

Annual Report

Annual Report July
2018 to June 2019

PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS

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Objectives:

- To organize programs in the sector of education, empowerment and entrepreneurship in the community.
- To increase awareness on various aspects of health care and risks of diseases such as cervical cancer in rural communities.
- To conserve and protect natural resources and environment by increasing awareness about the environmental risks and solutions that could be implemented.
- To help modernize the agricultural system and support the practice of organic farming through providing technical support for the rural community.
- To transform social structure and norm, and change perspective towards gender equality, diminishing caste discrimination and eliminate illiteracy.

Introduction

Bajra Samaj Nepal (BSN) is a non-profit organization formed by local young people, teachers, women, farmers and ordinary community people for carrying out sustainable development activities in Ramechhap district in 2012. It is registered in District Administration Office Ramechhap (DAO), Nepal with its registration number 782. It is affiliated with Social Welfare Council (SWC), Nepal as 36308th NGO. It is registered with Inland Revenue Office as a tax free organization and received the Permanent Account Number (PAN) 600952765 from the government.

BSN's registration is renewed from District Administrative Office Ramechhap every year. Its programs have been approved from Local Gov-

ernment of Ramechhap and Social Welfare Council of Nepal.

An inclusive, nine member's executive board from local community is unanimously elected by the annual general body for four years to develop the annual programs, plans, coordinate with different stakeholders, implement and monitor the approved programs and projects.

Bajra Samaj Nepal (BSN) is empowering the poor, vulnerable and socially excluded community, mostly women and girls through providing awareness and ensuring their access on sexual and reproductive health rights and services, water and sanitation, livelihood and education programs in Ramechhap Municipality from its establishment.



Mission

Bajra Samaj Nepal empowers deprived community of Ramechhap to enhance their knowledge in health & sanitation, livelihood and education.

Vision

Bajra Samaj Nepal envisions social economic advancement of deprived people of Ramechhap.

Core Value

The community, BSN believes that they should be inspired, challenged, and responsible to become their very best.

Message from the Founder, President



Purna Magar, Founder/President

I am pleased to share our annual report FY 2018/019. The report includes highlights of our program achievements, in terms of how our programs and campaigns were successful to improve the lives of poor, vulnerable and socially excluded women, men and children together with experience and lesson we learnt.

Though there were various challenges seen in the way while implementing programs and projects due to limited financial resources, human resources, hardship in the program areas, we tried our best to translate our commitments into action

through our projects activities and social movements. Major progresses were achieved in ensuring rural women sexual and reproductive health rights, women empowerment, access to basic education and mobilizing local stakeholders and communities.

BSN remains progressive, action and result oriented to address local community needs through inclusive, community driven and innovative approaches on its upcoming programs and projects. It will further institutionalize learnings and best practices from past programs and projects and enhance its capacities, areas of expertise and resources.

On behalf of our team, I would like to acknowledge and grant tons of thanks to all of our well-wishers, community volunteers and donors. Without your continuous generosity, we would not be able to achieve our goals

for the rural community in Ramechhap Municipality, Nepal. We remains hopeful to take this partnership and collaborations for long term translating our values into actions for visible development impacts.

Purna Magar
Founder/President

"BSN remains progressive, action and result oriented to address local community needs through inclusive, community driven and innovative approaches on its upcoming programs and projects."

Improving access and utilization on sexual and reproductive health care

As usual, BSN remarked and celebrated International Women's Day by organizing Three day - Cervical Screening Camp (7 to 9 March) to raise awareness and improve access on sexual and reproductive health care conditions of rural women in the areas.

The sexual and reproductive health conditions of women and girls in the areas is miserable, due to rampant poverty, poor

access and availability of trained health workers in local health facilities, ill cultural practices and social believes, low literacy rate and awareness on sexual and reproductive health rights. The sexual and reproductive health and its issues are stigmatized as "shameful, matters to be hidden" which discourage individual to further access health care and even discuss within the family and friends.

