

*“Mediation: Strengthening the
Virtues of Justice”*

National Mediation Report 2022



Bhutan National Legal Institute

Table of Contents

i	Acronym and Glossary	ii	<i>Thuenpa Puenzhi</i>
iii	Foreword	iv	Figures at a Glance
1	Introduction	2	Objectives
2	Methodology	3	Mediation Report
4	Reports from 205 Gewogs	36	Reports from <i>Thromde Thuemis</i>
37	Overall Findings	40	Adjudication of Civil Cases by the Courts
41	Conclusion	v	Annexures

Acronym

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

Glossary

Bardum/Dumdrig	Customary mediation of disputes
Chiwog	Administrative unit consists of a few villages in a Gewog
Chhuzhing	Wetland
Dolley	A type of hot Chilli grown in Southern Bhutan
Dungkhag	A sub-division of a Dzongkhag
Dzongkhag	An administrative unit, one of the 20 Districts
Gewog	An administrative unit in a Dzongkhag
Gup	The head of the Gewog
Kamzhing	Dry Land
Kishuthara	Women's dress with beautiful patterns made of silk
Lhakang	A Buddhist temple or monastery
Mangmi	Deputy head of a Gewog
Nangkha Nangdrig	Mediation of disputes, a synonym of Bardum/Dumdrig
Pangzhing	Scrubland
Thrimzhung Chhenmo	The Supreme Law of Land
Thromde	City Council or a Municipality
Thuenpa Puenzhi	Four Harmonious Friends
Tseri	Shifting or slash and burn cultivation
Tshogpa	Head of a Chiwog
Thromde Thuemi	Thromde Tshogpas from four Thromdes (T/phu, P/ling, G/phu & S/Jongkhar) and a Thromde Ngotshab each from other 16 Dzongkhags
Yenlag Thromde	Sub-Thromde, a satellite town

Thuenpa Puenzhi, the 'Four Harmonious Friends'



What mediation does is amply symbolized by the painting or the picture of the *Thuenpa Puenzhi*, the 'Four Harmonious Friends' - the elephant, the monkey, the rabbit and the bird. While at a glance, the image symbolizes peace, harmony and unity in our homes, offices and society, the deeper significance is that it epitomizes respect, interdependence, friendship, cooperation, collaboration, generosity, compromise and accommodation despite our hierarchy, background, power, strength and size - as depicted by the four different types, sizes and colours 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 resolve their disputes and differences amicably and be hailed as the beacon of peace and harmony in the communities. We hope that the mere sight of the portrait of the 'four harmonious friends' on the cover page of this report will calm our minds and pacify the conflicts.

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



DIRECTOR GENERAL'S FOREWORD

Mediation or the amicable or informal resolution of disputes in the communities with the intervention or involvement of neutral and trusted community leaders is an age-old customary practice in Bhutan. Albeit minor differences in practices, procedures and methods of mediation, the disputes are mediated throughout the country aiming at the same objective of inexpensive and effective resolution of simple disputes which erupt between people as they navigate daily life and eke out their livelihoods, especially in the rural areas. Above all, without the divisive effect of the court litigations and segregation of the people into 'winners and losers' the parties could indulge in the comfort of 'win-win' outcomes honouring the solutions tailored to suit their needs and interests. Despite several judicial reforms and access to the courts, it is still *'better to lose in the village than win in a court of law'*. Mediation of disputes is the panacea for a small country like Bhutan where people share a small space and live interdependently.

The Bhutan National Legal Institute is pleased to publish the National Mediation Report for the year 2022. The Report is an attempt to study the impact of the nationwide mediation of disputes in preserving social harmony and strengthening community vitality. This

also serves to assess the efficacy of the training as well as the efficiency of the LG leaders in the mediation of disputes in the communities. By weaning some cases off the litigation system, it is hoped that the judiciary is spared 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 *Gross National Happiness* (GNH), the alternative development paradigm proclaimed by His Majesty the Fourth *Druk Gyalpo* is the need for a harmonious society with balanced development in the areas of culture, economy, environment and governance. What might disrupt this harmony or balance is the disputes and differences between our people - as more and more of us share or compete for the same or a lesser amount of national resources. This calls for the effective and efficient resolution of disputes by the court of justice, primarily. However, we must provide people with alternative means of preventing or resolving disputes - that includes strengthening the age-old customary, amicable dispute settlement system. That is where the BNLI comes in promoting mediation for GNH, to strengthen the community vitality and harmony.

Pema Needup

FIGURES AT A GLANCE

393 Paro	320 T/Gang	298 Samtse	288 Monggar
288 Punakha	287 Wangdue	213 Chhukha	189 Dagana
179 T/Yangtse	178 Sarpang	156 Thimphu	142 Tsirang
139 Lhuentse	89 P/Gatshel	86 S/Jongkhar	66 Haa
48 Zhemgang	44 Bumthang	35 Trongsa	16 Gasa
			Total 3454

896 Matrimonial	527 Miscellaneous	499 Land
472 Monetary	250 Irrigation & drinking water	228 Footpath & access road
213 Crops damaged by cattle	210 Inheritance	159 Child maintenance
		Total 3454

1. Introduction

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

The law on mediation in the *Thrimzhung Chhenmo* 1959 was later replaced by provisions in the *Civil and Criminal Procedure Code, 2001*. In principle, all disputes, which are civil in nature can be resolved through mediation. However, despite a plethora of laws advocating mediation of disputes, gauging from the large number of cases which reach courts, including those which can be mediated, the age-old practice of informal and amicable settlements of disputes has declined, mainly due to a lack of trained mediators and the institutions patronizing the system.

Therefore, a need for an appropriate intervention was strongly felt to revitalize, invigorate and institutionalize the system so that justice is delivered in the communities and judicial service is taken to the doorsteps of the people - thereby enhancing access to justice. In the pursuit of this noble objective, the Institute has initiated a series of training and workshops on mediation skills and techniques since 2012.

It was with urgency and genuine concern that Her Royal Highness Princess Sonam Dechan Wangchuck invited the attention of the nation to the need to strengthen the age-old system of informal and amicable system of dispute resolution. Her Royal Highness desired that we continue to value, preserve and uphold our cultural tradition of amicable dispute resolution - so that justice is dispensed expeditiously and inexpensively in the community itself, without resorting to the court of law. Today, the training is being received with great zeal and appreciation by the communities, leaders, government, lawmakers, private and corporate lawyers, relevant stakeholders, etc. In the third round of the LG Election, the Institute has trained 158 *Mangmis* from 16 Dzongkhags and the remaining four Dzongkhags will soon be trained on mediation skills and techniques.

The capacity-building training certainly supplemented the judiciary in the resolution of disputes by strengthening the ADR system, which eliminates minor disputes, and the people are spared 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 interdependence and harmonious co-existence of people.

2. Objectives

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 the need to adjust, compromise, accommodate and mediate the differences and disputes arising among and between people, and live as family, friends and neighbours. Moreover, as people-friendly as the courts may become, with 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 man. Therefore, mediation of disputes can provide 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 relationships - 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 become important. The periodic assessment of the 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

Mediation takes place everywhere - in the villages, *Chiwogs*, *Gewogs* and *Thromdes* - the building blocks of our country. With no central mediation institution and authority for 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. To collect the required information and data, a form was sent to 205 *Gewogs* (*Annexure I*); *Thromde Tshogpas* (*Annexure II*); and *Thromde Ngotshabs* (*Annexure III*). The data collected were compiled to study the number and types of cases mediated in the *Gewogs* and *Thromdes* first, 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 by the LG

Leaders in 205 Gewogs and Thromde Thuemis [Thromde Tshogpas from four Thromdes (T/phu, P/ling, G/phu & S/ jongkhar) and a Thromde Ngotshab each from other 16 Dzongkhags] in 20 Dzongkhags.

4. Mediation Report

The disputes are classified into the following categories:

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 first set of the table (Table 1) and the graph (Graph 1) shows the number of disputes mediated in the various Gewogs and Thromdes of 20 Dzongkhags. The second set of tables (Table 2) and the graph (Graph 2) shows the different types and nature of disputes mediated in

the Dzongkhags. The Report consists of the following:

- A. Report from 205 Gewogs
- B. Report from Thromde Thuemis (Thromde Tshogpas & Ngotshabs)
- C. Overall Findings (LG Leaders of 205 Gewogs and Thromde Thuemis of 20 Dzongkhags)

The brief profile of every Dzongkhag provided in this report is expected to shed light on the backdrop and context of the places which has bearing on the number and the types of cases being mediated. The report acknowledges the use of facts and information about the different Dzongkhags from the website of the respective Dzongkhags and the National Statistics Bureau, including the maps.

A. Report from 205 Gewogs

1. Bumthang Dzongkhag



Bumthang Dzongkhag is located within the altitude range of 2,400-6,000 meters above sea level and spans an area of 2,667.76 sq. km. It has a total population of 18,291 as per the Statistical Yearbook of Bhutan 2022 by National Statistics Bureau. Most of the people in the Dzongkhag depend on agriculture and livestock for their livelihood. The Dzongkhag experiences cold climatic conditions with warm summers and cold winters. Bumthang Dzongkhag is administratively divided into four Gewogs - Chhummy, Chhoechor, Tang and Ura.

Table 1: Number of disputes mediated in four Gewogs

Sl. No.	Gewog	Disputes mediated
1	Chhoechor	9
2	Chhummy	23
3	Tang	7
4	Ura	5
	Total	44

Graph 1: Number of disputes mediated in four Gewogs

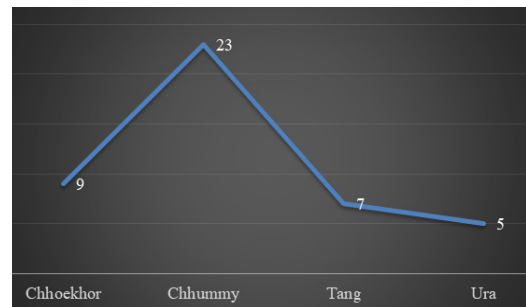
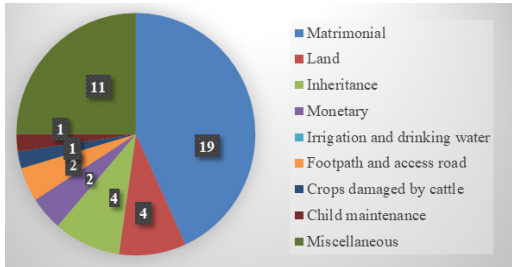


Table 2: Types of disputes mediated in Bumthang Dzongkhag

Sl. No.	Types of disputes	Disputes mediated
1	Matrimonial	19
2	Land	4
3	Inheritance	4
4	Monetary	2
5	Irrigation and drinking water	0
6	Footpath and access road	2
7	Crops damaged by cattle	1
8	Child maintenance	1
9	Miscellaneous	11
	Total	44

Graph 2: Types of disputes mediated in Bumthang Dzongkhag



Findings

Out of 44 disputes mediated in Bumthang Dzongkhag, Chhummy Gewog has mediated the maximum number of disputes (23); while Ura Gewog has mediated the fewest number of disputes (5).

Matrimonial (19) is the highest number of disputes mediated in the Dzongkhag followed by miscellaneous (11). However, not a single dispute has been mediated pertaining to irrigation and drinking water.

2. Chhukha Dzongkhag



Chhukha Dzongkhag lies in the Southern belt of Bhutan. It is located within the altitude range of 200-3,500 meters above sea level and spans over an area of about 1,879.5 sq. km. It has a total population of 69,820 as per the Statistical Yearbook of Bhutan 2022 by National Statistics Bureau. Chhukha Dzongkhag is the point of entry into Western and Central Bhutan from India. The majority of the people depend on livestock and subsistence agricultural farming. Mandarin, potato and cardamom are the principal cash crops. Despite favourable climatic conditions, farm productivity is low due to rugged terrain and limited farming infrastructure and facilities. The Dzongkhag is administratively divided into 11 Gewogs.



