

Stories and Demands of HBW members
of
SAATHI



Bhagwati Gautam
38 years old
Home-based Worker-garment
worker, doll maker and bead
workers

I am Bhagwati Gautam, President of Manohara Griha Samik Mahila Samuha. I am 49 years old and live in a slum. I am insecure, because my home is at a constant risk of being demolished and I have no access to basic amenities. We have to access light through a nearby school, which makes it very expensive. I am a doll maker, tailor and I work with beads, neither of which pay well. This is because we are paid at a piece rate. My profession is not considered to be a real profession, which also puts my livelihood at risk.

“On the eve of International Home Based Workers’ Day I demand the Nepali Government to provide home-based workers like me to with secure housing with basic amenities, as well as minimum wages for our work.”

“I am Sajani Shrestha. I am a 35-year-old and have worked in the *dhoop* and paper bag making business for 22 years. Due to constant bending and working, I have severe backache and joint pain. I earn around NPR 4,500 per month and can’t afford recurring medical expenses. Due to the cramped spaces in the slums it gets difficult for us to do our jobs which is our only means of earning. Despite having some savings from being a member of the a SHG, I have no savings in a formal entity. Since I am a home-based worker I am not included in any national census. I am constantly worried about our home being demolished.”

“On the eve of the International Home Based Workers’ Day I demand the Nepali Government to provide home-based workers like me to get substantial pension and medical insurance.”



Sajani Shrestha
35 years
Home-based Worker-
dhoop and paper bag
maker