

National Mediation Report 2018



Bhutan National Legal Institute
Motithang, Thimphu
Bhutan



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Acronym

ADA	Austrian Development Agency
ADR	Alternative Dispute Resolution
BNLI	Bhutan National Legal Institute
CCPC	Civil and Criminal Procedure Code of Bhutan, 2001
DANIDA	Danish International Development Agency
GNH	Gross National Happiness
LG	Local Government
NSB	National Statistics Bureau
SDC	Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation

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
Drangpon	A judge of the Royal Court of Justice
Dungkhag	A sub-division of a Dzongkhag
Dzong	Head Quarter of the Local Government and Monk Body
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
Thromde	City Council or a Municipality
Tseri	Shifting or slash and burn cultivation
Tshogpa	Head of a Chiwog.
Yenlag Thromde	Sub-Thromde, a satellite town



Her Royal Highness, Princess Sonam Dechan Wangchuck, the Hon. President of Bhutan National Legal Institute with the 86 Local Government Leaders (Mangmis & Tshogpas) of the Second Local Government Election at Haa on 19 September 2017 during the inaugural *Training on Mediation of Disputes in the Community*.

Foreword

Bhutan National Legal Institute is the Training and Research arm of the Royal Court of Justice, the Judiciary of Kingdom 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 relevant stakeholders, especially the Local Government Leaders for the effective mediation of disputes in the communities.

As much as it is undesirable, litigations are inevitable and often stressful. It is a costly, lengthy, 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, less expensive, less time-consuming and more conclusive than litigation. Given its rugged terrain and isolated communities, Bhutan has used 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 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* 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 President of the Institute stepped in with the timely intervention of revitalizing and insitutionalising 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 since the first Local Government election.

Building the capacity of the relevant stakeholders and mediators is one thing; and the periodic assessment of the utility and impact of the training, another. No proper study and collection of data and compilation of report of the number and types of cases mediated in the communities has been carried out. In fact, no official record of the number and types of the cases being mediated in the communities is maintained in the communities and Local Government offices. Therefore, the Institute has designed forms and registers (*Community Disputes Mediation Register*) in 2018 to maintain record of the cases being mediated in the communities and submission of the annual report to the Institute for compilation and studies. Thus, the *Annual Mediation Report* 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 their 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 crux 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 - promotion of mediation for GNH, to strengthen the community vitality and harmony.

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.

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’ results honouring the solutions tailored to suit their needs and interests. For all the reforms and access to the courts, it is in fact still ‘better to lose in the communities than win at the courts’. 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 and LG leaders. Records reveal that 1789 Gups, Mangmis and Tshogpas have been trained on mediation skills and techniques from 2012 - 2018. This figure does not include other stake holders, such as civil servants, labour officers, Paralegal Service Providers and Gewog Administrative Officers who have also been imparted mediation skills.

In order to study the efficacy of the mediation training, the Institute published *Mediation Training Impact Assessment* in 2016 covering January 2012 - June 2015. In 2017, the *National Mediation Report* was published which covered the disputes mediated from July 2015 – December 2017. The present report – *Annual Mediation Report, 2018* is an update on the dispute mediated by the LG leaders in 2018. The report assesses the types and number of disputes mediated in the community. The report also analyses the effect and the impact of the mediation trainings, and the trends in the types of disputes based on the context of the Gewogs, Dzongkhags and the pace of national development.

The report reveals that Paro Dzongkhag has the highest number of disputes (718) mediated in the country, followed by Mongar (475), Wangdue Phodrang (362) and Trashigang (354) respectively. Gasa Dzongkhag has the least number of disputes (40) mediated in the country followed by Bumthang Dzongkhag (45). Regarding the types of disputes, Matrimonial-related dispute (1101) is the highest number of disputes mediated in the country followed by Land (692) and Miscellaneous matters (675) respectively. Child maintenance-related dispute is the lowest number of disputes (199) mediated in the country.

Overall, 4492 disputes were mediated by the LG leaders in their communities. 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 of 4492 cases in the study period.



Her Royal Highness, the Hon. President with the participants of the training of the Para-Legal Service Providers on Disputes Mediation Skills and Procedures.

1. Introduction

Alternative Dispute Resolution is considered a new way of resolving disputes 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 negotiation, mediation and arbitration 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.

Mediation is a non-binding process in which an impartial third party called the mediator facilitates the negotiation process between the disputants. As the mediator has no decision-making power, the disputants maintain control over the substantive outcome of the mediation. However, the mediator controls the process with the help of the disputants. With the consent of the disputants, the mediator sets and enforces the ground rules for the mediation process.

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* which comprised one of the sources of the Constitution of Kingdom of Bhutan. It is referred as *Bardum* in the *Alternative Dispute Resolution Act of Bhutan, 2013*. It is generally understood as an intervention from a third party mediator '*Nang Drigpa*' who assumes the role of advisor 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* was later replaced by provisions in the *Civil and Criminal Procedure Code, 2001*. In principle, all the disputes, which are civil in nature could 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 is declining,

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 objective, the Institute has been organizing a series of trainings on mediation procedures and skills since 2012. In the inaugural address to the 65 Mangmis of the 7 Western Dzongkhags at Punakha on 22 February 2012, the Hon'ble President of the Institute, Her Royal Highness, Princess Sonam Dechan Wangchuck said that:

I am concerned that the age-old culture and practice of Nangkha Nangdrig is declining. Disputes are bound to arise when we interact with each other. But I don't believe we must compulsorily go to courts to resolve them. Our elderly and wise citizens have been helping people resolve minor cases in the communities since time immemorial, which saved time and resources as well as preserved social relationship and harmony. Therefore, you have been chosen to be trained to fulfill this role now. I hope you will use the knowledge and skills you gain in this training to resolve the community disputes and enhance the community vitality and the happiness of our people thereby fulfilling the noble vision of His Majesty the Druk Gyalpo and His Majesty the Fourth King.

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. The trainings are being received with great appreciation and gratitude by the communities, leaders, government and the law makers, to the extent of meriting laudatory mention in the Speaker's Address to the Nation in the parliament. The Government has consistently provided fund to disseminate mediation knowledge and skills to the relevant stake holders, in the arts and science of mediation.

The capacity-building trainings certainly supplemented the judiciary in resolution of disputes by strengthening ADR (Mediation) system, which eliminates minor disputes in the communities, 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 reminded 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 sought to keep medical and justice services free of charge for the people. 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, comprise, 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 designed and distributed to the Gewogs (*see Annexure*). 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 the 1044 Chiwogs, 205 Gewogs and 20 Dzongkhags of the country, i.e., the report presents the findings of the disputes mediated in the whole country - though many Chiwogs have not maintained written record of the cases. The number of cases that are mediated in the communities will increase once the proper system of record-keeping and documentation is instituted in the country. Moreover, the compilation of the data and study of the mediation will be easier and systematic.

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 throw light on the background 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 respective website of the Dzongkhags, including the maps.

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 different Gewogs and Dzongkhags



1. Bumthang Dzongkhag

Bumthang Dzongkhag lies in the central Bhutan with an area of 2,667.76 sq. km. It has a total population of 17,262 as per the Report of Population and Housing Census of Bhutan, 2017. 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.



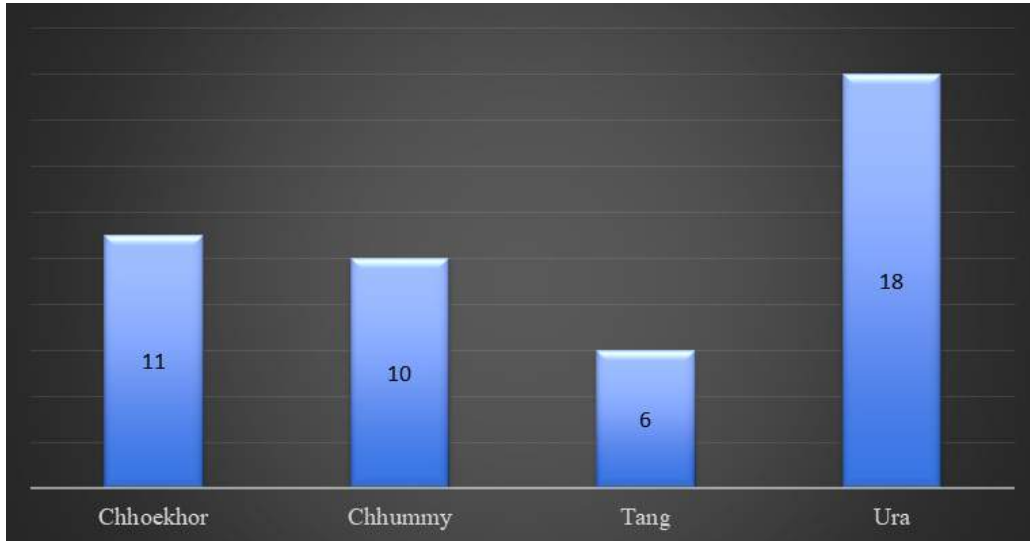
Bumthang Dzongkhag Court

Bumthang Dzongkhag Court was established in 1962. The new court was constructed in 2013 with the financial assistance of Austrian Development Agency (ADA) and the Swiss Development Cooperation (SDC), Government of Austria and Switzerland respectively. The new court building has separate detention room for men, women and children, ramps for persons with disabilities, and lobby with benches for the litigants. It provides judicial services to the people of four Gewogs. The court settles over 200 cases in a year.

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

Sl. No.	Gewog	Disputes mediated (January - December 2018)
1	Chhoekhor	11
2	Chhummy	10
3	Tang	6
4	Ura	18
	Total	45

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



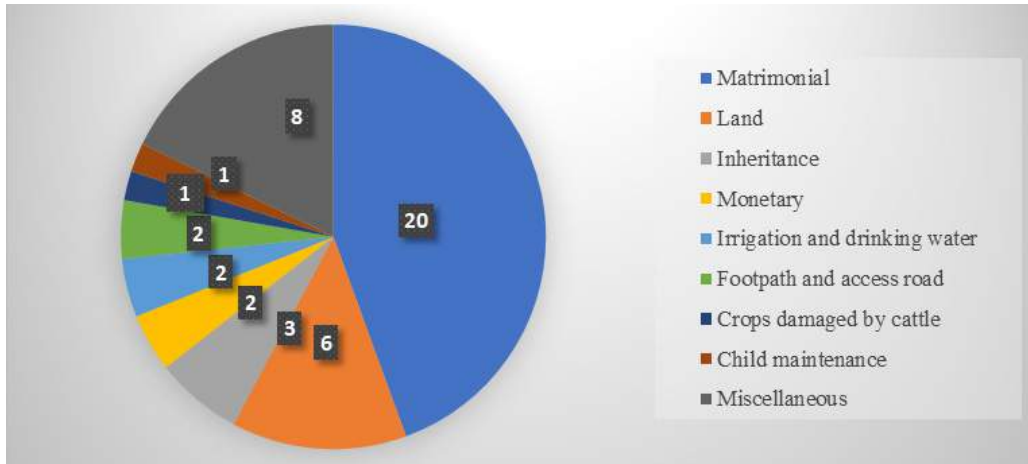
Findings

Out of 45 disputes mediated in Bumthang Dzongkhag, Ura Gewog has mediated the highest number of disputes (18) followed by Chhoekhor (11) and Chhumy (10) respectively. The lowest number of dispute is mediated by Tang Gewog (6).

Table 2: Types of disputes mediated in Bumthang Dzongkhag

Sl. No.	Types of dispute	Disputes mediated (January - December 2018)
1	Matrimonial	20
2	Land	6
3	Inheritance	3
4	Monetary	2
5	Irrigation and drinking water	2
6	Footpath and access road	2
7	Crops damaged by cattle	1
8	Child maintenance	1
9	Miscellaneous	8
	Total	45

Graph 2: Types of disputes mediated in Bumthang Dzongkhag



Findings

Bumthang Dzongkhag has mediated a total number of 45 disputes and is the second lowest Dzongkhag after Gasa which has mediated 40 cases. The matrimonial disputes (20) are the highest number of disputes mediated in the Dzongkhag followed by miscellaneous (8) and the land-related issues (6) respectively. The lowest number of disputes mediated is on the issues related to crops damaged by the cattle (1) and child maintenance (1). In the miscellaneous category, the dispute pertains to minor theft and the quarrels.





2. Chhukha Dzongkhag

Chhukha Dzongkhag lies in the Southern belt of Bhutan. It is located within the altitude range of 160 - 4,480 meters above the sea level and spans over an area of about 1,882.38 sq. km. It has a total population of 62,926 in 2017. Chhukha Dzongkhag is the point of entry into the Western and Central Bhutan from India. Majority of the people depends 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.



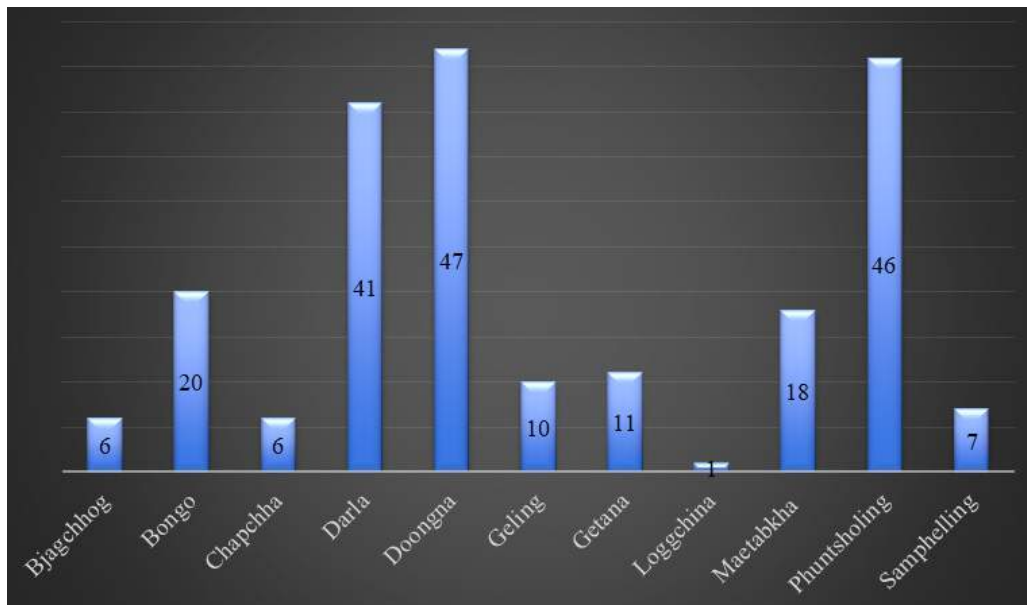
Chhukha Dzongkhag Court

Chhukha Dzongkhag Court was established in 1982. The present court house of Chhukha Dzongkhag was built in 1970s for the Chhukha Hydropower Project Office. The Court delivers judicial services to the people of eight Gewogs. The court settles more than 300 cases on an average, annually.

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

Sl. No.	Gewog	Disputes mediated (January - December 2018)
1	Bjagchhog	6
2	Bongo	20
3	Chapchha	6
4	Darla	41
5	Doongna	47
6	Geling	10
7	Getana	11
8	Loggchina	1
9	Maetabkha	18
10	Phuntsholing	46
11	Samphelling	7
	Total	213

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



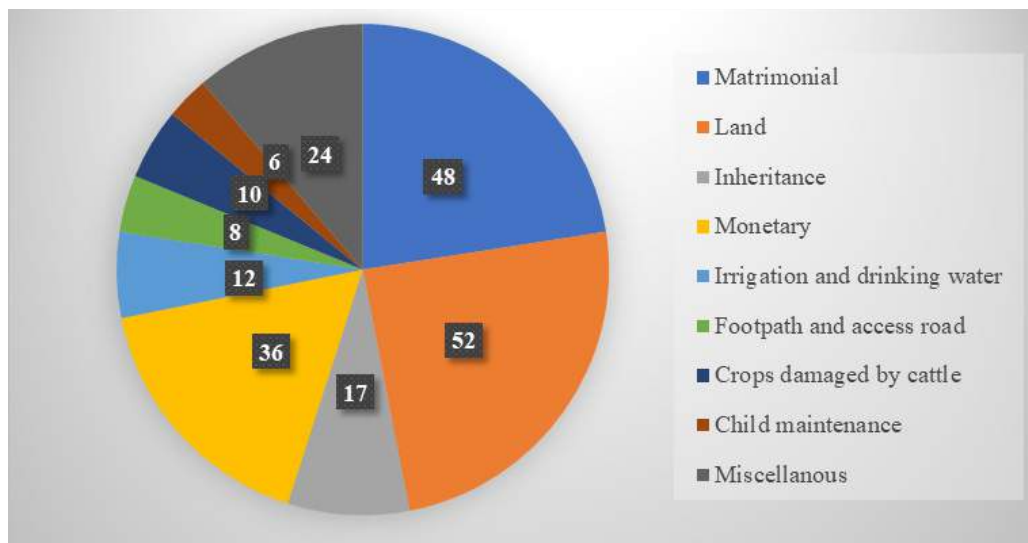
Findings

Doongna Gewog has mediated the highest number of disputes (47) followed by Phuntsholing (46) and Darla (41) respectively. Loggchina Gewog has mediated 1 dispute and is the lowest number of disputes mediated in the Dzongkhag.

