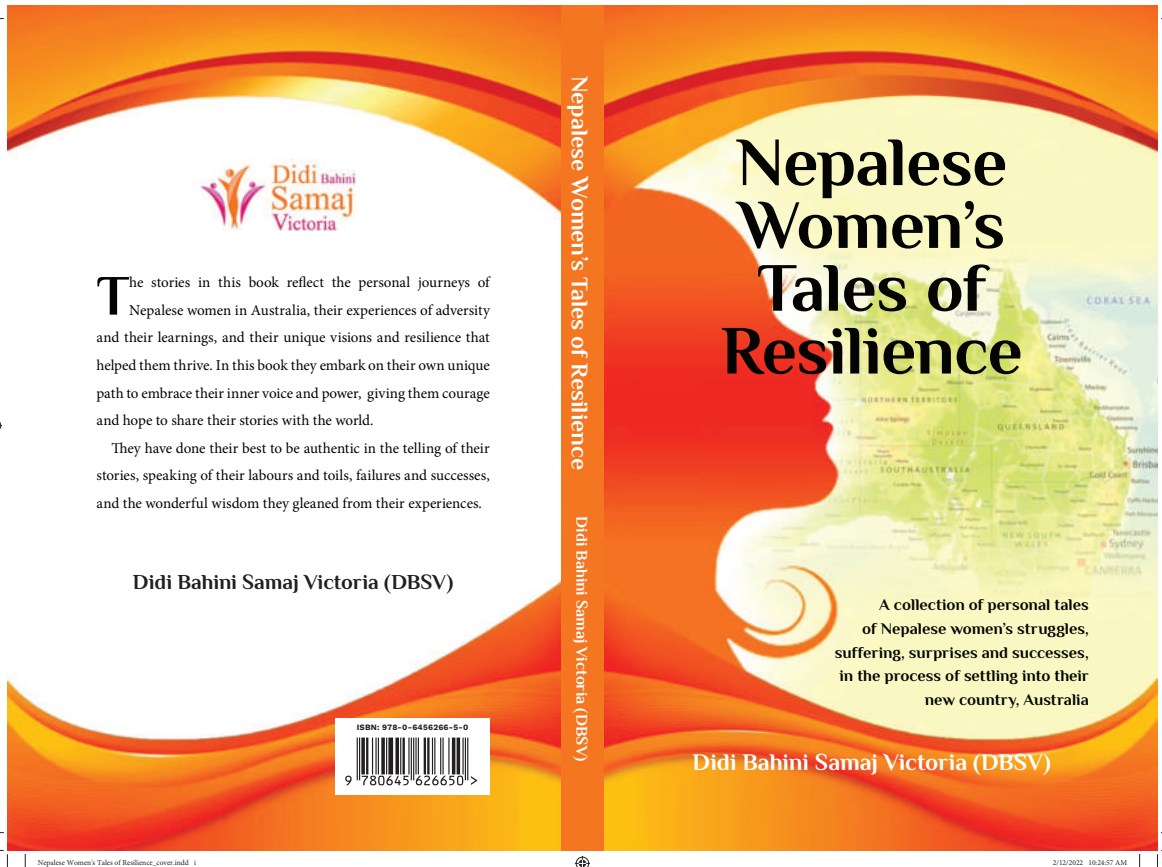


DBSV BOOK LAUNCH PROGRAM 2022
‘NEPALESE WOMEN’S TALES OF RESILIENCE’



BACKGROUND

‘Nepalese Women’s Tales of Resilience’ is a book that aims to collect and share intimate stories of adversity, resilience and growth of Nepalese immigrant women in Australia. The concept of the book was emerged during 2021’s 16 days of campaigns against gender-based violence. During the event ‘Knitting- The New Me’, women who participated in the project shared their stories as a part of knitting and connecting. Then that took us on to the next step, to publish the book. The concept and purpose were formed and finalised. The purpose of this book includes intention to explore and share life stories and lived experiences of Nepalese immigrant women and their resilience in Australia. The book also intended to highlight immigrant women’s experiences of both, marginalization, struggle, isolation, racism, adversity, and their courage, the unique resilience, strength, hope, inspiration, resourcefulness that helped them to overcome the situation, to claim their place and to live a meaningful life.

