

## **AGENDA: WEEK 7**

1. Review of Week 6
2. Identifying Community Needs  
Part 5: Assessing the Data
3. Women and Men Representatives Working Together  
Part 4: Communicating Effectively with Men-2
4. Advancing within the Political Party  
Part 2: Tips for Advancement

**Homework: Meet with Political Leaders**

### **Materials Needed:**

- ✓ Sample of compiled survey data on brown paper
- ✓ Tips for communicating with difficult men on brown paper
- ✓ Sita's prepared tips for advancement within the party written on small slips of paper
- ✓ Sita's letter
- ✓ Stop and go flags
- ✓ Dialogues for stop and go role plays
  - Dialogues for first role play (R7-A)
  - Dialogues for second role play (R7-B)
- ✓ Nepali hats or Madheshi feta: 5
- ✓ An envelope
- ✓ Brown paper
- ✓ Markers
- ✓ Tape
- ✓ Scissors
- ✓ Extra files, handouts and supplies for any new participants

### **Handouts Needed:**

- ✓ Data compilation forms (H7-A)
- ✓ Tips for advancement within the party, including Sita's letter (H7-B)
- ✓ Handout on the questions to ask the party leaders (H7-C)

1. **Review of Week 6**

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

2. **Identifying Community Needs**  
**Part 5: Assessing the Data**

Explain to the participants that during this session they will learn how to assess the data from the household needs survey.

★ **Demonstration**

*Preparation:* Prepare on brown paper the compiled data showing all of the responses from NDI's 30 sample surveys. Use a copy of the data compilation for -- appendix: H7-A to do this, first.

Tape up the brown paper with the compiled household survey data in front of the group. Take two additional sample survey forms and add the data from these to the brown paper, explaining to the participants as you write. Make sure the participants understand how you added the two additional sample survey results to the general data form. Tell them that this work could have been done from their survey forms also but to save time it was compiled from you, the trainers'.

★ **Practical Exercise**

Distribute the blank data compilation forms (H7-A) to each of the participants. Explain to them that they will work in pairs for ten minutes to start compiling the data from their own wards. Provide any assistance necessary. After the ten minute period is over and address to the larger group any problems that arose. Tell the participants that they should continue to compile the data from their surveys in the future and that there will be continued discussion about this in next week's session.

★ **Group Discussion**

After the practical exercise, ask the participants to draw some conclusions about the sample data form on the brown paper. Lead a discussion using the following questions as a guide:

What are the three biggest needs of your wards?

2. Are these problems part of the VDC responsibility?

3. Do you feel that you can compile data from the survey forms of your own wards?

### 3. Women and Men Representatives Working Together

#### Part 4: Communicating Effectively with Men-2

Explain to the participants that this is the last of several sessions on the topic of communicating effectively with men. Again, remind the participants that while this session focuses on working with very difficult men, it is important not to generalize that all men behave this way. This session aims at providing the participants with some suggestions to face any difficult behaviors and reach their goals as women representatives.

#### ★ *Stop-N-Go Role Play*

*Directions:* In this session there will be a different type of role play than has been previously used. For the following role play exercises, one of the trainers will role play the "traffic cop" while the other will play the difficult man in both of the following scenarios. For each of the scenarios, invite one participant to play the role of the woman representative. In these role plays, the difficult male role will be very uncooperative and antagonistic. When the woman representative has tried an approach and it has failed, the traffic cop will then "cut the action" by holding up a red flag which says "stop." Next the traffic cop will guide the woman representative to take suggestions from the group of participants. After a few minutes of consultation with the group, the action will then begin again with the showing of the green "go" flag. This process can continue several times. If the difficult man feels that the woman representative has effectively used the suggestions from the group or used one of the suggestions for dealing with difficult men from the previous discussions, "he" should give in and cooperate with her request.

#### *Role Play 1*

Read the following scenario to the group and start the role play:

*You need to talk with the ward president about the installation of a water pump in your ward. The user group committee is meeting tomorrow, and the ward president needs to check the budget before the meeting. You go to his home, and he is sitting outside the house on mats playing cards with about ten other men, most of whom are "leaders" also. (These other characters in the role play are imaginary). He sees you and does not welcome you. He is trying to show off in front of his friends. He sternly and rudely asks, "What do you want?"*

Before starting the role play, lead a group discussion by encouraging the participants to think about why difficult men might behave the way they do. Ask the following questions to stimulate discussion:

1. As the woman ward representative, what is the result that you are trying to achieve in terms of your discussion with the male Ward President?

*Possible Answer:*

☛ Having the Ward President check the budget.

What might be the negative reaction of the man?

*Possible Answers:*

- ☞ He may ignore this request;
- ☞ He may oppose you.

What is his motive for this kind of negative reaction? How does he benefit by behaving this way?

*Possible Answers:*

- ☞ Wants to show his power to his friends;
- ☞ "Benefits" by proving to his friends that he can dominate women

4. What should be the strategy of the woman representative?

*Possible Answer:*

- ☞ Presenting herself in an effective way that makes the ward president look good, too.