Table 1: Number of disputes mediated in eleven Gewogs

Sl. No.	Gewog	Disputes mediated
1	Bjagchhog	13
2	Bongo	37
3	Chapchha	9
4	Darla	27
5	Doongna	11
6	Geling	5
7	Getana	24
8	Loggchina	3
9	Maetabkha	15
10	Phuntsholing	19
11	Samphelling	42
Total		205

Graph 1: Number of disputes mediated in eleven Gewogs

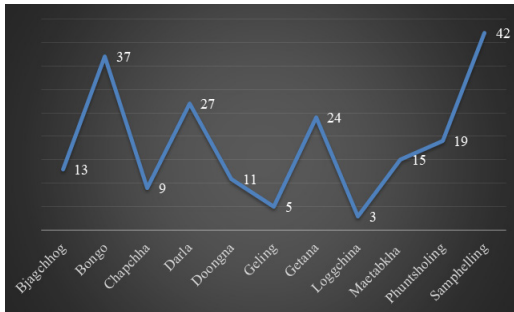
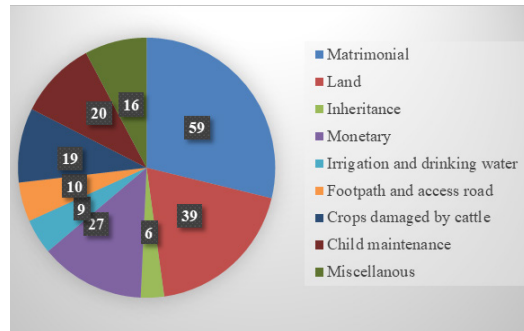


Table 2: Types of disputes mediated in Chhukha Dzongkhag

Sl. No.	Types of disputes	Disputes mediated
1	Matrimonial	59
2	Land	39
3	Inheritance	6
4	Monetary	27

5	Irrigation and drinking water	9
6	Footpath and access road	10
7	Crops damaged by cattle	19
8	Child maintenance	20
9	Miscellaneous	16
Total		205

Graph 2: Types of disputes mediated in Chhukha Dzongkhag



Findings

Chhukha Dzongkhag has mediated a total of 205 disputes. Of the eleven Gewogs, Samphelling has mediated the highest number of disputes (42) followed by Bongo (37) and Darla Gewog (27) respectively. Loggchina Gewog has mediated the lowest number of disputes (3) followed by Geling Gewog (5).

Matrimonial (59) is the highest number of disputes mediated in the Dzongkhag followed by land (39); while inheritance (6) is the minimum number of disputes mediated, followed by irrigation & drinking water (9).

3. Dagana Dzongkhag



Dagana Dzongkhag has an area of about 1,722.83 sq. km. It lies in the South-Eastern part of the country with an altitude of 185-3,800 meters above sea level. It has a total population of 25,732 as per the Statistical Yearbook of Bhutan 2022 by National Statistics Bureau. About 87% of the total area is under forest cover, comprising mainly of sal, pine, and teak. Agriculture is the main source of livelihood for the inhabitants of the Dzongkhag. Mandarin and cardamom are the main sources of cash income for the people of Dagana. Due to its favourable climatic conditions, vegetables such as broccoli, cauliflower, cabbage, potato, chillies, and tomatoes and horticulture crops such as banana, passion fruit, pear, and avocado are grown. Pipla, thysolinia and cinnamon are some of the popular non-wood forest products available in the Dzongkhag.

Table 1: Number of disputes mediated in fourteen Gewogs

Sl. No.	Gewog	Disputes mediated
1	Dorona	4
2	Drukjeygang	11
3	Gesarling	21
4	Gozhi	39
5	Karmaling	3
6	Karna	11
7	Khebis	11
8	Lajab	17
9	Lhamoi-Dzingkha	7
10	Nichula	0
11	Tashiding	12
12	Tsangkha	25
13	Tsendagang	17
14	Tseza	11
Total		189

Graph 1: Number of disputes mediated in fourteen Gewogs

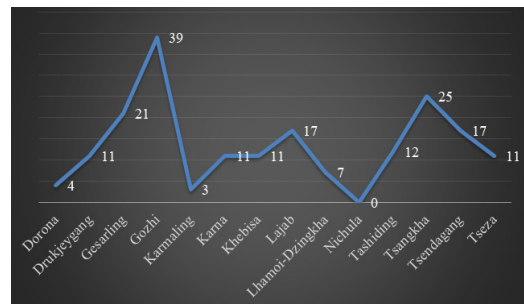
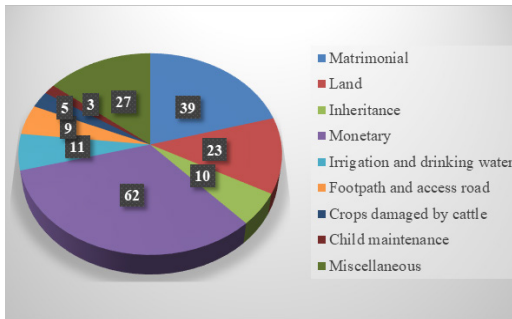


Table 2: Types of disputes mediated in Dagana Dzongkhag

Sl. No.	Types of disputes	Disputes mediated
1	Matrimonial	39
2	Land	23
3	Inheritance	10

4	Monetary	62
5	Irrigation and drinking water	11
6	Footpath and access road	9
7	Crops damaged by cattle	5
8	Child maintenance	3
9	Miscellaneous	27
Total		189

Graph 2: Types of disputes mediated in Dagana Dzongkhag

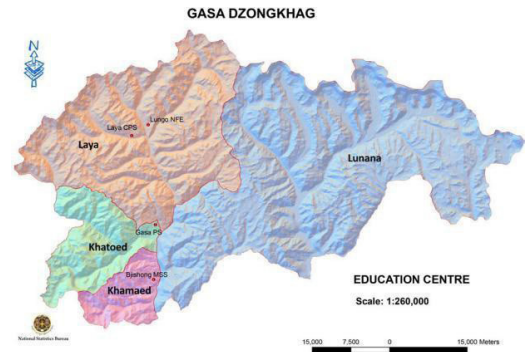


Findings

Out of 189 disputes mediated in Dagana Dzongkhag, Gozhi Gewog has mediated the highest number of disputes (39). However, not a single dispute has been mediated by Nichula Gewog.

Regarding the types of disputes mediated in the Dzongkhag, monetary (62) is the highest followed by matrimonial (39) and miscellaneous (27). The child maintenance (3) is the least number of disputes mediated in the Dzongkhag.

4. Gasa Dzongkhag



Gasa Dzongkhag is situated in the North-Western part of the country. It has a total population of 4,290 as per the Statistical Yearbook of Bhutan 2022 by National Statistics Bureau. The altitude ranges from 1,500-4,500 meters above 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 unique dresses. Gasa occupies a significant place in the socio-political history of Bhutan. Zhabdrung Ngawang Namgyel, the patron and the unifier of Bhutan, first came to Bhutan via Gasa.

Table 1: Number of disputes mediated in four Gewogs

Sl. No.	Gewog	Disputes mediated
1	Khatoed	4
2	Khamaed	2
3	Laya	8
4	Lunana	2
Total		16

Graph 1: Number of disputes mediated in four Gewogs

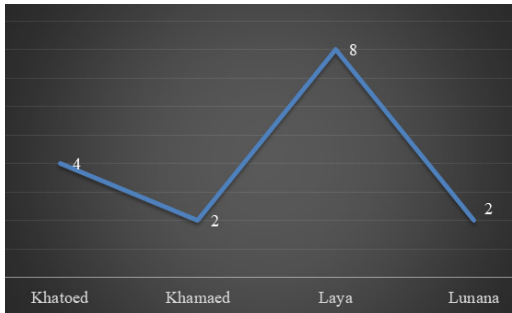
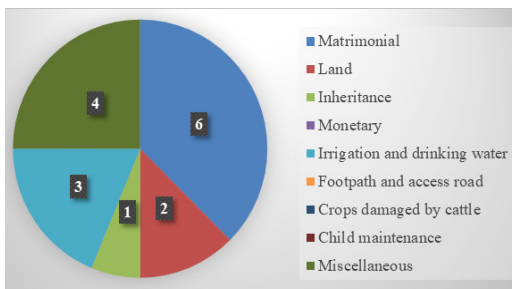


Table 2: Types of disputes mediated in Gasa Dzongkhag

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

Graph 2: Types of disputes mediated in Gasa Dzongkhag



Findings

Gasa Dzongkhag has mediated a total of 16 disputes and is the lowest in the country after Trongsa Dzongkhag (32). Laya Gewog has mediated the highest number of disputes (8); while Khamaed and Lunana have mediated the lowest number of disputes (2 each).

Matrimonial (6) is the maximum number of disputes mediated in the Dzongkhag. While not a single dispute has been mediated pertaining to monetary, crops damaged by the cattle and child maintenance.



5. Haa Dzongkhag



Haa Dzongkhag is located at an elevation ranging from 1,000-5,600 meters above sea level and has an area of 1899.02 sq. km. The Dzongkhag has one Dungkhag (Sombaykha) and 6 Gewogs. It is bordered by Samtse, Chukha and Paro to the South-West, South-East and East and Tibet in the North. Haa Dzongkhag has a total population of 13,812 as per the Statistical Yearbook of Bhutan 2022 by National Statistics Bureau. Agriculture is the main source of livelihood for the inhabitants of the Dzongkhag.

Table 1: Number of disputes mediated in six Gewogs

Sl. No.	Gewog	Disputes mediated
1	Bji	7
2	Esu	13
3	Gakiling	7
4	Katsho	14

5	Samar	11
6	Sombaykha	7
Total		59

Graph 1: Number of disputes mediated in six Gewogs

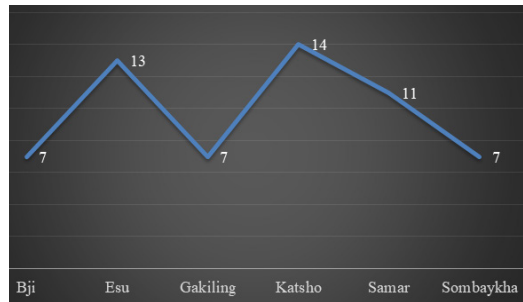
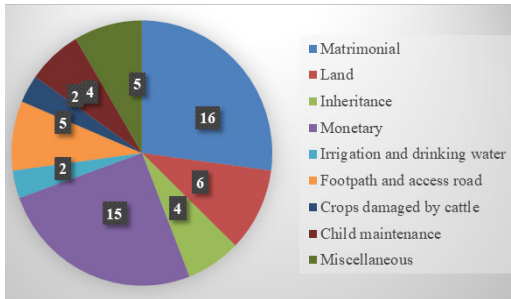


Table 2: Types of disputes mediated in Haa Dzongkhag

Sl. No.	Types of disputes	Disputes mediated
1	Matrimonial	16
2	Land	6
3	Inheritance	4
4	Monetary	15
5	Irrigation and drinking water	2
6	Footpath and access road	5
7	Crops damaged by cattle	2
8	Child maintenance	4
9	Miscellaneous	5
Total		59

Graph 2: Types of disputes mediated in Haa Dzongkhag



Findings

A total of 59 disputes were mediated in Haa Dzongkhag. Katsho Gewog has mediated a total of 14 disputes which is the highest, while Bji, Gakiling and Sombaykha Gewogs have mediated the lowest number of disputes (7 each).

Matrimonial (16) is the highest number of disputes mediated, while irrigation & drinking water and crops damaged by the cattle (2 each) are the least number of disputes mediated in the Dzongkhag.

