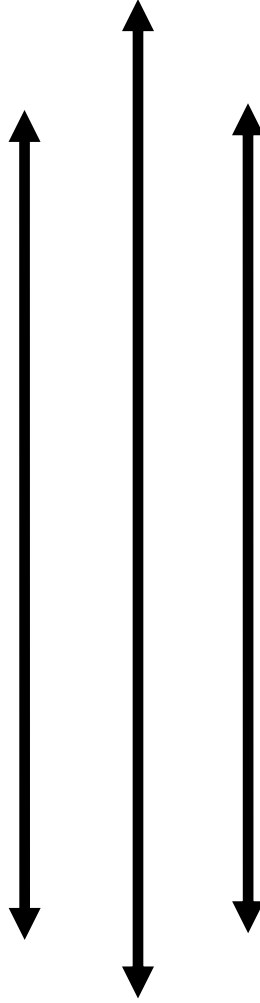


# ANNUAL REPORT

June 2021 – July 2022 (2078/079 B.S.)



दलित महिला सञ्जाल, कीर्तिपुर  
(Dalit Women Network, Kirtipur)  
सम्पर्क फोन नं. ९८०८६०१७६२

Email: [manubrt23@yahoo.com](mailto:manubrt23@yahoo.com), [dwnkathmandu@protonmail.com](mailto:dwnkathmandu@protonmail.com)

## Foreword

Dalit women who belong to the so-called lower caste in hierarchical Nepali society face caste-based discrimination, untouchability, and gender-based violence in compounded ways. Dalit women are at the bottom of the caste, gender, and class hierarchy in Nepal. Dalits and women are exposed to multiple forms of discrimination, violation of human rights, and inequality. Within the women population, the segment of Dalit women continues to experience severe forms of discrimination and human rights violations. The Caste-based Discrimination and Untouchability (CBDU) Act outlawed caste-based discrimination in public and private spheres. However, due to the lack of awareness and sensitivity among the stakeholders, and the lack of ability of Dalit women to appeal to the justice system, the implementation of the Act remains weak. Non-enforcement of the law against caste-based discrimination and untouchability and gender-based violence to protect Dalit women's rights have resulted in further discrimination and human rights violations. Dalit women are excluded from social processes and prevented from freely marrying other castes. The untouchability also affects Dalit women's access to education, health care, and services for overcoming poverty.

Dalit Women Network (DWN) has been working for its establishment to empower and organize Dalit women and other excluded women for ensuring their rights and justice. During this year Nepali fiscal year 2078/79 B.S. (16 July 2021 – 15 July 2022), we have implemented the program to support the poorest families of Dalit women activities in the context of COVID-19 as well as increase access to economic development for women from Dalits and marginalized groups through promotion of enterprise and business development in Kirtipur Municipality of Kathmandu. DWN has made a significant contribution to supporting the women from Dalits and marginalized groups in the context of COVID-19 and enhancing knowledge and skills in enterprise and business development towards expanding the economic opportunities for women that contribute to their economic development.

While implementing the programs; DWN's committee members, staffs, targeted beneficiaries, and relevant stakeholders have played an important role. Therefore, I would like to appreciate the contribution of all board members and staffs of the organization and all other stakeholders who have supported the implementation of the programs to get greater achievement during this reporting period. This annual report has been prepared to share our achievements within this fiscal year.

We would be grateful to all concerned stakeholders who will enjoy seeing and reading the information put forth in the annual report to design of a new project and implement such initiatives in the future.

Sarswoti Pariyar  
**Chairperson, DWN Kirtipur**

## **Introduction of Dalit Women Network (DWN)**

### **Main Focus of the organization:**

The primary focus of Dalit Women Network (DWN) is to promote the human rights of Dalit women by strengthening the structure of the feminist movement (Dalit women groups, front-line leaders, and alliances) at the local level. We are focusing to increase access for Dalit women to resources and service delivery, building the capacity of women human rights defenders and women activists, and mobilizing them in an advocacy campaign to prevent caste and gender-based discrimination and inclusive local governance from Dalit women's perspective. At the local level, it has made strong relationships with local government, women organizations, Dalit organizations, civil society organizations, and other relevant stakeholders to raise the issues of Dalit women towards ensuring rights, entitlements, and inclusion of Dalit women.

### **Goal:**

The main goal of the organization is to empower the community with a special focus on advancing human rights and access to justice for Dalit women.

### **Objectives:**

- Increase public awareness and empowerment of women to address the prominent issues of caste-based discrimination and gender-based violence in the society;
- Build the leadership capacity of front-line Dalit women leaders and activists to increase their voice and participation in decision-making for the development and justice of Dalit women at the local level;
- Promote inclusive local governance to increase the access of Dalit women to the resources and service delivery;
- Organize and empower Dalit women to address the issues and problems of sexual reproductive health, economic empowerment and livelihoods, disaster risk reduction, and climate change at the community level.

