

COMMUNITY AIRWAVES FOR DIALOGUE

STORIES OF CHANGE



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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HARNESSING COMMUNITY AIRWAVES FOR DIALOGUE AND PEACE

Community radio has emerged as a powerful tool for fostering dialogue and peace-building in local communities. Unlike mainstream media, which often focuses on broader national or international issues, community radio is deeply rooted in the local context.

Community radio stations are often established with the primary goal of making information accessible to all members of the community, including those who are marginalized or otherwise underserved. These radio stations typically broadcast in local languages and dialects, ensuring that their content is understandable by everyone. This inclusivity is essential for fostering dialogue, as it allows all community members to participate in conversations about important issues, regardless of their social or economic status.

Community radio can serve as a platform for dialogue and mediation in times of conflict. Talk shows, call-in programs, and panel discussions can provide a space for community members to express their views, share their concerns, and engage in constructive debate. One of the key roles of community radio is to provide a platform for voices that are often unheard in mainstream media. This includes minority groups, women, youth, and other marginalized communities. By giving these groups a voice, community radio helps to ensure that their perspectives and experiences are considered in community discussions.

Trust is a critical component of peacebuilding, and community radio can help to build trust within communities. By providing reliable and balanced information and by giving all community members a voice, community radio stations can foster a sense of transparency and accountability. This can help to build trust between different groups within the community and between the community and its leaders. When people trust each other and their leaders, they are more likely to work together to address common challenges and to build a peaceful and cohesive community.

AMARC Asia-Pacific takes immense pride in its dedicated efforts to strengthen the role of community broadcasters in this important endeavor. Through tailored training programs, hands-on mentorship, and rich learning opportunities, we have worked closely with local community broadcasters to enhance their skills, confidence, and capacity to effectively facilitate dialogue and address conflict-related challenges. By equipping broadcasters with the tools and knowledge they need, we aim to empower communities to take ownership of their narratives, engage in constructive discussions, and promote solutions that lead to lasting peace and social cohesion.

As highlighted through the stories in this publication, the role of community radio extends beyond information dissemination; it is a catalyst for constructive dialogue and a beacon of hope for conflict resolution.

These narratives highlight how community radio acts as a bridge, bringing together diverse voices and perspectives, fostering mutual understanding, and promoting peaceful solutions to complex issues. By providing an inclusive platform for open communication, community radio empowers individuals and communities to engage in meaningful discussions, address grievances, and collaboratively work towards harmony and reconciliation. As we celebrate these achievements, we are reminded of the ongoing need to nurture and strengthen this vital medium to address future challenges and opportunities in the pursuit of dialogue and peace.

AMARC Asia-Pacific remains committed to supporting community broadcasters through capacity building and collaboration, ensuring they are equipped to navigate challenges and amplify the voices of those often left unheard.



Suman Basnet
Regional Director
AMARC Asia-Pacific

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3 ANGELS: FIGHTING HUMAN TRAFFICKING

In Pokhara, Nepal, there lies a hub of activism and advocacy in the form of a community radio, 3 Angels. In a busy room filled with radio staff and buzzing equipment, a powerful movement is growing, and people are joining forces to fight against human trafficking and exploitation, supported by their dedicated work. Within its vibrant corridors, artists, activists, and educators come together, united by a shared vision for social change. Through the power of journalism, they harness their creativity and passion to raise awareness and empower the most vulnerable members of the community.

The station has boldly committed to amplifying survivors' voices. The station has recently taken a bold step in amplifying the voices of survivors. By blending musical showcases with intimate talk segments, they have created a compassionate platform for these courageous individuals to share their harrowing experiences and inspiring journeys toward healing. Amidst these powerful stories of resilience, one especially poignant account stands out: a young survivor now embracing a second chance at life, empowered by newfound access to education and the opportunity to rebuild her future.

Women throughout the community are finding fresh inspiration in the stories of independence and resilience shared by 3 Angels. These broadcasts serve as a powerful reminder that there is life beyond trauma and hope for a brighter future. Survivors have responded overwhelmingly positively, drawing solace and encouragement from the comforting presence of the radio programs. At the same time, community members express deep gratitude for the invaluable awareness these shows bring to the forefront of public consciousness.



