

# CHASING DREAMS & OVERCOMING CHALLENGES: YOUTH HUB AS GLOBAL PLATFORM INITIATIVE

## REPORT 2023

Study  
Pushpanjali Malla

ActionAid International Nepal





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## Acknowledgment



**Saroj Pokhrel**

Head of Programme Policy  
ActionAid International Nepal

ActionAid International Nepal (AAIN) acknowledges the transformative potential of youth as agent for change. We firmly believe in their ability to reshape societal power dynamics, challenging inequalities related to gender, class, caste, and other social structures. AAIN is committed to fostering accountability and safeguarding the rights of individuals living in poverty and exclusion.

Guided by this conviction, AAIN has been at the forefront of various youth-centric programs, culminating in the establishment of the Youth Hub initiative in 2019. Beginning in Bardiya and Palpa, the Youth Hubs have expanded to encompass seven districts, each reflecting the diverse geographies and contexts of Nepal. Collaborating with local governments, these hubs are gradually making inroads at the grassroots level.

The Youth Hub is a secure space for young individuals aged 16 to 24, hailing from marginalized and exploited communities. Members actively challenge societal norms, combatting practices such as Chhaupadi, child marriage, the dowry system, and various forms of violence against women and girls through awareness campaigns and advocacy. Additionally, they champion systemic change, urging the government to ensure quality public education, healthcare, climate justice, and humanitarian actions.

The initiative originated in 2019 with the establishment of Youth Hubs in Bardiya and Palpa under the Youth Fellowship Leadership Development (YFLD) Project, a collaboration with ActionAid Denmark and its Global Platform. Subsequently, the Youth Hubs have expanded to Kathmandu, Siraha, and Parsa. Presently, there are seven Youth Hubs in Nepal, with the Bardiya hub pioneering two additional ones in Rajapur Municipality.

In light of these developments, ActionAid International Nepal has diligently documented outcomes, learnings, challenges, and future directions since 2019. We envision this document serving as a crucial reference for inspiring young people to engage in volunteerism, activism, and leadership. It is equally valuable for those dedicated to working on youth-related issues and advocating for the transformative power of youth in effecting social change.

I express sincere gratitude to Ms. Pushpanjali Malla, the Consultant responsible for collecting, documenting, and producing this report in collaboration with youth, local communities, stakeholders, and partners. Special thanks are extended to the dynamic members of the Youth Hub for their active involvement and activism at the local level, as well as their support during the report's production. Appreciation is also extended to our partners and AAIN colleagues Mr. Devendra Pratap Singh, Ms. Sunita Chaudhary, and Mr. Rahul Dewan for their coordination and management throughout this process.

## My Observation as external evaluator

ActionAid Nepal's commitment to fostering youth leadership development through these hubs has yielded commendable results, creating safe spaces that not only serve as community hubs but also as catalysts for transformative change. As a consultant for outcome harvesting, I have few observations:

Initially, the observation revealed a strong emphasis on inclusivity within the Youth Hubs. These spaces were designed to be welcoming and accessible to individuals from diverse backgrounds, fostering a sense of belonging among the youth. Especially, these hubs have been the youth led platform to accumulate young girls by creating a safer place for them to be in. The inclusivity extended beyond physical accessibility, incorporating a wide range of programs and initiatives that catered to various interests and skills. This holistic approach contributed to creating a critical and vibrant community within the hubs, allowing for a rich exchange of ideas and experiences.

Secondly, the Youth Hubs demonstrated a tangible impact on skill development and capacity building among the youths. Through workshops, training sessions, mentorship, and collaborative approach, young individuals had the opportunity to enhance their skills in areas such as leadership and community engagement. The hubs acted as incubators for creative and innovative ideas, empowering and organizing the youth to take charge of their personal and professional growth. The observed increase in participants' confidence and competence underscored the success of Global Platform Nepal's strategic approach to skill development.

Furthermore, the observation underscored the Youth Hubs' pivotal role as platforms for advocacy and instigators of social change. Participants actively engaged in community outreach programs, tackling local issues, and championing positive transformations. The impactful outcomes of their advocacy and campaigns are noteworthy, including the declaration of free education in Bardiya and Parsa, a reduction in child marriage, diminished Chaupadi Pratha (menstruation taboos), decreased instances of caste-based discrimination, a decline in the dowry system, and improved preparedness for disasters. This not only positioned the hubs as spaces for personal development but also as catalysts for broader societal impact. ActionAid Nepal's unwavering commitment to empowering the youth as active agents and partner of transformative change was vividly demonstrated through the diverse initiatives and campaigns spearheaded by the youth hub volunteers.

Local representatives have demonstrated a strong sense of ownership over the youth hubs, allocating dedicated physical spaces within the ward office premises and offering logistic, financial, and operational support for the function of youth hubs. Actively participating in various campaigns and advocacy initiatives led by the youth, the local government has underscored its commitment to the development and sustainability of these hubs. This proactive involvement and expressed willingness to integrate the youth hubs into their administrative structure convey a positive endorsement of the youth and their initiatives. Moreover, youth from the youth hubs play a crucial role in supporting the local government in humanitarian response, disaster management, relief distribution, and various administrative tasks. For instance, a designated desk has been set up where a youth from the youth hub actively contributes to administrative duties such as drafting applications and assisting service recipients and dissemination of public information. This direct involvement showcases the youths' commitment to community service and their integral role in aiding local government functions.

However, challenges were also identified during the observation. Sustainability of the initiatives and long-term impact were areas that required continuous attention. Developing strategies to ensure the ongoing success of Youth Hubs beyond the initial support was a crucial consideration. Addressing these challenges would require a collaborative effort from ActionAid Nepal, local communities, and the youth themselves.

In conclusion, the findings from the observation of the Youth Hubs facilitated by Global Platform Nepal reflect a positive narrative of empowerment, leadership, inclusivity, and skill development. These hubs have emerged as fundamental spaces for nurturing the potential of young individuals and fostering positive societal change and interfered. As the external consultant, it has been inspiring to witness the transformative impact of these initiatives over the past year, and the recommendations provided aim to further enhance the sustainability and effectiveness of these Youth Hubs in the years to come.





*Members of Palpa Youth Hub raising community awareness against child marriage.*

## Background

# 01

## Background

The assignment was focused on documentation of outcomes of Global Platform Funded Youth Project. The project basically aims of developing youth leadership skills, well-being, youth organizing, harnessing youth power, and building a network, ActionAid International Nepal strengthens young activists in programme districts through a fellowship approach. Projects funded by the Global Platform



The outcome of documentation was intended to capture the project realities and outcome from 2019 - 2023 including good practices of the project by considering selected YOUTH HUBs, communities and concerned stakeholders.

(GP) Secretariat and ActionAid Denmark have been implemented since 2019. With the Youth Fellowship Leadership Development (YFLD) Project, the program started as a Youth Hub Initiative as part of GP localization in seven different (7) geographical locations. Initially, it was started in Bardiya and Palpa districts, Youth Hub of Kathmandu was established in 2020, and 4 Youth Hub were established in Doti, Siraha, Parsa and Shankharapur, Kathmandu in 2022. The Youth Hub comprises young people belonging to marginalized, excluded, and disadvantages communities and special attention to young girls. The project is called the AADK Volunteers Support Project and the GP Fund Project/IGNITE Fund. The outcome of documentation was intended to capture the project realities and outcome from 2019 - 2023 including good practices of the project by considering selected YOUTH HUBs, communities and concerned stakeholders. The outcome documentation is done based on information gathered, observations and interviews made communities, YOUTH HUBs members and concerned stakeholders. Therefore, it has nothing to generalize about the whole communities of the working area.



*Srijana Gaire, member of Youth Hub, Palpa conducting Card Color Analysis tools to eradicate child marriage.*

## Objectives of the Assignment

# 02

## Objectives of the Assignment



The main objective of this assessment is to document project outcomes, learnings, good practices, and way forward to ActionAid Nepal/ Global Platform Nepal.

The specific objectives are:

Document the youth leadership development, networking and organizing, and well-being by prioritizing young women.

Document the effectiveness and achievements of advocacy and campaign for socio-cultural transformation, accountable public service, and youth space and influence decision-making bodies highlighting the issue of climate justice, humanitarian response, and accountable local government and service providers at the local level and socio-cultural harmful practices such as Chaupadi (menstruation taboos), dowry system, child marriage etc.

Produce testimonies, case stories and best practices including challenges faced by Youth volunteers.

Specific learning, way forward for further planning and implementation of youth programs



*Members of Youth Hub Bardiya deployed in the field during the free education advocacy campaign.*

## Methodologies and Tools



# 03

## Methodologies and Tools

For this outcome documentation both the qualitative and quantitative approach has been used. Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) and Key Informant Interviews (KIIs) were done throughout the field visits to different 7 locations of the Youth Hubs. Therefore, to complete this assignment three categorizations for FGDs and KIIs were made: Youths from Youth Hubs, Community People, Local Government and Like-minded stakeholders. So,

throughout the assessment, a total of 97 youths were interviewed, whereas a total of 94 community people were interviewed and 19 stakeholders including government and like-minded organizations representatives.

The report contains the stories and the Knowledge Attitude Practice (KAP) score of the community due to different initiatives conducted by youths:

### **A. EMPOWERING GIRLS TO CHALLENGE CHILD MARRIAGE: Radhika's Journey in the Maithali Community**



*Radhika Saday from Youth Hub Siraha*

Child marriage, deeply entrenched in cultural traditions, remains a pressing concern worldwide, driven by long-standing customs and beliefs. Within Nepal, the Maithili community, predominantly located in the Terai region, grapples with this complex issue. Child marriage in the Maithili community is not a mere social phenomenon but complexly interwoven with its cultural identity, posing significant challenges in its eradication. This practice often

entails marrying children well below the legal age, demanding a nuanced understanding of cultural intricacies and concerted efforts to safeguard the well-being and rights of the children involved.

