

*“Promoting Mediation Nationwide:  
A Path to a Better Future”*

**National Mediation Report 2021**



**Bhutan National Legal Institute**



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## Acronym

ADR	Alternative Dispute Resolution
BNLI	Bhutan National Legal Institute
CCPC	Civil and Criminal Procedure Code of Bhutan, 2001
CAM	Court-Annexed Mediation
CAMU	Court-Annexed Mediation Unit
GNH	Gross National Happiness
LG	Local Government
NSB	National Statistics Bureau

## Glossary

Bardum/Dumdrig	Customary mediation of disputes
Chiwog	Administrative unit consisting of few villages in a Gewog
Chhuzhing	Wetland
Dolley	A type of hot Chilli grown in Southern Bhutan
Dungkhag	A sub-division of a Dzongkhag
Dzongkhag	An administrative unit, one of the 20 Districts
Gewog	An administrative unit in a Dzongkhag
Gup	The head of the Gewog
Kamzhing	Dry Land
Kishuthara	Women's dress with beautiful patterns made of silk
Lhakhang	A Buddhist temple or monastery
Mangmi	Deputy Head of a Gewog
Nangkha Nangdrig	Mediation of disputes, synonym of Bardum/Dumdrig
Pangzhing	Scrubland
Thrimzhung Chhenmo	The Supreme Law of Land
Thromde	City Council or a Municipality
Thuenpa Puenzhi	Four Harmonious Friends
Tseri	Shifting or slash and burn cultivation
Tshogpa	Head of a Chiwog
Yenlag Thromde	Sub-Thromde, a satellite town

## *Thuenpa Puenzhi, the 'Four Harmonious Friends'*



What mediation does is amply symbolized by the painting or the picture of the *Thuenpa Puenzhi*, the 'Four Harmonious Friends'-the elephant, the monkey, the rabbit and the bird. While at a glance, the image symbolizes peace, harmony and unity in our homes, offices and society, the deeper significance is that it epitomizes respect, interdependence, friendship, cooperation, collaboration, generosity, compromise and accommodation in spite of our hierarchy, background, power, strength and size - as depicted by the four different types, sizes and colors of animals. Like the linkages between the four pillars for the achievement of the common goals of GNH - if

we, the Bhutanese people live in friendship, cooperation and independence under the guidance of our enlightened Monarchs - like the co-existence of the four different animals in the Buddhist fable, there will never be discord, separation, tragedy and calamities in the country. Like the amicable resolution of the dispute over the ownership of the tree between the 'four friends', we hope that our people will settle their disputes and differences amicably and be hailed as the beacon of peace and harmony in the communities. We hope that, the mere sight of the portrait of the 'four harmonious friends' on the cover page of this report will calm our minds and pacify the conflicts.

The Institute's Mediation Training is based on the "*Thuelam Model*". It combines many aspects of the traditional Bhutanese approach to peaceful dispute resolution, along with current international best practices in mediation skills and techniques, which makes it leading-edge in this dynamic field.

## Foreword

The Bhutan National Legal Institute is the Training and Research arm of the Judiciary of Bhutan. It was established by Her Royal Highness Princess Sonam Dechan Wangchuck on 25 February 2011 as per the *Judicial Service Act of Bhutan, 2007*. The Act mandates the Institute to create a forum for legal and judicial discourses, as well as provide research and support services to the judicial personnel for greater efficiency, fairness, access and productivity. It also includes improvements in court administration and management for litigant-friendly justice system. Further, the Institute provides mediation trainings to the Local Government (LG) leaders, Bench Clerks and other relevant stakeholders for the effective mediation of disputes in the communities and Court-Annexed Mediation Units (CAMU) in the Courts.

As much as it is undesirable, litigations are inevitable and often stressful. It is costly, cumbersome, public exhibition of differences, leading to a great deal of ill-will between the litigants. In contrast, Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) processes are usually faster, cheaper, informal and more conclusive than litigation. Given its rugged terrain and isolated communities, Bhutan has used traditional mediation to resolve the disputes informally and amicably, as long as its recorded history - much long before modern courts were established in the 1960s. Therefore, the mediation was the primary tool used by our communities for the informal and pacific resolution of disputes. For its advantages of confidentiality and privacy of not having to wash dirty linen in the public, it is called *Nangkha Nangdrig*-literally, 'internal or confidential treatment' or cure the wounds created by the disputes - settlement of the disputes within the confines of the villages and communities. Therefore, the resolution of disputes in the courts is in fact the 'alternative' means or forum for the dispute resolution in Bhutan - the ADR or mediation, being the main system. Being the 'people's court', the mediators lacked definitions - they came from all walks of life - monks, retired civil and military officers, village elders - but mostly those whose words carried weight in the society.

The importance and the utility of the mediation is proved by the laws passed from time to time, beginning as far back as the *Thrimzhung Chhenmo, 1959* to the latest special law on the ADR - *Alternative Dispute Resolution Act, 2013*. The *Local Government Act of Bhutan, 2009* requires the community leaders to mediate civil disputes which are referred to the Gewogs by the people. Similarly, provisions in the *Civil and Criminal Procedure Code, 2001* echo such importance giving people opportunities to settle disputes out of courts, even after the cases are registered in the courts.

However, lately the increasing literacy of the population and slackening of the social sanction and values put the age-old amicable system of dispute resolution system at the risk of decline, disuse and loss. It was at this juncture that Her Royal Highness Princess Sonam Dechan Wangchuck, the Hon. President of the Institute stepped in with the timely intervention of revitalizing and institutionalizing the mediation system in the country, with a series of trainings of the key community and LG Leaders on the skills and techniques of the professional community dispute mediation. The nation-wide program trained the LG leaders of 205 Gewogs and 1044 Chiwogs of the first and the second Local Government elections.

The *National Mediation Report*, an annual publication is an attempt to study the impact of the nation-wide mediation of the disputes in preserving the social harmony and strengthening the community vitality. This also serves to assess the efficacy of the trainings as well as the efficiency of the LG leaders in the mediation of disputes in the communities.

The Institute is pleased to publish the report with the financial assistance of the Royal Government of Bhutan. It is hoped that the report will help deepen the understanding of the benefits of mediation, and revive and strengthen the age-old customary system. By weaning some cases off the litigation system, it is hoped that the judiciary is spared of scarce judicial time and resources in adjudicating trivial, frivolous, and minor civil cases. Ultimately, it is expected to help preserve the relationship and social harmony in the communities.

Harmony is the need of our country for all times to come. The essence of the *Gross National Happiness* (GNH), the alternative development paradigm proclaimed by His Majesty the Fourth *Druk Gyalpo* is the need of a harmonious society with balanced development in the areas of culture, economy, environment and governance. What might disrupt this harmony or the balance is the disputes and differences between our people - as more and more of us share or compete for the same or lesser amount of national resources. This calls for the effective and efficient resolution of the disputes by the court of justice, primarily. However, we must provide people with alternative means of preventing or resolving the disputes - that includes strengthening of the age-old customary, amicable disputes settlement system. That is where the Institute comes in promoting mediation for GNH, to strengthening the community vitality and harmony.

## Executive Summary

Mediation or the amicable or informal resolution of disputes in the communities with the intervention or involvement of neutral and trusted community leaders is an age-old customary practice in Bhutan. Albeit minor differences in practices, procedures and methods of mediation, the disputes are mediated throughout the country aiming at the same objective of inexpensive and effective resolution of simple disputes which erupt between people as they navigate daily life and eke out their livelihoods, especially in the rural areas.

Above all, without the divisive effect of the court litigations and segregation of the people into ‘winners and losers’ the parties could indulge in the comfort of ‘win-win’ outcomes honoring the solutions tailored to suit their needs and interests. Despite several judicial reforms and access to the courts, it is in fact still *‘better to lose in the village than win in a court of law’*. Mediation of disputes is the panacea for a small country like Bhutan where people share a small space and live interdependently. Mediation has the potential to strengthen community vitality for *Gross National Happiness*.

In order to ensure uniformity in practices and procedures of mediation, the Institute began training community LG leaders since 2012. Records reveal that 2025 LG Leaders (Gups, Mangmis and Tshogpas) have been trained on mediation skills and techniques from 2012-2021. This figure does not include other stakeholders, such as civil servants, labour officers, Paralegal Service Providers, Gewog Administrative Officers, trainees of the Post-Graduate Diploma in National Law, etc., who have also been imparted mediation skills by the Institute. The Institute has also trained 142 Bench Clerks on Court-Annexed Mediation System from 2019-2021.

The present report - *National Mediation Report, 2021* is an update on the dispute mediated by the LG leaders in 2021. The report assessed the types and number of disputes mediated in the community. Regarding the community mediation, the report revealed that Paro Dzongkhag has mediated 719 disputes being the highest in the country, followed by 378 disputes mediated by Samtse Dzongkhag and 312 disputes mediated by Chhukha Dzongkhag respectively. Bumthang Dzongkhag has mediated 48 disputes being the least in the country followed by Gasa which mediated 58 disputes and Trongsa Dzongkhag which mediated 60 disputes respectively. The reason for having mediated higher number of cases can be attributed to the higher population and concentration of economic and social activities. On the types of disputes mediated, matrimonial tops the list with 871 disputes while child maintenance-related is the lowest with 224 disputes in the country.

A total of 3,824 disputes were mediated by the LG leaders in 205 Gewogs in 2021 alone. All in all, the mediation has helped in strengthening relationships, promoting harmony and peace in our communities. Similarly, the Courts have been spared of the burden of litigation and adjudication by this much cases in 2021.



## 1. Introduction

ADR is considered a new way of thinking in many countries. Its roots run deep in human history, and it has long played a crucial role in cultures across the globe. There is no question that conflict resolution, through the processes of arbitration, negotiation, conciliation and mediation has become an acceptable and, indeed, inevitable part of creative dispute resolution system. Among the ADR systems, mediation is the most popular; the others being conciliation and consensus building.

Bhutan has a long history of resolving disputes through *Nangkha Nangdrig* which literally connotes 'internal settlement or mediation'. The process is based on the principle of compassion and peaceful co-existence, which are important facets of the community-oriented Bhutanese society. Mediation is also known as *Dhum Drig* which has its origin in the *Thrimzhung Chhenmo*, the *Supreme Law of Bhutan*, 1959, which comprised one of the sources of the *Constitution of Kingdom of Bhutan*. It is referred to as *Bardum* in the *Alternative Dispute Resolution Act of Bhutan*, 2013. It is generally understood as an intervention from a third-party neutral (*Nang Drigpa* or *Barmi*) who assumes the role of a mediator and tries to make the parties understand the benefits of settling disputes internally, without going to the courts.

The law on mediation in the *Thrimzhung Chhenmo*, 1959 was later replaced by provisions in the *Civil and Criminal Procedure Code*, 2001. In principle, all the disputes, which are civil in nature can be resolved through mediation. However, despite a plethora of laws advocating mediation of disputes, gauging from the large number of cases which reach courts, including those which can be mediated, the age-old practice of informal and amicable settlements of disputes has declined, mainly due to lack of trained mediators and the institutions patronizing the system. Therefore, a need for an appropriate intervention was strongly felt to revitalize, invigorate and institutionalize the system so that justice is delivered in the communities and judicial service is taken to the doorsteps of the people - thereby enhancing access to justice. In the pursuit of this noble objective, the Institute has initiated a series of trainings and workshops on mediation skills and techniques since 2012.

It was with urgency and genuine concern that Her Royal Highness invited the attention of the nation on the need to strengthen the age-old system of informal and amicable system of dispute resolution. She desired that we continue to value, preserve and uphold our cultural tradition of amicable disputes resolution - so that justice is dispensed expeditiously and inexpensively in the community itself, without resorting to the court of law. Today, the trainings are being received with great zeal and appreciation by the communities, leaders, government, law makers,

private and corporate lawyers, and relevant stakeholders, etc. The Government has consistently provided funds to impart mediation knowledge and skills to the relevant stakeholders. Not only that peer mediation has paved its way in 46 schools through the establishment of School Law Clubs.

The capacity-building trainings certainly supplemented the judiciary in resolution of disputes by strengthening ADR system, which eliminates minor disputes, and the people are spared of the time and resources. Above all, mediation in the communities is expected to mitigate the divisive effect of the litigations and preserve the age-old culture of inter-dependence and harmonious co-existence of people.

## **2. Objectives**

Unity is one of the main national goals repeatedly reminisced by His Majesty the King. Disputes have the potential to disrupt relationship, peace and unity. We cannot just leave the work of dispute resolutions to the courts and the judiciary alone. But what are the alternative forums available for the people? Are there institutions to supplement dispute resolution, reconciliation and peace-making in the society? Successive Monarchs have strived to keep education, medical and justice free of charge for the people of Bhutan. His Majesty the King has commanded that the people must not return as enemies, even though they may not go back as friends from the dispute resolution forums - thereby stressing on the need to adjust, compromise, accommodate and mediate the differences and disputes arising among and between people, and live as family, friends and neighbours. Moreover, as people-friendly as the courts may become, the increasing complexity of modern courts and legal and accessible systems, the litigations in the august forums such as courts, remain or become expensive and intimidating for the common men. Therefore, mediation of disputes can provide the much-needed alternative relief to the people of lesser means to access justice inexpensively and expeditiously. Thus, the primary objective of the compilation of a report such as this, is to educate, inform and guide people to use mediation, save resources and preserve relationship - and promote peace and happiness in the country.

In response to the need of the hour, mediation is being revived and strengthened in the country. With the increase in the number and types of disputes which come up for mediation, the roles of mediators are expanding and becoming more challenging. With the increasing trust reposed by the public in mediation services, the study and assessment of the importance and effectiveness of mediation becomes important. The periodic assessment of mediation of disputes

provides information on the success of the mediation as well as the efficiency, skills and attitude of the mediators. This also gives empirical evidence of the types and number of cases mediated, and the interventions and reforms required as the system deepens and strengthens.

### **3. Methodology**

Most of the mediation takes place in the communities - in the villages, Chiwogs and Gewogs - the building blocks of our country. With no central mediation institution and authority for the guidance and regulation, the mediators maintained no official or standard record. Therefore, it is difficult to obtain the necessary information and data on the exact number and nature of cases mediated. In order to collect the required information and data, a form was sent to all the Gewogs (*see Annexure*) and collected accordingly. The data collected were compiled to study the number and types of cases mediated in the Gewogs first, and then at the Dzongkhag level, and finally at the national level. This report, therefore, is the assessment of the number and the types of disputes mediated in the community in 1044 Chiwogs, 205 Gewogs and 20 Dzongkhags of the country.

### **4. Mediation Report**

The disputes are classified into nine categories viz., 1. Matrimonial; 2. Land; 3. Inheritance; 4. Monetary; 5. Irrigation and drinking water; 6. Footpath and access road; 7. Crops damaged by cattle; 8. Child maintenance; and 9. Miscellaneous matters. The brief profile of every Dzongkhag provided in this report is expected to shed light on the backdrop and context of the places which has bearing on the number and the types of the cases being mediated and litigated. The report acknowledges the use of facts and information of the different Gewogs and Dzongkhags from the website of the respective Dzongkhags and National Statistics Bureau, including the maps.

In this report, the first set of the tables (Table 1) and the graphs (Graph 1) show the number of disputes mediated in the various Gewogs of the Dzongkhags. The second set of tables (Table 2) and the graphs (Graph 2) show the different types and nature of disputes mediated in the Dzongkhags.

## 1. Bumthang Dzongkhag

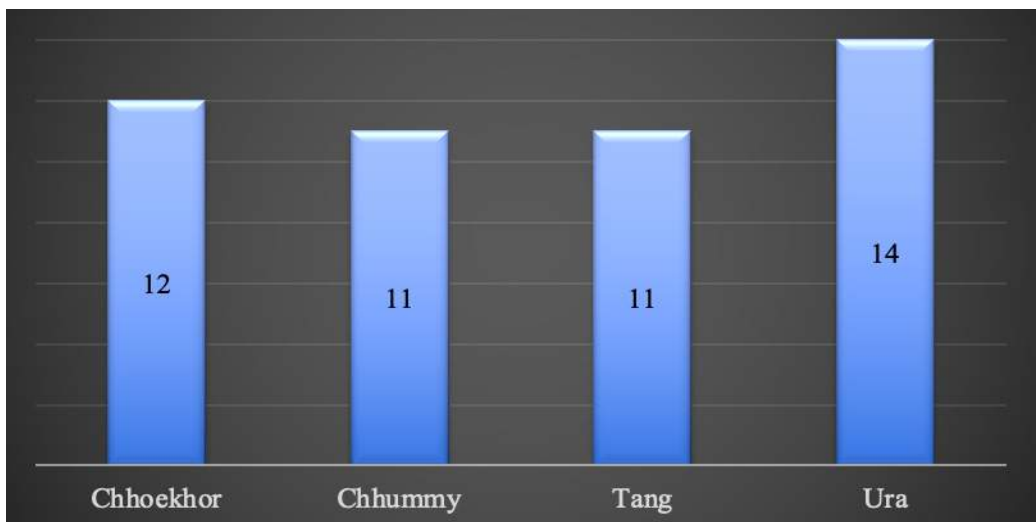
Bumthang Dzongkhag is located within the altitude range of 2,400-6,000 meters above the sea level and spans over an area of 2,667.76 sq. km. It has a total population of 18,203 as per the Statistical Yearbook of Bhutan 2021 by National Statistics Bureau. Most of the people in the Dzongkhag depend on agriculture and livestock for their livelihood. The Dzongkhag experiences cold climatic conditions with warm summers and cold winters. Bumthang Dzongkhag is administratively divided into four Gewogs- Chhummy, Chhoekhor, Tang and Ura.