Table 2: Types of disputes mediated in Chhukha Dzongkhag

Sl. No.	Types of dispute	Disputes mediated (January - December 2018)
1	Matrimonial	48
2	Land	52
3	Inheritance	17
4	Monetary	36
5	Irrigation and drinking water	12
6	Footpath and access road	8
7	Crops damaged by cattle	10
8	Child maintenance	6
9	Miscellaneous	24
	Total	213

Graph 2: Types of disputes mediated in Chhukha Dzongkhag



Findings

Chhukha Dzongkhag has mediated a total of 213 disputes. The land-related issue is the highest number of disputes (52) mediated in the Dzongkhag, followed by matrimonial disputes (48). The least number of disputes (6) mediated in the Dzongkhag pertains to child maintenance.



3. Dagana Dzongkhag

Dagana Dzongkhag has an area of about 1,723 sq. km. It lies in the South-Eastern part of the country with an altitude of 600 - 3,800 meters above the sea level. It has a total population of 24,247 in 2017. 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.



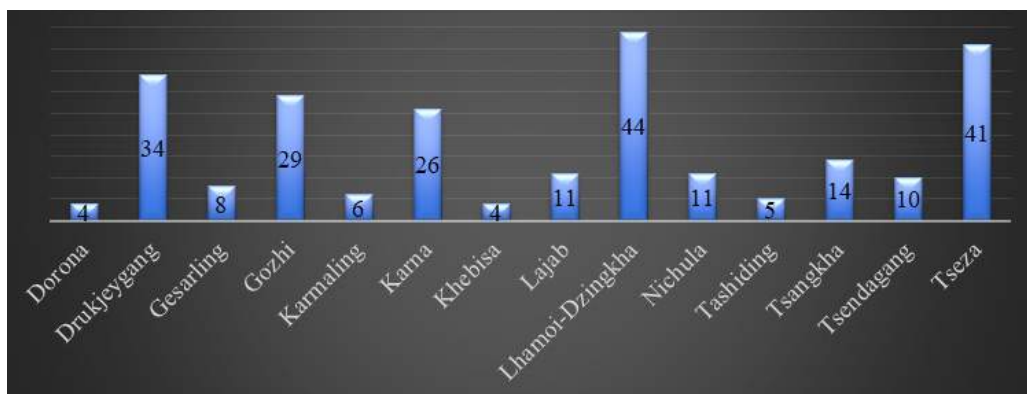
Dagana Dzongkhag Court

The new court building was constructed in 2014 with the financial assistance of the Austria Development Agency (ADA), Government of Austria. It has sufficient space for judicial personnel and the litigants. It provides judicial services to the people of eleven Gewogs. On an average, the court settles over 300 cases in a year.

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

Sl. No.	Gewog	Disputes mediated (January - December 2018)
1	Dorona	4
2	Drukjeygang	34
3	Gesarling	8
4	Gozhi	29
5	Karmaling	6
6	Karna	26
7	Khebisa	4
8	Lajab	11
9	Lhamoi-Dzingkha	44
10	Nichula	11
11	Tashiding	5
12	Tsangkha	14
13	Tsendagang	10
14	Tseza	41
	Total	247

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



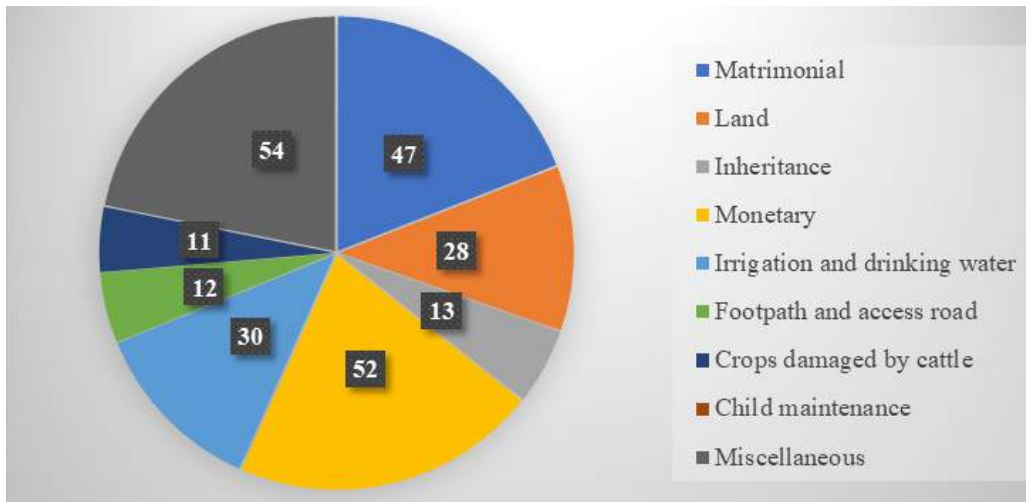
Findings

Lhamoi-Dzingkha Gewog has mediated the highest number of disputes (44), followed by Tseza Gewog (41). Dorona and Khebisa Gewogs have mediated the lowest number of disputes (4 each) in the Dzongkhag.

Table 2: Types of disputes mediated in Dagana Dzongkhag

Sl. No.	Types of dispute	Disputes mediated (January - December 2018)
1	Matrimonial	47
2	Land	28
3	Inheritance	13
4	Monetary	52
5	Irrigation and drinking water	30
6	Footpath and access road	12
7	Crops damaged by cattle	11
8	Child maintenance	0
9	Miscellaneous	54
	Total	247

Graph 2: Types of disputes mediated in Dagana Dzongkhag



Findings

The miscellaneous disputes which pertain to rental, domestic related issues, quarrel, etc., are the highest number of disputes (54) mediated in the Dzongkhag followed by monetary disputes (52). However, not a single dispute was mediated by the Geogs of Dzongkhag which pertains to the child maintenance-related issues.



4. Gasa Dzongkhag

Gasa Dzongkhag is situated in the North-Western part of the country. It has a total area of 3,117.74 sq. km, with a total population of 3,865 in 2017. 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.

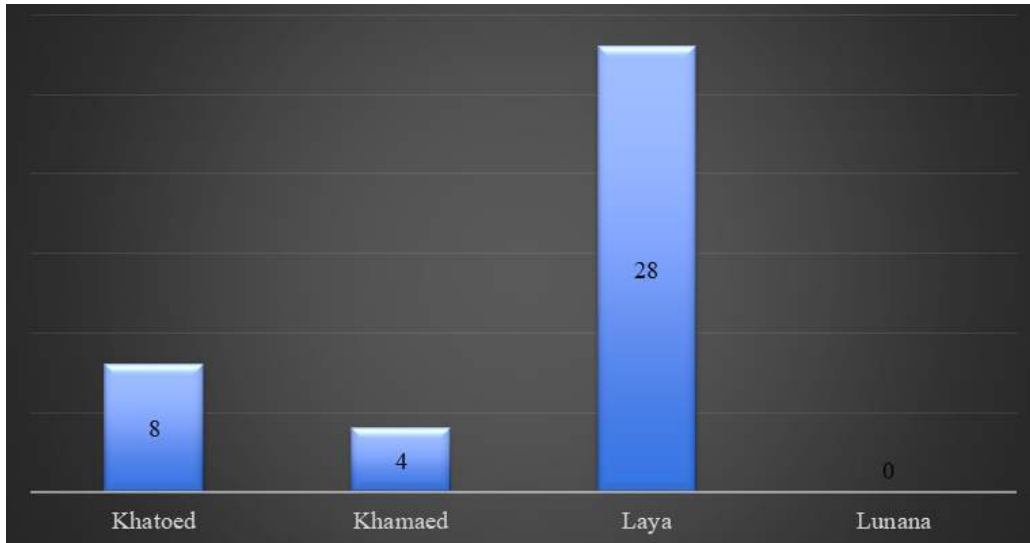
Gasa Dzongkhag Court

Gasa Dzongkhag Court has no independent court building. Currently, the judicial service is delivered from the residence of the judge which was constructed in 2016 with the financial assistance of the Government of India. It delivers judicial services to the people of four Gewogs. The court settles over 50 cases in a year.

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

Sl. No.	Gewog	Disputes mediated (January - December 2018)
1	Khatoed	8
2	Khamaed	4
3	Laya	28
4	Lunana	0
	Total	40

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

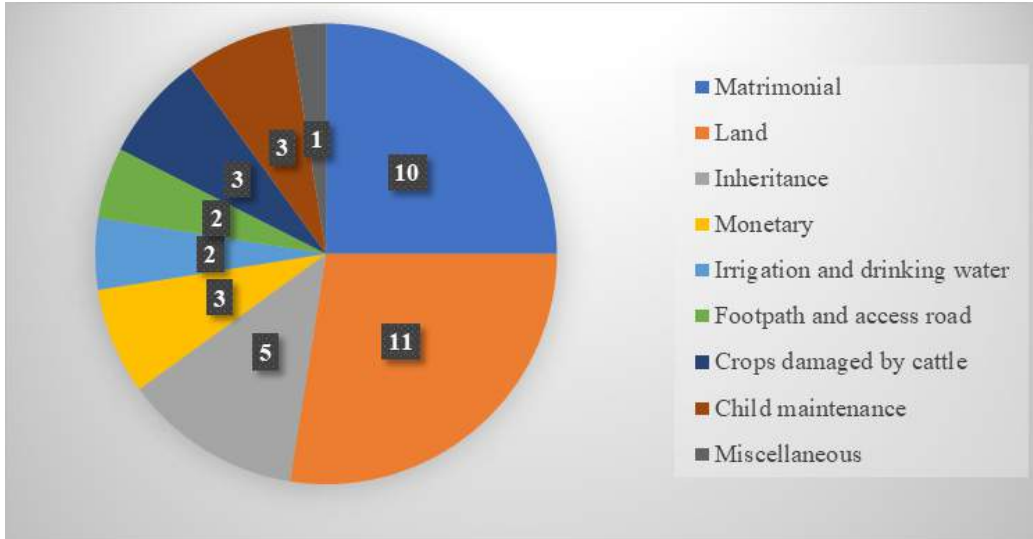
**Findings**

Laya Gewog has mediated the highest number of disputes (28), followed by Khatoed Gewog (8) in the Dzongkhag. However, not a single dispute has been mediated by Lunana Gewog.

Table 2: Types of disputes mediated in Gasa Dzongkhag

Sl. No.	Types of dispute	Disputes mediated (January - December 2018)
1	Matrimonial	10
2	Land	11
3	Inheritance	5
4	Monetary	3
5	Irrigation and drinking water	2
6	Footpath and access road	2
7	Crops damaged by cattle	3
8	Child maintenance	3
9	Miscellaneous	1
	Total	40

Graph 2: Types of disputes mediated in Gasu Dzongkhag



Findings

Gasu Dzongkhag has mediated a total of 40 disputes and is the lowest number of disputes mediated in the country. Although Gasu Dzongkhag is bigger than most of the other Dzongkhags, the number of disputes mediated is low due to rugged mountainous terrain and low density scattered migratory population.





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 1865 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 12,324 in 2017. Agriculture is the main source of livelihood for the inhabitants of the Dzongkhag.



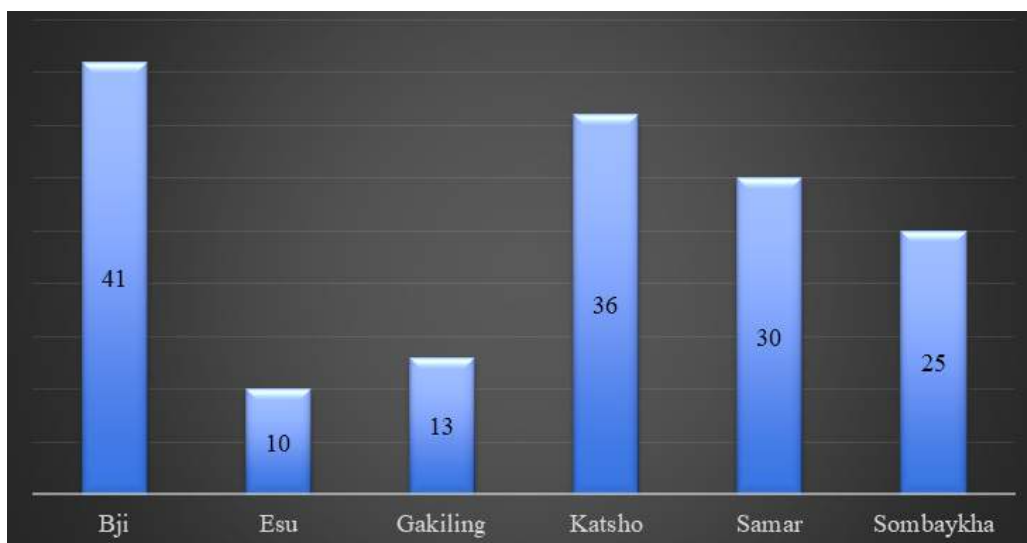
Haa Dzongkhag Court

Currently, the judicial service is provided from the old traditional Bhutanese house located near the Dzongkhag Administration. It provides judicial services to the people of four Gewogs. The new court building is under construction at the moment. On an average, the court settles over 200 cases in a year.

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

Sl. No.	Gewog	Disputes mediated (January - December 2018)
1	Bji	41
2	Esu	10
3	Gakiling	13
4	Katsho	36
5	Samar	30
6	Sombaykha	25
	Total	155

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

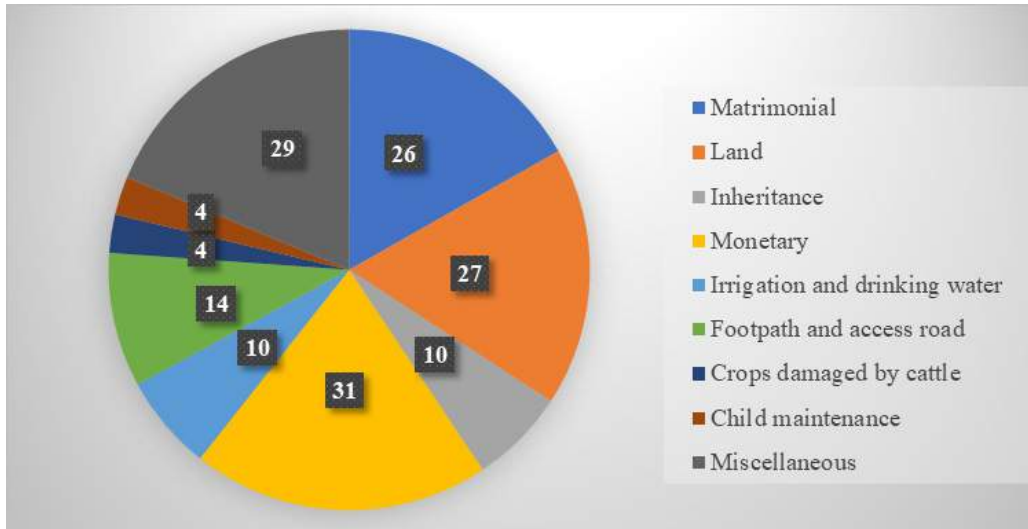
**Findings**

Bji Gewog has mediated the maximum number of disputes (410), followed by Katsho (36) and Samar Gewogs (30) respectively. Esu Gewog has the lowest number of disputes (10) mediated in the Dzongkhag.

