

Rain COMMUNITY

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Publisher's Note

The World Toilet Day (WTD) falls on 19th November, and this event was celebrated by GUTHI well. Thus, the November issue of the Rain Community revolves around sanitation, particularly toilets. The agenda of this volume raises the needs of girl friendly toilet. The activities section of this issue covers the speech competition organized at Viswa Niketan School and a WASH training organized at Bansighat, on the occasion of WTD. The suggestions of participants from Consultative Workshop on Public Toilet and MHM have been put forward in the testimonials.

The lead story for this 5th Issue is the rainwater harvesting system inauguration at Liwali IDP camp. Promoting micro-entrepreneurship, training on capacity building was organized for women from Bansighat and Bhaktapur, which has been reported in the activities section. Similarly, a feature story shares the journey of liquid soap micro-enterprise ventured by GUTHI to empower the women from Bhaktapur. Another feature story shares new revolutions in waste management in Kathmandu Valley.

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Inauguration of Rainwater Harvesting System



After completion of all construction works, it was a time for a celebration at Liwali Ganesh Bhukampa Purnarsthapana Kendra. Thus, on 21st November, 2017 an inauguration ceremony was held at the Internally Displaced Person (IDP) camp to inaugurate the rainwater harvesting system.

The chief guest for the program was Sunil Prajapati, Mayor of Bhaktapur Municipality. Along with him, the program was also graced by the presence of Rajiv Joshi, Director, Department of Water Supply & Sanitation (DWSS), Nabin Shahi Engineer, Kathmandu Valley Water Supply Management Board (KVWSMB), Narayan Prasad Khaitu (President, Liwali Ganesh Bhukampa Puna Isthapana Kendra), Narendra Man Dangol (Engineer, Niva Construction Pvt. Ltd.), and Roshani Rajbhandari and Renu Lama (Lumanti).

Dressed in cultural Newari attire, Daya Laxmi Chhwaju, IDP welcomed everyone with her short welcome speech. Then, Narayan Prasad Khaitu gave a short description about the project activities, the fund invested, and the future goals, "There is nothing we cannot do. Though initially, we only targeted to make a 25,000 Liter tank, due to excellent labor contribution, we were able to make 1,00,000 Liter tank", shared Khaitu.

Prakash Amatya, the Technical Adviser of GUTHI emphasized that involvement of the local people is the driving force behind making the project successful. "If rainwater could be harvested and recharged from every household and every inch of land, then water problem can be fully managed," shared Amatya.

Inauguration of..... (contd from page 1)

The elected member of Bhaktapur Municipality, Ward No. 8, Shiva Prasad Bala also spoke to share his happiness on the success of the project. He said, "After the earthquake, water scarcity was at its peak. But, this crisis has now turned into a boon for people living in Liwali. With this excellent demonstration of the rainwater harvesting system, this settlement has become a role model."

The filter was funded and installed by KVWSMB. Representing the board, Rajiv Joshi emphasized on the



importance of filtered and safe water provision. The program was attended by a good number of journalists as well, giving a national attention to the works of GUTHI and IRHA.

The Mayor addressed the camp residents by appreciating their involvement in the project. He said, "If a trustable organization like GUTHI offers help, we should accept it. The work is for our own benefit, so we ourselves should contribute as well as monitor."

The formal program ended with the Mayor inaugurating



the rainwater harvesting system, the filtration system and the stone spout. The Mayor was given a short briefing tour of all the new system. He was very impressed with the achieved work and promised to spread the words among others as well.

At the Liwali IDP camp, the water collected from 7200 square feet sized catchment area (roof of the temporary shelter of IDP) is stored in the water tank of 1, 00,000 Litre capacity. The stored water is then filtered using reverse osmosis and ultra filtration technology. The filtered water is then stored in a HDPE water tank on the roof, which is available for distribution. The filtered water can also alternatively be accessed through a stone spout.

