

**Process Documentation of Fifth World Elder Abuse Awareness Day
15th June 2010, Nepal**



देवतुल्य पितामाता

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Executive Summary

Fifth World Elder Abuse Awareness Day 2010 (WEAAD) was observed in Nepal with unprecedented enthusiasm from all involved. WEAAD events of the day were broadcasted by major TV and Radio stations as main national news. Major dailies and weeklies of 15th June carried articles on different aspects of ageing society and elder abuse. All stakeholders in the government, non-government and private sectors; social leaders; civil societies, intellectuals and media effectively played their role in making Fifth WEAAD a success.

These achievements were possible because planning for the day was started two weeks before by National Senior Citizens Organizations' Network Nepal (NSCONN) or **Rastriya Jyatha Nagarik Sanstha Sanjal** in Nepali and *Sanjal* in short. A Preparation Committee was formed under the able leadership of Dr. Gouri Shankar Lal Das, Founder Member of *Sanjal*. The Committee was given full responsibility and authority to plan and execute events for the day. The INPEA "Tool Kit" *Community Guide to Raise World Awareness on Adult Abuse* was very helpful in planning and implementing the events. Following is the list of activities that marked Fifth WEAAD in Nepal.

- Formation of Fifth WEAAD Preparation Committee with specialized responsibility to plan and execute activities for spreading message of the Day
- Detailed planning with distribution of authority and responsibility among members to suit their interest and capability
- For the first time in Nepal that the street march or procession was taken out on the issue of elder abuse
- Development of new slogans while giving continuity to the old catchy ones
- Conduction of mass meeting in the most visible city-center for raising public voice
- Use of folk songs with message of WEAAD
- Organized lecture in academic institutions by experts
- Preparation and distribution of flyers with succinct information on elder abuse
- Effective mobilization of print and electronic media
- Mobilization of literary figures, writers and columnists for articles and columns in print media
- Involving government authorities in WEAAD events and taking their commitments both in writing and public speaking
- Conduct effective Interaction Program or Conference with participation of authorities from the government, non-government and private sector organizations; social and intellectual leaders, and the media.
- Motivate creative writers to include message of WEAAD in their writing
- Appreciate and recognize the contribution of Volunteers for their input in WEAAD activities.

It was worth noting that the elderly ladies were in majority in all gatherings for different events of Fifth WEAAD in Nepal.



महिला, बालबालिका तथा समाज कल्याण मन्त्रालय



सिंहदरवार, काठमाण्डौ

फोन नं. : ४२००३२८, ४२००१६८

४२०००८२, ४२००४१३

फ्याक्स: ४२००११६

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पत्र संख्या :-

च.नं.:-

शुभकामना सन्देश

ज्येष्ठ नागरिक प्रति गरिने दुर्व्यवहार विरुद्धको पांचौ विश्व चेतना दिवस (१५ जुन २०१०) का अवसरमा राष्ट्रका सम्पूर्ण आदरणीय ज्येष्ठ नागरिकहरुमा हार्दिक शुभकामना व्यक्त गर्दछु ।

जीवनको अधिकतम समय आफ्नो ज्ञान, सीप र अनुभवद्वारा समाजोपयोगी कार्यमा लगानी गर्नु भएका ज्येष्ठ नागरिक जीवन्त इतिहास बोकेका राष्ट्रका आदरणीय नागरिक हुन् । उनीहरुले जीवनको उत्तरार्द्धमा सहज र सम्मानीत तरिकाले बांकी जीवन बिताउन पाउनु पर्दछ । ज्येष्ठ नागरिकहरुको संख्या वृद्धि हुनु, संयुक्त परिवारबाट एकल परिवार तर्फ समाज उन्मुख हुनु तथा आर्थिक बोभका कारण जीवनको उत्तरार्द्ध पिडादायक हुन जानु आजको यथार्थता हो । यसर्थ सबै राष्ट्रिय तथा अन्तराष्ट्रिय संघ/संस्था, सरकारी तथा गैरसरकारी निकाय, समुदाय तथा नागरिक समाजलाई यस क्षेत्रमा थप क्रियाशील हुन आह्वान गर्दछु ।

