

Nepali transcript:

अंतरवार्ताकर्ता: कति को डरलाग्दो, कति को खतर छ?

शिरिष: खातरा ठाउँ हेरी हुन्छ हेर्नुसा। होइन, कुनै खोलामा अलि खतरा नै छ, कुनै खोलामा अलि कम्ति छ। त्यो समय हेरी हुन्छ। बर्खामा गर्यो भने खतरा नै हुन्छ जुन खोलामा पनि। बर्खामा यो level मा (shows with hand) जुन हामीले high water भन्छ। भनेपछि September, October, November - यो महिना चाहिं पानी निकै अग्लो हुन्छ। पानी निकै धेरै हुन्छ। त्यो बेला अलि खतरा नै हुन्छ। त्यो बाहेक अरु बेलामा पनि खतरा हेर्ने हो भने खोला हेरेर हुन्छ। हामीले कुन कुन खोलामा run गर्छौं, rafting मा चाहिं त्यो अनुसार खतरा हुन्छ।

अंतरवार्ताकर्ता: अनि कुन कुन खोलामा गर्नुहुन्छ ?

शिरिष: हामीले यहाँ number of खोला चाहिं यहाँ लेखिराको सब खोलामा गर्छौं। हाम्रो अब त्रिसुली, भोटे-कोशी, सेती, काली-गण्डकी, कर्णाली, मर्स्यादी, तमुर, upper सेती- यिनीहरु चलाउछौं।

अंतरवार्ताकर्ता: अनि अब डरलाग्दो त हुन्छ होइन...

शिरिष: डरलाग्दो भन्नाले डरलाग्दो हुन्छ, तर त्यसको लागि चाहिं त्यसको साथ-साथै हामीले rescue गर्ने तरिकाहरु पनि हुने गर्दा अलि safety छ। अलि सुरक्षित तरिकाले run गर्छौं।

अंतरवार्ताकर्ता: हजुर...

शिरिष: होइन, life jacket हुन्छ, helmet हुन्छ। अब खस्दा-ओर्दा तहिरिन नजान्ने मान्छेलाई त गाह्रै हुन्छ। तहिरिन जान्ने मान्छेलाई चाहिं rescue हुन्छ। rescueलाई बाहिर राख्छौं, त्यसलाई tie भन्छ। यसले हामीले मान्छे तान्ने काम गर्छौं। खास्यो-ओर्यो भने, तानेर मान्छे डुंगामा ल्याउने यस्तो कामहरु गर्छ।

अंतरवार्ताकर्ता: अनि पानीमा लग्न अगाडि नि केही training दिनुहुन्छ?

शिरिष: Training भनेर उनीहरूलाई briefing भन्छ। कसरी बस्ने, के गर्ने, के important कुरा हो, कुन ठाममा खतरा छ- त्यो कुराहरू हामीले उनीहरूलाई चाहिं guide दिन्छौं। basic कुराहरू- डुंगामा बस्ने, paddle चलाउने, guideको command सुन्नुपर्यो। त्यो कुरा अनुसार त्यसरी नै सहयोग गर्ने। Team work हो। त्यो अनुसार चाहिं हामीले उनीहरूलाई briefing दिन्छौं। त्यसपछि थ्याक्क डुंगामा राखेर rafting गर्छौं।

अंतरवार्ताकर्ता: अनि पहिलाभन्दा adventure sports कस्तो बढेको छ? पहिलाभन्दा मान्छेहरूले धेरै गर्छन् कि?

शिरिष: अहिले नेपाली चाहिं धेरै बढेको छ। पहिलेको अनुपातमा नेपालीहरूले धेरै रूचाएको देखिन्छ। पहिला नेपालीहरू कमति थियो आजभन्दा दस- पन्ध्र वर्ष को कुरा गर्ने हो भने। अहिले चाहिं अलि बढेको छ नेपालीहरू। बिदेसी त obviously बढ्नेनै भयो। बिदेसी चाहिं season मा हामी कहाँ कति आउँछन्! यहि company मा त नआउला, divide हुन्छ। अरु को company नि जन्छन् होइन, तर sports चाहिं अब पोपुलर नै छ। अलि अलि प्रख्यात नै छ भानुम्। नेपाल यो destination को लागि अझ बढी प्रख्यात छ। हामीसंग धेरै खोलाहरू छ होइन।

अंतरवार्ताकर्ता: अनि भनेपछि अब नेपालको हाम्रो पुरा दुनियामा rafting को लागि एउटा एकदमै main destination भन्न मिल्छ?

