



Nirdhan Newsletter

August/September 2023

Newsletter of Nirdhan Utthan Laghubitta Bittiya Sanstha Limited

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Message from the CEO



Dear Readers,
Greetings!

We are delighted to present you progress highlights for August/September 2023 including brief coverage of the 8th Dr. Harihar Dev Pant Memorial Day.

The 8th Memorial Day of late Dr. Harihar Dev Pant - the pioneer of microcredit in Nepal and the founder of Nirdhan - was observed on 7th September 2023. In this issue, we present you highlights of the event observed in Kathmandu, which was graced by the Former Governor of Nepal Rastra Bank, Mr. Ganesh Bahadur

Thapa as the Chief Guest. Likewise, the distribution of Dr. Harihar Dev Pant Awards - 2080 under different categories are covered briefly.

We continued various capacity building events for staff as well as member/clients at different locations. For staff, the focus on AML/CFT compliance has been continued and a total of 178 Branch Managers were trained on the subject in this reporting period.

Our coverage and outreach in terms of numbers of Centre/Self-Reliant Groups as well as member/clients suggested business consolidation. As the process of sorting out member/client and loan duplication continued, the numbers of active as well as loan clients decreased significantly in recent months.

It is our understanding that the credit mobilized currently itself could bring the poverty down to zero if we move the microfinance ahead in the right course. As such, our assumption is that the loan going towards consumption should be checked gradually and divert towards capital formation.

As of the release of this issue of the Newsletter, I will be completing my tenure on 17 September 2023 as the CEO. I take this opportunity to thank you all for your continued support and best wishes to Nirdhan Utthan. You are welcome to contact me at <janardanpant@gmail.com>.

Janardan Dev Pant

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Dr. Harihar Dev Pant 8th Memorial Day observed on 7th September 2023

DR. HARIHAR DEV PANT 8TH MEMORIAL DAY ~ 1

Dr. Harihar Dev Pant Foundation, in association with Nirdhan NGO and Nirdhan Utthan MFI observed 8th Dr. Harihar Dev Pant Memorial Day on 7th September 2023 in all provinces of the country. The day was observed launching the book — *Samriddhiko Margama 2080* and distributing various awards.

Distinguished Guests

In Kathmandu, the program was chaired by Mr. Hari Krishna Pant, Chairperson of Nirdhan Utthan MFI Board. Mr. Ganesh Bahadur Thapa, Former-Governor of Nepal Rastra Bank (NRB) graced the program as Chief Guest. The Distinguished Guests in the program were Dr. Gunakar Bhatta, Executive Director of Banks and Financial Institutions Regulation Department, NRB; Mr. Revati Prasad Nepal, Executive Director of Microfinance Institutions Supervision Department, NRB; Prof. Dr. Fatta Bahadur KC, Director of Nirdhan NGO; Mr. Jagat Bahadur Pokharel, Chairperson of Microfinance Association of Nepal; and Mr. Sujan Oli, Chairperson of Society of Economic Journalists-Nepal. Ms. Tara Malla Shahi, Nirdhan Utthan staff served as emcee in the program.

Welcome Speech

Welcoming the guests, Mr. Janardan Dev Pant, Chairperson of Dr. Harihar Dev Pant Foundation, outlined that the tasks of Nirdhan are to prospect the good virtues inherent within the target groups and support their fruition and dissemination assisting actualization of those virtues. Mr. Pant stated that Nirdhan has replicated several action research programs throughout the county including Incorporation of Ultra Poor in Microfinance and Introduction of Self-Reliant Group Methodology and Micro-Health Insurance Program.

Book Launch - Samriddhiko Margama 2080

Chief Guest, Mr. Ganesh Bahadur Thapa together with distinguished guests launched the book on compilation of 185 success stories of Nirdhan Utthan member/entrepreneurs — *Samriddhiko Margama 2080* — on the path of prosperity.

Dr. Harihar Dev Pant Awards Distribution

Distinguished guests handed over three awards: Entrepreneurship Award to Ms. Pramila Tamang from among entrepreneurs in Bagmati Province; Academic Excellence Award to Mr. Rohan Byanjankar (MA, Monetary Economics) and Economic Journalism Award to Mr. Yagya Banjade, Senior Deputy Editor of Kantipur Publications.



Nirdhan team members with the award winners in the program organized in Kathmandu

Remarks from the Guests

Working together in resolving current challenges would be the real tribute to Dr. Pant ... *Prof. Dr. Fatta Bahadur KC*

We are ready to follow the path shown by Dr. Pant ... *Mr. Jagat Bahadur Pokharel*

Attachment and contribution of Dr. Pant towards microfinance was commendable ... *Mr. Sujan Oli*

Dr. Pant was of the opinion that microfinance needs to serve the deprived, not upper class ... *Mr. Revati Prasad Nepal*

Nirdhan Utthan has been a house of experience and experiment on microfinance ... *Dr. Gunakar Bhatta*

We need to follow the path shown by Dr. Pant to pay him a real tribute ... *Mr. Ganesh Bahadur Thapa*

DR. HARIHAR DEV PANT 8TH MEMORIAL DAY ~ 2

Dr. Harihar Dev Pant Awards ~ 2080 Distribution

Seven Entrepreneurship Award, one Academic Excellence Award, and one Economic Journalism Award was handed over in the program organized in all of the seven provinces of the country. Each of these awards carry NPR 50,000 and Appreciation Letter.

