

**Japan International Cooperation Agency**

**HMG/JICA Community Development & Forest/ Watershed Conservation Project  
HMG/JOCV Greenery Promotion Cooperation Project**

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Workshop on Gender Sensitivity in  
Community Participation  
Pokhara  
20-25 June 1996

Case Study No. 11

Language : English

Case Study  
on  
Foot Trail Improvement in Mauja

Prepared by: Mr. Dharma Raj Gupta

Site Office: Mauja

District: Kaski

**Presentation  
of  
Foot Trail Improvement Sub-Project  
in workshop on Gender Sensitivity in Community Participation.**

**Introduction :**

Mauja VDC, surrounded by Kalika in East, Armala in West Shildurje North and Valam VDCs in South, is located in Northern part of Kaski District. This VDC is very beautiful and peaceful. Of the total 11853.25 square kilometers area most of the area is occupied by streams and forest land. Mauja has a total population of 3274 . Its major inhabitants are Gurung , Bhramin, Kami, Gharti, Sarki and is dominated by Gurung community.

There are six primary and one secondary school, only traditional foot trails can be seen. There is no electricity supply yet.

I am going to present the community level sub-project on trail improvement of Imdupakha in ward No 9, which is located in the South of Mauja VDC.

**I. Profile of the Ward :**

In ward No 9, in total 138 people live including 68 male and 60 female within 29 households. Gurung Kami and Bhramin are the major castes with 16, 3, and 2 households respectively. This ward is also dominated by Gurung community. Of the total population, 4 males and 20 females are illiterate, 5 boys, 6 girls (Gurungs) and one (Kami) are school students. All the remaining people are literate.

Main economic source of ward No. 9 is agriculture, and its major agricultural products are paddy, millet & wheat. Some farmers produce only potato as vegetable crop. Agricultural production is very low and is not enough for the whole year. In the leisure time women weave *Radi, Pakhi, Bhangra*, for domestic use. Beside that women make local wine (Raksi) for home use and some times they sell to the villagers too. Some of the males of occupational caste work as carpenters during their leisure time.

Another source of income is going abroad to work.. Twelve number of young persons, have joined the army, and other civil services abroad.

Some part of the VDC is covered with Ghaishara Landslide and has damaged a lot of agricultural land. So the villagers are afraid of doing any kind of development works.

## **II. Main Activities in the Ward :**

In total four community level sub-projects are being implemented, as demanded by the community. Among those one sub-project has been already completed. All the activities are listed below.

### **1. Foot Trail Improvement :**

It is the completed sub-project of ward No 9. It is a 503 meter long trail which started on 26 January 1996, and was completed on 15 March, 1996. It is the only trail to go to school, agricultural field and fetching water. So both male & female equally participated for its construction .

Please see Annex: 3, Face sheet of the sub-project (1)

### **2. Mushroom Cultivation :**

Mushroom cultivation is an income generation activity. At first it started with 2 persons only . One day training was conducted by the M/P team for Mushroom cultivation. In the beginning, the users produced Mushroom, but due to the shortage of dry straw, they stopped its cultivation. Users said that, "when dry straw will be available in season, we will start again".

### **3. Improved Stove Installation :**

The M/P team arranged a training on improved stove installation for smokeless, and fuel wood efficiency. 3 male participated in the training. They installed improved stove in their own houses. Now after the training, demands for its installation has increased.

### **4. Foot Trail :**

It is the inter-community level sub-project in between Wards Nos., 1, 4, 7 and 9 (VDC Office, Mauja to Valam VDC). All the wards decided that it should be constructed separately ward wise, according to the boundaries. People of ward No. 9 are busy constructing the community level trail improvement sub-projects. Therefore they have not started the ICLSP yet and they will start it after the rainy season.

## **III. Gender Sensitivity : Efforts and Insight:**

During information dissemination, micro-base line survey and other meetings only few women and occupational caste were present. As women are busy taking care of their children and domestic work, mostly male participated in the meeting . Even if females and occupational castes were present they sat at the back just listening.

We advised for equal participation which is a must for problem identification, decision making in every community development works.

After that we conducted different types of community works. All male/female of all the castes were requested to participate in the trail improvement . They made work plan and works were divided based upon the nature of the activities. Mainly male were engaged in quarrying and chiseling stones. Large size stones were carried by young men. While female collected small stones at the construction site, and male made steps of trail. According to the users' community register book, the proportion of male and female participation was 73% and 27% in the trail construction.

#### **Efforts for Implementing the Sub-Project :**

1. The M/P team organized programme in suitable places for more participation of female and occupational caste.
2. Held meetings with the occupational caste separately.
3. Meeting were conducted among the users' group when they were not going to the agriculture field.
4. Conducted income generation study tour for selected poor people who had less income and awareness building for male and female of all castes.
5. Promote male and female for decision making process by making them discuss in the meeting.
6. Encourage women to attend meeting for decision making, planning etc.
7. Advise the users' group to establish fund for the operation and maintenance and of the projects.

Information dissemination programme was conducted at first separately for male and female groups, and then by inviting both male and female in the same place in which the M/P team informed about the importance of participation, gender sensitivity and process of sub-projects implementation.

#### **IV. Major Problems and Obstacles Encountered :**

People of all caste will be benefited by this sub-project as it is the main route used by the people. There arose a small problem in the identification of sub-project, i.e. demand from Kami tole about trail making. Then they held a meeting with all the users and they decided that next time priority would be given to the trail improvement of the Kami tole. When the M/P team asked the chairman of the trail improvement committee in this regard, he replied that after the completion of main trail, the Kami tole trail would be constructed.

As there was not enough stone in their own ward for trail making. The User's group had to carry stones from ward No. 4 ( walking distance of 1.5 hours.)

Some common problems faced by ward No. 9 :

1. Nobody came to the meeting on time even though the time had been fixed days earlier.
2. In the beginning only few women came to the meeting.
3. A few occupational castes participated in the meeting.
4. Women & occupational caste did not participate at the time of decision making as they are dominated by the community and are afraid of the males of other caste. They felt that nobody would agree with their views. With the effort of the M/P teams, the users' group now a days are trying to understand the benefit of their activities and are starting to participate in the meetings and other community activities.
5. Usually occupational castes sit separately away from the other caste in the meeting. It is a traditional problem of the village. Although it has been already realized, there has been no change in their behaviour so far. In ward meeting, we suggested the villagers that they are not different from any one. Now, they are slightly changed after the awareness campaign.
6. Female and occupational caste hesitate to go for training and study tour. The main reason for this is that they have small children and are afraid of the society to take such steps, and in case of the schedule caste, they can not sit at the same table, bench while eating, reading and writing.
7. Owing to poverty, the poor people can not participate in the community programme. Most of the people in Ward No. 9 do not have enough grain to eat for the whole year. So, they work as labours and earn daily wage. The M/P team arranged for the paying system 3 times according to the work quantities and qualities of sub-projects. After that all users participated in the trail improvement.
8. Women did not like to be involved in the management committee. Due to lack of education female do not agree to be involved in the users' committee, on the other hand they were not habituated of discussing in group meetings.

**V. Recommendations for Strengthening Gender Sensitivity :**

1. There should be management for skill development training and observation tour about income generation related community activities in successful places to motivate the users' group members.
2. Technical training should be provided to field staff for their skill development .
3. VDC level workshop should be arranged for occupational caste.

4. There should be provision for incentives to encourage the Users. It should be provided to those who had worked the best.
5. More adult literacy classes should be conducted specially for the illiterate people.
6. Related film & drama shows should be increased which help to both male and female for equal participation in identifying their needs, making decision, planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of sub-projects in the second years operation and in the future.

When these recommendation will be followed carefully we can observe the following indicators.

1. After literacy classes, all illiterate persons would be able to read & write and they would know their responsibilities, agree to involve as management committee members such as, chairman, secretary etc. Also they would be able to balance their fund and mobilize it for the maintenance of sub-projects.
2. As a result of training/workshop and observation tour, there will be motivated people in the communities, male/female will be able to organize each other for equal participation in decision making, identification of sub-projects according to their needs, planning, implementation and maintenance of sub-projects.
3. Motivated by prize all user group will try to achieve best result both qualitatively and quantitatively in second years operation and in the future.
4. When the workshop is the conducted separately in VDC level all occupational caste of females will be made aware and they will do regarding the community development works .

### Annex 3. Face Sheet of Sub-project (1)

Date: 3 June, 1996

No.: 3

1. Title of Sub-project: Foot Trail Improvement	
2. Location: Indupakha	Ward No.: 9 VDC: Mauja
3. Total Cost: Rs. 56,342.45 (100 %)	6. Approved Date: 21 January, 1996
4. HMG/JICA: Rs. 21,731.30 (38.6 %)	7. Starting Date: 26 January, 1996
5. Users' Group: Rs. 34,611.15 (61.4 %)	8. Completion Date:
9. Total No. of Benefited Households: 21 (Scheduled Caste: )	
10. Total No. of Users' Group Committee Members: 15 (Female: 6 Male: 9)	
11. Total No. of Users' Group Members: 138 (F: 70 M: 60) (SC: )	
<p>12. Summary of the Sub-project: (Objectives, Main Activities, Methodology, Problems and Obstacles encountered, Monitoring, Maintenance, Sustainability etc.)</p> <p>** To help the people for walking every time and control the soil loss in trail side.</p> <p>** To teach the people about making step and they could construct of trail with erosion prevention.</p> <p>** Quarrying, chiseling and collection of stone, making step by step.</p> <p>** Not enough stone in the ward no. 9.</p> <p>** Users' committee raised fund and planned plantation in both sides of the trail for maintenance.</p>	
13. Community Participation: All unskilled labours and locally available material provided by community.	
14. Gender Consideration: 73% male and 27% female worked in this sub-project.	

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Workshop on Gender Sensitivity in  
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20-25 June 1996

Case Study No. 12

Language : English

Case Study  
on  
Income Generation Study Tour in  
Puranchour

Prepared by: Ms. Kazuko Yoshioka

Site Office: Puranchour

District: Kaski



## **Introduction**

Income Generation Activities (I.G.As.) have been regarded as one of the effective measures to empower the socially and economically disadvantaged females in the rural areas of the developing countries. Income Generation Tour (I.G. Tour) is an introductory activity of capacity building to get the females familiar with variety of I.G.As. We can analyze the gender problems even from the planning and implementation stage of the tour.

This paper, therefore, offers an insight into the experiences of I.G. Tour conducted for the females in Puranchour VDC, Kaski District, by the M/P team of CDFWCP and GPCP (the Project)<sup>1</sup> in May 1996. It also compares the different attitudes among the higher and lower castes participants before, during, and after the tour. It argues the problems and solutions of conducting the tour, and concludes with some indicators for success and duplication of the tour to other places in the future.

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<sup>1</sup> HMG/JICA Community Development and Forest/Watershed Conservation Project, HMG/JICA Greenery Promotion Cooperation Project

## 1. Profile of the ward

Puranchour VDC is located in about 10 kilometers north of Pokhara city, with an average 1,000 meters of the altitude. The total population is about 4,200 with 900 house holds.

