



# Informal Sector Service Centre (INSEC)

4 August 2017

## **Preliminary Observation Report on Local Level Election in Bharatpur Metropolitan City-19**

The Local Level Election was conducted in Bharatpur Metropolitan City-19 on August 4 and INSEC observed the overall process of the election. Informal Sector Service Centre (INSEC) would like to thank all voters including political parties for their participation in this process. According to the preliminary information, it is presumed that more than 75 percentage of votes were casted during the process. The Election Commission on June 3rd had decided for re-polling in Bharatpur-19 after the ballot papers were torn during the vote counting process in first phase of local level election held on May 14. Against this decision, ward candidate Gunjaman B.K of Bharatpur-19 and advocate Tulsi Ram Pandey of the same ward had lodged a case at Supreme Court on June 4.

On August 30, almost after two months of the incident, bench of SC justice duo Om Prakash Mishra and Purusottam Bhandary had given a verdict of re-polling in Bharatpur-19 respecting the decision of Election Commission. After the verdict from the Supreme Court, the date for re-polling was scheduled for August 4.

### **Highlights of Today's Observation**

- Voters faced difficulties in voting process due to the lack of environmental friendly polling centers. The voting process in all three polling stations were delayed due to the incessant rainfall.
- Some permitted vehicles were found to be transporting voters during the election against the code of conduct. Fraudulent vehicle permission card were found to be used.
- Voters were in some fear after seeing excessive number of security force that were deployed for the security of just one ward.

### **Conclusion**

Overall, the election is held in a peaceful environment, however vehicles having permission were found to be transporting voters against the election code of conduct with the objective of affecting voters. Along with the beginning of silent period after the decision to hold election on August 4, the political parties and their cadres were found to be active in their election campaign. The ignorance shown by the election officials regarding this matter is definitely a serious issue.

The importance of election will be increased only if the weakness seen is corrected and those violating code of conduct are brought under the legal boundary. It is necessary to respect the vote of the people and must be aware on serious issues such as following code of conduct, election in fearless environment and security, on time.

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