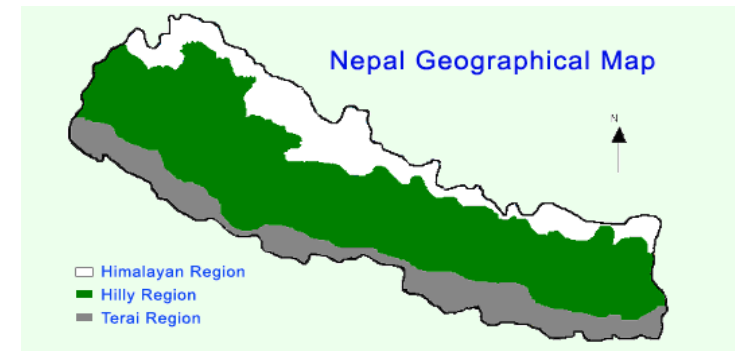




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Inclusive Electoral Literacy

through informal education channel





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Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal at a Glance



Area: 147,181 Sq KM

Population Growth Rate: 1.35

Literacy Rate: 65.9

Democratic Practice Since: 1950

Geo diversity: Terai, Hill & Himalaya

Population: 26,494,504

Economic Growth Rate: 3.5

Life Expectancy: 69 year

Socio-cultural diversity: 125 eth gr.

No. of States: 7



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Presentation Outline

- Background
- Establishment of Electoral Education and Information Center (EEIC) and its activities
- Gender and Inclusion initiatives
- Opportunities and Challenges



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Background

- Introduced an EMB with the Interim Constitution of 1950,
- Independent constitutional body since 1966,
- 5 Commissioners including the Chief Election Commissioner
- Activities guided by constitution, electoral laws, strategic plan



Responsibilities of conducting, supervising, directing and controlling the elections of the President, Vice-President, Federal Parliament, State Assembly and members of Local bodies



Cont'd...

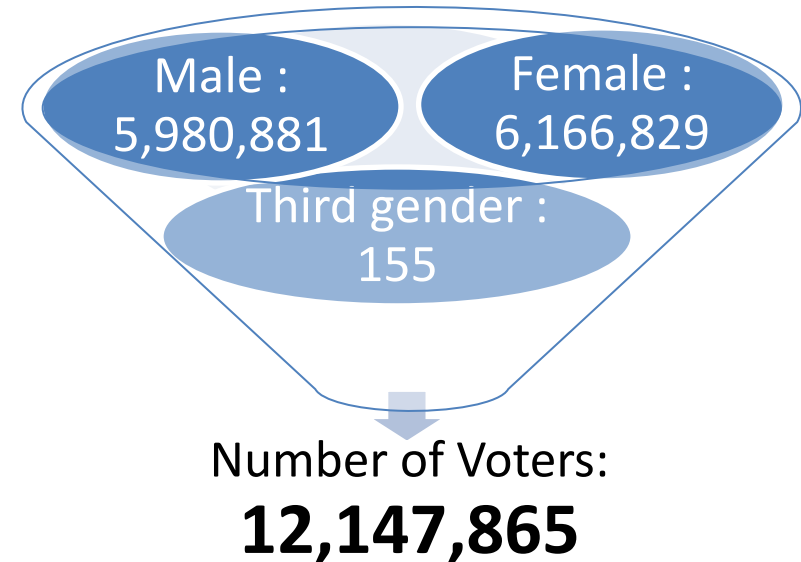
- The Constitution has made mandatory provisions of using the principle of inclusion in all the electoral systems adopted.
- Inclusive Electoral Education is the demand of demographic structure of Nepal
- Elections: the mega event and observed from many dimensions by different electoral stakeholders.
- Many electoral activities take place during an election following electoral cycle. Electoral and Voter Education is one of them



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CA Election 2013

Highest Voters' Participation in Nepalese Electoral History
(78.4%)



- Electoral and voter education activities were carried out
 - A special Voter Education committee was formed at the central level under the chairmanship of a Commissioner.
 - A District level Voter Education Committee is formed under the Chairmanship of Chief District Officer



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Establishment of **Electoral Education and Information Center (EEIC)**



