A brief report on Local Government Training.

Under the project of <u>ENHANCING AND ACCELERATING ACCESS TO JUSTICE OF THE EARTHQUAKE SURVIVORS OF 14 HARDHIT DISTRICTS OF NEPAL THROUGH COMMUNITY MOBILE LEGAL CLINIC AND ADVOCACY</u> in joint support of Caritas Espanola and Caritas France, FNB Nepal originated local government trainings as a distinctive intervention for legal empowerment. In the first eight months of the project commencement, FNB has trained 14 local government authorities of 10 hard-hit districts of the 2015 earthquake. The following are the details of the participating local governments:

SN	Name of local government	District	Number of Participants
1	Tarkeshwor Municipality	Kathmandu	39
2	Balefi Rural Municipality	Sindhupalchowk	18
3	Indrawati Rural Municipality	Sindhupalchowk	18
4	Melamchi Municipality	Sindhupalchowk	21
5	Panauti Municipality	Kavrepalanchowk	25
6	Mahankal Rural Muncipality	Lalitpur	26
7	Melung Rural Municipality	Dolakha	15
8	Jwalamukhi Rural Muncipality	Dhading	16
9	Dupteshwor Rural Municipality	Nuwakot	32
10	Makwanpur Gadhi Rural Municipality	Makwanpur	27
11	Sunkoshi Rural Makwanpur	Sindhuli	17
12	Ghyanglekh Rural Municipality	Sindhuli	20
13	Gandaki Rural Municipality	Gorkha	13
14	Gorkha Municipality	Gorkha	34
Total			**321**

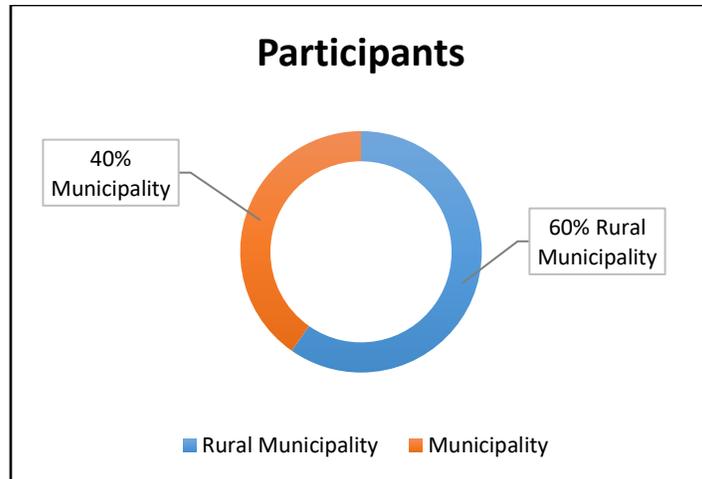*Table 1: Details of participating local governments.*

Figure 1: Number of participants according to type of local government.

During the course of local government training, we trained 10 Rural Municipalities and 4 Municipalities meeting and interacting over 321 local government representatives and associates. Although the 3-day package was initially planned, the busyness of the participants in their roles as local government couldn't allow full 3 days session, unsettling their office time. So, the package was modified into 3 nights 2 days sessions with careful considerations by the program department of the organization in consultations with the board. During the design of the project, an original idea was to focus on legal empowerment of the rural, vulnerable and marginalized communities thus justifying the data of 10 rural municipalities trained among the total of 14 local governments.
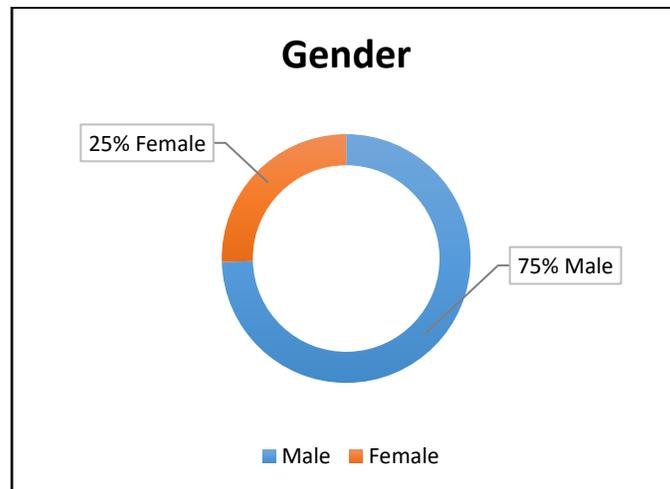

