

National Media Development Center (NMDC)

Empowerment of Public Health Reporting in Nepal Year Dec. 2007- Aug. 2010

National Media Development Center (NMDC) an NGO has been established to help build the capacities of the media located in the various districts of Nepal. NMDC is fully dedicated for the establishment and promotion of a free media as the foundation of democracy and pluralism. Since its establishment in February 2007, it has focused its activities for Nepal's Rural Media Empowerment activities. Its major activities are BASIC, CIVIC and HEALTH JOURNALISM TRAINING and policy level dialogues on several issues. In this section brief information on Health related activities is provided.

1. Health Journalism Trainings

PROMOTION OF HEALTH JOURNALISM IN NEPAL FOR FIRST TIME and CAPACITY BUILDING OF PROVINCIAL JOURNALISTS are focused activities of the Center. It has focused all its Health Journalism training targeting to empower local journalists. Our principle resource persons are the Senior Media Trainers Shreeram Singh Basnet and Laxman Adhikari and Reproductive Health experts. Training has enabled the local reporters in identifying and picking-up local public health issues. Local journalists are gradually becoming professional public health reporter. Since December 2007, it has provided Public Health (PH) reporting skill to **308 -Aug 2010, (139 women) across the country.**

Major Health activities NMDC are:

- Health Journalism Training focused on Reproductive Health
- Advanced Health Journalism Training
- Bi-monthly Health Journalism Feature Bulletin
- Health Journalism Fellowship Award
- Monitoring

NMDC's Curriculum on Health Journalism

- a) Health Journalism Training Focused on Reproductive Health (5-day),
- b) Advanced Health Journalism Training (5-day), and
- c) Health Journalism Training focused on Safe Abortion (3-day)
- d) Gender Health, Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights (2- day)

Health Journalism Training at a Glance in 2007/2010

Sub-total Year	Number Particip	Male	Female	District
Sub-total 2008	123	69	54	
Sub-Total 2009	88	41	47	
Sub-Total 2010	97	59	38	
Grand Total	308	169	139	

Note: For detail visit: Total Number of Trainee Journalist in HJT Aug in the same web page

Impact of Health Journalism Training

Since *December 2007*, NMDC has provided health journalism training in reproductive health to journalists working primarily in rural districts. By *Aug 2010*, it trained 308 , 139 women, journalists across the country and, through telephone surveys, site visits, other discussion, and media publication monitoring, is assessing the effects of this training on the quantity and quality of coverage given to reproductive health topics.

Emerging data affirm:

- a) Health news coverage in local media is increased, with additional time and space provided for health (national media occasionally pick up on local stories)
- b) Journalists become more attentive to local health issues
- c) Quality of news improves – (stories are fact-based, with improved verification; journalists are visiting clinics, hospitals, clients/patients as part of their research before filing or broadcasting).
- d) Health authorities are responding to news accounts with appropriate follow-up action
- e) Demand for additional training is increases

Health Journalism Training 2010:

1. Health Journalism Training focused on Reproductive Health, Damauli Tanahu (28 Jan-01 February 2010)

NMDC organized a 5-day Health Journalism training focused on Reproductive Health at Damauli, Tanahu, West Development Region from 28 Jan to 01 February 2010. This is the second regional level training of second phase. There were 21 journalists from 8 districts including 9 women. Among the participants- 10 were from print, 9 from radio and 2 from Television. Regarding health reporting experience, 5 had never written news on Public Health (PH), 5 had written sometime and 11 had written once/twice in a month.



The participants representing were from Gorkha, Tanahu, Kaski, Parbat, Shyangja, Baglung, Palpa, and Arghakhanchi districts.

The journalists who participated last year in NMDC's Health Journalism Training (HJT) are actively involved in local and national media. Therefore, public health (PH) news coverage in the region is increasing. As the new media registration is increasing, and journalists are entering in journalism

profession, such types of trainings are found quite useful both for journalists and local people.

The key objective of HJT is to enhance reporting capacity of district journalists on Public Health. Such trainings have enabled local working journalists to identify health issues and publish and broadcast them through local media.

NMDC has given priority on quality production through quality trainings. During training journalists had to be involved in several exercises, field visits and news writing. There were two field reporting exercise and several class assignments during the training session. NMDC's key trainers Shreeram Singh Basnet and Laxman Adhikari facilitated all sessions. Two local experts working in local hospital and District Public Health office were also invited to share their expertise. Dr. Ajaya Dhakal highlighted on Common Diseases and Chandra Mani Adhikary presented on Health system and health policy in Nepal. After health journalism award information and training evaluation, trainees shared the experience of the training. They said that the training was fruitful and beneficial than their expectation. They committed to continue reporting on PH and RH. At the closing session, Trainer and FNJ President jointly distributed certificates. A brief inaugural session was also organized in first day with the participation of government officials, publishers and journalists. FNJ President Mr. Pradeep Kafle had chaired the session.