In this context, we encounter Radhika, a young girl of 14 with aspirations of receiving a proper education and contributing to her community. However, the looming specter of child marriage threatened to extinguish her dreams. Her father, adhering to deeply ingrained traditions, arranged her marriage to an older man without her consent, a practice prevalent in their community. Radhika's pleas for reconsideration fell on deaf ears until she learned about the "Mithila Yuwa Baithar (Youth Hub)" through friends at school, and youth group renowned for combating social issues and empowering local youth.

With newfound hope, Radhika reached out to the Youth Hub for support. The Youth Hub coordinator and her teacher engaged in discussions with her father, elucidating the significance of permitting Radhika to pursue her dreams and education. They shared stories of other girls who had suffered the consequences of early marriage, gradually prompting a reconsideration on her father's part. Radhika was captivated by the empowered young girls within the Youth Hub advocating for change. She decided to join them, citing their awareness, skills, and collective effort to address various social issues as her motivation.

Over time, Radhika's father recognized the value of his daughter's aspirations and allowed her to continue her education. He also acknowledged the importance of delaying her marriage until she reached the legal age. Radhika, filled with joy, pursued her higher education, and actively participated in the Youth Hub's initiatives. She became a role model for other girls in the community, inspiring them to dream big and resist forced child marriages. Radhika's story serves as a compelling illustration of how Youth Hub and empowered young individuals can collaborate to break the cycle of child marriage, one success story at a time. It underscores the profound impact of informed and determined youth in reshaping cultural norms and ensuring a brighter future for the next generation.

#### **Radhika's Mother:**

"We were raised in a culture where it was customary for girls to marry by the age of 17. Being parents of a daughter, we initially held similar beliefs and were prepared to arrange Radhika's marriage. However, the consistent information shared by youth hubs regarding the drawbacks of child marriage, the legal safeguards in place, and the advantages of providing education for our daughter has prompted us to reevaluate our stance. Witnessing the remarkable transformation and empowerment of our daughter, who has become a role model for other young girls, has led us to a profound realization. We were on the verge of hindering her dreams, but now we are staunchly opposed to the practice of child marriage."



## 95.7 %

of the total community people interviewed says child marriage is illegal and should not be practiced.

KAP Survey, 2023



Thanks to years of dedicated initiatives by the Mithila Yuwa Baithar, child marriages have witnessed a substantial 80% reduction within our community.

- Manoj Kumar Paswan,  
Member (School Management  
Committee), Lahan

## B. “UNVEILING THE DRIVING FORCES: WHAT INSPIRES YOUTH ENGAGEMENT?”



Discussing and privatizing community issue by the members of various Youth Hubs



**100 %**

surveyed youths  
unanimously stated  
that the youth hub  
is the safest place  
for them to be.

In Nepal, young people account for approximately 20.8 percent of total population of the country (age group 16-25 years) while 40.68 percent of the population lies in the age group 16-40 (UNFPA, 2022). This means for the first time in its history, Nepal is experiencing a demographic dividend - more specifically a ‘population dividend’ or ‘youth bulge’ which is a phenomenon where young people account for the largest segment of the population of a country.

Countries with a burgeoning youth population stand to gain immensely by entrusting their young people with leadership roles in development practices. The energy, innovative spirit, and fresh perspectives of youth are invaluable assets that can drive progress in various sectors, including education, healthcare, and infrastructure development.

ActionAid Nepal has brought youths together to empower and motivate them to actively engage in diverse actions, enhancing their understanding of local dynamics and cultural insights. This has positioned them uniquely to address various societal challenges with a strong connection to contemporary issues.

Youths were instrumented in leadership and advocacy skills, empowering them to actively contribute to their communities. These hubs are functioning



as dynamic platforms that equip and empower young individuals to become effective advocates for social change. This advocacy instills a sense of responsibility and social justice in the youth, enabling them to make a positive impact.

Youth hubs have been identified as a safe space for young people to explore and develop their leadership skills through programs, workshops, and mentoring, fostering self-confidence and a deep understanding of local and national issues. They are encouraged for active engagement in community development projects, equipped with practical leadership experience, including decision-making, problem-solving, and the ability to inspire others.

Furthermore, youth hubs have been a connecting point for different youths and with mentors and experts locally, nationally, and internationally, who can guide and support their endeavors. Youths from Parsa have taken forward the advocacy to implement “Free Education” in their areas which they have learned from youths from Bardiya during mentor youth deployment. Furthermore, the scorecard has proven to be the most effective tool for enhancing the services offered by schools in both Palpa and Bardiya.

These hubs help youths gain insights into effective leadership strategies and provide them with access to resources and opportunities that can catalyze their efforts. By promoting a culture of youth-led initiatives and collaboration, these hubs contribute to a more empowered and engaged youth population that plays a pivotal role in shaping the future of Nepal.



A significant **97.9 %** of young individuals credit their improved skills, knowledge, and capabilities to the youth hub, which has enabled them to achieve their current abilities.



**81.4 %**

of the youths are concerned about climate change and the mitigation measures.

#### **Anecdotes from members of youth hubs**

- ▶ The youth hub has provided me with the resources to tackle personal challenges and has become a heartwarming community where I can freely express myself and receive understanding and support from others.
- ▶ The youth hub served as a sanctuary, offering refuge from external challenges, and allowing me to concentrate on personal growth and empowerment. It became a secure place where I could build resilience and find a sense of security during tough times.
- ▶ Through the youth hub, I've gained confidence in my identity and ideas, secure in the knowledge that I won't encounter discrimination or ridicule. The trust and camaraderie fostered in the hub have created a supportive haven, allowing us to confront challenges together.
- ▶ The youth hub goes beyond being a platform; it acts as a connecting point for youths from diverse backgrounds. Engaging with it has been a highly rewarding decision. Initially restricted as a girl to only attending school, I now have a voice not only at home but also within the community. This transformation is credited to the invaluable leadership skills, opportunities, and exposures offered by the youth hub.
- ▶ To promote inclusivity and shared leadership, we adopt a rotational system where each member takes a leadership role for 1 month. This has allowed me and the other members to develop our leadership and decision-making skills through hands-on experiences. With this practice, we have internalized the democratic process of decision making, planning and leadership.

### C. “CHAMPIONING CLIMATE JUSTICE: A TALE FROM THE SLUMS YOUTH”



Purnika Shrestha, a member of Youth Hub, Kathmandu, participating in the community awareness program



“The true strength of the youth dawned on me only when I became part of the youth movement. The age-old saying ‘Divided We Fall, United We Stand’ holds profound truth. It is now high time for all young individuals to step up and lead the way towards social change.

*Purnika Shrestha (Youth member since 2022, Yuwa Jamghat Kendra, Kathmandu)*

As young individuals, we often find ourselves without the opportunity to express our thoughts, and even when we do, our voices may go unnoticed. However, ever since we got involved with the youth hub, our perspectives are finally receiving the recognition they deserve. We are part of the Slum Community, yet the local government does not recognize us as citizens. Although the government collects waste from every household for proper management, our homes are not provided with this service. Faced with no alternative options, we are forced to either dispose of waste in the “Dhobikhola” or accumulate it near our residences. This has led to water and land pollution, contributing to various communicable diseases throughout the year.

Initially, residents from our community attempted to advocate for change, but their pleas fell on deaf ears. However, since ActionAid and Nepal Mahila Ekta Samaj engaged youths from slum areas, empowering us with knowledge, skills, and tools, we began to realize the multifaceted effects of improper waste management. Determined, we approached the ward office to advocate for waste collection in our community. After four visits, in collaboration with Nepal Mahila Ekta Samaj, we finally succeeded in convincing them to act. Now, we have ceased throwing waste into the water, and our surroundings are free from pollution.

**D. TOGETHER WE CAN AND WE WILL: FOR CLIMATE JUSTICE**

*Raising of awareness in the community regarding Climate change and its affect by members of Youth Hub, Bardiya.*



When it comes about to climate change and climate justice, youths have started with “Long ago, our ancestors lived in a climate that was quite different from what we have now. They could predict the seasons more easily and used traditional wisdom passed down through the years to plan when to farm and make a living. The icy landscapes, especially in places like the Himalayas, were more steady, supporting the local environment and making everything feel more permanent. Back then, they had a peaceful connection with nature, which is very different from the problems these youths face today because of fast climate changes”.

Interviewed youths from the east to the far west of Nepal, have noticed Himalya’s glaciers melting fast, causing water shortages and more natural disasters. The rainy season, crucial for farming, is becoming unpredictable, making it harder to grow food. Initially, they didn't even have concern about these changes, but after joining youth hubs, they understood it's not just their problem—it's a serious concern for everyone that should be addressed urgently.

They have a sense of understanding of the risk due to climate change in the communities, especially rural areas. After knowing about the seriousness of addressing climate change, they started small initiatives locally to fight for climate justice. They believe that dealing with climate issues isn't just about the environment—it's also about being fair to everyone in society. They know that to have a future that's good for the environment and for people, everyone needs to work together, speak up for what's right, and make big changes in how we take care of the environment.



In a conversation with Yuwa Milan Kendra from KI. Singh Ward 4, Doti, Govinda Nepali, a member, pointed out that trees are being cut down in the guise of infrastructure construction. Consequently, there are now barren hills with concrete roads and poles, leading to frequent floods and landslides. The government, according to him, lacks sensitivity in promoting green infrastructures to minimize harm to nature.

Likewise, members of the Bagnaskali youth hub in Palpa have initiated a "Go Green" campaign, pledging to plant at least one tree on their birthdays. Street dramas and door-to-door campaigns to raise awareness about various issues have garnered support from other community members. Upon interaction with the community, it was discovered that 15 out of 18 individuals have already planted trees to endorse the youth-led "Go Green" campaign, and they have committed to continue this practice.

Youths for 7 different youth hubs located in different geographical areas of Nepal have a collective voice for climate justice “ Justice is imperative for the climate, and together, we have the collective strength and determination to make it a reality!

### **E. BREAKING STEREOTYPE PRACTICE “CHAUPADI”:** YOUTH LED TRANSFORMATION IN DOTI, NEPAL



Members of Youth Hub, Doti presenting a drama against “Chhaupadi” custom.