The participants of the tour consisted of females and males from ward 6, 8 and 9 of the VDC. Followings are the profiles of these wards with gender considerations:

Ward	Popu- lation	No. of H.H.	Ethnic Composition	Literacy rate Total (Female)	Econo. Situation & Av. Land (Ropani)
ward 6	632	105	Braman,-96 Chettri Newar - 1 Bhujer - 2 Nepali* - 4 Sarki - 2	80% literate 20% illiterate (60%illiterate)	medium & mid-low 3-5 (20%) 5-10(25%) 15-30(35%)
ward 8	150	42	Bishokarme* - 7 Nepali - 35	10%literate 90%illiterate (95%illiterate)	very low 0-5 ( %)
ward 9	375	74	Braman - 49 Giri* - 23 Bhujer* - 1 Newar - 1	80%literate 20%illiterate (60%illiterate)	mid-low 3,4- 15(100%)

Note: 'Nepali' used to be called 'Damai', with sawing occupation. 'Bishokarme' used to be called 'Kami' with iron and copper work. 'Giri' is lower caste of 'Chettri', and 'Bhujer' the middle caste, is called 'Dole' at wedding ceremony as they carry a bride to groom's house.

The main productive activity of the people in these wards is agriculture, while many of males and females of ward 8 are

engaged in skilled/unskilled paid works, such as carpenter, portering, cultivation of other's land. (See Annex 1 for the location of the wards)

## **2. Main Activities in the Ward 6, 8, and 9**

Since the end of 1995, the sub-projects as below have been undertaken in these wards under the Project. At ward 6, with the largest population among the three wards, the local people had their activities at each settlement, while nearly all the house holds of ward 8 and 9 have benefited from the toilet construction.

Up to June 1996, all the activities at ward 6, and about 40 % to 70 % of the toilet construction at ward 8 and 9 have been completed. (See Annex 2 for the Monitoring Sheet of Sub-Project)

### **a) Ward 6**

- water tank maintenance
- foot trail maintenance
- irrigation channel construction and embankment protection
- trail bridge construction

### **b) Ward 8, 9**

- toilet construction

## **3. Gender Sensitivity**

### **a) Attitude of the Females toward I G Activity Before the Tour**

During the needs survey phase at the selected wards, M/P team found that the higher caste females had complained about a lack of control over income earned by their husbands and the lower caste females had struggled with a shortage of income itself. However, they did not know how to solve their problems, that is, how they can earn their own money and manage it by themselves.

Even though the needs of I.G. tour and activities were seriously

claimed by both the higher and lower caste females, they put their first priority on the infrastructure work like water tank maintenance and toilet construction, as these were more alarming problems to the whole community.

b) Movement to the I.G. Tour

In Puranchour VDC, various infrastructure works, as mentioned above, have been undertaken as sub-project in the first year on the demand-driven bases. The M/P team of Puranchour also considered that it was effective to start sub-project from these works in order to foster group unification and make local people know the policy and work process of the Project.

As the infrastructure works have been almost completed, and the local people seemed to get to know how to work with JICA, the M/P team decided to conduct I.G. Tour, targeting females of the low caste and those who are economically disadvantaged in the selected wards. The reason that the M/P team did not include anyone from ward 7 was that there were no females who met these criteria in the ward.

c) Objectives of the Tour

The main objectives of the tour were to introduce various kinds of I.G. activities to the socially and economically disadvantaged females, and to provide an opportunity with them to discuss the feasibility and means to implement these activities in the community.

d) Selection of the Participant

While the M/P team explained to some active women in ward 6,8, and 9 about the objectives of the tour, the selection of the participants was mainly done by themselves. Although the M/P team was doubtful about whether they had fully understood the objectives

of the tour, the selected participants were appropriate to the criteria of the Project. At the same time, the M/P team recommended three cooperative females of the higher caste in ward 9 and the ward chairman of ward 8 (male) to participate as they were expected to take initiatives in the implementation phase. This recommendation also aimed to evade the possible outbreak of conflict or envy of the high caste people against the lower caste people.

Consequently, a total of 20 people participated in the tour: 18 females, and 2 males, among which 5 came from ward 6, 10 from ward 8 and 5 from ward 9. The ethnic composition of the participants was 14 of low caste (Nepali, Bishokarma, Sarki), 6 of Braman and Chettri. The office assistant and motivator from the Puranchour Site Office also joined the tour for enhancing their knowledge on I.G. activities.

	Total No.	M		High caste	
		F		Low caste	
Ward 6	5	5	0	2	3
Ward 8	10	9	1	10	0
Ward 9	5	4	1	2	3
Total	20	18	2	14	6

Participants of the I.G. Tour at Puranchour VDC

#### e) Selection of the Observation Places

As this tour was focused on especially the disadvantaged females, it was considered to take them to the places where females have successfully conducted the I.G. activities in rather small scale as well as the place in where the participants were able to receive a variety of information

The selected observation places were as follows:

1. Lumre Agricultural Resource Center – kitchen garden,

rabbit & goat raising, tea cultivation

2. Karika in BTRT - goat raising, bee keeping, ginger cultivation, improved stove

3. Majhatana in Begnase - agroforestry (vegetables, fruits, and trees) (See Annex 3 for the schedule of the tour)

e) Reaction to the Tour

During the tour, the higher caste females and lower caste females showed their interests at different places: The higher caste females were actively asking questions at Lumre for kitchen gardening and mushroom growing. The lower caste female seemed impressed at goat raising at Karika. It is easily assumed that the economic background of the participants influenced their attitude toward observation objects of the tour. The lower caste females spontaneously reacted to the I.G. activities which seemed feasible under their particular conditions such as the amount of land they own or their capacity to manage the livestock.

As a whole, the females from ward 8 showed stronger interest in the activities than other participants. The reasons of their reaction can be 1) their economic conditions is worse than others 2) they have a supportive family condition. It seems that females in ward 8 are economically more independent from their husbands than those of other wards since females in ward 8 themselves also have an important role to generate income by portering, or other kinds of manual labor works

Therefore, the opportunity like this tour was very welcomed among their families, and significant family supports are expected in the implementation phase.<sup>2</sup>

The ward chairman of ward 8 used to have a very passive attitude toward the Project, and his leadership among the community was not strong enough. However, through the toilet construction sub-project started in March under the Project, he seemed to have learned how to work for the community, beginning to understand the objectives of the Project. In the I.G. tour, he was very active in asking questions, and showed cooperative attitude to the female participants with much self-confidence. He even bought some seeds at Lumre for kitchen gardening by himself.

f) follow-ups of the Tour

After the tour, the M/P team conducted a film show of the tour at wards from 3 to 9. At each ward, 100 - 200 people gathered to see the film, and shared the experiences of the tour. The higher caste people also seemed to enjoy the film, and some of them told that they would start some activities like kitchen gardening by themselves. The M/P team promised to provide them with necessary information even though the Project does not offer direct assistance as sub-project.

It was difficult to conduct a film show at ward 1 and 2 as there was not electricity coming to those wards. Therefore, the M/P team will have a show again at ward 3 for the people who could not attend last time. It is expected that people in ward 1 to 5 will be able to

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<sup>2</sup> By interviewing to some participants after the tour as follow-up, some obvious change in the lower caste female's views have been observed. They said that they were ready to start I.G. activities, especially goat-raising. However, the M/P team has not received any positive reaction from the higher caste females after the tour.

start forming users groups soon as they already had some experiences of I.G. activities with Japan Red Cross.

#### **4. Major Problems and Obstacles Encountered**

##### **a) Problems at the preparation stage**

There were no significant problems in preparing the study tour as the M/P team had imagined. However, some people showed negative attitudes to the M/P team.

For example, the ward chairman of ward 7 complained that there had been no participants from his ward. He claimed that the higher caste males must receive some kind of benefit first. The higher caste females in ward 6 also complained that they should have had a right to participate in the tour.

The reason for their complains was considered to be that these higher caste people still had a strong sense of discrimination against the lower caste people, especially the lower caste females. They believed that their own life was economically so disadvantaged as to deserve a support from organizations like JICA, and they were the first to receive it.

The M/P team explained them that the tour was aimed at introducing a variety of I.G. activities to the most disadvantaged groups, such as the lower caste females, and to motivate them to improve their livelihood. Besides, the M/P team promised to conduct a film show in all the wards in Puranchour to share the information that the tour participants would obtain. The complaining people reluctantly consented to the M/P team's explanation, and agreed to attend the show.



b) Problems during the tour

The M/P team found that there was a certain negative attitude of the higher caste females against the lower caste females during the tour. The higher caste females, even though there were few among the whole participants, sometimes showed dominating attitude toward the lower caste females by interrupting their comments and questions. Although the M/P team advised them to speak up in order, the lower caste females tended to stand behind the higher caste females.

c) Obstacles at follow-up phase

There is a certain bias that the lower caste people are eager to get to know something new or beneficial to them, but they are also very quick to forget. The M/P team is responsible to assist in forming users' groups soon after the tour, before they lose their enthusiasm as well as providing technical information and appropriate management measures of each I.G. activity for its sustainability.

The social problems of the lower caste people also should not be ignored. It is a well-known fact that they, especially males, have a strong habit of drinking alcohol. They can not improve their economic situation unless they know how to use their expectedly earned income by I.G. activities. The M/P team may need to tackle with this problem by providing the saving and house management training to all the beneficiaries including children of the I.G. activity before getting it started.

## **5. Recommendations for Strengthening Gender Sensitivity for Empowerment of People and Sustainable Development**

### **A. Need to Consider the Type of the Participant**

In order to make the I.G. tour effective, it is important for the M/P team to grasp first what type of needs the local people would have concerning I.G. activities, as well as to what extent they have already known or undertaken the activity so far. If there is no such activities in the community, the M/P team has to find its reasons. In higher caste community, for example, males still dominate economic activities, and females complain a lack of control over income even though they might gain it by themselves. In this kind of community, the M/P team may need to motivate males first to make them realize the importance of the female's control over income earned by themselves before conducting I.G. tour.

In the lower caste community, some I.G. activities like bee-keeping or goat-raising can be appropriate to introduce as there are very few people who own land large enough for kitchen gardening. In fact, the lower caste females showed strong interests in the activities which do not need much land, while the higher caste females were mostly keen to know about kitchen gardening during the tour.

According to what type of people are targeted, therefore, the planning, objectives and meaning of the tour are to be different.

### **B. Check the Surrounding Conditions of the Participants**

As the second point, the conditions of the participants have to be carefully considered. As a firm cooperation from other family members and community of users' group is indispensable to the I.G. activities, the M/P team needs to make sure that the

participants have a supportive circumstances even for participation in the tour. Females first need to persuade their husbands that it is meaningful for them to generate income by themselves, and the M/P team also may need to support the females' positive actions, if necessary.

Seasonality, environmental condition of the community, and an availability of human resources are also important points to consider. As it is favorable to start preparation for the implementation of the I.G. activities soon after the tour, M/P team has to consider what kind of activities should be introduced in particular areas of particular season. For example, a significant impact of the tour may not be expected if the tour introduces an activity like growing mushrooms to the participants from the areas with scarce human resources, fresh straw and clean water as these are indispensable for growing mushrooms.

### **C. Assure the Feasibility of the I.G. Activity**

Finally, M/P team is expected to ask the participants well about the feasibility of the activities, and to provide appropriate information. The participants may not take enough considerations about what they need to have for the activities before they decide to start. Goat raising, for example, needs enough fodder to feed, and it may not be sustainable if the users' member has to fetch fodder from very far forest. The M/P team has to advise that they first need to plant grass for fodder in this case. This kind of discussion on the feasibility and measures of the activities should be done in the implementation and follow-up phases of the tour.

