

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.



Women from the Tharu community of Phulbari Kailali working in a field

Photo By: Pramila Tharu

ESTABLISHMENT OF GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE PREVENTION FUND IN 753 LOCAL UNITS UNDER THE PRESIDENT WOMEN ADVANCEMENT PROGRAM

There is a provision for the local level to form a local relief committee with the involvement of the concerned stakeholders and provide the following amount of relief.



If the victims of violence demand commodity and cash grants to run a business after receiving vocational training, a maximum amount of **Rs. 20,000** per person



For legal aid, psychological treatment, psychosocial counseling services, up to **Rs. 5,000**



Expenses for immediate treatment of the victim (vehicle fare for travel, food expenses **Rs. 300** per day, accommodation **Rs. 500** per day and up to **Rs. 5,000**



After considering the nature of the incident and the condition of the victim, the Provincial Relief Committee provides relief to the victim. Up to **Rs. 10,000**



If the victim is admitted to the hospital, the fare of public transport, food expenses will be **Rs. 300** per day, **Rs. 500** for a maximum of 5 days as accommodation when the facility is not available at the hospital, and a maximum of **Rs. 6,500** for medical expenses.



Give food expenses to the children of the victims

When providing relief to the victim, the relief committee will have to take the extent and basis of the amount as mentioned above.

Source : [Guideline for gender based violence prevention fund expenses by local units, 2076](#)

ISSUES & CONCERNS

I often see men participating in the consumer group. Is there no provision for women to participate in it?



Anyone who has completed 18 years of age and has not been convicted of any crime or accusation, can become a member of the consumer group. To become a member, one should not be a member of any other consumer group, political parties, people's representatives, government employees, or teachers. In particular, there is a separate provision to ensure women's participation where at least 33 percent of the consumers should be women and at least one woman should be in the post of chairperson, secretary, or treasurer of the group.

[Source: Procedure for formation and mobilization of Consumer Group](#)

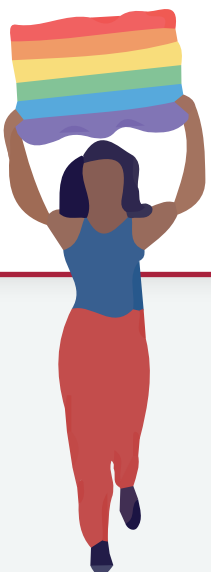
Perpetrators of domestic violence are liable to both fines and imprisonment (fine of Rs. 3,000, imprisonment up to 6 months or both) for committing domestic violence against women. Repetitive perpetrators of the violence are punishable with a double penalty. If the perpetrator is a public official (and if he/she commits any kind of violence against his wife, a senior citizen, a person with a disability, a minor, or a pregnant woman), there will be a penalty of an additional 10 percent

What is the provision of punishment for perpetrators of domestic violence?



[Source: Nepal Women Commission](#)

Witchcraft accusations and violence are closely interlinked in many villages. However, only a few complaints are registered about such cases. Is there a provision to solve this problem?



Written or verbal information can be given to the nearest police office if such kind of crime is being committed. The police should arrest the perpetrator within 24 hours of receiving the complaint and start the legal process. Witchcraft accusations, insults, evictions, social exclusion, beatings, burnings, use of chemical, toxic, biological substances, feeding excreta, irregularly shaving head, stripping, or any kind of insult or inhuman behavior is considered as a punishable crime. Further, insulting the family of a person accused of witchcraft is also a criminal offense.

[Source: Anti-Witchcraft \(Criminalization and Punishment\) Act, 2072](#)



Many women are involved in social causes but they are often not allowed to express their views. The truth is that we still live in a society that's deeply sexist and misogynistic, on both an individual and a systemic level. As a result, women in leadership positions are only invited to sign the documents and given very less decision making responsibilities. But, if this system prevails, when will we be heard? Bristled with anger, I thought it is high time for women to step up to change the discriminatory practice.

Thus, I showcased my desire to contribute and requested some responsibility to my ward chair Prem Bhandari. He assigned me the task of chairing the consumer group formed to build a retaining wall on the side of Sivanagar toll road. Even if I was given this responsibility, nobody believed in me (as I was a

woman). I heard remarks such as 'As a woman, can you handle such a big responsibility? You can't'. 'A male member must be given the responsibility of handling this position'. Leave this post', etc.

I even received threats such as "If you don't do well, we will have to send you to jail". However, I didn't give up as I believed in myself. My ward chair and overseer also helped me a lot. He said, "Don't be scared, you can do it. Women like you should move forward and we are here to help you". Such motivation gave me a lot of courage.

With the same determination, I started working more efficiently. Our work for the construction of the retaining wall is all set to begin now. In this process, I am ready to work hard and fulfill my responsibility. I consider myself lucky as I got the required support to follow my dreams but there are other women still waiting for the opportunities to move forward and contribute to society. However, the patriarchal society is still creating a hindrance for bringing women to the forefront. Unless this society believes in women, a forward-looking gender approach cannot be established.

Nirmala Bista Dhanuk

Chairperson, Consumer Committee formed for the construction of retaining wall

Shivnagar Toll Road, Dhangadhi Sub-Metropolitan City Ward No. 9



The main reason for the prevalent gender stereotypes is a lack of trust in women's decision-making ability. Women cannot move forward unless society believes in their capability. Therefore, it is important to encourage women by trusting in their abilities in the workplace.

VOICES FROM THE COMMUNITY

Tara Chaudhary

*Ward Member,
Dhangadhi-Sub Metropolitan City Ward No. 8*

The law talks about reservations for women, but the inclusion of women in every sphere is still questionable. Even when women are included, it is done only for the name. When it comes to handling work in the community, reconciling conflicts, or resolving any other social, economic, gender, or environmental issue, there is a lack of trust in women's ability. Thus, I wanted to contribute more towards women's financial empowerment after becoming a people's representative. However, I haven't been able to do much due to the small budget allocated by the ward. Even if we have organized a few skill development training, I know that it is not adequate and more work should be done to encourage women to start a business post-training. If we step up and motivate more women to be an entrepreneur after receiving the training, it would set an example for the next term.



Kalyani Singh

*Ward Member,
Dhangadhi-Sub Metropolitan City Ward No. 1*

After becoming a female representative, you have to work for groups including women, Dalits, the disabled, minorities, and the backward society. One of the reasons for the deprived status of women is economic dependence. Thus, programs focused on making women self-reliant should be brought. The municipality has also allocated a budget for similar programs where training (such as beauty parlor, tailor, driving, etc.) is provided to the women, Dalits, disabled, and minorities. However, the amount allocated for the training is low and inadequate. Along with the training, it has been necessary to create an environment for sustainably conducting other women empowerment programs.





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
in collaboration with Dhangadi Sub-metropolitan City and the support of CFLI**