“

I no longer have superstitious beliefs which identify my wife and daughter as impure. This is a traditional practice made by our ancestors to let “Women” rest for at least four days and taking a break from their house chores but with time “We” have misinterpreted this and started treating them as impure and those who cannot be touched. Menstruation is a natural process involved in creating new life, and there is nothing impure about it.

*Jagat Bista(KI during KAP survey), community people from ward 4, KI Singh Doti*

In the remote far-western district of Doti, Nepal, a group of passionate youths united under the banner of the "Equality Development Center," supported by ActionAid Nepal's "Youth Project," to instigate transformative social change. Fueled by a shared commitment to positive transformation, these dynamic individuals orchestrated grassroots initiatives, awareness campaigns, and open dialogues, challenging outdated traditions and advocating for the reduction of inequality while empowering marginalized voices. One issue they tackled was the age-old practice of Chaupadhi, which isolated menstruating women in sheds. This grassroots movement evolved into youth hubs that played a crucial role in diminishing the archaic practice.

Historically ingrained in Doti's community, Chaupadhi subjected women to societal taboos and health risks during menstruation. Recognizing the urgency to break free from this harmful tradition, the youth hubs strategically implemented multifaceted approaches. Motivated by a fervent belief in equality and justice, these young activists launched a comprehensive campaign, engaging in open conversations, conducting educational programs, collaborating with community leaders, and working with local government agencies to dispel myths surrounding menstruation and challenge deeply rooted beliefs.

The success of their campaign was evident in a significant shift in community attitudes towards the previous practice of chaupadhi pratha. Families reconsidered their adherence to Chaupadhi, local leaders advocated for its abandonment, and the district administration officially condemned the practice. Through joint efforts in awareness programs and breaking Chau-goth, the youth ensured that Chaupadhi would no longer persist, delivering crucial information to all age groups in the community. This triumphant dismantling of a deeply entrenched tradition illustrates the transformative power of youth when harnessed for noble causes, breaking down resistant barriers of cultural discrimination through positive change in knowledge, attitude, and practice of community people.



Initially our parents didn't allow us to enter our home during our menstruation but now we sleep in our house. We are advocating against the practice which has been the reason for taking so many lives of women and girls in the name of religion. We are not claiming that 100% of the households have stopped chaupadi pratha but the culture of keeping them in Chau-goth is no longer exist. We cannot see chau-goth in our areas now and this is what we are initially fighting for. Our journey has just kicked-off.

*Devi Dhami ( Member of Youth Yuwa Milan Kendra, Doti)*





**F. “EDUCATIONAL EQUALITY UNLEASHED: EMPOWERING MARGINALIZED COMMUNITIES THROUGH FREE EDUCATION INITIATIVES.”**

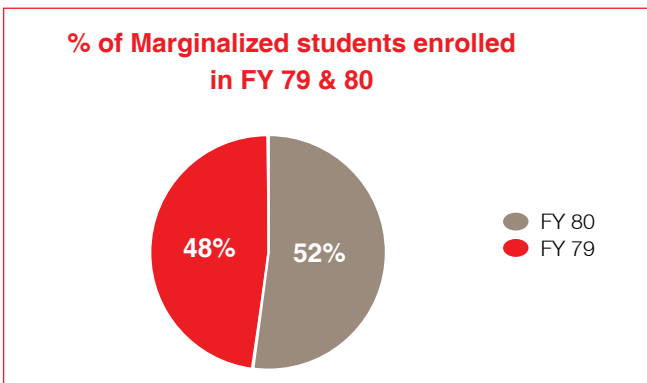


Members of Youth Hub Bardiya discussing the agenda of “Free Education” among students from the local community school

In 2019, a group of young volunteers from Rajapur Municipality, driven by a shared passion to instigate positive change within their community, partnered with Kamaiya Mahila Jagaran Samaj supported by ActionAid Nepal. This community, located in the Bardiya district, is home to former Kamaiyas and Kamlaharis who have been denied basic rights, including access to fundamental necessities.

Despite the constitutional endorsement of the fundamental right to education in Nepal's Constitution of 2072, the implementation of "Free and Compulsory Education" has been lacking in government educational institutions. Recognizing this disparity, the youth initiators focused on advocating for free education, aiming to break down barriers hindering the educational dreams of many within their community. In the early stages of their advocacy, these determined youths conducted meetings with government schools and the Education Officer to gain initial support for the implementation of the law. They strategically organized awareness campaigns, door-to-door initiatives, and community engagements to emphasize the importance of education and the newly available avenues for free schooling.

On March 3, 2020, Ward 5 of Rajapur Municipality declared "Free Education" for everyone, and subsequently, other wards followed suit. This initiative breathed life into once-dismissed dreams of pursuing education, creating a more inclusive and diverse educational environment in the district. The success of these youth-led initiatives goes beyond mere numbers. Enrollment numbers, particularly among marginalized communities (most of them are belongs to Kamaiyas and Kamlaharis families), increased by >4% compared



to the previous educational year. The impact extends to fostering a positive shift in societal attitudes towards education as a fundamental right for all.

The tireless efforts of these young advocates aimed not only at increasing enrollment but also at fostering a broader societal shift toward viewing education as an essential equalizer. The number of students from marginalized communities attending schools notably rose, creating a more inclusive and diverse learning environment. This success stands as a testament to the transformative power of grassroots movements in bringing about positive social change. It exemplifies how local efforts, driven by committed youth, can contribute to the realization of fundamental rights and the betterment of the community at large. The initiative showcases the potential of youth-led advocacy in creating tangible positive change, ensuring that education becomes an accessible and equal opportunity for all, irrespective of socio-economic backgrounds.

### **G. BENEFITS OF NETWORKING: DIRECT FROM YOUTHS OF FAR WESTERN TO EASTERN REGION OF NEPAL**



*Members of all 7 Youth Hubs discussing upon their different issues towards a way forward.*



When you as an individual speak, no one listen but when it comes to the group, everyone should listen. This is the essence of our youth hub's initiative: The Collective Youth Power

*Janaki Mahto, Mithila Youth Hub, Lahan, Siraha*

Creating Youth Hubs in different locations of Nepal by ActionAid Nepal from 2019 onward has been avenue for different youths, especially representing marginalized communities. These forums have > 70% adolescent girls as members and are actively advocating and campaigning for social change. Youth networking initiatives created by ActionAid Nepal have yielded numerous benefits, fostering a sense of community, collaboration, and empowerment among young individuals.

Interacting with members of these youths have identified different advantages being associate with youth hubs, among which one significant advantage is the exchange of ideas and experiences, enabling youth from East to Far western Region of Nepal, to learn from one another and broaden their perspectives. As per them, through these networks, they gain access to diverse knowledge, resources, and opportunities, which have been an added assets to be instrumental in their personal and professional development. For instance, a platform established by ActionAid Nepal facilitated a knowledge-sharing network where young members from one corner of Nepal could share insights on how to plan effective advocacy. This has resulted in collaborative ideas, mentorship opportunities, and increased access to opportunities, enhancing the overall success and sustainability of these ventures. For example: A learning platform created by ActionAid has been the reason through which

the youths from Parsa district learn the strategic steps from youths of Bardiya to advocate for free education and finally succeed in advocate for “Free Education “at their own place, Exchange of ideas for the campaigns to reduce caste-based discrimination from Doti to other districts, resulting in decrease the practice of caste-based discrimination.

Furthermore, they added “The youth networking initiatives have played a pivotal role in amplifying the collective voice of young individuals like us”. ActionAid Nepal has successfully created platforms where youth can unite to advocate for social and policy changes. By mobilizing together, they address issues such as free education, gender equality, and Climate Justice, Dowry, Child Marriage and many more. The power of collective action has been demonstrated through successful campaigns and initiatives led by these networks, creating a stronger advocacy force, and influencing positive change at their local level. The benefits of youth networking initiated by ActionAid Nepal extend beyond individual growth, fostering a connected and empowered generation capable of driving meaningful societal transformations.

Overall, the youths from these hubs have categorized the potential benefits and impacts they have received through youth hubs and networking created:

- **Community Engagement and empowerment:** Youth hubs have emerged as pivotal spaces, acting as focal points for community engagement by uniting young individuals from diverse socio-cultural backgrounds. Creating a dedicated platform for active participation in local development initiatives, these hubs play a crucial role in empowering local communities. Their impact goes beyond mere engagement, as they facilitate collective action to address pressing societal issues including child marriage, dowry, Chaupadi Pratha, caste-based discrimination, and climate justice. To eradicate the practice of chaupadi in Doti, youth hubs collaborated with community leaders, local government authorities, and relevant stakeholders to organize a joint campaign. Consequently, the community, with their own support, successfully dismantled the Chau goth. This communal approach adopted by youth hubs cultivates a profound sense of ownership and responsibility among young individuals. The collaborative efforts within these hubs lead to tangible improvements in community well-being, sparking positive change within the community. Through collective action, community-based campaigns, and advocacy initiatives, the hubs become agents of positive social change, actively contributing to the resolution of contemporary challenges faced by the community. In this way, youth hubs serve as dynamic catalysts, fostering a community culture that embraces inclusivity, justice, and resilience.
- **Networking Opportunities and Skill Development:** Youth hubs, acting as catalysts for growth, offer a multifaceted approach to the development of young individuals. Engaged youths benefit from a diverse range of skill development programs, workshops, and training sessions, equipping them with essential capabilities for various facets of life, be it education, employment, or leadership. For example, the inter-hub connections from different locations have been able to collaborate where they have the platform to exchange their ideas, experiences, and best practices, enriching the ongoing practice of youth hubs. This has strengthened both the peer relationships as well as skills. The creation of a network within these hubs is pivotal; it not only fosters connections among like-minded individuals but also encourages collaborations. This network becomes fertile ground for the exchange of ideas and knowledge sharing, leading to the development of collective initiatives that extend beyond the immediate community. Moreover, successful ideas cultivated within these hubs have the potential to be replicated and implemented in other parts of Nepal, amplifying the impact and creating a ripple effect of positive change across the region.
- **Youth Empowerment and Advocacy for social justice:** Youth hubs emerge as crucial platforms for empowering young individuals, especially those from marginalized communities, and nurturing them into advocates for social change. Through collaborative initiatives, these hubs have successfully tackled critical issues, achieving noteworthy milestones such as dismantling the Chaupadi Pratha, eradicating child marriages, establishing free education zones, reducing the dowry system, combating caste-based discrimination, and contributing to climate change mitigation. The pivotal role of these hubs extends beyond



issue resolution; they actively engage in advocating against policies that negatively affect their communities, demonstrating a commitment to driving positive transformations in society.