Figure 2: Details of participants on the basis of gender.

Out of 14 local governments trained, only one local government had a woman elected in the mayoral/presidential post.

As the project focus remains on the grassroots, the local government training also ensured active and effective participation of the municipality including the ward officials. The training functioned on two-fold basis, first with the purpose of education and secondly as a common platform among the branches of local government to further analyze issues and prospects of their respective areas. A determined attendance of ward presidents and municipal executives among other participating local government officials (Figure 3).

Positions of Participants

- 3% Mayor
- 4% CSO representatives
- 4% Deputy Mayor
- 7% Judicial Committee Member
- 8% Technicals
- 10% Ward Member
- 12% Public Servent
- 36% Ward President
- 16% Municipal Executive Member

Legend:
- Ward President
- Municipal Executive Member
- Public Servant
- Ward Member
- Technicals
- Judicial Committee Members
- Deputy Mayor
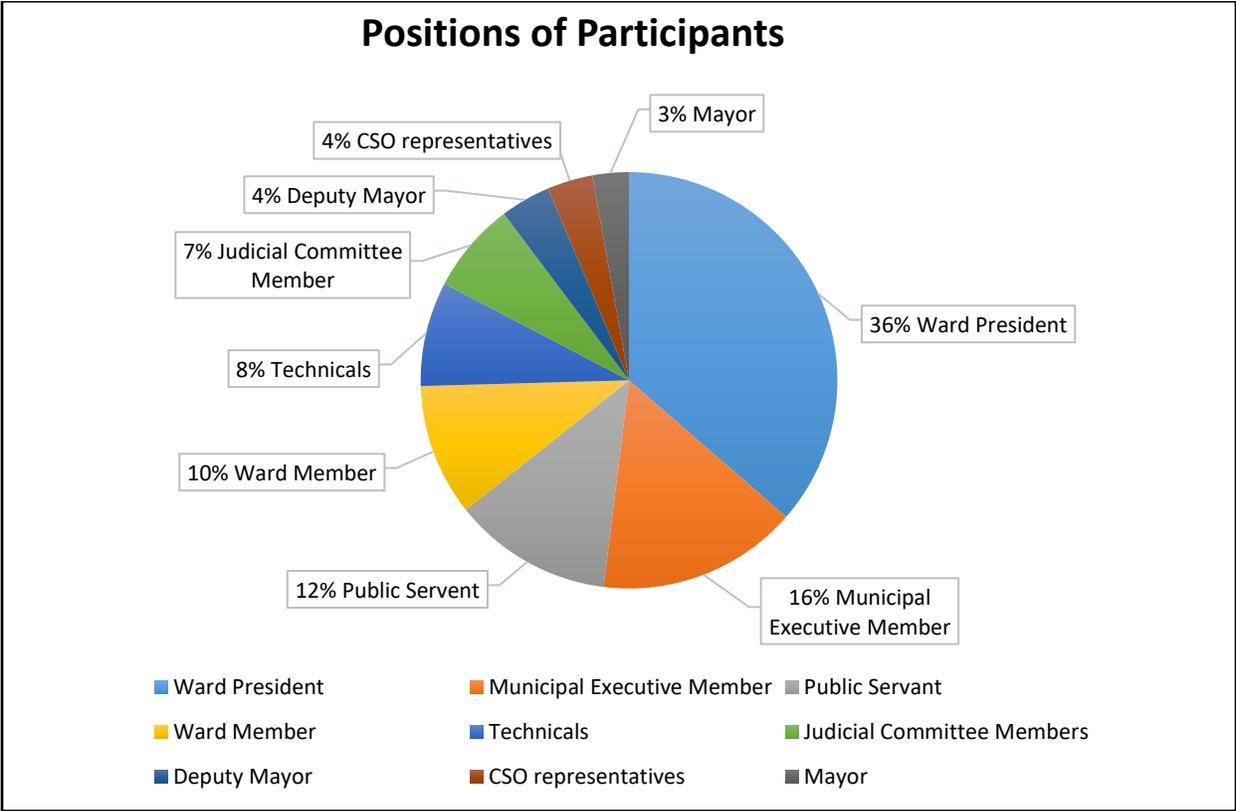- CSO representatives
- Mayor

