



Enhancing Urban Climate Resilience through Adolescent Leadership

A Collaborative Initiative by CWIN-Nepal

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Background

- In 2023, CWIN-Nepal organized workshops for the children from different parts of Nepal, on GC 26 on Children's Rights and the environment with a specific focus on climate change.
- 30 members from National Adolescent Girls' Network (NAGN) and National Adolescent Boys' Network (NABN) from all 7 provinces residing in Lalitpur Metropolitan City participated.
- During the event, the participants identified several climatic stressors in their own areas due to rapid urbanization, geographic vulnerability and climate change; like Increased **urban heat island effect, erratic rainfall and flooding, High levels of PM2.5 and PM10** due to vehicle emissions, and brick kilns, water scarcity, and droughts, etc.

Adolescent-Led Needs Assessments

- A template was designed, and agreed by the participants.
- Using it the participants identified vulnerabilities like health risks, water insecurity, increased flooding and infrastructure damage, livelihood disruptions, etc.
- Identified infrastructure vulnerabilities such as inadequate drainage, limited green spaces, no proper waste management system.



Template

Identified Issues (based on Observational Assessment, Group Discussion)	Environmental			
	Climate Change			
		Things I can influence (policy development & Changes, Budget Advocacy)	- Engage with Local Authority	- Develop Advocacy Tools
		Things I can Change (Behavioral Changes,	- Participate in Clean- Up drive (Bagmati Corridor) - Promote Recycling and Waste Reduction	- Segregation of Waste - Reduce the use of Single Use Plastic Bags

Advocacy and Capacity Building

- Role Play were done, to understand the different perspectives in understanding Climate Change and its impacts. Elected members of local government volunteered in the role play as well.
- Comic Workshops were organized. 70 adolescents participated. The adolescents used comics to spread awareness on the issues, mainly to the women from the communities.
- Organized meetings with local ward offices and, with the support of the authorities, held discussions with local women to collaboratively identify feasible activities.
- 52 trained members participated in in-person activities in the schools.



Achievements

- Strengthened leadership skills of adolescent girls and boys (climate advocates)
- Adolescents are engaged in collecting data regarding the impacts of Climate Change on children aged (8-11 years and 12-18 years), supported by Lalitpur Metropolitan City and facilitated by local Jyapu Samaj.
- Cleaned neglected pathways in Chyasal, led by youth and community women.
- Revived neglected parks (Guita Tole, Chakupat) by cleaning them of waste and installing waste bins, with support from the city office.
- The burning of waste for ashes to use in the fields has been substantially reduced.
- Implemented 7 R actively in (Wards 11 and 16) in collaboration with the City Office

- **Lalitpur Metropolitan city in coordination with Ward 19, gave the adolescents training on segregating wastes and composting, the knowledge they shared with the community women. The compost is being used in Terrace Farming. Other wards have started to follow.**



Challenges

- It took time for the adults or policymakers to take youth-led initiative seriously.
- **Frequent follow up on the commitments made is not possible due to their priority in the studies.**
- Limited funding to sustain initiatives like tree planting, clean-ups, and awareness campaigns.
- Struggle to gain visibility and engagement on social media.
- Eco-anxiety or frustration due to slow systemic changes.
- Facing resistance or discouragement from community members.
- **Difficulty in understanding policies and integrating scientific concepts into action.**

Plans for this year:

- Advocate for the implementation of the commitment of Community garden sustainability by giving necessary trainings to the women, mainly in Balkumari and Bungamati areas.
- Strengthen partnerships with NGOs, local clubs for sustainable development
- Community based, women-led disaster preparedness and response team
- Reviving more neglected parks for biodiversity conservation
- Training on Rain Water Harvesting
- LMC is in the process of developing two children parks. (Manjali Shakya Bajracharya- Deputy Mayor, LMC)

Thank You

