

Report on Community Radio National Conference

“Community radios for sustainable social Change: Paradigm shift of content Priorities”

26-27 Feb. 2018

Hotel Pokhara Grand



Association of Community Radio Broadcasters (ACORAB), Nepal

Acknowledgment

Association Community Radio Broadcasters' (ACORAB) Nepal organized a national conference of community radios on January 24-25, 2018 in Pokhara Grande Hotel, Pokhara. The main objective of the conference was to bring community broadcasting leaders, local government representatives and civil society members together and search the common way forward to eliminate the Harmful Traditional Practices and sustainable social change through the community broadcasting system. More than 260 community radio representatives, high level political leaders, media activist, researchers, civil society representatives have participated in the conference. Series of panel discussions and keynote speeches were delivered in the plenary sessions of the conference. This conference has successfully brought the community radios contribution for positive societal transformation as well as sustainability and content issues in the discussion.

I would like to appreciate from the core of the heart to the conference chief guest Mr. KP Sharma Oli, the former premier of country for his gracious presence, program inauguration and keynote address in the conference. I am equally thankful to Mr. Krishna Bahadur Mahara, the former deputy prime minister, Mr. Bishwo Prakash Sharma, the spoke person of Nepali Congress, Mr. Manish Suman, the general secretary of Rastriya Janta Party, Dr. Ganga Lal Tuladhar, former education minister, Ms. Asha Koirala, the member of parliament, Mr. Rajiv Pahari, the member of parliament, Mr. Man Bahadur GC, the Mayor of Pokhara Metro Municipality, Mr. Ghanshyam Pande, the mayor of Tulsipur sub-metro municipality, Mr. Min Bahadur Sahi, the co-president of World Community Radio Association, Mr. Bipul Pokharel, the vice president of Federation of Nepalese Journalists for their participation and speech in the conference. I am equality in debt with Mr. Subas Khatiwada, the President of ACORAB, Mr. Arjun Giri, the senior vice president of ACORAB, Ms. Sashi Kala Dahal, Mr. Arjun Rai, Mr. Vuban Sing, Mr. Nimesh Karna, the vice presidents of ACORAB, Mr. Govinda Devkota the General Secretary of ACORAB, Ms. Bandana Danuwar the secretary of ACORAB Mr. Laxman Khadka, the treasure of ACORAB and Mr. Mohan Chapagain, the former president of ACORAB, for their trust and support.

Our sincere appreciation goes to CCWB, Pokhara Metro Municipality, Plan International, World Vision International, CSRC, HAMI, OXFAM, Hotel Pokhara Grande and Raniban Arcade and Helping Hand Nepal for their support to the conference. I am very much thankful to AOCRAB central board, audit committee and all representatives of the community radios. The medias played very important roles during the conference. Their creative works deserve special thanks.

My especial thanks goes to ACORAB staff team for their hard work during whole preparation stages of the conference. Without their support this program would have been impossible. I would like acknowledge them for their great contribution.

Ram Chandra Lamichhane, Ph.D.

Executive Director

Introduction

Mid-January was of the extremely high points for the community radios of Nepal. Out of 315 community radios stations, 260 community radios representatives, high level political leaders, representatives of local government, media leaders, researchers, representatives of development partners and media practitioners were participated in community radio National conference in Pokhara Nepal. This was first conference ever held in Nepal with such wider participation of community radio broadcasters, media and political representatives.

In the 21st century, media is regarded as a power. Political elites and rich people who have control over the media are holding the country's as well as social power. Larger section of the rural community was deprived from the media access in Nepal before the community radio era. However, after the emergence of the community radios on 1997, the community people have somehow access over the media as they have been serving to the geographic communities of Nepal. Community Radios are being operated in all 77 districts for benefits of the rural communities. Community Radios have been trying to shift the power from elites to local communities and giving voices to the rural people. The positive impacts of the community radio programs have been seen in various social aspects including reduced the harmful traditional social practices, improvement of the good governance and social inclusion at local level. Due to growing attraction of local community towards the community radios, the political elites have also been paying attention towards the community radios and their activities.

This is high time to reevaluate the performance of community radios and develop appropriate path for future. Nepal is one of the few countries, where community radios or FM stations have permission to broadcast news. Most of news broadcasting from FM stations have been focusing on the political contents. The political contents were relevant in the past since Nepal was in political transitions for a long period. But now, the political agendas have been settled down and new era of the peace, harmony, inclusion, prosperity and development has begun. Now community radios of the country need to shift the contents priority from politics to prosperity. In this background the community radio conference was held on January 26-27 in Pokhara Nepal.

Community Radios in Nepalese Context:

Community Radios of Nepal are unique means of communication. They have 100% reach on country population. They have been informing and educating communities by broadcasting the PSA, NEWS and Radio program in more than 70 local languages. Community Radios are only means, which have been broadcasting the information in various local languages. These are the true means of communication, which have been connecting the linguistic diverse communities of the country. The community radio is the more than equipment's and station. However, the member collects the money and bought the equipment's and established the radio. Right to information is the fundamental rights in Nepal, however, the government charged full custom taxes of the equipment and other taxes too. On contrary, the government has provided the tax rebate for private profit making industries. The government allocated around 20 billion rupees for public welfare advertisement announcement and 80% amount of the such money goes to print

media and 20% remains for televisions and radios. These examples are more than enough to illustrate the government behavior towards the community radios.