Figure 3: Details of participants on the basis of their designation in the local government.

Khas Arya, as defined by Tribhuvan University's Central Department of Sociology and Anthropology, include the Hill Brahman, Chhetri, Sanyasi and Thakuri, who have been elected at the major posts of the local governments trained and dominating the overall participation rate on the basis of the ethnical backgrounds of the participants. The project districts are situated at the hilly region thus the explanation for minimal participation of Madhesi and Muslim population.
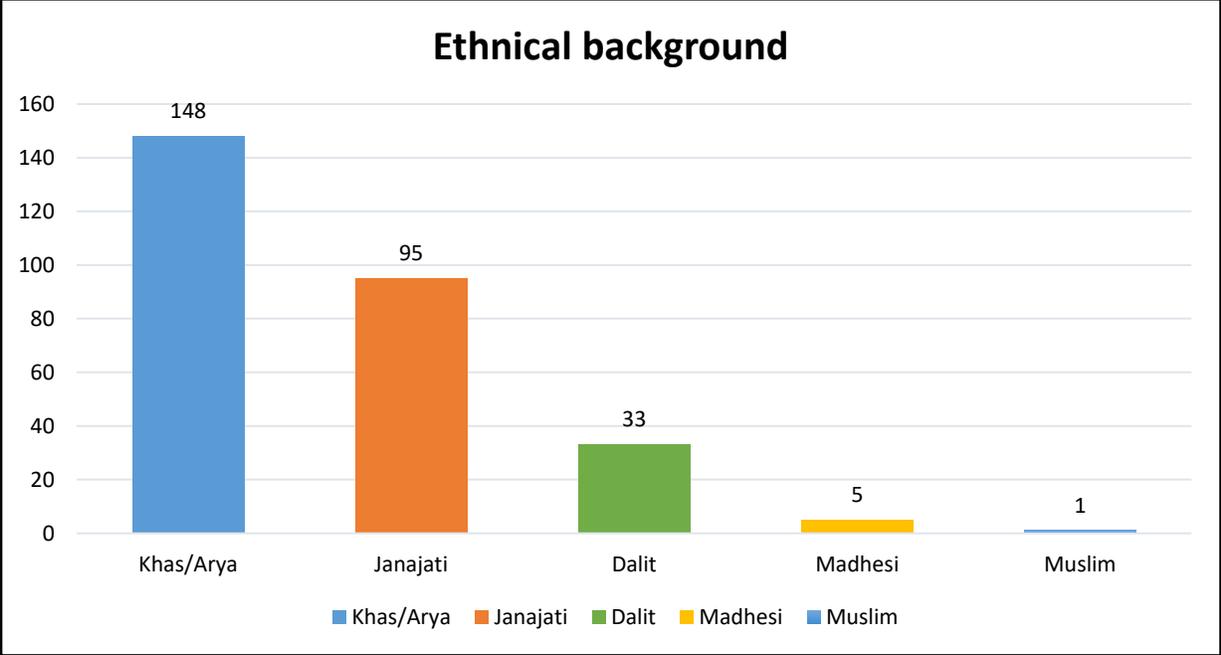

Ethnical background

Khas/Arya	148
Janajati	95
Dalit	33
Madhesi	5
Muslim	1

Legend: Khas/Arya, Janajati, Dalit, Madhesi, Muslim

Figure 4: Participants according to their ethnicity.

