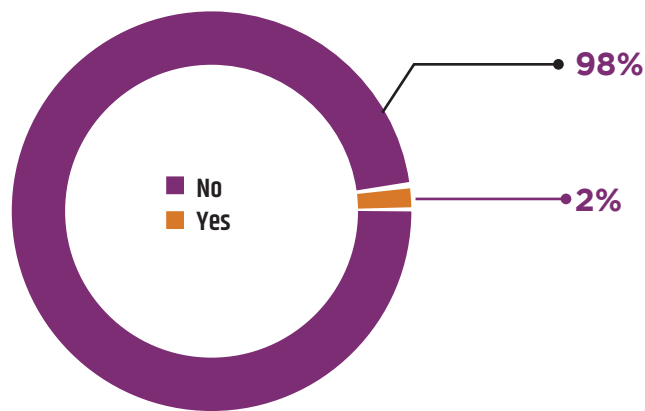
15. Polling station at New Light Boarding School located in Tilottama Municipality, Lumbini province.

## Complaints of Sexual Misconduct During Vote Counting

The data shows that 98% of staff members involved in vote counting reported no complaints of sexual misconduct, while 2% did. This overwhelmingly positive result suggests that the electoral environment was largely safe and professional, with very few instances of misconduct reported.

However, even a small percentage of complaints is significant, as sexual misconduct represents a serious violation of workplace safety and dignity and zero tolerance is expected. The presence of any cases highlights the need for robust preventive measures, clear reporting mechanisms, and accountability structures to ensure that all staff—particularly women and marginalized groups—can participate without fear of harassment or abuse. The near-universal absence of complaints is encouraging, but the existence of even isolated cases underscores the importance of continued vigilance. Electoral institutions must prioritize safeguarding measures to guarantee that inclusivity is not undermined by misconduct.

### Did any of the staff members involved in the counting of votes complain of sexual misconduct?



# CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

## CONCLUSIONS

FWLD's election observation mission across select constituencies covering all seven provinces identified several noteworthy positive aspects in the conduct of the House of Representatives Election, 2026. These findings reflect encouraging progress in Nepal's electoral process and democratic governance. One of the most significant and commendable outcomes observed during this election was the overall peaceful conduct of the electoral process across all three phases — pre-election, Election Day, and post-election. The Election Commission of Nepal (ECN) conducted the election with a commendable degree of impartiality and professionalism. Despite operating with an incomplete commission, with only three of the five Election Commissioners actively discharging their responsibilities, the ECN demonstrated institutional resilience and a commitment to delivering a credible electoral process. Given that the election was announced and executed within an exceptionally short timeframe following the 2025 political transition, the overall administrative management of the election was impressive. The announcement of election results was carried out in a transparent and timely manner. The promotion of green election practices reflects a positive evolution in how political campaigns are conducted in Nepal and signals growing awareness among political actors of their environmental responsibilities.

Nepal has made significant, measurable progress toward GEDSI-responsive elections, particularly in gender-sensitive voter management, priority treatment for vulnerable groups, and the near-absence of hate speech. However, the election falls short of full inclusivity due to systemic accessibility failures (most critically, the complete absence of Braille ballots), entrenched gender bias in staffing and institutional culture, geographic disparities in implementation, and the lack of disaggregated data for accountability.

### Overall Accessibility and Inclusion

The electoral process demonstrated a strong foundational commitment to inclusion, with 88% of observed polling stations meeting basic physical accessibility standards. This was particularly evident in gender-sensitive voter management, where 98% of stations implemented separate lines for men and women, reflecting a nearly universal adoption of these practices. Furthermore, 94.2% of stations successfully deployed volunteers representing both men and women, which played a crucial role in creating a welcoming and supportive environment for all voters. However, notable regional disparities persist, as Bagmati Province—despite having the largest share of observed stations—accounted for the majority of accessibility issues, with 17.5% of its stations identified as inaccessible.

### Specialized Support and Vulnerable Groups

While general infrastructure was largely inclusive, critical gaps remain in the provision of specialized support for vulnerable populations. Although 98.1% of stations facilitated assistance for voters with disabilities, many individuals still faced significant barriers due to incomplete voter registration or a lack of proper identity cards. The needs of other vulnerable groups were also inconsistently addressed; for instance, while 90% of stations were considered convenient for recently postpartum women, only 76% provided designated resting spaces for pregnant women, senior citizens, and ill voters. These findings suggest that while procedural support is high, the physical and logistical infrastructure required to ensure the dignity and comfort of all voters is not yet uniform across the country.

## Institutional Preparedness and Health Safety

A significant deficit in health and emergency preparedness was observed, posing potential risks to the safety of elderly and chronically ill voters. Over half of the observed polling stations (57.1%) operated without any health personnel on-site, and a vast majority (85.3%) lacked an ambulance for emergency medical transport. These gaps were most pronounced in provinces with difficult terrain, such as Karnali and Gandaki, where no ambulances were available at any observed station. Additionally, the systematic collection of gender- and inclusion-sensitive data remains a major challenge, with only 40.4% of stations using forms to record disaggregated information. Strengthening these institutional practices is essential for moving beyond formal equality toward a truly substantive and results-oriented inclusive electoral framework.

## Social and Behavioural Barriers

Beyond logistical hurdles, the election observation highlighted the persistence of deeply rooted gender biases and discriminatory attitudes among some electoral stakeholders. Instances of limited gender sensitivity were noted among polling officials, including dismissive remarks regarding breastfeeding facilities and disability access. Furthermore, inappropriate comments directed at women candidates at counting centers—questioning their ability to lead while managing family responsibilities—underscore the ongoing social challenges that discourage women's equal participation in political leadership. Addressing these behavioural barriers through targeted training for officials and political party representatives is a necessary step toward fostering a more respectful and equitable electoral environment.

