

Working Group on the Indigenous Populations

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Name of the organization: NEPAL FEDERATION OF NATIONALITIES
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Nepal in the lap of the Himalayan is a habitat of various groups of the indigenous peoples. The indigenous peoples in Nepal are known as Janajati. According to census of 1990 they are 35% of the total population of the twenty millions. Some of the Janajatis are being vanished. His Majesty's Government of Nepal has not paid any attention of them going out of existence. On the contrary, the government is quite afraid of animals being disappeared from the forest. It is somewhat ironical. Total number of Janajati graduates is 23 thousand. In the ear 1998, the government recognized 61 kinds of Janajatis in Nepal. Just after 3 years, the government is trying her best to exclude the Newar from the 61 people say it is ridicule.

Some 150 years ago Royal Pundit named Vijayaraj Pandey, a Brahmin by caste made a Muluki Ain (State law) promulgated in the country. The main objective of his state law was to deprive the Janajatis of being educated. This law remained effective till 1964. Therefore the Janajatis are not seen in the government service till now. To some extent the Janajatis are treated untouchables.

After the re-establishment of the multi-party system almost all the Janajatis have made their own organizations. They are raising their voices against social injustice. Everyone's trying to break the culture of silence. I think no power in the country will be able to silence their voices within the four walls of the injustice.

As we have heard the world indigenous people have already raised their voices for land and the lands, forests, water and minerals. Apart from these, they are putting forward their demands for compensation to the former colonizers. Whereas we in Nepal simply talk about language, culture and religion. However the government turns its ear deaf. It is needless individual or community to make them conscious.