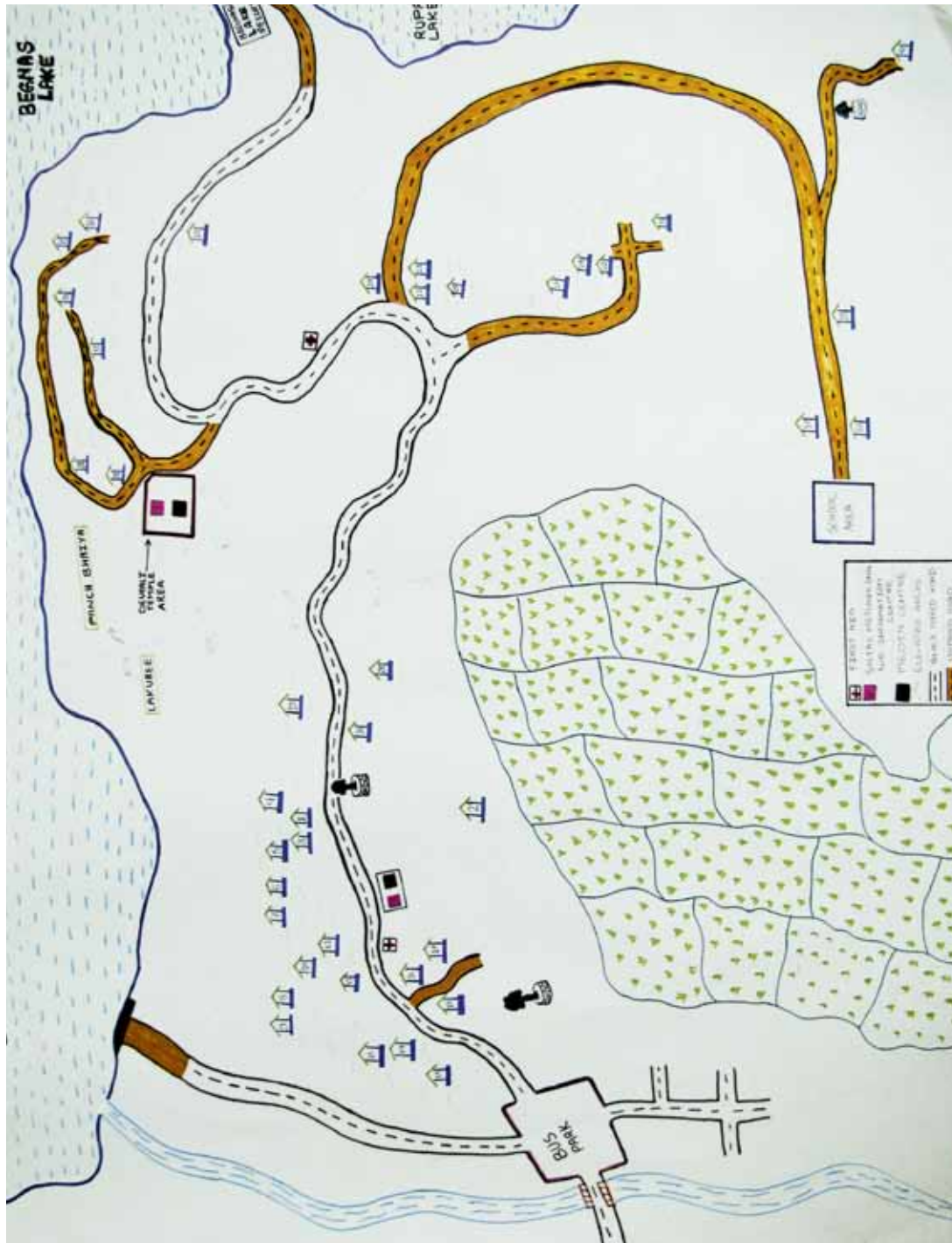




EVEREST BUILD 2010

HOME PARTNERS' PROFILE





THE BUILD SITE IN POKHARA



CHANDRA MAYA PARIYAR

1

Chandra Maya Pariyar

Once Chandra Maya lived in a single cramped, dark room in her parents-in-law's house. Now she has a home with three rooms. One room is her kitchen; one is for her son, Abhishek; and one she has kept for herself. She has whitewashed the walls and put in a carpet.