### **The focused programs/activities of the organization so far are:**

1. School education support for the children from Dalits and marginalized groups
2. Reproductive health education for women and adolescent girls
3. Entrepreneurship development, income generation, and self-employment creation for women from Dalits and marginalized groups
4. Women's rights and legal empowerment to prevent caste-based discrimination and gender-based violence
5. Mobilization of women human rights defenders and immediate relief support to disaster-affected community
6. Capacity building and institutional development

## ACHIEVEMENT OF THE PROGRAM

### I. Support to Dalit and marginalized women's families at the context of COVID-19

#### 1. Introduction

Urgent Action Fund Asia Pacific (UAF A&F) provided financial support to immediately fulfill the basic needs of families of women activists from Dalits, poor, and excluded groups in the present context of COVID-19. The proposed initiative that responds to unfolding situations or unanticipated opportunities of poor and vulnerable people and families of Dalit women front-line leaders at the community level to address the problems related to health, food, and continuation of traditional occupation of Dalit women to promote and set up enterprise and business in the economic crisis.

#### 2. Accomplishment

The following activities were accomplished to fulfill the immediate needs of women from Dalits, poor, and excluded groups in the context of COVID-19.

##### 2. 1. Three-day counselling training

Three-day counseling training was conducted for a total of 24 Dalit women activists to orient them with psycho-social counseling and they mobilized as psychosocial counselors to help people affected by psychosocial problems during the pandemic of COVID-19 and its aftermath. The aim of this training was to effectively and pro-actively mobilize Dalit women leaders and Dalit women activists to contribute towards promoting and advancing the human rights of Dalit women through the promotion of better social activism and voluntarism.





## 2.2. Distribution of food package, health and hygiene kits

A total of 100 women from Dalits and other marginalized groups were provided with health and hygiene kits (masks, sanitizer, soap, sanitary pad, thermometer, and pulse oximeter as per need) and they have taken health precautions with the practice of proper hygiene behavior to minimize health risks in the present context of COVID-19.

Similarly, the package of food (25 kg of rice, pulse/beans, cooking oil, salt, sugar, etc). were distributed to a total of 70 households from low-income most vulnerable people (daily wage workers), pregnant women, lactating mothers, and people living with disabilities and chronic diseases.





### 2.3. Support to promote Dalit's traditional occupation

Tailoring and shoe-making machines have been distributed to a total of 10 Dalit women in a program organized by DWN. This support was aimed to promote their traditional occupation as enterprise and business development during the economic crisis of COVID-19.



### **3. Conclusion**

The grant provided by UAF A&P was used to support the families of Dalit women activists who are living in the worse situations facing the problem of daily food, health, and hygiene, and continue their traditional occupations to support their livelihood. The targeted Dalits and other extremely marginalized poor people depend on their daily wage labor. In the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, they were more sufferers even though they can not afford to buy masks and sanitizer to take care of their health. DWN supported the package of food to 70 families of Dalit and marginalized women, health and hygiene kits to 100 women, and distribution of tailoring and shoe-making machine to 10 Dalit women to support their traditional occupation for their livelihood.

Dalit women activists oriented in psychosocial counseling have been helping the traumatized community people. It has promoted activism and volunteerism to provide their time in community support activities. Activism has evolved through their basic needs being fulfilled. This is very challenging in strengthening or sustaining community activism. Good coordination and linkage established with local government to address the cases of any discrimination in society such as inequality in relief material distribution, torture, or degrading treatment for Dalits through the mobilization of Dalit women human rights activists/front-line leaders in the pandemic of COVID-19.

## **II. Access to Economic Development for Women from Dalits and Marginalized Groups**

### **1. Background**

In order to reduce the poverty prevalent in the Dalit and underprivileged communities and economically empower women and unemployed youth, activities such as velvet and Dhaka shoe making business, ready-made clothing production and goat rearing will be conducted in Kirtipur municipality within the possibilities of creating economic opportunities and self-employment for women from Dalits and marginalized groups. By studying, observing and analyzing from different perspectives, it seems that these activities targeting Dalit and underprivileged women of Kirtipur municipality will help in creating economic opportunities.

In the thematic policy passed by the Kirtipur municipality, special emphasis has been placed on the program to improve the economic condition of women from Dalit and underprivileged communities. In the policy and program mentioned under economic development, the municipality will take the necessary steps for providing simple and concessional loans to industrialists to provide employment to local workers by establishing and operating domestic, small and medium industries in the city and also providing subsidy assistance for the interest of loans taken from financial institutions.

