

WEEK 5

AGENDA: WEEK 5

- 1 Review of Week 4**
- 2. Homework Follow Up**
Conduct a Networking Meeting for Women's Groups in the VDC
Conduct the First Meeting of the Caucus
- 3. Mid Program Evaluation**
- 4. Project Monitoring and Management:**
Part 1: Identifying Resources in Your VDC
- 5. Advancing within the Political Party:**
Part 1: Setting Political Goals

Homework: Fact Finding Mission in the VDC

Materials Needed:

- ✓ ***Chart of Martin Luther King's Quotation***
- ✓ ***Brown paper***
- ✓ ***Markers***
- ✓ ***Tape***
- ✓ ***Scissors***
- ✓ ***Extra files, handouts and supplies for any new participants***

Handouts Needed:

- ✓ ***Prepared questions for resources homework assignment (HS-A)***
- ✓ ***Case study for political goals (Purushgunj VDC) (HS-B)***

1. Review of Week 4

Ask the participants to recall the topics from the last week's session. Ask questions to review the main points and clarify any confusion. Make sure that all the of the participants understand the main points.

2. Homework Follow Up

✓ **Conduct a Networking Meeting for Women's Groups in the VDC**

Ask the participants to report back on what happened during the networking meeting. Ask them about the strengths and weaknesses of the meeting and about any outcomes or positive results. Ask the participants if this type of meeting would be useful in the future.

✓ **Conduct the First Meeting of the Caucus**

Ask the participants to report back on the first meeting of their women's caucus. Ask how many caucus members attended. Ask them whether they found this meeting useful. Ask them to report also on the strengths and weaknesses of the meeting. Also ask them how they formed the Advisory Committee and who was included. Ask when the next meeting of the caucus will take place. After the presentation, applaud to provide encouragement to the presenter.

3. Mid Program Evaluation

Conduct an evaluation of the program by asking the participants the following questions. Explain to them that you are asking their opinions at the mid point of the program so that you can possibly incorporate their suggestions for improving the program into the remaining half of the program. To make the discussion more participatory, encourage each of the participants to take a turn and answer the questions honestly. One trainer should lead the discussion. The other should note down the responses and who (names needed) said what.

MID PROGRAM EVALUATION

Women Representatives Training Program

Discussion Question Guide:

- After four weeks of the training program, in general, how do you like the program?
2. Which particular topics or sessions do you feel have been the most important?
 3. What advice from the training program do you feel has been the most important?
 4. Which of the types of activities do you find the most effective for learning? (i.e. role plays, case studies, cartoons, group discussions, etc.)
 5. How do you like the homework assignments?
 6. What weaknesses or problems do you find with the training in general?
 7. What suggestions do you have for improving the training program?
 8. What new types of activities have you accomplished that you might attribute to your participation in the training program?
 9. Do you feel your confidence has increased due to your participation in the training program?
 10. What kinds of goals or activities do you have planned as a caucus, after the completion of the eight-week training program?

4. Project Monitoring and Management:

Part 1: Identifying Resources in Your VDC

Explain that the purpose of this session is to learn how to identify resources that can assist your VDC.

★ *MLK Quotation Exercise:*

Show the group a poster with a quotation from Martin Luther King, a great American civil rights activist. Ask the participants to take turns reading the quotation out loud, line by line. Explain that the idea for the exercise was borrowed from the Women's Development Office. The quotation says:

"We are afraid because we don't know.
We don't know because we don't understand.
We don't understand because we don't have information.
We don't have information because we don't communicate.
We don't communicate because we are separated."

Next, lead a discussion and ask the participants what this quotation means using the following questions as a guide.

Do you understand this quotation? What does it mean?

Possible Answers:

- ☛ Lack of understanding comes from a lack of information; and
- Lack of information comes from a lack of communication.

How does the quotation apply to women?

Possible Answers:

- ☛ The quote is an accurate depiction of our situation, as women. We are separated. We do not communicate. We do not seek out information. We do not understand. We do not know things. We are confined to our own wards or houses. This quote totally applies to women.

3. Do you sometime feel scared, ignorant or isolated?

If yes,

4. What can be done about this?

Possible Answers:

- ☛ Seek information from the concerned authority
- ☛ Be united;
- ☛ Share thoughts with each other.

