

Evaluation of the Tailor Training Project at Tawal

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Tawal village



Women's meeting



Interview with women



Tailor Training



School uniform, baby clothes, traditional Nepali top made by participants

Special thanks to all those who participate
November 2016

1. Background of the Tailor Training Project

Tawal is a small village in the Ri VDC, Dhading district northwest of Kathmandu towards Ganesh Himal. It comprises 250 households. Tawal residents are primarily subsistence farmers. Basket selling is the primary source of income for approximately 50% of people, which provides an estimated \$84 -\$168 income per year.

The Nepal Australia Friendship Association (NAFA) has been assisting Tawal since 1998 with community development projects which are aimed at improving the general well-being of community members. Development projects assist all members of the community, with a particular focus on women, who tend to be essential economic actors. Their growing participation in employment is offering an important contribution to income generation and economic viability.

Request for tailor training arose from meetings, facilitated by Kalpana Kaphle and Deborah Setterlund with women during the November 2015. Participants stated that sewing modern 'ladies and gents' clothing was a potential income source. At present there were 3-5 tailors who largely made traditional clothing. They had more work than they could handle and there was a long back log of orders. The issue of potential over-supply of tailors was also raised in the women's group meeting in Tawal. Both the women in the meeting and members of the HRDC were confident that there was a high demand for clothing and that more tailors were needed to fill this demand, because the market for clothing was wider than Tawal as people from approximately eight smaller villages came to Tawal to buy goods. It was cheaper to buy locally made clothes than the alternative of two days return trip to Dhading Besi, involving transport expenses and approximately 6 hours of walking.

With the aim of assisting local women in learning valuable sewing skills in a group setting, enhancing women's participation in development and creating more self-sustainable community economic development outcomes in Tawal village, the tailor training program has been jointly initiated between Queensford College, Hilly Region Development Club (HRDC) and NAFA in 2016. Queensford College is an educational organization based in Brisbane. It provides financial support for the project. Hilly Region Development Club (HRDC) is a small non-government and locally based development organization in Nepal. It is responsible for the financial support and management of the project. NAFA provides monitoring and evaluation for the project.

It is a 6 month project, which will finish in January, 2016. 20 women trained in the group come from Tawal and other nearby villages. They have been chosen by the HRDC. The selection criteria includes being willing to contribute financially to the project, as well as a reputation within the village for enthusiasm, likelihood of sticking at the training, financial need for earning an income as a tailor etc. Training is held in the monastery at Tawal and is in 2 shifts, with one group of 10 women in the

morning and another group of 10 women in the afternoon.

A master tailor was sourced through the district woman's skill development office which is overseen by the district government. It is proposed that 50% of her salary be paid after 3 months, with the remainder paid at the end of the course. The master tailor has been staying with Kanchha during the training period.

2. The purpose of the evaluation

An evaluation is needed to gain a better understanding of the current state of the tailor training project. NAFA and other stakeholders need to clarify whether the project is implemented as designed in terms of equipping women with essential skills to maintain a sustainable income stream, or whether there are any other advantages or disadvantages, and whether the project requires improvement in the future.

3. Methods

The evaluation involves several stages:

- Initial information was gathered from existing sources. These included minutes taken from a women's meeting during the November 2015, *report on Tawal village: income sources, social change and future priorities, budget proposal re tailor training, business side of tailoring version dated 1 August 2016* and speaking with NAFA president Rod and NAFA research officer Deborah.
- The survey form *Evaluation of the Tailor Training Project at Tawal* was designed and modified in Brisbane and Kathmandu before the visit to Tawal. Evaluation questions are split into three sections – Demographics, Project Evaluation and Future Business Plans.
- Survey interview process:
The purpose of the survey was explained to participants of the tailor training project at the first visit to the training center on November 7, 2016. Participants embraced the idea and gave permission. The survey was conducted from 7 November to 12 November by Minghan, a social work student from University of Queensland and supervised by Deborah. The survey was also assisted by Pratika, a Nepali interpreter who speaks fluent Nepali and English. In total, 20 participants have been interviewed during that process, including 14 one-on-one interviews and 1 group interview with 6 participants.
- A tailoring meeting regarding the business side of the project was facilitated by NAFA president Rod on November 9, 2016. Six issues were raised and discussed in the meeting with all the participants and the master tailor. These issues include marketing issues, transport issues, cost of garments made by tailor, sale

price of garment, stock control and stock records, as well as financial records.

4. Demographic profile of survey participants.

1) Age and Marital Status

Age range	No. in each range	Marital Status	
		Married	Single
15-20	3	3	0
21-25	9	4	5
26-30	8	7	1
Total	20	14	6

2) Educational level

Highest level of education	No. in each range
No school	6
Grade 1 – Grade 5	2
Grade 6 – Grade 10	6
Grade 11 and Grade 12	4
Bachelor	2
Total	20

3) No. in household

No. in household	No. in each range
1-5	12
6-10	8
Total	20

4) Village/Ward

Village	No. in each range	Ward
Tawal	11	8,8,8,1,8,1,8,8,1,1,8
Dhusena	2	6,6
Latab	2	6,6
Tawal Basi	2	1,1
Kutal	3	3,3,2
Total	20	

