

### **Citizen Awareness Centers (CACs) reinstates Child Development Centre**

Members of CACs at Ganapur VDC, Siyaram Khatik and Gutta Khatik expressed, "Since the inception of the Child Development Centers, there have been many changes in the village. Villagers and community members are more aware of children's education and increasingly sending their children to the child development center. Children spend 3 to 4 hours a day learning various activities at the center."

Ganapur VDC lies 12 kilometers away from Nepalgunj Municipality. The pre-dominant groups living in the village are from marginalized groups such as Dalits, Chamaar, Khatik, Dhobi, Pashi, Yadav, Loniya, Gadariya, Kurmi, Teli, Kahar, and Muslim. Brahmin, Kathayat, Pun; social groups supposed to have migrated from the hills also live scantily in this VDC.



The level of education in the VDC is very low. In 2068 B.S, when LGCDP programme had just started, it had only 3% literacy. It has two primary and a lower secondary school. Plan Nepal had established Child Development Centre (CDC) in 1995 A.D. However, it shut down later. CACs establishment in the fiscal year 2068/69, lead to various discussions on various issues/challenges of the village. Education was one of the primary agenda in CACs meeting. CACs member rigorously pushed the agenda for the need of education and its importance for a better community. Hence, with CACs efforts, the center was reinstated with a financial assistance of NRs. 20,000 from VDC grant and NRS. 50, 000 from Plan Nepal. The grant was spent in building a housing including a toilet and tap water.

The CAC members also ensured that the center has a dedicated teacher, Usha Kathayat, who provides various learning that contribute towards their physical, mental, social and behavior change. Ms. Usha Kathayat says "Parents and children willingness is on the increase, thereby more enrollments in school every fiscal year".

The VDC is connected to Surkhet road which has made development initiatives viable. Alongside establishing of child development center, CACs has become a platform to facilitate various other developments for the VDCs such as availability of medicines from sub-health post and regular health checkup, information about agriculture and livestock services, increased women participation and facilitating of citizenship certificate for those in need.