

## **One Day Seminar on Social Democracy as a Mechanism to Foster Youth Cooperative Action in Politics**

**Organized by Center for Consolidation of Democracy (CCD), Jawalakhel, Lalitpur.**

3 December 2013, Bhaktapur

The Center for consolidation of Democracy (CCD) in collaboration with the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung Nepal (FES) held a one day seminar on Social Democracy as a Mechanism to Foster Youth Cooperative Action in Politics on 3<sup>rd</sup> December in Bhaktapur. Sher Bahadur, former Prime Minister, spoke during the inaugural session. Chandra Dev Bhatta from the Friedrich-Ebert Stiftung spoke during the inaugural session and emphasised the need of striking a right balance between political democracy and economic democracy.

### **Working Session:**

Advocate Ghimire highlighted then Prime minister B. P. Koirala led the Nepali Democratic movement of 1950 A.D. and the first general election of 1958. He said that "the 1950 revolution transformed the notion of 'people' to ' citizen'. In 1955 Nepali congress Party announced it as Socialist Party. In that period it made several policies in such issues:

- a) Eradication of "Birta' system in Nepal
- b) Transformation of private jungles to government jungle
- c) Land reform
- d) Land Ceiling

The above issues also relate that the Nepali congress is a socialist party and Most of the leaders of that party are youth. After 1990 NC adopted privatization policy, Congress has left its original agenda and it has become fragile, which was a great mistake.

He added that" we should make the definition of youth in context of Nepalese scenario. If we are going to 'directly' copy the International standard definition of Youth, we could not make justice to Nepali youths".

He also raised the question on different age limit between Voting age and the age of getting Citizenship certificate.

He has also criticized the controversial role played by the European Union on the issue of Language, Religion, Culture and ethnicity in constitution making process of Nepal. However, Advocate Ghimire Highlighted the following key issues in his paper:

- a) Democratic Socialism and Nepalese Context
- b) Participation of youth in politics and Legal provision
- c) Definition of Youth(International and National)
- d) International and National instruments
  - i) Universal Declaration on Human Rights(UDHR)
  - ii) International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights(ICCPR)
  - iii) Interim Constitution of Nepal 2063 B.S.
  - iv) Child Right Act 2048 B.S.
  - v) Labour Act 2048 B.S.
  - vi) Citizenship Act 2063 B.S.
  - vii) Constituent Assembly Member Election Act 2064
  - viii) Scout Act 2050
  - ix) Sports Development Act 2048

As a commenter Mr. Guru Ghimire, Youth Leader of Nepali Congress said that" Democratic socialism is a harmonies tool to foster peace in the society wherein Communist ideology is non democratic principal and Capitalism create conflict in society. It is also an ornament for the party but somewhere we have missed following it". In his view "Democratic Socialism" foster the rights of marginalize, poor, and illiterate as well the secure the right to property of rich peoples. He has also quoted Mahatma Gandhi on Democratic Socialism. Why Lenin, Polpot and Jangabhadur Rana were not people's leader. A leader's life style should be as normal as a marginalized people of that country; it should not be a vast difference. The key factor of conflict are poverty, ethnicity, education, difference between have –have not and rural and urban in Nepal.

