

BUILDING TOILETS IN NEPAL

Practical Action embarked on a new journey with its REV project – by raising awareness among the rural poor and empowering them with information to make right decisions on proper and basic sanitary issues. REV project chose a documentary on ‘Health and Hygiene’ a 15 min documentary produced by Ankhi Jhyal based on Urlabari, Morang district to raise awareness on the importance of need for proper sanitation and its advantages aftermath.

More than 70 participants from 11 villages from Gorkha district gathered to watch the documentary. The 15 min documentary shows a story of a similar village Urlabari in Morang district where people have benefited from building toilets. Before the toilets were built almost every household in Urlabari village defecated in the open polluting the environment and the nearby water source which was used for cooking, cleaning and bathing purpose. The open defecation caused many children and elderly persons to fall sick creating a strain in their families’ economic situation. The film shows how the people of Urlabari after receiving information on the benefits of proper sanitation decided to build toilets on their own making their village a role model for other villagers.

Similarly, the villagers from Gorkha upon watching the documentary and upon receiving important information from Rakesh Shrestha, Project Officer, REV, returned back to their respective villages and shared their concerns. These participants have successfully and positively influenced their neighbours to build toilets for their own good. Out of 231 HHs in 11 villages, there are now 213 HHs willing to construct low cost toilets whereas 18 HHs already houses a toilet. The issues raised by the villagers’ deals with technical and financial ones. REV project personnel and its local implementing partner CCODER briefed the villagers on the technical details of low cost toilets and demonstrated practically by constructing four toilets in different parts of the villages. Further, REV provided monetary support to those families who passed the poverty ranking system conducted by the Community Development Committee (CDC)¹. The monies supported by Practical Action ranged from NRs. 450 – NRs. 1,200² depending on their income level.

The villagers in Gorkha district have started the construction process. All of 213 HHs are in the process of building toilets and are currently busy collecting local materials for construction purpose. REV project has set a target to build 213 low cost toilets in 11 villages within a period of two months.

¹ The CDC after talking to the villagers on their economic status decides which family is eligible for what amount. 1 € = NRs. 94 as of Nov 08

Further reading

[*Types of toilet and their suitability*](#) Practical Action Technical Brief

[*Compost Toilets*](#) Practical Action Technical Brief

[*Training Manual for Eco-Toilet Construction*](#) Practical Action Bangladesh and UNICEF

[*Shit Matters*](#) L Mehta & S Movik Practical Action Publishing 2010

[*Toilets That Make Compost*](#) Peter Morgan Practical Action Publishing 2008

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stories of change