शिरिष: अ, त्यसै मात्र मानेनी हुन्छ। नेपालीलाई अब अरु देसहरूको तुलनामा दुइ-चार वटा देसहरू छन्, जुन देसहरू नेपाल जस्तो खोलामा धनी देसहरू...छ न त धेरै देसहरू हुनसक्छन् rafting गर्न तर हामीसंग धेरै खोलाहरू छ। त्यसले गर्दा rafting को choice धेरै छ मान्छेहरू संग। कुन खोलामा जाने? मध्य दिन जाने, दुइ-चार दिन गर्ने हो कि दस दिन गर्ने हो कि। त्यहि हामी एकदिनदेखि लिएर दस दिन जति provide गर्न सक्छौं नेपालमा। जसो तपाईं तमुर गयो भने दस दिन लाग्छ। होइन, १२ दिन लाग्छ। कर्नाली गयो भने दस दिन लाग्छ। त्यस्तै हो।

अंतरवार्ताकर्ता: हस, धन्यवाद दाई!

English translation:

Interviewer: So how dangerous is rafting? What are the risks involved?

Shirish: The risks depend according to the places. Rafting in some rivers is dangerous, in others, it is less risky. It depends on the time and season too. If you do it during the rainy season, it is dangerous in all types of rivers. During the rainy season, the water level is this (*shows with his hand*), which we call “high water.” So during September, October, November—the water is very high during these months. There is a lot of water. It is more dangerous during this time. In other seasons, the danger level depends on the type of river. Depending on which type of river we run rafting, we will face risks similarly.

Interviewer: So you do rafting in which rivers?

Shirish: (*Shows a pamphlet*) The number [names] of rivers that we have written here, we do rafting in all of them. We use Trisuli, Bhotte-Koshi, Seti, Kali-Gandaki, Karnali, Marsyandi, Tamur, Upper Seti.

Interviewer: So it is dangerous, right...

Shirish: Yes, there is inherent danger but to prevent from danger we also have safety measures. We run things securely.

Interviewer: Okay.

Shirish: Yes, we use life jacket, helmet. If someone falls [from the raft], if the person doesn't know how to swim, it might be difficult. But there is rescue for people who can swim. (*Points to something in the shop*) We put this rescue equipment outside, it is called a tie. We use this to rescue, pull the people to the boat in case they fall from the raft.

Interviewer: So, do you provide any training before taking the people in the river?

Shirish: We provide briefing, which is a kind of training. How to sit, what to do, what are the important things, where is danger—these are the things that we guide them in. Basic things like sitting in the raft, using the paddle, listening to the commands from the guides. We tell them these helpful things. This is all team work. Like this, we give them briefing. Then we put them in the raft and do rafting.

Interviewer: And how has the adventure sports market grown from before? Are more people doing it now?

Shirish: Now, the number of Nepali people participating in it has increased. Compared to before, a lot of Nepalis are enjoying it now. Ten or fifteen years before now,

there were less Nepali people interested in it. But now, the number has increased. The number of foreigners interested in it has obviously increased. During the popular seasons, we get so many tourists! They might not come to only this company, it might be divided [between different rafting companies]. They might use the services from another company, but rafting is a very popular sport among them. We can even say that Nepal is a famous destination for rafting since we have many rivers.

Interviewer: So can we say that Nepal is one of the world famous destinations for rafting?

Shirish: Yes, we can assume that. Compared to Nepal, there might be only other two to four countries which are rich in rivers like us. There might be many other countries where they do rafting but the difference is that we have many rivers. This means the people have more choices when it comes to deciding where they want to do rafting. Which river to choose? One that takes half a day or one that takes two to four days or one that takes ten days to complete. So we can provide a trip from one day up to ten days. For example, if you want to go Tamur river, it takes us ten days. Actually, it takes us twelve days. Karnali river takes us ten days. The list goes on.

Interviewer: Thank you so much!

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