

Stories and Demands of HBW members
of
Homebased Worker Women Society
Nepal



“My name is Shreemaya Tamang. I am 45 years old. I am from Nuwakot district and produce Buddhist Handicraft in Ramahiti, Kathmandu, Nepal, where I live now. I have been doing this work for the last 23 years. I get orders from local contractors as well as national level entrepreneurs. I sometimes take my products to sell in different Buddhist religious places. New designs are entering the market and I have to keep upgrading my designs. My eyesight is fading, and I have back and neck pain. I am unable to work for long hours. Old age and ill health has started worrying me. I may not be able to do this work for long.”

“I demand the government to provide home-based workers like me proper facility of marketing and tax exemption/subsidy. I also demand for health insurance and reasonable health facilities where I can get discounted treatment.”



“I am Laxmi Shrestha from Gokarneshwor Municipality ward No.10. I am 35 years old. I am married and have 3 children. I have been making bangles for the last 13 years. I also train other women in bangle making. Eight years back, I needed a loan and provided my house as a collateral to a local money lender. I was unable to repay the loan and the money lender sold my house to someone else. Since then I have been collecting money to get my house back. The money lender said that he would return my house, if I repay the loan and interest till date. I have the loan amount, but I am still saving the interest amount.”

“On the occasion of International Home-based Workers’ day, I demand the government to provide us with a longer term loan on low interest rate.”



“I am a Isha Tamang. I am 33 years old. I live in a Khanikhola VDC, Nuwakot district of Nepal. I have been producing bio briquette since the age of 25. We work in a group together. We are not members of the community forest and therefore don't have access to forest products to make char. The community forest has access to the char and even though they don't use it themselves, they sell it to us. Consequently, the price of our bio briquette goes up. We are poor at packaging and marketing and hence are unable to compete in the market.”

“I demand the government to provide easy access to raw material, and training on how to use the latest technology and marketing.”



I am Man Devi Shakya from Machhendra Bahal, Bugamati Kathmandu, Nepal. I am 39 years old. I do wood carving and make wooden craft products. Everyone in my family is involved in this work. I have been making these products for the last 20 years. We make the products at home, according to the order provided by the contractors. We lost our house during the earthquake and now we don't have enough space to work. The temporary shelter is just enough for us to live. There is absolutely no space to store the raw material."

"As a home-based worker affected by the earthquake, I demand the government to provide us support for rebuilding our house and workshop."