











Nepal

WBL 2.0 legal frameworks score	WBL 2.0 supportive frameworks score	WBL 2.0 expert opinions score
62.5	43.3	47.5

Women, Business and the Law 2024 (WBL 2024) identifies barriers for women’s economic empowerment in three areas: women’s legal rights, policy instruments designed to support the implementation of these rights, and how these rights are realized in practice. For that purpose, three new *Women, Business and the Law 2.0* indexes are presented for ten indicators: (1) legal frameworks, (2) supportive frameworks, and (3) expert opinions. For the WBL 2.0 legal frameworks index, 40 questions are scored across the ten indicators for 190 economies. For the WBL 2.0 supportive frameworks index, 30 questions are scored across the ten indicators for 190 economies. Overall economy level legal and supportive frameworks scores are then calculated by taking the average of each indicator, with 100 representing the highest possible score. The WBL 2.0 expert opinions index is created for a total of 164 economies. Expert opinion scores are not available for 26 economies due to an insufficient number of responses received from those economies during data collection. Individual responses at the economy level for 15 expert opinions questions across the ten indicators are scored by taking the median value of all responses per question. The economy level expert opinions index is equal to the simple unweighted average of the ten indicator scores.

For Nepal, data refer to the legal frameworks, supportive frameworks, and expert opinions that are applicable to the main business city (Kathmandu). The scores for Nepal are shown in the table below.

Women, Business and the Law 2024 2.0 indicator scores

										
WBL 2.0 Legal frameworks score	50.0	50.0	50.0	100.0	100.0	50.0	25.0	50.0	75.0	75.0
WBL 2.0 Supportive frameworks score	50.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	66.7	33.3	0.0	66.7	66.7	50.0
WBL 2.0 Expert opinions score	25.0	50.0	37.5	37.5	75.0	50.0	25.0	50.0	25.0	100.0

In summary, the **WBL 2.0 legal frameworks score** for Nepal (62.5 out of 100.0) is lower than the global average (64.2) and higher than the South Asia regional average (45.9). When it comes to laws affecting women's pay and constraints related to marriage, Nepal obtains a perfect score (100.0 out of 100.0). As an example, one of the lowest scores for Nepal is on the indicator measuring laws affecting childcare. To improve on the Childcare indicator, Nepal may wish to consider introducing legislation on any form of support to families for childcare services, putting in place legislation on any form of support to non-state childcare providers and adopting legislation on quality standards for the provision of childcare services in center-based settings.

The **WBL 2.0 supportive frameworks score** for Nepal (43.3 out of 100.0) is higher than the global average (39.5) and higher than the South Asia regional average (31.1). When it comes to supportive frameworks affecting freedom of movement, Nepal obtains a perfect score (100.0 out of 100.0). As an example, one of the lowest scores for Nepal is on the indicator measuring supportive frameworks affecting women's decisions to work. To improve on the Workplace indicator,

Nepal may wish to consider publishing guidelines on non-discrimination based on gender in recruitment, publishing guidelines on flexible work arrangements and establishing a specialized body that receives complaints about gender discrimination in employment.

The **WBL 2.0 expert opinions score** for Nepal (47.5 out of 100.0) is lower than the global average (65.7) and higher than the South Asia regional average (43.5). When it comes to expert opinions on women's pensions, Nepal obtains a perfect score (100.0 out of 100.0). As an example, one of the lowest scores for Nepal is on the indicator measuring expert opinions on women's safety.