## **6. Indicators for Empowerment of Women Through I.G.Tour**

As the consequent, the quantitative and qualitative indicators for empowerment of women through I.G. tour can be considered as follows:

### **A. Quantitative Indicators**

- a. Number of female participants
- b. Number of lower caste females
- c. Number of time/day females can provide for tour
- d. Whether they come to schedules of tour on time ( ex. how late they are for a bus)
- e. How many times they discuss tour with their family, and whether they receive an agreement for participation from other family members
- f. How many observation subjects are contained in tour schedule, and whether the subjects are appropriate to participants' interests
- g. Number of times participants asked questions during tour
- h. Number of meetings participants shared their experiences of tour within house holds and community
- i. Number of groups generated for I.G. activities after tour,
- j. Number of I.G. activities groups started

### **B. Qualitative Indicators**

- a. Whether participants know about the objectives of tour
- b. Whether participants are interested in observation subjects
- c. Whether participants receive family support
- d. Whether participants are eager to get information regarding I.G. activities

- e. Whether participants have equal chance to speak up during the tour
- f. Whether participants are positive to share their experience of the tour with their family members and community
- g. Whether participants are (became) positive to form a group for I.G. activities
- h. Whether participants are positive to conduct a tour for specific subjects (ex. Goat raising)

The success of I.G. tour, as these indicators show, depends on whether its participants commit to their capacity building and the M/P team are able to provide them with an appropriate opportunity to assist them. I.G. tour can be an effective chance to empower destitute females when all the concerned actors cooperate to reach the goal.

**Annex 1 : Map of Puranchour VDC & Ward 6, 8 & 9**



Name of Site Office : Puranchour

Sl. No.	Name of VIC	Ward No.	Ward Class	Name of Community Activities	Approved Date	Estimated Stat. Date	Estimated Complet. Date	Progress of work	Total Cost	Cost (NR.)		Benefitted Household	U. Committee			U. G. Members		
										Total of Project	(K)		M/E	Cash	People Cost (K)	Total	F	M
1	Puranchour	5	F	Installation canal & filter	96/01/17	96/01/12	100%	91,717	34,491	57,226	179	11	5	0	104	3	106	5,33
2	Puranchour	6	C	Drainage	96/01/17	96/01/20	100%	81,511	39,490	42,021	17	11	5	0	172	12	81	11,73
3	Puranchour	6	C	Drainage	96/01/17	96/01/15	100%	61,844	27,488	34,356	105	15	7	0	192	0	192	12,87
4	Puranchour	6	C	Drainage	96/01/15	96/01/15	100%	61,844	27,488	34,356	105	15	7	0	192	0	192	12,87
5	Puranchour	6	C	Drainage	96/01/15	96/01/15	100%	61,844	27,488	34,356	105	15	7	0	192	0	192	12,87
6	Puranchour	7	C	Drainage	96/01/15	96/01/15	100%	61,844	27,488	34,356	105	15	7	0	192	0	192	12,87
7	Puranchour	7	C	Drainage	96/01/15	96/01/15	100%	61,844	27,488	34,356	105	15	7	0	192	0	192	12,87
8	Puranchour	7	C	Drainage	96/01/15	96/01/15	100%	61,844	27,488	34,356	105	15	7	0	192	0	192	12,87
9	Puranchour	8	C	Drainage	96/01/15	96/01/15	100%	61,844	27,488	34,356	105	15	7	0	192	0	192	12,87
10	Puranchour	9	C	Drainage	96/01/15	96/01/15	100%	61,844	27,488	34,356	105	15	7	0	192	0	192	12,87
11	Puranchour	9	C	Drainage	96/01/15	96/01/15	100%	61,844	27,488	34,356	105	15	7	0	192	0	192	12,87
				Sub Total			931,708	304,353	627,355	437	39	121	45	111	31	109	241	13

Annex 2 : Monitoring Sheet of Sub-Projects in Puranchour VDC. (9 June 1996)

### Annex 3. The Tour Schedule

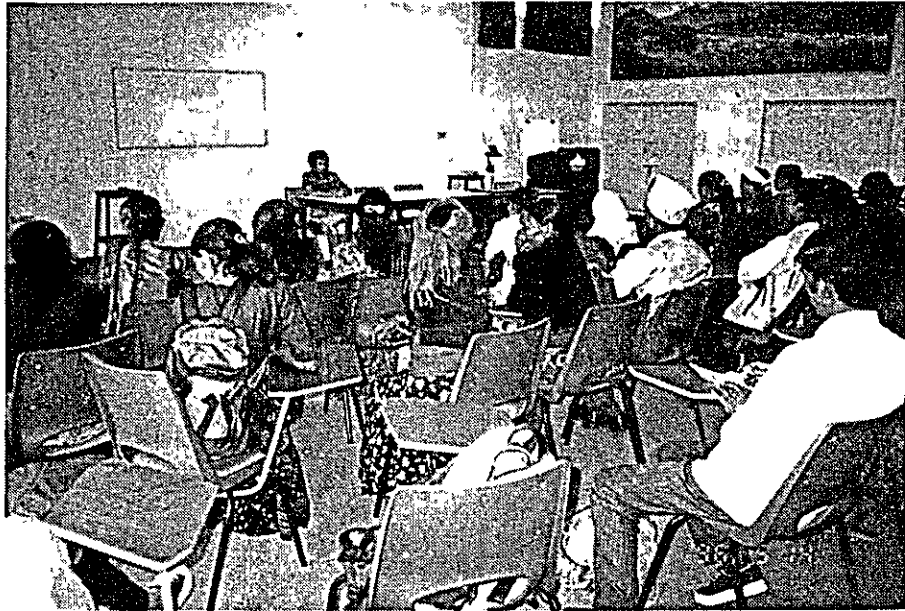
#### 1<sup>st</sup> day (14 May, 1996)

10:00 dept. Puranchour  
11:00 arri. The Project Office  
Briefing of the Tour  
11:30 dept. The Project Office  
13:00 arri. Lumre Agricultural Center  
Observation  
15:00 dept. Lumre Agricultural Center  
16:00 arri. The Project Office  
Welcome words from Ms. Tanaka and Video Show  
17:30 dept. The Project Office  
18:00 arri. Hotel in Pokhara  
Dinner at the Hotel

#### 2<sup>nd</sup> day (15 May, 1996)

07:00 dept. Hotel (by bus)  
08:00 arri. Raki in BTRT  
08:00 dept. Raki (by foot)  
9:30 arri. Karita  
Observation and breakfast  
11:30 dept. Karita  
13:00 arri. Majhathana  
Observation  
15:00 dept. Majhathana  
16:00 arri. Begnas  
16:00 dept. Begnas (by bus)  
17:00 arri. Puranchour  
Break up





*At Lumre Agricultural Resource Center*



Photographs of others information of the Sub-project



*At. Majhathana Agroforestry*



*At Karika Bee Keeping*

**Japan International Cooperation Agency**

**HMG/JICA Community Development & Forest/ Watershed Conservation Project  
HMG/JOCV Greenery Promotion Cooperation Project**

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Workshop on Gender Sensitivity in  
Community Participation  
Pokhara  
20-25 June 1996

Case Study No. 13

Language : English

Case Study  
on  
Drinking Water Maintenance in  
Puranchour

Prepared by: Ms. Laxmi Pokharel

Site Office: Puranchour

District: Kaski

**Presentation**  
**of**  
**Chitepani Drinking Water Tank Maintenance**  
**and Source Protection Sub-Project**  
**in Workshop on Gender Sensitivity in Community Participation**

**Introduction:**

Puranchaur is one of the VDC out of 47 VDCs of Kaski District, Western region. The location of Puranchaur is lying from North to the South. The geographical location is slightly sloppy and plain . Climate ranges from sub tropical to the sub temperate. The total population of this VDC is approximately 4200 comprising of 2070 male and 2130 female (source: Nepal Red Cross).

The major occupation of the villagers is agriculture. Ethnic composition comprises of Brahmin, Chhetri, Giri, Newar, Bhujel, Damai, Kami and Sarki. There are two agencies working, one is Nepal Red Cross Society, for drinking water and sanitation programme and the other is HMG/JICA/JOCV, for community development and forest/watershed conservation, which will be eventually covering all the wards of Puranchaur VDC .

The case study to be presented is Chitepani Drinking Water Tank Maintenance and Source Protection Subproject located at ward No. 6.

The Ward No. 6 of Puranchaur VDC is located at Bhotikhola in East, Ward No. 7 and 9 in West, Ward No. 5 in North and Seti Gandaki in South. There are four major clusters in this ward as follows:

- Chitepani Tole
- Poudyal Tole
- Adhikari Tole
- Bagar

**Number of Household:**

In Ward No. 6 the total number of household is 105 of which the Bhujel, Newar, Damai and Sarki households are 2,1,4 and 2, respectively. The other remaining households belong to Brahmin and Chhetri.

**Population:**

This ward is relatively bigger than other wards from the population perspective too. Out of the total number of 632 population, 90% is Brahman and Chhetri, 2.68% Bhujel and Newar and 2.81% Damai and Sarki. The percentage of women is 54.34% out of which 5.24% are occupational caste.

### **Literacy:**

20% Brahmins and Chhetri are literate in this ward and 20% of them are illiterate. 40% of women can do simple reading and writing, while 5-7 persons have passed SLC (School Leaving Certificate).

### **Economic Condition:**

Majority of the people are with medium and low economic condition. The economic condition of Brahmins and Chhetri is relatively better than others.

### **Occupation:**

The main occupation of the people residing in this ward is agriculture. Additional income is generated from service, trade and vegetable cultivation.

### **Agriculture System:**

Major crops are paddy, maize, and wheat whereas the mustard and vegetable cultivation can be taken as the cash crops. Adhikari Thar can be recognized as a model for vegetable cultivation.

### **Fruits:**

Orange, peach and lime have been cultivated as the major fruit. The number fruit tree cultivated in each household comes around one.

### **Livestock:**

Local cattle, buffalo, goat and sheep have been raised by the people.

### **Forest Resources:**

Very limited land in this ward is covered by forest. The ownership of the forest belong to the Brahmins family (Poudyal) only. However, the forest is satisfactorily protected. This forest has been handed over to the community forest users' group. Major tree species are Uttis, Chilaune, Phaledo, Katus and Kalche, Barren land in this ward is approximately 8 to 10 hectares. Plantation in this barren land is in process . Forest users' group have been formed.

The following sub projects are on going and were completed after having an agreement between the users group and HMG/JICA.

- a. Chitepani Water Tank maintenance and source protection (Chitepani)
- b. Irrigation Canal Protection (Poudyal Tole)
- c. Irrigation Canal Protection (Poudyal Tole)
- d. Trail Improvement of Gully Control (Adhikari Thar)
- e. R.C.C. Trail Bridge Construction (Ghatte Khola)

Out of the above subprojects, the case as I have chosen for presentation is "Water Tank Maintenance and Source Protection, Chitepani Tole".

**No. of Household:**

Users' group of this subproject comprises of 44 households. Occupational caste, female and male are 13 and 15 respectively in this users' group.

**Initial Condition:**

With the assistance of Drinking Water Supply Office, 5 taps and 1 temporary type water reservoir established. The taps were not working properly. Drinking water was misused by breaking pipes and taps. Reservoir tank was filled with mud, pebbles and litters. None of the users cleaned the reservoir. On the contrary, they were standing in queue to fetch water and quarreling with each other. Sometimes, few males used to clean water reservoir and repair pipes.

No taps were allocated for the occupational caste people. The occupational caste people had to wait for longer time to fetch water. They were allowed to fetch water only after the upper caste people finished their turn. The occupational caste people had to wait approximately for 1 hour to fetch one pot of water. In case they touched the upper caste women by mistake, they were badly scolded.