**Table 1: Number of disputes mediated in four Gewogs of Bumthang Dzongkhag**

Sl. No.	Gewog	Disputes mediated
1	Chhoekhor	12
2	Chhummy	11
3	Tang	11
4	Ura	14
<b>Total</b>		<b>48</b>

**Graph 1: Number of disputes mediated in four Gewogs of Bumthang Dzongkhag**



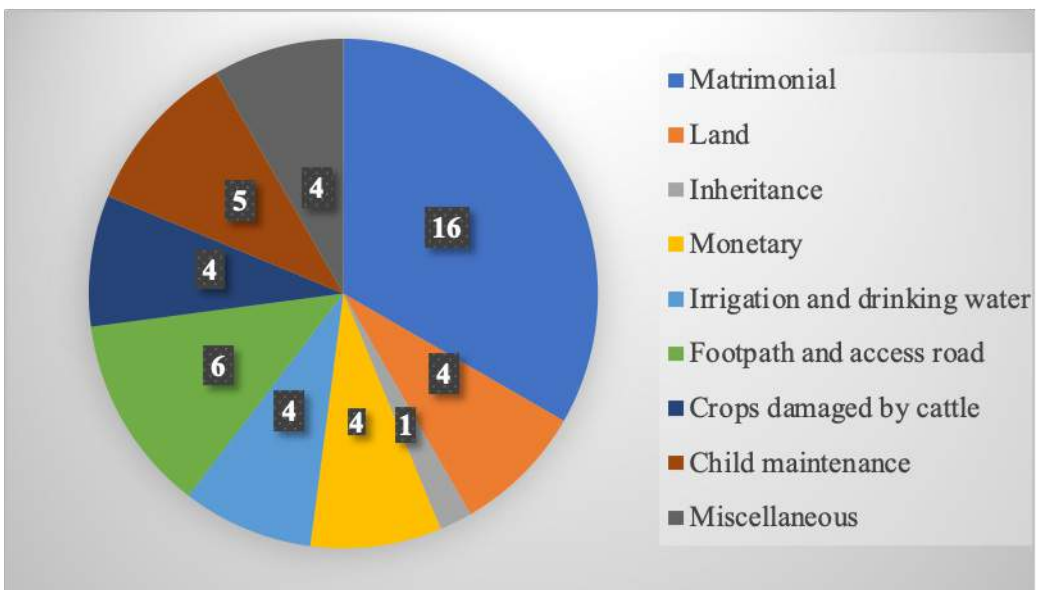
## Findings

A total of 48 disputes were mediated in Bumthang Dzongkhag. Ura Gewog has mediated 14 disputes being highest followed by 12 disputed mediated by Choekhor Gewog. Chummy and Tang Gewogs have mediated 2 disputes each being lowest in the Gewogs.

**Table 2: Types of disputes mediated in Bumthang Dzongkhag**

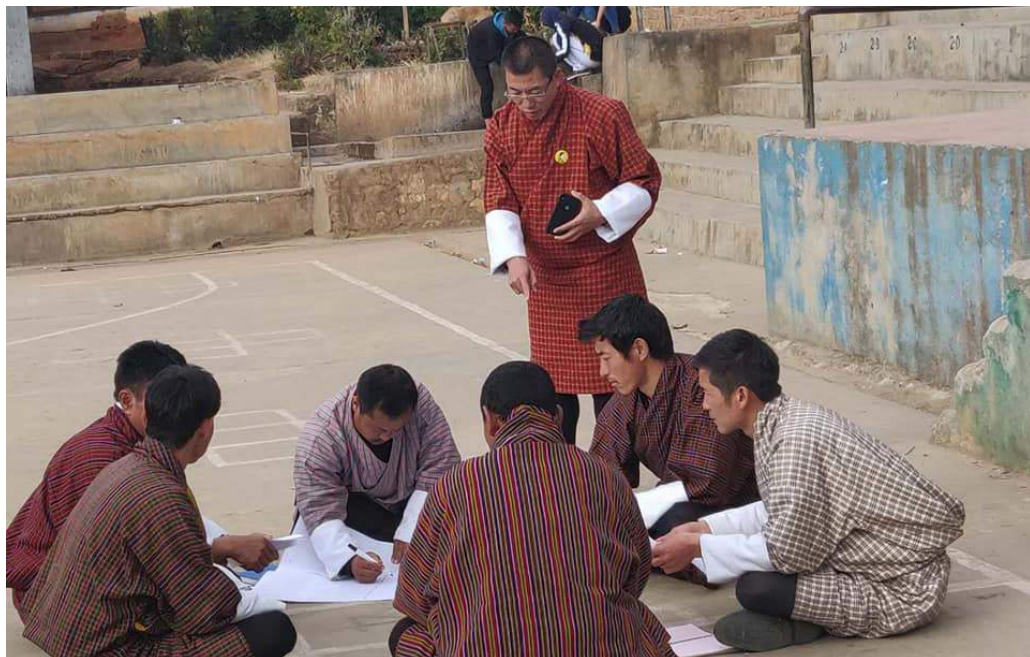
Sl. No.	Types of disputes	Disputes mediated
1	Matrimonial	16
2	Land	4
3	Inheritance	1
4	Monetary	4
5	Irrigation and drinking water	4
6	Footpath and access road	6
7	Crops damaged by cattle	4
8	Child maintenance	5
9	Miscellaneous	4
<b>Total</b>		<b>48</b>

**Graph 2: Types of disputes mediated in Bumthang Dzongkhag**



## Findings

Bumthang Dzongkhag has mediated 48 disputes being lowest in the country. A maximum of 16 matrimonial disputes were mediated, followed by 6 disputes pertaining to footpath and access road. Inheritance is the least number of dispute (1) in Bumthang Dzongkhag.



## 2. Chhukha Dzongkhag

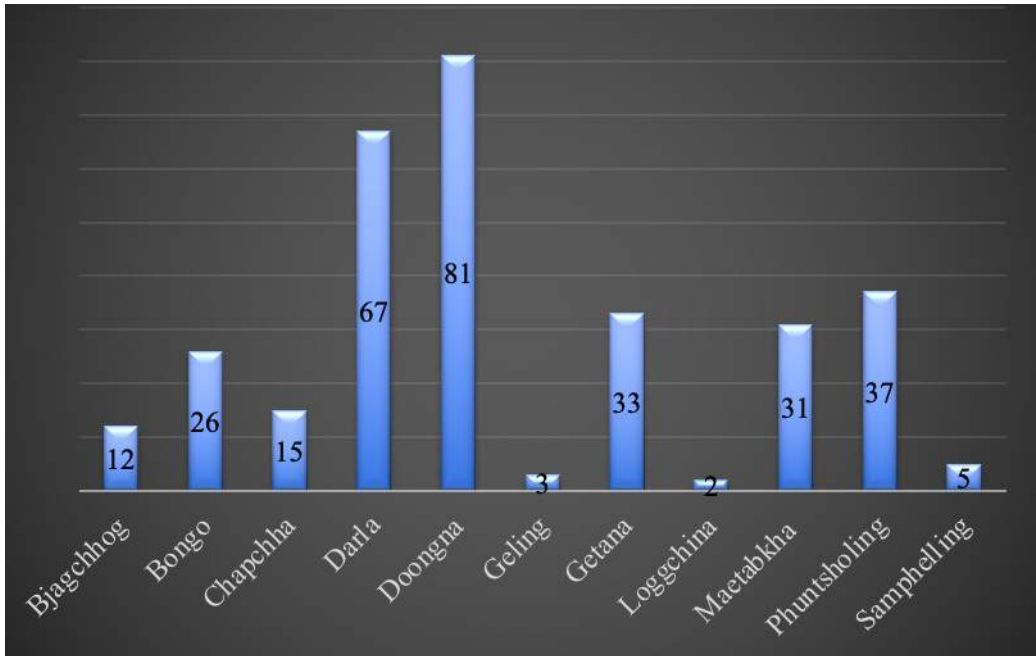
Chhukha Dzongkhag lies in the Southern belt of Bhutan. It is located within the altitude range of 200-3,500 meters above the sea level and spans over an area of about 1,879.5 sq. km. It has a total population of 69,678 as per the Statistical Yearbook of Bhutan 2021 by National Statistics Bureau. Chhukha Dzongkhag is the point of entry into the Western and Central Bhutan from India. Majority of the people depend on livestock and subsistence agricultural farming. Mandarin, potato and cardamom are the principal cash crops. Despite favorable climatic conditions, farm productivity is low due to rugged terrain and limited farming infrastructure and facilities. The Dzongkhag is administratively divided into 11 Gewogs.



**Table 1: Number of disputes mediated in the eleven Gewogs of Chhukha Dzongkhag**

Sl. No.	Gewog	Disputes mediated
1	Bjagchhog	12
2	Bongo	26
3	Chapchha	15
4	Darla	67
5	Doongna	81
6	Geling	3
7	Getana	33
8	Loggchina	2
9	Maetabkha	31
10	Phuntsholing	37
11	Samphelling	5
<b>Total</b>		<b>312</b>

**Graph 1: Number of disputes mediated in the eleven Gewogs of Chhukha Dzongkhag**



**Findings**

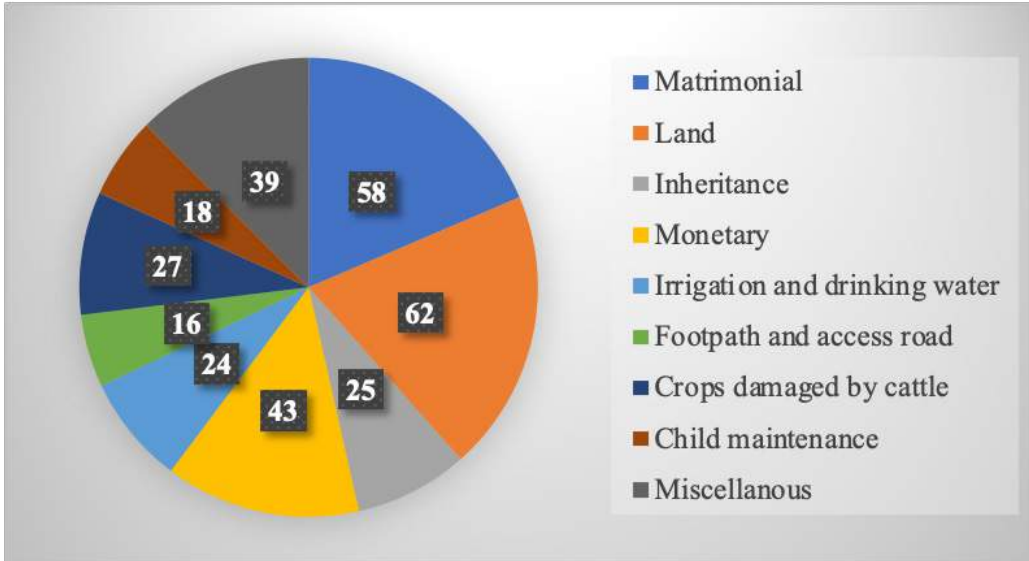
Doongna Gewog has mediated the highest number of disputes (81) in the Dzongkhag followed by Darla (67) and Phuentsholing Gewog (37) respectively. Loggchina Gewog has mediated (2) disputes and is lowest in the Dzongkhag.

**Table 2: Types of disputes mediated in Chhukha Dzongkhag**

Sl. No.	Types of disputes	Disputes mediated
1	Matrimonial	58
2	Land	62
3	Inheritance	25
4	Monetary	43
5	Irrigation and drinking water	24
6	Footpath and access road	16
7	Crops damaged by cattle	27
8	Child maintenance	18
9	Miscellaneous	39
<b>Total</b>		<b>312</b>



Graph 2: Types of disputes mediated in Chhukha Dzongkhag



### Findings

Chhukha Dzongkhag has mediated a total of 312 disputes and is third highest in the country after Samtse (378) and Paro Dzongkhag (719). The land-related issue (62) is the highest followed by matrimonial (58) and monetary (43) respectively. The least number of disputes mediated in the Dzongkhag pertains to footpath and access road (16) followed by child maintenance-related disputes (18).



### 3. Dagana Dzongkhag

Dagana Dzongkhag has an area of about 1,722.83 sq. km. It lies in the South-Eastern part of the country with an altitude of 185-3,800 meters above the sea level. It has a total population of 25,586 as per the Statistical Yearbook of Bhutan 2021 by National Statistics Bureau. About 87% of the total area is under forest cover, comprising mainly of sal, pine, and teak. The climate is hot and humid in summers and moderately cold in winters. Agriculture is the main source of livelihood for the inhabitants of the Dzongkhag. The mandarin and cardamom are the main sources of cash income for the people of Dagana. Due to its favorable climatic conditions, vegetables such as broccoli, cauliflower, cabbage, potato, chillies, tomatoes and horticulture crops such as banana, passion fruit, pear, and avocado are grown. Pipla, thysolinia and cinnamom are some of the popular non-wood forest products available in the Dzongkhag.

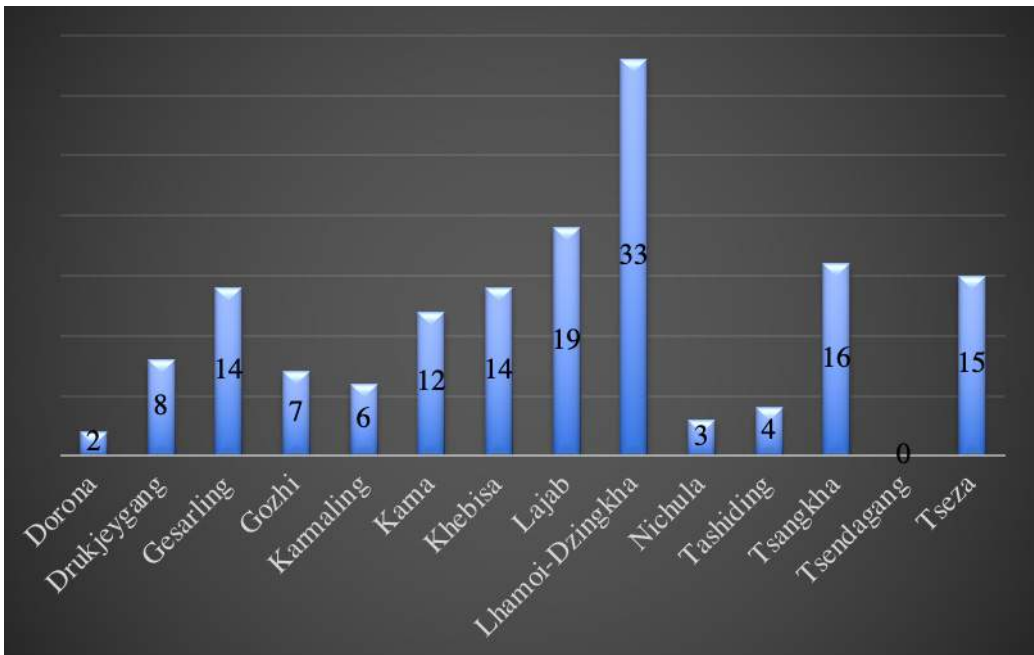


**Table 1: Number of disputes mediated in the fourteen Gewogs of Dagana Dzongkhag**

Sl. No.	Gewog	Disputes mediated
1	Dorona	2
2	Drukjeygang	8
3	Gesarling	14
4	Gozhi	7
5	Karmaling	6
6	Karna	12
7	Khebis	14
8	Lajab	19
9	Lhamoi-Dzingkha	33
10	Nichula	3
11	Tashiding	4

12	Tsangkha	16
13	Tsendagang	0
14	Tseza	15
<b>Total</b>		<b>153</b>

**Graph 1: Number of disputes mediated in the fourteen Gewogs of Dagana Dzongkhag**



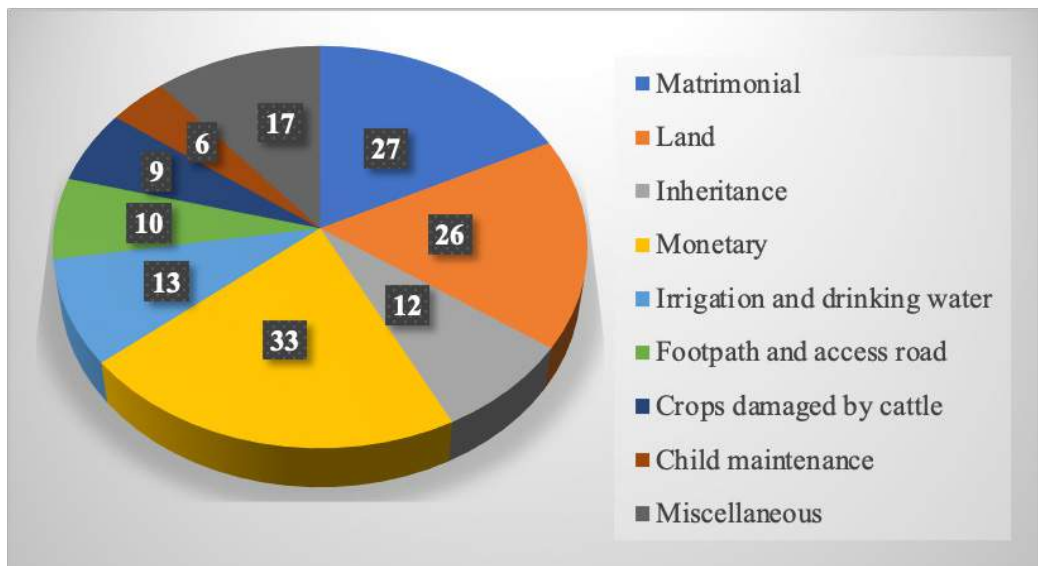
### Findings

Lhamoi-Dzingkha Gewog has mediated the highest number of disputes (33) followed by Lajab (19) and Tsangkha Gewog (16) respectively. However, not a single dispute has been mediated by Tsendagang Gewog.

**Table 2: Types of disputes mediated in Dagana Dzongkhag**

Sl. No.	Types of disputes	Disputes mediated
1	Matrimonial	27
2	Land	26
3	Inheritance	12
4	Monetary	33
5	Irrigation and drinking water	13
6	Footpath and access road	10
7	Crops damaged by cattle	9
8	Child maintenance	6
9	Miscellaneous	17
<b>Total</b>		<b>153</b>

**Graph 2: Types of disputes mediated in Dagana Dzongkhag**



**Findings**

Monetary is the highest number of disputes (33) mediated in the Dzongkhag followed by matrimonial (27) and land (26) respectively. The child maintenance-related is the lowest number of disputes (6) mediated in the Dzongkhag followed by 9 disputes pertaining to the crops damaged by the cattle.