WBL 2.0 legal frameworks data

QUESTION	ANSWER	LEGAL BASIS
Safety		
Does the law address child marriage?	Yes	Marriage Registration Act, 2028 (1971), Secs. 4(c) and 13; National Civil (Code) Act, 2017, Secs. 70(1)(d) and 73(1); National Penal (Code) Act, 2074 (2017), Sec. 173
Does the law address sexual harassment?	No	No applicable provisions could be located
Does the law address domestic violence?	Yes	Domestic Violence (Crime and Punishment) Act, 2066 (2009), Secs. 2, 6 and 13; An Act to Amend Some Nepalese Acts to Maintain Gender Equality and to End Gender Based Violence, 2072 (2015), Secs. 8.1.1(b), 32.1.1(2)(d) and 32.1.3(2)(c); National Penal (Code) Act, 2017, Sec. 219(4)
Does the law address femicide?	No	No applicable provisions could be located
Mobility		
Can a woman choose where to live in the same way as a man?	No	National Civil Code Act 2017, Art. 87
Can a woman travel internationally in the same way as a man?	Yes	Passport Rules, Art. 14
Can a woman travel outside her home in the same way as a man?	Yes	No restrictions could be located
Do a woman and a man have equal rights to confer citizenship on their spouses and their children?	No	Nepal Citizenship (First Amendment) Act 2079, Secs. 2(5) - 2(7); Nepal Citizenship Act 2063 (2006), Secs. 3(1), 3(2) and 5(2)
Workplace		
Can a woman get a job in the same way as a man?	Yes	National Civil Code Act 2017, Art. 91
Does the law explicitly prohibit discrimination in recruitment based on marital status, parental status, and age?	No	No applicable provisions could be located
Does the law prohibit discrimination in employment based on gender?	Yes	Labour Act 2017, Sec. 6
Does the law allow employees to request flexible work?	No	No applicable provisions could be located
Pay		
Does the law mandate equal remuneration for work of equal value?	Yes	Labour Act 2017, Sec. 7
Can a woman work at night in the same way as a man?	Yes	No restrictions could be located
Can a woman work in a job deemed dangerous in the same way as a man?	Yes	No restrictions could be located
Can a woman work in an industrial job in the same way as a man?	Yes	No restrictions could be located
Marriage		
Is the law free of legal provisions that require a married woman to obey her husband?	Yes	National Civil Code Act of 2017, Art. 89
Can a woman be "head of household" or "head of family" in the same way as a man?	Yes	Birth, Death and Other Personal Events Registration Act, Arts. 2(d) and 4(1)(a); National Civil Code Act 2017, Art. 90
Can a woman obtain a judgment of divorce in the same way as a man?	Yes	National Civil Code Act of 2017, Ch. 3
Does a woman have the same rights to remarry as a man?	Yes	National Civil Code Act of 2017, Art. 83

Parenthood		
Is paid leave of at least 14 weeks available to mothers?	Yes	Labour Act 2017, Sec. 45; Social Security Scheme Operating Procedure 2018, Sec. 7(2); Right to Safe Motherhood and Reproductive Health Act, 2018, Sec. 13
Are leave benefits for mothers paid solely by the government?	No	Labour Act 2017, Sec. 45; Social Security Scheme Operating Procedure 2018, Sec. 7(2)
Is paid leave available to fathers?	Yes	Labour Act 2017, Sec. 45(7)
Is dismissal of pregnant workers prohibited?	No	No applicable provisions could be located
Childcare		
Does the law establish the provision of center-based childcare services?	Yes	Education Rules, 2059 (2002), Secs. 2(n) and 67
Does the law establish any form of support for families for childcare services?	No	No applicable provisions could be located
Does the law establish any form of support for nonstate childcare providers?	No	No applicable provisions could be located
Does the law establish quality standards for the provision of center-based childcare services?	No	No applicable provisions could be located
Entrepreneurship		
Can a woman undertake entrepreneurial activities in the same way as a man?	Yes	Contract Act, Art. 3; National Civil Code Act 2017, Art. 506
Does the law prohibit discrimination in access to credit based on gender?	No	No applicable provisions could be located
Does the law prescribe a gender quota for corporate boards?	Yes	Companies (First Amendment) Act, 2017 (2074 B.S.)
Does the law include gender-sensitive procurement provisions for public procurement processes?	No	No applicable provisions could be located
Assets		
Do a woman and a man have equal administrative power and ownership rights to immovable property, including land?	Yes	National Civil Code Act 2017, Arts. 18, 256, 257 and 419(1); The Lands Act 1964; Gender Equality Act, 2063 (2006)
Do sons and daughters have equal rights to inherit assets?	Yes	National Civil Code Act 2017, Arts. 205 and 206
Do male and female surviving spouses have equal rights to inherit assets?	Yes	National Civil Code Act 2017, Arts. 205 and 206
Does the law provide for the valuation of nonmonetary contributions?	No	No applicable provisions could be located
Pension		
Are the ages at which a woman and a man can retire with full pension benefits the same?	Yes	Social Security Regulation 2018; Social Security Schemes Operational Directives Second Amendment (2021), Sec. 22(2)
Are the ages at which a woman and a man can retire with partial pension benefits the same?	Yes	No applicable provisions could be located
Is the mandatory retirement age for a woman and a man the same?	Yes	Labour Act 2017, Sec. 147
Are periods of absence due to childcare accounted for in pension benefits?	No	No applicable provisions could be located

