

# **REPORT ON TAWAL VILLAGE: Income sources, social change and future priorities**

by

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**Tawal village**



**Nghì and Kylie**



**Nghì and Sappa interviewing**



**Meeting with HRDC**



**Ramita and elderly villager**

**Prepared for NAFA, Hilly Region Development Club (HRDC), Tawal and Tawal community members**

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**Special thanks to all those who participated**

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. The primary aim of this report is to provide information to NAFA, HRDC and Tawal community on income sources in Tawal and perspectives on change and development.
2. Information obtained from a survey of 30 households, three meetings with HRDC members, and discussions with the health clinic coordinator and individual teachers.
3. Tawal residents are primarily subsistence farmers. However, no household reported sales of agricultural products or livestock outside the village.
4. Basket making is the primary source of cash income from sales outside the community for approximately 50% of people which provides an estimated \$84 - \$168\* income per year.
5. Income from family members working overseas is variable. Only 4 of 14 households where family members were working overseas had sent money home.
6. Casual labouring and shopkeeping are other sources of income. Casual labouring provides \$1.43 – 3.57 per day, depending on type of work and gender. Individuals with shops could not estimate a net profit. No salaried individuals (such as teachers or health workers) were interviewed.
7. Bartering of agricultural products, animals, kerosene and labour between villagers is very common.
8. A deeper investigation of income sources would be useful to fully understand the economic circumstances of Tawal villagers. This could be achieved in future visits to Tawal by interviewing families with members working overseas to obtain more accurate information about the costs and benefits of this potential source of income and by interviewing shop owners.
9. All community members and HRDC members report significant and valued changes in areas of education, water infrastructure, health and economic opportunity.
10. Examples of valued changes include: school attendance which has increased from 60% 5 years ago to 99% currently; people in the community are now more likely to seek early help from the health clinic; maternal and child health have improved with no perinatal deaths in past 4 – 5 years, compared to one such death every 3-4 months, 5 years ago.
11. HRDC are concerned about negative changes in district environment due to deforestation. This has led to increased danger of landslides for several householders in Tawal. There is a concern about stability of hillside above the health clinic and school.
12. Community members see foreigners (from Australia, Austria and Spain) and Chandra Tamang as main contributors to change.
13. Of the 6 individuals who reported being worried about changes, family members being overseas for work was most mentioned, followed by employment for young people.
14. Most needed improvements identified are a road for better transport of goods to markets and hydro-electricity for personal, educational and business use.
15. Underutilisation of women's skills and lack of employment opportunities for women and further education opportunities for girls is a gender equity issue in Tawal which deserves further exploration. Consider a focus group for women to discuss these issues on next visit to Tawal.

16. Further education and training for school leavers should dovetail individual interest and community needs.
17. Evidence regarding school leaving results needs to be collected.
18. Possibilities for further economic opportunity are being explored by HRDC, particularly in light of the availability of electricity by the end of 2011.
19. Future health priorities include training for health workers in health education and disease prevention and pathology training and use of microscope for Beg, health clinic coordinator.
20. Protection of the environment and protection of the village from landslides is a significant issue which the HRDC will continue to monitor. The HRDC has commenced small scale reforestation.
21. The issue of connection fee affordability needs ongoing monitoring by HRDC.
22. Unity, hard work, volunteer labour, effective partnerships between HRDC and foreign groups are viewed as the primary means of achieving further growth and success.
23. Capacity building should be encouraged through exploration of training opportunities for men and women to learn how to access government /INGO funding (if and where available) for future projects and how to further stimulate sustainable community development in Tawal, particularly prioritising, implementing, monitoring and evaluating associated projects.

**\* \$ sign throughout report refers to Australian dollars, based on \$1 = 70 Nepalese rupees.**

## 1. INTRODUCTION

NAFA has been assisting Tawal and surrounding remote villages with small scale development projects since 1998. In the last five years a conscious effort has been made to take a community development approach to providing this assistance. This means adopting 'a planned effort to produce assets that increase the capacity of residents to improve their quality of life' (Green and Haines, 2007, p. vii. see Appendix one). Community development involves working in partnership with groups and individuals across inter-related areas of health, education, infrastructure and training, and should aim to assist the community to operate more independently over time. However, in Nepal community self sufficiency is constrained by poor local economic conditions, poor national governance, global economic conditions impacting on essential items such as food and fuel prices, conflict, entrenched inequality and the capacity of donors to remain committed to adequately funding projects over time .