#### 4. Gasa Dzongkhag

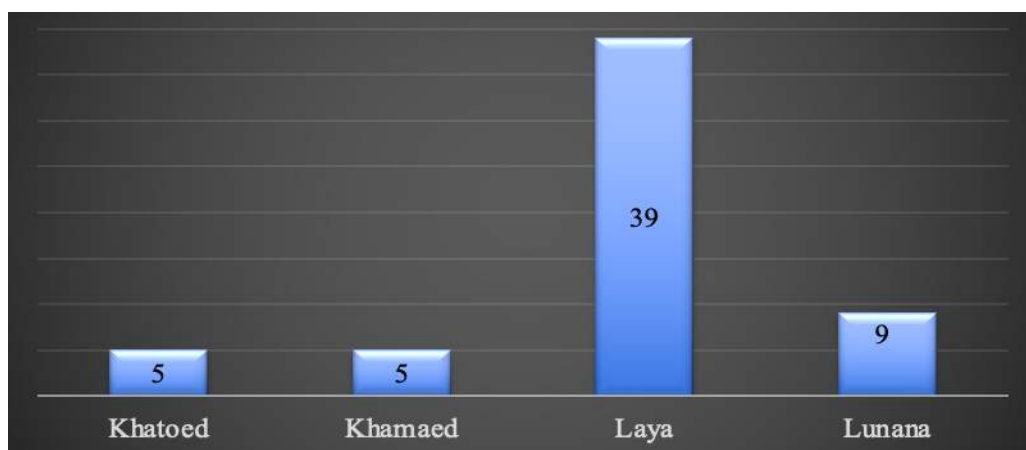
Gasa Dzongkhag is situated in the North-Western part of the country. It has a total population of 4,222 as per the Statistical Yearbook of Bhutan 2021 by National Statistics Bureau. The altitude ranges from 1,500-4,500 meters above the sea level. The climatic condition ranges from temperate to alpine with extremely cold winters, and short pleasant summers. People speak local dialects and wear their own unique dresses. Gasa occupies a significant place in the socio-political history of Bhutan. Zhabdrung Ngawang Namgyel, the patron and the unifier of Bhutan, first came to Bhutan via Gasa.



**Table 1: Number of disputes mediated in the four Gewogs of Gasa Dzongkhag**

Sl. No.	Gewog	Disputes mediated
1	Khatoed	5
2	Khamaed	5
3	Laya	39
4	Lunana	9
<b>Total</b>		<b>58</b>

**Graph 1: Number of disputes mediated in the four Gewogs of Gasa Dzongkhag**



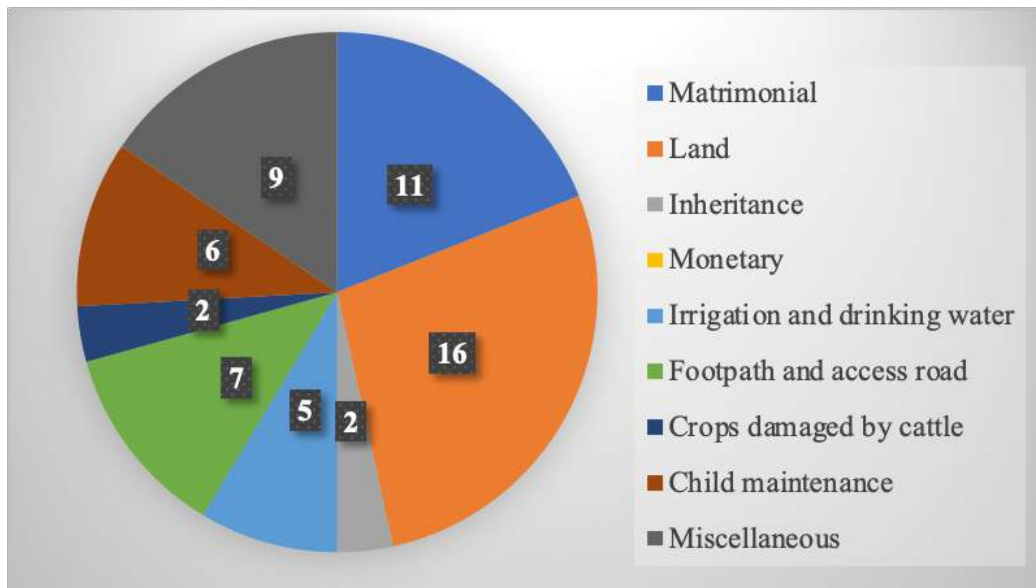
**Findings**

Laya Gewog has mediated the maximum number of disputes (39) in the Dzongkhag followed by 9 disputes by Lunana Gewog. Whereas, Khatoed and Khamaed Gewogs have mediated (5) disputes each, being the minimum number of disputes in the Dzongkhag.

**Table 2: Types of disputes mediated in Gasa Dzongkhag**

Sl. No.	Types of disputes	Disputes mediated
1	Matrimonial	11
2	Land	16
3	Inheritance	2
4	Monetary	0
5	Irrigation and drinking water	5
6	Footpath and access road	7
7	Crops damaged by cattle	2
8	Child maintenance	6
9	Miscellaneous	9
<b>Total</b>		<b>58</b>

**Graph 2: Types of disputes mediated in Gasa Dzongkhag**



## Findings

Gasa Dzongkhag has mediated a total of 58 disputes and is second lowest in the country after Bumthang Dzongkhag (48). Land is the highest number of disputes (16) mediated in the Dzongkhag, followed by matrimonial disputes (11). The inheritance and crops damaged by cattle-related is the least number of disputes (2 each) mediated in the Dzongkhag.



## 5. Haa Dzongkhag

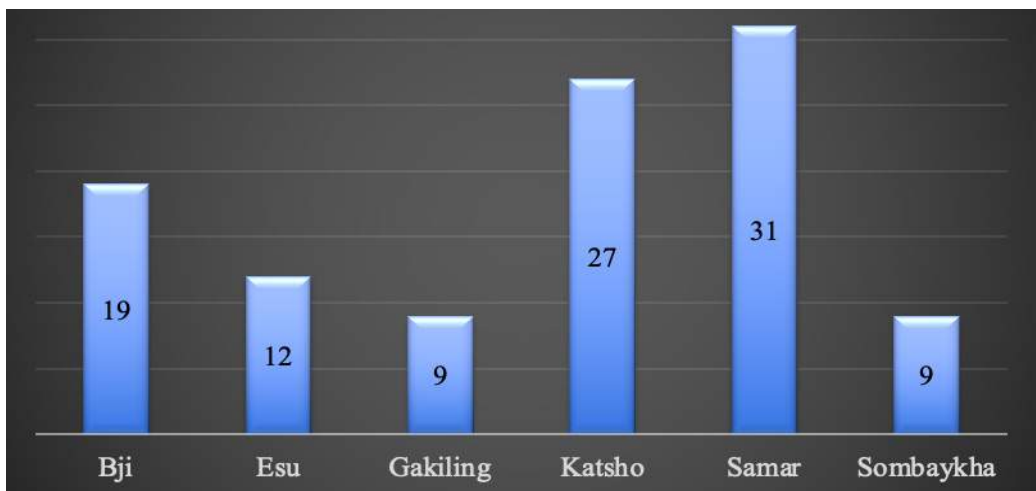
Haa Dzongkhag is located at an elevation ranging from 1,000-5,600 meters above the sea level and has an area of 1899.02 sq. km. The Dzongkhag has one Dungkhag (Sombaykha) and 6 Gewogs. It is bordered by Samtse, Chukha and Paro to the South-West, South-East and East and Tibet in the North. Haa Dzongkhag has a total population of 13,786 as per the Statistical Yearbook of Bhutan 2021 by National Statistics Bureau. Agriculture is the main source of livelihood for the inhabitants of the Dzongkhag.



**Table 1: Number of disputes mediated in the six Gewogs of Haa Dzongkhag**

Sl. No.	Gewog	Disputes mediated
1	Bji	19
2	Esu	12
3	Gakiling	9
4	Katsho	27
5	Samar	31
6	Sombaykha	9
<b>Total</b>		<b>107</b>

**Graph 1: Number of disputes mediated in the six Gewogs of Haa Dzongkhag**





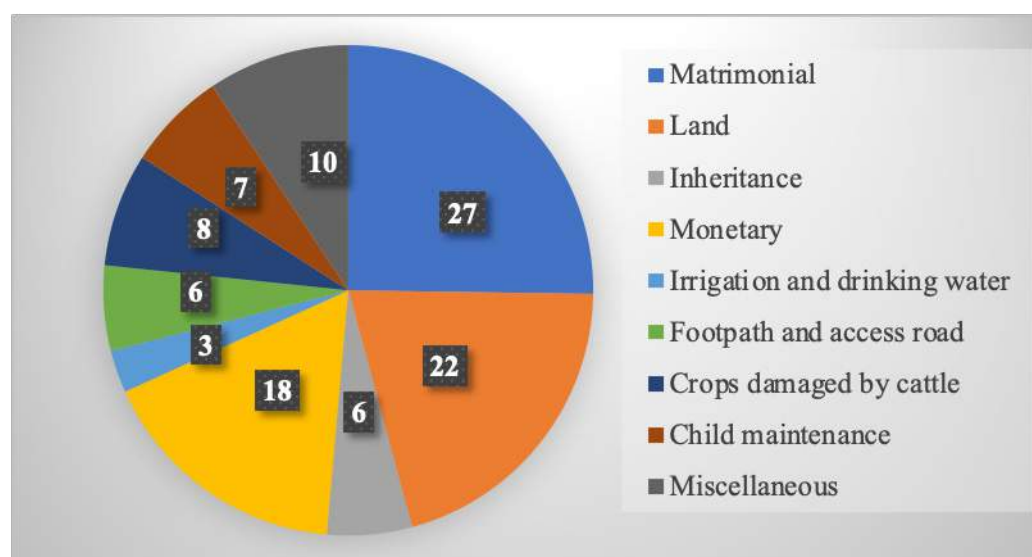
## Findings

Samar Gewog has mediated the maximum number of disputes (31) followed by Katsho (27) and Bji Gewog (19) respectively. Gakiling and Sombaykha Gewogs have the lowest number of disputes (9 each) mediated in the Dzongkhag followed by Esu Gewog (12).

**Table 2: Types of disputes mediated in Haa Dzongkhag**

Sl. No.	Types of disputes	Disputes mediated
1	Matrimonial	27
2	Land	22
3	Inheritance	6
4	Monetary	18
5	Irrigation and drinking water	3
6	Footpath and access road	6
7	Crops damaged by cattle	8
8	Child maintenance	7
9	Miscellaneous	10
<b>Total</b>		<b>107</b>

**Graph 2: Types of disputes mediated in Haa Dzongkhag**



## Findings

Matrimonial is the maximum number of disputes (27) mediated in the Dzongkhag followed by 22 land disputes. Whereas, irrigation and drinking water is the least number of disputes (3) mediated in the Dzongkhag followed by inheritance and footpath & access road (6 each).



## 6. Lhuentse Dzongkhag

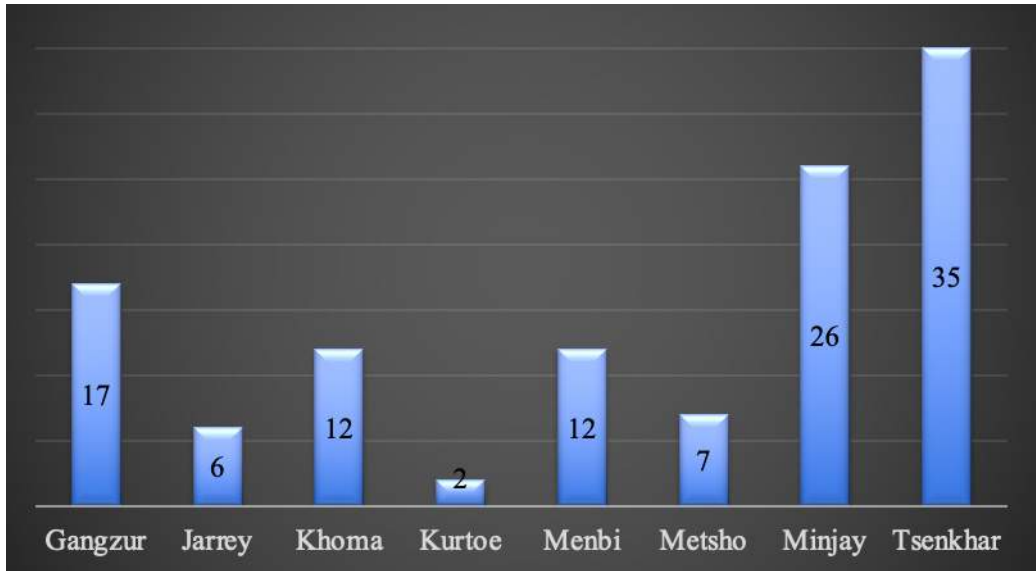
Lhuentse Dzongkhag covers an area of approximately 2,854 sq. km with an altitude range of 1,452 meters above the sea level. It has a total population of 13,806 as per the Statistical Yearbook of Bhutan 2021 by National Statistics Bureau. The annual average temperature rises to 24° C in summer and falls to 15° C in winter. The annual rainfall ranges from 1000-1500 mm. With around 83% of the total land area under forest cover, Lhuentse is home to many species of flora and fauna. The Dzongkhag is home to the famous Singye Dzong blessed by Guru Rinpoche. Besides, the Dzongkhag also takes pride in being the ancestral home of our beloved Kings with splendid Jigme Namgyel Nagtshang restored to its original grandeur. *Kishuthara*, the most coveted Bhutanese women's attire is produced at Khoma, Lhuentse.



**Table 1: Number of disputes mediated in the eight Gewogs of Lhuentse Dzongkhag**

Sl. No.	Gewog	Disputes mediated
1	Gangzur	17
2	Jarrey	6
3	Khoma	12
4	Kurtoe	2
5	Menbi	12
6	Metsho	7
7	Minjay	26
8	Tsenkhar	35
<b>Total</b>		<b>117</b>

**Graph 1: Number of disputes mediated in the eight Gewogs of Lhuentse Dzongkhag**



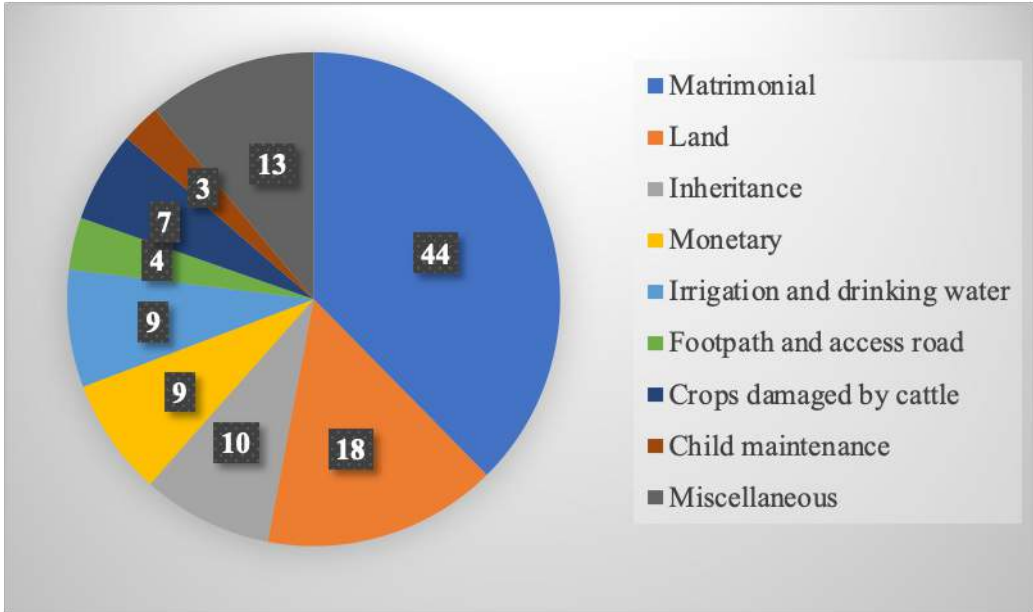
**Findings**

Tsenkhar Gewog has mediated the highest number of disputes (35) in the Dzongkhag, followed by Minjay Gewog (26), while Kurtoe Gewog has mediated the lowest number of disputes (2) in the Dzongkhag.

**Table 2: Types of disputes mediated in Lhuentse Dzongkhag**

Sl. No.	Types of disputes	Disputes mediated
1	Matrimonial	44
2	Land	18
3	Inheritance	10
4	Monetary	9
5	Irrigation and drinking water	9
6	Footpath and access road	4
7	Crops damaged by cattle	7
8	Child maintenance	3
9	Miscellaneous	13
<b>Total</b>		<b>117</b>

Graph 2: Types of disputes mediated in Lhuentse Dzongkhag



### Findings

A total of 117 disputes were mediated in Lhuentse Dzongkhag. Matrimonial is the highest number of disputes (44), followed by land (18) and miscellaneous disputes (13) respectively. Matters pertaining to child maintenance is the fewest number of disputes (3) mediated in the Dzongkhag.



## 7. Monggar Dzongkhag

Monggar dzongkhag is spread over an area of about 1,940.26 sq. km with elevation ranging from 400-4,000 meters above the sea level. The lower and Southern parts are sub-tropical while Northern and the higher regions have temperate climatic conditions. Summer can be hot and humid and winter cold. It has a total population of 36,561 as per the Statistical Yearbook of Bhutan 2021 by National Statistics Bureau. The Dzongkhag has 17 Gewogs and is highest in the country. It has one Dungkhag, Weringla which covers two of the remotest Gewogs of Gongdue and Silambi. Majority of the people depend their livelihood on agriculture. While Maize and Rice are grown abundantly, citrus fruits and vegetables, dairy and poultry products are increasingly becoming important source of income in the Dzongkhag.