5) Family members working overseas

Family members working overseas	No.	Relation with participants
Malaysia	5	Husband (3), Sister, Brother
Qatar	2	Brother (2)
Total	7	

6) Participant or family members in agricultural co-op

	No.	Relationship with participant
Participant/family members in agricultural co-op	10	Husband + participant herself (2) , husband(3), participant herself, father (2), husband + father-in-law, father-in-law
No family members in agricultural co-op	10	

5. Current situation

1) Tailor training has three levels. The current 6-month training is on the first level, in which women mainly learn how to sew women's clothes and children's clothes. They have learnt 17 items so far, such as school uniform, women's pants and baby's clothes. Normally it will take 6 months to complete the first level training. Women who pass the first level test can get the certificate and continue to study on the second level which is mainly about learning how to sew men's clothes. Normally it will take 3 months to complete the second level training. Currently, there are 5 women (Yuna, Indira, Rashmi, Suchin, Prebika) who are guaranteed they would like to do the second level training.

2) The proposed budget suggests that each woman should contribute half the cost of a sewing machine (25,000 Nepal Rupees * 50% = 12,500 Nrs = \$ 167). However, through interview, we found this cost has been paid by HRDC rather than individual participant. Instead, each woman paid 1,000 rupees for admission. The admission fees were used to cover the transportation of sewing machines, which cost 14,000 rupees. They also paid 5,000 rupees as a commitment fee. When they finish the 6 month training session, they will get these 5,000 rupees back (The information source is from a woman who is a member of HRDC, we need to double check this information).

3) No women in the project have job currently. The main source of income is sale of agricultural products, baskets and receipt of money from family members. Individual income is difficult to calculate, as all women are living with their family members, the income is calculated per household.

4) Nearly all women stated that it was not difficult in learning tailoring.

5) 14 women rated the master trainer's tailoring skills and teaching skills 'excellent', 6 women rated her skills 'good'. When asked one woman why she rated the master trainer's skills as 'good' rather than 'excellent', she said because she was the only trainer in the project, they did not have the chance to compare her skills to other trainers'.

6) 3 women mentioned that they would like to have a better place to do the training session, because the monastery where the training currently has been conducted is multi-purpose. Sometimes the training is interrupted by other activities.

7) 13 women stated that they wanted to have their own business in the future, 4 women wanted to open a business jointly with other women, 2 women said currently they were not sure if they were capable of having a business or not. 1 woman stated that it would be better if Tawal had a tailoring center where they could get a job as a tailor.

8) 5 women interviewed have already had a sewing machine at home; 7 women said they could buy one themselves and 8 women expressed that they would like to get a loan to buy one.

9) The issue of potential over-supply of tailors was raised in the interview, 11 women in Tawal expressed that there will be a problem if there are too many businesses leading to greater competition for customers in Tawal. However, women from other villages are less worried about the potential competition because there are few tailors in their villages, for example, there are only 2 tailors in Latab, 1 in Kutal, 1 in dhusemi and no tailor in Tawal basi.

10) 20 women in the project expressed their interest in joining a small business training program, they said they knew little about how to run a business; they would like to know more about it.

Limitations

There are a number of limitations of the evaluation:

1) Interpretation: Interpretation at the interview was provided by a Joy Foundation employee Pratika. As Pratika did not understand Tamang language and sometimes women used Tamang language to talk to each other, some of the discussions were not translated in full and some information was probably omitted.

2) Individual interviews: the evaluation was conducted by the student working with NAFA, negative information or criticism of the project may have been held back due to NAFA's position as funders of the project. Due to the language barrier, we are

restricted from developing trusting relationships with participants.

3) Measurement issues: it was difficult to measure some of the factors, such as the individual cash income.

Further evaluation

Some ideas for further evaluation include:

1) Whether the participants of the project are willing and capable of doing the advanced training and running a business after they finish the training.

2) After the training, how to distribute the 10 sewing machines. If a participant do not have a sewing machine, how to assist them to get a loan to buy one.

Recommendations

There are a number of recommendations stemming from the evaluation:

1) Find out who are willing and capable of doing the advanced training and running a business after the training.

2) As the master tailor's contract will end next January and she will not be available to teach the second-level course. Another master tailor should be sourced.

3) Obtain HRDC income and expenditure records regarding the tailor training project.

4) Double check with the master tailor to find out if her salary has been fully paid.

5) Explore the possibility of conducting a small business training program to assist participants to learn more about the business side of tailoring.

6) Find out the cost of the next level training and develop a proposed budget. Sponsors for the next level training project should be sourced.

7) After participants reach basic level, assist them to learn something unique and creative, which will help them become a successful tailor.

8) In the future, explore the possibility of opening a garment factory at Tawal and looking for sewing contractor.

9) Final evaluation should be conducted after the completion of the training to gain a comprehensive picture of the whole project.

Appendix

Appendix 1: *Report on Tawal village: income sources, social change and future priorities*

Appendix 2: Minutes taken from Women's meeting on Wed 25th Nov 2015

Appendix 3: *Budget proposal re tailor training for women in Tawal*

Appendix 4: *Business side of Tailoring_1 August 2016*

Appendix 5: *Survey Form: Evaluation of the Tailor Training Project at Tawal*