



Access Planet Organization

Annual Progress report

July 16, 2020,- July 15, 2021

Presented by: Tikaram Nepal, Secretary

Background

Access Planet Organization is led by young women with disabilities and works for the rights of women with disabilities in general and young women with disabilities in particular. This organization has objective to empower young women with disabilities and mainstream their issues. Our Organization is self-led group led by young women with disabilities (70% of the governing board below 30) and therefore works for promoting rights, empowerment and inclusion of these girls and young women. It was established aiming to mainstream young girls and women with disabilities in society through technology and capacity building. Being self-led organization, we work as self-advocate for the issues, challenges and problems we have faced and want to empower and build the movement of young women with disabilities in the grassroots.

Vision

“Access Planet envisions economically empowered women and youths with disabilities living dignified life through the availability and use of accessible technology.”

Mission

Establish the quality and dignified life of women and youths with disabilities through coordination, collaboration and mobilization of stakeholders

Goal

“Social status and rights, economic conditions and technological accessibility of youths/women with disabilities improved.”

Objectives:

- Contribute to improve technology and Education friendly environment of youths and women with disabilities.
- To economically empower youths/women with disabilities through disability friendly technology
- To ensure the rights of youths/women with disabilities through legal literacy and advocacy
- To promote positive attitude of the society towards youths/women with disabilities through awareness and social sensitization

Target Group:

- Youths/women with disabilities
- Parents of children with disabilities
- Children with disabilities

2. Works Conducted by this Organization from July 2020 to July 2021

2.1: One-month Computer Training to Job-holder Blind and Visually Impaired Women.

The computer training was conducted in the funding support of TEWA, from 10-Sep to 10-OCT, 2020 for twenty-two blind and visually impaired women engaged in different professions across Nepal mostly teachers of government schools. The training was conducted targeting to visually impaired women who could not have chances to update their computer skills due to busy schedule in their profession. As it was the time of lockdown and the schools were closed, most of the participants who were teachers got chances of participating in the training managing time from profession related works and household chores. In the training, the participants got skills on Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Email-internet, Esewa and E-banking. The training has contributed in making the visually impaired women independent in performing their job related works and made them less dependent with their sighted colleagues in their profession.

2.2: Workshop on: Development of 5 –years strategic planning of the organization.

In the funding support of the Tewa Organization, Access Planet Organization conducted a workshop on the organization's Strategic Plan Development on March 2021. This workshop Supported in determining the 5-years vision, mission, and working areas of Access Planet Organization. Consultant Mr. Nirmal Bhandari facilitated the 5-years strategic plan of Access Planet, hence this activity will contribute in strengthening the movement of women with disabilities in the long-run.

2.3: Organizational Development Training to Board Members

Access Planet Organization conducted **Organizational development training** for its board members on 6th- and 7th March 2021 to enhance board members' skills and knowledge on various aspects of the organization with the support of TEWA. The training was conducted for 9 participants in the board membership and executive position of Access Planet.

Objectives:

- To enhance the skills of Access Planet board members on organizational development
- To develop the capacity to conduct a formal meeting, minute writing, letter writing, event report writing, etc.
- To maximize the ability for public speaking and standard program handling

This training helped enhance the knowledge and skills of board members on various aspects of the organization, organizational development and enhanced their advocacy skills, which are crucial for bettering the movement and strengthening organizational activities.

2.4: TOT on Leadership and Legal Literacy to Young Women with Disabilities of Makwanpur and Chitwan District.

On 10-12 March 2021, Access Planet Organization conducted three days ToT on Leadership and Legal Literacy to Young women with Disabilities. Ten women from the Makwanpur and Chitwan districts of Bagmati Province participated in the trainers' training, which was supported by FRIDA.

In training, the participants were provided with leadership and gender-related sessions, including:

- Team building and Importance of group formation
- Leadership, Leadership Values, and Diversity,
- Public speaking and handling formal program
- Effective communication skills
- Handling meeting and minuting

The training also provided knowledge to the participants on legal aspects, including:

- Act Relating to the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and its Regulation
- UNCRPD and its optional protocol
- Sustainable Development Goals Focusing on Disability-Related Indicators

This training aimed to empower young women with disabilities in the grassroots so that the movement of young women with disabilities in the community will be strengthened. After the training, the advocacy committee has been formed in each two districts responsible for bringing forward young women with disabilities in their respective communities.

2.5: Advocacy meeting with Found for promoting techno-based employment opportunities for young women with disabilities.

Access Planet Organization conducted an advocacy meeting with FOUND Project under The Leprosy Mission to increase collaboration to increase the techno-based employment opportunities for young women with disabilities.

Objective

- To collaborate with FOUND for employment opportunities and for uplifting the economic status of young women with disabilities.