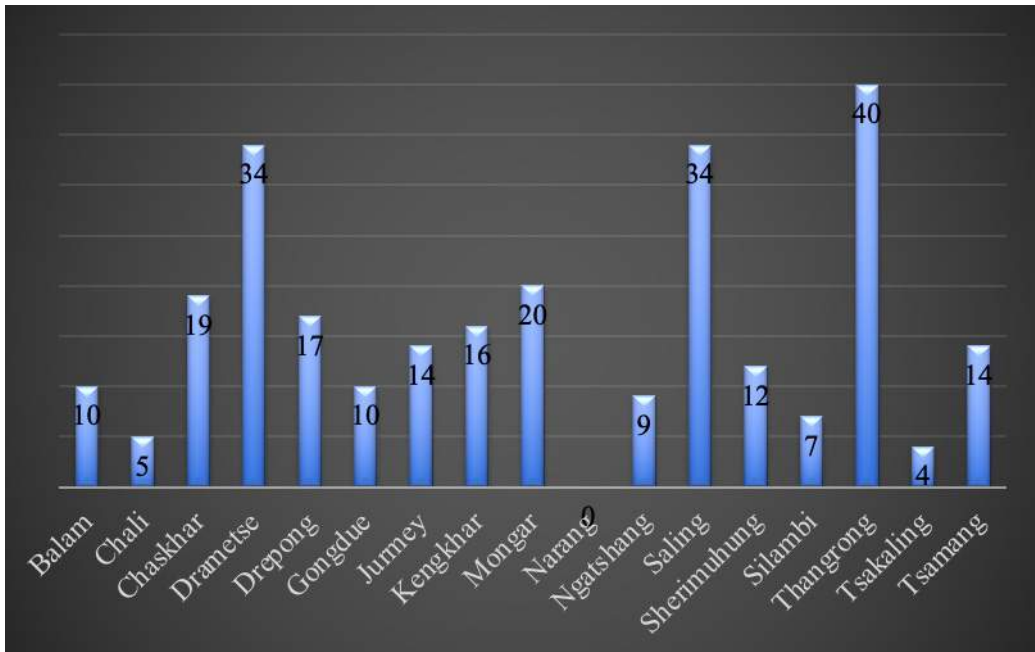


**Table 1: Number of disputes mediated in the seventeen Gewogs of Monggar Dzongkhag**

Sl. No.	Gewog	Disputes mediated
1	Balam	10
2	Chali	5
3	Chaskhar	19
4	Drametse	34
5	Drepong	17
6	Gongdue	10
7	Jurmey	14
8	Kengkhar	16
9	Monggar	20
10	Narang	0
11	Ngatshang	9
12	Saling	34
13	Sherimuhung	12

14	Silambi	7
15	Thangrong	40
16	Tsakaling	4
17	Tsamang	14
<b>Total</b>		<b>265</b>

**Graph 1: Number of disputes mediated in the seventeen Gewogs of Monggar Dzongkhag**



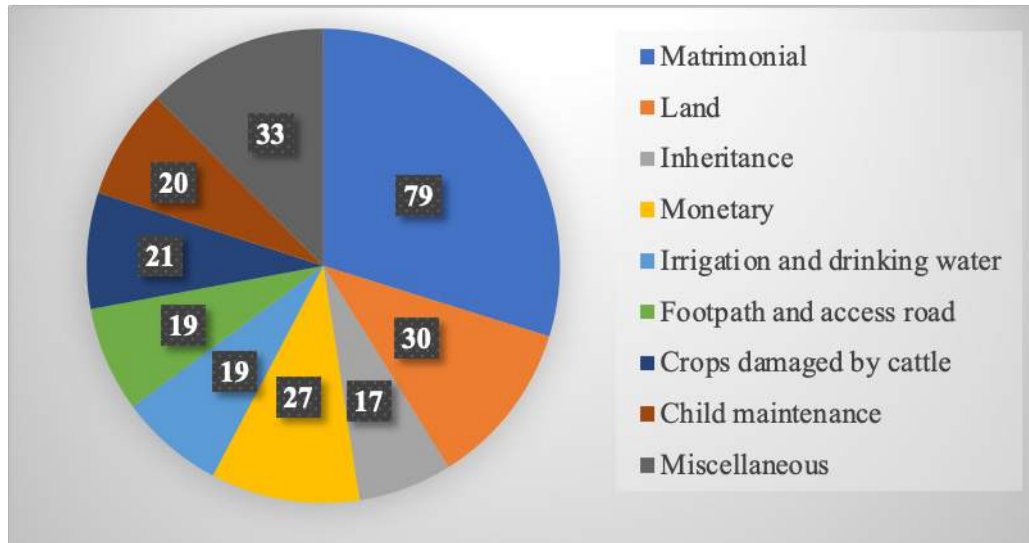
### Findings

Thangrong Gewog has mediated the highest number of disputes (40) in the Dzongkhag, followed by Drametse and Saling Gewogs (34 each). While, not a single dispute has been mediated by Narang Gewog.

**Table 2: Types of disputes mediated in Monggar Dzongkhag**

Sl. No.	Types of disputes	Disputes mediated
1	Matrimonial	79
2	Land	30
3	Inheritance	17
4	Monetary	27
5	Irrigation and drinking water	19
6	Footpath and access road	19
7	Crops damaged by cattle	21
8	Child maintenance	20
9	Miscellaneous	33
<b>Total</b>		<b>265</b>

**Graph 2: Types of disputes mediated in Monggar Dzongkhag**



**Findings**

A total of 265 disputes were mediated in Monggar Dzongkhag. Matrimonial-related issue is the maximum number of disputes (79) mediated in the Dzongkhag followed by miscellaneous (33) and land disputes (30) respectively. While inheritance-related dispute is the lowest number of disputes (17) mediated in the Dzongkhag.



## 8. Paro Dzongkhag

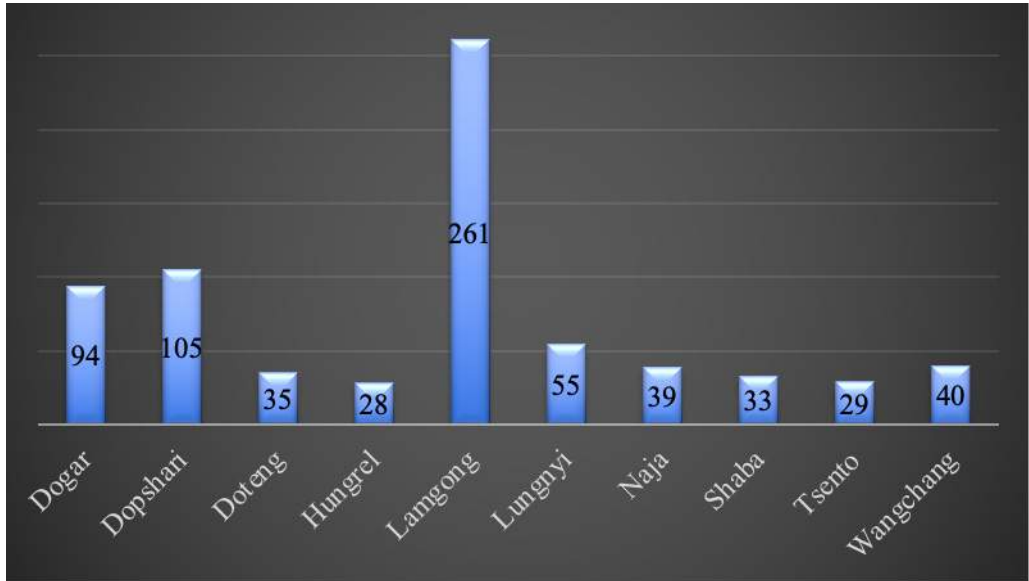
Paro Dzongkhag is situated in the North-Western part of the country. It has an altitude ranging from 2000-5,600 meters above the sea level. The Dzongkhag has an area of 1,287.13 sq. km with a total population of 49,990 as per the Statistical Yearbook of Bhutan 2021 by National Statistics Bureau. Agriculture is one of the main sources of income for the people as the valley has a very fertile land with alluvial soil and suitable terrain. Rearing of livestock is also emphasized in the Dzongkhag. Tourism is another important source of income as the only international airport is located in the Dzongkhag.



**Table 1: Number of disputes mediated in the ten Gewogs of Paro Dzongkhag**

Sl. No.	Gewog	Disputes mediated
1	Dogar	94
2	Dopshari	105
3	Doteng	35
4	Hungrel	28
5	Lamgong	261
6	Lungnyi	55
7	Naja	39
8	Shaba	33
9	Tsentso	29
10	Wangchang	40
<b>Total</b>		<b>719</b>

**Graph 1: Number of disputes mediated in the ten Gewogs of Paro Dzongkhag**



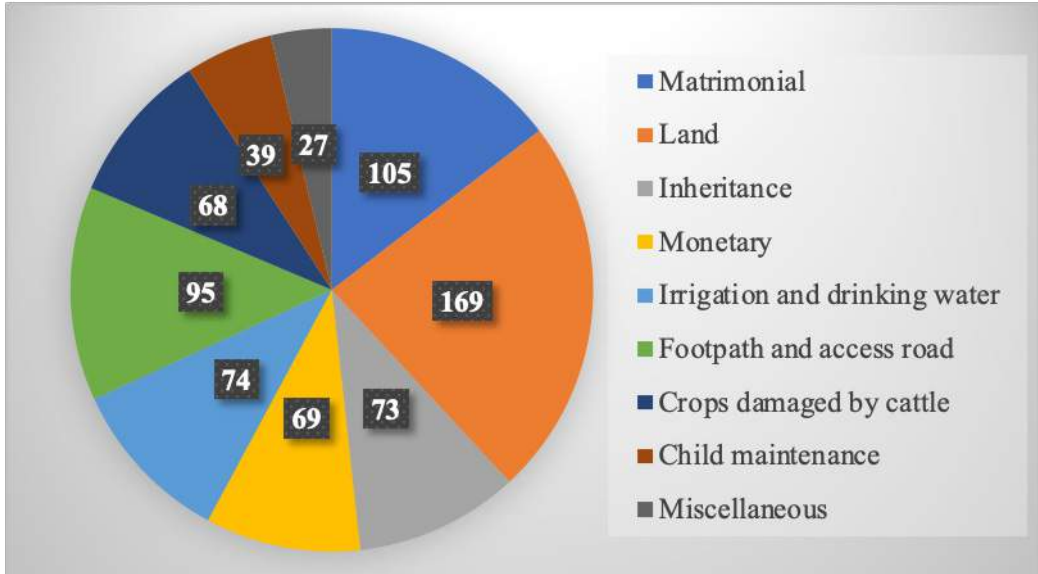
**Findings**

Lamgong Gewog has mediated the highest number of disputes (261), followed by Dopshari (105) and Dogar Gewog (94) respectively. While Hungrel Gewog has the lowest number of disputes (28) mediated in the Dzongkhag, followed by Tsentso (29) and Shaba Gewog (33) respectively.

**Table 2: Types of disputes mediated in Paro Dzongkhag**

Sl. No.	Types of disputes	Disputes mediated
1	Matrimonial	105
2	Land	169
3	Inheritance	73
4	Monetary	69
5	Irrigation and drinking water	74
6	Footpath and access road	95
7	Crops damaged by cattle	68
8	Child maintenance	39
9	Miscellaneous	27
<b>Total</b>		<b>719</b>

Graph 2: Types of disputes mediated in Paro Dzongkhag



### Findings

Paro Dzongkhag has mediated a total of 719 disputes and is highest in the country. The Dzongkhag alone has mediated around 19% of the total disputes. Land-related dispute is the maximum number of disputes (169), followed by matrimonial (105) and footpath & access road (95) respectively. While, miscellaneous matter is the lowest number of disputes (27) mediated in the Dzongkhag, followed by child maintenance (39).



## 9. Pemagatshel Dzongkhag

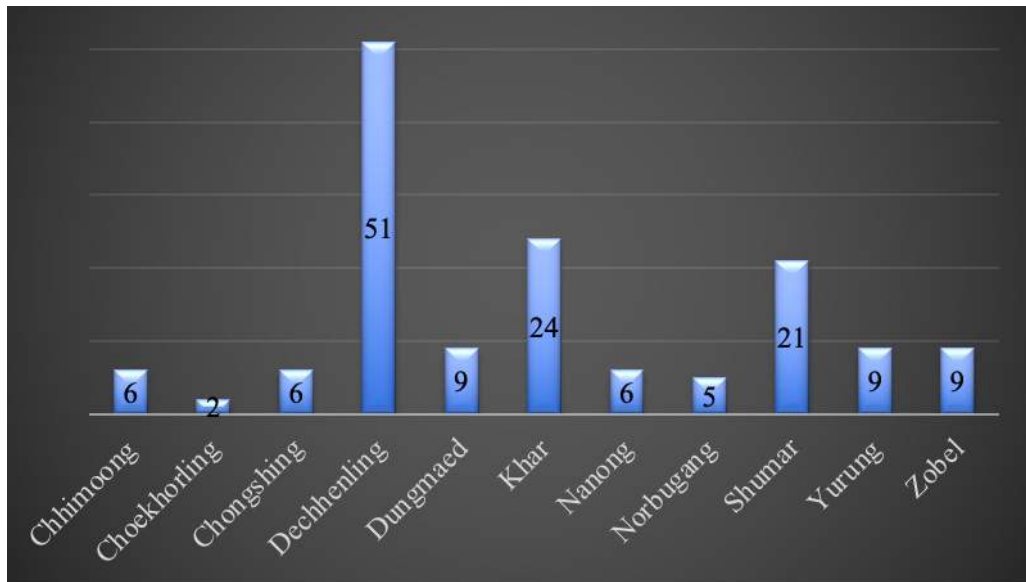
Pemagatshel is located in the South-Eastern part of Bhutan. It has a total area of about 1,022.00 sq. km with elevation ranging from 445-3,000+ meters above the sea level. The total population of the Dzongkhag is 23,777 as per the Statistical Yearbook of Bhutan 2021 by National Statistics Bureau. The Dzongkhag receives an average annual rainfall of 1,500-3,000 mm. The forest cover mainly comprises of coniferous and broad-leaved species. The climate is hot and humid during the wet season and moderately cold during the dry season. Land holdings are dominated by *kamzhing*. It is administratively divided into 11 Gewogs.



**Table 1: Number of disputes mediated in the eleven Gewogs of Pemagatshel Dzongkhag**

Sl. No.	Gewog	Disputes mediated
1	Chhimoong	6
2	Choekhorling	2
3	Chongshing	6
4	Dechhenling	51
5	Dungmaed	9
6	Khar	24
7	Nanong	6
8	Norbugang	5
9	Shumar	21
10	Yurung	9
11	Zobel	9
<b>Total</b>		<b>148</b>

**Graph 1: Number of disputes mediated in the eleven Gewogs of Pemagatshel Dzongkhag**



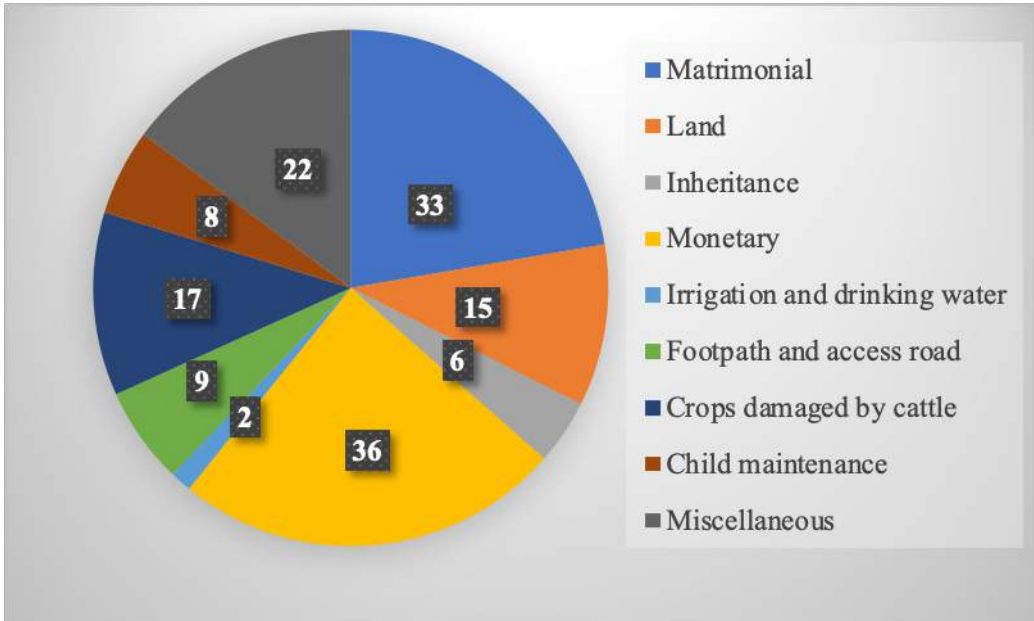
### Findings

Dechhenling Gewog has mediated the highest number of disputes (51), followed by Khar (24) and Shumar Gewog (21) respectively. While Chokhorling Gewog has mediated the lowest number of disputes (2) followed by Norbugang Gewog (5).

**Table 2: Types of disputes mediated in Pemagatshel Dzongkhag**

Sl. No.	Types of disputes	Disputes mediated
1	Matrimonial	33
2	Land	15
3	Inheritance	6
4	Monetary	36
5	Irrigation and drinking water	2
6	Footpath and access road	9
7	Crops damaged by cattle	17
8	Child maintenance	8
9	Miscellaneous	22
<b>Total</b>		<b>148</b>

Graph 2: Types of disputes mediated in Pemagatshel Dzongkhag



### Findings

A total of 148 disputes were mediated in Pemagatshel Dzongkhag. Monetary is the highest number of disputes (36), followed by matrimonial disputes (33) and miscellaneous (22) respectively. The lowest number of disputes (2) pertain to irrigation and drinking water.



## 10. Punakha Dzongkhag

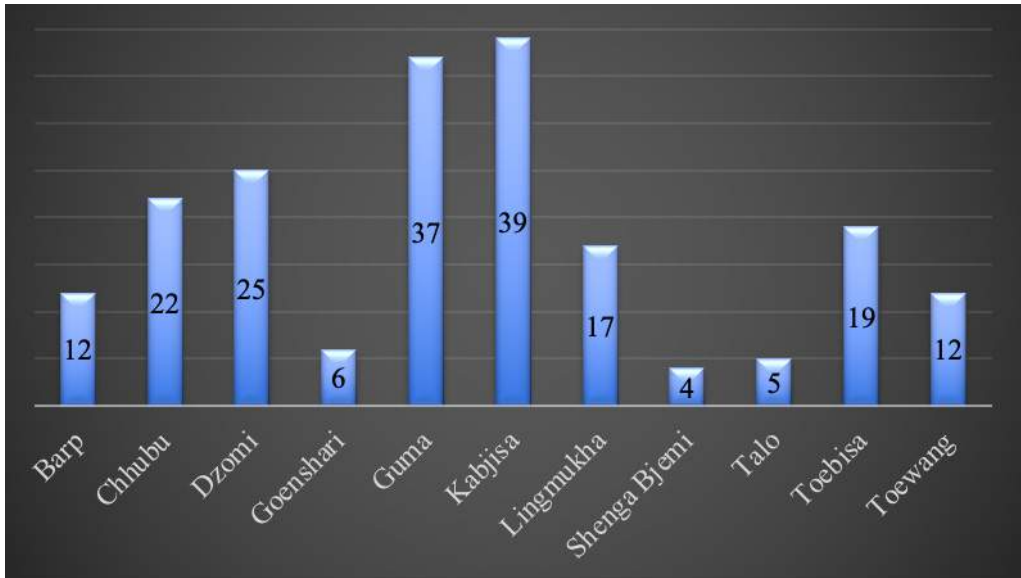
Punakha Dzongkhag is located in Western Bhutan at an altitude range of 1,200-5,400 meters above the sea level. The Dzongkhag spreads over an area of 1,109.81 sq. km and has a population of 30,380 as per the Statistical Yearbook of Bhutan 2021 by National Statistics Bureau. The Punakha Dzong is situated at the confluence of the two rivers, Phochu and Mochu, which forms Puna Tsangchhu. Punakha Dzong was constructed by Zhabdrung Ngawang Namgyel and it was the winter capital of Bhutan until 1955, when the capital was moved to Thimphu. The Dzong serves as the winter residence of the Central Monastic Body and the seat of Dzongkhag administration. The Dzongkhag is well known for rice, vegetables and fruits owing to its favorable location, soil and climatic conditions. The Dzongkhag basically grows little of everything but the main cash crops are paddy, maize and mustard.



