

Laxmi's Story

My name is Laxmi Ghalan and I was born in 24th of December 1983 in Hetauda. There are six people in my family, my father, mother, one sister and two brothers. I am the eldest of all. My father used to work in police and my mother is a house wife. Being a police my father often used to stay out and come home very less.

I was 14 years old when I was studying in class 9. At that time I was close with one of the cousin sister. We were more than friends than cousin. I often used to go to her office and in leisure time I used to play with only boys. Whether in school or outside I used to spend a time mostly with boys. Seeing this people used to talked about me a lot. I used to participate in work or any activities that were meant for boys only. When I was 16, I asked my cousin sister to get me job where she was working but she refused by saying that I should concentrate on my studies. But I insisted and finally I started working with her. There I met a girl and slowly fell in love and after six months people came to know about us and started talked bad things about us so I left a job and started staying at home. But I couldn't forget her. We often used to meet and talk and finally we decided to live together and she came to my house to live. Within fifteen day days my family members came to know about our relation and my father got angry and beat my mother for supporting us. Seeing this girlfriend left me and the house for ever. I often used to ask myself that being a girl why I like girls more than boy, why am I not like any other girls, etc. But I couldn't get any answers. I couldn't find anyone like me.

It was nearly two years since we broke up and I was so hurt that I thought I will never fall in love again. But you will never know what life has for you. I didn't want to stay in house so I left the house and worked in Dkout (one of the office of political party) for 8 months. I didn't like the work there so I left the job. I thought it would be better if I learn something before working so I went to place where they teach tailoring. I and my some cousin started going there to learn tailoring. There was a girl (Meera) who is a daughter of the master. Days began to pass and we became very close friends. We began sharing our happiness and sorrow together. We didn't know when we fell in love. We have already reached to point that we couldn't live without each other. Then one day her sister found about our relation. Every one (our families) came to know about our relation and we were not allowed to meet each other. I was so depressed that I left the house and came to Kathmandu leaving Meera behind. Meera was locked up in the room. Meera felt so lonely as her families was trying to get her married so she tried to commit suicide by poisoning herself. She was taken to the hospital. Doctors asked her parent to take her to Bharatpur hospital as there were no proper equipments so they took her to Bharatpur hospital. Since it was a serious case she was taken to Kathmandu. She was admitted in Patan hospital. Meera was conscious after 17 days. First thing she asked to call me. After receiving a call from the hospital I immediately went there and we ran from there and started living together. On 2002 November I started working in Blue Diamond Society. When Meera's family came to know about us they came to Kathmandu and filed a case

against my father. Police arrested my father. With the help of FWLD (FORUM For Women and Development) and women cell we were able to take out my father from jail.

My father was so angry that he directly came to Kathmandu to meet me. He beat me and took Meera and me back home. While going to Hetauda bus stopped for a lunch break. Giving the excuse of going to toilet we again ran. We didn't know where we were. Fortunately we were able to find a house where there was no one so we decided to stay there for while as we very tired. We stayed there for 12 hours (from 9am-9pm). We thought that on one will able to see in the dark. So we came out from the house and walked in the road. We saw army jeep coming, we tried to stop the jeep and asked for the lift. Thinking we were Maoist they didn't stop the jeep. So we walked for few hours. It was already 12 midnight. We saw bus coming. It was coming from Pokhara to Kathmandu. We stopped the bus and got inside. Conductor came and asked for the money, we both didn't have money. We told him that we were in rush so we left the purse behind. We also asked him to give his number so that we can give him the money later. He understood our promleb. Since the bus was quite empty he took us to Kathmandu for free. When we reached Kathmandu we took a taxi and went to Blue Diamond Society. When we reached there no one was there except the guard. We asked money to him to pay for the taxi. He didn't have the money so we asked the driver to come next morning to take his money. He agreed and went. We spend the night in Blue Diamond Society. Early next morning we went to women cell and asked for the help. They agreed to help us. We began to live like before. Our story and interviews were stated coming the news and magazine. We were the first lesbian couple to come out. Meera's cousins used to threaten us on the phone but we were not scared.

We continued working in Blue Diamond Society. Then on 2005 we were able to register an organization with the help of Sunil Babu Pant, President of Blue Diamond Society. We named the organization "Mitini Nepal". We had faced lot problem while registering it. When Mitini Nepal established we also continued our studies. We both are now in intermediate level. Since we have spent so much in struggling we were not able to complete our studies. We sometimes feel very bad we are tested very badly because of some friends and others. We can't speak English when we meet foreigners and share our problems. We have to depend on others even in office even in writing mails and reports to donor agencies. We just want to learn English and some the basic computer skills so that we don't have depend on others. We will also encourage and help other lesbian friends to learn English language and basic computer skill so that they don't face the problems which we have faced and still are facing.