WBL 2.0 supportive frameworks data

QUESTION	ANSWER	SOURCE
Safety		
Has the government developed comprehensive mechanisms to address violence against women?	Yes	National Strategy on Ending Child Marriage; One-Stop Crisis Management Centers
Are special procedures in place for cases of sexual harassment?	No	Insufficient evidence located
Is a government entity responsible for monitoring and implementing national services, plans and programs addressing violence against women?	Yes	National Women Commission; Ministry of Women, Children and Senior Citizens

Is an annual budgetary allocation devoted to violence against women risk mitigation, prevention, and response programs?	No	Insufficient evidence located
Mobility		
Are passport application processes the same for a woman and a man?	Yes	Passport application form
Are the application processes for official identity documents the same for a woman and a man?	Yes	ID application procedures
Does a current policy or plan explicitly consider the specific mobility needs of women in public transportation?	Yes	National Environmentally Sustainable Transport Strategy 2014
Workplace		
Does a specialized body receive complaints about gender discrimination in employment?	No	Insufficient evidence located
Has the government published guidelines on nondiscrimination based on gender in recruitment?	No	Insufficient evidence located
Has the government published guidelines on flexible work arrangements?	No	Insufficient evidence located
Pay		
Are pay transparency measures or enforcement mechanisms in place to address the pay gap?	No	Insufficient evidence located
Have sex-disaggregated data on employment in different industries or sectors been published?	No	Insufficient evidence located
Marriage		
Is there a fast-track process or procedure for family law disputes?	Yes	The National Civil (Code) Act 2017, Arts. 93 and 99(5)
Are there specialized family courts?	No	Insufficient evidence located
Is legal aid available for family law disputes?	Yes	Legal Aid
Parenthood		
Is it possible to apply for maternity benefits through a single government application process?	Yes	Social Security Scheme Operating Procedure, Sec. 26
Are incentives in place to encourage fathers to take paternity leave on the birth of a child?	No	Insufficient evidence located
Have sex-disaggregated data on unpaid care work been published?	No	Insufficient evidence located
Childcare		
Is there a publicly available registry or database of childcare providers?	No	Insufficient evidence located
Is there a clearly outlined application procedure to request financial support from the government for childcare services by parents?	No	Insufficient evidence located
Is there a clearly outlined application procedure to request financial support from the government for childcare services by nonstate childcare providers?	No	Insufficient evidence located
Has the government published any reports on the quality of childcare services?	No	Insufficient evidence located
Entrepreneurship		
Have sex-disaggregated data on business activities, entrepreneurship, or women-owned businesses been published?	Yes	National Statistics Office
Are government-led programs supporting female entrepreneurs providing access to finance and training, coaching, or business development?	Yes	Subsidized Loan; SKILLS Programme
Does a current national government plan or strategy focus on women's access to financial services?	No	Insufficient evidence located
Assets		
Are mechanisms or incentives in place to encourage women to register immovable property (including joint titling)?	Yes	National Civil Code Act 2017, Art. 258; Reduced registration fee
Are awareness measures in place to improve women's access to information about marital and inheritance rights?	Yes	Informative Handbook of Laws Relating to Women's Rights



Have anonymized sex-disaggregated data on property ownership been published? No Insufficient evidence located