According to the population census 2011, the reach of the print media is for 11% population and radio has 100%. Only 65% population (72% Male and 42%Female) are literate and 56% population of the country speak Nepali language. The government has no mechanism to provide information to the illiterate and non-Nepalese speaking communities. Government itself is violating the constitutional rights to be informed of minorities communities and misusing the national property. In the previous election, around 1.5 billion votes were invalid due to lack of knowledge to proper casting techniques. However, millions of rupees have been spent in the name of the voter education. That can be considered as institutional corruption of public fund. Due to lack of public accountability, the government of this country seems very much unaccountable, irresponsible and corrupted, who have been playing with the future of the poor rural people. The government has not been utilizing the potential of the community radios for people empowerment and development communications. The major agenda of the community radio is “putting the last community first and giving them the voice”. Community radios produce the programs based on needs and interests of the local communities. It works to empower the local communities so that they can claim their rights and participate in the mainstream development process. Community Radios are fighting to end the resistance that comes from family, society and conditioning of disempowered for marginalized communities.

All rural municipalities of the country have reliable access of the community radios but some of the newly elected mayors are found incapable to set the development agendas and preparing to open a new radio station from the government budget. Investing the development budget in radio station is complete non-productive and misuse of the public fund. Rather than opening new station the local government can collaborate with the existing community radios, which are not for profit making and devoted for the same communities. If they invest the municipal budget on non-productive items like radio, they have to spend huge money for radio operation and cannot build new projects.

Inaugural Session



The waiting premier Mr. KP Sharma Oli inaugurated the conference by lightening the lamp among the participants, delegates and other VIP guests. Mr. Krishan Bahadur Mahara of CPN Maoist center, Bishwo Prakash Sharma of Nepali Congress and Mr. Manish Suman of RJP joined him. Participation of high level political leadership in the conference has accepted the importance of community radio

for strengthening of democracy, federalism and development agendas of country. Mr. Oli appreciated the community radios for their multiple contribution on social, political, cultural and economic empowerment of the rural communities. Mr. Oli ensured his full support to community

radios on behalf of his party and also if he forms the government. Other political leaders also expressed their commitment for support to the community radios.

Felicitation to the Founder of ACORAB:



ACORAB has felicitated to the founder of the ACORAB. Chief guest Honorable Mr. KP Sharma Oli felicitated by decorating scarf, garland and certificate. Mr. Ghama Raj Luitel, Mr. Bharat Bhusal, Mr. Chaitanya Sapkota and Mr. Gunakar Aryal were felicitated as a founding members of ACORAB.

Girls Experiences on Community Radio as a Program Host:

ACORAB in collaboration with Plan International Nepal office organized the girls' takeover program on 11 October 2018. In that program, 300 non-journalist adolescent girls conducted the radio talk shows in all community radios of the country. Ms. Khusbu Shah was one of them. She conducted the talk show in 3 angels radio Pokhara. In the conference, she shared how she felt when she got the offer, during conducting the program and after conduction program. She shared how she could able to successfully accomplish the event. According to her, she became success because she was girl. She said "I succeeded because I am a girl". After the event she has been getting very positive response from family, friends, and society. Her experiences inspired all community radios representatives and participants of the conference. The trust of the community radios, her family members and friends acted as catalytic role for her success. She found that if the society can trust to girls, the girls' can achieve extraordinary results.



Book Launching Program



Mid-January was of the extremely high points for the community radios of Nepal. Out of 315 community radios stations, 260 community radios representatives, high level political leaders, representatives of local government, media leaders, researchers, representatives of development partners and media practitioners were participated in community

radio National conference in Pokhara Nepal. This was first conference ever held in Nepal with

such wider participation of community radio broadcasters, development agencies, media and political representatives. This is high time to reevaluate the performance of community radios and develop appropriate path for future. Nepal is one of the few countries, where community radios or FM stations have permission to broadcast news. Most of news broadcasting from FM stations have been focusing on the political contents. The political contents were relevant in the past since Nepal was in political transitions for a long period. But now, the political agendas have been settled down and new era of the peace, harmony, inclusion, prosperity and development has begun. On 11 October, 2017 all community radios practiced girls' empowerment through the takeover program. ACORAB has prepared and published the book incorporating all events conducted on 11 October 2017 and the book was launched on 26th January 2018 with special program among the community radio representatives, development agencies representatives, medial personals, political leaders and social activist.

Key Note Speeches and Panel Discussions:



After the formal inaugural session, various panel discussions and plenary sessions were taken places. The objectives of the different thematic discussions in plenary were to discover way forward for community radios in this changed context. Elimination of all kinds of socially harmful traditional practices is one of the major focuses of community radios. To eliminate all kinds of harmful traditional practices, Nepalese societies, need to co-create new social,

cultural and economic realities based on international human rights, social inclusion, democracy and social justice principles. To create harmonious, equitable, just and prosperous communities, people needs life skill based multiple information so that they can fights against existing social strata. The panelists shared their experiences and learnings in this regards.