In case 1 or 2 taps were out of order, the practice of the users was to create problem in other taps too. The reason behind this situation was because the users' groups were not organized, more dependent on others, uneducated population, no harmony in the society, women overloaded with household work and men spending most of their time in unproductive gossip. Abuse of the alcohol was to extreme point of beating their wives. Most of the households are indebted to their loans.

Some of the household have sold their land for the wedding expenses of their sons and daughters. This may be because of the households spending huge amount of money for wedding. Medium level family household used to spend money for wedding by selling their land. The pattern of expenses in proportionate to their assets is higher among the poor household relatively to the rich. The occupational caste households earns good amount of money (i.e. men earns Rs 160.00 per day bringing the monthly income Rs 4800.00) Even though, the loan amount is increasing day by day to their shoulder, because of the above mentioned reasons there are conflicts within the occupational caste people. The occupational caste people are poor because they do not have sufficient irrigated and rain fed land. Further they can not save money from their income. They did not actively participate in the labour contribution during the maintenance of Drinking Water tank. The children were sent for participation because the adult had to go somewhere else for the paid work.

The users' of Titepani drinking water supply accepted that the project's failure was due to the misuse of the financial resources and construction materials. The account was not properly kept.

### Efforts:

In the beginning, the M/P team consulted with different people along with the women regarding the actual situation of the ward. This consultation was done at tea shop, door to door visit and by personal contact. The village people focused on drinking water as their major problem.

Village people indicated number of the other problems too like motarable road, bridge, drinking water, irrigation, toilet and school repair. The M/P team organized number of the meetings by using pamphlets, posters in the village to bring their problems jointly. Number of examples of different project (e.g. Ghandruk) was given to the villager. This helped a lot to encourage the villagers to attend the meeting at that time.

Before the selection of subproject, the occupational caste and women expressed about their problem of time constraint for domestic work, social work, and are unable to leave their children alone to attend the meeting. They pointed out that only men can exclusively take the decision. They thought that the M/P team would give them more work when they already do not have enough time. In addition, they also charged that the M/P team was more interested in meetings than physical construction work. Gradually the M/P team developed linkage with women and good understanding rpport with the people. So 90% of beneficiary household participated in drinking water supply at the time of subproject selection.

Before selection of the subproject, the drinking water supply group was formed but the villagers did not trust them because of their deceiving nature. Both male and female expressed that the aater problem basically comes in the shoulder of women. It is because, water is carried by women for cooking food and washing clothes. The male villagers expressed that they are not very much conscios of the water problem. It was extremely difficult to organize people by M/P team, but gradually developed relationship with the village women and made them consider it as a common problem of the village.

It was definitely not an easy task for the M/P team to organize women, since they did not have good relationship with each other. The conflict of women was in between the mother in-law and the daughter in-law in their household issues. Likewise, the conflict was between neighbours at different issues like water, working in the field and others. The M/P team was not successful for about 4/5 times to conduct meeting with women regarding the information dissemination about the project and its objectives. Before reaching in the conclusion, the women quarreled about their own issues. In order to conduct meeting properly, the M/P team made personal visits to women for the meeting. In the meantime, few drunken males tried to disturb the meeting, however the women themselves solved the problem. The women defended the drunken male, saying that they are not allowed to disturb their meeting. Then the drunken male returned to their home.

In the subsequent meeting, male and female both were present. The women demanded the accounts of drinking water supply project from the former committee. This turn in a big discussion for 2-3 hours between women and members of the former committee. In this confrontation, the women raised their voice that the financially corrupted men should not be elected as a member of the new committee work. They also stressed that the women's consensus should be taken before making any decision.

On the contrary the male raised their voice saying that as it is an old project, therefore, they only should be nominated as members in the committee. The male also threatened that the work can not be accomplished if the women are kept in the committee. This confrontation between male and female for the membership in the committee uplifted the confidence of women. They decided to form a new committee involving only women to complete this subproject. This led to the unsatisfactory situation among few clever males and opposed the women's decision as they no longer remained the members of the committee. Finally, the male and female users negotiated with each other to keep those males as members of the advisory committee of the subproject.

The M/P team advised women to collect some money at the time of Tij Festival by organizing door to door singing and dancing programme. This money could be spent on most needy social work. The women collected Rs 2536.00 for the maintenance of proposed drinking water subproject in the village with organizing singing and dancing programmes.

The M/P team trained women to keep simple recording of the collected amount because of the poor performance of the financial management of the former committee. The collected money was insufficient for the maintenance of drinking water supply. In the meeting with presence of 80-90 male and female, the Chitepani drinking water reservoir was proposed from the budget of HMG/JICA community level activities. 35 female and 4 male were present in the meeting from Chitepani Tole. It was also proposed that to carry out maintenance of the drinking water reservoir along with construction of one additional taps for the occupational caste people. After the consensus of this subproject, the information regarding sharing contribution was disseminated by the technician to the users' group. Then the subproject was jointly recommended by VDC Chairman, respective ward Chairman, member of the users' committee and the M/P team submitted it to the approval committee.

Out of the 40 users' group beneficiaries, 38 were present during the preparation of joint workplan of the subproject between HMG/JICA and Users' group regarding the labour mobilization, water charge collection for operation and maintenance, protection of water source, plantation and so on. At the time of implementation, the users' collected sand and aggregate as specified by the Users' group. It was observed that the women were very much encouraged to mobilize their labour. During the selection of this project, the occupational caste got encouraged after the decision was made to allocate 1 tap for them but their participation was very poor for unskilled labour contribution, because, they did



not want to work without payment, but later their participation increased after being convinced by the M/P team.

Out of the total cost Rs 41999.66 for water reservoir tank maintenance, the users group have borne Rs 14526.48 (34.64%) and HMG/JICA Rs 26391.29 (65.34%), respectively. Similarly, there were 160 unskilled labour and 23 skilled labour involved upto the completion of the work. Approximately 120 women worked as unskilled labour as speculated by the M/P team. However, the exact labour contribution of women was not shown in the record due to the male dominance.

After the completion of the reservoir, the women users' group have requested HMG/JICA for the fencing and seedlings with an objective to protect water source. Likewise, the users' group have been collecting Rs 5.00 from each users' household for the repair and maintenance from last May. The meeting of the committee and water users' group takes place twice a month and once in two months, respectively. Those who opposed the presence of women before, have now agreed to pay water charge for the operation and maintenance of the drinking water system. For this total amount of Rs 3700.00 has been collected. This money has been disbursed to the village people in credit with 2% interest. There was a problem on consensus between male and female working together in the group due to the ignorance and lack of consciousness which created some problem during the implementation of the project.

#### **Problems Encountered from Starting to the Implementation of the Subproject:**

1. The male did not agree to follow the decision made by female and refused to do the assigned work to them. The male encountered with female saying that as this is their own users' committee therefore the work should be done by themselves. If the women can not do work by themselves, then male should be taken in the committee. They also said that female do not respect male.
2. The male accused that the women are not seriously thinking of their roles and responsibilities and make decisions by themselves and do not know how to mobilize people.
3. The males put their own name in the record instead of their wives or daughters who contributed their labour.
4. They had an attitude of not contributing labour and create obstacle in the connection of pipes.
5. Male did not attend the meeting but raised number of the questions to create problem at the time of implementation.
6. Women also quarreled among themselves on minor things at the time of meeting and then dispersed without reaching any conclusion.

7. Because of the uneducated women in the users' committee, it was very difficult to maintain accounts and lack of understanding in their rights and duties.
8. Most of the members of users' group both male or female wanted to have direct personal benefit.

**Major Reason of the Problems:**

- The male had a prejudices over the female from the very beginning. As such, they wanted to be nominated in the users' committee at any cost.
- The male had doubt that the mobilization of the female may create problem on their opportunities, self-esteem and not be respected by other people. They also feared that the mistakes of the past for this project may be identified.
- The male wanted to put their name in the labour contribution record whereas the actual work was done by their wives or daughters.
- Previously, the attitude of the occupational caste was not very positive. They did not want to contribute their labour free of cost, as they did not have any extra income source for their daily meal.

**Followings were the efforts taken by the M/P team:**

- Number of meetings were organized for male and female separately and joint meeting conducted to identify core problem and conflict,
- Encouraged users in the Meeting to select social oriented, unselfish members of users' committee in the meeting,
- While selecting the subproject, forming users' committee and construction period, information discrimination was not done between upper caste and occupational caste. The interest of the occupational caste was only seriously focused by the M/P team,
- Core conflict was identified first and then organized discussion and brought to consensus,
- Organized Video shows (recently),
- Encouraged singing and dancing programme in various festivals and wedding ceremonies,
- Appreciated the group work,
- Suggested to form advisory committee. Daily association with the users' group help a lot to solve this problem.

**Recommendation for Second Year:**

1. Organizing training for both men and women to impart knowledge on function, right and duties of the committee and groups (capacity building training),

2. Educating women through literacy classes on different issues like health, saving and credit, legal rights, self-reliance, child care, and income generation (e.g. vegetable cultivation, goat raising and other agricultural system),
3. Identify real target groups from among the villagers by approaching them through personal contacts at tea shops, fields, water taps, festivals and meetings.
4. Organizing necessary study tours and training in relation to their work.
5. Imparting necessary knowledge and skills to the project field workers with special focus on women participation.
6. No processing should be done for the real implementation of the subproject before having positive attitude of users' on operation and maintenance and raising some fund. Provision of the award should be made for those groups who contribute their labour in time as required by the subproject.
7. Encourage women field staff with positive attitude taking into the consideration of their physical and natural catastrophes. Very few Nepalese women have been working as a development worker. However, there are quite many good examples of their positive effect at the village level. But they do not get good opportunities to improve their personal career.

**Gender Sensitivity Monitoring Indicators:**

- Regular meeting organized, decision made on group discussion and decision minuted in the book.
- Accounts properly maintained for the operation and maintenance of the subproject.
- Transfer technical knowledge to the users' for the regular maintenance of the subproject.
- All or few women representation in the committee.
- Be able to identify measures to solve their problems and needs through the users group.

Despite the above indicators kept in the project, there should be educational programme to change their deeply rooted conservative attitude. The proper utilization of the income of the people is also very essential. Women component should be incorporated whether the programmes are bigger or smaller. The equitable awareness building of the women as compare to the men should be improved which may be the key indicator of the development. As such, the M/P team has paid more efforts to involve maximum women in the programmes in spite of time consuming task. The Chitepani drinking water supply subproject has taught us a lesson to acquire success on gender development with big struggle only.

c:genderix

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Workshop on Gender Sensitivity in  
Community Participation  
Pokhara  
20-25 June 1996

Case Study No. 14

Language : English

Case Study  
on  
Drinking Water System and Ginger  
Cultivation in Thapathana

Prepared by: Mr. Eiji Shibasaki

Site Office: Thapathana

District: Parbat



Table 1. Main Profile of the Thapatana VDC

		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Population	Female	236	253	120	157	123	126	465	276	207
	Male	290	253	160	165	171	142	456	274	207
	Total	526	506	280	322	294	268	921	550	414
H.H	Total	82	72	41	48	53	35	153	80	68
	F.H.H	16	13	2	3	20	3	30	35	25
Ethnic Composi- tion (H.H)	Brahman	2	5	0	34	2	21	25	7	4
	Chhetri	2	22	1	0	51	11	121	18	51
	Damai	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
	Jogi	6	30	0	9	0	3	0	46	13
	Kami	7	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Magar	65	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Newar	0	11	39	3	0	0	6	0	0
	Sarki	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	9	0
	Other	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
S.L.Cpass	Female	2	0	7	4	0	4	10	0	4
	Male	3	7	20	7	6	8	25	5	8

Table 2. Ginger Cultivation Sub-Projects in Thapatana VDC

Word No.	Subproject	U.G (M/F)	Start Date	Current status	Main Ethnic Group
No 1	Ginger Ccltivation	(0 / 5)	2 April '96	Planted	Kami
No. 1	Ginger Cultivation	(0 / 1 0)	1 April '96	Planted	Magar
No. 3	Ginger Cultivation	(0 / 1 3)	2 April '96	Planted	Newar
No. 5	Ginger Cultivation	(0 / 2 1)	2 April '96	Planted	Chhetri
No. 6	Ginger Cultivation	(0 / 1 9)	1 April '96	Planted	Brahman
No. 7	Ginger Cultivation	(1 / 1 1)	1 April '96	Planted	Chhetri

## **II. Gender Sensitivity in the Phedi Khola - Thapatana Drinking Water Sub-Project**

The Users' Group Committee (UGC) was set up to look after the construction work of the subproject, but not to maintain, clean and manage the intakedam, reservoir, pipe lines and tap stands. There has been no UG for maintenance for the already existing Drinking Water Supply System , either.

