



OPPORTUNITY VILLAGE NEPAL

शुभ अवसर ग्राम नेपाल

Wings of Empowerment

25 STORIES IGNITING INSPIRATION



Wings of empowerment 2023

© Opportunity Village Nepal (OVN)

All Right reserved.

Published in October 2023

Photo Credit: Opportunity Village Nepal (OVN)

All of the photographs used in this report were taken by Opportunity Village Nepal.

No part of this publication can be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, without approval of OVN. However, readers are free to make use of it for non-commercial purpose with proper acknowledgement of OVN and with receipt of a copy of any publication produced by its assistance.

Reference to particular geographical area are not intended to imply the expression of any opinion and/or make any judgements as to the legal or other status of the territory. Furthermore, names of the firms or commercial products, if quoted do not mean their endorsement and failure to mention particular other is not a sign of disapproval.

FOREWORD



Sanu Amatya

Chairperson
Opportunity Village Nepal

I extend warm greetings to you all on the auspicious occasion of the Silver Jubilee Year of OVN (Opportunity Village Nepal). 25 years is a mature adolescent stage moving towards the developing stage. Reaching this stage would not have been possible without mutual understanding, cooperation, and coordination among the community and different government bodies. On the occasion of its 25th Anniversary OVN is publishing 25 success stories of program participants as a testimony. Life itself is a story; it starts in the mother's womb and ends in the tomb. Likewise, many more peoples' life has changed after participating in OVN's program.

Congratulations to all the project participants and heartfelt thanks to all the team/staff of OVN, local partners' organizations for their continuous contribution to uplift the needy, disadvantageous people. Without their concern and effort, it would not have been possible to fulfill this social responsibility.

'The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others'. - Mahatma Gandhi

This quote resembles our OVN's hard work because of their tireless sacrifice and continuous service. It inspires us to continue our mission to touch the heart and soul of different shaded people. Although I was not involved directly in the project work conducted in different communities, my head, heart, and hands were always there to make this mission a success in the height of 25 years.

I express my gratitude to all the program participants, well-wishers, beneficiaries, partners in the missions, dedicated sisters as well as executive and general board members. I wish this silver jubilee year to be a great success. Hope we all continuously support with our valuable time and efforts in future too.

Congratulations again on this significant milestone of reaching remarkable 25 years.

I CAN DO THINGS YOU CANNOT, YOU CAN DO THINGS I CANNOT; TOGETHER WE CAN DO GREAT THINGS.' - MOTHER TERESA

FOREWORD

On the joyous occasion of our Silver Jubilee year in 2023, I am thrilled about the publication of 25 success stories from our program participants. Each story is a real life-changing testament to the organization's dedicated service to humanity. Saving lives matter; each story is a testament to the enduring spirit of human resilience and the transformative power of opportunity provided by Opportunity Village Nepal. As we commemorate twenty-five years of impact, these narratives serve as an expressive reminder of the lives touched, the barriers overcome, and the dreams realized. Congratulations to all the beneficiaries.



Sr. Anthonia Soosaiappan

Executive Director
Opportunity Village Nepal

Embrace the wisdom of "Bloom Where You Are Planted." Let these stories inspire you to find your own unique way to thrive and bring positivity to the world around you. They inspire us to continue our mission of creating impactful change in the lives of those we serve. The stories reflect the heart and soul of OVN, and it's a garden of inspiration where each story is a vibrant blossom.

I express my gratitude to all the program participants, well-wishers, benefactors, Sisters, partners in mission and most importantly, all those who have extended their valuable efforts to commemorate the Jubilee year 2023.

FOREWORD

With a grateful heart, I extend my Congratulations and warmest greetings to mission partners in Nepal as they pen down the "25 Success Stories" book release to commemorate the silver jubilee year of Opportunity Village, Nepal. It is a time of reflection, jubilation, and a renewed commitment to the values that have guided us on this journey. The stories covered in this book are a ray of hope that ignites inspiration. Let us not only be inspired by the achievements but also by the synergy and love put together made these success stories possible.



Sr. Pushpa Louis

Province Leader
Good Shepherd Sisters
Central East India/Nepal

Our quest in Nepal aims to save the lives of the vulnerable girls and women from Human trafficking. The storyline of the book is that OVN embodies the search for lost victims, reuniting families, healing wounds, and guiding them towards a radiant future. Thus, the success stories stand as living witnesses and testimony to the words of St. Mary Euphrasia, a visionary whose life exemplifies the concept that "One person is more precious than the whole world". Her profound message continues to resonate, inspiring advocacy and propelling action against the injustice of human trafficking. OVN continues to keep its dream alive by safeguarding human dignity, challenging injustice, and building a society where every person is treated with respect, love, and compassion.

I express my appreciation to the entire team of OVN especially the Board members and mission partners for their commitment to motivate and capacitate vulnerable children, girls and women towards a new horizon. My special thanks to the program participants for sharing their stories to provoke inspiration and support other victims of trafficking. I would like to conclude my message with the following quote - *"The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams."* - Eleanor Roosevelt

FOREWORD



Sr. Taskila Nicholas

**Country Representative
GSIF Nepal**

“Gratitude is the memory of the heart” SME

As Opportunity Village Nepal celebrates the outstanding journey of its 25 years of service to vulnerable and marginalized communities, I pen these few lines with an overwhelming sense of gratitude to all who were part of the journey and have been instrumental in mounding it to be a remarkable organisation. I appreciate it's the compassion, love, commitment and shared vision that had made a difference and profound impact on the communities they serve.

Today as OVN stands at this juncture, it can proudly say that it has created a legacy of change in the lives of many children, young girls and women. The success stories are a glimpse of the great work done, the smiles created on the faces once burdened by despair, the hope in the eyes of those who were given a second chance, and the sense of solidarity that has blossomed across the country and cultures. It's the resilience in the face of challenges, the innovation born from necessity, and the belief that a better world is not just an idealistic dream, but has become reality to all those who have come into contact with OVN.

I thank all who have generously shared their life stories to express their gratitude to the organization and to inspire other individuals who refused to be defined by their circumstances. May these stories kindle a spark of power within you to embrace challenges, take a step forward amidst the hardships of life and author your own stories of achievement.

As Opportunity Village celebrates its achievements, I aspire and wish OVN to reach greater heights reaching out to many, sharing compassion, standing for justice, and creating an inclusive society where women, girls and children are empowered and enjoy full human rights, live in dignity, free from all forms of violence and exploitation.



