Dolakha

FGD-1

**Recording: 140316-005 ( FGD at Lakuri Dada) Dolakha**

Participation: Female-four (***Chhetri, Braman, Thami, Newar and Regmi***). ( Male participant- two).

Interviewer: : We are so much fortunate that we came here at the right time. It would have been hard for us to gather this many people at one place for discussion. It would have taken many days. I would like to thank you all for your time regardless of being busy and other commitment.

The main purpose of our project is to know what kind of arrangements you have for fuel. For example fuel wood, wind mill, dung and other bio fuel derived from processing of plant suitable for bio fuel production. We want to know how you collect fuel wood, how much time you spend, what are your health effects because of using fuel wood. Why we want to know about all these aspects is that if project came to your community it will satisfied your exact need. If we discuss before project came to your community it will be exactly like you wanted it to be. Pouring money to your community does not guarantee the success of this program. It will be rather successful if we coordinate. So that targeted community can have optimal benefit. These are the main reason we came here. We have eight to ten simple questions which will discover your thoughts and experience. Please speak one by one. We will record what you have said. Tell us your full name including your age even though it may be inconvenient for female participant to expose their age.

Interviewer: Do you have any policy and regulation regarding bio fuel at community level?

Male 56: My name is Chhetralal Regmi. I live in ward no four. In our VDC there was bio fuel project once and that was bio gas (***gobar gas***). But it was not successful due to cold. We got snow sometimes. We have improved cooked stove, such as ***Koile Chulo***, ***Baipangkhi Chulo***. We got them form one programme (name of the programme is unclear in recording). It has been helpful to reduce the fuel wood consumption. We use fuel wood and we collect coal and used it again in ***Koile chulo***. And when there is electricity we can use ***Baipangkhi Chulo***. We have talked about ***Gobar*** Gas but since it is not going to work here we gave up.

However, we have made some ***Gobar Gas*** at few homes. It didn’t work well.

Interviewer: : What are the main reasons for not working?

Male 56: it may because owning cattle are declining and if there is no cattle there will not be dung and ***Gobar gas*** cannot be run without dung. That is why it is closed now.

Interviewer: : Can you tell something more about ***Baipangkhi Chulo***? (Referring to female participant)

Male 56: Have to put small pieces of fuel wood in it and fire it. Connect stove to electricity and it runs the fan inside it and it helps to make the flame out of fuel wood.

Female 34: we have not seen such kind of cooking stove. We don’t have it in ward five.

Male 62: I have it. It cost me 1650 to purchase ***Chulo***.

Interviewer: : where did you get it form?

Male 62: I got it from one programme called RED (unclear name of the project, it may be some kind of NGO). I am a member of that programme.

Interviewer: Can you use ***Baipangkhi Chulo*** without electricity?

Male 62: No. it does not work without electricity.

Interviewer: : So it can only helpful in avoiding doing ***Phu-Phu*** ?

Male 62: Yes.

Interviewer: : so, it is being helpful for women and children because they do not have to stay in the kitchen to make an effort to make flame out of fire wood. It also has health benefits. Isn’t it?

Male 62: yes, if we don’t have to do ***Phu-Phu*** than we don’t have to stay there whole time.

Interviewer: : but you still have to stir rise or Daal, right?

Male 62: yes, that is the only time we have to go inside the kitchen after having Biopangkni Chulo.

Interviewer: for your community and VDC what is the importance of bio fuel?

Male 65: it is very important for us. There were few programs like this previously. Few people were here like you previously talking about same programme like yours. There was little bit of discussion as well.

Interviewer: (Making an effort to bring female participant in to discussion) they are very shy and quite.

Interviewer: Do you have any future plans for bio fuel?

Male 62: if we have arrangements to produce bio fuel it can reduce dependency on fuel wood. Therefor I wish if you can implement this project in our VDC. It may not be possible just now but in future.

Female 34: we do not have such programme till now but it would have been good if we have one.

Interviewer: we can save jungle if we produce biofuel for energy. Can’t we?

Female 34: yes it can be helpful in saving trees and it would have been greener.

Interviewer: Does the entire household in this VDC depend on fuel wood for cocking? Is there any household or toll which does not have electricity?

Male 56: there is no village or household without electricity but the entire household in VDC use fuel wood for cocking.

Interviewer: : do you own rice cooker?

All Participants: we have rice cooker but if electricity went out middle of cocking than we have to use fuel wood again.

Interviewer: how often you suffer power cut?

All participants: there is not that much power cut. However, we got some due to heavy wind in summer.

Interviewer: if technology came into your community to produce bio fuel, do you think you can grow plants suitable for bio fuel and sale it to the factory. What is your opinion about the availability of bio fuel market?

Male 56: I have attended three days training regarding bio fuel. It was run by Himali Project. I came to know that it cost Rs 10000 to make a proposal. Also have to stay on queue. After we register the proposal it will take three years for implementation. We have made a plan to put proposal. We know we can sell what we grow. The market is Kathmandu.

Interviewer: : suppose we have produced energy and suppose you have fuel wood, dung, coal etc. can you sell these energy to the nearest market?

All answered: yes we can.

Interviewer: is transportation convenient for you?

Male 56: there is no ward in out VDC which have not touched by motor way (these all are off road though). It has covered all the villages in the VDC. We have not produced plant suitable for bio fuel but if you do I am sure we can sell it to nearest market, Charikot.

Interviewer: making an effort to bring female participant forward for discussion referring to a lady.

She said that she is shy!

Interviewer: : There is nothing to be shy.

Lady: Giggled!!!!!!

Female 36: If we had such project we would have done it but we do not have it. We can sale any how if this project produced bio energy.

Female 27: it is possible if all farmers in the VDC do it. It will not be possible by one person’s effort. If villages unite together we can arrange transportation as well.

Interviewer: You all are member of Community forest group. You all can have easy access to fuel wood. Can you sell excess fuel wood after consumption. There must be desperate need for fuel wood in nearest market town?

Male 56: this is the situation here. At the moment whatever we sell we sell it to Kathmandu. We sell timber. You may have seen on the side of the way on the way to VDC office.

Two women 36 and 27: Agreed that it goes to Kathmandu.

Male 56: People are selling timber form private forest. It is profitable and there is good market for this. There is ply factory near to us as well, they can buy any quantity we can produce and sell to them. We used to sell timber to them through contractor (mediator) but after introducing community forest it is making difficult to sell freely.