There were no women in the UGC at the beginning, but the M/P team strongly requested them to include women members. Since the women have been the main users of the tap stand for collecting water for cooking and washing, while men have been just taking shower at the water stand. As a result, the UGC was composed by seven females and eight males.

However, the women members were just requested to put their names in place of their husbands' names. Women's participation in the UGC meetings has been very low and every two meetings only one or two women members participated. When they attended the meetings, they did not say much about their views. They seemed like visitors rather than members. They also seemed to believe that women should not say much in such meetings. Even when they tried to say something, they were often interrupted by men and discouraged not to speak out. This kind of attitude was also observed among men who had taken the leadership of the discussions.

The M/P team requested the members to let women come more frequently to the UGC meetings, but the male members said women were busy with the work although they had been informed. It seemed that men believed that women should be doing the house work and the village work should be left to men.

## **III. Problems and Obstacles Encountered**

Consequently, there had been no improvement for the women's participation in the UGC meetings. Some men may have started to think women's participation were also important, they did not take any positive action to the women members. Therefore, the UGC has been actually managed only by male members.

The distribution of the tap stands proposed by the UGC well illustrated the power structure of the villages: two tap stands were to be provided with Ward No. 1, four to Ward No. 3 and three to Ward No. 7. The water source is located in Ward No.1. There are main market and committee members houses in Ward No.3. There is a Ward Chairperson's house in Ward No.7. The allocated number of the tap stand does not necessarily correspond with the population. Moreover, one tap stand was planned to be located in front of the VDC Chairperson's house and another in front of the UGC Chairperson's house.

One of the reasons for such kind of distribution of tap stands was that women, the main users of the tap stand, could not attend the meeting and express their views. The tap stands were distributed not based upon the actual needs and the criteria for the distribution was not very clearly defined. The ultimate criteria for the distribution is the power to influence other people. There were no places for the actual uses, especially women and the lower castes, can express about the problems they had been facing and equally discuss among the people concerned.

The M/P team has requested the UGC to amend the proposal regarding the distribution of the tap stand and their distribution to the settlements of the lower caste people. The M/P team has tried to bridge the communication gap between the UGC and those whose voices had not been heard. It has not been the fundamental solution to the problems, however, the M/P team considered as the best under the given circumstances.

Another problem has arisen while requesting the revision of the proposal, namely the villagers of the Ward No.1 refused to provide water to other Wards. The relationship between the villagers among the Ward No. 1 and No.3 had been not favorable for a long time. The villagers in Ward No. 1 felt that they had been discriminated by those in Ward No.3. For example, they had previously provided water to the Ward No.3, however, no water stand was built in Ward No. 1, and the tree seedlings were not equally distributed among these two Wards. Some villagers of the Ward No.3 think that the villagers of the Ward No. 1 drink a lot and the reservoir tank would be destroyed by the Ward No.1 if they were to be built in Ward No. 1. They don't work with the villagers of Ward No.1.

Although the UGC members were relatively young people, the resistance arose among the aged villages of Ward No. 1 who felt that they had been discriminated against. They did not like the distribution plan of the tap stands among the Wards, and wanted to give sufferings to the villagers of Ward No.3 and No. 7 by not providing the water source. If they did not proceed the sub-project, they themselves also would not get sufficient water, which, however, was against the women's wishes of the Ward No.1. The young people of the Ward No. 1 tried to persuade the aged villagers, however, were not successful. The distribution plan was not approved by the M/P team, however, it was considered by the villagers as the final, which had arisen the stronger resistance among the aged villagers. Once the resistance was taken place, it became difficult for the aged villager to take it back and they became not to listen to the M/P team. The UGC members also were reluctant to change the proposal as they were afraid of losing the number of the tap stands and the supply of the water volume. Therefore, the whole work has been stopped at present.



Table 3. Major Characteristics of Ward No. 1, No. 3 and No. 7

	Ward No. 1	Ward No. 3	Ward No. 7
Population	526	280	921
Household	82	41	153
Total			
Main Caste	Magar 65	Newar 39	Chhetri 121
Occ. Caste	Kami 7	-	Sarki 1
SLC Pass			
Female	2	7	10
Male	3	20	25
Socio-economic Conditions	1) Located on the southern slope, edge of the VDC	1) Center of the VDC, on the top of the ridge.	1) Northern part of the north-western part of VDC
1) Geographical	2) Average. OC work as daily wage labourers.	2) Above the average. Many shop keepers at the bazaar, and can spend money.	2) Average
2) Economical	3) Discriminated by other Wards. OC are further discriminated in the Ward.	3) Central role of the VDC. Members of the dev. works come from here.	3) Well treated as the VDC Chairperson lives in this Ward.
3) Social			
Use of Water	1) Spring and small river, Three channels of pipe lines . No line for the settlement of OC who are also denied the use of the spring.	1) No water source. Three channels of pipe lines, which all come from other VDC and Wards.	1) Many springs scattered. Individual pipelines only exist and no public lines.
1) Original source	2) Water supply was not enough for the school and along side of the trail.	2) Three tap stands can be used, but the water supply become scarce during the dry season.	2) There is no water source near-by for the villagers who live on the ridge.
2) Background of the proposal			

In general, those who can manage the development work get together and make the committee for VDC programme. In case of Thapatana VDC, those who have management capability with SLC pass mostly came from the Ward No. 3 and No. 7, therefore, they collected the signature for the proposal from their neighbors and the decisions were made mostly in accordance with their wishes. Moreover, the leaders of the villagers are also from these Wards.

It has been partly the M/P team's failure that the names and their designation were not considered carefully before making the proposal. It has been difficult for the M/P team to grasp the social background for this kind of problem. The priorities for the request are usually decided by the representatives of the villagers, however, whether they represent majority's view are not certain. The first year of the M/P team's operation may have to be concentrated on the understanding the social situations and information dissemination. Upon such experience, the M/P team can appraise the proposal and examine the decision-making processes. The proposals usually have specific

amount to be borne by the villagers and monitoring procedures, however, the hidden problems such as political pressures and the lack of the awareness among the villagers cannot be well grasped. Some villagers may not be informed about the sub-project and not gain any benefit from the sub-project.

The HMG/JICA Project intends to give decision-making power for priority setting for the proposals. The villagers also became to understand the concept of the people's participation promoted under the Project. However, it seems that the basic decision-making process and traditional values have not been much changed. It is important for all the villagers' ideas should be equally taken into consideration and equitable benefit should be distributed among all the villagers. It is also important for the M/P team not to consider the proposal as final and let them form the users' group as granted but to carefully examine the background of the proposal.

Lessons learned from this sub-project can be summarized as follows:

(1) If the real users are not identified and incorporated in the sub-project, the main objectives of the sub-project may be lost. Every sub-project must be managed by the real users. In general, the users of the infrastructure facilities are both men and women, therefore, their fair participation should be considered. It is a key for the success that women can actively participate in the decision-making processes which are usually dominated by men.

(2) It is a task of the M/P team to create the environment for women to be able to participate, at the same time to encourage women to speak out and become confident with themselves. Since they lack the experience in participating in the meetings and managing the UGC, special attention and training may be needed for them. For example, the M/P team will support women by promoting various kind of income-generating activities, through which it is hoped that women would learn about group formation, management and monitoring the activities and learning from both success and failures. The women will gain self confidence, which will also change the men's attitudes toward women and eventually women will be assigned for the important positions in various kinds of village committees.

(3) It is also a task of the M/P team to change the men's gender concept and attitudes. Men are usually afraid of losing their privileges and power over women, thus reluctant to accept the women's participation in the decision-making process. It is important for the M/P team to show the village men the positive effects of women's participation as well as the negative effects of not involving women from the planning stages.

The M/P team has been promoting the ginger cultivation among the women groups in Ward No.1, 3, 5, 6 and 7. Some interesting comparative observations were made as follows:

Table 4. Comparison between the Drinking Water and Ginger Cultivation Sub-projects

	Drinking Water Sub-Project	Ginger Cultivation Sub-Project
Users' Group	Almost equal number of men and women	All women
Users' Group Committee	Almost men.	All women
Effects of the gender composition of the Users and Users Group Committee	The real needs can not be reflected as the real users' views are not taken into consideration.	Since there are no men, women can express views freely and can actively participate in the sub-project.
Information collection about the situations	Since only men and the male leaders attend the UGC meeting, objective information cannot be collected.	Since all the UGC members are the real users, the users' needs are well reflected .
Discussions and Decisions	Though women may participate, they cannot speak. Even they can vote, their minority's views are not taken in to consideration.	Since the members are all women, there is no difference of rights between men and women. There is some difference in power among women, but everyone can speak out.
Distribution of the Benefit	The benefit can be distributed among the users. However, if not participated as UG at the beginning, they may not receive any benefit. One tap stand can serve only to 10-20 people.	A part of the benefit goes to the common fund, and the rest goes to individuals.
Sustainability	If another UG may be formed for cleaning and management of the water system and can collect the money for the maintenance, then sustainability will be gained.	If the first year's operation become successful and gain some profit to be put for the following year, then the sustainability may occur.

#### IV. Recommendations

Based upon the M/P team's experiences on the above drinking water system and ginger cultivation sub-projects, the following recommendations will be made:

1) The Users's Group Committee does not have to be either men or women, but fair distribution is necessary to reflect the real needs of the people. The villagers are bound by the traditional gender division of work, namely, women should do only the domestic and agricultural work, while men should be responsible for problem solving in the villages. However, it is important for women to participate in the committee meetings.

2) In order for the views of the disadvantaged groups to be reflected to the sub-project, it is necessary to educate them and let them form alternative groups in the villages, at the same time to educate the privileged groups not to dominate the benefit of the development activities. They should know that the village life is also supported by the works of the occupational caste.

