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Awareness of People on Functions of Local Government in Nepal

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Abstract

The article aims to investigate local people's awareness level of the functions of local government in Nepal and identifies the primary factor contributing to raising awareness. The author analyzed 2020 social inclusion survey data using SPSS software, performing a Chi-square test and logistic regression. Results show a high association between gender and awareness level, and development plans are the most significant contributor to increasing awareness levels. Researcher has found that the overall awareness level of people in Nepal is moderate. The author only investigates awareness level and contributing factors of awareness in this article.

Keywords: local government, awareness level, gender and participatory approach.

1. Introduction

Nepal is a democratic, federal country. It has managed revenue, taxes, senior citizens, event records, disabled people, and ageing people by formulating new acts, policies, plans, and strategies and amending old ones. The management system was not systematic before 1990 because there was no democratic system. After the restoration of democracy, the Nepal government established the decentralization system in Nepal. The Local Self-Governance Rules of 1999 and the Local Self-Governance Regulation Act of 1999, brought by the Nepal government, was a milestone in the political history of Nepal. As a result, they gave high priority to people's participation in development activities. So, it was the foundation of social inclusion in Nepal.

Inclusion is the idea that everyone has the right to participate in all elements of society, has the same rights and obligations, and has something to offer. The guiding principle requires the valued acknowledgement of every individual and their entitlement to meaningful engagement in every area of the complex, multidimensional societies in which we live. Not only this, but it also claimed that the right to inclusion demands that persons with disabilities not only be seen but also heard and acknowledged wherever they go, including at work, school, clubs, beaches, parks, and health care facilities (Jones, 2011). The complete inclusive practice still needs to be implemented in Nepal. A complete social inclusion policy was adopted after 2015. But, Nepal government representatives signed international treaties and agreement papers. The Nepal government representatives signed the World Human Rights Charter and Earth Summit 2000.

In recent years, several international development agencies have directly or indirectly prioritized highly inclusive policies to promote quality of life for ordinary people. The Earth Summit brought to light the fact that sustainable development is a broad concept that encompasses not only environmental protection and living within the limits of Earth's support systems but also people's quality of life, as well as a process of consensus-building with citizens and local or organizations aimed at formulating their sustainable development strategy in a local Agenda 21, (World Health Organization 2002). Similarly, the UN Fourth World Conference on Women in 1995 recognized that this critical condition for women's empowerment turn is required for democratic governance, identified as one of twelve critical areas of concern in its Beijing Platform for Action (BPA), Women in Power and Decision-making. (Miranda, 2005). For this purpose, the Nepal government shared only minor work with the local government, like vital registration work like death, birth, and marriage. This provision was made in the local registration act 1996. There was mentioned that it shall be the duty of the persons to give information to the Office of the Local Registrar in the prescribed form for the registration of the personal event within thirty-five days of such event occurrence (Nepal Law Commission, 2006). Nevertheless, the Nepal government should have adopted an inclusive policy in Nepal. The inclusive policy has been wholly adopted only after 2015 in Nepal.

The 2015 Federal Constitution of Nepal, which addresses untouchability as well as discrimination based on class, caste, region, language, religion, and gender, marks a significant turning point in the history of the nation. Decentralization is emphasized for an equal society, and sustainable development objectives are sought after. With Schedules 5, 6, and 8, which cover the federal, provincial, and local administrations, respectively, the division of authority is clearly delineated. Local governments are given control over taxation, local law enforcement, development plans, broadcasting, cooperatives, education, healthcare, recordkeeping, and assistance for the elderly and disabled under Schedule 8. Social Security Act of 2075 (2018), Local Level Planning Guideline (2020), and Gender Equality and Social Inclusion Policy (2021) are examples of legislative measures.

According to the National planning commission Nepal, 2022, there are eight steps in the planning process. They are Receiving Ceilings and Directives from the Federal/ province, Resource Assumption and fixing a ceiling on Sectorial Areas, Project Identification at the settlement level, Project selection and prioritization at the ward level, integrated budget and program at the Local level, Approval of budget and program by local executive, approval of budget and program by local Assembly and Time Frame Remarks. These steps should involve the federal government authorities, ward-level government authorities, and local people. In addition, They pay income tax for individual Nrs. 4000/- and at 10 percent on the taxable income of more than Nrs.400000/- For a couple of Nrs. 4500/- and at the rate of 10 percent on the taxable

income of more than Nrs.450000/- (The Nepal Government, 2020). Local authorities constituted as such enjoyed a significant degree of autonomy from the central government, albeit shouldering the responsibility of collecting taxes and tributes and maintaining law and order within their jurisdiction for and in the name of the ruler. (Ayitenew Ayele, 2022).

