

# 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.



Distribution of warm clothes to senior citizens in Dhangadhi Sub-Metropolitan City Ward no. 2

Photo By: Ratna Bista

## **BUDGET AND PROGRAMS OF DHANGADHI SUB-METROPOLITAN CITY (WITH A DIRECT LINK TO THE MINIMIZATION OF GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE):**

 <p>Conducting public awareness programs on the prevention of gender-based violence and child protection</p> <p><b>Rs. 100,000</b></p>	 <p>3-day empowerment training to promote male participation in the prevention of gender-based violence</p> <p><b>Rs. 200,000</b></p>	 <p>7-day training on gender-based violence and reproductive health</p> <p><b>Rs. 350,000</b></p>	 <p>Psychological counseling training for victims of violence and conflict</p> <p><b>Rs. 150,000</b></p>
 <p>Interaction on access to justice for women victims of violence</p> <p><b>Rs. 200,000</b></p>	 <p>Self-defense training (Taekwondo) for the women of Dhangadhi Sub-Metropolitan City ward no. 7</p> <p><b>Rs. 50,000</b></p>	 <p>Conducting awareness programs and campaigns</p> <p><b>Rs. 100,000</b></p>	 <p>Funds to the local level Gender-Based Violence Prevention Fund</p> <p><b>Rs. 100,000</b></p>

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

# ISSUES & CONCERNS

**I have heard that female workers get maternity leave after delivery. Do I get my salary during this period? How long is the leave for?**



Pregnant female workers get 14 weeks of maternity leave before or after delivery. Female workers on maternity leave receive full pay for 60 days and do not get paid beyond that period.

If additional health care is required for the betterment of the pregnant woman or her baby, there is a provision for the employer to grant an additional unpaid leave up to one month in addition to the 14-week maternity leave period (adjusted to other leaves). Further, if the wife of a male worker becomes pregnant, he should get 15 days paid leave for taking care of her.

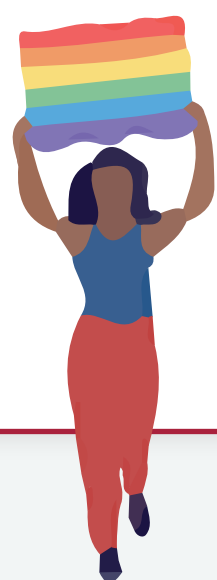
[Source: Labor Act, 2074](#)

The Judicial Committee may issue the following interim orders to ensure the safety of the victim woman or any of her dependent children:

1. Let the victim live peacefully (with the provision of food) in their own house by ensuring that they are not physically abused or treated unfairly.
2. Arrange a medical treatment for the victim in case of physical or mental injury.
3. Provide alternative accommodation and food for the victim if necessary.
4. Ensure that the victim is not abused or threatened in any way.
5. Provide any other required benefit to the victim.

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

**Raising a voice against violence puts me and my child at a greater risk. Can the local level (Judicial Committee) give me protection after filing a complaint?**



**Is it true that Dhangadhi Sub-Metropolitan City provides free ultrasound service?**

An ultrasound machine has been set up in Phulbari Health Post Ward 19 for providing free ultrasound service to pregnant women under "Rural Women's Development" program of Dhangadhi Sub-Metropolitan City. Women can avail this service during Antenatal Care (ANC) visits without paying any charge.


[Source: Jagannath Panta, Chief administrative officer, Dhangadhi Sub-Metropolitan City, Kailali](#)

Tika Chaudhary (name changed) is a permanent resident of Joshipur, Kailali currently residing in Dhangadhi Sub-Metropolitan City. She doesn't know her exact date of birth but approximately she is 30 years old. Lack of education and reliance on daily wages (working as a laborer) for subsistence has been a major hurdle for her. Unfortunately, she has also been facing domestic violence from her husband for years now. Her marriage with Tejram Chaudhary (name changed) was arranged and the couple has two kids. Her elder son is 13 years old and the younger one just turned 8 years old.

Tika recalls that her husband used to treat her well for the first 5 to 6 months of marriage but the situation worsened after he became an alcoholic. These days Tejram drinks alcohol regularly and physically abuses her. Tika earns Rs. 475 per day but her husband remains unemployed. As a result, Tika is solely bearing the expenses of the two sons' education through her daily wages.

During the Maoist Insurgency in Nepal, Tika was influenced by her friends to join the Maoist force. However, she faced violence from her colleagues and decided to run away from the camp. These days she has been facing the same torture from her husband. To distance herself from violence, she has started cooking separately using a different LPG gas. The couple does not have any land or property and their house is constructed on someone else's land. Tika cleans the house of the landowner every morning before continuing her daily work.

As Tika has been facing violence for years, she wants to separate from her husband. She is worried that the continuous torture from her husband might hamper the education of her children. Such exposure to violence can encourage her elder son to get into substance abuse. Therefore, Tika wants to initiate the separation process but she does not know the legal procedure involved. She recently heard that the municipality looks into such matters and hopes to get its help.



“Tika's husband used to treat her well for the first 5 to 6 months of marriage but the situation worsened after he became an alcoholic.”

# VOICES FROM THE COMMUNITY

## Gita Panta

*Ward Member,  
Dhangadhi-Sub Metropolitan City Ward No. 10*

My father was a respected social worker and he taught me the importance of social work from a very small age. I somehow got lucky and found a husband whose empathetic personality made him one of the most trusted people in this society. The sympathetic and compassionate nature of my father and husband always inspired me to work for the community. Helping others gave me a different sense of happiness and contentment. I won the election not from the woman quota but as a general. The area that I represent consists of the majority of janajati people. People of this community are a bit backward with a low literacy rate. I have pledged to improve the economically deprived status of this group with the support of the community. Along with this, the other issue of my concern is gender inequality. This issue is often perceived to concern only women but I believe that it is a problem for both males and females. Therefore, it is high time to address gender concerns through a collaborative effort, for the overall benefit of society.



## Ratna Bista

*Member of Judicial Committee,  
Dhangadhi-Sub Metropolitan City*

In a society where it is difficult for women to get any family support, I was lucky to have the most supportive family members who always encouraged me to work. With the same motivation, I attend meetings after completing household work. I have to travel to different places to participate in programs and meetings depending on the work demand. I do not know how to drive so I often take help from my male colleagues. However, society looks at me with a negative outlook when I am seen around with any male colleague. This kind of mentality is a big discouragement.

Further, male representation is often higher in most of the sectors (including the social sector) which makes it difficult for women like me to push for a decision that ensures the rights and benefits of women. Fortunately, the number of programs directed toward female and gender minorities have increased this year. Continuing the effort, we should create more women-friendly programs to push for gender mainstreaming.





## 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.*

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