

**NDI/Nepal**  
**Women Representatives Training (WRT) Program**

**Questions to ask to the women's groups:**

- Why did the group form?
2. What is the main objective of the group?
  3. Is the group successful in reaching its goals?
  4. In what ways can the VDC/ward help this women's group? (Some examples might include assisting the group financially, referring the group to other district level agencies for help, publicizing the efforts of the group in the VDC, etc.)
  5. In what ways can the women's group help or become more involved in the VDC/ward? (Some examples might include being volunteers on use group committees for the VDC, opening their group to more women from different wards, helping with VDC/Ward projects related to their interests developing a joint project with the VDC, etc.)

NDI/Nepal  
Women Representatives Training (WRT) Program

Roleplay Dialogues

**Involving Male Ward Members in the Household Community Needs Survey:**

Action!

Ward President is sitting and the Woman Ward Member comes.

WM: Namaste! Mr. President.

Are you here with any business?

Yes. I need to talk to you about why a household community needs survey should be conducted in our ward to help identify projects and programs in that should be implemented the ward.

Why be bothered? We know all about our ward.

We should try to prioritize the needs according to people's wishes and work to solve those problems that are most important. We should represent the wishes of all people since we are elected as a result of by their valuable votes.

OK. I agree with your opinion. But we ourselves are also the members of this community. So we are familiar with all of the community's problems. If we know all the problems, why should we conduct the survey?

What are you saying Mr. President! There may be many important problems to solve which we haven't seen. So we should conduct the household needs survey and find out which problems the people want solved first. If we do it this way, we'll get the people's support, and we can do more work with the same budget. People will feel encouraged about what we are doing for our community and development work will take place faster. Besides, we should conduct programs based on fair data, not just our opinions.

You're right. It is our responsibility to identify the people's needs and implement the programs accordingly. Our Ward Committee is meeting tomorrow, and we'll discuss this idea with other ward members at the meeting. We should conduct a household needs survey and submit a good proposal for programs to the VDC based on the findings of the survey.

WM: Thanks, Mr. President. You know, if we do this household needs survey, our chances of getting funding from NGOs and INGOs also becomes stronger since they like to see the actual data of the area where they want to implement their programs. Moreover, this process of identifying community needs is a fair one in which all the community members will participate.

WP: You are right.

The role play ends.

NDI/Nepal  
Women Representatives Training (WRT) Program

Role Play Dialogues

Communicating Assertively with Men

Members of the ward committee (one ward president and three men ward members) are talking about constructing a meeting hall and fixing a brass plaque with their names on it to put on the wall of the hall.

Action:

Welcome to our ward committee meeting.  
(After a few minutes, looking at his watch)  
Our woman ward member has not arrived yet.

MWM1: No surprise there! Where are women on time? They are always late.

MWM2: They just occupy the post. They don't know anything about anything. It was the quick seat that got a woman elected as a ward member, nothing else.

Alright. It makes no difference whether she comes or not. She doesn't say anything anyway. She will agree with whatever decision we make. So let's start the meeting.

All: OK, let's begin.

Today's meeting has been called to decide on which project we should spend our development funds. I am thinking of building a ward hall in our ward from the development budget of this year. What do you all think?

MWM2: Great! It's a great idea. How often do we hold our meetings at someone's house? We certainly need a building. If we build it in our tenure as ward representatives, the future generation will also remember us.

MWM3: To help them remember, I suggest to fix a brass plaque to the hall with our names on it. I think we should move ahead and build the hall.

MWM1: Here is the budget. It looks good.

(They all see the budget papers)

MWM2: I can get a "good deal" on the cement and bricks since I'm a contractor.

(They all laugh)

(The woman ward member enters)

WWM: Namaste to all! I'm sorry for being late. (Pulls up a chair outside the group and sits down)

WP: Then you all agree with my idea of building a ward hall with a brass plaque. Right?

All MWM: Yes. We do. It's a good idea.

MWM1: Ok. Mr. Bhanu (to MWM2), you manage the cement and bricks. We should start project as soon as possible.

WP: (To the woman ward member) You probably are busy with your housework. Sign the minutes and you can go home if you want. I'll stop by your home later today and fill you in on the meeting.

WWM: No, it's fine. I'm in no rush.

You may have a lot to do in your home. Go. We'll settle it. You go.

WWM: OK then. Namaste. (She does Namaste to all and leaves.)

Let's talk about the actual budget. Let's calculate how much we can make for ourselves from this project.

(All laugh)

The role play ends.

NDI/Nepal  
Women Representatives Training (WRT) Program  
Role Play Dialogues

**Communicating Assertively with Men**

Situation and setting is the same to the previous role play. Only the role of the woman has been changed.

Action:

- WP: You all are welcome to our ward committee meeting.  
(after a few minutes, looking at the watch)  
Our woman ward member has not arrived yet.
- MWM1: No surprise. How typical. When are women ever on time?
- WP: Anyway, let's start the meeting.  
Today's meeting has been called to decide on which project to spend our development funds. I am thinking of building a ward hall in our ward using this year's development budget. What do you all think?
- MWM2: Great! It's an excellent idea. How often do we hold our meetings at someone's house? We certainly need a building. If we build the building during our tenure as representatives the future generation will also remember us.
- MWM3: To help them remember us, we will fix a brass plaque to the building with our names on it. We should definitely build this ward hall.
- MWM1: Here are the budget papers. It looks good.  
  
(They all see the papers)
- MWM2: I can get a "good deal" on the cement and bricks since I'm a contractor.  
  
(They all laugh)  
  
(The woman ward member enters)
- WWM: Namaste to all! I'm sorry for late. I was meeting with some villagers. (Pulls a chair close to center of the circle and sits down) What are you discussing?

- W/D: The agenda for today's meeting is to decide on a project for which to use our ward development fund. We've decided to build a ward hall in our ward from the development budget this year. We've also decided to fix a brass plaque in front of the hall with our names on it. I hope you also agree with this decision. What do you think?
- WWM: The decision you have made is very interesting idea.. But I also think that we should look at all of the choices.....
- WP: What are you talking about?
- WWM: There may be other more important problems to solve in our ward than this project. I came late to the meeting because I went to the village in order to collect data for the household needs survey. I'm straight from the village now. I've the data. See. (Shows the papers to the members.)
- MWM3: Your survey shows that there are many problems in the ward that are necessary to solve. Among them, it shows that a health post and child education are the most important problems in our ward. It says that people have to go to the town for first-aid. Children don't go school. Instead they play in the muddy ground all the day and get sick. The school building also needs repair.
- MWM2: Look, we are all set to build a ward hall. We have been doing fine so far. So there is no rush to address these other needs. These have been problems for many years now.
- WWM: Yes, these problems are very old, but we should fulfill our elected responsibility as leaders. Let's invite the villagers, including the senior leaders in the community, to a meeting and discuss the situation. Let's hear their opinions. Then only will we be able to allocate the budget according to the community's priorities. What do you think? If it turns out that the villagers feel that a ward building is the biggest priority, then so be it. But I think, they may want us to address their needs.
- OK, sounds good. Your idea makes sense. I guess we were getting a little out of hand (turns towards the men ward members) What are your opinions about this?
- All MWM: OK, it seems like a good idea. We agree.
- Let's invite the community members soon and discuss this situation. Then we'll make the decision on how to spend the money for this year.
- WMW: Now let's look at this data more and prepare for our community meeting. When should we hold it? Where.....?

And the role play ends.