

# 10 YEARS REPORT 2009-2019



“Striving towards a just and inclusive society,  
free from all forms of discrimination”



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## A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE CHAIRPERSON



Samata Foundation completes ten years of intellectual endeavors for social justice. In these ten years, Samata Foundation has developed itself into a credible think tank on Dalit and marginalized issues of

South Asia. We put up best efforts to end all forms of caste-based discrimination and untouchability and advocate for a proportionate and inclusive state.

Research and evidence-based informed policy advocacy is our forte. Samata Foundation facilitated cross-party dialogues among the political leaders, the then Constituent Assembly members, and civil society organizations, including Dalits and non-Dalits, during the Constitution drafting process. Our affirmative action in lobby and advocacy contributed to provisioning the Dalit rights in the Constitution, amendment of the Caste-based Discrimination and Untouchability Act, and formulating the Dalit Empowerment Bill. Our network of more than 100 Dalit Human Rights Defenders has helped grassroots Dalit find justice against atrocities. More than 60 publications during the decade speak for our work. Nepal's historical and most extensive Tribhuvan University uses our publications as references for its academic courses.

We also provide legal aid, including litigation to the needy Dalits and those harmed by the systemic discrimination.

Another pool of 160 young Dalit women at Province 2 as Youth Ambassadors of Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights and Gender-based Violence, leads the strategic intervention to create a new narrative of Dalit women's resistance. Equipped with knowledge, skill, and network, these Youth Ambassadors are currently working with their respective local governments at all 136 local units. They engage with elected representatives to develop local-level policies, plans, and programs that address SRHR and GBV. We begin our effort to create next-generation leaders from Madhesi Dalit women - the most marginalized social group within Dalits.

Samata Foundation now expands its expertise to cross-cutting issues and the intersectionality of caste. We have diversified into labor and migration, sexual and reproductive health rights, gender-based violence, climate change, and mass media programming. We intend to take a multi-pronged approach and contribute to eliminating caste-based discrimination and untouchability through intellectual endeavors.

We need to take action. The Constitution proclaims to build an egalitarian society based on proportional inclusion and participation by ending all forms of caste-based discrimination and untouchability. We will join hands with other minorities and marginalized castes and communities, including non-Dalits, and make a collective and constructive intervention.

In the future, too, Samata Foundation will continue to create new knowledge about the Dalit and marginalized community, cultivate inclusive leadership, advocate for implementing the Constitution, and ensure representation of the Dalit community in every state body. Internationalizing the caste question will be a significant priority. This is a brief report of the decade long journey Samata Foundation has completed and the milestones it achieved towards ensuring an inclusive and just society free from all forms of discrimination and untouchability.

As we enter into the 11th year, on behalf of Samata Foundation, I express my sincere and heartfelt gratitude to all the concerned government agencies, partner organizations, donors, media, Dalit movement contemporaries, and the entire Samata Foundation family for the continuous support in this journey.

We look forward to your valuable support in the coming years too.

Thank you.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Pradip Pariyar'. The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a professional style.

**Mr. Pradip Pariyar**  
Executive Chairperson

## ABBREVIATION

• ADRF	Asia Dalit Right Forum
• APFDC	Asia Parliamentarians' Forum on Dalit Concern
• CA	Constituent Assembly
• CBD & U	Caste-based Discrimination and Untouchability
• CEO	Chief Executive Officer
• CERD	Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination
• CLIPIU	Central Level Project Implementation Unit
• CSOs	Civil Society Organizations
• DHRDs	Dalit Human Rights Defenders
• DHRVs	Dalit Human Rights Violations
• DRM	Disaster Risk Management
• DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
• FK	Fredskorpset
• GBV	Gender-based Violence
• HAMI	Humanitarian Accountability Monitoring Initiative
• HR	Human Right
• HRRP	Housing recovery and reconstruction platform
• HRV	Human Right Violation
• LEAs	Law Enforcement Agencies
• MOF	Ministry of Finance
• MOUD	Ministry of Urban Development
• MPhil	Master of Philosophy
• NDC	National Dalit Commission
• NHRC	National Human Rights Commission
• NHRIs	National Human Rights Institutions
• NOREC	Norwegian Agency for Exchange Cooperation
• NRA	National Reconstruction Authority
• NWC	National Women Commission
• SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
• SRHR	Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights
• SWC	Social Welfare Council
• UPR	Universal Periodic Report
• UN	United Nations

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# INTRODUCTION

This report is intended to provide a ten-year overview of Samata Foundation from its establishment in 2009 to 2019.

Samata Foundation was established as an independent think-tank for Dalit rights and social inclusion - with a strong conviction to improve policies both in public and private spheres in the changing context of Nepali society through research, credible evidence collection, and advocacy. Samata Foundation has undergone significant growth and development in terms of scope and volume of work . There has been remarkable upsurge in annual financial income (see annex1). This report aims to provide a snapshot of its work and experiences collected from the last ten years.

Samata Foundation is officially registered in Nepal under the Company Act, as a profit-not-sharing organization and is also affiliated to the Social Welfare Council. Established in 2009 as 'Nepal Centre for Dalit Studies', the organization was later renamed Samata Foundation. The word Samata in Nepali refers to equity and is representative of the organization's commitment to advancing the rights of diverse marginalized groups and social inclusion. It is comprised of a team of dedicated staff and Board of Directors who oversee the work and vision of Samata Foundation. Initially the organization began its work with 6 staff members and has since grown to 20 full time staff as Samata Foundation's work has expanded and demonstrated its positive impact. In addition, currently there is network of about 100 trained Dalit Human Right Defenders (DHRDs) and 160 Dalit young girls (Youth Ambassadors) who are trained Samata Foundation volunteers who carry out its mission in various districts of Nepal.

Through its ten year long journey, Samata Foundation has achieved significant progress through research, evidence-based informed policy advocacy, knowledge generation, and capacity-building in areas impacting the rights of marginalized people – particularly Dalit communities - on a local, provincial, federal, and international level. With an initial focus on education, our work has expanded its scope of engagement to the following areas: Democracy and good governance; Dalit human rights; social inclusion; land, livelihoods, and food rights; and culture, education, and media. Additionally, there are several publications of Samata Foundation (see annex 2) which have received significant acclaim.

# ABOUT US



## VISION

Samata Foundation envisions a just and inclusive society free of all forms of discriminations.



## MISSION

Samata Foundation's mission is to create a just society, free from all forms of discrimination through research, publication, knowledge dissemination, and evidence-based informed-policy advocacy.



## VALUES

Integrity  
Empathy  
Equity  
Trust  
Voice against injustice



## GOALS

To produce adequate knowledge to foster Dalit rights and Social Inclusion.

To influence the policy makers of the country through informed-policy advocacy in formulating the Dalit friendly policies and laws and ensure the effective implementation of the same.

To develop Samata Resource Centre as one of the major resource centres leading to 'Dalit Knowledge Bank' in future.

To develop Samata as an 'emerging' independent think-tank on Dalit issues and rights.