For Chandra Maya, the new house is a product of her hard work. She labored and saved to build this small yet neat house that she can turn into home for her husband and son. She recalls the first night in the new property: "I was very excited and nervous but proud as well. Tears would not stop when I stepped into my home."

Chandra Maya is waiting for her husband to return home from working in Saudi Arabia, and she cannot help but feel pride that now she can welcome him to a new, roomy house of their own.



TOYA NATH LAMICHHANE AND HIS SON

2

Toya Nath Lamichhane

With monthly income as less as Rs. 6000 (USD 82) one room mud and stone house with a tin sheet roof was what Toya Nath Lamichhane called home. In a few months time, Toya will have to vacate the house for some family problem. After that, he will have nowhere to take his six children (5 daughters and a son.) His wife has already left him and taken the youngest daughter with her.

Toya has already spent a large amount of his savings to get four of his older daughter married. "They're happily married and now live with their husbands," Toya says, "but it cost me a lot of money. In fact, I put all my life's savings to their weddings, and now I have no money."

Toya's current residence is too small to accommodate such large number of inhabitants, and the condition too has gotten worse due to rain. Toya is excited about the new house he will be getting. "I am very happy," says a beaming Toya, who will be moving with his children to the new house situated at the base of a hill soon.



RAMJI PARIYAR

3

Ramji Pariyar and family

Ramji Pariyar is 50 and Purna Maya Pariyar, his wife, is 40 years old. They work at the same office but their income is not enough to support their family. They have 3 sons, Ishwor, 19, Bibek, 17 and Saroj is 13-years-old. It is very hard to adjust for the family in a small house with only 3 rooms. Ramji and Purnamaya are the only one who earns for their family. Saroj and Bibek go to school and Ishwor, the eldest one has left his studies. Ishwor is very much excited to get a new house for his family, a good environment and his own space which he was in a desperate need.



MAN BAHADUR'S YOUNGER SON AND WIFE CHIJA MAYA

4

Man Bahadur Sunar and family

58 years old, Man Bahadur Sunar works as a part time labor. Chija Maya Sunar, wife of Man Bahadur is 54 and is a housewife. They have two sons and two daughters. Daughters are 37 and 34 and sons are 32 and 29 years old. Both of the son work as a part time plumber and electrician. All of their offspring are married.

Their house is in poor condition as its foundation is very weak. Moreover, the leakage of water from the roof make is worse. They are not in the condition to afford a new house even though the space of the old house is not sufficient.

They feel that they are very lucky to get the help from this program of H.F.H. They believe that they will feel some relief after getting a new house.



BISHNU MAYA AND HER GRANDDAUGHTER

5

Bishnu Maya Sunar and family

For the past four years, Bishnu Maya Sunar, 41, has been living as a mentally challenged widow, struggling to keep her illness from denying a better future for her poverty-stricken family. In a society that is still prejudiced against widows and single mothers, it is almost impossible for someone like Bishnu to hold her family together under one roof and to provide them with a proper home. Although her elder son, 22, is making his living as a driver, very little is left of his income for the family since he has his own wife and two daughters to look after. To make ends meet, Bishnu Maya works as a laborer. Fortunately, in spite of all her predicaments she has been able to send her younger son to school with the help of a local NGO called Namaste Balgriha.

So far Bishnu Maya's circumstances have forced her to shelter her family in a tiny establishment of just two rooms. Still, the leaking roofs are beyond repair and the rooms are so small that it is unbelievable how the whole family has been able to fit in them until now. With HFH building them a new house of their own, Bishnu Maya's family is full of hope and excitement over the difference this will make to their lives.



LAXMAN SUNAR

6

Laxman Sunar and family

Laxman Sunar, 48 and Biba Sunar, 41 has been living in a single room house with very poor condition. Laxman has been living with his mother, wife, 4 children, one daughter-in-law and one grandson. The family is very big and in a very worst condition.

