

GOV-**HER**-NANCE

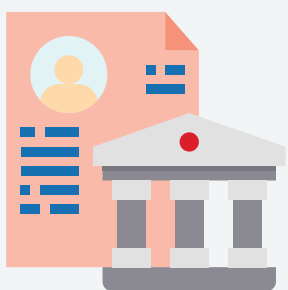
The Gov-her-nance is a unique model that generates new voices to fix old problems around gender roles, local development, and open government. The Gov-her-nance bulletin gathers gender-related rumors, myths, issues/concerns, and questions from communities across Nepal. With this bulletin, we hope to reduce the information gaps between local governments and citizens, lift up the ideas of women and gender minorities (representing various backgrounds across Dhangadhi) and provide a shared basis of understanding to make Dhangadhi Sub-Metropolitan a more gender-friendly city.



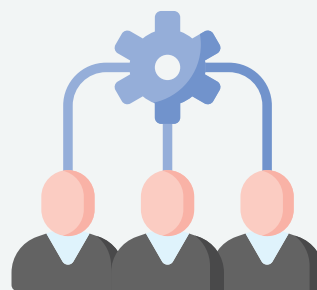
BUDGET AND PROGRAM ALLOCATED FOR GENDER EQUALITY AND SOCIAL INCLUSION IN DHANGADHI SUB-METROPOLITAN CITY IN FISCAL YEAR 2077/78 B.S.

Dhangadhi Sub-Metropolitan City has classified its budget of the fiscal year 2077/78 under five major categories namely, i. Institutional development, service delivery, and governance, ii. Infrastructure development, iii. Social development, iv. Economic development and v. Environment and disaster management. Among these budgets for gender equality and social inclusion is allocated only in Institutional development, service delivery, and governance, Infrastructure development, and social development. A total of Rs. 18,431,786 is allocated for gender equality and social inclusion of the total budget of Rs.1,680,380,995 in the fiscal year, 2077/2078 B.S. i.e. 1.1% of the total budget.

Budget for gender equality and social inclusion:



**Institutional development,
service delivery & governance**
Rs. 11,094,000



**Social
development**
Rs. 7,287,786



**Infrastructure
development**
Rs. 450,000

Note: Institutional development, service delivery, and governance include activities like need identification and material distribution to the disabled and marginalized community, data collection, whereas activities under social development include several kinds of skill development training, self-defense and counseling training, awareness campaigns against gender-based violence, untouchability,

ISSUES & CONCERNS

I have heard that the municipality provides warm clothes to the old and poor in winter. Is it true?



The Dhangadhi Sub-Metropolitan City has separated Rs. 1,485,854 for the distribution of warm clothes for senior citizens. This program is allocated for wards 2, 10, 11, 14, 16, and 17. The wards 10, 16, and 17 have extended the provision to the single women, and poor people so that they can also benefit from the warm clothes distribution program.

Source: <https://dhangadhi.susasan.org/mun-detail/programmes>

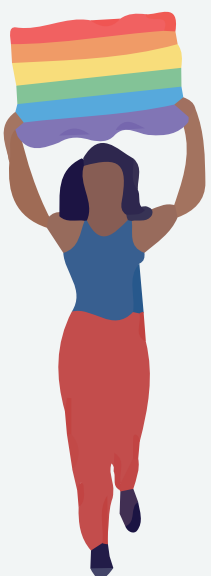
A judicial committee is formed by the municipality that looks into matters such as violence, physical assault, divorce, not allowing food and shelter to husband/wife and children, issues of loot, disputes between the neighbors, etc. The judicial committee solves these matters by adopting methods of reconciliation. The complaint has to be filed within 35 days of the act (or violence) in the judicial. If required, the committee can also issue protective orders for the victims. Those who are not satisfied by the decision of the judicial committee can appeal in the district court within 35 days of the decision of the judicial committee.

Source: [Local Governance Operation Act, 2074](#)

I am a victim of domestic violence. I have heard that the municipality looks into such matters. Can I register a complaint in the municipality?



The government has been conducting a PM employment program at each local level. Are women given preference in this program?



Several projects are conducted under the PM employment program. Among them, "Cash for work", and "Youth Employment Transfer Initiative" are the major ones. These projects ensure 60% female participation. Every labor is guaranteed a daily wage of Rs 517.