Since, Nepal has decided the agenda for prosperity and inclusive economic development, the community radios roles found to be instrumental to connect the people with government and increase their participation in development activities. After promulgation of the new constitutions, the governing system of the country is drastically changed. The local government is powerful and responsible authority for the local development. Majorities of the population of rural areas and even the elected representatives are unknown about the roles, responsibilities of the local, provincial and federal government. The division of the authorities based on the constitutions is controversial. The community radios need to focus their program to educate the people about the role and responsibilities of different levels of the government and their functions.

The hopes and aspirations of local community for local development depends on the authentic, reliable and appropriate information. Based on the received information, the local people create their world views towards the development. In this regard, the community radios have to give immense priority on development issues rather than political. For the positive societal transformation at local level, the local government has to be prioritized the development agendas. Identification of appropriate agenda determines the whole development process. In this context, the community radios have great roles to discover the appropriate civic agendas and set the development priorities based on real agendas. It is assumed that if all kinds of government collaborate with the community radios, the people participation in the development process will be more than imagined and all governments will have outstanding performance.

Keynotes Speech -1

Community Radio and Child Protection Lesson and Scope:



Mr. Atma Ram Thapa, the program officer of Central Children Welfare Board delivered the keynote speech on “Children Friendly Communication”. He highlighted on Children, children rights and children sensitivity; Importance of children friendly communication guideline; Major Contents of the children friendly communication guideline; and Role of community radios to promote the child friendly communication.

He further highlighted that the children rights are the fundamental needs of children and these must be cared by all concern stakeholders. He focused on the four major pillars of children rights. According to him, they are, Rights to live; Rights to protection, Rights to participation, and Rights to development. He also spoke about the progress regarding the child-rights protection and highlighted on the importance of child sensitive communication. He explained about the scope of child sensitive communication and journalist code of conducts for 2073 and children friendly guideline. He explored areas to promote the children friendly communication by community radios. He found that community radio can play vital roles to protect the children rights in Nepal, especially in rural areas.

Panel Discussion -1 Major challenges and opportunities of radio to contribute on positive societal transformation process in changed situation

Session Chair: Subas Khatiwada

Panelists: Mr. Suresh Karki Radio Nepal, Mr. Suman Basnet AMARC, Mr. Mohan Chapagain ACORAB



Mr. Subas Khatiwada set the context of the discussion. He presented the current scenario of community radios contribution for positive societal transformation process. According to him community radios are the only means of information for rural community people of 42 districts. However, the reach of community radios is in for all 77 districts. Community radio have been serving to the community more than in 70 languages and these are the only means for communication for illiterate and minority linguistic communities. He asked panelists how the community radios can contribute more effective and broadways for positive societal transformation process coming days? One of the panelists Mr. Suman Basnet, the regional coordinator of the World Community Radio Association Asia Pacific, highlighted the further scope of community radio for positive societal transformation process. Mr. Mohan Chapagain highlighted on the major contribution of community radios for Nepalese societies, right after initiation of community radios in Nepal. According to him the understanding about community radios during the early days was different than today. Now, the community radios have been playing appreciating roles for positive societal transformation. Mr. Suresh Karki, the executive director of Radio Nepal, has highlighted that the radio Nepal has been serving the country since 1956. According to him radio Nepal and community radios can play vital roles to empower the rural communities.

Keynote Speech -2 Partnership to community radio to eliminate the Child Marriage and Harmful Traditional Practices in Nepal



Mr. Puskar Khati, the director of world vision international delivered the keynote speech in plenary session of the conference. He summarized the history of partnership with ACORAB since 2012. He found the supportive and supplementary roles of community radios on community development activities initiated by world vision international. The community journalism was new initiation of ACORAB and World Vision International, implemented in

earthquake effected districts. This is innovative initiations in community broadcasting system and found effective to be collected the information from community level. In this projects, the school students (10-18 years) boys and girls were trained and promoted as reporters. They have been reporting the cases of child marriage and other harmful traditional practices. This initiation has been contributing to eliminate the child marriage from the program implemented districts. The community radios other than program districts can also replicate this model and empower to the community to eliminate the child marriage and other harmful traditional practices. The

community radios have to rethink on its contents and focused on the social and daily life skill issues rather than political or other theoretical issues.

Panel Discussion -2 Community Radio and Local Government

Session Chair:- Laxman Khadka

Panelists : Mr. Ghanashyam Pande – Mayor Tulsipur Sub Metro Municipality, Mr. Ishwor Pandey – Bhimsen Rural Municipality, Mr. Asha Koirala – Member of parliament State no -4, Mr. Govinda Devkota – General Secretary – ACORAB



The role of the community radios on local development in this changed scenario is inevitable. The community radios have reach in all rural municipalities and municipalities of the country. In this situation, the local government can use all strengths of community radios to escalate the local development. Mr.

Ghanashyam Pande, the mayor of Tulsipur sub metro municipality Daang, spoke on possibilities of collaboration of metro municipalities with the community radios for development communication. He further highlighted that the local government has to invest the money in productive sectors rather invest to open the radios or any medias. The community radios and other medias can act as watch dog of the local, provincial and federal government. The panelists also highlighted on the needs of classification and merge the community radios for their effectiveness and sustainability. The panelists further highlighted that government need to be supportive to promote the freedom of expression and right to information at local level.