BSN from its inception is mobilizing community volunteers to raise awareness on SRHR and health care facilities in its program areas. Prior to the health camp, BSN informed and mobilized female community health volunteers for door to door visit and invite women personally to visit and take health care services in the health camp.

A total number of 337 women visited the health camp and access available health care facilities. Each day, the health camp was organized in three different locations; Rampur, Gothagaun, Dharapani villages of Ramechhap Municipality to reach most disadvantage women in the areas. The health camp also provide individual counselling and awareness to women on their sexual and reproductive health status. The medical team also brief the available health care facilities in district hospitals and requested to visit regularly, or encounter such problems. Those who were diagnosis/suspected to cervical cancer were made referral to Nepal Network for Cancer Treatment Center, Banepa for further treatment. BSN provided transportation cost and treatment cost for the patients.

The health camp was organized with funding support from Friends of Nepal Pariwar Foundation USA, and technical support from Tamakoshi Cooperative Hospital and Ramechhap District Hospital, Ramechhap.

The health camp provided below services

SN	Diagnosis	No. of Patients
1.	VIA Test for Cervical Cancer Screening	218
2.	VIA Test Suspected	8
3.	Uterus Prolapse Found	20
4.	Ring Pressure Inserted	16
5.	USG (Video X-ray) Service Provided	70
6.	General Check-up for Reproductive Health	247



Woman getting her health check-up in the Camp

Community based Water and Sanitation Program

Water is one of the basic human necessities, seen from human rights perspectives but a large proportion of the Nepalese population lacks access to safe and sufficient drinking water. The most vulnerable, remote community suffer from dirty and scarce water, they have to rely on small brooks running from mountains and had to spend hours to get water every day.

The poor indigenous Magar communities in Kharkabesi, Ramechhap district of Nepal were struggling to get safe drinking water since April 2015. The 21 households were relying on upon down spring water which takes them nearly two hours walk to fetch drinking water every day. Some of the households were also using irrigation water for drinking, which has a high probability of contamination. In Nepalese society girls and women are mostly responsible to collect water and conduct household chores as per gender define roles. Similarly, girls and women of Kharkabesi community were observed overburden with labor and mental pressure to collect water two to three times daily from such long distance. At the end of

the day, still they have to struggle with insufficient volume of water to accomplish all household works.

The earlier drinking water source dried after April 2015, earthquake in the area. As the community was economically poor, they were unable to contribute financially and support the construction of a new distribution system. They made a request to various organizations as well as the local government but were unable to find a solution for it. As a result of using untreated and water from open source, infants and small children suffered from various water-borne diseases. Also, due to insufficient volume of water, the hygiene and sanitation condition of Kharkabesi were miserable.



Locals making trench for pipeline in Community Drinking Water Project



Users were preparing pipeline to carry up to water source from road

BSN was informed about the poor situations and approached by the community to solve the problems. A community drinking water project was designed and financially supported from Friends of Nepal Pariwar Foundation, the project for the construction of drinking water was initiated. The community was very encouraged and contributed a significant amount of contribution through their labor as a volunteer for carrying pipes, digging trench and fittings work. The project took 17 days to complete for which the community contributed approx. Nrs 56,000/- equivalent through their skilled and unskilled works. With the completion of infrastructure construction, the community now have access to sufficient and clean drinking water. The taps are constructed in the community in a walking distance of less than 5 min from their residence. With increased awareness about safe sanitation



Local women collecting water after completion of Project

and hygiene, the community is comparatively clean than earlier. With increased access to water, the villagers these days are also engaged in green seasonal vegetables and fruits production. Mostly, women and girls saved their time and realize less burden to complete their household chores. The locals from

Kharkabesi community says the completion of drinking water project has added joys to their everyday lives, life with clean and sufficient drinking water in their home has become easier and happier.

Education and Scholarship Support Program

As one of the core program, Bajra Samaj Nepal (BSN) ensure access to education of poor, marginalized and socially excluded girls and boys in Ramechhap Municipality. From the year of establishment, it is continuously providing scholarship to complete school level education and vocational and technical education.



