

**YOUR DUTY IS TO SERVE, NOT SEARCH FOR FAULTS – Shree Satya Sai**

### **DARAM KHOLA MICRO HYDRO**

The 50 kW Daram Khola MHVEP of Malma VDC of Baglung district has been successfully commissioned on 26 March, 2009. The scheme has directly benefited 430 households of Ward No. 1,2,3 and 4, of which 15 households from Janajati, 44 households from Dalits and 371 households from others. The supply and installation of M/E equipment were undertaken by the North Engineering, Butwal. The gross head of 45 m. and design discharge of 220 lps are the key configurations of the scheme.

Upon the electrification of the households, the villagers are found very happy and willing to establish/ initiate various end-uses as well as income generating activities in the coming days. An eighty one (81) years old man said, "Even if I die now, I would go to the heaven. It is one of my desires fulfilled to see the village lighting with electricity." He also expressed high appreciations to REDP, DDC:DEES and other stakeholders for their assistance, contribution and supports for the completion of the scheme.

### **FEMALE NOT LEFT BEHIND TO ESTABLISH A RURAL CARPENTRY**

In Nepal, women rarely come out of their houses and participate in out-door activities like business and public function due to strong cultural and traditional barriers. But, REDP from its very beginning of operation since 1996 has designed and implemented modality giving equal opportunities for both male and female in all programme activities including the establishment and management of women's owned enterprises. Participation and involvement of women in businesses ensure the addition to household income leading towards the economic growth and empowerment. A number of women managed enterprises have been witnessed in the programme areas. One of them is a women managed rural carpentry successfully established in the Kavre district. Three women namely, Mrs. Shetimaya Asthimaya, Prekmaya Rana and Krishna Maya Darlami have established three (3) separate rural carpentry businesses with their in Banakhu VDC which are run from the electricity generated by a community managed 50 kW Banakhu Khola MHVEP. They have taken loans from the fund provided by District Development Committee : District Energy and Environment Section (DDC: DEES) for the end-use promotion in the Community Energy Fund (CEF). Each one was provided with Rs. 20,000 as a loan by the functional group that manages the CEF. In order to provide incentive to encourage women to take part in the enterprises management, the functional group has decided to charge three (3) % less interest rate than that given to male entrepreneurs. In the beginning, they have taken assistance from the trained persons and now carry out the carpentry works by themselves. It is gratifying to note that all men and women of the community are highly committed to help them for their successes and also to encourage other women to undertake other feasible enterprises in the coming days in the VDC. *(Based on Information provided by EDO, Mr. Ram Parsad Tiwari, Kavre)*

### **HYDEL PROJECTS LIGHT BAJURA**

More than 1600 households of four VDCs namely Mankto, Pandusen, Kotila and Barhabise in Bajura district have been electrified through micro hydro projects. The schemes were established with support of Rural Energy Development Programme, a joint programme of GoN, UNDP and the World Bank. The schemes have generated a total of 117 kW. The four projects were built with the total cost Rs. 10 million. It has been a long time for the villagers of Manakot, Pandusen, Kotila and Barhabise VDCs to finally have their dream of lighting electric bulbs and upgrading their lives from old radios to televisions true.

Prasad Regmi of District Energy and Environment Development remembered the difficulties faced during their installations in the past, "Security personnel used to accuse us of supplying electric cables to the Maoists to make explosive devices and design electric ambushes while the Maoists tried to rob us of our cables that we brought for our project."

"Despite of the challenges we finally achieved what we strived for," said Prakash Singh, a local at Barhabise VDC. A lot has changed in these four VDCs ever since they received electricity. For instance, with the arrival of electricity, three schools based at Pandusen and Barhabise have bought computers to carry out administrative works. Other schools are planning to purchase ones for themselves.

With the success of these four projects, District Energy and Environment Section as well as Rural Area Development Committee are encouraged to begin similar projects in other parts of Bajura district as well. They are already engaged in the development of 10 similar micro hydro projects in Bajura with the financial assistance from Local Development Fund. "Most of the projects have already reached near to completion. They will soon power other darker villages," said Regmi. *(Source:e-kantipur)*

