

Conference: TEDUTRAIN'22

Country: Nepal

Committee: UNWOMEN

Agenda Item: Gender Related Mobbing

Delegate: Merve Derya Yiğit



Nepal is a landlocked country in South Asia. It is mainly situated in the Himalayas, but also includes parts of the Indo-Gangetic Plain, bordering the Tibet Autonomous Region of China to the north, and India in the south, east, and west. Nepal's capital and largest city is Kathmandu. Nepal is a multi-ethnic, multi-religious and multi-cultural state. Nepal's population is 29,67 million people. The Constitution of Nepal, adopted in 2015, affirms the country as a secular federal parliamentary republic divided into seven provinces. The current president of Nepal is Bidya Devi Bhandari since 2015. Nepal is a poor and undeveloped agricultural country. Literacy rate for adult female population is 55.11% and for adult male population is 75.58%. Youth literacy rates are 92.59% and 87.39% for males and females accordingly.

Nepal's strategy identifies women's inequality as a hindrance to development and thus this strategy addresses the empowerment of women in social, political, and government systems. In Nepal, the empowerment and development of women are inextricably bound to the dominant Hindu social structure, which influences all aspects of social, cultural, and economic life. This structure assigns women restricted roles, which most often involve household and family responsibilities. From a religious point of view, it was not only advised that women should always stay in the background and that they should not play an active role in society but they were bound to certain rules. It was clearly stated in the basic books of Hinduism that women should not break these rules, and this gave the impression that women were worthless commodities.

In the past century, there has been a dramatic positive change in the role and status of women in Nepal, reducing gender inequality. While the 1990 Constitution guaranteed fundamental rights to all citizens without discrimination based on ethnicity, caste, religion, or gender, the modernization of society, along with increased education of the general population, has also played an important role in promoting gender equality. With the effort of the current president, Bidya Devi Bhandari, Nepal has made a progress in overcoming gender inequality in a short time. But as Bidya Devi Bhandari said, Nepal still has a long journey ahead of it to reach full gender parity in its political institutions and other walks of life. Nepal is still far from perfect and they still have the battle to win against centuries-old social ill and prejudices against women. But Nepal has a solid constitutional and legal foundation to build further.

The recent efforts made by the government and women have given women a stronger approach to many aspects. Now women are engaged in politics, business, and other fields. Recent surveys done by the Nepal government have revealed a steady and large improvement in the field of women's rights in Nepal. The government reserved 33% of seats in parliament to give their rights to women who could not be employed for centuries due to religion and culture and to set an example for business owners who do not hire women for religious, cultural, or prejudiced reasons. Women's representation in the Constituent Assembly has dramatically increased to 29% in the November 2013 elections from 2.9% in 1991 (in the then parliament). Women are now taking leadership roles and participating in decision-making at all levels. There has been increased government involvement to increase accountability and

monitoring of gender equality commitments and to establish and strengthen linkages between the normative and operational aspects of gender equality and women's empowerment. Today, Nepalese women are defying cultural traditions, and are becoming community leaders, environmentalist politicians, and business owners. After the inclusion of the reservation policy, Nepal's constitution became the most progressive constitution in South Asia for women's rights, in particular, their participation in parliament.

It is possible to find a solution to the exclusion of women from society due to religious and cultural reasons and their status as second-class citizens, through education, which is effective in solving all kinds of problems that are deeply rooted in society. Social attitudes will not change as long as women believe them to be true and as long as parents choose to raise their children in homes in which gender discrimination is the norm. Families should be encouraged by the government to have their girls educated, and also business owners should be encouraged by the government to employ educated women on the condition that they work with the same wages as men.