Table 2: Types of disputes mediated in Haa Dzongkhag

Sl. No.	Types of dispute	Disputes mediated (January - December 2018)
1	Matrimonial	26
2	Land	27
3	Inheritance	10
4	Monetary	31
5	Irrigation and drinking water	10
6	Footpath and access road	14
7	Crops damaged by cattle	4
8	Child maintenance	4
9	Miscellaneous	29
	Total	155

Graph 2: Types of disputes mediated in Haa Dzongkhag



Finding

Haa Dzongkhag has mediated a total of 40 disputes. The monetary disputes (31) are the maximum number of disputes mediated in the Dzongkhag, while crops damaged by the cattles and child maintenance-related issues (4 each) are the minimum number of disputes mediated.





6. Lhuentse Dzongkhag

Lhuentse Dzongkhag covers an area of approximately 2,888 sq. km with an altitude range of 600 - 5,800 meters above the sea level. It has the total population of 14,240 in 2017. 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.

Lhuentse Dzongkhag Court

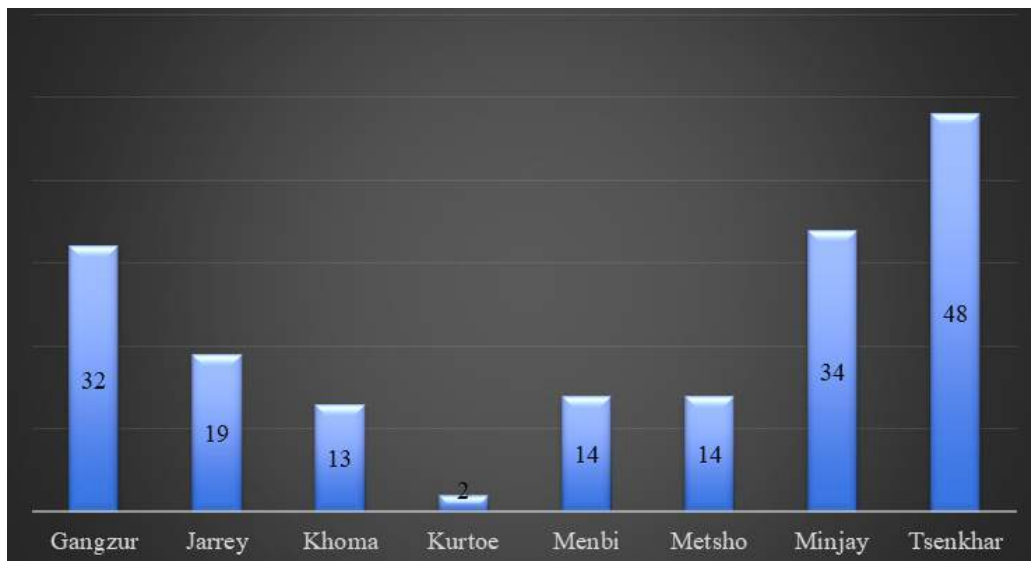
Lhuentse Dzongkhag Court was established in 1964. The new court building was constructed in 2013. It provides judicial services to the people of eight Gewogs. It has separate detention room for men, women, children and differently-abled people. There are also separate Registry, Finance and Administrative Sections. The court settles over 200 cases in a year.



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

Sl. No.	Gewog	Disputes mediated (January - December 2018)
1	Gangzur	32
2	Jarrey	19
3	Khoma	13
4	Kurtoe	2
5	Menbi	14
6	Metsho	14
7	Minjay	34
8	Tsenkhar	48
	Total	176

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



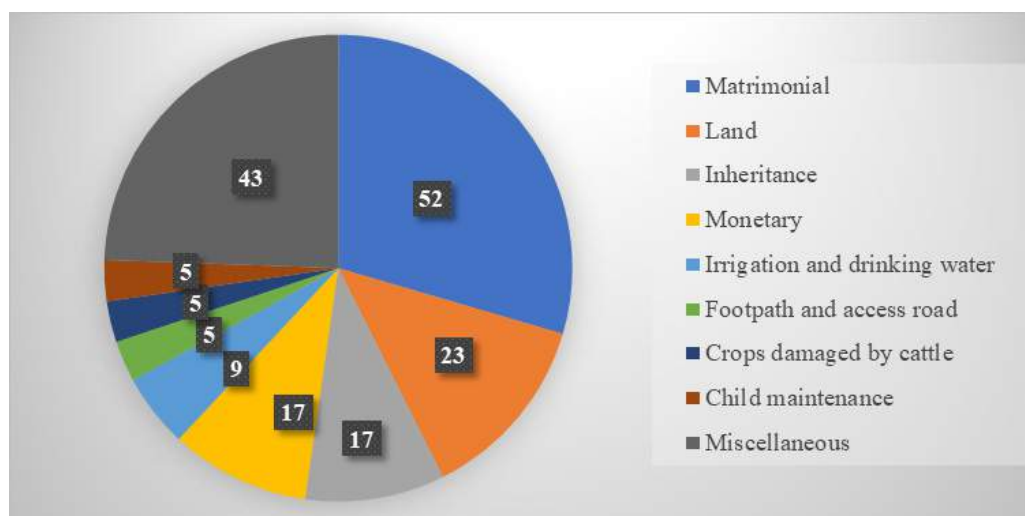
Finding

Tsenkhar Gewog has mediated the highest number of disputes (48) in the Dzongkhag, followed by Minjay (34) and Gangzur Gewog (32) respectively. 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 dispute	Disputes mediated (January - December 2018)
1	Matrimonial	52
2	Land	23
3	Inheritance	17
4	Monetary	17
5	Irrigation and drinking water	9
6	Footpath and access road	5
7	Crops damaged by cattle	5
8	Child maintenance	5
9	Miscellaneous	43
	Total	176

Graph 2: Types of disputes mediated in Lhuentse Dzongkhag



Finding

A total of 176 disputes were mediated in Lhuentse Dzongkhag. Matrimonial is the highest number of disputes (52) in the Dzongkhag followed by miscellaneous disputes (43). Matters pertaining to footpath and access roads, crops damaged by cattle and child maintenance (5 each) are the fewest number of disputes mediated in the Dzongkhag.



7. Mongar Dzongkhag

Mongar 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 population of 36,255 in 2017. 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.



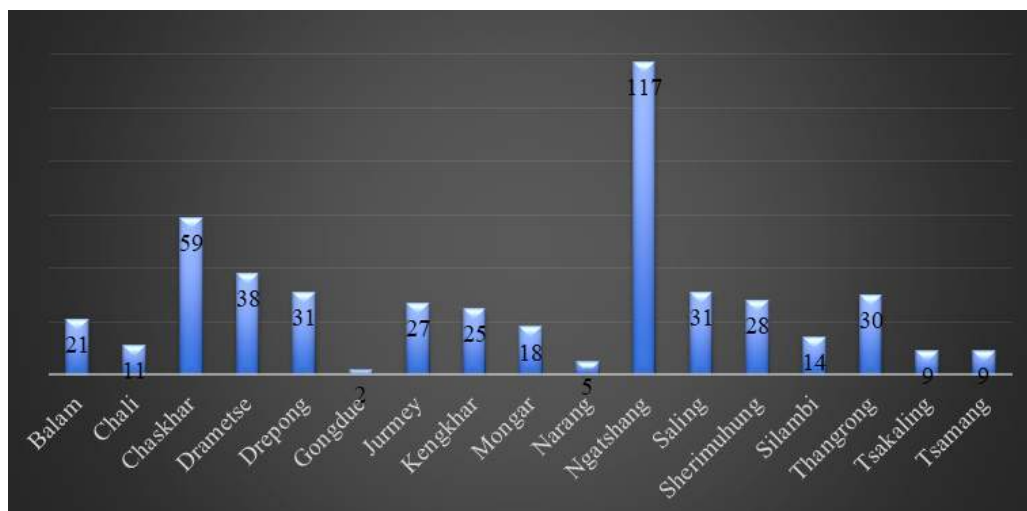
Mongar Dzongkhag Court

The new court building was constructed in 2011 with the financial assistance of the DANIDA, Government of Denmark. It provides judicial services to the people of fifteen Gewogs. The new court has adequate space for judicial personnel as well as the litigants. There are separate detention room for men, women and children. It has also facilities for differently-abled people. The court settles over 400 cases in a year.

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

Sl. No.	Gewog	Disputes mediated (January - December 2018)
1	Balam	21
2	Chali	11
3	Chaskhar	59
4	Drametse	38
5	Drepong	31
6	Gongdue	2
7	Jurmey	27
8	Kengkhar	25
9	Mongar	18
10	Narang	5
11	Ngatshang	117
12	Saling	31
13	Sherimuhung	28
14	Silambi	14
15	Thangrong	30
16	Tsakaling	9
17	Tsamang	9
	Total	475

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



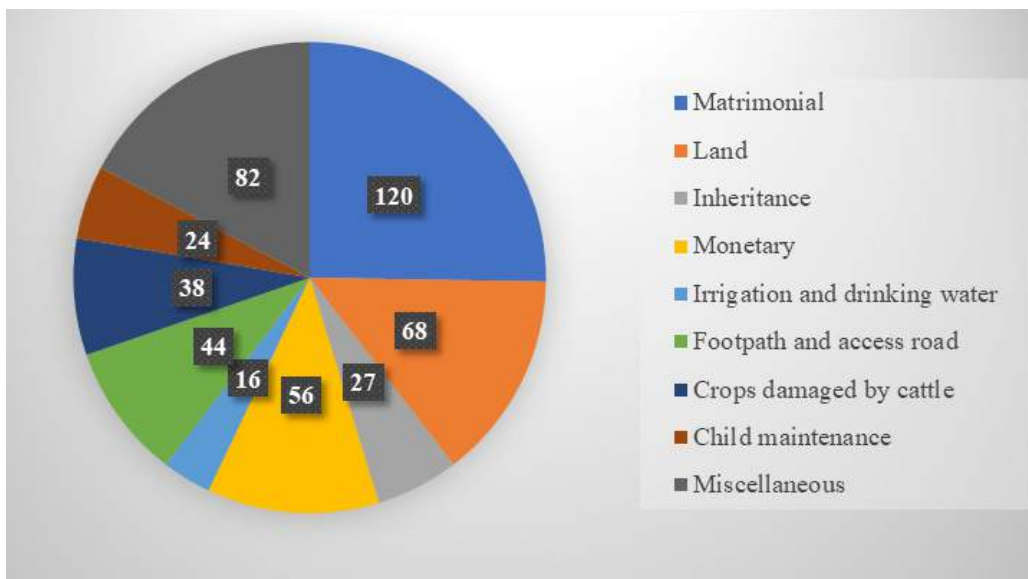
Finding

Ngatshang Gewog has mediated the highest number of disputes (117) in the Dzongkhag, followed by Chaskhar Gewog (59). While, Gongdue Gewog has mediated the lowest number of disputes (2) in the Dzongkhag.

Table 2: Types of disputes mediated in Mongar Dzongkhag

Sl. No.	Types of dispute	Disputes mediated (January - December 2018)
1	Matrimonial	120
2	Land	68
3	Inheritance	27
4	Monetary	56
5	Irrigation and drinking water	16
6	Footpath and access road	44
7	Crops damaged by cattle	38
8	Child maintenance	24
9	Miscellaneous	82
	Total	475

Graph 2: Types of disputes mediated in Mongar Dzongkhag



Finding

A total of 475 disputes were mediated in Mongar Dzongkhag, which is the second highest in the country, after Paro Dzongkhag (718). Matrimonial-related issues (120) are the maximum number of disputes mediated, while irrigation and drinking water-related disputes (16) is the minimum number of disputes 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 400 - 2,000 meters above the sea level. The Dzongkhag has an area of 1,251 sq. km with a total population of 43,362 in 2017. 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.



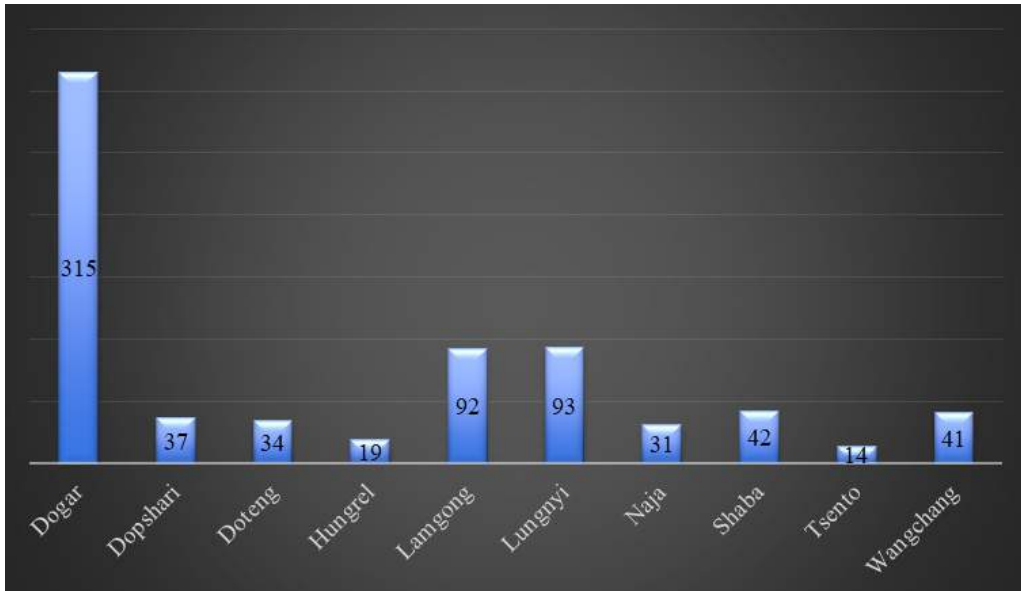
Paro Dzongkhag Court

The Paro Dzongkhag Court provides judicial services to the people of ten Gewogs. It has no independent court building. Paro Dzongkhag Court is one of the busiest courts in the country and it has two Benches. The court settles over 700 cases in a year.

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

Sl. No.	Gewog	Disputes mediated (January - December 2018)
1	Dogar	315
2	Dopshari	37
3	Doteng	34
4	Hungrel	19
5	Lamgong	92
6	Lungnyi	93
7	Naja	31
8	Shaba	42
9	Tsento	14
10	Wangchang	41
	Total	718

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



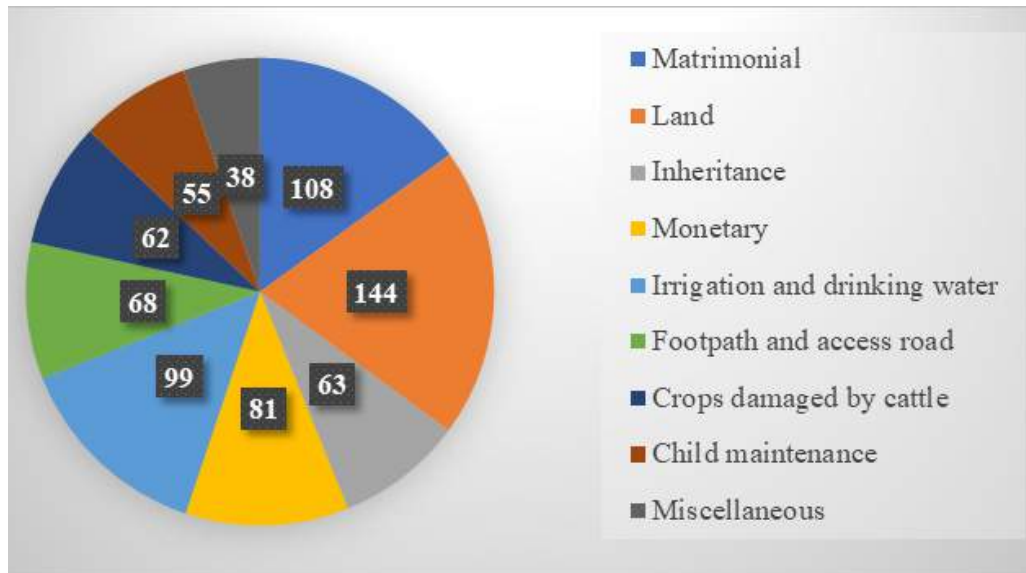
Finding

315 disputes were mediated by Dogar Gewog which is the highest number of disputes mediated in the Dzongkhag. This is even more than a total number of disputes mediated in other 16 Dzongkhags. Tsentso Gewog has mediated the lowest number of disputes (14) in the Dzongkhag.