Dr. Harihar Dev Pant Entrepreneurship Award

Gandaki Province

Koshi Province



Mr. Mahendra Bahadur Khadka, Deputy-Mayor of Kummayak Rural Municipality handing over Best Entrepreneur Award to Ms. Bishnu Darji of Yasok, Panchthar from among the entrepreneurs in Koshi Province



Honorable Shyam Raja Mahat, Member of Parliament of Gandaki Province and Mr. Raj Kumar Wagle, Chairperson of Ward 4, Suklagandaki Municipality jointly handing over Best Entrepreneur Award to Ms. Bhuwan Siri Gurung of Dulegaunda, Tanahu from among the entrepreneurs in the Province

Sudurpashchim Province



Ms. Draupati Rana, Deputy-Mayor of Krishnapur Municipality handing over Best Entrepreneur Award to Ms. Tika Devi Deuba of Attariya, Kailali from among the entrepreneurs in Sudurpashchim Province

Lumbini Province

Madhesh Province



Honorable Saroj Kumar Yadav, Chief Minister of Madhesh Province handing over Best Entrepreneur Award to Ms. Ramwati Devi Shah of Dhanushadham, Dhanusha from among the entrepreneurs in the Province



Mr. Dhruba Prasad Kharel, Mayor of Devdaha Municipality and Mr. Yagya Prasad Aryal, Chairperson of Ward 3 jointly handing over Best Entrepreneur Award to Ms. Sunkeshari Chaudhary of Shitalnagar, Rupandehi from among the entrepreneurs in Lumbini Province

Dr. Harihar Dev Pant Academic Excellence Award



Prof. Dr. Fatta Bahadur KC, Director of Nirdhan NGO handing over Academic Excellence Award to Mr. Rohan Byanjankar securing top score in MA Monetary Economics, 2018-20 batch

Karnali Province

Bagmati Province



Mr. Ganesh Bahadur Thapa, Former Governor of NRB handing over Best Entrepreneur Award to Ms. Pramila Tamang of Galchhi, Dhading from among the entrepreneurs in Bagmati Province



Honorable Laxmi Sunar, Member of Parliament of Karnali Province handing over Best Entrepreneur Award to Ms. Tara Nepali of Sallibazar, Salyan from among the entrepreneurs in the Province

Dr. Harihar Dev Pant Economic Journalism Award



Mr. Janardan Dev Pant, Chairperson of Dr. Harihar Dev Pant Foundation handing over Economic Journalism Award to Mr. Yagya Banjade, Senior Deputy Editor of Kantipur Publications

CAPACITY BUILDING

Nirdhan capacity building initiative continued with various events for staff as well as member/clients at different locations. For staff, the focus on AML/CFT compliance continued in the recent months as well. A total of 178 Branch Managers (BMs) under various Regional Offices (ROs) were trained on the subject during this reporting period. The participants learnt on prevailing laws and NRB directives, terrorist funding, money laundering, politically exposed persons (high-profile personalities), Threshold Transaction Report, Suspicious Transaction Report, Suspicious Activity Report, risk assessment, member classification, and banking offence. In this section, we are presenting a collage of the participants at these events.



09 Aug 2023 Bardibas RO 26 BMs



27 Aug 2023 Bhairahawa RO 21 BMs



11 Aug 2023 Damak RO 23 BMs



14 Aug 2023 Bharatpur RO 22 BMs

Training on AML/CFT Compliance (Anti-Money Laundering/Countering the Financing of Terrorism)



13 Aug 2023 Birgunj RO 18 BMs



29 Aug 2023 Attariya RO 20 BMs



30 Aug 2023 Kohalpur/Birendranagar RO 33 BMs



01 Sep 2023 Pokhara RO 15 BMs

PROGRESS INDICATORS

Coverage/Outreach

Coverage/Outreach (No.)	Progress as of 16 July 023	Progress during 17 Jul - 17 Aug 023	Progress as of 17 August 023
Districts Covered	77 of 77	—	77 of 77
Local Bodies Reached	552 of 753	—	552 of 753
Branch Offices	185	—	185
Centers	22,672	7	22,679
Staff Strength	1,143	(12)	1,131
Active Clients	403,686	(1,165)	402,521
Loan Clients	222,309	(6,324)	215,985

Significant movement was noted in the coverage and outreach. While the number of centers increased nominally, active clients and loan clients decreased significantly during Shrawan 2080 (corresponding mid-July to mid-August 2023). The number of centers reached to a total of **22,679** with an increased of **7** but active clients decreased by **1,165** reaching to a total of **402,521** and loan clients dropped by **6,324 (2.84%)** going down to a new total of **215,985**.



Ms. Bishnu Darji, member under Yasok branch, Panchthar district with her tailoring business

Financial Services

Financial Progress (in Billion NPR)	Progress as of 16 July 023	Progress during 17 Jul - 17 Aug 023	Progress as of 17 August 023
Loan Disbursed	215.86	1.00	216.86
Loan Outstanding	25.75	(0.53)	25.22
Savings & Deposits	19.11	(0.16)	18.95

The selected financial indicators suggested slight movement. There has been an increase in loan disbursement, however loan outstanding dropped during Shrawan 2080 (corresponding mid-July to mid-August 2023). The loan disbursement reached to a new volume of **NPR 216.86 Billion** with an increase of **NPR 1 Billion**. The outstanding loan amount went down to **NPR 25.22 Billion** and savings & deposit also decreased to **NPR 18.95 Billion**.