Laxman has been working as a labour for many years. his economic condition is very very weak. He is very happy that now he will be able to live in a proper house with his family. He is very glad that now he could offer a better place to live for his children and his grandson.

7

Bhagwati K.C and family

Bhagwati K.C is 57 years old widow. She has one son, Bijay K.C who is 35 years old. Bijay is married and has an 8-year-old son. They have been living in a rented house for their entire life.

They have no inherited property, as whatever Bhagwati's husband had left behind was consumed to pay debts. Bijay has been a driver for the last 10 years. Despite working overtime and during odd hours, Bijay has not been able to make adequate savings to build a house of his own.

There are no other working individuals in the family, so Bijay has the responsibility of running the entire family with his minimal salary. They are very happy that they are getting a new house from Habitat for Humanity International.



BHAGWATI K.C



JEEVAN WITH HIS MOTHER AND STEP-MOTHER

8

Jeevan Gautam and family

Not every case in the Lakuree neighborhood is the same. Jeevan Gautam, 26, is single and is an undergraduate third year humanities student. He lives with his father, two mothers and two other siblings in one small house. The house has a very limited space with only 3 rooms, therefore the family members are compelled to share rooms.

Jeevan's room is the kitchen. He studies and sleeps in a bed placed next to the hearth. There is always constant presence of his family in the kitchen - cooking, dining or doing chores. This, Jeevan says, distracts him a great deal as he cannot concentrate in his studies. He cannot demand to shift into another room; neither can he afford to build a house on his own as he is just a student. He is very happy that he is getting a house for himself with enough space and privacy will help him concentrate more on his studies and to worry less about his family's condition.



TEKNATH'S ELDERLY MOTHER

9

Teknath Gautam and family

Teknath Gautam, 41 has been married to Uma Gautam, 35 for the last sixteen years. Both of them are job holders in the same office in Pokhara. They have been living in a rented house since their marriage. They have brought up two sons, Upendra, 15 and Abhisekh, 14, both secondary school students. Despite two working parents, the level of income still is insufficient to raise a family of four. Both their sons go to a fairly expensive school - as Teknath puts it "to assure their future." The family has no saving, nor they possess the ability of build a house of their own. However, Teknath always wanted to own a house and he is very happy that he is getting one where his family would live safely and happily.



10

MADAN'S MOTHER

Madan Koirala and family

Madan Koirala, 33, and his wife Subhadra, 30 have two children. Madan is a tractor driver and earns around Rs. 5000 (USD 70) monthly. He lives in a joint family and had a very little space to live comfortably. He has one daughter, 12, and a son, 10 years-old, and both go to school. Madan believes that his children, who are both growing up need their personal space to foster and learn. "It's utterly impossible for my children to learn or concentrate in anything given the current setting of my house. I am not a rich person, I can't give them each a personal room - but at least I can make sure they have a quiet place to study." says Madan.

Madan is very much excited to get a new house for his family, a good environment and his own space which he is in desperate need.



11

BASANTA KOIRALA

Basanta Koirala and family

Basanta Koirala is 63 and his wife Parvati is 56 years old. The elderly couple used to live with their three sons as a joint family but the family had to disperse due to the constant conflicts among the sons. Currently, the couple live by themselves in a small house in the outskirts of Pokhara. The couple will soon find it difficult to continue in their current home as they age by. "We are already old. In a few years time, we will be unable to the daily chores without support on our own. Our current house is old, slippery and cracked in several places. The toilet too is uncomfortable for the elderly." says Basanta, who is very happy to get a new house for him and his wife where they can spend their old age peacefully.



HEM RAJ AND WIFE BISHNU DEVI

12

Hem Raj Koirala and family

Hem Raj Koirala is 55 and his wife Bishnu Devi is 52 years old. They have 3 children: 2 daughters and a son. The eldest daughter Mina is already married while the two younger children Gyanendra and Bikas are 26 and 28 years old respectively. Hem Raj works as a teacher in a school nearby. Though Hem Raj has been lavishly sharing knowledge and wisdom for the last couple of decades, he has been able to secure very little finances for himself through all the years of teaching.

