

# **Mediating to Win Together**

## **National Mediation Report 2019**



**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  
during the inaugural ceremony of Court-Annexed  
Mediation Unit at Punakha**

## 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 and the second Local Government elections.

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 the past. 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 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 - 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. Despite several judicial 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 LG leaders. Records reveal that 2025 Gups, Mangmis and Tshogpas have been trained on mediation skills and techniques from 2012 - 2019. 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 by the Institute.

In order to study the efficacy of the mediation training, the Institute published *Mediation Training Impact Assessment* in 2016 covering the period from January 2012 - June 2015. In 2017, the *National Mediation Report* was published which covered the disputes mediated from July 2015 - December 2017. From 2018, the Report was published annually. The present report – *National Mediation Report, 2019* is an update on the dispute mediated by the LG leaders in 2019. 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 (750) mediated in the country, followed by Trashigang (397), Mongar (356) and Wangdue Phodrang (343) respectively. Bumthang Dzongkhag has the least number of disputes (46) mediated in the country followed by Gasa Dzongkhag (82) and Trongsa Dzongkhag (86) respectively. Regarding the types of disputes, matrimonial-related dispute (1066) is the highest number of disputes mediated in the country followed by land (763) and miscellaneous matters (647) respectively. Child maintenance-related dispute is the lowest number of disputes (275) mediated in the country, followed by footpath and access road-related matters (280).

Overall, 4543 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 4543 cases in the study period.

Recently, the Bhutan National Legal Institute has established Court-Annexed Mediation Unit (CAMU) in all the Courts across the country. The minor civil disputes before the Court of Law will be referred to the Unit by the presiding Judges and mediate accordingly. The Court-Annexed Mediation (CAM) service is a judicial reform which is expected to enhance access to justice for the people. It is also expected to further decrease the cases going to the actual litigations before the judges leading to win-lose judgments. Besides the benefits of cost and time, judicial mediation service provides alternative to adversarial litigations which has divisive effect in the community. Mediation of disputes helps in preserving relationship through its win-win outcomes, and promotes peace, harmony and happiness in the country.

## 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 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<sup>l</sup>. President of the Institute, Her Royal Highness, Princess Sonam Dechan Wangchuck said:

*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.

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. 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



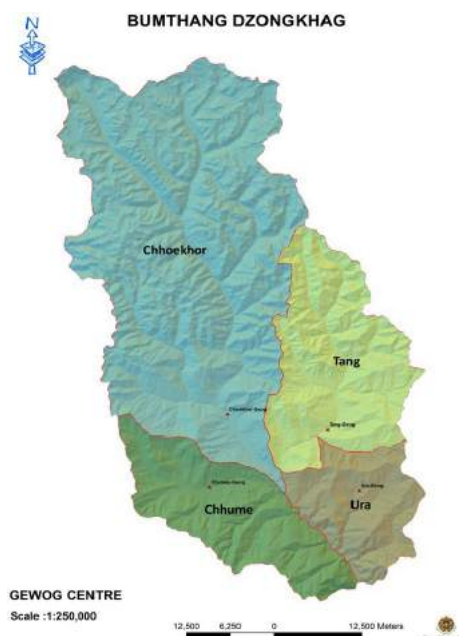
context of the places which has bearing on the number and the types of the cases being mediated and litigated. The report acknowledges the use of facts and information of the different Gewogs and Dzongkhags from the respective website of the Dzongkhags, including the maps.

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 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.



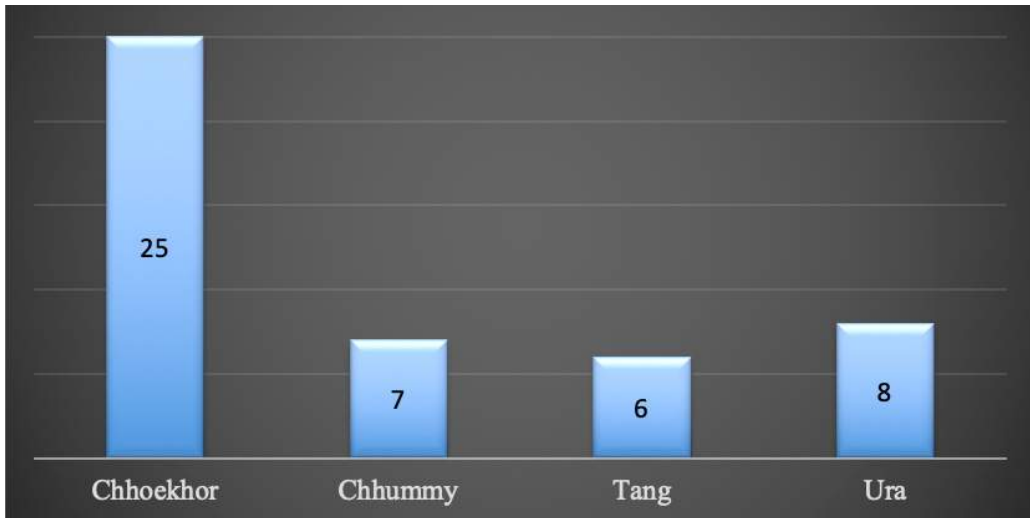
### Bumthang Dzongkhag Court

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 facilities 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 2019)
1	Chhoekhor	25
2	Chhummy	7
3	Tang	6
4	Ura	8
	<b>Total</b>	<b>46</b>

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



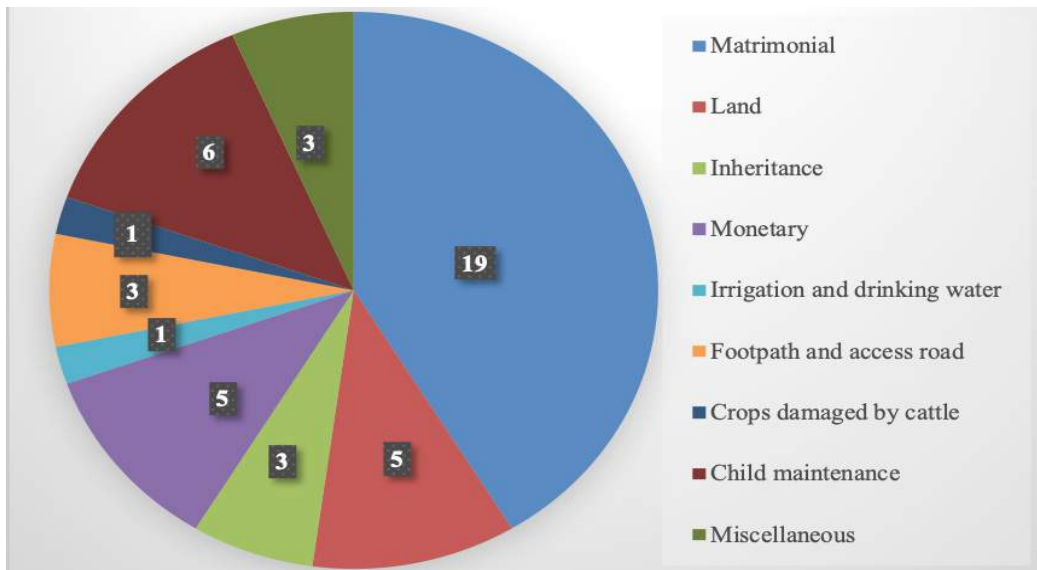
### Findings

Out of 46 disputes mediated in Bumthang Dzongkhag, Chhoekhor Gewog has mediated the highest number of disputes (25) followed by Ura (8) and Chhummy (7) 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 2019)
1	Matrimonial	19
2	Land	5
3	Inheritance	3
4	Monetary	5
5	Irrigation and drinking water	1
6	Footpath and access road	3
7	Crops damaged by cattle	1
8	Child maintenance	6
9	Miscellaneous	3
	<b>Total</b>	<b>46</b>

Graph 2: Types of disputes mediated in Bumthang Dzongkhag



### Findings

Bumthang Dzongkhag has mediated a total number of 46 disputes and is the lowest in the country. The matrimonial disputes (19) is the highest number of disputes mediated in the Dzongkhag followed by child maintenance (6) and the land and monetary-related issues (5 each) respectively. The lowest number of disputes mediated pertain to crops damaged by the cattle and irrigation and drinking water (1 each).







## 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.

### Phuntsholing Dungkhag Court

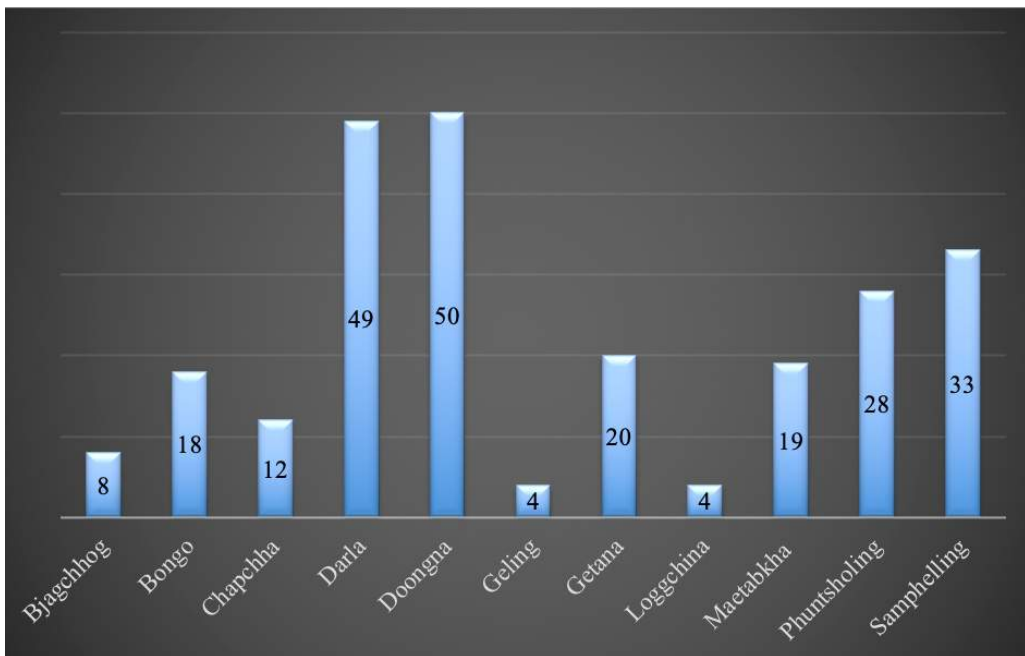
Phuntsholing Dungkhag Court was established in 1971. The new court building was constructed in 2003. In response to the development and increase population, an additional Bench was established in 2006. The two Benches deliver judicial services to the people of three Gewogs and Thromde. The court settles more than 800 cases annually.



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

Sl. No.	Gewog	Disputes mediated (January - December 2019)
1	Bjagchhog	8
2	Bongo	18
3	Chapchha	12
4	Darla	49
5	Doongna	50
6	Geling	4
7	Getana	20
8	Loggchina	4
9	Maetabkha	19
10	Phuntsholing	28
11	Samphelling	33
	<b>Total</b>	<b>245</b>

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



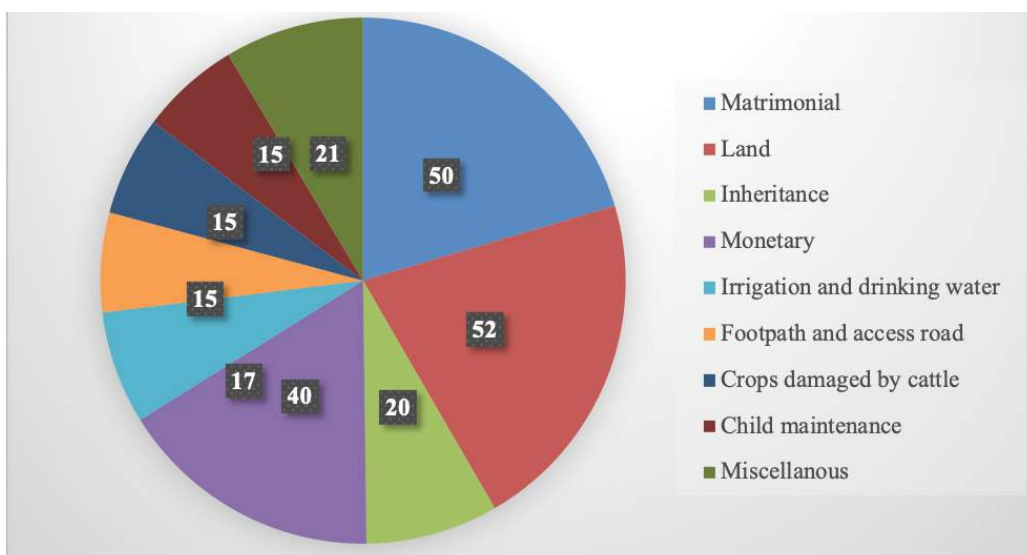
## Findings

Doongna Gewog has mediated the highest number of disputes in the country consecutively for two years, (49) in 2018 and (50) in 2019, followed by Darla (49) and Sampheling (33) respectively. Loggchina Gewog has mediated 4 disputes.

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

Sl. No.	Types of dispute	Disputes mediated (January - December 2019)
1	Matrimonial	50
2	Land	52
3	Inheritance	20
4	Monetary	40
5	Irrigation and drinking water	17
6	Footpath and access road	15
7	Crops damaged by cattle	15
8	Child maintenance	15
9	Miscellaneous	21
	<b>Total</b>	<b>245</b>

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



## Findings

Chhukha Dzongkhag has mediated a total of 245 disputes. The land-related issue (52) is the highest, followed by matrimonial disputes (50). The least number of disputes mediated in the Dzongkhag pertain to footpath and access road, crops damaged by cattle and child maintenance-related disputes (15 each).