The impact of community radio's efforts goes far beyond the airwaves. With strong support from the local government, this initiative is not only spreading awareness but also playing a vital role in the rehabilitation and empowerment of survivors. At the heart of this success are the programs by 3 Angels, which amplify the voices of survivors and advocates, spark meaningful dialogue, and drive social change. Through candid interviews and active community engagement, these programs confront the harsh realities of exploitation, inspiring listeners to take action and unite in the fight against human trafficking.

A young survivor now embracing a second chance at life, empowered by newfound access to education and the opportunity to rebuild her future.

As stories of resilience and resistance continue to emerge, 3 Angels Radio remains unwavering in its mission to amplify marginalized voices and challenge systems of oppression. By leveraging journalism and community-driven activism, they are paving the way for a future where every individual is free from exploitation and empowered to reclaim their dignity.

STORY CREDIT



Sushant Regmi

Program Producer

3 Angels Community

Radio 94.6 MHz

Gandaki Province, Nepal



ICHCHHAKAMANA FM: MORE THAN A VOICE ON THE AIRWAVES

Lal Maya Pariyar, a single mother from Gorkha, is a shining example of resilience and determination in the face of adversity. At 55, she embodies perseverance, working tirelessly as a farmer to support her household and care for her 22-year-old disabled son. Despite facing resistance from her community and navigating countless challenges, Lal Maya has remained steadfast, meeting life's hardships with unwavering strength.



Her inspiring journey reached a broader audience when it was featured on the community radio program “Ma Bolchu” (I Will Speak), aired by Ichchhakamana FM. During her heartfelt interview, Lal Maya shared the sacrifices and struggles she endured to provide for her family. Her story resonated deeply, touching the hearts of listeners and sparking admiration for her unwavering commitment.

“Ma Bolchu” is a program dedicated to empowering women engaged in agriculture and animal husbandry, like Lal Maya. By showcasing intimate conversations and personal stories, Ichchhakamana FM encourages women to embrace these professions while fostering a sense of unity and solidarity within the community.



The response to Lal Maya's story was overwhelming. Listeners flooded social media and phone lines with messages of gratitude and admiration, sharing how her resilience had inspired them to pursue their own dreams and overcome obstacles. Lal Maya's journey became a beacon of hope, igniting change far beyond the radio waves.

The impact extended to Ichchhakamana FM's team as well. Inspired by the success of Lal Maya's story, they embarked on a journey of growth, learning more about conflict resolution and exploring new ways to address sensitive topics on air. Their dedication to serving the community earned widespread praise, encouraging more individuals to share their voices and seek support.

They explored innovative approaches to tackling sensitive topics on air, ensuring their programs remained impactful, inclusive, and empathetic.

But the impact did not end there. Motivated by the success of Lal Maya's story, the team at Ichchhakamana FM embarked on their own journey of personal and professional growth. They invested time and effort into gaining a deeper understanding of conflict resolution, recognizing its importance in addressing the challenges faced by their audience. Additionally, they explored innovative approaches to tackling sensitive topics on air, ensuring their programs remained impactful, inclusive, and empathetic.

Their unwavering dedication to serving the community did not go unnoticed. Listeners and community members praised their efforts, expressing gratitude for the safe space the station provided for dialogue and support. As a result, more individuals felt encouraged to share their stories, voice their concerns, and seek guidance, further cementing Ichchhakamana FM's role as a trusted pillar of empowerment and change in the region.

Through Lal Maya's story, Ichchhakamana FM not only fulfilled its mission of uplifting and empowering its listeners but also created a ripple effect of hope and resilience within the community. Lal Maya Pariyar has become more than just a voice on the radio—she is a symbol of strength and inspiration.

STORY CREDIT



Sangita Chepang

Program Producer

Ichchhakamana FM 102.4 MHz

Bagmati Province, Nepal

RADIO AMARGADHI: FOSTERING CULTURAL REPRESENTATION IN EDUCATION

In Parashuram Municipality, Dadeldhura lies a community that has long been secluded yet unwavering in its commitment to preserving its traditions—the Raute community. For generations, they have maintained their distinct way of life, ensuring the survival of their language and culture. However, beneath the surface of cultural preservation, there has been a silent struggle that has often gone unnoticed.