Interviewer: Among the farmers/ household , is fuel wood, electricity, water easily available for all? Are all these equally distributed?

Male 56: In our VDC we do not have any house without electricity. Availability is good for all household. Every house has its own tap for water.

Interviewer: is there any discrimination in distribution of fuel wood (Ghash-Daura)? Is there any house hold far from the forest?

Male 56: it is inclusive. Household can be member of any community forest near to them.

Interviewer: How do you collect fuel wood? Do you collect in specific part of the jungle or random or alternatively?

Male 56: we have various plot in our forest. If we collect fuel wood and timber on one plot this season than another season we will do it in another plot.

Interviewer: is there any individual don’t have access to community forest?

Male 56: we have nine community forest in nine wards. Therefore one person can be member of more than one community forest at once. So that there is no one who do not have access to community forest.

Noise coming from Female participant: everything is equal.

Interviewer: what are the plant and trees in you community forest that can be used to produce bio fuel.

Male 56: reproduction is declining here. We have planted Sallo. Sallo and Utiss is the mainly used for fuel wood.

We used it for fuel wood and timber. Sallo grows faster than other trees. So that it is profitable as well.

Interviewer: What are the five most important plants/ trees that have been used for firewood?

Male 65: Guras, Mauwa, Raktachandan.

Man 56: We mainly used Sallo, Chilaune, Chandan. It is not Raktachandan which was in the news several months ago.

Interviewer: If project came in your place which can produce biofuel in a scientific way using your plant and trees available on your jungle and field than will community be helpful? For example would you say that you are happy with firewood and you don’t need biofuel?

Male 56: We will not say that. I know if project came that will benefit us. We do not have that feeling at all.

Female 36: Till not we are depending on fuel wood but now we wish there would have been biofuel in our community.

Interviewer: encouraging a female participant to speak. He asked a question to her: How many hours you spend to collect fuel wood, dong or other sorts of bio fuel?

Female 40 and female 27: About four hours a day.

Interviewer: Often, Who goes to collect fuel wood from Jungle? Men, women, girl, Boy or children?

Female 27: I do it myself.

Interviewer: You work in Kitchen as well?

Female 27: Yes?

Interviewer: How many Cattles do you have?

Female 27: (Giggled and shy) I have one cow and two goats.

Interviewer: Does cow gives you milk currently?

Female 27: No

Interviewer: It just gives you dung than?

Female 27: Yes (Giggled).

Interviewer: What are the best things you have in you have in your community? Such as you may say your community unite better? Likewise you have well maintained forest or something you proud of about your community?

Women 45: We do not know anything sir. I don’t know what to say.

Interviewer: clarifies question more: tell something, for example if somebody is badly ill than all community come together to take hospital?

Female 45: we gathered as quickly as possible (*Ghap Ghup Jamma Hune*) for help. We also work together for agricultural work and even in community forest.

Interviewer: How about egoism? (*Khichatani*)

Female 45: We don’t have that in here. I don’t know about this problem in our community.

Interviewer: You really don’t know it or you just don’t know it for today?

Female 45: No, no, there is no such thing. ( Another lady support her from behind)

Male 56: We always unite, especially for community development work.

Interviewer: What is the situation among cast system in your community? For example, in the context of Nepal, discrimination on the basis of cast and gender is illegal.

Speak together (noise): we don’t have that here.

Interviewer: suppose if one Dalit from Boch came to your home, would you take him to kitchen?

Female 27: we don’t have that situation here. But male participant said he can come to his kitchen and have food. But they do not want to enter into our kitchen?

Interviewer: Why? You don’t allow them or they don’t want to enter?

Female 45: They don’t want to enter.

Male 56: Mentally they don’t want to come to our kitchen.

Interviewer: who developed that mentality? Themselves or community made them?

Male 56: Previously, I don’t know whether it was due to community or themselves responsible for that mentality. But later when there was Maoist (Home war) Damai, Kami, they used to have gun and enter into the home of any cast. After peace Damai, Kami have staying in their own places.

Interviewer: Suppose you invite me one Nepali brother for dinner, can we go to your kitchen and enjoy dinner?

Male 56: If he want to than we do not have any problem.

Female 27: they will not enter into our house.

Interviewer: What if you kicked him out?

Male 56: No, we won’t do that but they do not agree to come to our kitchen.

Interviewer: This is interesting, why they do not want to come to your kitchen?

Interviewer: It may be because you don’t invite them? Have you ever asked them to come inside your home while they having food outside?

Female 45: No they do not want to come. They say, this is what we have been doing for ages.

Interviewer: This is last question: Do you have any suggestion for us regarding biofuel project?

Male 56: I would like to thank you first for coming to our community with this project. It will be good if you can bring more projects like this. We expect help from you.

All female participants: we have same feeling and thoughts

Interviewer: This project can empower women and this is a great opportunity for you to say something regarding this project.

Interviewer: (Clarify the question): This project is women oriented because if project came to your community than you can grow plants that are suitable for biofuel production and you can be self-employed.

Female 45 and 27: If that happen that will be good for us.

Interviewer: is there are any male dominated mentality among men that why should women be privileged.

All female participants disagree and say there no such thing in our community.

Interviewer: if looks like they (men) loves you all so much.

Female participant Giggled and agreed.

Female 27: most of the work we do together (men and women), like collecting fuel wood.

Interviewer: you all must have got other commitment at home. Thank you for your time.

Male 56: we can arrange time for meeting now and again.

Interviewer: If one household is member of three community forest at once and enjoying benefits from three forests at the same time others are member of only one forest. Does these arrangements cause problem?

Male 56: Community forest has its own policy, scheduled program. If there are two community forests near by my home than I can be member of two forests. And no one can say you cannot be member on the ground that I already have one.

Interviewer: that means you got three bhari fuel wood while other have only one.

Male 56: Yes.

Interviewer: you are not staying in community forest users’ group committee only for fuel wood? Are you?

Male 56: No

Interviewer: I am just kidding.

Male 56: The main purpose of being committee member is to save the forest

Interviewer: According to one participant, Dhasingare, Titepati, Banmara and Thingre Salla can be used for bio fuel and there was some programme as well but some were successful and some did not?