"Triumph Against All Odds"

Nita Pariyar, a 28-year-old female from Dhampus, Kaski district, has overcome challenges such as child marriage and domestic violence. She ran away from violence and injustice and experienced exploitation by human traffickers. With the support of OVN, she established a small jewellery shop in Pokhara, showcasing her resilience and determination.

She has faced significant hardships in her life, being a survivor of child marriage and endured domestic violence. The unbearable torment forced her to flee from her in-law's house, leaving her child behind. In search of a livelihood, she found a job but was deceived and fell into the clutches of human traffickers and ended up working in a dance bar, enduring the challenges and exploitation that came with it. Despite the hardships, Nita carried a dream deep within her to escape the threatening situation and find freedom from the cycle of violence. Nita's journey with OVN began through the influence of a peer support group member.

Recognizing her need for support, she received constant counseling and had the opportunity to participate in various in-house activities focused on raising awareness on different topics. Additionally, she took part in jewelry making skill training conducted by a Project Youth Motivator. With her self-interest and determination, she approached OVN for assistance in starting her own business. With OVN's support, she was able to establish a small jewelry shop in Pokhara, specializing in handmade handicrafts and ornaments. Over time, she took loans from the bank to develop her business and has been successfully paying them back. Her journey has brought her closer to her dream of independence, where she can support her daughter and take care of her mother and siblings. OVN has instilled in her a sense of purpose in life and a desire to give back to her community. Her determination and resilience serve as an inspiration, demonstrating the heroism and power found within every woman.

"I plan to support others who have faced similar challenges, offering them the knowledge and support needed to overcome their own obstacles." - Nita



"Conquering Adversity, Embracing Victory"



Puja B.K, a 26-year-old female, had a challenging upbringing in socio-economically disadvantaged family. She experienced child marriage and became a young single mother of two children following the loss of her life partner in an accident. Seeking a better life, Puja relocated to Pokhara and worked as a waitress in a hotel. During a day field visit, she came in contact with OVN through a community outreach worker and a youth motivator. Their encounter marked the beginning of a transformative journey for Puja. This led to her involvement in the project 'Promoting Youth Empowerment against Human Trafficking and Sexual Exploitation in Kaski, Nepal in 2022.

Through her involvement in the project, Puja participated in various events and programs that aimed to promote social empowerment and combat human trafficking and sexual exploitation. She attended project orientations, engaged in life skills and leadership training, contributed to youth campaigns addressing social issues, received entrepreneurship development training, and benefited from psychosocial sessions. These activities ignited a sense of motivation within her, driving her towards positive change.

As a result, she experienced an increase in self-esteem, self-reliance, courage, and gained knowledge on various topics. The project provided her with a solid foundation to pursue further education and training.



Building upon her newfound motivation and skills, Puja enrolled in a vocational training program, completing a 6-month basic and advanced tailoring course. She successfully passed her CTEVT exams and secured employment at a tailoring shop, earning a monthly income of Rs. 10,000. In addition to her regular work, she also undertakes orders and sews clothes from her home. Her newfound independence allows her to meet her daily needs and provide for her child. Furthermore, she is on the verge of fulfilling her dream of opening her own tailoring shop in the coming year, marking a significant milestone in her journey. The project has deeply influenced her aspirations and outlook on life.





"STRIVING. THRIVING. SUCCEEDING"



Pushpa Nepali, a 27-year-old female from Pokhara, participated in the project 'Promoting Youth Empowerment against Human Trafficking and Sexual Exploitation in Kaski, Nepal' for 2 years (2021-2022). She faced challenges as the eldest among her siblings, with her family struggling due to low income. Pushpa's personal journey included surviving child marriage and becoming a young mother. Changes in her life began when Pushpa came in contact with OVN in 2021.

Pushpa carried significant responsibilities as the eldest among five siblings. Her father worked as a daily wage laborer, and her mother was a housewife. The family faced financial challenges due to their low income. Pushpa herself was a survivor of child marriage and became a young mother. She worked as a waitress in Dohori Sanjh until she lost her job during the Covid-19 pandemic.

In 2021, Pushpa came in contact with OVN through a fellow participant in the project. Throughout the year, she actively engaged in various social empowerment programs, including life skills and leadership training, youth campaigns on social issues, entrepreneurship development training, soap and phenyl making training, and psychosocial sessions.

These experiences boosted her self-esteem and self-reliance. Pushpa took the initiative to join four other youths in starting a group business focused on phynil and soap production and sale. Although faced with initial challenges and subsequent departures of some members, she persevered and sustained the business, now sharing it with her friend. Pushpa's social and economic situation improved, allowing her to support her son's education. She plans to expand her business by providing samples to different shops.





"Surpassing Limitations, Defining Success"

Sangita (Pseudonym), 21-year-old, hailing from Machapuchere Rural Municipality in the Kaski District, faced a difficult background, including abandonment by her father, the loss of her mother, and experiencing human trafficking. She was unable to attend school due to being a child laborer at her uncle's house. Additionally, she experienced the trauma of child marriage and human trafficking as she was married off to a guy who forcefully took her to India. She was rescued by an organization and brought back to Nepal.

However, she continued to face a lack of protection and security until she was connected with OVN. Recognizing her needs, OVN referred her to a safe home, where she began her journey of recovery through counseling sessions and in-house activities.

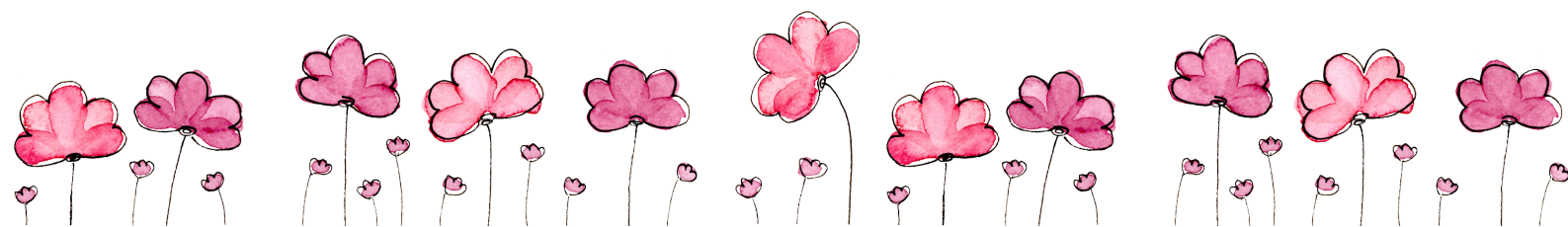
She actively participated in various activities and programs as part of the project. She was enrolled in a vocational training program, focusing on basic and advanced tailoring, for six months. Through her involvement, she acquired valuable skills and knowledge in the field of tailoring. The project also facilitated her reintegration into her family and provided business support to establish a tailoring shop. Her participation in the project empowered her, fostering personal growth, leadership development & a sense of empowerment.