Table 2: Types of disputes mediated in Paro Dzongkhag

Sl. No.	Types of dispute	Disputes mediated (January - December 2018)
1	Matrimonial	108
2	Land	144
3	Inheritance	63
4	Monetary	81
5	Irrigation and drinking water	99
6	Footpath and access road	68
7	Crops damaged by cattle	62
8	Child maintenance	55
9	Miscellaneous	38
	Total	718

Graph 2: Types of disputes mediated in Paro Dzongkhag



Finding

Paro Dzongkhag has mediated the highest number of disputes (718) among all the Dzongkhags. Land disputes (144) are the maximum number of disputes mediated in the Dzongkhag, followed by matrimonial disputes (108) and irrigation & drinking water-related disputes (99) respectively.

Over all, the maximum numbers of dispute-types were mediated by Paro Dzongkhag. The disputes pertaining to land (144), irrigation and drinking water (99), inheritance (63), footpath and access roads (68), crops damaged by cattles (62), and child maintenance (55) were the highest number of disputes mediated in the country.



9. Pemagatshel Dzongkhag

Pemagatshel is located in the South-Eastern part of Bhutan. It has a total area of about 1,022.11 sq. km with elevation ranging from 1,000 - 3,500 meters above the sea level. The total population of the Dzongkhag is 22,952 as of 2017. 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.



Pemagatshel Dzongkhag Court

The Pemagatshel Dzongkhag Court was established in 1974. The new court building was constructed in 2014 with the financial support of the DANIDA, Government of Denmark. It has adequate space for judicial personnel as well as the litigants. There are separate Registry, Finance and Administrative Sections. It provides judicial services to the people of eight Gewogs. On an average, the court settles over 200 cases in a year.

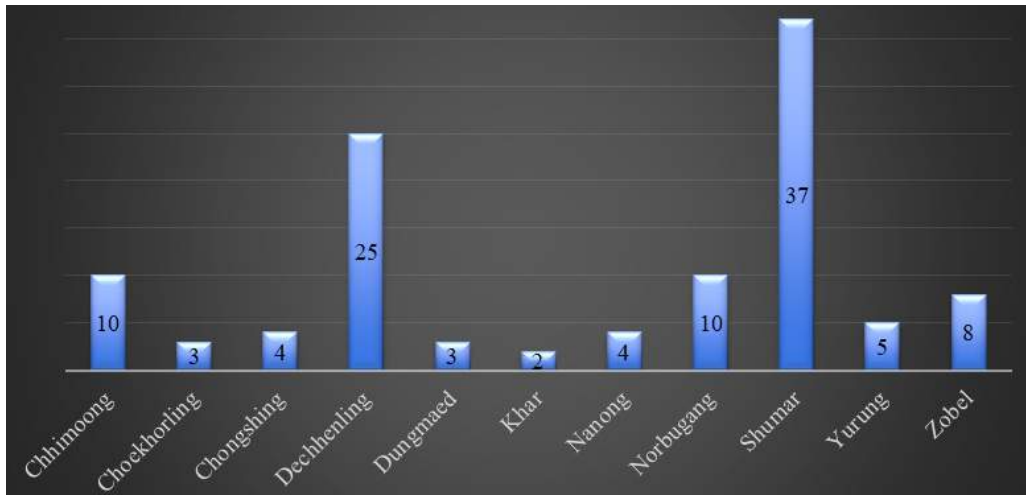
Nganglam Dungkhag Court

The Nganglam Dungkhag Court was constructed in 2011 with the financial assistance of the Government of India. The new court building has sufficient space for judicial personnel as well as the litigants. It provides judicial services to the people of three Gewogs - Choekhorling, Dechhenling and Norboogang. The court settles approximately 150 cases in a year.

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

Sl. No.	Gewog	Disputes mediated (January - December 2018)
1	Chhimoong	10
2	Choekhorling	3
3	Chongshing	4
4	Dechhenling	25
5	Dungmaed	3
6	Khar	2
7	Nanong	4
8	Norbugang	10
9	Shumar	37
10	Yurung	5
11	Zobel	8
	Total	111

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



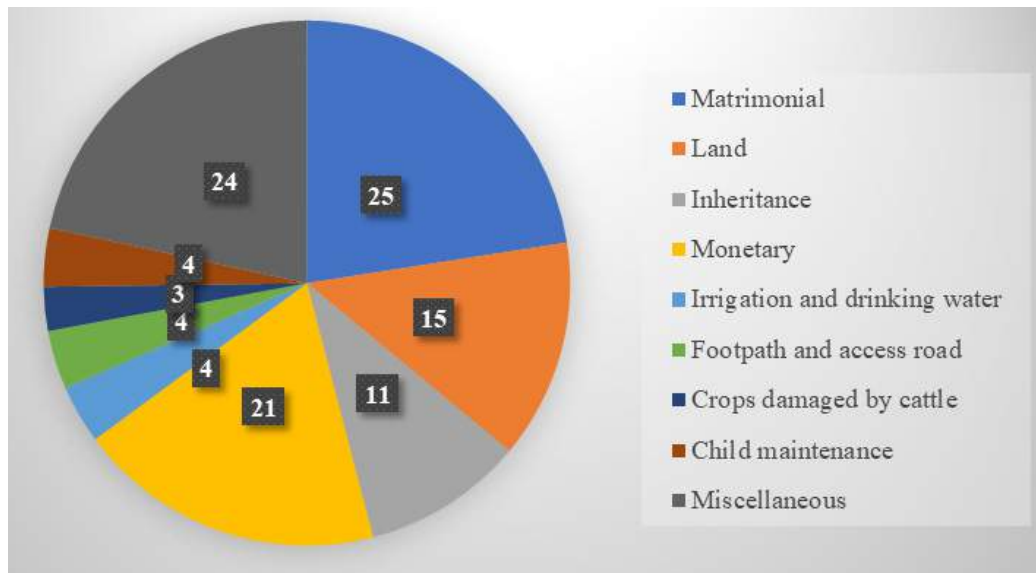
Finding

Shumar Gewog has mediated the highest number of disputes (37), followed by Dechhenling Gewog (25). While, Khar Gewog has mediated the minimum number of disputes (2) in the Dzongkhag.

Table 2: Types of disputes mediated in Pemagatshel Dzongkhag

Sl. No.	Types of dispute	Disputes mediated (January - December 2018)
1	Matrimonial	25
2	Land	15
3	Inheritance	11
4	Monetary	21
5	Irrigation and drinking water	4
6	Footpath and access road	4
7	Crops damaged by cattle	3
8	Child maintenance	4
9	Miscellaneous	24
	Total	111

Graph 2: Types of disputes mediated in Pemagatsel Dzongkhag



Finding

A total of 111 disputes were mediated in Pemagatshel Dzongkhag. Matrimonial (25) is the highest number of disputes mediated, while crops damaged by the cattle is the lowest number of disputes (3) mediated in the Dzongkhag.



10. Punakha Dzongkhag

Punakha Dzongkhag is located in Western Bhutan at an altitude range of 1,200 - 4,800 meters above the sea level. The Dzongkhag spreads over an area of 1,110 sq. km and has a population of 27,360 in 2017. 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 its favorable location, soil and climatic conditions. The Dzongkhag basically grows little of everything but the main cash crops are Paddy, Maize and Mustard.



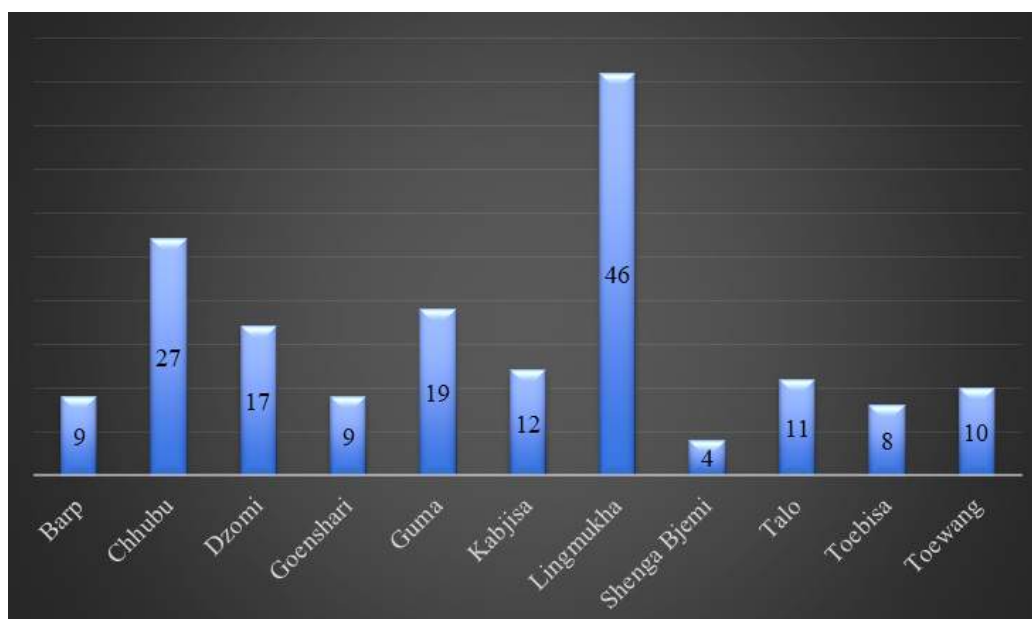
Punakha Dzongkhag Court

The Punakha Dzongkhag Court was established in 1974. The new court building was constructed in 2017. It has separate room for detainees, litigants and the judicial personnel. It provides judicial services to the people of eleven Gewogs. On an average, the court settles over 400 cases in a year.

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

Sl. No.	Gewog	Disputes mediated (January - December 2018)
1	Barp	9
2	Chhubu	27
3	Dzomi	17
4	Goenshari	9
5	Guma	19
6	Kabjisa	12
7	Lingmukha	46
8	Shenga Bjemi	4
9	Talo	11
10	Toebisa	8
11	Toewang	10
	Total	172

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



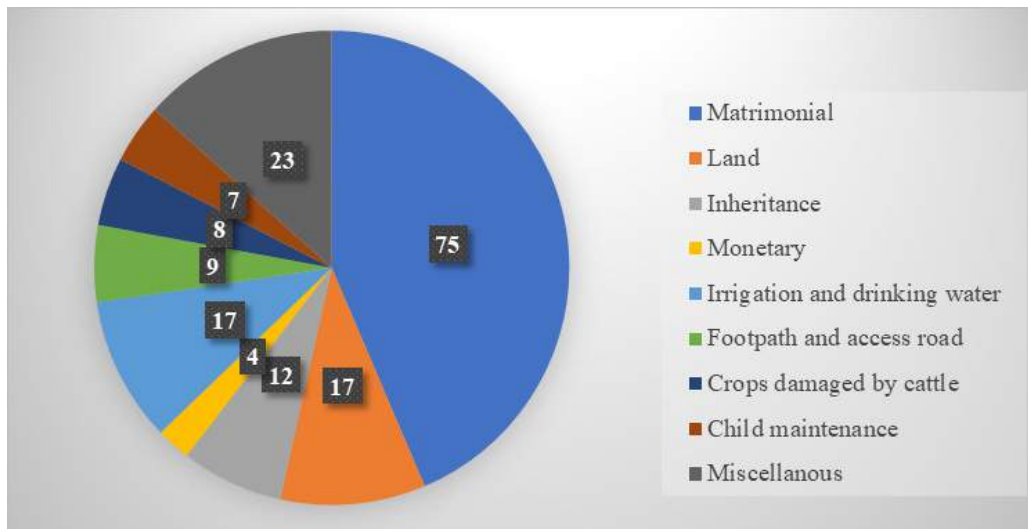
Finding

Lingmukha Gewog has the highest number of disputes (46) mediated in the Dzongkhag, followed by Chhubu (27) and Guma Gewog (19) respectively. Shenga Bjemi Gewog has mediated the lowest number of disputes (4) in the Dzongkhag.

Table 2: Types of disputes mediated in Punakha Dzongkhag

Sl. No.	Types of dispute	Disputes mediated (January - December 2018)
1	Matrimonial	75
2	Land	17
3	Inheritance	12
4	Monetary	4
5	Irrigation and drinking water	17
6	Footpath and access road	9
7	Crops damaged by cattle	8
8	Child maintenance	7
9	Miscellaneous	23
	Total	172

Graph 2: Types of disputes mediated in Punakha Dzongkhag



Finding

Punakha Dzongkhag has mediated a total of 172 disputes. Matrimonial-related issues (75) are the highest number of disputes mediated in the Dzongkhag followed by miscellaneous matters (23). The fewest number of disputes (4) mediated in the Dzongkhag pertains to monetary disputes.



11. Samdrup Jongkhar Dzongkhag

Samdrup Jongkhar Dzongkhag is situated in the South-Eastern corner of the country. It has a total population of 33,427 in 2017. The Dzongkhag is located in the sub-tropical climate zone, extending from an altitude range of 200 - 3,600 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 Jomotshangkha.



Samdrup Jongkhar Dzongkhag Court

Samdrup Jongkhar Dzongkhag Court was established in 1971. The new court building was constructed in 2007. It was funded by the DANIDA, Government of Denmark. It has sufficient space for judicial personnel as well as the litigants. There are separate detention rooms for men, women, children and differently-abled people. It provides judicial services to the people of eleven Gewogs. On an average, the court settles over 300 cases in a year.

Jomotsangkha Dungkhag Court

Jomotsangkha Dungkhag Court was constructed in 2011 with the financial support of the DANIDA, Government of Denmark. It provides judicial services to the people of three Gewogs - Langchenphu, Lauri and Serthi. The new court has separate room for detainees, litigants and judicial personnel. The court settles over 100 cases in a year.

Samdrup Choling Dungkhag Court

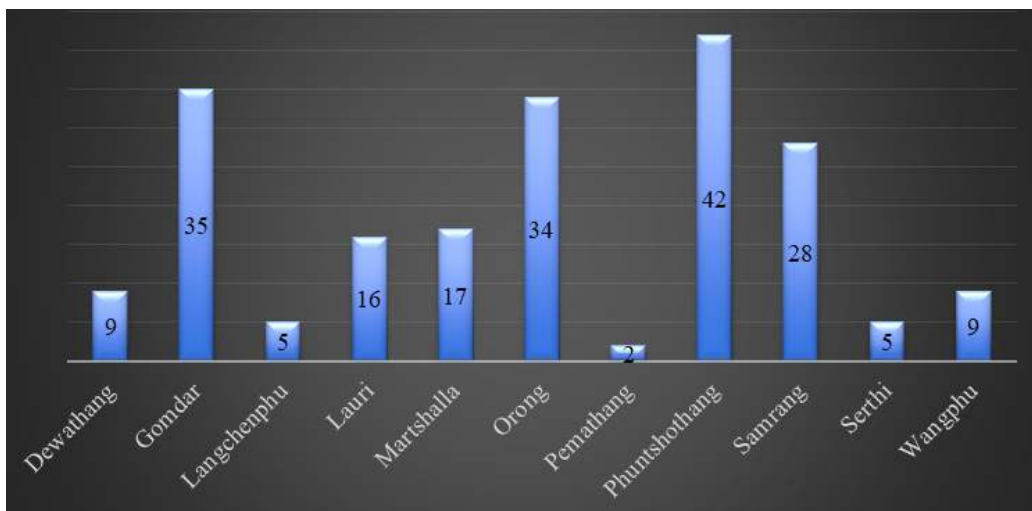
The new court building was constructed in 2011 with the financial support of the DANIDA, Government of Denmark. It delivers judicial services to the people of four Gewogs - Martshalla, Pemathang, Phuntshothang and Samrang. It has

adequate space for judicial personnel as well as the litigants. There is a separate detention room for men, women, children and differently-abled people. It has also separate Registry, Finance and Administrative Sections. On an average, the court settles over 100 cases in a year.