In conclusion, the inauguration ceremony at Liwali camp was an event to celebrate the success of everyone's hard work and commitment. It was an event, which showcased that if there is good co-operation among the community, local government, and NGO's, every task is achievable.



Female friendly public toilet



WASH stakeholders often fail to incorporate the aspect of designing a female friendly public toilet in Nepal. Many might argue when the female race is raising their voice for the equality then why can not they adjust to similar design constructed for male and possibly what needs to be changed to make a toilet a female friendly? People need to understand all it takes for a toilet to be female friendly is to have an access to sanitary pad, safe sanitary pad disposal system and a clean towel. The rest of the criteria are the same as that for any gender toilet. However, many public toilets can be observed to be in poor condition. In most of the public toilets, the availability of a simple bucket to dispose the sanitary pad too is not available which



is one of the reasons for the less number of the female users using the public toilet compared to the male users.

Nepal government has sanctioned strong law and policies which addresses the issue of public toilet highly at one end but on the other end; we can find the government failing to maintain the status of public toilet. Hence, effective measures for monitoring and maintaining the toilet should be recognised by the government as municipality holds the right to run public toilet. WASH actors; on the other hand, needs to make sure that the municipality construct female friendly public toilet at 42 sites as announced by the Kathmandu Municipality recently. If required, they need to provide the training to the public toilet operator(s) about the hygiene education.

Menstruation issues along with the foul smell, lack of water and soap, broken or no lock system and lack of electricity add up to the cause of poor public toilet condition. At least ensuring availability of adequate and clean water; and proper sanitary pad disposal system to maintain proper hygiene at the public toilet is necessary. Though many WASH actors are trying their best to maintain the hygienic atmosphere and provide a better service to its users, everyone including users has equal responsibility for the proper management of public toilet.

Training on Capacity Building for Promotion of Small Scale Entrepreneurs

“Women will be empowered only when they have some amount of money in their hands”, Vidya Laxmi Manandhar, one of the resource persons for the training said. Training on Capacity Building for Promotion of Small Scale Entrepreneur was organized on 28th and 29th November, 2017 at Bansighat Community Center. The training was organized by GUTHI with the support of IRHA. The resource persons were Guheshwori Shrestha and Vidya Laxmi Manandhar from Society of Urban Poor (SOUP) who inspired more than 23 participants from Bansighat Community and Bhaktapur IDP Camps to start or improve their business.

Many people who have been involved in small scale business have earned some money, but they have not been able to grow and earn visible profit. Thus the objectives of the two days training on capacity building training were to give knowledge about small scale entrepreneurship, to discover the potential business ideas, to teach various marketing strategies in order to increase sales, and to teach how to behave with customers and retain them. A participatory approach was applied to analyze the actual situation and give correct suggestions.

The program started with an interesting introduction session, where the participants also got an opportunity to be familiar about business related terms. A group work discussed the challenges and opportunities commonly faced in business. The participants then listed out possible income generating activities. After lunch, basic steps for successful entrepreneurship were discussed.

On the second day, a video related to success in small scale business was shown so that the participants will be inspired to do something new too. The main message of the video was not to be afraid of taking small loans if you have plans to better your business.

The 4 P marketing strategies for better sales of the products and importance of record keeping were also taught to the participants. The opening and registration of new business requires some paper work and effort. So, the training also gave them idea about how to register a new business to help their business to grow. Shova Sainju from Bhaktapur said, “From the training, I learnt how to do business, how to take it further, how to do the marketing, and many other business related things.”

Daya Laxmi Chhwaju a participant from Bhaktapur, who is also doing a business in liquid soap, conducted training on Liquid Soap Making, where she showed the techniques and prospects of liquid soap making to the women from Bansighat.

Overall, the program was successful to encourage women to prosper their business and be independent. Nirmala Tamang from Bansighat said, “I learnt that we can do good business with less investment as well. Through the training, I learnt the importance of market management, designing and packaging of the product, and record keeping as well.” Training like this can help to improve the quality of life of the urban poor, which will bring positive impacts in the development of the nation as a whole.



