

Case Study 3: Participation of Musahar women for the first time in Town Development Committee in Barathawa Municipality Ward No. 8 Tandri

For the first time, the women of Musahar community, who have been left behind economically, socially, culturally and politically, have joined the town development committee run by the local government. In the past, poor and uneducated people were seen as low status, neglected in social functions and programs and treated with discriminatory behavior.



In the current fiscal year 2079/80, during the formation of town development committee of Barathawa Municipality, 4 Musahar women of 4 WoMEF groups of Barathawa has been elected as member of the town development committee, reported Rina Bista (Field Supervisor, SAP Nepal). Town development committee formed in the presence of municipal mayor and ward chair of ward no.8. The town committee nominated Sarita Majhi as chair, Samjhawati Majhi as secretary, Sonariya Majhi and Patiya Majhi as members of the Musahar Women Town Development Committee. The selected Mushar women expressed their happiness in taking up leadership role in such committee and contribute to development of their own community.

These WoMEF groups formed in ward number 8 and 11 of Barathawa under the “Strengthening gender-responsive local governance in Nepal” project implemented by SAP Nepal and funded by UNDEF, has provided platform of the enhancing knowledge and leadership capacity of Musahar women, added Rina.



As a part of the program, the members of WoMEF got opportunity to participate in number of the capacity building trainings related to gender equality, leadership, social norm transformation, local level planning and budget. As WoMEF group also provided platform to the Musahar women to enhance their leadership skills and discuss ways to overcome challenges to take up leadership role in the community, it helped to build their self-confidence. As a result of which, the Mushar women were seen to be actively engaging in the community activities. The municipal mayors and ward chairs were very impressed by the active role of the Musahar women and their capacity/knowledge to demand for the plans, programs and budget, hence, Musahar women of the WoMEF groups were invited in the various meetings of local level planning and were selected as the members of the town development committee.