Following her participation in the project, she achieved significant milestones. She successfully established her tailoring shop and became self-dependent, even supporting her sister. OVN continued to provide support and motivation while facing difficulties and her business was very low. She was able to restart her shop and overcome the challenges after covid with the assistance of OVN. She divorced her abusive spouse due to domestic violence. Her determination to stand strong and maintain her independence is commendable.

She aspires to continue her journey as an independent entrepreneur and sustain her livelihood through her tailoring business. The project she participated in have greatly influenced her ambitions and outlook on life, instilling confidence and resilience. She aims to expand her business and further enhance her skills in tailoring.

"I work towards promoting awareness about human trafficking and sexual exploitation." - Sangita



"Orchestrating Success"



Shiva Kumari Sunar, 32-year-old, from Myagdi district grew up in a family with seven siblings. Her parents worked as daily wage laborers. She got married at the age of 26 and has two children. Seeking better opportunities, she moved to Pokhara and worked as a singer at Dohori Sanjh. She encountered OVN through a PSG leader in 2022.

Shiva Kumari actively participated in various social empowerment programs facilitated by OVN, including life skills and leadership training, youth campaigns on various social issues, entrepreneurship development training, and psychosocial sessions. These experiences contributed towards her increased self-esteem and self-reliance. She was supported to start a grocery shop.

Recognizing her potential, OVN provided financial support for purchasing materials for the shop. Shiva Kumari's business flourished, enabling her to support her family's needs and provide education for her two children. OVN also encouraged her singing talent, and she had the opportunity to perform in a jingle on International Girl Child Day. She further showcased her skills by participating in a singing competition at the ward level and won the second prize.

She experienced positive changes in her life, both financially and personally, after participating in the project. Her singing talent and entrepreneurial success brought recognition and awards, highlighting her progress.





"Inspiring Path to Achievement"

Kharimaya Bishwokarma's journey from a remote village in Dhading to becoming a beacon of hope has become an inspiration to all. Born and raised in Tipling Village, she faced numerous challenges as a member of the marginalized "Untouchables" community.

She grew up in a humble household in Tipling Village, facing financial struggles alongside her nine family members. The discrimination faced by her community added an additional layer of hardship to her life. However, her thirst for education and her firm spirit kept her focused on her dreams, even in the face of adversity. Her potential and academic achievements caught the attention of Father Arul Selvam from a non-profit organization working in the Dhading District. Although initially hesitant, her mother eventually accepted the offer of a scholarship in a faraway city, recognizing the tremendous opportunity it presented for her future.

She found solace and support at Opportunity Village Nepal's Child Protection home in Hemja, Pokhara. In this nurturing environment, she thrived academically and personally. She excelled in her studies, gaining knowledge, skills and also learning essential values such as kindness, compassion, and hard work from the dedicated sisters who cared for her.

She became the first person from her village to complete the Secondary Education Examination (SEE) and HSEB examination, a testament to her hard work and dedication. Additionally, she pursued a software development course and secured a one-year internship, further honing her skills in this field.

Her journey of triumph continued as she secured a position as a Data Entry Officer at Labim Mall in Kathmandu. Balancing her work responsibilities with her pursuit of a bachelor's degree, she demonstrates remarkable dedication and perseverance in achieving her goals.

Her ultimate goal is to give back to her community in Tipling Village. She aims to provide educational opportunities to children who, like her, yearn for a brighter future. As a role model, she inspires children and their parents to dream big, work hard, and embrace the transformative power of education.

"Breaking Free, Embracing Empowerment"



Buddhimaya Tamang's story is one of strength, and triumph over adversity. After enduring years of domestic abuse and violence, she found hope and support at Opportunity Village Nepal (OVN). The intervention and empowering programs, has transformed her life, finding safety, rebuilding her self-worth, and reclaiming her independence.

Recognizing the urgency and severity of her situation, the National Women Commission referred her to OVN where she received safety shelter, legal support, and counseling services. The organization became her sanctuary, offering the support and resources she needed to break free from the cycle of abuse.

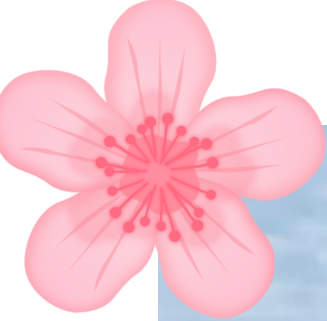


"At OVN's safety shelter, I found a supportive and nurturing environment. Through counseling sessions, I learned to overcome the trauma I had endured, understand the dynamics of domestic violence, and develop coping mechanisms. These experience empowered me to regain my self-worth, rebuild my confidence, and envision a brighter future for me and my child." - Buddhimaya

Opportunity Village Nepal recognized Buddhimaya's potential and offered her rehabilitation support by establishing a boutique. With dedication and new vigor, she embraced the chance to develop new skills and become financially independent. She secured her financial stability with the newly established business and expanded her entrepreneurial horizons by selling 'Chatpate' (puffed rice salad).

She escaped the cycle of abuse, found safety, rebuilt her self-worth, and embraced entrepreneurship to secure her future. Her journey inspires others to break free from the chains of violence, embrace their worth, and rebuild their lives with her determination. Her story reminds us all that no matter how dark the circumstances, there is always hope for a brighter tomorrow.





"Unleashing Potential, Celebrating Success"

Kamala's journey from a singer in a Dohori Sanjh to a symbol of inspiration is incredible. With OVN's support and guidance, she harnessed her passion for singing, overcame financial constraints, and emerged as a leader within her community. Her story inspires others to embrace their talents and seize opportunities for personal and professional growth.

She is a talented 23-year-old woman, faced various challenges in her pursuit of a singing career. While she worked as a singer in a renowned Dohori Ghar, financial limitations prevented her from receiving proper vocal training. Despite these obstacles, her love for singing and her dedication to supporting her family fueled her determination to succeed. Her journey took a positive turn when she encountered the PSG (Peer Support Group) of Opportunity Village Nepal. Recognizing her potential, the PSG extended a helping hand, guiding her towards a brighter future. Eager to embrace the opportunity, Kamala joined Opportunity Village Nepal, where her transformation began.

At Opportunity Village Nepal, Kamala actively participated in various capacity-building trainings. She is currently taking vocal training with the financial support of OVN and doing well in her singing career. Her passion for learning and dedication to her craft were evident in every session. She not only absorbed knowledge but also encouraged other girls to join Opportunity Village Nepal, inspiring them to recognize their own potential. Kamala's determination and active participation caught the attention of Opportunity Village Nepal, leading to her selection as the president of self help group. She is a leader at heart and an inspiration to many.