Whether at a national or state/local level, the budget cycle is typically a year-long process divided into four main stages: formulation, approval, execution, and oversight (Ram kumar, 2008). Distinct stakeholders are involved in different decisions at each stage of the budget cycle. In the budget formulation stage, the executive branch of a national government, or its equivalent at the local level, puts together the budget plan. (Soysa, A D, 2022). Moreover, the Community Awareness and Participation Plan (CAPP) was prepared to ensure that the development initiatives under the project are inclusive with the effective participation of all stakeholders, especially the poor and vulnerable groups. (Ranke, 2016). So, the Nepal government has been working using a participatory system.

The 2015 Constitution mentions people with disabilities under various rights, including rights to free education up to higher secondary level and political rights (Institute of Development Studies, 2020). It is expedient to make necessary provisions for the protection of the right to social security for indigent citizens, incapacitated and helpless citizens, helpless single women, citizens with disabilities, children, citizens who are unable to take care of themselves, and citizens belonging to the tribes on the verge of extinction, under the constitution (The Social Security Act, 2018). It is, thus, important that any effort to create a democratic order and system of good governance must begin with the reform of local government (Ayitenew, A. 2022).

The Nepal constitution of 2015 has also given local governments more power than before, allowing them to work towards development in their respective regions. However, there have been criticisms regarding the effectiveness of local government systems. Many people believe that the root cause of these problems lies in the lack of consumer awareness. (Sapkota,2021). To address this issue, the author conducted a study to examine the level of awareness among Nepali citizens and identify factors that could contribute to increasing this awareness in Nepal. So, this study will help to make new plans and policies to increase the awareness of local people.

2. Method of study and data

While the author was in a public place and vehicle, he overheard individuals criticizing federalism. The layperson claimed that federalism just made the nation's fiscal burdens worse and offered nothing to the average person. He, therefore, questioned whether they were genuinely knowledgeable about local government policies and procedures. As a result, he began downloading research articles from Google Scholar that were linked to sustainable development, government activities, and policy. The researcher then made nine measurement variables for knowledge of local government functions. These

are the following: local budget distribution method and technique, vital registration, judicial works, income tax, revenue collection, annual plan development process, old age, disabled, single women and endangered allowance, and revenue discount for the land registration in women. And then, purposively, he selected the social inclusion survey 2020. In addition, researcher took some data from social inclusion survey and analyzed those data using SPSS software. The conclusion is made after calculating the statistical tools.

3. Discussion and results

The local budget distribution method and technique, vital registration, judicial works, income tax, revenue collection, annual plan development process, old age, disabled, single women and endangered allowance, revenue discount for the land registration in women because all of the indicators mentioned above are used to gather data in social inclusion survey, 2020. The results from the social inclusion survey were examined by the author using SPSS software. Non-parametric test, Chi-Square, is used to evaluate the relationship and contribution between respondents' replies to the nine indicators mentioned above; demographic character, gender, and multinomial logistic regression are utilized to identify significant contributing factors.

Table 1 Awareness of local tax collection respondents

Gender	Informed and understand	Informed but do not understand	Do not Inform	Total
Male Percent	6712 (39%)	7553(44%)	2982 (17%)	17247(100%)
Female Percent	3380(19%)	7814(45%)	6282(36%)	17476(100%)
Total Percent	10092(29%)	15367 (44%)	9264 (27%)	34723(100%)

Chi-Square P-value=0.05

(*Social Inclusion Survey, 2020*)

The information in Table 1 demonstrates the respondents' knowledge of tax collecting, which is divided into three categories: "Informed and understand," "Informed but do not understand," and "Do not informed." Notably, 15,367 respondents, or 44% of the sample, were classed as "Informed but do not understand" tax collection, followed by 9,264 respondents (or 27% of the sample), who were classified as "Do not informed," and 10,092 respondents (or 29% of the sample), who were classified as "Informed and understand." These results highlight the need to improve the respondents' overall grasp of tax collecting.