- Established in 2012 with the objectives of enhancing awareness and participation of voters towards electoral systems, processes and procedures
- Expansion of EEIC in Regional Levels



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Mini Museum: Displaying Election related materials





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Mini Theater:

25 Minutes Long Documentary on Democracy and Elections





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Interactive Room:

Interaction on 5 different thematic subjects Using different Technologies and Learning styles





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Mock Polling:

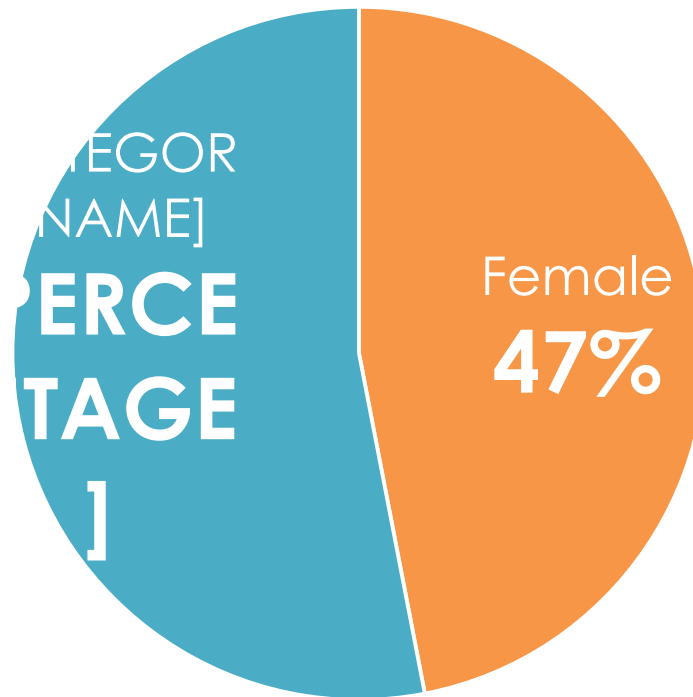
Practical Knowledge on Polling day activities





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Visitors Record till August 2016



Female	Male	Total
11184	12633	23817



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Capacity Enhancement

- Election Commission, Nepal is implementing its Second Strategic Plan (2015-2019)
- Capacity building program is one of the major pillars of the Strategic Plan
- Regular capacity building programme has been conducted to election staff and stakeholders
- Specific BRIDGE modular trainings have been conducted (introduction to electoral management, gender and election, access to electoral process, electoral dispute resolution, political finance etc.)
- Different Resource Manuals have been developed
- Trainings to Deaf Citizen, Disable persons, Women and minorities have been focused



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Inclusive Electoral Literacy Activities





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Basic Features of **Voter Education Program**

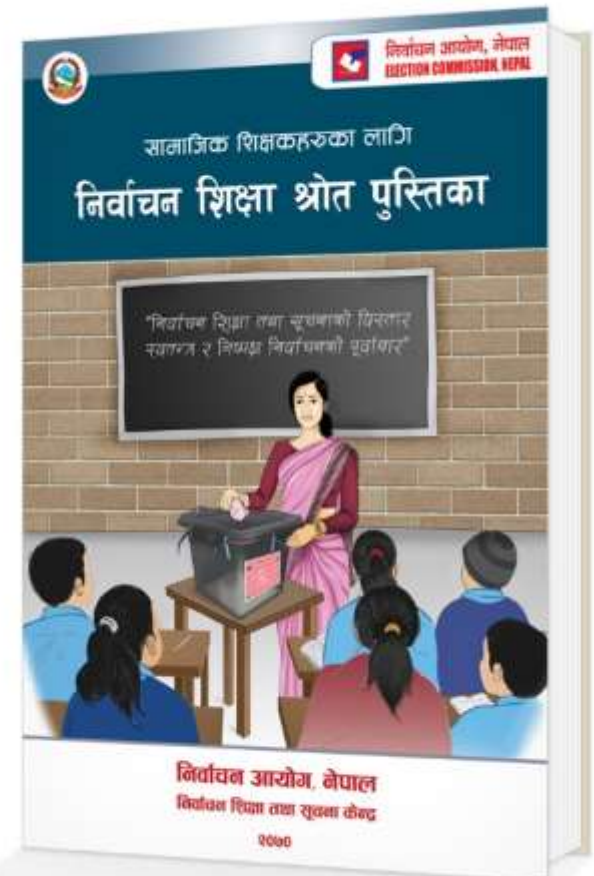
- ❑ Voter education program based on traditional practice,
- ❑ Technology based ,
- ❑ Outreach based,
- ❑ Disadvantage and marginalized group focused,
- ❑ Female group focused,
- ❑ Based on wider consultation with stakeholders,
- ❑ Regular updating and upgrading,
- ❑ Voter education as a continuous process.