His economic condition is not so good to build a house for his children where they could feel comfortable. They have been living in a house with small and improperly ventilated rooms. The house has several cracks that cause seepage during the rainy season. The new house means a lot to this family as they explain how their lives would be improved - both in terms of comfort and mental peace.

13

Pushpa Raj Dhungana and family

Pushpa Raj, 48, is an astrologer by profession. But his meager income is scarcely enough to provide for his wife Gayatri, 35, and his six children. Although he predicts the future of people and other astrological events with the help of a traditional form of arithmetic involving planetary motion, most people nowadays have become more inclined towards science and the number of his visitors is getting less by the day. He also does some farming in order to fulfill the growing needs of his family.

His present house is a small three room affair with a complete lack of hygiene and privacy. In his condition, he had no hope for a positive change in his life until HFH chose to build a house for him. He is very excited and grateful about the new bamboo house and is hopeful that it will improve his living conditions to a great extent.



PUSHPA RAJ DHUNGANA



RAVI DHUNGANA

14

Ravi Dhungana and family

Ravi Dhungana, 38, and his wife, Rupa, 30 live in one single rented room. The kitchen, bed, closet and sitting chairs have all been crammed into one little room. There is very little space to move around in the room, and there is also very little supply of air and sunlight in the room. Realizing that his scanty salary wouldn't completely suffice the requirements of his household, Ravi is also actively involved in agriculture.

He and his wife do not possess a permanent location of residence as they often move from one location to the other. In order to cease the frequent errand of moving-around and establish themselves in one proper location, they are in a desperate need of a house. Ravi is very happy that he will be having his own house with clean and healthy rooms and a better environment.



PREM BAHADUR SUNAR

15

Prem Bahadur Sunar and family

One look at Prem Bahadur Lama's present house is enough to tell you that he wasn't born with a silver spoon. In fact, all that he ever inherited from his father was a couple of rented rooms where he still lives with his wife and four children. He runs a small shop to provide for his family, although the income is barely sufficient to cover the rent and the children's school fees.

To own a house means a lot to Prem Bahadur, for then he could forget all his worries about paying rent every month and focus on his children's future instead. He is thankful to HFH for helping him realize a dream that he had never thought was possible.



DHURVA TRIPATHEE

16

Dhurva Tripathee

27 years old Dhruva tripathee lives with his wife Reshma Tripathee (24) and a daughter Salasha Tripathee (3) along with his old parents. After completion of high school some 5 years ago, Dhurva started a little clothing store. However, the business isn't going great for him. Now, due to the deteriorating condition of the store, Dhurva is in deep economic crisis.

Dhurva must pay the bank loan before he can think of building his own house. "The interest has gone up so much. I cannot afford to pay the interest, let alone the capital amount," says Dhurva with a long sigh. The house where they are currently living has a very limited space for Dhruva's family, and Dhurva says that his family deserves a lot better house than this. He is very grateful to HFH-N that he is getting a new house for him and for his family where he can live freely and owns his own space.



KRISHNA TRIPATHEE

17

Krishna Tripathee

Krishna Tripathee is 29 and his wife Sharada is 28 years old. They have two children - Bigyapan is 7 years old and Bigyapti is 5 years old.

The Tripathee family have a small fruit shop in Pokhara. Their average monthly income is about Rs. 7000 (USD 96) . Krishna's income is just adequate to buy food and educate the children. They have been living in this small house as Krishna cannot afford to build a new house for his family on his own. He is very happy to get a new house where he will have a big space and a healthy environment.



RAMESHWOR'S WIFE APSARA

18

Rameshwor Koirala and family

A father of two children, Rameshwar Koirala is 40 years old. His son is 15 years old and a daughter is 12 years old. Both of them are studying in school. His wife Apsara Koirala is 37 and spends her time doing house-hold works. He has a small furniture business.

