



# CHAPTER I

## *Introduction*

### **1.1 Background**

The Family Planning Association of Nepal (FPAN) is the pioneer non-government organization in field of family planning. It provides reproductive health services, including family planning, in 34 districts of the country through a network of 24 branches, 13,000 volunteers and 4,500 staff. It works to create a favorable environment for the introduction of innovative approaches such as static clinics and promotion of the concept of informed choice through counseling. The association also promotes women's rights and issues related to adolescent people and reproductive health services that are recommended by the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) in Cairo and the first world Conference on women's, held in Beijing, China in 1995. Since its inception, FPAN has been complementing and supplementing the government programs and policies and has a major role in service delivery. Thus, FPAN is the leading organization in the area of Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) at the national level, which is very important component of essential health care. It has extensive service delivery network that provides service to a large number of population.

The association is carrying out many other activities, such as, mobilization of local communities for raising funds, initiation of paying clinics and certain services at prices much lower than the market rates. The formation of community groups at the local level is also being initiated as a step towards handing over the management to the programs to the communities in the future.

In the year 2005, a five-year Strategic Plan (2005-2009) was developed on the basis of International Planned Parenthood Federation's (IPPF) Strategic Framework. FPAN has been implementing its program activities based on the five years Strategic Plan of Action. At present, FPAN's programs are focused on five thematic areas: adolescents, HIV/AIDS, abortion, access and advocacy. In addition, three innovative projects- Reducing Girls Trafficking, Combating Gender Based Violence during Pregnancy and Youth Friendly SRH Services were implemented in 2005.

The situation discussed above demanded research on the present issues of gender, sexuality and rights. However, FPAN conducted an attitudinal survey on gender, sexuality and rights to assess the knowledge and attitude of 591 volunteers and staff working at the central office and district branches. For this, a structured questionnaire with close-ended questions were developed, distributed and retrieved by FPAN.

The present study, however, envisaged evaluating the attitudinal survey on gender, sexuality and right. Thus, as per the TOR the study team of CEDA was responsible for the processing of the filled questionnaire and report writing.

### **1.2 Objectives of the Study**

The main objective of this study is to assess the knowledge and attitude of the respondents on gender, sexuality and rights. The specific objectives are:

1. To prepare a desk-level analysis based on the review of literature pertaining to Gender, Sexuality and Rights in the international and regional contexts.
2. To assess the knowledge and attitude of the volunteers and staff on the five thematic areas

### **1.3 Methodology of the Study**

The study attempts to conduct the prevalent knowledge and attitude of the respondents on gender, sexuality and rights. Thus, analysis has focused to assess the knowledge and attitude of 591 volunteers and staff working at the central office and district branches.

### **1.4 Source of Data**

Both primary and secondary data have been used for the study. The main sources of secondary data were Family Planning Association of Nepal (FPAN), UNFPA, and concerned INGOs, NGOs. These organizations were visited in order to collect information required for the review of literature.

Primary data were collected from FPAN. A structured questionnaire with close-ended questions were developed and administered the questionnaire by FPAN. Therefore, CEDA study team was only responsible for the processing of the filled questionnaire and report writing.

### **1.5 Analytical Tools/Data Management**

All completed /filled questionnaires were entered into the computer after these were manually edited and validated. Data entry validity checks were performed on 10 percent of randomly selected questionnaires. After cleaning Range and consistency checks of data entry were transferred to process and analysis of quantitative study. Data, thus, generated through qualitative study were compiled and analyzed to complement the survey results. Simple statistical tools such as mean, variance, ratio, and percentage were used to carry out the analysis.

The methodology were discussed and finalized with the key personnel of FPAN and were adopted for carrying out the proposed research work.

### **1.6 Limitations of the Study**

This section of the report has listed some of major limitations, which the study has undergone. The findings of study should be consumed/utilized in light of the following limitations.

The study is based on attitude and opinion survey of 591 volunteers and staff working at the central and district branches. The questionnaires were developed, and administered by FPAN. The findings have inherent sampling errors and, therefore, cannot be generalized.

The evaluation of the study have been attempted through opinion of respondents (volunteers and staff working at the central office and district branches only), not from general public and, therefore, most likely to reflect response bias. This is another important limitation of the study.

The study has very limited scope and encompasses the volunteers and staffs of FPAN and lacks comparative evaluations with those NGOs which are related with these activities. The study does not take into consideration other parallel government as well as non-government organizations working at the grass-roots areas with similar objective.