Male 56: as Krishna Bahadur Karki said, Salla goes to Dabar Company. Most of them are small now. We can sell it probably after three years. Loat Salla can be used to make medicine for cancer.

Interviewer: you said Dabar Company buys Loat salla. What is the price you sell?

Male 56: Rs 300 Per KG.

Male 56: we sell all( Kath, Pat, Hanga)

Interviewer: Are you producing it individually?

Male 56: Mainly we produced them in group but these days the interest to produce Loat Salla is high and people have started growing it individually as well.

Interviewer: Do you have this in your community forest?

Male 56: we have it in ours but not every community forest has it.

Interviewer: is there any other name for Loat Salla?

Male 56: it is also called Dhangre Salla.

Interviewer: R: Is there any other ?

Male 56: Nagbeli Lahara( Ban mala). It can be used in making gun powder.

Male 56: we can produce oil from tite pati, Dhasingare. Dhingre sallow can be used for medicine. Chiraito can be used for medicine too. From ages we have been using Chiraito for fever. Boil Chiraito and drink one glass of it can reduce fever.

**FGD 2**

**Lakuri Dada FG discussion, Ward no: 5**

Q:What are the main problems in your village?

Male 54: we have problem with drinking water. We have not destroyed jungle and preserving it but still there is lack of water. We don’t have improved cooked stove in all houses.

Q:Why there is lack of improved cooked stove?

Female 50: it may be because of our self. We don’t have awareness.

INTERVIEWER: Health Issue?

Female36: said she has an open fire place at her house. It has been one month she is suffering pain in her eye but she has not got any treatment. She is not sure about whether this is due to smoke in the kitchen. She also mentions the problem of drinking water in her village.

Q:Gender Discrimination in collecting fuel wood?

Female 65: All the gender and all the age group involve in collection of fuel wood. However female cooks in most of the family?

Q:Why female has to cook always?

Female 36: replied, their male member is involving in money making work.

Q:Has your husband ever cooked for your family?

Female 45: said that he does it if I request him to cook or if it was needed.

But male member do not cook with their self-motivation.

 Female 45: said in terms of collecting fuelwood there is equal contribution in male and female.

Q:Is it actually equal?

Female 45: Actually most of the male work outside the home and women is the one who has to cook and look after children and older member in the house. This is how it works in our society.

INTERVIEWER: How is the jungle?

Female 72:It takes one and a half hour to go to jungle and two to three hours to collect fuel wood. In the evening we use dry twigs and we keep rest of the green one to dry it up.

Do you know about Machino oil? Kharane?

Male 54: we had machine in our village to process Kharane to make oil.

Q; was that machine build by Government, NGO or INGO?

Male 54: No it was run by private financing.

INTERVIEWER: Are you facing difficulties while collecting Machino in the jungle?

Male 54: We have not collected Machino for that project.

Male 54: He said there is possibility that we can produce bio energy by using local plant and trees available in their field and jungle.

INTERVIEWER: If we plant trees suitable for bio energy in an organise way, then we can make it possible.

Male 18: we don’t know about bio energy. We don’t have such kind of project in our village up to this date.

INTERVIEWER: will villagers unite and help us if we take new technology to produce bio energy in your village.

Male 18: if villagers well educated and trained about bio energy than villagers can unite to help on this project.

INTERVIEWER: What should we have to do to make you educated about bio energy? Should we have to make an effort in government level to change the government policy? Should it be Government, NGO INGO or private company?

Male 54: yes you also have to introduce the technology in the village.

Male 54: there is LGB group in our village, which can help for your project as well.

INTERVIEWER: What is LGB?

Male 54: The man doesn’t know about it.

INTERVIEWER: I have found small market around you, do you think you have enough market for bio energy production?

Male 54: we have to go far from here to reach in ln the bigger market. And I think Buyer in the market will reduce the price. We don’t have bigger market and they think that we don’t have any other market to sell our products and they don’t want to pay us a fair price. They hold a strong bargaining power.

Male further added we have road but not accessible to vehicle.

INTERVIEWER: health problem? Is it more in women?

Female 72: some people suffer smock related health problem, such as eye burn, respiratory problem and burn injury. We cannot get out of this problem because we have to eat to survive and have to cook to feed our self.

INTERVIEWER: Burn injury?

Female 45: we get that sometimes, fall down from the hill, cut by weapon used in fuel cutting. We don’t have hospital near us to treat major accident. We have to go to Charikot or in the Kathmandu.

One woman 65 was explaining an accident: when was collecting fuel wood in her own field and suddenly she sleet and fell down, she broke her knee and ankle. And she told that she went to hospital.

INTERVIEWER: is there any effort by government to protect the forest?

Male 54: RED plus is working to aware the villagers to protect forest.

INTERVIEWER: which house uses more fuelwood? Women headed or male headed family?

Male 54: it does not make any different. Both kind of family have to cook and have to use fuel wood as energy source for daily use.

Man also added that they don’t have ***Gobar Gas*** in the village because it is too cold because of that.

Some house has improved cook stove. People are not financial strong here in this village and cannot afford expensive energy available in the market and therefore they don’t have any other options other than using fuelwood.

Female 50: we have problem with fuel, if you can successfully produce bio fuel in our village that will be great help for us.

INTERVIEWER: Unity among people in the village?

Villagers have good unity in the village and they all gather to help someone who need.

INTERVIEWER: Whose unity is better? Male or female?

Female 65: both genders unite equally.

INTERVIEWER: how is the cast base discrimination in your village?

Female 65: said that they don’t have any cast based discrimination.

INTERVIEWER: if you rank cast group in your village upper to lower cast, how will you do that?

Male 54: Barman, Chhetri, Newar, Tamang, Thami, Kami Damai (Dalit).

INTERVIEWER: does Kami Damai suffer cast based discrimination in your village?

Male 54: Kami, Damai do not enter in our house.

INTERVIEWER: Cast based discrimination is illegal; you can be even in jail by doing that. But why you won’t let a Dalit enter into your house?

Female 50: we have not discriminated Dalit. They are in their own place and we are in our own place.

INTERVIEWER: why don’t you let enter Dalit in your house.

Female 50: we have various casts in our village and they are stay in their own place.

INTERVIEWER: do you have any other plant and trees suitable to produce bio energy other than ***Machino***?

Female 50: ***Tite pati, thingre salla, chiuri***.

INTERVIEWER: which trees do you use for fuel wood?