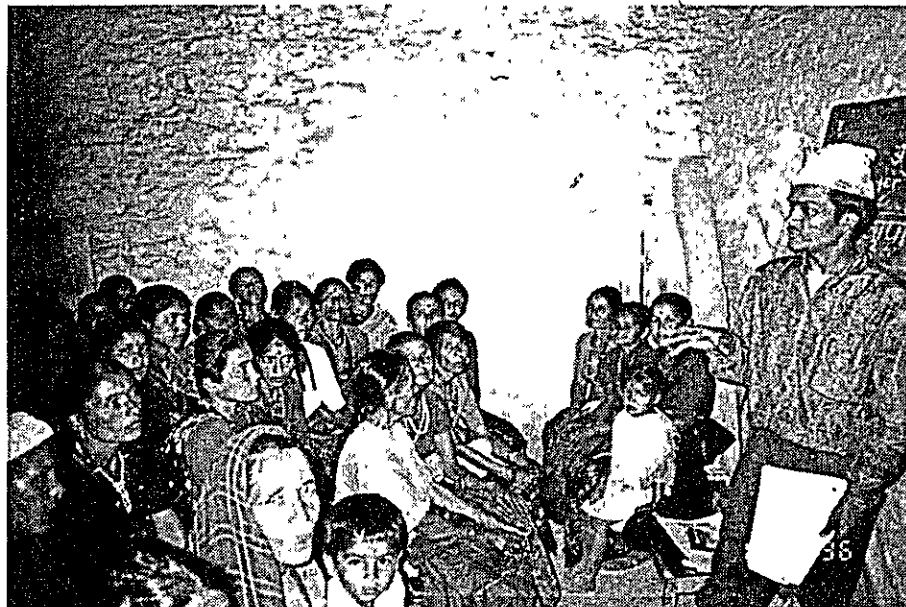
3) A part of the benefit of development activities should directly go to the participants. However, in case it is not clear for the participants how the benefit goes to them such as infrastructure and forest/watershed conservation activities, it is important to let them convince the benefit accrued in a long run.

4) It is necessary to undertake sampling survey of the household needs and socio-economic situations.

5) As the monitoring indicators, the women's participation rate in the meetings and their share in the UGC should be also included.

6) If the quality of the sub-project is considered well, it may take a long time to start them and the M/P team may not be able to implement a large number of the sub-projects as expected. This problem needs more consideration in the future.

Photographs of others information of the Sub-project



*The lecture for "Ginger Cultivation" SP*



*One scene in ginger distribution*

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HMG/JOCV Greenery Promotion Cooperation Project**

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Workshop on Gender Sensitivity in  
Community Participation  
Pokhara  
20-25 June 1996

Case Study No. 15

Language : English

Case Study  
on  
Drinking Water System and Ginger  
Cultivation in Thapathana

Prepared by: Mr. Guna Kumar Shrestha

Site Office: Thapathana

District: Parbat

**Presentation  
of  
Drinking Water System and Ginger Cultivation Sub-Project  
in Workshop on Gender Sensitivity in Community Participation**

**I. Profile of the ward :**

Please refer the attached report of VDC/Ward Profile

- Literacy Rate = 50%  
Male = 65%  
Female = 35%  
(Source: Local Teacher of Thapathana VDC)

- Economic Situation:

10% of the total population can feed all the year round  
40% of the total population can feed more than 6 months  
50% of the total population can feed less than 6 months.  
(Source : Thapathana VDC Chairman)

**II. Main activities of the ward:**

Ward No.	Sub-project	User's Group (Male/Female)	Starting Date	Current Status	Caste
1	Ginger Cultivation - A Ginger Cultivation - B	(0/5) (0/13)	2.4.1996 1.4.1996	Planted Planted	O/C. Magar/ Kumar
3	Ginger Cultivation	(0/21)	2.4.1996	Planted	Newar
5	Ginger Cultivation	(0/19)	2.4.1996	Planted	Chhetri
6	Ginger Cultivation	(1/11)	1.4.1996	Planted	Brahmin
7	Ginger Cultivation	(0/33)	1.4.1996	Planted	Chhetri

### **III. Gender Sensitivity: Efforts & Insight**

This is a special case of an unsuccessful sub-project i.e. Thapathana-Phedikhola Drinking Water Scheme.

#### **Background:**

This sub-project was already approved by approval committee on 14 February 1996 and canceled by the approval committee for FY 1994/95 due to its conflict of water source.

#### **Main objectives of this sub-project are:**

- To fulfill the water requirement of the people.
- Promote healthy environment for the people of both Thapathana and Shanker Pokhari VDC's.
- To save time to fetch water.

#### **During the implementation phase M/P team made the following efforts for gender sensitivity:**

- Identification of key users,
- Attention to gender balance,
- Active participation of women in any development activities,
- Equal and active participation of women in user's committee & decision making process,
- Beneficiaries should be men and women from disadvantaged and discriminated groups,
- Fair participation of men and women including disadvantaged groups, and
- Capacity building, empowerment of men and women for sustainable development of the committee/communities.

The M/P team gave full attention to the above mentioned points for the sustainable development of the communities and to achieve empowerment of both men and women as well as the gender sensitivity in the sub-projects.

Due to their individual interest the users did not distribute the tap stand properly and fairly in the beginning but later upon the advice of M/P team they distributed the tap stand fairly and properly. Some consensus took place and the sub-project started after the completion of the joint work plan.



Photo No. 1

(M/P team and technicians measuring the water volume at the site of the water source)

The users were very much interested and participated actively. They started to construct the reserve tank according to estimate. But unfortunately on the 5th day the users of ward No. 1, where the water source exists created some problems about the source and its rights.

Photo No. 2

(M/P teams are helping the users group in excavating the reservoir tank foundation)

They denied to provide the source of water for the implementation of sub-project. Eventhough the source of water was not utilized by the people of ward No. 1. They often used the water only to prepare the seed bed of paddy.

Even though he M/P team proposed to provide water to the users of Ward No. 1 during seed bed preparation, they refused to provide the source of water for implementation.

The M/P team identified the reasons for not providing the source of water are as follows:

- Lack of co-operation,
- Internal conflict between the users,
- Political contradiction,
- Individual interest, and
- Lack of awareness.

The user's committee tried to solve the problems many times by organizing several meeting and by personal contact, but did not succeed, then they requested the M/P team to solve the problem. The M/P team also tried to solve the problem by organizing mass meeting, group meeting, personal contact with the coordination of Field Manager, but the users were unable to reach consensus.

Now this sub-project has been canceled by the approval committee for FY 1994/95. This sub-project may start next year if the users are able to reach to consensus.

#### **IV. Major Problems and Obstacles Encountered:**

The main problems and obstacles encountered for gender sensitivity are as follows:

- Women's participation was very low,
- Women did not want to take any responsible post in the committee,
- Women as well as disadvantaged groups lacked leadership capacity ,
- They did not care about the importance of time, and
- Meeting could not be held in time.

Major causes for these problems are listed below:

- Low level of education,
- Low level of perception capacity of women and disadvantaged groups,
- Women are dominated by male since very long time,
- Occupational caste dominated by other castes in the communities,
- Women do not have sufficient time to involve in developing activities as compared to men,
- Women are too busy with domestic work i.e. taking care of children, cooking, washinging clothes etc. , and
- Conservative and traditional way of thinking plays an important role in gender sensitivity.

The M/P team tried to understand or solve these problems by:

- Personal contact,
- Group contact as well as group discussion,
- Encouraged to participate in meeting,
- Explained objectives, purpose, aims and program of the Project,
- By exchanging the ideas and experiences, and
- Imparted the knowledge of human rights.

M/P team did not succeed to solve all the problems but achieved some improvement in this regard.

Other issues to be noted by M/P team:

- Adult literacy classes may be useful to aware the women and disadvantaged groups.

**V. Recommendations for the Strengthening Gender Sensitivity for the Empowerment of People and Sustainable Development:**

- Peoples participation is indispensable to sustain the development. Now a days the participation is very low due to misunderstanding between user & implementing agencies, so it is recommended that all the activities or programs conducted by the Project should be transparent to build up good rapport between user's group and the Project,
- The women & occupational castes are not involved in decision making process and are deprived of most of the opportunities, so it is recommended that the programs conducted by the Project should reach to those groups, to uplift them in decision making process. For this issue review workshop of past intervention should be conducted for its improvement,
- Rural people are less aware with social development activities & they do not know about value & importance of natural properties. So, it is recommended to conduct several awareness creating activities like literacy class, study tour, slide show, training on income generating activities etc. for their motivation,
- Since the policy of the Project is demand driven, the demand should approach from the respective communities, but the people do not know about their felt needs, so most of the disadvantaged groups have not yet submitted their requests to the M/P team. So, it is recommended that a study is necessary to find out the pros & cons of those groups to carry them over in the development stream.

The following gender sensitivity monitoring indicators should be developed for the second year's operation and in the future.

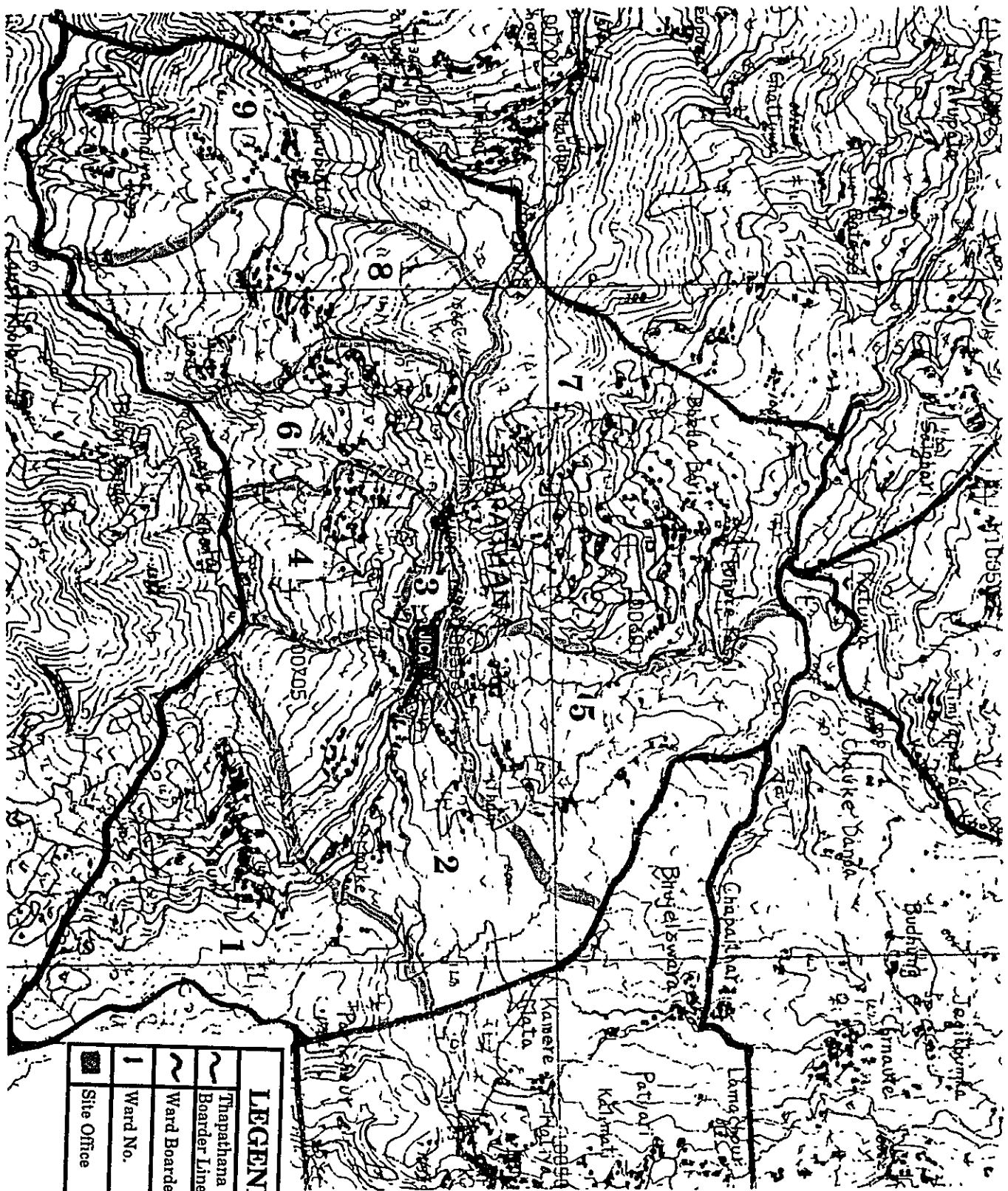
<u>Description</u>	<u>Successful Indicators</u>
<b>A. <u>Meeting:</u></b>	
- General meeting held	at least twice/year.
- Women user's member committee meeting held.	at least six times/Year.
- Women user's member committee emergency call meeting	at least 75% presentation.
- No. of minutes taken	as per meeting held.
<b>B. <u>Leadership Development:</u></b>	
- Women user's member committee election held	as per women user's group constitution/law.
<b>C. <u>Gender:</u></b>	
Women participated in the decision making process of the women user's group.	minimum 50% from total women headed household and 10% from total men headed household.
<b>D. <u>Resource Mobilization:</u></b>	
Monthly/Annual membership fee collection.	minimum 90% .