Radio Amargadhi in Dadeldhura took on the responsibility of highlighting the Raute community’s struggles. Initially, the radio staff faced apprehension from the tight-knit community, but they remained determined, engaging deeply with the heart of their challenges. Over time, the community began to open up, sharing their aspirations for both educational empowerment and the preservation of their unique cultural heritage.

At the heart of the Raute community’s struggles was the lack of representation within the local educational system. The absence of any community member who had passed the Secondary Education Examination (SEE), formerly known as the School Leaving Certificate (SLC), further marginalized them, pushing them to the periphery of society. Despite these challenges, the community’s collective desire for change drove them to voice a powerful demand: the need for teachers from within their own community. They saw this as a crucial step in improving educational quality and ensuring the survival of their language and culture.



The tide began to turn with the steadfast support of key stakeholders, including the principal of the local school, who fully embraced the initiative. Through tireless advocacy and facilitated dialogue, thanks to Radio Amargadhi, the community experienced a transformative shift. A commitment was made to hire staff from the Raute community within local schools, marking a decisive moment of inclusivity and cultural preservation. This pledge represented a significant step forward in ensuring that the Raute community's educational needs and cultural values would be honored and supported.

This conversation helped bridge gaps, fostering communication with the broader community and addressing the underlying conflicts.

Recently, a significant milestone was achieved with the appointment of a language instructor from the Raute community, a move that has instilled a profound sense of belonging and pride in the students. Radio Amargadhi played a pivotal role in this achievement by facilitating a dialogue with Nand Singh Rawat, a respected leader from the Raute community. This conversation helped bridge gaps, fostering communication with the broader community and addressing the underlying conflicts. The initiative has not only enhanced educational representation but also reinforced cultural pride and unity within the Raute community.



Padam Bahadur Bohora, the principal of the school, acknowledged the uphill battle the community faced, from high student dropout rates to parental disengagement. Despite these challenges, he remained steadfast in his optimism, emphasizing the transformative impact of the collaborative efforts between the community radio and Raute leaders. Through their collective work in raising awareness and fostering community engagement, they have initiated a journey of change that is gradually empowering the Raute community and reshaping their educational landscape.

STORY CREDIT



Lokendra Ojha

Program Producer

Radio Amargadhi 97.4 MHz

Sudurpaschim Province, Nepal

RADIO MUKTI: BREAKING THE CHAINS OF GENDER DISCRIMINATION



The echoes of Anik Rana’s resilience resonate through the winding lanes of Manigram village, nestled in the heart of Rupandehi district. Her story is one of defiance against the suffocating grip of societal norms and a courageous journey toward acceptance and justice.

Twenty-seven years ago, Anik’s world came crashing down. A simple act of sharing a meal with her family turned into a moment of rejection and betrayal. Cast out from her own home by her mother’s scorn, Anik’s journey into the unknown began with nothing but twenty-five rupees in her pocket.

But Anik’s story is not just about personal adversity; it is a poignant narrative that reflects the struggles of countless sexual minority women across Rupandehi and beyond. In a society where rigid gender boundaries obscure the path to acceptance, Anik’s journey highlights the harsh realities faced by individuals within the LGBTQI+ community. Her experience sheds light on the challenges of navigating a world that often refuses to acknowledge their rights and humanity.



“Forced to live on the streets, our existence remains invisible to the eyes of society,” Anik reflects in her interview with Radio Mukti. “We are not even granted the dignity of a name, reduced to derogatory labels that pierce our souls like daggers.” Yet, amid the darkness, Anik has become a fervent rights activist, tirelessly advocating for the cause of sexual minority women, even as she faces her own struggles for acceptance. “Every step forward was met with resistance, but I refused to be silenced, for I knew my voice was not just mine alone.” Anik’s words echo the cries of a silenced community, all of whom yearn for justice and recognition.

These fundamental rights are not mere words on paper—they are the pillars of a society meant to embrace diversity and inclusivity.