Now, start the action! (For detailed dialogues, refer appendix R7-A)

### **Role Play 2**

*You are at the ward committee meeting. At the start of the meeting, you request that your issue be put on the meeting's agenda. Your issue is that several of the women involved in the Aama Samuha. (Mother's Group) have come together and asked you to do something about domestic violence in your community. They want you to raise the issue at the VDC level. At the meeting it comes time for your issue and you explain the problem to the other male ward members and the ward president (these other male members in the role play are imaginary). They do not listen and move onto the next issue which is the formation of a user group for a bridge project. You try to bring up the issue again, and the ward president asks you in a very annoyed tone, "Is that all you can talk about? Wives getting beaten by their husbands?"*

Before starting the role play, lead a group discussion by encouraging the participants to think about why difficult men might behave the way they do. Ask the following questions to stimulate discussions:

1. As the woman ward representative, what is the result that you are trying to achieve in terms of your discussion with the male Ward President?

*Possible Answer:*

- ☞ Asking the Ward Committee to take up with the VDC to stop the wife-beating problem in the ward.

2. What might be the negative reaction of the man?

*Possible answers:*

- ☛ Opposition:
- ☛ Ignorance about the issue.

3. What is his motive for this kind of negative reaction? How does he benefit by behaving this way?

*Possible Answers:*

- ☛ Does not want to show importance to women's issues:
- ☛ Wants to continue to maintain male dominance in the community:
- ☛ Does not want to show his ignorance about this issue.

4. What should be the strategy of the woman representative?

*Possible Answer:*

- ☛ Encouraging the male counterparts to give support and suggestions by presenting herself in a more effective way

Now start the action! (For detailed dialogues, refer appendix: R7-B)

★ ***Tips for Dealing With Difficult Men***

Preparation: on brown paper write the following tips for working with difficult men:

Here are the tips:

When giving a suggestion, first give a compliment.

If you have an idea, discuss it with him but try to give him credit for the idea, too.

Play to his ego when trying to convince him of something. Explain how popular he will be with the public if he does the thing you are suggesting.

Talk indirectly to him about a hypothetical situation that really has to do with you and him.

Talk to men in one-on-one situations if possible, rather than in a group.

If a man (or men) is not listening to your point, talk first about something that he might be interested in (like cricket or his family) before switching to your main point.

Get your male allies to talk to the man you need support from. Sometimes a man would rather hear it from another man.

Tape up this prepared list of tips and point out which tips have already been covered in the role play discussions. Encourage the participants to think of real life situations that are uncomfortable or difficult so the group can help solve these problems together.

#### 4. Advancing within the Political Party Part 2: Tips for Advancement

##### ★ *Group Discussion*

Read aloud the case study of Purushgunj VDC again. Ask the questions given later in this section:

##### *Case Study:*

In Purushgunj<sup>10</sup> 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. For 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 the nomination this time. On all of the VDC level party committees there are very, very few women represented.

##### *Questions for discussion:*

What advice do you have for Meena Kumari and the other women in Purushgunj VDC?

##### *Possible Answer:*

☛ Cooperating actively with their political parties.

2. What kind of suggestions do you have for them on how they could advance within their political parties?

<sup>10</sup>In Nepali, *purush* means male or men. Roughly translated Purushgunj VDC is "Men's-vile."

*Possible Answers:*

- ☛ Establish good relationships with the party leaders;
- ☛ Advance actively in the women's organization of the party
- ☛ Participate actively in the party activities.

From this discussion, generate a list on brown paper of advice for women trying to advance within the political party structure. Allow the participants to lead the discussion, but if necessary use prompting questions, such as "Should you be involved with your party's women's organization?"

★ *Letter from Sita*

*Preparation:* Prepare ahead of time the letter from Sita. On small slips of paper, write the suggestions about how to advance within the political party and put them in an envelope.

The letter is as follows:

Dear Meena Kumari Sister,

Thanks for your letter explaining your problem down in Purushgunj. We face the same problems here in Kathmandu believe it or not. I want to encourage you not to give up! You and the other sisters in Purushgunj must continue your important work. I will give you the best advice I know, which I have written on small pieces of paper for you and the other women. Please share it with the other sisters, too. Take care and write soon.

Much love,  
Sita Didi

**Tips:**

Meet and get to know the leaders (local and district) of your party. Make sure that they know you and your name. Tell them what your ambitions are in politics and make sure they know that you support the party and encourage other people to support the party, also.

Identify men in your party who are supportive of your goals. Seek these men out and develop close, respectful relationships with them.

You have to be more active, more honest, more sincere, more hard working than any male elected representative. (Other men and women will find it easy to criticize a woman in politics. Therefore you have to work hard to prove yourself capable and win the trust of others).

Never engage in any activities that might be seen as dishonest by the public. Never misuse any public funds for your own personal gain or for your relatives. Never accept

gifts, money or special favors that you will be expected to return some day through your influence as an elected leader.