Third in the first row from left, Ms Sabina Ale, attending her class.

School level Scholarship Support

The school level scholarship support covers a set of school uniforms, stationaries, school bag and also tuition fee for students from class 6 to 10.

A core committee in the school is formed, who selects target students for scholarship program every year in respective school. In FY 2018/19 BSN provided scholarship to 38 students from Janakalyan Secondary School in Ramechhap Municipality. Among the selected students 50 percentage were girls, 13 percentage were Dalits and remaining were from Janjati. The students were provided with a school bag, stationaries with school uniforms. Additionally, 10 students from class 10 got tuition fees for their SEE preparation.



Students receiving scholarship supports

Students, Teachers and Parents express their gratitude to BSN for giving children hope towards their promising future with scholarship program and helping them to complete their school education. The Scholar-

ship programs is being funded and supported by Friends of Nepal Pariwar Foundation from 2012.

Vocational and Technical Education Support

BSN is also providing funding supports/scholarship for poor, vulnerable and marginalized young girls and boys to get Vocational and Technical Educations (VTE) like; Junior Technicians in Agriculture (JTA), Auxiliary Nurse Midwives (ANM) and Veterinary. Currently, 2 boys are enrolled in VTE and a girl is providing on the job training (OJT) at Primary Health Center Manthali Ramechhap. A total number of 3 have completed their technical education and

are working in different organization. They remains model to the local community and also inspire young girls and boys to complete their education.

They are supporting their family economically and also helping their community with their knowledge and skills.

Students who are walking up hill to attend their class daily.



A village girl living her dream – Serving her community

“The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams.”

-Eleanor Roosevelt

This inspiring quote by Eleanor Roosevelt truly resonates with the story of 23 years old Geeta Magar, who hails from a small village in Ramechhap Municipality. Her family main occupation is farming and their income relies on agricultural production. Geeta is the youngest child among her five siblings.

Her parents were supportive and positive towards her education but the economic conditions were not well off to pursue higher education after her school level education. Like many other girls in her village, Geeta's daily routine also included cooking, cleaning and feeding the cattle but she always



Ms. Geeta with her classmate Nabina during scholarship course

remains good and laborious in her study. Geeta, from her childhood dream, wanted to be a health worker – a staff nurse and serve her community, especially women in her village. She saw her aunt, sisters and community women struggling to get quality and timely health services during their pregnancy. Institutional delivery, post-delivery checkups and information along with the counseling on sexual and reproductive health in her village were out of reach of the general community. She has also witnessed cases of maternal and newborn death in her neighbor due to the unavailability of skilled health workers in the village health posts.

Those incidents provided her reason to chase her dream and be even more determinate towards fulfilling and serving her own community. After she com-

pleted her school level education, she was looking for economic support/scholarship to complete the staff nurse course but she didn't succeed. She didn't leave her hope and explore other alternatives about how she can live with her dream.

The second time when she approached BSN for the scholarship, she also got information about admission opening for courses on Auxiliary Nurse Midwife (ANM) in Technical Training Center at Sindhuli and the possibility to provide scholarship for a local resident. She decided to take this opportunity thinking that god gifted her another way to fulfill her dream. She successfully accomplished the course of ANM with scholarship support from BSN and now serving in her own village health post-birthing center.



Geeta, doing health check-up of community woman in the health post

Community Livelihood and Saving Credit Management

Saving & Credit activities in self-help group of many remote village in Nepal, evolved as an alternative form of finance to poor and marginalized people that are excluded from the formal financial institution. Many non-governmental organization facilitates and support saving and credit

management to create small and informal income generating activities that helps to build better living conditions to the poor in long run.

BSN from its establishment has focused on saving and credit as one of the major program strategy to empower mostly women and poor community. Saving & Credit in group helps to generate funds, helps to deal with emergencies and economic hindrances, it enables members to become less dependent and empowers members confidence to start their own income generating activities; retail business, farming and animal husbandry, hotels and learn needed skills through various trainings.