Female 50: ***Chandan, Guras*** etc. we use Kholme for fuel. I have heard that kholme used to use in producing oil. We don’t have big forest and Kholme is disappearing in our forest. They used to produce oil in our grandfather’s time but current generation are not interested in all these things.

Male 54: we dint know that we can produce bio fuel by processing plant and trees available in our field and jungle.

INTERVIEWER: what do you expect from government in terms of producing bio energy?

Female 36: if government cam can show us the path and help financially in producing bio energy than that will be good. But until now government has not done anything. We, who lives in the village don’t know anything. We are uneducated; people who live in the cities may know more about how to make a village develop. Government should train us for this and have to make all the people aware.

INTERVIEWER: what are the problems related to women in your village?

Female 72: we have to work hard to service here. If we don’t have money to pay for fuel wood we have to take a loan. I am poor. I don’t even have son. I have to hire man power to collect fuel wood.

INTERVIEWER: do you pay money to community forest committee?

Female 72: Yes.

INTERVIEWER: what do they do if you don’t pay?

Female 72: they will not allow me to collect fuelwood.

INTERVIEWER: some people may have to priorities food first and fuel after, isn’t it?

Female 72: yes. I don’t have son. If you have son you have money at home.

INTERVIEWER: how much do you spend in fuel wood?

Female 72: one man cost Rs 600 for a day.

INTERVIEWER: how about electricity? Does it come regularly?

Female 72: it goes sometimes in summer because of heavy wind. And it takes time to repair.

INTERVIEWER: can you tell something about Ghatte Kulo?

Male 54: I don’t know much about it. It can only run when there is water in the river.

Male 60: It runs only in monsoon season when there is enough water in the river.

INTERVIEWER: If we produce energy fuel here and used it in Ghatte machine than it will be possible to run 12 months, isn’t it?

Male 60: yes it is possible.

INTERVIEWER: what do you do in there?

Female 72: we process rice, oil and other kutani pisani.

INTERVIEWER: will that be good if we can use bio energy to run this machine when there is no water?

Male 72:: yes that will be good. It can be run 12 months.

Male 54: if we can take plant suitable for our climate from outside (foreign) and produce here, bio energy project can be even successful. We may need some prior training for that.

INTERVIEWER: What are the main problems related to Thami?

Female 46: I don’t know anything.

INTERVIEWER: does Thami community give importance to educate child?

Female 46: I have two sons, elder son left study after grade five and younger one left in grade six and my daughter still studying.

INTERVIEWER: why they left education?

Female 46: they ran off to Kathmandu.

INTERVIEWER: what is an average age to get married for a girl in your village?

Female 46: 15 to 16, . Poila janchhan (elope). They own mobile, say hello to their lover and fly.

INTERVIEWER: how is economic situation of your family?

Female 46: we own some land and have to work hard to obtain some food.

INTERVIEWER: does consumption of energy varies among different cast?

Female 72: no it does not. Kami may need more fuel wood to make coal for their cottage industry.

Female 54: We have Bhume Deuta in our village and therefore we cannot keep Kami Damai in our village.

INTERVIEWER: if one priest came in to your village and said that Bhume don’t want Thami to stay in this village than will you left the village? What will be your reaction?

Female 54: This tradition is from ages.

Female 72: No we may not left. I don’t think Bhume Deuta will want us to leave the village.

INTERVIEWER: can one Dalit come to your village and buy a land to build a house?

Female 72: NO

Female 72: Women also said they cannot build Terso Dhiki. (Terso Dhiki can run by one leg and Dhado dhiki should operate by hand. Terso dhiki require less effort to operate and Dhado dhiki needs more effort to run). Dalit cannot have Dhado Dhiki.

INTERVIEWER: is it Bhume Deuta which doesn’t allow Dalit to have Dhado Dhiki?

Female 72: yes, some people say that. But it can be people.

Kul Bahadur Shrestha, 60 years

Asking same question related to Bhume Deuta, Dalit and Terso Dhiki?

Male 60: previously pig was not allowed to keep in this village. There was land slide in the village and older people used to say that was because of taking pig that way. I don’t know much about that. I was child.

He also added that if owner wants to sell and Dalit wants to buy than I don’t think there will be any problem in allowing Dalit to stay in this village.

INTERVIEWER: What if Bhume get angry because of that?

Male 60: I don’t know. People cannot even allow taking pork in to this village. However, some people take pork without showing other people.

INTERVIEWER: why dint Bhume got angry for taking pork without showing other people?

Male 54: we got Asina in those times and destroy our crop. Tiger takes our goat and cow?

INTERVIEWER: well tiger cannot eat grass to make Bhume happy, by nature tiger eats meat. Isn’t that true?

Male 54: one day I was in the jungle with some goat and one was taken by tiger.

INTERVIEWER: is it because of Bhume?

Male 54: it can be.

**FGD 3**

**FGD-Dolakha- Ward no 6**

INTERVIEWER: what do you use in this VDC as a fuel?

Male 58: we don’t know much about bio fuel. We know little bit about what is happening in our VDC. The first thing is that we don’t have much investment for what we are capable of doing it. There is lack of market as well. I have a hope that when this market gets bigger and transportation becomes easier and something nice will happen in our village.

Male 60: we don’t have transportation facility like it is in Kathmandu. There is even lack of water and some places no access of electricity.

Male 70: It would have been excellent if we have market and access of transportation. We have to use fuel wood to cook food and especially female member of the family are suffering from kitchen air pollution. It would be good if we can find alternative source of energy to replace fuel wood.

INTERVIEWER: has there been any effort from government with regard to bio fuel?

Male 70: no, not at all.

INTERVIEWER: any help from Ngo and INGO?

Male 70: no.

INTERVIEWER: have anyone ever introduced any trees of plants for the purpose of producing bio fuel?

Male 70: no. We only have Sallo.

INTERVIEWER: have you planted Loat Salla in your land?

Male 70: yes I have some.

INTERVIEWER: who gave you plant of Loat Sallo?

Male 58: they have planted load Sallo in to nursery and they distribute us.

INTERVIEWER: who does nursery belongs to?

Female 60: it belongs to community forest.

Male 58: I don’t know about loath sallow.

Interviewer: I heard from another informant that it has been used to make medicine for cancer.

INTERVIEWER: you go to the forest to collect fodders. Who goes to jungle mostly? Male or female?

