



FAIR TRADE GROUP NEPAL



**Munni Sharma, Retail Outlet Sales Incharge
New SADLE**

Munni Sharma/ Angela was born in Jhapa, Damak, the 2nd youngest child among 10 children in her family. Munni got infected with leprosy at an early age of 10 years when she was not even aware about the disease, to her shock at the age of 12 during treatment she came to know she was diagnosed with leprosy. Her toes were mostly affected by the disease but now she is totally fine because of regular medication except for rare reaction and injuries for which she has to be careful of.

She got love marriage against her family's will but could not last more than six months. After knowing about her disease, her husband left her for another woman. She felt quite broke at that time but now she has grown up into a more mature and strong women. At one moment, she even felt like dying when even her own mother discarded her for marrying a guy from different caste but now she feels like there is not greater joy than living alone.

She finished one year tailoring course with the help & support of Green Pasture Hospital, Nepal Leprosy Trust (NLT) & New SADLE after which she joined New SADLE 2011, referred by Parbati Oli, Chairman of Idea Nepal. Initially, she started her career as a tailoring staff, receptionist and now she is working as a sales in charge at New 'SADLE's retail outlet located at in its own premises. Besides, she also looks after old aged people staying at the old age home in New SADLE.

She is very thankful to New SADLE for giving her a new life and feels very glad to be associated with it. In future, she would love to do something for the elderly people staying at the old age home in New SADLE.

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Pushpa Dhakal, Production Manager
Nepal International Collection Pvt. Ltd
(NIC)

“I have been working as production manager in Nepal International Collection Pvt. Ltd. (NIC) for last 13 years. As a production manager, I oversee the entire production process of garments in NIC. Working in team and leading one is what I am proud of. There was a time when I thought I could do everything on my own. With time I realized the magnitude of achievement is possible with teamwork.

The most important value that I hold is my integrity. I demonstrate honesty and trust in all my actions to establish credibility as a leader. What I love about my work is that I have a voice, I am able to make things happen through the support I receive and feedbacks for improvement.

I have received tremendous support from my husband. Before marriage, I didn't have such confidence to start working outside, it his support that I had been able to break off the shell and all credits of my success goes to him. Also, KP Sharma Sir, our CEO always motivates us and provide constructive feedbacks to bring out the best from us.

I hope for a world where every women is empowered and live in a discrimination-free society with opportunities for proper education so that they can live and lead their lives in a better way . We at NIC are getting one step closer where women are empowered and all are treated equally.”

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**Reshma Tamang, Accountant/
Procurement Officer
Organic World and Fair Future (OWF)**



I am Reshma Tamang. One day in a house meeting 8 years ago we were briefed about the principles of fair trade. Shortly after that I started working at Organic World and Fair Future Pvt. Ltd. (OWF). Putting the principles of Fair Trade into practice in work place has also changed my personal life bringing change in my personal view which has made me more responsible towards my family and friends in a social manner. I am proud of my existing social relation with the producers and team members here. I am proud to be recognized and associated with as an emerging company promoting fair trade business combined with organic principles.

Women can be leaders, but they need to have courage to take the lead, be positive, situational and innovative. I also aspire to strengthen my leadership skill to be a qualitative leader to drive a team to personally grow and achieve organizational goals.

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**Binda Shrestha, Knitting Group Leader
Kumbeshwor Technical School (KTS)**

“I first used to work for a mainstream knitting company. But it was very difficult to receive my wages from them. I heard about KTS, a Fair Trade organisation economically empowering women, from my friend. I joined KTS in 1999 and since then I have not looked back. I am currently working as a group leader. There are around 30 women in my group.

Before I worked with KTS I used to be dependent on my husband financially, now I am independent and support my husband in paying for our children’s school fees and house expenses. I feel very proud that I am able to contribute to our household expenditures.

I love my work as it gives me satisfaction and new opportunities through capacity building. We are always given encouragements and opportunities to grow. And we are paid fairly for our work and get equal opportunities, there are no discriminations.

I am very proud to be a group leader especially in this male dominated society. I was encouraged by KTS to take on the challenge of being a Group Leader and my knitting colleagues supported me in becoming their leader. I am very lucky as I did not face many difficulties to become a group leader being a woman as I had support of my family, colleagues and KTS. This may not be a case for many women. I would like to advise all the women out there not to depend and expect others to do anything for you, you can become independent.”

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**Anjali Shakya, Producer
Manushi**

“My name is Anjali Shakya and I live in Chhayabahal, Patan. We are family of four. I was a house maker before joining Manushi. At that time, I had no idea about professional life and fair trade. Now I understand the fair trade and women empowerment. I am working in Manushi as a producer from last 6 years. Before joining Manushi, I was able to do sewing and stitching. I learnt it from my school as a part of my vocational subject. Despite of

having skill, I didn't have opportunity, which I got after joining Manushi.

Manushi is a Fair Trade Organization. All producer are women here. I feel comfortable to work with them. While I was at home it was difficult for me to run my daily life and meet ends. But now that I am earning, I am able to run house and spend money on children education. Now I have better status in my family and society. I enjoy my work because I liked sewing, stitching and cutting from my childhood. Working environment here is good. We all producer work together as a family member. My working skill and experience are increased. Now I can advise other women like me to utilize their skills, "come out from home and you will get opportunities." I would like to say don't stay idle at home, don't say I am women and I can't do anything.

I got chance to sharpen my skills in Manushi. I have a great dream of opening a sewing and stitching training center for women in future. Manushi has helped me to become a successful woman as a producer as well as a good mother. It has given me a different respect and status in my family and society. I would like to thank Manushi a lot for giving me opportunity to work here.”

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**Sarita Chitrakar, Production Manager
Amrita Craft**

Meet Sarita Chitrakar, the Production Manager at Amrita Craft. She has been working with Amrita Craft since the very beginning of her career. From a helper at its production facility she has grown organically into a Leader who not only gets the job done but also ensures fairness for her entire team.

Her Story Her Words

“I joined Amrita Craft when I was merely 19 years old more than two decades ago. I remember working as a helper cutting thread and finishing garments. After being married it was just me and my husband taking care of each other. We did not have any external support, no property but we were both willing to work for making ends meet. I never thought or planned for anything but knew that my hard work and dedication will somehow work for me. My late boss, the founder saw potential in me early and since then I have been managing the entire garment production here.”

With her leading the production side efficiency has been improving continuously. Although a stern and strict manager at times, she knows how to take care of everyone around her. She is a meticulous perfectionist and Amrita Craft is proud to have her.

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