Community staff/facilitators facilitates and encourage women in groups to start saving with small amount on each month. It further provides capacity building trainings, orientation to group members on managing and mobilizing funds, maintaining records and providing infor-



Receiving goat from group member as gift program of BSN

mation on saving credit status in group meeting. All 96 women in 4 community groups of BSN in Ramechhap municipality is doing saving and credit regularly.

Once in a month women/community group member comes together in group meeting, record and deposit their personal savings, update their individual records in pass-book/group register and also provide small loan for the members who have emergency needs or members to conduct various income generating activities in minimum interest under group rules and regulations. Certain members from group are also assign authority with define roles and responsibilities to approve, monitor use of loan in proposed activities. They conduct home visit, observe and also support on proper use of loan. Currently, in an average each groups have raised capital of NRS. 153,940 with a total of approximately NRS. 769,700 in the local community.

Through the help of saving and credit facilities in women/community groups, many disadvantage families have been successful to generate income, meet their families basic needs arranging daily meals, sending their children in public school, providing basic health care in emergency and also generating income

and saving for their future. Most of the women in the group seems motivated and satisfied with the saving and credit activities, as it is changing their roles, mobility and identity from housewife to owner/bread owner in different profession like; hotel owner, shop owner, tailor owner and other agriculture/farm based activities. This definitely helps rural women to be confident, access and control family/community resources and end gender discrimination and violence from the community.

BSN is also looking forward to provide various capacity building training on saving and credit/cooperative management, organize exposers visit in district best cooperatives. It further aims to scale up saving credit activities in its other program areas.

Empowering Girl to Chase Her Dreams - "Neera's Story"

"Today, I am educated. I am confident and feel empowered because I have knowledge and skills. Economically I am self-dependent through a job and also helping my community people in the ways I could. I'm unafraid to face any challenges that come in my life. I have a different identity in my village compared to others of my age and even my prestige in front of my relatives has changed. I feel respected and welcomed in social and cultural events. I am hopeful that my story will inspire many rural girls who are struggling to complete their basic education and enroll in the education sector they want to grow professionally." - Ms. Neera Pakhrin, a young girl from Ramechhap Municipality.

Neera was born in an economically deprived indigenous family in Chyasku village of Ramechhap Municipality. As a farmer, her parents only had a small plot of agricultural land. The unavailability of irrigation facility in the community forces the farmer to depend on rainfall for farming. She is the second child in the family with an elder brother and two younger siblings. Along with her siblings, she went to the public school for education and helped her parents with farm work during their free time. Daily life became harder when there was drought or low production of crops due to insects and pest attacks. Neera recalls the days when they didn't have enough

food for consumption in her family. As a result, her father went to Saudi Arabia as foreign labor worker to earn and support her family. But with a minimum income her family still struggled to manage their livelihood.

Neera remembers many challenges she and her siblings faced to complete their school education. Especially being a girl, Neera was always asked to sacrifice her education whenever



Neera, facilitating women in her community on modern farming skills and techniques

her family had faced an economic crisis. As a male-dominated society, boys/sons always had privileges and preferences over girls/daughter and considered inferior and powerless. But Neera always remains positive and determined to complete her education. She had always been a good student in her class with an image of laborious, disciplined and popular among teachers.

Neera says - "My study was inspired by a Female teacher in our village. This inspired me to be a social worker and help her parents economically in the future. But in order to do so, I had

to complete my education." The thrust of education helped her to survive and thrive in those painful days with a hope for a better future. After her school, she decided to study Junior Technical Assistant (JTA) in Agriculture and help many farmers in her community providing knowledge, education and skills on modern agricultural and farming techniques. So that they can produce and harvest crops and vegetables not only to fulfill their daily family needs but also develop the community as an agro production center.

BSN supported her economically by providing a scholarship to complete her JTA course. After completing her JTA education in 2018, she is now working in a local NGO as a Social Mobiliser/JTA in her community. Living with all her dreams and aspirations for supporting the community coming true, she became a role model for many young girls in the areas to live with their dreams. Along with her job roles and responsibilities she also visits door to door in the village providing knowledge on the importance of girl's education and inspires, encourage parents, girls to complete their education.