"Empowered by Passion, Defined by Success"



Aashma Lopchan, a 22-year-old from Madhvan Municipality-9, Taratal, was at risk of human trafficking. Rescued by Opportunity Village Nepal, she had been brought into an exploitative situation in the entertainment sector by an acquaintance promising a job. OVN's intervention ensured her safety and support.

Aashma Lopchan's personal journey has been marked by hardship and vulnerability. Growing up in Madhvan Municipality, Bardiya, she faced numerous challenges. After living in India with her parents and working as a domestic helper to support her family, she returned to Nepal. Unfortunately, her parents separated, leaving Aashma to live with her mother in Bardiya. With no support from her father, their financial situation became awful. In a desperate attempt to find employment, Aashma was sent to Kathmandu by her mother, accompanied by an individual she knew. However, she was deceived and forced into exploitative work in the dance bar and later was moved to Bhairahawa.

Opportunity Village Nepal, in collaboration with Siddharthanagar Municipality and District Police Office, conducts rescue operations to combat human trafficking. She was rescued during one such operation, along with 24 other girls, from the exploitative situations they were trapped in. As part of the intervention, Aashma and 10 other girls were referred to the safe home operated by Opportunity Village Nepal for counseling and support. She successfully completed one-month Barista training with OVN's financial support.

Through counseling, she underwent a transformation in her mindset and gained awareness of the exploitative nature of the adult entertainment sector. She realized the importance of self-reliance and developed coffee-making skills through the Barista training. She received a job placement offer from the training institute. This job opportunity have empowered her to strive for financial independence and build a better future. She aspires to become a successful female entrepreneur, utilizing her skills.



"Breaking Chains, Reclaiming Life"



Gena Kumari, a 21-year-old woman, experienced a difficult personal journey. Hailing from Hansapur Municipality-4 in Dhanusa, Madhesh Province, she faced numerous challenges due to her family's economic struggles and lack of educational opportunities. With her father's early passing, Gena Kumari was unable to receive proper schooling, and her family, belonging to the economically disadvantaged Mushahar community, struggled to meet their basic needs. She was lured by a boy with a promise for employment in the city. However, this opportunity led her down a treacherous path as she was taken to India via Birgunj and Rakshaul Border without her family's knowledge. Gena Kumari found herself caught up in an illegal orchestra crew in the Motihari District of Bihar, India, where she endured abuse and exploitation for four years.

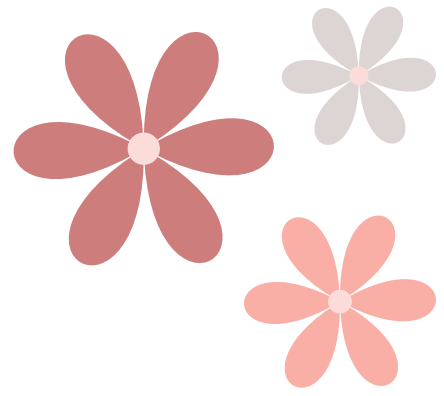
Gena Kumari had no prior knowledge of dancing or performing on a big stage in front of thousands of audiences. Trapped in a situation where she was not allowed to move freely and faced constant observation, she longed to return home.

However, the owner and the boy who brought her there offered no assistance. For four years, she endured abuse from crew members and audience members, spending countless nights on stage wearing fake smiles while crying behind the scenes. Gena Kumari's family made desperate efforts to find her but were unable to obtain any clues about her whereabouts. Finally, after a raid conducted by the police and Mission Mukti Foundation in Delhi she was rescued. The rescue was supported by Opportunity Village Nepal. She came back empty-handed but was filled with memories of sorrow and suffering.

After the rescue operation initially she was placed in the CWC Motihari shelter home. Opportunity Village Nepal collaborated with Nepal Embassy in New Delhi for the repatriation process and she was reunited with her family in Dhanusa, Madhesh Province. The heartwarming reunion touched everyone who witnessed it. Although she had not received a formal education, Gena Kumari expressed her interest to acquire skills and become economically self-reliant in the future. Opportunity Village Nepal continues to mentor her and provide support according to her aptitude. Her involvement with Opportunity Village Nepal has likely influenced her outlook on life, instilling a sense of hope and the belief that she can overcome challenges.



"Rebuilding Hope, Redefining Success"



Nisha Tharu, a 17-year-old girl from Banganga-10, Bankatti, Kapilvastu, was at risk of human trafficking before being rescued by Opportunity Village Nepal (OVN) in Bhairahawa. Her challenging background, including the loss of her father and delicate socioeconomic status, led her to seek a better future. Thankfully, OVN provided her with safety and support, offering a lifeline to a brighter and secure future.

She hails from a challenging background. After the loss of her father, her mother remarried, but tragedy struck again when her second husband passed away soon after their marriage. Nisha's family faced uncertain circumstances and hardships. Balancing her education and supporting her family became increasingly difficult given their delicate socioeconomic status. In a desperate bid for a better future, she was once taken to India by an acquaintance who promised to help her pursue higher studies. However, recognizing the potential danger, she was intercepted by the vigilant Border Staffs of OVN at the Kalidah border of Lumbini Sanskritik Municipality, Rupandehi.



OVN has been actively involved in preventing and intercepting potential cases of human trafficking. Nisha Tharu was one of the many girls crossing the border under suspicious circumstances. She was accompanied by a person claiming to be a doctor. The Border Surveillance Assistants of OVN stopped them, realizing that something was amiss. After thorough enquiry, she and the individual were sent back to Nepal. However, their paths crossed again at the border the following week as the person claiming to be a doctor was determined to take Nisha to India. This time, the case was referred to the Kalidah Police Station, and a meeting was held in the presence of the accused, her parents, and police officials. Eventually, she was intercepted and referred to the safe home in Bhairahawa, operated by OVN.

Through counseling and support, Nisha gained awareness of the high risk of trafficking she had unknowingly faced. The timely intervention saved her from danger and exploitation. Inspired by her experience, Nisha made the decision to continue her higher education in Nepal. She is currently studying hotel management and recently appeared for her grade 11 examinations. In addition to her studies, she volunteers at a cafe in Butwal, where she gains practical experience and earns a modest income. This income not only helps her continue her education but also supports her mother in meeting the basic needs of their family. She aspires to become a successful hotel entrepreneur, and OVN continues its guidance ready to provide support in the future.





