

WOMEN'S REHABILITATION CENTRE (WOREC) NEPAL

Annual Progress Report

2022/023



WOREC

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Introduction of the Organization:

The Women's Rehabilitation Center (WOREC) is dedicated to women's rights, a national NGO fighting for social justice established on Chaitra 19, 2047. With a focus on women's rights, it has embarked on a 26-year journey in the field. The institution has established itself and played a vital role in various aspects of social justice and women's rights since its inception. WOREC has conducted campaigns at the local, national, international, and provincial levels, ensuring women's right to live with dignity. These campaigns encompass the fight against women's violence, economic and social injustice, and advocacy for cultural rights, bridging these efforts.

WOREC's campaigns for human rights and social justice serve as a bridge, concentrating activities within the scope of Sneh Abhiyan, reaching from women's homes to villages, districts, and nations. The organization focuses on facilitating women in leadership roles and building their leadership capacity. Engaging in various policy-making, modification, and empowerment initiatives, WOREC advocates vigorously for implementation. Continuously applying pressure at local, regional, national, and international levels, the organization addresses the violation of rights faced by socially, politically, and economically disadvantaged women, teenagers, marginalized groups, Dalits, and disabled women in the community.

Vision of the organization:

A society based on social justice and ensuring women's rights.

Institutional reflection:

WOREC Nepal is engaged in the promotion of human rights and social justice by continuing the campaign for sustainable community development.

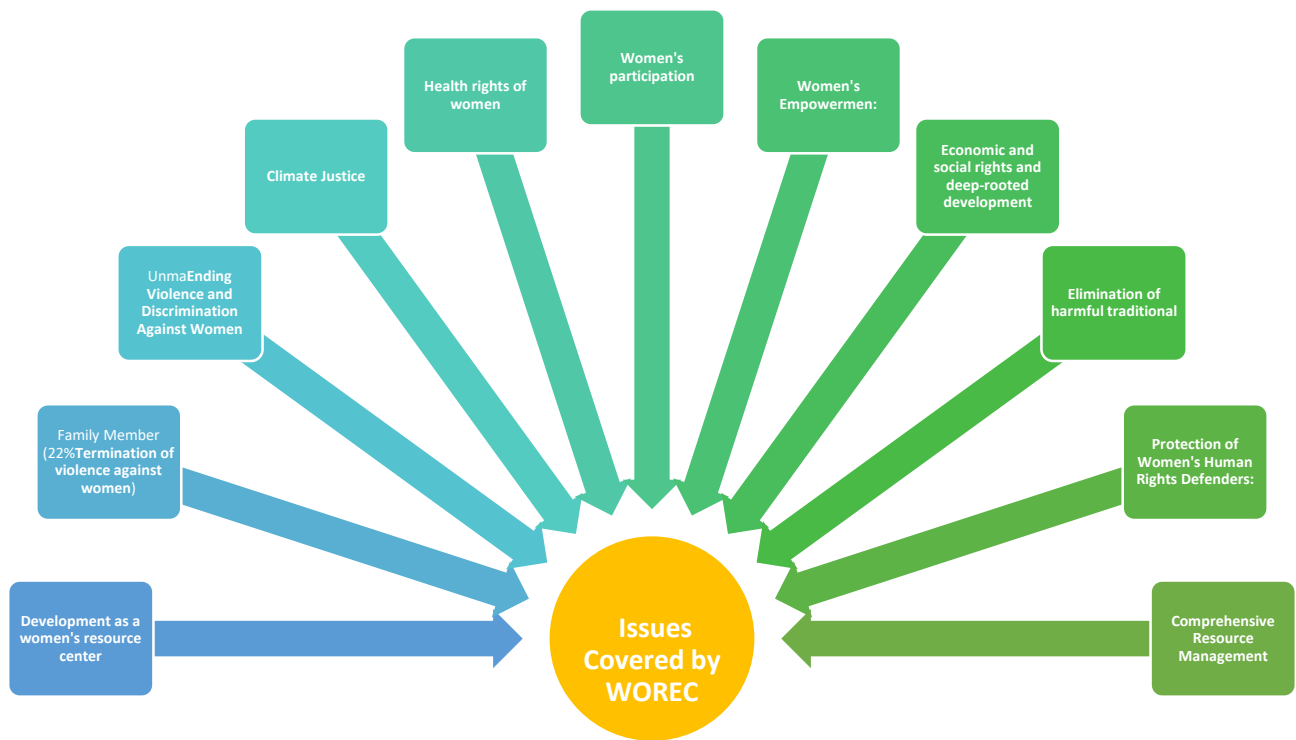
Organizational goals:

The goal of the organization is to reduce violence against women by ensuring economic, social, and cultural rights through women's empowerment.

Scope of the organization:

The Women Rehabilitation Center (WOREC) has been actively conducting integrated campaigns and programs across 18 districts. Under the Women Against Violence campaign, OREC has maintained consistency in coordinating with and supporting the network of women human rights defenders in 77 districts. Notably, they have implemented campaigns directly in Koshi Province's Morang, Sunsari, Udayapur, Madhes Province's Dhanusa, Siraha, Mahottari, Sarlahi, Bagmati Province's Kathmandu, Lalitpur, Bhaktapur, Lumbini Province's Dang, Kapilvastu, Rupandehi, Karnali Province's Rukum, and Sudur Paschim Province's Kailali, Kanchanpur, Doti, and Bajura.





Campaign against Gender Based Violence:

Due to societal attitudes and behaviors that view women's bodies as property, resources, and consumable objects, women's identity and self-respect are not fully recognized and accepted by policies, laws, and practices. A pressure-based campaign for gender mainstreaming has been consistently undertaken by addressing such issues through the formulation and modification of various laws, rules, policies, and



action plans. This year, WOREC has conducted programs from the community level to the national level for women's participation in politics. Several initiatives have been undertaken in the campaign against gender-based violence, including home-based programs, collaboration and coordination meetings, empowerment programs, support for women affected by violence, public awareness campaigns, multi-stakeholder dialogue programs, meetings with concerned authorities, events marking the International Day for the Elimination of

Violence Against Sex Workers, street plays, flash mob programs, legal rights programs for sex workers, poetry readings, candlelight vigil programs, radio program production and broadcasting, and a social media campaign. These diverse efforts reflect a comprehensive approach to address and combat gender-based violence.

A workshop and discussion session on the topic of "Child Marriage and Sexual Violence: Challenges to Sexual Rights" was conducted at the Madhes Pradesh (Province) level.

A workshop and discussion session titled "Child Marriage and Sexual Violence: Challenges to Sexual Rights" took place in Madhes Province on May 20, 2080. The event, held in Dhanusa district, aimed to address issues related to teenage pregnancies and the effective implementation of policies. Focused on transforming unequal power dynamics between men and women, especially concerning violence against adolescent girls, the program also sought to advocate for the rights of girls and adolescents to education, self-esteem, and a secure environment. Stakeholders from human rights groups, networks, and media representatives participated, fostering discussions on breaking traditional norms associated with child marriage. The platform created during the workshop served as an initiative for collaborative efforts involving the government, civil society, and media to combat child marriage and related issues in Madhes Province..



National Campaign Against Rape: Advocating for Legal and Social Justice



The fourth phase of the national campaign against rape, titled "Rights to Legal and Social Justice: Foundation of a Violence-Free Society," witnessed the collaborative efforts of over 50 NGOs working in the field of women's human rights and human rights organizations such as the National Network and One Law among others. From July 12, 2079, onwards, the campaign conducted various programs under this phase in districts like Banke, Dhadhing, Solukhumbu, Kapilvastu, Doti, Dailekh, Darchula, Sarlahi, Dhanusa, Siraha, Mahottari, Morang, Sunsari, Udayapur, Dang, Kailali, Rupandehi, Rolpa, Rukum, Surkhet, and other regions. These activities included sit-ins, rallies, coordination and cooperation meetings, and workshops, aiming to

draw attention to the campaign's demands and concerns, involving relevant stakeholders.

