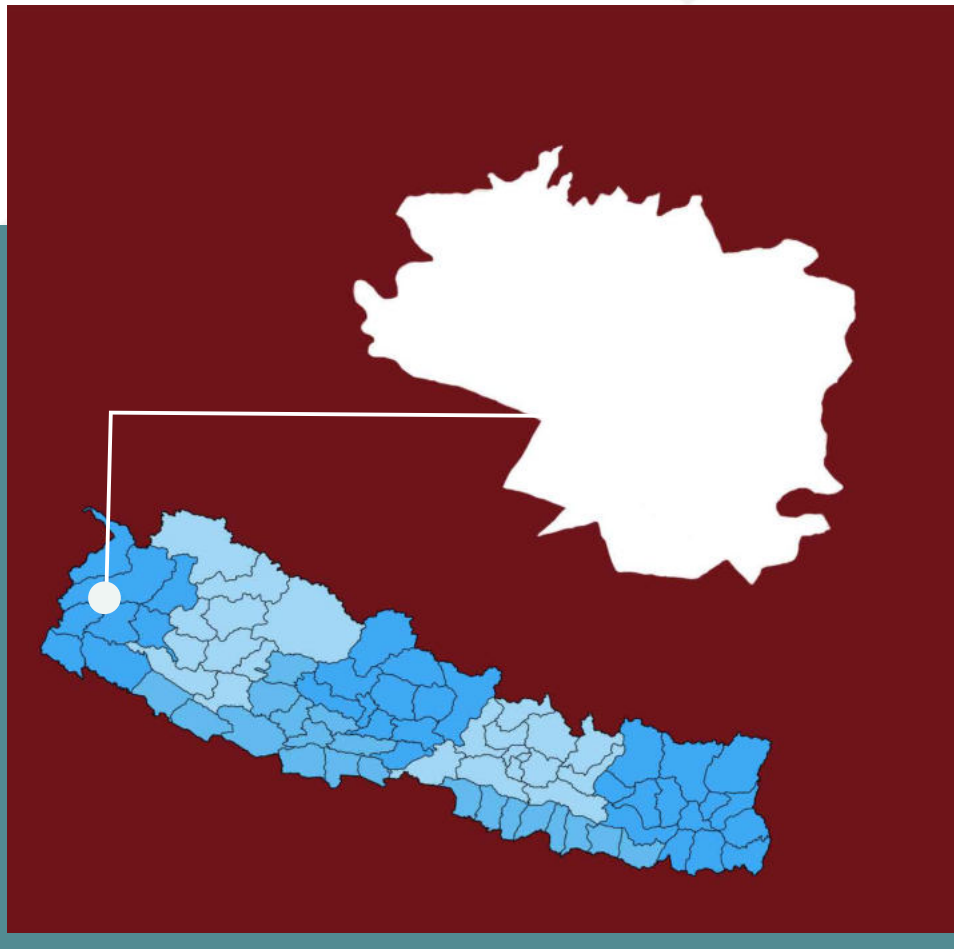


FAIR FACTS

Dhangadhi

Sub-Metropolitancity
City



Total Population

198,792



Youth Population

108,704



(Aged 15-44)

(Source: Census 2078)



The budget of Dhangadhi Sub-Metropolitan City
for fiscal year 2079/080

Total Budget

1,83,89,24,000

Sector wise estimated expenditure

(40.67%)

Social development

Gender Equality and Social Inclusion

NRs. 9.405 million

Youth and Sports

NRs. 8.714 million

(4.15%)

Good governance and inter-related areas

Human resource
development

**NRs. 200
thousand**

Labor and employment

NRs. 19.6 million



Youth participation at local level

Consumer group and youth

Consumer groups formed for projects worth more than NRs. 1 million are registered in the sub-metropolitan. So far, 38 such consumer groups have been registered.

Consumer groups are established through gatherings at the town or ward level. The guidelines state that each group must consist of a minimum of 7 individuals and a maximum of 11 individuals. It is mandatory that these consumer groups prioritize inclusivity by ensuring the participation of at least 33 percent women, with at least one woman holding an executive position. However, unlike the provisions for gender inclusivity, there are currently no similar measures in place to encourage the involvement of young people in these consumer groups.