Female 60: everyone goes to jungle for fodders, men, women and even children.

INTERVIEWER: I mean most of the time?

Male 70: most of the time women go to jungle.

INTERVIEWER: what kind of fuel do you use for cooking?

All participants: we use fuel wood. We don’t have gas.

INTERVIEWER: why don’t you have gas? Is it because of being expensive? Not available in the market? What is the reason?

Female 60: gas is not easily available in the market. It is hard to get refill.

Male 58: first thing, we don’t have money for gas. For cylinder gas, initial investment would be 4000 to 4500. It is hard. And on the other side fuel wood is easily available. It is women who cook for the family most and they are suffering the most. Sometimes women in home have to cook seven times a day.

INTERVIEWER: how cum seven times?

Male 58: first thing in the morning they have to cook tea or they start making alcohol, cook food for animal, cook food for family, lunch in the afternoon, tea after that and dinner in the evening.

INTERVIEWER: cooking seven times a day means you must have used lots of fuel wood for the family? Have you been doing anything to pressure forest for future generation?

Male 58: we are preserving forest. We have nine community forests in our VDC. It is beneficial to grow Sallo and Uttis in our field than other farming like rice and vegetable. If we grow Sallo we can use twigs for fuel wood and main body for the timber.

It may be easy for the people who have job or working abroad but for us gas is not affordable. We are relying of farming.

INTERVIEWER: how much does it cost for each gas cylinder?

Male 58: there is one single women and has a newly born child. She was so busy and didn’t have time to collect fuel wood and cook. It is quicker to cook in the gas. And she has brought one in her home. And it cost her Rs 2000. It took 3 to four hours to collect gas form the nearest market (Mude).

INTERVIEWER: how much does it cost for one cylinder to take to Charikot or Mude, refill it and take it back?

Male 58: each man per day cost Rs 600.

INTERVIEWER: so, cost of each gas cylinder comes to 2600, Right?

Male 58: yes.

INTERVIEWER: do you grow trees in your field for fuel wood.

Male 58: two important things for survival are fire (energy) and water. We don’t have gas and therefore we have to grow trees on our field for fuel wood.

INTERVIEWER: who goes to jungle for fuel wood? Male or female?

Female 50: it is women most of the time.

INTERVIEWER: what kind of problem do you face while collecting fuel wood?

Female 60: we got back pain, and pain in all the mussels. If we refuse to collect fuel wood than we cannot cook for family.

INTERVIEWER: do you go to jungle everyday?

Female 60: we go to jungle to collect fuel wood when it is open for everyone.

Male 58: in the community forest we open two times a year for 5 to seven days. That fuel wood is for monsoon season. We distribute those fuel woods on the meter basis.

INTERVIEWER: what kind of health problem do you face while working in the kitchen?

Female 50: Yes we face health problem.

Female 60: we face eye irritation. I had to do operation for one of my eye. I did it in Charikot. We don’t have alternatives.

INTERVIEWER: do you have respiratory problem in your chest as well?

Female 60: yes we do.

INTERVIEWER: do you get accidental born sometimes?

Female 60: yes we do.

INTERVIEWER: what do you do when you get born?

Female 60: we put some medicine if it is bad.

INTERVIEWER: where do you get your medicine from?

Female 60: if it is really bad we have to go to Kathmandu. If it is normal we go to Mude or Charikot.

INTERVIEWER: do you get help from male member of the family in cooking and fuel wood collection?

Female 50: I have to do it on my own.

INTERVIEWER: don’t you feel like it would have been great if you would have got some help from male member of the family?

Female 50: Yes I do feel like that. They do help in collecting fuel wood in festival season like Dashain.

Female 60: my husband lives and work in Kathmandu. Therefore he cannot help.

INTERVIEWER: in the village male are often spend their time in political gossip, play cards, drinking and chill with their friends. Isn’t it?

Female 50: my husband helps me when he is in home. He does everything.

INTERVIEWER: your forest is very rich in bio diversity. Do you think you can produce bio gas by using plant and trees available in your forest?

Male 58: if we unite and get help from outside than we can produce oil.

INTERVIEWER: how is the unity in your community?

Male 58: it is good. We have to work in our field and cannot afford to attend meeting all the time. But for social development, weeding or funeral we unite and help each other. We have Kharane, Raktachandan to produce oil.

INTERVIEWER: has your VDC introduced any development program like this?

Male 58: no. In each VDC, I think they get 15 to 16 lakhs budget but we don’t know how they spend those money on development of the VDC. It is not transparent and we don’t know how they invest that money on development.

Male 58: I have heard that money comes in the VDC for poor and disable people but none of them received any benefits.

INTERVIEWER: you have already told us that you don’t have proper market. How do we develop market?

Male 58: we will need Transportation and dealers. Corporative organisation can helpful to do that. We can sell milk and vegetable in this market.

INTERVIEWER: how much time do you spend in collecting fuel wood each time? (They were there for community forest meeting)

Female 60 : seven hours. We have to climb uphill and downhill

INTERVIEWER: do you have fear of wild animals?

Female 60: yes we do. Yesterday, tiger was being very noisy in the near jungle. We were in the jungle collecting fuel wood at that time when we heard tiger we ran out of the jungle with small bundle of fuel wood.

INTERVIEWER: you said you collect fuel wood two times a year for two to three days. Is it enough for whole year?

Female 50: no. it is not enough. We collect fuel wood from our own field.

INTERVIEWER: how many bhari fuel wood do you use each year?

Female 50: roughly 40 to 50 Bhari.

INTERVIEWER: how many member do you have in your family?

Female 50: Three.

INTERVIEWER: and you use 40 to 50 Bhari fuel wood for three members of the family. Right?

Male 58: we get some guest in house. There is more consumption of fuel wood in festival season.

Summary of plants and trees that can be used in fuel wood production:

Chandan, Kholme, Kharane, Dhasingare.

Male 58: we were ever poorer than this previously and we used to use oil obtained from Kharane but we don’t use it now because we can afford other oil.

A: how do you obtain oil from Kharane?

Male 58: we take fruit of Kharane , it is not seed inside, this is no use but cess and outside part is used for oil making. We take them to the local coal to produce oil. We don’t do it now a days.

INTERVIEWER: what is the use of oil produced from Dhasingare?

Male 58: we cannot use that oil. It is like poison.