Anik’s unwavering determination bore fruit in the form of constitutional provisions that safeguard the rights of sexual and gender minorities. The Constitution of Nepal, 2015 enshrines the principles of equality, non-discrimination, and gender identity, offering a legal framework for protection. These fundamental rights are not mere words on paper—they are the pillars of a society meant to embrace diversity and inclusivity. Yet, despite these legal advancements, the journey toward true equality is far from over. The non-implementation of these constitutional provisions continues to perpetuate discrimination and marginalization, leaving sexual minorities locked in an ongoing struggle for recognition, dignity, and justice.

Community radio Mukti brought Anik’s story to the forefront, highlighting that her journey is not one of despair but a powerful testament to the indomitable spirit of resilience. The impact of community radio extended far beyond her personal narrative. It became a lifeline for sexual minority women across Rupandehi, offering them a voice, a sense of belonging, and a platform for collective action. Anik’s story reverberates through history, serving as a poignant reminder that the path to justice is not merely a destination but a relentless pursuit of equality, dignity, and humanity.

As Anik’s story unfolded on the airwaves, listeners were deeply moved by her resilience, inspired by her courage, and galvanized to stand in solidarity with sexual minority women in their community. Through the power of storytelling, community radio became a catalyst for social change, challenging entrenched prejudices while fostering empathy and understanding. Through the radio, Anik affirms, “As long as one voice remains unheard, our fight for justice will endure, for we are not just fighting for ourselves, but for a future where every individual is free to live and love without fear or prejudice.”

STORY CREDIT



Kalpana Tiwari

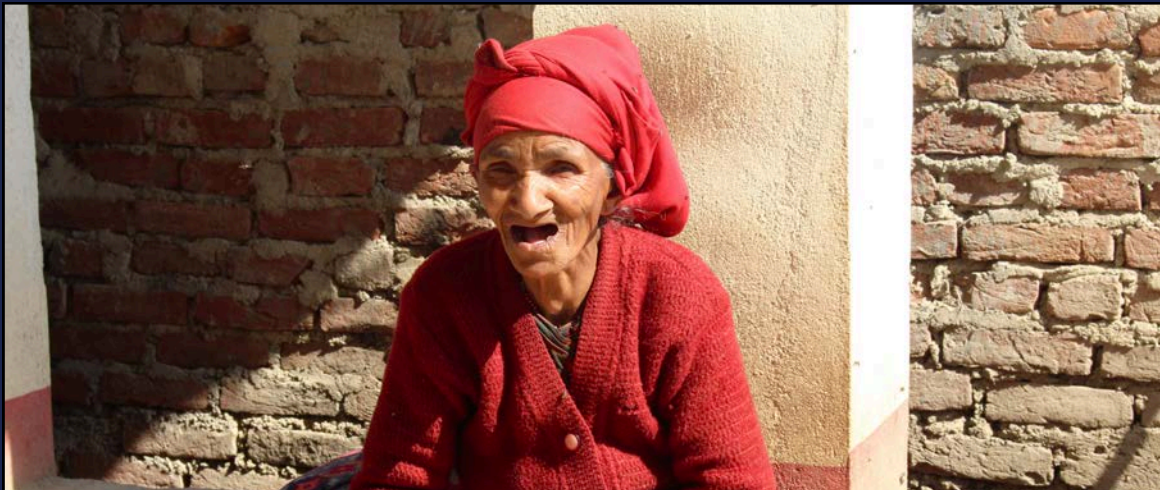
Program Producer

Radio Mukti 95.5 MHz

Lumbini Province, Nepal

RADIO RAPTİ: A LIFELONG STRUGGLE FOR IDENTIFICATION

In the tranquil village of Shantinagar, nestled within the lush landscapes of Salyan, Nepal, lies the Badi community, whose struggles echo the challenges faced by many marginalized voices across the nation. Community radio Rapti brings to light the story of Puni Nepali, an 82-year-old woman whose journey embodies resilience amidst bureaucratic complexities and societal neglect.



Puni's tale exposes the difficult quest for citizenship—a fundamental right enshrined in the Constitution of Nepal, yet often denied to those living on the fringes of society. Despite reaching an age when citizenship is crucial for receiving facilities available to elderly citizens, Puni remained trapped in the shadows of statelessness, her existence unrecognized due to administrative hurdles. Born into a community long oppressed by societal hierarchies, Puni has been denied identification since birth and could not even acquire a marriage certificate.