Despite these constraints, Tawal is a case study of NAFA's best efforts to implement a community development approach to the small scale delivery of aid. So far, NAFA's monitoring processes show that input from NAFA, working in partnership with Nepaleducaid (Austria) and 'Smile Back to me' (Spain) has produced positive outcomes in health, education and community infrastructure in Tawal. NAFA members continue to learn about the challenges and advantages of community development from its work with the Tawal community.

Construction of a micro-hydro system (20 kw capacity to connect 200-250 households + the school and health clinic) is currently underway at Tawal. During the micro-hydro assessment process in November 2010 involving community consultations, it became apparent that NAFA members had limited anecdotal information about socio-economic conditions in Tawal and that a better understanding of income sources and community members' views on related subjects of change and development would be useful for future working relationships. Having a social work student from University of Queensland (Ms Nghi Vuong) doing her final field placement with NAFA/Joy Foundation Nepal provided the opportunity to undertake a systematic community consultation on these areas. This consultation was conducted in January 2011 through a community survey, and as part of the agenda for planned meetings with the locally-managed NGO Hilly Region Development Club (HRDC), teachers and the health clinic Coordinator . The results are the subject of this report.

## 2. GROUPS CONSULTED

As shown in Table 1 below, areas of discussion covered with the different groups varied. This reflects the different relationships that NAFA members have developed with the different groups. For example, NAFA has not had direct communication with individual community members and therefore the survey sought to inform NAFA about broad perspectives; whereas NAFA members have worked closely with the other groups for several years and the focus now is on progressing specific areas of work being undertaken rather than opening up discussion around overall development and change. Therefore the first two areas of the community survey were discussed with the HRDC committee members, but other areas are specific to each group. Since responses from each group help to provide an overall understanding of important development areas, the information has been integrated for this report.

**Table 1: Groups consulted and areas discussed**

<b>Survey of households</b>	<b>HRDC (three meetings)</b>	<b>Teachers (meetings with individual teachers &amp; FEAT coordinator)</b>	<b>Health worker coordinator (2 meetings)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Income sources</li> <li>• Perceived socio-economic changes</li> <li>• Concerns about changes</li> <li>• Contributors to change</li> <li>• Ideas about needed community improvement</li> <li>• How to achieve community improvement</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Income sources</li> <li>• Perceived socio-economic changes</li> <li>• Progress on education, health and initiatives undertaken</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Changes in school</li> <li>• Activities undertaken to develop quality education</li> <li>• Future training and education needs for students</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Health outcomes</li> <li>• Health clinic priorities</li> <li>• Ideas about how to achieve priorities</li> </ul>

## 2. Survey interview process and HRDC meetings

The purpose of the survey was explained to members of the HRDC at the first NAFA-HRDC meeting of the January 2011 visit to Tawal. Members embraced the idea and gave permission. The survey was conducted by three female English speaking NAFA members assisted by three Nepali translators: one experienced female social science interviewer who speaks fluent Nepali and English and two Nepali men fluent in Nepali, Tamang and English languages.

The sample of 30 householders represent 15 % of the approximately 200 households in Tawal. The sample obtained shows diversity of age, gender, income source and caste (3 of the estimated 20 dalit (lowest caste) households were included). For further details please see Appendix 1.

## 3. DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE OF SURVEY RESPONDENTS

**Table 2: Demographic profile**

Age range	No. in each range	Sex		Marital Status		Av no. in household	Highest level of education in each household
		Female	Male	Married	Single		
15-24	4	2	2	3	1	5	8, 10, 10, 12
25-34	9	5	4	9		6	1, 4, 4, 6, 6, 8, 8, 7, 7
35-44	5	2	3	5		7	6, 8, 9,10,10
45-54	5	4	1	5		5	0, 4, 6, 12, uni
55-64	4	2	2	4		8	5, 10, 12, 1 <sup>st</sup> yr uni
65-74	1		1	1		2	0
75-84	2		2	2		4	0, 6
<b>Total</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>1</b>		

