**Field Visit to Suaahara Project in Myagdi District February 2015**

JS and OC made a quick field visit to western Nepal. Field visit namely covers Kaski district where one regional offices of Suaahra is located and Myagdi district and its two Village Development Committees (VDCs). The primary objective of this field work is to build a comprehensive understanding of Suaahara project as well as *Aama Surakchhya Programme* at different levels at the one hand also get idea how things get done at practical level to accomplish the project or programme on the other hand. Our aim was to observe where possible take part in the everyday activities of the project, by observing and interacting with the staff associated with the project.

Mostly field work was conducted at district and two VDCs. Apart from district and VDCs a short meeting with staff of Suaahra at the regional office at Pokhara was also conducted.

The following section will provide a bit detail information on meetings with people at different levels along with field notes and observatory remarks.

**Meeting at Regional office of Suaahara, Kaski Pokhara**

With appointment in advanced, JS and OC had a short meeting with Mangal Das Duwal, regional representative of Nepal Water for Health (NEWAH) and Nabin Shakya, regional reprehensive of WASH at the regional office of Suaahara at Kaski district, Pokhara.

It was a kind of ice-breaking meeting, both parties provided quick introduction of each other’s projects. Then, role of regional office its coverage were discussed. Currently 10 districts of western region namely,(Mustang, Manang, Prabat, Myagdi, Baglung, Syanja, Nawalpari, Rupendehi, Lamjung and Gorkha) is functional under this regional office and Suaahara project will soon be extended to 4 other districts(Arghakhachin, Palpa, Kapilvastu and Gulmi) of this very region. Once Suaahara project is implemented in these four districts, regional office will look after 14 districts out of 16 districts in the region. Tanahun and Kaski are the two remaining districts in the region for implementing Suaahara project.

Apart from project responsibility, representative from each partner organization attends meetings held at the regional level on particular themes such as on agriculture, nutrition, health and sanitation so as to build the coordination among each other. During interaction, staff not only looked willing and cooperative to talk with us but also seemed curious the research project we are involved in. They were asking question like, how this study will contribute in our country. And, how findings of the research will be disseminated among stakeholders in Nepal? After listening to them JS responded their queries accordingly.

The regional office of the Suaahara project is located at Indrapuri Tole, nearby Pokhara airport. It did not take us long time to get there. Two staff were working on office even on the holiday and they mentioned that they had work pressure as dateline for reporting is approaching. And that is explicitly seen as they are working in the office even on day off. As soon as we (JS and OC) get to the Indrapuri Tole, JS saw the board of Suaahara office at the roof of the house left to road. We talked there and mentioned to a guard at the gate, that we are there to have meeting with Nabin Shyakya (NS), with whom OC talked a couple of times on phone for arranging meeting. The guard asked us to get in to the office, we then get into the office, at the ground floor, and we approached with a receptionist in a similar manner as we did with guard. He, made a call to NS and informed him about our arrival at the office to have meeting with NS. In the meantime, we observed the things are placed in/around the reception, OC immediately saw at the board placed at the wall with the names of Suaahara project. It gives the information who are the core staff in Suaahara project at regional level. Receptionist then asked us to go upstairs to meet with NS. After receptionist informed us we moved to upstairs where NS and his colleague was working on their laptops. They asked us to take seats. After siting comfortable JS begun talk with his introduction and outline of the research project and objective the visit.

Office looks well-set up. Several tables are placed in the room where we had meeting with two staff. They explained to us that each of these tables is for regional representative from partner organizations who are involved in the consortium of Suaahara project. The placement of the tables in the room for each representative more or less reflects the integrated nature of Suaahara project to the some extent. Before we leave the office, NS asked us to make office tour, he explained about who is based at respective rooms.

Both staff were cooperative and willing to talk to us despite their workload. Both of them looked curious to know more about the broader research project as well as Nepal partner Social Science Baha (SSB). They asked us, should they help us in arranging our lodging and food at Pokhara, JS then made clear that we will to such things on our own. They also asked us about the objectives of the research project, how it will contribute in benefiting people? Modes of dissemination of research findings. Again, on top of other things, JS clearly mentioned that, the research project we are involve is not about evaluation of the project but we are interested in sort of process documentation of the project itself.

In respect to SSB, they are curious that what does it actually do? Where does it located in Kathmandu? Apart from its location, JS mentioned that its engagement in social science research along with the library facilities it has been providing in Nepal since its inception. In addition, it hosts lecture series on social science issues by native and foreign scholars in the particular issue. It has archival of audio recordings of such lectures, I also had given one long ago, you could also access it on its archival JS added.