**Annex 3. Face Sheet on Sub-project (1)**

Date: 2 June, 1996

No.:

1. Title of Subproject: Phedi Khola - Thapathana Drinking Water Sub-Project	
2. Location: Arba-ghari	Ward No.: 1,2,3,57 VDC: Thapathana
3. Total Cost: Rs. 686,611.79 (100%)	6. Approved Date: 14 February 1996
4. HMG/JICA: Rs. 484,698.38 (70.6%)	7. Starting Date: 14 February 1996
5. Users Group : Rs. 201,913.45 (29.4%)	8. Completion Date: —
9. Total No. of Benefited Households: Regulating	( OC : 7 )
10. Total No. of User Group Committee Members: 15	(Female: 7 Male: 8 )
11. Total No. of User Group Members: Regulating	(F: M: ) (SC : )
<p>12. Summary of the Sub-projects: (Objectives, Main Activities, Methodology, Problems and Obstacles encountered Monitoring, Maintenance, Sustainability, etc.</p> <p><b>Objectives:</b> - To increase water supply for Shankar Pokhari VDC          - To supply healthy water, save time to fetch water,          - To show the importance of the forest conservation for the water source protection.</p> <p><b>Main Activities:</b> An excavation work for a reservoir tank had started, but after some time, serious problem about water right occurred and the construction of the sub-project stopped.</p> <p><b>Methodology:</b> All sub projects were prioritized by the UG member and Committee member, and the M/P team assisted them.. The consensus was not obtained before the implementation</p>	
13. Community Participation: Unskilled labor	
14. Gender Consideration: Request for women to join the Meeting.	
15. Environmental Consideration: None.	



LEGEND	
	Thapathana VDC Boarder Line
	Ward Boarder Line
	Ward No.
	Site Office

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Workshop on Gender Sensitivity in  
Community Participation  
Pokhara  
20-25 June 1996

Case Study No. 17

Language : English

Case Study  
on  
Landslide Control in Sirubari

Prepared by: Mr. Keshar Bahadur Raibhat

Site Office: Sirubari

District: Parbat

**Presentation  
of  
Landslide Control Sub-Project  
in Workshop on Gender Sensitivity in Community Participation**

**I. Profile of the Ward:**

Khalte landslide is an intercommunity level sub-project, that covers more than one ward i.e. ward No. 7 & 8 of Thanamaula VDC. The villagers, cultivating land and forest land has been affected by this landslide.

Profile of Ward No. 7:

Total number of household (H.H.) - 52

Total population - 312

Male-157 and Female-155

Women headed H.H.-14

**Ethnic Composition:**

<u>Caste</u>	<u>H.H.</u>
Gurung	34
Kunwar	12
Brahmin	2
Shoe-maker	2
Blacksmith	1
Tailor	1

Literacy rate - Female	30%
Male	65%
Average	47.5%

**Economic Situation:** The major source of income is agriculture. However, only 10 H.H. are self-dependent for food. The prime cause of food scarcity is the deviation of Khalte landslide. The area was known as "granary" of the village before being affected by the landslide. Food grain loss caused by the landslide is estimated about 50%.

Since it is a Gurung community, the other source of income is working abroad. Most of the males go to countries like Hong Kong, India, etc. Majority of occupational castes are engaged in daily wage labour, while some of the Gurung community females earn money by selling alcoholic products. Total No. of people engaged in services is just 50. Those who are rich and have good income source have migrated to Kathmandu or Pokhara and to other places.



## **II. Main Activities in the Ward:**

Annex: 3, Face sheet of sub-project (1)

Date: May 31, 1996 No. 1

- i) Title of sub-project:- Khalte landslide control (ICLSP)
- ii) Location: Thanamaula VDC, Ward no. 7, Khalte village.
- iii) Total cost Rs. 309756.03 (100%)
- iv) Borne by the project Rs. 235254.13 (76%)
- v) Borne by user's group Rs. 74501.90 (24%)
- vi) Approved date - 5th April, 1996
- vii) Started date - 13th April, 1996
- viii) Completion date - 10th Oct., 1996
- ix) Total beneficiaries H.H.:- 79 (O.C. - 4)
- x) Total number of user's committee member:- 11 (Female: 6)
- xi) Total number of user's group member:- 426 (Female 277 & 19 O/C.)

### **Objective:**

- 1) To control landslide and reduce soil erosion,
- 2) To conserve the cultivated land & enhance productivity, and
- 3) To aware the people about landslide control.

### **Main Activities:**

- 1) To plant forest trees and grasses in affected areas, and
- 2) To construct wet rock checkdam.

### **Methodology:**

- Information dissemination by M/P team in the target area,
- Submission of request by target group,
- Quick appraisal of request by M/P team in close association with Field Manager,
- Feasibility survey by technicians,
- Recommend by Recommendation Committee/joint work plan,
- Approve by Approval Committee,
- Implementation,
- Monitoring,
- Follow-up, and
- Hand over to the user's group.

### **Problem and Obstacles Encountered:**

- 1) Was difficult to work due to political polarization,
- 2) Lack of people's interest for participation,
- 3) Used mules for transportation of sand as the distance was far away (20Km),

- 4) Since the way to the construction site was not easily accessible, mules carried sand with difficulty.
- 5) Various activities are carried out by VDC, primary education project, GTZ project and health post construction, resulting in the scarcity of mules and peoples participation.
- 6) Sufficient cement was not available in site due to the scarcity of porters in the village, therefore the work was delayed.
- 7) Not enough money to pay for sand & cement mixing labours (Rs. 18000.00) as the beneficiaries were unable to collect cash. Peoples participation was not regular, the skilled labour was not properly utilized and the mixing of sand with cement was not good which caused some problems while constructing the check dam.

#### **Activities Under taken to Solve the Problems and Obstacles:**

- 1) Formed user's committee on consensus and selected capable chairman unanimously,
- 2) Applied different methods of motivations for peoples participation like video film show and encouraged Mothers' Welfare Group, resulting in more womens participation,
- 3) Due to far distance (20 Km.) mules were used to transport sand.
- 4) At the time of sand transportation, the Modi suspension bridge was under repair, so the mules could not reach Kushma. Still the mules were used for the transportation of sand to the Khalte Landslide site and the users committee had to pay some money for mule shepherd.
- 5) As there were no porters in the ward, some (4/5) porters were hired from the neighboring VDCs, Falam Khani and Limithana for transportation of cement from Kushma. They were paid slightly high wages.
- 6) Particular skilled labours are needed to mix sand, cement and water proportionately to obtain good quality, therefore, the M/P teams requested to pay remuneration for them which was agreed by the Project.

#### **Monitoring:**

- Appointed a supervisor for supervising the works,
- Monitored by the team and DSCO mid level technicians,
- Monitored by Project Staffs and concerning Experts.

#### **Maintenance and Sustainability:**

Upon completion of the sub-project, training/study tours will be organized for the users group. Fund and tools for the landslide maintenance will be made available and the sub-project will be handed over to the beneficiaries. The Project Experts will monitor and provide guidance for certain period of time to make them capable..

### **Community Participation:**

Community participation was arranged by the users committee and those who were not present and were not able to participate had to pay the fixed amount instead. The peoples participation was satisfactory.

### **Gender Consideration:**

Stone quarry and collection	-	All male.
Stone transportation	-	more than 50% female
Aggregate making	-	more than 50% female
Earth excavation	-	All male
Cement transportation	-	All male (few were beneficiaries)

### **Environmental Consideration:**

To make plantation of grasses and forest trees in the affected areas.

### **III. Gender Sensitivity: Efforts and Insights:**

55% women were included in the users committee. the locally organized The existing mothers welfare groups were encouraged and mobilized. The mother groups of other ward also participated in the sub-project. More than 70% stone and aggregate have been collected by women..

The enthusiastic mobilization of women inspired that the huge landslide can be controlled by women and changed the concept of villagers that "Women can not do hard works". These activities show that "unnecessary dependency on men should be avoided" which is a great achievement of gender sensitivity for this project.

### **IV. Major Problems and Obstacles Encountered:**

The inclusion of women members in the users committee meeting were found unsatisfactory, eventhough the number of women in the committee was more, they believed that the males are the decision making body.

Another fact is that, the Khalte landslide is one of the largest landslides in that area and the people were not confident with its solution. The users group used to think that it would be useless project of JICA because in their views it was almost impossible to control the landslide. So the efforts made by the users group would also be wasted, therefore in the beginning such kind of feelings delayed the sub-project to complete.

**V) Recommendation for Strengthening Gender Sensitivity for the Empowerment of People and Sustainable Development:**

**What kind of issues do you think must be carefully examined for the second year's operation?**

- People become busy in their farm from June to August, so it is recommended to start sub-projects during the free time of the users group,
- There is discrimination of wages between man and woman so, it is recommended to eliminate such inequality to obtain active participation of women in community development work.,
- There are several Mothers Group in the project sites who have been doing smaller community welfare activities. So, it is recommended that the formation and mobilization of such mothers groups is essential for community development, and forest/watershed conservation programmes.

**What kind of issues or activities do you think is necessary to be included in the planning and implementation of the sub-projects in the second years operation and in future?**

- Study tour for womens group should be arranged to those model areas where women groups have carried out different sub-projects successfully.
- Different women related film, slide show should be shown.
- Training for maintenance of sub-project should be given to the users group.
- Priority should be given to those sub-projects, which would be carried out upon the decision of women users group.
- Subsidy should be given to those infrastructure development sub-projects carried out by women groups.

**What kind of gender sensitivity monitoring indicators should be developed for the second years operation and in the future?**

- 75% women members should be present in each users committee meeting.,
- About 20% sub-projects should be carried out by womens decision,
- The women of users committee should know the simple fund running processes, and
- There should be 20-30% of women participation in each of the sub-project.

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HMG/JOCV Greenery Promotion Cooperation Project**

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Workshop on Gender Sensitivity in  
Community Participation  
Pokhara  
20-25 June 1996

Case Study No. 18

Language : English

Case Study  
on  
Women's Group Activities in Thulipokhari

Prepared by: Ms. Yasuko Yoshizawa

Site Office: Thulipokhari

District: Parbat

## Introduction

The JICA/HMG Community Development and Forest/Watershed Conservation Project and HMG/JOCV Greenery Promotion Cooperation Project emphasizes not only rural community development but also gender consideration. Under the Operational Guidelines developed by these Projects, 50 % of women's representation at the Users' Group Committee is recommended as one of the targets to be achieved under the Projects. This target has been set because of the past experiences of the NGOs and the governments that although women had been the real agent for the development, only men had been involved in the planning and management process and thus women did not receive any benefit from the development activities. It may be appropriate to set such a target, however, if women had been involved from the beginning, well understood the benefit to be received, have their own opinions about the development and reflect their view to the village development committees. Going through the development activities to be undertaken in the villages, I became to wonder whether setting the share of women in the committees should be sufficient. I think there are more problems than merely increasing the number of the women's representation at the committees. Therefore, in this paper I want to examine this issue through the case studies on the Women's Group activities as well as the Users' Group activities of the inter-community level sub-project undertaken in Thulipokhari VDC.