"Healing Wounds, Inspiring Success"



Sangita Tripathi, 27-year-old, hails from Kotahimai Rural Municipality-1, Rupandehi. Her personal journey was marked by a challenging socio-economic family background. She was a victim of domestic violence, enduring a tumultuous relationship with her husband and in-laws. She faced constant torture and abuse, including dowry demands, and verbal insults and was ill treated by the in laws. Despite her willingness to reconcile with the in-laws family, she was forced out of her home and deprived of basic necessities such as food and clothing.

She was rescued by the District Police Office Rupandehi in collaboration with Opportunity Village Nepal. On June 7, 2022, she was referred to OVN, where she found shelter, protection, counseling, and other safe home facilities. Currently, her legal battle is ongoing in the court. Initially, during counseling sessions, she felt hopeless, broken, and helpless, with her mind filled with negative thoughts. She regained hope and decided to fight her legal battle with the support of OVN. She also received income generation support enabling her to move away from the toxic environment of domestic violence.

She underwent training in tailoring and boutique, allowing her to establish her own shop. Through her hard work and dedication, she earns a profit of over 20,000 rupees per month, with even higher earnings during the wedding season.

The transformation in her confidence and independence is evident. She has emerged as a courageous individual, defying societal norms and pursuing her dreams. Her achievements and progress have gained recognition from both the OVN project team and her community, who regularly monitor and provide guidance.

"I plan to create initiatives that promote awareness about domestic violence and provide assistance to survivors. I envision a future where I can make a meaningful impact and be a source of hope and inspiration for others who are trapped in abusive situations." - Sangita



"Reclaiming Freedom, Embracing Challenges"



The three individuals involved in this success story are Karina (18 years old), Rabina (21 years old), and Kabita (24 years old). They are from Dolakha district in Nepal but were living temporarily in Kathmandu. With a basic level of literacy, they were persuaded by friends to join an orchestra team in India, promising them good pay. However, upon arriving in Laxminagar, U.P. India, they discovered that many other Nepalese girls were also being exploited as orchestra dancers. The owner of the orchestra initially promised to pay them 2000 rupees per program but only paid them 500 or less. They faced abusive language, threats, and even attempted abuse from crew members. The lockdown during the Covid-19 pandemic made their situation even more difficult, as movement and mass gatherings were prohibited.

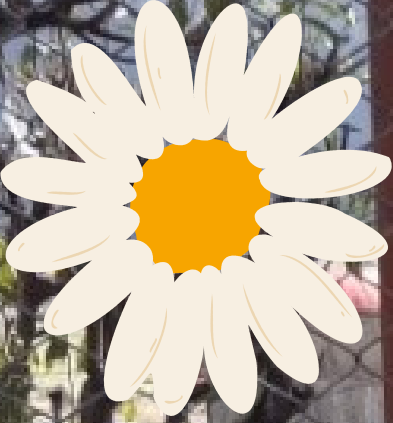
Karina, one of the girls, managed to escape and reported the situation to the police, highlighting the hostage situation and the girls' vulnerability to Covid-19. Opportunity Village Nepal (OVN) coordinated with various organizations and stakeholders, including PGSS, AHTU, SSB, and others, to initiate a rescue operation on May 9, 2021. The rescue mission involved raiding multiple locations, resulting in the rescue of six more girls and a boy. Legal action was taken against the orchestra owner. The survivors were handed over to the authorities and subsequently referred to OVN for shelter, protection, and family reintegration.

As a result of OVN's intervention, all seven girls were reintegrated with their families with the support of OVN. They have been given a fresh start in life and now recognize the painful conditions and abuse faced by young girls in orchestra groups. They have pledged never to return to such exploitative work and instead opt for more dignified employment within their own country. The survivors not only escaped from these exploitative situations but also received quality quarantine and health services during the height of the Covid-19 crisis.

The noteworthy accomplishment of this success story lies in the successful rescue and repatriation of the girls, leading to their reintegration with their families. The positive changes observed in their lives include awareness of exploitation and a commitment to pursuing more dignified and prestigious work opportunities. They expressed their gratitude to Opportunity Village Nepal for the support during this challenging time.

The survivors now aspire to pursue their dreams and career objectives, free from exploitation. The project with OVN has influenced their ambitions and outlook on life, motivating them to seek better opportunities and make a positive impact. They have plans to contribute to their communities and support others who may find themselves in similar situations, advocating against exploitation and providing assistance to those in need.





"Empowering Dreams, Inspiring Change"



Sushmita is currently 18 years old and arrived at the children's home when she was 15 years old. She completed her SEE (Secondary Education Examination) from Shri Ambika Secondary School and pursued her high school education in Kathmandu. She hails from a family of six, including her father, mother, three sisters, and a younger brother. She is the second child in the family, and her elder sister was already married. Her father had been working abroad for around eight years but returned to Nepal in 2020 to run a grocery shop in the city. Occasionally, the family would stay at their village house. Sushmita's mother took care of household chores and assisted with the shop, while her 10-year-old brother attended school in Class 3.

Tragically, a landslide caused by heavy rains in Dhorpatan Village Municipality of Baglung district in 2020 devastated the area. Around 40 houses were swept away downstream in Wards 7, 8, and 9, resulting in the loss of 37 lives, with 41 people reported missing and three injured. Sushmita's family was also affected by this tragic event, as her father, mother, and brother lost their lives. Fortunately, she and her younger sister survived as they were at their old house in the village, while her parents and brother were in the shop. Sushmita experienced immense shock and despair upon witnessing the devastation, and she desperately searched for her parents with the help of villagers and the police, only to realize the heartbreaking truth that she had lost them.

When the local government of Baglung district sought alternatives for the protection of the girls affected by the disaster, they learned about Opportunity Village Nepal (OVN). Witnessing the painful circumstances faced by the villagers, OVN decided to provide essential items for survival and identified Sushmita and her sister as a dire need for long-term residential protection. OVN collaborated with the local government of Baglung to provide residential protection for both girls in Child Protection Home. To help Sushmita cope with the grief of losing her parents and everything she had, she received psychosocial counseling utilizing various techniques such as mindful meditation and art therapy.

Sushmita resided in the children's home until Class 10, successfully completing her SEE examination. Following her academic success, she was reintegrated with her elder sister. She pursued her high school education in Kathmandu, with OVN providing educational support. She demonstrated remarkable progress in her academics, maintaining a daily routine and actively engaging in various in-house activities such as yoga, meditation, art and craft, gardening, life skill training, games, sports, and dance performances. These experiences helped her find peace with her past and envision a brighter future. Before and after reintegration, she received counseling to ensure a smooth transition. At present, she has completed her high school education and is employed as a salesperson in a jewelry shop. She aims to become financially independent to be a reliable person for her younger sister as well.