**Table 1: Number of disputes mediated in the eleven Gewogs of Punakha Dzongkhag**

Sl. No.	Gewog	Disputes mediated
1	Barp	12
2	Chhubu	22
3	Dzomi	25
4	Goenshari	6
5	Guma	37
6	Kabjisa	39
7	Lingmukha	17
8	Shenga Bjemi	4
9	Talo	5
10	Toebisa	19
11	Toewang	12
<b>Total</b>		<b>198</b>

**Graph 1: Number of disputes mediated in the eleven Gewogs of Punakha Dzongkhag**



**Findings**

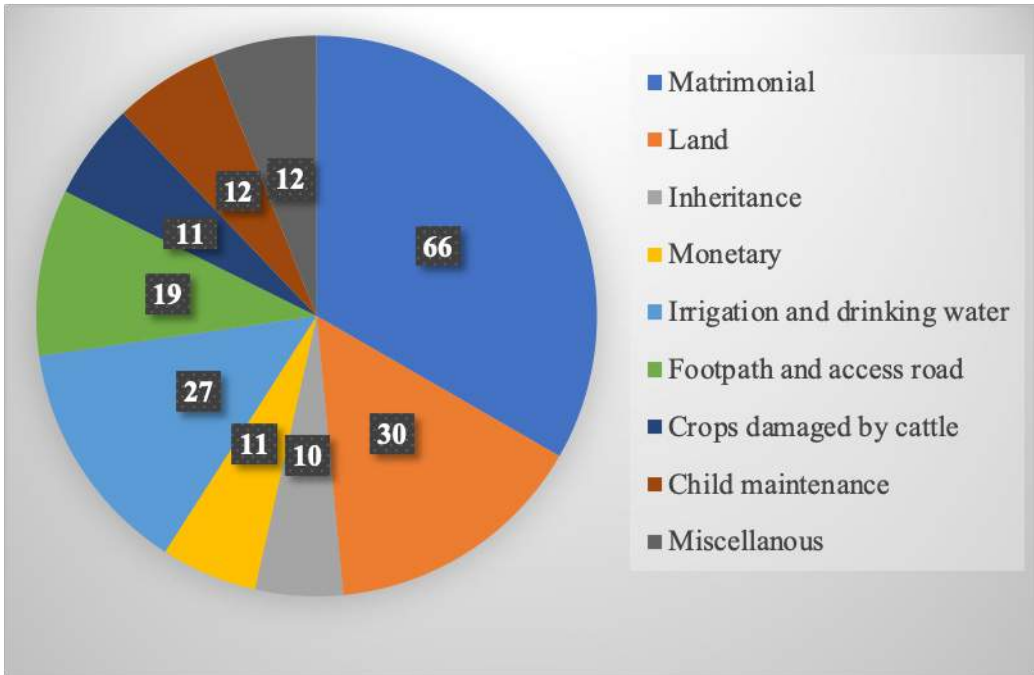
Kabjisa Gewog has mediated the highest number of disputes (39) in the Dzongkhag, followed by Guma Gewog (37). While Shenga Bjemi Gewog has mediated the lowest number of disputes (4) followed by Talo (5) and Goenshari Gewog (6) respectively.

**Table 2: Types of disputes mediated in Punakha Dzongkhag**

Sl. No.	Types of disputes	Disputes mediated
1	Matrimonial	66
2	Land	30
3	Inheritance	10
4	Monetary	11
5	Irrigation and drinking water	27
6	Footpath and access road	19
7	Crops damaged by cattle	11
8	Child maintenance	12
9	Miscellaneous	12
<b>Total</b>		<b>198</b>



Graph 2: Types of disputes mediated in Punakha Dzongkhag



### Findings

Punakha Dzongkhag has mediated a total of 198 disputes. Matrimonial is the highest number of disputes (66) mediated in the Dzongkhag followed by land disputes (30). The fewest number of disputes (10) mediated in the Dzongkhag pertains to inheritance followed by 11 disputes pertaining to crops damaged by cattle.

## 11. Samdrup Jongkhar Dzongkhag

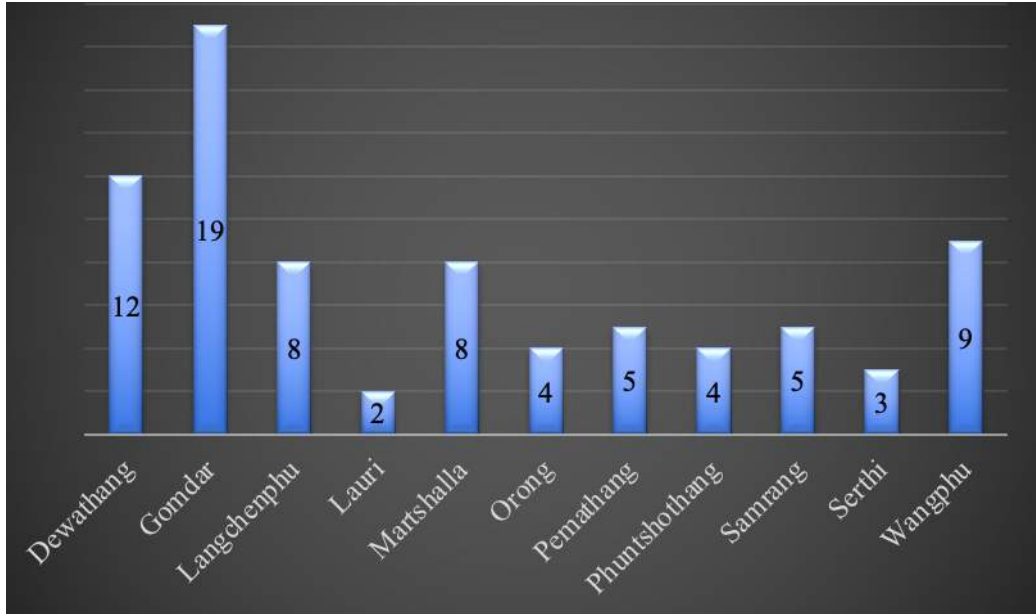
Samdrup Jongkhar Dzongkhag is situated in the South-Eastern corner of the country. The Dzongkhag spreads over an area of 1,877.94 sq. km and has a total population of 34,961 as per the Statistical Yearbook of Bhutan 2021 by National Statistics Bureau. The Dzongkhag is located in the sub-tropical climate zone, extending from an altitude range of 250-1,900 meters above the sea level. The Dzongkhag has two Dungkhags Jomotsangkha and Samdrup Choeling. In addition, there is one Thromde Samdrup Jongkhar and 2 Yenlag Thromdes - Samdrupcholing and Jomotsangkha.



**Table 1: Number of disputes mediated in the eleven Gewogs of Samdrup Jongkhar Dzongkhag**

Sl. No.	Gewog	Disputes mediated
1	Dewathang	12
2	Gomdar	19
3	Langchenphu	8
4	Lauri	2
5	Martshalla	8
6	Orong	4
7	Pemathang	5
8	Phuntshothang	4
9	Samrang	5
10	Serthi	3
11	Wangphu	9
<b>Total</b>		<b>79</b>

**Graph 1: Number of disputes mediated in the eleven Gewogs of Samdrup Jongkhar Dzongkhag**



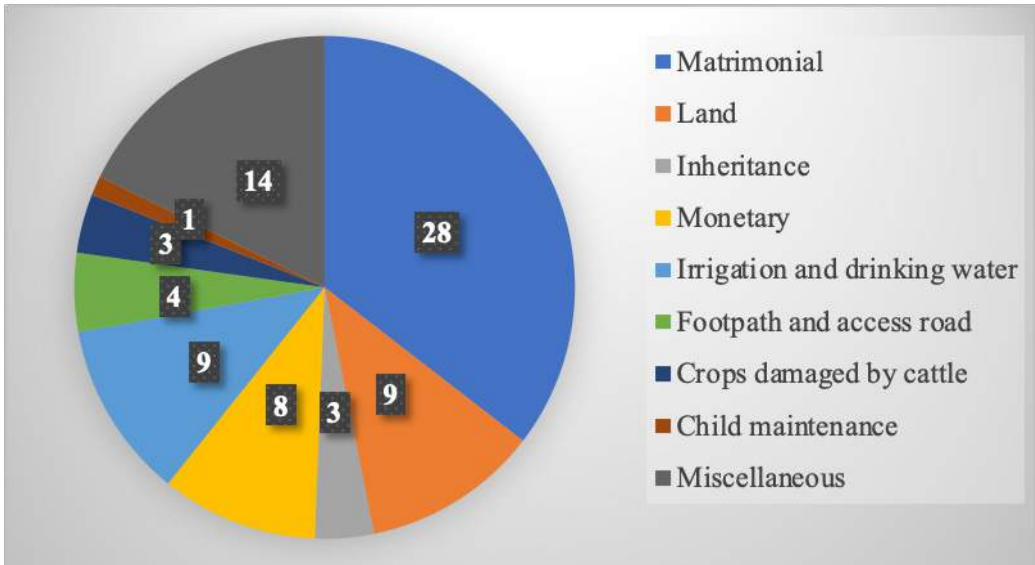
### Findings

Gomdar Gewog has mediated the highest number of disputes (19), followed by Dewathang Gewog (12). While Lauri Gewog has mediated the lowest number of disputes (2) followed by Serthi Gewog (3).

**Table 2: Types of disputes mediated in Samdrup Jongkhar Dzongkhag**

Sl. No.	Types of disputes	Disputes mediated
1	Matrimonial	28
2	Land	9
3	Inheritance	3
4	Monetary	8
5	Irrigation and drinking water	9
6	Footpath and access road	4
7	Crops damaged by cattle	3
8	Child maintenance	1
9	Miscellaneous	14
<b>Total</b>		<b>79</b>

Graph 2: Types of disputes mediated in Samdrup Jongkhar Dzongkhag



### Findings

Samdrup Jongkhar Dzongkhag has mediated a total of 79 disputes. The matrimonial is the highest number of disputes (28) mediated in the Dzongkhag, followed by miscellaneous disputes (14). The child maintenance-related is the lowest number of dispute (1) mediated in the Dzongkhag followed by 3 disputes pertaining to inheritance and crops damaged by cattle-related issues respectively.



## 12. Samtse Dzongkhag

Samtse Dzongkhag lies in the South-West of Bhutan. It is located at an altitude ranging from 200-4,400 meters above the sea level in the sub-tropical monsoon climatic zone. The Dzongkhag spreads over an area of 1,305 sq. km and has a total population of 62,977 as per the Statistical Yearbook of Bhutan 2021 by National Statistics Bureau. The Dzongkhag has two Dungkhags - Dorokha and Tashichholing. In the foothill of Yoeseltse, Ugyentse, Norboogang, Samtse, Tashichholing, and Tendruk Gewogs, paddy is the main staple crop. Farmers also cultivate mustard. In the Northern part of the Dzongkhag, the people grow cardamom as main cash crop. Apart from this, people also generate income by selling dairy and poultry products.

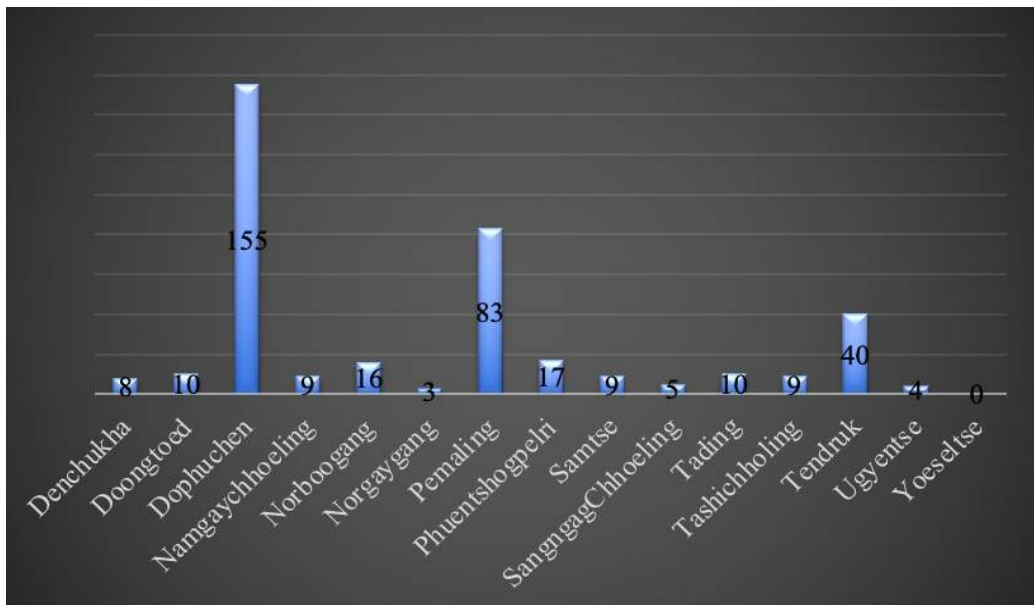


**Table 1: Number of disputes mediated in the fifteen Gewogs of Samtse Dzongkhag**

Sl. No.	Gewog	Disputes mediated
1	Denchukha	8
2	Doongtoed	10
3	Dophuchen	155
4	Namgaychhoeling	9
5	Norboogang	16
6	Norgaygang	3
7	Pemaling	83
8	Phuentshoggelri	17
9	Samtse	9

10	SangngagChhoeling	5
11	Tading	10
12	Tashichholing	9
13	Tendruk	40
14	Ugyentse	4
15	Yoeseltse	0
<b>Total</b>		<b>378</b>

**Graph 1: Number of disputes mediated in the fifteen Gewogs of Samtse Dzongkhag**

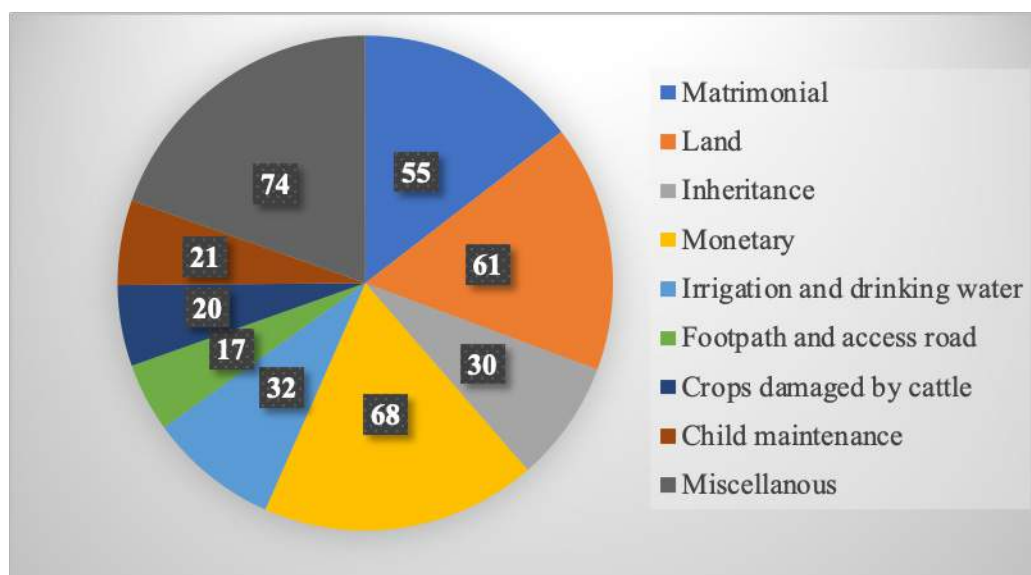


**Findings**

Dophuchen Gewog has mediated the highest number of disputes (155) followed by Pemaling (83) and Tendruk Gewog (40) respectively. However, not a single dispute has been mediated by Yoeseltse Gewog.

**Table 2: Types of disputes mediated in Samtse Dzongkhag**

Sl. No.	Types of disputes	Disputes mediated
1	Matrimonial	55
2	Land	61
3	Inheritance	30
4	Monetary	68
5	Irrigation and drinking water	32
6	Footpath and access road	17
7	Crops damaged by cattle	20
8	Child maintenance	21
9	Miscellaneous	74
<b>Total</b>		<b>378</b>

**Graph 2: Types of disputes mediated in Samtse Dzongkhag****Findings**

A total of 378 disputes were mediated in Samtse Dzongkhag and is second highest in the country after Paro Dzongkhag which mediated 719 disputes. 74 miscellaneous matters are the highest number of disputes mediated in the Dzongkhag followed by monetary disputes (68) and land disputes (61) respectively. While footpath and access road-related is the lowest number of disputes (17) mediated in the Dzongkhag.

### 13. Sarpang Dzongkhag

Sarpang Dzongkhag has an area of 1,682 sq. km. It is located in the Central-Southern foothills with an elevation ranging from 210-2,600 meters above the sea level. The Dzongkhag consists of 12 Gewogs and 61 Chiwogs. It has a total population of 48,776 as per the Statistical Yearbook of Bhutan 2021 by National Statistics Bureau. The people cultivate paddy, maize, wheat, and millet. Orange, areca nut and ginger are grown as the principal cash crops. The fertile arable land along with favorable climatic conditions offers possibilities for farm mechanization and commercial horticulture in the Dzongkhag.

