ANNUAL REPORT
2018
A year of feminist advocacy and storytelling
LOOM works towards harnessing the collective power of women through multi-generational activism, where activists across ages and experience connect, organize and transform structures that obstruct our freedom.

Registered in 2010, we are a platform that recognizes the diversity and intersection of Nepali women and collaboratively engages to dismantle the power hierarchy, sustain activism and build progressive movements.

We are a group of individuals and organizations dedicated to movement building, young women’s leadership, sexuality and bodily integrity, LBT rights and feminist politics of the internet. LOOM works at local and national levels.

One rainy day in 2009, a cup of Chia (Chai) brought 4 young women under 30 debating if we as Nepali women have power within to dismantle the victimisation approach. The conversation rolled into questioning why young women who are the largest part of the women’s movement are not seen as rights holders. The guff gaff ended with a hope that our feminist collective can sustain if we find local funds generated by women.

Here – “HER” existence is compromised. Here, “SHE” is discriminated and rights denied on the basis of her body, sexual orientation, gender identity, class, caste, and ethnicity. The control and regulation of HER body is defined by measures embedded in patriarchy.

AND we want to be free – we want to define who we are. We believe our efforts in interconnecting women of diverse backgrounds and generations are the way to equate power hierarchy, sustain our activism and efforts, and create change in the way we must be seen.

We frame our actions and advocacy around sexuality and bodily politics; create agencies in young women through multi-generational engagement amongst community women, movement building and generating access to local funds.
Vision
An equal society where women from multi generation have access to agencies and have freedom to decide for them and communities based on political participation and ownership.

Mission
As a group of women who wants to make a difference, we are new age campaigners affirming towards sustainable women's movement. Mainstreaming what is not, integrating what has been excluded. We desire to set platforms for us to weave our stories, thread our dreams, and bring the fundamental change that we foresee and aspire.

Objectives

- To deconstruct generational gap among women through a common platform where women exchange knowledge, experiences and aspirations
- To enhance the movement of young women to transform social norms and promote dignity and equality
- To empower women of diversity to make informed bodily choices, using internet as political space and challenge structures that impede freedom including building alliances with organisations and networks

*OUR WORK IS EXCITING!*

We collaborate with young women individuals and networks, mother's group, Women Human Rights Defenders and women's rights organizations to bridge capacities on bodily integrity and women's movement to transform structures that inhibit equality.

+ **We bridge feminist leadership** and collectives of women’s rights activists and between activists for learning and support, solidarity and sustainability.

+ **We engage in Feminist Epistemologies** as a process to collectively produce new and diverse knowledge that dismantles patriarchy, challenges the status quo and sets new agendas. Our space in Kathmandu works as a hub for workshops and exchanges to generate momentum that fuels women’s movement.

+ **We advocate for the recognition** of sexuality as bodily autonomy and human rights rather than prevention of diseases.
We engage with the internet as a political space; we recognise that online violence is a manifestation of offline violence and we build and promote a digital movement that addresses such phenomena.

**LOOM in 2018, a year of Feminist advocacy and storytelling!**

In 2018, LOOM’s work was woven around feminist advocacy where we advocated for the body, labor and equality of women.

**2018 in a Glance**

Participation in the province level and national level feminist forum on various themes.

Two young women meet conducted with the young women leader of Tarkeshwor and Aerawot Media Group Udayapur on sexuality and women’s movement.

Co-organized Sexuality, Gender and Rights Institute with CREA and Women for Human Rights (WHR) Nepal.

Engagement and collaboration with the young LBTs and Queer youth Group, a loose network of young queer people.

Organized digital story telling workshop with the young women activists.

Initiation of documentation of cases of online gender based violence.

A chapter on online gender based violence was published on Anbeshi, a year book on cases of gender based violence in Nepal published by WOREC Nepal, a women right organization.

A desk review research on Comprehensive Sexuality Education for the out of school young people was published and disseminated among the stakeholders.

Expansion of the EROTICS Nepal Network. It is a network of sexual and women right activists in Nepal facilitated by LOOM to counter internet technology-related violence against women and LGTBQs. The network provides the members a space to speak on feminist politics of internet and technology and digital security.
Programs

In 2018, we categorized our work into various units and carried out the activities accordingly.

i. Young Feminist Activism

a. Participation in province and National level Feminist Forum

National Alliance of Women Human Rights defenders (NAWHRD) in collaboration with its member organization and other stakeholders had organized Feminist forum in all seven provinces and one national feminist forum which was attended by newly elected local government representatives, Women human rights defenders, women rights activist and civil society representatives. LOOM also actively participated in the feminist forum in province 1,2 and 3 and national feminist forum. We also conducted a workshop on ‘Sexuality and Gender-based violence’ in the feminist forum in province 2. Similarly we also invited few of our Konnect Alliance members (The group of young women alumnus of young women meet) to attend national level feminist forum where they participated and also contributed to the discussion.

b. Young Women meet

LOOM organized two young women meet in the year 2018; one in Tarkeshwor and one in Udayapur with Aerawot Media Group, a group of young women media producers. In the young women meet, we engaged with the young women on various issues of sexuality and women's movement in Nepal with the objective to prepare next generation of women rights activists in Nepal.