2. Health Journalism Training focused on Reproductive Health, Itahari, Sunsari (1-5 April 2010)

Eastern region of Nepal is rather developed in terms of literacy, transportation, communication, industries and politics than western part of Nepal. It is forward in media sector too. NMDC organized its third regional level 5-day Health Journalism training focused on RH at Itahari, Sunsari, East Development Region from 1-5 April 2010. There were 19 journalists from 7 districts including 7 women journalists. The participants representing were from Pachthar, Illam, Jhapa, Morang, Sunsari, Siraha and Saptari.

HJT at Itahari 1-5 April 2010

The trend of reporting is similar to other news is found less in comparison to had requested to all Presidents of FNJ journalists in the training. They had and senior journalists involved in print, participants- 12 were from print, 4 from the participants were involved in health stations. All were found quite interested training.



regions. However, coverage of health other regions. In this training, NMDC district branches to send senior accepted request and had sent active radio and television. Among the radio and 3 from Television. Some of program production in FM radio to learn new ideas and skill from the

The five day training aimed to enhance the reporting capacity of the journalists on public health reporting. NMDC's such trainings have enabled local working journalists to identify health issues and report them being responsible.

The journalists had involved in several exercises, field visits and news writing. All journalists participated in class room exercise, opinion writing assignment. NMDC's key trainers Shreeram Singh Basnet and Laxman Adhikari facilitated all sessions of the five day training. Two local experts working in local hospital and District Public Health office were also invited as local experts and asked to share their experiences. Dr. S. Basnet, Medical Officer of local hospital facilitated on on Common Diseases and Nav Raj Subba MPH, Chief of District Public Health office presented on Health system and health policy in Nepal.



A brief inaugural session was also organized. In the session, FNJ Eastern region chief was as chief guest. Senior journalists of Itahari and representatives of media organizations had also participated in the session. NMDC President highlighted on the objective of the training, trainers informed about the content and methodology of the training. Guests speakers had wished for success of training.

Photo: Class room presentation HJT at Itahari 1-5 April, 2010

In five day training, apart from field reporting, class exercise and theoretical classes- training evaluation, experience from trainees, certificate distribution were also organized at closing session. According to Ganesh Khatri a trainee- "***This training is standard. Journalists should also be sincere. Such standard training is also necessary in other areas. This will help in developing quality of the journalists***". President of NMDC Bishnu P Sharm , trainer Laxman Adhikari highlighted on the objective and different aspects of the training. Rajesh Bidhrohi, FNJ President of Sunsari branch Chaired the session. NMDC in coordination with FNJ Sunsari branch. NMDC working for the empowerment of rural media is organizing health journalism training since last 3 years with OSI support.

3. Health Journalism Training focused on Reproductive Health, Gularia, Bardia (22-26 May 2010)

NMDC pioneer for the promotion of Health Journalism in Nepal had organized fourth regional level 5-day RH focused Health Journalism training of second phase at Gulariya, Bardiya on 22-26 May 2010. There were 21 journalists from 6 districts including 8 women. Among the participants, there were also from *Tharus*- indigenous community and janajatis. The participants representing were from Rolpa, Jajarkot, Dailekh, Dang, Banke and Bardiya districts.

Mid-west development region is the most backward region in terms of education, transportation, health and communication in Nepal. Media development has just begun in the hill districts. Still more lot of work has to be done in Karnali zone. Major towns of the region such as Nepalgunj and Surkhet are bigger as well as active in media activities too. Health situation especially the health of women and children living in hill districts is very poor.

Karnali zone is one of the remotest and undeveloped zone of Nepal that lie in this region. NMDC had invited journalists from this zone, however, they could not attend as all inhabitants had been to hill side to collect - Yarsagomba-a medicinal herbs in the mountains. Among the participants- 6 were from print, 9 from radio and 6 from Television. Some of the participants were involved in health program production in FM radio stations.

The five day training aimed to enhance the reporting capacity of the journalists on public health reporting focused on RH. NMDC's such trainings have enabled local working journalists to identify public health issues and made them able to publish/broadcast them from local newspapers and FM radio stations.

