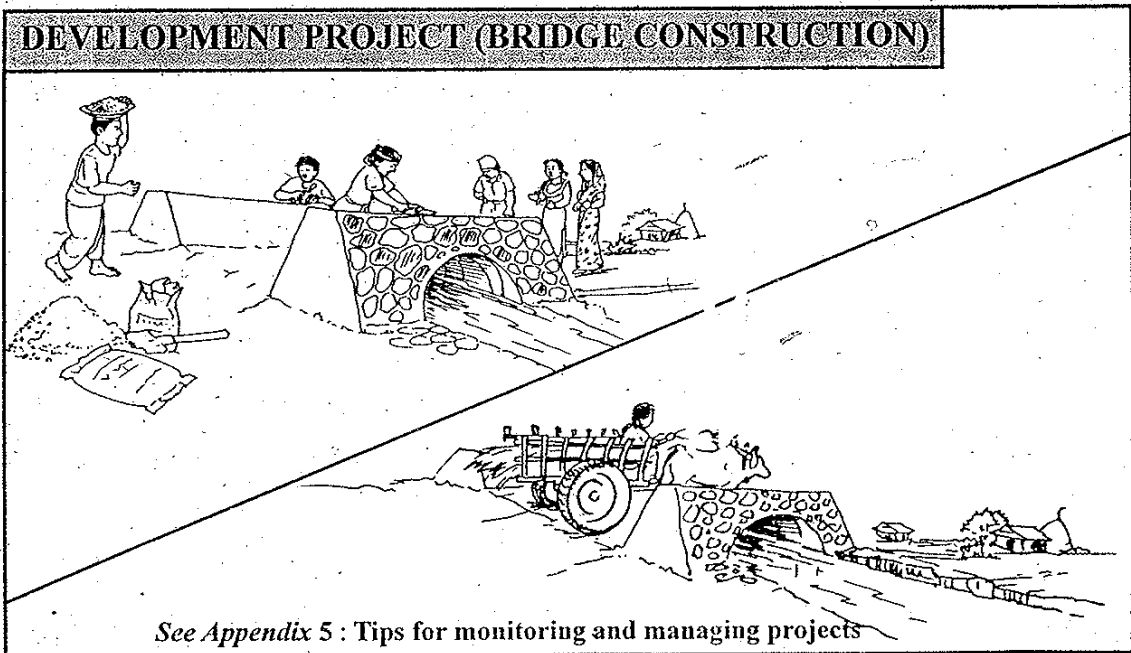
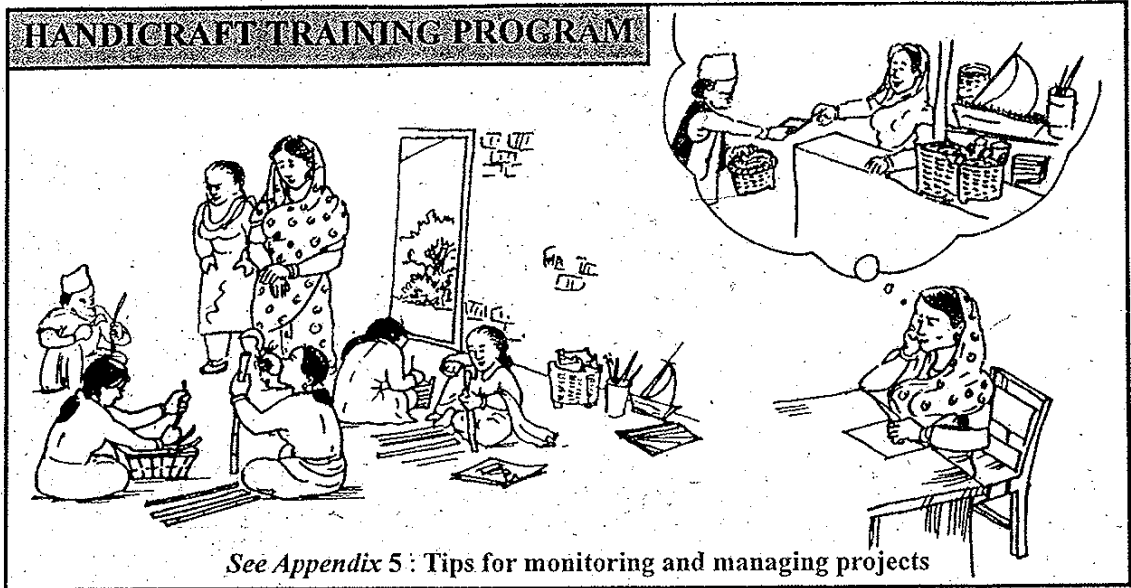


Women Can Win!

PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION AND MONITORING



Mrs. Neelam Karna

"A reserved seat [for women] in all policy-making positions is must."



Why should women become involved in politics?

In a multiparty democracy, a majority is important. In order to raise our voices against injustice there should be women's representation in all decision-making positions. Until there is a majority of women at every level, the women's voice will not be cared about.

Why did you run as an independent candidate?