Selection of program through a community-level consultation

Even though there is a provision to have community-level consultation with the specific group while selecting the programs, there is no separate provision for the participation/inclusion of youth groups.

Tole development committee and youth

In the context of the formation of the tole development committee, Dhangadhi Sub-Metropolitan has formulated Tole Development Committee Coordination, Formulation, and Mobilization Guideline, 2074.

There is provision for the participation of ward chair, elected representatives, senior citizens, single women, children's club president, women community health volunteers, etc., in a tole development committees. However, there has been no mention of any substantive effort in the guideline to ensure youth participation.

Other

Municipal assembly and public hearings are separately planned about which the information is disseminated in public. Participation of people from all levels and backgrounds is ensured in the gatherings. However, there are no such separate provisions for youth participation.

Best practices



There are social mobilizers in all 19 wards of Dhangadhi sub-metropolitan city. These mobilizers reach out and engage with the community in their respective wards and facilitate various programs such as sanitation, youth club, mother group, prevention of violence, etc. Every month, the sub-metropolitan honors and awards one of the social mobilizers as the best social mobilizer along with an incentive of NRs. 5000. Ram Prasad Rana, a 34-year-old youth social mobilizer of ward 19, has been awarded as the best social mobilizer for the month of Baisakh.

Youth concern issues raised at the community level

- Youth are not involved in local-level policy-making, program selection, and infrastructure development.
- The local government lacks lucrative programs for young people.
- There is no authentic and disintegrated data related to the youth.
- Information disseminated by the sub-metropolitan city office and wards is not accessible to all youth.
- Youth-targeted programs are in very negligible amounts.
- The local government perceives that youth-targeted programs are only ones related to sports.
- The youth do not trust the local government, which has resulted in their disinterestedness in public affairs.
- There is a lack of cooperation and coordination between the local government and the youth.

Recommendations to the local government

- Make policy provisions to ensure the meaningful participation of youth in local-level policy-making and development.
- Youth-targeted programs, especially those relating to self-employment and entrepreneurship, need to be prioritized.
- Ensure that the information provided by the sub-metropolitan and the ward is accessible to all.
- Prioritize youth leadership and innovation in the program designed by the local units.

STORY EDGE



Kusum B.K.

Kusum B.K., a 25-year-old individual, is currently in her third year of pursuing a Bachelor of Social Work (BSW) degree. Since her childhood, she has fearlessly spoken out against societal inequality and discrimination. Her passion for advocating change was ignited during her participation in the "Educate Girls, Reduce Poverty" training program while she was in 11th grade. This program aimed to combat poverty through education and provided Kusum with the platform to raise important questions about rights and public concerns.

However, expressing opinions on social issues is not an easy task for young people, and this struggle is even more pronounced for women, particularly Dalit women. The disinterest and apathy of young people towards public affairs are further exacerbated by the fact that their voices are often disregarded in local government-organized gatherings, such as tole meetings. Consequently, they become disillusioned and indifferent to such gatherings and discussions. Despite this, Kusum finds value in attending such events. She actively participates in gatherings and events held at the tole (local community), ward, and municipal levels, even when she is not officially invited. She fearlessly raises concerns about issues that trouble her. Unfortunately, these discussions are usually dominated by topics like road construction and infrastructure development, with little room for women's voices. Even if women attempt to speak, they are often denied the opportunity. Despite facing discouragement from male participants who belittle her by saying things like, "Being a girl, how can you speak like that in front of everyone?" Kusum remains undeterred. Local representatives who attend these meetings have even visited her home multiple times to complain to her parents, describing her as rude during the meetings. Nevertheless, Kusum continues to voice her concerns, particularly focusing on issues that affect youth and women. Although her concerns may not have been fully acknowledged, they have managed to draw attention to the issues faced by women and youth within these gatherings.

In most consultations, women's participation appears to be merely a formality rather than a genuine effort to include their perspectives. Among the remaining male participants, there are few who are capable of adequately representing the concerns of the youth. Consequently, such practices cannot be trusted or considered sufficient for prioritizing youth issues in local policies and programs.