- **Access to Resources:** The collective youth force has played a pivotal role in enhancing access to a myriad of resources, both tangible and intangible, from both government and non-government entities. This united effort has facilitated access to vital information, providing the youth with valuable insights. Moreover, it has opened avenues for mentorship, allowing them to benefit from the guidance and experience of seasoned individuals. Additionally, the collaborative force has enabled access to crucial support services, creating a network of assistance that contributes to the overall empowerment and growth of the youth involved. This sequential process underscores the collective strength of the youth force in navigating and tapping into diverse resources for their development.
- **Political Engagement and Civic Participation:** Youth hubs, in a sequential approach, have become catalysts for political engagement and civic participation among young individuals. They initiate the process by educating the youth on social accountability tools, imparting knowledge about civic responsibilities, as a result they are now implementing the community score card (social accountability tools) to support the service provider improve their services. Organizing awareness campaigns is a subsequent step, raising awareness about the importance of civic involvement and the pressing political issues at hand. These hubs further facilitate discussions that empower the youth with the understanding needed to actively participate in the democratic process. Through this orchestrated sequence, youth hubs play a crucial role in shaping informed and engaged citizens, fostering a sense of responsibility and participation in the broader political landscape.

## H. “EMPOWERING JOURNEYS: NURTURING THE WELL-BEING OF ADOLESCENT GIRLS

Addressing the well-being of adolescent girls has been a crucial aspect covered in this initiative, focusing on mental, social, and emotional aspects. In Nepal, adolescents face a lack of access to informative resources regarding reproductive health and hormonal changes. Consequently, these forums have become essential spaces for open discussions among peers, providing a safe environment to share concerns and seek solutions.

These hubs serve as platforms for adolescents to relieve burdens and tensions, offering valuable peer support. Moreover, the patriarchal culture in Nepal has historically limited social engagement for girls, constraining their mobility and stifling their voices. However, by connecting with these hubs, girls from the far-western region of Nepal have experienced a transformative shift. They are now actively participating in national-level conferences, workshops, and training sessions, ensuring that their voices are not only heard locally but also resonating nationally. This newfound empowerment is breaking down barriers, fostering inclusivity, and propelling positive change.

Reflecting on how they have been empowered, Nisha Karki from Navajyoti Yuwa Sanjal in Doti describes how, in the past, girls in their community were confined to their schools due to the prevalent issue of child marriages. Despite initial resistance



Being a girl, I was never taught to say “No”, but when I joined the youth hub, I then realized “If you cannot say No, your “Yes” will not value as it should be. This transformation within myself is the biggest empowerment I have identified for myself. Now “No” means “No” to me.

*Nagjyoti Kumari, Samata Youth Learning Lab, Paterwa, Sugauli*



*Young girls participating in discussions about their local communities in Palpa.*

from her family, during her early involvement with the youth hub, Nisha was selected to participate in a national learning-sharing workshop in Kathmandu by ActionAid Nepal. Overcoming family apprehensions, she secured permission after pledging to return unchanged, invoking the "Bhagwat Geeta." Now, she no longer requires approval to attend local or national events, and her family takes pride in her, recognizing her as a "bold" figure in the community and its surroundings.

Through the network and hubs, they amplify the voices of adolescent girls, raising awareness about issues such as early marriage, gender inequality, and violence. They enable adolescent girls to actively participate in different community-based campaigns and policy changing advocacy and have contributed to cultural change by challenging traditional norms that limit the potential of adolescent girls.

*Members of the Sunaulo Youth Hub, comprised of adolescent girls, have initiated an innovative approach to educate younger children in schools about "Good touch and Bad touch." Reflecting on their own experiences, they expressed that during their early years, they were unaware of the concepts, leading to tolerating behaviors they didn't like. Recognizing these acts as a form of violence against children, they began conducting awareness sessions, drawing from their experiences at "Manichud Adharbhut School." The positive outcome is evident as the school management committee has embraced the initiative, incorporating the awareness sessions into a daily game to remind and educate the children every morning.*

*The adolescent girls from the Sunaulo Youth Hub have taken a proactive step by introducing an innovative method to educate young students about "Good touch and Bad touch." Reflecting on their own lack of awareness in their early years, they now understand the importance of recognizing and addressing inappropriate behaviors. Leveraging their experiences from "Manichud Adharbhut School," they conduct regular awareness sessions. The success of their initiative is highlighted by the school management committee's endorsement, as they have integrated the awareness sessions into a daily game to effectively remind and educate the children each morning.*

A few examples like above can show that youth hubs have been the platform which promotes inclusivity and respect for diversity, fostering an environment where adolescent girls can thrive. Hence these hubs and network not only empower adolescent girls on an individual level but also contribute to broader societal shifts, creating a more inclusive and equitable future for youths.

## **I. COLLABORATIVE RESOLVE: LOCAL LEADERS AND YOUTHS UNITE TO MITIGATE CHILD MARRIAGE**



*Presentation of drama against Child Marriage in the community school by Youth Hub, Palpa.*

After the success of “Free education advocacy”, the youths from Yuwa Bakheri, Rajapur have sped up their campaign against child marriage. Ward number 6, 7 and 9 of Rajapur Municipality, Bardiya have the highest child marriage rate in comparison to other wards. They have a vision for a future where children can thrive and fulfill their potential without the complications of early marriages and have started a campaign against child marriage.

In 2021, their campaign initially focused on wards 6,7 and 9 which have high rates of child marriage. These youths possess a clear understanding of the going challenges and practices and have the required skill and sensitivity to work strategically to mitigate child marriage. They carefully selected 6 wards in Bardiya to centralize their campaign and to bring about visible change. They embarked on a journey of campaigning and awareness, organizing community gatherings and discussions to shed light on the negative consequences of child marriages. Armed with facts, testimonials, and a genuine concern for the well-being of their community, the group slowly gained the attention and respect of the community.

These youths with their previous experiences, knew that engaging with the local community leaders was crucial for lasting change. Hence, they decided to approach “Badhgar (Leader of Tharu community), Political leaders and local government stakeholders acknowledging the importance of their support, cooperation, and participation in reducing child marriage. They were actively engaged in open dialogues with local leaders.

Initially, the issue was not entertained by local community leaders, but the persistence and sincerity of the youth began to break down the wall of resistance. Realizing that the youth advocates were driven by a genuine concern for the future, the leaders began to listen. Influenced by the compelling reasons and the undeniable passion of “Yuwa Bakheri”, the local leaders decided to convene a larger community gathering.

In a landmark decision on 2 February,2023, the local leaders, influenced by the compelling arguments and community support in the presence of 93 local people, officially endorsed the strategic plan to reduce child marriage through an innovative solution: families practicing child marriage or children who got married in early ages would be required to pay a financial penalty of NRs 4000 to the ward office. This decision has marked a significant step towards breaking the cycle of early marriage for a more equitable and progressive future. “We will very soon be able to declare our ward to be a Child Marriage Free Zone, said Bir Bahadur Chaudhary, Badhgar from Ward 6.”

Now the youths have begun their work in wards 7 and 9 of Rajapur Municipality as well. The youth have created lasting change in their community and are working actively to expand their impact.

“Whenever an instance of child marriage is about to take place, the youths from youth hub come to us and coordinate with us for further action to prevent child marriage. In ward number 6 of Rajapur Municipality, Bardiya, 50% rate of child marriage recorded a few years back has decreased to 22% this year. The youths have a very significant role in reducing child marriage.”

*(Rita Kumari Tharu, Mahila Bikash Nirikshak)*



## **J. "YOUTHS PIONEERING INNOVATIVE APPROACHES FOR DISASTER PREPAREDNESS"**



*Capacity building on "making of Go- bags" in the local community by Members of Youth Hub Kathmandu.*

The youths from "Yuwa Jamghat Kendra" represented different slum areas of Kathmandu district. These settlements are situated along the banks of two distinct rivers: Bagmati and Manohara. Annually, the monsoon season brings relentless rain and floods that pose as a constant threat to these communities. The rising water levels create chaos in the settlements bordering the rivers (Source: <https://floodlist.com/asia/nepal-dozens-rescued-after-severe-floods-in-kathmandu>, <https://myrepublica.nagariknetwork.com/news/flooded-manohara-river-damages-property-worth-rs-7-5-million/>). As the monsoon intensifies, the situation becomes increasingly precarious for these youths and their families. They are concerned about the potential loss of both their lives and the legal documents they possess.

ActionAid Nepal, after strategically introducing Climate Justice to the youth hubs made them more aware about requirement and importance of preparedness for any sort of disasters that could come on their way.

During a youth hub meeting, a spontaneous idea emerged – the concept of creating an "Emergency Go-Bag" – and they decided to introduce this initiative to their communities. Embarking on a door-to-door campaign, they raised awareness about the significance and advantages of having such a bag to prepare for possible earthquakes. In early 2022, they actively shared this concept with their communities, leading to over half of the population adopting the Emergency Go-Bag. As a result, there has been a reduction in document damage, and the increased availability of these bags has enhanced access to other essential facilities.