Interesting patterns can be seen by looking more closely at the data by gender. It is remarkable that more men than women, 6,712 (39%), were classified as "Informed and understood" tax collecting. As opposed to men, who made up 7,553 (44%) of the "Informed but did not understand" tax collecting category, a higher percentage of women, 7,814 (45%), fell into this category. These results indicate that men are more aware of tax collecting than women are.

The Chi-square test was used by the author to determine whether there was a statistically

significant association between gender and tax collecting awareness. The conclusion that there is a statistically significant link between gender and tax-collecting awareness was reached as a consequence of the P-value, which was found to be less than the usual significance level of 0.05. The significance of taking gender into account as a crucial element when addressing issues linked to tax collection awareness is shown by this statistical analysis.

Table 2 Awareness of income tax respondents

Gender	Informed and understanding	Informed but do not understand	Do not Inform	Total
Male	4165 (24%)	6995(41%)	6087(35%)	17247(100%)
Female	1583(9%)	5229 (30%)	10664(61%)	17476(100%)
Total	5748 (17%)	12224 (35%)	16751(48%)	34723(100%)

Chi-Square P- Value = 0.00 (Social inclusion Survey, 2020)

In Table 2, the survey participants' income tax knowledge is comprehensively summarized and divided into three different groups: "Informed and also understand," "Informed but do not understand," and "Do not informed." When analyzing the data as a whole, a common pattern emerges, with 16,751 respondents, or 48% of the total, falling into the category of "Not informed" about income tax. The next group is made up of 12,224 people (35%) who are "Informed but do not understand" income tax, and 5,748 people (17%) who are "Informed and also understand." This analysis strongly implies that there is a critical need for programs to raise respondents' general levels of income tax awareness.

This information not only demonstrates how gender is an important consideration when evaluating income tax awareness, but it also emphasizes the urgent need for targeted training initiatives to close the knowledge gaps that respondents, both male and female, now have. Further research into the variables affecting these discrepancies may provide insightful information for developing methods that would effectively raise financial literacy and tax awareness among various demographic groups.

Table 3 Awareness of the annual development plan process

Gender	Informed and understanding also	Informed but do not understand	Do not Inform	Total
Male	2467 (15%)	5315 (31%)	9465(54%)	17247(100%)
Female	772 (4%)	3409 (20%)	13295(76%)	17476(100%)
Total	3239 (9%)	8724 (25%)	22760 (66%)	34723 (100%)

Chi-Square P- Value= 0.00 (Social Inclusion Survey, 2020)

Table 3 gives a thorough breakdown of respondents' levels of knowledge about the annual development plan process, with a focus on gender-based discrepancies. The results show a startling pattern in which a sizable majority of respondents—totaling 22,760 people—fall into the "Do not informed" group about the yearly development

plan process. The urgency of actions to raise awareness levels among the assessed population is highlighted by this frightening conclusion. In addition, the table categorizes responders into three separate groups: "Informed and also understand," "Informed but don't understand," and "Do not informed." Notably, just 9% of respondents fall under the category of "Informed and understand also," indicating a serious lack of in-depth comprehension among the sampled population.

When looking more closely at the gender-based study, an unexpected gap becomes apparent. Males are more likely to be classed as "Informed and understand," with a percentage of 15%, but a significant 4% of them are also "Informed but don't understand." This disparity suggests that while more guys are aware of the yearly development plan process in general, a sizable portion still has understanding problems, indicating the need for focused educational initiatives. Contrarily, the data shows that a substantially higher percentage of females, 13,295 (9%), than males, 9,465 (54%), are "Not informed" about the yearly development plan process. This substantial difference in awareness levels between genders raises the possibility of a gender-based knowledge gap.