Discussion Program on Effective Service Delivery for Shelter Employees

In a joint initiative by the Ministry of Women, Children, and Senior Citizens (MoWCSC), local governments, and the organization for rehabilitation and empowerment of survivors (WOREC), a two-day discussion program was conducted on October 18 and 19, 2079, addressing the challenges and changes



faced by employees working in shelters. The primary objective was to facilitate a comprehensive dialogue and interactive sessions to improve the quality and effectiveness of services provided by shelters. The participants engaged in active discussions, sharing insights on how to make shelter services more impactful and accessible. The program emphasized the need for immediate monitoring of shelters, discussions with local authorities, and the implementation of full-fledged standards based on the concepts of survivor-centric approaches. The commitment to provide guidance to all stakeholders involved in operating shelters was openly declared during the program.

International Campaign Against Gender-Based Violence: 16 Days of Activism

On the occasion of the international campaign against gender-based violence, observed for 16 days from November 25th to December 10th, The campaign, themed "Collective Solidarity, Zero Tolerance for Gender-Based Violence," emphasized unity and organized various events to mark this occasion. The campaign aimed to address and raise awareness about the issue of violence against women as a violation of human rights, garnering recognition from nations and international organizations, including the United Nations. In observance of the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence, an analytical study based on records of incidents of violence against women collected throughout the year was publicly released on November 25.



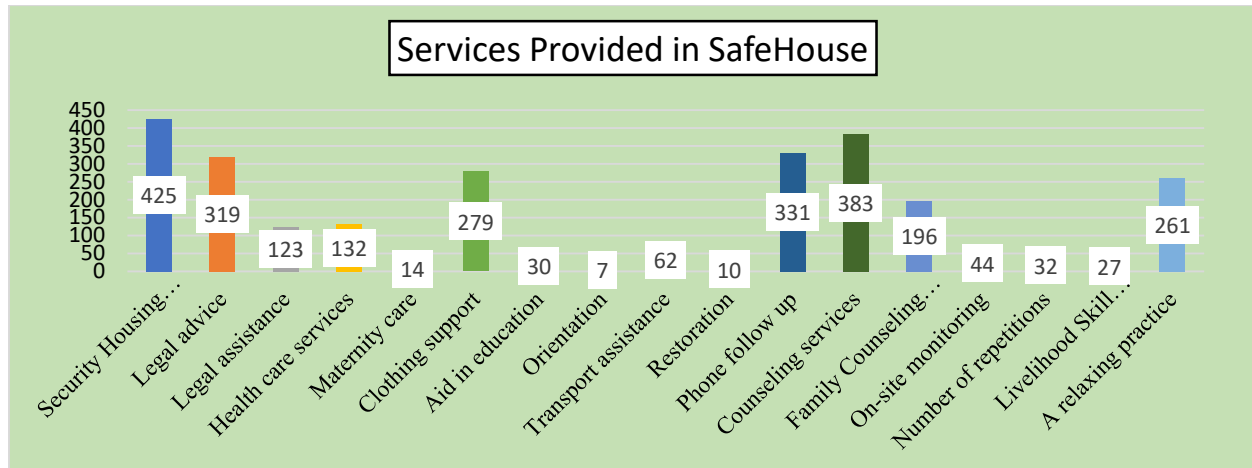
Additionally, various activities and programs were conducted in different districts as follows:

1. Province-level Program on Adolescent Girls' Rights Successfully Conducted in Rupandehi
2. Program on the Status, Challenges, and Opportunities of Women Human Rights Defenders
3. State-level Program on Women's Labor Rights, Identity, and Recognition
4. Training on Gender Equality, Impact-Centered Concepts, and Safe Communication
5. Training on Peer Support and Leadership Development
6. Review and Analysis of Various Policies
7. Comprehensive Security Training for Human Rights Defenders
8. Observance of the 12th International Day of Remembrance of Victims of Traffic Accidents
9. National Consultation Forum on the Status of Women and Sexual and Reproductive Health



Services for survivors of violence, rehabilitation, and reintegration

WOREC Nepal has established a system to provide immediate security and ensure the mental, physical, and legal treatment in a systematic manner for women affected by violence. As part of this initiative, We have targeted women affected by violence in six districts (Morang, Dhanusha, Kailali, Sunsari, Kathmandu, Udayapur) and is operating Safe House. A total of 106 affected individuals have received shelter services, with 42 sheltered girls, 6 supportive staff members, and other affected individuals benefiting from these services.



Women's Health Program

The Women's Health Program focuses on addressing the challenges faced by women in Nepal in accessing basic healthcare services and promoting their holistic well-being. Despite government initiatives, rural women encounter difficulties accessing services, and structural gender disparities contribute to negative impacts on women's sexual and reproductive health. WOREC emphasizes campaigns against gender-based violence and economic, social, and cultural campaigns to raise awareness and bring positive changes. Activities include integrated health camps, women's health counseling centers, school education on sexual and reproductive health, empowerment programs, adolescent girl training, and strengthening management committees. The goal is to empower women to exercise their health rights, free from discrimination and violence.



Women's Health Camp

WOREC Nepal has been actively involved in women's health programs, specifically addressing gender-based violence through campaigns and initiatives. One such effort includes the Unified Women's Health Camp and Fair, serving as a platform for community awareness on women's anatomy, reproductive health, cleanliness, and mental health services. The organization collaborates with various entities, including governmental and non-governmental partners, to conduct these programs in different districts. In the current year, we have organized a health camp in coordination with local authorities and stakeholders.



Lumbini Province Level Feminist Forum, 2080

The Lumbini Province Level Feminist Forum, organized on May 7 and 8, 2023, in the capital city of Butwal, marked a robust effort to strengthen the women's movement. The event, titled "Ensuring Justice, Equality, and Environmental Rights: Commitment to Inclusive Development," embraced the core slogan, which emphasized the role of women's leadership in social transformation. The program brought together more than 40 active organizations, groups, networks, communication workers, and civil societies operating in Lumbini Province, along with collaboration and support from local governments at the provincial level. The forum's main objective was to build a cooperative environment, enlightening newly elected women representatives about the feminist perspective and its significance,



Women's Health Counseling Center Operation

The operation of Women's Health Counseling Centers aims to provide information to the community about the impact of existing gender disparities in social structures on women's health. The goal is to raise awareness and facilitate the identification of real health issues faced by women. The centers aim to simplify the process of seeking treatment by providing information about women's anatomy, sexuality, reproductive organs, and related systems. There are 18 Women's Health Counseling Centers operating in five districts within the organization's jurisdiction. Campaigns and programs are being conducted in various local authorities in Morang, Sunsari, Udayapur, Dang, and Kailali to establish and enhance women's rights to informed and secure empowerment, recognition of labor (production and reproduction), and access to resources.

Successful Conclusion of National Workshop on Social Transformation: Collaboration with Stakeholders

The two-day National Consultation Workshop, held on December 1–2, 2022, at the Indreni Suites and Hotel in Kathmandu, focused on the theme "Our Work, Our Identity: Civil Work for Social Transformation." With the participation of 105 stakeholders, including the Chairperson of the National Human Rights Commission, Mr. Top Bahadur Magar, and Member of Parliament, Honorable Mr. Gagan Thapa, the event aimed to address women's rights and recognition.