### 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.

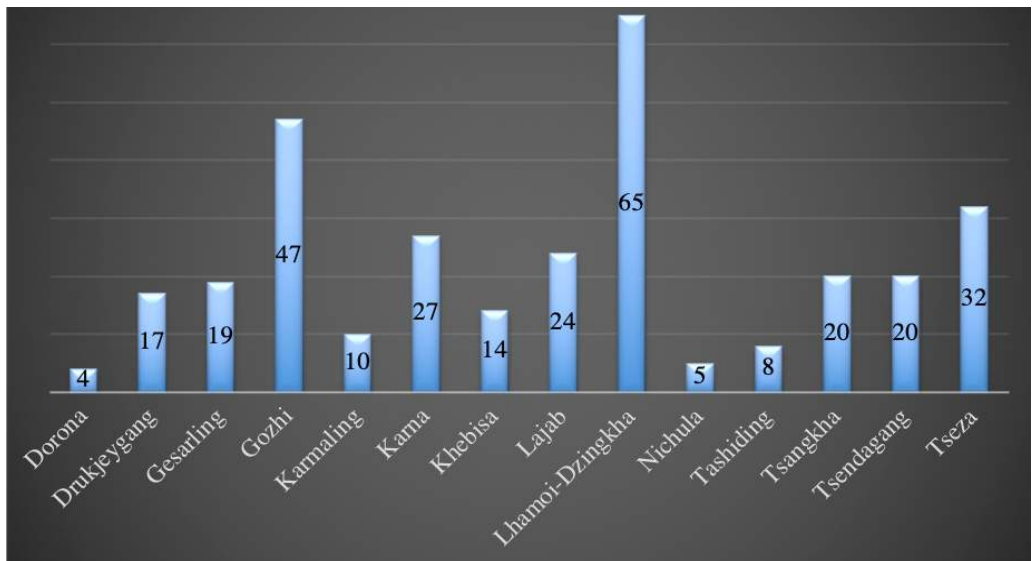
#### Lhamoi-Dzingkha Dungkhag Court

Lhamoi-Dzingkha Dungkhag Court was built in 2005. The new court building constructed in 2011 with the financial assistance 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 three Gewogs. The court settles over 50 cases in a year.

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

Sl. No.	Gewog	Disputes mediated (January - December 2019)
1	Dorona	4
2	Drukjeygang	17
3	Gesarling	19
4	Gozhi	47
5	Karmaling	10
6	Karna	27
7	Khebisa	14
8	Lajab	24
9	Lhamoi-Dzingkha	65
10	Nichula	5
11	Tashiding	8
12	Tsangkha	20
13	Tsendagang	20
14	Tseza	32
	<b>Total</b>	<b>312</b>

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



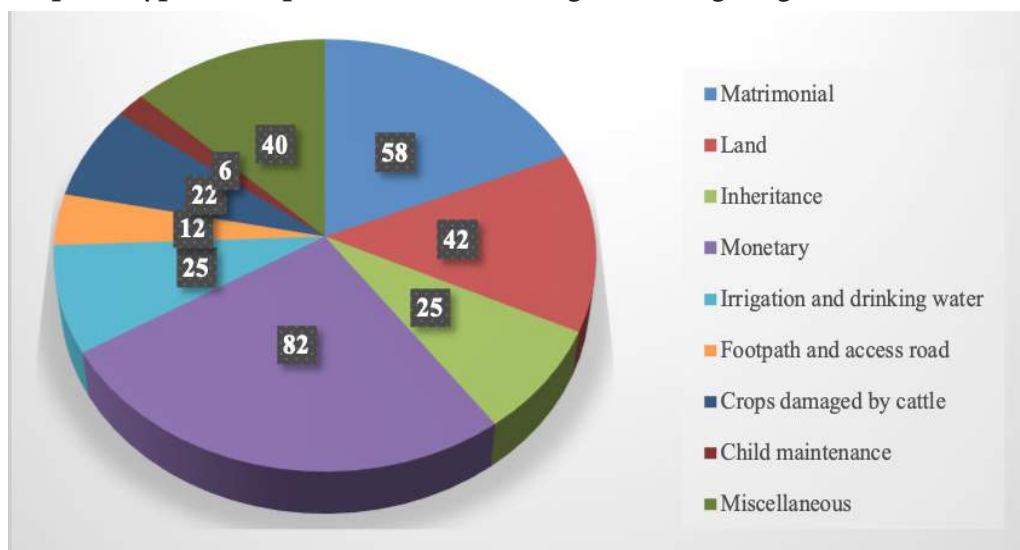
## Findings

Lhamoi-Dzingkhag Gewog has mediated the highest number of disputes (44) in 2018, and also in 2019, the Gewog has mediated the highest number of disputes (65), followed by Gozhi Gewog (47). Dorona Gewog has mediated the lowest number of disputes (4 each) in 2018 and in 2019 as well.

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

Sl. No.	Types of dispute	Disputes mediated (January - December 2019)
1	Matrimonial	58
2	Land	42
3	Inheritance	25
4	Monetary	82
5	Irrigation and drinking water	25
6	Footpath and access road	12
7	Crops damaged by cattle	22
8	Child maintenance	6
9	Miscellaneous	40
	<b>Total</b>	<b>312</b>

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





## Findings

The dispute which pertain to monetary is the highest number of disputes (82) mediated in the Dzongkhag followed by matrimonial disputes (58). The child maintenance-related dispute (6) is the lowest number of dispute mediated in the Dzongkhag followed by footpath and access to road-related disputes (12).



#### 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.



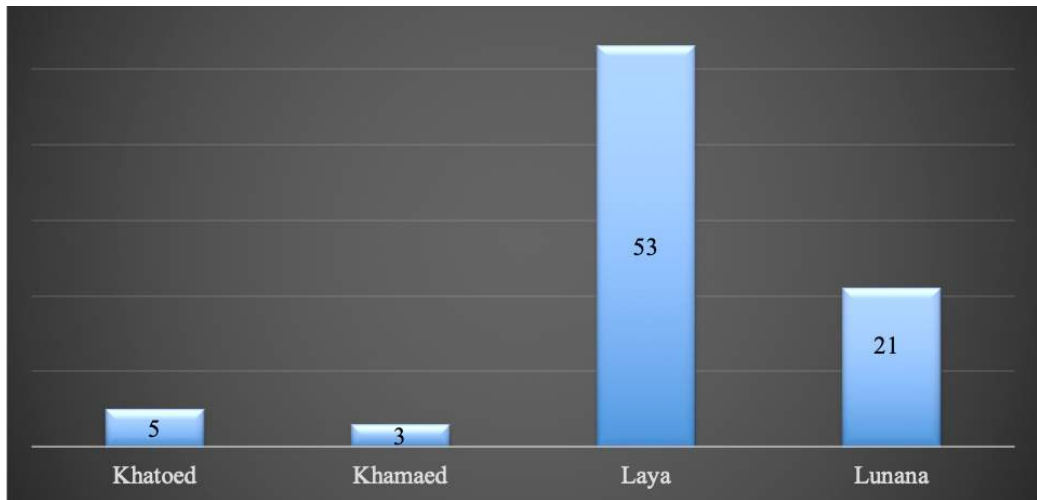
#### Gasa Dzongkhag Court

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 2019)
1	Khatoed	5
2	Khamaed	3
3	Laya	53
4	Lunana	21
	<b>Total</b>	<b>82</b>

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



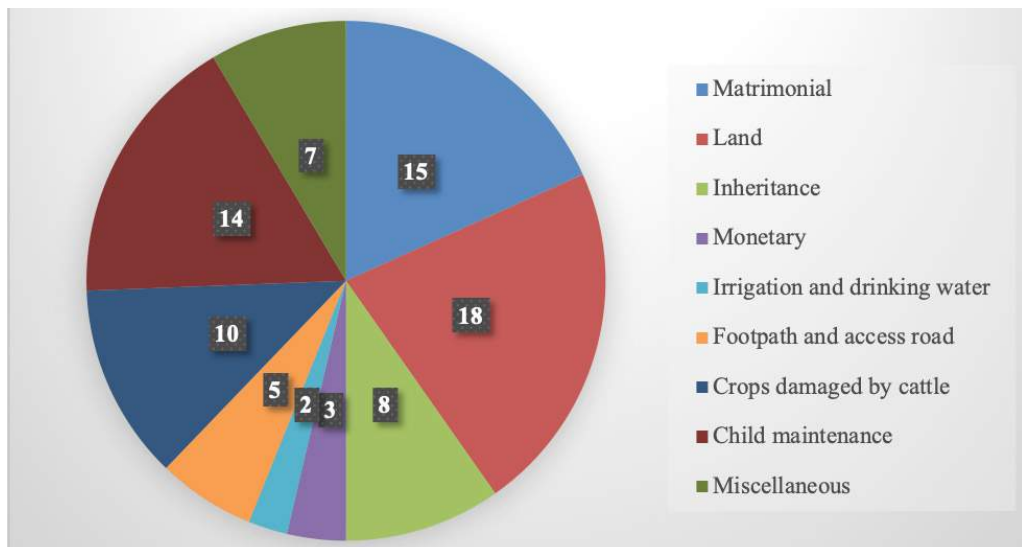
### Findings

Laya Gewog has mediated the maximum number of disputes (53) in the Dzongkhag, followed by Lunana Gewog (21). Khamaed Gewog has mediated the minimum number of disputes (3), followed by Khatoed Gewog (5).

Table 2: Types of disputes mediated in Gasa Dzongkhag

Sl. No.	Types of dispute	Disputes mediated (January - December 2019)
1	Matrimonial	15
2	Land	18
3	Inheritance	8
4	Monetary	3
5	Irrigation and drinking water	2
6	Footpath and access road	5
7	Crops damaged by cattle	10
8	Child maintenance	14
9	Miscellaneous	7
	<b>Total</b>	<b>82</b>

Graph 2: Types of disputes mediated in Gasa Dzongkhag



### Findings

Land-related dispute (18) is the highest number of dispute mediated in Gasa Dzongkhag, followed by Matrimonial (15) and Child maintenance-related dispute (14) respectively. The dispute which pertain to irrigation and drinking water (2) is the lowest number of disputes followed by monetary-related disputes (3).







## 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.

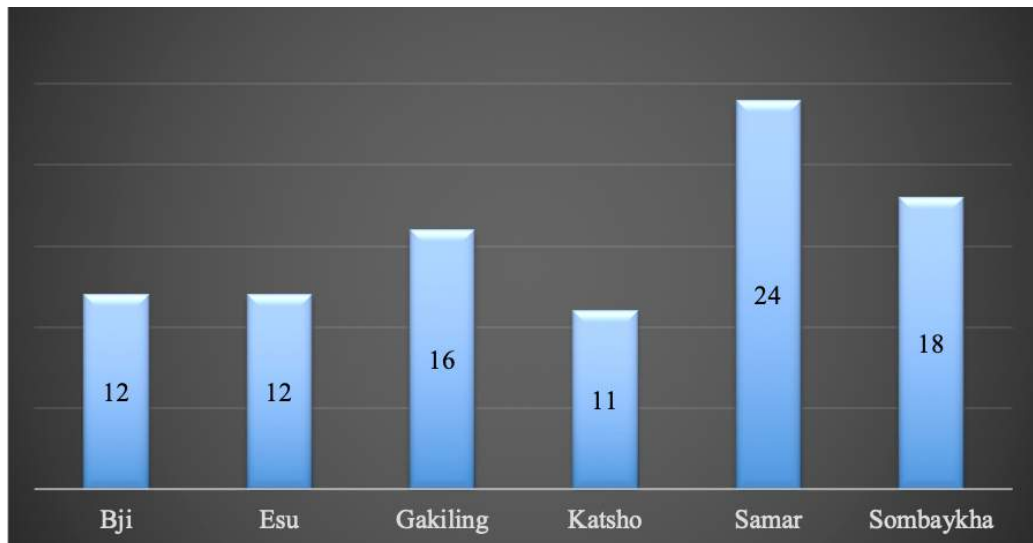
### SombaykhaDungkhag Court

Sombaykha Dungkhag Court was established in 2009. It provides judicial services to the people of two Gewogs - Gakiling and Sombaykha. The Judge is assisted by two Bench Clerks. On an average, the court settles over 60 cases in a year.



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

Sl. No.	Gewog	Disputes mediated (January - December 2019)
1	Bji	12
2	Esu	12
3	Gakiling	16
4	Katsho	11
5	Samar	24
6	Sombaykha	18
	<b>Total</b>	<b>93</b>

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

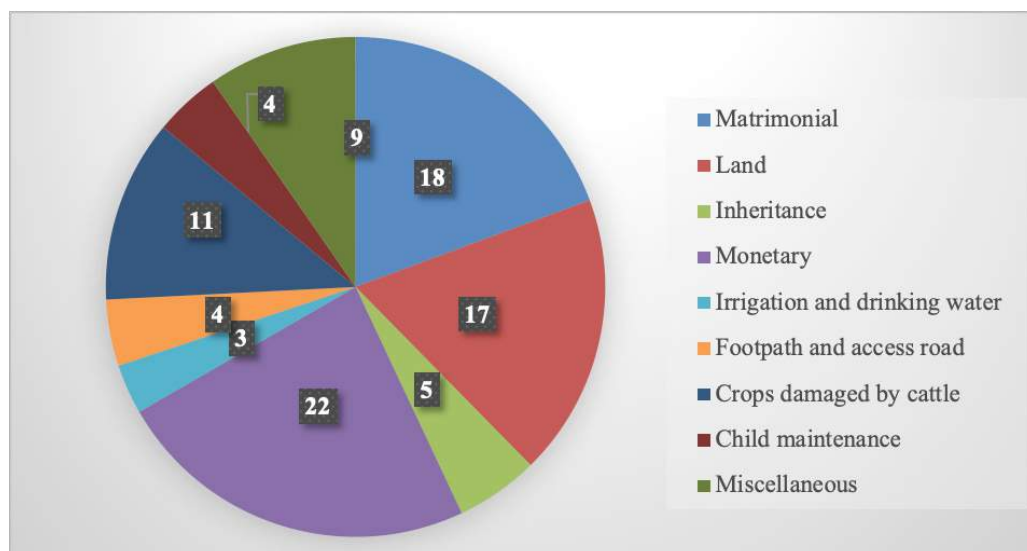
### Findings

Samar Gewog has mediated the maximum number of disputes (24), followed by Sombaykha (18) and Gakidling Gewogs (16) respectively. Katsho Gewog has the lowest number of disputes (11) mediated in the Dzongkhag, followed by Bji and Esu Gewogs (12 each).