यस अवसरमा ज्येष्ठ नागरिकको जीवन सहज र सम्मानीत बनाउन हाम्रो सामाजिक मूल्य र मान्यतालाई जगेर्ना गर्दै फरक पुस्ता बीचको निकटतम सौहार्दता र आपसी सद्भाव अभिवृद्धि गरी ज्येष्ठ नागरिकहरु प्रति गरिने दुर्व्यवहार विरुद्ध वहांहरुको आधारभूत मानव अधिकार सुरक्षित गर्न परिवार तथा समुदायदेखि राष्ट्रिय स्तरसम्म निरन्तर प्रयास गर्नु आजको आवश्यकता हो ।

अन्त्यमा, सम्पूर्ण आदरणीय ज्येष्ठ नागरिकहरुको सुस्वास्थ्य, दीर्घायु, सक्रिय जीवन एवं पारिवारिक सौहार्दता र उत्तरोत्तर प्रगतिको लागि शुभकामना व्यक्त गर्दछु ।

धन्यवाद !

माननीय सर्वदेव प्रसाद ओझा
मन्त्री

महिला, बालबालिका तथा समाजकल्याण मन्त्रालय

*Unofficial English Translation of the Message from
Hon'ble Minister of Women, Children and Social Welfare*

Message

I cordially wish all the best for all senior citizens for the success of Fifth World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (WEAAD), 15th June 2010.

Seniors are respected citizens of the country as they are the living history who invested most of their life time in using knowledge, skill and experience for building a society. They deserve the rights to live a dignified life as they get older. However, their sufferings caused due to the increased population, shifting trend from joint to nucleus family and increased financial burden are the realities of today. Therefore, I appeal all national and international organizations, communities and civil societies to be more active in this area.

In this regard, the families, communities and nations should make continual efforts to enable the elders to live easy and dignified life by preserving our social values and norms, enhancing harmony between new and old generations, increasing mutual respect, protecting their human rights and protecting them against abuse and neglect.

At the end, I wish all senior citizens of Nepal for their sound health, longevity, active life, harmonious family relationship and continuous progress in future endeavors.

The Fifth World Elder Abuse Awareness Day
15 June 2010

Foreword



Prof. Dr. Leela Devi KC
Founder President
National Senior Citizens Organizations' Network Nepal (NSCONN)
(Rastriya Jyatha Nagarik Sanstha Sanjal)

This report gives a brief account of activities carried out in Nepal in the context of observing World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (WEAAD) 2010. It is my pleasure to observe that the activities on WEAAD in Nepal is getting wider coverage and involving more organizations as well as individuals. The programs are being more effective each year since we started observing the day. For all this, I am thankful to the sincere and continual efforts made by all members of National Senior Citizens Organizations' Network Nepal (NSCONN). We are equally encouraged by the support extended by the Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare, Nepal office of INPEA and many organizations and individuals who participated in different events of the day. Inclusion of Geriatric Center Nepal (GCN), from the first year of its establishment, in the Fifth WEAAD has proved to be a valuable addition to our strength.

The efforts we have made in observing WEAAD each year in the past is already bringing results as we witness more frequent reporting of elderly abuse cases in national media. The hidden "social disease" of elder abuse is slowly coming out and I am hopeful that one day we will have a world free of elder abuse as is expected by the WEAAD slogan "**My World...Your World...Our World – Free of Elder Abuse**". With this view, I invite all young and old alike to participate in WEAAD activities of 15th June in particular and practice the message of the day in every day life.

I take this opportunity to thank the Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare for all the support that it has been extending to NSCONN in all of our endeavors including the observation of WEAAD each year. Also, I would like to express my sincere thanks to Geriatric Center Nepal for bringing out this report on time.

The Fifth World Elder Abuse Awareness Day
15 June 2010

Message from the Chair of Preparation Committee
Fifth WEAAD, Nepal, 15th June 2010



Dr. Gouri Shankar Lal Das
Chairperson
Fifth WEAAD Preparation Committee
NSCONN

The first meeting of National Senior Citizens Organizations' Network Nepal (NSCONN) - (*Rastirya Jysha Nagarik Sanstha Sanjal* in Nepali and referred and *Sanjal* in short), called its board meeting on 30th May 2010 for preparation of the Fifth WEAAD under the Chairmanship of Ms. Leela Devi KC, the Founder President of the organization. The Board Meeting formed a Preparation Committee with the responsibility to observe the Fifth WEAAD and I was unanimously entrusted with the responsibility of Chairing the Committee. I would like to express my sincere thanks to all board members of *Sanjal*, Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare, INPEA-Nepal and Founders of Geriatric Center Nepal (GCN) for cooperation in executing this immense responsibility.

