Daayitwa Abhiyaan

Monthly Newsletter

June 2025

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Mission Aasha २०२५

Mission Aasha is a global campaign led by Daayitwa that aims to connect global champions of change with rural catalysts of hope for building an inclusive and enterprising Nepal. Through the Growth Entrepreneurship and Employment Promotion (GEEP) Program, Daayitwa, in collaboration with the provincial and local governments, Nepali diaspora and friends of Nepal, aims to boost rural entrepreneurship and employment, driving economic growth and prosperity.

This year, through our Mission Aasha 2025 campaign, we aim to scale the impact by growing our community of change champions in the United States, Canada and the United Kingdom through impact-raiser events across these countries.

Growth Entrepreneurship and Employment Program (GEEP)

GEEP is demonstrating remarkable progress in fostering innovation across rural communities. After identifying 200 outstanding entrepreneurs from 10 municipalities in Gandaki and Koshi provinces, the program is advancing through multiple phases.

The Enterprise Innovation Bootcamp has successfully trained 200 rural entrepreneurs through intensive 2.5-day sessions on financial management, marketing strategies, and innovation methodologies. Participants engaged in hands-on training covering cash flow management, pricing optimization, and market access. Design thinking workshops are addressing local challenges in agri-processing, eco-tourism, and digital marketing. "My Enterprise, My Municipality" SMS voting campaign is engaging all 10 municipalities to select top enterprises. The Enterprise Development Matching Seed Fund is providing strategic grants to the top 20 entrepreneurs, enabling business plan implementation. Entrepreneurs are investing in advanced technologies, modern equipment, and market-driven solutions to enhance operational efficiency and expand market reach.

The Orientation Bootcamp for Daayitwa Nepal Public Policy Fellowship 2025 was held at Bhaktapur Guest House on the 3rd & 4th of June 2025. It started with an overview by the Daayitwa Fellowship team and then moved on to interactive sessions like an introductory module on leadership by Dr. Pukar Malla, an interaction session with former bureaucrat Mr. Madhu Marasini, and an experience sharing session with former fellow Mr. Sushant Vaidik.

Throughout the month, the Daayitwa Nepal Public Policy Fellows 2025 engaged in a series of intensive training sessions designed to strengthen their technical aptitude for evidence-based policy research. The journey began with impactful sessions by Dr. Udaya Raj Wagle and Dr. Juni Singh, who equipped fellows with conceptual frameworks as well as execution tools for policy research and innovation. In subsequent sessions, fellows deepened their understanding of research methodologies through dedicated workshops led by Dr. Claire Willey-Sthapit, Ms. Jenna Allard, Dr. Arati Maleku, Dr. Anup Phayal, and Ms. Shambika Raut. Separate sessions by Dr. Conghe Song, Mr. Nirmal Ghimire, and Dr. Prajwal Bhattarai Paudyal introduced literature review practices and emerging AI-driven research techniques.

The cohort also had the opportunity to speak to DNPPF alum Mr. Surya Karki, followed by an interactive session on Public Administration in Nepal by Dr. Pramod K.C. In later sessions, fellows explored dissemination and public impact scholarship with Dr. Kashi Kafle, Dr. Shishir Shakya, and Dr. Khushbu Mishra; engaged in a narrative-building leadership workshop on Story of Self and Story of Us with Ms. Apurba KC, and participated in a practical session that helped get from research questions to practical policy recommendations facilitated by Chandra Bhandari from Inclusion Economics Nepal.

Governance Lab

Kurakani Kollective

The Kurākāni Kollective kicked off its first session with an inspiring and compelling conversation featuring Mr. Raj Gyawali on the theme “Be Like Water: Navigating Nepal’s Curveballs.”

Hosted by Impact447 and The Governance Lab, Kurākāni, which means ‘meaningful conversation’ in Nepali, is a relaxed, after-work dialogue series designed to foster honest reflection, shared learning, and genuine connection.