This situation has spurred the other half of the population, who now possess the "Emergency Go-Bag" this year. Hira Thapa, a resident of Bansighat, who lost her citizenship during the flood of 2064 B.S, reflects, "I would not have lost my citizenship if we had the concept of having the 'Jhatpat Jhola' earlier." Shanti Tamang from Manahara shares, "We were aware of 'Jhatpat Jhola' before, but we considered it for use during earthquakes only. We had never thought of using it during floods."

It has been observed that most of the population now have the "Emergency Go-Bag" with them and are utilizing it well during floods as well. This is a good example of how the youth have been creating innovative ideas based on community needs.

#### **Opportunities:**

- ▶ Youths have identified youth hubs as a forum that creates an enabling environment for their multi-dimensional development.
- ▶ It was found that the local government representatives have recognized the influence of youth, may it be for their own benefit or for empowering youths for social change in real life. Hence exploring the best options to make them own these youth hubs could be the best opportunity for the sustainability of youth hubs.
- ▶ The replication of new ideas such as: Card Colour Analysis among other youth hubs to stop child marriage, advocacy for free education and so on. A learning platform has been created and the enthusiasm of the youth seems to be very high.
- ▶ They are aware of social accountability tools to be used to make the duty bearers answerable towards their right holders.
- ▶ Youths from all these youth hubs are willing to move forward their campaigns and advocacy forward, the thing they need is a few technical skills.
- ▶ The ratio of adolescent girls is more in compared to boys and this shows that the girls seem to be more proactive than boys. This has been a great platform for girls to grow more with the feeling of "Safe".
- ▶ Some of the youth hubs have very good practice of knowledge transfer and participatory leadership development practice, such as: periodic change in the role to take a lead and engaging other new members to support the old ones while conducting programs as a reporter or assistant.
- ▶ The local government representatives, especially ward offices, have provided budgets ranges from Nrs 50,000- 2 lakhs to conduct different activities.

**Challenge:**

- ▶ Government policy has a provision where they can support youth networks through allocation of annual budget, but the problem is the network should be officially registered. Youth hubs are loose forums where youths can come in and can exit. Therefore, it was found that although the local government representatives are willing to support them, they cannot do this officially.
- ▶ It was found that knowledge transferring is a big challenge among youth. “Step-down” training somehow has proved to be a useful tool to transfer skills and knowledge to other youths but has not been the strongest one. For example, in one of the youth hubs, two members are the ones who trained for Community Score Card but when they dropped out the rest of the members are completely unknown about the process, method and approach of CSC.
- ▶ The migration of youth is a big challenge, but this cannot be stopped although, the opportunity of linking these youth’s motives with the community is required the most. Need to identify!
- ▶ It has been observed that some young individuals remain skeptical about the cause they are engaged in, such as those opposing "Chaupadi Pratha." While some harbor firm convictions in support, there is a need to intensify efforts in enlightening youth about the violation of human rights associated with this practice.
- ▶ It is observed that the partner organization has motivated the youth less to identify the social challenges that exist in their territory. They are the ones who provide them with the “blueprint” of what to do.
- ▶ Members of youth hubs are aware of governance, but they are not yet participating in different planning processes of the local government to influence the allocation of the budget for youth.
- ▶ The social accountability tool has only been used in school, but this needs to be practiced in other duty bearers as well.
- ▶ ActionAid Nepal should focus on creating a forum supporting development of youths through other aspects as well: Economic.
- ▶ Engaging boys needs to be increased by increasing the number of boys in the youth hubs.
- ▶ Working to stop “Child Marriage”, one needs a very good counselling session. Hence, peer counselling is the most required action that works effectively, but the youths are not even aware of basic norms and concepts of counselling.

**Way Forward**

- ▶ A joint panel discussions having policy making representatives from 7 provinces in one forum should be done in the present of representative's youths from these provinces.
- ▶ These youth hubs should be trained on how to identify the “themes”: social problems and how to make the community people realize that this problem is the real problems that they need the solution of?
- ▶ This is already high time when we need to think of mobilizing youth as a “facilitator” rather than advocate or campaigner. Therefore, they need to be trained in “Community development practices: Facilitation for Empowerment and Social Transformation Approach” where they will be the catalyst and the community will drive the change.
- ▶ To conduct activities, youths and the partner organizations always seems to be relied on ActionAid Nepal. But they need to identify the opportunities for self-sustaining as well. Hence, both the partner organizations and youths should be trained in local fund raising.
- ▶ Creating a “Package” for youths for their both the social and economic development would help somehow in decreasing the migration of youths in search of opportunities. This should be a need-based package although.
- ▶ Youths have started working on “Climate Justice”, but they are not yet aware of this. They only understand is change in patterns of rainfall and harvesting. Hence, a clear concept of climate change and climate justice needs to be provided.
- ▶ Promoting these youths and linking these to formal and informal platforms to ensure their participation in local-level planning processes.
- ▶ Creating or providing these youths a forum” such as mock parliament” to strengthen the civic and political participation of youth, and to promote interaction between youth and policy-making bodies.
- ▶ Train these youth on using the social media tools to create awareness on social issues.
- ▶ The youth need to be trained in grievance mechanisms and grievance handling skills.
- ▶ An effective knowledge management system needs to be put in place, so the knowledge can be handed over to other generations of youths coming in.
- ▶ Sharing of inter-generational knowledge by supporting the two-way transfer of information and experiences between two generations, strengthening dialogue and engagement of traditional community leaders needs to be done.
- ▶ Basic concept of “Peer-counselling” should be provided.
- ▶ The best platform has been created to bring and connect youths from East to Far West, Nepal. This has provided them and equipped them with the basic skills and knowledge to take forward the advocacy and campaign. This has resulted in many clearly visible changes in the community they live in. Although, a big question would stop on the “Sustainability” of these changes? Hence, AAIN now needs to focus on making these youths facilitators rather than advocates, so that they will be able to facilitate the entire community for their own development.

**Challenge:**

- ▶ Findings from the KAP Survey
- ▶ Out of total 94 interviewed, 100% of respondents are aware of child marriage. Among them 95.74% are against it, whereas the rest of the % were still supporting that.
- ▶ Out of the total 21 respondents from “Chaupadi Pratha” practicing communities-Doti, 90.4% think it is not good to continue this practice although 14.2% are still practicing it.
- ▶ 98.9% of the total respondents agree on “Say No to Dowry”.
- ▶ 100% of the respondents agrees on “boys and girls have equal rights to education” and 100% of the applicable respondents are sending their both boy and girl kids to same school.
- ▶ To know how these community sees “gender roles” as, 92.5% of them agrees on both male and female have equal responsibilities on household chores but 77.6% only practice this in their daily lives.
- ▶ 100% agrees that caste-based discrimination is against human rights and 96% of them stopped practicing it whereas the remaining 4% are yet practicing.
- ▶ Out of total interviewed, 35% have reported GBV cases to different mechanisms, whereas 100% are willing to report it when they see it.
- ▶ 97.8% of the respondents know about youth hubs and their members and contributed to the change in their knowledge, attitude, and practices.
- ▶ 100% surveyed youth surveyed unanimously stated that the youth hub is the safest place for them to be.
- ▶ A significant 97.9 % of young individuals credit their improved skills, knowledge, and capabilities to the youth hub, which has enabled them to achieve their current abilities.
- ▶ 81.4% of the youths are concerned about climate change and mitigation measures.

**From local government representatives:**

The youths from the local youth hubs have significantly enhanced community engagement. Their active participation in the implementation of our prioritized activities and different policy making processes ensures that the community’s needs and aspiration are accurately represented.

We appreciate the innovative solutions that the youth from the hubs bring to the table. Their fresh perspectives and creative thinking have led to more effective and sustainable approaches in implementing our plans”.

Youths from the youth hubs act as efficient communication channels between the local government and the community. Their outreach initiatives help disseminate information and gather valuable feedback, fostering transparency in our planning process.

We have witnessed the direct impact of youth hubs members in supporting the implementation of various initiatives. Their dedication and hands-on involvement contribute to the successful execution of initiatives outlined in our plans”.

Youths from the youth hubs have become powerful advocates for social issues. Their commitment to addressing community challenges aligns with our goals, and their advocacy efforts contribute to the realization of a more inclusive and progressive community.

These youths have been a bridge between generations. Their ability to connect with both the older and younger community members facilitates smoother implementation of plans, fostering a more cohesive and supportive community.



