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THE SOUL IS NOT THE OBJECT OF INTELLECT, IT IS THE VERY SOURCE AND SPRING OF INTELLECT- Shree Sathya Sai Baba

CHANGED LIFESTYLE IN PINTHALI VDC OF KAVRE

75 years old Dhana Bahadur Lama and his wife Buddimaya Lama were cheerful and ecstatic while expressing their experiences and positive changes brought about after the establishment and operation of community managed 12 kW micro hydro system a decade ago to an UNDP team who visited the Pynthali of Kavre district recently. The village has gone through a sea-change development from a remote, fifty and backward hamlet to a neat, clean and progressive settlement. The social capital built through REDP community mobilization has not only made them capable to use electricity to household lighting, running micro enterprises and generating additional income from the utilization of local resources and skills. After the construction of a rural road to their village at top from the road head at down below last year by villagers themselves has helped its accessibility immensely. The recent addition to their home is a toilet attached biogas plant that has helped them to maintain a well managed toilet as well as smokeless kitchen along with improved cultivation through the slurry. They are hopeful with confidence that they would be able to see many newer improvements in the near future. *(Based on information provided by Ram Prasad Tiwari, EDO Kavre)*



ENERGY SERVICES INITIATIVES

The majority of the poor live in rural areas, and are disproportionately underserved by electricity supply, so it can be assumed that most do not currently have access to electricity. This scenario is actually an improvement over the national status a decade earlier. The realization that the central electricity grid would not reach most rural populations within the next 30 years prompted the government of Nepal to promote the use of alternative energy sources in earnest from the early 90's. Various renewable energy programmes were set up with the common objectives of strengthening the rural economic system, improving the quality of rural life by supplying energy, increasing the opportunity of employment and contributing to environmental sustainability. The success of these initiatives are noteworthy: 7.6 MW of micro hydropower has been developed as of 2005, providing services to about 76,000 households, about 4,000 solar home systems have been installed, about 160,000 households are using improved cook stoves, and about 140,000 biogas plants have been installed.

The Rural Energy Development Programme (REDP) has been working to improve rural lives through use of alternative energy since 1996. REDP has been acknowledged as a "best practice" at both national and international levels. It has received various international awards including the "Energy Globe Award" 2000. REDP was also registered among the "Projects around the World" in Hanover EXPO 2000. REDP has successfully brought about innovation in the energy sector in rural Nepal, contributing to economic, social and environmental goals towards poverty alleviation through the application of holistic and decentralized administrative management. *(Source: Assessment of Rural Energy Development Programme, 2008)*

EXPLORING INSTITUTIONAL COLLABORATION IN NEPAL

A two-member delegation from SAARC Energy Centre comprising Mr. A N M Obaidullah, Research Fellow (Energy Trade) and Mr. Md. Lutfar Rahman, Research Fellow (Technology Transfer) visited Nepal on September 2008 under the SEC program activity "Study Visit to Energy Research Institutes of SAARC Region". The SEC delegation visited Nepal Electricity Authority, Marsyangdi Hydro Power Station, Newa Khola MHDS, Centre for Energy Studies and Alternative Energy Promotion Centre.

On return from Marsyangdi Hydropower Station, the SEC delegation visited Newa Khola Micro-Hydro Demonstration Scheme (MHDS) of 6 kW installed capacity, located in the South-East part of the district Tanahun. The scheme is running successfully by the Newa Khola Micro-Hydro Functional Group. The Newa Khola MHDS serves 60 households with 360 population. Ms. Tara Shrestha, Project Engineer, REDP with her colleagues accompanied the delegation during visit. The major activities done by the project are based on six basic principles of community mobilization – Organization Development, Capital Formation, Skill Enhancement, Technology Promotion, Women Empowerment and Environment Management. The total investment of this project is Nrs. 472,645. During discussion, community people expressed their satisfaction and their active participation in the discussion process was remarkable. *(Source: SAARC ENERGY Newsletter, Volume II, Issue 2, September 2008)*