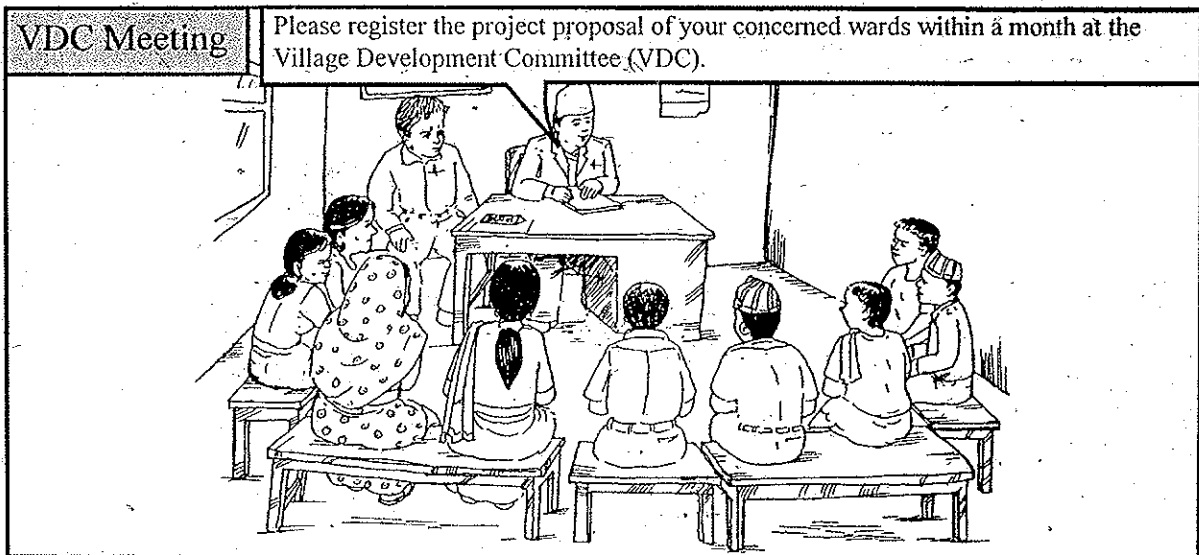
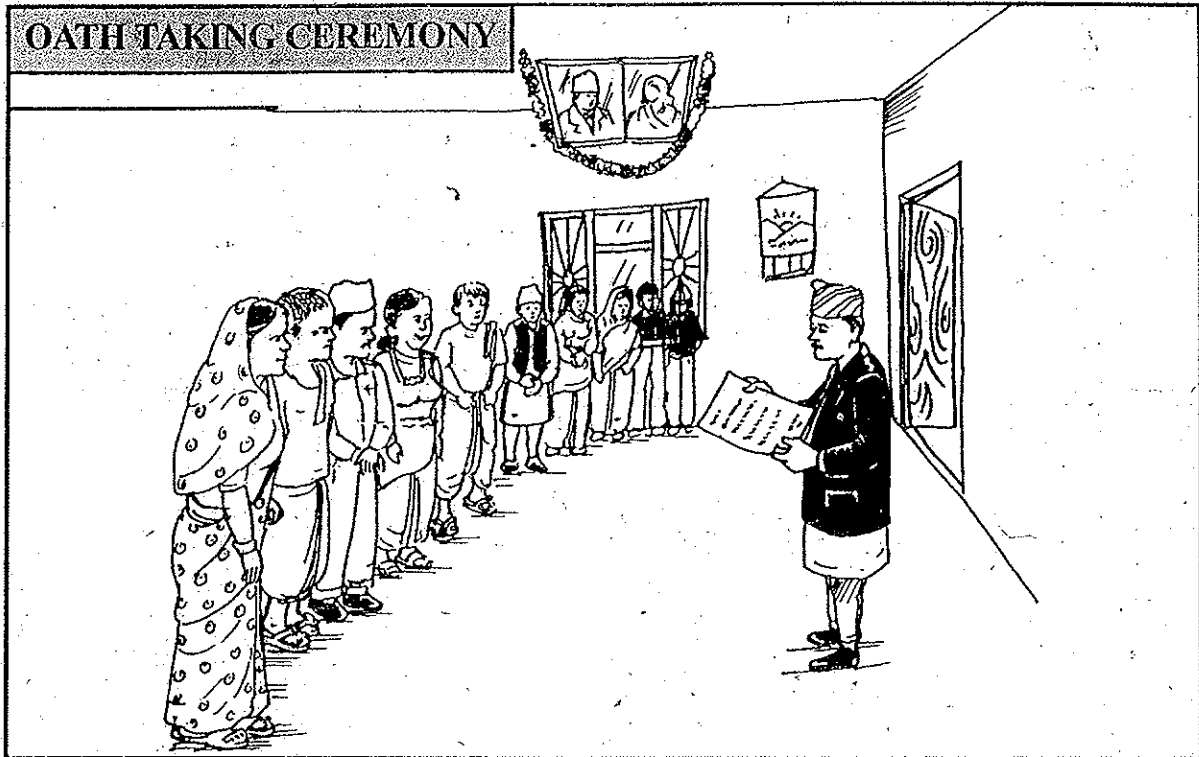
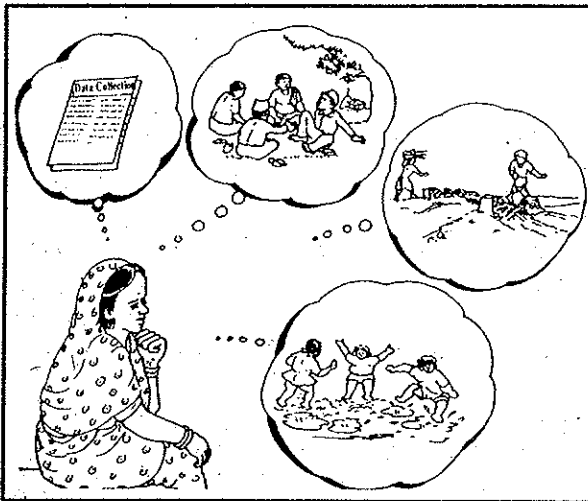