# Annexes

## **ANNEX 1: WHAT IS YOUTH HUB AND WHY?**

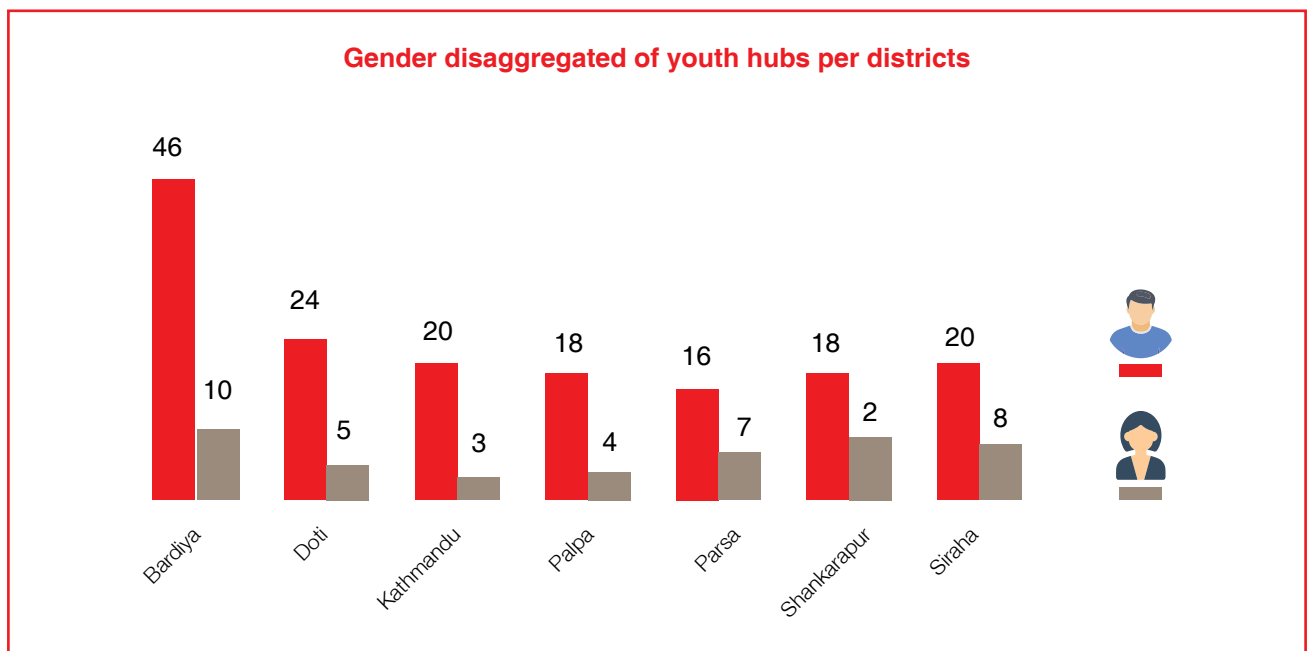
Youth Hub is a platform initiated by Global Platform Nepal to provide a safe physical space for young people aged 16 to 24 to share their problems, ideas, and experiences and discuss contemporary issues related to youth and the community. The Youth Hub comprises members belonging to marginalized, excluded, and exploited communities, including both young girls and boys. The primary aim of the Hub is to effect social transformation by working on various issues relating to youth and communities, such as well-being and leadership development, among others. ActionAid International Nepal (AAIN), a Start-Up Country of Global Platform, has been working on youth-related issues and matters since 2019 through the establishment of Youth Hub, which is considered one of the core initiatives of GP Nepal. Currently, AAIN/GP Nepal has seven Youth Hubs located in different areas and involving over 200 youths. The Hub focuses on promoting the representation, participation, and leadership of young women and

has at least 60 percent of young girls in each Youth Hub. The Youth Hubs have several key objectives aimed at transforming society, including:

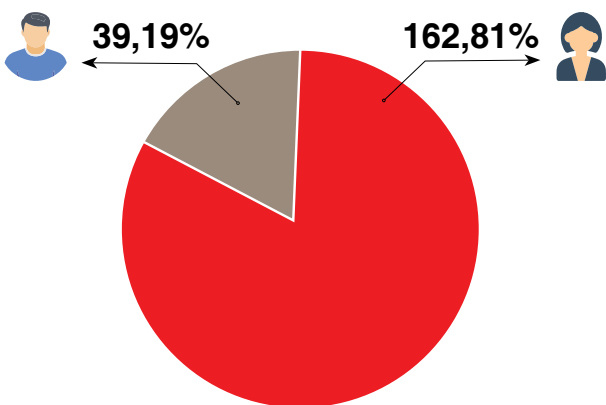
- ▶ Providing support to challenge and end harmful social and cultural practices.
- ▶ Motivating young people to claim spaces in local-level decision-making bodies and to influence decisions made within these spaces.
- ▶ Encouraging more young people to engage with Humanitarian Signature initiatives, such as Shifting Power and Feminist Leadership, to foster accountability and promote women's leadership.
- ▶ Contributing to making the local government accountable towards youth and community agendas.
- ▶ Facilitating cross-learning and movement support between young people from different geographical areas and contexts.

**ANNEX 2: DETAILS OF TOTAL RATIO OF YOUTHS IN YOUTH HUBS**

According to the National Census of Nepal 2011, 40.33% of the total population is youth, i.e. people in the age group of 16 to 40 years. Although the participation, representation, and leadership of young people from the local to the national level is limited, the participation, representation and leadership of young girls is also very limited. In this context, 81 percent of young girls are participating, engaging, and leading in Youth Hubs. Out of 7 Youth Hubs, young girls are in leadership in 3 Youth Hubs (Doti, Palpa, Siraha and Sankharapur). Similarly, everyone takes the leadership turn by turn in Parsa and Kathmandu Youth Hub and a young boy is in lead role in Bardiya. Similarly, the leadership and participation of young girls in other vital roles is also remarkable. Some of the key factors of young girls' participation and leadership can be mentioned as follows.

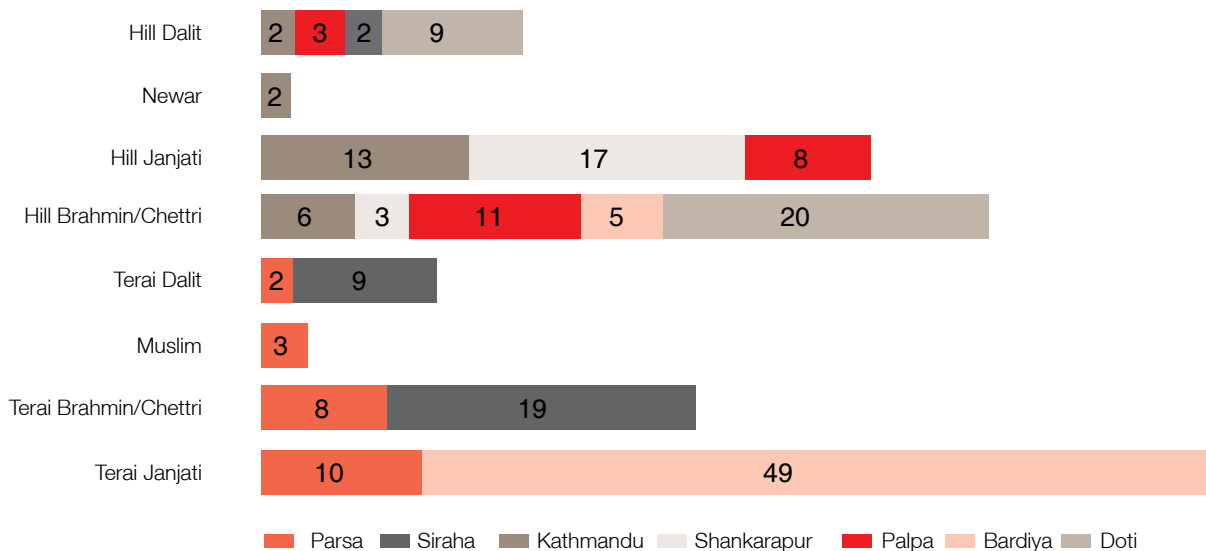


**Total gender Ratio of Youth Hubs**

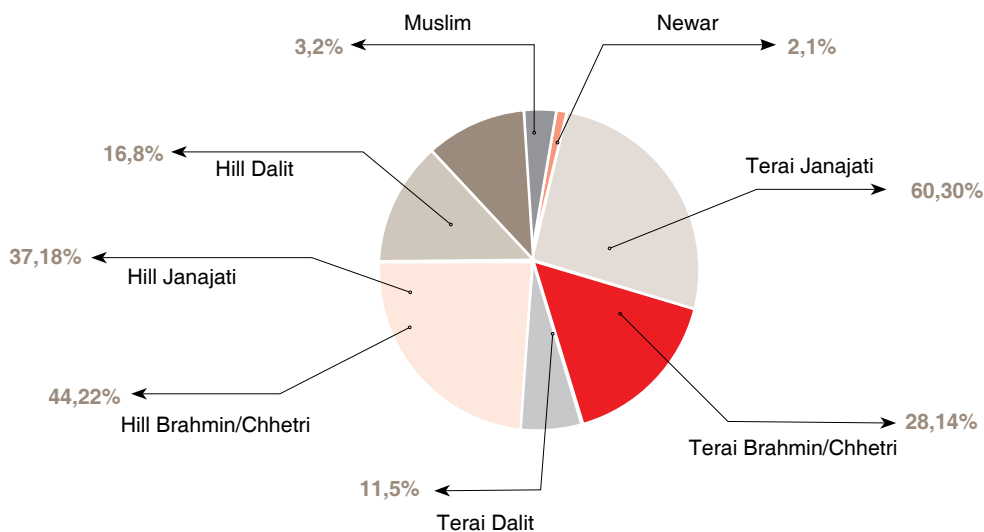


- ▶ Create criteria for at least 60% of young girls to participation of Young girls.
- ▶ Orientation to partners and young people about the participation and leadership of young girls from the initial phase.
- ▶ Prioritize young girls in different capacity-building and exposure opportunities.
- ▶ Provide the grow up opportunities such as cofacilitator in the trainings, mentor youth deployment etc.
- ▶ Young girl's leadership attracts more female leaders.
- ▶ Recognition and appreciation of young girl's leadership.