At each training, surveys were disseminated among the participants at the end of the training as an aim to collect the feedback of the activity. The surveys were prepared with the help of Professor David Tushaus of Missouri Western University based in United States of America and it contained questionnaires as to analyze the effectiveness and rooms for improvement of the program. The surveys were prepared in Nepalese language and the English translation of the survey is available in **Annex I.**
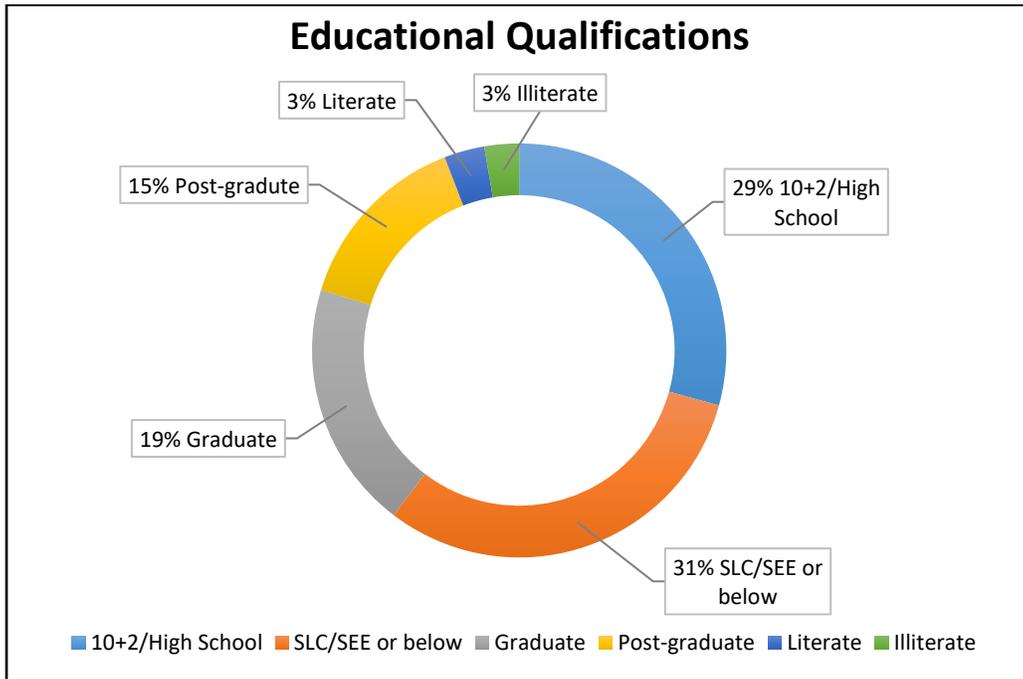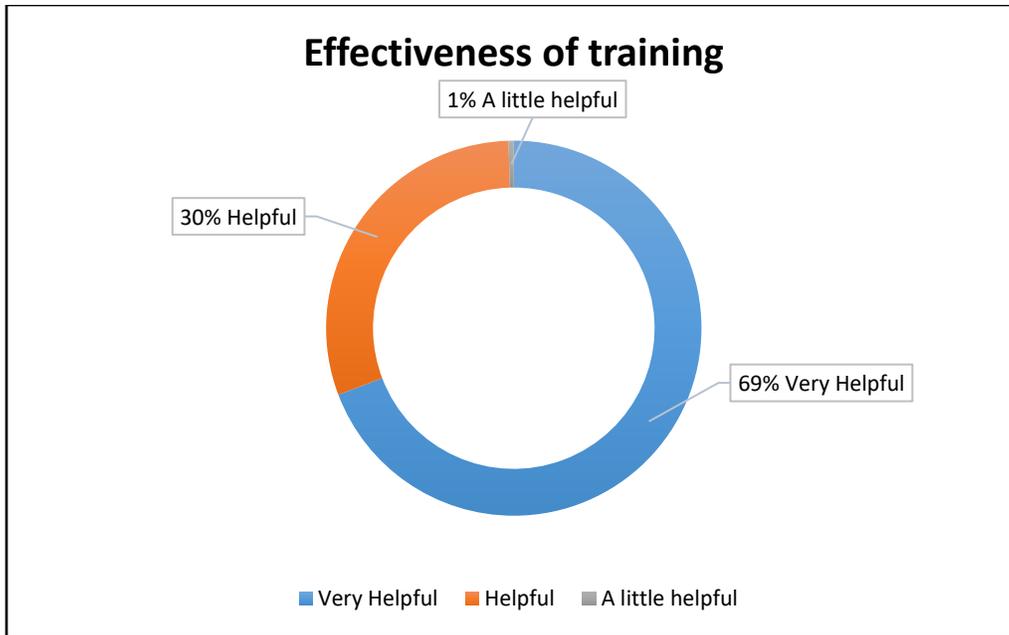