All journalists participated in class room exercise, field visits and news reporting and opinion writing assignment. This field reporting assignment provided them skill to collect and prepare public health as well as reproductive health news. Another benefit of the field reporting is that their errors are immediately corrected by trainers. NMDC's key trainers Shreeram Singh Basnet and Laxman Adhikari facilitated all sessions of the five day training. Sunil Pandey, Public Health Officer of district public health office had facilitated on 'Common Diseases and Health system and policy in Nepal'.

A brief inaugural session was also organized. In the session, NMDC President briefly informed the participants on the theme of the 5-day training. He also informed about the NMDC's rural district focused activities. *Photo: Class room exercise HJT at Gulariya 22-26 May, 2010*



In five day training, apart from field reporting, class exercise and theoretical classes, training evaluation, experience from trainees, certificate distribution were also organized at closing session. NMDC in coordination with FNJ Bardiya branch had organized this training.

NMDC working for the empowerment of rural media is organizing health journalism training since last 3 years with OSI, US Embassy and partial support from Ipas Nepal. To date, it has provided training to 271 working journalists of Nepal.

4. Health Journalism Training focused on Reproductive Health, Charikot, Dolakha: 24-28 July 2010, (08-12 Saun 2067)

NMDC encouraged to the journalists of Terai districts for their participation in the five day Health Journalism Training (HJT). This, the last and fifth HJT of second phase supported by OSI was held at Charikot, Dolakha- a hill district of Nepal from 24 - 28 July 2010.

NMDC had invited participants from those districts from where journalists had not participated at NMDC's HJT before. According to FNJ President of Dolakha, though the country's capital lies in mid-development region, the situation of media in many districts of the region, for example Rasuwa, Ramechhap, Sindhuli, Rautahat, Bara, and Dhading are at primary level. Therefore, Basic, Advanced or Theme based- Health journalism trainings are essential in these districts. Training will be beneficial to sincere journalists, he said at an inaugural program. The participants of this training were from Bara, Parsa, Rautahat, Sindhuli, Makwanpur, Chitwan and Dolakha.

The five day training aimed to enhance the reporting capacity of the mid-career journalists on public health focused on RH. NMDC's such trainings have enabled local journalists to identify public health issues, prepare feature and news stories and disseminate them through different media outlets. Remarkable changes in health coverage have been found from the monitoring.



photo: women participants

The course covered on the concept of the health journalism and different nine components of the reproductive health including RH rights, and reporting tools. All journalists participated in class room exercise, field visits and news reporting and opinion writing assignments. This field reporting assignment has been proved the best assignment of the training. Because, it provided them skill in collecting and preparing public health as well as reproductive health news. On the other hand, this assignment is like an examination, self-evaluation and confident development tool for news collection and writing. Another benefit of the field reporting is that their errors are immediately corrected by trainers. photo: news writing presentation



There were 20 journalists from 7 districts including 6 women. Among the participants, there was also from **Jirel**- the indigenous community of Jiri area including *Janajatis*. Among the participants- 11 were from print, 8 from radio and 1 from Television. Shreeram Singh Basnet and Laxman Adhikari facilitated all sessions of the five day training. Dinesh Shivakoti and Shreekrishna Prajapati Public Health Officer of district public health office had facilitated

photo: class exercise



on 'Common Diseases and Health system and policy in Nepal'.

In five day training, apart from field reporting, class exercise and theoretical classes, training evaluation, experience from trainees, certificate distribution were also organized at closing session." This training made me able to collect and prepare public health report, I'll regularly prepare radio program on different issues of public health", participant Ishowri Adhikari, from Chitwan said during closing session.

NMDC in coordination with FNJ Dolakha branch had organized this training. A brief inaugural session was also organized with the participation of FNJ district President, local journalists, media entrepreneurs and health representatives. In the session, NMDC President briefly informed the participants on the theme of the 5-day training. He also informed about the NMDC's programs focused to rural districts.

NMDC working for the empowerment of rural media is organizing health journalism training since last 3 years with OSI, US Embassy and partial support from Ipas Nepal. To date, it has provided training to 291 working journalists of Nepal. NMDC is pioneer organization in providing Health Journalism Training in the country.

photo: Charikot Bazar



5. Workshop on Gender Health, Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights, Kathmandu 5-6-August 2010, (20-21 Saun 2067)

National Media Development Center (NMDC), in coordination with Family Health Division/Ipas Nepal, Ministry of Health and Population, organized a two-half day media workshop on "**Gender Health, Sexual & Reproductive Health Rights**" on 5-6 August, 2010 at Kathmandu, Nepal.