The election demonstrated a strong nationwide commitment to fundamental inclusive practices. While general accessibility was high, specialized support for voters with disabilities remains a systemic weakness. Logistical preparedness for the specific health and dignity needs of vulnerable populations was inconsistent. Despite legal and procedural improvements, social and behavioural barriers remain prevalent.

# RECOMMENDATIONS

## A. Recommendations for the Election Commission of Nepal

### 1. Mandate Universal Accessibility Standards for All Polling Stations

**Finding:** 12% of polling stations were inaccessible to people with disabilities; 26% lacked wheelchair access; Braille ballots were completely absent (0%); disability-friendly voting materials were almost non-existent.

**Recommendations:**

- Make Braille ballots mandatory for every polling station in all future elections. Develop a national procurement and distribution system well in advance of election dates.
- Establish a binding accessibility checklist that includes: wheelchair ramps, accessible voting stations at appropriate heights, wide doorways, accessible pathways, and clear signage. Conduct pre-election audits for all polling stations.
- Mandate the availability of assistive devices (e.g., magnifying glasses, signature guides, white sticks) and ensure polling officers are trained on their use.

### 2. Ensure Universal Provision of Basic Facilities

**Finding:** Drinking water absent at 31.4% of stations; toilets absent at 12.2%; first aid boxes missing at 62.8%; ambulances absent at 85.3%; breastfeeding rooms missing at 76.3%; resting spaces missing at 24%.

**Recommendations:**

- Mandate a minimum facility package for every polling station: drinking water, functional toilets (separate for men and women where possible), first aid box, on-call health worker, resting benches, and a designated breastfeeding room.
- Require every local level (rural municipality/municipality) to arrange at least one ambulance on standby for every cluster of polling stations, with clear emergency referral protocols.
- Include facility compliance as a condition for polling station approval – no station should be designated unless all basic facilities are verified.

**3. Strengthen Gender-Responsive Staffing and Leadership**

**Finding:** Only 47.3% of polling stations had women or inclusion-group leadership; women's participation in District Human Resource Management Coordination Committees was only 64.7%; ink application task was assigned exclusively to women at 90.4% of stations, reinforcing stereotypes.

**Recommendations:**

- Set a minimum target of 50% women polling officers and chiefs for all polling stations, with clear penalties for non-compliance at the district level.
- Mandate gender-balanced task allocation – rotate duties such as ink application, voter verification, and queue management between male and female staff to break stereotypical divisions.
- Require every District Election Office to report on the gender and inclusion composition of all polling station teams, with public disclosure.

**4. Institutionalize Mandatory GEDSI Training and Sensitization**

**Finding:** There were instances of Polling Officers making dismissive remarks about gender, party representatives making indecent comments about women candidates, and some female polling chiefs reporting feeling of discomfort due to gender.

**Recommendations:**

- Make a mandatory GEDSI training module a prerequisite for all election personnel (polling officers, security personnel, volunteers) and political party representatives at polling stations.
- Include practical scenarios and role-play on respectful communication, assisting voters with disabilities, responding to gender-based harassment, and accommodating gender and sexual minorities.
- Introduce a confidential grievance mechanism for election staff who experience or witness gender-based discrimination or harassment, with clear accountability measures.

**5. Enforce Collection and Public Disclosure of Disaggregated Data**

**Finding:** Only 40.4% of polling stations used forms for keeping disaggregated information (by gender, disability, caste, ethnicity), making it impossible to track inclusion outcomes.

**Recommendations:**

- Make disaggregated data collection mandatory and auditable for every polling station, using standardized electronic or paper forms.
- Publish disaggregated turnout data by gender, age, disability status, and (where feasible) caste/ethnicity at the polling station, local, and provincial levels within 30 days of election results.
- Use this data to produce a GESI performance report for each province and district, identifying areas of success and those needing intervention.

## 6. Improve Post-Election Phase Inclusivity, Especially Night Shifts

**Finding:** Only 57% of counting stations deployed women during night shifts; women security personnel lacked lighting, toilets, and breastfeeding spaces; postpartum women deployed without support.

### Recommendations:

- Mandate that all counting centres provide separate, secure, and well-lit rest areas for women staff, including designated breastfeeding spaces and accessible toilets.
- Prohibit mandatory night shift deployment for pregnant or recently postpartum women unless voluntary and with adequate support.
- Ensure women security personnel are deployed in pairs and provided with transportation to and from counting centres during night hours.

## 7. Enforce Consistent All-Party Meeting Inclusivity

**Finding:** 13% of all-party meetings were not conducted on an inclusive basis; delays in vote counting were often caused by late or poorly organized all-party meetings.

### Recommendations:

- Require that all-party meetings include representatives from marginalized groups (women, Dalits, persons with disabilities, gender and sexual minorities) or, where not possible, a written explanation.
- Set a strict timeline for all-party meetings to conclude before counting begins.
- Train election officials on facilitating inclusive all-party meetings that give equal speaking time and respect to representatives from smaller parties and marginalized groups.