## 4. RESULTS OF SURVEY AND DISCUSSION

### 4.1 Community perspective on income sources

**Table 3: Income Sources: Community perspective**

Source	No. of people	Amount/year \$=Australian dollars	Explanatory notes
Sale of agricultural products	1	8,000- 20,000 Nrs (\$114 - 285) per year (depending on age of animals & which animals sold)	Pigs, goats & one buffalo sale. No household reported sales of agricultural products.
Bamboo baskets	17	5,850- 11,700 Nrs (\$84 - 168)	Based on working 3 months a year, making between 1 – 2 a day & averaging 65 rupees (<\$1 each).
Sale of other goods – shopkeeping	10	7,000 – 546,000 Nrs (\$100-780 gross sales)	6 people reported a gross amount per year but no-one could estimate a net profit. All said they still owe set up loans and that there is no profit in the first year of operation. 4 said they did not record sales, but said they 'don't sell much'.
Casual labour or salary	5  1	1) 250 Nrs/day (\$3.57) – female working in other community 2) Occasional house construction 200-250 Nrs/day (\$2.86 - 3.57) 3) Labour work in another village for 3 months at	5 people reported earning money from casual labour work when available; 1 reported her husband works at school (job not listed).

		<p>100 Nrs/day (\$1.43) for women and 250 Nrs/day (\$3.57) for men</p> <p>4) Works on someone else's land every day for 100 rupees/day (\$1.43) or 200/day (\$2.86) if husband goes.</p> <p>1 person said husband earned 100 Nrs per day/ (\$1.43) working at the school (position not known)</p>	
<p><b>From family members:</b></p> <p>Working outside of Tawal (in Nepal or India)</p> <p>Working outside of Nepal (Malaysia, Qatar, Saudi Arabia)</p>	<p>3</p> <p>11</p>	<p>Don't send money home</p> <p>1) 7 unable to send money.</p> <p>2) 1 sent 60,000 Nrs/(\$857) after 2years (Malaysia).</p> <p>3) 1 sent 15,000 Nrs/(\$214) after 2 years (Malaysia).</p> <p>4) 1 sent 50,000 Nrs/(\$714) after 2 years but still has a loan (Saudi Arabia)</p> <p>5) 1 sent a total of 100,000 Nrs/(\$1,429) after 3 years, an average of \$476 a year (Chitwan &amp; Saudi Arabia)</p>	<p>Key factor influencing capacity to send money home is the amount of loan which ranges from 30,000-200,000 Nrs/(\$430-2,900) to be paid, with interest. In first few years money earned goes towards loan re-payments and living costs.</p>

**Range of comments regarding sale of agricultural products**

***“Just enough for eating – not selling” (Male aged 19).***

***“Used to make raksi but women’s group stopped this” (Female aged 30).***

***“Don’t sell – sometimes buy from other families” (Female, aged 29).***

***“Minimal income not enough to support family – make (baskets) to sell or barter for food and fuel (kerosene)” (Male aged 44).***

***“Have land but too old to farm” (Male aged 57).***

## 4.2 HRDC perspective on income sources

**Table 3: Income sources: HRDC perspective**

Source	No. people	Amount/yr	Comments
Making and selling bamboo baskets	50% of people are making baskets, including young people	Most households would earn approximately 6,500 Nrs (\$92.86) per year.	This activity has become more worthwhile due to the closer access to the main road. Now brokers will come to Chimchook and Darke Phedi to purchase large quantities of Tawal baskets. At most, people can make 100 baskets a year (this includes collecting and preparing bamboo). Major weaving by males and finishing off by women.
Family members working overseas	Approximately 50-60 individuals work overseas	Difficult to estimate. After two years workers may make around 50,000 Nrs (\$714) and then may be able to send some money back to families  Some with more skilled jobs e.g. driving may be able to send 50% back 1 lakh/year (\$1,429).	Individuals work mainly in Malaysia, Qatar and Saudi Arabia in factories, construction, restaurants and cleaning.  The amount of income earned and then sent back to Tawal depends on the amount of loan usually 1 ½ lakh (\$2,143) plus interest, needed to take up the job.  The first two years are spent paying off the loan plus interest accrued.