# PROJECT DEVELOPMENT AND MONITORING

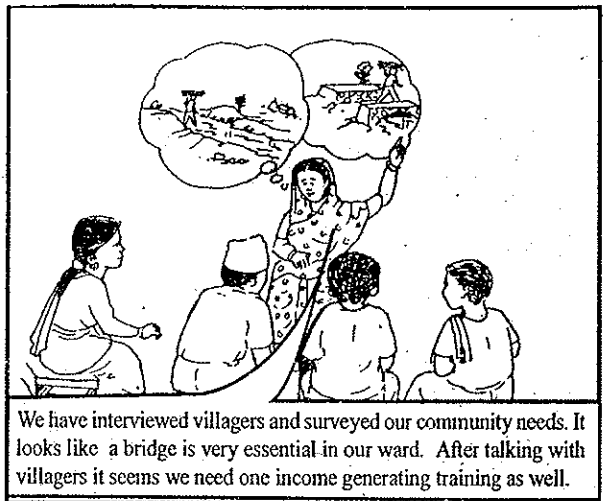


# Women Can Win!

## IDENTIFYING COMMUNITY NEEDS

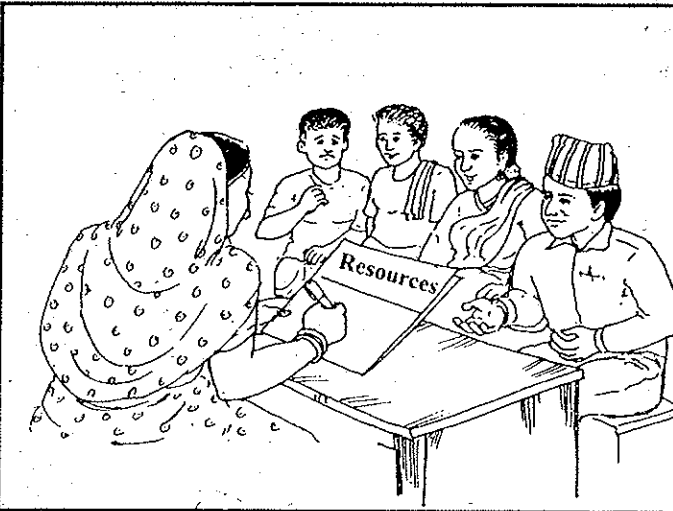


## WARD COMMITTEE MEETING



We have interviewed villagers and surveyed our community needs. It looks like a bridge is very essential in our ward. After talking with villagers it seems we need one income generating training as well.

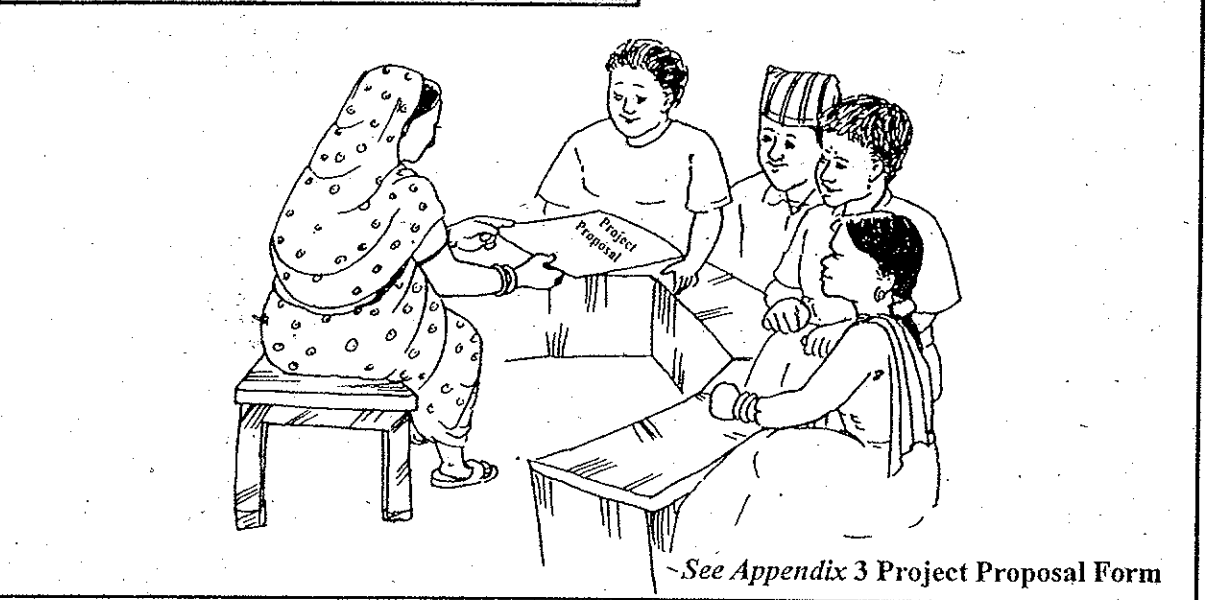
### Resources Available in our VDC



- VDC's internal resources
- Contribution amount received from DDC
- Annual grants received from His Majesty's Government
- Grant, donation or the amount of assistance received from other non-governmental organizations and persons.