Discussions centered on empowering workers to proactively address their issues and receive support from relevant authorities. Honorable Gagan Thapa emphasized recognizing women's contributions to social, economic, and political development. The National Human Rights Commission proposed recommendations, and deputy mayors expressed support for the Women Workers' Network. The workshop explored the transformation of socio-economic structures and values controlling labor, body, and identity. The National Human Rights Coalition's chairperson stressed addressing deep-rooted inequalities related to gender, sexuality, caste, and work. Participants demanded a societal transformation, actively participating in political movements advocating for democracy and human rights.

National Consultation on “Challenges in Recognition, Value and Respect of Women's Work”.

The National Consultation Workshop on "Challenges in Recognizing, Valuing, and Respecting Women's Work" aimed to address issues faced by women in various sectors, emphasizing their right to freely choose professions and advocating for fair treatment. Discussions covered discrimination in sectors like construction, domestic work, entertainment, hotel/restaurant, and agriculture. The event successfully led to the formation of the National Women Workers' Network, uniting 45 women leaders from different districts and sectors. The workshop highlighted the importance of recognizing and respecting women's work and called for policy-based transformations.



WOREC in Research: A study of strengthening interpersonal relationships through family support, love and discussion

The study conducted by WOREC, Possible and Nepal Health Research Council in coordination aimed to strengthen family support, love, and communication in Dhanusha District of Province 2. It surveyed 25 households, focusing on domestic violence, roles in violence, and the mental and social impact on women. The program included continuous counseling for 75 married women aged 15 to 24 over nine



weeks, analyzing the observed effects. The study continues in its second phase in 2023, expanding to 60 more families in Dhanusha and Morang districts, targeting married women aged 15 to 49.

Analysis of the Nepal Migration Report 2022 and Reintegration Guidelines 2079: Creating an Impact



The study conducted by WOREC in collaboration with the Global Alliance Against Traffic in Women (GAATW) and the Nepal Health Research Council aimed to analyze the Nepal Migration Report 2022 and the Reintegration Guidelines 2079 from a gender perspective. The program included a comprehensive discussion on the occasion of International Migrants Day on December 22, 2022. The event, held at Saptari, Kathmandu, brought together 37 participants (15 women and 22 men) from various organizations,

including Kimar, Sunita Foundation, SWASA Nepal, SARTUC, Nepal L Campus, and others.

Career Counseling and Guidance Programs to Returnee Migrant Women by Local Partners



To address the challenges faced by returning migrant workers from foreign employment in Nepal and help them reintegrate into their communities, career counseling, and guidance programs were organized in Sunsari district in September 2022. More than 100 returning migrant workers were provided with vocational advice, career counseling, and guidance, aiming to manage their lives, find employment, and overcome the challenges of reintegration. These programs were organized in coordination with local government representatives and community leaders.

Activities under sexual and reproductive health rights for justice: My Body My Rights

Efforts have been made to ensure fairness and protect sexual and reproductive health rights through various activities. We organized health camps for women at the local level, covering different aspects of sexual and reproductive health. Meetings addressed serious issues like sexual violence and risks related to abortion for young girls. A workshop focused on sexual rights for



justice at the regional level. Education and training programs were conducted to inform partners about sexual and reproductive health rights. We engaged stakeholders in discussions to create a supportive environment for gender relations. A health fair for adolescents was held, along with awareness programs and initiatives at homes to promote understanding of sexual and reproductive health. Additionally, we set up a committee for the Women's Health Rehabilitation Center to better support women in the community.

Environmental Justice and Sustainable Livelihood

WOREC has been actively working to minimize the impact of environmental conservation and leadership in environmental protection on women's lives through rights-based and justice-oriented perspectives since its establishment. In the year 2023, we have included the field of environmental justice and women's leadership in its institutional strategy and plan, conducting campaigns in various sectors such as climate justice, environmental justice, livelihood, agriculture, and disaster management. We have implemented its policies and programs to address the issues related to women's leadership in these areas.