INTERVIEWER: apart from Dhasingare, Chandan and Kholme is there any other trees used to produce oil?

Male 58: I am not aware of any other plant.

INTERVIEWER: is there any specific cast group who has more access to forest then other cast group?

Male 58: no, it is all equal. It was not like this previously.

INTERVIEWER: how was it previously?

Male 58: in our grand dad’s time. There was not Tamang, Newar and Thami. There were all Chhetri here. We had to work for whole day to get access into the forest. This rule has removed now. At that time there were roughly 1200 Newar, Thami 300 and Chhetri were 600 but 600 Chherti used to control the jungle and provide limited access to 1200 Newar and 300 Thami. We now have nine community forests and I am one of the members.

INTERVIEWER: I found out that there is not much Dalits in your VDC but in Boch there are some. What is the situation of untouchability? Do you get along with them in terms having food together and other social work? Do you invite Dalit to have food in your Kitchen?

Female 50: we don’t take them to our kitchen. We serve them outside. We invite in the kitchen only for our guest.

INTERVIEWER: Why is it like that?

Female 60: it is hard for us to take them in to our kitchen. This is being like this since many years ago.

INTERVIEWER: in the law. Untouchability is a crime. If someone reports about it then you may be in the jail. Despite of these law and regulation why do you think it is not changing?

Female 60: I cannot change this situation on my own by letting Dalit into my kitchen. Everyone should do it. If I let them in to my kitchen than my (Tamang) community will exclude me.

Male 58: it has been like this since ages.

INTERVIEWER: If all the Tamang unite to let Dalit people into their kitchen than there will not be any chance of exclusion. Is it possible to do it like that?

Male 58: it is possible for me. It is changing now a day. Previously, when Dalit used to come in my home they used to stay outside, have food, ask for some water to clean their plates and dry it up. But now it is changing. I don’t go to Dalit’s kitchen and they don’t come to ours but having food outside contains no untouchability. They don’t have to clean their plates at my home no a day.

INTERVIEWER: how do community respond to inter-caste marriage?

Male 58: most of them don’t do that kind of marriage. Who does it will not be excluded by most of the community.

INTERVIEWER: if your daughter got married to lower cast man, would you allow her to enter into your kitchen for food?

Male 58: yes it is happening in our society. I will allow that too. Some of the older generation would not allow that because they have not seen the world. They are still sticking with their tradition.

INTERVIEWER: how is inter-caste marriage happening in your society? Lower cast man took upper cast girl or upper cast man took lower cast girl?

Male 58: lower cast man getting married to upper cast girl in most of the case.

Same question to Male 70: in those will you allow your daughter enter into your home?

Male 70: no we have not allowed our girl in such situation. They don’t come to us and we don’t allow them come in to our house.

INTERVIEWER: but they are your child, how could you do that, don’t you love them?

Male 70: they should have married with “Pani Chalne”. If they choose to marry with Pani Nachalne then we cannot do anything.

INTERVIEWER: is grown food in you farm enough for you family for whole year?

Male 56: it will be hard to be enough. Otherwise we have to buy from the market. We have to work outside, earn some money and buy food for the family.

INTERVIEWER: what is your main farming? Is it potato?

Male 58: yes. We grow more potato than other vegetable.

INTERVIEWER: has anyone been here in your village with such kind of bio fuel project?

Male 58: it would have been great for us if such kind of project came in our community. We will be happy to help from our side for such project. It would have created the employment for locals.

INTERVIEWER: if we discover the possibility of bio energy in your village, will villagers unites and committed to help us for further process of this project?

Male 58 : yes, we will help.

INTERVIEWER: how is the unity in your village? Do they believe in each other?

Male 58: there could be general conflict between nearest neighbour sometimes but not bigger one like they have to go the court to settle it down.

INTERVIEWER: you said, mainly you have four caste groups in your VDC. Can you tell me which cast group get along with others most?

Male 58: Chhetri and Brahmans are cleaver. If Newar, Tamang and Thami decided to unite and do something good than Braman and Chhetri comes in between do Divide and rule.

INTERVIEWER: Which cast group unite most? Generally?

Male 58: Newar, Tamang and Thami unite most. Braman and Chhetri don’t unite like this. They fight each other. When something new project came in village Braman and Chhetri know that first. Sometime we don’t get informed about what is happening in VDC.

Male 70: Tamang, Newar and Thami drinks and they get told off by Braman and Chhetri (sometimes they get beaten).

INTERVIEWER: So you mean Braman and Chhetri don’t drink so that they can beat drunken Newar, Tamang and Thami. Is that what you meant?

Male 70: Something like that. We don’t drink because we are not strong enough to digest alcohol. Thami and Newar are strong, they can work hard. Braman cannot work hard. We are Kaji Khalak, we don’t used to work hard like other cast.

Male 58: Everything goes wrong because of Braman.

Male 70: Many years ago we had Thami servant (Gothalo). They used to look after our cattle and we didn’t have to pay them.

Male 58: In Purane Gaun there used to be Thami but later Braman and Chhetri came in this village and they moved to another village.

INTERVIEWER: Did you say something about Dolakhe Raja?

Male 58: King’s horse used to come in our ancestor’s land. One day they hit his horse by arrow and they came to know that the horse was belonging to King and they get afraid and ran away and hide in this place.

**FGD 4**

**KII, Ward no 5 Lakuri Dada**

INTERVIEWER: how is cast base discrimination in your village?

Male 49: it is not that tight now. Older people still follow the tradition and do discriminate.

INTERVIEWER: in your village there are Basnet and Karki. Can you go in their home for cup of tea, involve in cutting Khasi together, or go in their kitchen and have food?

Male 45: they don’t come in our kitchen and we don’t go in theirs.

INTERVIEWER: (pointing towards a man) which cast do you belong?

Male 35: Basnet.

INTERVIEWER: how is cast discrimination in your village? Can one Dalit go in your kitchen, involve in Khasi cutting?

Male 35: it is not ease till now. It has been like that since ages.

The man had finished his grade six.

INTERVIEWER: do you know that cast discrimination is illegal?

Man said that he knows about it.

INTERVIEWER: Do you allow Dalit in to your kitchen? Or you don’t want to take risk as you may exclude by upper cast?

Male 35: I don’t discriminate Dalit who comes in my shop. However in terms of taking Dalit in my kitchen, I have not done that. I have been like this since ages.