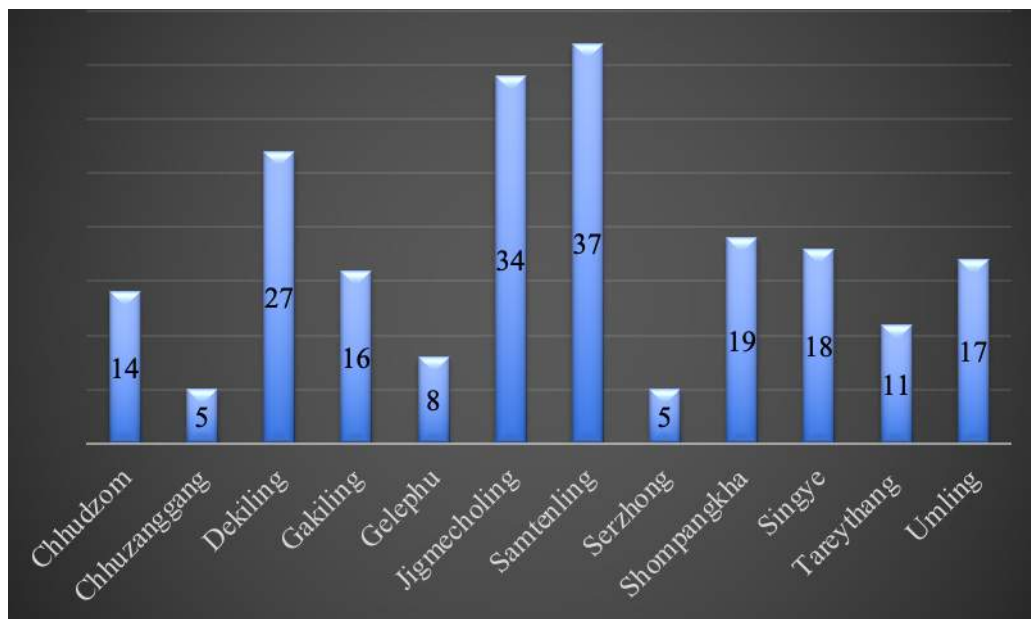


**Table 1: Number of disputes mediated in the twelve Gewogs of Sarpang Dzongkhag**

Sl. No.	Gewog	Disputes mediated
1	Chhudzom	14
2	Chhuzanggang	5
3	Dekiling	27
4	Gakiling	16
5	Gelephu	8
6	Jigmecholing	34
7	Samtenling	37
8	Serzhong	5
9	Shompangkha	19
10	Singye	18
11	Tareythang	11
12	Umling	17
<b>Total</b>		<b>211</b>



**Graph 1: Number of disputes mediated in the twelve Gewogs of Sarpang Dzongkhag**



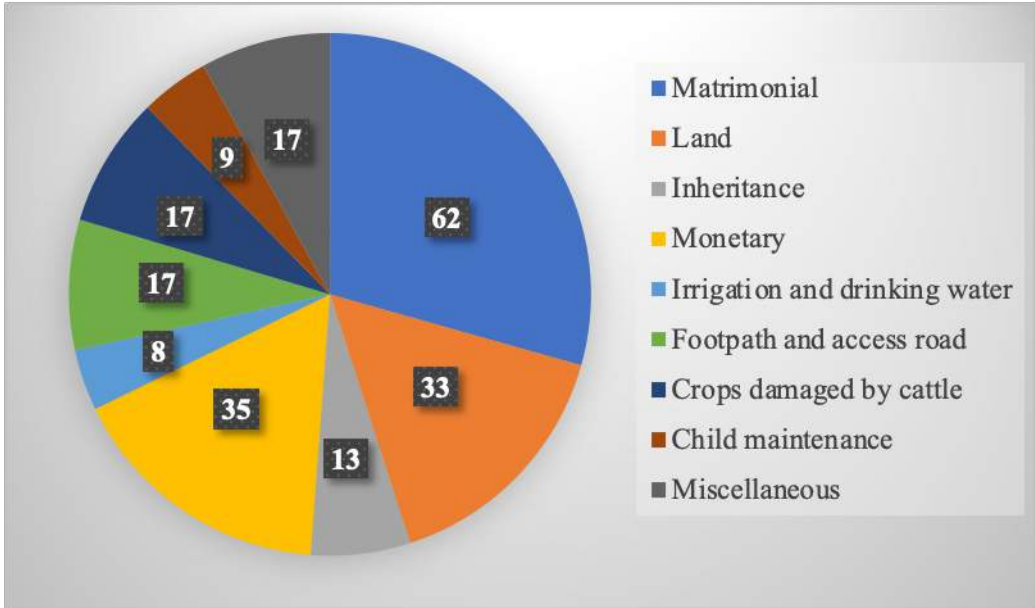
### Findings

Samtenling Gewog has mediated the highest number of disputes (37) in the Dzongkhag, followed by Jigmecholing Gewog (34) and Dekiling Gewog (27) respectively. While Chhuzanggang and Serzhong Gewogs have mediated the lowest number of disputes (5 each) followed by Gelephu Gewog (8).

**Table 2: Types of disputes mediated in Sarpang Dzongkhag**

Sl. No.	Types of disputes	Disputes mediated
1	Matrimonial	62
2	Land	33
3	Inheritance	13
4	Monetary	35
5	Irrigation and drinking water	8
6	Footpath and access road	17
7	Crops damaged by cattle	17
8	Child maintenance	9
9	Miscellaneous	17
<b>Total</b>		<b>211</b>

Graph 2: Types of disputes mediated in Sarpang Dzongkhag



### Findings

Out of 211 disputes mediated in Sarpang Dzongkhag, matrimonial is the highest number of disputes (62), followed by monetary (35) and land disputes (33) respectively. The matters which pertain to irrigation and drinking water is the fewest number of disputes (8) mediated in the Dzongkhag followed by child maintenance-related disputes (9).



## 14. Thimphu Dzongkhag

Thimphu Dzongkhag is located in the Western part of the country. Its geographical area is approximately 1,795.868 sq. km with an altitude ranging from 2,330 meters above the sea level. The Dzongkhag has eight Gewogs and one Dungkhag-Lingzhi. It has a total population of 154,379 as per the Statistical Yearbook of Bhutan 2021 by National Statistics Bureau. Thimphu is the capital city of Bhutan and is also the largest city in the country. It



is the country's Administrative Center and many head offices are located in the Dzongkhag. Paddy and wheat are the main cereal crops grown in Thimphu Dzongkhag. Various vegetables are also grown in the Dzongkhag - chilli and apple are cultivated on a large scale for commercial purposes. Livestock-rearing is another source of income for the people in the Dzongkhag. The Dzongkhag is very rich in non-wood forest products such as cordyceps, medicinal plants, matsutake and many other mushrooms. The urban explosion has led to the conversion of agricultural fields into commercial, institutional and housing apartments.

**Table 1: Number of disputes mediated in the eight Gewogs of Thimphu Dzongkhag**

Sl. No.	Gewog	Disputes mediated
1	Chang	13
2	Dagala	10
3	Geny	3
4	Kawang	9
5	Lingzhi	18
6	Mewang	28
7	Naro	3
8	Soe	5
<b>Total</b>		<b>89</b>

**Graph 1: Number of disputes mediated in the eight Gewogs of Thimphu Dzongkhag**



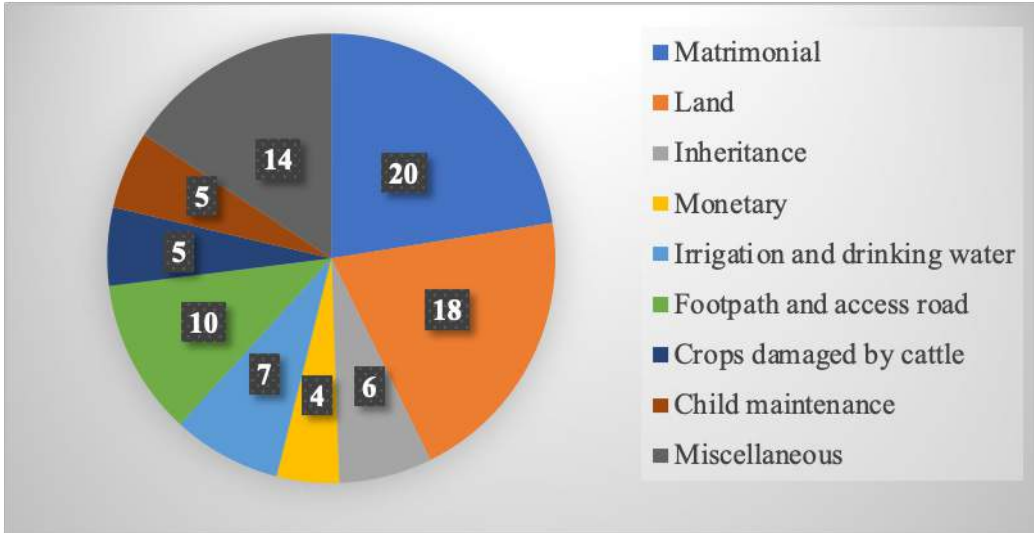
**Findings**

Mewang Gewog has mediated the highest number of disputes (28) in the Dzongkhag, followed by Lingzhi (18). The lowest number of disputes is mediated by Geney and Naro Gewog (3 each).

**Table 2: Types of disputes mediated in Thimphu Dzongkhag**

Sl. No.	Types of disputes	Disputes mediated
1	Matrimonial	20
2	Land	18
3	Inheritance	6
4	Monetary	4
5	Irrigation and drinking water	7
6	Footpath and access road	10
7	Crops damaged by cattle	5
8	Child maintenance	5
9	Miscellaneous	14
<b>Total</b>		<b>89</b>

Graph 2: Types of disputes mediated in Thimphu Dzongkhag



### Findings

A total of 89 disputes were mediated in Thimphu Dzongkhag. The matrimonial is the highest number of disputes (20) mediated in the Dzongkhag, followed by land disputes (18). The matters which pertain to monetary is the lowest number of disputes (4) mediated, followed by child maintenance and crops damaged by cattle (5 each).



## 15. Trashigang Dzongkhag

Trashigang Dzongkhag with the elevation ranging from 600-4,500 meters above the sea level is located in the Eastern part of the country. It is one of the largest Dzongkhags in the country with a total area about 3,066.90 sq. km. The Drangme Chu, one of the largest rivers in the country passes through the Dzongkhag. The climate is mainly temperate with an annual rainfall ranging from 1,000-2,000 mm.

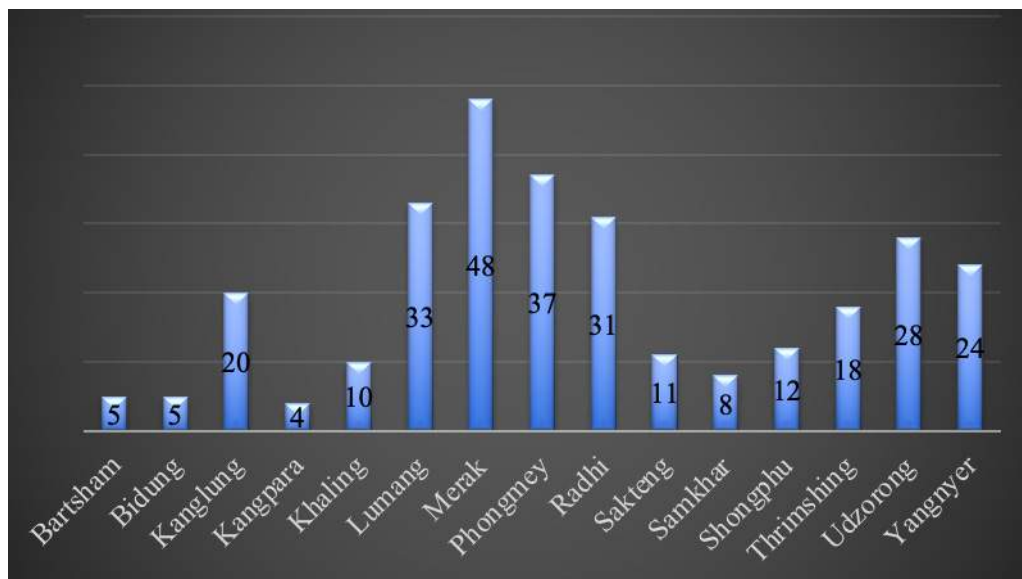
Trashigang Dzongkhag has a total population of 43,429 as per the Statistical Yearbook of Bhutan 2021 by National Statistics Bureau. The Dzongkhag has 3 Dungkhags-Sagteng, Wamrong and Thrimshing.



**Table 1: Number of disputes mediated in the fifteen Gewogs of Trashigang Dzongkhag**

Sl. No.	Gewog	Disputes mediated
1	Bartsham	5
2	Bidung	5
3	Kanglung	20
4	Kangpara	4
5	Khaling	10
6	Lumang	33
7	Merak	48
8	Phongmey	37
9	Radhi	31
10	Sakteng	11
11	Samkhar	8
12	Shongphu	12
13	Thrimshing	18
14	Udzorong	28
15	Yangnyer	24
<b>Total</b>		<b>294</b>

**Graph 1: Number of disputes mediated in the fifteen Gewogs of Trashigang Dzongkhag**



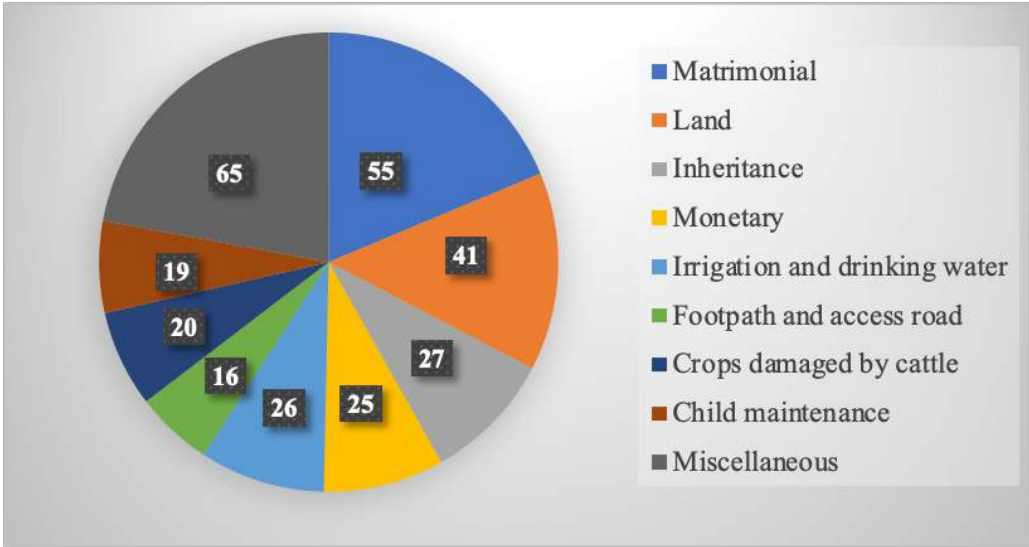
### Findings

Merak Gewog has mediated the highest number of disputes (48) in the Dzongkhag, followed by Phongmey (37) and Lumang Gewog (33) respectively. Kangpara Gewog has mediated the fewest number of disputes (4) followed by Bartsham and Bidung Gewogs (5 each).

**Table 2: Types of disputes mediated in Trashigang Dzongkhag**

Sl. No.	Types of disputes	Disputes mediated
1	Matrimonial	55
2	Land	41
3	Inheritance	27
4	Monetary	25
5	Irrigation and drinking water	26
6	Footpath and access road	16
7	Crops damaged by cattle	20
8	Child maintenance	19
9	Miscellaneous	65
<b>Total</b>		<b>294</b>

Graph 2: Types of disputes mediated in Trashigang Dzongkhag



### Findings

Trashigang Dzongkhag has mediated a total of 294 disputes. The miscellaneous matters are the highest number of disputes (65) mediated in the Dzongkhag followed by matrimonial (55) and land disputes (41) respectively. Miscellaneous matters pertain to *Tsamdro*, misunderstanding with neighbors, census-related issues, timber, wages, rental issues, etc. While footpath and access road-related is the fewest number of disputes (16) mediated in the Dzongkhag followed by child maintenance-related disputes (19).





## 16. Trashiyangtse Dzongkhag

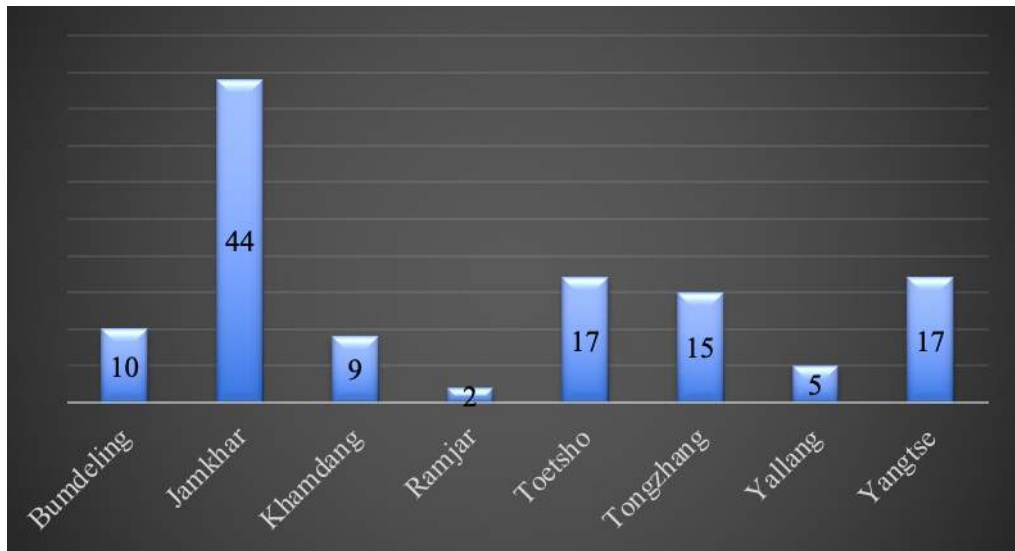
Located in the North-Eastern part of the country, Trashiyangtse Dzongkhag has an area of 1,438.8 sq. km and altitude ranging from 500-5,401 meters above the sea level. The Dzongkhag is known for pilgrimage sites such as Gomphu Kora, Chorten Kora and Rig-Sum Goenpa. The Dzongkhag has a total population of 16,831 as per the Statistical Yearbook of Bhutan 2021 by National Statistics Bureau. The people produce traditional wooden bowls which are prized throughout the country.



**Table 1: Number of disputes mediated in the eight Gewogs of Trashi Yangtse Dzongkhag**

Sl. No.	Gewog	Disputes mediated
1	Bumdeling	10
2	Jamkhar	44
3	Khamdang	9
4	Ramjar	2
5	Toetsho	17
6	Tongzhang	15
7	Yallang	5
8	Yangtse	17
<b>Total</b>		<b>119</b>

**Graph 1: Number of disputes mediated in the eight Gewogs of Trashy Yangtse Dzongkhag**



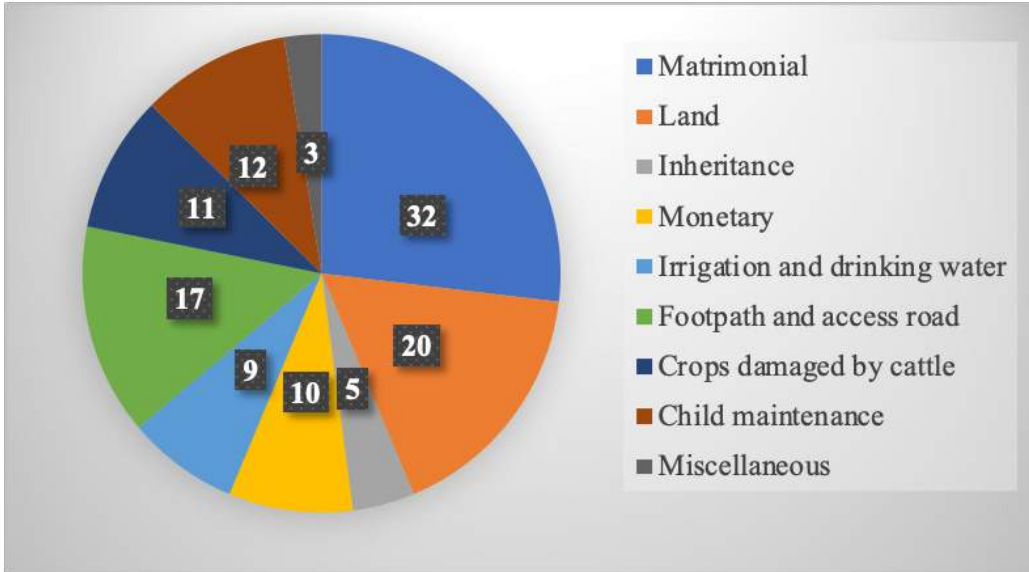
**Findings**

Jamkhar Gewog has mediated the highest number of disputes (44) followed by Toetsho and Yangtse Gewogs (17 each). While, Ramjar Gewog has mediated the fewest number of disputes (2) in the Dzongkhag followed by Yallang Gewog (5).

