

# SKILL *Insight*

*A newsletter compiled by SKILL-Nepal*

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## IMPACT FINANCING IN RURAL AREAS

As the name suggests, Impact Financing means making finance available on the basis of an impact. Helvetas has been budget funding SKILL programme since its inception in 1992. As a result of this support, SKILL has been able to cater to that group of people in rural areas who could not afford and those who lacked access to such kind of training opportunity. This training program has been a turning point in the lives of many graduates. Hundreds of unemployed youth have benefited from this program over the years.

In order to make the program effective and competitive, Helvetas and SKILL-Nepal have agreed upon a new mechanism of funding called Impact Financing, effective from 2005. According to this mechanism, Helvetas will buy services suitable to rural areas from SKILL. The service could range from training packages for rural areas, post training support to the graduates, district assessment to new training package development.

According to this method, Helvetas will pay the agreed amount in installments, depending upon the employment of the trainees. The gestation period assumed for their employment status is six months. At least 75% of the trainees have to be employed and they have to earn minimum of Rs.1000 per month. SKILL carries out employment and income verification of the trainees after two months and then six months upon the completion of such event.

The major objective of skill development training program is to create self employment opportunities for the target group so that they can generate income for their livelihood. This method ensures continuous follow up and monitoring of trainees thus motivating them and linking them to the world of work.



**RAW VILLAGE LEATHER PRODUCTION TRAINING, DOLKHA**

## TRAINING OF TRAINERS (TOT)

Training of trainers (TOT) training was organized by SKILL-Nepal for its trainers from the 5<sup>th</sup> of October to 8<sup>th</sup> of October 2006. The training was imparted by Mr. Rajendra Shrestha with assistance from Tulsi Nemkul. There were a total of ten participants with their expertise ranging from electrical, plumbing, mechanical to occupational trades.

## CHANGING LANE.....

Women in the Nepalese society have started to come out of the cocoon. The shell that enveloped them in the name of tradition and discrimination is gradually being lifted. They have started to step up and take their rightful places in the society. There was a time when profession for a woman was determined by her gender but times are changing. Today, her choice for a career is influenced by her ability, attitudes and interest. Here are some of the graduates of SKILL-Nepal who dared to embrace a profession that is termed as, “not so women friendly” in our society.

Laxmi believed that nothing was impossible as long as a person was committed and hardworking. It is a rare sight to watch a woman being involved in electrical wiring and repair work. However, Laxmi Tui Tui, resident of Golmadhi, Ward 7, Bhaktapur made it a possibility. Ever since she took house wiring training from SKILL-Nepal in 1997, there's been no turning back for her. She has rendered her services in many houses, schools, campus, government offices and restaurants. Besides the contractual work, she has also worked as an assistant instructor in many training events for SKILL. Today, people in her community recognize her as a capable technician and respect her.



Radhika Makaju managed to make people gasp, be it in amazement or disappointment. Many of them tried to talk her out of joining the training event in Advance Electronics (Colour TV repair & Maintenance) but she remained firm in her decision. Almost a year after the training, she now owns Shuvratna Electronics at Adarsha bus stop in Bhaktapur. She struggled a lot to get where she is today because people didn't easily trust a newly trained technician and to top it, a woman but she continued to work hard and never gave up. Today, her shop is doing well and each day is a learning process for her.



These women are an example. They make us realize that occupation is a matter of personal capability and choice. It is not something that is passed on as a legacy or a tradition. Further, their experience tells us that one has to try in order to be triumphant. If we don't stand up and make a choice, others will continue to do so. SKILL-Nepal will continue to encourage women and support them in breaking the unhealthy tradition of gender stereotyping in different profession.

## TRAINING NEED ASSESSMENT

Skill conducted training need assessment in Dang, Rolpa and Salyan in the months of August and September. The assessment culminated with a validation workshop on the 19<sup>th</sup> of September 2006 in Ghorahi, Dang. The major objective of this study was to analyze the prospect of developing skilled manpower based on district scenario. The findings of the assessment include potential and appropriate trade for the district, changes in the traditional occupation of different groups and mobility pattern of seasonal migrants. The trades identified will be incorporated in the training plan for 2007. *Assessment Report Available Upon Request.*

## CASE STUDY

**Name:** Balram Magrati

**Address:** Pokhare VDC, Sindupalchowk

**Training:** Village Leather Production and Village leather bags and goods

Knowledge and skill can turn an object into gold while lack of awareness could turn the same object into dust. Village Leather Processing and thereby goods production training offers much more than an opportunity for self employment. This training contributes equally to the environment and human health. This program ensures utilization of dead animal hide for productive purposes, which otherwise would have decayed and probably been the reason for many types of epidemic.

Balram used to work in the field and sell vegetables for livelihood. Being the only earning member, it was difficult for him to meet his family's daily necessities. Due to his poor economic condition, he wasn't able to educate his five children. However, things were going to get better for him and his family.



For Balram Magrati, resident of Pokhare VDC Sindupalchowk, collection of animal hide was not a new experience. As a member of *sarki* community, people from the so called upper caste called upon him to collect dead animal, *sinu* from their houses. He never expected a carcass to be valuable till the time he participated in a training conducted by SKILL-Nepal. After participating in raw village leather production and thereby leather bag & goods making training, his life changed for the better. He makes around Rs. 45,000 annually from this business. He has also worked as a trainer for SKILL and other organization. With the earning, he has been able to educate all his children and meet his family's daily requirements.

Raw Village Leather is used widely for the production of bags and goods for export. These products are very much in demand in Europe and other countries abroad. He produces the raw material, sews bags & other items as per the order and sells it to the exporter in Thamel and Bhaktapur. The price of his products range from Rs. 150 to 600 depending upon the size and designs. He has the capacity to sew around 3-4 products a day.

Balaram has come a long way: from a small time vegetable vendor to a business man, from an unskilled person to a trainer and most importantly from an unhappy person to a content one.

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