Building awareness on the issue of Elder's Abuse is only a preparatory step for taking a meaningful action to prevent it. Therefore, the task ahead is very challenging but not impossible if we could mobilize all the stakeholders with their energy and creativity for the purpose. It is a concern not only of today's elders but of all humanity because each one of us wishes to have a long and dignified life.

It is nice to see that WEAAD has already made a meaningful stride in the right direction and the Fifth WEAAD of June 15th 2010 has achieved more in imprinting the message of "**My World...Your World...Our World – Free of Elder Abuse**" in the minds of more individuals so that the basic objectives of observing WEAAD is achieved sooner with the involvement of all.

I hope the 5th WEAAD, which we observed by a morning rally, pamphlet distribution, interaction program, printing articles in press media and interviews in various electronic media will further the message of "**My World...Your World...Our World – Free of Elder Abuse**". I also hope that the WEAAD will be observed with more achievements in the future and I appeal all to cooperate in this pious program.

The Fifth World Elder Abuse Awareness Day
15 June 2010

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Introduction

This report presents brief description of activities in observing the Fifth World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (WEAAD) 2010 in Nepal. This is the first time in Nepal that WEAAD was observed with such a variety of activities and with participation of so many organizations and individuals, particularly the mass media. The "tool kit" *Community Guide to Raise World Awareness on Adult Abuse* came very handy for the purpose.

1. Preparations for Fifth WEAAD

National Senior Citizens Organizations' Network Nepal (NSCONN) - *Rastirya Jysha Nagarik Sanstha Sanjal* and referred as *Sanjal* in short meaning the **Network** in Nepali - called its Board Meeting on 30th May at its office in Dillibazar, Kathmandu, under the Chair of Prof. Dr. Leela Devi KC. Most of the Board members are the Heads of their own organization working for elders in different area. Founder Chairperson Mr. Krishna M. Gautam and Chief Executive Officer Mr. Bharat Raj Paudel from Geriatric Center Nepal (GCN) also participated in the meeting. GCN was established in July 2009. Therefore, this is the first WEAAD that GCN is involved. Following are the outcomes of the meeting.

1.1 Formation of Preparation Committee

The meeting formed a nine member Preparation Committee to guide all activities for observing Fifth WEAAD on 15th June 2010. Members of the committee included:

- Chairperson, Dr. Gouri Shankar Lal Das, Founder and Board Member of NSCONN
- Member Ms. Geeta Gurung, representative, Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare.
- Member Mr. Manohar Upreti, INPEA representative of Nepal
- Member Ms. Rita Pant, General Secretary of NSCONN
- Member Ms. Ambika KC, Board Member of NSCONN
- Member Ms. Ranjana Nepal, Board Member of NSCONN
- Member Mr. Shridhar Lamichhane, Board Member of NSCONN
- Member Mr. Chhatra Pradhan, Board Member of NSCONN
- Member Mr. Krishna M. Gautam, Founder Chairperson of Geriatric Center Nepal (GCN)

The meeting listed down possible activities for the day as follows:

- Organize lectures
- Host a conference
- Publish articles and columns in newspapers
- Prepare catchy slogans for banners and posters
- Arrange talk programs in radio
- Arrange talk programs in television
- Distribute flyers and media release on elder abuse
- Upload WEAAD events on the web
- Recognition letter to volunteers
- Organize a Street Procession or Street March of Senior Citizens in the morning

- Organize a mass meeting in the most visible city-center
- Prepare a song to make the mass meeting attractive
- Arrange interaction program with social leaders, administrators, and government representatives



The first preparatory meeting in progress at *Sanjal*

Responsibilities were tentatively distributed among members for the identified works. The meeting adjourned with a decision to meet on 1st June at GCN for further detailed planning of each identified tasks.

1.2 Meeting of Preparation Committee for Detailed Planning

The second preparatory meeting held at GCN under the Chairmanship of Dr. Gouri Shankar Lal Das on 1st June achieved the followings.

- More detailed planning was done for each of the activities listed in the previous meeting and responsibilities distributed among members.
- The flyer prepared by GCN for WEAAD was approved by the committee for printing.
- The songs and slogans prepared by GCN were reviewed and finalized by the committee.
- Resource mobilization strategies were discussed and finalized.