These two staff mentioned that Suaahara has made significant contribution in improving nutritional status and health and hygiene among mother and child. We are going to expand this project in four other districts in this region from March onwards, all the required study and planning have already been done for lunching it.

OC feels that the visible form of Suaahara project at the regional level. Office building near to the main road with the clear board of the Suaahara project on the wall/roof of it.

***15th February 2015***

**Meeting at District Office of Suaahara at Beni, Myagdi**

As soon as JS and OC reached to Beni bazar, district headquarter of Myagdi district from Pokhara, OC made call toTilak Sharma (TS), district coordinator (DC) of Suaahara project to meet him and TS asked to come to meet him at Hotel Yeti. As per the venue given for meeting JS and OC went to meet TS at the hotel, where he usually takes his lunch and dinar. After meeting TS at the hotel we introduced each other and move to office of Suaahara had some conversation with TS. He had working in Nepalgunj, Banke district before moving to Myagdi. While heading towards the Suaahara office, he showed us office of Myagdi Milan, partner non-governmental organization (NGO) of Suaahara project at the district. He also mentioned that, he likes to transfer somewhere in mid-west or far west, possibly he will leave the district soon. Apart from this, he also explained that, monthly meeting of field supervisors (FSs), that last for two days and first day of the meeting takes place in the hotel where all the field supervisors make presentations of their accomplishments of the entire month. This presentation goes one by one and followed by discussion, comments and feedback from participants. Next day meeting takes place at the office of partner NGO, where all the supervisors make plan for coming months, fallout form for required advanced. TS mentioned that it is not always possible to conduct two days meeting at hotel, due to its logistic cost, we conduct one day at hotel and next day at the office of Myagdi Millan.

In the meantime, we reached to the Suaahara office and TS opened office, and asked us to take seats on the chairs put near his tables. After sitting on chairs comfortably, JS shortly mentioned about the outline of the research project and purpose of the visit to Myagdi. After listening to JS, TS explained that on top of the 4 IR of the project Suaahara has given emphasis on cross cutting issues as per pointed out in the project. In addition to this, TS also attends quarterly meeting held in the district development committee (DDC) where he updates about the status of project and make presentation among other stakeholders at the meeting. Likewise, he also added that project also focuses on food demonstration, under this scheme FS’s of Suaahara project who cover two VDCs, prepare various types of food as per the guideline of the project along with Female Community Health Volunteers (FCHVs) at the communities, usually at the home of FCHVs and feed to kids under 1000 days. TS opinioned that, this food demonstration programme has positive impact on the kids at the communities.

Field supervisors are involve in conducting number of programmes at the communities under Suaahara project among them provide reward on the occasion of key life event to the families of 1000 days mother is one.

Under this scheme field supers provide gifts (eggs, buckets, rubbers pots) to 1000 days mothers on some key events such as delivery, naming ceremony, feeding etc. Field supervisors collect money from the office and buy gifts for these occasions either in the district headquarter or in the communities and then distribute among 1000 days mothers at the communities.

Likewise, field supervisors also provide support in monthly meeting of FCHVs. Field supervisors attend meeting, Suaahrara provides snacks for the participants, in some cases VDC provides allowance for FCHVs and Suaahara provides snacks for the participants.

Similarly, field supervisors also facilitate in regularizing the meeting of health facility of management committee (HFoMC) which takes place once in a two months. Also, field supervisors examine whether or not activities of the committee are moving forward according to work plan. In other words, supervisors review the work plan, they attend meeting of the committee as an invitee. On top of this, Suaahara also provide necessary equipment to the health facilities. If there is no curtain at the ANC room in the health facilities, then we will provide such type of things to health facilities at the community level.

We came to know such things from the quarterly meeting held in district health office (DHO) because we meet in-charges of health facilities in the meeting. DPHO is the member sectary of the meeting, and this meeting is held in the district development committee (DDC) meeting hall. Local Development Officer (LDO) informs to information officer to call for the meeting, information officer then invites key stakeholders, journalists, local reporters among others for the meeting. There was no DPHO at the district for quite long time, participants of the meeting asked Suaahara office to keep the registered of meeting, which TS showed us while we talked about that meeting. He further said that, as new DPHO has recently arrived, he will handover this register to him (DPHO) may be in the next meeting.

Local issues on maternal and child feeding practices are aired on radio programme called *bhanchhin aama,* a mother tells; which is produced by equal access. While designing this radio programme local and regional context is given priority, which helps listeners to comprehend programme with regional and local flavor. For instance, in the programme *bhanchhin aama* speaker talks about river bank of *Kalikhola,* a river follows through district headquarter of Myagdi.

