

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

**Letter from Sita Didi:**

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).

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

**Questions to Ask the Party Leaders:**

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?

NDI/Nepal  
Women Representatives Training (WRT) Program

Roleplay Dialogues

Stop and Go-1

ader        We have to develop some programs to solve problems in our ward, Mr. President. In order to do this we need to know what problems people are experiencing. The best way to do this is to go door-to-door.

ard Prs:    I know what programs we should bring to our ward. It is not necessary to go door-to-door to identify the problems. Who could oppose my programs in this ward, anyway?

ader 2      Mr President, unfortunately, there might be many people who could oppose your programs if they felt that they did not respond to their needs. They might say that nobody ever contacted them for suggestions.

P:          No one can criticize what I do. I have been the ruler of this community from the time of my ancestors.

omen Ward Member enters.

WM:        Namaste Mr. President!

P:          (Ignores WM)...no one can say nay if I ask someone to do something.  
(turns to WM,) what do you want?  
The User Committee for the installation of the water pump is meeting tomorrow. You need to check this budget before the meeting. So I came to you.

WP:        (In rude voice) I don't have time now.

everyone laughs and ridicules the WM.

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

**Roleplay Dialogues**

**Stop and Go-2**

**Action!**

(Ward president is sitting looking at some papers)

**WM:** Namaste Mr. President!

**WP:** Namaste.

(Other ward members enter. Bid Namaste to each other)

Let's start the meeting. (Turns to WM) Let's start with your issue.

A group of women from Aama Samuha came to me yesterday. They complained that some of the women in our ward are being beaten by their husbands every day and the environment in the neighborhood is growing heated, as a result. They demanded that we take necessary action against the husbands who beat their wives or forward the issue to the VDC. I want our ward committee to find the solution to this problem.

**MWM1:** (Ignoring WM's issue) It's very difficult to come here from the other side of the river. People from both sides are facing problems due to the lack of a bridge over the river. So we should spend our budget this year to build a bridge over there. We need to form a user group committee first.

I think we should discuss and explore the solutions first to the problem that I mentioned. Otherwise this problem may create another problem...

**MWM2:** (Overtaking WM, in rude voice) Is that all you can talk about? Wives getting beaten by their husbands?