

Impact of Baliyo Ghar Program

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BALIYO GHAR

Trained Masons became Resilient Construction Promoters and orientation program changed perception of people in Nuwakot

Mahakali, one of the villages of Shivapuri Rural Municipality in Nuwakot is witnessing the reconstruction activities held within. Even not so far from the capital city Kathmandu, and very near to the district headquarter, Mahakali, mainly due to the geographical remoteness, copes with many difficulties to please its residents. It's one of the severely hit area by Gorkha Earthquake in 25 April, 2015 and now getting up to renovate its settlement. In this agrarian society, one of the mason **Mr. Bir Bahadur Tamang** lives in Batase community of Mahakali. Leading the six-member family, Mr. Tamang is working as mason in post-quake reconstruction activities. "After the 2015 earthquake, I was completely involved in reconstruction. I built more than 6/7 house in the existing Mahakali VDC", he mentions.

Now the VDC has been changed to a ward of Shivapuri Rural Municipality after the new federal structure came into effect. He added, "During the period, I had no idea on



Mason Mr. Bir Bahadur Tamang in front of a house he build recently

earthquake resistant construction technique. When, NSET- Baliyo Ghar team came here to conduct mason training, I was one of the participants who later realized that the houses built before the training had low strength to resist quakes. I regret, why didn't I participate such training earlier?" Now-a-days, Mr. Tamang is highly motivated and encouraged to build safe houses and now working as a promoter for safer reconstruction. "I'm one of the demanded masons in our area and I am very happy to be engaged with this occupation. I have a busy schedule as I am considered very good skilled mason"-he claims.

Ms. Sita Devi Thapaliya, 69, is resident of Thanapati, a village in Shivapuri Rural Municipality, Nuwakot is a single woman blessed with three daughters who are married



Ms. Sita Devi Thapaliya waiting for her new eq. resistant house

already. Ms. Thapaliya was staying alone in her temporary shelter after her house collapsed in Gorkha Earthquake. Rats and snakes disturbed her nights and due to seasonal difficulties, she was facing with physical and mental problems. She had neither enough money to build a new house, nor enough knowledge about the earthquake resistant house. Ms. Sita Devi was in stress. She thought the earthquake resistant house meant the concrete building and it would cost expensive which she couldn't afford. When she participated in the community orientation conducted by BaliyoGhar, she came to know that, the house could be made safe by using the locally available materials too. She was convinced and motivated to build a safe house using locally available materials with less money to start with. "3 Lakhs grant from government and loan from neighbors will work to build a safe home, where I could live safely" – she said. Community orientation was a turning point for her, where she understood the importance of building earthquake resistant house and possibility to use local materials. Under the guidance and consultations of engineer and social mobilizer, she started to reconstruct her house using the Baliyo Ghar trained mason.



House of Ms. Sita Devi under construction

Mr. Chatra Man Gurung is one of the masons trained by Baliyo Ghar in Thanapati village. He has been involved in construction works since 1992 and built several houses in Nuwakot district. After the Gorkha Earthquake, he led the construction of 5 houses which now have been disapproved by government engineers and those are not eligible to receive government grant due to some construction errors. In the mid of 2016, Mr. Gurung participated a Mason Training organized by Baliyo Ghar at Thanapati. He enhanced his knowledge and skills regarding safe construction practice. He says, "I had no idea about the vertical reinforcements, bands, corner stiches etc. which I now have been applying in houses. Indeed, Mason Training was a turning point for me to engage myself in safer reconstruction works and have good earnings too. At once, I have been involved in building 5/6 houses as a lead mason with other trained masons, hence less time to speak too." Quite remarkably, the houses built after the mason training have been approved during the inspection. Mr. Gurung is now a well-known mason in that area as he is booked by many house-owners.

Mr. Chaturman BK, earthquake affected house-owner at the area who found very pleased to work with mason Mr. Chatra Man Gurung. "I have received 2 tranches of government grant and house is now almost ready to shift on. Along with my wife Suntali Sunar, we salute Chatra Man for building a strong house for us," – said Chaturman with a sweet smile.



House of Mr. Chaturman BK built by Trained Mason Mr. Chatra Man and team