1.3 Final Preparatory Meeting

This was the third meeting called by *Sanjal* on 10th June for finalization of all programs for 15th June. Accordingly, plans were finalized, documents prepared, resource mobilization and proper implementation ensured. Each member was given responsibility and their commitment obtained.



Program finalization meeting at *Sanjal*. Mr. Gokul Pokhel, a noted senior journalist of Nepal, a life member and advisor of *Sanjal* was also present in the meeting

2. Implementation of Planned Activities

Following is a brief description of activities carried out on 15th June.

2.1 Street March

This is the first time that a Street March was organized in Nepal on the issue of Elder Abuse. As planned, the Street March or procession was organized in the morning of 15th June. About 100 individuals and organization representatives working and interested in the welfare of elderly gathered in front of the Constitutional Assembly Hall at 6:45am at Naya Baneshwor, Kathmandu.



Gathering near Constitution Assembly Hall, Kathmandu. Mr. Shridhar Lamichhane is seen (with mike) briefing participants on importance of observing WEAAD.

The gathering was briefed on the importance of WEAAD by Mr. Shridhar Lamichhane. The gathering then started the Street March led by Dr. Gouri Shankar Lal Das to move towards Maitighar-Mandala - the most visible city center commonly used by political and social leaders for raising public voice.



Elders in Street March Moving towards the City Center with Banners and Pla-cards

2.2 Slogans Used in Street March

Many of the slogans used in the fourth WEAAD were found relevant to use for this year too. However, some new slogans were also developed and their English meaning given below.

- Abuse to elders - is a crime, is a crime!
- A new Nepal - Free of elder abuse Nepal!
- Those who abuse elders - punish them! Punish them!!
- Our only demand - a separate provision in the Fundamental Rights section of the constitution!
- No care to parents - no inheritance of parental property!
- We must be included - in inclusive society!
- We need priority - in public services!
- A dignified life: our Human Right!
- Abuse increases if we keep quiet about it: speak up! Speak up!!
- Elders are ready: to fight against abuse!
- Elders' only demand: safe and dignified life!



Elders on Street March Shouting Slogans with Banners, Kathmandu, 15th June, 2010.

2.3 Mass Meeting at City Center

The procession took the form of a public meeting or mass-meeting after reaching Maitighar-Mandala. The mass meeting was held under the Chairmanship of Dr. Gouri Shankar Lal Das. Ms. Ambika KC conducted the meeting.



Ms Ambika KC, Conducting Mass Meeting at Maitighar-Mandala



Dr. Gouri Shankar Lal Das Addressing Mass Meeting

Ms. Sabitri Thapa, Vice-president of **Sanjal** welcomed the participants and briefly introduced the subject. Mr. Manohar Upreti, Representative of INPEA spoke on different aspects of Elders Abuse.



Ms. Sabitri Thapa, Vice-President of Sanjal Addressing the Gathering

Mr. Mahendra Prasad Shrestha, Secretary to the Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare participated in Street March and the mass meeting as the Chief Guest. Speaking to the gathering, he assured full support of the ministry for activities that would ensure better quality life for elders. He also outlined the efforts being made by the ministry towards securing safer and dignified life for elderly population of the country.



Secretary to the Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare
Mr. Mahendra Prasad Shrestha
Addressing the Mass Meeting at Maitighar-Mandala

2.4 Folk Song in Mass Meeting

Poetic verses were prepared for singing in folk song style in a mass meeting at Maitighar-Mandala - the city center mostly used for raising public issues by political parties and social groups. Ms. Shova Khanal, Health Program Coordinator of GCN wrote lyrics. Ms. Sakila Neupane, Social-Volunteer at GCN and Shova Khanal sang as lead singers. Mr. Narayan

Prasad Rimal, Priest of GCN, played harmonica for the song and the gathering sang with rhythmic clapping. The event became a subject of central attraction to the media and the public.



Ms. Shova Khanal and Sakila Neupane Singing Folk Songs while onlookers supported with rhythmic clapping

Following is the English meaning of verses sang on the occasion.

- Let our message reach to all who are involved in writing the new constitution.
- If you can, please prevent abuse and exploitation of elders, and if you can not, we are not interested in your (of politicians) lectures alone.
- Your (referring to higher authorities) clothes are new and expensive while ours (indicating that of elders) are torn in many places and repaired many times.
- We raised the family, we made you what you are today, and now we are not wanted even by the family that we raised!
- We didn't get time to think about our own welfare because we were too busy thinking about your (referring to young generation) welfare.
- We did very hard work when we could, now we can not, so need your help.
- Abuse against us will rise if we keep quiet, so we will speak up and fight for our right!
- We will fight for our rights.