Various training programs and initiatives have been implemented to



empower women and enhance their livelihoods. These initiatives cover a broad spectrum, including Livestock Management Training, Agricultural Training for Women, Mithila Art Promotion and Support Program, Business Planning for Women's Groups, Farmer's School Program, Community Agriculture and Livestock Assistance Training, Entrepreneurship Development and Small Business Management Training, Functional Training Programs, Chemical Waste and Hazardous Effects Awareness Program, Climate Change and Food Security Program, Intensive Organic Farming Training, Community Environmentally

Friendly Village Campaign, and Animal Healthcare Center Operation and Vaccination Programs. These comprehensive efforts are designed to equip women with diverse skills, promote entrepreneurship, and address environmental and agricultural challenges, ultimately contributing to their empowerment and improved livelihoods.

Gender Equality program on International Women's Day

Various activities were conducted in Nepal to promote women's rights and justice. The events took place on the 113th International Women's Day, involving over 30 organizations and around 400 participants, including human rights activists. The program featured street dramas on women's labor rights, dance performances, and appeals from key figures emphasizing the recognition and respect of women's work. The campaign aimed to build on the previous year's efforts, advocating for the acknowledgment and rights of women's labor in recognized and remunerative roles. Coordination meetings and rallies were organized in different districts, sustaining the momentum for ongoing



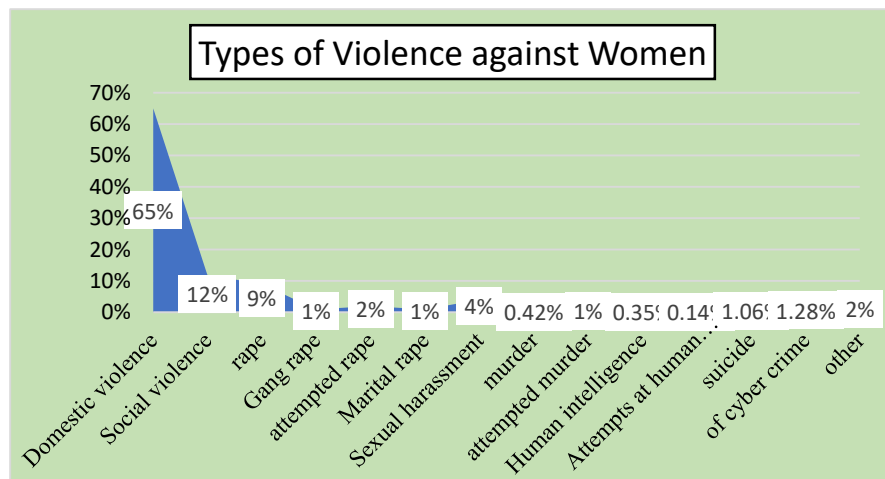
awareness and advocacy for women's labor rights. The campaign reiterated its commitment to continuous efforts for the recognition, acceptance, and rights of women's labor in various sectors.

Legal Support :Supporting with Judicial Decisions

WOREC has handled diverse cases, including child sexual abuse, forced labor, forced marriage, group violence, denial of duty, dual citizenship, domestic violence, cybercrime, illegal drugs, child marriage, social violence, attempted suicide, and more, totaling 722 cases. Additionally, we've simplified the legal processes for 243 natural cases, including land disputes, inheritance issues, property division, and others. In the realm of write petitions, WOREC has dealt with 10 cases of habeas corpus, paramedical orders, and prohibitory orders, along with 3 cases of other natural issues. We have successfully represented cases in 106 instances, where decisions were in favor of the claimant, while partial success was achieved in 31 cases. Out of these, 88 cases are still in the process of implementation, 6 cases have been returned, 3 cases have been dismissed, and 103 cases involve affected parties who, for various reasons, could not be reached for further communication.