Her daughter, Geeta, a witness to her mother's decades-long struggle, narrates the harrowing tale of abandonment and bureaucratic indifference. Left to care for her daughter alone, Puni's life became entangled in the complexities of an unforgiving administrative system. Geeta was forced to apply for her own citizenship, falsely claiming to be an orphan, underscoring the severity of the situation and the urgency of bringing the issue to light.

In an agonizing reflection, Geeta laments the broken promises of political leaders who sought votes but turned a blind eye to the cries of her mother, who is physically challenged and unable to speak. The story highlights the painful truth that citizenship—the foundation of belonging and security—remained an elusive dream for Puni well into her old age.

The bureaucratic machinery, once indifferent, began to move with a newfound urgency, driven by the collective outcry for justice.

Amidst this despair, Radio Rapti showed unwavering commitment to justice and transformed the narrative of hopelessness into one of triumph. Through careful documentation and tireless advocacy, the station amplified Puni's voice, bringing her plight into the public consciousness. The airwaves crackled with the broadcast of Puni's efforts, echoing across the community. This sparked a wave of solidarity, with voices from all corners rallying behind her cause. The bureaucratic machinery, once indifferent, began to move with a newfound urgency, driven by the collective outcry for justice. Within a month, the rights that had been denied for so long were finally fulfilled, thanks to the determined efforts of the community radio.

Puni was granted her Nepali citizenship, a powerful testament to the impact of advocacy and the resilience of community radio. Through a dialogue organized by Radio Rapti with the ward chairperson and the Chief District Officer, the necessary documents were obtained.



Puni's newfound citizenship rights entitled her to senior citizen benefits provided by the government, bringing her a sense of comfort and security in her twilight years. Geeta's heartfelt gratitude reverberated throughout the village, underscoring the transformative power of journalism.

Beyond Puni's personal victory lies a broader truth that transcends individual stories and resonates throughout the community. Puni's tale is just one chapter in the larger narrative of societal change, a reminder that, although conflict is often fraught with pain, it can also hold the potential for positive transformation. It is the responsibility of community radio to uncover and amplify such stories, ensuring that justice is not just a dream but a reality for all.

STORY CREDIT



Buddhiman Pun

Program Producer

Radio Rapti FM 104.8 MHz

Karnali Province, Nepal

RADIO RUDRAKSHA: TRANSFORMING TRADITION THROUGH EMPOWERMENT

In Manara Siswa Municipality, Madhesh, a quiet revolution was unfolding within the walls of Rima Devi's home. It was a story as old as time, echoing the struggles of countless women across generations, a tale of the clash between tradition and aspiration, societal norms and personal dreams.

Rima found herself at odds with her own family over a seemingly simple desire: the desire to work outside the confines of her home. Yet, for Rima, this seemingly innocuous wish met with staunch opposition from her husband and mother-in-law, who firmly believed that a woman's place was within the domestic sphere. For days, weeks, and months, a silent battle waged within the walls of Rima's home. Words were exchanged, tempers flared, but the echoes of tradition seemed unyielding. That was, until one day, intervention from the community radio station Rudraksha, through its women's empowerment programs, led the community through a transformation.

Through the airwaves, a symphony of change resonated, broadcasting programs focused on women's rights and gender equality. With each passing day, Rima and her family found themselves drawn to the radio programs, captivated by the voices that spoke of empowerment and liberation. Slowly but surely, the once rigid beliefs began to soften under the gentle persuasion of Radio Rudraksha. Rima's husband, once a staunch opponent of her ambitions, began to understand the merit in her desire to work. He conceded, though with a stipulation: her work outside should not detract from her responsibilities at home.





With a newfound sense of purpose, Rima embarked on a journey beyond the confines of her home, stepping into the realm of office work. Alongside her stood her husband, a silent ally in the fight for gender equality, sharing the burden of household chores. Beyond the walls of Rima's home, the winds of change began to sweep through the community. Radio Rudraksha's efforts bore fruit, fostering a sense of awareness and understanding among its listeners. The once-taboo topic of women's employment became a subject of open discussion, as the patriarchal shackles that bound the community began to loosen their grip.