**Table 2: Types of disputes mediated in Trashiyangtse Dzongkhag**

Sl. No.	Types of disputes	Disputes mediated
1	Matrimonial	32
2	Land	20
3	Inheritance	5
4	Monetary	10
5	Irrigation and drinking water	9
6	Footpath and access road	17
7	Crops damaged by cattle	11
8	Child maintenance	12
9	Miscellaneous	3
<b>Total</b>		<b>119</b>

Graph 2: Types of disputes mediated in Trashiyangtse Dzongkhag



### Findings

Matrimonial is the maximum number of disputes (32) mediated in the Dzongkhag followed by land disputes (20). While miscellaneous is the fewest number of disputes (3) mediated in the Dzongkhag followed by inheritance disputes (5) and irrigation and drinking water-related disputes (9) respectively.



## 17. Trongsa Dzongkhag

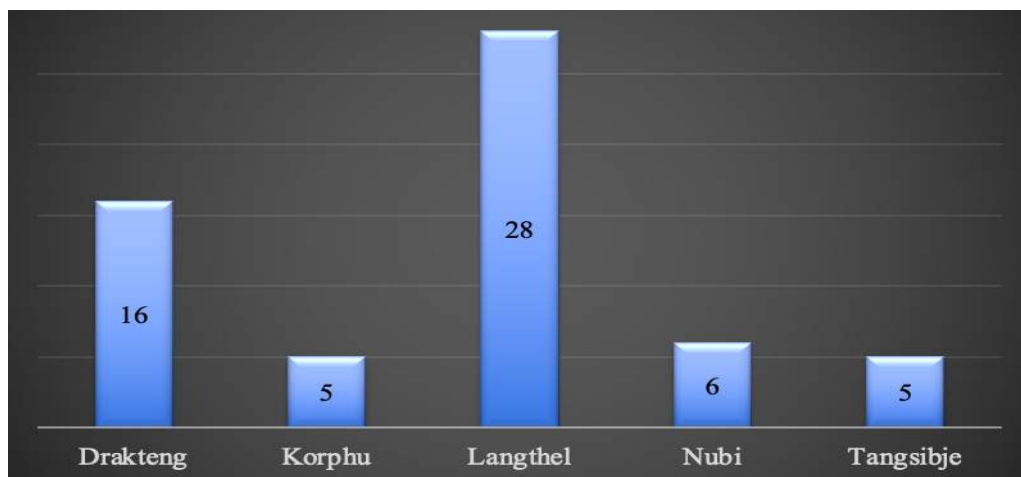
Trongsa Dzongkhag holds a historical significance in the transformation of Bhutan. It is centrally located and covers an area of 1,807 sq. km. It has a total population of 22,276 as per the Statistical Yearbook of Bhutan 2021 by National Statistics Bureau. The Dzongkhag has an elevation ranging from 800-4,800 meters above the sea level. The people largely depend on agriculture farming and livestock for their livelihood. The ongoing Hydro-Power Projects of Mangde Chu and Nika Chu have driven the business activities in the Dzongkhag. Potato, green tea, chilli, cardamom and paddy are the main source of income in the Dzongkhag.



**Table 1: Number of disputes mediated in the five Gewogs of Trongsa Dzongkhag**

Sl. No.	Gewog	Disputes mediated
1	Drakteng	16
2	Korphu	5
3	Langthel	28
4	Nubi	6
5	Tangsibje	5
<b>Total</b>		<b>60</b>

**Graph 1: Number of disputes mediated in the five Gewogs of Trongsa Dzongkhag**



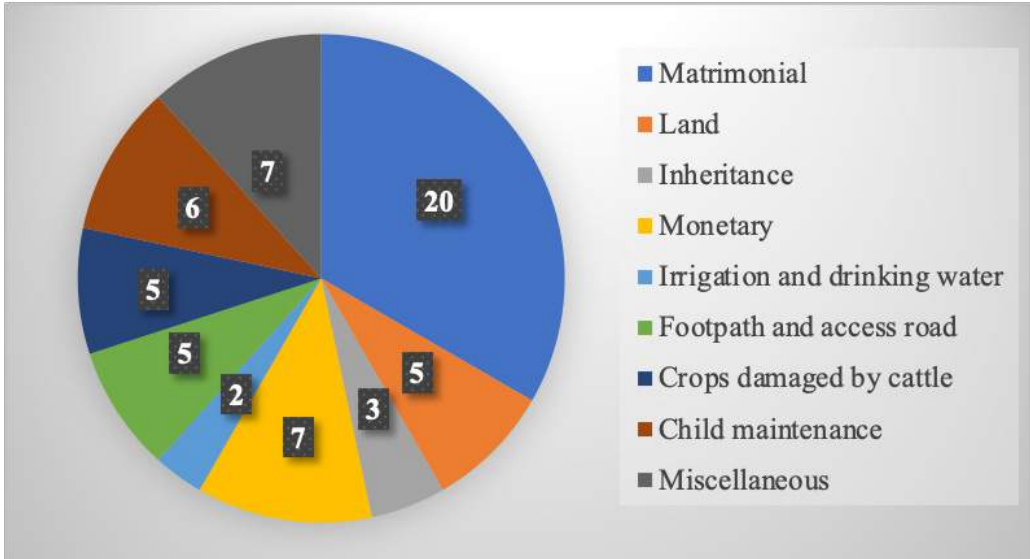
### Findings

Langthel Gewog has mediated the highest number of disputes (28) in the Dzongkhag followed by Drakteng Gewog (16) while Korphu and Tangsibji Gewogs have mediated the lowest number of disputes (5 each) followed by Nubi Gewog (6).

**Table 2: Types of disputes mediated in Trongsa Dzongkhag**

Sl. No.	Types of disputes	Disputes mediated
1	Matrimonial	20
2	Land	5
3	Inheritance	3
4	Monetary	7
5	Irrigation and drinking water	2
6	Footpath and access road	5
7	Crops damaged by cattle	5
8	Child maintenance	6
9	Miscellaneous	7
<b>Total</b>		<b>60</b>

Graph 2: Types of disputes mediated in Trongsa Dzongkhag



### Findings

A total of 60 disputes were mediated in Trongsa Dzongkhag and is third lowest in the country after Gasa (58) and Bumthang Dzongkhag (48). Matrimonial is the maximum number of disputes (20) mediated in the Dzongkhag, followed by monetary and miscellaneous disputes (7 each). While, irrigation and drinking water-related is the least number of disputes (2) mediated, followed by inheritance disputes (3).



## 18. Tsirang Dzongkhag

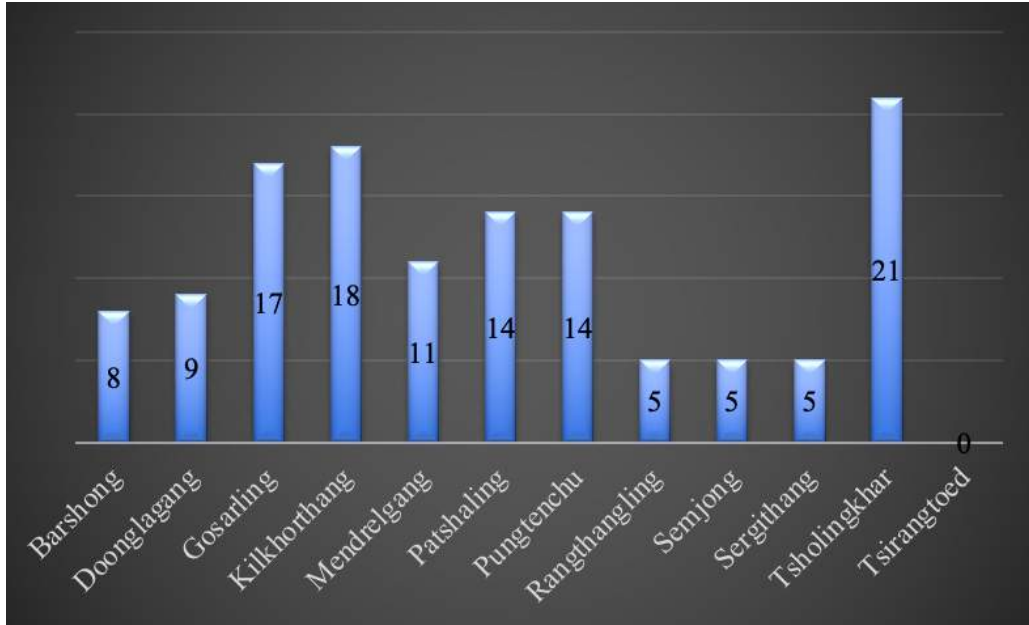
Tsirang Dzongkhag lies in the South-central part of the country with an area of 639 sq. km. The altitude ranges from 500-1,900 meters above the sea level. The Dzongkhag has a total population of 23,493 as per the Statistical Yearbook of Bhutan 2021 by National Statistics Bureau. Most of the people depend on agriculture and livestock-rearing. The favorable climatic condition and diverse agro-ecological features provides the Dzongkhag with potential for cultivation of various types of cereals and horticulture crops. Paddy, maize and millet are the main cereal crops grown, while orange, cardamom and vegetables are the principal cash crops. The main source of cash income for farmers is through the sale of oranges besides vegetables. Livestock-rearing is also an important economic activity contributing to both subsistence consumption and income generation. The main produce in the Dzongkhag are oranges, Paddy, ginger, cabbage, cauliflower, and *Dollay* chilli.



**Table 1: Number of disputes mediated in the twelve Gewogs of Tsirang Dzongkhag**

Sl. No.	Gewog	Disputes mediated
1	Barshong	8
2	Doonglagang	9
3	Gosarling	17
4	Kikhorthang	18
5	Mendrelgang	11
6	Patshaling	14
7	Pungtenchu	14
8	Rangthangling	5
9	Semjong	5
10	Sergithang	5
11	Tsholingkhar	21
12	Tsirangtoed	0
<b>Total</b>		<b>127</b>

**Graph 1: Number of disputes mediated in the twelve Gewogs of Tsirang Dzongkhag**



**Findings**

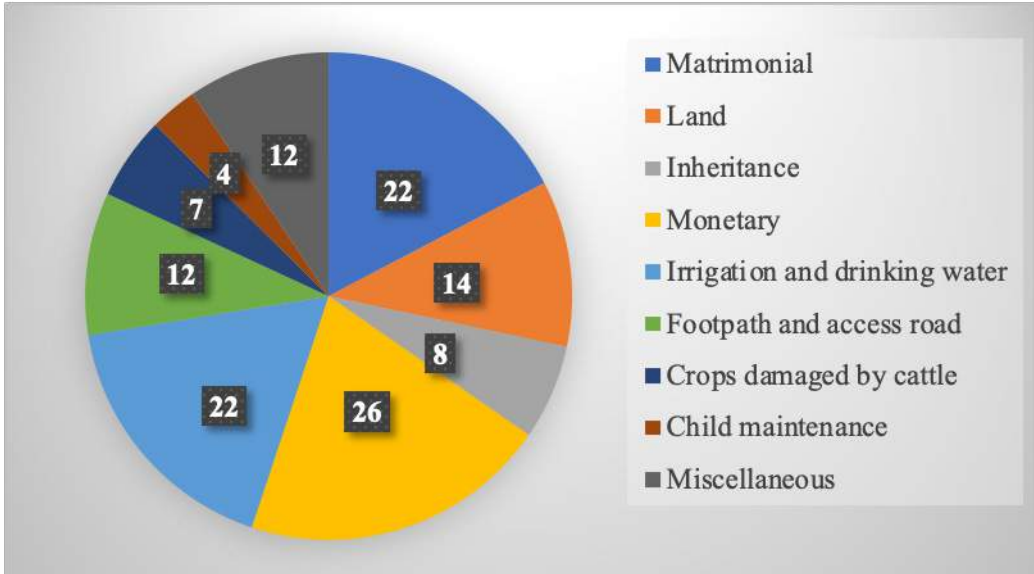
Tsholingkhar Gewog has mediated the highest number of disputes (21) in the Dzongkhag, followed by Kilkhorhang (18) and Gosarling Gewog (17) respectively. However, not a single dispute has been mediated by Tsirangtoed Gewog.

**Table 2: Types of disputes mediated in Tsirang Dzongkhag**

Sl. No.	Types of disputes	Disputes mediated
1	Matrimonial	22
2	Land	14
3	Inheritance	8
4	Monetary	26
5	Irrigation and drinking water	22
6	Footpath and access road	12
7	Crops damaged by cattle	7
8	Child maintenance	4
9	Miscellaneous	12
<b>Total</b>		<b>127</b>



Graph 2: Types of disputes mediated in Tsirang Dzongkhag



### Findings

A total of 127 disputes were mediated in Tsirang Dzongkhag. Monetary is the maximum disputes (26) mediated in the Dzongkhag followed by matrimonial and irrigation & drinking water-related issues (22 each). While child maintenance-related is the minimum number of disputes (4) mediated in the Dzongkhag followed by crops damaged by cattle (7).



## 19. Wangduephodrang Dzongkhag

Wangduephodrang Dzongkhag lies in the North-West part of the country with an area of 4,029.03 sq. km. The altitude ranges from 800-5,500 meters above the sea level. It has a total population of 45,911 as per the Statistical Yearbook of Bhutan 2021 by National Statistics Bureau. Most of the people in the Dzongkhag depend on agriculture and livestock farming. The favorable climatic condition and diverse agro-ecological features provides the Dzongkhag with potential for cultivation of various types of cereal crops as well as horticulture crops. Paddy, maize and millet are the main cereal crops grown while orange, persimmon and vegetables are the principal cash crops. Paddy, chilli and potato cultivation is very famous in the Dzongkhag. The main sources of income are potatoes, cordyceps in the North, and paddy and vegetables in the South. Livestock-rearing is also important income for the people.

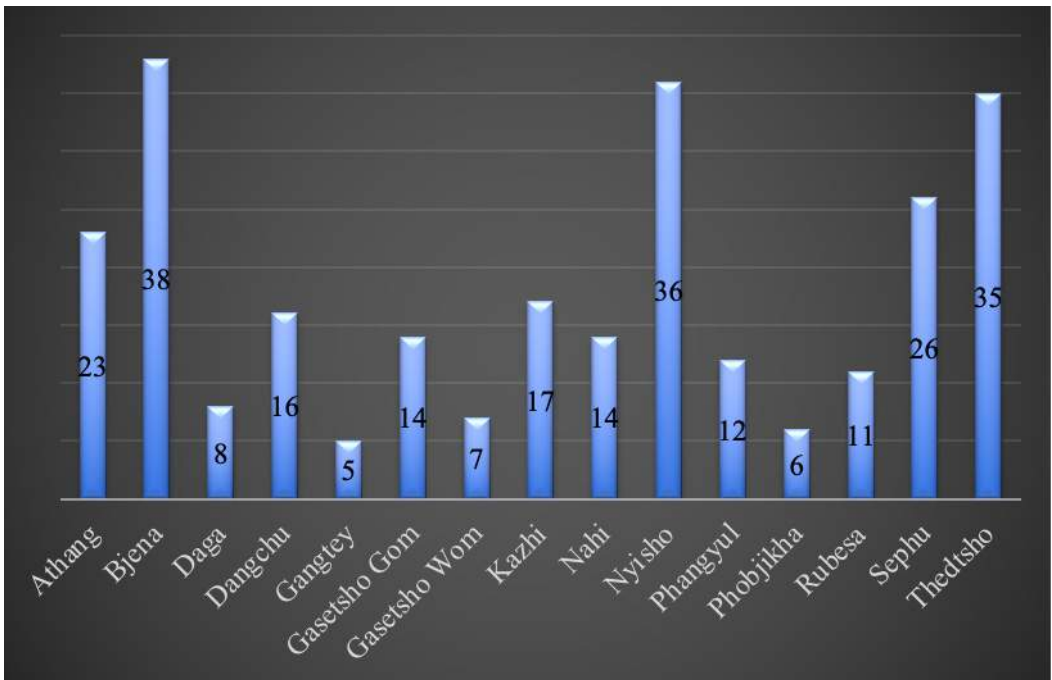


**Table 1: Number of disputes mediated in the fifteen Gewogs of Wangdue Phodrang Dzongkhag**

Sl. No.	Gewog	Disputes mediated
1	Athang	23
2	Bjena	38
3	Daga	8
4	Dangchu	16
5	Gangtey	5
6	Gasetsho Gom	14
7	Gasetsho Wom	7
8	Kazhi	17
9	Nahi	14
10	Nyisho	36

11	Phangyul	12
12	Phobjikha	6
13	Rubesa	11
14	Sephu	26
15	Thedtsho	35
<b>Total</b>		<b>268</b>

**Graph 1: Number of disputes mediated in the fifteen Gewogs of Wangdue Phodrang Dzongkhag**



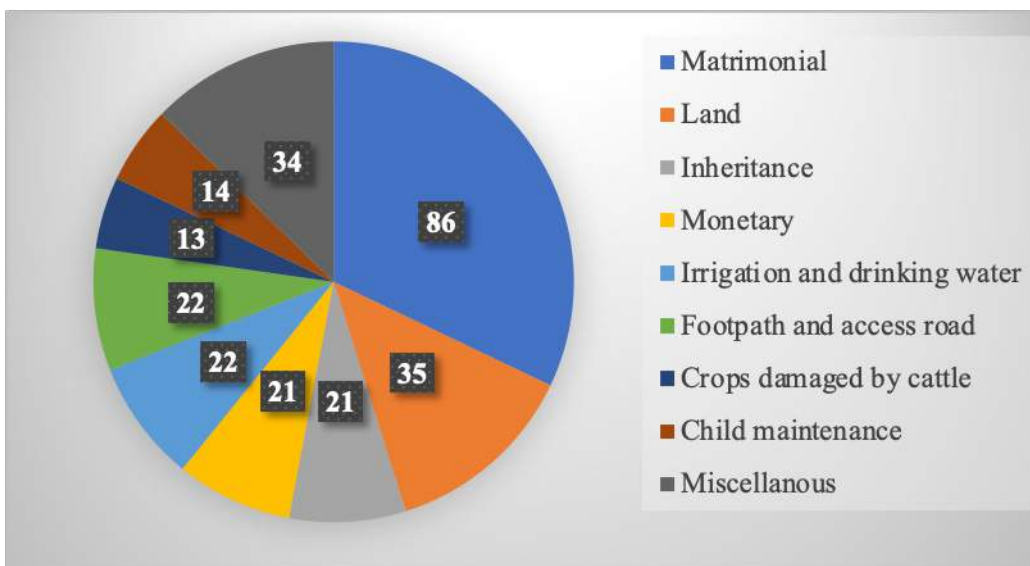
### Findings

Bjena Gewog has mediated the highest number of disputes (38) in the Dzongkhag followed by Nyisho (36) and Thedtsho Gewog (35) respectively. While Gangtey Gewog has mediated the lowest number of disputes (5) followed by Phobjikha (6) and Gasetsho Wom Gewog (7) respectively.