Figure 5: Educational qualification of participants of local government trainings.

Effectiveness of training

1% A little helpful
30% Helpful
69% Very Helpful

■ Very Helpful   ■ Helpful   ■ A little helpful

Figure 6: Effectiveness of the training according to the surveys studied.

From studying the surveys disseminated during the training, 69% of the participants felt the intervention "very helpful and relevant" to their administrative and governmental duties, where as 30% felt is as "helpful" and only 1% felt it as "little helpful" to them. Provided with five options, no participant felt the training as "not very helpful" or "not helpful at all". The above figure clearly states the facts accumulated from the survey regarding the effectiveness of the program.
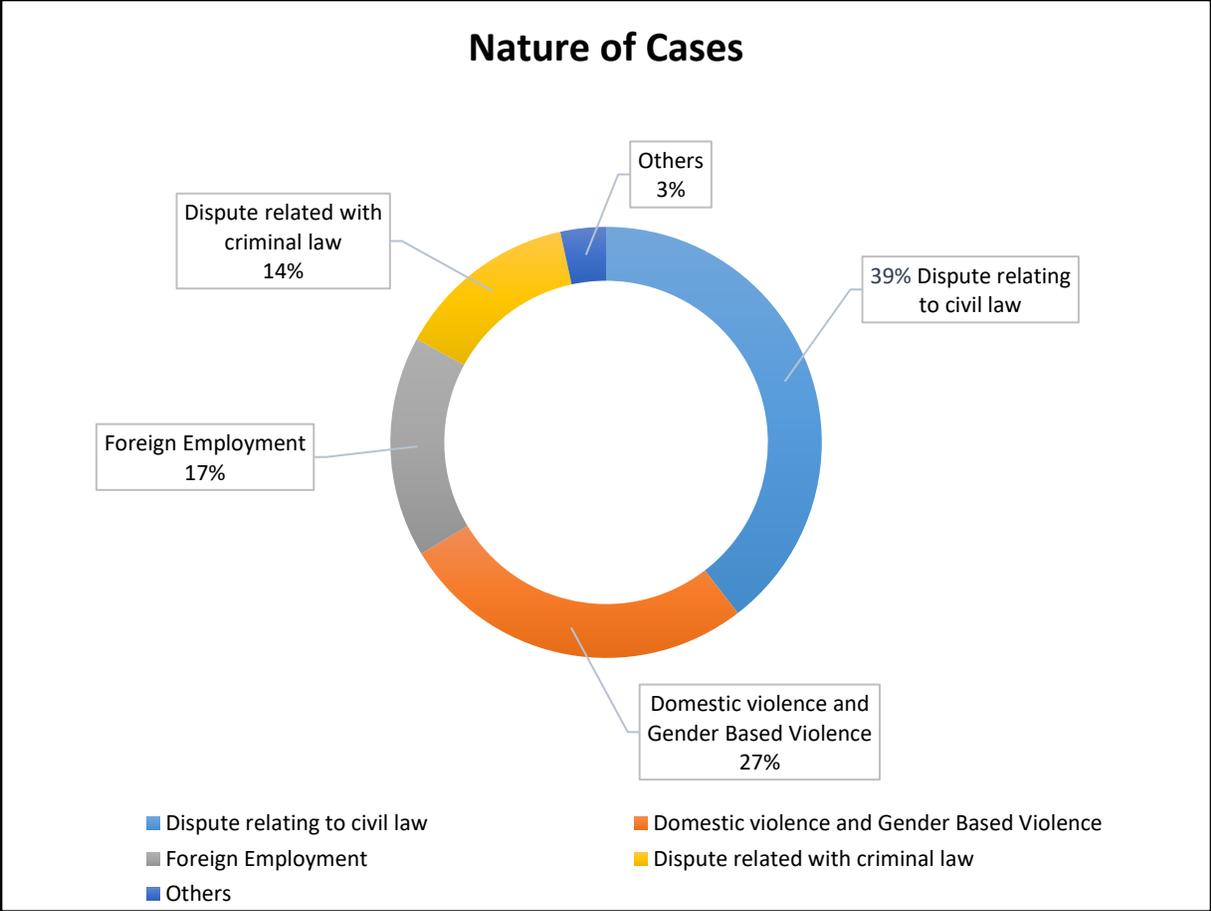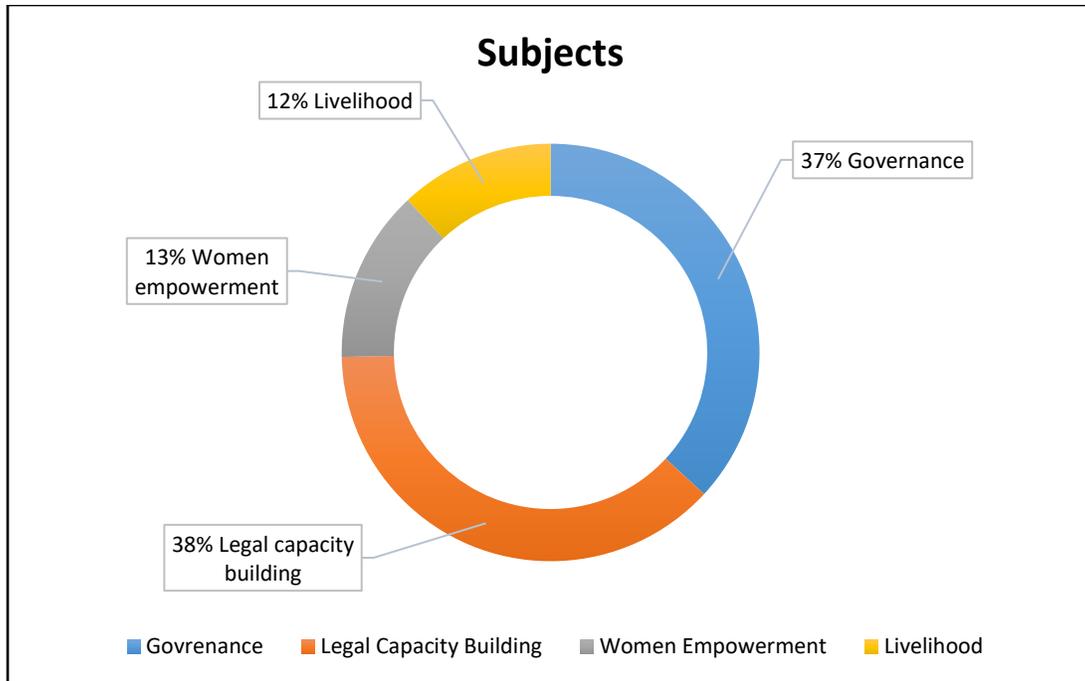
Figure 7: Figure depicting the nature of cases coming to local governments.