# WHO WE ARE

Samata Foundation was originally established as an independent think-tank specializing in caste-based issues concerning Dalit communities from Nepal. With an initial focus on research and publishing resources related to Dalit communities, program areas have since expanded to policy advocacy, human rights and justice, and capacity building through cultivating leadership related to Dalits and other marginalized groups within Nepal.

Samata Foundation believes it has a crucial role in providing concrete and scientific information to bring positive changes in the society through lobby and advocacy for both new and reformed policies concerning the welfare of Dalit communities and other marginalized groups in Nepal

With the financial support from various funding partners, Samata Foundation has been conducting programs and activities in areas impacting Dalits and social inclusion through research, education, informed-policy advocacy, capacity building of Dalit research fellows, high level policy dialogues and discussions, encouraging civic participation and preparing individuals from Dalit social groups to become leaders of the next generation. In this regard, researchers from Dalit social groups have been involved in various activities including conducting studies, compilation of Dalit-related data and analysis, translation of documents related to Dalit issues both in Nepali and English language, providing necessary supports to parliamentarians and lawmakers from both Dalit and non-Dalit communities with research-based information, publications, and review of existing government policies and laws concerning Dalit.

Samata Foundation seeks to build on its accomplishments in its first decade to establish itself as a robust think tank committed to ending caste-based discrimination and violence. Ensuring equity, inclusive representation, and participation of all communities particularly Dalit and marginalized communities to achieve the national plan is the foundational goal. The new federal structure of Nepal provides opportunities to work together for the formulation of new policies, plans, programs and budgets. The transition has provided opportunities to work with Dalit elected representatives at all three levels of government to ensure inclusive policy framework formulation, build pathways for the next generation of leaders, and sustainable change in and with marginalized communities.

The UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are a universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure that all people enjoy peace and prosperity. Samata Foundation has prioritized in particular SDG five and ten relating to gender equality and reduction of inequalities in its work to build a just Nepali society through the mobilization of voices from marginalized groups, creating opportunities for youth leadership, knowledge creation and dissemination, and strong engagement with lawmakers, politicians, and government entities to build a more inclusive society.

# THEMATIC AREAS

## TEN YEARS IN REVIEW

- Research and Evidence-Based Informed Policy Advocacy
- Human Rights and Justice
- Publications, Communication, and Outreach
- Creating Next Generation Leaders



## THEMATIC AREAS

# RESEARCH AND EVIDENCE BASED INFORMED POLICY ADVOCACY

Our research seeks to expand the body of knowledge specific to issues and experiences of Dalit communities and other under-represented groups within Nepal. We have published a wide variety of books and resources covering ethnographic studies, social and political movements, philosophy, history, and literature related to Dalit communities and caste-systems. These resources have been produced to provide access to critical research and raise awareness for positive change. In addition to publishing books, we have also produced briefs for policy reviews and advocacy that review current legislation and provide recommendations to advance the rights of marginalized groups. In addition to contributing to building a greater body of knowledge, we have also created an on-site library, Samata Resource Centre, with open access to the public to improve availability of critically-engaged information and research.

We have conducted both independent and collaborative research with partners. Our partners in research has included civil society organizations (CSOs) and academic institutions within Nepal and internationally. The findings of research conducted have been used for advocacy purposes for positive societal transformation.

Samata Foundation engages in evidence-based informed policy advocacy to form, amend, and implement Dalit rights-based policies. The outcomes of research and fact-finding missions have been integrated into advocacy tools such as policy papers, advocacy briefs, informational briefs,

newsletters, campaigns, and other materials to disseminate among major stakeholders.

Fact finding mission, a research concerning caste-based discrimination and atrocities against Dalits are sensitively collected from communities and presented to parliamentarians, lawmakers, and law enforcement agencies at the local and national level for appropriate measures to be taken that address justice. This approach has resulted in the creation of policies and provisions that protect Dalit communities in the Nepalese Constitution.

Advocacy and lobbying actions have extended to both a regional and international level. At the regional level campaigning and lobbying, Samata Foundation engages with the Asia Dalit Right Forum (ADRF) and Asia Parliamentarian Forum on Dalit Concerns (APFDC). Our policy advocacy efforts have aided law enactment processes and campaigns for the amendment procedure of laws and regulations concerning Dalits and human rights as a whole. Additionally, Samata Foundation is active in on-going awareness activities of legal issues through education and training within Dalit communities



## Timeline Highlights

### 2010

- Release of acclaimed research on caste system in Nepal “*Nepalma varna bywashtha ra varga sanghrsha*”, [English translation: Varna System and Class Struggle in Nepal].

### 2012

- Research on issues affecting the Dalit community in Nepal - ethnographies on individual Dalit communities through analysis of laws and policies including landmark research on Dom people, a Madhesi Dalit community - the first comprehensive study on Nepal’s Dom community.
- Lobby Meeting with political leaders and supports to Constituent Assembly (CA) Members was formed to create, “Forum of CA members for Eliminating All Kinds of Discrimination”.
- Nine discussions held with political leaders and supports to CA members.

### 2013

- Partnerships with Columbia University, USA and with Centre for the Study of Labor and Mobility (CESLAM) for a research project on Dalits and migration.
- Several consultation meetings with members of Constituent Assembly I and advocacy meetings of CSOs with National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs), elected representatives held in September.

### 2014

- “Benchmarking the Draft UN Principles & Guidelines on the Elimination of Caste Discrimination based on Work and Descent: Nepal Report” released.
- Advocacy meeting with Chief-Secretary (under the Prime Minister’s office) on Caste Based Discrimination and Untouchability Elimination and Dalit Rights Promotion.



- Workshop with CA members from Dalit community and others on the topic promoting and safeguarding Dalits rights in the new constitution.
- Organized an annual consultation meeting with parliamentarians in collaboration with ADRF members in Nepal.
- “Dalit & Marginalized Communities in Post-Earthquake Response Program & Future Strategy” workshop held on January 8th, 2016 in collaboration with Association for Dalit Women’s Advancement of Nepal [ADWAN] in the presence of Hon. Deputy Prime Minister, Hon. Top Bahadur Raiyamajhi.

## 2015

- “*Nepalma sakaratmak upaya ra samajik samabeshikaran avadharana, anuvabh ra upadeyita*” [English translation: Concept, experience and utility for positive ways and social inclusion] research by Dr. Yam Kishan.
- An "Attention Paper" was submitted to the Hon. Krishna Prasad Sitaula, Chairperson of Constitution Drafting Committee and to Chairperson of Constituent Assembly Hon. Subhash Nembang and to Hon. Pramila Rana, chair of Civil Relation and constitution Suggestion Committee of Constituent Assembly on 19th July 2015.
- Workshop on “National Budget and Dalit Community” held in September involving concerned Ministries and the line agencies.

## 2016

- Review released titled, “Policies and Provisions on Disaster Response and Recovery” a study by Dr. Budhhi Nepali.

- A National consultation program was organized that shared research findings on the implementation status of CBD&U Act, 2011 in May in the presence of Hon. Minister Agni Kharel for Law, justice and Parliamentary affairs.