## 8. Recommendations on voter education

- The Election Commission Nepal should design and implement inclusive voter education campaigns specifically targeting women, persons with disabilities, Dalits, indigenous peoples, Madhesis, senior citizens, sexual and gender minorities, youth, and geographically marginalized communities.
- Voter education materials should be produced in accessible and multiple formats, including Braille, sign language interpretation, audio messages, large-print materials, easy-to-read formats, and local languages to ensure equal access to electoral information.
- Community-based voter education programs should be expanded in remote and underserved areas through collaboration with local governments, civil society organizations, women's groups, and organizations of persons with disabilities.
- Election awareness campaigns should include practical information on accessible voting procedures, priority services, assistance mechanisms, and the rights of voters requiring additional support.
- Digital voter education campaigns should be strengthened to counter misinformation, hate speech, gender-based disinformation, and discriminatory narratives targeting women and marginalized candidates and voters.
- Targeted civic education initiatives should be conducted to promote public acceptance of women's political participation and leadership and to challenge harmful gender stereotypes and discriminatory social norms.
- Polling officials, volunteers, and voter educators should receive mandatory training on GEDSI-sensitive communication, disability inclusion, non-discrimination, and respectful engagement with vulnerable groups.
- The Election Commission should ensure that voter education campaigns are gender-responsive and culturally sensitive, particularly in communities with low literacy rates and limited access to information technologies.

- Dedicated outreach campaigns should be conducted for first-time voters, women with limited mobility, persons with disabilities, and minority communities to increase electoral participation and confidence in the electoral process.
- Partnerships with media institutions should be strengthened to disseminate inclusive and rights-based voter education messages through radio, television, social media, and community platforms accessible to diverse populations.
- Monitoring and evaluation mechanisms should be established to assess the effectiveness and inclusiveness of voter education campaigns using disaggregated data by gender, disability, caste, ethnicity, age, and geographic location.
- Adequate budget allocation should be ensured for GESI-responsive voter education initiatives, particularly for accessibility measures and outreach in remote and marginalized communities.
- Ensure timely voter registration of all eligible citizens targeting vulnerable groups.

## B. Recommendations for the Government of Nepal

### 9. Legal Reforms

**Findings:** There is no separate quota under the First-Past-the-Post (FPTP) system to guarantee the election of women and members of inclusive groups, and no provision has been made for Braille ballot papers or assistive devices to facilitate voting by persons with visual or physical disabilities.

- The Government of Nepal and the Election Commission of Nepal should introduce legal and policy reforms, in line with the constitutional provisions, to ensure proportional representation of women and inclusive groups under the First-Past-the-Post (FPTP) electoral system.
- Establish mandatory candidacy quotas, reserved seats, or other affirmative measures within the FPTP system to ensure the proportional election of women, Dalits, persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples, Madhesis, and other marginalized communities.
- Institutionalize the provision of Braille ballot papers in all polling stations to ensure independent voting for people with visual disabilities.
- Ensure the availability of tactile ballot guides, assistive devices, and disability-friendly voting materials at polling stations nationwide.
- Make all polling stations physically accessible through ramps, wheelchair-friendly entrances, accessible voting booths, and priority service arrangements for voters with disabilities.
- Develop and enforce mandatory disability inclusion and accessibility standards for all phases of election management and polling operations.
- Provide specialized training to polling officials and volunteers on assisting voters with disabilities respectfully and effectively while protecting voter secrecy and dignity.
- Institutionalizing GEDSI Reporting - Mandate the use of disaggregated data collection forms at all polling stations to ensure gender- and inclusion-sensitive reporting is a core legal requirement rather than a discretionary practice.
- Overseas Voting Rights - Implement the 2018 Supreme Court ruling to establish the legal and administrative framework necessary for ensuring the voting rights of Nepali citizens living abroad.
- Ensure out-of-district voting rights for the voters residing in other districts than their own.
- Ensure timely voter registration of all eligible citizens and facilitate access to required documentation, including citizenship certificates and national identity cards, through targeted outreach and registration campaigns.

## 10. Allocate Dedicated Budget for GESI Election Infrastructure

**Finding:** Many deficits (e.g., lack of ramps, Braille ballots, breastfeeding rooms) stem from inadequate funding and planning.

### **Recommendation:**

The Government of Nepal, in consultation with the Election Commission, must create a separate budget line for “GESI Election Infrastructure” to cover:

- Constructing/reconstructing polling stations for accessibility.
- Procuring Braille ballots and assistive devices.
- Training programs for election personnel.
- Voter education and public awareness campaigns targeting marginalized communities.

## C. Recommendations for Political Parties

### 11. Ensure Meaningful Representation from Inclusion Groups

**Finding:** Only 48.7% of polling stations reported party representatives selected based on inclusive groups; Gandaki had zero inclusive representation.

### **Recommendations:**

- Political parties must comply with Article 84 and the Election Act by ensuring their closed PR lists and FPTP candidates reflect the mandatory demographic percentages (Dalit, Adivasi Janajati, Madhesi, Tharu, Muslim, etc.).
- Select party representatives at polling stations that include women, Dalits, persons with disabilities, and other marginalized groups proportionally.
- Ensure all-party negotiating teams are formed on an inclusive basis, as only 52.7% of stations currently do.

### 12. Adopt Zero-Tolerance Policies for Gender-Based and Discriminatory Remarks

**Finding:** Indecent comments about women candidates were made at counting centres; some political party representatives engaged in pressure tactics on voters.

### **Recommendations:**

- Each party must establish an internal code of conduct with clear consequences for candidates or representatives who engage in hate speech, gender-based harassment, or caste-based discrimination.
- Nominate a GESI focal person at the district and provincial levels to receive complaints and ensure party compliance.

## D. Recommendations for Health and Local Authorities

### 13. Integrate Health Services with Electoral Planning

**Finding:** Reproductive health services unavailable in 20% of stations; health workers deployed at only 42.9% of stations; ambulances at 14.7%.