6. Lhuentse Dzongkhag

LHUENTSE DZONGKHAG



Lhuentse Dzongkhag covers an area of approximately 2,854 sq. km with an altitude range of 1,452 meters above sea level. It has a total population of 13,631 as per the Statistical Yearbook of Bhutan 2022 by National Statistics Bureau. 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 was restored to its original grandeur. *Kishuthara*, the most coveted Bhutanese women's attire is produced at Khoma, Lhuentse.



Table 1: Number of disputes mediated in eight Gewogs

Sl. No.	Gewog	Disputes mediated
1	Gangzur	37
2	Jarrey	9
3	Khoma	9
4	Kurtoe	9
5	Menbi	38
6	Metsho	15
7	Minjay	9
8	Tsenkhar	13
Total		139

Graph 1: Number of disputes mediated in eight Gewogs

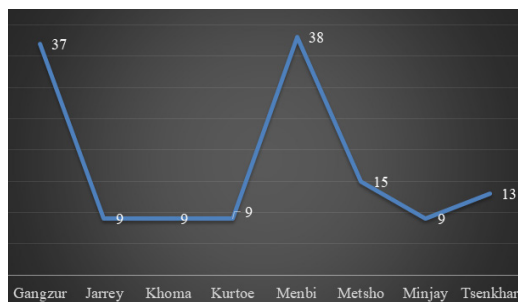
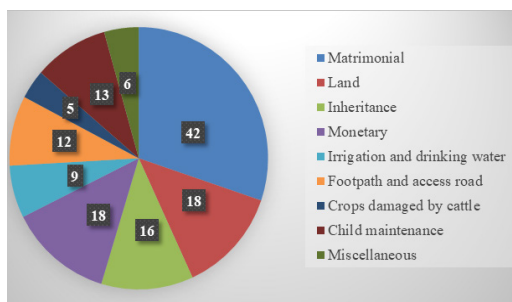


Table 2: Types of disputes mediated in Lhuentse Dzongkhag

Sl. No.	Types of disputes	Disputes mediated
1	Matrimonial	42
2	Land	18
3	Inheritance	16
4	Monetary	18
5	Irrigation and drinking water	9
6	Footpath and access road	12

7	Crops damaged by cattle	5
8	Child maintenance	3
9	Miscellaneous	6
Total		139

Graph 2: Types of disputes mediated in Lhuentse Dzongkhag



Findings

Lhuentse Dzongkhag has mediated a total of 139 disputes. Menbi and Gangzur Gewogs have mediated the highest number of disputes with 38 and 37 respectively. While, Jarrey, Khoma, Kurtoe and Minjay Gewogs have mediated the least number of disputes with 9 each.

Matrimonial (42) top the list followed by land and monetary disputes (18 each). While a total of 5 disputes were mediated on the crops damaged by the cattle which is lowest in the Dzongkhag.

7. Monggar Dzongkhag



Monggar dzongkhag is spread over an area of about 1,940.26 sq. km with elevation ranging from 400-4,000 meters above sea level. It has a total population of 36,384 as per the Statistical Yearbook of Bhutan 2022 by National Statistics Bureau. The Dzongkhag has 17 Gewogs and is the highest in the country. It has one Dungkhag, Weringla which covers two of the remotest Gewogs of Gongdue and Silambi. The majority of the people depend on their livelihood in agriculture. While Maize and Rice are grown abundantly, citrus fruits and vegetables, dairy and poultry products are increasingly becoming an important source of income in the Dzongkhag.

Table 1: Number of disputes mediated in seventeen Gewogs

Sl. No.	Gewog	Disputes mediated
1	Balam	22
2	Chali	5
3	Chaskhar	31
4	Drametse	9
5	Drepong	31
6	Gongdue	12
7	Jurmey	15
8	Kengkhar	14
9	Monggar	20
10	Narang	10
11	Ngatshang	31
12	Saling	12
13	Sherimuhung	16
14	Silambi	11
15	Thangrong	18
16	Tsakaling	20
17	Tsamang	11
Total		288

Graph 1: Number of disputes mediated in seventeen Gewogs

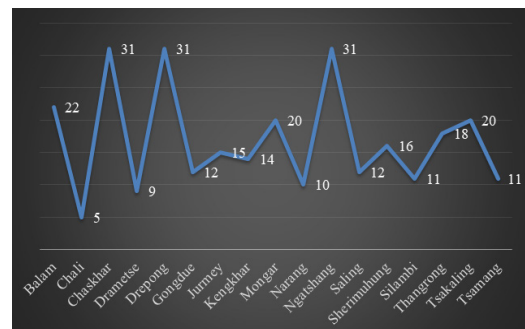
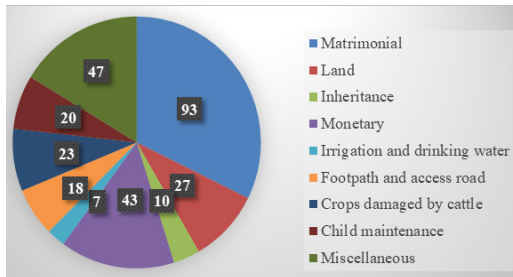


Table 2: Types of disputes mediated in Monggar Dzongkhag

Sl. No.	Types of disputes	Disputes mediated
1	Matrimonial	93
2	Land	27
3	Inheritance	10
4	Monetary	43
5	Irrigation and drinking water	7
6	Footpath and access road	18
7	Crops damaged by cattle	23
8	Child maintenance	20
9	Miscellaneous	47
Total		288

Graph 2: Types of disputes mediated in Monggar Dzongkhag



Findings

Out of 288 disputes mediated in Monggar Dzongkhag, Chaskhar, Drepong and Ngatshang Gewogs have mediated the highest number of disputes (31 each) while Chali Gewog has mediated the lowest number of disputes (5).

Matrimonial (93) is the highest number of disputes; while irrigation and drinking water (7) is the lowest number of disputes mediated in the Dzongkhag.

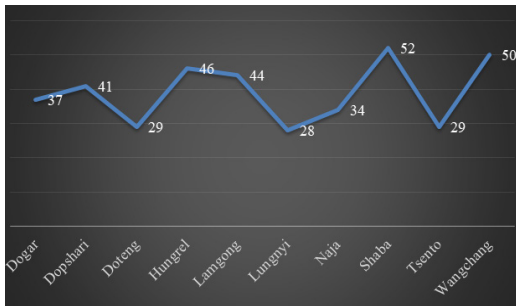
8. Paro Dzongkhag



Paro Dzongkhag is situated in the North- Western part of the country. It has an altitude ranging from 2000-5,600 meters above sea level. The Dzongkhag has an area of 1,287.13 sq. km with a total population of 50,923 as per the Statistical Yearbook of Bhutan 2022 by National Statistics Bureau. Agriculture is one of the main sources of income for the people as the valley has very fertile land with alluvial soil and suitable terrain. The rearing of livestock is also emphasized in the Dzongkhag. Tourism is another important source of income as the only international airport is located in the Dzongkhag.

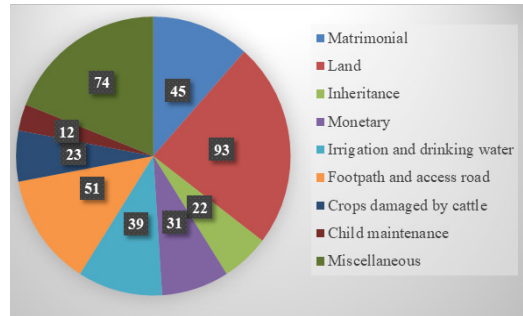
Table 1: Number of disputes mediated in ten Gewogs

Sl. No.	Gewog	Disputes mediated
1	Dogar	37
2	Dopshari	41
3	Doteng	29
4	Hungrel	46
5	Lamgong	44
6	Lungnyi	28
7	Naja	34
8	Shaba	52
9	Tsento	29
10	Wangchang	50
Total		390

Graph 1: Number of disputes mediated in ten Gewogs**Table 2: Types of disputes mediated in Paro Dzongkhag**

Sl. No.	Types of disputes	Disputes mediated
1	Matrimonial	45
2	Land	93
3	Inheritance	22
4	Monetary	31
5	Irrigation and drinking water	39

6	Footpath and access road	51
7	Crops damaged by cattle	23
8	Child maintenance	12
9	Miscellaneous	74
Total		390

Graph 2: Types of disputes mediated in Paro Dzongkhag

Findings

Paro Dzongkhag has mediated a total of 390 disputes which is highest in the country. Shaba Gewog has mediated the maximum number of disputes (52) followed by Wangchang Gewog (50), while Lungnyi Gewog has mediated the lowest number of disputes (28).

Land (93) is the highest number of disputes mediated in the Dzongkhag followed by miscellaneous (74) and footpath and access road (51) respectively. Child maintenance-related dispute (12) is the lowest number of disputes mediated in the Dzongkhag.

9. Pemagatshel Dzongkhag

PEMA GATSHEL DZONGKHAG



GEWOG CENTRES
Scale :1:200,000



Pemagatshel is located in the South-Eastern part of Bhutan. It has a total area of about 1,022.00 sq. km with an elevation ranging from 445-3,000+ meters above sea level. The total population of the Dzongkhag is 23,799 as per the Statistical Yearbook of Bhutan 2022 by National Statistics Bureau. The Dzongkhag receives an average annual rainfall of 1,500-3,000 mm. The forest cover mainly comprises coniferous and broad-leaved species. The climate is hot and humid during the wet season and moderately cold during the dry season. Land holdings are dominated by *kamzhing*. It is administratively divided into 11 Gewogs.

Table 1: Number of disputes mediated in eleven Gewogs

Sl. No.	Gewog	Disputes mediated
1	Chhimoong	2
2	Choekhorling	3
3	Chongshing	3
4	Dechhenling	8
5	Dungmaed	1
6	Khar	3
7	Nanong	9
8	Norbugang	9
9	Shumar	41
10	Yurung	10
11	Zobel	0
Total		89

Graph 1: Number of disputes mediated in eleven Gewogs

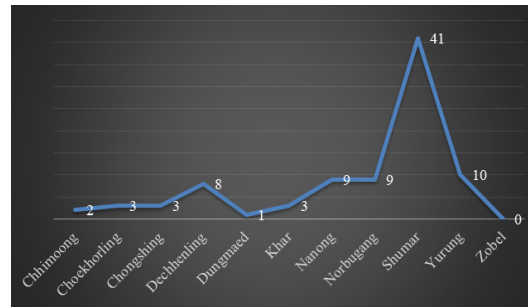
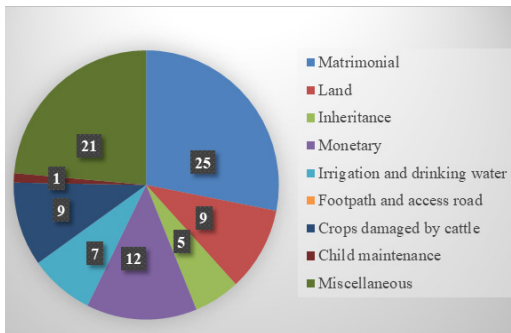


Table 2: Types of disputes mediated in Pemagatshel Dzongkhag

Sl. No.	Types of disputes	Disputes mediated
1	Matrimonial	25
2	Land	9
3	Inheritance	5
4	Monetary	12
5	Irrigation and drinking water	7

6	Footpath and access road	0
7	Crops damaged by cattle	9
8	Child maintenance	1
9	Miscellaneous	21
Total		89

Graph 2: Types of disputes mediated in Pemagatshel Dzongkhag



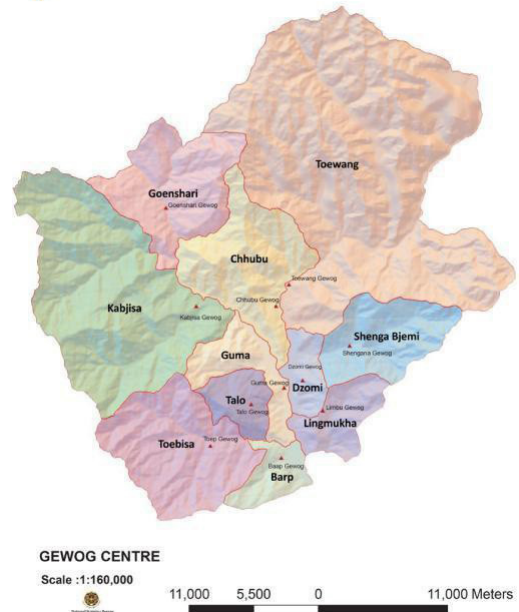
Findings

Pemagatshel Dzongkhag has mediated 89 disputes in total. Shumar Gewog has mediated 41 disputes, which is around 50% of the total disputes in the Dzongkhag and is the highest followed by Yurung Gewog (10).

