



## Opening Ceremony of President's Women Economic Empowerment Program

7th March 2017

Kapilvastu Taulihawa



The Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare has recently launched its women empowerment program through skill development. This initiative is a nation-wide campaign that the President of Nepal, Honorable Bidhya Devi Bhandari inaugurated through Kapilvastu district. This initiation is targeted for for 35 girls and women between 18 to 24 years of age group in each district in Nepal.

The main objective of the program was to launch the women empowerment program through skill development. Kapilvastu was strategically chosen to launch this national initiative from: this is because Kapilvastu lags behind in terms of development compared to most districts in Nepal.



The program was very brief, but the *Tipping Point Project* received ten minutes of the program time to showcase a drama performed by the adolescents from Kapilvastu district. The event was well attended by parliamentarians, government officials and representatives from various non-governmental bodies. The inaugural event was done by Honorable Kurmar Khadka, Minister for Women, Children and Social Welfare, and the Honorable President was the chief guest of the event. She addressed the people of Kapilvastu and congratulated the women of the nation on the occasion of the International Women's Day. She clearly stated the fact that because Kapilvastu is still developing, there is a lot of scope for improving our work here. She shared that this program is aimed at improving the economic situation of the women of Kapilvastu.

The *Tipping Point* project's Buddha Play Team that has been supported by Dalit Social Development Center (DSDC) and CARE Nepal put on a drama for the event. The drama tackled the issue of child marriage, violence against women, lack of access to health, issues relating to Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights (SRHR) through their artistic interpretation and manifestation. The drama was very well received by the honorable guests as well as the community members. The audience appreciated that the drama was rooted in reality and reflected the real occurrences of Kapilvastu district.