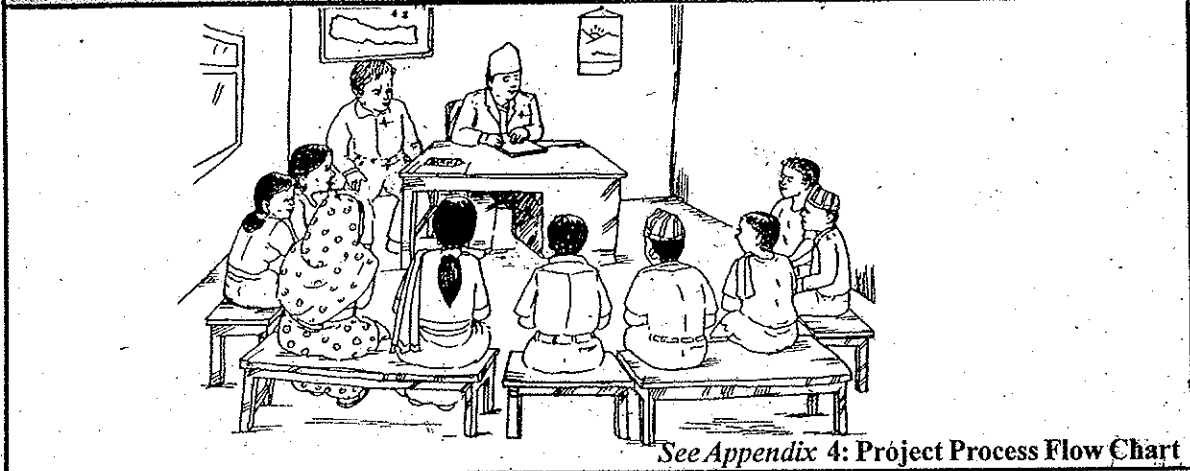
*See Appendix 2 VDC Resources*

## DRAFTING PROJECT PROPOSAL



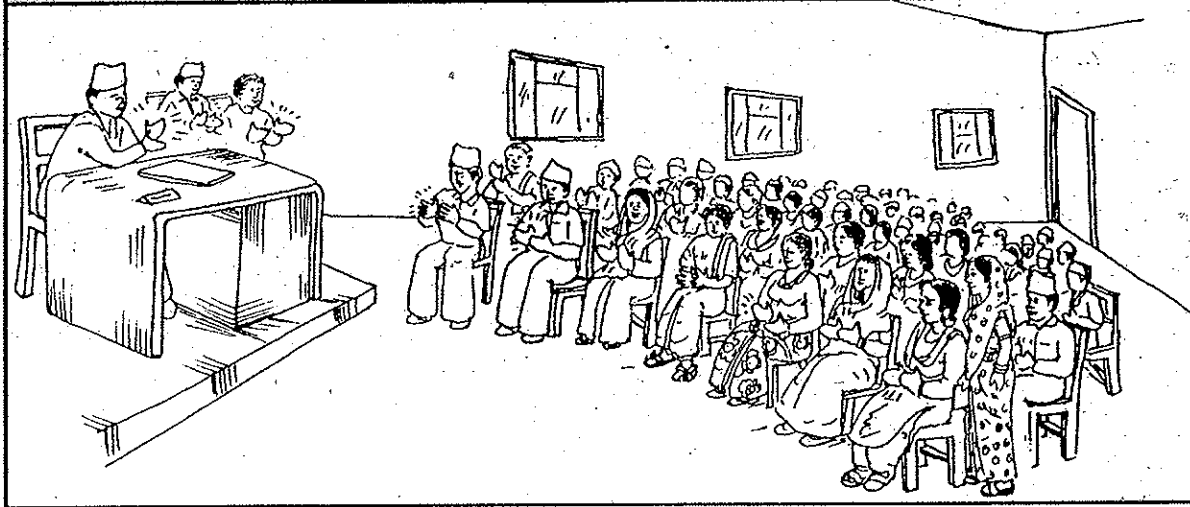