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Social studies teachers' training

- Realized the scope and influence of the teachers in Nepalese society ECN has conducted Electoral Education to Social Study Teachers of Secondary Level School
- Both the community and private Schools' social study teachers are the participants
- Piloted in 2013
- 27 districts out of 75 completed and rest will be completed in 2 years from now
- Training to SS Teachers will have a lifelong impact to them
- A comprehensive Resource Book developed





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Electoral Education in Secondary School

- Officials of the Commission visit community and private schools and take sessions
- Conducted in all districts by concerned District Election Offices
- At present, Election Commission has focused not only in how to vote but also why to vote



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Voter Education through different means

Print Materials

- Printed and disseminated in different local dialects
- Pamphlets, posters, flex, FAQ, brochures, booklets, flip charts

Audio Visual

- Focusing to Special Target Group
- Applying contextual catchy native folk songs
- Using of public figure as an icon

Radio (widest reach due to Nepal's geography)

- PSAs/announcements in Nepali + 17 local dialects
- All over Nepal, through 100+ radio stations (National and Regional radios)

TV Channels: Broadcasting TV Program through 14 National TV Channel



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Outreach Program

Mobile EEIC

- Miniature of the central EEIC
- Helping to those people who live in remote areas and out of reach modern means of communication
- Street Drama,
- Community Awareness program,
- Local Cultural Program
- Integrated Mobile service





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Mobilization of Social mobilizers (Voter Education Volunteers)

- Voter Education Volunteers (VEV) from minorities and women group at the local level, at least 2 persons mobilized for a VDC or Municipality Ward
- Focused to impart the voter education at local level communities
- Major role played in voter registration and voter identification card distribution process in CA Election, 2013
- These volunteers were directed to impart the voter education to marginalized groups, first time voters, the illiterate or blinds, Dalit and women.
- They were mobilized for 2 months and worked under the supervision of DEO Office.





Gender & Inclusion initiatives

Regulatory Framework

- GI Policy 2013
- GI Strategy 2015-2020
- GI action plan I, 2015
- GI action plan II (Jan. 2016 to July 2018)



Institutional Framework

- GI Coordination Committee
- **GI Unit**
- GI focal persons (HQ and 75 offices)
- GI related grievances (female officer at HQ)

- Developing ECN as a Gender Sensitive Organization
- Attempts to ensure gender equality not only in the office but also among the voters and the candidates.



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Regular Interface with Stakeholders

- Regular consultations with relevant stakeholders:
Women, Dalit, Disabled, Excluded and Minorities
- Review of formal (School) education curriculum
- Updating and developing of electoral education curriculum in consultation with the relevant stakeholders
- Orientation to major stakeholders about new electoral provisions: political parties, CSOs, media etc.



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Opportunities

- ❑ Successfully implemented the first strategic plan and undergoing reforms according to the second strategic plan
- ❑ Continuation of past efforts to improve inclusive education and participation in elections
- ❑ In light of Constitutional commitments, address GI-related concerns raised by key stakeholders
 - ❑ Women, *Dalits*, Backward Communities, Backward Regions, Indigenous and Ethnic Communities, *Madhesi*, Persons with disabilities, other minorities
- ❑ Draft electoral laws, policies to be gender-sensitive and inclusive
 - ❑ This could help mainstream GI within political forces





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Challenges

- ❑ Socio-Cultural discrimination and poverty hinder women's participation in the electoral process
- ❑ Many communities care more for livelihoods than informed participation in elections
- ❑ Political parties participating in elections not sufficiently addressing Gender and Inclusion
- ❑ Lack of adequate gender- and disability-friendly infrastructure for polling





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Thank You