Table 4 Awareness of old age, disabled, single women, and endangered allowance

Gender	Informed and understand	Informed but do not understand	Do not inform	Total
Male	9750 (57%)	6918 (40%)	579 (3%)	17247(100%)
Female	7400 (42%)	8617 (49%)	1459 (9%)	17476 (100%)
Total	17150 (49%)	15535 (45%)	2038 (6%)	34723 (100%)

Chi-Square P- value= 0.00

(Social inclusion Survey, 2020)

The table 4 shows the awareness level of old age, disabled, single women, and endangered allowance among respondents based on their gender. The respondents were categorized into three groups: "Informed and also understand," "Informed but do not understand," and "Do not informed." Overall, the table indicates that the majority of respondents, 15535 (45%), are "Informed but don't understand" about the old age, disabled, single women, and endangered allowance, followed by "Do not inform" 2,038 (6%) and "Informed and also understand" 17150 (49%). The analysis result suggests a need to improve the respondents' awareness level of these allowances. When looking at the data by gender, it is interesting to note that a larger number of males are "Informed and also understand" about these allowances 9,750 (57%), compared to 7,400 females (72%). However, a larger number of females are "Informed but do not understand" 8,617(49%) compared to males 6,918(40%). This knowledge gap between males and females suggests that there may be gender-based differences in understanding these allowances. Further investigation may be needed to understand why these differences exist. According to the Chi-Square test result shows that gender and awareness of old age, disabled, single women, and endangered allowance are significantly correlated because the p-value is 0.000.

Table 5 Awareness of revenue discount for the land registration in women

Gender	Informed and understanding	Informed but did not understand	Do not inform	Total
Male	4145 (24%)	5696 (33%)	7406 (43%)	17247 9(100%)
Female	2190 (13%)	4587 (26%)	10699 (61%)	17476 (100%)
Total	6335 (18%)	10283 (30%)	18105 (52%)	34723 (100%)

Chi-Square P-value = 0.00

(Social inclusion Survey, 2020)

The table 5 shows the awareness level of revenue discount for land registration in women among respondents based on their gender. The respondents were categorized into three groups: "Informed and understand also," "Informed but don't understand," and "Do not informed." Overall, the table indicates that the majority of respondents 10,283 (30%) are "Informed but don't understand" about the revenue discount for land registration in women, followed by "Do not informed" 18,105 (52%) and "Informed and understand also" 6,335 (18%). The analysis results suggest a need to improve the awareness level of this policy among the respondents. When looking at the data by gender, it is interesting to note that a more significant number of males are "Do not informed" about this policy, 7,406 (43%), compared to 10,699 females (61%). However, a more significant number of females are "Informed but don't understand" 4,587 (26%) compared to males 5,696 (33%). The analysis suggests that gender-based differences exist in understanding this policy, and further investigation is needed to understand why these differences exist. According to the Chi-Square test result, gender and awareness of the revenue discount for land registration in women are significantly correlated.

Table 6 awareness of local budget distribution process and technique

Gender	Informed and understand	Informed but do not understand	Do not inform	Total
Male	1718 (10%)	4374 (25%)	11155 (65%)	17247 (100%)
Female	473 (3%)	2509 (14%)	14494 (83%)	17476 (100%)
Total	2191 (6%)	6883 (20%)	25649 (74%)	34723 (100%)

Chi Square P- Value =0.00

(Social inclusion Survey, 2020)

The table 6 shows respondents' awareness level of the local budget distribution process and technique based on gender. The respondents understanding level is categorized into three groups: "Informed and understand," "Informed but don't understand," and "Do not informed." Overall, the table indicates that the majority of respondents, 25648 (74%), are "Do not informed" about the local budget distribution process and technique, followed by "Informed but don't understand" 6883 (20%) and "Informed and understand" 2191(6%) suggests that there is a significant need to improve the awareness level of this process and technique among the respondents. When looking at the data by gender, it is interesting to note that a more significant number of males are "Not informed" about this process and technique, 11,155 (65%), compared to females, 14,494(83%). However, a more significant number of females are "Informed but do not understand"

2,509 (14%) compared to males 4,374 (25%). The descriptive analysis result suggests that there may be gender-based differences in understanding this process and technique, and further investigation may be needed to understand why these differences exist. The Chi-Square test result also proved that gender and awareness of the local budget distribution process and technique are significantly.

