

Chances and Challenges for Naya Nepal

By Bishnu Bhusal, 30 July 2008; redacted by Markus Ruckstuhl

Bishnu Bhusal, SNS Nepal Representative, spoke with four CA lady members at the Hotel Dwarika in Kathmandu on July 21st, 2008, during a training program for female CA members organized by ICPD Nepal.

Our honored Interview Partners in a short profile:



Laxmi Pariyar, 31, Udaypur district.

CA women delegate, representing the Nepali Congress (NC).

Laxmi-ji was brought up in the Udaypur district in the East of Nepal where she experienced harsh treatment and marginalization by the so-called upper caste people right from her childhood – definitely the driving force behind her rebellious character that heavily impacted her school days. She recalls her childhood as

most humiliating be it in or out of the classroom. Laxmi-ji joined the Nepal Student Union (NSU), a student wing of the Nepali Congress. After getting involved into politics, she effectively raised the voice against the "untouchability" of women and children of the Dalits.

Laxmi-ji represents the Nepali Congress in the Constituent Assembly (CA) being appointed under the Dalit women quota through the proportionate election system. Laxmi is a very promising Dalit leader, having worked as a Human Rights Activist focusing on the untouchable issue and advocating the rights of the Dalits.



Sabitra Dura Gurung, 30, Tanahun district.

CA women delegate, representing the Maoist party (Maoist).

Sabitra-ji comes from the Dura community of western Nepal, a very small indigenous population with less than 6500 members. The Duras mostly live in the central and western parts of the Lamjung district. Their language and script are not used any longer and are almost forgotten by now (see also article on page 17).

Sabitra-ji started her political career as a student

leader at the Prithivi Narayan Campus in Pokhara. During the Maoists' insurgency, she joined the Maoist army as Company Commissar. She was active in the Maoists party for the last 13 years, most of the time operating from the underground. Since two years, she now is the Vice District In-Charge of the Baglung district.

Sabitra-ji is married but her husband is on the list of disappeared people and she has not been able to trace her husband for the last five years. She represents the Maoist party in the CA, elected in the proportionate election and is a Central Committee member of the Young Communist League (YCL), as well as secretary of the Tamuban Autonomous State.



Sarala Yadav, 31, Rautahat district.

CA women delegate, representing the Communist Party of Nepal (CPN-UML).

Sarala Yadav comes from the central Terai district of Rautahat. She was brought up

with a very conservative family background where women are kept under a strict discipline, only to be compared with the Parda system of the Muslim community. In her community, women are not provided equal rights and are kept under strict surveillances of the male family members.

Sarala-ji was a staunch fighter for an equal treatment of girls and boys throughout her entire childhood. She struggled with her family and

If you stay at a cremation ground, you will see dead bodies.