Ms. Asha Koirala, former minister and member of parliament of state no. 4 has emphasized on the new role of media in the changed contexts. She found the role of media has increased in this changed context. There are multiple messages to be delivered by the community radios to empower and apply the constitutional and legal rights of local communities. Ms. Koirala also emphasized the role of community radios to eliminate the harmful traditional practices through various positive radio programs.

Mr. Ishwor Pandey the chairperson of Bhimeshwor rural municipality, has shared his experiences about the collaboration with community radios. According to him the rural municipality has already been initiated the collaboration with the community radios. He found that the community radios are easy and effective means of communication to circulate the rural municipality notices and announcements. The rural municipality can collaborate with community radios to produce and broadcast the program on regular activities. He opines that the rural municipality must not invest the money on radios or any media house establishment.

Mr. Govinda Devkota, the general secretary of ACORAB has emphasized on the need of independent media to strengthen the democracy and good governance up to the grass root level. He said that the government should be responsible and accountable to promote the independent

media at all level. The independent media can maintain the check and balance of authority and can act as watch dog. Only independent media can make the government responsible and accountable. According to him, the collaborative efforts of the community radios and local government can bring the synergic positive effects in the community. ACORAB will empower all community radios to collaborate with the local government to forward the development activities.

The panelist agreed that if the community radios and local government can have collaboration, the local government will have excellent performance on development of local level.

Keynote Speech – 3 Scope of community radio to empower the girls in Nepal: Helping paradigm shift of thinking to Nepalese community



Mr. Sven Coppens was one of the keynote speakers of the conference. In his speech, he introduced his organization saying that, Plan International is working in Nepal 1978 being one of the largest and oldest organization. Plan International is advocating children's rights and promoting equality for the girls. It has been contributing to eliminate the child and forced marriage and other harmful practices in Nepal. It is working in the 42 districts of Nepal. It aims to impact 100 million girls across the world by

five years.

Further he raised the issue of child marriage saying that many researches have indicated that the child marriage is a barrier to advance the girls' lives as well as for their community. However, half of the girls in Nepal marry before the age of 18 years. He remembered the partnership between ACORAB and Plan International to launch the takeover program on Oct. 11, 2018. According to him, Plan International felt honored to partner with ACORAB to jointly initiate 'Community Radio Take over program'.

He added that community radios have a power to transform the lives as they coverage more than 90% of areas of Nepal. In the context of Nepal there are more than 700 radios but community radios are those who can contribute to the communities where other medias have not reached. Girls are the part of the same community. So, providing them equal space and opportunity in the community radios to host the programs, can make their voice heard and known to others, which can lead to the social change.

He further added that radio as a popular means of communications and can bring the change in the girls' lives though continuously sharing of information news, drama and talk shows. Making the girls radio host is to also make them responsible. Besides this, community radio can also advocate and protect girls' rights by engaging local people and stakeholders at community level. Radio is a platform for transformative change and now is a time to shift the content priority that

can motivate young girls. Community radio can act as a watch dog when the rights of the girl are violated.

Dr. Shiba Baskota highlighted on the multiple aspects of child marriage and harmful traditional practices, which is being prevailing Nepal and have been performing as strong barrier of social progress. This practices have been denying to realizing rights of the children particularly girls and the most marginalized children to be protected from violence. In Nepal, 41% girls and 11% boys married before 18 years' age. The child marriage is found highest (87%)



among the Madeshi, janjati, Dalit and Muslim. Minor girls below the age of 16 are most vulnerable. 82% of VAC cases constitute sexual abuse. In Nepal, girls and marginalized children including children with disabilities are affected the most. According to the available data 5000 children are missing every year. The scenario of trafficked persons found 8500 every year 9500 were attempted to be trafficked. The trafficked survivors are 87% female and 13% male.

The child labor is major cause to deprive the children from enjoying their rights and opportunities and leading them into cycle of deprivation. Still 40% of 5-17 years' children are labor, 21% children do not go to school. The 910,000 girls and 690,000 boys are labors and deprived from education, family care, love and health hazards as well as abuse and exploitation. These segments are in risks of trafficking and engagement in criminal activity. In this situation, Plan international Nepal has aim to empower the young girls through “because I am a girl campaign”. It has been giving the efforts for leadership and changes for girls' rights. It has been working for grow a girls' rights movement from grassroots to global as well as advancing solutions for girls with girls.

Panel – 3 Institutional Development of Community Radio

Session Chair: Arjun Giri

Panelists: Bhumi Chapagain, Meena Gurung, Kishorjung Thapa



Mr. Arjun Giri, the senior vice president of ACORAB raised the issues of various aspects on the sustainability of the community radios. He also raised the issues about the merging and specialization of community radio for effective operation.

Mr. Bhumi Chapagain, the panelists and Coordinator of Audit Committee of ACORAB, highlighted on various sources of income for community

radios. He emphasized on the relationship with the local government on political, economic and social development issues. According to him the community radios could be authentic means of local and provincial government for the development issues. Community radios have to give emphasis on content research and design the program accordingly.