"Blossoming Beyond Adversity"



Princess Tiwari, a 17-year-old survivor of different forms of abuse and exploitation, had a challenging upbringing in Devgaw, Nawalparasi. At the tender age of 14, her parents' separation left Princess and her brother in a state of uncertainty and darkness. After being taken to Mumbai by her mother, Princess found herself trapped in a dangerous environment where she suffered abuse at the hands of her mother's companion. Seeking support, she shared her harrowing experiences with her mother, but unfortunately, received no assistance. Instead, both her mother and the man dismissed her claims and subjected her to physical violence. Fearing for her safety, Princess made the brave decision to leave her home. However, she was forcibly brought back and subjected to further punishment.

Determined to find a safe haven, Princess decided to seek refuge with her father, but she had lost contact with him. Finally, after managing to reach her aunt's home, her efforts were met with more violence as her mother accused Princess and her aunt of theft and filed complaints against them at the District Police Office. With her safety at risk, Princess was referred to OVN's safe home in Bhairahawa Rupandehi, where she received immediate shelter and protection.

Upon arriving at the safe home, Princess was greeted with empathy and provided with the essential counseling and healthcare services she needed. During her stay, she participated in a 6-month basic and diploma computer course, gaining valuable skills that would shape her future.

With the support and interventions provided by OVN, Princess successfully emerged from her traumatic past and found newfound strength and resilience. After completing her computer courses, she secured employment at a cooperative, earning a livelihood.

Empowered by her determination, Princess's progress continued to soar as she secured a position in a private company in Mumbai, now earning an impressive salary of NPR 24,000. This remarkable financial independence not only improved her own life but also enabled her to support her family.

With her sights set on a brighter future, Princess is eager to pursue higher education while continuing to excel in her work. Her firm motivation and growing confidence will lead her to a brighter tomorrow.





"Building Confidence, Cultivating Success"

Ram Dulari Yadav, a 21-year-old from Lumbini Sanskritik Municipality, Rupandehi, has faced immense hardships and domestic violence throughout her life. Despite her strong desire to pursue an education, she was deprived of the opportunity to attend school. Her mother, who was educated and well-respected in the community, instead burdened Ram Dulari with heavy household chores.

At a young age, she was forced into two child marriages against her will, both of which ended in failure due to various reasons. A trip with friends to India resulted in misunderstandings, and false rumors, leading to severe physical abuse when she returned home. This abuse left her hearing impaired and partial loss of sight.

Her life took a tragic turn when she chose to be with a Muslim boy of her own choice. The relationship was met with opposition and false accusations from her family, and her husband was arrested on charges of child marriage, abduction, and rape. The legal proceedings are still ongoing.

In the face of these distressing circumstances, she was rescued by the District Police Office, Rupandehi, and provided shelter and support through the collaboration of OVN. Throughout the intervention, she stayed at OVN's Safe Home, where she received comprehensive care and protection. Despite facing political pressures and threats, OVN's team ensured her safety and wellbeing.

She underwent ear surgery which successful and her hearing is now restored. Now she is receiving necessary treatment for her eyes, OVN was able to get the National Health Board to cover the medical expenses. She has emerged from painful past with great hope and found purpose in life. She feels grateful for the support received from OVN. Having completed her vocational training she was enrolled in Life Project for Youths, at Lalitpur, to further enhance her prospects for a better future. Currently, she serves as support staff at OVN.



"Courageous Heart, Boundless Possibilities"



Pratigya Adhikari, a courageous young individual from Hemja, Pokhara, experienced great adversity at a tender age. She lost her parents, leaving her and her elder brother alone. With no support system to care for them, She was brought to Opportunity Village Nepal (OVN) by the community people at the age of seven. During this challenging time, her brother stayed with their uncle.

OVN opened doors to Pratigya, providing her not only with a safe and nurturing environment but also with access to education and the support she desperately needed. The sisters and children at OVN warmly welcomed her, creating a sense of belonging and comfort in this new family.

The journey at the Child Protection Home wasn't without its challenges, but Pratigya quickly adapted to the routine and embraced the opportunities offered. Through life skill program, she learned values, such as maintaining strong relationships with peers and sisters. Moreover, she gained practical skills like cooking and experimented with flavors in the kitchen, creating delightful dishes with her newfound friends.

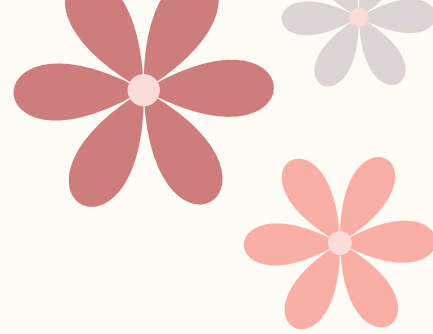
She learned valuable skills, such as sewing and maintaining cleanliness, which contributed to her self-sufficiency, confidence, and sense of accomplishment. Additionally, she learned how to cultivate vegetables in a small garden in the children's home, instilling a sense of responsibility for the environment and the world around her.

Now, Pratigya works with OVN as a Logistic cum Cashier. She walks into the office every day with a sense of pride, knowing she is part of a team that strives for excellence. OVN not only provided her with a job but continued to support her in her higher studies. OVN's support and belief in her abilities have helped her stand firmly on her own feet. The guidance and mentorship received from OVN have been invaluable, and she feels forever grateful.

"I am forever grateful towards OVN which continues to make a positive impact on the lives of children, fostering their dreams and empowering them to lead fulfilling lives." - Pratigya



"Rising Above Circumstances"



Rojina Kumari Sarki, hailing from the Beni Municipality of Myagdi District, now 26 years old faced significant challenges from a young age. She grew up in a poor family background, and became a survivor of abuse during her childhood. The trauma was devastating, making it incredibly hard for her to continue her education. Recognizing her vulnerable situation, the Ward recommended her to receive shelter support, which eventually led her to OVN and marked the beginning of her transformation.

At OVN, Rojina found a safe atmosphere and suitable environment that empowered her to overcome her adversities. Engaging in constant counseling sessions and participating in various skill-building programs, such as Art of Skilled Facilitation, PSG, Peer Counsellor Training, life skill training, leadership training, Psychosocial well-being, and self-healing sessions, she experienced a significant boost in her self-confidence and found focus in life to break free from traumatic situations.

Driven by her passion to become a beautician, Rojina's dream was recognized and supported by OVN. The project provided her with the opportunity to receive training in both basic and advanced beautician skills. With the necessary cosmetic items and furniture provided by OVN, her dream materialized as she successfully opened her own beauty parlour. This venture not only enhanced her livelihood but also instilled in her a sense of independence and self-reliance.

