

Drinking water transforms Goma's life



When Goma Tamang from Mahabarat village municipality came to Bethanchowk village municipality ward no. 5 after her marriage, she had to experience this extreme tussle for fetching water daily. She had never gone through something like this before. Even though there was ample water in the rainy seasons, winters were very dry. The more she thought about her struggle fetching water, the more anxious and panicked she'd get. According to her, rainy seasons were somewhat doable, but in the winters, she had to struggle a lot. Available water sources were also in a state of disarray, which made things worse. Remembering the old days, Goma says, "Most of the residents were not aware of the need to pay attention to health, education and sanitation. Most of the young people in the village had left for abroad, in the hope of a better future for themselves."

Her husband too, had taken some loan to make a living abroad. Subsequently, the responsibility of her in-laws and her five children fell on Goma's shoulders. Although it was tough, it wasn't impossible to feed her family when her husband was back home, but as soon as he went abroad then it had been very difficult for Goma to shoulder all of the responsibility alone. However, after the onset of the project in her village, Goma is living a prosperous life.

'Drinking water' is the path to prosperity in Goma's life

The development phase of the Chasinkhark Water Supply and Sanitation Project started on Asar 21, 2073 BS with the financial support of the Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Fund Development Board and on the initiative of the Paropakar Primary Health Care Centre (PPUK) after the tripartite agreement was signed. With the completion of this project, a total of 457 people from 72 households benefited from clean drinking water. Kapershwor Women's Technical Support Service Group (WTSS) was also formed on Bhadra 13, 2073 BS under the livelihood program of the Fund Development Board with the objective of improving the social status along with health and sanitation of women. The project has also enabled several income generating programs and activities throughout the village, making it a lot easier for everyone to sustain themselves and live a quality life.

Kapershwor Women's Technical Support Service Group (WTSS) group has 60 members and has saved Rs 120,000 so far by saving Rs 50 per member per month. Group members are benefiting by taking loans from the collected saving and using it for various income-generating activities such as poultry and/or vegetable farming, animal husbandry, health care, etc. Goma Tamang is one of the many beneficiaries of the program. Before the water scheme, as mentioned before, she spent a significant amount of her day just fetching water. This was also the case of most other women in her village. The water scheme enabled all such women to save time and utilize it for other productive and income generating activities and also made all of their lives easier.

After becoming a member of the Kapershwor Women's Technical Support Service Group, Goma Tamang took a loan of Rs.5000. With that money, she started cultivating vegetables like cabbage, cauliflower, tomatoes coriander etc and also started goat rearing. Soon she started earning independently and paid off the loan easily. She took a loan of Rs.10,000 again to expand her income generating

activities and now she's doing better than ever before.



She proudly says, "I earn between Rs 1, 50,000 to Rs 200,000 annually." For her, it was not difficult to sell the vegetables she produced as whole sellers come directly to the road nearby to pick up the vegetables from her. With her utilized time, hard work and determination, Goma was able to turn her life around and also provide a better life for her children and family independently.

Her eldest daughter is married happily and for her remaining two daughters and two sons, Goma can now independently provide them with quality education and a better life without having to rely on her husband abroad. She further aims to broaden her income generating activities so she can save enough to fulfill the goals of each family member.

According to the team leader of that time, Ms. Hima Limbu of Paropakar Primary Health Care Centre (PPUK), "In the past, when there was water shortage, the environment was very filthy and polluted. The toilets smelled awful. Many people used to get infected with various contagious diseases especially in the summer and the treatment was very expensive. People did not practice good hygiene and also didn't have the resources to. But now, the easy availability of drinking water has solved many of such problems. Tap and clean water is readily available in

every house for people to use it for cleaning and other purposes. On the whole, the lives and faces of the residents of Chasinkharka and Chyalti villages have really changed for the better.”



“After the drinking water and sanitation project, most people here have become self-dependent through agriculture and other income generating activities and it is no doubt to say that among them, Goma Tamang has become an inspiring woman,” said Hima Limbu.

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