The issues on gender health, SRHR and abortion services are less covered in Nepali media. In-depth articles and feature stories appear only sometime. Though, there are news on safe abortion and RH, they are not fully informative, rather sometime create confusion to the people. The reasons behind this are- lack of access to

information to journalists, less effort from journalists to get information, no mechanism to provide up-dated information from service providers to media, no theme based interaction with journalists, and news expectation by service providers from press releases. This workshop, therefore was designed to address on the key issues and empower media people by providing them sufficient reference material, information and techniques for reporting on gender health, SRHR and abortion.



The main objective of the workshop was to involve the senior health reporters of mainstream media to make them confident and capable in in-depth reporting on Gender Health, Sexual & Reproductive Health Rights (SRHR) by providing detailed information, study findings and reporting tools. With the involvement SRHR experts and journalists trainers, it aimed to discuss and clarify on gender health, SRHR, achievement and social dimensions, and challenges on safe abortion program, different aspects of medical abortion, regulations and media reporting trends. Other key

objective of the workshop was to develop cordial relations between the journalists and service providers by ending the gap between the journalists and service providers, and ultimately providing accurate information to the people through media outlets.

Enough reference materials, friendly presentations of the experts including cases and study data have encouraged the journalists to think about bringing in-depth and follow-up stories. Similarly, this program has become victorious to make the service provider responsive on realizing the problems of the journalists and requirement of further programs to empower them. The two-half-day program, concluded successfully with the active participation of the senior health reporters and research based experts. The workshop was followed both Journalists actively participated in all wherever they felt necessary. The live journalists on the given issue made the questions and by providing detailed program has become successful to make gender, SRHR and abortion reporting.



presentations of the SRHR and media with presentation and discussion.

presentation demanding clarifications discussion between experts, Ipas staff and workshop effective at clarifying on the information on the given topics. This the journalist realize the importance of

All presentations were focused on gender health, health rights, safe abortion, news reporting trends, and importance and value of accurate and credible information. Technical difficulties of reporters and service providers were also discussed and several recommendations for further improvement from both sides were drawn.

The workshop was concluded providing some key recommendations. Major recommendations were as follows. Such workshop should be organized outside the capital, interaction with journalists should be organized on regular basis, there should be easy access to information for journalist, and establish a provision of fellowship to outstanding GH and SRHR reporters. The assurance of the Ipas/Nepal official regarding immediate implementation of some of the suggestions has further inspired the journalists.



Target participants of the workshop were health reporters of mainstream media-TV, radio and broadsheet dailies. *There were 17 health reporters representing from –TV, radio and broadsheet dailies. There were 7 women journalists. According to media representation there were 11 from print, 3 from radio and 3 from television media. Including this workshop, NMDC has provided training/orientation to 308 mid-career journalists including 139 women journalists.*

In total there were seven presentations from reputed health and media experts. Dr. Indira Basnett, Dr. Aruna Uprety, Dr. Anjana Karki, Shreeram Singh Basnet, Laxman Adhikari, and Anand Tamang were key experts.

NMDC President Bishnu Prasad Sharma had welcomed the participants highlighting on the theme and objective of the two-day workshop. Anuja Singh, IEC Coordinator of Ipas Nepal assuring for the implementation of the recommendation had thanked the participants and experts.

Health Journalism Training 2009:

1. Health Journalism Training Focused on Reproductive Health (RH) Tikapur-Kailali Far-West Nepal, 21-25 November 2009

NMDC is implementing Second Phase Health Journalism Training focused on Reproductive Health supported by OSI. In second phase, we plan to provide trainings to 120 working journalists across the country. NMDC organized a 5-day RH focused Health Journalism training to the mid-career journalists working in Far-west Nepal from 21-25 November 2009. There were 24 journalists including 6 women representing from 7 districts of Far-west region. Participants were from Baitadi, Bajhang, Bajura, Darchula Dadeldhura, Kanchanpur and Kailali. Through second phase training, we have covered all 9 districts of Far-west region. PH news coverage in



photo: 1: HJT, Presentation in Tikapur, Nov.2009

local media is increasing after training. Sexually Transmitted diseases, uterus prolapse, unsafe abortion-bleeding and death, maternal death, early child death and TB are major diseases of the region. In all theoretical and practical sessions, journalists participated enthusiastically.

