

Rising Nepal, 26 April 2007

* Media drive against uterine prolapse begins

By: A Staff Reporter

KATHMANDU, April 26: Sancharika Samuha has launched its media campaign on uterine prolapse, which, according to a report, has afflicted some 600,000 women across the country.

As more and more women are suffering from the painful disease, the media should play the active role in spreading information and awareness about the disease to the people, Secretary at the Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare (MoWCSW) Punya Prasad Neupane said while launching the information kit for media people regarding the disease amidst a function jointly organised on Wednesday by Sancharika Samuha, UNFPA and MoWCSW.

Secretary Neupane said that if media could bring the issue in the open, it would help the women affected with

the disease to come out in open and speak about the disease in the society.

Apart from being a dreaded health problem, the disease is equally related with social and economic issue and the society must pay enough attention to treat the disease, he added.

More women are suffering from the problem these days due to the domestic violence which the womenfolk in the Nepali society have been facing since a long time, he said.

Representative of UNFPA, Junko Sazaki, stated that although the disease was a medical issue, it has attached with psychological and social issues. She said that if women were empowered, the issues would not be as complicated as it today. Women in Nepal have compulsion to work hard after delivery of babies which plays major role in causing

such problem, she said.

Sazaki said that women were hiding their problem due to lack of access to information and easy health care system. According to her, it would cost only US\$ 200 for operation of uterine prolapse problem.

President of Sancharika Samuha Babita Basnet said that out of the 600,000 affected, at least 200,000 women are in need of immediate operation. Basnet regretted that real issue of the disease that is inflicting more women, has gone to the shadow while lots of other issues related with women are being highlighted these days. She said that media has also failed to bring out the problem created by the disease in the open.

UNFPA programme officer Sundha Pant said that the women are suffering with disease due to the lack of access to information.

Women Development Officer, Lalitpur Sarita Rajaure said that WDO was conducting health camps on the uterine prolapse at the various parts of Lalitpur district. She said that 363 out of 500 women were found affected with the uterine prolapse at the health camps organised last year in three VDCs of Lalitpur. She said that most of the women had asked DWO to provide the disease related training even to their husbands.

Bimala Ghimire, a survivor of the disease, said that when she found that she was affected with uterine prolapse, she herself took the decision to visit hospital a surgery. She said that due to lack of education women are suffering the unbearable pain of the disease.

Ghimire later formed a group and started campaign to educate women about the disease. Her campaign has been able to save the lives of many women, she added.