Talking about the financial condition, what he earns is spend on his family. He does not have any saving.

They live in a house of 8 members. As others, The problem of their house is leakage, cracks and inadequate space. As they are living in a joint family they have lots of problems. They want to move to a new house which they cannot afford.

They appreciate the help from H.F.H which is doing such a big project in his village.



PREM BAHADUR LAMA

19

Prem Bahadur Lama and family

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OM BAHADUR'S WIFE CHEMAWATI

20

Om Bahadur Sunar

Om Bahadur Sunar is 42 and his wife Chemawati is 40 years old. They have a son, Adarsha, 9 years old who goes to a local school. Om Bahadur is a school teacher. Om Bahadur and his family have been living with his elder brother's family.

However, there are constant clashes between the two families. Om explains that their wives are constantly rowing over domestic issues. This has ultimately made his life difficult and fears that the future of his (as well as his brother's) children would be affected. However, if he decides to leave the present house, then he will have nowhere to go to as he has no money to build a house of his own. That is the only reason why Om has been compelled to compromise his independence over the domestic stress.

"Once we move into the new house, I am sure all the problems will be sorted out." exclaims a grinning Om. The Sunar family is eagerly looking forward to move to their new home.



SASHI SEKCHAR'S MOTHER AND HIS TWO CHILDREN

21

Sashi Sekhar Adhikari and family

Sashi Sekhar Adhikari is 29 years old and he is doing a small business. His wife Kalpana Adhikari, 25 is a housewife who is studying in a campus as well. They have a son, 2 years old and a daughter 4 years old who is in school. His family lives with his parents and a brother, 24 years of age and who is also married.

As the family is big, the house has become overcrowded. They need a new house which is out of their reach due to financial reasons. He feels that the idea of cost-effective, strong and environmentally friendly house is the best option to help poor and needy people. And he feels he is lucky to get one of them.



RAM PRASAD'S FAMILY

22

Ram Prasad Acharya and family

Ram Prasad Acharya, 22, with his wife Shree Maya, 26, has a small shop where they make a monthly profit of around Rs. 2000 (USD 27). They have a son who is 5 years old and goes to a nearby primary school. They have been living in a small house with their shop attached to it for many years. The front face of their room is the shop that is separated from their "residence" by a large cupboard.

Ram Prasad is unable to segregate his room from the shop and live comfortably neither can he afford to build a new house for his family. The profit from the shop is just enough to pay the rent and send their son to school. "There is deficit. I have not been able to expand my shop, neither been able to fulfill the demands of my son and wife," says Ram Prasad.

The opportunity to own a house means a big deal for Ram Prasad and Shree Maya. They are very happy to live in a new environment and their own space.



KESHAV'S WIFE ALKA

23

Keshav Acharya and family

Nepalis make up a huge percentage of the overall cheap labor in many of the Gulf countries like UAE, Qatar and Saudi Arabia. It hasn't been very long since Keshav Acharya, 22, went to Saudi Arabia to earn some money for his family. He has a wife, Alka, who is also 22 years old and who has been living with her father-in-law since the day he left for Saudi.

Although they have no children at present, they're planning to start a family after Keshav returns from work and they cannot be a burden to her father-in-law anymore. Keshav's present income is not enough to support a new house so she has no option but to continue living in her present home.

But, HFH's building her a new house has made her very positive about her future. She is very happy that she can now start her own family at a home she can call her own.



KRISHNA BAHADUR'S WIFE BIBA MAYA

24

Krishna Bahadur Pariyar and family

Krishna Bahadur Pariyar is 54 years old. For the living, he is working as a security guard in a resort which is located in the same village. His wife Biba Maya Pariyar who is a homemaker stays in the house doing household works. He has three sons who are 26, 23 and 21 respectively. The eldest is married and working in the gulf country as a labor. The remaining two are studying in local college.

The financial status of Krishna can be regarded as bad. Beside him, no one else is working. As he lives in a joint family, the house is very small to accommodate all of them. They need more place to stay.