Collection of data and case stories related to violence against women

WOREC has gathered incidents from the community level to bring awareness to women about crimes against them, encouraging them to speak out against offenses labeled as 'you are not alone.' All female human rights defenders have been supported, and the consistent efforts of WOREC's working district colleagues to raise awareness about various incidents of violence against women such as domestic violence, social violence, sexual violence, murder, rape, human trafficking, dowry-related violence, attempted suicide, the status of women's access to justice, violence caused by harmful traditional practices, and the impact of domestic violence on the victim, including data collection and analysis.



For this purpose, WOREC has recorded and analyzed 1,409 incidents of violence against women in the economic year, and a multi-perspective analysis has been conducted. The gender-based violence collection form developed by WOREC was used for this purpose. Information such as the geographic location of the affected person, age, gender, ethnicity, educational status, marital status, and the relationship between the victim and the perpetrator was collected through this medium.

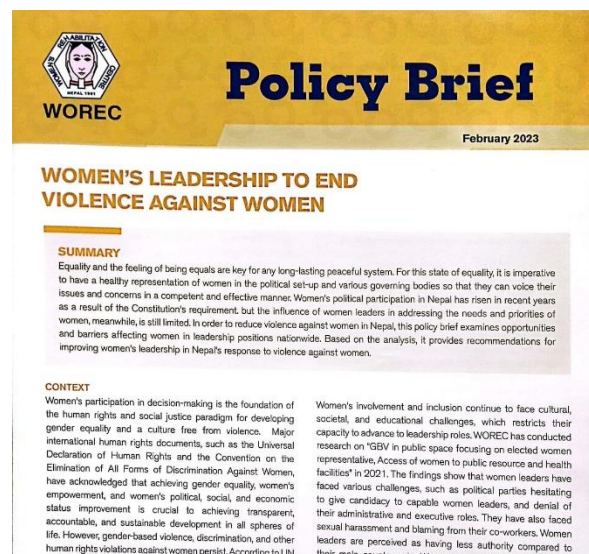
Impact of WOREC:

WOREC, along with women, community networks, and individuals residing in various communities, has been actively advocating for changes in citizenship laws. Due to continuous advocacy and amendments in citizenship legislation, individuals deprived of citizenship rights for an extended period have been able to acquire citizenship based on prepared criteria. In alignment with the Government of Nepal's policies and programs (2078/079), a system has been established to address all forms of violence, discrimination, and exploitation against women and adolescent girls. This includes the establishment of short-term and long-term rehabilitation centers providing integrated services at the provincial and local levels. Furthermore, the Ministry of Home Affairs, Nepal Government, issued a notice on Chaitra 22, 2079 (April 5, 2023), regarding "Information on Birth Registration of a Child whose Paternity is not Mentioned by a Single Woman." After releasing the notice, the Ministry clarified the information through a press release, ensuring accuracy in the expression of the details mentioned in the notice.

WOREC, in collaboration with local community organizations, has implemented initiatives for women's livelihoods, securing funds and conducting training programs in Dang district. Proposals were presented to government agencies, resulting in a budget of NPR 12,48,000 for training 95 participants in income-generating activities. The efforts extend to mental health services, documenting gender-specific incidents, and supporting women affected by violence in Dang, Dangisharan Rural Municipality, Tulshipur Sub-Metropolitan City, and Shantinagar Rural Municipality. WOREC has also supported women's unity community organizations, allocating NPR 5,00,000 for training 20 women leaders. Financial assistance of NPR 4,58,000 has facilitated various awareness programs by six community groups in Udayapur district. Additionally, Rangeli Municipality in Morang has utilized funds to construct a shelter for women affected by violence. Overall, WOREC's initiatives encompass training, awareness, and support, making a positive impact on women in different regions.