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

Sl. No.	Types of dispute	Disputes mediated (January - December 2019)
1	Matrimonial	18
2	Land	17
3	Inheritance	5
4	Monetary	22
5	Irrigation and drinking water	3
6	Footpath and access road	4
7	Crops damaged by cattle	11
8	Child maintenance	4
9	Miscellaneous	9
	<b>Total</b>	<b>93</b>

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



### Finding

Haa Dzongkhag has mediated a total of 93 disputes. The monetary disputes (22) is the maximum number of disputes mediated in the Dzongkhag, while irrigation and drinking water-related issues (3) is the minimum number of disputes mediated in the Dzongkhag.



## 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.



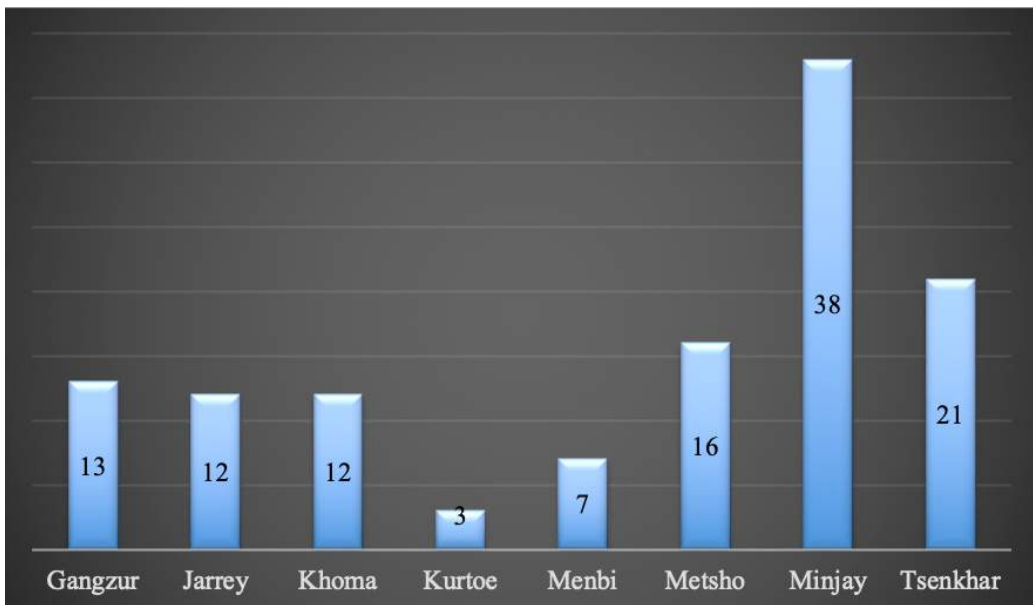
### Lhuentse Dzongkhag Court

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 2019)
1	Gangzur	13
2	Jarrey	12
3	Khoma	12
4	Kurtoe	3
5	Menbi	7
6	Metsho	16
7	Minjay	38
8	Tsenkhar	21
<b>Total</b>		<b>122</b>

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



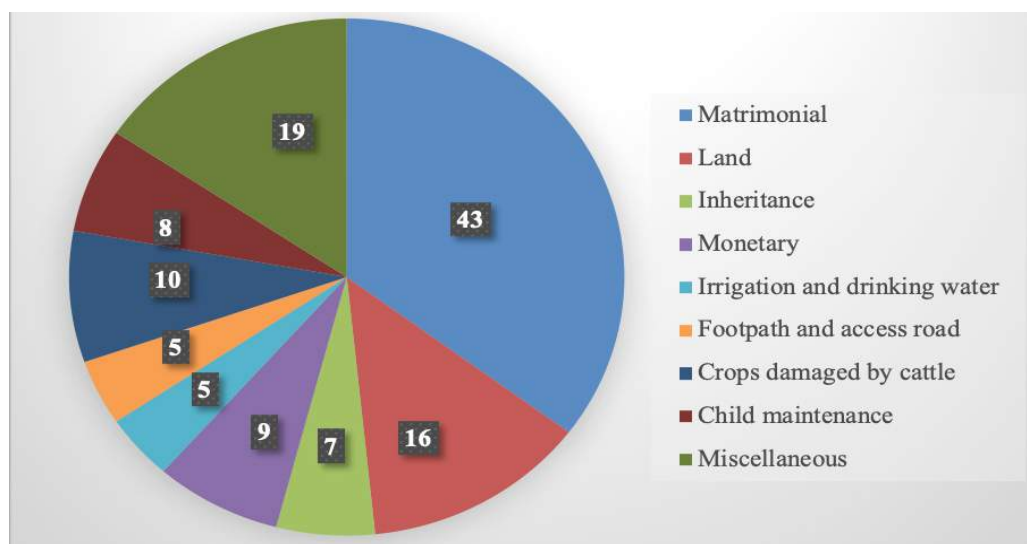
### Finding

Minjay Gewog has mediated the highest number of disputes (38) in the Dzongkhag, followed by Tsenkhar Gewog (21). Kurtoe Gewog (3) has mediated the lowest number of disputes in the Dzongkhag.

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

Sl. No.	Types of dispute	Disputes mediated (January - December 2019)
1	Matrimonial	43
2	Land	16
3	Inheritance	7
4	Monetary	9
5	Irrigation and drinking water	5
6	Footpath and access road	5
7	Crops damaged by cattle	10
8	Child maintenance	8
9	Miscellaneous	19
	<b>Total</b>	<b>122</b>

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



### Finding

A total of 122 disputes were mediated in Lhuentse Dzongkhag. Matrimonial dispute (43) is the highest number of disputes mediated in the Dzongkhag followed by miscellaneous disputes (19) which pertain to defamation, quarrel/misunderstanding out of alcohol consumption, etc. Matters pertaining to irrigation and drinking water, footpath and access roads (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 Dzingkhag.



### 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.

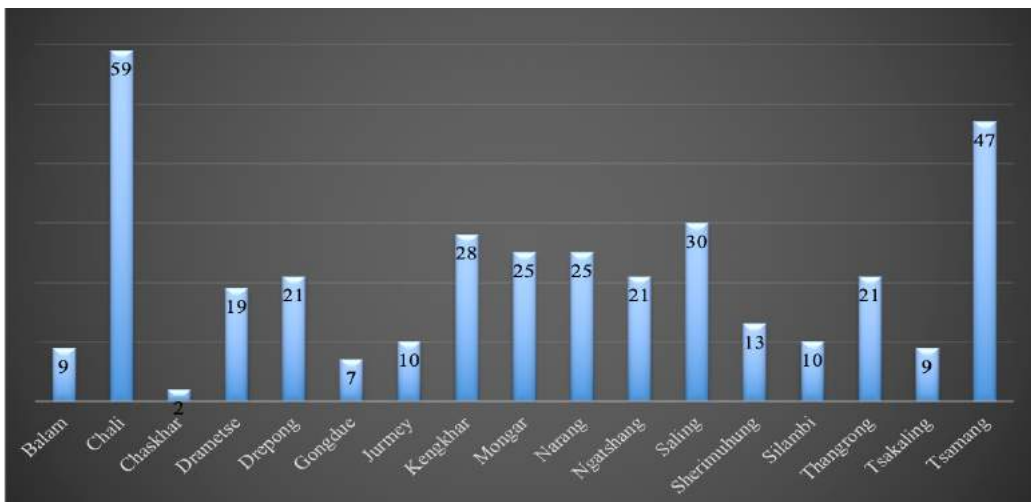
### Weringla Dungkhag Court

The Weringla Dungkhag Court was established in 2009. It renders judicial services to the people of two Gewogs - Gongdue and Silambi. The court settles over 70 cases in a year.

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

Sl. No.	Gewog	Disputes mediated (January - December 2019)
1	Balam	9
2	Chali	59
3	Chaskhar	2
4	Drametse	19
5	Drepong	21
6	Gongdue	7
7	Jurmey	10
8	Kengkhar	28
9	Mongar	25
10	Narang	25
11	Ngatshang	21
12	Saling	30
13	Sherimuhung	13
14	Silambi	10
15	Thangrong	21
16	Tsakaling	9
17	Tsamang	47
	<b>Total</b>	<b>356</b>

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



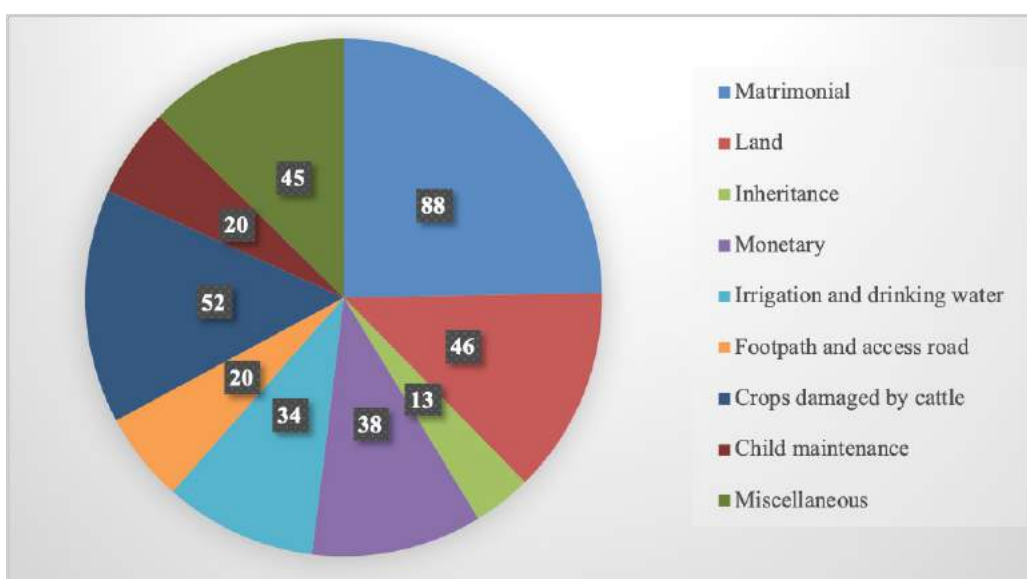
## Finding

Chali Gewog has mediated the highest number of disputes (59) in the Dzongkhag, followed by Tsamang Gewog (47). While, Chaskhar Gewog has mediated the lowest number of disputes (2) in the Dzongkhag, followed by Gongdue Gewog (7).

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

Sl. No.	Types of dispute	Disputes mediated (January - December 2019)
1	Matrimonial	88
2	Land	46
3	Inheritance	13
4	Monetary	38
5	Irrigation and drinking water	34
6	Footpath and access road	20
7	Crops damaged by cattle	52
8	Child maintenance	20
9	Miscellaneous	45
	<b>Total</b>	<b>356</b>

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





## Finding

A total of 356 disputes were mediated in Mongar Dzongkhag, which is the third highest in the country, after Paro (750) and Trashigang Dzongkhags (397). Matrimonial-related issue (88) is the maximum number of disputes mediated, while inheritance-related dispute (13) 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.

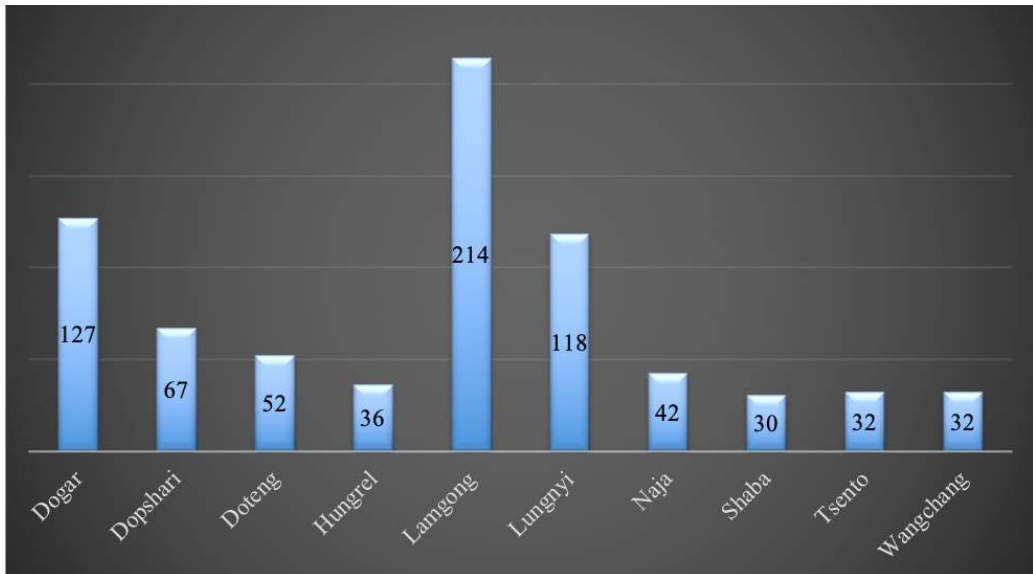


### Paro Dzongkhag Court

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**

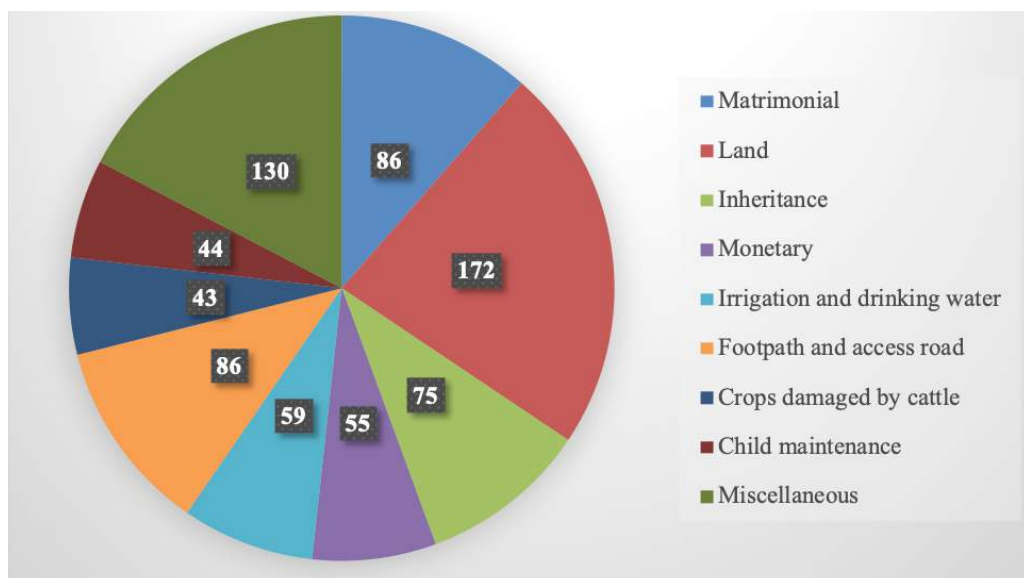
Sl. No.	Gewog	Disputes mediated (January - December 2019)
1	Dogar	127
2	Dopshari	67
3	Doteng	52
4	Hungrel	36
5	Lamgong	214
6	Lungnyi	118
7	Naja	42
8	Shaba	30
9	Tsento	32
10	Wangchang	32
	<b>Total</b>	<b>750</b>

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

Lamgong Gewog has mediated the highest number of disputes (214), followed by Dogar (127) and Lungnyi Gewogs (118) respectively. Whereas, Shaba Gewog has the lowest number of disputes mediated (30), followed by Tsento and Wangchang Gewogs (32 each).