Ms. Meena Gurug, the station manager of Radio Marsaydi has highlighted on the need of the women focused content for women empowerment. She felt that the community radio needs to raise the development issues rather than political issues. The women related issues are very important to eliminate the harmful traditional practices. ACORAB needs to plan more capacity development programs for the community radio journalists.

Mr. Kishorjung Thapa the station manager of Radio Gorkha and advisor of ACORAB has focused on the existing policies related to the community radios. He said the government must accept the roles of the community radios on local development. The taxation system with community radio need to revise and concession must be provided for the community radios. He further explained about the scope of the relationship between community radios and local government.

Keynote Speech – 4 Community Radio to ensure the land rights in Nepal



Mr. Jagat Deuja, the executive director of CSRC delivered the keynote speech in the conference. He said that the economic development of the country determines the land distribution pattern. To increase the production and create more farm based employment, the land reform is very important and community radios can play inevitable

roles in this regards. Land reform movement is related to each and every house hold of the country. This is the vision to create prosperous Nepal and prosperous Nepali. Community radios can inform rural people and aware them about the information of land and its important. Land reform is long discussed issues but concrete result has not been achieved at all. The misuse of the agriculture land as home state, industry or other manufactural work, has been deforming the land quality. Because of this large amount of food materials have been importing from other country. This has increased our dependency and also threaten our sovereignty. The rural communities are victims of the mal agricultural practices. Community radios can empower community people to understand the importance of land and its production through the radio programs and PSA. Community radios can also create the public opinion about the land reform at community to policy level and increase the people participation in land reform movement.



Panel Discussion – 4 Community Broadcasting on Multiple Aspects

Session Chair: Arjun Rai,
Panelists: Nimesh Karna, Dipak

Acharya, Dirga Raj Upadhaya, Binu Pokhrel

The session was chaired by Mr. Arjun Rai, the vice president of ACORAB. In the background of the discussion, he highlighted how ACORAB is promoting the social inclusion in ACORAB's organization structure as well as community radio content. However, he felt the flagship programs on Janjati, Dalits, Madeshi and Women issues can help to empower the most marginalized community of the country.

Mr. Nimesh Karna, ACORAB vice president and panelists focused on the needs of paradigm shift of the content from political focused to the development focus. According to him, the community radios should be focused on the local development agendas including health, education, social inclusion etc. The community radios have scope to empower the local community to adapt the new thinking and eliminate the superstitions and conservative thinking.

Deepu Pokharel the managing director of Radio Mukti, emphasized on the importance of women leadership in decision making position. According to her, the ACORAB needs to develop the strategy to increase the women leadership in key positions of ACORAB and community radios of the country. The women involvement in the community radio leadership can help to empower the women and eliminate the harmful traditional practices.

Mr. Dirga Raj Upadhaya, the president of state no. 7 has shared his experiences how his radio is advocating for the local development and promoting the good governance at local level. He said that community radio has broad scope to promote good governance, social inclusion and developmental activities at local level. According to him this is high time to shift the paradigm of the community radio content from politics to development.

Mr. Dipak Acharya, the Manager of CIN, has focused on the need of connection of community's issues rather than political agenda. CIN has been trying to reach wider community through the community radios. According to him, community radios have extraordinary power to eliminate all harmful traditional practices through the radio program. Now onwards, the community radio programs need focus to unleash the local potential for development. CIN and community radios together can advocate to create new society in Nepal.

Handing over the Charging Stoves



ACORAB has received 24 emergency charging stoves from Helping Hands Nepal. Ms. Linda Jay Jackson handed over the stoves to the community radio representatives of mountain and high hill region community radios. Ms. Linda Jay Jackson also brief how this stove can be useful to generate the electricity and charge the mobile phone during the crises.

Conclusion:

Community radios are the mainstream media of the country. These are the ultimate means of information for the rural communities of Nepalese society. The history of the community radio in Nepal begun from 1997. Community radios have been serving various geographical and cultural communities of the country. They have been producing and broadcasting PSAs, NEWS and radio programs more than in 70 languages. The various key notes speeches and panel discussion sessions have explored new avenues for community radio content in the changed situation. The participation of the high level political representatives in the conference has endorsed the community radios roles in the country. The community radios have decided to collaborate with the local, provincial and federal government to eliminate the harmful traditional practices.

Annex-1 Pokahara Declaration

27 January 2018

Preamble:

We, the community radios of Nepal, participating in the 13th Annual General Meeting and national Convention of ACORAB,

- Asserting our firm commitment to freedom of expression;
- Reiterating our pledge to be the voice of the voiceless;
- Renewing our commitment to the protection and promotion of right to information;
- Declaring our unflinching commitment to democracy, human rights and plurality;
- Advocating for the right to life with dignity; and
- Addressing the challenges and opportunities facing community radios in the present times;

Proclaim and uphold this Pokara Declaration.