I ran as an independent because I wanted to be my own person. I have my own opinions, and I wanted to be free to express myself. I believe that if a person is truly devoted to the people and the community, she can win as an independent candidate.

Who helped the most in your work?

During my campaign, my family and neighbors provided the most support.

| | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| Name | : Mrs. Nilam Karna |
| Home | : Rajbiraj Municipality - 9, Rajdevi Tole, Saptari |
| Age | : 38 |
| Marital status | : Married, two sons |
| Education | : Intermediate of Arts (I. A.) |
| Political Experience | : Since 1989 |
| Office held | : 1997-present: Ward Member, Rajbiraj Municipality - 9 |
| Party | : Independent |

How did you raise your campaign funds?

As an independent candidate I had to spend my own money. I spent only 700 Rupees (\$10), mostly for pamphlets, tea and snacks.

What is the secret of your success?

I believe that the secret of my political success is my honesty, hard work, and impartiality. I was involved with a social organization from the beginning and through this work I gained the trust of the community. I was well known as

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a social worker in our village and I won the elections because of my community's will.

What advice would you give a woman considering entering politics?

Women should develop their decision-making capacity. Women should never fight each other. Rather women need to unite and fight for their rights. Women must overcome their party differences and raise their voices in a unified fashion.

What is the most important skill for a successful woman candidate?

Tolerance and patience are the most important skills for a successful woman candidate. A woman candidate must have the skills to articulately present her thoughts in front of the voters, then she can win the voters' trust.



What is next for you in your political career? What other ambitions do you have?

If I get a continued support from my voters, I would like to run for the Ward President position.





These are NDI's specific questions – do you have any other comments?

There should be reserved seats for women in decision-making positions. The ordinance, reserving seats for women at the ward level, really opened things up for many women. It made running for office a legitimate thing for a woman to do even in the Terai, a very conservative area. You have to understand that men and politics have been synonymous for years here. For a woman to enter politics is to enter the World of the Male. I would like to see more women in local government. In this way, maybe after 20 years, the majority of elected officials will be women.

NDI/Nepal
Women Candidate Training Program

| VDC Structure | |
|----------------|---|
| <u>Level</u> | <u>Members</u> |
| Ward Committee | 1 President  |
| | 4 Members  (including at least 1 woman) |
| Total | 5 |

The Ward Committee should meet at least once a month.

| <u>Level</u> | <u>Members</u> |
|--------------|--|
| VDC | 1 President  |
| | 1 Vice President  |
| | 9 Ward Presidents  |
| | 2 Nominees  (including at least 1 woman) |
| Total | 13 |

The VDC should meet at least once a month.

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| <u>Level</u> | <u>Members</u> | |
|--|----------------------|------------|
| Village Council | 1 VDC President | ☺ |
| | 1 VDC Vice President | ☺ |
| | 9 Ward Presidents | ☺☺☺☺☺☺☺☺☺ |
| | 36 Ward Members | ●●●●●●●●●● |
| | | ●●●●●●●●●● |
| 6 Nominees (including at least 1 woman) | ♀♀♀♀♀♀♀♀ | |
| | ●●●●●♀ | |
| Total | | 53 |

The Village Council should meet at least twice a year.

RESOURCES OF VILLAGE DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE (VDC)

A. VDC's Internal Resources

1. The Village Development Committee may levy taxes as follows in its area at the rate approved by the Village Council, not exceeding the prescribed rate:
 - a. **House and Land Tax:** Annual house and land tax on each house and land on the basis of size, type, design and structure of the houses within the Village Development Committee.
 - b. **Land Revenue or Land Tax:** Land revenue or land tax on the land within the village development area.
(Provided that twenty-five percent of the revenue raised from land revenue or land tax shall be handed over to the District Development Committee)
 - c. **Market Shop Tax (temporary weekly market):** Market shop tax for shops kept in livestock and regular market, fair, etc., organized within the village development area.
 - d. **Vehicle Tax:** Vehicle registration and annual vehicle tax on the prescribed vehicles within the village development area and occasional vehicle tax on all kinds of vehicles entering into its area.
 - e. **Entertainment Tax:** Entertainment tax may be levied as prescribed on the places of entertainment such as permitted cinema-hall, video-hall, and cultural-show hall located within the village development area.
 - f. **Rent and Tenancy Tax:** Rent and tenancy tax on the temporary shops constructed, supervised or operated by the VDC within the village development area.
 - g. **Advertisement Tax:** Advertisement tax on signboards placed within the village development area.
 - h. **Business Tax:** Business tax on the prescribed industry, trade, profession or occupation within the village development area.
 - i. **Commercial Video Tax:** Commercial video tax within the village development area.
 - j. **Natural Resources Utilization Tax:** Tax to be levied for commercial exploitation of natural resources and heritage within the village development area.
 - k. To levy other taxes as prescribed.