### I. Profile of Thulipokhari VDC

Thulipokhari VDC is located on the top of the mountain of the altitude of 1,500 meters and two and half hours walk away from the Kusuma bazaar. The population is 4,372 : female is 2,067 and male is 2,304. The number of the household is 606, and the average family size is 7.2.

Table 1. Household by Ethnic Composition in Thulipokhari VDC

	Number of Household	Share (%)	Share (%)
Brahmin	431	71	75
Chhetri	24	4	
Kunwar	50	8.3	24.8
Kami	48	7.9	
Damai	35	5.8	
Sarki	17	2.8	
Gurung	1	0.2	0.2
Total	606	100	100

The main occupation of the people are mostly agriculture, except a few who go outside of the village to earn income. The lower caste people are engaged in carpentry, blacksmith and carrying the luggage, however, they also engage in agriculture for obtaining food for self-consumption. There are about ten shops, by the owners are also engaged in agriculture. The agricultural products are occasionally taken to the Kusuma bazar, but mostly consumed at home. Due to the shortage of water, the vegetables do not grow well and the bazaar is too far away. There is a campus for I.A. level where the students from other VDC also attend. The graduated students usually remain in the village, which makes the village as a lively place.

## **II. Main Sub-Projects in Thulipokhari VDC**

At present, only the inter-community level sub-projects (ICLSP) on Kamerokhola Landslide and Channel Construction is being implemented and the community level projects are not yet implemented. Under the ICLSP, six check dams have been constructed and drains have been made over the landslide area in order to protect the houses from the landslide to be caused by the large amount of run-off water during the rainy season. The Users' Group members consist of three Wards, thus the main committee was formed under which Ward-wise committees were also formed.

Two to three women were selected for the Ward committee as the villagers had known about the recommendations made in the Operational Guidelines. However, it is doubtful whether it was done with their own initiative. In the main committee, only men have been selected as members as they said only men would do the work anyway. Nobody opposed to the view. Therefore, it was assumed to be their real views about gender. They didn't really understand the implication of the equal share of the representation at the committee in the Operational Guidelines.

During the information dissemination and micro baseline survey, unless the M/P team suggested, the women would not have spoken out. Even when the women were saying something, men seemed to look down upon women as if they were saying stupid things. I wonder if the women can speak out if they became the majority at the committee meeting, or men would say those discriminatory things because women were really not capable. In order to find out the strategy for the empowerment of women, I would like to examine the activities of the women's groups in Thulipokhari.

## **III. Activities of the Women's Groups**

There are seven women's groups in Thulipokhari at present. All of them have been formed after the M/P teams Site Office had been established. The earliest one is only about one year old

and the newest one is only about one month old, therefore, the difference may not so clear in their thrust and activities. In this paper, only three women's groups which have been closely working together with the M/P team will be examined.

Table 2. Main Characteristics of the Women's Groups

	Ward No. 1 and 2	Ward No. 4	Ward No. 6
Date of Establishment	June 1995	June 1995	February 1996
Main Ethnic Group	Brahmin, Chhetri and Kunwar	Brahmin and Kami	Brahmin, Sarki, Kami and Kunwar
Occupation	Agriculture	Agriculture and shop-keeping	Agriculture
Meeting of WG	Irregular	Irregular	Once every month
Already undertaken activities	1)Collection of money for making Mandir (October '95) 2) Cleaning the trail (September 1995)	1)Collection of money for making Mandir (October 1995) 2)Making the trail steps in the bazaar of 20 meters (Jan.'96)	1) Making the toilets at every hose of the WG members . If not made by the deadlines, they were fined. (Feb.-Mar.'96)
Study Tour	1)DSCO advanced areas (2 persons, 11 days in Oct.'95) 2)Study tour on ICLSP ( 3persons, 3days in Mrach '96)	1)DSCO advanced areas (1 person, 11 days in Oct.'95) 2)Study tour on ICLSP ( 3persons, 3days in Mrach '96)	None
Literacy Class	On-going by NGO	On-going by NGO	Implemented by NGO, but due to low attendance it has been stopped.
On-going Activities	Trying to coordinate opinions about Mandir	Trying to coordinate opinions about Mandir	Due to a large number of members and differnt ethnicity , activities have been stopped. Some conflict by caste difference within WG.



From my own observation made in the villages so far, the general process of WG's activities were as follows:

- 1) I think it is very nice to hear on the radio every day that some women's group has made a Mandir. (villagers in general)
- 2) JICA has come to our village and suggested to make Mandir. Let them make one for us. (Ward No. 1,2,4 and 6)
- 3) The WG was formed with the neighbors.(Ward No.1,2,4 and 6)
- 4) The WG immediately contacted with M/P team. They expect the M/P team to do something for them. (Ward No. 1,2,4 and 6)
- 5) The first meeting concentrated on making Mandir rather than selecting the Chairperson and committee members. (Ward No. 1,2 and 4)
- 6) The WG collected money by singing and dancing. (Ward No. 1,2, and 4)
- 7) The WG members were frowned at by the village men folks, but they didn't care saying that it would be only women who do the prayer at the Mandir and the men wouldn't understand why women want Mandir anyway. (Ward No. 1,2 and 4)
- 8) The WG go and collect money to the M/P team and get scolded. They are told about income-generating activities instead, but they seemed so complicated to do by the WG. So they think about collecting money from the JICA experts who may visit the village next time.(Ward No.4)
- 9) The young women said it would be more useful to make trails than making Mandir, which opinion became the mainstream in the meeting. (Ward No. 1, 2 and 4)
- 10) They express their views moderately at the meeting, but the aged Chairperson would be for the Mandir, so their view were ignored. (Ward No. 1,2 and 4)
- 11) Since those who oppose to making Mandir would no cooperate with making it, the construction work for Mandir would never start. (Ward No. 1,2 and 4)
- 12) It has been already eight months since they had started collecting money for the Mandir. (Ward no. 1,2 and 4)

#### **IV. Problems and Obstacles Encountered**

Going through several meetings of the Women's Groups, I found out that they tended to be dependent on the M/P team's advice. For example, they asked the M/P team to decide the following meeting dates and the names of their Women's Group. When the M/P team refused to do so, some members complained saying that the M/P team should be responsible as the Women's Group was made by the M/P team. I wondered why they had made the WG anyway.

Most of the WG members agree to make Mandir, which seems to be their most urgent concern.

However, there are already several Mandir in the VDC. Not many people have been observed to visit Mandir. There are some members who oppose to make Mandir, however, they just utter their views to the M/P team on the road and never express their views at the WG meetings. Since the meetings are usually irregular, the participants have already known the topics to discuss. The Chairperson leads the discussion, but she does not think it is necessary for her to be neutral. Therefore, the Chairperson's opinion tend to dominate the meeting. Regarding these issues, I have asked questions as follows:

Q 1: Why did you make the Women's Group ?

- A: 1) I didn't understand why, but I heard it is good to have. (Ward No. 6)  
2) I wanted to make trails and clean the surrounding area of my house. (Ward No. 6)  
3) Since the JICA has asked and made it. (Ward No. 6)

Q 2: Why do you want to make Mandir ?

- A: 1) I want our own Mandir, because we had to go to other Ward and VDC's Mandir.(Ward No.4)  
2) For the WG's achievement and earn fame. (Ward No. 4)  
3) Since other WG are saying that they will make their Mandir, we also need it.(Ward No.1 and 2)

Q 3: Do you have any complaints about the present WG ?

- A: 1) We are together with Brahmin people, but we feel as if we are omitted, so we want to make our own WG. (Kami in Ward No.6)  
2) Some people are not cooperative and the leader have to bear too much responsibility. (Ward No 6)

Regarding the Question 1, it has been observed that most of the WG members felt that the WG had not been make because they wanted to make, but may participate if the WG were made in their own Ward. They think the WG was made by the M/P team. Therefore, they think everything should be decided by the M/P team. They don't have an intention to manage it by themselves.

Regarding the Question 2, we could not get answers which made us to convince the necessity of making the Mandir. It was assumed that the central members of the WG are Brahmin, who's ethnic identity goes with making Mandir. They cannot withdraw the idea of making Mandir as the money had been already collected for it.

Regarding the Question 3, the question was asked only with the WG members of Ward No. 6. The M/P team was invited to the first meeting of the WG, however, the participants who understood that it was the initial meeting to form the WG were only the few who asked the M/P team to attend and their friends. Majority of them did not know why they were gathered. The

central person of the group suggested that the whole Ward should be gathered for the WG, thus those who lived far away were to be also included. The M/P team suggested at the meeting to select two persons from each settlement (toll) for communication and information dissemination. It consequently included the lower caste representation. However, after one or two months, the leader of the WG, who is a Brahmin, started feeling it a burden to collect many people at every meeting, and eliminate those lower caste women who live far away. Therefore, the lower caste women started to complain that they cannot work together any more.

## **V. Recommendations**

The main problems of the WG may be summarized as follows:

- 1) they cannot find their own directions,
- 2) they cannot decide by themselves and let such what they think as superior people as the M/P team and men village folks to make final decisions,
- 3) the social and power structure within the mothers groups make open discussion difficult, and
- 4) as they collect money for certain purpose, they cannot change the plan in the middle.

Based upon the above observations, it is recommended that the WG should be able to set their own directions of activities, set a meeting where everyone can freely express their views and the necessary fund should be raised by themselves. The M/P team's role will be as follows:

1)The role of the M/P team is to support the WG through providing the kind of information about the activities they would be interested. The WG must find out by themselves what are their real interests are. The M/P team is planning to talk about health and sanitation for about 15-20 minutes at every meeting. This idea was taken from the Japanese NGO called JOICFP who started from the children's health, the most interested subject for mothers, and gradually let them understand that the mother's health influences a lot to children's health. If the M/P team can explain the relationship among the mother's and children's health and nutrition, the women may become interested in doing the kitchen gardening as well as the family planning as done by the JOICFP.

2)Women should develop a sense of unity among themselves as a group sharing with each other the same ideas and purposes, and develop their activities from the daily matters to the overall communal issues. If the WG find it difficult to be united beyond the caste difference, it may be necessary to organize a separate group for the lower caste. As the lower caste women became empowered, through their own activities, they may be able to participate in the general meetings without any hesitation.

3) In order to evaluate the above activities and proceed to further action, it is necessary to develop monitoring indicators. It is difficult to set quantitative indicators, but it would be valuable

indicators if the women made toilets at individual houses after gaining the knowledge about sanitation, and make kitchen gardening after learning about it. Some indicators will be as follows:

- a. It should be valued that women put into action whatever they have learned,
- b. It should also be valued if all the members found the activities important, and not only because it was decided at the meeting,
- c. whether every woman is able to speak out at the meeting,
- d. whether each view is well taken into consideration,
- e. whether everyone knows how much fund they have and what have been purchased,
- f. whether everyone feels responsible with their activities without laying responsibility on only a few women, and
- g. whether the meeting start on time.

There may be other kinds of indicators, but they depends on the kind of activities to be undertaken, so further consideration may be necessary in the future.