2.5 Flyer Preparation

A one page leaflet in Nepali was prepared with the following contents.

- Complexity of the issue
- Types of abuse and their symptoms
- Who are the abusers?
- What can you do to prevent it?

Three thousand copies were printed and distributed during the street procession, in mass meeting at the city center and to the participants of interaction program of the day.

2.6 Lecture in Academic Institutions

Geriatric Center of Nepal (GCN) organized a talk program with BSc Nursing 3rd Year students of Manamohan Memorial College of Health Sciences in southern Kathmandu. Ms Sobha Khanal, shared facts and figures on elder population of the world. She introduced the International Network for Prevention of Elder Abuse (INPEA), its brief history, objectives and main activities to the students. She went on to explain students on what is elder abuse? How can this be identified and prevented? She also suggested how a medical person like a nurse can create awareness and prevent elder abuse. The one and half hour program was interactive and students were given handouts and fliers on the subject.

Ms. Sakila Neupane, Social-Volunteer from GCN assisted Ms. Shova Khanal in the program. Faculty of the College and students appreciated this initiative taken by GCN on apparently a new subject for the College!



Ms. Shova Khanal lecturing on Elder Abuse to B.Sc. Nursing Students of Manmohan Memorial College of Health Sciences, Kathmandu.

2.7 Articles Publication in Daily and Weekly Newspapers

Following is the list of articles and special feature reporting published in popular daily and weekly vernacular newspapers.

Name of Newspapers & date of publication	Title of article published	Main contents	Writer
Gorkhapatra (National Daily in Nepali) 12 th June	Maturity with Experience: Today's Senior Citizens	A full page Special Feature article with: - Statistics on trend of ageing population - Growing trend of elder abuse, cause and effect - Abuse types and role of the govt, communities and individuals	Mr. Mahadev Bhatta, Socio-Economist, GCN
Gorkhapatra vernacular daily (15 th June)	Elders' Abuse	- Complexity of the issue - Types and symptoms - Prevention	Krishna M. Gautam, GCN

Nepal Samachar Patra vernacular daily (June 15)	Why June 15 for elders?	- World trend on abuse, Nepali context and importance of WEAAD	Shova Khanal, GCN
Nepal Samachar Patra vernacular daily (June 15)	Elder Abuse and Prevention	- Situation of elder abuse in Nepal and preventing measures	Chhatra Pradhan, <i>Sanjal</i>
Annapurna Post, vernacular daily, (15 June)	Elder Abuse	- Elder abuse and our responsibility	Chhatra Pradhan, <i>Sanjal</i>
Saptahik Awaj - a vernacular weekly (15 th June)	Our responsibilities towards elders	- Responsibilities of govt. community and individuals	Govinda Pokhrel, GCN

2.8 Radio Talk Program

Radio Kantipur FM: A talk program was hosted in the morning radio-program. Mr. Krishna M. Gautam and Ambika KC talked about the importance of observing WEAAD. The 45 minutes long live broadcast was relayed all over the country.

Radio Sagarmatha FM: A talk program was hosted in the evening prime time where Dr. Gouri Shankar Lal Das, Mr. Manohar Upreti and Ms. Brinda Pandey, Chairperson of Fundamental Rights Committee of the Constitutional Assembly, talked about the importance of observing WEAAD. The broadcast was relayed all over the country.

Maitri FM Radio: Mr. Chhatra Pradhan, Preparation Member of Fifth WEAAD gave interview in the radio.

Gorkha Radio FM: Mr. Bharat Paudel, CEO of GCN, gave interview in the radio.

2.9 Use of Mobile SMS: Sending messages through mobile as SMS was also used as a means to reach out large number of active senior citizens and informing them about events of the day. Mr. Chhatra Pradhan alone did SMS to more than 250 active senior citizens.

Thus, the message of WEAAD was well reached out to almost all population in the country.

2.10 Obtaining Commitments from Authorities

Following activities were managed to get strong commitment of the government for the cause of WEAAD objectives.

