

Building Bridge, Boosting lives: The Transformative Impact



Mr. Tamang at his home after returning from fieldwork

The people of Tumbewa Rural Municipality were compelled to put their life at risk while seeking access to healthcare services by crossing the Sawa Khola. Be it expecting mothers or seriously injured persons, the health center at the opposite side of Sawa Khola was the only closest health facility.

In the past, Arjun Tamang, 31-year-old farmer from Aangna, Tumbewa-1 and a farmer experienced a heartbreaking incident. With a deep sense of sorrow, he recalls “I lost my mother when I was just two years old. At critical pregnancy stage she could not be taken to hospital in time. The journey to the hospital was filled with lot of obstacles due to absence of a bridge in Sawa Khola. It used to take nearly one day to reach district hospital via a longer route.”

Tragically, he lost his mother at his early age and the joyous arrival of new life turned into mourning. He was deprived of his mother’s love in his life. He further adds “Many pregnant women like Fulmaya -wife of Govinda Bahadur Tamang and Navmaya -wife of Mayta Singh Tamang lost their lives due to delay in timely treatment during critical stage of Pregnancy.”

The villager of Aangna, Limba, Durdimba, Hangum & Mauwa were affected badly to access the needed health services in absence of a bridge in Sawa Khola. The situation has drastically changed after the construction of the bridge. The villagers can easily cross the river and reach district headquarter hospital in phidim within 3-4 hours by vehicle. The lives of the villagers took a remarkable turn & death rate of pregnant women have tremendously decreased.

Devendra rai (64), a farmer from Khalde Kummayak Rural Municipality, had married his wife from Chuhada village of Tumbewa - 2. These two villages are situated on opposite banks of the Sawa Khola . Prior to the construction of the bridge, it was extremely difficult for him and his wife to visit their relatives on the other side of the river. Particularly during the monsoon Season, the turbulent river rises so high completely hindering people’s mobility across the river. Mr. Rai Explains “whenever my wife travelled to her parent’s home during monsoon and got struck due to rising water levels, I encountered numerous challenges. I alone had to prepare meal, take cattles to graze and manage all other household chores.”

After the construction of the bridge, they can cross the river easily throughout all the seasons and reach to their destination within a few hours. He even can graze his cattle across the river. Mr. Rai says the two Rural Municipalities not only share unhindered mobility of people, but they also have close bonds through marriages and familial ties.

With the recent construction of bridge in Sawa khola, Villagers from both Kummayak and Tumbewa Rural Municipality are tremendously benefitted. They can cross either side of river with ease and in least travel time. They are well facilitated with health services as well as other facilities. Hence, Sawa Khola Bridge plays vital role in providing a lifeline to those in need, offering a glimmer of hope amidst adversity.



Mr Rai going to his home.