**Field and Interview Note**

Field worker: OC

Interviewees: AD, AS, SG

Note Taker: OC

Note Checked and Edited by: JS

Language of Interview: Nepali/English

Note Transcribed by: OC

Place: 1st floor, Green Tara Nepal, Tudaldevi; Baluwatar

Time: 2:00 -3:00 PM

Date: 9 September 2014

**Major Highlights:**

* Green Tara Nepal works on covering both demand and supply side of mother and child health at the community level.
* Health promoters provide training to shaman, local healers at the communities as a part of health promotion.

OC arrived at the office of Green Tara Nepal, few minutes earlier than 2:00 o’clock. Meeting is scheduled for 2:00 Pm. As OC reached at the office, a female staff asked him to sit in a room at the first floor where another female staff is already there and was working at her laptop. OC was further informed that by the same staff who OC initially met, Amit Dhungel, Adita Sharma and Sabitri Ghimire are having snacks upstairs and they will come down for meeting once they get done with their snacks. Then, she gave OC a glass of water. OC sat on the chair and waited for people to come for meeting.

Amit Dhakal, recently appointed country director of Green Tara Nepal, after Ram Silwal, moved to elsewhere. Adita Sharam and Sabitri Grimiere are researchers at Green Tara Nepal. SG, was also participated in our Nepal inception workshop as well. AD was put in contact with OC by RS, previous country director of Green Tara Nepal, OC spoke with RS initially and came to AD when OC was speaking with RS for second meeting.

Meantime OC introduced himself with the lady who is there in the room and shortly told her his objective of meeting people at Green Tara-Nepal. She told to OC that she has been working at Green Tara as logistic person from its inception by 2007.

As other persons arrived at the room for meeting OC introduced himself with them as well. After introduction, OC explained briefly about the outline of the research project, works covered after inception workshop as SG was participated on the inception workshop from Green Tara Nepal. Meanwhile OC also mentioned that he spoke with the RS who was the country director replaced by AD.

After listening to OC, AD then mentioned that Green Tara Nepal was established in 2007 in Nepal to contribute in the sector of maternal and child health as the founders are very keen to develop better understanding about this (maternal child health) sector in Nepal. He further added that Green Tara Nepal is being technically assisted by two universities Sheffield and Bourn mouth of United Kingdom (UK). Previously university of Aberdeen also used to provide technical assistant to Green Tara Nepal in its research activities.

Green Tara Nepal has been working at the community since its inception. From 2007 to 2012 it has worked in Dakchinkali and Chhaimale VDCs of Kathmandu district. And from 2012 onwards project expanded to two other VDCs of the Nawalparasi. The project is known as ‘Health Promotion Project of Green Tara Nepal.’

As the name of the project suggest, Green Tara Nepal works for the promotion of health, including mother and child health by forming various groups at the communities, such groups are formed by different category of people from the community itself such people include mother groups’ members, mothers’ of infants, pregnant women and male. These groups are further categorized into two broader categories i.e. *primary group,* which consists of all the mothers and another groups called *main groups* that are formed by husbands. The members of the primary groups are keeps changing, as one of the criteria to be member of this group is woman has to be a mother of less than 2 years old child. Once age of the child exceeds then, she will no longer be the member of group, as new mothers get into the group: this process continues.

These groups call monthly meeting at their community, in every meeting health promoters share key message covering maternal and child health such as importance of breast feeding, among participants. The health promoters are the community based staff of Green Tara Nepal hire for Health Promotion Project. Five staff are working as health promoters in 4 project implemented VDCs of Kathmandu and Nawalparasi. These staff have mixed educational backgrounds. Two of them are from auxiliary nursing mid wife (ANM) and rest of the three have studied social sciences up to bachelor level. In addition to their qualification, health promoters, have received trainings on participatory rural appraisal (PRA) and Reflect Approach, initiated by Action Aid; in their initial days of job as health promoters. Latter one was mainly focused on participatory approach and trying to listen to participants’ voices in the given issues.

While talking of participants of these meetings, they are mainly mothers, husbands and mother in-laws. These groups also have provision for ‘award’ to the members of the group. If a person attends meeting three times consecutively then s/he will get hygiene kit as an award which consists of things like nail cutter, tooth paste etc. Its main aim is to develop sense of personal hygiene among individual at the community level. The same person will not be awarded for time and again; however, person keeps on attending meetings regularly more than three times.

In addition to creating, promoting and motivating awareness on health and mother and child health among community people, we also involve in service providing aspect as well. For instance, health promoters help local health post staff in conducting outreach clinic in different wards of the VDCs. AD told further that we are working on both supply and demand sides at the community level.

While raising awareness on health, health promoters provide training (2-3 days) to shaman, local healers at the community. These trainings mainly encourage local healers to refer their clients to the health facilities for further treatment on top of their rituals and healing mechanism suggest and perform to heal the patients.

OC how do you select VDCs for implementation of projects? Could you explain it briefly? AD at the initial stage we conduct need base analysis at the VDC level consulting with stakeholders which includes local people, local health facilities. Then once we develop the tentative picture of the community, we go further discussing with the local NGOs working at the same communities. After collecting two rounds of information from different individuals and institutions we work detail on it for implementation of the projects at the community level. Finally Green Tara Nepal and Green Tara Trust UK make decision on the basis of collected evidences. Then project goes into action at the community. Funding for the project is mostly done by Green Tara Trust UK.

In the part of monitoring and evaluation of the project, we have set monthly field visit to the project sites that is done by ourselves. Sometimes, I, myself make field visits and the other times, our two research officers go for the field visits. When we visit the sites we basically focuses on the indicators that are set for our monthly reporting format. These indicators includes, number of home visits, health promoters has covered in a month, numbers of meeting s/he has done during month and number of outreach clinics s/he has attend along with local health facility staff in the community, etc. will be taken into consideration and work out further according to the results of regular field visit.

To maintain contact with government staff at local level for health promoters is quite obvious as most both of them mostly belong to same community and health promoters are supporting in conducting outreach clinic and mostly importantly are from the same community. On the other hand, at the central level, we invite government officials in our event and regular meeting of the project related stuff, which is held in monthly and quarterly basis. This helps us to coordinate and with them which helps us to carry our events/programmes ahead without overlapping with government.

*Reflection:*

*As all of the three staffs mentioned that, they are recently joined the organization, AD is the newest one among others. He started his work in the organization very recently at the time of this meeting his work duration was less than a month.*

*It sounds from their responses that none of them develops detail understanding neither about organizational system nor do they well immerse with projects that reflect clearly while they present their ideas on many issues of maternal and child health. It meeting was more like informal discussion than interview focusing on collecting information with specific details.*