To manage all the information that field supervisors collect from the communities under Suaahra project, a person is based at the office of partner NGO who is known as data management and documentation officer, is just below the field coordinator in designation. TS further explained that it takes 3 days to enter entire information in the given system collected by field supervisors from the communities. Sometimes, fluctuation in internet access hinders in the completion of the task smoothly.

All the collected information is put in the excel sheet first then these information is made talley with the online information store system of the project if there is any discrepancies between these two, correction is made before final entry. According to the expertise of the partners at the consortium, narrative report is also prepared on quarterly basis on the given format of the project.

22 field supervisors are working across the Myagdi district each of these supervisor covers two VDCs in the district. Academic qualification is plus two graduates and priority was given to technical background of the candidates as well, such as health assistant (HA), community medical assistant (CMA), auxiliary nursing midwife (ANM) at the time of selection.

TS explained that as part of project he has to coordinate with agricultural service centers and sub-centers at the district and attend meeting at district agricultural development office (DADO) for distribution of seeds to the farmers.

In the meantime time, TS made us office tour, he showed us different rooms where different staff with their particular theme on project work but as it was Saturday, we did not meet those staff at the rooms still we met few other people at the office. One of them was finance assistant from the home town of TS, both of them are the staff of Save the Children. TS, further explained that, DC and finance assistant should from the same partner organization in the district which implement project at the very district.

Although, TS seemed quite reluctant at the beginning, he become open gradually then showed us different newspapers cuttings posted on the wall office about Suaahara’s accomplishments published in different local newspapers, explained political context and scenario, he also mentioned that public of this district are very straightforward and cooperative, which has made us to work easily and smoothly.

With these conversation TS concluded our talk and all of us move together to the office of Myagdi Millan, where monthly meeting of the field supervisors is taking place.

**Observation of Monthly Meeting at Myagdi Milan, partner NGO with Suaahara**

After we had meeting with TS at his office, all of us (JS, TS and OC) came together to observe/attend the monthly meeting of field supervisors which is taking place at the office of partner NGO. As per the information, this one is the second day meeting of the monthly meeting which usually take place at the office of partner NGO.

When we reached to the office TS asked us where should we make our visit first, either to *Thulo manchheharu* indicating executive director and other staff or to visit to the room where meeting of field supervisors taking place to visit to staff of Milan including executive director (ED) first where we had quick introduction and JS then briefly mentioned about outline of the research project along with the purpose field visit to Myagdi.

After quick introduction with staff at Milan we then had left the room by mentioning them that we will spend sometimes at the meeting of field supervisors and interact with them then we moved to the next room where actual meeting of supervisors taking place.

As soon as we entered into the room, TS dragged participants’ attention towards us, Ran Bahadur Saru, field coordinator asked us to take seats on the sofa. We were thinking to take seats on the floor instead. He also asked participants to stop work for a while and go for quick introduction of themselves and ours (JS and OC’s)

As we entered into the room it seemed that participants were working on filling their work sheets. And field coordinator was explain them something on the white board. Our arrival at the office not only dragged participants’ attention toward us but also they looked quite curious perhaps on why are there? What we will tell/explain to them? After we seated on the sofa by slightly removing the white board which was placed on sofa. We then had quick introduction session of each other and followed by and interaction with field supervisors and observation of meeting at the room. Interaction with field supervisors was lasted approximately 10 minutes, we put forwarded a number of queries and field supervisors responded them accordingly. Most of the field supervisors looked interactive.

Some of the things that were discussed during interaction, were key life events, which in certain occasions of the life such delivery, naming, feeding field supervisors provide gifts to 1000 days mothers in the communities. These gifts could be rubber buckets, rubber pots and eggs. Supervisors mentioned that they buy such gifts in the communities, in case these are not available in the communities they then buy in the market at district headquarter and distribute them to the mothers.

In addition to monthly meeting at the district headquarter, supervisors also report on weekly basis about update on their tasks accomplishment, to field coordinator though mobile phones which are provided to them by Suaahara project. This is individual record /data of field supervisor which comes to district through field coordinator which is later compiled by data management and documentation officer. It is argued during interaction that, this weekly reporting system helps in reaching to target achievement set for the entire month. Additionally, this system also contributes as a monitoring mechanism of work accomplishment of the last week.

