

A Success Story of Liquid Soap Production in Chaurideurali Rural Municipality

Geographical Region: Chaurideurali Rural Municipality, Ward No.9, Gothpaani, Kavrepalanchok

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Gothpaani, a small village, is located at North-Eastern part of Kavrepalanchok district, which is considered as one of the hard-to-reach areas of Kavrepalanchok district. Most of the people here are engaged in traditional agriculture and animal husbandry. However, some are in foreign employment and very few are engaged in service and business sectors as well. Being one of the rural areas, Gothpaani village is still struggling to get proper WASH facility. Fetching water by travelling a long distance used to be every morning and evening schedule of the people. One can imagine the condition of sanitation and hygiene, where people have to travel a long distance just for buckets of water. However, the situation is gradually improving now, after Chaurideurali Rural Municipality established one house one tap in the village, which was also supported by WaterAid Nepal in 2019 A.D.. Now, they have running water tapstand in their house and they have now saved their time and energy they used to spend on getting water.



A Gothpaani Village, Picture Credit: Bikash Sapkota

Mrs. Niranjana Lama, 36 years old women, is one of them who have seen all these ups and downs of her beautiful village, Gothpaani. Striving and exploring is Human Nature, It always has been since the beginning. This is applicable to the modern Humans of this twenty-first century as well. Mrs. Niranjana Lama is an example for this who has been striving and exploring since a long time to figure out different ways to improve her livelihood. The one who used to struggle for a bucket of water started exploring for different ways out to make her life easier. She tried many things from the production of cloth washing soap in 2019 to animal husbandry but ultimately she was not satisfied.



Mrs. Niranjana Lama in picture and her house in the background

Destiny will always find its way, no matter what. Her exploration was destined to coincide with a project 'Hygiene Behaviour Change Coalition (HBCC)' which was started in Chaurideurali Rural Municipality from 1st of July, 2020, implemented by Civic Forum and supported by WaterAid Nepal, with a prime objective to make people and Government of Chaurideurali Rural Municipality fight with Covid-19 pandemic. At that time, it was felt that people from such places are more vulnerable and may be hit hard by such pandemic, where there is lack of proper hand washing facilities and awareness. With this, the project started its journey with conducting liquid soap and mask making training in the community along with installation of contactless hand washing stations equipped with liquid soap



Mrs. Niranjana Lama, learning liquid soap production

mechanism in different 25 institutions of Chaurideurali. It was noticed that Mrs. Niranjana Lama and two of her friends, out of 32 total participants, were very actively participating in the liquid soap making training. They were seen eager to learn more and this was the point where her journey as one of the local liquid soap producer of Chaurideurali began.



Picture taken during the conduction of liquid soap training on 16th August, 2020 with so produced liquid soap by Mrs. Niranjana Lama during the training

November, 2020, almost every people of this world will remember these days of 2020 as one of their worse days. Some were fighting for their life, many were locked down and many people were left unemployed with the start of this pandemic. Everyone's way of living and a way of life was changed with this pandemic. Same applies to Mrs. Niranjana Lama but the story is quite different. With the support of liquid soap production materials, worth NRs. 40,000 /-, by WaterAid Nepal under HBCC project, she kept her first step in this journey of improving her livelihood by starting the production of liquid soap. Her previous experience of production of cloth washing soap before covid-19 pandemic was a plus point but at that time, she was left over with loss due to lack of proper market. However, she didn't quit. She stood up and started walking again in this journey with the hope that one day she will give a prosperous life to her family, her children and the community.

This time, her market was close enough. Consumption of liquid soap used to be and still is very high in the contactless hand washing stations installed in 25 institutions; Rural Municipality office, ward offices, health posts because of the fear of covid-19 in people. Seeing this, Mrs. Niranjana Lama, started the supply of produced liquid soap to these institutions. She used people's fear as an opportunity. **May be she is one of the very few people, who found some opportunity out of Covid-19.**

Now, she along with her friend, **Ms. Samjhana Kunwar**, is working for the production of liquid soap in the village by sharing their cost and profit. As of now, they have sold around 100 liters of liquid soap at the rate of NRs. 200 /- per liter. However, this is just a beginning; we believe we can see gradual change in their livelihood in coming future. **Mrs. Niranjana Kunwar can be an example to many people who think and feel lack of opportunity everywhere. "Opportunity doesn't come to you, you have to explore and create an opportunity", this is what we can learn from her life and from her journey from struggle to exploration.**



Figure 1 Mrs. Niranjana Kunwar, Ms. Samjhana Kunwar and one of her friend engaged in making of liquid soap outside her house



Glimse of Institutions of Chaurideurali RM having liquid soap produced by Mrs. Niranjana Kunwar and her friend