Read the quotation back to the participants backwards, and changing it to the positive. It will read like this:

“If we are not separated, then we communicate.
If we communicate, then we get information.
If we have information, then we understand.
If we understand, then we have knowledge.
If we have knowledge, then we are not afraid.”

Reinforce the message that confidence is built when there is knowledge and experience as a foundation. Explain that everyone must come together, share, understand and leave fear behind. Tell the participants, that any one of them can become an expert on any issue in the VDC (roads, health, electricity, etc.) by finding out whom the right person is to ask. In this way, they will build their level of knowledge.

★ **Group Discussion**

Ask the participants to identify issues or work areas of the VDC that they know about. Make a list of these topics. Prompt this discussion by asking individual participants questions such as:

Do you know the necessary process to build a water tap in your ward?

2. Who knows how?

Possible Answers:

- ☞ The concerned user's group committee;
- ☞ The concerned NGO or government line agency
- ☞ The VDC President.

3. How can we find out how the process works to build a water tap?

Possible Answer:

- ☞ By meeting and asking questions to the officers at the user's group committee, GO, NGO or VDC.

4. Do you know how the VDC Health Post supports health projects in the VDC (clinics volunteer health training, etc.)?

Possible Answers:

- ☞ By giving check ups and distributing medicine;
- ☞ By conducting awareness programs in the VDC related to health issues;
- ☞ By establishing health centers.

5. Where can you go to find out more about this?

Possible Answers:

- ☞ Concerned user's group committee;
- ☞ Concerned NGO or government line agency;
- ☞ VDC President.

★ **HW*****Homework Assignment**

✓ **Fact Finding Mission to the Government Offices and User Group Committees**

From the list of topics that were generated from the previous discussion, select 5 to 6 of the work areas (such as tap construction, health, drinking water supply, agriculture, education) for the following homework assignment. Choose the topics that the participants know little about. Divide the group into pairs. If there are women who can not read and write in the

group, make sure to pair them with others who do. Write down the topics on small pieces of paper and place them in a hat. Ask each pair to select one.

Next explain to the participants that they will need to meet with either the related office or use group committee related to their topic. The list below, includes suggested contact persons for topics that the group might select.

Education:	Meet with the local school board president or school principal.
Construction:	Meet with a current or former president of a user's group committee related to a construction project, such as a road or VDC building.
Health:	Meet with the person in charge of the health post or the president of the user's group committee for the health post.
Drinking Water:	Meet with a current or former president of a user's group committee related to a water supply or a hand pump construction project.
Agriculture:	Meet with the person in charge of the <i>Iluku</i> agriculture center or extension officer.
Irrigation:	Meet with a current or former president of a user's group committee related to an irrigation construction project or a management project.

The women representatives should meet with the leaders of these offices and groups during the next week. They should meet with senior representatives of the office or the presidents of the user's group committees if possible to learn firsthand about this topic. If this person is not available, they should talk to the next available most senior person who is knowledgeable about the work area. The women representatives should focus especially on how the office or user's group committee (related to these topics) assists the VDCs to solve these community problems.

A question guide is listed below. However, remind the participants that their assignment is to *interview* the representatives of these offices and groups. Discourage them from simply giving the questions to these people to be filled out later. They should ask the questions directly to the persons themselves. Tell the participants that they will be responsible for reporting back to the group the following week on what they learned. The questions are as follows:

- What is the primary purpose of the office/group?
2. What are the main programs that are conducted by the office/group?
3. What was the process to start these programs?
4. What is the relationship between the VDC and the office/group?

5. Is the office/group experiencing any problems?

Encourage the participants to ask other questions about these groups to learn even more about their functions.

Ask the participants if they have ever gone to an office like this before. Ask them how they might introduce themselves and make a good impression. If the participants do not seem very comfortable with this process, you might spend a few minutes going over some suggestions for how they should interact with representatives and workers during this meeting. You might also consider conducting an informal role play (with you role playing the office/group representative or worker, and the woman elected representative playing herself during the meeting.) The role play would include the woman ward representative asking all the above questions.

- ★ *distribute the handouts on this topic:*
Questions to ask the resources/officials (HS-A)

5. Advancing within the Political Party:
Part 1: Setting Political Goals

★ *Case Study*

Read the following case study to the participants twice and make sure that they understand it. The story takes place five years in the future on the Nepali calendar.