INTERVIEWER: you are young and you favour positive change in society. As a youngster do you think one step ahead to eliminate such discrimination or you just prefer to stay quiet due to social trouble?

Male 35: our society is like this. I want to but I cannot change it on my own.

INTERVIEWER: what will happen to you if you make an effort?

Male 35: I will be excluded from my Kul and upper cast people.

INTERVIEWER: if BK boycotts you than how will you feel?

Male 35: I will feel the same as Dalits are feeling at the moment.

INTERVIEWER: you don’t want to take step, your father, uncle doesn’t want to take any steps and even Dalits are not making enough effort. In those case how is it possible to change current situation?

Male 35: it will change but we have to unite. We have eight shops in our village and they are the same.

INTERVIEWER: (to another man) how is cast discrimination in your village?

Male 45: it is less now. We had to clean our cup and plates previously but we don’t have to do that now.

INTERVIEWER: is it the only change? Can you take water from tap without discrimination?

Male 45: we cannot touch their water pot.

Male 35: most of the older people are uneducated. They believe that if they drank water which is touched by Dalit than something nasty will happen with them. But young and educated people are more against that kind of discrimination. They stay in one table and have food.

Male 45: if we get help from NGO INGO and get irrigation, reliable power supply, education, transportation and program like bio energy production that can be helpful to improve Dalit’s life in this village.

INTERVIEWER: (pointing to Basnet) do you offer you BK friend to have food cooked in your kitchen?

Male 35: yes I do that. If they want they will be welcome in my kitchen. I understand that I will not die if they come in my kitchen. About 20 per cent of those bad traditions are still left.

INTERVIEWER: (to BK) have you ever been in his kitchen?

Male 45: No, I have not been in his kitchen.

Male 49: (another BK) I have not been in his kitchen either. He may invite us but older people in his house may not welcome us.

Male 35: Even inside the Dalit, there is discrimination. Damai is not allowed in Kami’s home and Tamang don’t allow Kami and Damai. They have to changed first and unite.

INTERVIEWER: if your father discriminate in terms of cast, will you take you father to jail?

Male 35: I can do that. Because my father use Khukuri (knife) made by Kami and wear dress made by Damai and still if he discriminate to them, he deserve punishment.

INTERVIEWER: have you made any effort to minimise cast base discriminate in your community?

Male 35: yes I have done that. I always tell my parents that if you cannot eat food touched by Damai than you should not be wearing clothes made by them. Walk naked.

INTERVIEWER: have you made any effort?

Male 35: I tell my mum that if she discriminates to Damai than why she wears dresses made by Damai and I tell my father that if you discriminate Kami than you cannot use Hasiya made by Kami.

INTERVIEWER: If I take one Dalit friend to your home to dine into your kitchen and your father arrived and he offend (discriminate) your Dalit friend than will you tell your daddy that that you going to call the police to jail him for what he did?

Male 35: I will not take him to my father’s kitchen but if he discriminate any Dalit in public places than I can do that. If there is law he has to be punished.

INTERVIEWER: have you done that before?

Male 35: I have not done that yet but I will not hesitate to do that if needed.

INTERVIEWER: if one BK touch water pot belongs to upper cast in the tab than will they take that water home?

Male 35: People who don’t do cast discrimination will take that water and others will not.

INTERVIEWER: Male 35 said that there is cast discrimination in between Dalit. How do you rank them in upper cast to lower cast?

Male 45: there is no discrimination among young people like us.

INTERVIEWER: how is it in General?

Male 34: BK, Nepali, Pariyar.

INTERVIEWER: you have to clean you own dirt first before complaining about discrimination suffered by upper cast, Isn’t it.

Male 45: yes we should do that.

INTERVIEWER: how?

Male 45: previously Damai who plays musical instruments in weeding used to be treated differently in weeding party. There used to be different place and arrangements for them in the party. It is changing now. We eat together.

INTERVIEWER: do you take Pariyar and Gandarba to your Kitchen?

Male 45: No we don’t take them into our Kitchen.

INTERVIEWER: if you discriminate Pariyar and Gandarba than how can you complain that you have been discriminated by Basnet?

Male 45: we have not done that. Our fathers and other older people will not like that.

INTERVIEWER: As being young and understood person why can’t you change your parents.

Male 45: I have done that. In weeding and other ceremony in the community they still discriminate other Dalit and we tell them to go somewhere.

INTERVIEWER: Have you ever made complain to police?

Male 45: No I have not done that.

INTERVIEWER: why? If my father done that I will take him to jail. Why can’t you do that?

Male 45: in the law cast based discrimination is no longer since 2028 but in practice it is still in our society. This is our weakness. We should take them to jail to change this situation.

Male 35: we are getting new constitution soon. I think it will all be fine once it implemented.

INTERVIEWER: can you hug each other?

All of them: yes we can do that.

INTERVIEWER: if you have to tell something to your Prime Minister; what would you tell him?

Male 35: Make such constitution where all can be free and no discrimination.

INTERVIEWER: will you tell that if Sushil Koirala did caste discrimination than he should be punish as well?

Male 35: Yes he should be punished as well.

**FGD -5**

**Lakuri Dada, VDC Office**

INTERVIEWER: What do you use as fuel in your VDC?

Female 33: Fuelwood.

INTERVIEWER: can you name five kinds of trees used for fuelwood?

Female 33: Guras, Uttis, Salla and Angeri and Chilaune.

Female 40: we don’t use Chilaune that much.

INTERVIEWER: why not Chilaune?

Female 40: it is heavy to carry and it is good to build furniture.

INTERVIEWER: Do you use animal dung for fuelwood?

Female 40: no we don’t use dung. We use dung to plaster house.

Female 40: I don’t like food cooked in Guintha.

INTERVIEWER: how much time do you spend in collection of fuelwood?

Female 33: People would have spent everyday in collection of fuelwood but we have to follow the rules and regulation. We can take two to three Bhari fuelwood in a day.

INTERVIEWER: how long does it take to collect two Bhari fuelwood?

Female 33: it takes three to four hours.

Male 44: it takes four hours in general.

INTERVIEWER: who goes to collect fuelwood in general?

Female 33: Female.

INTERVIEWER: why is it female?

Female 33: female member has to cook and look after children. Men are out to work and earn money. So female has to do it.