Table 7 Awareness level of vital registration respondents

Gender	Informed and understanding also	Informed but do not understand	Do not inform	Total
Male	10220 (60%)	6202 (36%)	825 (4%)	17247 (100%)
Female	8109 (46%)	7613 (44%)	1754 (10%)	17476 (100%)
Total	18329 (53%)	13815 (40%)	2579 (7%)	34723 (100%)

Chi-Square P-value = 0.00

(Social inclusion Survey, 2020)

Table No-7 shows the awareness level of vital registration (registration of birth and marriage) among the respondents, based on their gender. The table indicates that a higher number of males, 10, 2220 (60%), are informed and understand the vital registration process, and a lower number of females 8109 (46%) understand the process. Overall, most of the respondents, 18,329 (53%), are informed and understand the process of vital registration, while 13, 815 (40%) are informed but need to understand, and only 2559 (7%) are not informed. The knowledge gap suggests a relatively high level of awareness about vital registration among the respondents. However, it is also noteworthy that a significant proportion of respondents, 13,815 (40%), are informed but do not understand the process, indicating a potential need for further education and awareness-raising efforts to ensure that people fully understand the importance and process of vital registration. The Chi-Square test result also showed that gender and awareness of the vital registration are significantly associated because the p-value=0.00.

Table 8 Awareness of judicial works respondents

Gender	Informed and understanding	Informed but do not understand	Do not inform	Total
Male	2617 (15%)	6922 (40%)	7708 (45%)	17247 (100%)
Female	1068 (6%)	4991 (29%)	11417 (65%)	17476 (100%)
Total	3685 (11%)	11913 (34%)	19125 (55%)	34723 (100%)

Chi-Square P-value = 0.00

(Social inclusion Survey, 2020)

Table No-8 shows the awareness level of Judicial Works among the respondents based on their gender. The table shows that: Out of the total 17,247(100%) male respondents, 2,617 (15%) are informed and have a good understanding of Judicial Works, 6,922 (40%) are informed but do not have a good understanding, and 7,708 (45%) are not informed. Out of the total 17,476 (100%) female respondents, 1,068 (6%) are informed and have a good understanding of Judicial Works, 4,991 (29%) are informed but do not

have a good understanding, and 11,417 (65%) are not informed. Overall, out of the total 34,723(100%) respondents, 3,685 (11%) are informed and have a good understanding of Judicial Works, 11,913 (34%) are informed but do not have a good understanding, and 19,125 (55%) are not informed. The knowledge gap between males and females indicates a need to increase awareness and understanding of Judicial Works among both male and female respondents, as a large proportion of them need to be informed or have limited understanding. The Chi-Square test result proved that gender and awareness of social work are highly associated ($P>0.00$).

Table 9 Aware of budget allocation for marginalized groups respondents

Gender	Informed and understand	Informed but do not understand	Do not inform	Total
Male	2161 (12%)	5786 (34%)	9300 (54%)	17247 (100%)
Female	829 (5%)	3900 (22%)	12747 (73%)	17476 (100%)
Total	2990 (9%)	9686 (28%)	22047 (63%)	34723 (100%)

Chi-Square P-value = 0.00

(Social inclusion Survey, 2020)

In table No-9, the survey presents the awareness level of respondents regarding budget allocation for marginalized groups, based on their gender. Out of the total 34,723 (100%) respondents, 29,990 (9%) were aware of the budget allocation for marginalized groups. Among them, 2161 (12%) were male, and 829 (5%) were female. Among the aware male respondents, 2161 (12%) had a clear understanding of the budget allocation process, while 5786 (34%) were aware but needed to understand it completely, and 9300 (54%) needed to be made informed about it. Among the aware female respondents, only 829 (5%) clearly understood the budget allocation process. In comparison, 3900 (22%) were aware but needed to understand it completely, and 12747 (73%) needed to be informed. Overall, the survey suggests that the awareness level of budget allocation for marginalized groups could be higher among male and female respondents, with only a tiny percentage clearly understanding the process. Chi square results shows that association with gender and local tax collection, income tax, annual development plan process, old age, disabled, single women and endangered allowance, revenue discount for the land registration in women, revenue discount for the land registration in women, vital registration and judicial work done by local body. So, Dependent variable is gender and independent variables are awareness of local tax, collection, income tax, annual development plan process, Old age, disabled, single women and endangered allowance, revenue discount for the land registration in women, revenue discount for the land registration in women, vital registration and judicial work done by local body for this article. These dependent and independent variables are tested using bio nary logical regression to find out the level of contribution to increase awareness in the community.

