

Stories of SABAH Nepal members





Samjhana Khadgi
Bungmati
Knitting, Leadership

Samjhana Khadgi was born and brought up in Bungmati, an old traditional village south of Kathmandu. She had to discontinue her education and started working at an early age to support her family and money for the treatment of her mother. In the morning she worked in the farm and during daytime she ran a shop their family owned. On her spare time she learned knitting.

In 2009, Samjhana took the membership of SABA Nepal. After various trainings and exposure she was deemed fit for the leadership role and was given the responsibility of leading the Bungmati cluster of SABA Nepal.

With her strong leadership, Bungmati has its own Community Centre which is supporting more than 200 HBWs there. Ms. Samjhana now plays a key role for the economic rehabilitation of earthquake affected members from the area.

“Many women home-based workers can’t work because they have to take care of their children. Therefore, establishing a child care center is very necessary for them. We need a child care center for the Bungmati area as well, and this will enable women HBWs to concentrate on their work.”

Deu Maya Limbu came to Kathmandu with some basic *Dhaka* weaving skills. In Kathmandu she started working on wage basis which was barely enough to make a living. So she decided to buy her own handloom for which she sold all her jewellery and also took some loan. It was very difficult for her to make a living with the earnings by selling the 'Dhaka' fabric on top of the loan she had to pay off.

Deu Maya got enrolled with SABAH-Nepal as members in 2009. Being a member of SABAH Deu Maya got opportunities for various trainings related to weaving as well as on leadership. She started at SABAH as a piece rate weaver and gradually her economic situation improved. She paid all her debts. She is now a leader in SABAH's community centre in Byasi, Bhaktapur. She is now recognized by her peer group as a mentor and care taker for the weavers like herself.

"I want to have my identity as a worker and voice in the society. Hand crafted products should get a better price and even the customers must appreciate and should not hesitate to pay a higher price for such handcrafted products which is also conserving our cultural heritage."



Deu Maya Limbu
Handloom Weaver



Hari Devi Shrestha has been working as a supervisor in SABAH Nepal's Village Café since it opened in 2010. Various trainings and exposures at national and international level has not only honed her culinary skills but also these experiences has helped her become more confident to lead the café team of more than 200 women.

She shares that **“I never thought that I could come this far and stand as an example for others. Today, I have become a successful person supporting my three children. I am able to pay my children's school fees and buy clothes for them. I have also started saving for my future. I must thank SABAH for shaping my life and career. I want to help women by giving them platform to showcase their skills and help them succeed .”**

“As a home-based worker I thinks that there is no social security for us. Benefits such as medical insurance and provident fund should be provided to HBWs.”

Apsara Maharjan (Dangol) has been successfully undertaking various roles of leadership, trainer, farmer and President (Khokana Women Awareness Society). Apsara joined SABAH Nepal in 2009, since then she has been working very actively as a leader representing women home-based workers of Khokana Village. She has worked very hard to organize Women home-based workers to form a community group in the village. She was instrumental in establishment of SABAH's Common Facilitation Center (CFC) at Khokana Village. She is successfully managing various departments of CFC and she is equally involved in organizing trainings in respective departments (Stitching, knitting, Weaving and Food Units).

“Despite all the efforts that have been made for the home-based workers, I feel that the home-based workers are not recognized as a strong work force in the country. There needs to be policies and system set in place for us and we should be able to lead a respectful life like in any other profession.”





I would like to see all the HBWs of Nepal get better work opportunities and their skills enhanced through various trainings. Today on International Home-Based Workers' Day, I demand that the government should recognize us as a work force and provide various facilities such as free health care, pension etc.

"I left home at an age of 16 along with my friends with a dream to earn big in the city. I couldn't attend school as my family was poor. After I left home, I went to Gulmi to find some work. The income from weaving was not enough to support the family, therefore I started working in construction sites. Life became very difficult. I also took some loans to admit my two sons in school.

After few years working in Gulmi, I came to Kathmandu searching for better work opportunities. Fortunately, I got an opportunity to attend weaving training at SEWA India through SABAH Nepal. After this training I could resume the weaving work which made me very happy. I have been weaving various Allo and cotton fabric for SABAH Nepal since then. Currently, I am working as a Production Supervisor in weaving department at SABAH Nepal TFC. The biggest achievement for me is that I was nominated as a Board member for SABAH Nepal where I could represent many women like me.