## 4.3 Discussion

Tawal residents are primarily subsistence farmers. In relation to selling products outside of Tawal, basket selling is the primary source of income for approximately 50% of people, with shop keeping, casual labour work and modest remittances from overseas workers, providing some income for a minority of families. There appears to be no sale of agricultural produce and livestock outside the Tawal community. While several people (10 in this survey) have opened shops, there is no reliable information on net profits as many of these business ventures are quite new and start up loans are still being repaid.

Income from family members working overseas is similarly difficult to calculate, but the consistent view is there are no guarantees of a reliable income for Tawal families from remittances. In fact, individuals may return with debts rather than savings. Those working in other places in Nepal (e.g. Kathmandu) or India do not send regular money home but may send money during festival times e.g. Dashain. The survey information shows that of 14 individuals working overseas or outside Tawal, only 4 were able to send money back to their families in Tawal. The amount sent home ranges from 15,000 Nrs/(\$214) sent after 2 years, to the highest amount reported: 100,000 Nrs/(\$1,429) over a period of 3 years (this is an average of \$476 a year).

The HRDC members view overseas work as risky due to the high cost of loans needed and the potential for labour-force agents to defraud individuals. They try to warn young people about the upfront costs. However many young people in Tawal feel obliged to go overseas to help their families because they have no work in Tawal or have not succeeded at school. Some young people have misconceptions about the amount of money that realistically can be earned overseas.

The survey sample did not include anyone earning a salary (other than one male earning 100 rupees a day at the school as reported by his wife). From NAFA records, at least 18 people earn a salary (15 teachers and 3 health workers) and these incomes range from AUD\$1,338 (part time salary for female health workers) to AUD\$3,300 for a specialist teacher.

The information obtained from the survey and HRDC is very consistent. Apart from community members who are earning a salary from teaching or health work, it appears that the majority of Tawal villagers rely on subsistence farming supplemented by basket making and selling.

## 5. PERSPECTIVES ON COMMUNITY CHANGE

### 5.1 Villagers' perspective

Villagers were asked what changes have taken place in the Tawal community in the last five years and if and how these changes had personally affected them. Twenty-nine of the 30 people said that changes had affected them. The themes in order of most frequently mentioned and types of comments made are as follows:

**Table 4: Community change: community perspective and comments**

Themes and no. of times mentioned	Summary of comments made by participants
Education/school (26)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Previously school only went to class 5 – now up to class 9 so school is closer which means any extra money earned can go towards family and house rather than travel costs to Satobato.</li> <li>• Education for younger children easier: closer and therefore safer</li> <li>• School has expanded providing a better education; there is a toilet at the school, classrooms have been upgraded (cement and blackboard)</li> <li>• Children happy to go to school</li> <li>• Good to have higher education in Tawal as children born in Tawal can go to school in Tawal</li> <li>• Very proud to see education developed in Tawal – before had to go to Satobato after class 5, now school is only a 10 min walk away</li> <li>• Villagers can now be teachers in local village</li> <li>• Parents are encouraging their children to attend school</li> </ul>
Water taps (21)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Before, not enough water for washing, had to wait in queue or walk 30 min each way – now save time for washing</li> <li>• Wasted time before collecting water from a far distance away</li> <li>• Still have to walk for water when sometimes not enough water (eg when someone damages pipe)</li> <li>• Water only enough for home use, not enough to water vegetables as well</li> </ul>
Health clinic (17)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Close by, don't have to walk as far; before when family was sick could not buy medicine because it was so far away, now can easily access clinic</li> <li>• More expensive if had to go to Kathmandu before health service was set up In Tawal</li> <li>• Some people did not have health treatment before but now do – child received diarrhoea medication, wife received 3 contraceptive injections (learnt about family planning)</li> <li>• Happy with service; clinic practical and good</li> <li>• Midwife came to help when wife in labour</li> <li>• Health clinic is close by but would go where the medicine is cheapest even if this meant walking a long way</li> </ul>
Economic expansion (4)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tawal people can now buy things in Tawal rather than go to Dhading</li> <li>• More businesses in community is a positive thing for us – don't need to go far for goods</li> </ul>
Overall community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More mobiles</li> </ul>

improvements (4)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Village is grower larger (a positive thing)</li> <li>• Education improved</li> <li>• Better understanding of community by foreigners as before people did not understand Nepali people</li> <li>• Village is cleaner, learnt importance of hygiene (eg washing hands)</li> </ul>
Toilets in homes (3)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More houses now have toilets</li> </ul>
Hydro-electricity in some homes (2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 16 houses have hydro power and have lights (whereas before used kerosene lamps)</li> </ul>