Table 10 Correlation testing table

Items	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Local Tax Collection	0.256								
Income Tax		0.276							
Annual Development Plan Process			0.236						
Old Age, Disabled, Single Women and Endangered Allowance				0.159					
Revenue Discount for the Land Registration in Women					0.195				
Budget Distribution						0.217			
Vital Registration							0.144		
Judicial Work								0.219	
Budget Allocation									0.207

The above correlation table 10 shows the pairwise correlations between nine elements or variables, each of which is identified by a number from 1 to 9. The Pearson correlation coefficient values in the table, which range from -1 to 1, give information on the strength and direction of the linear relationships between these variables. The table shows some interesting trends. Notably, there are positive correlations between several item pairs. For instance, a positive correlation value of 0.276 between "local tax collection" (Item 1) and "income tax" (Item 2) indicates that an increase in income tax is frequently accompanied by an increase in local tax collection. Similar results show that "annual development plan process" (Item 3) and "vital registration" (Item 7) have a positive correlation of 0.236, albeit this link is only moderately strong. So, researcher further use the multinomial regression.

Table 11 Model fitting information

Model	Model fitting criteria	Likelihood ratio tests		
	-2 Log Likelihood	Chi-Square	df	Sig.
Intercept Only	10139.756			
Final	6397.264	3742.493	18	.000

Two models' likelihood ratio tests are included in the table 11 along with information about model fitting. The Final Model's log likelihood is substantially lower than the Intercept Only Model's, at 6397.264, indicating that the Intercept Only Model more closely matches the data. The likelihood ratio test with a chi-square value of 3742.493 and 18 degrees of freedom provides strong evidence (p 0.001) that the Final Model is significantly better than the Intercept Only Model, indicating that the Final Model's predictors are very valuable for explaining the variance in the data.

Table 12 Likelihood ratio tests

Intercept	Model fitting criteria	Likelihood ratio tests		
	-2 Log Likelihood of reduced model	Chi-square	df	Sig.
Local tax collection	6397.264a	.000	0	.000
Income tax	6595.692	198.429	2	.000
Annual plan development process	6638.857	241.593	2	.000
Old age, disabled, single women and endangered allowance	6459.068	61.804	2	.000
Revenue discount for the land registration in women	6420.668	23.405	2	.000
Budget distribution	6463.559	66.296	2	.000
Vital registration	6454.572	57.308	2	.000
Judicial work	6431.662	34.399	2	.000
Budget allocation	6405.556	8.293	2	.016

The majority of the predictor variables (Local Tax Collection, Income Tax, Annual Plan Development Process, Old Age, Disabled, Single Women and Endangered Allowance, Revenue Discount for the Land Registration in Women, Budget Distribution, Vital Registration, Judicial Work, and Budget Allocation) are statistically significant, according to the LRT results, which are supported by their related chi-square statistics and extremely low p-values (usually less than 0.05). This shows that these variables are essential in forecasting the outcome and have a big impact on how well the model fits.

4. Results

The findings of the study closely coincide with Nepal's changing governance and inclusion initiatives. It is clear that a lot of people are aware of the development plan process, which reflects the nation's dedication to decentralization and the level of public involvement in development endeavors since the restoration of democracy in 1990. The fact that disadvantaged groups are aware of allowances, such as elderly, disabled, single women, and endangered groups, highlights Nepal's efforts to combat prejudice and advance equality. However, the different levels of knowledge about income discounts for land registration among men and women point to the necessity for focused awareness programs to guarantee equal access to advantages.

The study also emphasizes the necessity of raising understanding of the methods and procedures used in local budget distribution, particularly among men and women. In keeping with global development priorities, this is crucial for increasing transparency and citizen participation in the budgetary process. While there is a high level of awareness of vital registration among both sexes, the relatively low level of awareness of local body judicial work highlights the need for better information and education about

these critical services. Furthermore, the result that males are more aware than females of budgetary allocation for marginalized group's points to the significance of gender-sensitive techniques to ensuring that women are equally informed and participating in choices affecting marginalized populations.

5. Conclusion

In conclusion, the study shows that Nepal has achieved substantial progress in fostering social inclusion through policies and programs. This result is based on a desk review and statistical analysis. The results show that respondents have typically high levels of awareness of the processes involved in development and the protections provided for vulnerable groups. However, there are gender-based variations in awareness, notably in areas like budget distribution for underprivileged groups and discounts on land registration. These revelations highlight the necessity of gender-sensitive measures and focused awareness programs to enable more equitable involvement and inclusivity in Nepal's governance and development initiatives.

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