### **Recommendations:**

- Local health offices and municipalities should sign a pre-election memorandum of understanding with the Election Commission to guarantee health workers, first aid, and ambulance services for every polling station cluster.

- Reproductive health services (including basic maternal health supplies) should be available at all polling stations, especially in remote areas where travel to health facilities is difficult.

## E. Recommendations for Civil Society and Observers

### 14. Strengthen GESI-Focused Observation and Advocacy

**Finding:** The observation identified many gaps that had not been previously documented due to lack of GEDSI-specific observation.

**Recommendations:**

- Civil society organizations should conduct pre-election accessibility audits in collaboration with organizations of persons with disabilities (OPDs), women's groups, marginalized communities and other vulnerable groups sharing findings publicly.
- Form a permanent GEDSI election observation network that continues between elections to track implementation of recommendations.
- Advocate for the mandatory use of disaggregated data and public disclosure before the next national election.
- Behavioural Change Advocacy: Conduct sustained campaigns to challenge discriminatory attitudes and gender biases among political party representatives and election staff, particularly regarding women's leadership.
- Independent Oversight: Maintain a coalition of civil society organizations to monitor and audit the implementation of GEDSI policies, ensuring that inclusive practices are embedded as standard procedures.
- Voter Education: Develop and distribute inclusive voter education materials tailored specifically for women, youth, and persons with disabilities to encourage higher and more meaningful participation.

## F. Recommendations for the International Community

15. **Capacity Building Support:** Provide technical and financial assistance for training election officials and security personnel on GEDSI-responsive operations and disability-inclusive practices.
16. **Support for Inclusive Technology:** Assist in developing and scaling digital tools and accessible social media strategies that reduce information barriers for traditionally underrepresented groups.
17. **Monitoring and Advocacy:** Continue supporting independent, GESI-focused election observations to provide high-quality data that drives substantive inclusion and electoral integrity.

## G. Recommendations for the media

- Adopt and Enforce GEDSI-Responsive Editorial Guidelines
- Provide Dedicated, Sustained Coverage of GEDSI Issues Throughout the Electoral Cycle
- Counter Gender Stereotypes in Candidate and Leadership Coverage
- Proactively Educate Voters on GEDSI-Related Rights and Procedures
- Monitor Social Media Platforms for GEDSI-Related Violations
- Amplify the Voices of Marginalized Voters and Their Lived Experiences
- Provide GEDSI-Sensitive Training for All Journalists and Media Staff
- Hold Electoral and Political Authorities Accountable on GEDSI Commitments
- Establish a Media GEDSI Election Award
- Coordinate with the Election Commission on GEDSI Communication

## ANNEX 1

### COLLABORATING ORGANIZATIONS

1. Forum for Women, Law and Development (FWLD)
2. Nepal Disabled Women Association (NDWA)
3. Nepal Muslim Women Welfare Society
4. Shanti Ka Lagi Sajha Abhiyan Nepal (SSAN)
5. New Friends Club
6. Sundar Nepal Sastha
7. Awaaj
8. Tewa
9. Saathi
10. Women for Human Rights (WHR)
11. Mitini Nepal
12. Community Development Society
13. Centre for Women's Awareness and Development (CWAD)
14. Disability Women Society
15. Women Security Pressure Group

## ANNEX 2 MEDIA SOURCES



<https://www.onlinekhabar.com/2026/02/1865201/zerofemale-candidates-in-31-constituencies>

"Zero female candidates in 31 constituencies" — Out of 165 constituencies across the country, 31 constituencies have no female candidates at all. According to candidate data, 9 constituencies under Koshi Province have zero female candidates. These include Taplejung, Panchthar, Bhojpur, Dhankuta, Morang-2, Morang-3, Khotang, Udayapur-1, and Udayapur-2.

ANNEX 3  
QUESTIONNAIRE FOR ELECTION OBSERVATION

**House of Representatives Election 2082 – Observation  
Pre-Voting Day Observation Form**

**Observer Details:**

Observer's Name: ..... Observer's ID No.: .....  
Observer's Organization: ..... Type of Observation: Mobile / Stationary .....  
Observation Time: Starting time: ..... Ending Time : ..... Province: .....  
District: .....

**Local Level**

Constituency: ..... (Municipality/Rural Municipality): .....  
Polling Location: ..... Polling Center Number: .....

**Total number of voters:**

Female.....Man.....Sexual and Gender minorities .....Senior Citizen.....Person with disability.....Muslim.....Dalit.....Khas/Arya.....  
Tharu.....Indigenous.....Ethnic group .....

**Regarding Pre-Poll Preparation:**

1. Was the polling center disability-friendly and accessible?  
Yes  No
2. Were there separate arrangements for male and female voters at the polling center?  
Yes  No
3. Was the voting booth placed at a lower/easily accessible place so that persons with disabilities and senior citizens could vote easily?  
Yes  No
4. Was the polling center made convenient for pregnant women, senior citizens, sick, and physically disable voters?  
Pregnant women Yes  No   
Senior citizens: Yes  No   
Sick and physically disable Yes  No
5. After voting, was there an easy exit arrangement for senior citizens, pregnant/postpartum women, disabled persons, and others to leave comfortably?  
Yes  No
6. Was there a proper resting place arranged for pregnant/postpartum women, bereaved person, senior citizens, sick, and persons with disabilities?  
Yes  No
7. Was there a ramp or accessible pathway made so that persons with disabilities could reach the voting booth?  
Yes  No
8. Were the materials used in voting made disability-friendly and accessible? If yes, mention what kinds of materials were available:  
.....  
.....  
.....
9. Were there special arrangements to make voting easier for pregnant women, postpartum women, physically disable persons, senior citizens, sick, persons with disabilities, and sexual and gender minorities? If yes, specify:  
.....  
.....