Apart from this, they also discussed that; cooking *posiolo jaulo,* this event usually takes place at the home of FCHVs. Field supervisors invite all the 1000 days mothers of the community to gather at the FCHV’s place and cook the *posiolo jaulo* and once it is cooked then distributed among children. While cooking *posiolo jaulo,* field supervisors discussed about the recipes for making *posiolo jaulo* as per given in the guideline of the Suaahara project, how many times they have cooked it? Also, mentioned that, some recipes such as carrots are not always available in the community in such cases, they would add another alternative recipe instead. Likewise, field supervisors argued that, although all the mothers of the child participation in food demonstration, they wait to till next event to happen to feed such food to their children. Some mother explicitly mentioned such remarks, field supervisors further mentioned. As it takes quite a lot time to prepare *posiolo jaulo* mothers do not always have time to do so.

Some of the other things discussed during interaction were, how field supervisors usually identify mothers at the community they work in? It is mentioned that they usually go through FCHVs which make them easier to find out. Initially, they inform FCHV at the community about the Suaahara project and their works under it, once field supervisors attend few meetings at first then FCHVs and members from mother groups will inform and invite to field supervisors for the upcoming events happen in the communities.

One of the challenges to the field supervisors for initiating work in the communities is reminded unfamiliar to the community people for initial time of the work. Once they get familiar with the community people and vice versa, then there will not be a problem to move ahead with their given job. Field supervisors are familiar among at least all the mothers, and among health facility staff. It is told in the interaction that only one or two field supervisors out of 22 are working in their own VDC as well. Field supervisors mentioned both benefits and challenges of working in their own VDC. They said that, one does not have to worry about lodging and fooding also do not have to spend time for knowing community people if one gets chance to work in his/her own VDC but on the other hand some time one has to overwork, community people might not obey to field supervisors, as they are relatives, and known community fellow apart from Suaahra staff, and community people might not follow the protocol and sometimes if they are asked to do so, those people will get upset with field supervisors.

Likewise, things like what field supervisors carry while making to field visit, in addition to their field gears, one supervisor mentioned that, they carry field diary given by project, which looks quite thick and weighty and she call it *dui killoko diary* a diary with 2 Kilograms of weight. On which they keep record of all the deeds they do in the community.

In the meantime, field coordinator asked to field supervisors whether they poster with seven key messages and posted around while conducting Suaahara programme at the community, field supervisors responded to him that they always carry the poster and posted around wall while conducting programme of Suaahara, one of the field supervisor showed a picture of the programme with flex she had taken on her mobile during conducting it in the community.

It is also discussed that USAID is strict in terms of reporting of the project progress or update among other donors in the country. Likewise, field supervisors also counsel to 1000 days mothers for importance of nutritious food for child, they inform about different nutritious food with multiple recipes as per the guideline of the Suaahara project. Supervisors feel that counseling has contributed positively on the behaviors of mothers and family members in terms of preparing nutritious food (*posilo* *jaulo*) for their child. Supervisors provide counselling to individuals family members but again individual attitude of individual and family background also matter a lot in actual food habit and eating practices.

This is first meeting at the district level we had attended so far in the process of building understanding about Suaahara project. This meeting was fruitful in terms of providing the lively picture of monthly meeting of field supervisors at the district head quarter. The interaction among field supervisors and field coordinator was not only funny to some extent but very impressive as well. The way FC delivers/explains contents to the field supervisors were very impressive in terms of lucidity of language and its connection with entertaining way.

JS talked about his way explanation with DC, DC further told that he is also impressed with FC ’s way of conducting training session, he like to call it ‘fun with fundamentals’.

This meeting only gave us, how monthly meeting takes place tentatively what they discuss? But also provided opportunity to mull over some of the analytical points further, which I have, mentioned somewhere in the following section.

We left the meeting session for lunch break, one of the reasons that we did not want to make this session longer was, we did not want to disturb field supervisors in their tasks completion, we felt that if we stayed longer in the meeting, then, they would engage in interaction more and pay attention to work less, which we did not want, we want to them to resume their natural work speed as it was.

Field supervisors are not only look interactive but also are engage in their work at the meeting and sound motivate to move ahead with the given tasks.

***With this conversation we concluded our talk at the Milan and took lunch break.***

After lunch break we visited to D/PHO. The purpose of visiting there is to speak with the focal person of the *Aama Surakchya Programme* to develop the idea on how the programme is functioning in the district and communities within the district but we were not able to meet and speak with her. As per the information from the staff at DPHO she was in the field for the moment. Although we did not meet focal person, evidence we observed showed that *Aama Surakchya Programme* is visibly exist in the district. Names of mothers who received incentive are posted in the wall, name and number of focal person was given by another staff D/PHO.