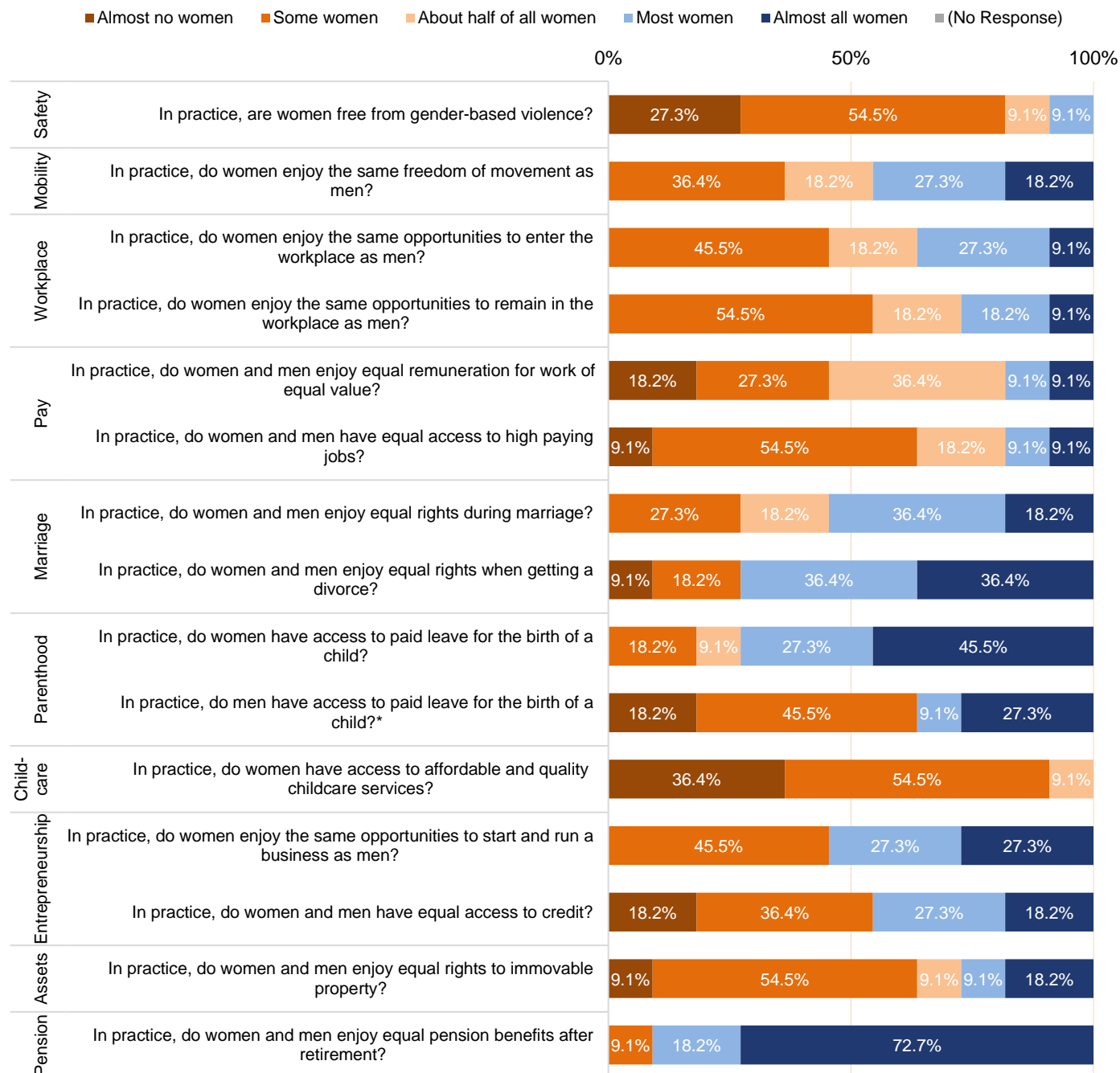
Pension

Are incentives in place to increase women's retirement benefits? No Insufficient evidence located

Is a procedure in place for pension beneficiaries to challenge the decisions of the competent authority regarding their benefits? Yes Social Security Act, 2075, Sec. 22



WBL 2.0 distribution of expert opinion responses



*Note: The response options for the second Parenthood question above are formatted as almost no men, some men, about half of all men, most men, almost all men.