- **Involvement of Dignitaries in Fifth WEAAD Activities**
 - Hon'ble Minister's Message wishing success of fifth WEAAD was obtained and its English version is given in the beginning of this report.
 - The Secretary to the Ministry was invited to participate in Street March in the morning and he also addressed the Mass meeting held at Maitighar Mandala after the rally as the Chief Guest for the event.



Secretary to the Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare Addressing the Mass Meeting

- Hon'ble Minister for MoWCSW as the Chief Guest inaugurated the Interaction Program organized at GCN by watering a plant. The commitments he made on the occasion are presented as content of his speech under section 2.10 of this report.



Hon'ble Minister watering a plant to mark Inauguration of Interaction Program on Fifth WEAAD at GCN (President of Nepal Bar Association Mr. Prem Bahadur Khadka is also seen with Dr. Gouri Shankar Lal Das. Ms. Ambika KC is facilitating the Minister)

- President of Nepal Bar Association (NBA), Prem Bahadur Khadka was invited as Special Guest in the Interaction Program. He spoke on different aspects of legal issues relating to Elders Abuse and its prevention. He assured the gathering of full support from NBA in any initiative taken towards preventing elder abuse.



Mr. Prem Bahadur Khadka, President of Nepal Bar Association speaking in the interaction program

2.11 Interaction Program at GCN

An interaction program was organized at GCN from 2 - 4 pm. The program took the form of a Conference where selected speakers presented their views on WEAAD which was followed by question-answer session lively discussions. The program was chaired by Prof. Dr. Leela Devi KC. Hon'ble Minister of Women, Children and Social Welfare attended the program as Special Guest. President of Nepal Bar Association was invited as the main speaker on the occasion. The august gathering was attended by more than 125 dignitaries representing various governments, non-government and private organizations working in the fields of Human Rights, Social Service Judiciary, Media, Literature and population management, in general, and that of ageing population, in particular.

Dr. Gouri Shankar Lal Das welcomed the participants. In doing so, he briefly introduced the subject of Elders Abuse, objectives of WEAAD, Sanjal, INPEA and the Interaction program of the day.



Dr. Gouri Shankar Lal Das welcoming participants from the podium

Mr. Manohar Upreti, Representative of INPEA for Nepal, presented a working paper on "Present Status of Elder Abuse and Preventive Measures". The presentation drew high attention of participants and led to a question-answer session that brought out many interesting, intricate and meaningful issues concerning elder abuse. His presentation was followed by a question-answer session.



Mr. Manohar Upreti presenting his paper in the interaction program at GCN, 15 June



Glimpses of Question-Answer Session after Presentation of Mr. Manohar Upreti

Mr. Prem Bahadur Khadka, President of Nepal Bar Association spoke on different aspects of legal and regulatory measures. He expressed his commitment to instruct all units of Nepal Bar Association spread all over the country to provide special support for any legal issues concerning elders. He also expressed his commitment to provide the services of NBA free of charge if required for the preparation of any legal documents related to elder abuse. Participants appreciated his commitment through loud and long applause. His speech was given high importance also by the national TV media present on the occasion.



Mr. Prem Bahadur Khadka speaking on the Interaction Program

Ms. Nanshi Gupta, a Student from Dev Sanskriti University at Haridwar, India spoke on the occasion highlighting the role of family and academic institutions in inculcation higher moral values among the coming generation which ultimately will be an effective means for reducing the cases of elder abuse in our society. GCN had invited a group of four students from the university to participate in the program.



Ms. Nanshi Gupta speaking on the role of family and education system in securing dignified life for elders in the society

Mr. Krishna M. Gautam, Founder President of GCN presented review of all activities performed on the day in the context of Fifth WEAAD.



Mr. Gautam presenting brief review of activities performed and possible implications on welfare of elders

Presentation of Folk Song. The folk song presented in the mass meeting at the city center in the morning was repeated on demand of the participants. Ms. Shova Khanal and Sakila Neupane were supported by Pnadiit Mr. Narayan Prasad Rimal with Harmonica in presenting the song. The wordings of the lyrics written by Ms. Shova Khanal were highly appreciated by the participants.



The GCN team of Ms. Shova Khanal, Ms. Sakila Neupane, and Mr. Narayan Prasad Rimal Presenting folk Song Prepared for fifth WEAAD with Message on Elder Abuse.

