



DIDI BAHINI SAMAJ VICTORIA

REPORT ON INTERNATIONAL

Women's Day

CELEBRATION 2022

#BREAKTHEBIAS



REPORT PREPARED BY: ANITA BHANDARI

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WOMEN FOR WOMEN



TOGETHER WE CAN ALL BREAK THE BIAS IN OUR LIVES, ACTION, MIND, COMMUNITY, NATIONS AND ALL OVER THE WORLD!

#IWD2022

#Breakthebias

BACKGROUND

International Women's Day is celebrated every year on 8 March each year, with various events and activities across the world. The special occasion where we acknowledge and celebrates the social, economic, cultural and political achievements of women and girls. Every year DBSV has been celebrating women's day by organising various programs and events. DBSV's 2022 International Women's Day (IWD) event took place on Friday 11th March. It was an opportunity to demonstrate our commitments towards gender equality and to acknowledge women's contribution and their accomplishments in the community. An onsite event was held at Glenroy Uniting Church, and the program was also live-streamed via DBSV Facebook.

IWD 2022 theme '**Break the Bias**' celebrated the tremendous efforts of women and girls on this very special occasion. This year, DBSV celebrated IWD with more than 100 community members including a panel of local female leaders from community and business, community leaders from different community organisations, Nepalese women entrepreneurs and media persons. At our IWD events, we aimed to provide various opportunities to women and girls to share their experiences, incredible stories, perspectives, skills that are committed to making a positive impact in women's lives and in promoting a gender-equal society. The event also intended to applaud the achievements of women in the last decades and to highlight the actions to create an equal future. DBSV's book writing project launch 'Nepalese Women's Tales of Resilience' and showcase of Nepalese women entrepreneurs and story sharing was the major highlight of this year's women's day celebration.

OBJECTIVE OF THE PROGRAM

The major objectives of the program were:

- ❖ Acknowledge and highlight Nepalese women's voices and achievements, and the role DBSV play towards gender equality and women empowerment
- ❖ DBSV's Book writing project launch 'Nepalese Women's Tales of Resilience'
- ❖ Showcase and introduce Nepalese women entrepreneurs and their stories.

EVENT DETAILS

This year's IWD celebration started with National Anthems (both Australian and Nepali). After the national anthem, program coordinator Anjana Nepal took over the stage and started the formal program by acknowledging the country and the presence of the program attendees and also by delivering the inaugural speech. The welcome dance was presented then after by Sharmila Dahal, an active member of DBSV.



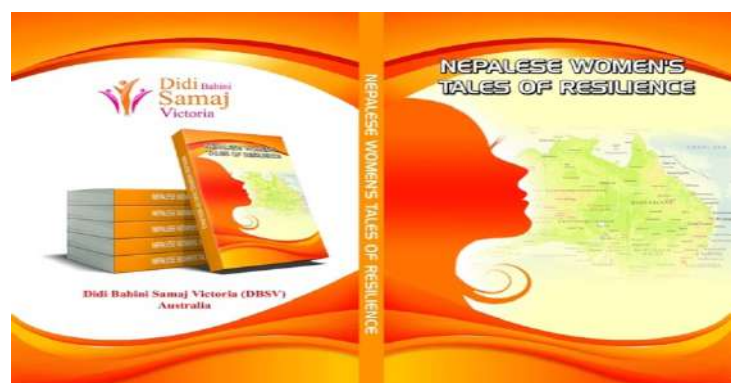
After dance performance, program host Anita Bhandari welcomed and greeted the honourable chief guest, guests, community leaders and DBSV committee members, volunteers and participants of the event. The host added a brief overview of the program and then warmly welcomed Dr Jamuna Parajuli (President, DBSV) on the stage. Dr Jamuna Parajuli took over the stage by briefly acknowledging the honourable guests and by sharing a beautiful speech including her motivating stories and



opinions about the traits that make women achievers distinctive and impactful. *The program then was directed towards the inauguration of two major highlights of the event:*

❖ Launch of Book writing project 'Nepalese Women's Tales of Resilience'

On the very special occasion of women's Day, we launched our book writing project 'Nepalese Women's Tales of Resilience'. A book that aims to collect and share intimate stories of adversity, resilience and



growth of Nepalese immigrant women in Australia.

Through the launch of a book writing project, we aimed to explore women's own stories of recognition, strength, courage, learnings, growth and visions that influenced positively or negatively in the process of migration. Also, we expected to encourage all women to be a part of this inspirational landmarking book of ours that will remain as a great document to appreciate and realize our achievements and resilience. For the launch, our honourable chief Guests and other valued guests were invited on

the stage. Video of the book launch was played and a showcase of the book cover was done by the guests followed by the introduction of a book writing project co-ordinator Anita Bhandari and a speech by our Chief guest Kathleen Mathews.