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

Sl. No.	Types of dispute	Disputes mediated (January - December 2019)
1	Matrimonial	86
2	Land	172
3	Inheritance	75
4	Monetary	55
5	Irrigation and drinking water	59
6	Footpath and access road	86
7	Crops damaged by cattle	43
8	Child maintenance	44
9	Miscellaneous	130
	<b>Total</b>	<b>750</b>

**Graph 2: Types of disputes mediated in Paro Dzongkhag****Finding**

Paro Dzongkhag has mediated the highest number of disputes in 2018 and 2019 with 718 and 750 disputes respectively. Land disputes (172) are the maximum number of disputes mediated, followed by miscellaneous matters (130) which pertain to defamation, rental issues, quarrel/ misunderstanding out of alcohol consumption, timber-related issues, etc. Crops damaged by the cattle is the lowest number of disputes (43) mediated in the Dzongkhag, followed by the child maintenance-related disputes (44).

Over all, the maximum numbers of dispute-types were mediated by Paro Dzongkhag. The disputes pertaining to land (172), Inheritance (75), irrigation and drinking water (59), footpath and access roads (86), crops damaged by cattle (43), child maintenance (44) and miscellaneous matters (130) 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

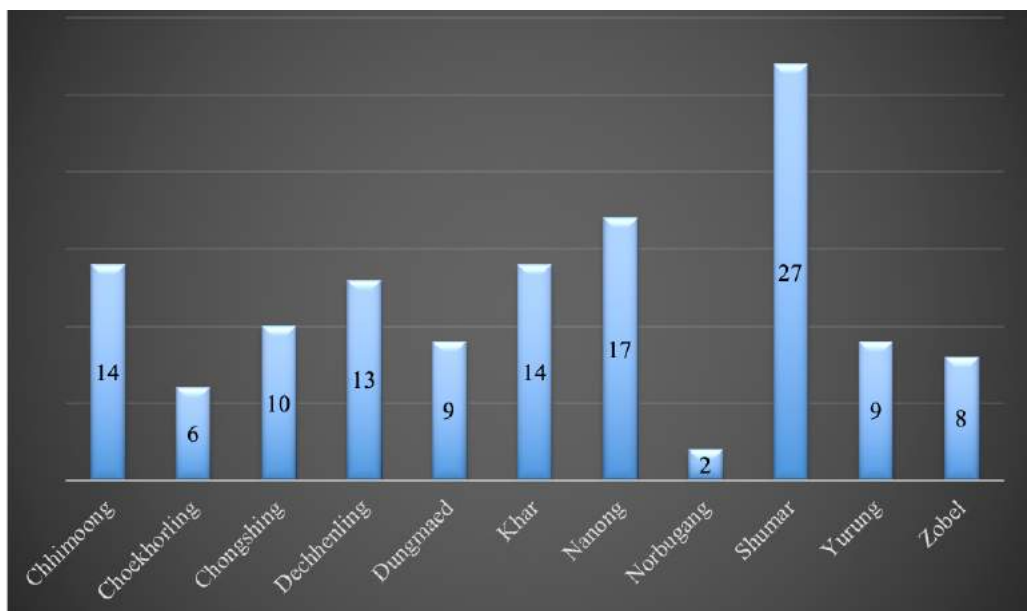
The Nganglam Dungkhag Court was constructed in 2011 with the financial assistance of the Government of India. The new court building has sufficient space for judicial personnel as well as the litigants. It provides judicial services to the people of three Gewogs - Choekhorling, Dechhenling and Norboogang. 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 2019)
1	Chhimoong	14
2	Choeckhorling	6
3	Chongshing	10
4	Dechhenling	13
5	Dungmaed	9
6	Khar	14
7	Nanong	17
8	Norbugang	2
9	Shumar	27
10	Yurung	9
11	Zobel	8
	<b>Total</b>	<b>129</b>

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



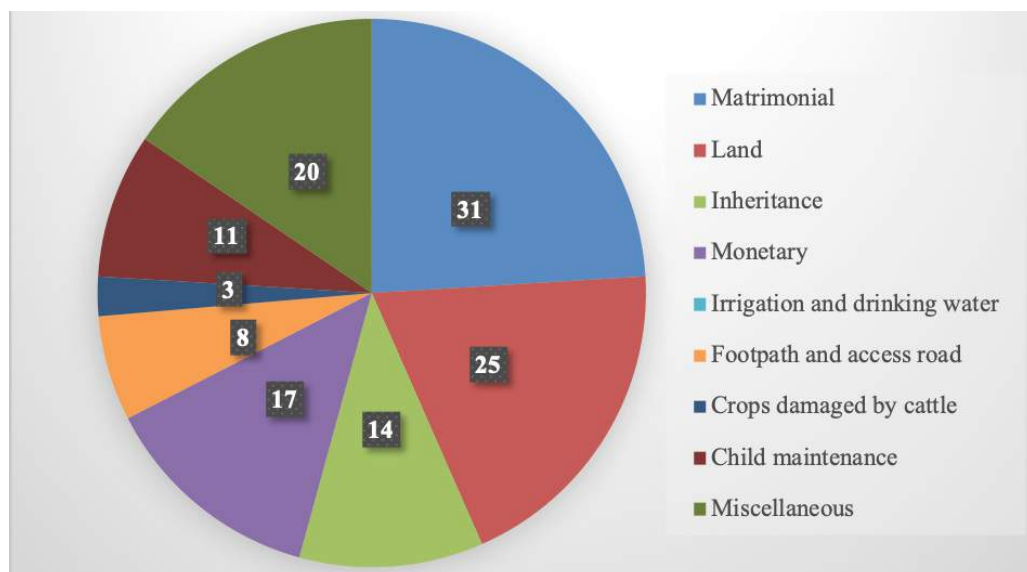
### Finding

Shumar Gewog has mediated the highest number of disputes (27), followed by Nanong Gewog (17). Whereas, Norbugang Gewog has the lowest number of disputes mediated (2) in the Dzongkhag.

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

Sl. No.	Types of dispute	Disputes mediated (January - December 2019)
1	Matrimonial	31
2	Land	25
3	Inheritance	14
4	Monetary	17
5	Irrigation and drinking water	0
6	Footpath and access road	8
7	Crops damaged by cattle	3
8	Child maintenance	11
9	Miscellaneous	20
	<b>Total</b>	<b>129</b>

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



## Finding

A total of 129 disputes were mediated in Pemagatshel Dzongkhag. Matrimonial (31) is the highest number of disputes mediated, followed by land-related issues (25). However, not a single dispute has been mediated which pertain to irrigation and drinking water.



## 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.



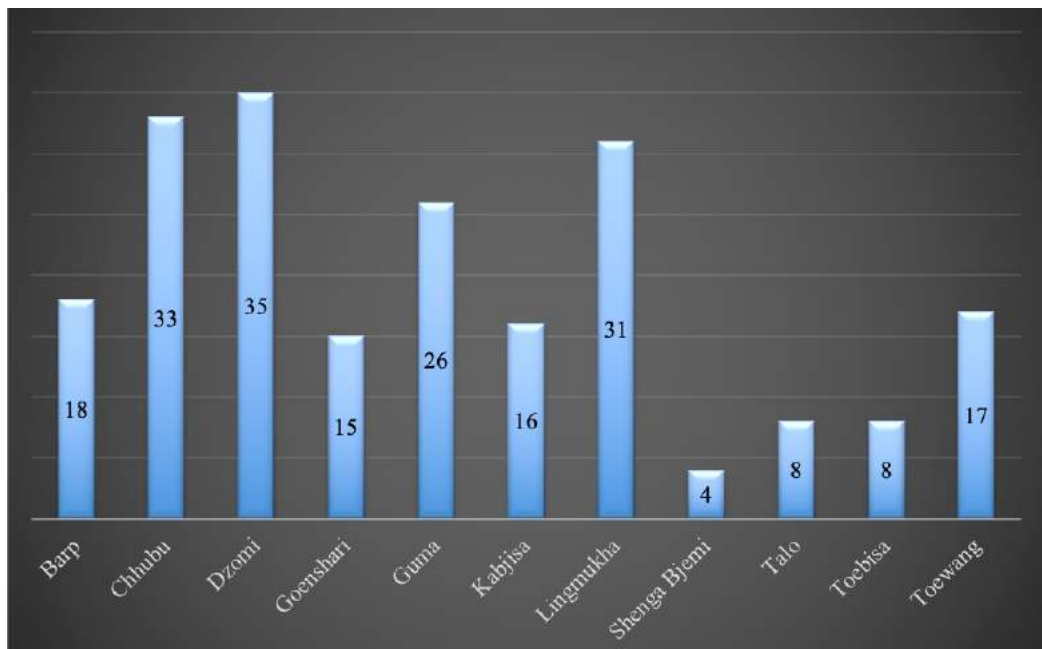
### Punakha Dzongkhag Court

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 2019)
1	Barp	18
2	Chhubu	33
3	Dzomi	35
4	Goenshari	15
5	Guma	26
6	Kabjisa	16
7	Lingmukha	31
8	Shenga Bjemi	4
9	Talo	8
10	Toebisa	8
11	Toewang	17
	<b>Total</b>	<b>211</b>

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





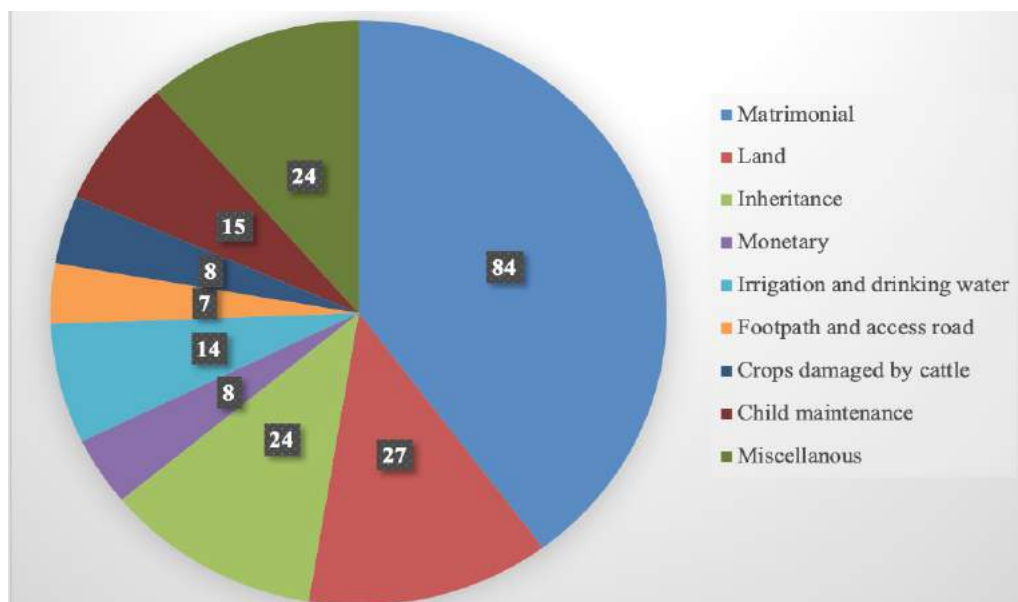
## Finding

Dzomi Gewog has the highest number of disputes (35) mediated in the Dzongkhag, followed by Chhubu (33) and Lingmukha Gewogs (31) 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 2019)
1	Matrimonial	84
2	Land	27
3	Inheritance	24
4	Monetary	8
5	Irrigation and drinking water	14
6	Footpath and access road	7
7	Crops damaged by cattle	8
8	Child maintenance	15
9	Miscellaneous	24
	<b>Total</b>	<b>211</b>

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



## Finding

Punakha Dzongkhag has mediated a total of 211 disputes. Matrimonial-related issues (84) are the highest number of disputes mediated in the Dzongkhag, followed by land disputes (27). The fewest number of disputes mediated in the Dzongkhag pertain to the footpath and access road (7).