10. How many staff were deployed at the polling center? If different, mention the number:  
 5  8  10  Other
11. How many female staff were deployed at the polling center? If different, mention the number:  
 5  8  10  Other
12. For candidates with disabilities, among the following mentioned, how many days were they allowed to conduct door-to-door campaigning?  
 15  20  25  Other
13. During the 48-hour silence period, were any campaign materials distributed or were children used in political party campaigns?  
 Yes  No
14. During the 48-hour silence period, were any hate speech complaints regarding election-related incidents registered?  
 Yes  No
15. Was there participation of women representatives in the District Security Management Coordination Committee?  
 Yes  No
16. Were party representatives selected based on inclusive group representation?  
 Yes  No   
 If yes, specify:  
 .....  
 .....
17. Was an all-party meeting/coordination team formed on the basis of inclusive groups to make the voting process easier?  
 Yes  No   
 If yes, specify:  
 .....  
 .....
18. Were any polling centers designated where women polling officers were in leadership roles and staff from inclusive groups were deployed? If yes, how many?  
 Yes  No
19. Was a gender focal person assigned at the polling station? If yes, which group were they representing?  
 Yes  No   
 .....
20. Did you see any discriminatory, discouraging, or intimidating content on social media targeting candidates such as women, persons with disabilities, or gender and sexual minorities?  
 See  Did not see   
 If seen .....
21. In polling stations headed by a woman, did the head official experience any discomfort or difficulties specifically because she was a woman?  
 Yes  No  Not Applicable
22. Did female candidates face challenges throughout the election process simply because of their gender?  
 Yes  No  Not Applicable   
 If yes, specify: .....
23. Is there continuous availability of reproductive health services in the hospitals of your area or district?  
 Yes  No  Not Applicable
24. Regarding incidents that occurred during the election period from a gender perspective: if any such incident occurred, please fill out this form.  
 Yes  No   
 Date and Time of Incident: .....

Type of Incident (Tick one):

- a) Character assassination / threats
- b) Gender-based violence
- c) Caste-based discrimination or untouchability
- d) Offensive remarks against sexual minorities
- e) Disability-based discrimination
- f) Discrimination
- g) Others

Details of Persons Involved

Accused (Tick one):

- 1. Election-deployed staff
- 2. Security personnel
- 3. Political party member/representative/candidate
- 4. Voter
- 5. Others
- 6. Not identified

Victim (Tick one):

- i. Election- deployed staff
- ii. Security personnel
- iii. Political party member/representative/candidate
- iv. Voter
- v. Others
- vi. Not identified

Detailed Description of the Incident:

.....  
.....  
.....

25. Provide details of any violent incidents that occurred prior to polling.

.....  
.....  
.....

Observer's Signature: .....

Contact Number: .....

Date: .....

**Notes:**

**Disinformation** : Refers to the deliberate dissemination of false or misleading information intended to benefit oneself or harm others, or to mislead the public.

**Hate Speech** : Refers to any speech, writing, or behavior that directly or indirectly spreads intolerance, hatred, or incites violence against individuals or groups based on caste, ethnicity, origin, religion, gender, age, disability, or similar characteristics.

**Inclusive Groups** : Refers to Dalit, Indigenous/Janajati, Khas Arya, Madhesi, Tharu, Muslim communities, etc.

## House of Representatives Election 2082

### Voting Day Observation Form

#### Observer Details (Polling Day Form):

Observer's Name: .....  
Observer's Organization: .....  
Observation Time: From: ..... To: .....  
District: .....

Observer's ID No.: .....  
Type of Observation: Mobile / Stationary .....  
Province: .....

#### Local Level

Constituency: .....  
Polling Location: .....  
Number of Ballot Papers Issued: .....  
First-past-the-post Election: .....  
Total Number of Voters in Voter List: .....

(Municipality/Rural Municipality): .....  
Polling Center Number: .....  
Proportional Representation: .....  
Total Number of Voters Who Voted: .....

#### Total Number of Voters:

Female.....Male.....Sexual and Gender minorities.....

1. At what time did voting start? Tick the correct option. If different, please mention.  
(a) 7:00 – 7:15   
(b) 7:15 – 7:30   
(c) 7:31 – 8:00   
(d) After 8   
Reason for delay: .....
2. Were the names and identities of voters verified?  
Yes  No
3. For voters who are visually impaired or physically disabled, or need assistance for other reasons, was their identity verified while providing assistance?  
Yes  No  Not applicable
4. For maintaining disaggregated data, was any form used?  
Yes  No
5. Were children present around the polling center?  
Yes  No
6. Was there a First Aid Box available at the polling center for basic health services?  
Yes  No
7. Were health workers and volunteers arranged at the polling center?  
Yes  No
8. Were there arrangements of ambulance service to ensure easy access for emergency health services at the polling center?  
Yes  No
9. Were proper arrangements made for drinking water and toilets at the polling center?  
Drinking water: Yes  No   
Toilet: Yes  No
10. Were special arrangements made for pregnant women, persons with disabilities, senior citizens, sick or physically disable people, nurturing mother, bereaved people and other sexual and gender minorities to vote? If yes, what arrangements were made?  
Yes  No   
(Please specify): .....