## 5.2 HRDC perspective on changes in Tawal

**Table 5: Community change: HRDC perspective and comments**

Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• School attendance has increased from 60% 5 years ago to 99% currently.</li> </ul>
Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• People understand the need to seek early help when sick; 10 years ago people sacrificed animals to cure illness – now this practice disappeared and people access clinic.</li> <li>• Maternal and child health much improved with no deaths of mothers or babies in recent memory; 5 – 10 years ago there was 1 childbirth related death every 2 – 3 months.</li> <li>• It would be good for surrounding villages to have their own health posts</li> <li>• People taking up smoking is an issue in Tawal.</li> <li>• Young people appear to drink less than older people.</li> </ul>
Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The sustainability of the community forest used by Tawal and other villages as a source of firewood and building material is a concern. Twenty years ago it was easy to find firewood but now the source is a long way away due to landslides and overuse.</li> </ul>
Religious affiliation (this was raised by NAFA members – HRDC invited to comment)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Christianity is now a major religion in Tawal and is perceived to benefit people in terms of encouraging good habits such as not drinking/smoking and not sacrificing animals. Those Christians with money pay a percentage of their income to the church. The church does not provide or donate to any social projects in the village. Good cooperation is said to exist between the 2 groups.</li> </ul>
Population growth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The population of Tawal is said to be increasing through less deaths and improved live birth rate; although modified somewhat by men working overseas and some families moving away for better work opportunities.</li> </ul>

## 5.3 Discussion based on integration of information from survey, HRDC meetings, teachers, and health workers

The information provided from all sources shows that Tawal people value what is seen to be greatly improved quality of education, health and infrastructure in their community. School attendance is high, the health clinic functions effectively and there are observable broader effects in the community, such as a cleaner environment, better overall hygiene, time saved for women and children in being able to access water and locally based education. The fact that the infant and maternal death rate has been reduced to zero in the last few years is an outstanding health outcome in a country where perinatal conditions is the leading cause of death for all ages (*World Health Organisation Mortality Country Fact Sheet, Nepal 2006*).

Since Tawal school serves 108 children from grades 4 – 9 from nearby villages out of a total population of 357 students (as at Jan 2011), these children and their families are also benefitting from better quality education. Teachers noted that children’s English speaking skills have improved. NAFA members observed that older children were now conducting the morning school parade in English and Nepali. Changes over the past 5 years in Tawal mean that the community is making excellent progress in terms of development criteria related to health and education, as outlined in the UN Millennium Development Goals 2, 4 and 5 which concern achieving universal primary education, reducing child mortality and improving maternal health respectively.

## 6. COMMUNITY PERSPECTIVES ON CONTRIBUTORS TO CHANGE AND CHANGES THAT WORRY PEOPLE

As discussed earlier these questions were asked only in the survey and not of the HRDC.

**Table 6: Community perspective on contributors to change and comments**

6.1 Community perspective on who contributed to these changes	Range of comments made by participants
<p>The following views were provided, in order of frequency mentioned:</p> <p>Foreigners (16)            Chandra (10)            NAFA (5)            HRDC (4)            No idea (3)            Chandra and community (labour) (3)            Government maybe (2)            Namaste club (1)            Not sure (1)</p>	<p>“Foreigners – government doesn’t help”.</p> <p>“White group of people from another country”.</p> <p>“Chandra brought tourists to Tawal and explained problems to tourists”.</p> <p>“NAFA – water, education and health”</p> <p>“Thanks for all the guests who come from far away who help in remote areas and heartily warm Namaste to NAFA and long life”.</p> <p>“HRDC club”.</p> <p>“Mainly from HRDC and supported by community labour and maybe government”.</p> <p>“No idea, but teachers know”.</p>

In relation to being asked if any changes are a worry, 20% (6) said yes; 73% (22) said no; and 7% (2) said maybe later, but not at the moment.

