As the month of March is celebrated globally as women’s month, we at NIRC also dedicate this edition of Evidence Yatra showcasing the journey of Nepali women. This edition includes WOREC publications on gender and Covid-19, highlights from the Women in Data conference. We have also featured Women Evidence Champions who have supported and motivated NIRC.

As a glimpse of current situation of women across various provinces, UN Nepal has published factsheets with detailed reported statistics. A glimpse of Factsheet of Province 1 is presented below.
Women’s Rehabilitation Centre (WOREC) conducted a survey among 25 returnee women migrant workers (from 6 districts - Morang, Udaypur, Terathum, Dang, Doti, Kailali) enquired on issues related to wage theft, their impressions of quarantine shelters in Nepal, if there has been any change in their status with their family and friends as a returnee at times of stigma attached pandemic, considering they may not be in an earning capacity. Their views on how they see themselves benefitting from government’s plans related to employment opportunities and mental well-being of their family members were also explored.

Consultation with returnee women migrant workers, especially with the ones who were given amnesty by Kuwait government on the reasons behind their undocumented and irregular stay. This will be helpful in understanding their choices, situations they have to live in which will be a good reference for the Government of Nepal to revisit its agreement with the countries of employment on employment policies benefiting Nepali women opting for foreign employment opportunities. Psycho-Social Counselling, though not raised by any of the respondents, the survey conversations with the respondents indicate that they are in need of a counsellor who can walk through with their anxiety and stress induced by the pandemic, strained relationship with the family members, and uncertainty around their financial wellbeing. Read the full report here.

**Assessment On Risk And Preventive Measures Of Gender-Based Violence During Lock-Down Period Of COVID 19**

Another assessment conducted by WOREC highlighted severe cases of gender based violence during the lockdown period. Some staggering statistics include:

- 56% respondents shared there is high chance of occurring violence during lock down period;
- 75% respondents shared domestic violence like physical violence and verbal abuse can happen, 46% said rape, 36% said sexual abuse, 33% said attempt to rape and 49% said there is chance of happening suicide during lock down period;

Read the full report here.
Women in Data Conference

The second Women in Data Conference was organized on March 20, 2021 by Data for Development (D4D) Nepal, a program funded by UK Aid in collaboration with Development Initiatives. The conference featured panel discussions with prevalent women working in Nepal’s expanding data and tech sectors.

Key recommendations from the event included:

- **Girls need female role models and mentors** – seeing the possibility of women leading work in data, technology or STEAM fields makes it seem attainable. Each panelist noted a number of role models and mentors who guided them, and the panelists themselves are role models themselves: panelist Sumana Shrestha from Kosi Collaborative has employed all female coders in her business.

- **Consider all types of girls** – like any other group of people, girls come from a variety of backgrounds, and there is no one-size fits all approach to bringing girls into STEAM and keeping them there. Girls in urban settings have access to resources (internet, tv, technical schools) that may not be available to girls in rural settings – making STEAM available to all types of girls should be at the forefront of a strategy to increase girls participation in STEAM.

- **Push girls to stay in and succeed at math** – it’s not just about the arithmetic, but the concepts and logic that math teaches girls and boys that sets them up to succeed in STEAM fields. Starting from young ages, and particularly through 8th and 9th grades, encourage girls to stay in STEAM.

- **Among the STEAM subjects, math is affordable for most families** – there is no lab equipment required for math, even in upper levels. Girls can use pencil and paper, and if they are lucky they can look at videos that break down complex concepts into digestible and entertaining YouTube videos to learn outside of the classroom, as well as inside the classroom.

- **It’s never too late to become a woman in data and a data enthusiast** – just because you didn’t study math, doesn’t mean there is not space for you to work in data or STEAM. Women from all sectors can work on data-driven initiatives, or support women in STEAM with programs, jobs, or fellowships. Panelist Jamie Holton comes from a Social Science background, but supports data-driven research in her position as the Project Management and Research Officer at Publish What You Fund.

More details about the event available [here](#).
Meet Our Evidence Champions

As this edition of Evidence Yatra celebrates contributions of women in research and development, we are privileged to receive support and encouragement of these special women.

Dr Nilam Ashra McGrath, Open Access Advocate and Research Uptake Practitioner

Dr Maya Magarathi, Affiliate Assistant Professor, University of Washington

Rekha Khatri, Researcher (specializing in qualitative research)

Neha Malla, Co-Founder, SOCHAI, Youth for Nutrition

Parbati Shrestha, Mental Health Practitioner, TPO Nepal

Medha Sharma, President, Visible Impact

Dristy Gurung, Mental Health Researcher, TPO Nepal