c. Sexuality, Gender and Rights Institute

LOOM co-organized a week long Institute on Sexuality, Gender, and Rights along with CREA and Women for Human Rights (WHR) Nepal. The institute focused on the conceptual study of sexuality and its application to program interventions. The Institute also examined the links between sexuality, rights, gender, and health, and their interface with socio-cultural and legal issues. Thirty women from multi-
generations working on various movements in Nepal from different parts of Nepal participated in the institute.

d. Engagement and collaboration with the young LBTs and Queer Youth Group
LOOM in collaboration with Blue Diamond Society conducted a workshop on SRHR of LBT people in July 2018. The workshop explored the issue of SRHR of LBT people. Likewise, LOOM has also extended its collaboration with Queer youth group, a loose network of queer young people. We have been co-organizing discussion programs on various issues and its intersectionality with the queer movement.

ii. Internet and Sexuality

a. Digital Story telling workshop
We conducted a digital story telling workshop with the 12 young women activists working in the women rights activists. The residential workshop explored the art of storytelling, the impact it has on individuals and on activism.

b. Digital Security Workshop
A digital security workshop was conducted for the members of Right Here Right Now (RHRN) Nepal, the SRHR advocates who use internet/online space for advocacy purpose. Through this workshop, the participants learned the effective advocacy and communication tools and strategies so that they could use the social media as a platform to advocate, get safe from possible threats in online space that may negatively affect their online advocacy. The main objectives of the workshop were to assist activists working in SRHR understand digital security through a feminist lens, to help them learn and adopt digital security measures in order to help them secure organizational and private data and to engage as cross movement to advocate for digital movement on SRHR.

c. Documentation of cases of Online Gender based violence
In 2018, we have collected 12 cases of online gender based violence which we aim to use for the advocacy on online GBV in Nepal. Since 2016, we have been generating evidences and resources related to internet, gender and sexuality including our two reports.
iii. Advocacy on the intersection of women’s rights

a. Desk Review Research on Comprehensive Sexuality Education for the out of school children and young people
LOOM conducted a desk review research on Comprehensive Sexuality Education for the out of school children and young people. The research aimed to address and analyze the current situation of out of school CSE in Nepal and identify the attempts made to institutionalize out of school CSE in the country. The research was also disseminated among the relevant stakeholders including Center for Education and Human Resource Development (a government body under the Ministry of Education), UNFPA and various organizations working on CSE.

b. Publication of chapter on Online Gender based violence in ‘Anbeshi’: A yearly book on cases of Gender based violence in Nepal
LOOM successfully contributed a chapter on Online Gender based violence in ‘Anbeshi’: A yearly book on cases of Gender based violence in Nepal which is published by Women Rehabilitation Center (WOREC Nepal), one of the oldest women rights organizations in Nepal. Anbeshi is a highly valued publication among the activists in Nepal and is perceived as an important resource on gender based violence issue in Nepal.

c. Collection and publication of blogs
We have collected and published 9 blogs in the year 2018. The blogs have been written on various issues including sexuality, youth friendly health service, Comprehensive sexuality education, gender, and so on. We have been using the blogs for advocacy to aware large population through our social media.

d. Social Media campaigns on advocacy issues
LOOM has been reaching out to public through its social media and we have conducted social media campaigns on various issues. We conducted Tweetathon on Comprehensive Sexuality Education in February, social media campaign on the occasion of international day of a girl child and in September on the occasion of Global day of action for safe and legal abortion, we created a buzz on social media where we collected pro-choice quotes form people and posted them, shared videos and posted facts about safe abortion issue. We were able to engage with many individuals in the discussion regarding safe abortion rights.

e. GuffGaff
GuffGaff is a bi-monthly discussion program conducted in the ‘Her Space’ at LOOM where we invited interested people to discuss on various issues and to share feminist knowledge with each other through a healthy discussion. In 2018 we conducted six GuffGaff episodes on intersection of women's movement in Nepal.
f. **16 Days of activism against Gender Based Violence**
   We also contributed our best in the global activism during 16 Days of activism against Gender Based Violence. We conducted college orientation and discussed about online GBV with the young people. We also put forward the issue of online GBV during the consultation program with the UN special Rapporteur on violence against women and also engaged in the discussion with the public through our social media.

g. **Contribution in the CEDAW Shadow Report**
   LOOM also actively contributed in many province level and national level consultation programs for CEDAW Shadow Report where we were able to incorporate the issue of young women’s sexuality, Online Gender based violence, Comprehensive sexuality education and gender diversity. The shadow report was presented at the 71st session of the CEDAW.

h. **Workshop on Sexuality and Gender based violence**
   A workshop on Sexuality and Gender based violence was successfully conducted with the women human rights defenders of Bardiya district. The workshop explored the intersection of GBV with the sexuality and as human rights defenders how can we use the knowledge in our everyday activism.

i. **Livelihood support to the young women of Tarkeshwor**
   LOOM also supported three young women from Tarkeshwor municipality- 03 for their startups and also as a livelihood support. All the three young women utilized the funds in various enterprises including Dance center, vegetable farming and cattle farming.

j. **Documentation of the lives of women human rights defenders**
   Ten stories of struggle of the women human rights defenders were documented in 2018. The stories have been archived as feminist knowledge in LOOM and will be published very soon.
Our Partners

Contact Us:

LOOM
House No.142, Panchayan Marg
Thapathali, Kathmandu Nepal
P.O. BOX 4648
Telephone: +977-1- 4251335

Email: loom@loomnepal.org
Website: www.loomnepal.org

Facebook: @loomnepal
Twitter: @loomnepal
YouTube: LOOM Nepal