Hon'ble Minister Sarwadev Prasad Ojha, speaking on the occasion expressed his commitments to: a) expedite the process of providing Identity Cards to all Senior Citizens, and, b) put up in the coming Ministerial Cabinet Meeting the suggestions received from different organizations for amendments of the existing Acts and Regulations. He reiterated full cooperation of the government for programs related to welfare of senior citizens. He also informed of the government policy decision to work together not only with NGOs but also with the private sector in addressing different issues concerning ageing population.



Hon'ble Minister of Women, Children and Social Welfare, Mr. Sarwadev Prasad Ojha Speaking on Fifth WEAAD Interaction Program at GCN

Prof. Dr. Leela Devi KC, Founder President of NSCONN (Sanjal) gave her key-note speech as the Chairperson of the Program. She expressed her satisfaction that the WEAAD is getting increased attention from all sections of the society. She appealed for higher level of efforts from all concerned to bring about desired social changes where elders can live a better life with dignity. She also reminded the responsibility of today's generation towards their elders.



Prof. Dr. Leela Devi KC Giving Her Key-note Speech on the Occasion.

Ms. Rita Pant, General Secretary of NSCONN gave Vote of Thanks to all participants of the program on behalf of Fifth WEAAD Preparation Committee.



Ms. Rita Giving vote of Thanks towards the
End of Interaction Program

Bharat Raj Poudel, Chief Executive Officer of GCN had conducted the Interaction Program as an announcer. In between inviting speakers to the podium, he often read out reported cases of elder abuse in Nepali press.



Mr. Bharat Raj Poudel Conducting the Interaction Program

2.12 Media Coverage

All major TV stations and Radios broadcasted the message and events of Fifth WEAAD in their main news of the day. Also, major national dailies and weeklies published on the following day carried news of Fifth WEAAD events.

2.13 Recognition of WEAAD Volunteer



Ms. Sakila Neupane

GCN issued a *Letter of Appreciation* in recognition of all the hard work and creativity that Ms. Sakila Neupane put in making Fifth WEAAD a success. She was involved from planning to implementation, monitoring and review of all activities. She is a regular Social-Volunteer at GCN.

2.14 WEAAD Award for Ms. Dambar Kumari Regmi



Ms. Dambar Kumari Regmi played critical role in making all events of Fifth WEAAD a success. She is President of Mata-Pita Sewa Sadan (meaning in Nepali: Service Center for Mothers and Fathers). It was established in 1999. The organization has 200 elder members. It is more of a Day-Care Center for elders of the locality. She has been a devoted social worker for the cause of elders since more than a decade. GCN has decided to award her a cash prize with an appreciation letter in recognition of her contribution in making Fifth WEAAD attain unprecedented success in Nepal. She will be honored with the prize money, certificate and appreciation letter on the Second Anniversary of GCN, i.e., 6th August 2010.

2.15 Creative Writing : Involving Children in WEAAD

GCN encouraged school children for creative writing with WEAAD messages. Of the few poems received, the following one from Mr. Kushal Gautam was considered for inclusion in this report as it tells how a Grandma is treated in this particular family.



Kushal Gautam

I Want to be Old-Old Now!

Mama! Papa! Tell me how?
I want to be old-old now!
We ask surprised "why is so?"
Amazed she asks "you don't know?"

Look at how things go in this house,
Grandma is cat and we all mouse!
She knows old things, I know new,
Still you all take her view!!

Every day I go school,
Why she wise and I a fool?
I am new and she is old,
She is beautiful, I am told?!

She has a say in all we do,
If things go wrong that's okay too!
All good things are first for her,
I get "NO, NO"; "Yes, Yes" her!

Her stories are old, many times told,
Every time you say "Her words are gold"!
When she speaks, all shut up,
She first gets seat, we stand up!!

What she wants, has to be done,
That's the duty of every daughter and son!
Her health comes first, she must shine,
She has doctors more than mine!!

When I angry, it's my fault,
When she angry, it's everyone's fault!
All you care what she likes,
Why she decides color of my bikes?!

For no reason, she takes fight,
But all you say - "Yes Ma Right!"
In all service she gets first,
It's her wisdom you all trust!!

She rests whole day, I work hard,
Yet you worry her safeguard!
She can't hear, can't see a thing,
Yet you show her all you bring?!

She is frail but we all fit,
Why she decides what we eat?
She gets praise and I get frown,
Why is she so **jewel in the crown?!**

That's why Papa! Tell me how?
I want to be old-old now?
Please Mama, tell me how?
I want to be old-old Now, NOW, NOW!!