*-See Appendix 3 Project Proposal Form*

**SUBMITTING PROJECT PROPOSAL TO THE VDC**

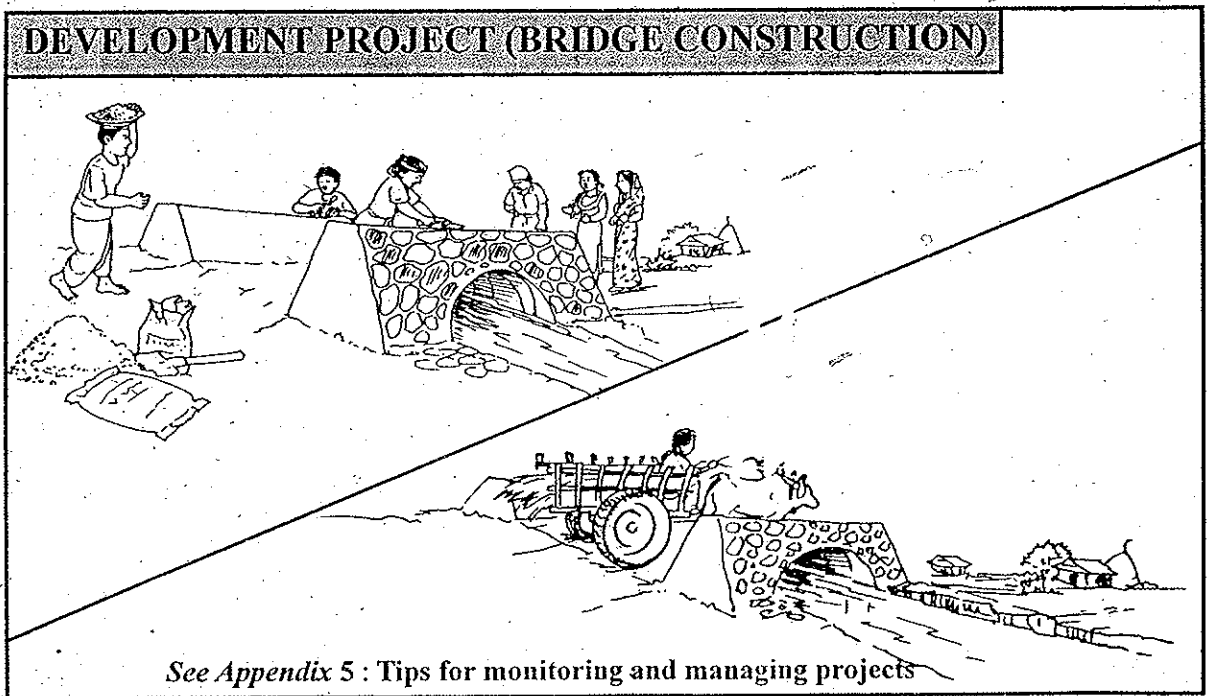
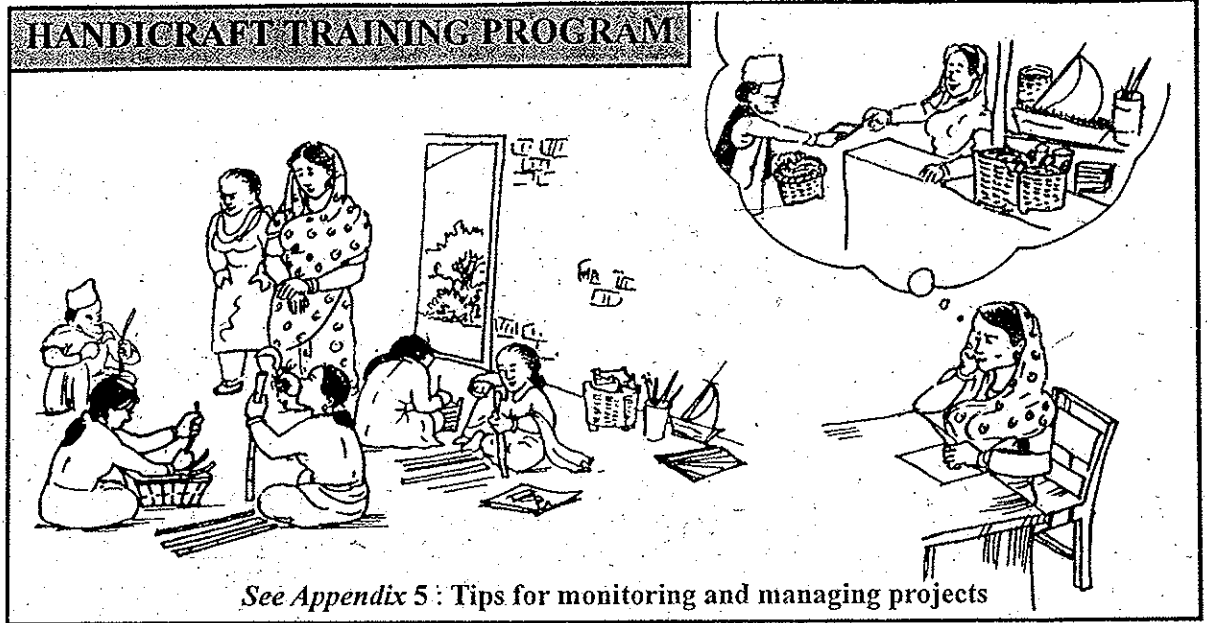