You should go out of your way to show that you are a service oriented politician, not interested in serving yourself but others.

Encourage more women to become involved in your party and help them gain seats on various committees. (You can't make a change with just a few women. You need a movement. Involve lots of women!)

Become involved in one of your party's committees yourself. Often these committee meetings do not involve a great deal of time. You can work your way up within the party to higher level committees in the future. Be an active member of the committee. Make friends. Volunteer to take on responsibilities and demonstrate your hard work.

Get involved in your party's women's organization because these other women can give you organized support when you need to pressure the party. This is also one area where you can gain leadership experience -- keep in mind that the party realizes the value of women who are organized at the time of the elections.

If there is not a VDC level women's organization for your party, start one. Network and meet with the district president of your party's women's organization about starting this. This will get you recognition even at the district level.

Don't limit yourself to the activities of the women's organization of your party: get involved in the main body of the party. (Keep in mind that the real power is within the party structure where the men are).

Explain to the participants that since Meena Kumari did not receive a ticket for VDC president nor for vice president, despite her hard work, she wrote about this problem in a letter to her sister, Sita Didi who is one of the few women central party leaders in Kathmandu. Upon reading her sister's letter, Sita vowed to make sure her sister did not fall into the same trap again in the future. So, she wrote a letter back to her sister, Meena, that included many tips about working constructively with political parties. Explain then to the participants that on your way to today's training session, you happened to meet Meena Kumari's sister Sita Didi who is visiting from Kathmandu. Explain to the participants that Sita Didi gave you the following letter that she had written to Meena Kumari because she thought it might be useful for the training participants as well. Pull out the letter from an envelope and read it for the participants.

After reading the letter, ask the participants to each take one piece of advice that Sita Didi referred to in her letter. Ask them to come in front of the group and share this piece of advice with the other participants. Provide any assistance necessary to make sure that the advice was properly understood. Encourage applause after each participant takes a turn in sharing the advice.

- ★ ***Distribute handouts on this topic:***  
***Tips for advancing in the party, including Sita's letter (H7-B)***



★ **HW\*\*\*\*\*Homework Assignment**

✓ ***Meeting With Party Leaders***

Ask the participants the following question to start the explanation of the homework assignment:

In order to advance within the party, is it necessary to be well introduced to your party leadership in your VDC?

Explain to the participants that during the next week, they should go and meet with at least one party leader who is important to know. (If the participants like, they can bring a friend in the party to this meeting.) This leader should be someone whom the participant has not met before or does not know very well. This person should also be someone who could potentially help advance the participant's position in politics.

Each participant should explain to the leader that she is interested in meeting because she is seeking his or her advice. The participant should tell the leader about her current position as an elected representative and explain that she is interested in advancing within the party because she supports the party's goals. During the meeting, the participant should ask how she can be involved and active in the party. She should also make sure that the leader knows her name and home.

To learn more about how the party involves women in its structure, encourage the participants during the meeting to ask some of the following questions about women's participation on party committees (Note: Be sure that the participants understand that the relationships that they build with these leaders is much more important than the answers to the following questions. Explain that by having a strong relationship with these leaders, the women representatives will more likely succeed in reaching their goals for advancing in politics.):

1. How can I become more active in our party and strengthen it? (What suggestions can you give me?)
2. In our party, how many members are on the district level committee?
3. How many of these members are women?
4. On the VDC level party committee, how many members are there?
5. How many of these members are women?
6. Does our party have a fixed minimum number of seats that women should hold on these committees?

At the end of the meeting, the participants should thank the leaders and ask if they can meet him or her again in the future, if further advice or help is needed. Encourage the participants to meet with the same

leaders again in the future from time to time to let them know that their advice and suggestions were used and appreciated.

Then ask each individual to state with whom she is planning to meet in the next week to check that everyone has a plan and that the person they are planning to meet is appropriate for the assignment. Possible political leaders to meet might include: ward, VDC, *llaka*, *chhetra* and district level party leaders, other elected representatives with more experience, women's organization leaders, etc.

★ ***Role Play***

Explain to the participants that they will now participate in a role play where they will introduce themselves to these party leaders and ask the questions listed above. Invite one of the participants (or perhaps one from each of the major parties represented in that VDC) to demonstrate how she will conduct her meeting. One of the trainers can play the role of a party leader, either male or female.

After the role play, thank the participant and ask for feedback from the group. Note down some of the major components to her meeting with the party leader. Add any suggestions. These might include:

introduction, including name and home;  
current position;  
wish to see the party become stronger;  
wish to participate more in the party;  
questions;  
request to ask for further advice and guidance in the future;  
thank you.

★ ***distribute the handout on this topic:  
Questions to ask to the party leaders (H7-C)***

(Note: Tell the participants that the handout is only to assist them while going to meet with the leader. Make it clear to them that they should ask as many questions as they want. Ask them to report the information that they get from the meeting back to the group next week.)