It is clearly mentioned in the policy and program of the local level that special subsidy support will be provided to businessmen who use raw materials available within the city area and use local labor to establish domestic and small industries and create jobs. The policies and programs have given special emphasis to the establishment of Koseli house for the promotion of manufactured goods in the city area and also to bring a program for the revival of handloom which is the identity of Kirtipur.

This program is relevant for the promotion of employment-based businesses based on local skills in the areas of poor, Dalit and backward classes. According to which, a proposal has been submitted to organize Dalit and underprivileged women entrepreneurs in collaboration with organized organizations and women's groups to run the program under Bagmati Province special grant. The activities of the program will support the policies and programs determined by Kirtipur municipality towards economic development to reach the economic development of Dalit and underprivileged women. This program will be effectively implemented under the leadership and management of the Dalit Women's Network. The Dalit Women's Network will manage the program by contacting, coordinating and cooperating with responsible and supportive civil society organizations, Dalit organizations and other stakeholders at the municipal level and implementing the program in an orderly and effective manner to achieve the expected results.

## **2. Goal of the program**

Contribute to increase the access to economic development of Dalit and underprivileged women

## **3. Objectives of the program**

- a. To provide training, raw materials and necessary consultancy to Dalit and underprivileged women for enterprise or business operation and upgradation to create economic opportunities in collaboration with the group.
- b. To encourage women from Dalit and underprivileged communities to work together in groups for entrepreneurship development and business expansion.

## **4. Expected results**

- a. Dalit and underprivileged women entrepreneurs of 32 households will be directly supported to create economic opportunities in the group by providing training, raw materials and necessary technical consultancy to run velvet and Dhaka shoes, ready-made clothing and goat production enterprises or businesses.
- b. Support will be provided through the group for entrepreneurship development and business expansion of Dalit and underprivileged women.



## 5. Program activities

- Velvet and Dhaka shoemaking business
- Goat rearing enterprise and
- Readymade garment manufacturing business

## 6. Achievement of the program

### 6.1. Business of making velvet and Dhaka shoes:

A total of 12 underprivileged women and men of the Dalit community were given two months of advanced training for quality shoe production/manufacturing to upgrade and commercialize the business of making velvet and Dhaka shoes in a group. The training was completed under the coordination of Tusal Youth Club and the facilitation of trainer Mr. Sanu Babu Bogti.

After the training, the participants were bought the necessary materials for the production of velvet and dhaka shoes in the group. In the beginning, materials were supported to expand the business and to continue it, the group was also oriented to coordinate contact with Kirtipur municipality and financial institutions for subsidized loans without collateral. About the production and marketing of velvet and Dhaka shoes were also oriented to the group members. It is hoped that the group will be able to expand its business in the future with the arrangement of the loan.





## 6.2. Goat rearing enterprise:

In ward no. 4 of Kirtipur municipality with the aim of helping Dalit women with poor economic conditions living near the forest area for goat rearing business management. 10 Dalit women from 4 were given 3 days training in goat rearing. The training was



conducted from 14th to 16th of Ashadh 2079. Goat rearing training was facilitated by Dr. Saurabh Raj Aryal, Prakash Luitel and Srijana Syangtan of Animal Branch Kirtipur, while Bharat Nepali assisted in training schedule and management.

The topics included in the training include introduction, importance, characteristics of goats and hybrid goats found in Nepal, external and internal parasites and important things to pay attention to in goat cage construction and cage management, general symptoms of the main diseases in goats, treatment and keeping goats healthy. Actions to be taken, Moo goats, Wyde Voka and Patapathi selection method, care of weaning Moo goats and newborns and management of feed, to put in goats. There was general information about vaccination and insurance for goats.

On the last day of the training, the Chief Guest of Kirtipur Municipality Deputy Chief Mr. Shubalakshmi Shakya, ward no. The training was completed in the presence of Mr. Shyam Adhikari, Ward President of 4 and Mr. Pavitra Bista, Executive Committee member. After the training, a total of 20 goats including 8 Voyer, 6 Jamunapari and 6 Khari breeds were purchased and 2 goats were handed over to 10 women in each group. Before the training, each woman was given Rs. 12,000 worth of sheds were constructed, and after the construction was completed, financial assistance of Rs. 6,000 was also provided as a 50% subsidy. Every goat was also insured. Goat rearing business is encouraged to operate according to the goat breeding system.

















