
Improved Livelihood

"Initially, I had small occupation of sewing in my village which was insufficient to support my family. I also used to work on daily wages for some time. When things were very hard, I asked help from other people which caused me a lot of pain". Gita Pariyar, a 32 year old Dalit woman with 3 children from Lahachowk VDC of Kaski, recalled her past.



Gita's has now found an alternative source of income generation that helps to support her family well. This became possible after becoming a member of Ward Citizen Forum (WCF) in her ward. "It gives me great satisfaction knowing that now I am not dependent on my husband. I have increased my income threshold so as to fulfill my basic needs. I am living my life with full of dignity and pride," said Gita with gentle smile on her face. Her husband is working in Qatar since last 3 years. It was becoming increasing difficult for her to support her children on her own.

Gita with other members of WCF formed a small farmer's agriculture cooperative that increased her thinking beyond household life and improving her financial situation. The members saved money from the cooperative fund and began discussing on livelihood opportunities. With encouragement from other members, she requested for a loan to start her own kitchen garden. She received a loan of NPR 10,000 from the members' cooperative fund. Gita made plastic tunnel in her mother's land to grow tomatoes. She used local compost, and manures, and had good produce. She was able to sell tomatoes worth of NPR 50,000 throughout the year.

Gita continues to be actively involved in WCF activities. With her initiation, it has motivated other members to start thinking of alternative income generation sources. As a result 4 other members have now started kitchen gardens. She says that she is happy to provide suggestions to others because she believes prosperity of a community is a collaborative approach.

The VDC has provided space for cooperative in their building. Now, it has 517 members and most of them are women. With the formation of ward citizen forum, it has created harmony in the community.