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LEAVE NO GIRL BEHIND

Gender Analysis Report

Our Turn- Accelerating Life Skills, Literacy and Numeracy of Married Adolescent Girls "Aarambha"

Rautahat and Bara Districts

Carried out by People in Need, 24th to 31st August 2022

Executive Summary:

People in Need (PIN) carried out gender assessment for GEC-funded Leave No Girl Behind (LNGB) Project - "Aarambha". Overall, 9 Focused Group Discussions (FGDs) and 10 Key Informant Interviews (KIIs) were conducted in the 9 working rural municipalities (RM) of cohort-4 namely Pheta, Bishrampur, Mahagadhimai, Prasauni, and Simraungadh RM of Bara district; Garuda Municipality, Gadhimai, Baudhimai, Paroha RM of Rautahat districts. Data collection methodology was as following:

Data Collection Method	Men	Women	Boys (under 18)	Girls under 18	Persons with Disability	Elderly Population	Ethnic/social minority	Total
FGDs	2	2	2	3				9
KIIs	1	1	1	1	2	2	2	10

The data collection team was gender-balanced where there were 6 data collector 3 of them were women and 3 were men. The enumerators were oriented on the gender analysis tools where they were sensitized on Safeguarding, GEDSI and Protection concerns before field movement.

The objectives of the Gender Analysis (GA) were primarily to understand the gender differences among the beneficiaries and vulnerable and excluded groups and how the existing gender and social inequalities can impact the project activities and how can project impact the gender dynamics in the working site.

The Gender Analysis revealed that the working RMs have high patriarchal values where women are mostly working in household chores and men are mostly engaged in income generating paid work. The decision making was mostly done by men in both household and community level where women are excluded from participation from planning to decision making process. Below are the key findings and recommendations of the gender analysis.

Gender Analysis Key Findings:

Gender Roles and Responsibilities:

- In all the FGDs and KIIs, it was reported that **women are responsible for all the household chores** and **men are engaged in income generating** work. Mostly women and girls were





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involved in water collection, cooking, caring for children (though some men were also involved in caring for elders), and ill family members.

- Women engage themselves in work for 12 to 16 hours a day but none of the women reported to have paid jobs. However, men of the families worked for 7 to 8 hours in average for paid jobs.

Access and Control of resources and Community Resource Mapping:

- Community members are aware of the resources available in the community/ward/RM but lack knowledge on how it is allocated or distributed in the community. They are not fully aware who has and who does not have access to these resources. **Women** reported that they **must seek permission** of community members, including political leaders, to access the resources and services, whereas the **men reported** that they must **seek advice** from family and community members **rather than asking permission**.
- The community members were not aware and were not participating in the Prime Minister's Employment Fund.
- Almost **fifty percent of the respondents did not have bank accounts** and from those who had bank accounts were **owned by men** of the family.
- Upon asking about different needs of men/women/boys/girls most of them responded that there is a need for **playground, health centers, police stations, employment/skill development trainings**.
- In both FGDs and KIIs it was reported that **women and girls lacked freedom of movement, privacy and access to basic need like toilets**.

Mobility Analysis:

- Mobility for men was comparatively liberal and safer whereas women feel unsafe while going outside the community due to **challenges they face like transportation, safety risk or people at ward/RM office not understanding their problems**. The respondents reported that they need to seek government services such as registration of birth certificates, citizenship cards, recommendations letters, and issues of violences. However, when they go to seek these services they reported to have encountered **negligence, intentional delay, humiliation, and even caste-based and gender-based discrimination**. The respondents seem to be **unaware of how to tackle these problems**. There seem to be **lack of mechanism and awareness of grievance mechanism at local government level**.

Decision making

- The respondents reported that during the decision-making process, all the family members engage in the process. Decisions regarding marriages are taken between two families (the bride and the grooms) which is **led by the father or the men of the family**.
- For the community-level decision-making process, **people with disabilities, women, children, and minority groups were reported to excluded**. Hence, in the community decision making process there was no meaningful inclusion and participation.





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- Moonsoon preparedness decisions are mostly led by the mayor, ward chairperson, and community leader, where the community members (men) attend the meeting. KIIs reveal that girls don't participate in any household or community-level decision-making process.