Activity

Speech Competition at Viswo Niketan Secondary School

“To bring changes in toilets, we must first bring changes in our thinking”, said Samikshya Gyawali of grade 9. Celebrating the World Toilet day, a speech competition was organized at Viswo Niketan Secondary School on 20th November, 2017. The competition was organized with a motive to aware the school students on importance of toilets and basic sanitation, and to improve their public speaking skills.

There were a total of 11 participants and the topic for the competition was “Importance of Public Toilet in Sustainable Development”. To start the program, assistant Vice Principal of the school, Ganga Thapa, gave a welcome speech where she highlighted facts and importance of World Toilet Day.



There were more than 76 students from class 8 and 9 as audience. Three teachers, Ganga Thapa, Urmila Manandhar, and Ranju Thapa lead the judging panel. The participants were judged based on addressing, subject entry, subject matter discussion and conclusion. The emcee for the program was Anita Oli of grade 10, who beautifully conducted the whole program. She put in many interesting questions and riddles about toilet use, that made the audience ponder upon the issue. She asked questions like “If you were the Prime Minister of Nepal, what you would do in the field of toilet availability?” to which Mandip Poudel replied, “I would make better provisions of sewages like in the developed countries.”

The first prize was secured by Rahul Rauniyar and second prize was secured by Amit Ale Magar. The third prize was bagged by two participants, Mandip Poudel and Anup Neupane. All the winners were from grade 9. The winners were given certificates and Rain Community t-shirt.

Toilet Day Celebration at Incubation Hub



On the occasion of World Toilet Day; water, sanitation and hygiene awareness program was organized for the drop-out students at Incubation Hub at Bansighat Community Center on 22nd November, 2017. The program was supported by IRHA and WaterAid.

There were a total of 16 students enthusiastically present on the program. The students were first briefed about importance of sanitation and hygiene. After a short introductory session, the students were involved in drawing where they sketched the bad and good toilet practices. The GUTHI team members had guided them to draw step by step.

The students were then shown 4 videos related to WASH, cleanliness, cholera prevention, toilet use, hand washing and disaster. The cholera prevention video made the most impact as the children were more engraved into this video. TI used to pee in the river. Now after watching the video, I will not F, said 9 year old Karan Giri.

After the videos, the students were involved in glitter hand shaking. The children were already aware about the possible micro-organisms in water and hands through the cholera prevention video. So, glitter was spread into their hands, representing germs and they were made to shake hands to see how far the bacteria can spread. Similarly, a game was played where a handkerchief with glitters was passed on to see how the germ can spread. Having made the hands dirty, the students then washed their hands properly, following all the steps. They were then given a handkerchief each.

Finally to end the program, the students performed their hand washing dance and sung hand washing song. This way, a fruitful program was conducted at Bansighat. Conducting such programs frequently can help to set good habits in children.

Setting up a microenterprise is a big task. It needs your time and hardwork. One learns to be very patient as s/he continues to deal with the challenges encountered on the path to make their business a success. I too had a dream of running a business and I still hold on to that dream passionately. I always wanted to create opportunities for underprevidged people through which they earn enough for fulfilling their basic needs. Hence, the opportunity to support the people living in internally displaced people campsite at Liwali for strengthening their economic aspect under Emergency Rain project gave a boost to something I always wanted to do.

GUTHI decided to venture out in Liquid Soap business in particular because we envisioned the business as a contributor to the sanitation and hygiene management. We also wanted to focus on women empowerment through strengthening their economic status; hence, we formed a network of women living under the temporary shelters after their houses were destroyed due to the Nepal Earthquake, 2015.