## 2017

- Research on myths and realities of surnames and clans of Dalits, “*Dalit thar, gotra vram ra yathartha*”
- Policy review of selected institutions, NDC, NHRC, NWC for the elimination of CBD&U released.
- Discourse on the implementation status of CBD&U Act, 2011 with various groups of rights forums (including forums of influential women, Madhesi, and Janajati leaders) and policy makers conducted in March with the objective to identify gaps, implementation status and areas of amendment of the Act.

## 2018

- “Nijamati sewa, Nepal sarakarka surakshya nikayaharu ra shikshyan sewa” a comprehensive research on affirmative actions in relation to reservation systems adopted by the public sector, security agencies, and education sector of the government.
- A national level lobby meeting conducted in March held in Kathmandu which hosted Chief Guest, Yubaraj Bhusal, the CEO of National Reconstruction Authority (NRA). Other guest speakers included representatives from the SWC, CLIPIU, HRRP, HAMI and Christian AID.
- In April a lobby meeting on a Dalit-focused budget and policies was conducted with the Minister of Finance, Dr. Yuvraj Khatiwada, the Secretary and the Department Head responsible for national budget preparation and also included parliamentarians, former Member Secretary from National Dalit Commission, lawyers, CSOs leaders and journalists were present in the lobby meeting. A demand letter was submitted to the Minister with specific appeals.
- In November a lobby meeting in province 2 was held to prepare and push the “Dalit Empowerment Bill” outlining Dalit rights. The lobby meeting engaged elected members from the Dalit community (Mayor, ward representatives), provincial parliamentarians and Honorable Chief Minister of province 2.



- Meeting with the Minister of Education, Mr. Giriraj Mani Pokharel (also the Chairperson of the High-Level Education Commission) in December to lobby for Dalit friendly educational policies.



## 2019

- “Access of Dalit Community to Land and Dalit Inclusion: An Analysis from Intersectionality Perspective” by Dr. Purna Nepali released.
- “*Aantarik vibhedko britanta: Dalit ra gairdalitka vidhed ra*”, research on discrimination and practice of untouchability within Dalits and non-Dalit sub-castes published.
- Lobby meeting with the Secretary of Ministry of Urban Development (MoUD), Dr. Ramesh Prasad Singh discussed a list of recommendations in January. The discussion was held among the members from MoUD and MoF, and a team from Samata Foundation. The list of recommendations (see annex 4) on housing program was provided to MoUD.
- Interactive programs on State level Dalit-friendly Policy and Dalit Responsive Budget in Karnali and Sudurpaschim pradesh in the month of May.
- Policy advocacy related to foreign employment held in Kathmandu, Butwal and Pokhara in August and September among ministers, parliamentarians, politicians, lawyers, police and journalists.
- Quest for Dignity: A National Conference on Promoting the Role of Elected Representatives in Advancing Dalit Rights through Synergies, Research and National Policy Development. Kathmandu Declaration 2019 was issued (see annex 5 for detail report)





## THEMATIC AREAS

# HUMAN RIGHTS AND JUSTICE

Samata Foundation's work in human rights and justice has included investigation into caste-based discrimination and advocacy for its elimination. Since 2013, a series of fact-finding missions of human rights violation (HRV) incidences are being carried out involving Dalit individuals who have been targeted because of their caste and experienced intimidation, discrimination, and violence based on caste. Fact-finding missions have been carried out throughout Nepal and have helped the individuals and communities impacted by discrimination and violence to get justice.

At the time of a possible human rights violation(s), fact-finding missions have been conducted by a team consisting of Dalit Human Rights Defenders (DHRDs), Samata Staff, representatives from National Human Right Commission (NHRC), National Dalit Commission (NDC) and National Women Commission (NWC), Dalit leaders and activists. Such fact finding missions have helped gathering significant amount of evidences which have subsequently supported many litigation processes of the cases involving victims of caste-based discrimination and untouchability (CBD & U).



## Timeline Highlights

### 2013

- Three fact-finding missions conducted to investigate human rights violation incidents on CBDU cases in Gorkha, Rautahat, and Dhading.

### 2014

- Six cases of CBD&U violence supported through litigation.
- Fact Finding missions investigated two Dalit HRV incidents in Chitwan and Nawalparasi.

### 2015

- Three fact finding missions conducted to investigate Dalit HRV incidents in Belbari, Nuwakot, Dhading, and Kathmandu to support litigation in CBD cases.

### 2016

- National People's Hearing on "Inter-caste Marriage and Human Rights" was held on March 13th, 2016 in presence of Hon. Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Poverty Alleviation of Nepal Chitra Bahadur K.C.
- A follow up of National People's Hearing on "Inter-caste Marriage & Human Rights" Samata Foundation organized a round table discussion with government officials and elected representatives on 14 March 2016.

### 2017

- Collaborated with the National Dalit Commission and relevant stakeholders in the litigation of murder cases of Ajit Mijar and Laxmi Pariyar which resulted in significant compensation for the families of the victims.
- Five incidents investigated through fact-finding missions in various parts of Nepal.



## 2018

- Two fact-finding mission visits in Kanchanpur: Samata Foundation staff, a Member of Parliament from province no. 7, a representative from National Dalit Commission, CSO leaders, and journalists, conducted a fact-finding mission during the month of March in Kanchanpur district and gathered the evidence for two cases of DHRVs. The cases involved temple entry denial and physical assault of a Dalit woman.

## 2019

- In collaboration with other CSOs, five writ petitions were registered at the Supreme Court against: Application of the principle of proportional representation at province, judge appointment process, delays in formulation of laws based on article 40, delay in appointing of commissioners in NDC, and recruitment process of Lok Sewa.





# THEMATIC AREAS

## PUBLICATION, COMMUNICATION AND OUTREACH

Since 2009 over 60 publications have been released by Samata Foundation. These publications include books based on empirical research, policy papers, research reports, policy review reports, advocacy briefs, and regular newsletters. Publications are available in both Nepali and English. In addition to published resources, information is shared on other platforms including Samata Foundation's website, social media, radio, and video programs. Additionally, talk programs and lectures series are conducted on a regular basis.

### Timeline Highlights

#### 2010

- An international conference, 'Envisioning New Nepal: Dynamics of Caste, Identity and Inclusion of Dalits' was conducted.

#### 2012

- Conference Report: Envisioning New Nepal (Dynamics of Caste, Identity & Inclusion of Dalits 2012: "*Satta-Bimarsh ra Dalit; Ambedkar: Distrikon ra Bibechara*" [English translation: Power-Discourse and Dalit; Ambedkar: Perspective and Analysis] published.

- A fully equipped library, Samata Resource Centre (SRC), established for research and knowledge production with membership open to the public - including post-secondary students with access to books, online journals, films, documentaries, thesis, dissertations, and articles.

#### 2013

- Samata Foundation along with its partner organizations held the first South Asia regional level parliamentarians' conference during the month of December with leaders. Kathmandu Declaration was issued jointly by parliamentarians.



- The book “*Dalan Birudhhy ko Pratirodh*” published.

## 2014

- “Varna System and Class Struggle in Nepal” a book by Aahuti published.
- Policy paper related to Dalit-friendly electoral systems released.