## 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

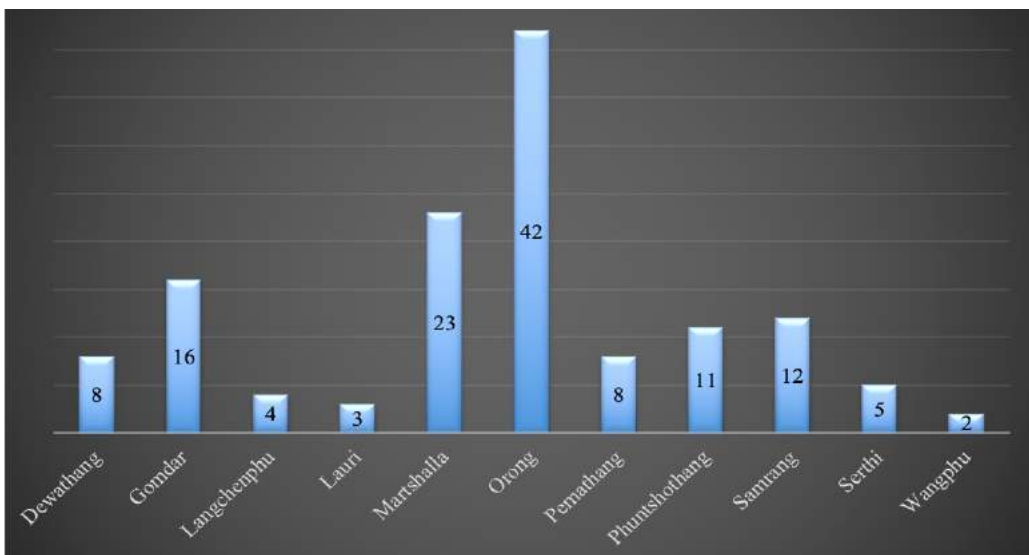
The new court building was constructed in 2011 with the financial support of the DANIDA, Government of Denmark. It delivers judicial services to the people of four Gewogs - Martshalla, Pemathang, Phuntshothang and

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 2019)
1	Dewathang	8
2	Gomdar	16
3	Langchenphu	4
4	Lauri	3
5	Martshalla	23
6	Orong	42
7	Pemathang	8
8	Phuntshothang	11
9	Samrang	12
10	Serthi	5
11	Wangphu	2
	<b>Total</b>	<b>134</b>

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



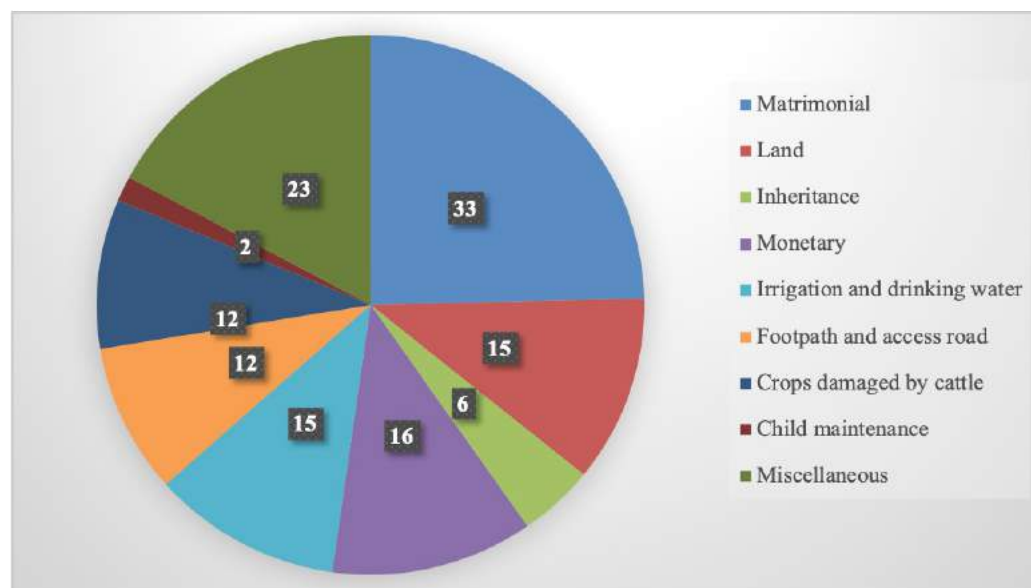
# Finding

Orong Gewog has mediated the highest number of disputes (42), followed by Martshalla Gewog (23). Whereas Wangphu Gewog has mediated the lowest number of disputes (2), followed by Lauri (3) and Langchenphu Gewogs (4) respectively.

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

Sl. No.	Types of dispute	Disputes mediated (January - December 2019)
1	Matrimonial	33
2	Land	15
3	Inheritance	6
4	Monetary	16
5	Irrigation and drinking water	15
6	Footpath and access road	12
7	Crops damaged by cattle	12
8	Child maintenance	2
9	Miscellaneous	23
	<b>Total</b>	<b>134</b>

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





## Finding

Samdrup Jongkhar Dzongkhag has mediated a total of 134 disputes. The matrimonial disputes (33) is the highest number of disputes mediated in the Dzongkhag, followed by miscellaneous matters (23) which pertain to defamation, alcohol-related disputes, misunderstanding/quarrel, etc. Child maintenance-related issues (2) is 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

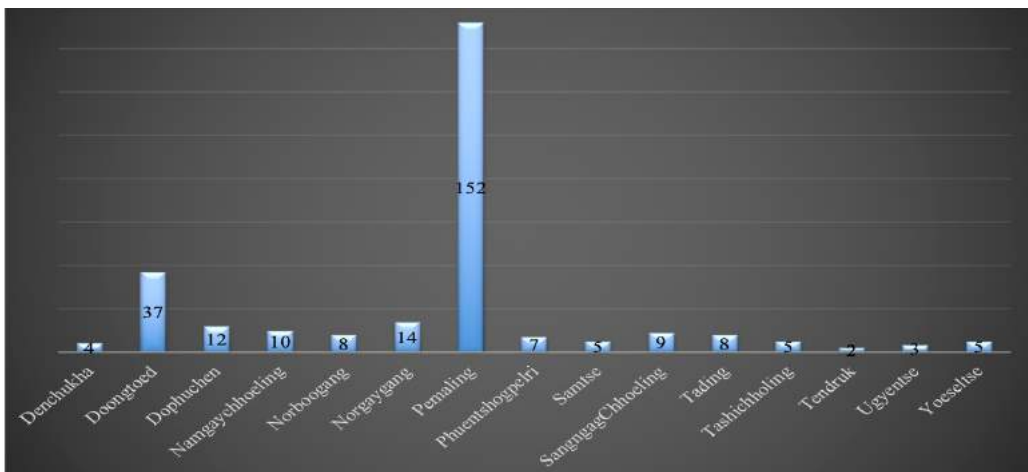
Sibsoo Dungkhag Court was constructed in 2011. It was funded by the Government of India. There are separate Registry, Finance and Administrative

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 2019)
1	Denchukha	4
2	Doongtoed	37
3	Dophuchen	12
4	Namgaychhoeling	10
5	Norboogang	8
6	Norgaygang	14
7	Pemaling	152
8	Phuentshogpelri	7
9	Samtse	5
10	SangngagChhoeling	9
11	Tading	8
12	Tashichholing	5
13	Tendruk	2
14	Ugyentse	3
15	Yoeseltse	5
	<b>Total</b>	<b>281</b>

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



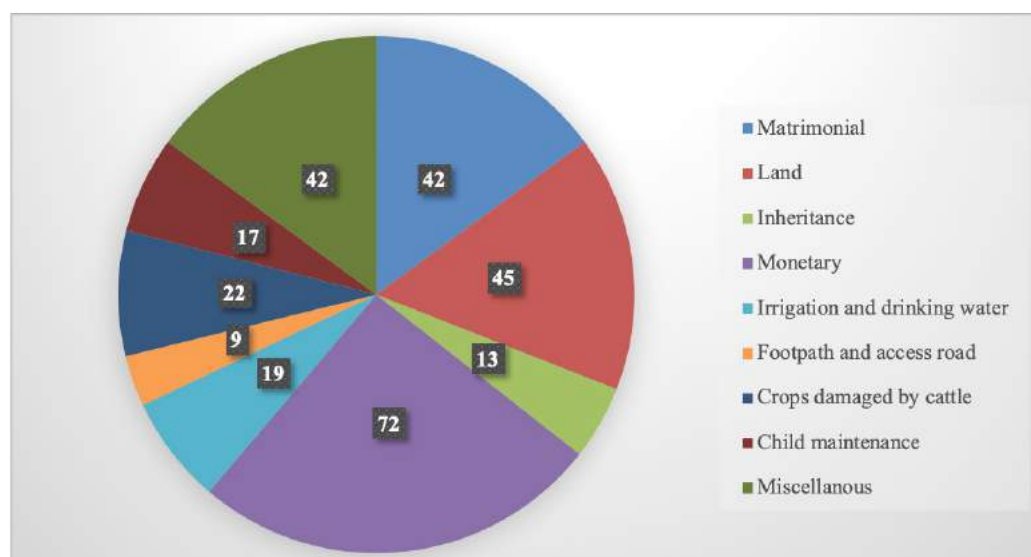
## Finding

Pemaling Gewog alone has mediated 152 disputes in the Dzongkhag constituting 54% of the disputes mediated, which is the highest in the Dzongkhag followed by Doongtoed Gewog (37). Tendruk Gewog has mediated the lowest number of disputes (2).

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

Sl. No.	Types of dispute	Disputes mediated (January - December 2019)
1	Matrimonial	42
2	Land	45
3	Inheritance	13
4	Monetary	72
5	Irrigation and drinking water	19
6	Footpath and access road	9
7	Crops damaged by cattle	22
8	Child maintenance	17
9	Miscellaneous	42
	<b>Total</b>	<b>281</b>

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





## Finding

A total of 281 disputes were mediated in Samtse Dzongkhag. The monetary-related issue (72) is the highest number of disputes mediated in the Dzongkhag, followed by land-related disputes (45). Whereas, matters which pertain to footpath and access road is the lowest number of disputes (9) 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 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.



#### 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.

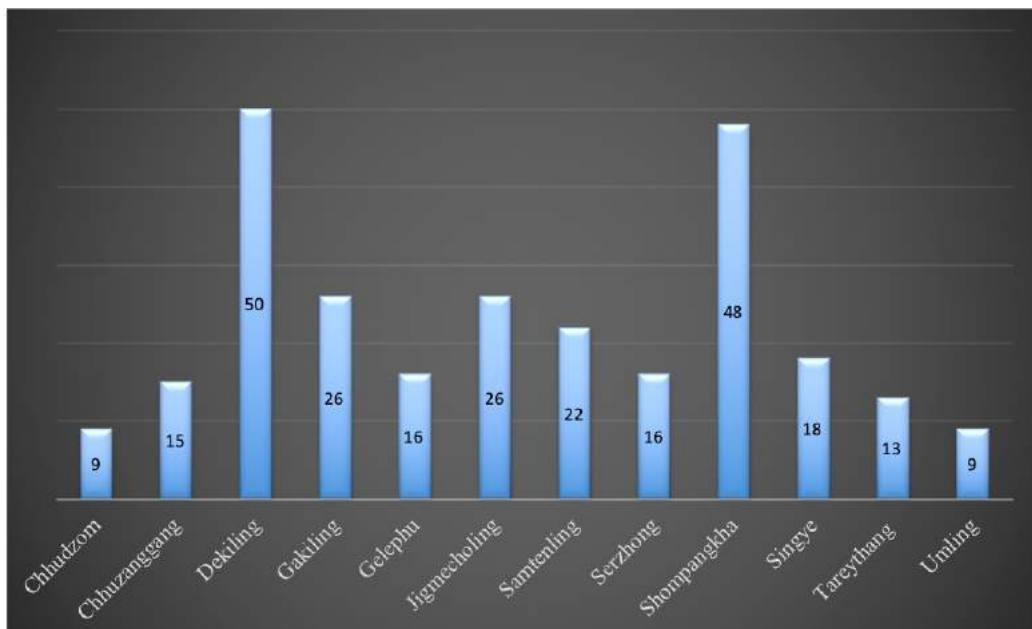
#### Gelephu Dungkhag Court

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 2019)
1	Chhudzom	9
2	Chhuzanggang	15
3	Dekiling	50
4	Gakiling	26
5	Gelephu	16
6	Jigmecholing	26
7	Samtenling	22
8	Serzhong	16
9	Shompangkha	48
10	Singye	18
11	Tareythang	13
12	Umling	9
	<b>Total</b>	<b>268</b>

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



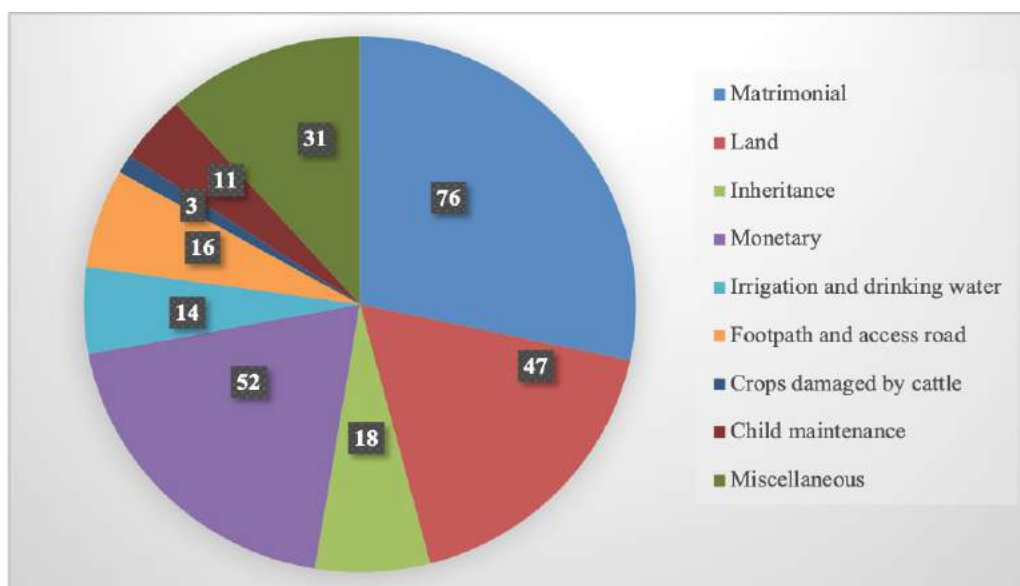
### Finding

Dekiling Gewog has mediated the highest number of disputes (50) in the Dzongkhag, followed by Shompangkha Gewog (48). Chhudzom and Umling Gewogs have mediated the lowest number of disputes (9 each) in the Dzongkhag.