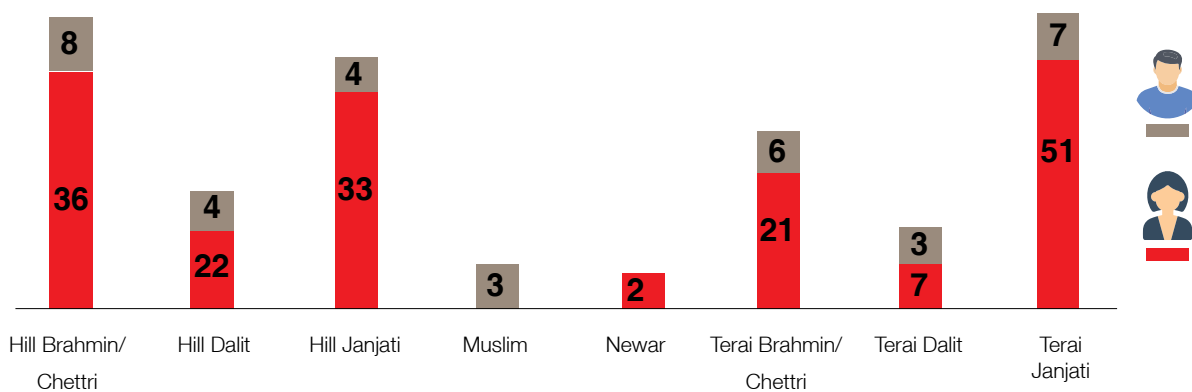
**Caste/Ethnicity division of youths engaged in youth hubs per districts**



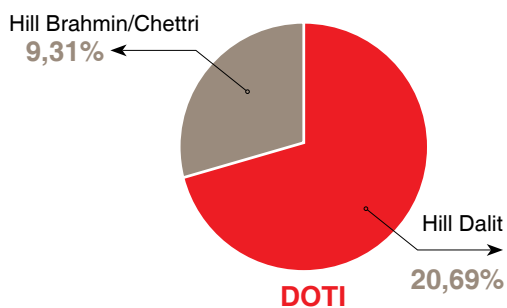
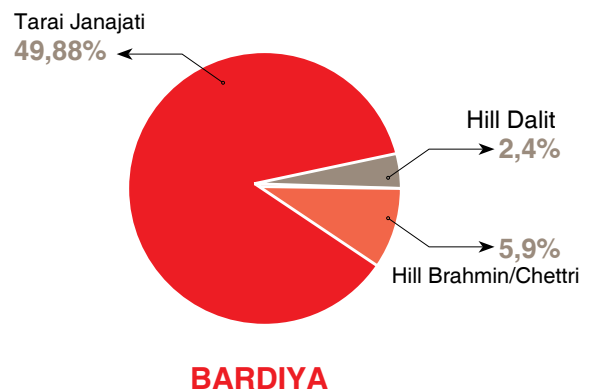
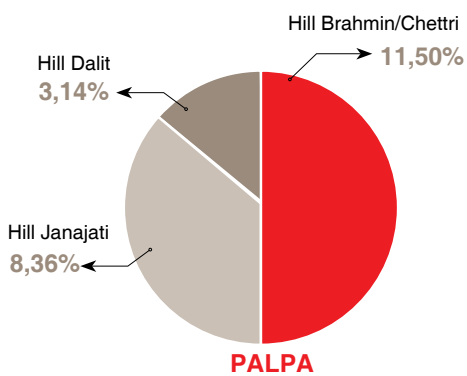
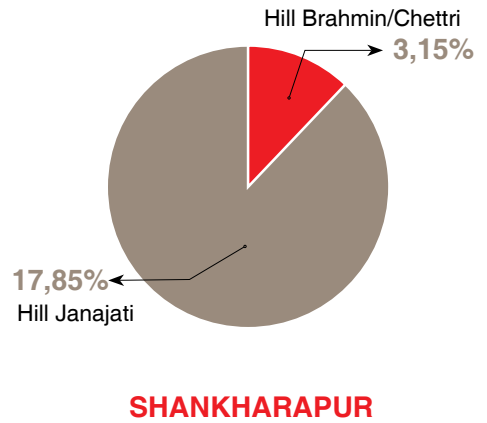
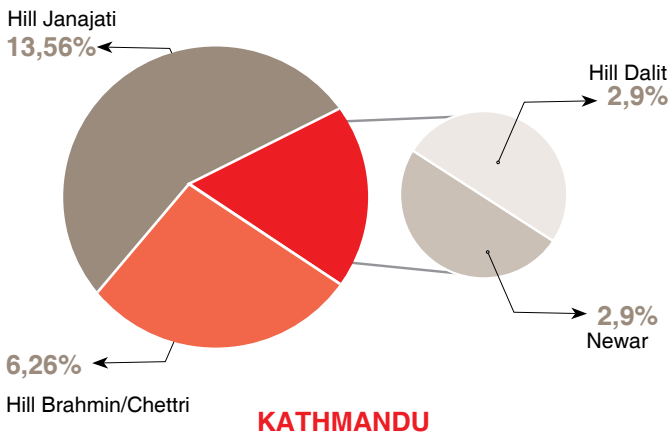
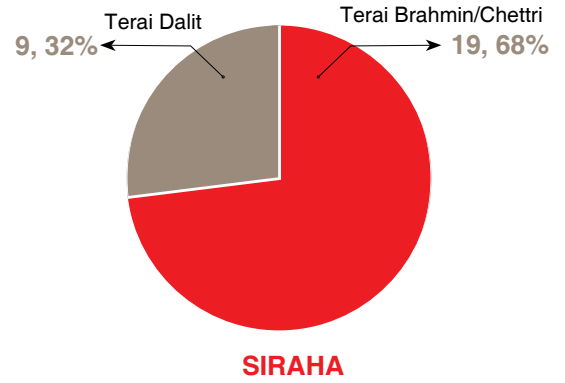
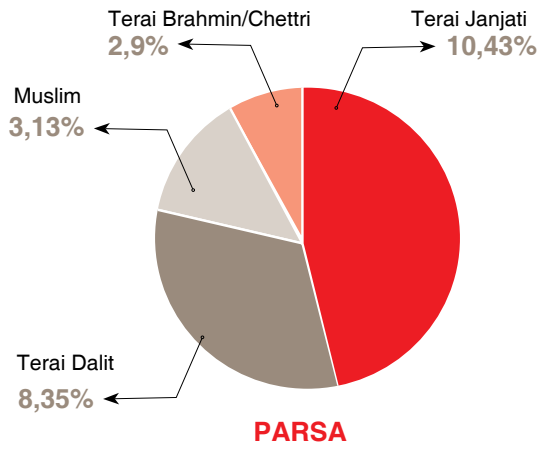
**Total % of caste/ethnicity of youths from All Youth Hubs**



**Gender per caste/ethnicity**



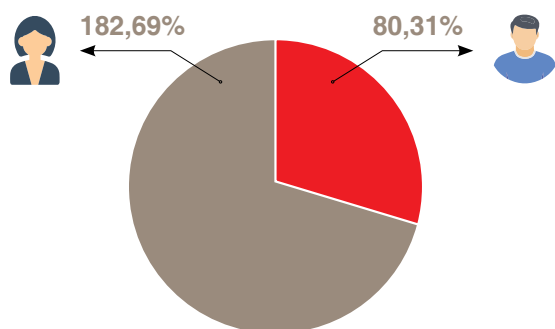
**ANNEX 3: DETAILS CASTE- ETHNICITY OF PER- YOUTH HUBS**



### ANNEX 4: CAPACITY-BUILDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUTH

Year	Trainings	Male	Female	Total
2019	Local Governance and Accountability Training	8	14	22
2019	Young Feminist Leadership Training	7	16	23
2020	Young Feminist Leadership Training	10	15	25
2021	Young Feminist Leadership Training	1	22	23
2021	Social Movement and Youth Organizing Training-	9	26	35
2022	Youth Organising and Movement Building Training	9	24	33
2021	Strengthening Youth Leadership in Humanitarian Action Training	11	21	32
2021	ToT on Facilitation Skills for Transformational and Political Change	7	13	20
2023	ToT on Facilitation Skills for Transformational and Political Change	7	12	19
2023	Climate Justice and Local Action Training	11	19	30
<b>Total</b>		<b>80</b>	<b>182</b>	<b>262</b>

**Gender Ratio of Capacity Building**

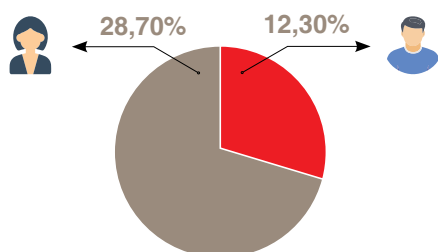


This data is of young people who were directly capacitated by GP Nepal/ActionAid International Nepal. After these trainings, the trained young people capacitated approximately 350 young individuals through step-down training at the local level.

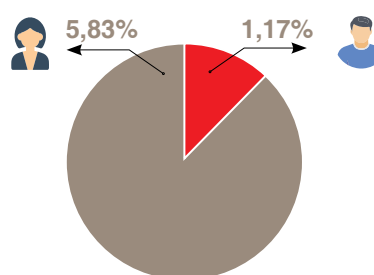
### OPPORTUNITY IN NATIONAL & INTERNATIONAL FORUMS

22 youths participated in various national forums like webinars and programs organised by various youth networks, aligns and strategic partners. They participated in webinars, especially during Covid. Similarly, 6 webinars were also led by the Youth Hub Network and its members during the Covid-19 pandemic. In international forums, Jivan Raj Subedi from Bardiya Youth Hub participated in Climate Justice online training and Facilitation for Political Change training in Tanzania organized by Global Platform. Similarly, Sunita Gaha from Palpa and Sapna Amatya from Kathmandu also participated in the Climate Justice online training organized by GP. Additionally, Deepika Sharma of Parsa, Siba Chaudhary, and Bhumi Chaudhary of Bardiya had the opportunity to participate and represent the international program hosted by AAIN and organized by various forums like IHART, AAI.