**Table 2: Types of disputes mediated in Wangdue Phodrang Dzongkhag**

Sl. No.	Types of disputes	Disputes mediated
1	Matrimonial	86
2	Land	35
3	Inheritance	21
4	Monetary	21
5	Irrigation and drinking water	22
6	Footpath and access road	22
7	Crops damaged by cattle	13
8	Child maintenance	14
9	Miscellaneous	34
<b>Total</b>		<b>268</b>

**Graph 2: Types of disputes mediated in Wangduephodrang Dzongkhag**



**Findings**

Wangduephodrang Dzongkhag has mediated a total of 268 disputes. Matrimonial is the maximum number of disputes (86) mediated in the Dzongkhag followed by land (35) and miscellaneous dispute (34) respectively. While crops damaged by cattle is the lowest number of disputes (13) mediated, followed by child maintenance-related disputes (14).

## 20. Zhemgang Dzongkhag

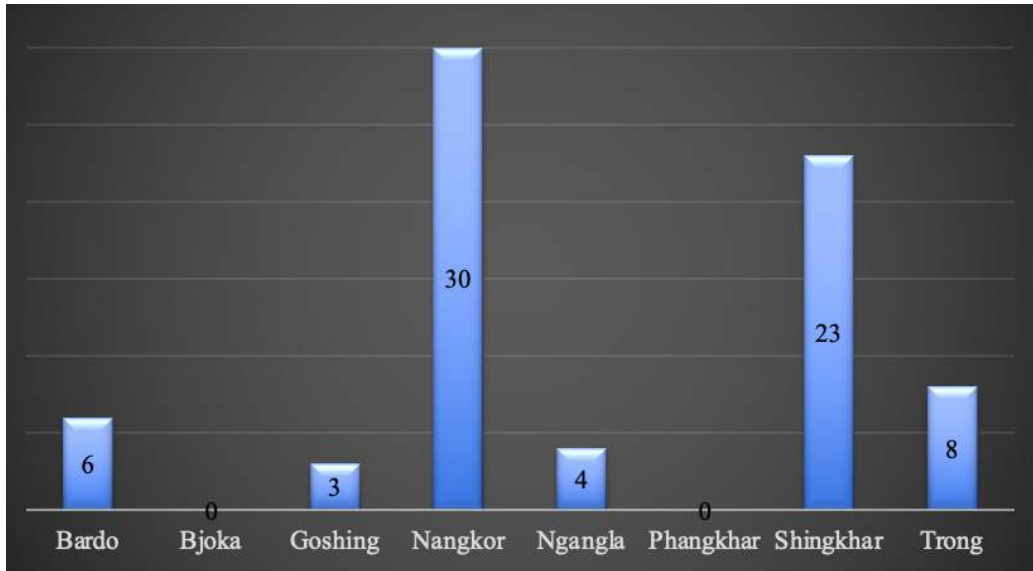
Zhemgang Dzongkhag is located in the Central-Southern region of the country with an area of approximately 2,421.74 sq. km. It has a total population of 17,109 as per the Statistical Yearbook of Bhutan 2021 by National Statistics Bureau. The Dzongkhag is also a part of the wild life corridor of the Royal Manas National Park, Jigme Singye Wangchuck National Park and Thrimshingla National Park. The Dzongkhag experiences both temperate and tropical climate owing to its significant altitudinal variations. People cultivate mainly maize followed by paddy, buckwheat, millet, barley, wheat, foxtail millet, potato, etc. Mandarin is the main source of cash income for the Southern and Central Gewogs, while the Northern Gewogs depend on livestock products for income.



**Table 1: Number of disputes mediated in the eight Gewogs of Zhemgang Dzongkhag**

Sl. No.	Gewog	Disputes mediated
1	Bardo	6
2	Bjoka	0
3	Goshing	3
4	Nangkor	30
5	Ngangla	4
6	Phangkhar	0
7	Shingkar	23
8	Trong	8
<b>Total</b>		<b>74</b>

**Graph 1: Number of disputes mediated in the eight Gewogs of Zhemgang Dzongkhag**



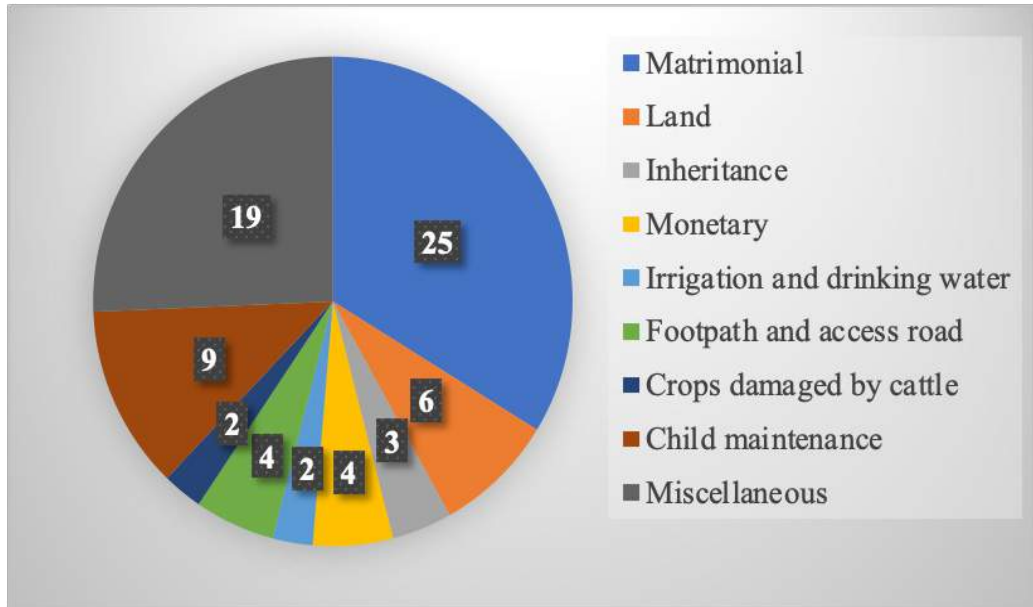
**Findings**

Nangkor Gewog has mediated the highest number of disputes (30) followed by Shingkhar Gewog (23). However, not a single dispute has been mediated by Bjoka and Phangkhar Gewogs.

**Table 2: Types of disputes mediated in Zhemgang Dzongkhag**

Sl. No.	Types of disputes	Disputes mediated
1	Matrimonial	25
2	Land	6
3	Inheritance	3
4	Monetary	4
5	Irrigation and drinking water	2
6	Footpath and access road	4
7	Crops damaged by cattle	2
8	Child maintenance	9
9	Miscellaneous	19
<b>Total</b>		<b>74</b>

Graph 2: Number of disputes mediated in Zhemgang Dzongkhag



### Findings

A total of 74 disputes were mediated in Zhemgang Dzongkhag. Matrimonial is the highest number of disputes (25) mediated in the Dzongkhag followed by (19) miscellaneous which pertains to misunderstanding out of alcohol consumption, theft, quarrel, census-related issues, etc. The lowest number of disputes mediated in the Dzongkhag pertain to irrigation & drinking water and crops damaged by cattle (2 each) followed by inheritance disputes (3).



## Overall Findings

Report received from 205 Gewogs revealed that a total of 3824 disputes were mediated in the 20 Dzongkhags from January to October 2021 since the term of the second local government ended on 26<sup>th</sup> October 2021. Paro Dzongkhag has mediated the highest number of disputes (719) followed by Samtse (378) and Chhukha Dzongkhag (312) respectively. While, Bumthang Dzongkhag has mediated the lowest number of disputes (48) in the country, followed by Gasa (58) and Trongsa Dzongkhag (60) respectively.

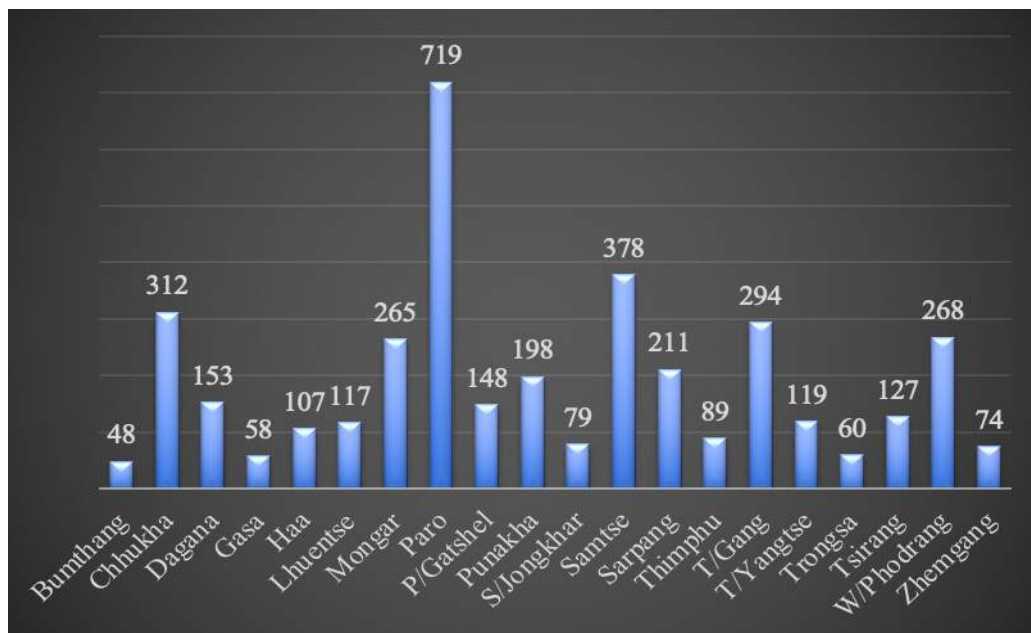
Regarding the types of disputes mediated in the community, matrimonial is the highest number of disputes (871) mediated in the country followed by land (634) and monetary disputes (458) respectively. While child maintenance-related issue is the lowest number of disputes (224) mediated in the country followed by crops damaged by the cattle (277) and inheritance disputes (281) respectively.

**Table 1: Number of disputes mediated in 20 Dzongkhags**

Sl. No.	Dzongkhag	Types of disputes									Total
		Matrimonial	Land	Inheritance	Monetary	Irrigation & drinking water	Footpath & access road	Crops damaged by cattle	Child maintenance	Miscellaneous	
1	Bumthang	16	4	1	4	4	6	4	5	4	48
2	Chhukha	58	62	25	43	24	16	27	18	39	312
3	Dagana	27	26	12	33	13	10	9	6	17	153
4	Gasa	11	16	2	0	5	7	2	6	9	58
5	Haa	27	22	6	18	3	6	8	7	10	107
6	Lhuentse	44	18	10	9	9	4	7	3	13	117
7	Mongar	79	30	17	27	19	19	21	20	33	265
8	Paro	105	169	73	69	74	95	68	39	27	719
9	P/Gatshel	33	15	6	36	2	9	17	8	22	148
10	Punakha	66	30	10	11	27	19	11	12	12	198
11	S/Jongkhar	28	9	3	8	9	4	3	1	14	79
12	Samtse	55	61	30	68	32	17	20	21	74	378
13	Sarpang	62	33	13	35	8	17	17	9	17	211
14	Thimphu	20	18	6	4	7	10	5	5	14	89
15	T/Gang	55	41	27	25	26	16	20	19	65	294
16	T/Yangtse	32	20	5	10	9	17	11	12	3	119
17	Trongsa	20	5	3	7	2	5	5	6	7	60
18	Tsirang	22	14	8	26	22	12	7	4	12	127
19	W/Phodrang	86	35	21	21	22	22	13	14	34	268
20	Zhemgang	25	6	3	4	2	4	2	9	19	74
<b>Total</b>		<b>871</b>	<b>634</b>	<b>281</b>	<b>458</b>	<b>319</b>	<b>315</b>	<b>277</b>	<b>224</b>	<b>445</b>	<b>3824</b>



Graph 1: Number of disputes mediated in 20 Dzongkhags



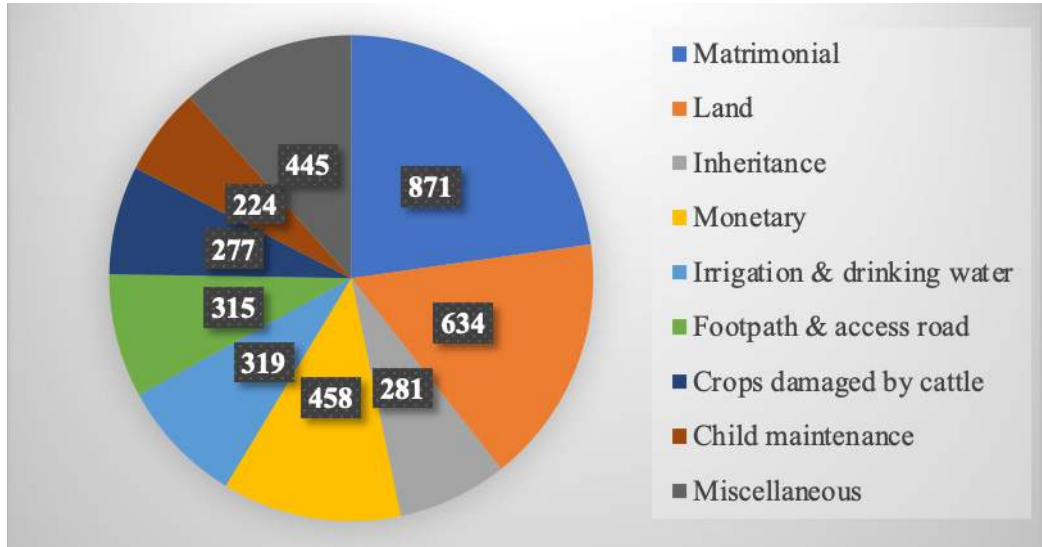
### Findings

A total of 3824 disputes were mediated in 20 Dzongkhags. Paro Dzongkhag has mediated the highest number of disputes (719), followed by Samtse (378) and Chhukha Dzongkhag (312) respectively. Bumthang Dzongkhag has mediated the lowest number of disputes (48), followed by Gasa (58) and Trongsa Dzongkhag (60) respectively.

Table 2: Types of disputes mediated in 20 Dzongkhags

Sl. No.	Types of disputes	Disputes mediated
1	Matrimonial	871
2	Land	634
3	Inheritance	281
4	Monetary	458
5	Irrigation and drinking water	319
6	Footpath and access road	315
7	Crops damaged by cattle	277
8	Child maintenance	224
9	Miscellaneous	445
<b>Total</b>		<b>3824</b>

Graph 2: Types of disputes mediated in 20 Dzongkhags



### Findings

Out of 3824 disputes, matrimonial is the highest number of disputes (871) mediated in the country followed by land (634) and monetary disputes (458) respectively. Child maintenance-related issue is the minimum number of disputes (224) mediated in the country followed by (277) irrigation and drinking water disputes.



## 6. Adjudication of Civil Cases by the Courts

As per the Annual Report of Judiciary 2021, the Courts have registered a total of 4718 civil cases in 2021. It may be inferred that several cases were settled through the mediation in the communities before reaching the courts; implying that the number of civil cases reaching courts every year could be higher, excluding the pending cases. Therefore, mediation services played an important role in reducing the number of civil cases reaching the courts. More importantly, mediation saved time and resources of the people and gave opportunity to live happily as families, friends and neighbours - ensuring a free, fair and a content civil society. Although mediation or any alternative dispute resolution systems will never replace or substitute the comprehensive adjudication of the cases by professional judges, it will mitigate the flood of litigation, especially those which are trivial, frivolous, protracted and cantankerous civil disputes.

## 7. Conclusion

*Nangkha Nangdrig* is an age-old customary practice of informal dispute resolution in the country. It is advantageous to the parties, courts and the communities. Mediation of disputes reduce the burden on the courts, allowing the judiciary to allocate its resources on a smaller docket of cases requiring serious attention. Mediation has also minimized the divisive effects of the litigation, and preserved the age-old culture of inter-dependence and harmonious co-existence of people in the communities. Further, the time and the cost-savings to the disputants from informal mediation processes reduce the burden on the individuals and communities.

The Institute created increased awareness of the mediation of disputes in the country through a series of trainings, workshops and advocacy programs. By imparting mediation skills and techniques to the community leaders, the Institute has tried to take justice closer to the doorsteps of the people in the communities, and enhanced access to justice. The Bhutan National Legal Institute acknowledges the support and cooperation of the Local Government Leaders (Gups, Mangmis, Tshogpas), and other relevant stakeholders who assisted us in the compilation and publication of this report. The Institute is also indebted to the Royal Government of Bhutan for the financial support for this project.



*Annexure*

**Disputes mediated in 205 Gewogs in 2021**

GEWOG: ..... DZONGKHAG: .....

Sl. No.	Types of disputes mediated	January - October 2021 (No. of disputes mediated)	Remark
1	Matrimonial		
2	Land		
3	Inheritance		
4	Monetary		
5	Irrigation and Drinking water		
6	Footpath and access roads		
7	Crops damaged by Cattles		
8	Child Maintenance		
	Other Disputes (List down other disputes which are not reflected above)	-	-
	1.		
	2.		
9	3.		
	4.		
	5.		

Signature of Gup/Mangmi

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