## 2015

- Two influential reports related to access to justice and education released titled accordingly, “Nepal: Access to Justice for Dalits” and “Equity Watch 2015 –Nepal: Right to Education for Dalit” published.

## 2016

- The book “*Sambidhaanmaa Dalit Muddhaa: Ek Addhyana*” [English Translation: “A study on the Issues of Dalit in Constitution”] authored by Laxman Darnal published regarding Dalit issues discussed during the 1st and 2nd Constituent Assembly.

## 2017

- Review of policies from selected institutions, NDC, NHRC, NWC for the elimination of CBDU published.
- Release of radio programs including eight episodes which were on air to educate and inform earthquake survivors regarding entitlements, procedures to apply for benefits, facilities and information related to government policies during the reconstruction period.

## 2018

- Book Launch of “*Samabeshita ko Bahas*” (Debating Social Inclusion), written by Dr Ramesh Sunam in April. The book launch event took place in Kathmandu with keynote speakers including Parliamentarian Nira Jairu, Mohana Ansari, Member of National Human Right Commission (NHRC)- Nepal, Professor Chaitannya Mishra, Dr. Krishna Bhattachan, and CK Lal.





## 2019

- "Six months Campaign for ending Caste based discrimination and untouchability: A quest for dignity" commenced in March. The program's intention was to fight against CDB&U collectively with stakeholders (government, parliamentarians, CSOs, funding agencies and media) and build momentum to eliminate CDB&U.
- Conducted educational campaigns to raise awareness in 8 districts of 2 provinces on the implementation of the CBD&U Act and related constitutional provisions.
- A speaking event held featuring Dr. Suraj Yengde, Dalit scholar and activist titled, "Why Caste Matters?" in July.
- Samata Utsav 2076: Samata Foundation organized Samata Utsav 2076 for celebrating the completion of 10 years of intellectual endeavors for social justice since its establishment in 2066 B.S





# THEMATIC AREAS

## CREATING NEXT GENERATION LEADERS

Through the creation of leadership programs and youth mobilization, we have organized and trained many Dalit and non-Dalit Nepali youth through fellowship opportunities, courses, and educational events. Through the FK Norway Fellowship (currently known as NOREC) and Dalit Human Rights Defenders program, we have created pathways for youth and individuals engaged in human rights work to build upon their skills and knowledge to become leaders in their communities. The FK Norway Fellowship has provided opportunities for youth to gain international experience and build upon their skills and knowledge.

Dalit Human Rights Defenders (DHRDs) is a group of Dalit individuals located throughout Nepal working to defend the rights of Dalit community members. The DHRDs are based within their local communities as watchdogs to monitor and document incidents of Dalit human rights

violations (DHRVs), conduct fact-finding missions, engage with law enforcement agencies and local/provincial governments, carry out advocacy, education, and capacity-building initiatives related to the elimination of discrimination and HR violations against Dalit communities. DHRDs program began in 2013 and has continued to present day. Currently there is a network of over 100 DHRDs throughout Nepal.

Young Dalit girls from province 2 have completed training and now act as Youth Ambassadors endowed with specific knowledge and skills on Gender-Based Violence (GBV) and Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights (SRHR) to share with their communities. To date, there are 160 Youth Ambassadors from Madhesh who are leaders in their community and seek to empower other young people within their community.



## Timeline Highlights

**2011-2016: Nine members completed FK fellowship under Norway government program.**

### 2012

- Non-academic course titled, “Academic and Policy Discourse on Dalit and Social Inclusion” was carried out for two months for both non-Dalit and Dalit youth to raise awareness and break down systemic beliefs related to discrimination and untouchability to build an inclusive society.

### 2013- 2016

- Over 50 youths trained as Dalit Human Right Defenders from all over Nepal.

### 2014- 2016- 2018

- Two of Samata Foundation staff received the Aus-Aid scholarship.
- Three staff members from Samata Foundation pursued Mphil courses in relevant disciplines.

### 2017-2018

- Seven DHRDs were prepared for Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and Disaster Risk management (DRM)

### 2019

- Identification and selection of Young Dalit Girls from Madhesh ( Youth Ambassadors) enrolled in a training program to advance their knowledge and skills in the areas of GBV and SRHR.



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 जिम्मेवारी लिने गर्दछ।

# हामी समाजमा सबैभन्दा  
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किन

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- बन्धन गराउने
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ग्रुप १ सिता



# PARTNERS AND COLLABORATORS



# OUR IMPACT & ACHIEVEMENTS

## Influencing Academic Discourse in Nepal

- Research findings and publications integrated into academic curriculums and references within Tribhuvan University's graduate and doctoral programs including publications such as Varna bebastha and Varga Sangharsha, Dalan birudhako pratirodh: Nepali Dalitharuko Sangharsha Gatha.
- Research referenced by scholars and policy makers.
- Review of school curriculum from Dalit perspective.
- Annual Lectures on affirmative actions and educational events and film events.
- Training course on 'Academic and Policy Discourse on Dalit and Social Inclusion.' (2012).



## Defending Dalit Human Rights and Promoting Accountability

- Continuous lobby and advocacy with lawmakers and law enforcement agencies for Dalit rights and justice on the basis of evidence and credible research.
- Dalit HR Defenders program in effect from 2013, designated over 50 individuals who are based at various parts of Nepal as watchdogs.
- Initiating regional and international partnership and solidarity namely, Asian Parliamentarians' Forum on Dalit Concern (APFDC) and Asian Dalit Rights Forum - formally launched in 2014 in Kathmandu.
- Advocacy and legal support for the justice delivery against the murder of Ajit Mijar and Laxmi Pariyar. Government provided the compensation of NPR 10,00,000 (Ten Lakhs) for each of the deceased family.
- Prepared of shadow reports for UN bodies (UPR 2015, CERD 2018).

## Influencing Laws and Policies

- Influential policy paper released in 2010 titled, “Confusion in Dalit Transformation in the New Constitution of Nepal”.
- Contributed to the drafting process of Nepal’s new constitution that came into effect in 2015 through a leading role unifying and influencing Dalit leaders from different political parties, civil society, and experts while providing a platform to collaborate on a common agenda of Dalit rights in the new constitution.
- Released findings on the implementation status of the Caste Based Discrimination and Untouchability (CBDU) Act of 2011. Other policy reviews include topics such as budgeting, affirmative action, community forests and water sources, disaster response, and human rights.
- Striving continuously for having Dalit Empowerment Bill passed in provinces. This bill has been passed in province 2.



## Knowledge-Sharing and Partnerships at Various Levels

- Dalit Suchana Mela also known as information fair held in targeted area to outreach on a regional level through various activities including documentary screening, dialogues, book exhibition related to human rights and issues impacting marginalized communities.
- Worked with the elected members, lawmakers, parliamentarians, law enforcement agencies, various CSOs, activists and journalist at local level, provincial and federal level.
- Extended network and partnership at regional level with India, Bangladesh, Pakistan and Shree Lanka through ADRF and APFDC platforms.
- A national level conference “Quest for Dignity” was conducted involving 103 Dalit elected representatives at all three levels of government.