The women had no knowledge on running a business. Most of them were housewives. Skill development trainings have been organised. Initially, the women produced in small amount approximately 30 liters and sold to the local people. The people living in the IDP camp itself were reluctant to use the liquid soap because they had been using a bar soap. Gradually, the women were successful to convince people to use liquid soap instead because the liquid soap costs them low compared to the bar soap they

have been using and its quality is very good.

Daya Laxmi Chwwaju shared, “Before, I had no idea how to run a business but after attending training sessions and my practical involvement in the production and distribution of liquid soap business, I am confident to handle a business. I am also hopeful I will be able to economically support



my family through the income I make from the liquid soap business.”

The liquid soap business is catching up its pace to emerge as a successful business.

Gradually, under the Incubation Hub, we have been able to extend this liquid soap business incorporating the women living in Bansighat, a slum area. We look forward to work with these women in the days to come.





In the month of November 2017, a team from GUTHI researched and met with founders of some of the waste management solutions that are popular through their innovative ways of working in Kathmandu valley. As the idea of startups is gaining popularity among the youths in the recent years, 2017 marked to be notable as Khaalisisi, a trash collection startup from Nepal that provides a digital platform to connect waste sellers with waste entrepreneurs for an efficient mobilization of recyclable trash made it to top 9 in the global competition Google Business Group (GBG) Stories Search 2017. “We are here to bridge the gap between the waste sellers, you, to sell/donate your recyclable trash while increasing business for our waste entrepreneurs, our Khaalisisi friends,” the founder of Khaalisisi, Ayushi KC shared in a recent interview with leading newspaper.

Blue Waste to Value, which has partnered with



Hotel Yak & Yeti and Hyatt Regency to manage the hotels’ waste in an environmentally friendly manner works on both the organic and inorganic portion of the waste. From the organic waste they produce compost, which they have branded as “Urbara Compost” and for the recyclable waste they provide waste collection service through their kabaddi apps.

Doko recyclers, another innovative waste management solution, which also claims to be the first e-waste management company is dealing with recycling of the waste from paper, plastics, glass, metals and E-waste in Kathmandu Valley.

GUTHI team also made an appointment with the Founder of Organic Life, Deepak Lohani who is in the mission to revolutionize the solid waste management practice by buying the organic waste from the residents of valley. He makes compost from the waste that he buys and aims to replace the compost from Thailand that finds market in the Kathmandu valley with his locally made compost through Sa:ga: method of composting.

There are many such innovative startups and companies on rise aiming on sustainable practice for solid waste management and to make optimal use of these resources. With these innovative companies, we can be hopeful that the situation of the streets of Kathmandu that are often flooded with the solid waste will be improved and that we can harness the optimum use of these resources. Our wishes goes out to these startups and we hope these projects will be backed strongly by the government and not just be limited in piloting!

Voices

A Consultative Workshop on Public Toilet and Menstrual Hygiene Management was organized by GUTHI, AEROSAN and Kathmandu Metropolitan City (KMC) on 8th November, 2017 at Hardik Hotel. The main objective of the workshop was to include voices and opinions from people of various backgrounds in the improvement of public toilets. Thus, the following voices are the suggestions of people for availability of basic toilets.



Shova Sainju from Bhaktapur said, "From the training, I learnt how to do business, how to take it further, how to do the marketing, and many other business related things."

Daya Laxmi Chhwaju from Liwali said, "I came to know that we should also manage the market after starting the business."



Nirmala Tamang from Bansighat said, "I learnt that we can do good business with less investment as well. I have realized that only starting the business is not enough; we should also know how to take it further. Through the training, I learnt the importance of market management, designing and packaging of the product, and record keeping as well."

Uma Mahat from Bansighat said, "I have been doing clothes business since many years. But, after the training I have learnt a new thing that setting a goal and working towards it is very important."



Sabitri Devi Kunwar from Bansighat said, "Through this two days training, I learnt that there can be many challenges while doing a business, and it is important to learn how to face those challenges. We should also learn how to tap the opportunities."



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