In this opening session, Raj Gyawali shared powerful insights into how Nepal’s tourism sector has demonstrated extraordinary resilience, bouncing back from natural disasters, political instability, and global crises. His reflections sparked a rich conversation on innovation, adaptation, and the evolving path toward sustainable tourism in Nepal.

This session explored around national tourism recovery, the ideas on tourism sustainability, their resilience, along with the necessity of the innovation for flourishing tourism in Nepal, setting the tone for many more thought-provoking dialogues to come.

Inclusion Economics Nepal

Survey

Inclusion Economics Nepal at Governance Lab is launching a survey of politicians on July 15, 2025 under our research project called ‘Understanding Political Selection in Nepal’. This research project aims to deepen our understanding of the forces holding women back in terms of political representation by conducting a study in Nepal, the world's youngest federal democracy. An explicit goal of Nepal’s new federal system is to create pathways for greater political representation of women, which have not been realized in the first two elections.

Our project will adjudicate between three forces determining the equilibrium level of female candidacy for local-level positions:

1. Structural constraints and socialized attributes that limit women’s willingness to run (candidate supply);
2. Voter bias against women (voter demand);
3. Party bias against female candidates (party demand).

After conducting studies on the candidate supply and voter demand, we are now studying the third force which is party demand. Under this study we will be exploring two elements:

1. Measuring Selection Committee Member's Preference as a Committee Member: First, the selection committee members will be asked about their preferences as a committee member. We will ask them about their candidate preferences as a voter, policy preferences, candidate preferences from the committee member perspective.
2. Measuring selection committee members' beliefs about voters' biases: We will ask respondents to predict how they think voters respond to candidate preference questions.

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Policy dialogue २.०

Watch Full Episode Here

Policy Dialogue 2.0 is a program produced by Nepal Watch Multimedia in collaboration with the Policy Research Institute and the Commission for the Investigation of Abuse of Authority (CIAA), aimed at fostering prosperity through inclusive policy conversations across various platforms.

In this episode, the discussion focused on policy reforms to strengthen good governance at the local level. The panel was moderated by Hon. Bimala Rai Paudyal and featured speakers including Mr. Ramesh KC, Under-Secretary at CIAA; Mr. Amar Bahadur Khadka, Mayor of Badimalika Municipality; Ms. Prabha Bogati, Deputy Mayor of Bidur Municipality; and Dr. Pukar Malla, Chairperson of Daayitwa Abhiyaan.

Dr. Malla highlighted policy and structural challenges in local governance, emphasizing the need for mindset shifts and capacity building among newly elected representatives. Drawing from over 12 years of experience working with local governments, he shared practical insights on enabling accountable and citizen-centric leadership.

Staff Engagement

Celebration of Pride Month

Daayitwa Abhiyaan recently hosted a powerful and interactive LGBTQIA+ Awareness and Capacity Building Session, facilitated by Sushobhan Chimoriya. Through open dialogue and reflective activities, the session deepened the understanding of the importance of inclusive language, representation, and allyship in the workplace.

Itreminded us that inclusion is not a checkbox, it's a continuous practice rooted in empathy, humility, and courage. As we listened, reflected, and learned together, it reminded us that Pride is not just about visibility, it's about validity. Allyship is not a label, it's a lifelong commitment to equity and justice. Inclusion is not a favor; it's a fundamental right. This session was a good reflection on DA's ongoing journey to build a culture where everyone feels seen, heard, and valued.

Reflecting، Reconnecting، and Recharging Together – An Insightful Session on Mental Health

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As part of our commitment to a balanced workspace, Daayitwa Abhiyaan recently hosted a guided session on workplace mental well-being titled "A Reflection on Work, Self, and Care." Held in celebration of May as Mental Health Awareness Month, the session was facilitated by Pratiksha Rajopadhyaya and offered a gentle space for mindful reading, open sharing, and quiet reflection.