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

Sl. No.	Types of dispute	Disputes mediated (January - December 2019)
1	Matrimonial	76
2	Land	47
3	Inheritance	18
4	Monetary	52
5	Irrigation and drinking water	14
6	Footpath and access road	16
7	Crops damaged by cattle	3
8	Child maintenance	11
9	Miscellaneous	31
	<b>Total</b>	<b>268</b>

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



## Finding

Out of 268 disputes mediated in Sarpang Dzongkhag, matrimonial dispute (76) is the highest number of disputes, followed by monetary disputes (52). The matters which pertain to crops damaged by cattle (3) is the fewest number of disputes 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

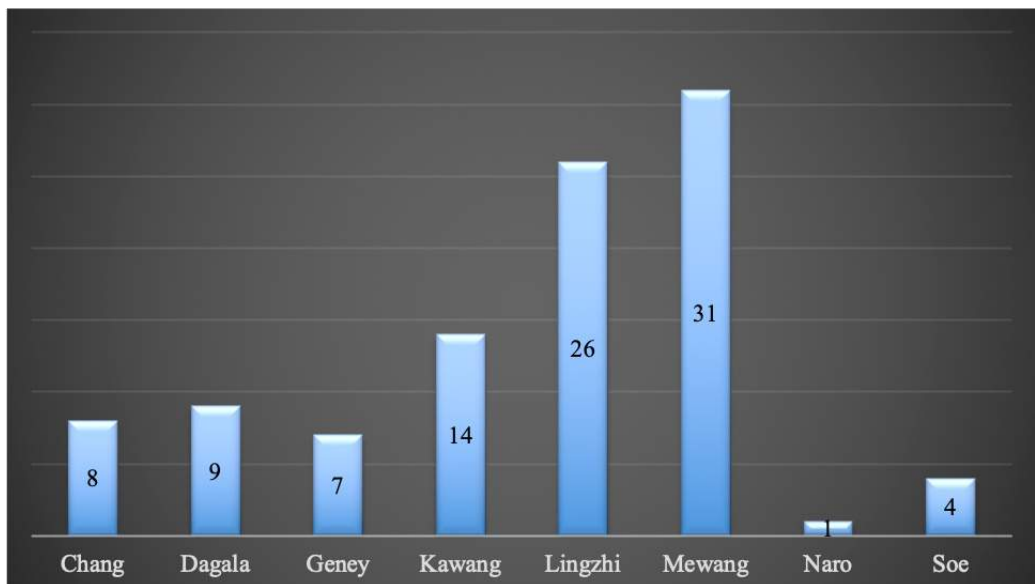
Lingzhi Dungkhag Court was established in 2009. It provides judicial services to the people of three Gewogs - Lingzhi, Naro and Soe. The court settles over 15 cases in a year.



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

Sl. No.	Gewog	Disputes mediated (January - December 2019)
1	Chang	8
2	Dagala	9
3	Geney	7
4	Kawang	14
5	Lingzhi	26
6	Mewang	31
7	Naro	1
8	Soe	4
	<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>

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



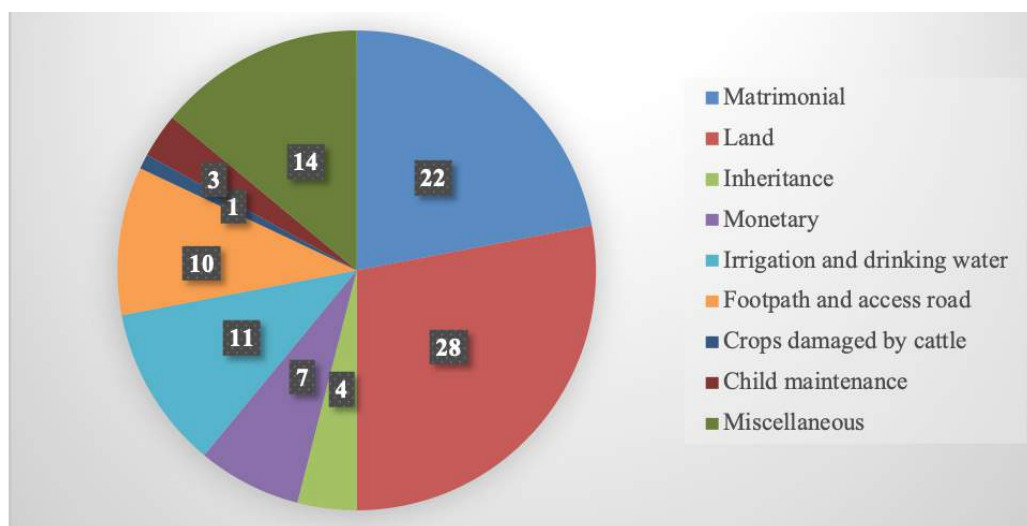
### Finding

Mewang Gewog has mediated the highest number of disputes (31) in Thimphu Dzongkhag, followed by Lingzhi Gewog (26). The lowest number of dispute is mediated by Naro Gewog (1), followed by Soe Gewog (4).

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

Sl. No.	Types of dispute	Disputes mediated (January - December 2019)
1	Matrimonial	22
2	Land	28
3	Inheritance	4
4	Monetary	7
5	Irrigation and drinking water	11
6	Footpath and access road	10
7	Crops damaged by cattle	1
8	Child maintenance	3
9	Miscellaneous	14
<b>Total</b>		<b>100</b>

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



### Finding

A total of 100 disputes were mediated in Thimphu Dzongkhag. The land-related issue (28) is the highest number of disputes mediated in the Dzongkhag, followed by matrimonial-related issues (22). The matters which pertain to crops damaged by cattle (1) is the lowest number of disputes mediated 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

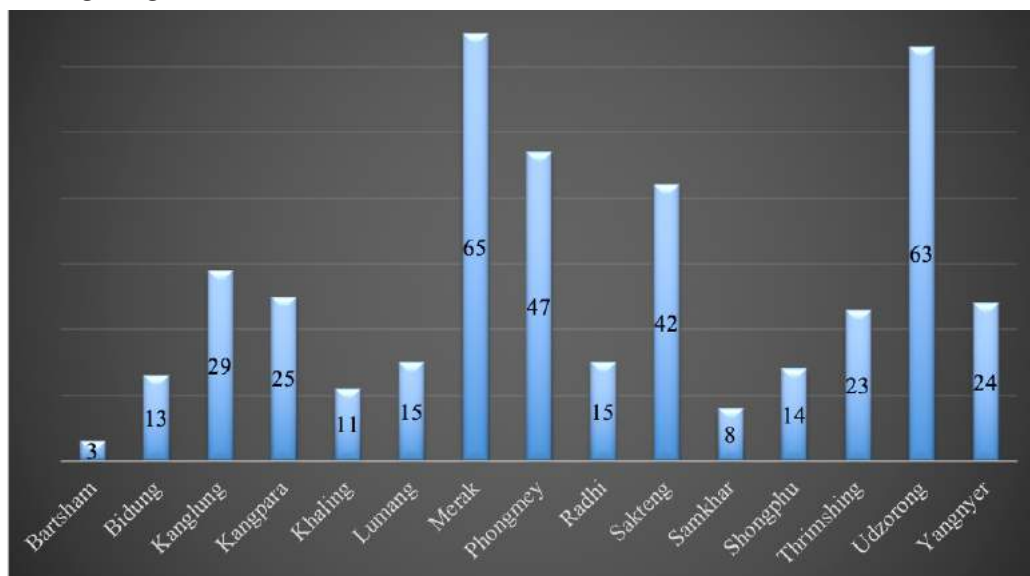
Wamrong Dungkhag Court was established in 1986. The new court building was constructed in 2012. It was funded by the Government of India. It has separate detention room for men, women and children. It also has separate Registry, Finance and Administrative Sections. It provides judicial services to the 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 2019)
1	Bartsham	3
2	Bidung	13
3	Kanglung	29
4	Kangpara	25
5	Khaling	11
6	Lumang	15
7	Merak	65
8	Phongmey	47
9	Radhi	15
10	Sakteng	42
11	Samkhar	8
12	Shongphu	14
13	Thrimshing	23
14	Udzorong	63
15	Yangnyer	24
	<b>Total</b>	<b>397</b>



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



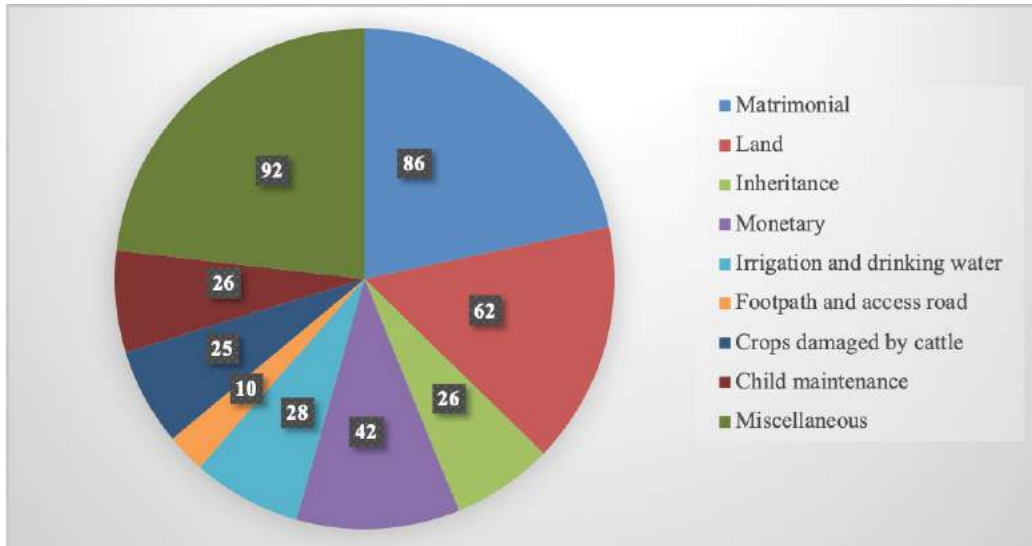
### Finding

Merak Gewog has mediated the highest number of disputes (65) in the Dzongkhag, followed by Udzorong (63) and Phongmey Gewogs (47) respectively. Bartsham Gewog has mediated the fewest number of disputes (3) in the Dzongkhag, followed by Samkhar Gewog (8).

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

Sl. No.	Types of dispute	Disputes mediated (January - December 2019)
1	Matrimonial	86
2	Land	62
3	Inheritance	26
4	Monetary	42
5	Irrigation and drinking water	28
6	Footpath and access road	10
7	Crops damaged by cattle	25
8	Child maintenance	26
9	Miscellaneous	92
	<b>Total</b>	<b>397</b>

Graph 2: Types of disputes mediated in Trashigang Dzongkhag



### Finding

Trashigang Dzongkhag has mediated a total of 397 disputes, which is the second highest in the country after Paro Dzongkhag (750). Miscellaneous disputes pertaining to census, theft, Tsamdro, timber, wages, rental issues, damage of the property, quarrels, etc., were some of the common disputes and is the highest number of disputes (92) mediated in the Dzongkhag. However, footpath and access road-related issue (10) 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.



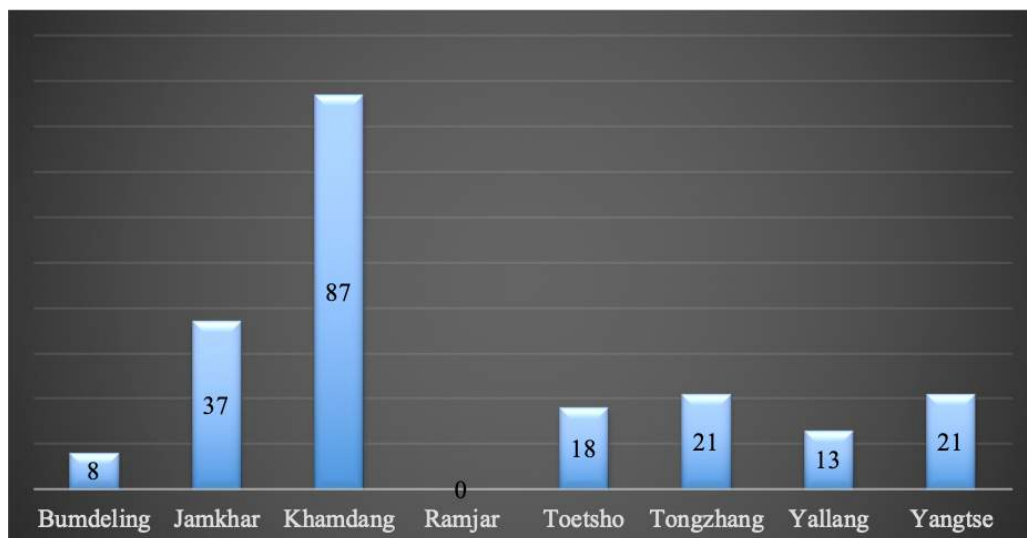
### Trashi Yangtse Dzongkhag Court

Trashi Yangtse Dzongkhag Court was established in 1991. The new court building was constructed in 2019 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.

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

Sl. No.	Gewog	Disputes mediated (January - December 2019)
1	Bumdeling	8
2	Jamkhar	37
3	Khamdang	87
4	Ramjar	0
5	Toetsho	18
6	Tongzhang	21
7	Yallang	13
8	Yangtse	21
	<b>Total</b>	<b>205</b>

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



### Finding

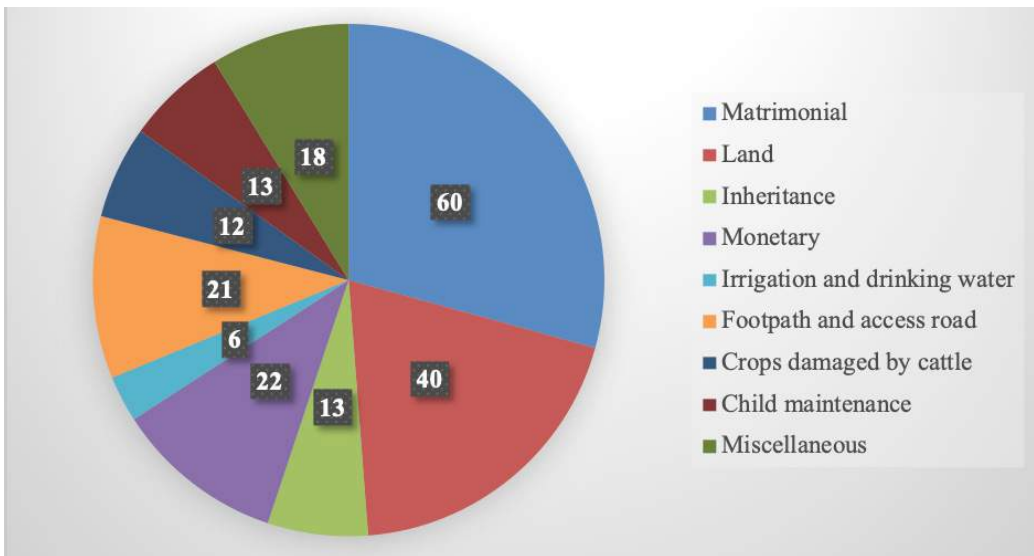
Khamdang Gewog has mediated the highest number of disputes (87) followed by Jamkhar Gewog (37). While, Ramjar Gewog has not mediated any disputes in the Gewog. It is said that the not a single dispute was received by the Gewog office in 2019.

