

## **Sushma Koirala Memorial Study Circle (SKMT's Concept Towards Democracy)**

Today- 21<sup>st</sup> May 2009, we had our second formal inaugural ceremony and study circle meeting with women on "Women's Issues into the New Constitution". Nepal is in the process of drafting new constitution. All political parties have submitted their concepts over the new constitution and all other general people and organizations are submitting their suggestion and recommendations to the Secretariat of the Constituent Assembly. This study circle is focusing the several issues of women as follows:

- To find the real issues of women that to be addressed in the New Constitution.
- To eliminate the gender discrimination in Nepal.
- To strengthening Nepalese Women as rightful citizen among all.
- To create awareness among the general public about the women's right are human rights.



To create a friendly environment among women members of all political parties especially in the women's issues.

### **Inaugural Programme**

- Mr. Tilak Jang Khadka (Kalyan) Office Manager for Programs works and administration of the Sushma Koirala Memorial Study Circle described and explained about the study circle, its importance and objectives, history, process/method and benefits of Study Circle. He also explained about the Swedish Study Circle and the role of Study Circle in the Sweden's politics, labor movement & worker's education, economics, education and Development.
- Ms. Ambika Regmi- Member of SKM Study Circle welcomed all the guest and participants to the 1st study circle meeting. She also expressed her deep concern to uplift the condition of Nepalese women and she shown her belief this could be done through the study circle.

Mr. Ram Guragain- Senior Programme Advisor of National Democratic Institution/Nepal (NDI/N) expressed their full support to the Study Circle. NDI/N is always welcome the idea and programmes of Study Circle.

- Mr. Amar Raj Pant- Dean of Law Faculty of Tribhuvan University of Nepal highlighted the Social Service and democratic commitment of Late Sushma Koirala, in her name and memory, this study circle has been formed. He wished to the study circle for its success and may achieve its objectives for which it is formed.

- Honorable Mr. Gajendra Bahadur Shrestha- Consul General of Sweden to Nepal, who was surprised and impressed on seeing the activities and work of Sushma Koiral Memorial Trust and its leadership. Only four months ago Mr. Shrestha leaded a team of 6 people to visit Sweden to show the work of Political, Social and Study Circle activates of Sweden. Mr. Shrestha feels so happy that the concept of study circle travelled so quickly to Nepal and the study circle began formally. Mr. Shrestha expressed the good wishes to the work of SKM Study Circle and its work, on behalf of Swedish People and Government. He is happy to share of knowledge and experience of Study Circle of Sweden to the SKM Study Circle in any time.
- Mr. Sambhuram Simkhada- Coordinator of SKM Study Circle explained how this study circle will work with society, people and individual in the particular issues. He announced one person can make ten friends circle and invite into this study circle to learn what ever they want. Learning by sharing is the main motto of Study Circle he added.

Mrs. Sujata Koiral- Chairman of Sushma Koirala Memorial Trust and the Study Circle shared her experience and learning while visiting Sweden. She was so impressed on seeing the activities of Study Circle and democratic political exercise in Sweden. She also marked the role of Study Circle in present development of Sweden. She expressed her sincere thanks to all the organizers, supporter and well wisher on whom support is now on the reality to form this study circle. She announced this study circle is open for everyone who has knowledge to share and for those who don't have any knowledge but want to learn something in various aspects of life. A press note about study circle has been distributed to the media and press person at the end of inaugural ceremony and the note was read by Mr. Hari P. Dhungana Executive Director of Sushma Koirala Memorial Trust. A public television agency also took a short interview with Mrs. Sujata Koirala regarding Study Circle.

Ms. Suchitra Shrestha member of Study Circle was anchor of the inaugural ceremony and there were about 100 guests, participants and media persons attended the inaugural ceremony.

### **The 1st Study Circle Meeting**

Study Circle Meeting with women: "Women's Issues into the New Constitution" of republic of Nepal

After concluding the inaugural ceremony, a group of 18 women sat on the study circle meeting representing from various political parties and representative of civil society. They talked various issues of Nepalese women from home/family to workplace, society to Nation. All participants spoke one by one and listed other's voice on the issues of women. They conclude 1st session and decided to sit next session on 8th of May 2009 at 2 PM to discuss about the proposed constitution and provision of women for equal rights. They will collect and read the various materials and concepts of various political parties, which have already submitted their thematic paper of new constitution to the secretariat of Constitution Assembly. This study circle will end after 4 sitting and with the conclusion/findings, which will be submitted to the secretariat of Constitution Assembly and political parties for the action. Here are some photographs are attached to view.