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

Sl. No.	Gewog	Disputes mediated (January - December 2018)
1	Dewathang	9
2	Gomdar	35
3	Langchenphu	5
4	Lauri	16
5	Martshalla	17
6	Orong	34
7	Pemathang	2
8	Phuntshothang	42
9	Samrang	28
10	Serthi	5
11	Wangphu	9
	Total	202

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



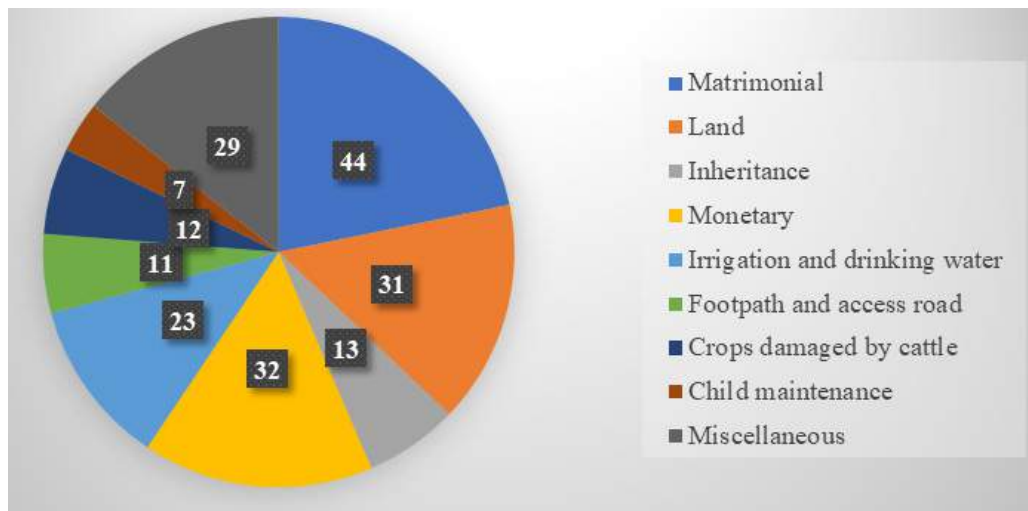
Finding

Phuntshothang Gewog has mediated the highest number of disputes (42), followed by Gomdar (35) and Orong Gewogs (34) respectively. While Pemathang Gewog has mediated the lowest number of disputes (2) in the Dzongkhag.

Table 2: Types of disputes mediated in Samdrup Jongkhar Dzongkhag

Sl. No.	Types of dispute	Disputes mediated (January - December 2018)
1	Matrimonial	44
2	Land	31
3	Inheritance	13
4	Monetary	32
5	Irrigation and drinking water	23
6	Footpath and access road	11
7	Crops damaged by cattle	12
8	Child maintenance	7
9	Miscellaneous	29
Total		202

Graph 2: Types of disputes mediated in Samdrup Jongkhar Dzongkhag



Finding

Samdrup Jongkhar Dzongkhag has mediated a total of 202 disputes. The matrimonial disputes (44) are the highest number of disputes mediated in the Dzongkhag followed by Monetary (32) and land disputes (31) respectively. Child maintenance-related issues (7) are the lowest number of disputes mediated in the Dzongkhag.



12. Samtse Dzongkhag

Samtse Dzongkhag lies in the South-West of Bhutan. It is located at an altitude ranging from 180 - 4,200 meters above the sea level in the sub-tropical monsoon climatic zone. Samtse Dzongkhag has a population of 61,023 in 2017. 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.



Samtse Dzongkhag Court

The new court building was constructed in 2006 with the financial support of the DANIDA, Government of Denmark. It has sufficient space for judicial personnel as well as the litigants. It provides judicial services to the people of seven Gewogs. On an average, the court settles over 500 cases in a year.

Dorokha Dungkhag Court

The new court building was constructed in 2015. It was funded by the Austrian Development Agency (ADA), Government of Austria and the Royal Government of Bhutan. It has sufficient space for judicial personnel as well as the litigants. There are separate detention room for men, women, children and differently-abled people. It provided judicial services to the people of three Gewogs – Denchukha, Doongtoed and Dophuchen. The Court settles over 100 cases in a year.

Tashichholing Dungkhag Court

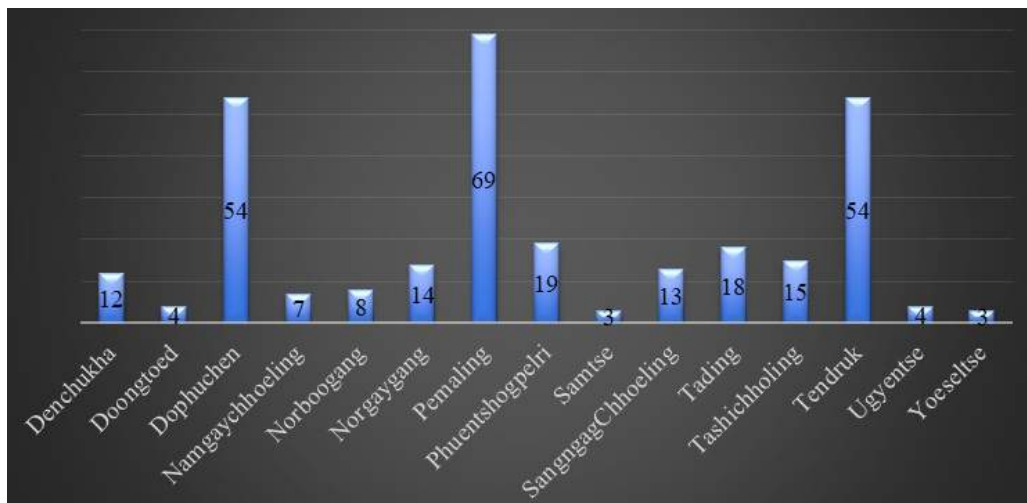
Sibsoo Dungkhag Court was constructed in 2011. It was funded by the Government of India. There are separate Registry, Finance and Administrative Sections. It provides judicial services to the people of five Gewogs - Namgaychoeling,

Norgaygang, Pemaling, Tashichholing and Tendruk. On an average, the court settles over 100 cases in a year.

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

Sl. No.	Gewog	Disputes mediated (January - December 2018)
1	Denchukha	12
2	Doongtoed	4
3	Dophuchen	54
4	Namgaychhoeling	7
5	Norboogang	8
6	Norgaygang	14
7	Pemaling	69
8	Phuentshogpelri	19
9	Samtse	3
10	SangngagChhoeling	13
11	Tading	18
12	Tashichholing	15
13	Tendruk	54
14	Ugyentse	4
15	Yoeseltse	3
	Total	297

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



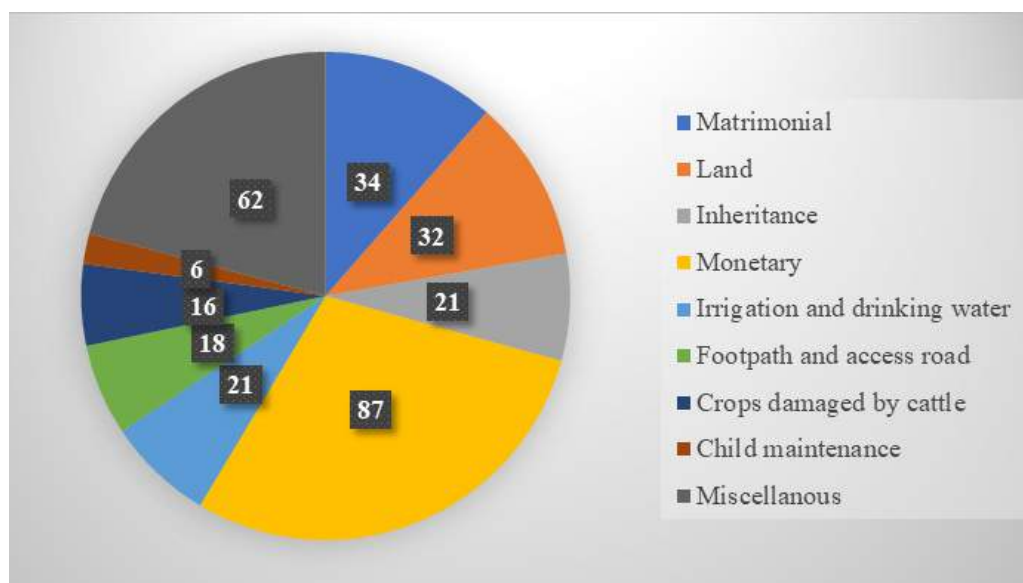
Finding

Pemaling Gewog has mediated the highest number of disputes (69) followed by Dophuchen and Tendruk Gewogs (54 each) in the Dzongkhag. The lowest number of disputes (3 each) was mediated by Samtse and Yoeseltse Gewogs.

Table 2: Types of disputes mediated in Samtse Dzongkhag

Sl. No.	Types of dispute	Disputes mediated (January - December 2018)
1	Matrimonial	34
2	Land	32
3	Inheritance	21
4	Monetary	87
5	Irrigation and drinking water	21
6	Footpath and access road	18
7	Crops damaged by cattle	16
8	Child maintenance	6
9	Miscellaneous	62
	Total	297

Graph 2: Types of disputes mediated in Samtse Dzongkhag



Finding

A total of 297 disputes were mediated in Samtse Dzongkhag. The monetary -related issue (87) is the highest number of disputes mediated in the Dzongkhag followed by miscellaneous matters (62). While, child maintenance-related issues (6) is the lowest number of disputes mediated in the Dzongkhag.



13. Sarpang Dzongkhag

Sarpang Dzongkhag has an area of 1,655 sq. km. It is located in the Central-Southern foothills with an elevation ranging from 200 - 3,600 meters above the sea level. The Dzongkhag consists of 12 Gewogs and 61 Chiwogs.

It has a population of 42,977 in 2017. The people

cultivates 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.



Sarpang Dzongkhag Court

The new court building was constructed in 2018. It has sufficient space for judicial staff as well as the litigants. The court also has separate detention and record rooms. It provides judicial services to the people of twelve Gewogs. On an average, the court settles over 200 cases in a year.

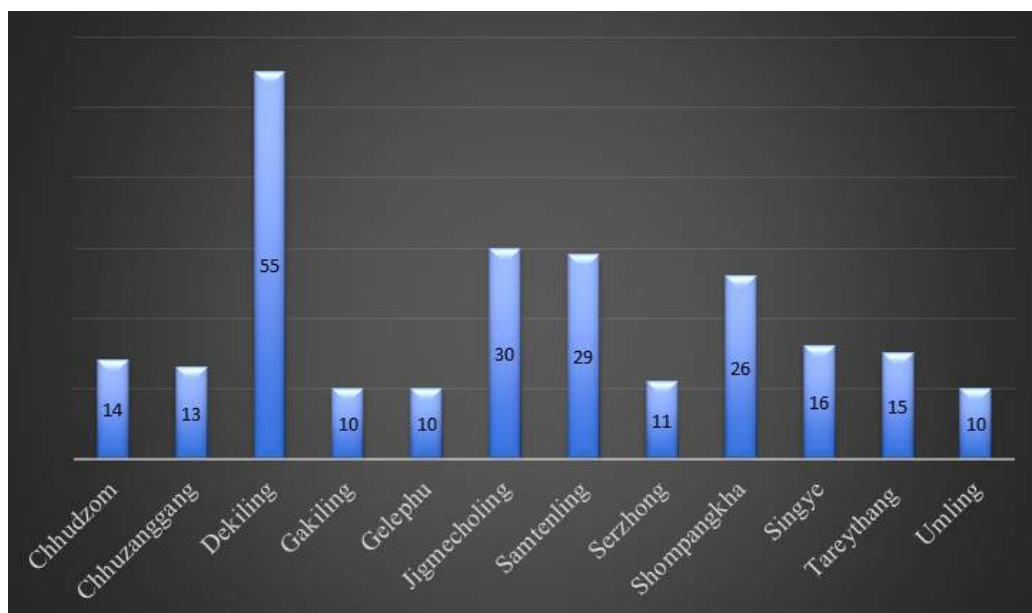
Gelephu Dungkhag Court

The new court building was constructed in 2008 with the financial support of the DANIDA, Government of Denmark. It has sufficient space for judicial personnel as well as the litigants. There is a separate detention room for men, women, children and differently-abled people. It provides judicial services to the people of four Gewogs. On an average, the court settles over 400 cases in a year.

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

Sl. No.	Gewog	Disputes mediated (January - December 2018)
1	Chhudzom	14
2	Chhuzanggang	13
3	Dekiling	55
4	Gakiling	10
5	Gelephu	10
6	Jigmecholing	30
7	Samtenling	29
8	Serzhong	11
9	Shompangkha	26
10	Singye	16
11	Tareythang	15
12	Umling	10
	Total	239

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



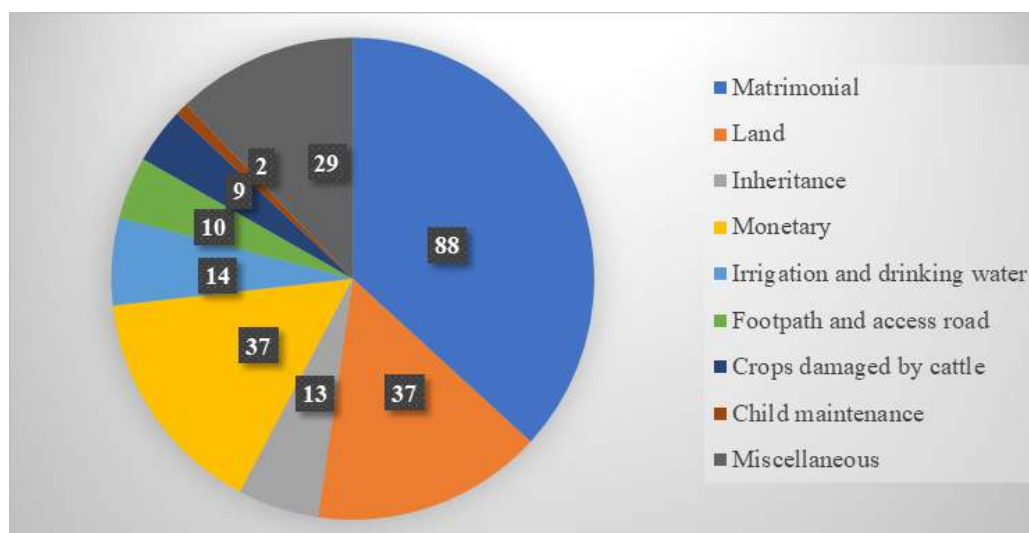
Finding

Dekiling Gewog has mediated the highest number of disputes (55) in the Dzongkhag, followed by Jigmecholing (30) and Samtenling Gewogs (29) respectively. Gakiling, Gelephu and Umling Gewogs have mediated the lowest number of disputes (10 each) in the Dzongkhag.

Table 2: Types of disputes mediated in Sarpang Dzongkhag

Sl. No.	Types of dispute	Disputes mediated (January - December 2018)
1	Matrimonial	88
2	Land	37
3	Inheritance	13
4	Monetary	37
5	Irrigation and drinking water	14
6	Footpath and access road	10
7	Crops damaged by cattle	9
8	Child maintenance	2
9	Miscellaneous	29
	Total	239

Graph 2: Types of disputes mediated in Sarpang Dzongkhag



Finding

Out of 239 disputes mediated in Sarpang Dzongkhag, matrimonial disputes (88) are the highest, followed by land disputes (37). The child maintenance-related matter is the fewest number of disputes (2) mediated in the Dzongkhag.



14. Thimphu Dzongkhag

Thimphu Dzongkhag is located in the Western part of the country. Its geographical area is approximately 2,067 sq. km with an altitude ranging from 1,300 - 7,300 meters above the sea level. The Dzongkhag has eight Gewogs and one Dungkhag (Lingzhi). It has a population of 128,207 in 2017. 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.



Thimphu Dzongkhag Court

Thimphu Dzongkhag Court has specialized Benches for Criminal, Commercial, Civil and Family and Child-related cases. It provides judicial services to the people of five Gewogs and the Thromde. The court also provides public services such as attestation, notarization and Marriage Certificates. Each of the five Benches settles over 300 cases in a year.