# ACTIONS MOVING FORWARD

- I **Expand community research and networks through collaboration and capacity-building.** In addition to mainstreaming Dalit-specific issues in academic and policy research, Samata Foundation will also contribute analysis from a Dalit lens to mainstream issues at local, provincial, national, regional and international levels. Training of emerging Dalit researchers in-house and partnerships with leading think tanks and academic institutions in Nepal and abroad to expand its reach will be carried out. Additionally, striving to provide a platform for academic research and dialogue will continue.
- II **Improving access to critical research and resources.** Utilizing and implementing updated information technologies to efficiently store and share information to enhance access to academic resources. Resources produced by and available through Samata Foundation will be easily accessible online and linked to relevant resources.
- III **Ensuring accountability in government.** Continued focus that Dalit concerns are appropriately and justly addressed in laws, regulations, policies, programs, and budgets at all levels of government.
- IV **Implementation through partnership.** Through working with local partners to conduct continuous monitoring to ensure the laws are implemented properly and do not remain only on paper. Continued rigorous monitoring of human rights conditions throughout the country through the Human Rights Defenders' Program.
- V **Support leadership and mobilization.** Build a cadre of leaders committed to ending caste-based discrimination and violence through partnerships and mobilization committed to justice.
- VI **Engage in allyship.** Align and form relationships of solidarity and support with other marginalized communities and leverage partnerships working towards building a just and inclusive society.

# BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Executive Chairperson of Samata Foundation **Mr. Pradip Pariyar** is an alumnus of American University and Tribhuvan University. He specializes in youth empowerment, peace building and capacity building of media professionals.

As the elected president of the Association of Youth Organizations Nepal (AYON), he worked closely with government of Nepal to initiate a youth-responsive budget. He was a member of the government task force that developed Youth Vision 2025: a 10-year national youth development policy. He has trained thousands of youths globally on leadership, peace building, and conflict-sensitive journalism.

He founded the Nepal Youth Forum to focus on policy advocacy, awareness, and youth empowerment. In 2011, Mr. Pariyar was selected as a youth fellow by the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank. He received 'Asia's 21 Young Leaders Award' in 2018 by Asia Society. Mr. Pariyar also serves as the chairperson of the Nepal Policy Center, a youth-led think tank. In 2015, he received the Youth Leadership Award from the Nepali Government's Ministry of Youth and Sports for his decade-long contribution to youth leadership development across Nepal.

Traveling throughout the length and breadth of Nepal, Mr. Pariyar witnessed diverse cultures and had encounters with his socially offended country people have invigorated his dream fueled by the unholy dogma of casteism. He dreams of a just Nepal; a cohesive society where an individual's potential, competence, edification and hard slog define a person rather than his/her status. The World Economic Forum has recently selected Mr. Pariyar as one of Young Global Leaders in its Class of 2020 for the contribution he has made to empower youth and promote social justice.



**Dr. Madan Pariyar** is a recognized expert on building resilience in the face of disaster, Dr. Madan Pariyar has made notable contributions to research in adaptation, poverty alleviation, economic growth, inclusion, good governance, IT sector development, rural and agricultural development, industrial development, and resource management.

He obtained his Doctorate and Masters in Engineering from the Asian Institute of Technology, Bangkok, Thailand and holds Bachelors of Science degree in Agricultural Engineering from the Allahabad Agricultural Institute, India.

Dr. Pariyar has served as a member representing Dalits in the screening committee of Nepal's Social Inclusion Research Fund (SIRF). In 2011, the government of Nepal appointed him as the Chairman of the State Restructuring Commission (SRC), to advise the Constitutional Assembly with the best possible model of federalism to be adopted all over Nepal, especially focusing on the welfare of the Dalit people.

Since 2010, Dr. Pariyar has led the program development as well as monitoring and evaluation (M&E) activities for IDE's Nepal programs. Dr. Pariyar serves as a Nepal delegate to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and is highly sought after as a speaker on international development and resilience building. He has participated, as both leader and contributor, in workshops and training curriculum in over thirty different countries.



**Dr. Sumitra Manandhar Gurung** is the Chief Executive Officer of 'Mahila Sahayatra Micro Finance Bittiya Sanstha', the first national level microfinance institution owned by all-women individual promoters. Ms. Gurung is a geographer by academic qualification and she has completed her Ph. D. from the University of Hawaii, USA.

She is also the founder member of LUMANTI Support Group for Shelter for the urban poor, Center for Self-help Development for the Deprived Women's Economic Emancipation, Women's Cooperative Society, Social Science Research Council and Center for Rural Technology among others. She is a recipient of Karuna Award of Creative Statements, UNU Fellowship (1979), ICIMOD Research Fellowship (1985), International Peace Scholarship (1983 & 1987) to name a few. She has authored 'Beyond the Myth of Eco-Crisis in Nepal: Local Responses to Pressure on Land in Nepal- A Study of Kakani in the Middle Hills.'



**Mr. Thakurnath Dhakal** is a Social Policy Specialist at UNICEF (United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund), Nepal, dedicated to advancing the rights of children in Nepal, especially the most marginalized and disadvantaged.

He earned his MBA degree from Tribhuvan University, Master in Public Management from University of Potsdam, Germany and Diploma in Conflict Management from Sweden. He has more than 15 years of professional experience in development agencies like UNDP, UN Mission in Nepal and UNICEF, Nepal. He specializes in human rights, conflict transformation and peace building, policy analysis and advocacy, designing and evaluating social protection and cash transfers. Highly interested in social policy analysis, social protection and cash transfers, he is engaged in research, evidence generation, public policy analysis, advocacy and an influencer of policy networks (government counterparts, donors and partners) to shape sensitive social policies that create an effective, sustainable and protective environment for the most vulnerable children.



**Ms. Sarita Pariyar** is a deeply engaged learner, writer, and teacher of social justice, especially interested in advancing equal rights and dignity for the Dalits. She is a founder of the Darnal Award for Social Justice and is the trustee of the 'Sarita Pariyar Trust Fund'. She is an active member of several organizations that are involved in advancing social justice, democracy, and media advocacy in Nepal and beyond. Her insightful and thought-provoking op-eds, published in Nepal's national dailies provide distinct perspectives on Nepali society and are widely read.