Drawing from the article "Detection and Disclosure of Workplace Mental Health Challenges: An Exploratory Study from India," we engaged in heartfelt conversations around mental well-being, empathy, and self-care. The session invited us to pause, listen deeply, and hold space for one another's experiences. These moments of pause and connection are small but meaningful steps toward building a kinder, more resilient workplace.

Celebration of World Environment Day

With hearts full of purpose and hands ready to serve, we came together to honor our shared planet on World Environment Day. At Daayitwa Abhiyaan, we believe that responsible leadership begins with care for our communities, our values, and our environment. On this special day, we reaffirmed our collective commitment to sustainability and stewardship.

We marked the occasion by planting seeds and saplings as the symbols of hope, resilience, and the future we are nurturing together. Each plant was a quiet promise: to protect, to grow, and to care. Because safeguarding our environment is not just an act of service; it is a shared responsibility we carry forward together.

Publications

Inclusive Digital Transformation : What Does it Look Like for Females?

Inclusive digital transformation

What does it look like for females?

Nepal's digital transformation has the potential to bridge the gender divide and economic disparities for a more inclusive future

Nepal stands at a pivotal moment in its digital journey. With 132 percent of cellular mobile phones proliferating and with 55.8 percent of online penetration expanding even into remote corners the question is no longer if the country will transform, but how that transformation can be guided toward equity and inclusion. Central to this is the role of girls and young women: from coders and entrepreneurs to engineers and digital-diplomacy leaders, they represent an enormous reservoir of talent that remains largely untapped. In a country where digital strategies have been drafted to accelerate progress on health, education and economic development, Nepal cannot afford to leave half its population on the sidelines.

As we marked the International Girls in ICT Day 2025 last month under the theme "Girls in ICT for Inclusive Digital Transformation," this article explores what that transformation could and should look like for Nepal. We examine the

munities disconnected from the celebration.

The big picture

Nepal's digital transformation journey, as outlined in the 16th Periodic Plan, is focused on modernizing governance, enhancing service delivery and integrating technology across key sectors. The government has prioritized faceless service delivery through tools like the Nagarik App, supporting Digital Nepal Framework 2.0, which seeks to expand digital infrastructure, broadband connectivity and cybersecurity measures. Education and healthcare systems are also undergoing digitization, with plans to implement digital learning platforms and an integrated health information system to improve accessibility.

Gender inclusivity is embedded in the transformation efforts, with targeted programs aimed at expanding digital literacy among women and marginalized communities. Policies emphasize increas-

Pratisha Joshi

that diminishes women's professional agency.

According to a Women in Information Technology (WIIT) study, women constitute only 7.88 percent of the workforce in Nepal's ICT companies, particularly in core technical roles, and an even lower 0.51 percent in ICT-enabled firms. These figures stand in stark contrast to 42 percent female tech representation in the Philippines, 34 percent in India and 22 percent in Indonesia, underscoring Nepal's lag in gender-inclusive digital employment. The UN Women's Gender Snapshot Report (2022) warns that this exclusion could cost Nepal Rs 15bn by 2025, reinforcing the economic urgency of closing the digital gender gap.

Women in Nepal's digital landscape face systemic barriers that limit their full participation in ICT. Deep-seated biases in hiring, restricted access to digital literacy programs and weak cybersecurity protections perpetuate gender disparities. Key challenges

We are happy to share an Op-Ed written by our Research and Program Officer at Governance Lab, Ms. Pratisha Joshi on **'Inclusive Digital Transformation: What Does it Look Like for Females?**' This piece marks the occasion of International Girls in ICT Day 2025, theme 'Girls in ICT in Inclusive Digital Transformation"

The core message of this writing is a powerful reminder that women who make up for more than half of Nepal's population should be active contributors, raising from just the passive beneficiaries, ensuring a better digital future. It also calls for early investment in girls' digital education, stronger cybersecurity laws to safeguard women's participation, and the creation of inclusive, harassment-free progressive workplaces, where women can thrive.

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