Along with this Dhangadhi Sub-Metropolitan City will soon kick start the Women Entrepreneurship Program where women from Dalit and marginalized communities, single women, women with disabilities, etc. will be given more preference. Capacity building and self-employment training will also be imparted to women under this program. Dhangadhi Sub-Metropolitan City will start the program as soon as the budget is released.

Source: [Chandra Bahadur Mahara, Employment Coordinator, Dhangadhi Sub-Metropolitan City](#)

I was born in ward 5 of Dhangadhi Sub Metropolitan City. I am 22 years old. There are 5 people in my family including me, my mother, father and 2 sisters. Both of my sisters are married. As I (son) was born after my two daughters, everyone in the house was happy when I was born.

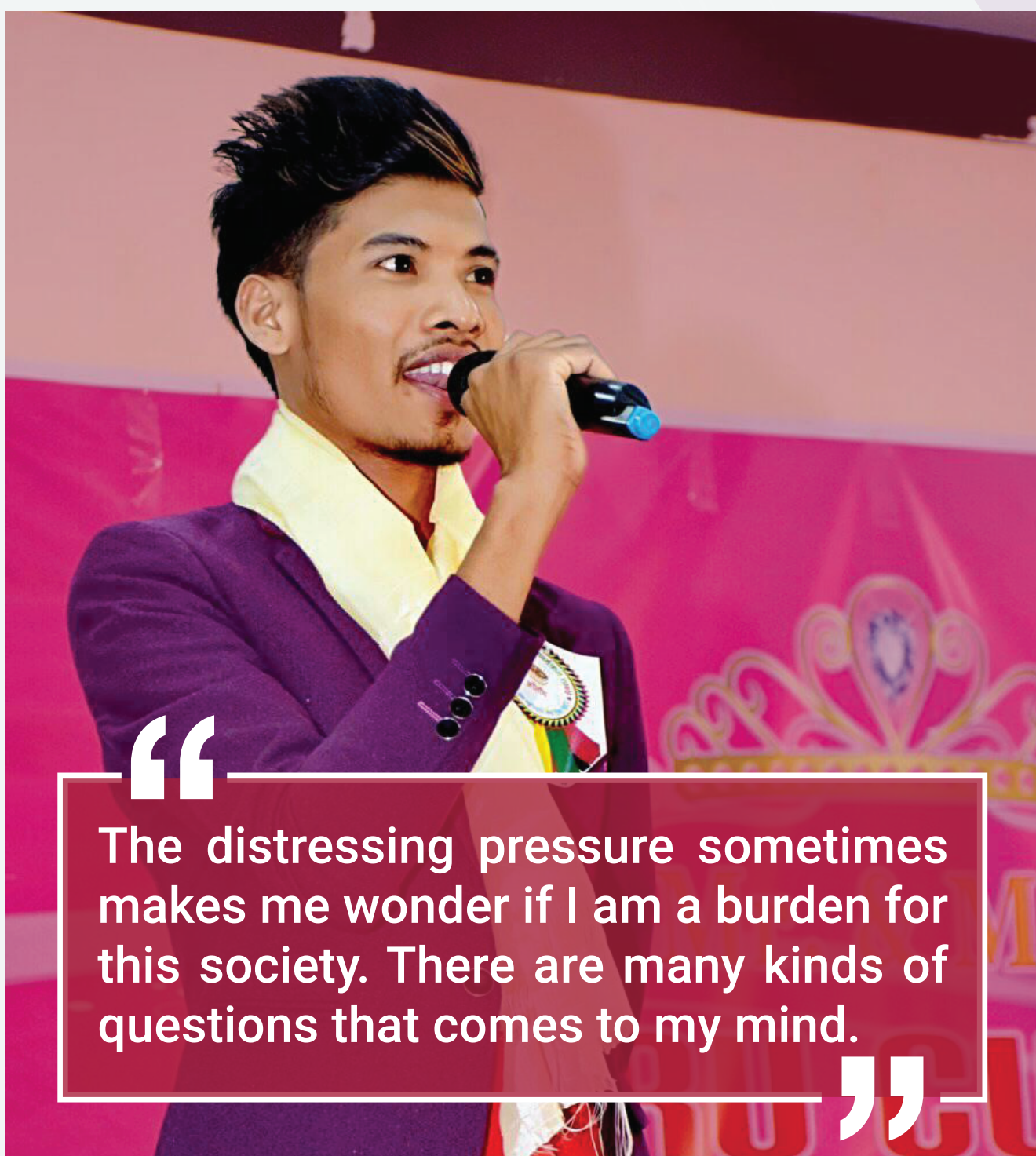
I identify myself as a gay. Even after admitting this, there is constant pressure from the family for marriage. They ask me to marry the person of opposite sex (girl). But, as a gay man, I am attracted towards boys. At first, I hid my identity. In 2017, "Mr. Gay Handsome" was organized in Kathmandu, where I participated and won the title of First Runner-up. My interview was published in media that is when everyone knew I was a gay man.