In Purushgunj¹ VDC in the year 2059, everyone is preparing for the local elections. There is a great deal of excitement and all are wondering who will get the nominations for the VDC President and Ward President seats. Five years ago, during the election, nine women were elected for the ward member reserved seat for women. One of these women, Meena Kumari has been an excellent leader. She has worked hard to represent all the people in her ward and keep the voters informed. Her ward is much more developed now because of her hard work. Although she has not worked closely with the party that nominated her for the last election, she is hoping to get the nomination from her party for VDC President or Vice President. Four of the other women ward members are also hoping to get the tickets for ward President because they, too, have done excellent work and they are well liked by the voters.

But when the parties in Purushgunj VDC completed the nomination process, there are no women in the entire VDC that are given tickets for any seats beyond the reserved ward member seat for women. Meena Kumari was offered the ticket for women ward member again. Many of the women who had previously won the ward member seat did not even get

¹In Nepali, *purush* means male or men. Roughly translated Purushgunj VDC is "Men's-vile."

the nomination this time. On all of the VDC level party committees there are very, very few women represented.

★ *Case Study Discussion Questions*

Lead a group discussion about the case study using the following questions as a guide:

Why didn't Meena Kumari get the party ticket for the VDC President or Vice President as she had hoped?

Possible Answer:

- ☞ Because she did not work cooperatively with her political party.

2. Do you think she made any mistakes?

Possible Answers:

- ☞ Yes. She did not think about advancing within her political party.
- ☞ She did not organize local women for her party.

Why didn't some of the other women ward members get the nominations for ward member seats?

Possible Answer:

- ☞ They also just worked on the development of their wards without cooperating with their political parties.

4. What is the main problem in Purushgunj in terms of the parties?

Possible Answers:

- ☞ The political parties do not take the women ward representative seriously;
- ☞ The women have not advanced in their political parties;
- ☞ Lack of organization among the women.

5. What should Meena Kumari and the other women do now?

Possible Answers:

- ☞ Advance in their respective political parties;
- ☞ Participate in the party's programs;
- ☞ Unite and organize the women.

6. What could Meena Kumari and the other active women have done five years ago that might have help prevent this problem?

Possible Answers:

- ☛ Worked cooperatively with their respective political parties:
- ☛ United and organized the women:
- ☛ Established a good relationship with the party leaders.

★ ***Small Group Discussion***

Next divide the participants into small groups (three to four participants per group) and ask each group to discuss the following questions for the next 20 minutes.

What are your long term political ambitions?

Are you satisfied with your present elected position?

3. For the next local elections, what seat would you like to run for?
4. What is your present position in your party?
5. What are some of the advantages of running for a bigger seat?

Possible Answers:

- ☛ Getting respect:
- ☛ Knowing new things:
- ☛ Getting more rights and responsibilities

6. What are some disadvantages of running for a bigger seat?

Possible Answers:

- ☛ Takes more time:
- ☛ It might be daunting;
- ☛ Might Get negative comments from the opponents.

★ ***Goal Sharing Exercise***

After the small group discussion, ask each participant to come before the group and share their political ambitions by answering questions 1 to 4. Explain that this is voluntary and that their goals are personal and can change over time. Encourage applause after each participant takes a turn.

For questions 5 to 6, lead a brief discussion by asking these questions to the larger group. Group the advantages and disadvantages together on brown paper.

- ★ ***distribute the handout on this topic***
Case study on Purushgunj VDC (H5-B)

NDI/Nepal
Women Representatives Training (WRT) Program

Questions to Ask the Resources/Officials

What is the primary purpose of the office/group?

2. What are the main programs that are conducted by the office/group?
3. What was the process to start these programs?
4. What is the relationship between the VDC and the office/group?
5. Is the office/group experiencing any problems?

NDI/Nepal
Women Representatives Training (WRT) Program

Case Study

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Case Study Discussion Questions

1. Why didn't Meena Kumari get the party ticket for the VDC President or Vice President as she had hoped?
2. Do you think she made any mistakes?
3. Why didn't some of the other women ward members get the nominations for ward member seats?
4. What is the main problem in Purushgunj in terms of the parties?
5. What should Meena Kumari and the other women do now?
6. What could Meena Kumari and the other active women have done five years ago that might have helped prevent this problem?

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