- ❖ Showcase of Nepalese women entrepreneurs: The second major highlight of the event was the introduction and acknowledgement of Nepalese women entrepreneurs. For this, vibrant and energetic Nepalese women entrepreneurs were duly invited on the day. This part of the program was handed over and

coordinated by Roshani Shrestha (Co-ordinator, DBSV West Unit Committee), who is also the 'The Women Entrepreneurs' project co-ordinator. On this women's day, by including the showcase our prime motto was to introduce and recognise our women entrepreneurs who grew out of the COVID pandemic. Through the event, we aimed to acknowledge and highlight the entrepreneurs and to provide them with an opportunity to share their stories against all the odds as Nepalese women entrepreneurs. After story sharing by all entrepreneurs, our honourable guests honoured them with the certificate and a gift voucher as a token of appreciation for their strength, resistance, hard work and dedication despite the challenges.



In addition, the event also included a speech by our valued guests, motivational talk by motivational speaker Ayushi Basnet from Brahma-Kumari and various entertainment activities such as cultural dance performance, poem reading by our women participants and team members to celebrate and offer a chance to connect and enjoy through various fun activities.



Poem "Naari" by Sapana Niraula Pokharel



Welcome dance by Sharmila Dahal

Cultural dance performance by various dance groups:



Roshani Shrestha, Benju Gnawali, Prabha Shrestha, Barsha KC Rajbhandari, Raj Shrestha, Babita Subedi, Roji Paudel, Durga Sapkota, Sheila Bhatta, Smriti KC. The dance was coordinated by Roshani Shrestha (DBSV Aintree Unit Coordinator)

Shobha Poudel, Manisha Poudel, Parbati Pahari, Sapana Pokharel, Rama Dhakal, Pratiksha Bhattarai



Jamuna Parajuli, Kamala Chalise, Shova Lamsal, Rita Chaulagai, Durga Parajuli, Namuna Bhattarai, Anita Bhandari, Anjana Nepal. The dance was coordinated by Namuna Bhattarai (An active member of DBSV).



This year DBSV IWD program was coordinated by Anjana Nepal and the program hosts were Anita Bhandari, [Benju Gnawali](#) and Anjana Nepal. Technically the program was supported by [Anuj Nepal](#). The event was broadcasted live via DBSV's Facebook page and technically Pinkey Shahi (DBSV West Unit Committee Member) coordinated the Facebook live. We had photographer [Subash Bastakoti](#) to capture the beautiful moments of the event. The closing remark of the program and vote of thanks was delivered by Prabha Shrestha, Vice-President of DBSV.

CONCLUSION AND FEEDBACK

Overall, the program was remarked and commented as engaging, empowering and motivational. A program evaluation form was emailed to all attendees via emails and messages. Positive responses were received and the feedback indicated that participants enjoyed the event and showed interest to attend a similar program in future. Powerful and motivational speeches, story sharing by women entrepreneurs, book writing projects were the major highlights acknowledged and praised by all participants.

Feedback 1: 'It was focused, was fruitful, entraining, demonstrated respect and valuing vulnerable women's situation thinking ahead to support them. I enjoyed being a woman more being in there.'

Feedback 2: 'Was very inspiring and gave me a platform where I can put my words for my business.'

Feedback 3: 'The incredible energy in the room and meeting so many wonderful people doing great work.'

Feedback 4: 'Encouragement, Women entrepreneur's appreciation and empowerment. Good community participation. Excellent event!'

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

In the successful accomplishment of 2022's IWD celebration, Didi Bahini Samaj **Victoria**, take this opportunity to express our sincere thanks and gratitude to **our valuable guests for their valuable presence and supports:**

Honourable Chief Guests:

- ❖ Kathleen Mathews: Ward State Labor Candidate for Broadmeadows
- ❖ Mr Chandra Yonzon: Honorary Consulate General of Nepal in Victoria

Honourable Guests:

- ❖ Councillor Sue Bolten - Moreland City Council
- ❖ Jenni Smith- CEO NCLC

- ❖ Graeme Kent - Director at Aussie Action Abroad
- ❖ Mr Hari Khadka - Vice President NRNA Australia
- ❖ Bom Yonzon- Vice President FENCCA
- ❖ Nirajan Gauli- President ANPL
- ❖ Sangita Timilsina- President Amazing Parents
- ❖ Mrs Laxmi Yonzon DBSV Advisor
- ❖ Amrita Gurung President Nepalese Neighbourhood
- ❖ Lekhnath Adhikari Culture Art and Language
- ❖ Ram Kumar Shrestha Global Campaign Coordinator
- ❖ Drona Panta ONF Victoria