INTERVIEWER: I had seen some men were playing cards up there.

Female 40: our men don’t do that.

INTERVIEWER: do you fire your men if they play cards?

Female 40: go to do that.

Female 33: some people play cards and it is female who does the entire house work.

INTERVIEWER: do you face health problem due to smock in the kitchen?

Female 40: yes we do.

Female 33: I have red eye.

INTERVIEWER: do you have improved cooked stove at home?

Female 40: yes we have. We also have stove made from metal, costing us RS 5000.

INTERVIEWER: Did you get any help from NGO/INGO for that?

Female 40: it was private financing.

Female 33: No, No we get some help for that.

Female 40: it was just RS 600.

INTERVIEWER: Which NGO was that?

Female 33: RED.

Female 33: Rs 700 was given by RED and other 1000 was from company.

INTERVIEWER: how much time do you spend in cooking in a day?

Female 33: an hour in general.

Male 44: In general it takes one and a half hour.

Female 33: it depends on the size of the family. I have only three members and it takes about an hour. Bigger family may need longer.

Female 50: we take coal from the fire place and use it in improved cook stove. So that we can cook two things at once. It is faster like this.

INTERVIEWER: Have you got any training on how to build improved cooked stove?

Female 33: No, I had seen an improved cooked stove and I can build one on the basis of what I saw.

INTERVIEWER: some village get training on how to build improved cooked stove?

Male 70: yes, some people have training on that.

Male 44: we have Koile Chulo and Bipankhi Chulo in this VDC.

INTERVIEWER: what is Bipankhi Chulo?

Male 44: it needs electricity to run.

INTERVIEWER: do you face problem like eye irritation, breathing problem etc.?

Female 33: we have to stay in the smock and we face those problem.

Female 40: yes, we face those problems.

Female 33: our elderly people say that who cannot tackle smock in the kitchen cannot manage anger.

INTERVIEWER: That means, more you manage to tackle smock in the kitchen better you are?

Female 33: yes, according to our mother in law.

Female 40: Also, female who cooked less food used to consider as Lachhin ki Buhari.

INTERVIEWER: Do you go to hospital if things went worse due to smock?

Female 33: yes we have to.

INTERVIEWER: how long does it take to go to hospital?

Female 33: it takes a day to get to eye hospital. For general illness we go to nearest health post.

INTERVIEWER: do you get doctors visiting in your community?

Male: we go to health post for general flu and other general injury. We have to go to hospital in the cities for serious illness.

INTERVIEWER: do you get eye Sibir in your village?

Female 44: they come sometimes but they only check serious one.

Female 33: I have got red eye and if I go to big hospital it will take a day.

INTERVIEWER: how do you treat breathing problem?

Female 44: we suffer problem and we have to go to hospital.

INTERVIEWER: Do you know anything about Bio energy?

Female 33: I have heard something about it.

INTERVIEWER: where did you hear it from?

Female 33: during my school study.

INTERVIEWER: I have heard that your village have produce oil from Machino. Is it true?

Female 33: yes, I am on that group.

Male 44: it is just over there.

Female 44: it is near my home.

INTERVIEWER: is there plant (machine) to process Machino oil?

Female 44: yes there is.

INTERVIEWER: where did they use that oil?

Female 33: they feed raw fodders to animals and export oil to cosmetic company.

INTERVIEWER: don’t you get that oil for your own use?

Female 44: No, we will die if we use that oil.

Male 70: people use that oil to make perfumes and other medicine. You can use that oil for massage when you have head ache or back pain. But if you drink that oil you will die.

Female 33: If someone drink small portion than will not even get chance to have treatment. Don’t even get an hour.

Male 70: we have 11 such kind of plant in Dolakha and Napkia Yanmara is the first one.

INTERVIEWER: where did you get raw material to produce that oil? Do you collect that?

Female 33: it comes from our group (community forest).

INTERVIEWER: how do you sell it?

Male 70: 2.50 per kg for person who collect it and for group 25 Paisa.

INTERVIEWER: how many Kg one can collect in a day.

Male 70: About one hundred Kg.

Male 44: one can collect up to 110 kg in a day.

INTERVIEWER: So you mean one can earn Rs 250 for collecting Machino whole day?

Male 70: Yes.

Female 44: we don’t have that much Machino in the jungle now.

Male 70: it is heavy. One strong man can collect about 50 Kg at once.

It is also called Dhasingare.

Male 70: I have planted Machino in my field but it was not successful.

INTERVIEWER: Why?

Male 60: we had made some plot but it should come naturally.

Male 70: People who collect Machino didn’t know how to collect it without harming its growth for future.

INTERVIEWER: Where did you get that idea to plant Machino trees in your field?

Male 70: There was a Swiss organisation. Some machine and equipment are given by that organisation for factory here. That machine cost 11 Lakh.

Male 70: they had given training on how to collect Machino but people dint follow that.

Female 33: people were more money oriented and only focussed on how to collect more in less time.

INTERVIEWER: who collect Machino randomly? Male, Female or children?

Female 33: all of them did that.

Male 70: it was Women and children who did collect like that.

INTERVIEWER: is he trying to blame women or that is true?

Female 44: it is true.

Male 60: we have less Male in hill region. Because most of the young people go abroad.

INTERVIEWER: will villagers help for such kind of project?

Male 70: yes, they will certainly do.

INTERVIEWER: how?

Male 70: project has to coordinate with VDC and other group which already existed in village. If project came like that we can help.

INTERVIEWER: will you cultivate plant and trees suitable for bio fuel production?

Male 70: Yes I will do that.

Male 70: we had refused to provide Dhasingare at first. Because about 40 members in the group was not agreed.

INTERVIEWER: why they were against it?

Male 70: it used to take more fuelwood. Now plant is improved and it takes less fuelwood. Each lot of production used to take about 50 Bhari fuelwood.

INTERVIEWER: how much Machino oil can be produce in each lot?

Male 70: first day it was 750 gram. It has produced 3.50 kg in maximum.

INTERVIEWER: is there any possibility to produce oil from any other plant and trees other than Dhasingare?

Male 70: Yes there is. It is Tite Pati, Banmara, Thingre Salla, Simta. We had tried to produce oil from these plants but oil production was less and there were not enough raw materials.

INTERVIEWER: Can you produce oil from Guras?

Male 70: we cannot but we can make juice from its flower.