Matrimonial (25) top the list followed by miscellaneous (21). However, not a single dispute has been mediated pertaining to footpath and access road.

10. Punakha Dzongkhag

PUNAKHA DZONGKHAG



Punakha Dzongkhag is located in Western Bhutan at an altitude range of 1,200-5,400 meters above sea level. The Dzongkhag spreads over an area of 1,109.81 sq. km and has a population of 30,790 as per the Statistical Yearbook of Bhutan 2022 by National Statistics Bureau. The Punakha Dzong is situated at the confluence of the two rivers, Phochu and Mochu, which form 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 the Dzongkhag administration. The Dzongkhag is well known for rice, vegetables and fruits owing to its

favourable location, soil and climatic conditions. The Dzongkhag grows little of everything but the main cash crops are paddy, maize and mustard.

Table 1: Number of disputes mediated in eleven Gewogs

Sl. No.	Gewog	Disputes mediated
1	Barp	29
2	Chhubu	14
3	Dzomi	16
4	Goenshari	12
5	Guma	33
6	Kabjisa	76
7	Lingmukha	30
8	Shenga Bjemi	6
9	Talo	15
10	Toebisa	14
11	Toewang	43
Total		288

Graph 1: Number of disputes mediated in eleven Gewogs

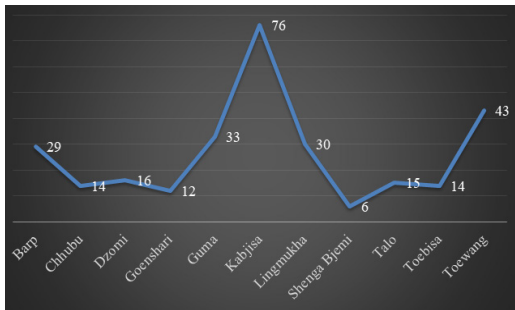
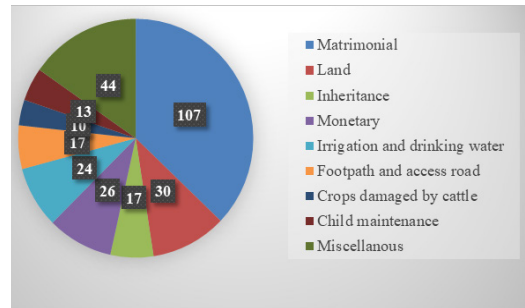


Table 2: Types of disputes mediated in Punakha Dzongkhag

Sl. No.	Types of disputes	Disputes mediated
1	Matrimonial	107
2	Land	30

3	Inheritance	17
4	Monetary	26
5	Irrigation and drinking water	24
6	Footpath and access road	17
7	Crops damaged by cattle	10
8	Child maintenance	13
9	Miscellaneous	44
Total		288

Graph 2: Types of disputes mediated in Punakha Dzongkhag



Findings

Punakha Dzongkhag has mediated a total of 288 disputes. Kabjisa Gewog has mediated the highest number of disputes (76) followed by Toewang (43), while Shenga Bjemi has mediated the lowest number of disputes (6).

Matrimonial (107) is the highest number of disputes mediated in the Dzongkhag followed by miscellaneous (44) and land (30) respectively. The fewest number of disputes mediated pertain to crops damaged by the cattle (10) followed by child maintenance-related disputes (13).

11. Samdrup Jongkhar Dzongkhag



Samdrup Jongkhar Dzongkhag is situated in the South-Eastern corner of the country. The Dzongkhag spreads over an area of 1,877.94 sq. km and has a total population of 34,908 as per the Statistical Yearbook of Bhutan 2022 by National Statistics Bureau. The Dzongkhag is located in the sub-tropical climate zone, extending from an altitude range of 250-1,900 meters above sea level. The Dzongkhag has two Dungkhangs Jomotsangkha and Samdrup Choeling. In addition, there is one Thromde - Samdrup Jongkhar and 2 Yenlag Thromdes - Samdrupcholing and Jomotsangkha.

Table 1: Number of disputes mediated in eleven Gewogs

Sl. No.	Gewog	Disputes mediated
1	Dewathang	12
2	Gomdar	10
3	Langchenphu	1
4	Lauri	6
5	Martshalla	16
6	Orong	9

7	Pemathang	9
8	Phuntshothang	10
9	Samrang	3
10	Serthi	4
11	Wangphu	6
Total		86

Graph 1: Number of disputes mediated in eleven Gewogs

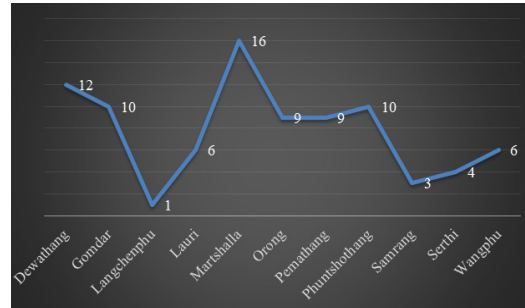
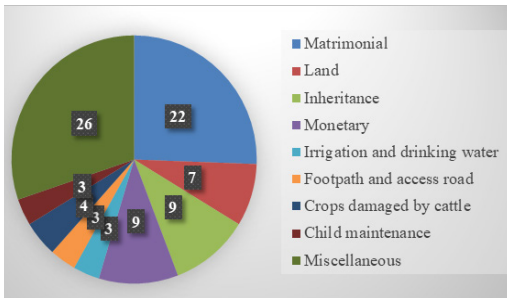


Table 2: Types of disputes mediated in Samdrup Jongkhar Dzongkhag

Sl. No.	Types of disputes	Disputes mediated
1	Matrimonial	22
2	Land	7
3	Inheritance	9
4	Monetary	9
5	Irrigation and drinking water	3
6	Footpath and access road	3
7	Crops damaged by cattle	4
8	Child maintenance	3
9	Miscellaneous	26
Total		86

Graph 2: Types of disputes mediated in Samdrup Jongkhar Dzongkhag



Findings

Out of 86 disputes mediated in Samdrup Jongkhar Dzongkhag, Martshalla Gewog has mediated the highest number of disputes (16) followed by Dewathang Gewog (12).

The miscellaneous matter (26) is the highest number of disputes mediated in the Dzongkhag, followed by matrimonial disputes (22). The irrigation and drinking water, footpath and access road, and child maintenance (3 each) are the lowest number of disputes mediated in the Dzongkhag.



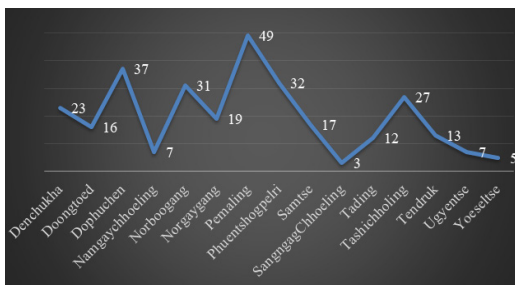
12. Samtse Dzongkhag



Samtse Dzongkhag lies in the South-West of Bhutan. It is located at an altitude ranging from 200- 4,400 meters above sea level in the sub-tropical monsoon climatic zone. The Dzongkhag spreads over an area of 1,305 sq. km and has a total population of 63,039 as per the Statistical Yearbook of Bhutan 2022 by National Statistics Bureau. The Dzongkhag has two Dungkhags Dorokha and Tashichholing. In the foothill of Yoeseltse, Ugyentse, Norboogang, Samtse, Tashichholing, and Tendruk Gewogs, paddy is the main staple crop. Farmers also cultivate mustard. In the Northern part of the Dzongkhag, the people grow cardamom as the main cash crop. Apart from this, people also generate income by selling dairy and poultry products.

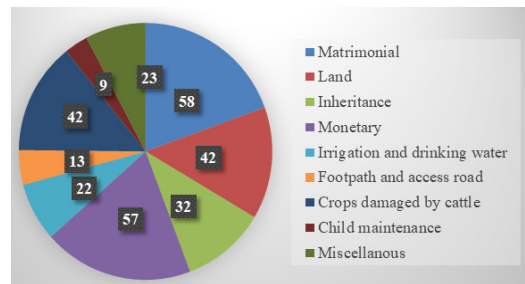
Table 1: Number of disputes mediated in fifteen Gewogs

Sl. No.	Gewog	Disputes mediated
1	Denchukha	23
2	Doongtoed	16
3	Dophuchen	37
4	Namgaychhoeling	7
5	Norboogang	31
6	Norgaygang	19
7	Pemaling	49
8	Phuentshogpelri	32
9	Samtse	17
10	SangngagChhoeling	3
11	Tading	12
12	Tashichholing	27
13	Tendruk	13
14	Ugyentse	7
15	Yoeseltse	5
Total		298

Graph 1: Number of disputes mediated in fifteen Gewogs**Table 2: Types of disputes mediated in Samtse Dzongkhag**

Sl. No.	Types of disputes	Disputes mediated
1	Matrimonial	58
2	Land	42

3	Inheritance	32
4	Monetary	57
5	Irrigation and drinking water	22
6	Footpath and access road	13
7	Crops damaged by cattle	42
8	Child maintenance	9
9	Miscellaneous	23
Total		298

Graph 2: Types of disputes mediated in Samtse Dzongkhag

Findings

A total of 378 disputes were mediated in Samtse Dzongkhag which is the third highest in the country after Trashigang (316) and Paro Dzongkhag (390). Pemaling Gewog has mediated the maximum number of disputes (49), while Sangna Chholing Gewog has mediated the fewest number of disputes (3).

Regarding the types of disputes mediated, matrimonial (58) is the highest number of disputes followed by monetary disputes (57), while child maintenance-related matter is the lowest number of disputes (9) in the Dzongkhag.

13. Sarpang Dzongkhag



Sarpang Dzongkhag has an area of 1,682 sq. km. It is located in the Central-Southern foothills with an elevation ranging from 210-2,600 meters above sea level. The Dzongkhag consists of 12 Gewogs and 61 Chiwogs. It has a total population of 49,472 as per the Statistical Yearbook of Bhutan 2022 by National Statistics Bureau. The people cultivate paddy, maize, wheat, and millet. Orange, areca nut and ginger are grown as the principal cash crops. The fertile arable land along with favourable climatic conditions offers possibilities for farm mechanization and commercial horticulture in the Dzongkhag.