### 6.3. Manufacture of ready-made garments:

A total of 12 women, including 7 Dalit women from Ward No. 7 and 5 women from extremely poor communities in Ward No. 9 were given two months of ready-made dress production training for ready-made dress production and dance management. The training was facilitated by trainer Mr. Suresh Pariyar. After the training, sewing machines were handed over to Dalit and underprivileged women in groups for the purpose of operating a sewing center to produce ready-made garments commercially. Fabrics were also made available for the production of ready-to-wear clothing during the training. The groups themselves will be responsible for investing for the continuation of the production and the participants have been encouraged to coordinate contacts with Kirtipur municipality and financial institutions for subsidized loans without collateral in the group.







## 7. Time period

During the period of about three months, the activities of the program were completed according to the objectives.

## 8. Program implementation process

When Kirtipur Municipality was conducting its programs, activities were conducted in an effective and result-oriented manner in accordance with the action plan to provide access to economic development to Dalits and other marginalized communities living in the community. In the leadership and management of the Dalit Women's Network, in coordination, cooperation and cooperation with other stakeholders, the activities set by the program have been successfully completed within the stipulated time and the progress report and financial report of the program have been submitted to Kirtipur Municipality. In order to achieve the set objectives, efforts were made to make the

program effective and result-oriented by contacting, coordinating and collaborating with the benefited population, government offices, public representatives, community non-governmental organizations, experts and related stakeholders at the local level.

## **9. Monitoring and evaluation**

Effective monitoring of the program was completed through Kirtipur Municipality's public representatives, employees, civil society representatives, experts and related stakeholders. During the monitoring and evaluation, the methods and procedures were adopted in a transparent manner while staying close to the planning and monitoring committee of the municipality. In addition, the evaluation of the program will be done with the help and advice of the mechanisms built by the municipal and state governments.

### **ACHIEVEMENT OF LAST THREE YEARS:**

DWN has successfully conducted the following program activities in the last three years to achieve its objectives.

- Entrepreneurship skill development training, including shoe-making and clothes sewing machines to 25 Dalit women, and two-month shoe-making training, including shoe-making and cloth sewing machine distribution to 22 Dalit women. A total of 10 Dalit women in ward No.4 of Kirtipur Municipality received two-months shoe-making training in the cooperation of the Tusal Youth Club. Dalit women have started to produce and market the shoes in a group.
- A total of 100 school-going children from Dalits and marginalized groups were provided education materials (book, notebook, pen, school bag, shoes, uniform) to continue their school education. A total of 20 SEE exam attended students from Dalits and marginalized were provided a three-month bridge course to support their further education and future career.
- A total of 150 women (locally elected Dalit women, women activists, and women group leaders) were oriented with legal empowerment and legal support to prevent caste-based discrimination, gender-based violence, and other forms of discrimination in society. A watchdog committee was formed and mobilized against caste and gender-based discrimination at the local level.
- A total of 30 women and adolescent girls from Dalits and marginalized groups were oriented about their reproductive health with the distribution of sanitary pads.
- Basic and advanced tailoring and cutting training to 20 women from Dalits and marginalized groups in wards No. 7 and 8 of Kirtipur Municipality and started tailoring center in a group to produce clothing items for marketing as per the demand.
- Dalit women group in ward no. 9 of Kirtipur Municipality was financially supported to operate a community grocery shop for income generation.



- Goat management training to 20 Dalit and marginalized women in wards No.4 and 5 of Kirtipur municipality. An improved breed of goats has been distributed to them at the rate of 2 goats per woman for the purpose of income generation.
- Three-month music training to 15 youths from Dalits and marginalized groups to encourage youth in promoting musical knowledge and skills.
- Three-day proposal writing and resource mobilization training for 25 unemployed and educated women to enhance their knowledge and skill to encourage them in raising the fund for community development.
- Two-day Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) training for 30 women from Dalits and marginalized groups to assist implement the GESI policy formulated by Kirtipur Municipality.
- Three-day psychosocial counseling orientation to 24 women rights activists and women human rights defenders to provide counseling services for the people affected by psychosocial problems during the COVID pandemic and its aftermath.
- Health and hygiene kits (masks, sanitizer, soap, sanitary pad, pulse oximeter, etc.) were distributed to 100 women from Dalit and other marginalized groups to motivate them for health precautions, the practice proper hygiene behavior in order to minimize health risks in the present context of COVID-19.
- A package of food items (25 Kg of rice, pulse/beans, cooking oil, salt, sugar, etc.) was distributed to 70 households of low-income most vulnerable people (daily wage workers), pregnant women, lactating mothers, people living with disabilities and chronic diseases.
- A total of 40 Dalit women who have survived from traditional occupation (tailoring and shoe-making) and cannot buy new machines due to the economic crisis have been supported with a tailoring and shoe-making machine to promote and set up their occupation as enterprise and business development.