We would also like to thank our Nepalese women Entrepreneurs for sharing their incredible journey with us and for being part of our program:

- a. Raj Shrestha
- b. Soni Raj Bhandari
- c. Neera Srivastava
- d. Kriti Maharjan
- e. Shobha Rayamajhi
- f. Anita Chitrakaar
- g. Mallika Sharma Aryal
- h. Ranju Shrestha
- i. Sharmila Dahal

We would also like to express our gratitude to 'Women Entrepreneurs' project coordinator Roshani Shrestha (Co-ordinator, BDVS West Unit Committee members) for her dedication and commitment to serving best for our community members.

We would also like to thank the program coordinator, program facilitators, and volunteers for their endless hard work and efforts before, during and after the event.

- ❖ Decoration: DBSV team
- ❖ Registration: Geeta, Bijay Thapa Chettri, Bina Thapa

- ❖ Kids Activities: Bharat Neupane, Jeeban Panta & Barsha Panta
- ❖ Guest Engagement: Jamuna Parajuli, Prabha Shrestha & Team
- ❖ Food: Roshani Shrestha and Durga Parajuli
- ❖ RAT Kit distribution: Barsha KC Raj Bhandary
- ❖ IT support and DJ: Anuj Nepal
- ❖ Photography: Subash Bastakoti
- ❖ Videography: Anita Chitrakar
- ❖ Media partner: Manoj Poudel (eNepal), Tilak Pokharel (Melbourne Chautari)

Our thanks and appreciations also go to all the participants for their valuable involvement and feedback.

SNAPSHOTS OF THE EVENT





DR JAMUNA PARAJULI'S SPEECH (PRESIDENT, DBSV)



#BreakTheBias

Namaste everyone

Happy 112th International women's Day

Firstly, I acknowledge that we are celebrating our International Women's Day in the land of the Wurundjeri people of Kulin nation. I deeply pay my respect to their elders past and present.

I would also like to extend my warm welcome to you all and thank you for taking part in our program today.

Like every year, this year's International Women's Day is a chance to celebrate the contribution of women in all aspects of our lives. The day not only lime-lights women's remarkable contributions, achievements and success but also reminds us of their struggles, discrimination and inequality that still continues to plague our society. It is sad to know that the recent Australian research showed that one 3rd of organisations/workplace in Australia runs with a huge pay gap, a huge gender gap.

The journey to gender equality across our communities is a key priority for DBSV. We know that gender equality is not just a basic right of women but also leads to better health, social, economic and political outcomes for all of us. The IWD 2022 campaign theme is #BreakTheBias which calls us to **break the bias in our homes, communities, workplaces and education systems, most importantly breaking the bias in our own thinking, mindsets, in our actions and expressions.**

On this occasion of IWD program today, I would like to salute those women who have fought for our rights and equal opportunities, who have paved the path of genuine equality. Let's put our hands together to congratulate and honour those women who are our heroes today.

In my case, two women my mother and grandmother who hugely influenced me in two different ways to be the person who I am today. My grandmother who gave me the rare opportunity to educate myself and made me be the first girl to go to school from that village and my mother, on the other hand, who was not able to give the birth of a son after consecutive birth of daughters (me and my sisters) in that son's preference society. As a young child, I witnessed her sufferings every day. The naming, blaming, bullying, harassment that my mother faced due to not having a son, somehow forced

me, encouraged me and reminded me to take many courageous actions beyond and above that, directly and indirectly, helped for girls' education and women's empowerment.

I challenged the contemporary social taboos, stigma, superstitions and values given to the girls in that male-dominated society. The discrimination towards girls was so huge and I was the pure victim of that gender discrimination. The journey to fight against social stigma, superstitions, toxic patriarchal norms was not easy. I just didn't break the glass ceiling but also smashed it loudly becoming a role model for many girls and women.

And we challenged the stereotypes and massively broke the bias by establishing DBSV in the face of a male-dominated society where women's leadership is challenged in many ways. For the last 9 years, DBSV is continuously breaking the bias by **showcasing its bold actions under our 5 strategic directions. During COVID pandemic we were one of the most engaged organisations to provide the necessary support for our vulnerable communities including 1600 students.**

Our partnership strengthened to 11 city councils, our scope expanded with having 17 subcommittees in various LGA and regional Victoria, we reach out to larger population with implementation of 19 different projects in just last one year. We have supported the government priority agenda COVID vaccination and health communication

We continued supporting women who are victim-survivors of FV in Mid-Western Nepal through our Teej event. Here **I am sure collectively we are breaking the bias not one time but many times.**

Today In the first part of the program

We are formally launching the book writing project of women – the “NEPALESE WOMENS' TALES OF RESILIENCE” with the ambition of documenting stories and showcasing our resilience in the process of migration in this beautiful country.