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

Sl. No.	Types of dispute	Disputes mediated (January - December 2019)
1	Matrimonial	60
2	Land	40
3	Inheritance	13
4	Monetary	22
5	Irrigation and drinking water	6
6	Footpath and access road	21
7	Crops damaged by cattle	12
8	Child maintenance	13
9	Miscellaneous	18
	<b>Total</b>	<b>205</b>



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 (40), while irrigation and drinking water-related issues (6) is the minimum number of disputes mediated in the 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.



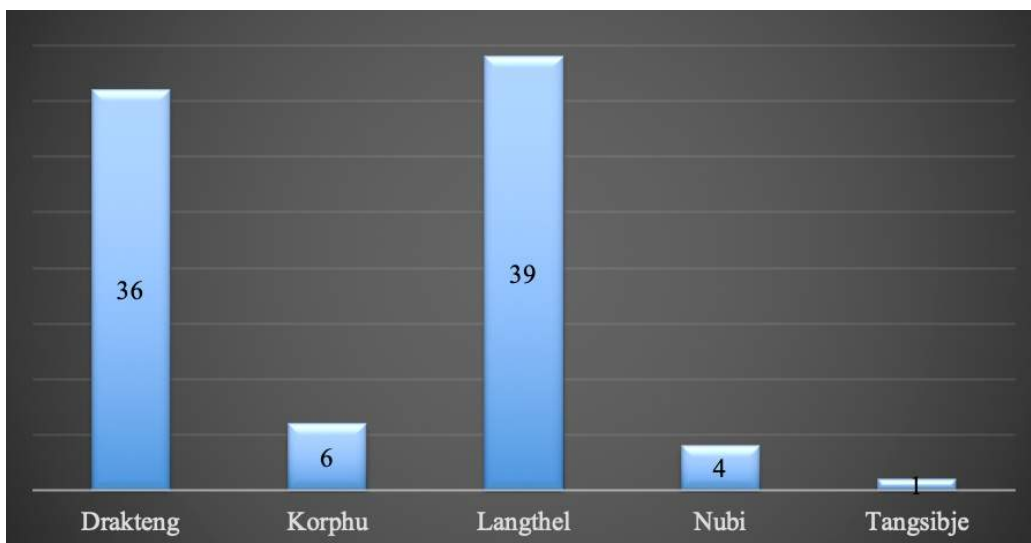
### Trongsa Dzongkhag Court

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 2019)
1	Drakteng	36
2	Korphu	6
3	Langthel	39
4	Nubi	4
5	Tangsibje	1
	<b>Total</b>	<b>86</b>

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



### Finding

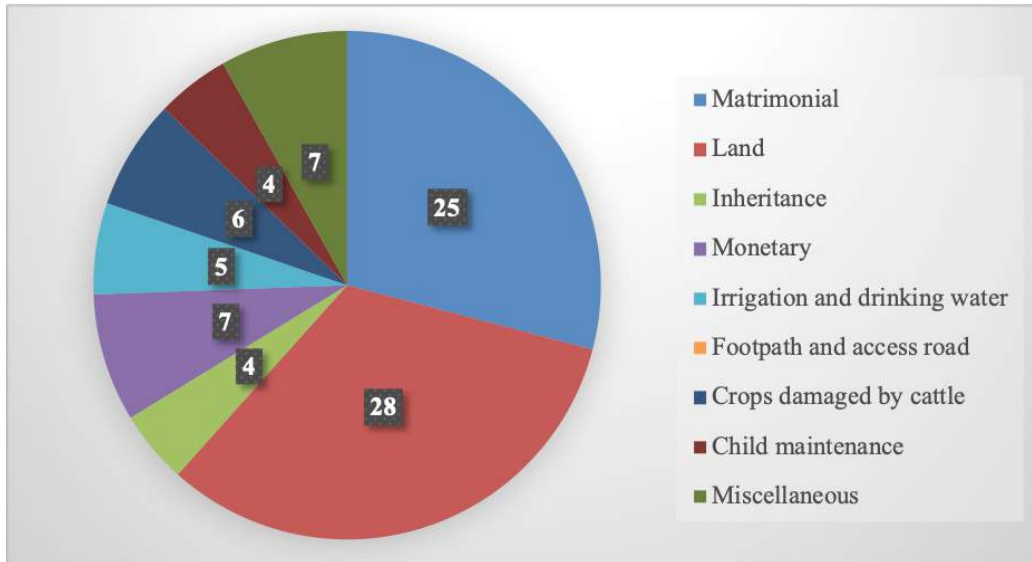
Langthel Gewog has mediated the highest number of disputes (39), followed by Drakteng Gewog (36); while Tangsibje Gewog has mediated the lowest number of disputes (1), followed by Nubi (4) and Korphu Gewogs (6) respectively.

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

Sl. No.	Types of dispute	Disputes mediated (January - December 2019)
1	Matrimonial	25
2	Land	28
3	Inheritance	4
4	Monetary	7
5	Irrigation and drinking water	5
6	Footpath and access road	0
7	Crops damaged by cattle	6
8	Child maintenance	4
9	Miscellaneous	7
	<b>Total</b>	<b>86</b>



Graph 2: Types of disputes mediated in Trongsa Dzongkhag



### Finding

Land dispute (28) is the maximum number of disputes mediated in the Dzongkhag, followed by matrimonial-related issues (25). However, not a single dispute has been mediated which pertain to footpath and access road. A total of 86 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.



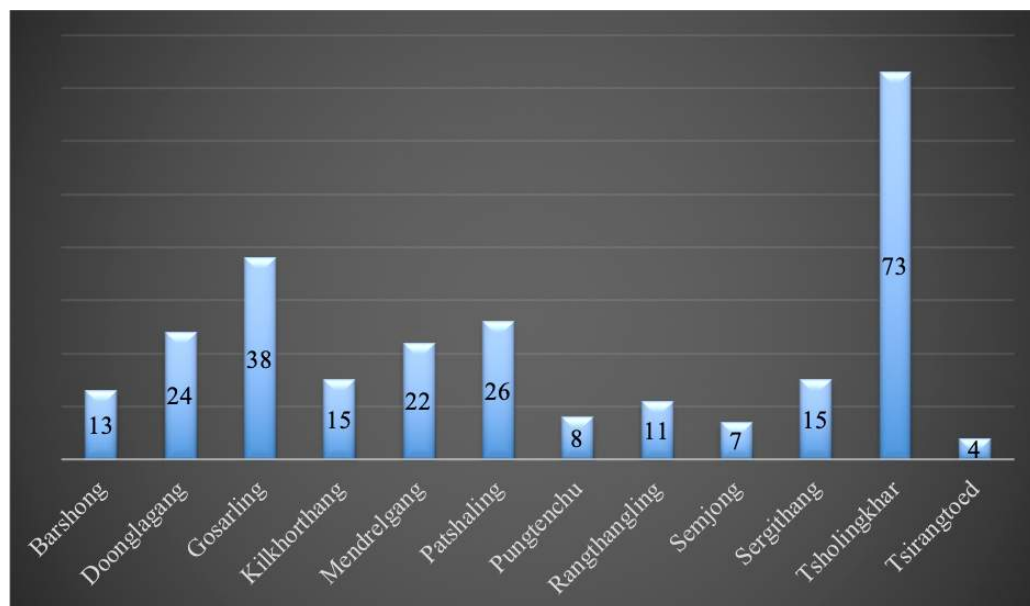
### Tsirang Dzongkhag Court

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 facilities 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 2019)
1	Barshong	13
2	Doonglagang	24
3	Gosarling	38
4	Kilkhorthang	15
5	Mendrelgang	22
6	Patshaling	26
7	Pungtenchu	8
8	Rangthangling	11
9	Semjong	7
10	Sergithang	15
11	Tsholingkhar	73
12	Tsirangtoed	4
	<b>Total</b>	<b>256</b>

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



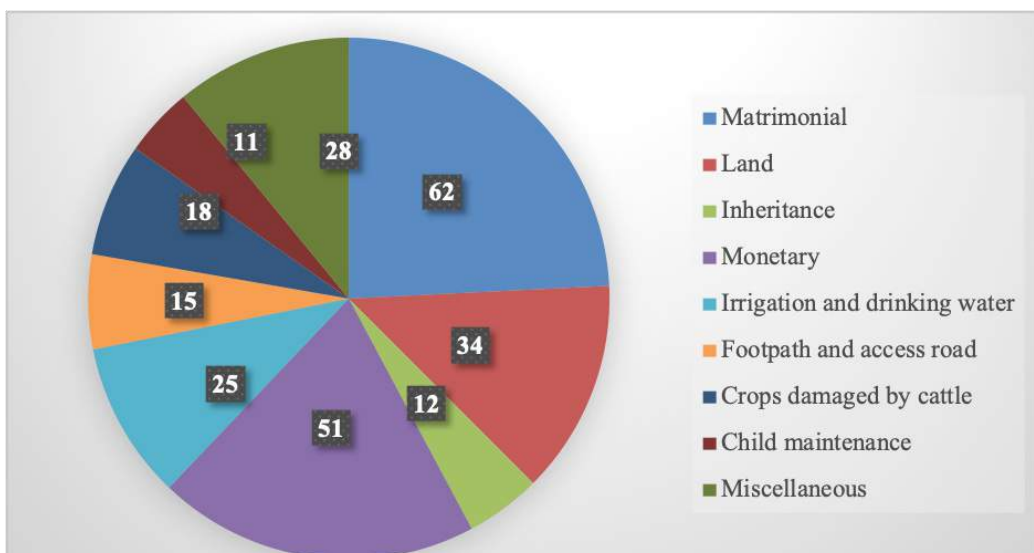
### Finding

Tsholingkhar Gewog has mediated the highest number of disputes (73) in the Dzongkhag, followed by Gosarling Gewog (38); while Tsirangtoed Gewog has mediated the lowest number of disputes (4), followed by Semjong (7) and Pungtenchhu Gewogs (8) respectively.

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

Sl. No.	Types of dispute	Disputes mediated (January - December 2019)
1	Matrimonial	62
2	Land	34
3	Inheritance	12
4	Monetary	51
5	Irrigation and drinking water	25
6	Footpath and access road	15
7	Crops damaged by cattle	18
8	Child maintenance	11
9	Miscellaneous	28
	<b>Total</b>	<b>256</b>

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





## Finding

Matrimonial dispute (62) is the maximum number of disputes mediated in Tsirang Dzongkhag, followed by monetary-related issues (34) and miscellaneous issues (28) respectively. While child maintenance-related issue (11) is the minimum number of disputes mediated in the Dzongkhag. A total of 256 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.



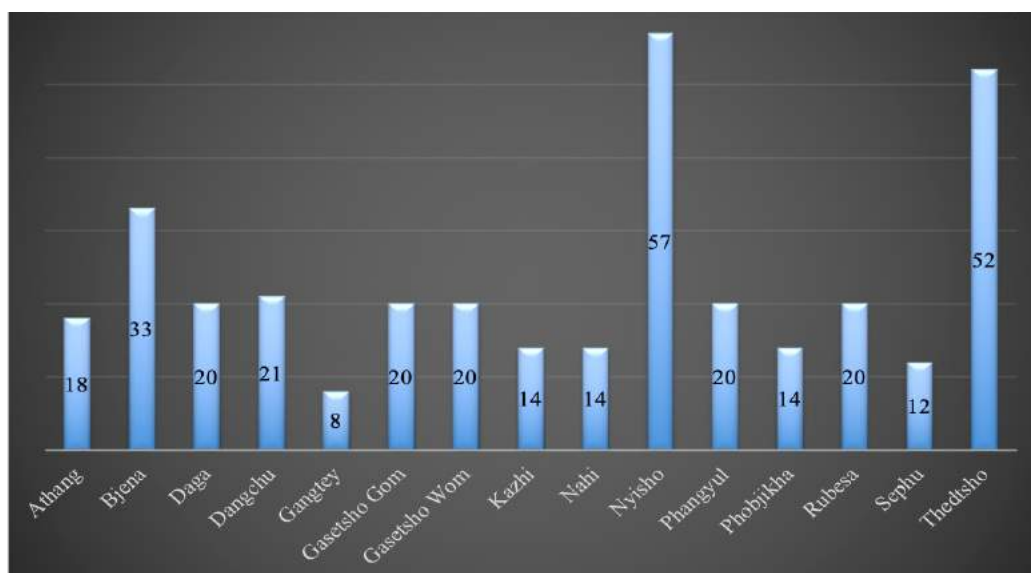
### Wandgue Phodrang Dzongkhag Court

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 2019)
1	Athang	18
2	Bjena	33
3	Daga	20
4	Dangchu	21
5	Gangtey	8
6	Gasetsho Gom	20
7	Gasetsho Wom	20
8	Kazhi	14
9	Nahi	14
10	Nyisho	57
11	Phangyul	20
12	Phobjikha	14
13	Rubesa	20
14	Sephu	12
15	Thedtsho	52
	<b>Total</b>	<b>343</b>

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



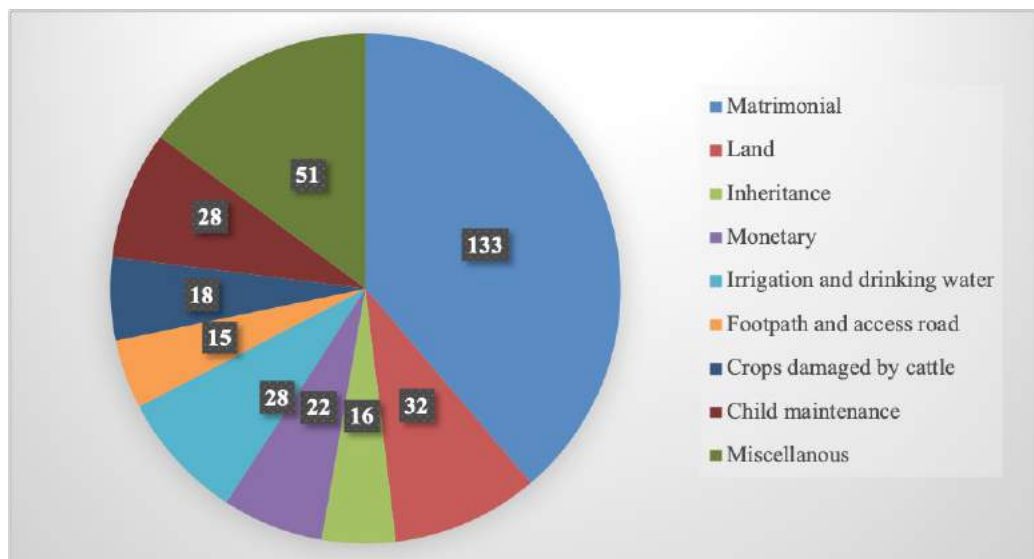
### Finding

Nyisho Gewog has mediated the highest number of dispute (57) in the Dzongkhag, followed by Thedtsho (52) and Bjena Gewogs (33) respectively. While Gangtey Gewog (8) has mediated the lowest number of disputes, followed by Sephu Gewog (12).