Talking about the Everest Build, he says this program can help upgrade the economic condition of the needy people to some extent. Furthermore, he hopes that HFH will come back in future with better schemes.



RAMJI'S SON AND WIFE

25

Ramji Poudel and family

A father of three children, Ramji Poudel is 51 years old. His eldest daughter is 28 years old and is married. The other two sons, 25 and 22 respectively are studying in college. Sita Poudel, spouse of Ramji, 49 is a housewife.

Ramji works as a primary level teacher for his living. The economy of the family is not in good condition as he is the only one who is working. His sons are full-time students and do not work.

Ramji's house is old and has cracked in many places and even the house is too congested for four adults. He felt very delighted to know about the program launched by HFH in his village. He is also very happy by the idea of making bamboo houses which are environmental friendly and much safer than a concrete houses. He is very thankful to HFHI for helping not only him but the whole world.



AMBIKA'S FAMILY

26

Ambika Magar and family

When her husband suddenly left home one day without saying a word, Ambika Magar's life changed forever. She had already lost her right eye to a small accident 12 years ago owing to her lack of money for proper treatment. These days, she lives with her 85 year old mother and her two sons with the responsibility of the whole family on her shoulders. Like most of the people in the area, she works as a laborer for housing construction in the nearby sites and earns around Rs. 200 (USD 2.7) each day, which is hardly sufficient to cover the family's expenses.

The family has been sharing a single room for many years now. The house is so dilapidated and unreliable that every time there is a heavy rain or a strong wind it scares the life out of them. She is positive that her new house will make a big difference in her family's and her own future.



HIMLAL'S WIFE AND TWO CHILDREN

27

Himlal Lamichhane and family

Himlal Lamichhane is 50 and his wife Sita is 37 years old. They have 3 children, Kamal 17, Kalpana 15 and the youngest of all Karuna who is 13 years old. Himlal is retired from his job and at present he owns a small tea.

All of Himlal's family members take turns to attend the tea shop. Himlal opens the shop at 5 am and closes at 8pm. However, the income generated from the shop is not enough to support his family. His present house is made up of mud and bricks and is very narrow house. The house has aged too and has many cracks and holes on the walls and roofs.

Himlal is looking forward to live in the house where his children and his wife would feel happy and content.



SOM MAYA LAMICHANNE

28

Som Maya Lamichhane

Som Maya Lamichhane is an 83-year-old widow who has been living in her eldest son's house. Her husband passed away two decades ago and since then, she has lived a fragmented life in her son's house.

Som Maya is physically handicapped due to old age. She needs support while carrying out her errands. Currently, Som Maya occupies a tiny room in the house. The room lack sufficient amount of sunlight and air - a must for a person of her age. Her caretakers (son and daughter-in-law) have not been able to make special arrangements for due to financial reasons.

Therefore a house specifically arranged for Som Maya would be extremely beneficial to her in her old age. She is very happy that now she can live very happily in her own house.



BINOD MANI'S WIFE, MOTHER AND DAUGHTER

29

Binod Mani Lamichhane and family

Binod Mani Lamichhane, 28 and his wife Saraswati, 22 have been living in their father's house since their marriage. After a long and unsuccessful hunt for employment at home, Binod went to Dubai, U.A.E. in August 2010 hoping to earn secure the future of his family. Binod and Saraswati have one daughter, Sneha who is just 11 months old.

Saraswati really needs her own space because she cannot stay at her father-in-law's house forever. Though Binod Mani is struggling very hard to earn some money for his family in Dubai, he is very happy that his family is getting a new house to live and a good environment for his daughter.



TIL BAHADUR'S WIFE BISHNU MAYA

30

Til Bahadur Sunar and family

Til Bahadur Sunar is 47 and his wife Bishnu Maya Sunar is 42 years old. They have three sons and who are 22, 19 and 16 respectively. Til Bahadur has a 74-year-old mother living with him. He is working as a labor in Saudi Arabia. Two of the elder son quit studying and are unemployed at the moment. The youngest son is studying in ninth grade.

