Awareness raising activities are essential for spreading knowledge and building the community’s capacity. Out of several awareness raising programmes such as street drama, exhibition, rallies, elocution, art competition and essay writing, song competition has proven to be the most effective of all.

Local song competition was organised with special attention to cultural and linguistic aspect. For example duets and Bhajans are a part of folk culture in Nepal and due importance was given to these kind of songs by composing the songs into Tharu, Awadi and Nepali languages.

Since the local communities are aware of the early warning mechanisms which were imparted to them during the exposure visit to the upstream, various training and workshops, street dramas, exhibitions and other programmes, communities were capable of composing songs under the “Early warning and preparedness” theme.

The DMC members informed the local communities about the song competition and encouraged them to incorporate the knowledge they had learned from previous events. The message of early warning had to be delivered through the songs composed by the locals which would get them more points to win.

Lastly the community members then decided on the number of participants and the number of entries. During the process the whole community was excited to be a part of the competition which served as an important function in their lives.

During local song competition in Bankatti on 15 April 2010, the project staff displayed hand mike and hand siren. The mechanics and its use were explained to the community people. I now know how to use the mike and the siren and most importantly when to use it. Now, all of us sleep in peace during the night time - Sukai Chamar, Bankatti VDC-5 Bankattuwa

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My daughter always hums the song that she heard a month back during the local song competition. She has taught the song to her younger brother. The song has raised a curiosity for her on early warning and this is very encouraging - Sujata Mahato, DMC member, Bacchyauli VDC

Local song competition has been considered as one of the best medium to raise awareness among the community about any new knowledge.

Local song competition - a source of edutainment

Early warning awareness song

If heavy rain falls in Dang
We get information from Chepang
Phone calls, siren rings
News will spread all around
“Warning, warning” says the team
Everyone wake up from your dream
Take your belongings
Save your life
As you hear the news
Collect your documents
Collect your jewellery
Collect everything that you need
Phone calls, siren rings
News will spread all around
Run to the shelter
Run to the shelter
And help others reach the shelter
Do not forget old people
Do not forget the pregnant women
And those unable to walk
And also those unable to talk
Lastly don’t forget anyone
Especially the most vulnerable
“Search, search” screams the team
Rescue all those who scream
Phone calls, siren rings
News will spread all around

Composed and sung in Tharu language by Awareness Youth Club, Gulariya-6, Bardiya

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