I loudly say that we are **breaking the Bias** by voicing our silent voice/ inner voice and showcasing our courage, ferocity, curiosity, hope and strength through this book.

In the second half of the program

We are absolutely thrilled and very excited to introduce and recognize our women entrepreneurs, who have grown out of the COVID pandemic and supported our community in our major needs. We are breaking the bias right here, right now by recognizing these women's hidden expertise, their skills, passion, and commitments which never been heard and seen before. By doing this we are knocking down the **wall**, the wall of stereotyping, wall of stigmatization, wall of prejudice, the toxic norms

and turning that wall into the **stairs**, the stairs of hope, aspiration, independency, the stairs that take us to the height, take us to the next step. **Here, we are breaking the bias by honouring and congratulating these fellow power women.**

While I fully believe in women's power and strength, I also believe that men play very vital roles –Father, Brother, Grandfather, Uncle, Husband, Son, Teacher, Adviser, leader and Friend; the influence and mindset of all these roles is extremely vital for the true empowerment of a woman.

Now, this is the time to declare ourselves to take bold actions as an individual or as a group to break the bias.

On the occasion of 112th IWD

let us all imagine

A world free of bias, stereotypes, and discrimination.

A world that is diverse, equitable, and inclusive.

A world where difference is valued and celebrated.

Together we can forge women's equality. Collectively we can all **#BreakTheBias**.

I know and you know, together we can achieve. We can make it happen! We can make it possible! we can make difference in people's life! Let us all **#BreakTheBias**.

Thank you

Jamuna Parajuli

President | DBSV

ATTACHMENT: PROGRAM OUTLINE

Presenters: Anjana Nepal, Anita Bhandari, Benju Gnawali Nepal

Time	Program	Remarks
4:30 PM	KIDS DANCE – IF ANYONE INTERESTED	Informal program
4:50 PM	Poem -Naari	Sapana Pokhrel
5:00 PM	Acknowledging & Welcoming Guest	Anita Bhandari
5:05 PM	Welcome Dance	Sharmila Dahal
5:10 PM	Acknowledging Guest & Briefing the Program	Dr Jamuna Parajuli
5:15 - 5:30 PM	Book Launch All guests are invited in the front for KHADA and launch book “Nepalese Women’s Tales of Resilience” Chief Guest Speech	Dr Jamuna Parajuli Chief Guest Kathleen Matthews- Ward State Labor Candidate for Broadmeadows
5:30 – 5:35 PM	Group Dance “Saya Thari Baja” Dancers: Roshani Shrestha, Benju Gnawali, Prabha Shrestha, Barsha KC Rajbhandari, Raj Shrestha, Babita Subedi, Roji Paudel, Durga Sapkota, Sheila Bhatta, Smriti KC	Aintree Group Dance Coordinator: Roshani Shrestha
	Short Break (5Minutes) Face Mask and RAT kit distribution	Barsha KC Rajbhandari from IPC health RAT KITS

5:406:10 PMPM	Nepalese Women Entrepreneurs & Their Introduction	Facilitation by Roshani Shrestha
	<p style="text-align: center;">Dance:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Shobha Poudel, Manisha Poudel, Parbati Pahari, Sapana Pokharel, Rama Dhakal, Pratiksha Bhattarai</p>	Craigieburn Group
6:106:30 PM0PM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Women Entrepreneur Recognition Program - DBSV Women Entrepreneur Committee Announcement 	Moreland City Council Jamuna Parajuli Roshani Shrestha
	<p style="text-align: center;">Guest Speaker</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Best Wishes to our Women Entrepreneurs</p>	Grame Kent:CEO Aussie Action Abord
	<p style="text-align: center;">Motivational Speaker</p> <p style="text-align: center;">From Brahma-Kumari</p>	Ayushi Basnet
6:36:35 PMPM	<p style="text-align: center;">Group Dance “Phul Butte Sari”</p> <p>Dancers: Jamuna Parajuli, Kamala Chalise, Shova Lamsal, Rita Chaulagai, Durga Parajuli, Namuna Bhattarai, Anita Bhandari, Anjana Nepal</p>	Moreland Dance Group Dance Coordinator Namuna Bhattarai Lamsal
6:40 PM	Vote of Thanks	Prabha Shrestha
6:50 PM	DINNER	