Needs, Priorities, and Barriers

- Both KIIs and FGDs reflect the **needs for schools, quality education, vocational/technical skills development training, agriculture subsidies and playgrounds**. However, the **barriers** to these are lack of acknowledgement from state/local government, **lack of good school, technical skills, education and employment opportunities**.
- **Women require vocational training**; they are eager to participate in vocational training despite their inability to leave the house; **men want to work in their local communities** but must travel abroad for work. Similarly, girls and boys require quality education; however, **distant schools and lack of transportation are barriers for girls**, while the **family expectation (economic) is a barrier for boys**. People are not aware of how to overcome the barriers and fulfill their needs.

Community structures, capacity, and coping mechanisms

- There are no community structures though there are a few women's groups who usually meet for saving and credit purposes. They also provide financial support during the crisis/emergencies.
- People faced challenges **such as a lack of food, health care, education, and clothing** during disasters/crisis. Some of the negative coping mechanisms reported were fighting, arguing, selling of their assets such as land and accessories during such times.

Protection Concerns

- People have **toilets at home, but they are not safe for women and girls**, and they do not feel safe accessing other resources in the community such as education, health, the market, etc.
- There are incidents of **violence, abuse, exploitation, and harassment, child marriage and dowry systems which has increased after the pandemic**.
- Children under 18 work to earn money, and it increased after the pandemic because the schools were closed and there were economic crises in the families.
- There are no cases of persons missing, but in the area of Baudhimai-4, there are cases of persons missing during the pandemic. However, they were not identified as trafficking.

Recommendations:

1. Harmful social norms such as dowry system, child marriage, gender based violence (GBV) is prevalent in the cohort-4 areas. The project team should mobilize and strengthen all its mechanism to address these issue. In order to strengthen it:
 - a. **In girl level:** Facilitators and mentors should advocate against harmful social gender norms. Disseminate information related to GBV and protection service providers.
 - b. **In community level:** Change Champions are the key stakeholders who have access and power to have household level impact. Incentivize and encourage them to impart information regarding harmful social and gender norms and their legal consequences.





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Each Change Champion could have a monthly target to fulfill (eg. 10HHs a month), the Change Champions could be provided with minimal communication and travel allowances to encourage them to reach their target. Radio programs on harmful social and gender norms could be improvised by including quizzes in the radio program. The respondent with correct answers can be awarded for listenening to the radio program till the end and correctly answering the questions. This will increase the impact of rado programs.

- c. **In the local government level:** Gaps and needs assessment of the Judicial Committee to fulfill their roles and reponsibilities needs to be conducted. Sharing the Gender Analysis Report with the Judicial Committee and conduct workshops to strenghten the capacity of the Judicial Committee to address such issues.
- d. **In the organization level:** Share the Gender Analysis report to all the project staff including the partner staff. Mobilize and utilize the human resource to address the findings of this report:
 - i. Harmful social and gender norms – child marriage, dowry system
 - ii. Information dessimination on protection service providers, government services on Social Protection Schemes – Social Security Allowances including Prime Minister Employment Fund.
 - iii. Support in accessing other government servies: oreintation on obtaining vital registrations such as citizenship, birth certificate, marriage registration, etc.
 - iv. Support in establishing grievance mechanism in local government and operationalization and awareness about the system is necessary.
2. It was also reported in FGDs and KIIs that the girls and women do not have access to safe toilets. The project could support girls in CLC to **reinforce toilets and WASH facilities of their households to enhance sense of safety and security** (eg. Walls could be reinforced, the toilets could have lights and latches installed, access of water with buckets, etc.)
3. The project staff should **ensure meaningful and inclusive participation of vulnerable and marginalized groups** (such as women, girls, boys, persons with disability, elderly, ethnically marginalized, etc.) in the project events including those involving decision making process at the local level.

Conclusion

It is recommended to do a gender analysis in the beginning of the program so that the programming in the field is gender informed. However, a GA in the middle of the project is still relevant and necessary. For a better picture of needs, priorities, barriers, access to resources and mobility, capacities, roles and responsibilities, power of different groups of the community, separate FGDs and KIIs with different groups such as boys, girls, people with disability, older population and ethnic minority population was conducted. After conducting the detailed gender analysis, the project staff is more gender informed which is anticipated to be reflected in the project activities.