Our commitments:

- 1) We resolve to continue our campaign and play a catalytic role for positive social transformation by ensuring ‘radio in every household for building a prosperous Nepal through informed and responsible citizens;’
- 2) We renew our commitment towards the promotion and uplifting of women’s rights as well as that of every under privileged and deprived community through policy reconstruction leading towards their enhanced participation in community radios;
- 3) We resolve to renew our commitment to strive for ending all social discriminations and mal-practices including child marriage, dowry tradition, and chaupadi system through increasing attention of community radios on these issues;

4) We resolve to increase our commitment towards building resilient societies that are well informed to withstand incidents of disasters induced by climate change;

Our demand:

1) We have taken serious notice of the recently issued 'action plan for the management and operation of FM radio' that grants locally elected bodies unprecedented control over licensing, renewal, and monitoring of local radio stations. We call upon the Ministry of Federal Affairs and Local Development of the Government of Nepal to immediately withhold its implementation of the action plan - which we recognize as being against the spirit of the Constitution of Nepal and against the principle of freedom of expression, and hold consultations with all concerned stakeholders to revise the action plan in line with the principles of freedom of expression and democratic media management;

2) In order to ensure that all elected provincial and local governments deliver their services to the people in a transparent, inclusive and effective manner, and recognizing the value of a working relationship between community radios and the elected governments, we call upon the Government of Nepal to formulate and implement a clear policy for the same in consultation with the concerned stakeholders;

3) We call upon the Government of Nepal to implement the decision of the Honorable Supreme Court of Nepal and implement the policy of proportional advertisement distribution with immediate effect;

4) We strongly denounce the highly objectionable, unilateral, and rushed decision of the Ministry of Communication of Government of Nepal to withhold renewal of FM radio licenses unless music royalty fees has been paid up. We call upon the Ministry to take back its decision immediately and without any pre condition and ensure smooth renewal of the radio licenses;

5) We call upon all relevant national and international stakeholders including locally elected governments to continually support the campaigns promoted by community radios against Harmful Traditional Practices such as, Caste Based Discrimination, child marriage, dowry tradition, girls' empowerment and chaupadi system;

6) We call upon the Government of Nepal to formulate and implement a community radio policy that will ensure people's right to communication, promote sustainability of community radios and promote good governance in the media sector as a whole;

7) We have taken serious note of the fact that security agencies including the military and police department, as well as locally elected governments have taken interest to establish their own radio stations despite the high level of presence of community radios all over the country. We call upon the Government of Nepal to immediately halt such practices, which will eventually lead towards stifling of people's freedom of expression and mis-management of the overall broadcasting sector of Nepal. We also call upon all concerned parties to coordinate with community radios to promote an atmosphere of coordination and collaboration.

Annex-2 List of Participants

S.No.	Name	Station Name
1	Prakash Mainali	Radio ekata
2	Ghanshyam Balampaki	Radio Mukteshwor
3	Suresh Mahato	Radio Gaushala
4	Basanta Bhatta	Radio Mahila Awaj
5	Bijaya Singh Bharati	Radio Kripalu
6	Rajesh G.C	Radio Mandavi
7	Achhutom Sapkota	Radio Sarlahi
8	Dilendra Subba	Radio Sumhatlung
9	Purna Pd Newpane	Vision FM
10	Mandira Danuwar	Udaypur FM
11	Anil Shahi	Radio Budhinandi
12	Vishnu Nath Yogi	Radio Pathshala
13	Yuvraj GC	Radio Jharna
14	Lila Sunwar	Radio Sahyatri
15	Khagendra Bhattra	Radio Malika
16	Deependra Oli	Jagaran FM
17	Ganesh K. Shrestha	3 Angels Radio
18	Shriram Adhikari	Nuwakot Radio
19	Budhhi Pd Khanal	Paschim Awaj radio
20	Shankar Dhami	Radio Naya Nepal
21	Maadhab Dhami	Radio Malika Arjun
22	Keshav Bhatta	Radio Kala Pani
23	Karna Chand	Triveni Fm
24	Balram Khadka	Hamro radio
25	Ashish Thakuri	Radio Rajmarg
26	Shivaram Bhandri	Radio langtang
27	Arjun Giri	Radio Tulsipur
28	Shukraraj Bhandari	Radio Hamro Paunch
29	Bhim Sirjan Oli	Radio Uttar Ganga
30	Amar Raj Pun	Gemitriveni
31	Hasta B Shahi	Karnali Awaj
32	Nabraj Mahatara	Radio Shrinagar
33	Lalita Kushmi	Radio Sakhi
34	Milan Gaha	Radio Samabeshi
35	Krishna Thapa	Radio Sarankot
36	Tola Kant Bagle	Radio Adhikhola
37	Bishwa Bandhu Bhandari	Radio Tanahu
38	Indra Regmi	Radio Sunaul