*See Appendix 4: Project Process Flow Chart*

**VDC COUNCIL MEETING TO PASS THE PROJECT PROPOSAL**



**PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION AND MONITORING**



**Mrs. Neelam Karna**

*"A reserved seat [for women] in all policy-making positions is must."*



**Why should women become involved in politics?**

In a multiparty democracy, a majority is important. In order to raise our voices against injustice there should be women's representation in all decision-making positions. Until there is a majority of women at every level, the women's voice will not be cared about.

**Why did you run as an independent candidate?**

I ran as an independent because I wanted to be my own person. I have my own opinions, and I wanted to be free to express myself. I believe that if a person is truly devoted to the people and the community, she can win as an independent candidate.

**Who helped the most in your work?**

During my campaign, my family and neighbors provided the most support.

|                             |   |
|-----------------------------|---|
| <b>Name</b>                 | : Mrs. Nilam Karna                                      |
| <b>Home</b>                 | : Rajbiraj Municipality - 9, Rajdevi Tole, Saptari      |
| <b>Age</b>                  | : 38  |
| <b>Marital status</b>       | : Married, two sons                                     |
| <b>Education</b>            | : Intermediate of Arts (I. A.)                          |
| <b>Political Experience</b> | : Since 1989  |
| <b>Office held</b>          | : 1997- present: Ward Member, Rajbiraj Municipality - 9 |
| <b>Party</b>                | : Independent   |

**How did you raise your campaign funds?**

As an independent candidate I had to spend my own money. I spent only 700 Rupees (\$10), mostly for pamphlets, tea and snacks.

**What is the secret of your success?**

I believe that the secret of my political success is my honesty, hard work, and impartiality. I was involved with a social organization from the beginning and through this work I gained the trust of the community. I was well known as

## **Women Can Win!**

---

a social worker in our village and I won the elections because of my community's will.

**What advice would you give a woman considering entering politics?**

Women should develop their decision-making capacity. Women should never fight each other. Rather women need to unite and fight for their rights. Women must overcome their party differences and raise their voices in a unified fashion.

**What is the most important skill for a successful woman candidate?**

Tolerance and patience are the most important skills for a successful woman candidate. A woman candidate must have the skills to articulately present her thoughts in front of the voters, then she can win the voters' trust.

**What is next for you in your political career? What other ambitions do you have?**

If I get a continued support from my voters, I would like to run for the Ward President position.

**These are NDI's specific questions – do you have any other comments?**

There should be reserved seats for women in decision-making positions. The ordinance, reserving seats for women at the ward level, really opened things up for many women. It made running for office a legitimate thing for a woman to do even in the Terai, a very conservative area. You have to understand that men and politics have been synonymous for years here. For a woman to enter politics is to enter the World of the Male. I would like to see more women in local government. In this way, maybe after 20 years, the majority of elected officials will be women.