Some of the agendas discussed in the meeting were:

- In supporting Access Planet's ToT participants of computer training to roll as on the job as computer instructors in integrated schools under the support of FOUND
- opportunities and challenges so far experienced by Found on employment of people with disabilities
- Collaborating options between FOUND and Access Planet Organization
- To consider share market orientation to these women under skill enhancement training.

The outcomes of the program were:

- FOUND staffs were positive to collaborate with Access Planet on various aspects of enhancing the economic rights of young women with disabilities
- FOUND had a positive response in supporting Access Planet's ToT participants of computer training to roll on the job as computer instructors in integrated schools as proposed by Access Planet
- Available projects with FOUND were identified in which Access Planet could collaborate in the future.

The meeting with FOUND was successful in identifying various collaborative options with Access Planet. Further support from FOUND will help to enable the empowerment of young women with disabilities.

2.6: Leadership training for young women with disabilities of Chitwan.

Access Planet organization in the funding support of the FRIDA, successfully conducted a "One-day leadership program for young women with disabilities of grassroots level of Chitwan district on 24 April 2021. The aim of the training was to empower women with disabilities at the grassroots level. The training provided knowledge to the participants on legal aspects, including:

- Act Relating to the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and its Regulation
- UNCRPD and its optional protocol
- Sustainable Development Goals Focusing on Disability-Related Indicators
- Gender roles
- Team building and group formation.

The training helped to enhance the leadership capacities of young women with disabilities in the grassroots of Chitwan.

Outcomes from this advocacy program were:

- 26 participants were aware about the rights and laws related to women with disabilities.
- Participants knew about the importance of Team building and Importance of group formation during advocacy about the rights related to young women with disabilities.
- The enhanced leadership of the participants has contributed in strengthening grassroots movement of young women with disabilities in Chitwan district.

2.7: Leadership training for young women with disabilities of Makwanpur.

Access Planet Organization in the funding support of the FRIDA, successfully conducted "One day leadership Training for young women with disabilities of grassroots level of makwanpur district on 25th April 2021. The aim of the training was to empower young women with disabilities of the district and strengthen their movement in the local level. The training provided knowledge to the participants on leadership and legal aspects, including:

- Act Relating to the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and its Regulation

- UNCRPD and its optional protocol
- Sustainable Development Goals Focusing on Disability-Related Indicators
- Team building and Group formation.

The training helped to enhance the leadership capacities of young women with disabilities in the grassroots of Makwanpur.

- 26 participants were aware about the rights and laws related to women with disabilities.
- Participants knew about the importance of Team building and Importance of group formation during advocacy about the rights related to young women with disabilities.
- The enhanced leadership of the participants has contributed in strengthening grassroots movement of young women with disabilities in makwanpur district.

2.8: Training of Trainers on Computer and Technology for Blind and Visually Impaired Women

Access Planet has successfully completed two months of virtual training of trainers on computers and technology to young blind and visually impaired women belonging from across the country with the funding support of TEWA Nepal and Mega Bank.

The participants have updated their skills on various aspects related to Microsoft Word, Microsoft Excel, screen reader software, Nepali typing, Microsoft PowerPoint and Computer management. In total, 10 young blind and visually impaired women representing different provinces across the nation were selected as participants through the competitive application process. Now as the training has successfully completed, some selected participants will be provided with the opportunity of “On the job training” as computer instructors in integrated schools where blind children are studying.

Through this training, access Planet organization aims to support quality education and promote techno-based job opportunities for young women with disabilities.

2.9: Review and Follow-up Workshop for Young Women at Makwanpur and Chitwan.

Access Planet Organization with the support of the FRIDA-young feminist fund successfully completed the Review and Follow-up Workshop on 6th June 2021 virtually in the presence of board members, staff, and participants of TOT.

This review and follow-up workshop was conducted for evaluation and sharing of the lesson learned on the training conducted by ToT participants. The program mainly focused on the discussion with the participants regarding their experiences, challenges, learning, and way forward. Through this workshop, the access planet organization aimed to support and build up the capacity of women with disabilities at the grassroots level and strengthen the movement of young women with disabilities of Chitwan and Makwanpur districts.

2.10: Advocacy Interaction program on: “Challenges faced by visually impaired share market investors and its solutions.”

Access Planet Organization successfully conducted an advocacy interaction program on 11th June 2021 with the funding support of TEWA. This advocacy interaction program had the presence of various stakeholders related to Nepal Share Market. The program had the enthusiastic presence of the visually impaired investors and the concerned stakeholders. This advocacy interaction program aimed at sensitizing the authorities of the stock market and hence making it accessible to screen reader users.