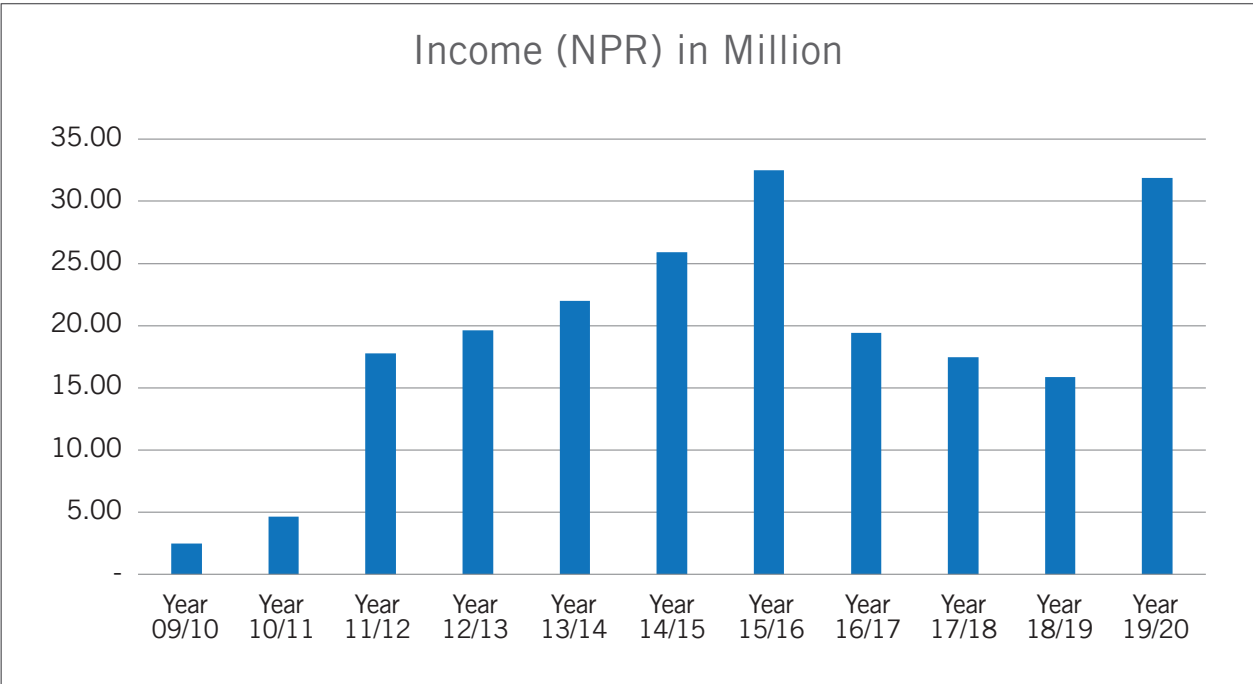
Ms. Pariyar holds a Master's degree in Sociology and Bachelors' degree in journalism and English literature from Tribhuvan University. Her recent works as an author provides a good read to understand the perspective of a Dalit individual and specifically being a Dalit woman in the Nepali society.



**H. E. Mr. Padam Sundas**, the Nepali Ambassador to the Kingdom of Bahrain, is also the founding chairperson of Samata Foundation. He has made a significant contribution to the Dalit Movement since B.S. 2021. Mr. Sundas has served as the president of Nepal Dalit Sahitya Tatha Sanskriti Pratisthan, the Vice President of Nepal Utpidit Dalit Jatiya Mukti Samaj, and Nepal Rastriya Dalit Mukti Morcha. With 19 books published from Ratnamaya Dalit Sahitya Sanrakchan Samiti, Sundas has also received several awards for his work in promoting Dalit rights and literature.

# ANNEX 1

## 10 Years Financial Statement



## ANNEX 2

### Publications

List of Samata Foudation's Publications				
S.No.	S.B. No.	Books	Writer	Published Year
1	1	नेपालमा वर्णव्यवस्था र वर्ग-सङ्घर्ष	आहुति	2067/2010
2	2	डोम समुदायको पहिचान: बदलि'दो जीवनशैली	समता फाउण्डेशन	2069/2012
3	3	सत्ता-विमर्श र दलित	समता फाउण्डेशन	2069/2012
4	4	कोर्ट मार्शल	समता फाउण्डेशन	2070/2013
5	5	दलित सौन्दर्य-बोध	समता फाउण्डेशन	2070/2013
6	6	दलन विरुद्ध प्रतिरोध: नेपाली दलितहरूको सङ्घर्षगाथा	समता फाउण्डेशन	2070/2013
7	7	सङ्घर्षमा समासद् सविधानमा दलित अधिकार	समता फाउण्डेशन	2071/2014
8	8	Varna System and Class Struggle in Nepal	आहुति	2071/2014
9	9	नेपालमा सकारात्मक उपाय र सामाजिक समावेशीकरण: अवधारणा, अनुभव र उपयोगिता	यम किसान	2072/2015
10	10	आफर कविता संग्रह	उन्मुक्त पुस्ता	2073/2016
11	11	नेपालको लागि सकारात्मक विभेद नीति प्राज्ञिक बहस	समता फाउण्डेशन	2073/2016
12	12	प्यूठान ओखरकोटका दलितहरू एक अध्ययन	समता फाउण्डेशन	2073/2017
13	13	सविधानसमामा दलित मुद्दा	लक्ष्मण दर्नाल	2073/2017
14	14	कमिनी आमा	रामबाबु सुवेदी	2073/2017
15	15	दलित थर गोत्र भ्रम र यथार्थ	समता फाउण्डेशन	2073/2017
16	16	समावेशिताको बहस	रमेश सुनाम	2074/2018
17	17	बुद्ध र कार्ल मार्क्स	समता फाउण्डेशन	2074/2018
18	18	आन्तरिक विभेदको वृत्तान्त: दलित र गैरदलितमित्रका विभेद र छुवाछूत	मेघराज रसाइली	2076/2019
19	19	Access of Dalit Community to Land and Dalit Inclusion: An Analysis from Intersectionality Perspective by Dr. Purna Nepali	डा. पूर्ण नेपाली	2076/2019
20	20	चमार समुदायको पहिचान र अवस्था	समता फाउण्डेशन	2076/2020

Report / Directory / Hand Book				
21	1	समन्यायिक निगरानी २०७१ : नेपाल दलितका न्यायमा पहुँच	समता फाउण्डेशन	2071/2014
22	2	समन्यायिक निगरानी २०७२ : नेपाल दलितका लागि शिक्षाको अधिकार		2072/2015
23	3	दलित मानवअधिकार रक्षकका लागि मानवअधिकार तथा जातीय भेदभावसम्बन्धी हाते पुस्तिका		2073/2016
24	4	दलित नागरिक समाज संस्थाहरूको डाइरेक्ट्री		2073/2016
25	5	जातीय भेदभाव तथा छुवाछूत (कसूर र सजाय) ऐन, २०६८ को कार्यान्वयनको अवस्था सम्बन्धि अध्ययन		2073/2016
26	6	Review of Policies, Plan, and Program		2073/2016
27	7	Review of Policies and Provisions on Disaster Response and Recovery		2073/2016
28	8	Policy Review of Dalit Access to Community Forest and Water Sources		2074/2018
29	9	निजामति सेवा, नेपाल सरकारका सुरक्षा निकायहरू र शिक्षण सेवा (Affirmative Action)		2074/2018
30	10	नेपालको नीति, कार्यक्रम र बजेटमा सामाजिक समावेशीकरण तथा दलित एक समिक्षा (आर्थिक वर्ष २०७४/७५)		2074/2018