**Table 7: Changes that worry respondents and comments**

6.2 Changes that are a worry	Range of comments made by participants
<p>Comments around general worries (in order of most mentioned):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Worried that husband is out of country and away from family</li> <li>• Bit worried about unemployment for youth</li> <li>• Worried about her children (in general – how to provide them with a better education)</li> <li>• Not enough work available locally so people have to work overseas</li> <li>• Children still young so not worried yet, may worry when they get older and have to move away (general parental worry)</li> <li>• Worried about landslides occurring near school and near their house</li> <li>• Worried that son has debts (borrowed money to work overseas as there was no work opportunities in village [Dalit</li> </ul>	<p>“A bit worried about lack of employment in Tawal and then people have to work overseas”</p> <p>“Not enough work for husband who is in gulf country and how to pay loan”</p> <p>“Worried when man leaves house and family and will be happy when he sends money back. Worried that he (husband) gets sick or dies – then money is nothing – his life is more important”.</p> <p>“Happy with everything in village. Sad missing family overseas but happy they are earning money”.</p> <p>“Worried about children moving away for higher education”.</p> <p>“More happy with changes – happy that micro-hydro is coming to village”.</p>

<p>household]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Two said they could not afford contribution to micro-hydro and worry they will not get electricity</li> </ul>	<p>“Worried about grand-children not living here”.</p>
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### 6. 3 Discussion

Input from foreigners and Chandra Tamang’s vision, commitment and capacity to link the village with foreigners to Tawal are viewed as the main drivers of change. NAFA and the HRDC were specifically recognised by a minority of people. It is not surprising that only 5 villagers specifically referred to NAFA as a foreign donor, given the high illiteracy rate among adults in Tawal and the common difficulty of remembering acronyms. Interestingly no-one included income from overseas workers as a factor in change, although they were asked about this possibility.

Two villagers said that they did not think they would have enough money to afford the electricity connection fee. Nevertheless, in a well attended community meeting with NAFA in Nov 2010 villagers stated that they will themselves manage the costs of electricity connection and the ongoing tariffs. They also stated that they will manage the issue of electricity affordability for lower income families, most likely by arranging for these families to do extra labour. The issue of connection fee affordability needs ongoing monitoring by HRDC.

The possibility of a landslide fits with HRDC concerns about deforestation and management of the community forest mentioned in Table 7 and warrants further exploration.

## 7. COMMUNITY PERSPECTIVE ON IMPROVEMENTS NEEDED TO MAKE LIFE BETTER FOR PEOPLE AND IDEAS ABOUT HOW TO ACHIEVE IMPROVEMENTS

**Table 8: Community perspective: improvements needed and ideas**

Improvements needed to make life better for people	Ideas about how to make these improvements
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Road for transport of goods, better access to markets and increased work opportunities (14).</li> <li>Hydro electricity for personal, educational and business use (people were aware it is being planned) (13)</li> <li>Continued improvements of current infrastructures e.g. water taps, taps in homes, bridges and telephone availability (12)</li> <li>Education including computers/technology, teacher training and retaining local teachers (11)</li> <li>Happy with current facilities/no idea (these views were reflected by older interviewees) (6)</li> <li>Position of women – more training, education, freedom and equality, literacy, knitting and sewing training needed (mentioned by 4 women and 1 man) (5)</li> <li>Better agricultural training, irrigation farming, revegetation of land (5)</li> <li>More training for health workers e.g. cancer and childbirth (2)</li> <li>Renovate Monastery (1)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hard labour/including local volunteers (11)</li> <li>Did not know (9)</li> <li>Unity in community and working together/with HRDC (8)</li> <li>Individuals taking more interest in development of community (5)</li> <li>More active women’s group, use women’s knowledge and strength and women working together (4)</li> <li>Continued support by NAFA (4)</li> <li>Monetary support (2)</li> <li>Involve more young people in community (1)</li> <li>Need someone to assist with better agricultural techniques (1)</li> <li>Train someone in developing community (1 )</li> <li>Find alternatives fuel to wood burning</li> <li>Good that Dalit families are not discriminated against (1)</li> </ul>

### Views regarding the role and position of women

*“Very sad life for women due to no education, no training; men drink alcohol and ladies have to work hard to survive. Ladies need more education and training in sales of products, english and product knowledge” (Female aged 25).*

