

HOW AFFORDABLE HOMES INCREASE FINANCIAL SECURITY AND INDEPENDENCE

REALL HAS BEEN WORKING IN NEPAL TO BUILD A COMMERCIALLY VIABLE AFFORDABLE HOMES MOVEMENT SINCE 2011, PARTNERING WITH LUMANTI.



OWNING HER OWN HOME ALLOWED ADHINAJ TO ESCAPE A LIFE OF FINANCIAL AND SOCIAL INSECURITY CAUSED BY HER HUSBAND'S DESCENT INTO DRUG ADDICTION.

BEFORE THE PROJECT

After Adhinaj's husband left the army he struggled to adjust, becoming addicted to drugs and started living on the streets. Adhinaj was left with no house or income, became the sole provider for their son and was forced to move in with her sister and her family.

Her sister lived in Lekhnath on land that had been given to the sisters by their parents. The house was already overcrowded and small, and with no assigned room of their own, Adhinaj and her son slept anywhere they could. Adhinaj was very unhappy. She never felt at home and would often argue with her sister. Frequently, she would hear her sister's husband complaining about having to take them in. Her own husband would occasionally visit, but he caused many problems and never stayed.

A NEW POSSIBILITY

Adhinaj heard about Lumanti's housing project, [Lekhnath Housing 1](#), from a neighbour. She was told that she could use family land as collateral in order

to receive a loan from Kamana Bikash Bank. Lumanti would fund a guarantee that would give the bank greater confidence to lend to people living on low incomes, who are perceived by lenders as more risky.

Adhinaj enquired with Lumanti and within a week she was approved for a construction loan. Prior to the project, Adhinaj had never taken a loan out before. Although originally terrified that she would be unable to pay it back, she has now almost fully repaid her loan.

BUILDING A HOME

Adhinaj had her house built on the land that she had received from her parents. Her first loan was used to construct a

lower cost house of two rooms, but after working in Kuwait as a child carer for a year, she took out and repaid two more loans, totalling \$5000 USD, to extend the house further.

Now the house has four rooms and two storeys. It sits very close to her sister's and they have a much better relationship.

THE IMPACT

The house has given Adhinaj financial security and sense of stability. Before the project, she had been considering the need to sell her land to support herself and her son. Now she rents out two of the rooms in her house and runs her own business cooking meals for university students, which has provided her with enough income to comfortably repay the bank loans.

She has now lived in the house for seven years, and dreams of expanding the house further in the future. By adding another floor, she hopes to rent out more rooms and put the money into her son's education.

"THE DIFFERENCE IN MY LIFE BEFORE AND NOW AFTER OWNING MY OWN HOME IS LIKE THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE SKY AND THE GROUND!"