Policy Paper				
31	1	नयाँ संविधानमा दलित : रूपान्तरणमा अलमल (१)	समता फाउण्डेशन	2067/2010
32	2	दलित लेखन प्रवृत्ति - नेपाली दलित समुदायसम्बन्धी लेखनको समिक्षा		2069/2012
33	3	अप्रतिनिधित्वको दुश्चक्र : नेपालमा निर्वाचन प्रणाली र दलित प्रतिनिधित्व		2069/2012
34	4	सङ्घीयता र दलित सत्ता		2069/2012
35	5	दलित अधिकारका लागि नयाँ रणनीति		2071/2014
36	6	दलित मैत्री निर्वाचन प्रणाली		2071/2014
37	7	सङ्घीयता र दलित अधिकार		2071/2014
38	8	संघ, प्रदेश र स्थानीय तहमा दलित		2075/2019

Policy Review Paper				
39	1	नेपालमा खानेपानी तथा सरसफाइमा दलितको पहुँच र अधिकार: अंक २, माघ	समता फाउण्डेशन	2071/2014
40	2	न्यायमा दलितको पहुँच: जातीय भेदभाव तथा छुवाछूत -कसूर र सजाय) ऐन, २०६८ को कार्यान्वयनको सवाल: अंक ३, चैत्र		2071/2014
41	3	पुस्तक संक्षेप: ३ हजार वर्षको दलन		2072/215
42	4	दलित महिलाको मानवअधिकारको अवस्था: अंक ४, श्रावण		2072/2015
43	5	राष्ट्रिय बजेट र दलित समुदाय: अंक ५, मंसिर		2072/2015
44	6	समाजको अग्रगतिका निमित्त दलितको योगदान : अंक ६,		2073/2016

English : Policy Paper & Brief				Publish Year
45	1	Conference Report M Envisioning New Nepal (Dynamics of Caste, Identity & Inclusion of Dalits	Samata Foundation	2010
46	2	Confusion in Dalit Transformation in the New Constitution of Nepal		2067/2010
47	3	Vicious Cycle of Non-Representation: Electoral system and Dalit Representation in Nepal.		2069/2012
48	4	TRENDS IN DALIT WRITING Understanding Knowledge Production for Policymaking		2069/2012
49	5	Federalism and Dalit Governance: Dalit-Friendly Federal System		2069/2012
50	6	Innovative Strategies for Dalit Rights		2071/2014
51	7	Dalit Friendly Electoral System		2071/2014
52	8	Federalism and Dalit Rights		2071/2014
53	9	Dalits: Local Self-Governance and Issue of Representation		2071/2014
54	10	Benchmarking the Draft Un Principles & Guideline on the Elimination of Caste Discrimination based on work and Descent Nepal Report		2071/2014
55	11	Conference Report M Envisioning New Nepal (Dynamics of Caste, Identity & Inclusion of Dalits ( Reprint)		2014
56	12	Equity & inclusive Education: Caste Based Discrimination in Schools (Policy Brief 1)		2071/2014
57	13	Equity Watch 2014 Nepal : access to Justice for Dalits		2071/2014
58	14	Equity Watch 2015 Nepal : Right to Education for Dalits		2072/2015
59	15	समाजको अग्रगतिका निमित्त दलितको योगदान (Policy Brief )		2073/2016
60	16	दैवीप्रकोप उद्धार र पुननिर्माणका योजना तथा नीतिहरूको दलित दृष्टिकोणबाट समीक्षा Policy Brief		2073/2016
61	17	सामुदायिक वन र पानिका स्रोतहरूमा दलित समुदायको पहुँच (Policy Brief )		2074/2017
62	18	Review of Nepal Governments Fiscal Policies and Budget of 2017-2018 Policy Brief		2074/2017
63	19	Policy Review of Affirmative Action/Inclusion on Civil Service, Nepal Police, Armed Police Force, Nepal Army and Teaching Service (Policy Brief)		2074/2017
64	20	Conference Report, दलित अधिकार सुनिश्चितताका लागि जनप्रतिनिधिको भूमिका, राष्ट्रिय सम्मेलन, २०७६)		2076/2019

SAMATA Annual Lectures				Publish Year
65	1	Designing Affirmative Action for Nepal: A Tour of the Choice and Problems : Prof. Marc Galanter ( I)	Samata Foundation	2069/2012
66	2	Carrier of Social Justice in India: Implications for Affirmative Action Programs in Nepal : Prof. Gopal Guru (II)		2070/2013
67	3	Affirmative Action and Private Sector by: Prof. Ashwini Deshpande (III)		2071/2014
68	4	Unraveling Inclusiveness in north East India : Lessons From the Experimentations of Indian Gorkhas : Prof Mahendra P. Lama (IV)		2071/2014

## ANNEX 3

### Samata's Recommendations For People's Housing Program

1. Targeted groups (beneficiaries) for the program should be clearly defined in a spirit as it was defined in 2016.
2. Most of the Dalits are inhabited in dispersed manners in few families in a various localities in the country. They are not residing together as large communities. Hence, the Rural Municipality (RM) and Municipality (M) should assure that all Dalits without houses are encompassed by this program.
3. The People's Housing Program should also include Dalits residing in risky locations as target group and relocate them in safe areas.
4. Houses should be provided not only to those do not own houses but have lands. It should also be provided to those who are landless.
5. Adequate budget should be allocated not for right quantity of housing facility but also for quality housing facilities.
6. Family size of beneficiary should determine the size of the house to be constructed.
7. Badi women who have not been included in the list of Single Woman but had been indulged into prostitution earlier should also be made entitled for housing facility.
8. A comprehensive research/study should be done to identify the number of Dalits not owning houses, landless Dalits and most marginalized families in order to analyse their needs before prioritizing the actions by the provincial government.
9. When providing houses to target groups other basic facilities like education, roads, drinking water, electricity and markets should also be ensured.
10. If the target groups have no land or have insufficient amount of land, adequate land should be made available for the target group.
11. The Dalits and their localities those are not included as the target groups or areas should be identified and be included into the target list after getting verified and recommended by the respective RM and M.
12. The target groups should have the full ownership of the received house.
13. For effective implementation of the program, the province and federal government should monitor the program. This monitoring body should.

## ANNEX 4

Quest for Dignity: A National Conference on Promoting the Role of Elected Representatives in Advancing Dalit Rights through Synergies, Research and National Policy Development **5-6 September 2019, Kathmandu, Nepal**

### 1. SUMMARY

Samata Foundation concluded a two-day National Conference on Promoting the Role of Elected Representatives in Advancing Dalit Rights through Synergies, Research and National Policy Development in collaboration with members from Asian Parliamentarians' Forum on Dalit Concern (APFDC) - Nepal Chapter and Asian Dalit Rights Forum (ADRF)-Nepal. The APFDC – Nepal Chapter consists of former and current Ministers and Parliamentarians and whereas ADRF team consists of prominent Dalit-led civil society organizations in Nepal.

The conference brought together almost all Dalit lawmakers from local, provincial and federal level. It started with the political leaders' perspective on caste-based discrimination and the constitutional provisions made in Nepal. The conference further convened paper presentations, commentaries and discussion with experts, academics and practitioners on issues of marginalized communities, federalism and constitution, planning and policy making, social justice, gender, migration and leadership.

At the end of the conference a Kathmandu Declaration 2019 was endorsed and signed by the participating parliamentarians and elected Dalit representatives from all the seven provinces and federal level. Along with the support of NED, the event was funded by Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA) under Embassy of Switzerland - Kathmandu, Christian AID (CAID) and International Republican Institute (IRI).

### 2. GOAL AND OBJECTIVES

This conference anticipates addressing the following concerns:

- a. What would it take to make federal and provincial governments more responsive and accountable towards the Dalit issues?
- b. How can the parliamentarians better understand and work collectively and implement the Dalit related policies as provisioned in the Constitution?

In the quest of discovering answers to the aforementioned concerns, the conference envisions in promoting the role and meaningful participation of Dalit representatives in Nepal's federal system.

#### Specific Objectives:

The specific objectives of this conference are given below:

- i. To provide a network platform for Dalit representatives to share and learn from the experiences across the nation; policy research materials and other information transfer.
- ii. To identify the critical gaps, challenges and constrains in materializing the constitutional provision concerning Dalit issues through policies research and to develop into a targeted platform to present to lawmakers strategizing a common way forward
- iii. To support for the institutional set up of a Dalit representatives' networking platform and for the continued collective effort of the Dalit lawmakers beyond the conference.

## PROCESS:

Three former Prime Minister of Nepal Rt. Hon. Mr. Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda', Rt. Hon. Mr. SherBahadurDeuba and Rt. Hon. Mr. BaburamBhattarai inaugurated the first day of the conference. They are also the chairman of major political parties of Nepal namely, Nepal Communist Party (NCP), Nepali Congress Party (NC) and Samajbadi Party Nepal (SPN) respectively. This session provided a clear idea of how the political leadership understands the issue of Dalits and caste-based discrimination prevalent in the Nepali society.

## THREE FORMER PRIME MINISTERS EXPRESSING THEIR VIEWS.

Three former Prime Minister of Nepal Rt. Hon. Mr. Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda', Rt. Hon. Mr. SherBahadurDeuba and Rt. Hon. Mr. BaburamBhattarai inaugurated the first day of the conference. They are also the chairman of major political parties of Nepal namely, Nepal Communist Party (NCP), Nepali Congress Party (NC) and Samajbadi Party Nepal (SPN) respectively. This session provided a clear idea of how the political leadership understands the issue of Dalits and caste-based discrimination prevalent in the Nepali society.

It was followed by two other sessions - Strategic Discussion on Marginalized community friendly Planning Process in Federalism and Strengthening Policy Impact and Pathway towards Prosperity and Social Justice. An expert presented a paper in each of the session followed by commentaries and panel discussions with other experts, academics and practitioners as well as participating parliamentarians and elected representatives from all the three-tier government.

The last session of the first day event ended with province wise group division for learning and sharing the experiences which consisted of all the members of the national assembly, House of Representatives, province assembly, District Coordination Committee, Mayor/Chair and Deputy Mayor/Chair of Municipalities and Rural municipalities. Each group discussed about the common issues faced by elected Dalit representatives, their possible solutions and the challenges to the solutions. Some of the major issues and solutions are listed below province-wise.



*Three former Prime Ministers expressing their views*

The second day of the conference commenced with a special address from Rt. Hon. Minister Mr. JagatBahadurBishwakarma, Ministry of Youth and Sports who also belongs and represents the Dalit community. He shed light on the importance of the National Conference and Dalit concerns.

There were five sessions held on Constitution, Federalism and Electoral System, International Experience of Policy Making, Dalit Women and Elected Representatives: Roles and Challenges, Changing Nepali Paradigm and Migration, and Dalit Movement - Way Forward/Action plan

### OUTCOMES:

The conference developed and endorsed the Kathmandu Declaration 2019 with consensus among the participating Parliamentarians and elected representatives from all the three-tier government. It has been heralded as a landmark document to promote the role of elected representatives to ensure Dalit rights. The leaders, parliamentarians, representatives of political parties, intellectuals, activists from the Dalit community have pledged commitment and solidarity towards the integrated strategic intervention approach to build synergy, reinforce evidence-based informed advocacy and contribute

in national policy development to ensure social justice and end every form of discrimination.

The conference was also crucial in building a loose network of Dalit Parliamentarians and elected representatives from all three-tier governments. It has helped to build a common understanding of Dalit issues, problems and strategic intervention for collective collaborative efforts and interventions. Samata Foundation has strengthened its network with nation-wide Dalit parliamentarians and elected representatives. It can now further capitalize to advocate for Dalit rights with increased access to policymakers all over Nepal.

The conference has served as a platform for networking, consolidating individual efforts and promoting synergy between the elected representatives in fostering endeavors to empower Dalit community at large.

This conference has set a genuine Foundation for continued future policy dialogues among the Dalit parliamentarians and elected members within their respective provinces and across the provinces.



*Elected members from provinces as panelists*

## KATHMANDU DECLARATION

In Nepal, centuries old caste system still prevails and Dalit communities are still excluded from mainstream programs of the nation. The prejudice and discrimination on the basis of caste is still on, so is struggle for quest of dignity. The government doesn't seem to be reliable and responsible to the Article 24 and 40 illustrated in constitution. The prevailing laws of the country are not incompatible with the principle of proportional inclusion as enshrined in Article 40 (1) of the constitution.

In this regard, to implement the fundamental rights of Dalit effectively, to make Dalit-friendly election process as well as to promote and advance the rights of proportionate representation, elected Dalit representatives of House of representatives, national assembly, province assembly, chair and vice chairperson of District co-ordination committee, president and vice president of municipalities, leaders and experts of Dalit Civil Society have developed following 13 points declaration paper with the participation and agreement:

1. Follow the principle of proportional inclusion literally as inculcated in the preamble and Article 40 (1) of the Constitution.
2. The participation of Dalits should be ensured in all the seven hundred and sixty-one governments in all three levels of the State following the principle of proportional inclusion in accordance with the spirit of the Constitution 2015.
3. An integrated law should be drafted immediately for effective implementation of Article 40 of the Constitution.
4. National Dalit Commission should be formed immediately.
5. Dalit Development Committee and Badi Development Committee should be made effective.
6. Withhold the advertisement of the Public Service Commission dated 2076/02/15 and re-advertise it on the basis of proportional inclusive principles.
7. Recommendations for the appointment of a judge should be done on the basis of proportional inclusive principles.
8. Amend the Caste Based Discrimination and Untouchability (Offence and Punishment) Act, 2011 provisioning that the perpetrator punishable by more than five years, liable for at least five lakhs compensation and burden of proof lying on the defendant. Also, the revised Land Act should be implemented in accordance with the spirit of the constitution.
9. Create an environment for the elected representatives at local, regional and federal levels from both electoral systems (FPTP and PR) to exercise of equal rights and status as per the constitution.
10. Arrangements should be made for strong legal action against the authorities of law enforcement agencies who negligently deal with the cases of caste-based discrimination and untouchability.
11. Arrangements should be made to have the government celebrate National Day for the eradication of 'untouchability' on 21st Jestha with special programs.
12. Arrange for the capacity development programs for the representatives of the respective ministries of the state government, local level metros, sub-metropolis, municipalities and rural municipalities, and district-level coordination committees and the municipality.
13. Establish a museum in each federal state and provinces to reflect the art, skills and contribution of the Dalit community







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