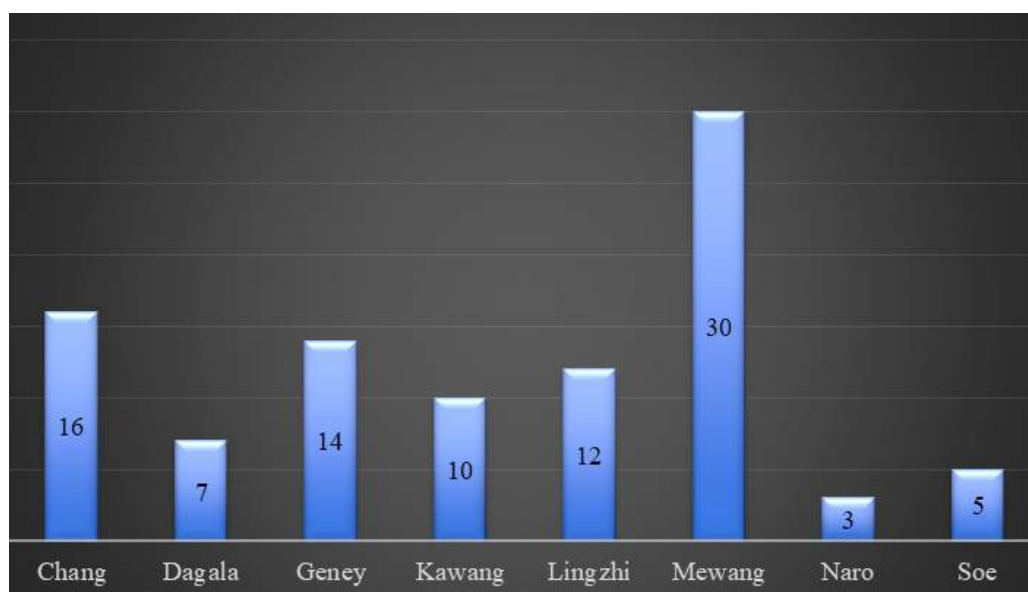
Lingzhi Dungkhag Court

Lingzhi Dungkhag Court was established in 2009. It provides judicial services to the people of three Gewogs - Lingzhi, Naro and Soe. The court settles over 15 cases in a year.

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

Sl. No.	Gewog	Disputes mediated (January - December 2018)
1	Chang	16
2	Dagala	7
3	Geney	14
4	Kawang	10
5	Lingzhi	12
6	Mewang	30
7	Naro	3
8	Soe	5
	Total	97

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



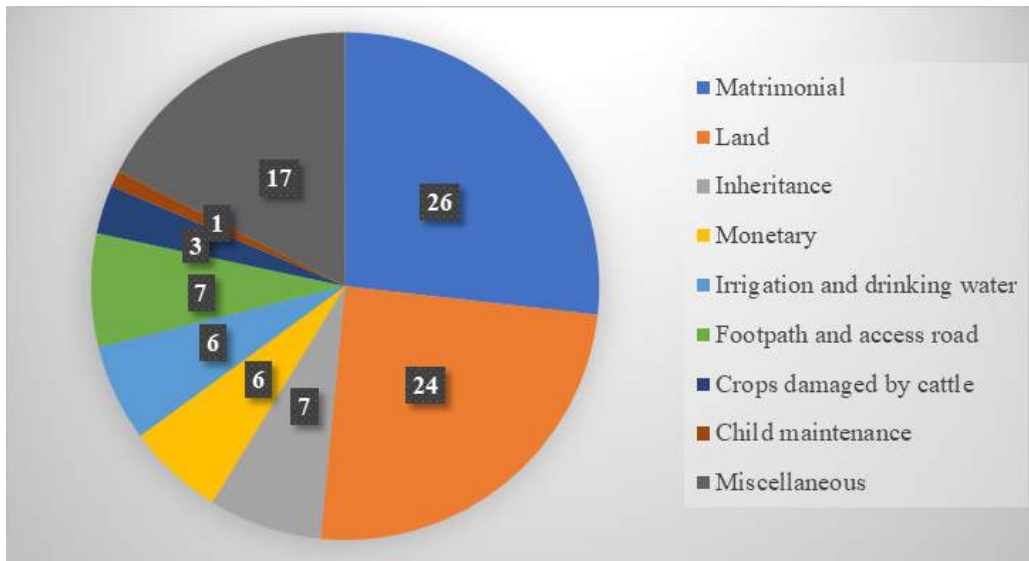
Finding

Mewang Gewog has mediated the highest number of disputes (30) in Thimphu Dzongkhag, while Naro Gewog has mediated the lowest number of disputes (3).

Table 2: Types of disputes mediated in Thimphu Dzongkhag

Sl. No.	Types of dispute	Disputes mediated (January - December 2018)
1	Matrimonial	26
2	Land	24
3	Inheritance	7
4	Monetary	6
5	Irrigation and drinking water	6
6	Footpath and access road	7
7	Crops damaged by cattle	3
8	Child maintenance	1
9	Miscellaneous	17
	Total	97

Graph 2: Types of disputes mediated in Thimphu Dzongkhag



Finding

A total of 97 disputes were mediated in Thimphu Dzongkhag. The matrimonial-related issues is the highest number of disputes (26) mediated in the Dzongkhag followed by land-related issues (24). Child maintenance-related issue is the lowest number of disputes mediated (1) in the Dzongkhag.



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 population of 43,741 in 2017. The Dzongkhag has 3 Dungkhags - Sakteng, Wamrong and Thrimshing.

Trashigang Dzongkhag Court

Trashigang Dzongkhag Court was established in 1952. The new court building was constructed in 2011 with the financial support of the DANIDA, Government of Denmark. It provides judicial services to the people of nine Gewogs. The court building has separate detention room for men, women and children. It has separate offices for the judge and judicial staff, ramps for person with disabilities, furnished lobby for the litigants, etc. On an average, the court settles over 300 cases in a year.

Thrimshing Dungkhag Court

Thrimshing Dungkhag Court was established in 1978. The new court building was constructed in 2011 with the financial assistance of the Government of India. It has sufficient space for judicial personnel as well as the litigants. It provides judicial services to the people of two Gewogs - Kangpara and Thrimshing. The court settles over 60 cases in a year.

Sakteng Dungkhag Court

Sakteng Dungkhag Court was established in 2009. It provides judicial services to the people of two Gewogs - Merak and Sakteng. The Court settles over 40 cases in a year.

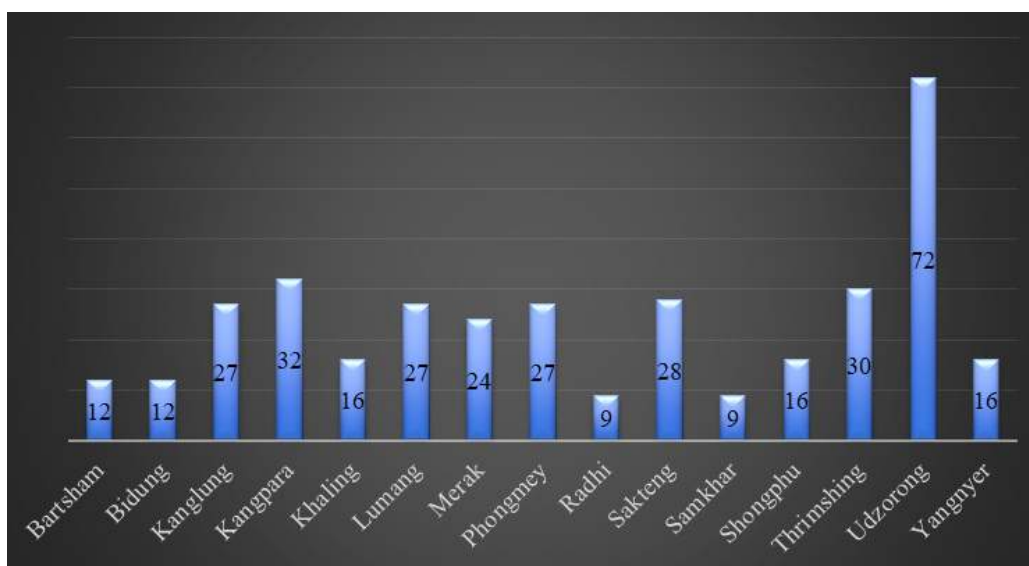
Wamrong Dungkhag Court

Wamrong Dungkhag Court was established in 1986. The new court building was constructed in 2012. It was funded by the Government of India. It has separate detention room for men, women and children. It also has separate Registry, Finance and Administrative Sections. It provides judicial services to the people of two Gewogs - Khaling and Lumang. The court settles over 100 cases in a year.

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

Sl. No.	Gewog	Disputes mediated (January - December 2018)
1	Bartsham	12
2	Bidung	12
3	Kanglung	27
4	Kangpara	32
5	Khaling	16
6	Lumang	27
7	Merak	24
8	Phongmey	27
9	Radhi	9
10	Sakteng	28
11	Samkhar	9
12	Shongphu	16
13	Thrimshing	30
14	Udzorong	72
15	Yangnyer	16
	Total	357

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



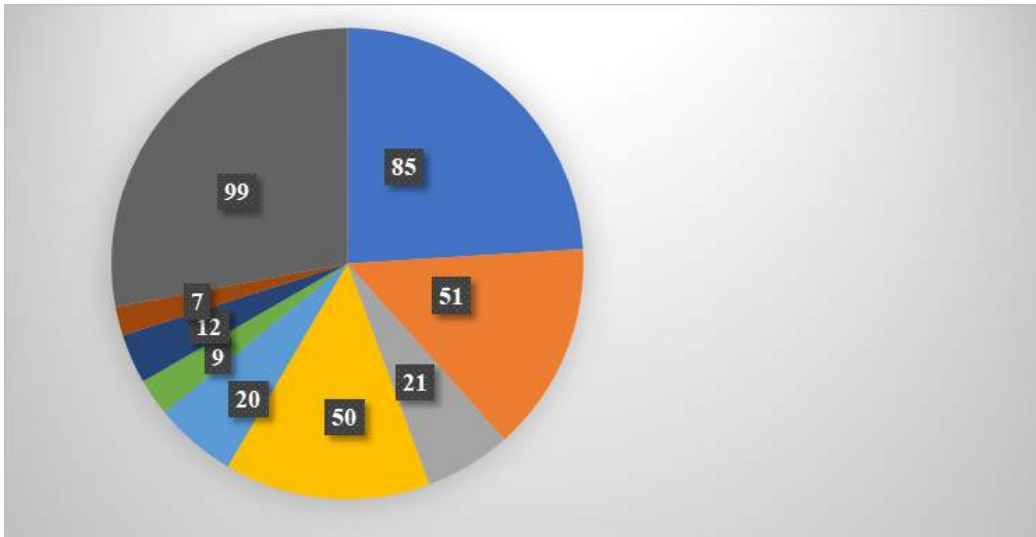
Finding

Udzorong Gewog has mediated the highest number of disputes (72) in the Dzongkhag, followed by Kangpara (32) and Thrimshing Gewogs (30) respectively. Radhi and Samkhar Gewogs have mediated the fewest number of disputes (9) in the Dzongkhag.

Table 2: Types of disputes mediated in Trashigang Dzongkhag

Sl. No.	Types of dispute	Disputes mediated (January - December 2018)
1	Matrimonial	85
2	Land	51
3	Inheritance	21
4	Monetary	50
5	Irrigation and drinking water	20
6	Footpath and access road	9
7	Crops damaged by cattle	12
8	Child maintenance	7
9	Miscellaneous	99
	Total	354

Graph 2: Types of disputes mediated in Trashigang Dzongkhag



Finding

Trashigang Dzongkhag has mediated a total of 354 disputes, which is the fourth highest in the country. Miscellaneous disputes pertaining to census, Tsamdro, timber, wages, rental issues, damage of the property, quarrels, etc., were some of the common disputes and is the highest number of disputes (99) mediated in the Dzongkhag and also in the country as well. However, child maintenance-related issues is the fewest number of disputes mediated in the Dzongkhag.





16. Trashi Yangtse Dzongkhag

Located in the North-Eastern part of the country, Trashi Yangtse Dzongkhag has an area of 1,438 sq. km and altitude ranging from 600 - 5,400 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 population of 16,930 in 2017. The people produce traditional wooden bowls which are prized throughout the country.

Trashi Yangtse Dzongkhag Court

Trashi Yangtse Dzongkhag Court was established in 1991. The court building is being constructed with the financial support of the Austrian Development Agency (ADA), Government of Austria. It provides judicial services to the people of eight Gewogs. On an average, the court settles over 200 cases in a year.

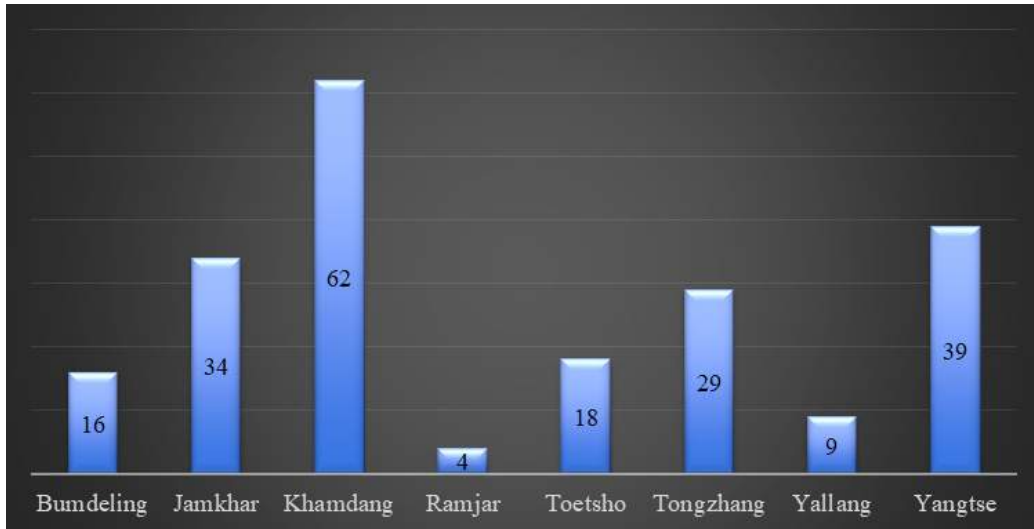
TASHI YANGTSE DZONGKHAG



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

Sl. No.	Gewog	Disputes mediated (January - December 2018)
1	Bumdeling	16
2	Jamkhar	34
3	Khamdang	62
4	Ramjar	4
5	Toetsho	18
6	Tongzhang	29
7	Yallang	9
8	Yangtse	39
	Total	211

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



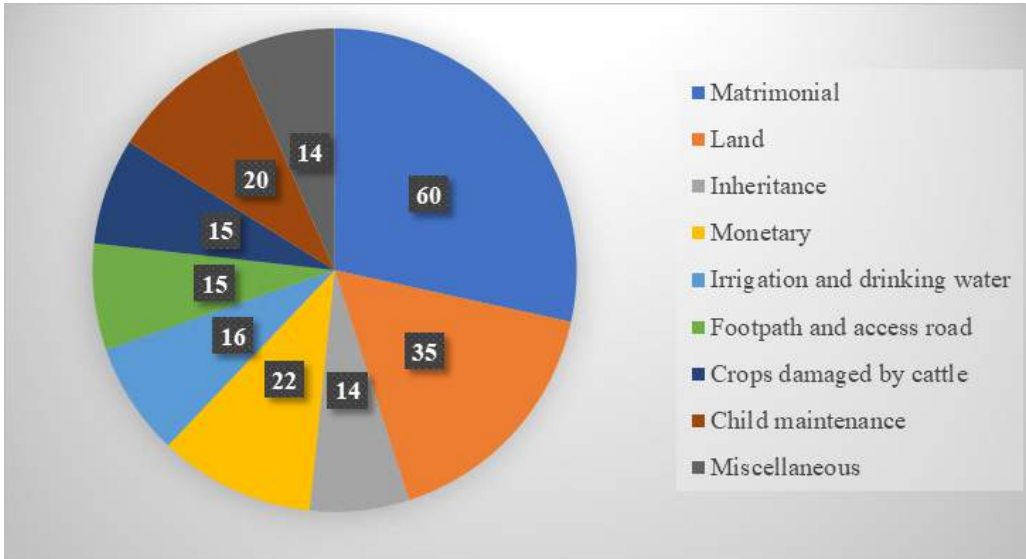
Finding

Khamdang Gewog has mediated the highest number of disputes (62) followed by Yangtse (39) and Jamkhar Gewogs (34) respectively. While, Ramjar Gewog has mediated the lowest number of disputes (4) in the Dzongkhag.

Table 2: Types of disputes mediated in Trashi Yangtse Dzongkhag

Sl. No.	Types of dispute	Disputes mediated (January - December 2018)
1	Matrimonial	60
2	Land	35
3	Inheritance	14
4	Monetary	22
5	Irrigation and drinking water	16
6	Footpath and access road	15
7	Crops damaged by cattle	15
8	Child maintenance	20
9	Miscellaneous	14
	Total	211

Graph 2: Types of disputes mediated in Trashi Yangtse Dzongkhag



Finding

Matrimonial disputes is the maximum number of disputes (60) mediated in Trashi Yangtse Dzongkhag followed by land disputes (35), while miscellaneous-related issues are the minimum number of disputes (14) mediated in the Dzongkhag. A total of 211 disputes were mediated in Trashi Yangtse Dzongkhag.