39	DelMaya Khadka	Radio Sindhu
40	Ratna Sherestha	Sindhu FM
41	Loknath Subadi	Ilam FM
42	Dipak Neupana	Naya Karnali
43	Gorkha Thapa	Radio Karnali
44	Min B. Shahi	Radio Mauntan
45	Yakindra Timalshina	Radio Tikapur
46	Bishnulal Budha	Radio Dolpa
47	Ghanshyam Paudel	Radio Sakhi 2
48	Pralad Pokherel	Manakamana FM
49	Sudersan Khatiwada	Radio Bihani
50	Chirajibi Aryal	Radio Surkhet
51	Kiran Shah	Radio Deukhuri
52	Padam Oli	Radio Baruja
53	Saroj Subadhi	Hajurko Radio
54	Jeevan Lama	Kalinchoek FM
55	Hom Pathak	Radio Sailung
56	Rabindra Gautam	Radio Bhimeshwar
57	Bhuvan Raymajhi	Prim FM
58	Balaram Sherstha	Mero FM
59	Kalpana Chapagain	Radio Didi Bahini
60	Sriram Tiwari	Upataka FM
61	Dipu Pokhrel	Radio Mukti
62	Rajesh Aryal	Madhan Pokhara
63	Ramu Vhattra	Chapakot FM
64	Dul B. Kunwar	Radio Muktinath
65	Bishnu Khadka	Radio Kairan
66	Binod Pariyar	Radio Jagaran, Butawal Butawal
67	Muktinath Paudel	Radio Chhimeki
68	Ramjee Rana	Radio Lamjung
69	Deepak Sherestha	Radio Manaslu
70	Dan B. Gurunj	Radio Manakamana
71	Saroj Dhungana	Radio Malamchi
72	Yaga Dhagal	Radio Sunkoshi
73	Prakash Santyal	Radio Bihani
74	Hem Raj Aryar	Radio Syanja
75	Shankar Sharma	Radio Parbat
76	Ramananda Chaudari	Samad FM
77	Sumit Shrestha	Radio Tiphadee
78	Suresh Saiju	Radio Janasachar
79	Pratik Sharma	Radio Sarada

80	R.L. Shramjivi	Radio ABC
81	Shreekrishna Maharjan	Newa FM
82	Kapildev Khanal	Trisuli FM
83	Pestharaj Bhandari	Sidhiligadhi fm
84	Nabraj Chhatakuli	Trisuli FM
85	Manish Dawadi	Radio Loknath
86	Bhes Raj Pandey	Radio Budhha Awaj
87	Dilip Yadav	Radio kapilvastu
88	Bhola Gautam	Radio Dhadig
89	Pratik	Radio Dhadig
90	Arjun Bhusal	Radio Suryaunday
91	Nikita Lamichhane	Radio Mustang
92	Raj B. Rokaya	Radio Kailash
93	Amber Gurung	Himchuli FM
94	Bhakta Sagtag	Namodudhha FM
96	Ambar Gurung	Himchuli FM
97	Attmaram jee Balkalan	
98	Attmaram jee Balkalan	
99	Prem Narayan Acharya	Radio Dural
100	Homehari Vattarai	Radio Bhariganga
101	Saujnya Satyal	Radio Ramechep
102	Meghraj Gautam	Radio Parasi
103	Kamal Buddha	Radio Tripurari
104	Padam Malla	Radio Saurodaya
105	Jasaraj Shahi	Radio Chankheli
106	Pawan Paudel	Damauli Fm
107	Omkar Acharya	Madiseti Fm
108	Niranjan Hada	Radio Devghat
109	Subin Shreshtha	Myagdikali
110	Ramesh Bastakoti	Radio Madhyabindu
111	Vishnu Daudel	Darpan Fm
112	Subash Lamichhane	Radio Madi
113	Nabin Raj paudel	Radio Bharatpur
114	Bedbyash Acharya	Radio Arpan
115	Numraj Paudel	Radio Gaumukhi
116	Dharaj Saud	Radio bannigadhi
117	Rajendra Kuwar	Radio Hamro safalta
118	Juman singh	Radio Pyuthan
119	Govinda Devkota	Narayani Fm
120	Min Bahadur Sahi	Raido Mountain
121	Tula Adhikari	Krishnasar FM

122	Rakesh Mishra	nepaljung FM
123	Hemant BK	Pratibodh FM
124	Nabin Giri	Radio Sadbhab
125	Satya Shrestha	Radio Simara
126	Mohammad Ansari	Bheri FM
128	Kamal Raj Joshi	radio Darchula
129	Rajendra Dhami	Radio Sarathi
130	Utter Bista	Radio Unity
131	narendra Singh	sarathi Fm
132	ek chandra baral	Sunsari fm
133	Jamuna Pokhrel	sungabha Radio
134	Tej Prasad Adhikari	radio bardibas
135	Anil Baral	radio betana
137	Rajesh Shrestha	Radio Awaj
138	Ram Narayan Subedi	Radio Pariwaratan
139	Praksah Chhantyal	Radio Bihani
141	Narayan Pandey	Radio Daunne
142	Ajay Yadav	Radio Terai
143	Ramesh Gautam	Radio Rapti
144	K.P Ghimire	Radio Highway
145	Dhurba Raj Dhakal	Radio Palung
146	Bal Krishna Pandey	Radio Hapure
147	Ram Kishowr Mandal	Janaki FM
148	Ghanashyam Pandey	Radio Gandaki
149	Tirtha KC	Radio Sarthak
150	Kushal BK	Radio Kohalpur
151	Ramesh Joshi	Sudur Awaj
152	Padam Bahadur Malla	Sauradhya Radio
153	Tarak KC	Unique FM
154	Sangeet Basyal	Radio Prakriti
155	Dasharath Ghimire	Radio NayaYug
156	Sakuntala Koirala	Sunaulo FM
157	Mohan	Radio Waling
158	Mina Gurung	Radio Marsyangdi
159	Arun Tripathi	Radio Hemja
160	Sanjay Karki	Gunjan Radio
161	Phadi Mahat	Radio Nunthar
162	Krishna Magar	Shakti FM
163	Subash Poudel	Radio Chautari
164	Pitamber Sigdel	Radio Tamro
165	Mahendra Kafle	Radio Trerhathum