Through the airwaves, a symphony of change resonated, broadcasting programs focused on women's rights and gender equality.

In terms of educational opportunities, a similar transformation unfolded, as more and more girls found themselves breaking free from the chains of discrimination. Though challenges remain, the increasing enrollment of girls in schools is a testament to the progress spurred by Radio Rudraksha's advocacy.

As the sun sets over the community, a sense of hope lingers in the air—hope born from the efforts of a humble community radio station and the indomitable spirit of women like Rima Devi.

STORY CREDIT



Samarendra Sharma

Program Producer

Radio Rudraksha 98.8 MHz

Madhesh Province, Nepal

RADIO SATHI: ESTABLISHING THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE



Nestled along Nepal's eastern border in the district of Jhapa, Sri Kakarvitta Mavi, a government school in Kakarvitta, is striving to shape the future of its students. What began as a noble endeavor by families to educate their children amidst the apple trees and grass-roofed buildings soon faced dire challenges as political conflicts threatened to extinguish the flame of education.

The school stood as a testament to resilience, providing education to generations of students who would go on to achieve great heights in politics and government. However, in recent years, the school found itself embroiled in the complications of a political discord, with the absence of a management committee plunging it into chaos. As the school grappled with uncertainty, Radio Sathi emerged as an advocate for change. Recognizing the pivotal role of education in shaping the future of children, the community radio station embarked on a mission to transform Sri Kankarvitta Mavi.

Amidst the political wrangling that paralyzed the school, Radio Sathi took to the airwaves, amplifying the voices of concerned community members and former students. Through live broadcasts and social media outreach, the radio station shed light on the plight of the school, rallying support from across the community.

With unwavering determination, Radio Sathi engaged with political parties, parents, and stakeholders, advocating for the formation of a management committee and the implementation of reforms. Despite initial setbacks, the relentless efforts of the radio station bore fruit as a school management committee was finally established, heralding a new dawn for Sri Kankarvitta Mavi. With the committee in place, the school underwent a remarkable transformation. Daily broadcasts kept the community informed about the committee's activities, fostering transparency and accountability. School officials, buoyed by the support of local government leaders, embarked on a mission to revitalize Sri Kankarvitta Mavi, undertaking initiatives such as cleaning, gardening, and infrastructure improvements.

Amidst the political wrangling that paralyzed the school, Radio Sathi took to the airwaves, amplifying the voices of concerned community members and former students.

Radio Sathi facilitated dialogue between parents, school officials, and counselors, empowering stakeholders to play an active role in their children's education. Through innovative programs like "Psychology in School," supported by generous donors like social worker Poonam Pradhan, the school fostered a nurturing environment conducive to learning and growth.



As the principal, Hari Neupane, reflects on the school's journey, he notes with pride the increase in student enrollment and the profound sense of optimism that now permeates Sri Kankarvitta Mavi. With conflict replaced by collaboration and despair supplanted by hope, the school serves as a shining example of the transformative potential of community radio in resolving conflicts and driving positive change.

STORY CREDIT



Sushma Rajbanshi

Program Producer

Radio Jhapa 100.7 MHz

Koshi Province, Nepal

RADIO SINDHU: PROGRESS AND PRESERVATION

A conflict was brewing in the Indrawati River, Sindhupalchowk. What started as a pursuit of economic prosperity by the municipality had transformed into a battleground between progress and preservation, opposing the marginalized Majhi community to public representatives.



At the core of this conflict was the controversial issue of river sand mining. As the municipality issued contracts worth millions for the extraction of gravel, sand, and stones from the Indrawati River, the once harmonious relationship between the river and its people began to deteriorate. The sounds of heavy machinery echoed through the valley, overshadowing the whispers of discontent among the Majhi community. Amidst the noise of conflicting interests, community radio Sindhu emerged as the voice of reason, the channel for constructive dialogue in a community divided by divergent perspectives.