11. If a voter who is visually impaired or physically disabled, or unable to cast a vote for other reasons, came with an assistant, was the assistant allowed to enter the polling booth?  
Yes  No  Not applicable
12. If a voter with visual or physical disability or other difficulties could not vote independently, did the polling officer assist in casting the vote?  
Yes  No  Not applicable
13. Were Braille ballot papers available for voters with visually impaired person?  
Yes  No
14. Were proper arrangements made for breastfeeding mothers?  
Yes  No
15. Were volunteers at the polling center assigned in a way that ensured representation of both women and men?  
Yes  No
16. Was only a female volunteer assigned to apply ink on voters' fingers?  
Yes  No
17. Were voters with disabilities assisted during the voting process?  
Yes  No  Not applicable
18. Did the Election Officer had issued a public notice stating that the voting time was about to end.  
Yes  No
19. Were all voters standing in line before closing time allowed to vote even after the official time ended?  
Yes  No  Not applicable
20. After all voters had cast their votes, were all procedures completed and the ballot boxes were sealed?  
Yes  No

**Voter Feedback (At least two respondents)**

Did women, senior citizens, persons with disabilities, Dalit community members, and sexual minorities experience any pressure, threats, or inducement to influence their vote?

.....

.....

.....

**Incidents during Election Period (From a Gender Perspective)**

If any incident occurred, please fill out the following:

a. Date and Time of Incident: .....

**Type of Incident (Tick one):**

- i) Character assassination / threats
- ii) Gender-based violence
- iii) Caste-based discrimination or untouchability
- iv) Offensive remarks against sexual minorities
- v) Disability-based discrimination
- vi) Discrimination
- vii) Others

**Details of Persons Involved**

**Accused (Tick one):**

- i) Election deployed staff
- ii) Security personnel
- iii) Political party member/representative/candidate
- iv) Voter
- v) Others
- vi) Not identified

**Victim (Tick one):**

- i) Election deployed staff
- ii) Security personnel
- iii) Political party member/representative/candidate
- iv) Voter
- v) Others
- vi) Not identified

Detailed Description of the Incident:

.....

.....

.....

21. Was a comfortable environment created for the election observer throughout all voting processes?

Yes  No

Observer's Signature: .....

Contact Number: .....

Date: .....

**Note:** If there is more than one incident and space is insufficient, additional pages may be used.

## House of Representatives Election 2082

### Post-Voting Day Observation Form

**Observer Details (Polling Day Form):**

Observer's Name: ..... Observer's ID No.: .....  
 Observer's Organization: ..... Type of Observation: Mobile / Stationary .....  
 Observation Time: From: ..... To: .....  
 Province: ..... District: .....

**Local Level**

Constituency: ..... (Municipality/Rural Municipality): .....  
 Polling Location: ..... Polling Center Number: .....

1. How long did it take for all ballot boxes to reach the counting station after voting ended? (Specify if times varied):  
 Less than 2 hours       2-4 hours       4-6 hours       More than 6 hours
2. Was an all-party meeting held with candidates and representatives regarding the vote counting?  
 Yes       No
3. Was the all-party meeting conducted on the basis of inclusiveness?  
 Yes       No
4. Was the counting list published?  
 Yes       No
5. How many staff members were deployed for the counting? (Specify if the number varied):  
 4       6       8       More than 8
6. Were the candidates and representatives informed about the legal procedures of the counting process?  
 Yes       No
7. Did the counting start at the scheduled time?  
 Yes       No
8. Was the vote-counting result broadcast publicly for the general public?  
 Yes       No
9. Was there an arrangement to ensure the participation of staff assigned by the Election Commission based on inclusive groups, from the counting stage to the election results?  
 Yes       No
10. How many female security personnel were deployed during the period from voting until the election results? If it differs from the given number, please specify.  
 3       5       7
11. What percentage of female staff were deployed in the vote-counting team?  
 .....      None
12. Were female staff deployed during the night during vote counting?  
 Yes       No   
 If there were any special arrangements, please specify: .....
13. Did any staff deployed in vote counting file a complaint regarding sexual harassment?  
 Yes       No
14. Incidents during Post Election Period (From a Gender Perspective)  
 Yes       No   
 If any incident occurred, please fill out the following:  
 a. Date and Time of Incident: .....

**Type of Incident (Tick one):**

- i) Character assassination / threats
- ii) Gender-based violence
- iii) Caste-based discrimination or untouchability
- iv) Offensive remarks against sexual minorities
- v) Disability-based discrimination
- vi) Discrimination
- vii) Others

**Details of Persons Involved**

**Accused (Tick one):**

- i) Election deployed staff
- ii) Security personnel
- iii) Political party member/representative/candidate
- iv) Voter
- v) Others
- vi) Not identified

**Victim (Tick one):**

- i) Election deployed staff
- ii) Security personnel
- iii) Political party member/representative/candidate
- iv) Voter
- v) Others
- vi) Not identified

**Detailed Description of the Incident:**

.....  
.....  
.....

15. Mentioned any important information noted by the observer based on gender.

.....  
.....  
.....

Observer's Signature: .....

Contact Number: .....

Date: .....

# ANNEX 4

## GENDER-RESPONSIVE ELECTION COVERAGE IN MEDIA



# ANNEX 5

## NEWS PUBLISHED IN THE MEDIA REGARDING THE ELECTION OBSERVATION



# Poll centres far from gender-disability-friendly

BY A STAFF REPORTER  
Kathmandu, Mar. 8

The preliminary observation report indicated that much improvement is needed in making the election process gender- and disability-friendly and inclusive, although the 2082 House of Representatives elections were held peacefully and fairly.