When JS and OC reached to the DPHO, district public health officer was not at the office was the focal person of *Aama Surakchya Programme*. We got the cell number of focal person from a staff at DPHO. In the meantime JS showed OC some of documents posted in the wall, which contains the information on delivery incentive, name of the mothers who received incentive from the district health office as they have institutional delivery.

We came to know/see that *Aama Surakchya Programme* is functional and visibly exist in the district in the form of office, staff, whom we did not meet though and some information posted in the wall (actually pillar in front of DPHO’s office room, see pictures taken by JS) of the office.

**Visit to Suaahara office at Beni Bazar, Myagdi**

After lunch, JS and OC visited to Suaahara office at district while we (JS and OC) reached to office TS and Prakash Regmi (PR), data management and document officer were working on laptops. When we get into the office they asked us to sit on the chairs, also they mentioned that as the reporting time is approaching they are busy on working on managing data even in holiday. Then PR mentioned us about the types of reporting in the project. He further explained that, field supervisors report on weekly basis to field coordinator through mobile phones. Once these data comes to PR from field coordinator, PR reports to TS, district coordinator of Suaahara on fortnightly basis. Likewise, PR also reports TS on monthly basis which is prepared on the basis of the tasks completion of field supervisors at the communities submitted by field supervisors to PR. While submitting this monthly report, field supervisors have to submit within the given dateline otherwise, system will be locked and information will not be forwarded smoothly. In case field supervisors are unable to submit in the given dateline, district coordinator has to unlock the system so as to forward the information.

On top of fortnightly and monthly reporting PR also reports to TS on quarterly and semi-annual basis. It is also discussed that in terms of data storage, reporting system of the Suaahara project is good also this reporting system helps in showing/knowing report of certain period of the project. This storage of the information could also be used in writing narrative cases which is prepared in quarterly basis.

In the meantime TS brought tea for us while having tea PR showed information system to JS and explained them accordingly. This system is called online programme management information system (OPMIS).

After this quick visit to Suaahara office we returned to office at Milan.

**Visit at Milan, Observing the Meeting of Field Supervisors**

When we visited to Milan to observe meeting, field supervisors were in snack break. After a while all of them were arrived and get back to their work. Field coordinator explained them about the upcoming events that field supervisors are going to accomplish in the coming month at the communities such as food demonstration, attending meetings of mother groups and allocated budget for respective events along with advanced for the coming month.

In the meantime, participants were lively interacting with field coordinator on the issues such as accomplishment of their tasks in the previous month. One or two field supervisors showed the pictures of their field visits and tasks completion to the field coordinator. While showing pictures to coordinator, they said that you could see these pictures as evidence, *pramana.* of whether we made our field visit or not. During interaction, field coordinator was asking to field supervisors that, do they carry the poster of 7 key messages and post that on the wall around so that participants could see/read it. Supervisors responded to field coordinator that they do carry that poster and post somewhere during programmes but two of the field supervisors showed the pictures of their field visits which they took on their mobile.

Similarly, some of the other issues participants discussed during meeting were, they themselves are just able to realize the positive aspect of nutritious food, after involving in the project for quite a bit along time. This realization now helps in changing the behaviors of the participants (field supervisors). Participants also talked that geographical constraint is one among others for institutional delivery, one of the participants also shared that a new born was died on the way to district hospital just a day ago. She sounded like, a mother gave birth to a baby on the way.

One of the field supervisors mentioned that during her delivery, her husband brought her to the district hospital but did not trust to staff who are in duty for the moment rather he requested another staff who runs a pharmacy nearby hospital also familiar one to him so she was presented during her delivery at the district hospital although she was technically on leave at the time, she attended delivery as husband requested her to do so.

Women visit to the birthing centers at the communities for institutional delivery and women who are well-up (*khandani*) visit to the district hospital a couple of prior to their delivery. And, these days home delivery also accompanied by skill birth attendance (SBA) in the communities.

Field supervisors also examine the concentration of iodine in the salt that was discussed as field coordinator showed a small bottles with instrument to check out the concentration of iodine on salt. These bottles are field supervisors are given an instrument and taught how to examine the concentration of iodine in the salt people are using at the communities. Concentration of iodine is in three different levels.

Apart from these, recipes for preparing *posilo jaulo*, nutritious food for child were discussed while discussing in this regard, few field supervisors shared their experience that, some 1000 days mothers do not adopt the recipes and methods for preparing nutritious food for their child, although they feed *jaulo* to their child but that is not prepared according to the protocol of the Suhaahara project. Supervisors further mentioned that as mothers are busy on their household chores, they do not have not time to make *posilo jaulo* as taught under Suaahara project.