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2. ***Service Charges:*** I) The Village Development Committee may impose the service charges as follows at the rate approved by the Village Council, for the services made available by it within its area:
 - a. Service charge on sanitation, drainage, and sewage.
 - b. Tourist places entrance charge.
 - c. Entrance charge on parks, gardens, picnic places and view towers, etc.
 - d. Charge for performing entertainment activities like magic and circus.II) The Village Development Committee may impose and collect service charges on the amount realized by it for somebody else, if it realizes and recovers any other's amount and goods.
 3. ***Fees:*** The Village Development Committee may charge fees as follows within its area at the rate approved by the Village Council, not exceeding the prescribed rate:
 - a. Licensing and renewal fee for television, video, and other equipment.
 - b. Approval fee.
 - c. Recommendation fee.
 4. ***Income through selling:*** The Village Development Committee may sell the following objects situated within its area:
 - a. Soil of governmental barren land
 - b. Products of public ponds or gardens
 - c. Assets of the Village Development Committee
 - d. Among the forest products situated within the village development area, dried timber, fire woods, branches, splints, twigs, roots etc.
 - e. Straw, grass etc.
- B. *Contribution amount received from District Development Committee***
- C. *Annual grants received from His Majesty's Government :*** Village Development Committees receives annual grants from His Majesty's Government through District Development Committee. The DDC deducts a certain amount from this fund for their administrative expenses. Twenty five percent of the total development budget goes to human resource development such as, literacy, family planning, training programs, etc., and 75 percent goes to other development activities such as, road construction, bridge construction, canal construction, etc.
- D. *Grants, donation or the amount of assistance received from other non-governmental organizations and persons***

**Village Development or Self-Reliance Program
Project Proposal Form**

1. Project Name: District:
2. Project Place: VDC:
3. Project Type: New/In process/Maintenance Ward No.:
4. Project's Physical Benefit Population:
 - a. Beneficiary users family no:
 - b. Beneficiary hector (Irrigation):
 - c. Others: Beneficiary km. (Road):
5. Project's Approximate Costs: Rs.
6. Necessary materials/resources for the Project paid by the implementing agency

| Sl. No. | Materials/Resources | Total Costs | Costs paid by Implementing Agency | Costs paid by Community or Users Group |
|---------|-----------------------------|-------------|-----------------------------------|--|
| 1. | Construction Material: | | | |
| | a. | | | |
| | b. | | | |
| | c. | | | |
| | d. | | | |
| 2. | Transport | | | |
| 3. | Wages for skilled workers | | | |
| 4. | Wages for unskilled workers | | | |
| 5. | Others | | | |
| | Total | | | |

7. Project start date: Completion date:
 8. Provision for maintenance:
 9. Name list of users group:
 10. Others (if any):
 11. All details in this form are correct Signature of Applicant
- Name:
Signature:
Date:

Note: 1. Please enclose user committee member name
2. Project's detail can also be enclosed

* This document reflect up to date VDC project proposal form

PROJECT PROCESS FLOW CHART

1. The need or problem is identified (through a survey or meeting of community members.)
2. The solution(s) to the problem and the authority and method to solve the problem is identified.
3. A proposal is written (using the government's standard format).
4. The Ward Committee approves the proposal.
5. The Project Selection Committee approves the proposal.
6. The VDC Board (13 members) approves the project.
7. The Village Council (53 members) approves the project.
8. A cost estimate, design and time line for the project is done (by the VDC technical assistant with help from the district engineer or overseer).
9. The proposal and cost estimate is sent to the DDC for approval.
10. The DDC approves the project and sends the money to the VDC (on a one-or multi-installment basis, depending on the nature of the project).
11. A user group committee is formed (spontaneously or by appointment).
12. The user group committee raises additional funds and in kind support.
13. An agreement is signed between the user group committee and the VDC.
14. The money for the project goes to the user group committee (on an installment basis).
15. The work begins on the project.
16. The VDC monitors the project regularly and sends progress reports to the DDC.
17. The DDC technicians and elected representatives monitor the progress of the project and give suggestions.
18. The user group committee informs the VDC of the completion of the project and applies for an account clearance.
19. The VDC informs the DDC of the completion of the project.
20. The DDC technicians evaluate the technical quality of the project and write a completion report.
21. On the basis of the completion report, the evaluation, and the user group committee's application, the VDC checks and certifies the project and clears the account with the user group committee.
22. The project is handed over to the user group committee for ongoing maintenance.

Tips for Monitoring and Managing Projects

- Monitor (go to the site) of each project on a regular basis (i.e. weekly).
- Let the people involved in each project know that you care and are interested in the outcome of the project.
- Assist in making a plan and timeline for each project and see that targets/objectives of the project are met.
- Assist in the selection of interested and hard working people for each user group committee.
- Involve men and women who represent different castes, political backgrounds and groups, to work together on a project user group committee.
- Motivate other people to be involved in the projects, especially people who will benefit from the project success.
- Ask for the people's commitment and involvement in projects and hold them to their promises.
- Keep the public informed about the progress or problems of the project. Solicit feedback from the public on the project and encourage the entire community to take ownership in monitoring the project.
- Remember that you (the elected representative) are not personally responsible for all the work, but you are responsible for seeing that it gets done.