As only the father of the family is working, the money that he earns is not enough to sustain their life. To have a new house is like a dream for them. So, still they are living in a house with plenty of cracks and leakages. In addition the space of the house is not enough for a family of six, three adults and three oldies.



AMRITA THAPA

31

Amrita Thapa and family

Amrita Thapa is a 35 years old woman who works as a primary level school teacher and has two children, a son and a daughter aged 14 and 9 years respectively. Her husband Laxman Thapa, 38 works as a labor in Saudi Arabia. Her 49-year-old mother is also living with her as well.

Amrita's house is in bad condition due to the cracks and seepages on the roofs and walls. Furthermore, the house is in threat from the roots of a nearby tree.

She praises the idea of HFH to help poor and needy people. She thinks that Everest Build is one of the best initiatives for a safe and secure house and also free from bearing hefty loan people draw to build a house.



KRISHNA BAHADUR AND WIFE YOG MAYA

32

Krishna Bahadur Thapa and family

For Krishna Bahadur Thapa, life did not go the way he planned. The 73-year-old man had initially made plans to spend his old days with his sons as one big family. However, both his sons had to leave the village for better employment opportunities. That left Krishna Bahadur and his wife Yog Maya Thapa, 72 to spend their old age together - away from their sons.

Krishna Bahadur and Yog Maya are both too old and weak to work. Krishna Bahadur makes living by growing and selling vegetables in a little patch of land they own. Apart from that, the elderly have no other sources of income as the sons have now settled in the cities.

The situation of their house too is deteriorated due to lack of maintenance and care. Krishna Bahadur is very excited about the new house they're about to get from HFHN. "I am so glad they're doing this for us. My sons paid no attention to me, but I am so happy that there is at least someone who cares." says a beaming Krishna Bahadur.



RAM BAHADUR'S FAMILY

33

Ram Bahadur Thapa and family

Ram Bahadur Thapa, 45 lives with his wife Ram Maya Thapa, 30 and his two children: a son 10 and a daughter, 13 along with his 75-years-old mother. Both the children go to school.

Ram Bahadur is retired from his job and involved in some social work in his village at present. The house where they have been living is in a terrible condition. During rainy season the water seeps into the house from the holes in the roof and there are many cracks in the walls of the house.

Ram Bahadur explains that he cannot afford to repair the house due to extremely heavy maintenance cost. The family is looking forward to live in a healthier and strong house.



INDRA BAHADUR THAPA

34

Indra Bahadur Thapa and family

Indra Bahadur Thapa, is 51 years old and lives with his wife Piwan Kumari Thapa, 49 and two sons whose age are 30 and 28 years respectively. The main source of income of his family is agriculture and farming. Piwan Kumari is a housewife and their two sons are studying in college.

As there are no other sources of income for the Thapa family besides farming, their economic condition can be considered as weak. The situation of their house is too not very good. There is a dire unavailability of comfortable rooms for the family, especially for the two adult sons who are soon to be married.

They feel the idea of H.F.H is incredible which is helping to upgrade the living standard of poor to a great extent.



OM PRAKASH'S WIFE LAXMI AND DAUGHTER

35

Om Prakash Gurung and family

Om Prakash Gurung, 36 has a wife, Laxmi and a 5-years-old daughter who goes to a primary school nearby. Om Prakash is presently in Saudi Arabia as works as an industry labor. The Gurung mother and daughter have been living in a small rented room.

"He (Om) has been sending finances from abroad, but it is used up fulfilling the household requirements and daughter's education," says Laxmi who does not work and depends totally on her husband remittance. "We will not be able to build a house even is he earns significantly there, because we are highly indebted and the earnings will be used up clearing those debts," she adds.

Laxmi is very happy and excited that she is getting a new house and a new place to live. She desperately wants to give her daughter a good environment and a healthy place to live.



BUDDHI'S FAMILY

36

Buddhi Gurung and family

Buddhi Gurung, 40 and his wife Nanu Maya Gurung 27, live together along with their father, mother and two children in a very small house with lots of damages and unfit for living. "This house is very old. My father built it a long time back. We have not had lot of maintenance so it's worn out." says Buddhi pointing out to his worn out residence. "It's very hard, particularly during rainy season. The whole family cannot sleep fearing that the walls and roof would fall." adds Nanu Maya.

Buddhi has a small shop through which he has been earning a living for his family. He mentions that the shop isn't going great, but at least garners some money to sustain the household. Buddhi has a dream of owning a house where he can see his mother and father with his childrens and wife living comfortably.



DEVNATH ADHIKARI

37

Devnath Adhikari and family

Devnath Adhikari is 43 years old and his wife Parvati is 42. They have 4 children. Devnath and his family have been living in the house with a single room and the condition of the house is extremely poor.

Devnath works as a security guard at a hospital in the town and earns 4000 (USD 54) monthly. His children have been facing problems like lack of environment to learn due to the lack of space and congestion.

Devnath has a very weak economic condition so he cannot afford to build a new house for his children. He and his wife Parvati is very happy and relieved that they are getting a proper house for them to live and a good place for their children to study.



MAHADEV'S WIFE, DAUGHTER AND MOTHER

38

Mahadev Tiwari

Mahadev Tiwari, 32 and his wife Sarita, 23 have a daughter, Smarika who is 9 years old. Mahadev has a mother, Tukumaya who is 54 years old and a brother 24 years old who live together with Mahadev.

Mahadev is a driver by profession while his wife Sarita is a homemaker. Mahadev is the only workforce available in the family as his younger brother too is a student and does not work. He has a big family but a small house to accommodate everyone comfortably. Mahadev Tiwari is very happy that he is getting a very comfortable house for his family. New environment and healthy house will definitely bring a change to his family.



DEV TIWARI

39

Dev Tiwari and family

Dev Tiwari, a father of five children (four daughters and one son) is 45 years old and his wife Ambika Tiwari is 40 years old. Two of the daughters are already married and the other two daughters and a son are studying in a school. Moreover, he has responsibility of his old mother aged 76.

The economic condition of Dev Tiwari is very weak. His only source of income is farming. It's very hard for a single person to manage everything for a family of six. He finds it extremely disheartening when he has no money to pay his children's tuition fee. "My children are my everything. I'll manage to suffer any kind of pain but will fulfil their requirements," exclaims Dev.

The existing house is very small and ill-maintained for his family although they have managed somehow till now. He feels very glad that Habitat for Humanity picked his village for this project. He is very thankful to HFHN for their incredible support to build house, or "home" as he puts it.



HARI PRASAD GHIMIRE

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Hari Prasad Ghimire and family

Hari Prasad Ghimire, 45, and Shanti Ghimire, 42, have three children: a 17-year-old son Saroj and two daughters Januka and Pavitra who are 21- and 19-years-old respectively.

Hari Prasad is a social worker and does not have a good source of income for his family. His children are in the age where they need their own space but the present house where they have been living for years has limited rooms.

Hari Prasad cannot afford to build a big house therefore he is very happy to get a new house where he can give his childrens the space they need and the environment they had always wished for.

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Sete BK and family

Caste related dogmas still prevail in most parts of Nepal. At its worst, the traditional system inhumanely segregates people from the lower castes from those who belong to the upper tier of the hierarchy labelling the unfortunate ones as untouchables. BK or *Bishwakarma* is also one such caste from the lowest tier in this classification.

Sete BK, 39 and his wife Geeta, 34, with their four children and Sete's 70 year old mother, are among the most impoverished families in the neighborhood. He married off both his daughters very early – one is 14 and the other 16 – for the same reason. But the saddest part about their story is that as Bishwakarmas they belong to the lowest rung in the caste ladder, which makes it all the more difficult for them to make any real progress both socially and economically.

Over a decade ago, Sete was given a run-down house consisting of only two rooms by his landlord for taking good care of his real estate. He and his family have been living in the same appalling conditions ever since. For Sete BK, who looks after his family by working as a laborer for the local construction sites, owning a house is like a dream come true because it will help him to work freely and to strive towards a better future for his children.