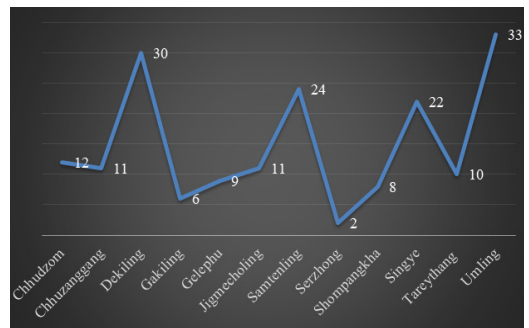
Table 1: Number of disputes mediated in twelve Gewogs

Sl. No.	Gewog	Disputes mediated
1	Chhudzom	12
2	Chhuzanggang	11
3	Dekiling	30
4	Gakiling	6
5	Gelephu	9

6	Jigmecholing	11
7	Samtenling	24
8	Serzhong	2
9	Shompangkha	8
10	Singye	22
11	Tareythang	10
12	Umling	33
Total		178

Graph 1: Number of disputes mediated in twelve Gewogs

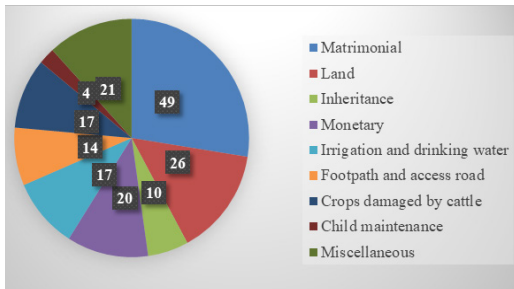
Table 2: Types of disputes mediated in



Sarpang Dzongkhag

Sl. No.	Types of disputes	Disputes mediated
1	Matrimonial	49
2	Land	26
3	Inheritance	10
4	Monetary	20
5	Irrigation and drinking water	17
6	Footpath and access road	14
7	Crops damaged by cattle	17
8	Child maintenance	4
9	Miscellaneous	21
Total		178

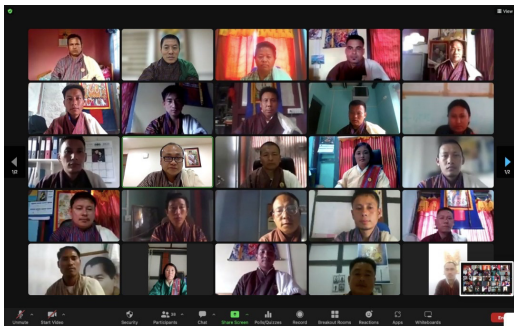
Graph 2: Types of disputes mediated in Sarpang Dzongkhag



Findings

Out of 178 disputes mediated in Sarpang Dzongkhag, Umling Gewog has mediated the highest number of disputes (33), followed by Dekiling Gewog (30). While Serzhong Gewog has mediated the lowest number of disputes (2).

Matrimonial (49) is the highest number of disputes mediated in the Dzongkhag, followed by land (26) and miscellaneous (21) respectively. The matter which pertains to child maintenance is the fewest number of disputes (4), followed by inheritance (10).



14. Thimphu Dzongkhag



Thimphu Dzongkhag is located in the Western part of the country. Its geographical area is approximately 1,795.868 sq. km with an altitude ranging from 2,330 meters above sea level. The Dzongkhag has eight Gewogs and one Dungkhag-Lingzhi. It has a total population of 158,387 as per the Statistical Yearbook of Bhutan 2022 by National Statistics Bureau. Thimphu is the capital city of Bhutan and is also the largest city in the country. It is the country's Administrative Center and many head offices are located in the Dzongkhag. Paddy and wheat are the main cereal crops grown in Thimphu Dzongkhag. Various vegetables are also grown in the Dzongkhag - chilli and apples are cultivated on a large scale for commercial purposes. Livestock-rearing is another source of income for the people in the Dzongkhag. The Dzongkhag is very rich in non-wood forest products such as cordyceps, medicinal plants, matsutake and many other mushrooms. The urban explosion

has led to the conversion of agricultural fields into commercial, institutional and housing apartments.

Table 1: Number of disputes mediated in eight Gewogs

Sl. No.	Gewog	Disputes mediated
1	Chang	42
2	Dagala	4
3	Geney	15
4	Kawang	3
5	Lingzhi	1
6	Mewang	27
7	Naro	0
8	Soe	1
Total		93

Graph 1: Number of disputes mediated in eight Gewogs

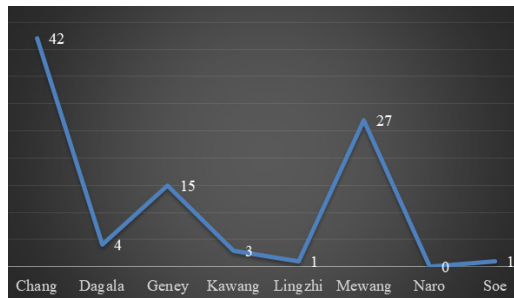
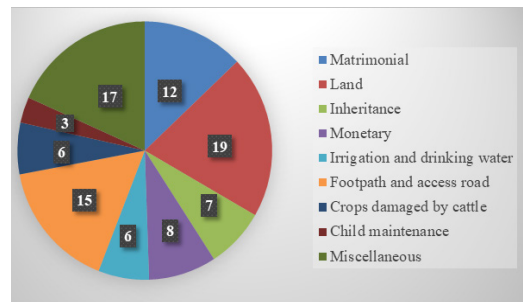


Table 2: Types of disputes mediated in Thimphu Dzongkhag

Sl. No.	Types of disputes	Disputes mediated
1	Matrimonial	12
2	Land	19
3	Inheritance	7
4	Monetary	8

5	Irrigation and drinking water	6
6	Footpath and access road	15
7	Crops damaged by cattle	6
8	Child maintenance	3
9	Miscellaneous	17
Total		93

Graph 2: Types of disputes mediated in Thimphu Dzongkhag



Findings

A total of 93 disputes were mediated in Thimphu Dzongkhag. Chang Gewog has mediated the maximum number of disputes (42); however, not a single case has been mediated by Naro Gewog.

The land-related matter (19) is the highest number of disputes mediated in the Dzongkhag, followed by miscellaneous (17). The matters which pertain to child maintenance (3) is the lowest number of disputes, followed by irrigation and drinking water and crops damaged by the cattle (6 each).

15. Trashigang Dzongkhag



Trashigang Dzongkhag with an elevation ranging from 600-4,500 meters above 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 of about 3,066.90 sq. km. The Drangme Chu, one of the largest rivers in the country passes through the Dzongkhag. The climate is mainly temperate with an annual rainfall ranging from 1,000-2,000 mm. Trashigang Dzongkhag has a total population of 42,852 as per the Statistical Yearbook of Bhutan 2022 by National Statistics Bureau. The Dzongkhag has 3 Dungkhags-Sagteng, Wamrong and Thrimshing.

Table 1: Number of disputes mediated in fifteen Gewogs

Sl. No.	Gewog	Disputes mediated
1	Bartsham	2
2	Bidung	11
3	Kanglung	41
4	Kangpara	10
5	Khaling	15
6	Lumang	10

7	Merak	38
8	Phongmey	21
9	Radhi	73
10	Sakteng	15
11	Samkhar	15
12	Shongphu	12
13	Thrimshing	7
14	Udzorong	34
15	Yangnyer	12
Total		316

Graph 1: Number of disputes mediated in fifteen Gewogs

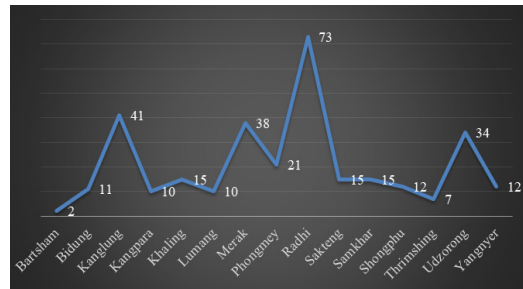
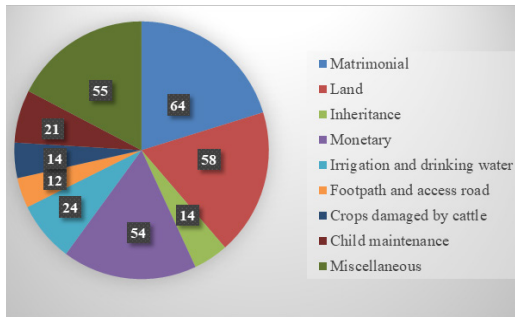


Table 2: Types of disputes mediated in Trashigang Dzongkhag

Sl. No.	Types of disputes	Disputes mediated
1	Matrimonial	64
2	Land	58
3	Inheritance	14
4	Monetary	54
5	Irrigation and drinking water	24
6	Footpath and access road	12
7	Crops damaged by cattle	14
8	Child maintenance	21
9	Miscellaneous	55
Total		316

Graph 2: Types of disputes mediated in Trashigang Dzongkhag



Findings

Trashigang Dzongkhag has mediated a total of 316 disputes and is the second highest after Paro Dzongkhag (390). Radhi Gewog has mediated the maximum number of disputes (73) followed by Kanglung Gewog (41). While Bartsham Gewog has mediated the lowest number of disputes (2) followed by Thrimshing Gewog (7).

Matrimonial (64) is the highest number of disputes mediated in the Dzongkhag followed by land (58) and miscellaneous (55) respectively. While footpath and access road-related (12) is the fewest number of disputes followed by inheritance and crops damaged by the cattle (14 each).

16. Trashiyangtse Dzongkhag

TASHI YANGTSE DZONGKHAG



Located in the North-Eastern part of the country, Trashiyangtse Dzongkhag has an area of 1,438.8 sq. km and an altitude ranging from 500-5,401 meters above sea level. The Dzongkhag is known for pilgrimage sites such as Gomphu Kora, Chorten Kora and Rig-Sum Goenpa. The Dzongkhag has a total population of 16,697 as per the Statistical Yearbook of Bhutan 2022 by National Statistics Bureau. The people produce traditional wooden bowls which are prized throughout the country.

Table 1: Number of disputes mediated in the eight Gewogs

Sl. No.	Gewog	Disputes mediated
1	Bumdeling	18
2	Jamkhar	14
3	Khamdang	27
4	Ramjar	0

5	Toetsho	29
6	Tongzhang	61
7	Yallang	6
8	Yangtse	19
Total		174

Graph 1: Number of disputes mediated in eight Gewogs

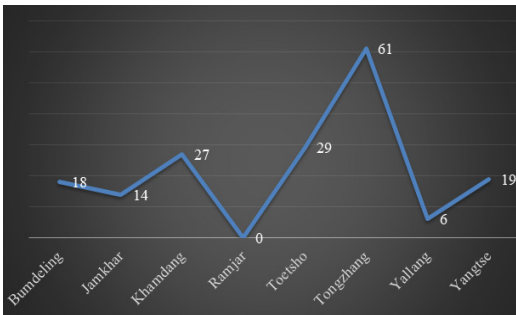
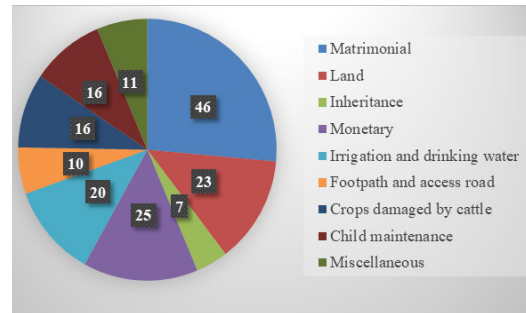


Table 2: Types of disputes mediated in Trashiyangtse Dzongkhag

Sl. No.	Types of disputes	Disputes mediated
1	Matrimonial	46
2	Land	23
3	Inheritance	7
4	Monetary	25
5	Irrigation and drinking water	20
6	Footpath and access road	10
7	Crops damaged by cattle	16
8	Child maintenance	16
9	Miscellaneous	11
Total		174

Graph 2: Types of disputes mediated in Trashiyangtse Dzongkhag



Findings

Out of 174 disputes mediated in Trashiyangtse Dzongkhag, Tongzhang Gewog has mediated the highest number of disputes (61) followed by Toetsho (29) and Khamdang Gewog (27) respectively. However, not a single dispute has been mediated by Ramjar Gewog.

