

The water scheme not only provided water but also relieved from debts

Saptari: Ved Prakash Dhungana of Saptari Surungaa Municipality Ward No. 2 had mere five Katthas of land in the name of property. He moved to Saudi Arabia after finding it difficult to earn a living from his daily wage. In Saudi Arabia, he started to work at a petrol pump where he was paid 25,000 Nepali rupees a month. However, it was getting difficult for him to earn a living from petrol pumps alone, pay off his debts and also support his family. Dhungana was in a dilemma; whether to return home or continue doing his job.

Kalpana was worried that her husband, who had crossed seven seas in search of a happy life, was yet not earning enough satisfactorily. She had no other skill besides basic household work and she didn't know how to help even though she wanted to. Later, when her husband returned from abroad, it became even more difficult for her to support her family including her son. "When my husband was abroad, we at least got some amount of money. When he returned, we weren't earning at all, so paying debtors debt was far from possible". Kalpana's story was sad.

Kalpana and her husband wanted to make a living by doing something but they were confused about what to do and how to do so?

Luckily for them, the Bhedia Water Supply and Sanitation Scheme got started in partnership with the Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Fund Development Board



and Shreepuraj Community Development Center soon enough. Kalpana Dhungana joined the Pragatishil Women Group formed under the Jeevika Karyakram of same water and sanitation project right after.

Kalpana, who did not earn any money after her husband returned from abroad, was thinking of running some

business now. After joining the group, Kalpana was inspired to become skilled and

self-reliant to earn a living. Kalpana says, "I learned the skill as well as got some loan from the group. They motivated and encouraged me to start my own business and I'm grateful."

Kalpana said that with a loan of Rs 5,000 from the group and some additional investment, she started a small cosmetic business in her own house. Kalpana now sells an average of Rs 1,500 to Rs 2,500 daily. The cosmetic shop has made her daily life so much easier. She has also been regularly saving in the group. Kalpana says, "It would have been very difficult if I had not started this shop with the loan from Jeevika group." Even though I can't repay the all of the debtor's debts, it is at least not that difficult to manage the household expenses now"

"If one gets the capital and the opportunity then, earning a living from home becomes so much easier and it can bring a lot of positive changes in the everyday life of the entire family," Kalpana says, " Thank you from the bottom of my heart to the Shreepuraj Community Development Center as well as the Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Fund Development Board for providing with the necessary advice, support and encouragement to earn a living and making us aware about our capacity beyond cooking and other household chores."

Binod Chaudhary, the team leader of Shree Puraj Community Development Center, says that in the future they have the objective to expand the savings and loan mobilization program and get the group to also register in the agriculture group.

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