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 population of 16,054 in 2017. 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.



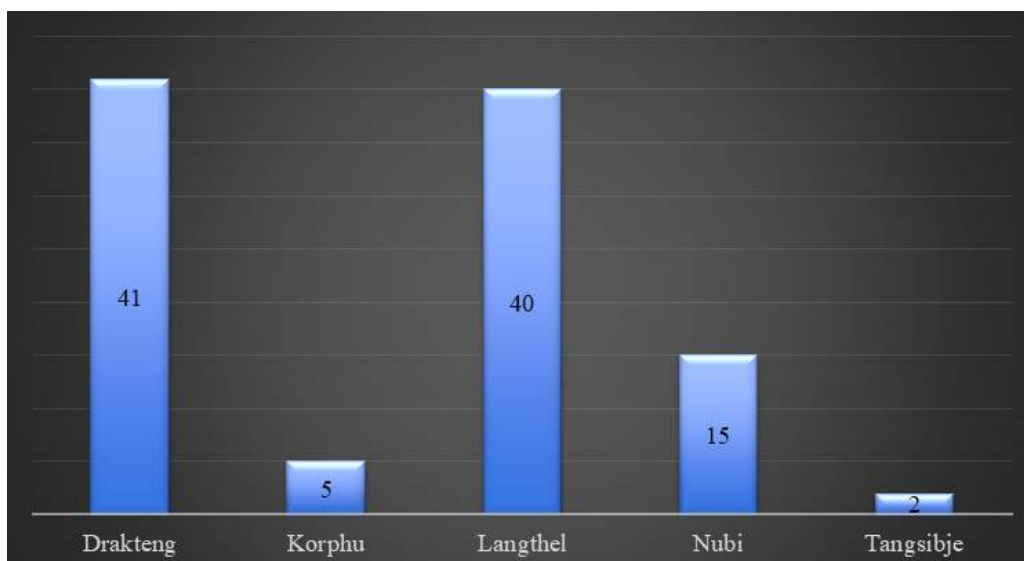
Trongsa Dzongkhag Court

Trongsa Dzongkhag Court was constructed in 2013 with the financial support of the ADA and SDC, Government of Austria and Switzerland respectively. The new court building has ramps for person with disabilities, lobby furnished with benches for the litigants, separate rooms for the detainees, litigants, etc. It provides judicial services to the people of five Gewogs. The court settles over 200 cases in a year.

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

Sl. No.	Gewog	Disputes mediated (January - December 2018)
1	Drakteng	41
2	Korphu	5
3	Langthel	40
4	Nubi	15
5	Tangsibje	2
	Total	103

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



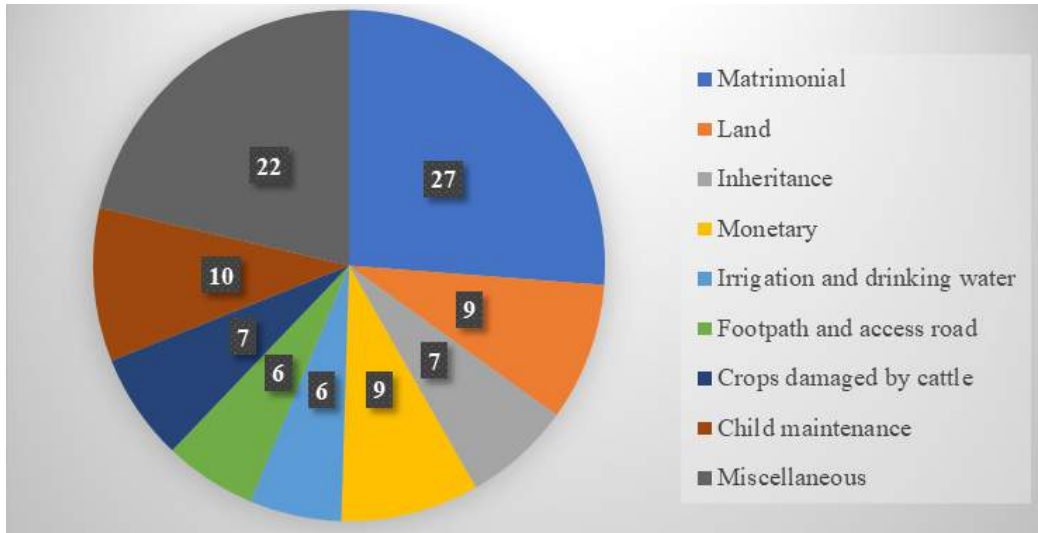
Finding

Drakteng Gewog has mediated the highest number of disputes (41) followed by Langthel Gewog (40), while Tangsibje Gewog has mediated the lowest number of disputes (2). Korphu Gewog has mediated 5 disputes and is second lowest in the Dzongkhag.

Table 2: Types of disputes mediated in Trongsa Dzongkhag

Sl. No.	Types of dispute	Disputes mediated (January - December 2018)
1	Matrimonial	27
2	Land	9
3	Inheritance	7
4	Monetary	9
5	Irrigation and drinking water	6
6	Footpath and access road	6
7	Crops damaged by cattle	7
8	Child maintenance	10
9	Miscellaneous	22
	Total	103

Graph 2: Types of disputes mediated in Trongsa Dzongkhag



Finding

Matrimonial disputes is the maximum number of disputes (27) mediated in the Dzongkhag followed by miscellaneous-related issues (22), while irrigation and drinking water (6) and footpath and access road (6) are the minimum number of disputes mediated in the Dzongkhag. A total of 103 disputes were mediated in Trongsa Dzongkhag.





18. Tsirang Dzongkhag

Tsirang Dzongkhag lies in the South-central part of the country with an area of 38.3 sq. km. The altitude ranges from 400 - 2,000 meters above the sea level. The Dzongkhag has a population of 21,514 in 2017. 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.



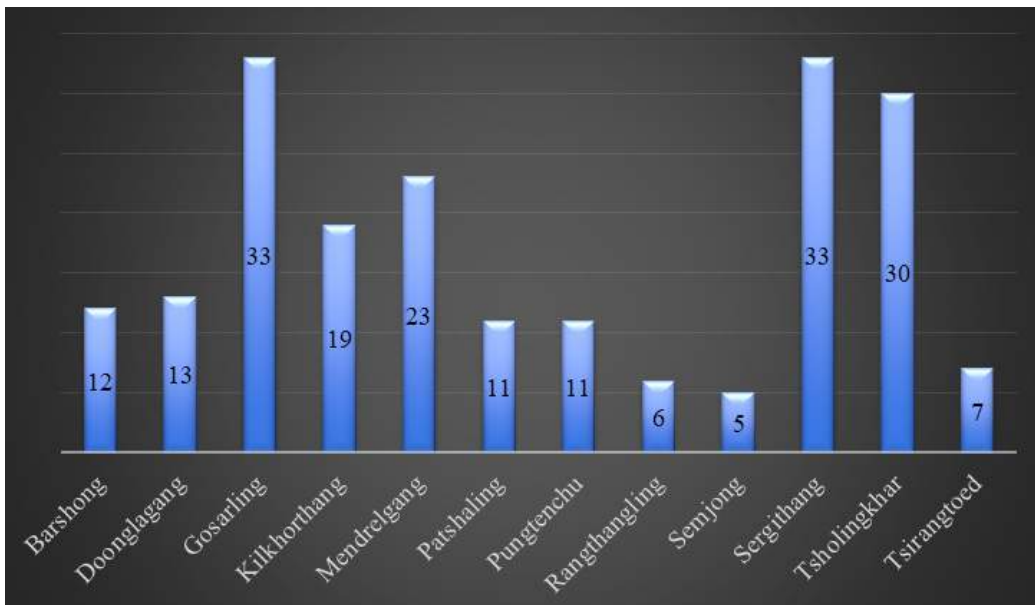
Tsirang Dzongkhag Court

The new Tsirang Dzongkhag Court was constructed in 2014. It was funded by the ADA, Government of Austria. The new court is spacious with separate detention rooms for men, women, children and differently-abled people. It renders judicial services to the people of twelve Gewogs. The court settles over 300 cases on an average, annually.

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

Sl. No.	Gewog	Disputes mediated (January - December 2018)
1	Barshong	12
2	Doonglagang	13
3	Gosarling	33
4	Kilkhorthang	19
5	Mendrelgang	23
6	Patshaling	11
7	Pungtenchu	11
8	Rangthangling	6
9	Semjong	5
10	Sergithang	33
11	Tsholingkhar	30
12	Tsirangtoed	7
	Total	203

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

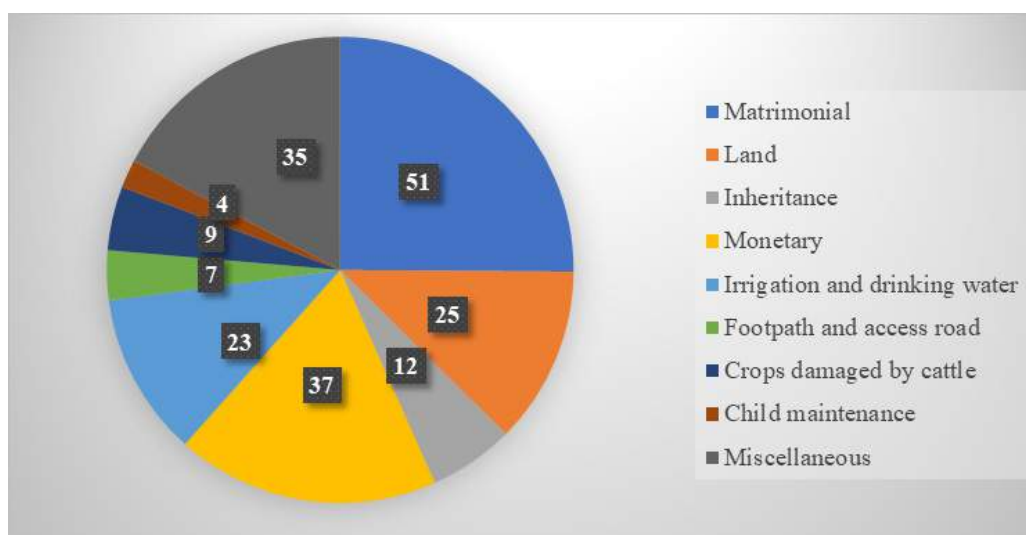


Finding

Gosarling and Sergithang Gewogs have mediated the highest number of disputes (33) in the Dzongkhag followed by Tsholingkhar Gewog (30), while Semjong Gewog has mediated the lowest number of disputes (5). Rangthangling Gewog and Tsirangtoed Gewogs have mediated a total of 6 and 7 disputes respectively.

Table 2: Types of disputes mediated in Tsirang Dzongkhag

Sl. No.	Types of dispute	Disputes mediated (January - December 2018)
1	Matrimonial	51
2	Land	25
3	Inheritance	12
4	Monetary	37
5	Irrigation and drinking water	23
6	Footpath and access road	7
7	Crops damaged by cattle	9
8	Child maintenance	4
9	Miscellaneous	35
	Total	203

Graph 2: Types of disputes mediated in Tsirang Dzongkhag

Finding

Matrimonial disputes are the maximum number of disputes (51) mediated in Tsirang Dzongkhag followed by land-related issues (37) and inheritance issues (35) respectively. While child maintenance-related issues (4) are the minimum number of disputes mediated in the Dzongkhag. A total of 203 disputes were mediated in Tsirang Dzongkhag.



19. Wangdue Phodrang Dzongkhag

Wangdue Phodrang Dzongkhag lies in the North-West part of the country with an area of 4308 sq. km. The altitude ranges from 800 - 5,500 meters above the sea level. It has a population of 35,928 in 2017. 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 Potato, Cordyceps in the North, and Paddy and vegetables in the South. Livestock-rearing is also important income for the people.



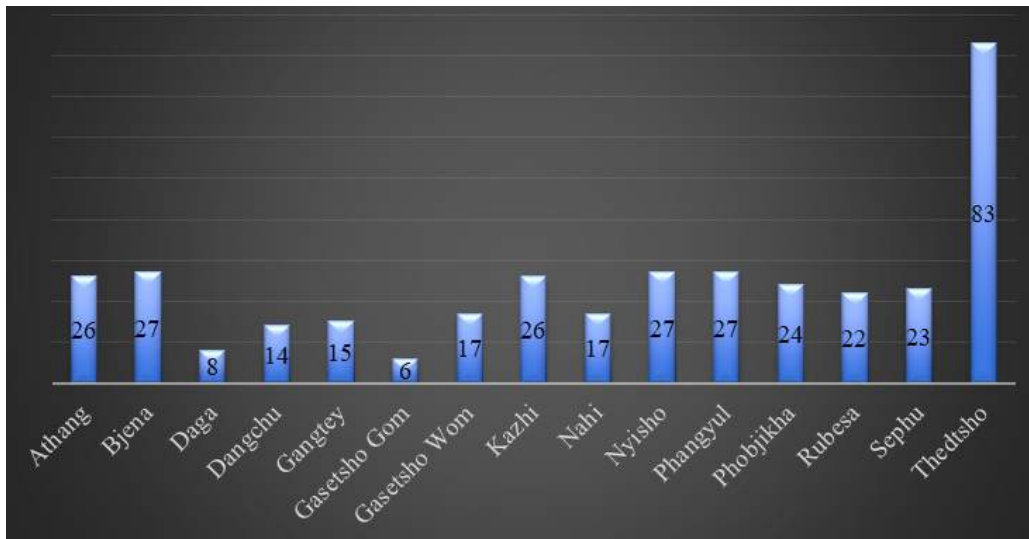
Wandue Phodrang Dzongkhag Court

Wangdue Phodrang Dzongkhag Court was constructed in 2017 with the financial support of the ADA and SDC, Government of Austria and Switzerland respectively. There are two Benches. The new court is spacious with separate detention rooms for men, women, children and differently-abled people. It provides judicial services to the people of fifteen Gewogs. On an average, the court settles over 600 cases in a year.

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

Sl. No.	Gewog	Disputes mediated (January - December 2018)
1	Athang	26
2	Bjena	27
3	Daga	8
4	Dangchu	14
5	Gangtey	15
6	Gasetsho Gom	6
7	Gasetsho Wom	17
8	Kazhi	26
9	Nahi	17
10	Nyisho	27
11	Phangyul	27
12	Phobjikha	24
13	Rubesa	22
14	Sephu	23
15	Thedtsho	83
	Total	362

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

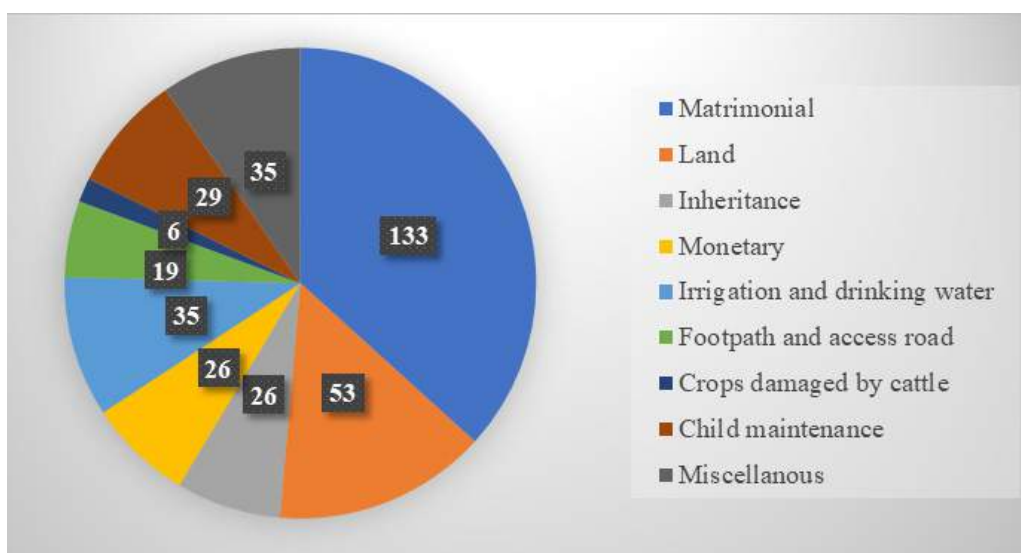


Finding

Theedtsho Gewog has mediated the highest number of dispute (83) in the Gewog, which is almost 23 % of the total cases mediated in Wangdue Phodrang Dzongkhag. The remaining Gewogs have mediated the average disputes of 25 in the Gewogs. However, Gasetsho gom Gewog has mediated the lowest number of disputes (6) in the Dzongkhag followed by Daga Gewog (8).