One of the questionnaires in the surveys included regarding the nature of cases that are coming to the attention of the local government and judicial committee at local government. Studying the surveys filled out by the participating local government representatives, cases relating to civil law are prominent that comes to the attention and knowledge of the local government. As the civil law governs the everyday life of the population it is evident that such cases are substantial. Following it, the cases relating to domestic violence and gender based violence are also coming to the knowledge of the local government. The cases of such violence persisting does reflect that such human right violations shouldn't be existing in current time but the good part from the finding is that such cases have started to come out in the limelight and within the knowledge of the concerned stakeholders which is a positive sign for eradication of such kind of violence. The cases with the cause relating to foreign employment , cases relating to criminal law and other kinds of cases were respectively third, fourth and fifth among the cases that came within the knowledge of local government trained.

Most Relevant subjects of trainings

- 10% Local government jurisdiction and priorities
- 0% non of the above
- 11% Earthquake survivor benefits available from the government
- 8% Judiciary system in federal government
- 6% Civil and criminal and ots procedures
- 10% Mediation
- 8% Procurement process
- 8% Environment impact assessment (EIA)
- 11% Law making process
- 10% Income and tax collection procedures
- 7% Leadership skills
- 11% Legal document replacements for lost documents

Legend:
- Earthquake survivor benefits available from the government
- Civil and criminal code and its procedures
- Procurement process
- Law making process
- Leadership skills
- Legal document replacements for lost documents
- Income and tax collection procedures
- Environment Impact Assessment (EIA)
- Mediation
- Judiciary system in federal government
- Local government jurisdiction and priorities
- Non of the above

Figure 8: Figure on most relevant topics of the training.

As an evaluation of the program, the participants were requested to provide an insight on the most effective learning relevant to their daily roles as local governments. As the project explicitly focuses on enhancing access to justice of the earthquake survivors and earthquake affected districts as project districts, the trainings also primarily focused on informing the local governments on the updates of reconstruction policies and educating them with the process handling the issues of reconstruction coming within their powers and roles as local government. National Reconstruction Authority (NRA) dispersed some major powers to local government as an effort for attaining the goals of reconstruction well within the timeframe. The training invited office holders at NRA as resource person and facilitator for the session. Within the training package, FNB Nepal also cultivated the participants on their law making, enforcing and interpreting roles and powers. Sessions on taxation process and procurement policies, local government law making process and jurisdiction, environment, e- governance, mediation also largely attracted interests from the participants of the training.

Figure 9: Feedback from the participants on the subjects for future trainings.

For the feedbacks and identifying the improvements of the training, the survey also requested the participants for their treasured feedbacks. The question asked which trainings would be further helpful for them in future, the result explained for the need of legal capacity building and local governance functioning as their top demands. The request for women empowerment and livelihood support trainings were also observable from studying the survey as the top four subject requested.

SWOT Analysis:

Studying the survey, the organization also investigated on the efficiency of the program through SWOT analysis which provides the general overview of its functioning.

S
- Enthusiasm and discipline of participants for participants
- Diverse topics and the relevancy.
- Live consultations and interaction with experts.
- Qualified resource persons
- Simple schooling

W
- Inadequte days for training.
- Lack of audio-visual materials.
- Time management of sessions.
- Should have conducted such trainings early.
- Less time for interactions.

O
- request for refresher training at thier own muncipal areas.
- request for community based trainings on various themes.
- request for law drafting training and timely legal consultation services from the organization.

T
- Time constrain of local government due to thier busyness.