The preliminary observation report was prepared by 15 different non-governmental organizations under the leadership of the Forum for Women, Law and Development (FWLD). At a discussion programme, it was stated that the work had not been carried out according to the guidelines prepared by the Election Commission of Nepal, and that an analysis of polling stations is necessary.

The preliminary observation report was prepared by 15 different non-governmental organizations under the leadership of the Forum for Women, Law and Development (FWLD). At a discussion programme, it was stated that the work had not been carried out according to the guidelines prepared by the Election Commission of Nepal, and that an analysis of polling stations is necessary.



## ANNEX 6

### AREAS COVERED DURING OBSERVATIONS

#### Provinces Covered for Observation

1. Koshi Province
2. Madhesh Province
3. Bagmati Province
4. Gandaki Province
5. Lumbini Province
6. Karnali Province
7. Sudurpashchim Province

#### Districts Covered for Observation

- |              |                   |
|--------------|-------------------|
| 1. Bajura    | 13. Kanchanpur    |
| 2. Banke     | 14. Kapilvastu    |
| 3. Bara      | 15. Kaski         |
| 4. Bhaktapur | 16. Kathmandu     |
| 5. Chitwan   | 17. Lalitpur      |
| 6. Dailekh   | 18. Makwanpur     |
| 7. Dang      | 19. Morang        |
| 8. Gorkha    | 20. Nuwakot       |
| 9. Ilam      | 21. Rupandehi     |
| 10. Jajarkot | 22. Rautahat      |
| 11. Jhapa    | 23. Sindhupalchok |
| 12. Kailali  | 24. Surkhet       |

#### Election Constituencies Covered for Observation

1. Bajura House of Representatives Constituency No. 01
2. Banke House of Representatives Constituency No. 02
3. Bara House of Representatives Constituency No. 01
4. Bara House of Representatives Constituency No. 02
5. Bhaktapur House of Representatives Constituency No. 01
6. Bhaktapur House of Representatives Constituency No. 02
7. Chitwan House of Representatives Constituency No. 02
8. Dailekh House of Representatives Constituency No. 01
9. Dailekh House of Representatives Constituency No. 02
10. Dang House of Representatives Constituency No. 02
11. Gorkha House of Representatives Constituency No. 01

12. Ilam House of Representatives Constituency No. 02
13. Jajarkot House of Representatives Constituency No. 01
14. Jhapa House of Representatives Constituency No. 01
15. Jhapa House of Representatives Constituency No. 02
16. Kailali House of Representatives Constituency No. 01
17. Kailali House of Representatives Constituency No. 02
18. Kailali House of Representatives Constituency No. 03
19. Kailali House of Representatives Constituency No. 04
20. Kailali House of Representatives Constituency No. 05
21. Kanchanpur House of Representatives Constituency No. 01
22. Kanchanpur House of Representatives Constituency No. 02
23. Kapilvastu House of Representatives Constituency No. 02
24. Kaski House of Representatives Constituency No. 01
25. Kaski House of Representatives Constituency No. 03
26. Kathmandu House of Representatives Constituency No. 01
27. Kathmandu House of Representatives Constituency No. 02
28. Kathmandu House of Representatives Constituency No. 04
29. Kathmandu House of Representatives Constituency No. 05
30. Kathmandu House of Representatives Constituency No. 06
31. Kathmandu House of Representatives Constituency No. 10
32. Lalitpur House of Representatives Constituency No. 02
33. Lalitpur House of Representatives Constituency No. 03
34. Makwanpur House of Representatives Constituency No. 01
35. Makwanpur House of Representatives Constituency No. 02
36. Morang House of Representatives Constituency No. 04
37. Morang House of Representatives Constituency No. 06
38. Nuwakot House of Representatives Constituency No. 02
39. Rautahat House of Representatives Constituency No. 03
40. Rupandehi House of Representatives Constituency No. 01
41. Rupandehi House of Representatives Constituency No. 02
42. Rupandehi House of Representatives Constituency No. 03
43. Rupandehi House of Representatives Constituency No. 05
44. Sindhupalchok House of Representatives Constituency No. 01
45. Sindhupalchok House of Representatives Constituency No. 02
46. Surkhet House of Representatives Constituency No. 01
47. Surkhet House of Representatives Constituency No. 02

## Local Level

1. Arjundhara Municipality
2. Ilam Municipality
3. Katahari Rural Municipality
4. Kapilvastu Municipality
5. Kageshwori Manohara Municipality
6. Kathmandu Metropolitan City
7. Kalika Municipality
8. Kirtipur Municipality
9. Krishnapur Municipality
10. Kailari Rural Municipality
11. Kolhabi Municipality
12. Khaptad Chhededaha Rural Municipality
13. Gurbhakot Municipality
14. Godawari Municipality
15. Godawari Municipality
16. Gauriganga Municipality
17. Ghodaghodi Municipality
18. Ghorahi Sub-Metropolitan City
19. Chandragiri Municipality
20. Chingad Rural Municipality
21. Chautara Sangachokgadhi Municipality
22. Jugal Rural Municipality
23. Tikapur Municipality
24. Tokha Municipality
25. Tilottama Municipality
26. Dullu Municipality
27. Dhangadhi Sub-Metropolitan City
28. Narayan Municipality
29. Nepalgunj Sub-Metropolitan City
30. Pokhara Metropolitan City
31. Badimalika Rural Municipality
32. Bidur Municipality
33. Birtamod Municipality
34. Birendranagar Municipality
35. Budhanilkantha Municipality
36. Belauri Municipality
37. Bhaktapur Municipality
38. Bhajani Municipality
39. Bhimsen Thapa Rural Municipality
40. Bheriganga Municipality
41. Madhyapur Thimi Municipality
42. Manahari Rural Municipality
43. Mahalaxmi Municipality
44. Rautahat Municipality
45. Lamki Chuha Municipality
46. Lalitpur Metropolitan City
47. Lekbeshi Rural Municipality
48. Biratnagar Metropolitan City
49. Shuklaphanta Municipality
50. Shahid Laxhan Rural Municipality
51. Siddharthanagar Municipality
52. Suwarna Rural Municipality
53. Suryabinayak Municipality
54. Sainamaina Municipality
55. Hetauda Sub-Metropolitan City