The story sharing guidelines was developed and expression of interest was released on early 2022 inviting every woman to put their EOI to share their stories of resilience. 39 beautiful sisters living around Victoria including regional Victoria and some other part of Australia expressed their interest and shared their stories of resilience that reflected their personal journey, their experiences of adversity and learnings as well as the unique resilience, hope, strength. The overall story collection, coordination of whole process at early-stage was done by Anita Bhandari. The conceptualisation and co-ordination including contributing to the whole process and editing was done Dr Jamuna Parajuli (President, DBSV). The editing and content visualities were performed by DBSV executives Dr Jharana Bhattarai and Sanjana Shrestha. The editing of the Nepali content was done by Ram Kumar Shrestha (Honorable Nepalese community leader). The final editing of the content was performed by DBSV

advisors Tina Lyndon and Roshan Bhandary followed by final proofreading by Dr Smriti Ghimire. The book cover was graphically design and developed by Sopan Press Pvt. Ltd (Nepal. The content was then sent to the publisher ‘Working Type Studio’ for the printing and publication. Typesetter Luke Harris coordinated the whole printing process.

BOOK LAUNCH EVENT DAY:

DBSV organized the book launch program ‘Nepalese Women’s Tales of Resilience’. The event was organized at Glenroy Community Hub on the 10th of December 2022. An enthusiastic crowd of more than 50 amazing attendees including invited honourable guests, respectable community leaders and beloved DBSV committee members and volunteers (from the DBSV youth project) gathered together in great anticipation to celebrate and witness the landmark moment for Nepalese community members.





The event started with the welcome address, country acknowledgement and guests being acknowledged and welcomed by Anita Bhandari and Anjana Nepal (Hosts of the day). The invited honourable guest who attended the event included:

- **Hon. Natalie Hutchins - MP, Minister for Education Minister for Women (Chief Guest)**
- **Vivienne (Viv) Nguyen AM, Chairperson, Victorian Multicultural Commission (Guest of Honor)**
- **Kathleen Matthews-Ward MP - Broadmeadows**
- **Sue Bolton, Socialist Alliance Councillor**
- **Cr Mark Riley, Merri Bek City Councillor and other Councillors present: Monica Harte**
- **Graeme Kent, Director - Aussie Action Abroad**
- **Parsuram Sharma-Luitai JP Chairperson at Refugee Communities Association of Australia**
- **DBSV partner organisations - Jenni Smith (CEO- NCLC), Gina Dougall (CEO, Banksia Garden), Catherine Schmidt (Uniting Church)**
- **Respected Nepalese Community leaders, leaders from multicultural communities, media representatives, and DBSV Advisors.**



The welcome remark was followed by Dr Jamuna Parajuli (President, DBSV), giving a brief speech overviewing the book content and the whole process of the book. Then all authors of the book (present) were

introduced and invited to the stage along with the Honorable Chief guest Natalie Hutchins- MP and Guest of Honor Vivienne Nguyen for the release of the book. After the launch of the book, short speeches were delivered by our respected and honourable Guest and other guests. Some of the books were handed over to various libraries including State library, Glenroy library, and Merri Bek library. For the handover, Councillors Mark Riley, Sue Bolton and Monica Harte and DBSV advisor were dually invited onto the dais. The book launch also included a blur reading and a brief overview of the book. The session was initiated and facilitated by Roshan Bhandary (DBSV Advisor). For this purpose, four blur readers were Dr Tilak Pokhrel (Nepali story), Barsha KC Rajbhandary, Prabha Shrestha and Geeta Thapa Chhetri.

As the book launch program was one of the DBSV's campaigns of 16 Dyas of activism, a short video on DBSV's work in the past years on raising awareness against family violence was screened. The video reflected various programs and campaigns organised by DBSV from the year 2017 to the present day. The video also highlighted DBSV's commitment to advocating for women and women-related issues. Technically, Mr Anuj Nepal supported the overall process. And at the end of the program, a brief info video of DBSV work for the last 10 years was also screened, as we celebrate the completion of our 10 years of community work this year. After the screening of the video, the vote of thanks was delivered by Roshani Shrestha, DBSV West Unit Co-ordinator.

The light refreshment (from Lumanti), photoshoot and videography (Hemanta Shrestha – Wedding Diaries), feedback and video recording from respectable guests and participants (by Barsha KC Rajbhandary- DBSV executive member and DBSV Melton Unit Coordinator) were some of the other highlights of the launch event. Overall, the event ended with positive remarks and feedback from all the respected attendees of the program. With all positive remarks and with 100 books being distributed and more enthusiasm to grab the book, the event was observed as a success.

SNAPSHOTS:





