

*COP REPORT 2017-2018*

# **Laxmi Wood Craft Udhyog (LWCU)**

**Maharajganj, Kathmandu**

Report Submitted to the

**UN Global Compact**

**April 10, 2019**

## **1. Introduction**

Laxmi Wood Craft Udhyog (LWCU), founded in 1982 & got registered in 1986. It is the first button factory in Nepal. It is the first industry in Nepal to produce handicraft items from bones and horns of domestic animals, particularly buffalo. When Laxmi Sharma founded LWCU, the concept of using bone and horn to produce buttons had not been entered in Nepal. LWCU developed its own technology to make tools and hand-operated machines needed for its handmade production. Since then, LWCU has produced more than 15 thousands designs buttons of various kinds like simple round, classical, abstract, toggle, square, triangle, oval, hexagon, carved design and exclusive animal designs carved buttons. Bone, horn, dried wings and branches, bamboo, coconut shell, peach-stone seed are used to make handmade buttons and other productions like needle cases, pendants, wooden boxes, crochets hooks, baby rattles, chopsticks, knitting needles, thimbles, hair clip, penholder and other handicrafts.

### **1.1 About Laxmi Sharma:**

Laxmi Sharma is well established as an icon of successful women entrepreneur in Nepal. She is known as the synonym of struggles and social worker as being the first women tempo driver not only within Nepal rather in the South-Asia. She has been producing buttons and other handicraft since 35 years and introducing Nepali arts and handicraft over the world through buttons. Mrs. Sharma had hardly attended 3 days in School but she can speak many languages very fluently. However, she belongs to one of the backward ethnic group, her father belongs to the Magar and mother belongs to Tamang ethnic group.

Since establishment of the LWCU, she has provided employment opportunity to over 45 hundreds people through her industry. Those people became very skillfull

and trained in making buttons, weaving Dhaka,Pasmina Shawls and other handicrafts productions.

Laxmi Sharma has also been honoured by many institutions and has been delivering lectures on entrepreneurship and many business in various universities and colleges in Nepal. She has been recognized with many national and internationals awards.

**Some of her achievements are included below:**

**National Awards:**

- Women Entrepreneurship and Gold medal-1987 (**National Youth Service Fund Nepal**)
- Best Exporter of new product-2000 (**Nepal German Chamber of commerce and industry-NGCCI**)
- Best Exporter of Horn & Bone Crafts-1998/1999,2000-2002 (**Handicraft Association of Nepal**)

**International Awards:**

- Outstanding Women Entrepreneurship of Nepal-1997 (**Federation of Indian Women Entrepreneur, India**)
- The leading Women Entrepreneurship of the World-2000 (**Star group of USA**)
- The Global Entrepreneurs-2000 (**Business Women's Network-BWN Washington,DC, USA**)

Laxmi Sharma is also a founder and currently a chairperson of Kathmandu Animal Treatment Centre (KAT) Centre. KAT Centre is one of the most renowned social organization that works for the rights of the stray animals especially for Dogs, Cats and other animals. KAT has been working for the sterilization of the street dogs and Cats & has been controlling the rapid increasing populations of those animals to stop their sufferings. KAT is also involved in "STOP RABIES" activities by providing them the rabies vaccinations in annual basis in many communities in Kathmandu.It has been also providing health services,food and caring facilities for more than hundreds of dogs and cats at the centre.

## **1.2 Current Situation of LWCU:**

LWCU is running in 37 years of its establishments as a typical Nepali industry using local human resource and raw materials. It has provided skilled training with training allowance and accommodation to the participants over four thousand

people. LWCU has special policy of selecting participants to the training; including marginalized community, minority ethnic/endogenous people, disabled people, x-leprosy survivor, and abnormal people from the various remote and backward region of Nepal. LWCU has been exporting its products in more than a dozen countries around the world.

As other Nepalese industries and businesses, the LWCU has also affected by the decade long armed conflict and political instability. In the back force of political parties, it's workers demanded unlawful demand and benefits from the industry. While LWCU could not give them such benefits and fulfill their demand, workers disturbed to industry to run smoothly and later on, they went to the court.

Due to the political obstacle and disturbances unfortunately, the factory had to face many ups and down. Now, all the cases and problems of labour has solved and again factory is running smoothly. In past, this factory has lost millions of dollar business in past however, Laxmi Sharma is not a person like who gets back when problems comes on her way, she fought against all the obstacles and problems that came along continuously and finally she became success to resolve those problems.

However, political situation for business and industries has now improved. There seems many good signpost for business and economic upwards after all three level's election and forming new government in Nepal.

## **2. Social Services of LWCU**

Laxmi Wood Craft Udhyog (LWCU) is not only profit making company but it also has a great contribution in various social service activities in Nepal. It has been contributing 15% of its profits in Social services for the helpless people for saving their life by providing them shelter, study and helping them in their career development. You can find many students getting financial supports from LWCU from the Previous reports. The proprietor of LWCU, Laxmi Sharma herself is also earning from other resources. She has been delivering lectures as an entrepreneur in various programmes about the business and their studies, selling paintings, song albums and books. She has been spending her personal earnings also in various social services. LWCU has been doing a great support for many helpless and orphan children by providing them shelter, study and opportunity for career development.

This report includes the activities conducted during the period of 2017-2018. The social services and activities conducted are listed below:

### **3. Social services & Activities Conducted:**

1. LWCU has given a great contribution for Helping Hands Community Hospital which is situated at Chabahil, Kathmandu to the poor patient for their treatment.



2. LWCU has also involved in Sponsorsip support for Nepal Chamber of commerce (NCC) Industries.



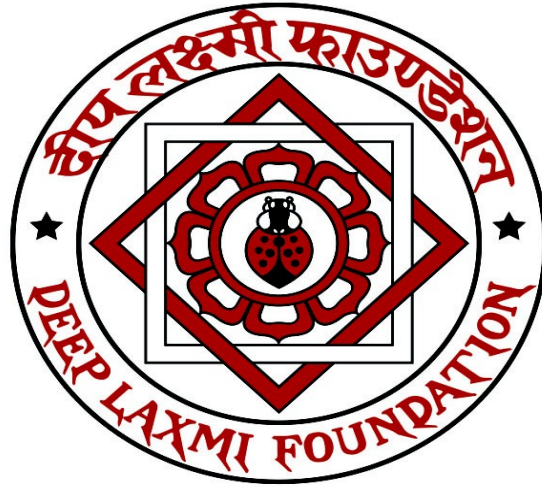
**Nepal Chamber  
of Commerce**

3. LWCU has empowered many homeless women's participating in various social women empowerment programmes to inspire those helpless womens and & has also contributed its fund as financial support for 10 helpless women for driving course so that they can earn their own to live their life.



4. LWCU has supported Munna Rana Magar who was an employee of LWCU from a poor background family. He was supported by LWCU financially with a loan of Rs.245000 to buy a Auto Rikshaw with zero interest.
5. LWCU has registered its "Deep Laxmi Foundation" which has also been involved in the social activities and selling the products of LWCU at factory rate. Being a social worker and a chairperson of Deep Laxmi Foundation, Laxmi Sharma has been using the earnings of Deep Laxmi at social services like child educations,women

empowerment, providing free course of training to the helpless women to generate their income.



#### **4. Educational and guardianship Support**

LWCU has always been a great support for the helpless people and the childrens. She is supporting many orphans financially as a guardian giving them an opportunity for education to buid-up their career. She has given her best to help those people by becoming a guardian and providing them a citizenship. As per previous reports, Saru Manandhar and her brother Sagun Manandhar , Saru Pandey ,Salina Pandey, Salin Pandey are still have been getting education and guardianship support since childhood. LWCU has a great support for these people and still helping many more orphans childrens on their educations and build up their career.



## **.5.Contribution to the Kathmandu Animal Treatment Centre (KAT Centre)**

Laxmi Sharma, As being a chairperson and a founder of Kathmandu Animal Treatment Centre (KAT), LWCUC has regularly been supporting to the activities of KAT financially and technically. Since last 5 years Laxmi Sharma has been heading the KAT as a chairperson, she was always there to solve the problems arising at KAT centre. LWCUC has been supporting KAT centre financially and by providing needed goods and kind as well for the animals admitted there.

Talking about KAT Centre , it has been managing a better way to solve the unmanaged street dogs problems and has been helping in the elimination of the rabies by providing them widespread Rabies Vaccinations & Animal Birth Control (ABC) by spaying the female dogs of entire Kathmandu Street to manage its high increasing populations so that they wont suffer in the street. Beside eliminating Rabies and ABC , KAT has been advocating for the animal rights conducting various programmes and public awareness in the schools and universities. It also been supporting on violence on women through varios types of campaigns and policy advocacy.



## **6. Continuous publishing of "Successful Dream" Or "Safal Sapana"**

"Successful Dream" Or "Safal Sapana" has been publishing in Nepali from LWCU. The magazine contains the information and education on environment protection, culture, religion and cultural heritages. The main contents of "Successful Dream" are arts, crafts, culture, rituals, temples, and social cultural heritages. We believe that we have been contributing to preserve and project heritage of Nepali culture and society.

THANK YOU!