Matrimonial (46) is the maximum number of disputes mediated in the Dzongkhag followed by monetary (25) and land disputes (23). While inheritance (7) is the fewest number of disputes followed by miscellaneous matters (11).



17. Trongsa Dzongkhag

TRONGSA DZONGKHAG



Trongsa Dzongkhag holds a historical significance in the transformation of Bhutan. It is centrally located and covers an area of 1,807 sq. km. It has a total population of 22,869 as per the Statistical Yearbook of Bhutan 2022 by National Statistics Bureau. The Dzongkhag has an elevation ranging from 800-4,800 meters above sea level. The people largely depend on agriculture farming and livestock for their livelihood. The Hydro-Power Projects of Mangde Chu and Nika Chu have driven the business activities in the Dzongkhag. Potato, green tea, chilli, cardamom and paddy are the main source of income in the Dzongkhag.

Table 1: Number of disputes mediated in five Gewogs

Sl. No.	Gewog	Disputes mediated
1	Drakteng	0
2	Korphu	7
3	Langthel	13
4	Nubi	7
5	Tangsibje	5
Total		32

Graph 1: Number of disputes mediated in five Gewogs

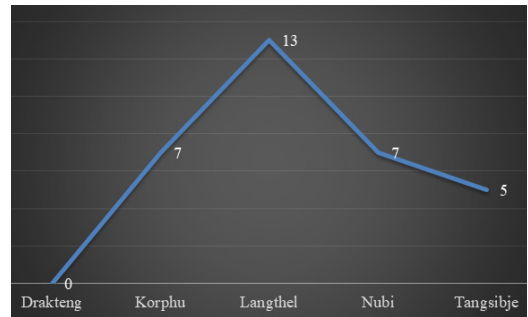
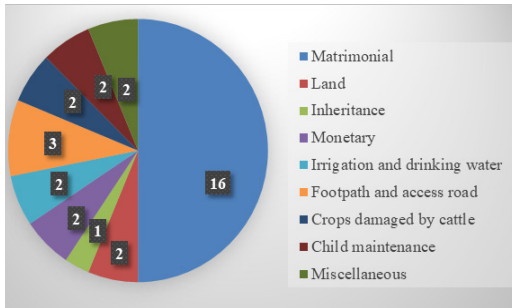


Table 2: Types of disputes mediated in Trongsa Dzongkhag

Sl. No.	Types of disputes	Disputes mediated
1	Matrimonial	16
2	Land	2
3	Inheritance	1
4	Monetary	2
5	Irrigation and drinking water	2
6	Footpath and access road	3
7	Crops damaged by cattle	2
8	Child maintenance	2
9	Miscellaneous	2
Total		32

Graph 2: Types of disputes mediated in Trongsa Dzongkhag



Findings

Trongsa Dzongkhag has mediated a total of 32 disputes and is second lowest in the country after Gasa (16). Langthel Gewog has mediated the maximum number of disputes (13); while not a single dispute has been mediated by Drakteng Gewog.

The maximum number of disputes mediated pertains to matrimonial disputes (16) and it constitutes 50 per cent of the cases mediated in the Dzongkhag. While inheritance-related dispute (1) is the least number of disputes mediated in Trongsa Dzongkhag.

18. Tsirang Dzongkhag



Tsirang Dzongkhag lies in the South-central part of the country with an area of 639 sq. km. The altitude ranges from 500-1,900 meters above sea level. The Dzongkhag has a total population of 23,771 as per the Statistical Yearbook of Bhutan 2022 by National Statistics Bureau. Most people depend on agriculture and livestock rearing. The favourable climatic condition and diverse agro-ecological features provide the Dzongkhag with the potential for the 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 products in the Dzongkhag



are oranges, Paddy, ginger, cabbage, cauliflower, and *Dollay* chilli.

Table 1: Number of disputes mediated in twelve Gewogs

Sl. No.	Gewog	Disputes mediated
1	Barshong	8
2	Doonglagang	11
3	Gosarling	17
4	Kilkhorthang	32
5	Mendrelgang	10
6	Patshaling	14
7	Pungtenchu	12
8	Rangthangling	4
9	Semjong	7
10	Sergithang	9
11	Tsholingkhar	16
12	Tsirangtoed	2
Total		142

Graph 1: Number of disputes mediated in twelve Gewogs

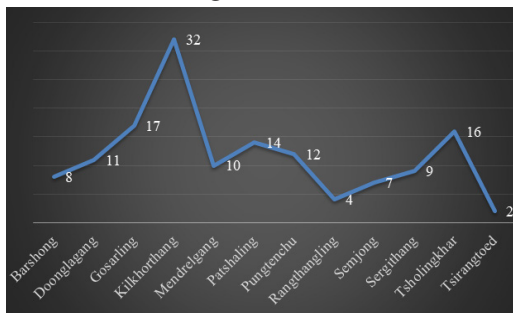
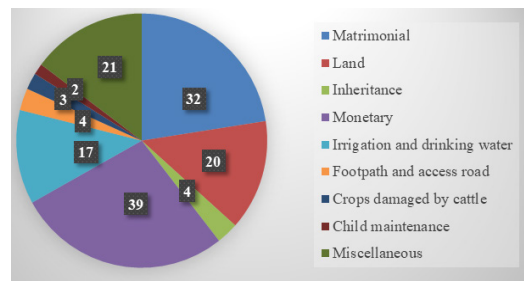


Table 2: Types of disputes mediated in Tsirang Dzongkhag

Sl. No.	Types of disputes	Disputes mediated
1	Matrimonial	32
2	Land	20
3	Inheritance	4

4	Monetary	39
5	Irrigation and drinking water	17
6	Footpath and access road	4
7	Crops damaged by cattle	3
8	Child maintenance	2
9	Miscellaneous	21
Total		142

Graph 2: Types of disputes mediated in Tsirang Dzongkhag



Findings

A total of 142 disputes were mediated in Tsirang Dzongkhag. Kilkhorthang Gewog has mediated the maximum number of disputes (32) while Tsirang Toed Gewog has mediated the lowest number of disputes (2).

Monetary (39) is the maximum dispute mediated in the Dzongkhag followed by matrimonial issues (32). While child maintenance-related dispute (2) is the minimum number of disputes mediated, followed by crops damaged by the cattle (3).

19. Wangduephodrang Dzongkhag



Wangduephodrang Dzongkhag lies in the North-West part of the country with an area of 4,029.03 sq. km. The altitude ranges from 800-5,500 meters above sea level. It has a total population of 46,858 as per the Statistical Yearbook of Bhutan 2022 by National Statistics Bureau. Most of the people in the Dzongkhag depend on agriculture and livestock farming. The favourable climatic condition and diverse agro-ecological features provide the Dzongkhag with the potential for the cultivation of various types of cereal crops as well as horticulture crops. Paddy, maize and millet are the main cereal crops grown while orange, persimmon and vegetables are the principal cash crops. Paddy, chilli and potato cultivation is very famous in the Dzongkhag. The main sources of income are potatoes, cordyceps in the North, and paddy and vegetables in the South. Livestock-rearing is also an important income for the people.

Table 1: Number of disputes mediated in fifteen Gewogs

Sl. No.	Gewog	Disputes mediated
1	Athang	5
2	Bjena	8
3	Daga	9
4	Dangchu	9
5	Gangtey	21
6	Gasetsho Gom	14
7	Gasetsho Wom	2
8	Kazhi	52
9	Nahi	25
10	Nyisho	20
11	Phangyul	12
12	Phobjikha	20
13	Rubesa	23
14	Sephu	12
15	Thedtsho	10
Total		242

Graph 1: Number of disputes mediated in fifteen Gewogs

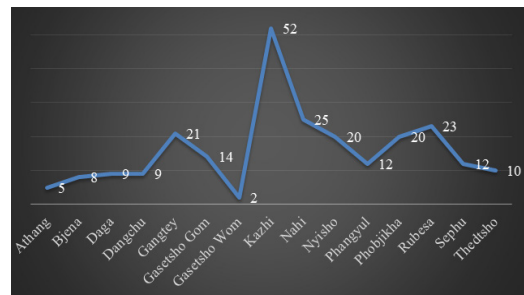
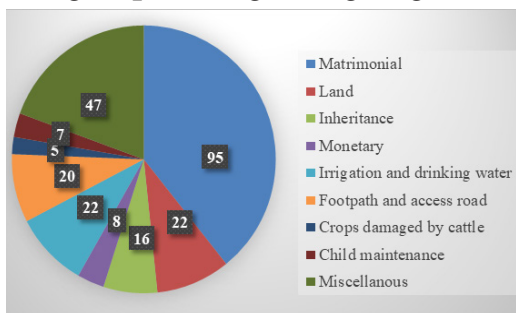


Table 2: Types of disputes mediated in Wangdue Phodrang Dzongkhag

Sl. No.	Types of disputes	Disputes mediated
1	Matrimonial	95
2	Land	22
3	Inheritance	16

4	Monetary	8
5	Irrigation and drinking water	22
6	Footpath and access road	20
7	Crops damaged by cattle	5
8	Child maintenance	7
9	Miscellaneous	47
Total		242

Graph 2: Types of disputes mediated in Wangduephodrang Dzongkhag



Findings

Out of 242 disputes mediated under Wangdu Phodrang Dzongkhag, Kazhi Gewog has mediated the highest number of disputes (52) followed by Nahi Gewog (25), while Gasetsho Wom has mediated the fewest number of disputes (2) followed by Athang Gewog (5).

Matrimonial (95) is the maximum number of disputes mediated in the Dzongkhag, while crops damaged by cattle (5) are the lowest number of disputes followed by child maintenance (7) and monetary (8) respectively.

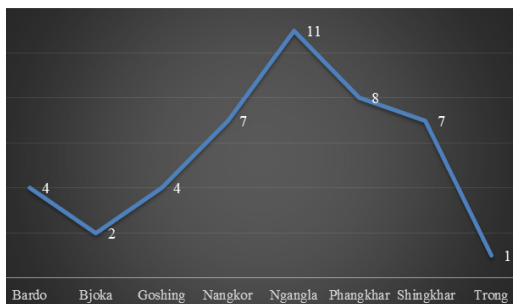
20. Zhemgang Dzongkhag



Zhemgang Dzongkhag is located in the Central-Southern region of the country with an area of approximately 2,421.74 sq. km. It has a total population of 16,926 as per the Statistical Yearbook of Bhutan 2022 by National Statistics Bureau. The Dzongkhag is also a part of the wildlife corridor of the Royal Manas National Park, Jigme Singye Wangchuck National Park and Thrimshingla National Park. The Dzongkhag experiences both temperate and tropical climates owing to its significant altitudinal variations. People cultivate mainly maize followed by paddy, buckwheat, millet, barley, wheat, foxtail millet, potato, etc. Mandarin is the main source of cash income for the Southern and Central Gewogs, while the Northern Gewogs depend on livestock products for income.

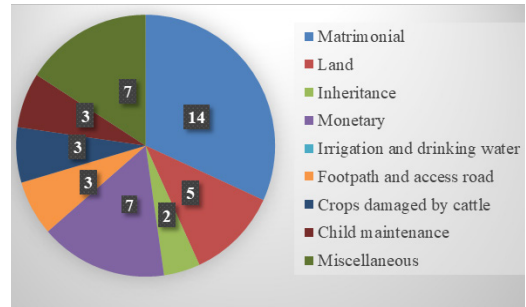
Table 1: Number of disputes mediated in eight Gewogs

Sl. No.	Gewog	Disputes mediated
1	Bardo	4
2	Bjoka	2
3	Goshing	4
4	Nangkor	7
5	Ngangla	11
6	Phangkhar	8
7	Shingkhar	7
8	Trong	1
Total		44

Graph 1: Number of disputes mediated in eight Gewogs**Table 2: Types of disputes mediated in Zhemgang Dzongkhag**

Sl. No.	Types of disputes	Disputes mediated
1	Matrimonial	14
2	Land	5
3	Inheritance	2
4	Monetary	7
5	Irrigation and drinking water	0
6	Footpath and access road	3
7	Crops damaged by cattle	3

8	Child maintenance	3
9	Miscellaneous	7
Total		44

Graph 2: Number of disputes mediated in Zhemgang Dzongkhag

Findings

A total of 44 disputes were mediated in Zhemgang Dzongkhag. Ngangla Gewog has mediated the maximum number of disputes (11) while Trong Gewog has mediated the fewest number of disputes (1).

Matrimonial (14) is the highest number of disputes mediated in the Dzongkhag followed by monetary and miscellaneous (7 each). However, not a single dispute has been mediated on irrigation and drinking water.

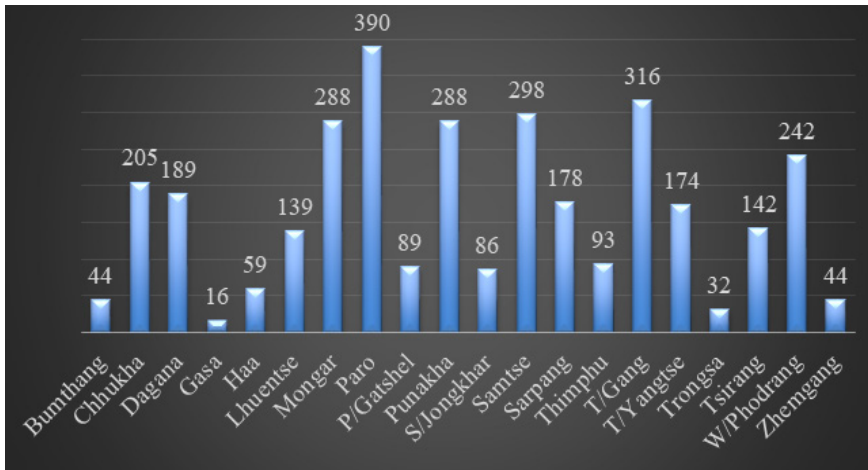


Findings of 205 Gewogs in a Nutshell

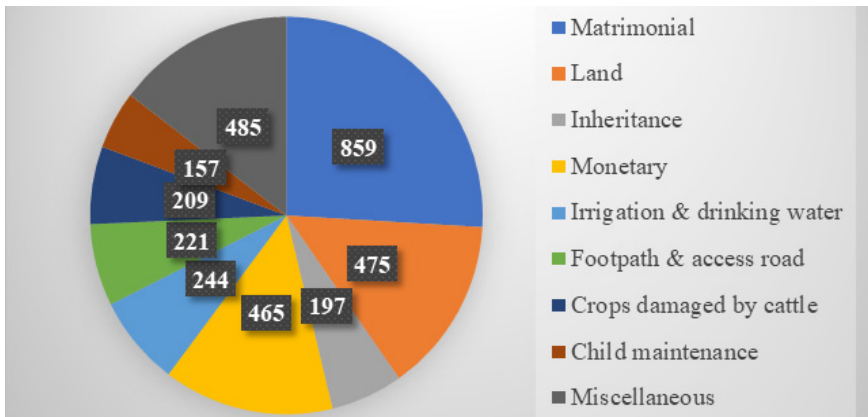
Number and Types of disputes mediated in 205 Gewogs

Sl. No.	Dzongkhag	Types of disputes									Total
		Matrimonial	Land	Inheritance	Monetary	Irrigation & drinkingwater	Footpath & access road	Crops damaged by cattle	Child maintenance	Miscella-neous	
1	Bumthang	19	4	4	2	0	2	1	1	11	44
2	Chhukha	59	39	6	27	9	10	19	20	16	205
3	Dagana	39	23	10	62	11	9	5	3	27	189
4	Gasa	6	2	1	0	3	0	0	0	4	16
5	Haa	16	6	4	15	2	5	2	4	5	59
6	Lhuentse	42	18	16	18	9	12	5	13	6	139
7	Mongar	93	27	10	43	7	18	23	20	47	288
8	Paro	45	93	22	31	39	51	23	12	74	390
9	P/Gatshel	25	9	5	12	7	0	9	1	21	89
10	Punakha	107	30	17	26	24	17	10	13	44	288
11	S/Jongkhar	22	7	9	9	3	3	4	3	26	86
12	Samtse	58	42	32	57	22	13	42	9	23	298
13	Sarpang	49	26	10	20	17	14	17	4	21	178
14	Thimphu	12	19	7	8	6	15	6	3	17	93
15	T/Gang	64	58	14	54	24	12	14	21	55	316
16	T/Yangtse	46	23	7	25	20	10	16	16	11	174
17	Trongsa	16	2	1	2	2	3	2	2	2	32
18	Tsirang	32	20	4	39	17	4	3	2	21	142
19	W/Phodrang	95	22	16	8	22	20	5	7	47	242
20	Zhemgang	14	5	2	7	0	3	3	3	7	44
Total		859	475	197	465	244	221	209	157	485	3312

Graph 1: Number of disputes mediated in 205 Gewogs



Graph 2: Types of disputes mediated in 205 Gewogs



Findings of 205 Gewogs

A total of 3312 disputes were mediated in 205 Gewogs. Paro Dzongkhag has mediated the highest number of disputes (390), followed by Trashigang (316) and Samtse (298) respectively. Gasa Dzongkhag has mediated the lowest number of disputes (16), followed by Trongsa (32).

Out of 3312 disputes mediated in 205 Gewogs, matrimonial (859) is the highest number of disputes followed by miscellaneous (485) and land-related issues (475). Miscellaneous matters pertain to misunderstanding between family and neighbours, alcohol consumption and misunderstandings, census-related issues, timber, wages, rental issues, construction works, business, contracts, *Tsamdro*, etc. While child maintenance-related issue (157) is the lowest number of disputes mediated in the country followed by inheritance (197) and crops damaged by cattle (209) respectively.

B. Report from *Thromde Thuemis*

The Institute has been collecting mediation reports from the *Gewog* Offices only. This time, the Institute is pleased to compile the reports from *Thromde Thuemis* for the first time. However, most of the *Thromde Thuemis* mentioned that no official records have been maintained like *Gewog* Offices despite several disputes mediated by them. The records were not maintained since they do not have to submit the reports to any offices or no reports as such have been asked to submit by anyone. Few *Thuemis* also mentioned that most of the disputes which arise in their constituencies or jurisdictions have to send to the *Gewog* Offices since they do not have the skills and techniques to handle the disputes due to the lack of mediation training.

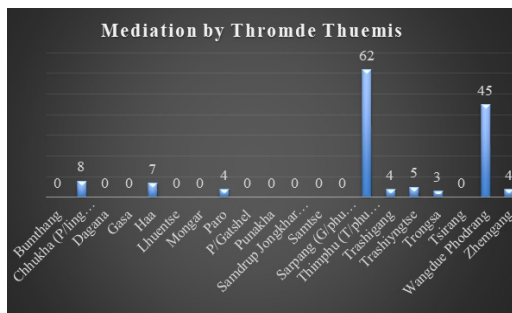
The *Thromde Thuemis* also play a crucial role in resolving disputes through mediation in their jurisdiction. Thus, training on mediation skills and techniques for the *Thromde Thuemis* is also indispensable. In the future, the Institute will look into the matter and provide mediation training to the *Thromde Thuemis* as well.

Table 1: Number of disputes mediated by *Thromde Thuemis* in 20 Dzongkhags

Sl. No.	Dzongkhag	Disputes mediated
1	Bumthang	0
2	<i>Chhukha (P/ling Thromde)</i>	8
3	Dagana	0

4	Gasa	0
5	Haa	7
6	Lhuentse	0
7	Monggar	0
8	Paro	4
9	P/Gatshel	0
10	Punakha	0
11	<i>Samdrup Jongkhar (S/ Jongkhar Thromde)</i>	0
12	Samtse	0
13	<i>Sarpang (G/phu Thromde)</i>	0
14	<i>Thimphu (T/phu Thromde)</i>	62
15	Trashigang	4
16	Trashiyangtse	5
17	Trongsa	3
18	Tsirang	0
19	Wangdue Phodrang	45
20	Zhemgang	4
Total		142

Graph 1: Number of disputes mediated by *Thromde Thuemis* in 20 Dzongkhags



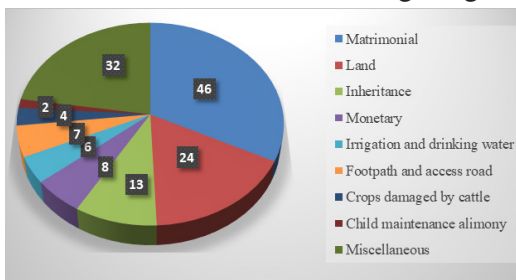
Findings

The Tshogpas of Thimphu Thromde have mediated the maximum number of disputes (62) followed by Thromde Ngotshab of Wangdue Phodrang Dzongkhag (45). Despite having mediated several disputes, eleven Dzongkhags did not maintain a proper record and thus, no reports were submitted to the Institute this time.

Table 2: Types of disputes mediated *Thromde Thuemis* in 20 Dzongkhags

Sl. No.	Types of dispute	Disputes mediated
1	Matrimonial	46
2	Land	24
3	Inheritance	13
4	Monetary	8
5	Irrigation and drinking water	6
6	Footpath and access road	7
7	Crops damaged by cattle	4
8	Child maintenance alimony	2
9	Miscellaneous	32
Total		142

Graph 2: Types of disputes mediated by *Thromde Thuemis* in 20 Dzongkhags



Findings

The Matrimonial (46) is the highest number of disputes mediated by the *Thromde Thuemis* followed by miscellaneous (32) and land-related issues (24) respectively. Miscellaneous matters pertain to misunderstanding between people, rental issues, construction works, drainage system, sales, etc. While child maintenance-related issue (2) is the fewest number of disputes mediated by the *Thromde Thuemis* followed by crops damaged by the cattle (4) and irrigation and drinking water (6).

C. Overall Findings (205 Gewogs & Thromdes)

Report received from 205 Gewogs and *Thromde Thuemis* from 20 Dzongkhags including four *Thromdes* revealed that a total of 3454 disputes were mediated in the country from January to December 2022. Paro Dzongkhag has mediated the highest number of disputes (393) followed by Trashigang (320) and Samtse Dzongkhag (298) respectively. While, Gasa Dzongkhag has mediated the lowest number of disputes (16), followed by Trongsa (35). Paro Dzongkhag has continuously mediated the maximum number of disputes in the Country since the compilation of its Annual reports for the last six years.

Regarding the types of disputes mediated, matrimonial (896) is the highest number of disputes mediated in

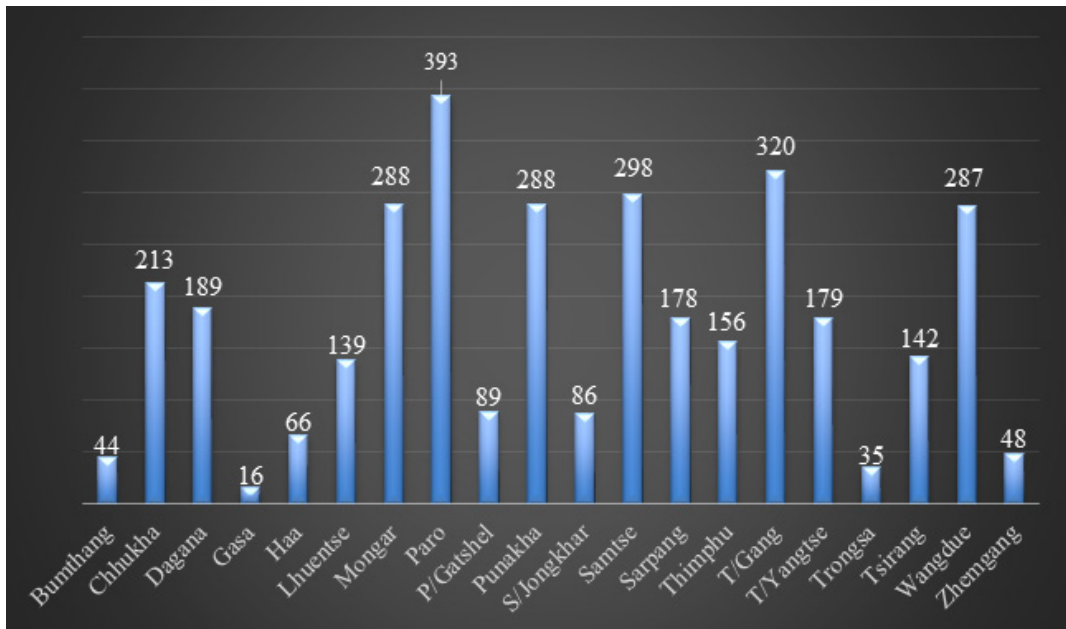
the country followed by miscellaneous (527) and land (499) respectively. While child maintenance-related issue (159) is

the lowest number of disputes followed by inheritance (210) and crops damaged by cattle (213).

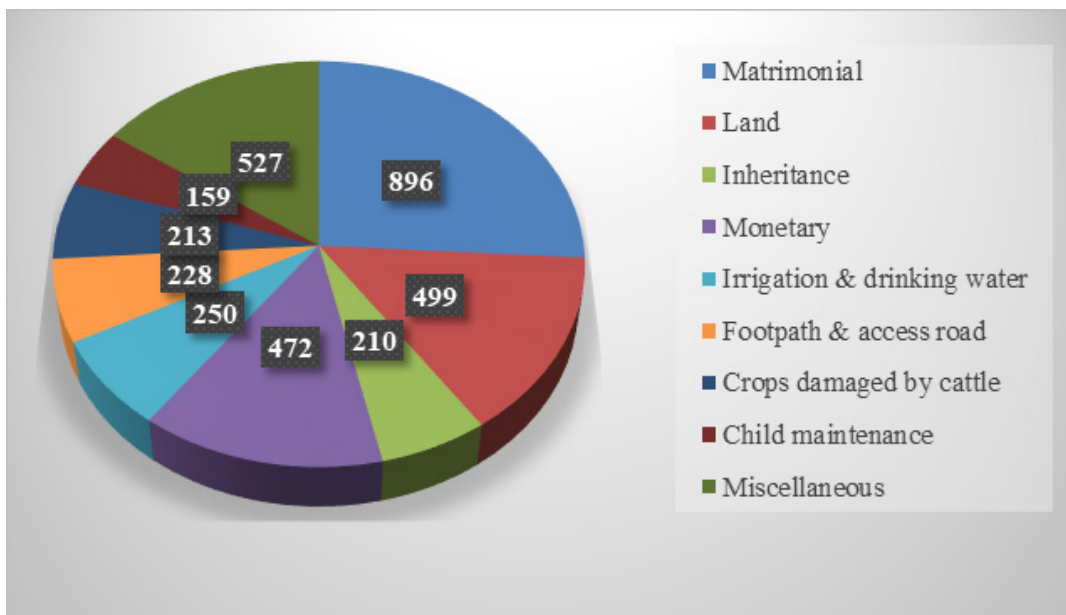
Number & Types of disputes mediated by LG Leaders of 205 Gewogs and *Thromde Thuemis* of Twenty Dzongkhags

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	4	4	2	0	2	1	1	11	44
2	Chhukha	63	41	7	27	10	10	19	20	16	213
3	Dagana	39	23	10	62	11	9	5	3	27	189
4	Gasa	6	2	1	0	3	0	0	0	4	16
5	Haa	16	6	4	15	2	6	2	4	11	66
6	Lhuentse	42	18	16	18	9	12	5	13	6	139
7	Monggar	93	27	10	43	7	18	23	20	47	288
8	Paro	45	94	23	31	39	51	23	12	75	393
9	P/Gatshel	25	9	5	12	7	0	9	1	21	89
10	Punakha	107	30	17	26	24	17	10	13	44	288
11	S/Jongkhar	22	7	9	9	3	3	4	3	26	86
12	Samtse	58	42	32	57	22	13	42	9	23	298
13	Sarpang	49	26	10	20	17	14	17	4	21	178
14	Thimphu	30	37	14	9	11	15	6	3	31	156
15	T/Gang	65	58	14	55	24	12	15	21	56	320
16	T/Yangtse	47	25	7	25	20	10	16	16	13	179
17	Trongsa	18	2	2	2	2	3	2	2	2	35
18	Tsirang	32	20	4	39	17	4	3	2	21	142
19	W/Phodrang	105	22	19	13	22	26	8	9	63	287
20	Zhemgang	15	6	2	7	0	3	3	3	9	48
Total		896	499	210	472	250	228	213	159	527	3454

Graph 1: Number of disputes mediated by LG Leaders of 205 Gewogs and *Thromde Thuemis* of Twenty Dzongkhags



Graph 2: Types of disputes mediated by LG Leaders of 205 Gewogs and *Thromde Thuemis* of Twenty Dzongkhags



Overall Findings

In 2022, a total of 3454 disputes were mediated by the LG Leaders of 205 Gewogs and *Thromde Thuemis* of 20 *Dzongkhags*. Paro Dzongkhag has mediated the highest number of disputes (393), followed by Trashigang (320) and Samtse (298) respectively. Gasa Dzongkhag has mediated the lowest number of disputes (16), followed by Trongsa (35).

Out of 3454 disputes, matrimonial (896) is the highest number of disputes mediated in the country followed by miscellaneous (527) and land-related issues (499). Miscellaneous matters pertain to misunderstanding between family and neighbours, alcohol consumption and misunderstandings, census-related issues, timber, wages, rental issues, construction works, business, contracts, *Tsamdro*, etc. While child maintenance-related issue (159) is the lowest number of disputes mediated in the country followed by inheritance (210) and crops damaged by cattle (213) respectively.

5. Adjudication of Civil Cases by the Courts

As per the Annual Report of Judiciary 2022, the Courts have registered a total of 5973 civil cases in 2022. Out of 5973 civil cases registered before the Courts, 1474 cases have been mediated by the Court-Annexed Mediation Units in 2022. On the other hand, 3454 cases were settled through the mediation process in the communities - Gewogs and Thromdes. In light of this, *Nangkha Nangdrig* plays a considerable role in enhancing access to justice and removing litigation burdens of the courts. Without these important interim justice services, the number of civil cases reaching before the courts every year could be higher. Mediation services at the community level have begun to act as an important legal and justice intermediary thus enabling

the communities the opportunity to negotiate, restore relationships and foster enhanced community vitality. These aspects of negotiations, besides acting as legal remedies, help the communities to resolve issues in their communities - thus lightening the Royal Courts of Justice from unnecessary and trivial legal burdens.

The mediation services in the communities act as important 'gates of justice.' Mediation services played an important role in reducing the number of civil cases reaching before the courts. More importantly, mediation services have saved time and resources for the people and given the people the opportunity to live happily as families, friends and neighbours - ensuring a free, fair and content society based on principles of

consensus. Although mediation or any alternative dispute resolution system will never replace or substitute the comprehensive adjudication of cases by professional judges, it will mitigate the flood of litigation, especially those which are trivial, frivolous, protracted and cantankerous civil disputes. Mediation services can never be called an alternative to the formal Justice system in Bhutan and it is the primary model through which Bhutan carries the legal, social and community history of dispute negotiation and settlement. It is the primary channel of community cohesion and community mutuality in the Bhutanese legal landscape.

6. Conclusion

Since 2012, the Institute has trained 2870 mediators including LG Leaders (Gups, Mangmis, Tshogpas and Thromde Thuemis), Female Gewog Administrative Officers, judicial personnel, PGDNL trainees, Para-legals and private lawyers, Officials from Ministry of Labour and Human Resources, Officials from Construction Development Board, Clerks from Armed Forces and officials from Gyalpoi Zimpon Office and the Office of Attorney General. As per the previous reports, the LG leaders mediated around 4000 cases annually.

Since 2012, a total of 43,277 disputes were settled. In the year 2021 and 2022, LG leaders settled 3824 and 3454 disputes respectively. This helps us to provide with a picture of the

change in the trends of disputes in the communities. Comparatively, there is a 'suggestive difference' in the number of cases resolved through the mediation services. The trend indicates that the disputes in the community are slowly dwindling - thus exhibiting the effective nature of legal information services at the communities, which is indirectly helping people to understand laws. This can be interpreted as 'the enhancement of community vitality.' People are able to use the aid of law to bring community cohesion, cordiality and peace.

However, as an important instrument of Justice and community-based dispute resolution service, mediation still serves as an important chain of Bhutanese method of dispute settlement. It has become a link through which Bhutan can portray its legal, social and community history. *Nangkha Nangdrig* has been the sole determinant of how Bhutan carries its legal and social mores into the future. More importantly, it has acted as an important bridge through which communities foster dialogue and understanding. Besides, its legal nature, *Nangkha Nangdrig* can exhibit the rich traditions and cultures of Bhutan, importantly its ability to bring communities and people together and eliminate the contestations of the people. Mediation has been a channel through which people have been able to see the 'divergent views,' if any existed, through the lens of 'similarities' and 'likeness.' In the past, litigation as a method of dispute resolution was a very tough legal

process. People had to travel far distances on trivial matters they contested. Today, *Nangkha Nagdrigi* can break this vicious cycle of legal contestations.

To revitalize the community dispute resolution services at the community, the BNLI under the visionary leadership of Her Royal Highness Princess Sonam Dechan Wangchuck has been able to strengthen the mediation services through effective training and capacity-building interventions at the Local Government level and with other relevant stakeholders. This is to enhance the outreach of the services and enable mediation to exist as a vibrant mechanism of Justice in the communities. This intervention has enhanced justice services to the

people and strengthened the important pillars of harmony and justice in the communities. In the pursuit of Justice, capacity building and enhanced *rule of law*, the Institute acknowledges the services of the LG Leaders, *Thromde Thuemis* and other stakeholders in building Justice Services and enhancing access to justice for the people. We assure to work together in fulfilling the aspirations of the people and reinforce the pillars of *Gross National Happiness*. Further, the Institute is indebted to the Royal government of Bhutan (RGoB) and the Austrian Development Agency (ADA), Government of Austria for the financial support for this project.

Annexure I

Disputes mediated in 205 Gewogs, 2022

GEWOG: DZONGKHAG:

Sl. No.	Types of disputes mediated	January - December 2022 (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 Disputes (List down other disputes which are not reflected above)	-	-
	1.		
	2.		
	3.		
	4.		
	5.		

Email: jnorbu@bnli.bt (# 17562369)

Signature of Gup/Mangmi

Annexure II

Disputes mediated by Thromde Tshogpas, 2022

DZONGKHAG: THROMDE:

CONSTITUENCY:

Sl. No.	Types of disputes mediated	January - December 2022 (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 Disputes (List down other disputes which are not reflected above)	-	-
	1.		
	2.		
	3.		
	4.		
	5.		

Email: jnorbu@bnli.bt (# 17562369)

Signature of Thrompon/ Thromde Tshogpa

Annexure III

Disputes mediated by Dzongkhag Thromde Representatives, 2022

NAME OF THE THROMDE REPRESENTATIVE:

DZONGKHAG:

Sl. No.	Types of disputes mediated	January - December 2022 (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 Disputes (List down other disputes which are not reflected above)	-	-
	1.		
	2.		
	3.		
	4.		
	5.		

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Signature of Dzongda/ Thromde Representative