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

Sl. No.	Types of dispute	Disputes mediated (January - December 2019)
1	Matrimonial	133
2	Land	32
3	Inheritance	16
4	Monetary	22
5	Irrigation and drinking water	28
6	Footpath and access road	15
7	Crops damaged by cattle	18
8	Child maintenance	28
9	Miscellaneous	51
	<b>Total</b>	<b>343</b>

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



## Finding

Wangdue Phodrang Dzongkhag has mediated a total of 343 disputes, and is the 4<sup>th</sup> highest number of disputes mediated in the country after Mongar (356), Trashigang (397) and Paro (750). Out of 343 disputes mediated in the Dzongkhag, matrimonial dispute is the maximum number of disputes (133), while disputes pertaining to footpath and access road (15) is the lowest number of disputes mediated in the Dzongkhag, followed by inheritance-related issues (16).



## 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

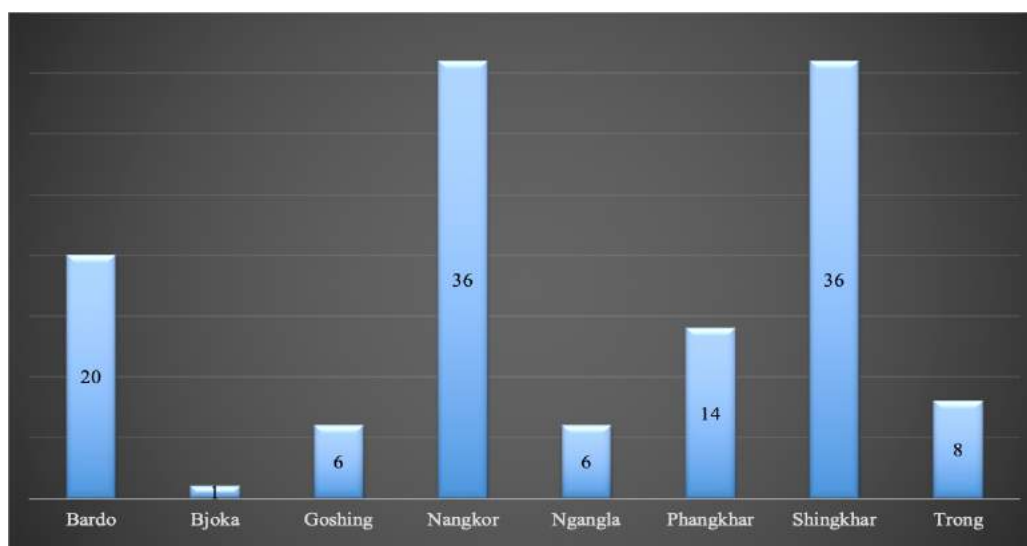
Panbang Dungkhag Court was established in 2009. The new court building was constructed in 2013 with the financial support of the Government of India. It renders judicial services to the people of five Gewogs - Panbang, Bjoka, Goshing, Ngangla and Phangkhar. The court has sufficient space with separate 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 2019)
1	Bardo	20
2	Bjoka	1
3	Goshing	6
4	Nangkor	36
5	Ngangla	6
6	Phangkhar	14
7	Shingkhar	36
8	Trong	8
	<b>Total</b>	<b>127</b>

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

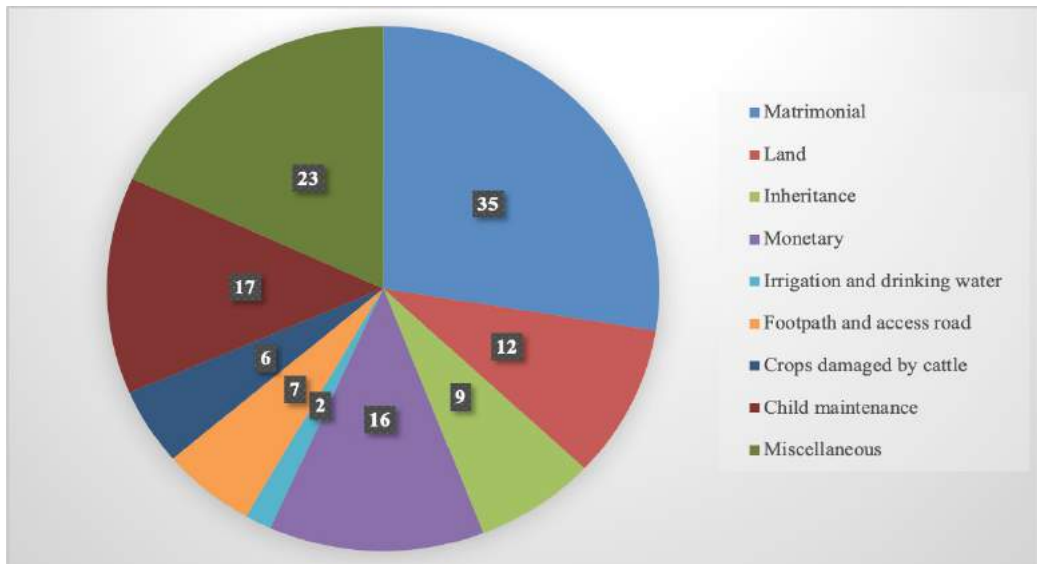


### Finding

Nangkor and Shingkhar Gewogs have mediated the highest number of disputes (36 each) in the Dzongkhag, followed by Bardo Gewog (20). While, Bjoka Gewog has mediated the lowest number of disputes (1), followed by Goshing and Ngangla Gewogs (6 each) respectively.

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

Sl. No.	Types of dispute	Disputes mediated (January - December 2019)
1	Matrimonial	35
2	Land	12
3	Inheritance	9
4	Monetary	16
5	Irrigation and drinking water	2
6	Footpath and access road	7
7	Crops damaged by cattle	6
8	Child maintenance	17
9	Miscellaneous	23
<b>Total</b>		<b>127</b>

**Graph 2: Number of disputes mediated in Zhemgang Dzongkhag****Finding**

A total of 127 disputes were mediated in Zhemgang Dzongkhag. The highest number of disputes mediated pertained to matrimonial issues (35), followed by miscellaneous issues (23) which pertained to theft, quarrel, census-related issues, etc. The lowest number of disputes mediated in the Dzongkhag pertain to irrigation and drinking water (2).



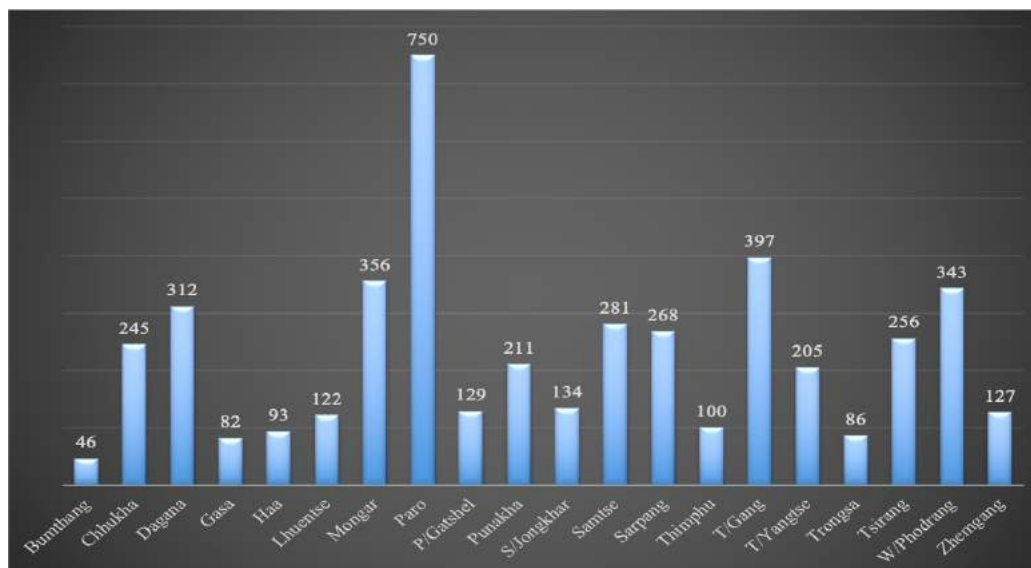
## 5. Findings

Report received from 205 Gewogs revealed that a total of 4543 disputes were mediated in the twenty Dzongkhags from January to December 2019. Paro Dzongkhag has mediated the highest number of disputes constituting 17% of the total cases followed by Trashigang (9%) and Mongar and Wangdue Phodrang Dzongkhags (8%) respectively. While, Bumthang Dzongkhag (1%) has mediated the lowest number of disputes in the country, followed by Gasa, Haa and Trongsa Dzongkhags (2% each). Regarding the types of disputes, matrimonial-related issue is the highest number of disputes mediated (23%), followed by land (17%), miscellaneous dispute (14%) and monetary related matters (13%). While child maintenance-related issues and footpath and access road issues (6%) are the lowest number of disputes 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	19	5	3	5	1	3	1	6	3	46
2	Chhukha	50	52	20	40	17	15	15	15	21	245
3	Dagana	58	42	25	82	25	12	22	6	40	312
4	Gasa	15	18	8	3	2	5	10	14	7	82
5	Haa	18	17	5	22	3	4	11	4	9	93
6	Lhuentse	43	16	7	9	5	5	10	8	19	122
7	Mongar	88	46	13	38	34	20	52	20	45	356
8	Paro	86	172	75	55	59	86	43	44	130	750
9	P/Gatshel	31	25	14	17	0	8	3	11	20	129
10	Punakha	84	27	24	8	14	7	8	15	24	211
11	S/Jongkhar	33	15	6	16	15	12	12	2	23	134
12	Samtse	42	45	13	72	19	9	22	17	42	281
13	Sarpang	76	47	18	52	14	16	3	11	31	268
14	Thimphu	22	28	4	7	11	10	1	3	14	100
15	T/Gang	86	62	26	42	28	10	25	26	92	397
16	T/Yangtse	60	40	13	22	6	21	12	13	18	205
17	Trongsa	25	28	4	7	5	0	6	4	7	86
18	Tsirang	62	34	12	51	25	15	18	11	28	256
19	W/Phodrang	133	32	16	22	28	15	18	28	51	343
20	Zhemgang	35	12	9	16	2	7	6	17	23	127
Total		1066	763	315	586	313	280	298	275	647	4543

**Graph 1: Number of disputes mediated in the twenty Dzongkhags**



### Finding

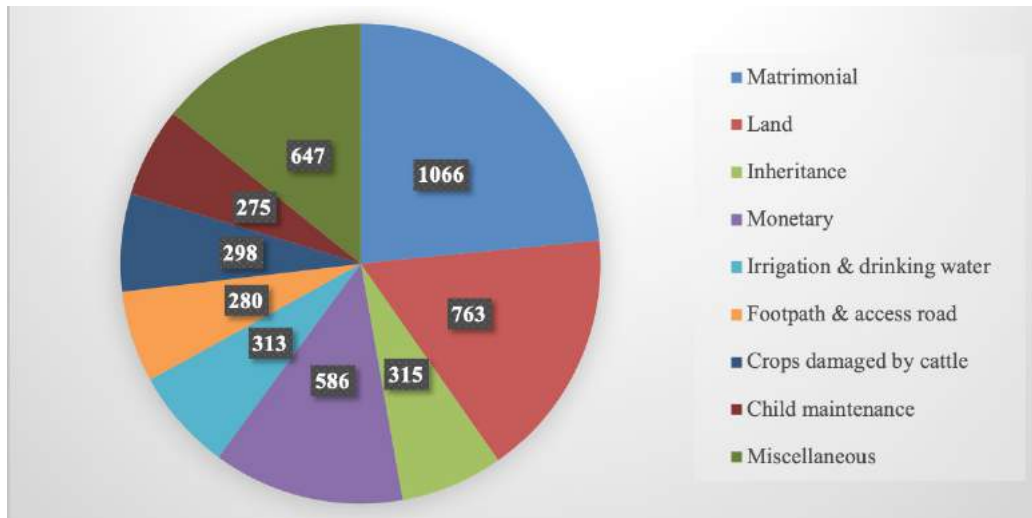
A total of 4543 disputes were mediated in the 20 Dzongkhags. Paro Dzongkhag has mediated the highest number of disputes (750), followed by Trashigang (397) and Mongar Dzongkhags (356) respectively. Bumthang Dzongkhag has mediated the lowest number of disputes (46), followed by Gasa (82) and Trongsa Dzongkhags (86) respectively.

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

Sl. No.	Types of dispute	Disputes mediated (January - December 2019)
1	Matrimonial	1066
2	Land	763
3	Inheritance	315
4	Monetary	586
5	Irrigation and drinking water	313
6	Footpath and access road	280
7	Crops damaged by cattle	298
8	Child maintenance	275
9	Miscellaneous	647
	<b>Total</b>	<b>4543</b>



Graph 2: Types of disputes mediated in twenty Dzongkhag



### Finding

Out of 4543 disputes mediated in the country, matrimonial disputes (1066) is the highest number of disputes, followed by land (763) and miscellaneous related-disputes (647) respectively. Child maintenance-related issues is the minimum number of disputes (275) in the country, followed by footpath and access road-related issues (280).



## 6. Adjudication of Civil Cases by the Courts

As per the Annual Report of Judiciary, 2019, the Courts have registered 4970 civil cases in 2019. 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 Local Government Leaders (Gups, Mangmis, Tshogpas) and other relevant 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, 2019 from 205 Gewogs

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

Sl. No.	Types of disputes mediated	January - December 2019 (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 cattle		
8	Child maintenance		
9	Other cases (List down all other cases which are not reflected in the abovementioned category as follows:)	-	-
	1. ....		
	2. ....		
	3. ....		

Signature of Gup/Mangmi