Radio Sindhu explored the heart of the matter, hosting a series of group discussions that gathered stakeholders from all sides of the debate. Local residents expressed their grievances, emphasizing the environmental degradation and cultural erosion caused by unregulated river mining. They spoke of lost traditions and the tangible effects of air and noise pollution on their daily lives. Amidst the stories of hardship, glimmers of optimism appeared when Roshan Raj Giri, the ward chairman, promised to prioritize environmental concerns and ensure fair allocation of resources to the affected wards. Meanwhile, Mayor Krishna Prasad Sapkota articulated a vision for sustainable development, pledging to conduct environmental assessments before any further river mining activities and to advocate for the protection of local infrastructure at higher governmental levels.

Amidst the noise of conflicting interests, community radio Sindhu emerged as the voice of reason.

The discussion highlighted the crucial role of Radio Sindhu as a catalyst for change, facilitating dialogue and fostering understanding in a community torn apart by conflicting interests. A sense of cautious optimism filled the air, signaling reconciliation and resolution in the valley of Indrawati.

STORY CREDIT



Ratna Shrestha

Program Producer

Radio Sindhu 105 MHz

Bagmati Province, Nepal

RADIO SWAGATAM: A STORY OF LAND, CONFLICT, AND RECONCILIATION

In the heart of the Madhesh region, within Ramdaiya village in Dhanusha, a simmering discord began to unravel the delicate harmony of the community. It was a conflict as ancient as the land itself yet as immediate and raw as the dawn of a new day—a story of property, neighbors, and the inescapable shadows cast by politics.

At the core of this strife stood Devu Yadav, the well-regarded Ward Chairman, celebrated for his amiable nature and adeptness in resolving communal disputes. Ironically, it was his own land that became the epicenter of a contentious battle. The dispute revolved around a parcel of land that had been in Devu's family for generations. Once a source of pride and sustenance, it now became a flashpoint between Devu and his neighbor, Ramsaugarath Yadav. Misunderstandings over land boundaries escalated into a war of words, with accusations hurled back and forth like barbed arrows. What initially seemed like a disagreement over measurements spiraled into a bitter clash of egos and political affiliations, polarizing the community into factions. The legal process, slow and burdensome, provided fertile ground for the discord to fester and grow.



In the tea shops and gathering spots of Ramdaiya, the feud became the talk of the town. Whispers mingled with the curling steam of freshly brewed tea, as blame shifted from old political rivalries to unresolved personal grievances. Amid this growing cacophony, one undeniable truth loomed: the rift threatened to unravel the close-knit fabric of their community, creating divisions that seemed insurmountable.

As tensions reached a critical point, the village stood at a crossroads. Would they allow divisive forces to erode their unity, or would they summon the strength to seek reconciliation?

What initially seemed like a disagreement over measurements spiraled into a bitter clash of egos and political affiliations, polarizing the community into factions.

It was during this volatile moment that the community radio team of Swagatam stepped in, armed not with authority but with the power of voices and stories. Microphones in hand and a determination to uncover the underlying truths, they ventured into the depths of the conflict. What they found was a mosaic of perspectives—complex, layered, and deeply human. Beneath the overt posturing of politics lay tales of resilience, longing, and the profound connection between people and their ancestral lands.



Through the airwaves, Radio Swagatam amplified the voices of the villagers, weaving a collective narrative of shared struggles and aspirations. They reminded the fractured community of their common identity and their shared dreams of harmony. This spark of understanding ignited a series of dialogues. Meetings were held where grievances were voiced openly, misunderstandings were clarified, and compromises began to take shape. Guided by the radio's mediating role, the walls of mistrust that had risen between neighbors started to crumble, making way for empathy and camaraderie.

As the community reached an agreement, the once-divided village rediscovered its unity. The setting sun bathed the reconciled land in a golden hue, a fitting symbol of the renewed bonds of brotherhood and trust. The villagers came to understand that the true worth of their lives lay not in the acres of land they possessed but in the enduring ties that held them together.

In this transformative journey, Radio Swagatam proved itself to be more than just a broadcaster—it became a bridge, a platform for truth and reconciliation, and a testament to the resilience of community spirit. It revealed that even in the face of the deepest divisions, unity is not only possible but also essential.

STORY CREDIT



Binod Kumar Mahato

Program Producer

Radio Swagatam 89 MHz

Madhesh Province, Nepal

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