Moreover, field supervisors told that Female Community Health Volunteers (FCHVs) as the frontline health workers are overloaded with the works, and less or no incentive to justify their workload, any programme related to health want to go through FCHVs in the community, all programmes mobilize FCHVs but they are not paid. They provided an example of the incentive that FCHVs receive for making home visits to neonatal under Community Based New born Care Package (CBNCP) is now stopped was also discussed as a reference.

All the supervisors are engaged in preparing the plan for whole month. Listening to and interacting actively with field coordinator. It looked that they are reporting firmly and confidently about their accomplishments as well as encounter challenges. Interaction session was free and frank, during interaction, incentive for resource person for training was also discussed, should it be as per the government rule? Or on the hourly basis or on the daily basis?

**Some of the Analytical Points**

After day long field work at the district some of the points that emerged in my mind which needs to discuss/explore further are as follows:

* Understanding and conceptualizing of the term ‘coordination’ at different levels such as central, regional, district and local at the one hand and between government organizations and I/NGOs on the other hand. What actually coordination is? How practically it has been done? What sort jobs are actually/practically perform for the coordination at multiple levels as among various organizations? Why it is important?
* Coordination among partners within the consortium of Suaahara project. How coordination within consortium is similar and different with the coordination discuss in the earlier point.
* Ethnographic study of online programme as well as offline management health information system (OPMHIS) of the Suaahara project.
* Evidence collection and its accountability in the project.

***16th February 2015***

**Meeting with In-charge at Rakhu Piple Health Post**

JS and OC reached to Rakhu Piple health post after 10 am in the morning to meet health post in charge but he was not arrived yet to the office although, appointment was already taken with him. As this in-charge has been working in this health post from long ago about 15 years from now, OC was familiar with him, OC spoke with in-charge a couple of times in phone to arrange this meeting.

There was an office assistant we greeted to him and he asked us to sit on the bench put on the ground. When we are waiting for in-charge, JS shortly spoke with office assistant, he (peon) mentioned that it has been very long time from I began my job. He also further mentioned that, he provide basic services to patients in the health post such as dressing the wounds, giving simple medicines like citamol. He also made us visit to the birthing room, he further explained that, a delivery mother stay about three to hours in the health post after her delivery.

After while in-charge came to the office with his new colleague who is transferred from the neighboring village to the Rakhu Piple health post and that was his first day in the Rakhu Piple health post. We introduced each other quickly and in charge went to his office room and begin to examine the patients. JS and OC were sitting outside on the bench and in the meantime in- charge asked us to come inside for talk we then went to his room and begin to talk with him.

JS initiated talk by briefing about the quick outline of the project and purpose of the visit. After listening to JS in charge replied that, district health office (DHO) has to give official permission for providing any information to the individual and organization he also asked do we have any documents of such kind? Have we met DHO before visiting to him? In the meantime OC gave him NHRC approval along with project one pager introduction of project to in charge. In-charge further mentioned that he could not provide an official information, one has to get official letter form DHO for such information, but could share his experience with us. He look reluctant at the beginning, as conversation moved ahead he was open and explained nicely to us.

Then conversation moved ahead, from the last 3 years birthing center at the Rakhu Piple health post has been functional. In the first year of the establishment 20 women had visit visited to this health facility for institutional delivery. Likewise, number was increased as high as 24 in the second year. This year 21 women have already benefited from the service so far. He also mentioned that only one new born was died during delivery who was actually died on the way to health post, no child has died in this health institution so far. A child was died in last Asar (June/July). No such complications have appeared so far. If any complications are appeared during delivery then we refer to district hospital at the headquarter, in case is not handled in the district then case will be forwarded to Pokhara i.e. regional level.

While talking about family planning, IUCD is common in the communities. As per the record number of IUCD user is 28 here as the number of Implant user is 4 in the entire VDC.

*Aama surakchya programme* is very good one. It used to be a project initially as policy was formed and implemented for the safety of mother and child, this programme has proved itself as effective one.

Identification of delivery and motivation for ANC visits are channeled through FCHVs in the communities. In comparison to the past, ANC visits have increased these days, still some mothers do not make first ANC visit as per the protocol given by the *Aama surakchya programme* so we keep the separate record of the mothers who make first visit and those who make first visit in actual month as per the protocol.