Many of them were senior journalists working as district correspondence of National Dailies, FM Radio and TV Channels. "This training hit on the piled and uncovered public health issues. I will give priority in this sector" Arjun Shah, FNJ President, Bajura district, reporter of Kantipur national daily and training participant said. Within 5 training days he published two articles- which were serious local health issues - that daily had written an editorial related with that story. It was a story about a woman living in remote village who had given birth of 6 children before, unfortunately none of them were alive due to lack of proper and timely treatment facilities.

There were two field visits and several news writing and class exercises, and presentations. As they were working journalists, we had noticed remarkable changes on news quality and its presentations among the participants even during trainings. Two field reporting were on general health and RH.

Several news-stories that presented during training sessions were also published in local dailies and aired from local FM radio stations. The first news writing practical class was on public health and the second one was limited to Reproductive Health. For reporting, group had selected -'Medical Abortion', 'Complications on Abortion', 'Sexual Diseases', 'Situation of Maternal Mortality', 'Unsafe Abortion among the Landless Community', and many other issues on public health including 'Hospital Facilities'.

Such trainings have enabled and encouraged journalists in finding local people's health issues and bringing them to public through local media. Health Journalism trainings have been found very influential as the health issue coverage in local media have increased by many folds. The outcomes are measurable.

The training was organized in coordination with Federation of Nepali Journalists (FNJ) Kailali Branch. Local government and hospital officials, University teachers and local publishers were present during inaugural program.

2. Advanced Health Journalism Training (10-14 Sept 2009), Beshisahar, Lamjung: NMDC organized a five day ADVANCED HEALTH JOURNALISM TRAINING to 17 mid-career journalists of Nepal. The participants representing from five development regions were outstanding journalists selected from Health Journalism Training conducted from December 2007 to December 2008. There were 10 female and 7 male working journalists in the training. This training aimed at providing skill on health reporting covering both communicable and non-communicable diseases. Trainees learned skill on investigative reporting, feature writing, editorial writing and interview skill together with the HIV/AIDS reporting. Impact of the health news, importance of investigative and verified health news and health reporting guidelines were some of the agendas discussed at the training. Participants had practical assignment including interview and news writing and presentation. All the journalists expressed their happiness and expressed their commitment that they will fully involve in public health reporting. The training was more

special and focused on professional and in-depth public health reporting. All the journalists are actively working in different media.

3. Avian Influenza Reporting: An International Experience (05 May, 2009):

NMDC in coordination with Public Affairs Section, U.S. Embassy organized a one-day national level workshop on: '*Avian Influenza (AI) Reporting*' sharing some international experience. Senior media and public health expert Daniel (Dan) Rutz, CDC, USA delivered a high level presentation. The key objective of the workshop was to inform the participant journalists and Nepal government's officials about Avian Influenza, infectious diseases including H1N1, its impact on public health and its communication importance. The workshop provided important reporting tools to the journalists, elements of effective mechanism of government to provide information to the media persons during crisis. This workshop benefited both the government officials, policy makers and reporters. There were 24 mid-career journalists including 7 women. Among them 4 journalists were from Jhapa, Sunsari, Parsa and Chitwan.

4. Orientation on Water, Sanitation and Health (27-28 March, 2009)

Except few reporters of broadsheet dailies and major TV Channels, journalists have to report in all sectors. Therefore, workshops focusing on specific topics are fruitful to working journalists. NMDC organized 2-day workshop focusing on: '*Water, Sanitation and Health Reporting*' to the journalists of Center Development Region on 27- 28, 2009 in Kathmandu. This Orientation program aimed to broaden the skills of Journalists while reporting the issues of Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH). The discussion attempted to facilitate mid-career journalists at identifying issues while reporting on WASH. There were 23 journalists with the representation of women, ethnic minorities including that of Terai and hill region from 17 districts. WaterAid Nepal supported the program.

Health Journalism Training 2008:

1. Health Journalism Training focused on Safe Abortion : Nepalgunj 23-25 December 2008

NMDC organized a 3-day Health Journalism Training on Safe abortion to the mid-career journalists of Mid-west Nepal on 23-25 December 2008. In the training there were 26 Journalists from 10 districts representing from Rolpa, Rukum, Salyan, Dailekh, Surkhet, Dang, Pyuthan, Bardia, Tikapur –Kailali, and Banke. In the training there were 16 Female and 10 Male active-working Journalists. Regarding media representation, there were 13 from print, 11 from Radio and 2 from TV. The main purpose of the training was to provide knowledge to the journalists on -safe abortion services, legal provisions, consequences of unsafe abortion and enhance the capacity of journalists on safe abortion reporting. Family Health Division/Ipas supported the program.

