

In Nepal, Adivasi Janajati Women have bitter experiences of inherent structure of patriarchy and dominated by political systems. Social exclusion based on gender has for centuries been an important part of the Nepali milieu. Similarly, social exclusion based on ethnicity has been another reality in Nepal. Thus, Indigenous nationalities Women face social exclusion not only because of them being women, but also because of their ethnicity. Women comprise 51.48 percent out of which 35.5 percent are Adivasi Janajati. Indigenous women comprise around 18 percent of total population. It is a fact that the state has not recognized the "identity" of indigenous women. They have been deprived from policy making process and has included them under the general term "Nepali women" In addition; Indigenous women are marginalized and excluded from the mainstreaming national development. They have suffer triple form of discrimination, First for being women, secondly for being indigenous, thirdly being indigenous women. National Indigenous Women's Federation (NIWF) is a Kathmandu based umbrella organization of Adivasi Janajati (Indigenous Nationalities) specific indigenous women's organizations. The multiple roles that Nepalese Indigenous women contribute to maintain preserve, conserve and promote the distinct identity of Indigenous peoples. Their language, culture, skills, tradition, custom and knowledge in management of community resources are distinct.

Importantly, they are the knowledge holder to nurture mother earths, environment, natural resources, also plays a vital role in sustainable management of mother earth and environment, thus they contribute to all human society nationally and globally, Traditionally and culturally indigenous women are decision makers in family, society also often plays role for peace building and reconciliation. However, their roles and contribution are not recognized by the state. Laws, policies and practices highly marginalize, exclude, deprive, and discriminate indigenous women. Despite of this fact, indigenous women have still retain some or all knowledge, skill, culture, decision making role and traditional institution as well. So women leaders from different indigenous organizations established National Indigenous Women's Federation (NIWF) as a federation in 1999 and registered N in 2000 with the aim of ensuring right to participate in all state structures and mechanism with their distinct identity. Presently, 35 indigenous women's organisations are affiliated under this umbrella organization and 60 District Coordination Committees (DCC).