

Personal accounts

Location: Richet Gau, Lude dada, Lapa VDC, Dhading District

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Timla lower sec. school, hostel construction Project



BISHNU KARKI

One of HHC's staffs, who had been working on the Timla Lower Secondary school project in Lude, in Lapa village in Dhading since March 1st 2015

(Tables, chairs, toilets, bathroom construction worker sent by HHC)

25th April 2015 (12 Baishakh 2072) Saturday on the verge of completing their work.

On the day before the earthquake struck, Bishnu says, he had gotten up early in the wee hours at around 5 am and gone to his regular work, which included, training the local masons and carpenters, and then working on the furniture like tables, benches, which he had been making for the school.



Figure 2: one of the newly constructed hostel building inaugurated on 8th April 2015



Figure 1 two hostel building after earthquake

Then at around 11 a.m, he says he took a lunch break and had just stepped out of the hostel building where he had been working in, when the first big jolt hit them at around 11.48 am. He started to run frantically when suddenly, he heard a loud crackling sound, he turned around and saw that the hostel he had been working so hard to build had crashed down to the ground. He then saw the library building of the school turn to rubble.



The rest of his team of 12 carpenters, 2 masons and 10 porters, had been working in the next building, he heard people screaming and running out into the ground. They ran towards a tree, and held onto the tree, everyone got dispersed by that time, and because the ground was shaking for so long, they had nowhere else to go but take refuge under a tree. He says, just about the same time, there was a huge landslide underneath where they were standing and there was a lot of dust in the air, there was no visibility at all, everything around

had turned dark. He says it took almost two hours for the dust to settle down because of constant tremors.

After the tremors subsided a bit, he and his team of workers, all went towards the village, to check on the people, the sight he saw was horrifying except for a few standing houses, everything else had turned into rubble, everything else was gone. People were crying out of fear, they started calming the crowd down. He says many of the locals had no idea what was happening, as many had never experienced an Earthquake before. All the other workers started consoling the frightened locals and giving them orders not to go near any of the collapsed houses.

The whole day was spent out on empty fields, waiting, as shock aftershock kept hitting them, towards the evening, when things calmed down a bit, he along with some other locals, looked for whatever tents and plastic was available, and set up temporary shelters for the people to sleep under.



People had been left hungry the whole day, but he and his workers, bravely went back to a few demolished homes and dragged out whatever food/ration and medical supplies, they could find. They then, went to a nearby building of Mothers Association, and brought cooking utensils out. After setting up cooking spots under open skies, they made meals for all the victims stranded there with them.



Since Richet Gaun was the only safe spot, villagers from all three nearby villages, Kapur 6, Kapurgau 7 and RinchetGaun, had gathered there. They did a mass food distribution right there, right then, for temporary relief. He says, the rest of the night was spent attending injured people, they did whatever first aid they knew, like cleaning wounds, distributing painkillers, some were seriously injured with fractures bones and broken heads, there was a small kid brought in who had been crushed by his house, he had an open fracture on his scalp and was bleeding. They tried to stop the bleeding by using gauge and put some anti-biotic on it.

The following day:

Bishnu along with a few others, went to small ration shops and bought remaining ration items like rice, lentils, oil, sugar. About Rs.28,000 worth of



food was bought under HHC's supervision and remaining medicines like painkillers and anti-septics. or almost three days, they were



cooking food, distributing to everyone and attending to the injured and sick. Bishnu says he was saved by just a feet, and that he was extremely lucky that day to have stepped out just on time and Luckily no one else was indoors with him. He thanks god for giving him a second life.

The materials that were lost inside the rubble : Generator, invertors, invertor batteries(2), Computer monitors, CPU, welding machines, grinders(2), drilling machines.