Looking ahead, she aspires to take her business back to her hometown to support her mother and family. Her determination and the support she received from OVN have boosted her with a sense of purpose and direction in life. Her success story is a living proof of the transformative power of support and empowerment, which has enabled her to rise above her challenges and create a brighter future for herself.



"Shining Star: Tara"

Tara Karki, a courageous and determined 26-year-old woman, embarked on an inspiring journey from helplessness to empowerment, with the transformative impact of Opportunity Village Nepal (OVN).

Originally hailing from Chitwan, Tara endured a difficult childhood marked by poverty and her father's illness, which made it challenging for the family to meet their basic needs. At the age of 23, she was married, but tragically lost her husband after just three years of marriage, leaving her with the responsibility of caring for her young daughter. In 2016, after the death of her father, she moved to Pokhara with her family in search of better opportunities.

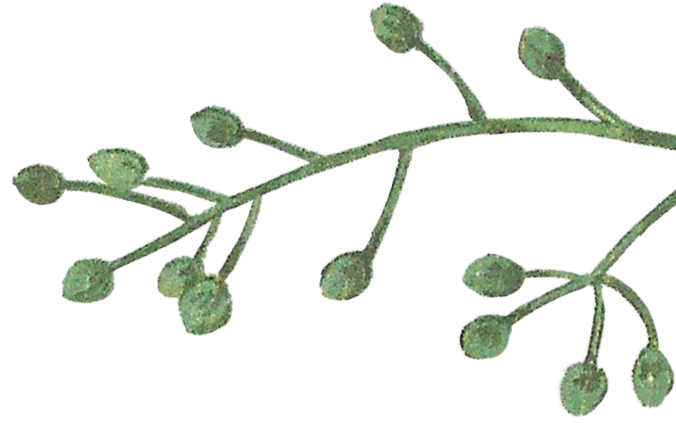
With limited options, she worked as a boat girl at Fewa Lake in Pokhara, striving to support her family's needs. Over time, she worked hard and was promoted to a boat guide, carrying the heavy baggage of tourists. In her free time, she also earned additional income through tattoo design. However, the Covid-19 pandemic brought unexpected challenges, and she lost her job due to the decline in tourist activity. To make ends meet, she found work in the entertainment sector, where she sadly experienced exploitation and vulnerability.

Recognizing her potential and determination, OVN supported her with the necessary finance to establish her business. Today, she proudly runs her grocery shop, not only earning a decent livelihood but educating her 13-year-old daughter. Now she proudly extends her support to her mother and siblings.

With gratitude, she acknowledges the intervention of OVN and the support it provided to lift her life from the depths of nothingness. Her aspirations for her shop continue to grow, and she plans to add homemade snacks to enhance sales and meet the needs of her growing customer.



"Ignorance to Illumination"



Rojana Sunar, 26, a brave and determined woman coming from Kalikot, had her life changed through the intervention and support of Opportunity Village Nepal (OVN). Her journey began with immense hardships, facing abuse and torture from her husband, which led her to seek refuge in Kathmandu. However, her struggles continued as she found herself in an equally challenging situation, experiencing abuse and physical violence from her brother-in-law.

She found the sparks of hope when she came in contact with OVN. Participating in various training programs at OVN, enabled her to discover that she was not alone in her struggles. Finding solace and support from other women who had faced similar challenges, she felt empowered to confront her own adversities.

She now she has the ability to financially support her parents, siblings' college education, and their medical expenses With her steady income. Her savings continue to grow, allowing her to plan for a more secure future. The progress that she has made in her life is truly remarkable. Now she is able to read, write, and even use the computer. all credit goes to OVN.

She was offered temporary employment as Safe Home staff, where she provided assistance and comfort to other survivors who, like her, sought refuge and healing. Her dedication and commitment soon led to a full-time position as a support staff at OVN. She embraced her role as a cook cum security guard, finding immense satisfaction in her work and the financial independence it provides.



"Building a Life"



Sushila Sunar, a 21-year-old woman from Jajarkot, Nepal, faced numerous challenges in her early life that threatened her future. A premature marriage, recurrent miscarriages, and domestic abuse left her abandoned and without support. However, a ray of hope shone when she connected with Opportunity Village Nepal (OVN), which provided her with comprehensive assistance to rebuild her life and pave a new way for a promising future.

She participated in OVN's training programs, where she developed her communication and decision-making skills. These initiatives empowered her to navigate challenges independently and regain control over her life.

She was engaged in therapeutic activities at OVN, to address her emotional well-being and build resilience. This support helped her heal from past traumas, develop her coping mechanisms, and rebuild her self-esteem.

OVN enrolled Sushila in a three-month vocational training program in Industrial Tailoring. This training provided her with practical skills, opening doors for economic independence and a sustainable livelihood.

Her self-esteem and confidence improved, and she found solace in the supportive environment at OVN. Vocational training in Industrial Tailoring empowered her to pursue a career and achieve economic independence, giving her hope for a brighter future.

Sushila's journey exemplifies the impact of comprehensive support and empowerment programs that helps the marginalized individuals to break down the challenging circumstances and thrive in life.



"SCULPTING HER DESTINY"



Fifteen year old Nirmala (pseudonym) from Gorkha faced a challenging life when her parents decided to separate. She was sent to live with her grandparents and continued her education. Her story came to the limelight when her uncle filed a First Information Report (FIR) that she was missing in Salyantar, Dhading on December 1st, 2022. Thanks to the coordinated efforts of the Nepal police, Nepal embassy in New Delhi, KIN India and Opportunity Village Nepal (OVN) she was rescued on February 3rd, 2023, in Mangalbazar, India marking the end to her terrifying ordeal.

The investigation revealed that the girl was manipulated by people who showed her videos of lucrative rituals. This led her to India with false promises. She was shifted to various locations and was presented to different 'babas' for profit. Fortunately she managed to contact her mother which enabled the rescue team to identify the location and eventually rescue her. This case emphasizes the dangers of trafficking, highlighting the importance of vigilance against manipulation.

Rescued by KIN India and OVN, she was brought to Kathmandu on February 9th, 2023. Receiving medical care and emotional healing she was enrolled in school, she prepared for the SEE examination under the safe protection and accommodation of OVN. Regular therapeutic counseling, mindfulness exercises, and life skills training helped her to overcome the trauma and regain confidence and mental well-being. OVN provided her with a Basic Graphic Designing and Computer course to enhance her skills. The survivor successfully passed her SEE examination, during her stay at OVN.