Table 2: Types of disputes mediated in Wangdue Phodrang Dzongkhag

Sl. No.	Types of dispute	Disputes mediated (January - December 2018)
1	Matrimonial	133
2	Land	53
3	Inheritance	26
4	Monetary	26
5	Irrigation and drinking water	35
6	Footpath and access road	19
7	Crops damaged by cattle	6
8	Child maintenance	29
9	Miscellaneous	35
	Total	362

Graph 2: Types of disputes mediated in Wangdue Phodrang Dzongkhag

Finding

Wangdue Phodrang Dzongkhag has mediated a total of 362 disputes, and is the 3rd highest Dzongkhag in the country after Mongar (475) and Paro Dzongkhag (718) respectively. Out of 362 disputes mediated in the Dzongkhag, matrimonial disputes is the maximum number of disputes (133) constituting a total of 33%. While, disputes pertaining to crops damaged by the cattle is the lowest number of disputes (6) mediated in the Dzongkhag.



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 population of 17,126 in 2017. 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.



Zhemgang Dzongkhag Court

Zhemgang Dzongkhag Court was constructed in 2014 with the financial assistance of the ADA, Government of Austria. It has separate detention rooms for men, women and children, ramps for person with disabilities and lobby furnished with benches. It provides judicial services to the people of three Gewogs. The court settles over 100 cases in a year.

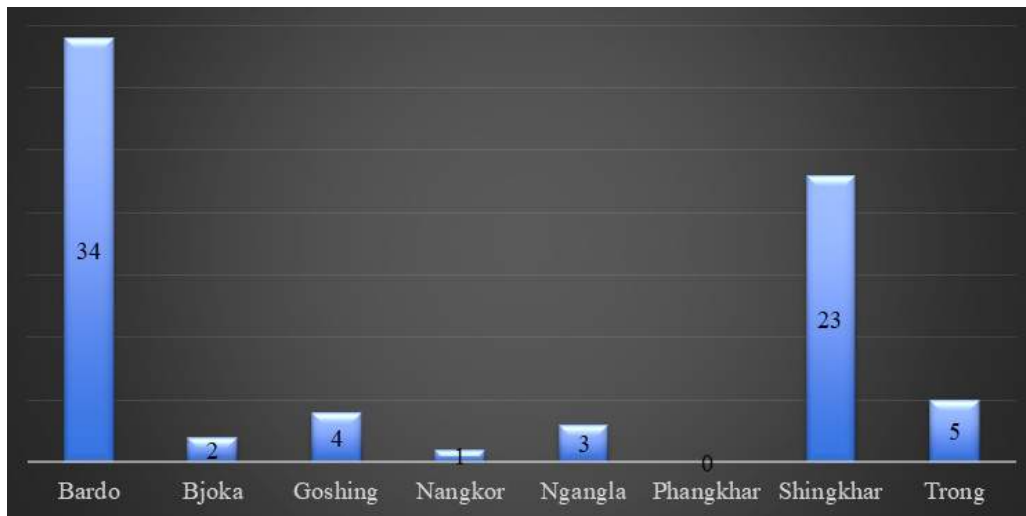
Panbang Dungkhag Court

Panbang Dungkhag Court was established in 2009. The new court building was constructed in 2013 with the financial support of the Government of India. It renders judicial services to the people of five Gewogs - Panbang, Bjoka, Goshing, Ngangla and Phangkhar. The court has sufficient space with separate detention rooms for men, women and children. There are also separate Registry, Finance and Administrative Sections. On an average, the court settles over 50 cases annually.

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

Sl. No.	Gewog	Disputes mediated (January - December 2018)
1	Bardo	34
2	Bjoka	2
3	Goshing	4
4	Nangkor	1
5	Ngangla	3
6	Phangkhar	0
7	Shingkhar	23
8	Trong	5
	Total	72

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



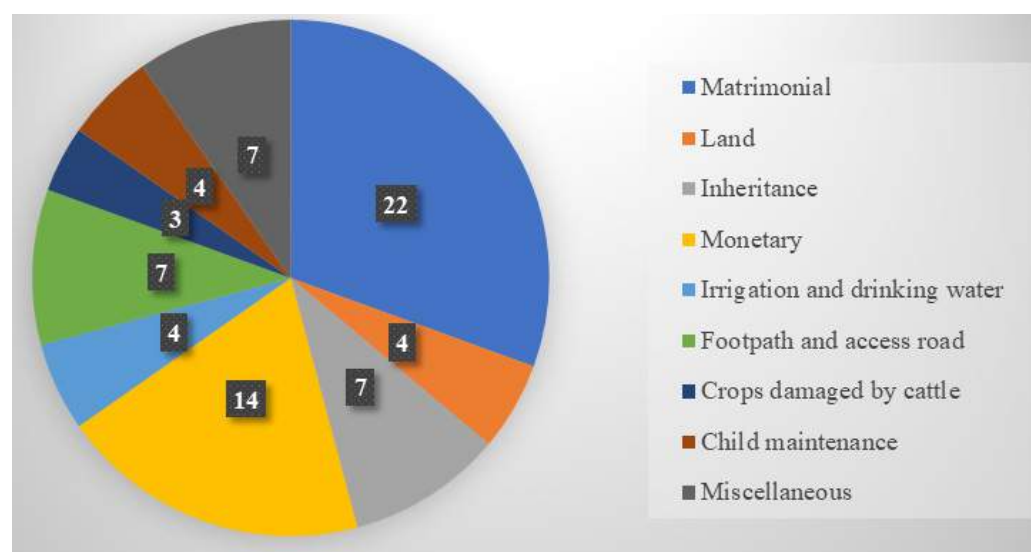
Finding

Bardo Gewog has mediated the highest number of disputes (34) in the Dzongkhag, followed by Shingkhar Gewog (23). The two Gewog alone have mediated about 79% of the total number of disputes in Zhemgang Dzongkhag. Not a single dispute has been mediated by Phangkhar Gewog. And also, remaining Gewogs have mediated a very minimal number of disputes in the Dzongkhag.

Table 2: Types of disputes mediated in Zhemgang Dzongkhag

Sl. No.	Types of dispute	Disputes mediated (January - December 2018)
1	Matrimonial	22
2	Land	4
3	Inheritance	7
4	Monetary	14
5	Irrigation and drinking water	4
6	Footpath and access road	7
7	Crops damaged by cattle	3
8	Child maintenance	4
9	Miscellaneous	7
	Total	72

Graph 2: Number of disputes mediated in Zhemgang Dzongkhag

**Finding**

A total of 72 disputes were mediated in Zhemgang Dzongkhag. The highest number of disputes was mediated on matrimonial issues (22), followed by monetary issues (14). The lowest number of disputes mediated in the Dzongkhag pertain to the crops damaged by the cattles (3).



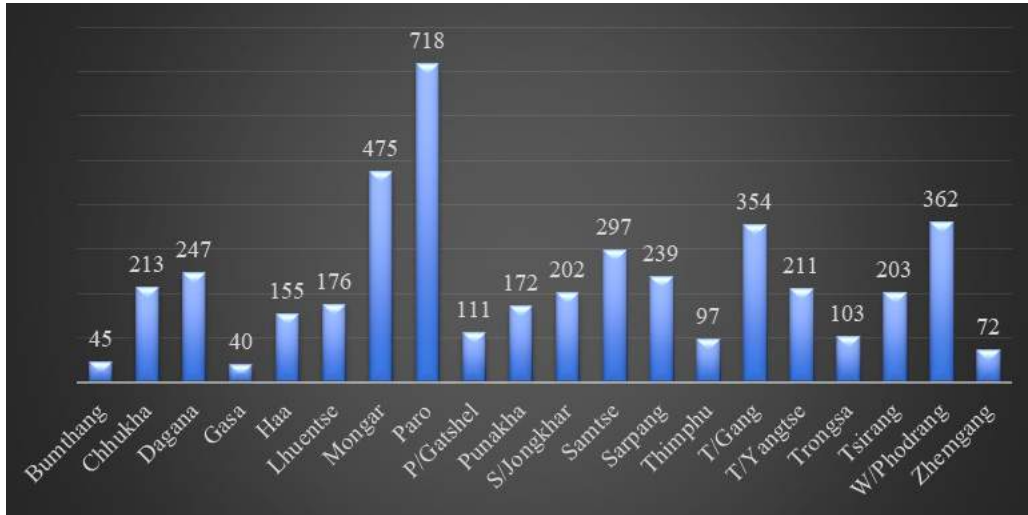
5. Findings

Report received from 205 Gewogs revealed that a total of 4492 disputes were mediated in the twenty Dzongkhags from January to December 2018. Paro Dzongkhag has mediated the highest number of disputes constituting 16% of the total cases followed by Mongar Dzongkhag (11%) and Wangdue Phodrang and Trashigang Dzongkhags (8% each) respectively. While, Bumthang and Gasa Dzongkhags have mediated the lowest number of disputes (1% each) in the country. Regarding the types of disputes, matrimonial-related issue is the highest number of disputes mediated (25%) followed by the land and monetary issues (15 % each), while crops damaged by the cattle and child maintenance-related issues are the lowest number of disputes (5% each) mediated in the country.

Table 1: Number of disputes mediated in the Twenty 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	20	6	3	2	2	2	1	1	8	45
2	Chhukha	48	52	17	36	12	8	10	6	24	213
3	Dagana	47	28	13	52	30	12	11	0	54	247
4	Gasa	10	11	5	3	2	2	3	3	1	40
5	Haa	26	27	10	31	10	14	4	4	29	155
6	Lhuentse	52	23	17	17	9	5	5	5	43	176
7	Mongar	120	68	27	56	16	44	38	24	82	475
8	Paro	108	144	63	81	99	68	62	55	38	718
9	P/Gatshel	25	15	11	21	4	4	3	4	24	111
10	Punakha	75	17	12	4	17	9	8	7	23	172
11	S/Jongkhar	44	31	13	32	23	11	12	7	29	202
12	Samtse	34	32	21	87	21	18	16	6	62	297
13	Sarpang	88	37	13	37	14	10	9	2	29	239
14	Thimphu	26	24	7	6	6	7	3	1	17	97
15	T/Gang	85	51	21	50	20	9	12	7	99	354
16	T/Yangtse	60	35	14	22	16	15	15	20	14	211
17	Trongsa	27	9	7	9	6	6	7	10	22	103
18	Tsirang	51	25	12	37	23	7	9	4	35	203
19	W/Phodrang	133	53	26	26	35	19	6	29	35	362
20	Zhemgang	22	4	7	14	4	7	3	4	7	72
	Total	1101	692	319	623	369	277	237	199	675	4492

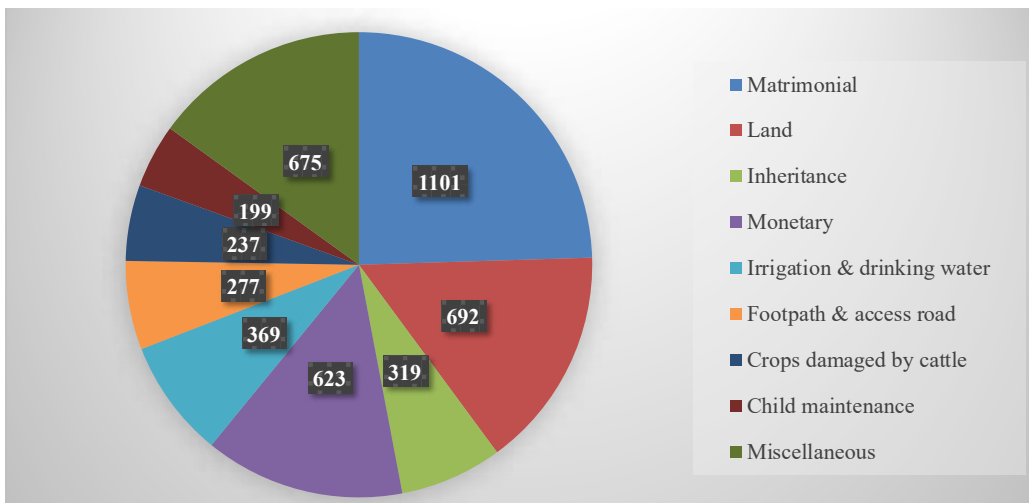
Graph 1: Number of disputes mediated in the twenty Dzongkhags



Finding

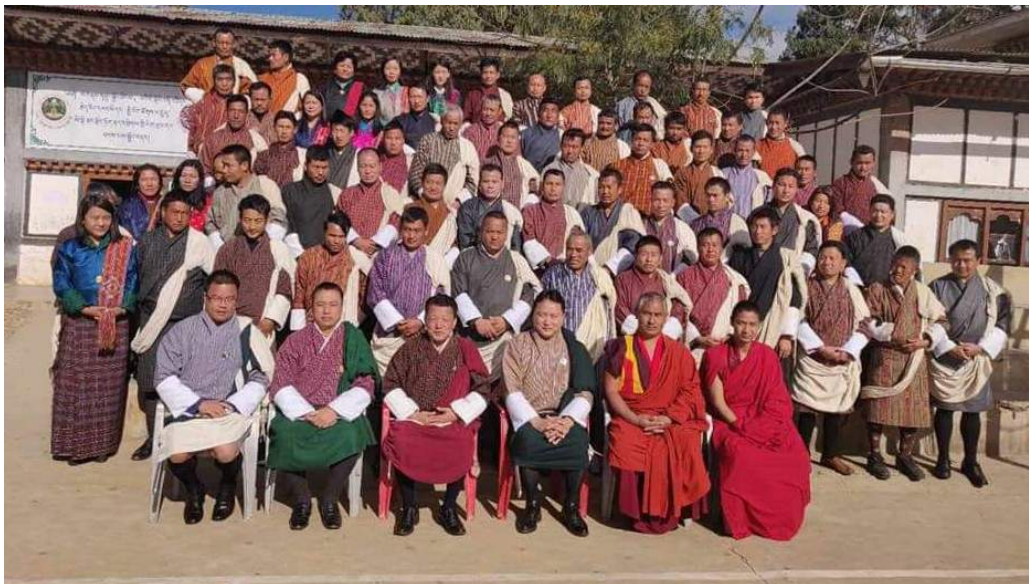
A total of 4492 disputes were mediated in the 20 Dzongkhags. Paro Dzongkhag has mediated the highest number of disputes (718), followed by Mongar (475) and Wangdue Phodrang Dzongkhag (362) respectively. Gasa Dzongkhag has mediated the lowest number of disputes (40) in the country, followed by Bumthang (45) and Zhemgang Dzongkhags (72) respectively.

Graph 2: Types of disputes mediated in twenty Dzongkhag



Finding

Out of 4492 disputes mediated in the country, matrimonial disputes (1101) is the highest, followed by land (692) and miscellaneous related-disputes (675). Child maintenance-related issues is the minimum number of disputes (199) in the country, followed by crops damaged by the cattle-related issues (237).



6. Adjudication of Civil Cases by the Courts

As per the *Annual Report of Judiciary, 2018*, the Courts have registered 7310 civil cases in 2018. 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 a 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 local government and community leaders, the Institute has tried to take justice to the doorsteps of the people in the communities, and enhance access to justice. The Bhutan National Legal Institute acknowledges the support and cooperation of the Department of Local Government, Ministry of Home and Cultural Affairs, the Judiciary, Gups, Mangmis, Tshogpas and other stakeholders who assisted us in the compilation and publication of the report. The Institute is also grateful to the Royal Government of Bhutan for the financial support for this project.

Annexure

Alternative Dispute Resolution (Mediation) Report of 2018 from 205 Gewogs

GEWOG: DZONGKHAG:

Sl. No.	Types of disputes mediated	January - December 2018(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		
9	Other Cases (List down all other cases which are not reflected in the above-mentioned category as follows:)		
	1.		
	2.		
	3.		

Signature of Gup/Mangmi