I worked for the Blue Diamond Society for around 6 years. Once the project was over, I became unemployed. It has been two years that I am unemployed. While I was employed, there was no such pressure from the family. But, nowadays, as I am unemployed, I often hear comments such as "He does not do anything now", "He does not earn", "His friends' circle is not that good", and "You have to marry", etc. This distressing pressure sometimes makes me wonder if I am a burden for this society. There are many kinds of questions that comes to my mind.

Earlier, when there wasn't three-tier government, there was a budget of Rs 50,000 and Rs 150,000 from the district development committee every year. Now after establishment of three-tier government, several training are allocated for us by the Ministry of Social Development. There are variety of

programs such as sari, blouse embroidery, sewing, computer, beauty parlor training, etc. However, due to Corona, the budget has not been implemented properly. It's been even six months after the start of the fiscal year. By the end of the fiscal year, there will be hurry to spend this budget. We could be more self-reliant if the government introduced a program that would make us truly self-reliant, which would allow many friends like me to live a stress-free life with self-respect.

- *Birendra Chaudhary*



“The distressing pressure sometimes makes me wonder if I am a burden for this society. There are many kinds of questions that comes to my mind.”

VOICES FROM THE COMMUNITY

Yamuna Kumari Bhatta Joshi

*Female Member,
Dhangadhi-Sub Metropolitan City Ward No 7*

Our society still considers women to be second class citizens. After being elected as a representative I got a chance to experience the difficulties faced by working women. Women still are not considered to be a good fit for the office. The trust in women's ability to lead and make decisions is very low leading to male dominance in the majority of the leadership positions. Women representatives (like me) are often not given a chance to speak in the meetings and even if we manage to highlight the issue male members do not acknowledge it.

Further, we are often inundated with questions if it gets late while returning home after attending a meeting/program. Therefore, questions such as "Why did I become a people's representative?, Why did I even win the election?" used to run on my mind making the first two years of work-life extremely difficult. However, after participating in several training and workshops my confidence has increased and I have found it easier to put forward my ideas. Previously the budget allocated for the women and children was often used for road construction or any other infrastructure development activities. Currently, I am determined to work for the rights of women by ensuring that the budget allocated is spent on female-oriented programs.



Saarada Tamrakar

*Female Member,
Dhangadhi-Sub Metropolitan City Ward 9*

The initial journey was full of struggle as I am an unmarried woman from a Dalit background. People did not trust me as they assumed that I would get married and relocate (as a result it was difficult to get an election ticket as well). However, I continued the journey with belief in myself and won the election. It wasn't difficult to work for the community after winning the election as I had prior experience in handling community activities and programs. Fortunately, the male ward members from the community have also been extremely supportive.

With the same support and determination, I hope to continue working for women who are often restricted to household chores in our communities. Violence is also highly prevalent here but women are often not ready to break their silence. As a result, these victimized women often face different problems and representatives like me should encourage them to speak up against injustice.





DISCLAIMER

The sources of information presented here are collected from community volunteers, validated online sources, government offices, and fellows appointed by the Accountability Lab based on research and interactions with different people, directly and indirectly, over the past week. The issues highlighted here are chosen based on prevalence, relevance, and potential impact on Dhangadhi Sub-Metropolitan City. The information presented in this issue is correct at the time of publication.

**Gov-her-nance is brought to you by Accountability Lab Nepal
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