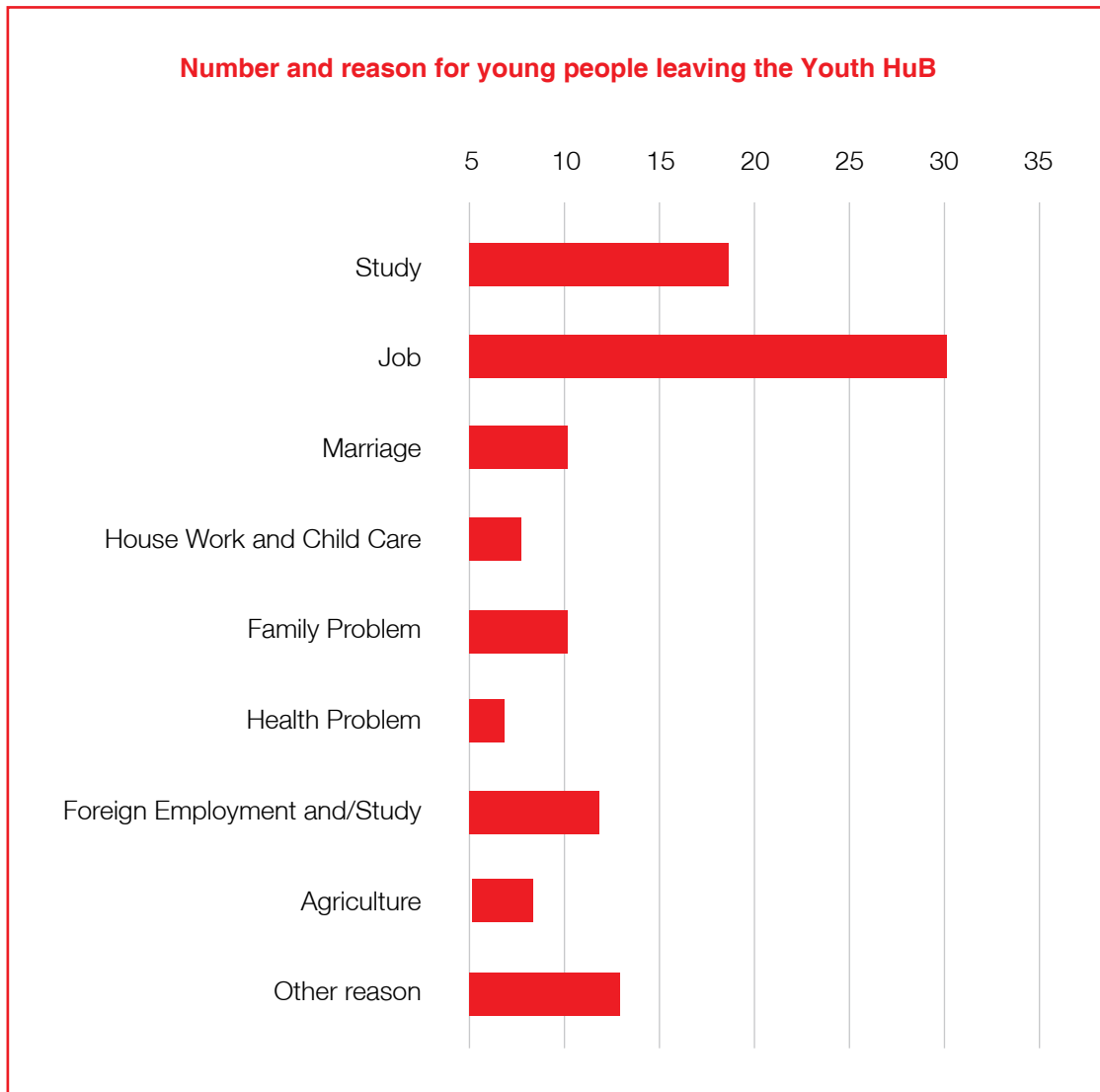
**National Forums**



**International Forums**

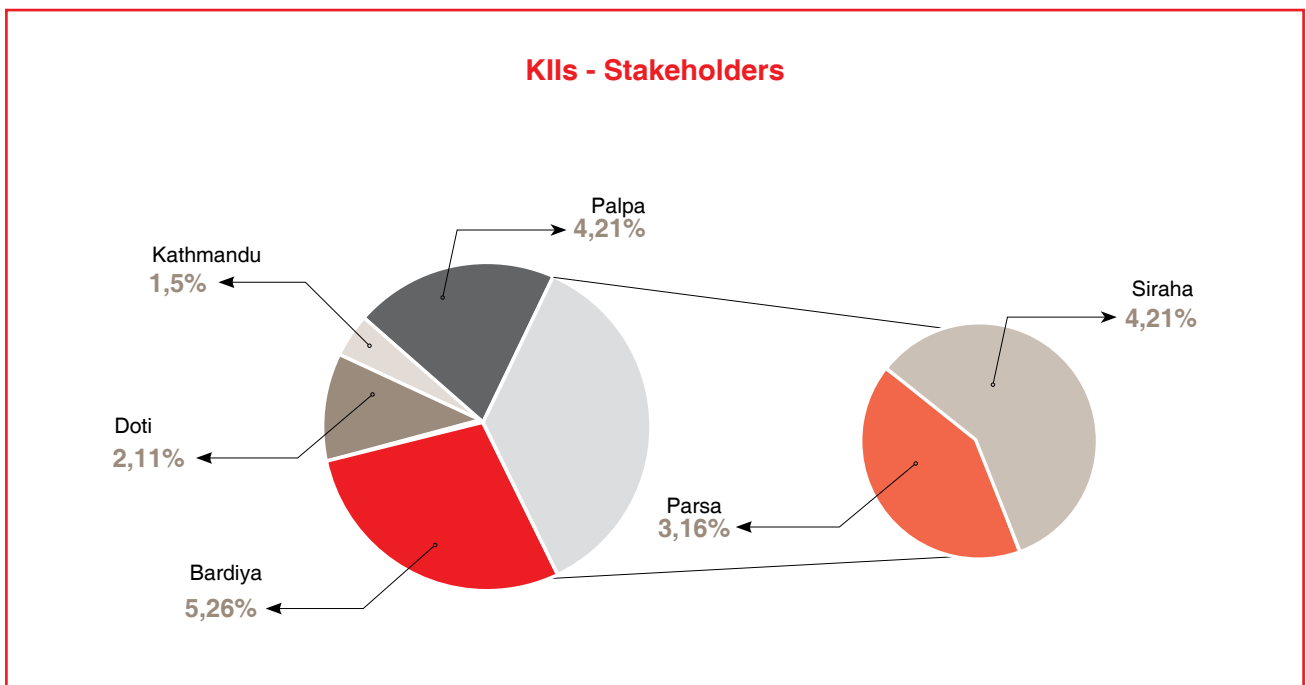
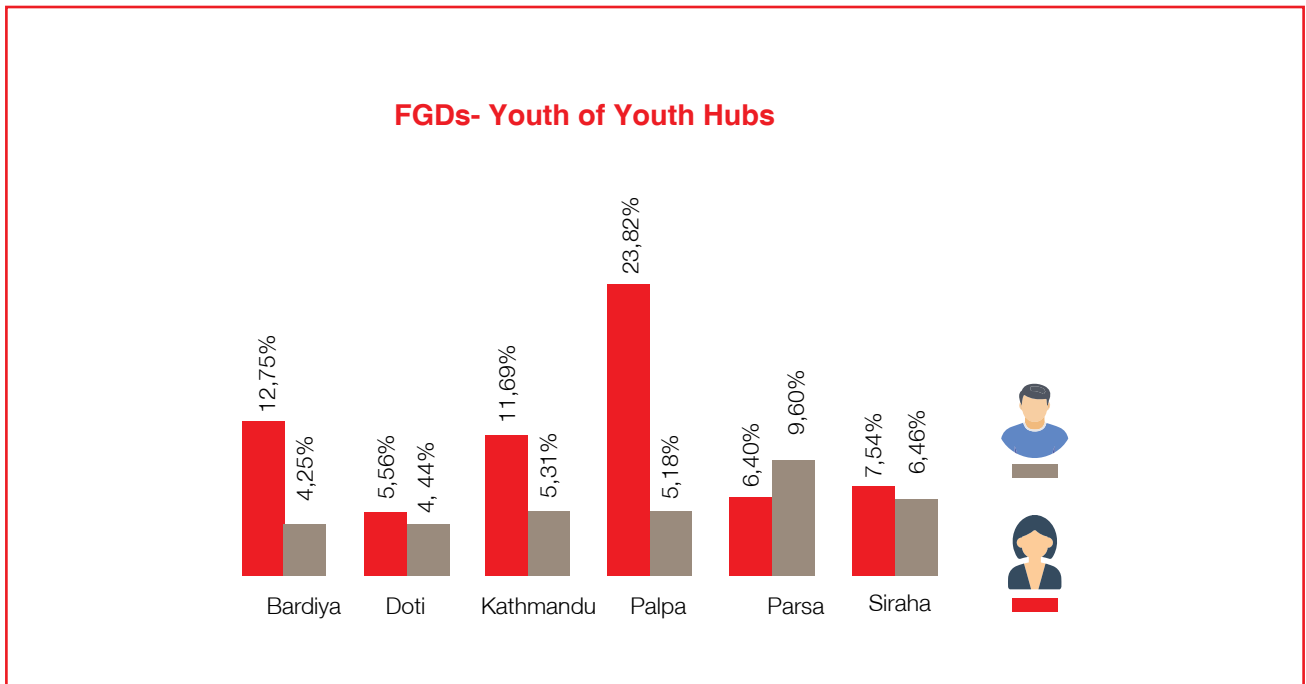


**ANNEX 5: WHY DID THE YOUTH LEAVE YOUTH HUB AND WHERE ARE THEY NOW?**



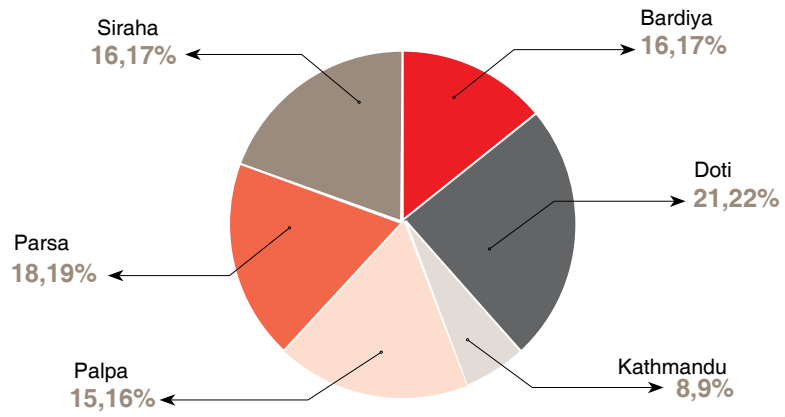
73 youths have dropped out. Among those who left, 30% did so upon securing employment. Additionally, 22% pursued higher studies, which is a positive aspect. Beyond these, reasons for youth migration include marriage, family issues, foreign study, and employment. Our assessment figure out that commitments such as household chores, childcare, agriculture, and other responsibilities contribute to their unavailability due to time constraints.

**ANNEX 6: SUMMARY OF KIIS AND FGDS SEX DISAGGREGATED.**






### KIIs -Community People










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