This advocacy interaction program has become fruitful in sensitizing the issues of accessibility related challenges in the current online share trading system. The concerned authorities have stated their commitments to make the entire system accessible to visually impaired people. We are very hopeful that the commitments made by the concerned authorities will be fulfilled in making Nepal share market system accessible to all including visually impaired investors.

2.11: Enhancing Access of Girls and Young women with disabilities of Chitwan district on inclusive education and technology.

Access Planet with support of FRIDA has successfully conducted interaction program on the topic “Present Situation, challenges and Way Forward for Enhancing Access of Girls and Young Women with Disabilities of Chitwan District on Inclusive education and Technology” on 28 June 2021. In the interaction program, different issues on education of girls and women with disabilities especially in the time of current crisis were discussed with the concerned stakeholders. Representatives from various municipalities including Municipal Education Chief, resource teachers and school principals were present in the interaction program.

The key educational stakeholders from various municipalities were sensitized about the needs of accessibility and inclusive education for girls and women with disabilities. Commitment of accessible and disability friendly toilets, proper infrastructure have been made.

2.12 Enhancing access of girls and young women with disabilities of Makwanpur district on inclusive education and technology.

Access Planet with support of FRIDA has successfully conducted interaction program on the topic “Present Situation, challenges and Way Forward for Enhancing Access of Girls and Young Women with Disabilities of Chitwan District on Inclusive education and Technology” on 11th July 2021. In the interaction program, different issues on education of girls and women with disabilities especially in the time of current crisis were discussed with the concerned stakeholders. Representatives from various municipalities including Mayor, deputy mayor, president, vice-president, municipal Education Chief, resource teachers and school principals, disability rights activists were present in the interaction program. Commitments were gathered from the stakeholders on the education of girls and young women with disabilities. We are very hopeful that these types of programs keeps on urging local stakeholders and decision makers to fulfill their promises and commitments towards quality education of girls and young women with disabilities.

2.13: Career counseling session for girls and young women with disabilities.

Access Planet organization with support of TEWA Nepal has successfully completed 3 days career counseling training for girls and young women with disabilities from 13th July to 15th July 2021.

The objective of this 3 days career counseling was to provide career guidance in regards to education and profession to girls and young women with disabilities.

There were all together 33 carefully chosen participants who were selected from all over Nepal and having various types of disabilities.

There were all together 6 session in this 3 days career counseling session:

- Rajan Kafle, principal of SS College on the topic “Orientation on Different Subjects Available for Study in Colleges of Nepal”
- Rama Dhakal, vice-president of National federation of disabled Nepal on “Opportunities and Facilities Available for Girls and Young Women with Disabilities in Nepal”
- Laxmi Nepal, executive director of Access planet and disability right activist on the topic “Orientation on different scholarship opportunities in international platforms for young women with disabilities.”
- Bishal Dahal, HR consultant on the topic “Curriculum Vitae writing”.
- Gargi Nepal, president of Access planet and disability right activist on the topic “Email Writing Technique.”

. Experiences were shared by:

- Parwati Shrestha, low vision, civil service job holder in Social Security Fund.
- Santa Pandey, physical disability, staff nurse at Sahid Dharma bhakta Human Organ Transplant Center
- Srijana Dhakal, blind, government teacher at Shree mandala Higher Secondary School.

Outcomes from this program were:

- 33 young women with disabilities were oriented, motivated and were provided guidance on educational and professional career.
- Women with disabilities were oriented in various educational opportunities after completing SEE.
- Women with disabilities were oriented on various international platforms for studies.
- These women were sensitized on various national laws and rights of women with disabilities.
- These young women with disabilities were oriented in properly writing their curriculum vitae.
- All the participants were very motivated from the experience sharing from the guest speakers.
- All the participants learnt about the proper email writing.

The Programs Planned for July 2021- July 2022

This organization plans to conduct following programs in the upcoming fiscal year:

- Issue identification and capacitating young women with disabilities on economic rights and provinces and formation of advocacy committee for local campaigning
- Advocacy Interaction on Economic Rights of Women with Disabilities in province 1.
- Issue identification and capacitating young women with disabilities on economic rights and provinces and formation of advocacy committee for local campaigning
- Advocacy Interaction on Economic Rights of Women with Disabilities in Lumbini province.
- Advocacy/meetings/delegations for the economic rights.
- Training related to Digital Accessibility Testing.
- Computer training in integrated school by TOT participants.
- Research on economic status of women with disabilities.
- Advocacy program on economic empowerment of women with disabilities in province 1, bagmati province and lumbini province.
- Cash support to 60 young women human rights defenders with disabilities.
- Yoga and meditation to 100 participants for well-being.

Conclusion

At the end, I would like to thank all the supporters and well wishers for contributing in the development of this organization as well as for supporting the empowerment of youths and women with disabilities in Nepal. We would like to expect similar support and cooperation for the future endeavors as well.

Thank you.