1. Introduction

A group of energetic youth established Community Self Reliance Centre (CSRC) in 1991 with an aim of inspiring and mobilising people, especially youth, and taking the lead in overcoming deprivation, exploitation and marginalisation. CSRC, a social development organization, has been working for the cause of community self-reliance overcoming poverty through empowering processes. CSRC envisions a society where people live with self-reliance and dignity. CSRC's mission is to enhance the power of land-poor farmers leading land and agrarian reforms. CSRC has set a goal to have land for land-poor farmers and to promote their secure livelihoods.

2. Guiding Philosophy

CSRC envisions a society where people live with self-reliance and dignity. CSRC believes in simple lifestyle, mutual respect and valuing each individual. It strongly believes that every problem has a great solution and strives for advancing alternatives. It further believes that non-violent method is fundamental in people's struggle for winning their battles, including fighting against poverty and the denial of people's rights.

3. Perspective on Denial of Human Rights and Poverty

Human rights are the fundamental entitlements of individuals or groups that interface with freedom and human dignity. These freedoms and dignity are universally guaranteed through laws and enforced at the national level. CSRC feels that the State has a primary duty to respect, protect and fulfil all human rights of all people and groups. CSRC understands that poverty is the consequence of unjust power relations, exclusion from empowerment and deprivation from opportunities. Poverty transcends the lack of material goods and services also involving, among others, lack of voice in decision-making processes, access to and control over life-saving services, self-respect and dignity. Poverty is a consequence of and root cause of human rights violations.

1. Dalits are so called untouchables in traditional Nepali caste hierarchy. They are highly discriminated and excluded in economic, social, cultural and political spheres.
In CSRC’s view, good governance is the key to linking land for farmers/peasants and ensuring rights and benefits. As such, sustainability is being achieved in three fundamental areas: (i) creating access to livelihoods and rights of all groups; (ii) policy making and implementation designed to meet the needs of all groups; (iii) creating a participatory platform to ensure accountability of political leaders and institutions. CSRC takes into consideration the social, economic and political situations and the impact of land policies, rights and laws, setting and implementing corrective actions and allowing for continuous evaluation of policies and programs in the domestic and international scene.

In parallel, land is a productive asset and a cultural and moral source of power. Thus, land is a key source of power for the people, allowing them to challenge the state and changing the political landscape. CSRC supports the people in their struggle for land and agrarian reforms, for which the organization aims to have deliberate and measured actions, as well as an organization whose strategies are aligned with the democratic and human rights principles, is essential to hold politicians and policy actors accountable towards pro-people and pro-development agendas.

CSRC further believes that strong non-violent social movements led by land-poor farmers following non-violent methods and organizing with the help of the international community are crucial to achieve their objectives. These movements are driven by the needs of the poor and marginalized farmers and their allies, and are supported by the international community. CSRC supports these social movements to achieve their goals.

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