166	Shova Niraula	Radio Terathum
167	Chandra Karki	Radio Tinjure
168	Hemanta Poudel	Radio Sudursandesh
169	Sushila Poudel	Radio Tinjure
170	Dil Bahadur Rai	Radio Dhankuta
171	Gyanendra Niraula	Radio Saragam
172	Smrat Gurung	Gorkhali Radio
173	Bashu dev dhakal	Radio Rampur
174	Tribhuvan Shah	Gujara Mai
175	Ram Prabesh Baitah	Gujara Mai
176	Bhagirath Prasad Gedal	Radio Samagra
177	Pramila Chaudhary	Radio Shaki
178	Rajan Rai	Radio Chomolongua
179	Krishna Mishra	Radio Sanskriti
180	Raju Khanal	Radio Samanta
181	Sunil Khadka	Radio Nikash
182	Khema Gurung	Gorkhali FM
183	Amrit Kumar Mahato	Radio Darpan
184	Madhav Prasad Sharma	Radio Madhyapaschim
185	Guman Singh Budathoki	Galkot FM
186	tika Jung Thapa	Rdio Siddhababa
187	Bishwo Shah	Radio Khalanga
188	Prahalad Sah	Madhesh Awaj Radio
189	Remant Jha	Radio Rautahat
190	Deepak	Radio Daunne
191	Tara Paudel	Citypokhara.com
192	Jeet Bahadur Chhetri	Nepal Police
193	Hari S Thapa	Nepal Police
194	Susma Paudel	FNJ
195	Puskar Khati	WVIN
196	Upendra A	Equal Access
197	Asmita Khanal	Tanahun
198	Om Hamal	Janata Tv
199	Rama Bastola	Jnasanchar.co m
200	Sunil Rijal	Softnep P.Ltd
201	Nabin Maharjan	S-Power UPS on live
202	Amrit Subedi	Online Khbar. Com
203	Rajendra	Avenews Tv
204	M.B Astha	ABC Television
205	Chhatra	Ministry
206	Rajendra Paudel	

207	Rajan Paudel	
208	KP Sharma Oli	Politician
209	Krishana Bahadur Maharjan	Politician
210	Bishwa Prakash Sharma	Politician
211	Manish Suman	Politician
212	Surya Thapa	Politician
213	Gangalal Tuladhar	
214	Kishor Shrestha	Press Council Nepal
215	Ganga Dhar Parajuli	Minimum way Fixation Committiee
216	Ramesh Paudel	BAN
217	Man Bahadur	Mayor
218	Bipul Pokharel	FNJ
219	Ghanshyam Pandey	mayor
220	Ram Pd Timilsina	FNJ Kaski
221	Binaya Guragain	Antena Foundation
222	Bharat Bhoosal	Antena Foundation
223	Amrit Subedi	Samadhan
224	Yatra Pd Sharma	Politician
225	Rohit Raj Parajuli	Naya Patrika
226	Prem Shahi	Radio Prakriti
227	Steven Copper	Plan International
228	Shiba Bastola	Plan International
229	Heera Raj Maharjan	Heavy Equipment Revision
230	Tara Chapaigain	Sabai ko Awaj
231	Kamala Thapa	Sabai ko Awaj
232	Ram Krishna	Samadhan
233	Kamal Phuiyal	CCWB
234	Vubhan Singh	ACORAB
235	Rajib Pahadi	MPA
236	Subash Khatiwada	Radio Dhading
237	Gobinda Devkota	Radio Narayani
238	Shasikala Dahal	ACORAB Board member
239	Nimesh Karn	ACORAB Board member
240	Arjun Kumar Rai	ACORAB Board member
241	Bandana Danuwar	ACORAB Board member
242	Laxman Khadaka	ACORAB Board member
243	Vishnu Awasthi	ACORAB Board member
244	Dhrub Raj Dhakal	ACORAB Board member
245	Ram Bharoshi Mahato	ACORAB Board member
246	Purna Bahadur Biswakarma	ACORAB Board member
247	Ramesh Joshi	ACORAB Board member

248	Saroj Paudel	ACORAB Board member
249	Shanti Gurung	ACORAB Board member
250	KP Ghimire	ACORAB Board member
251	Ramsh Kumar Gautam	ACORAB Board member
252	Dhirgha Raj Upadhyay	ACORAB Board member
253	Bhumi Raj Chapagain	ACORAB Board member
256	Shree Ram Adhikari	ACORAB Board member
257	Devnarayan Shah	ACORAB Board member
258	Chsty Ghost	INSEC, Pokhara
259	Bhakta Kumar	Pokhara
260	Rc Lamichhane	ACORAB
261	Gobinda Khadaka	ACORAB
262	Deepak Acharya	ACORAB
263	Radeep Maharjan	ACORAB
264	Shubash Pant	ACORAB
265	Baburam Khadaka	ACORAB
266	Kedar Subedi	ACORAB
267	Lil Pd Chand	ACORAB
268	Sangita B.K Rasaili	ACORAB
269	Jyoti Tiwari	ACORAB