

Problems with Drinking Water Supply

Nepali transcript:

यहाँ मणिकृष्ण नेपालको काभ्रेपलान्चोक जिल्ला¹मा पर्ने आफ्नो गाउँमा भएको खानेपानी समस्याका बारेमा बयान गर्दैछन्।

सनिता: त्यो बाहेक गाउँमा के सुविधाको कमी छ जस्तो लाग्छ?

मणिकृष्ण: हाम्रो सुविधाको कमी भन्ने चाहिँ मुख्य कुरा होइन हाम्रो चाहिँ अलि heightमा परेको हुनाले खानेपानी चाहिँ समस्या छ। अनि बाटोको लागि पहिरोले भत्काउँछ होइन²। अलिकति ग्राभल गरेर पिच गर्यो भने अलि बस्छकी, कुलो³ काटेर, side गरेर चाहिँ बस्छकी भनेर....

सनिता: खानेपानीको लागि चाहिँ अहिले कसरी व्यवस्था मिलाइएको छ?

मणिकृष्ण: खानेपानीको लागि चाहिँ अहिले खोल्चा⁴बाट त्यो Polythene को pipeबाट ल्याएको हुन्छ होइन। कहिले मुसाले काटदिन्छ, कहिले मान्छेले, गोरूले, वस्तुले हिँडदा कुल्चिदिन्छ होइन। Polythene को पाइप त कुच्चिहाल्छ होइन। अनि बेला-बेलामा बन्द भइरहन्छ।

सनिता: अनि आकाशे पानी जम्मा गरेर चलाउने...

मणिकृष्ण: त्यस्तो चाहिँ अहँ नियम बना छैन पानीको।

¹ Districts, referred to as *Jilla* (जिल्ला) in Nepali, are administrative regions similar to counties in the US. Nepal is divided into 75 such counties and Kavrepalanchowk (काभ्रेपलान्चोक) is one of them.

² The direct translation of *hoina* is 'no.' In this context, it is to make sure that the person is following the story and to confirm something. For example, in English, the word 'Right?' is used to confirm something.

³ *Kulo* (कुलो) are traditional waterways still used extensively in the villages in Nepal to direct water, especially for irrigation. It is similar to a small canal made out of soil or concrete in some places. In some cases they could have culvert-like structures.

⁴ *Khol-cha* (खोल्चा) refers to small streams in the hillside. They are used and taken care of in the mountainous region as the main water supply system in the villages.

English translation:

Here Mani Krishna is talking about problems related to drinking water supply in his village in the district of Kavrepalanchowk⁵, Nepal.

Sanita: Beyond that, what other services do you think are lacking [in your village]?

Mani Krishna: About services we are lacking, the major thing is we are at a height so we have drinking water supply problems. The roads are also broken down due to landslides. A little bit of gravel and pitch might make them more stable. Building a *Kulo*⁶, cutting off on the side edges may also work.

Sanita: How is drinking water managed currently?

Mani Krishna: Currently, drinking water is supplied from *Kholchas*⁷ using Polyethene pipes⁸. But sometimes a mouse makes holes in the pipelines, sometimes people, buffaloes and cattle step on them when they are walking by. The Polyethene pipes obviously bend and so time and again the water supply is interrupted.

Sanita: And what about collecting rain water...?

Mani Krishna: There are no rules set up for that yet.

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⁶ *Kulo* (कुलो) are traditional waterways still used extensively in the villages in Nepal to direct water, especially for irrigation. It is similar to an aqueduct made out of soil or concrete in some places. In some cases they have culvert-like structures.

⁷ *Khol-cha* (खोल्चा) refers to small streams in the hillside. They are used and taken care of in the mountainous region as the main water supply system in the villages.

⁸ It is very common to see thin Polythene pipelines that run above ground being used to supply drinking water in rural Nepal. In some cases these may be Polyethylene pipes.