*“(For) many years women under men and now ladies are participating more in HRDC and women’s groups; (women) are more active than they were 5 years ago; more education and training (at home) for ladies. Support women to get involved and women are equal (to men)” (Male aged 34).*

*“Women are dominated by men. If women can rise in the village, it will help develop the community and women will get more rights. Women’s group is not that active. Need training in sewing, cleaning, computer, social work; (need) freedom and education for women in the village (Female aged 23).*

*“Before 3-4 generations - hard life for women and better life now. Women have more freedom to get education, job, training. Hope my daughter in law will get good education and job and have a better life” (Female aged 41).*

## 8. HRDC PERSPECTIVE ON PROGRESS BEING MADE IN DEVELOPING TAWAL AND STRATEGIES RELATED TO DEVELOPMENT

The HRDC reported on progress they believe they are making on development at Tawal and associated strategies. The issue of women’s involvement in development was raised by NAFA members, based on their observation that no girls had applied for FEAT assistance.

**Table 8: HRDC perspective on development and strategies related to development**

Areas discussed and current issues	Strategies that have been taken to make improvements
<p><b>Education</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Parents need to better understand the importance of self learning especially homework.</li> </ul> <p><b>Further education, training, role of FEAT:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>better education and training of younger people will build skills in the community &amp; enable younger people to participate on the HRDC committee and to help solve community problems. further training priorities should focus on what would be both good for the individual’s life and for the Tawal community. Training in carpentry, better agricultural methods, teaching and product diversity (e.g. bee-keeping and handicraft) would be worthwhile.</li> </ul> <p><b>Health</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Information on social health issues needed. Clinic workers are not trained in this activity and government does not provide information. FM radio is a good source of such information.</li> </ul> <p><b>Women’s education and leadership:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>When asked about the needs of women by</li> </ul>	<p><b>Education</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>HRDC have met with the parents re homework - following that meeting all children passed subsequent exams. Further discussions with parents and students about the importance of education are planned.</li> </ul> <p><b>Economic</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>HRDC have already discussed with the micro-hydro social mobiliser (supplied by the Nepal government) the possibility of new income generation activities such as making products from local bamboo.</li> <li>HRDC have used the sole Agricultural advisor who serves several Village Development Committees regarding agricultural development in Tawal, but were disappointed with this service as he will not be able to return for 1-2 years.</li> </ul> <p><b>Environment</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To combat deforestation the HRDC is planting trees in a nursery and replanting will start in Feb 2011 with small budget</li> </ul>

<p>NAFA, HRDC believe that girls should have training opportunities but are limited by cultural traditions re women's role, for example, beliefs that girls do not want to go far away to study/train and prefer to stay close to family.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There are 3 women on HRDC committee but they do not attend meetings. Later NAFA was advised that these 3 women are in Dhading undertaking tailoring training. HRDC members felt that women needed a job on the committee to encourage their attendance and active participation.</li> </ul>	<p>from VDC and managed by a 9 ward committee.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Planting trees above the HC and school.</li> </ul> <p><b>Overall view</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Unity, hard work, volunteer labour, effective partnerships between HRDC and foreign groups needed for further growth and success.</li> </ul>
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### 7.3 Discussion

The survey shows that the majority of villagers see a better future through improved infrastructure such as access to roads, provision of electricity, access to water, and through continuous improvement in health services and education quality including computer literacy. The need for electricity is a high development priority and the current micro-hydro project is clearly community driven. The Tawal community has indicated they are willing to work hard in a unified manner to have electricity. As a significant contributor to this project, it will be important for NAFA to track the community's management of the project and the resultant changes. The other main development priority of improving road access relies on the Nepal government to provide funding for rural roads; therefore it may be many years before such access takes place.

The position of women in the community and the importance of improving opportunities for women were raised unprompted by a number of villagers. When prompted, the HRDC also felt that women needed more opportunities in all areas of life. These responses show that women's capacity to participate in higher education, income generation, community management and development is underutilised and under supported. The role of women and girls in all these areas needs further investigation and improvement. The importance of the role of women in achieving successful development is reflected in UNMDG 3: Promote gender equality and empower women.