Preparation of a policy document on women's leadership in minimizing violence against women

WOREC has formulated a policy document on women's leadership in the context of minimizing violence against women. This policy, presented internationally, emphasizes the necessity of women's leadership in long-term peaceful systems, advocating for mandatory female participation in politics. It highlights the importance of women's leadership for effective decision-making processes in the context of international peace and reconstruction efforts. This policy paper was presented by WOREC in March 2023 and was also part of the discussions at the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) event held in the United States. Furthermore, WOREC has produced another policy paper titled "Addressing the Challenges and Opportunities of Digital Technology: Bridging Gender Divides," focusing on the impact of the digital age on women's empowerment. This policy paper discusses concerns related to data



security and privacy and underscores the need to address the increasing gender divide brought about by the digital era. It outlines the main agenda of promoting women's online participation, information accessibility, and ensuring their rights in the digital realm.

Our Publications:

WOREC Releases Yearly Report on Gender-Based Violence: 2019 Publication

WOREC (Women Rehabilitation Center) launched its annual report on gender-based violence, titled "Yathartha Tathyank Sameteko Barsha Pustak Anveshi 2019" (Yearly Book Researcher on Real Facts 2019). The book was published and officially unveiled during the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence campaign. The publication, sponsored by the Ministry of Women, Children, and Senior Citizens, was presented at a special event organized by the ministry. The research presented in this book was intended to provide WOREC with additional resources to further its work in addressing sexual violence.



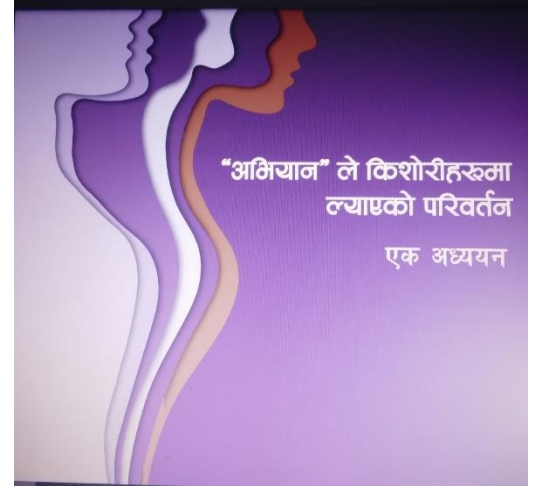
“Quarterly Publication of Pairawi”

WOREC has actively raised questions related to women's rights from the community level to address them in state policies. The campaign, focused on women's human rights and issues of social justice, has been consistently implemented. The efforts of this campaign have been published in the trimestral newsletter, "Pairawi." "Pairawi" has published three issues, and from January to June, two editions have been released, incorporating the activities undertaken during this period. These editions of Pairawi have particularly highlighted WOREC's campaigns related to human rights, social justice, environmental justice, women's leadership, economic empowerment of women and marginalized communities, and collaboration with the state for human rights and women's rights.



Publication of “अभियानले किशोरीहरुमा ल्याएको परिवर्तन” Book

WOREC, in collaboration with the Kishori Adhikar Manch in Rupandehi and Kapilvastu, has published a book named “अभियानले किशोरीहरुमा ल्याएको परिवर्तन” based on a survey that analyses the changes brought about by the campaign in the community. Registered in 2076 B.S., the Kishori Adhikar Manch is a community organization, actively formed and supported by organizations such as WOREC Nepal and Care Nepal. This article is based on the study of the changes brought about in the lives of adolescent girls in Rupandehi and Kapilvastu due to their participation in social campaigns. The book presents word-by-word records of interviews and provides a comprehensive analysis of the success stories resulting from the campaign.



Publication of "महिलावादी शक्ति र सृजना" Book

The publication titled "महिलावादी शक्ति र सृजना" features stories and biographies of women's rights activists working at the community level in various districts. It presents the life experiences of women and adolescent girls dedicated to campaigns for women's rights, highlighting their unwavering strength, commitment to justice, and contributions to significant changes in the lives of successful women affected by violence. The anthology showcases the remarkable journeys of women who have successfully transformed their lives, dedicating themselves to social justice for women and girls. These women, driven by creativity, have overcome societal divisions, prejudices, and harmful practices. The stories address challenges related to women's rights, education, health, and the rights of individuals with disabilities.

