

# 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.



## CONDITIONS FOR LEGALLY SAFE ABORTION

Abortion used to be considered a crime, but now abortion has been given legal recognition under certain conditions. Safe abortion can be performed with the help of a health worker in following circumstances:

- (A) Up to 12 weeks with the consent of the pregnant woman
- (B) Abortion can be performed with the consent of the pregnant woman anytime during the pregnancy if the life of the pregnant woman is in danger or is in risk of suffering from any physical or mental health risks or if there is probability of a handicapped child being born, according to a licensed doctor.
- (C) Up to eighteen weeks'of gestation if the pregnancy is due to rape, or incest with the consent of the pregnant woman.
- (D) With the consent of a pregnant woman who is infected with HIV or any other incurable diseases of the same nature.

*Beside this, the person involved in any act of identifying the sex of the fetus in the womb or performing abortion after the identification of the sex are punishable.*



Source: <https://moHP.gov.np/downloads/National%20Safe%20Abortion%20Policy.pdf>

# ISSUES & CONCERNS

**Mostly the male are actively involved in the Tole Development Committee. Is there any special provision for the female participation?**



The Tole Development Committee is established from the public gathering of the tole citizens. Citizens within the four pillars identified by the assembly or ward office on the basis of geographical and social inclusion must reach a consensus while forming the committee. The tenure of the working committee formed in this way will be 2 years. There has to be at least 50 percent of female members in this working committee. Moreover, there has to mandatorily be at least one woman in the position of chairperson, secretary, or treasurer.

Source: <https://mofaga.gov.np/model-law/2223>

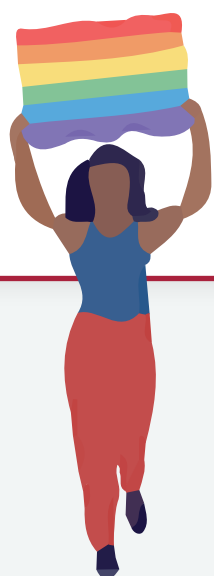
To obtain a disability card, a person with a disability or his / her family or guardian has to submit an application at the local unit of their permanent residency. A person who does not reside at their permanent address and is unable to obtain an identity card from his / her permanent address due to physical or mental condition can apply at the local unit wherever he / she is residing currently. When applying for this, the reason for not being able to get the identity card from the permanent address should be clearly stated. However, the applicant shouldn't have issued the identity card from his / her permanent address.

Source: <http://mowcsc.gov.np/directories-procedures?page=3>

**One of the members in my family is disable. We now live at a place different from the permanent address. Can we get the disability card from the place we are staying ?**



**Is there any provision for the punishment for the perpetrator who accuses others for witchcraft? Is there any compensation for the victim?**



Those who blame, torture and harm others as witch or for witchcraft can be charged fine and can be jailed or done both. The perpetrator can be jailed for up to 15 years in maximum for this act. Also, the perpetrator has to bear the cost of the damage or vandalism of property that they have done. If the victim has to be taken to the hospital by being physically or mentally affected, then the cost for the treatment, medicine and even the cost of the caretaker should also be borne by the perpetrator. In case, the financial condition of the perpetrator is weak, the cost should be covered by the Nepal Government.

Source: <http://mowcsc.gov.np/acts-regulations?page=2>





My daughter was 2 months and 9 days old when I started working. As I was a woman and had a small baby, it almost seemed like I wouldn't get the job. However, I somehow managed to get a job. I found out later that I was hired as there was no male competitor. This made me realize that a degree and certificate is not enough. The interviewer asked, "Do you have a small child?" That question seemed strange to me as I would never compromise on my responsibilities and I had made other arrangements to take care of my child.

After I started working, I had to equally take the responsibility of job and household work. From waking up in the morning to going to bed in the evening, I had the same hectic schedule; taking the child to mother's place-office-getting child from the mother's place-and back

to home. This is how my every day was. Nobody asked me if I was tired during those days and that was the most sad feeling that I have ever felt till date. Instead I heard comments such as "She has come from her mother's place". Such comments got me all teared up. Unfortunately, I didn't get any help from my husband as well. It was also difficult to take a leave from the office even when my child was sick. Nobody understood my grievances as I was the only woman at the office.

Patriarchal thinking is still prevalent in our society. I wanted to be self-reliant by earning some money for running my house and taking care of my family. My sole motive was to reduce the financial burden on my husband and other family members. Thus, I got a job even if that required leaving my child with someone else throughout the day. Looking back, I think I made the right decision as life is easy now. I have also given birth to a second child. The support that I didn't get when I had my first child is now available, when I am having the second child. My husband and other family members have started helping. I, who had left my daughter at my mother's house and went to work, can now leave my son at my own house. My earnings have also provided financial support to the family.

“Nothing made me more unhappy than having nobody ask me if I am tired. Hearing comments such as “You are only coming from your mother's house” got me all teared up.”





# VOICES FROM THE COMMUNITY

## Kalpana Devi Sarki

*Local,*

*Dhangadhi Sub-Municipal Corporation, Ward no. 6*

Just because I was a daughter, my parents did not provide me education. My brothers got an opportunity to study, but I was only allowed to complete schooling till 4th grade. I got married at the age of 12 and then my sorrows began. There was already the problem of food scarcity there was additional torture from the in-laws. Instead of providing any moral support, my husband also used to torture me. Later I went to India to earn money. I started working at a hotel in India but my miseries didn't end as my husband still tortured me. Soon I gave birth to a daughter. After a few years I gave birth to another daughter. I had to leave the house, as I was regularly tortured. I went to my mother's house but that too wasn't that easy. I had to listen to many unnecessary comments. People think it is inappropriate for a married lady to live with her parents. Females have a very difficult life, they cannot completely rely on their husband's house nor on their paternal house.



## Bimala Devi Sarki

*Wage Labourer,*

*Dhangadhi Sub-Metropolitan City, Ward no. 6*

After I was born, my father tortured my mother for a very long time for giving birth to me (female). Although I wanted to study a lot, I couldn't read. Things like, "What would she do after studying? If she were a son we would have thought about it" were said. I had to go to graze goats instead of school. But I went to school from there without letting anyone know. My strong desire compelled my parents to let me study up to class 5. I got married at the age of 16. Then the same cycle started. I was also tortured for giving birth to a daughter. Finally, a son was born but with a disability. Then, again I gave birth to another son. Only then my

husband started treating me well. But, because of having many children, it is very difficult now. I have to run the house on a very low income that I earn from daily labour work. We are not able to provide proper education to children. I am worried that my daughters might have to suffer the same fate as I did.







## 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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