## ANNEX 7

### NAME OF THE OBSERVERS

1. Abhijeet Tiwari
2. Aishworya Gyawali
3. Alina Nepali
4. Amar Thapa
5. Anil Khatri
6. Anisha Mandal
7. Anita Basel
8. Anita Dhungana
9. Anjila Gyawali
10. Anju Neupane
11. Asha Birkatta
12. Batuli Kumari Nepali
13. Bhagwati Pokharel
14. Bimala Budha
15. Bimala Ghimire
16. Bimala Kumari Kadayat
17. Bindra Maharjan
18. Binit Kamat
19. Binita Neupane
20. Binu Lama
21. Bipin Dhungel
22. Birendra Bista
23. Bishnu Budha
24. Biswajeet Tiwari
25. Chandrika Bhattarai
26. Chandrika Suwal
27. Chetan Giri
28. Chitrakala Rokka
29. Dan Bahadur B.K.
30. Daya Sagar Dahal
31. Deepa Adhikari
32. Deepak Shrestha
33. Deukumari B.K.
34. Dhaniram Chaudhary
35. Dhansara Sahi
36. Didkiksa Singh
37. Dipa Khanal
38. Durga Kumari Gaha
39. Durga Sapkota
40. Ganesh Bohora
41. Gita Pokharel
42. Gulistha Prabin
43. Gyanu B.C.
44. Gyanu Tiwari
45. Himani Thapa
46. Indra Devi Danpali
47. Janaki Bohora
48. Jigyasa Tiwari
49. Jina Joshi
50. Juna Devi Khatri
51. Jyoti Rana Magar
52. Kala Sangraoula
53. Kalpana B.K.
54. Kamal Prasad Joshi
55. Kamala Karki
56. Karun B.C.
57. Kaushila Kumari Nepali
58. Khadga Prasad Oli
59. Khagendra Neupane
60. Kiran Kunwar
61. Kristina Khatiwada
62. Kriti Chaudhary
63. Lakshya Singh B.K.
64. Laxmi B.K.
65. Laxmi Chaudhary
66. Lila Khatri
67. Lukman Khan
68. Maira Praja
69. Manish Lamichhane
70. Manita Mudhabari
71. Maya Kumari Sapkota
72. Meena Rawal
73. Meera Kumari Dhungana
74. Mina Tamang
75. Mira Kumari Chaudhary
76. Muna Pokhrel

77. Namita Ghale
78. Nikita Kathayat
79. Nirmala Birkatta
80. Nita Pokharel
81. Palita Thapa
82. Parijat Baral
83. Pashupati Sah Kadara
84. Poonam Maharjan
85. Prabati Bhandari
86. Prakash Khanal
87. Pramila Shrestha
88. Pramila Tajhya
89. Pramita Chaudhary
90. Prasamsa Adhikari
91. Prasanna Raut
92. Prathana Sedai
93. Pratibha Bista
94. Pratima Panthi
95. Preeti Kumari
96. Prem Kumari Chaudhary
97. Prem Lal Chaudhary
98. Prema Chaudhary
99. Puja Damai
100. Purusuttom Mishra
101. Pushpa Joshi
102. Rachana Subedi
103. Radhika Pariyar
104. Raj Kumar Acharya
105. Raj Kumar Lama
106. Raj Kumari Chaudhary
107. Raju Lamsal Sharma
108. Rakesh Kumar Mishra
109. Ram Pyari Karki
110. Reeya Agrawal
111. Reju Shrestha
112. Rijan Itani
113. Rohit Khadka
114. Rojina Shrestha
115. Rovi Kumari Mahat
116. Rubina Khatun
117. Rukmani Paneru Bhandari
118. Rupa Bhattarai
119. Rupa Kami
120. Sabhnam Sharma
121. Sabin Kafle
122. Sabin Shrestha
123. Sabita Maharjan
124. Sabitra Rijal
125. Sadikshya Karki
126. Sagar Pathak
127. Sagun Basnet
128. Sailendra Kumar Kasaudhan Baniya
129. Sajani K.C.
130. Sajid Mansur
131. Samjhana Mainali
132. Sanju Yari
133. Santosh Chaudhary
134. Santosh Poudel
135. Santosh Prasad Pokharel
136. Sarita Adhikari
137. Seema Dhama
138. Shanti BK
139. Sijan Shah
140. Sima Chaudhary
141. Sita Bhattarai
142. Sitali Chaudhari
143. Smita Acharya
144. Smriti Moktan
145. Srijina Shrestha
146. Sunil Chaudhary
147. Sunita Khadka
148. Suntali Kumari Chaudhary
149. Sushama Gautam
150. Sushil Kumar Karki
151. Sushma Guragain
152. Sushmita Chaudhary
153. Tapendra Sawad
154. Tara Thapa
155. Tek Raj Acharya
156. Tika Chalise
157. Tikaram Acharya
158. Tulashi Dahal
159. Udit Narayan Mandal
160. Uma Bhattarai

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