The fact that just under a third of villagers had no idea about how improvements could be achieved indicates that further discussion and brainstorming with villagers around potential change strategies could be useful and that the HRDC needs to stimulate discussion around change and continuity in the village. Those villagers who did offer ideas about achieving desired changes primarily saw that their own hard work and working together as the key ingredients, along with greater involvement of women, ongoing partnerships with groups like NAFA, and financial support.

The HRDC sees the need for ongoing improvement in the major areas of health, education, and the environment and have taken a number of initiatives to address specific issues themselves. NAFA members working closely with the HRDC committee noted that the capacity of HRDC members to identify and solve problems as well as work with outside groups such as NAFA, Nepaleducaid and 'Smile Back to Me Spain' has improved significantly. Over the last five years, closer relationships, trust and mutual understanding have developed to the point where issues can be discussed openly and different viewpoints aired and resolved when necessary. The effective working relationships that exist between NAFA and the HRDC is a significant factor in ensuring that NAFA's ongoing commitment to community development in Tawal and surrounding villages continues to produce positive outcomes.

## APPENDIX ONE

### Definitions and UN Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)

Definition of community development from: Green, G. and Haines, A. (2007) *Asset Building and Community Development*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed, Thousand Oaks, Ca., Sage, p. vii.

AusAID's definition of **development** is: "A comprehensive economic, social, cultural and political process which aims at the constant improvement of the well-being of the entire population and of all individuals on the basis of their active, free and meaningful participation in development and in the fair distribution of the benefits that result from this process".

#### UN MDGs:

- Goal 1: Eradicate extreme hunger and poverty
- Goal 2: Achieve universal primary education
- Goal 3: Promote gender equality and empower women
- Goal 4: Reduce child mortality
- Goal 5: Improve maternal health
- Goal 6: Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases
- Goal 7: Ensure environmental sustainability
- Goal 8: Develop a global partnership for development

#### Development statistics on Nepal:

World Health Organisation Mortality Country Fact Sheet Nepal 2006  
[http://www.who.int/whosis/mort/profiles/mort\\_searo\\_npl\\_nepal.pdf](http://www.who.int/whosis/mort/profiles/mort_searo_npl_nepal.pdf)

#### Community survey interview process and sample

A training session was held with all interviewers and translators to clarify the aims of the survey, the intent of questions, use of prompts (only using prompts if individuals unable to answer/understand question) and avoidance of leading questions. All prospective participants were given information about the purpose of the survey and guaranteed anonymity.

The Nepali translators developed good rapport with participants. The participants appeared to be very comfortable being interviewed and openly shared their views. Initially, some people who saw themselves as uneducated were hesitant to be interviewed, because they and felt that their opinion would not count and suggested the interviewers 'ask the people who have been educated'. However, when reassured that their opinions would be valuable they actively participated. Some older participant similarly expressed the view that they were 'old and did not have any ideas'; yet when encouraged to participate were pleased to offer their views and insights.

The survey sample is partly random in that it was obtained from different areas of the densely populated Tawal householders, later in the afternoon when both female and male householders were expected to be in the home and not working in the fields. One adult person in a selected household was interviewed.

## APPENDIX TWO: Survey form

### EXPLORATION OF TAWAL COMMUNITY INCOME AND FUTURE NEEDS

#### A. Demographics

Interview no:

Sex:

Age:

No in people in household:

Marital status:

Highest educational attainment in household:

Main sources of cash income & approximate rupees per year per household:

- Sale of agriculture
- Sale of baskets
- Sale of other goods
- Salary (eg from teaching; health worker; other)
- Receipt of money from family members working overseas:
  - Outside Tawal in Nepal or India
  - Outside Nepal (eg Middle East/Malaysia) specify country and amount:

#### B. Community changes

- What changes have taken place in the Tawal community in the last five years (prompts: explore education, health, community infrastructure)
  
- Have the changes in the community personally affected you? If yes, in what way?
  
- Who contributed to these changes (prompts: If Tawal people have gone overseas and are sending money back to their families and if this is improving economic situation in Tawal)
  
- Are there any changes that worry you? (prompt: such as young people leaving)
  
- What improvements are needed in this village to make life better for people?
  
- How can the people make these improvements (explore strengths)