She mentions that this is just a first step of success towards her future and remains optimistic to gain more success being laborious and completing higher education in agricultural sectors. Her parents now feels proud of her work and remain positive to support her in the future.



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BAJRA SAMAJ NEPAL

Empowers deprived community of
Ramechhap to enhance their knowledge in
health & sanitation, livelihood and education.

www.bajrasamajnepal.org.np

Program Areas

- Ramechhap Municipality, Ramechhap, Nepal

Program Beneficiaries

- The direct beneficiaries are 388 number of poor, vulnerable and socially marginalized women and children in the community. Indirectly a total number of 1940 people in the areas are benefited through its various programs and events.

Current Partners/Funding Agencies

- Friends of Nepal Pariwar Foundation, USA
- Stiftung Soziale Ung Okologische Zokunft, Germany
- Baudha Bahunipati Project Pariwar, Kavre, Nepal

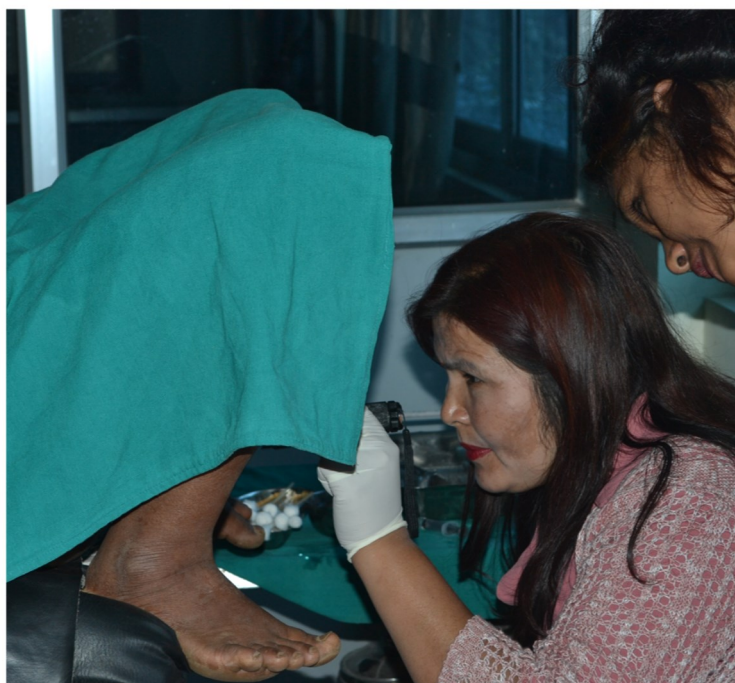
Strategic Partners

- Ramechhap Municipality, Ramechhap, Nepal
- Tamakoshi Cooperative Hospital, Ramechhap, Nepal
- District Hospital, Ramechhap, Nepal
- NNCTR, Banepa, Nepal

Current Programs and Projects

- Improving access and utilization on sexual and reproductive health care knowledge and services
- Community based Water and Sanitation Program
- Education and Scholarship Support Program
- Community Livelihood and Saving Credit Management
- Advocacy and Day Celebrations Program

Cervical Cancer Treatment for Suspected Patient



Technician of NNCTR Banepa is providing cervical cancer treatment

After carrying out Cervical Cancer Screening (VIA) Camp in different locations of Ramechhap District, several women who participated in the camp were suspected to have problem related with cervical cancer. The suspected women were referred to visit Nepal Network for Cancer Treatment Center (NNCTR), located in Banepa for their further health check-up and confirmation of their problem. But, the women were unable to manage their health check-up due to the poor economic condition of their family. Thus, understanding the economic situation of women, BSN organized a visit to NNCTR to support the selected women for their health check-up. All the expenses related with health check-up, transportation, logistics etc. for the 7 women suspected of Cervical Cancer were supported by BSN.