OVN's constant support and conducive environment facilitated her recovery. She is currently pursuing her higher secondary education. Her aspiration is to become a police officer to prevent and rescue potential trafficking victims. This success story marks the importance of collective efforts in combating trafficking and rehabilitating survivors. The survivor's journey from trauma to triumph is a testament to the power of compassion and empowerment, guided by organizations like Opportunity Village Nepal.



"UNTANGLING THE CHAINS"

In a challenging environment where wrong choices seemed likely, Sarju Sunar's story stood out as a tale of resilience and triumph. Growing up in this backdrop, she found herself as the only student in her locality attending a Secondary School. With family responsibilities weighing heavily on her siblings, some of whom married at a young age or left home for work, Sarju's educational journey seemed uncertain. However, the intervention of an organization provided sustenance, enabling her to continue her education despite numerous obstacles and financial constraints. Her mother's constant support and encouragement created a conducive environment for education.

Amidst her struggles, she faced the departure of her alcoholic father while she was in 10th grade. The absence of his abusive presence brought a complex mix of relief and new challenges. In 12th grade, her academic journey encountered a roadblock as she transitioned to the realm of employment, lacking the skills and certificates necessary for securing a good job.

In a household of seven, single-handedly sustaining the family fell upon her mother's shoulders, leaving Sarju with no choice but to contribute through work from a young age. Even during her 11th grade, she managed to juggle school and morning work. Amid these efforts, she faced threats, abuse by an employer (moneylender) while performing household chores.

Volunteering for seven months in OVN equipped her with life skills. She extended her involvement by reaching out to friends in her village and introducing them to OVN. Despite limited familial encouragement, Sarju pressed forward, feeling the promise of a brighter future. She dedicated herself to hard work and continuous learning.

After a three-years of working experience and mentorship of OVN, she secured a role in the accounting and administration division of a renowned organization. The journey from a single student to a professional driven to make a difference represents the impact of educational empowerment and personal determination. Through the twists and turns, her narrative symbolized the transformative potential the organization holds



"Empowered to Heal"



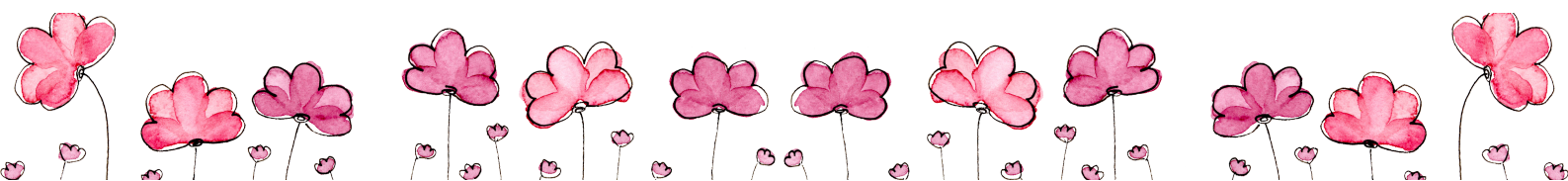
Neeru BK born on March 8th, 1998, faced adversity from a young age. Losing her parents early in life denied her the nurturing care that every child deserves. Nevertheless, her spirit remained unbreakable, and her story became one of courage and hope. She found herself under her grandfather's care, a refuge amidst life's challenges. Despite initial hesitations, her grandfather's determination prevailed, shaping the foundation of her path forward.

Enduring various hardships, Neeru balanced her education with work in others' homes. An encounter with a family initially held the promise of education and care, but she found herself caring for their children instead. Within this household, she faced verbal and physical abuse from a boy. Despite the adversity, her resilience shone through, and she escaped this distressing situation, seeking solace in her grandfather's embrace.

Seeking support from her aunt, she embarked on a journey of transformation. Enrolling in a government school, she navigated her studies alongside diligent work, steadily progressing through life's challenges. A friend introduced her to OVN, a haven of opportunity, education, and support. Surrounded by compassionate sisters and friends, she discovered her rights and unleashed her true potential. In 2016, she achieved a significant milestone, successfully passing her 10th-grade exams. This marked the beginning of a new chapter as she pursued a Hospital Aide Course. Her determination led her to St. Martha Hospital in Bangalore, India, where she undertook her training. This course aligned with her passion for caring for others and propelled her further on her journey.

Throughout her experiences, Neeru found love and support in a compassionate man and his family. Today, she is happily married. As a mother, Neeru is committed to providing her child with the gift of education, fostering a culture of learning within her community.

Her story embodies the transformation that OVN seeks to inspire in the lives of young women. We are immensely proud of her accomplishments and honored to have played a role in her remarkable journey. Through education and empowerment, we believe in creating a ripple effect of positive change, touching the lives of many.





"Remarkable entrepreneurial journey"



Ram Maya, Sushmita, Sakila, and Sarmila were working in the adult entertainment sector earlier and were exposed to violence. Now they are independently running a dignified business of their own with the support of Opportunity Village Nepal (OVN).

The women actively engaged in capacity-building sessions, including life skills, leadership, and in-house training, along with specialized training in the research-oriented entertainment sector. Their dedication and hard work in these training programs led to their selection for individual assessments and subsequent enrollment in a six-month tailoring training program. OVN's case management system ensured the development of individual care plans, and follow-up assessments by the Psychosocial Counselor provided ongoing support for their emotional and mental well-being.

Recognizing their commitment and seriousness towards their training, OVN supported them in opening a business outlet in Baniyatar, enabling them to apply their newly acquired skills and pursue a sustainable livelihood. The journey of Ram Maya, Sushmita, Sakila, and Sarmila exemplifies the power of community support, education, and vocational training in empowering individuals to overcome adversity and build a better future for themselves and their families.

The remarkable entrepreneurial journey of Ram Maya, Sushmita, Sakila, and Sarmila continues to thrive as they successfully run their tailoring business outlet. Their dedication and hard work have translated into a flourishing enterprise, enabling them to overcome financial challenges and secure a stable income for themselves and their families. Through their expertise in sewing clothes, they have effectively managed their expenses, including rent and other essential needs. Even during the off-season, when demand may be lower, they have consistently earned an impressive monthly income.





+977-1-4598419



opportunityvillagenepal@gmail.com
info@ovnnepal.org



www.ovnnepal.org



Sleshmantak Street,
Kathmandu-09, Sinamangal

Supported by:



GOOD SHEPHERD
INTERNATIONAL
FOUNDATION
NEPAL



Dreikönigsaktion
Hilfswerk der Katholischen Jungschar



**Un Village Sous
Les Étoiles**



Roots for Life