**Floor Open by Chairperson** Pro. Dr. Bishnu Sankar Paudel

**Mr. Gopal Uprety** raised the question on the history of old age allowance distribution system. **Mr. Yubaraj Pandey (Student leader)** said that Equity is more important than Freedom and Equality, Parties have failed to raise the issue of Rural Equality program, women empowerment program, Ganeshman peace program. He also reminded that the NC has first established "The Ministry of Youth and Sports" in Nepal. The lacking point in the leadership level is "the political ethics" and we are making this country a "political laboratory". Most participants questioned on 'where the model social democracy lies? And really appreciate the socialist policy. "We should incorporate it in our part programs said **"Saru Baniya"** she further highlighted on 'women development program' after the democratic movement. **Risha Shrestha** student leader challenge the issue of communication gap between youth leaders and party politician. In my experiences what I found is we socialist are weak in communicating skills said **Shiva K Yadav** and he further added that 'What is the perfect indicators of 'Youth"? **Shova Bhandari** raised the issue of marginalization of 'youth issue' in party politics in each and every sphere. We should bring senior party leaders and do a seminar like this. We can also create a shadow parliament of youth which would provide ideas for the real parliament said **Sudhir Adhikari**. **Narendra Khtiwada** said that B. P. Koirala has highlighted on the "social democracy". He mainly focuses on Political equality and Economic equality but now the leaders of Nepali Congress is hauling double standard role. **Response by Gopal Krishna Ghimire** We are planning to organize this kind of seminar in all over the Nepal. As far as we know Social subject can't be changed overnight and we should not expect them. I really appreciate the idea of youth parliament in Nepal. At last I have to say that law itself doesn't work it is also guided by morality.

#### **Next Paper by Prof. Dr. Yagya Raj Adhikari**

Prof. Adhikari presented paper on 'Social Democracy, Party Politics and Youth Involvement in Nepal'. In his paper he has highlighted the issues of current CA election manifesto of political parties in which the issue of 'youth' is there but, will they really implement it or not? All parties manifesto are not serious in level of implementation.

In recent decades those who are roaming around the senior politicians are benefited from the parties so the creative youths are left behind. Political parties have failed on attracting

youth on ideologically and have also failed to "train" them in properly. These issues can be appropriately addressed by political parties; make criteria for the new leader and providing political security for the youths.

Moreover, the key highlights of the paper are as follows;

- i) Socialism and Nepalese context
- ii) Socialism and Communism: Youth mobilization
- iii) Party perspective on Youth force
- iv) Role of state on development of Youth leadership
- v) Youth force and Social security
- vi) Current trends of youths
- vii) The second CA election and youths
- viii) Involvement of youth in politics

#### **Muma Ram Khanal Expert (Commentator)**

The paper is contextual and it gives a contemporary scenario of Nepali politics in line with democratic socialism. In Nepali Intellectual Debate these type of discussion are held very rarely. It has given a broad range of knowledge on current politics and its roadmap.

However, parties have same types of policies and structures towards youths in Nepal. Party should be member centric but in Nepal it became leader centric. It is necessary to build party organization vibrant and democratic. We are not able to bring genuine youths in party politics.

#### **Floor Open by Chairperson Nabaraj Gurung**

**Yubaraj Pandey** How can we differentiate between "Democratic Socialism" and "Communist Socialism" in global context? **Chiranjivi Bhandari, Nepal Student Union, District Chair, Syangjha** What is the proper definition of youth and age? What are the attractive and non-attractive points of Nepali Politics? How we can mobilize youth in proper way, what are the basis criteria or models in socialist way? **Puspa Raj Parajuli, Ex- Sectereary, Tarun Dal** In this program I am benefited by various theoretical and current issues. But could you please

explain the practical aspect or strategy of youth in politics in future. How we can mainstream them in maximum number. **Pramod Rimal, Nuwakot** In the age of 21<sup>st</sup> Century, Are we only discussing on "ism" or we should focus on production capacity and improve the lifestyle of disadvantage section of people. **Saru Baniya** It is necessary to define the basic characteristic of "Democratic socialism". **Response By Prof. Dr. Yagya P. Adhikari** To become a real socialist one should change lifestyle and their thinking pattern. The proper definition of youth differs from on individuals to individuals.

### **Concluding Remarks by Chairperson**

Today I feel very proud and glorious for this opportunity provided by the organizers. Even though I have lost the current CA election by very few margins but as I found today within you that means; I have won the real election. I would like to thank the Paper presenters and Commentators for their hard work and also thanks to all of participants who make the session vibrant and gave life to this program.

At last I would like to make my point that" we need an expert who knows our Mountain, Hills and Terai but not only educated from Harvard (ha-ad, ba-ad) and Oxford.