2. Health Journalism Training (HJT) Focused on RH, Banepa, 11-15 September 2008



photo 3 : HJT Kavre, 2008: Class Exercise

NMDC organized its fifth Health Journalism Training focused on Reproductive Health at Banepa, Kavre Mid-Nepal. In the training 20 mid-career journalists including 7 girls participated from 5 different districts (Rasuwa (Remotest Himalayan District), Nuwakot, Kathmandu, Kavre and Sindhupalchowk). Selected health issues during practical classes were also published in local weeklies and dailies. National dailies also published such stories. Participants have promised to bring such health issues on regular basis. FNJ President inaugurated the 5 day training while Chief Health Officer of District Health Office Kavre distributed

certificates to the participants at the closing session. "Since after NMDC's Health focused training have been organized in the region- RH focused, value based, local-women's health-based such as prolepses have been carried responsibly in local as well as national media. NMDC President Chaired both inaugural and closing session. The program was organized from 11-15 September 2008. It was the last program of first Health Journalism training project supported by OSI Media Network Program.

3. Health Journalism Training (HJT) Focused on Reproductive Health (RH), Jhapa, 19-23 July 2008

The fourth HJT focused on RH was successfully organized at Jhapa, east Nepal from 19-23 July 2008. In the training 18 mid-career journalists from 5 different districts- Illam, Jhapa, Morang, Sunsari and Saptari participated. There were 7 female and 11 male journalists representing 13 from print and 5 from FM radio stations. The 5-day health journalism training was inaugurated by the Central Committee Member of Federation of Nepali Journalists. Health officials, political leaders and local senior journalists and editors expressed their view on the importance of the training at the inaugural session. NMDC President highlighted the objective of the program and FNJ President chaired the session. FNJ Jhapa branch coordinated the training program and it was supported by OSI. At the closing session, FNJ Jhapa branch declared to provide a Health Journalism Reporting Fellowship to the local journalists, it was a direct and immediate impact of the training. NMDC

President informed the journalists about the Bulletin publication, fellowship and monitoring as follow-up activities of the training.

4. Health Journalism Training (HJT) Focused on Reproductive Health (RH), Baglung, West Nepal



photo 4: HJT at Baglung: 2008

NMDC organized 5 day residential HJT focused on RH in Baglung, West Nepal from 12-16 May, 2008. The inaugural program was organized by Constituent Assembly Member Hon. Mr. Pari Thapa and was chaired by FNJ President Baglung branch.

In the training, there were 20 mid-career journalists from 7 different districts having 8 female and 12 male participants. The representation was from print, FM radio and TV. Even during the training period, the news coverage on public health issue was found including editorial in Abortion.

5. Health Journalism Training, Surkhet, Mid West Nepal:

Similarly, it organized another 5-day Health on Reproductive Health on 09-13 February Nepal. There were 12 female 11 male mid-different districts. This training made the health issues on reproductive health. commitment, the coverage on reproductive in FM Radio and print media will be people specially women aware on safe HIV/AIDS.



photo 5: HJT at Surkhet: 2008

Journalism Training Focused 2008 in Surkhet Mid-west career journalists from 6 journalists able to identify According to participant's health issues increased making the rural motherhood, abortion, STD,

Health Journalism Training 2008:

1. Health Journalism Training , Mahendranagar Far West Nepal:

NMDC organized a 5- day residential training on *Health Journalism focused on Reproductive health* to the journalists of Far West region in Mahendranagar from 9 to 13 December 2007. This is the first out of the five



photo 6: Certificate distribution at HJT Mahendranagar 2007

planned trainings on Health Journalism focused on reproductive health. In this training, 16 working journalists from 6 districts (Mahendranagar-10, Bajhang-1, Dadeldhura-2, Achham-1, Kailali-1, and Doti-1) actively participated. There were 5 women journalists and 1 Dalit out of 16 participants representing 6 from radio, 1 from TV and 9 from print media.

1.1 Health Journalism Feature Bulletin Publication:

NMDC is publishing bi-monthly Health Journalism Feature Bulletin since last May 2008 year. The main objective of this bulletin publication is to encourage and inspire health journalism trainee journalists and other journalists working in the district to bring public health news in media. It prioritizes on the PH feature articles prepared by the trainee journalists. The articles can be reproduced in any media providing credits.

1.2 Health Journalism Fellowship Award:

In the year 2008-2010 August , it provided fellowship 44 outstanding journalists selected from RH and safe abortion trainings.