In charge further argued that this incentive system not only has contributed pregnant to bring in the health system for the service but also has supported mostly to the people from marginalized group to have something at their hand. If woman visit to health facility for institutional delivery, on top of safe delivery she will get incentive plus warm bag, *nyaano jhola*, which is helpful to the great extent for those who are coming from financially poor condition, in charge added.

After delivery mother stay about 4 hours at the hospital but again length of stay in the health facility depends on the condition of delivery mother. We manage fire for delivery mother to keep mother and child warm. Just in case, woman is delivered a child on the way to health facility, we are being called for post-delivery care which could be helpful in preventing post-partum hemorrhage (PPH).

Mostly no single pregnant woman in the community is missed out for receiving services for mother and child health because she will be informed in one or another way about the available services at the health facility during period. As gestation period is as long as nine month so during this period she will be got into the system one or the other way.

As far the relation of health post with Suaahara project is concerned, Suaahara mostly work on creating public awareness on maternal child health and nutrition. It encourage women to follow ANC compliance also consumption of Iron and nutritious food during pregnancy which helps in preventing premature birth.

I suggest Suaahara to send their monthly plan within the first week of the month at the health post which could be helpful in lunching programmes at the community parallely otherwise there will be conflict in schedule, in charge added.

In addition to that, there is nutrition committee at the VDC level and in charge is the member of this committee among others. Meeting of this committee is held at the VDC office.

To provide delivery incentive to the mother in time health post has borrowed Rs. 10000 from HFoMC and distribute incentive to the delivery mothers. Once health facility received amount then it returns the borrowed amount to HFoMC. In charge further explained that, we have difficulty in distributing delivery incentive during first quarter of the year as there is delay in releasing the annual budget of the country.

Most of the husbands are working aboard as migrant labor from this community and they usually return homes in festival seasons and spend time with their families so institutional delivery increases in particular time compare it to rest of the year. In such situation we hire a skill person for providing services to delivery mothers. We hired a staff nurse from the community who was in Dashain vacation as number of institutional delivery was increased and available staff were not adequate for providing services. We paid her Rs. 500 instead of Rs. 255 per delivery. ANM inform that number of safe abortion of the year is higher than the number of institutional delivery in the same period of time. She further explained that, there were 26 cases of safe abortion during last year and institutional delivery was 24 during the same period. She argues that if women did not take service on safe abortion the number of institutional delivery will surely be increased.

We travelled with two field supervisors from the Beni bazar to Rakhu-Piple, together OC while travelling on the jeep, these field supervisors were talking about their work experiences and challenges but OC was not able to grasp that conversation smoothly as there was louder music on the jeep. When we get to Rakhu-Piple, he offered lunch to these two field supervisors at his home they did not go for it rather they went to one of the field supervisors’ room located few minutes of walking distance from OC’s place they joined us after their lunch.

Both field supervisors look active and willing to work at the community. One field supervisor who works for Rakhu Bhagawati, and Bega looks more typical in terms of the candidate that project was looking for while making vacancy announcement for the post of field supervisors to work at Suaahara project.

The other field supervisor mentioned that, while advertising for the post, they talked that academic qualification equivalent to plus two and preference will be given to those who have medical/technical background as well. The former one is plus two graduate with community medical assistant (CMA) background.

The later candidate has bachelor degree with major in health and physical education, as she return to job after quite a long maternity leave she did not feel quite updated with her job and to cope with her recent situation, especially to work with recently born baby she has hired a room at the community, which is one of her working VDC and now she is being helped by her mother in law for caring her child. Her husband.

**Visit at Bhagawati Sub health Post**

Unlike Rakhu Piple health post, Bhagawati sub health post was extremely busy patients are keep visiting even after 2:00 o’clock in the afternoon. Usually health/sub posts close their services after 2:00 o’clock in the afternoon.

ANM was alone handling all the patients follow, it was informed that in charge of this sub health post has to district health office (DHO) to attend meeting. Number of patients registered are as many as 19. In addition to this, she examined few other patients as well. Among all the patients 3 women were there for receiving service for safe abortion.

As ANM was busy on her work OC was not able to speak with her despite several attempts to speak with her. In quick talk regarding *Aama surakchya programme* she mentioned that they are having problem in providing delivery incentive to the delivery mothers. ANM further told that she wish all the delivery mothers are able to receive delivery incentive at the time of their discharge. Due to delay in budget release, not all the mothers get delivery incentive at the time of discharge in such cases, we distribute our personal money and get reimbursed latter and sometimes we borrow money from our colleague and give to the delivery mothers such practice does not last longer.

As our planned to visit Bega, another visit VDC we planned to go was cancelled due to absence of health post in charge and ANM were not at the health facility rather in charge was visiting to district head quarter to attend meeting at DHO and ANM was conducting vaccination in the community. We planned to speak with FCHV at Bhagawati, and requested field supervisor to facilitate for it, field supervisor got an appointment to speak with FCHV through phone and we went talk with her.

When we reached to FCHV’s home to speak with her she was working near courtyard, actually making balls out of cooked *amala,* phyllanthus embolica and a woman (looks her neighbor)was sitting to near her.

After exchanging of greetings among each other, OC explained to FCHV very briefly about the research project and the purpose of visit to her by that time we are taken seats on mattress and tool respectively, then JS initiated talk by some queries like how long has she been working as a FCHV at her ward? She has been working from the beginning that means, after 1990 as a FCHV at her ward.

In the query about Suaahara project, she mentioned that, this project has been making good influence among 1000 days mothers and nutrition of their children, she further stated that women participate in the food demonstration, nonetheless, women used to cook *jaulo* in the past to feed their child but that was not in a manner as Suaahara has been teaching them to do.

While talking about institutional delivery, she mentioned that pregnant women visit to the health facility for delivery at the health facility, these days women are informed about the incentive they are provided for their timely checkups for ANC and delivery at the health facility. She inform and encourage to pregnant women at the community for iron tablets, ANC visits, and institutional delivery. In many cases, she accompanied to pregnant women to go to health facility for delivery and as there is no canteen facility at the health facility several times, FCHV provides some hot soup/water to the delivery women as she lives nearby health facility. She further told that as she like to help to women and lives nearby health facility does not mind in helping to delivery mothers.

FCHV looks very active and enthusiastic she is also informed about the Suhaahara project and *Aama Surakchya Programme*. To make conversation more natural and do not halt her work of making balls from *amala,* phyllanthus embolica OC supported her by making those balls during conversation.

Once we concluded talk with her we then visited to Bhagawati Sub-Health Post again where saw.

* Patients are keep on coming and ANM was busy on examining them.
* Poster of available of safe abortion service at health facility in Rs. 500.

**Meeting with Kabita Khadka, Field Supervisor, Rakhu Piple VDC**

Kabita Khadka has just rejoined the job after three months long maternity leave. Suaahara has provide two months paid leave for delivery mother. As Kabita’s child was sick she was on leave for one more month without salary.

To continue her job she has rented a room at the community and live with her child and in law. Kabita was studying in bachelor third year with major in health and physical education (HP) when applied for the post of field supervisor at Suaahara project she also mentioned that at that she did not even know about the nature of job.

After written test, 34 candidates were selected for the interview she added. Before moving to Rakhu Piple and Dagnam, I was working in Rakhu Bhagawati and Bega. She further mentioned that as her education is in health and physical education knowledge that she gain from the text was helpful in performance of the job in the community and her job at the community helped her in test at the college as she is engaged in related field.

She further explained that while working in the communities she had faced quite a bit difficulty in terms of walking difficulty while moving from one community to another one to conduct programmes but over the time, things have been turned into quite normal. We work in the community as social mobilizer rather than a field supervisor.

Although, Suaahara project has very important objectives it takes time to implement the ideas of the project in to practice at the communities for the better health of the mother and child. She added, teaching how to prepare *posilo jaulo* nutritious food for child once is not enough. Some of the elderly women at the community claim that they know how to prepare *posilo jaulo* to the some extent? And, that is how they reared and cared their children at their time and that worked quite well to them.

Despite of their claim, we teach them how to prepare *posilo jaulo*? We then convince them to put some other things such as green leafy vegetables in the *jaulo* and then other grains and nutritious items in it then it will turn into *posilo jaulo*. Women make *jaulo* to feed their child but they do not put mixed as many items as it required to be nutritious one.

It is not easy at initial stage of the job to work at the different/new communities because no one will be familiar there, things will turn a bit easier once community people getting to familiar with field supervisor and vice versa. Field supervisor identify the 1000 days mothers with the help of female community health volunteers (FCHVs). At the beginning field supervisor visits to FCHVs and make inquiry about 1000 days mothers ward wise. After identification of the 1000 days mothers, field supervisor attends monthly meeting of FCHVs where, field supervisor introduce the project and briefly mention about the outline of the project and activities under it in the communities.

Apart from this one of the key activities, field supervisor regularly do is home visit of the 1000 days mothers at the communities. In this visit, they talk and collect information on wide range of issues such as nutrition, health, food and sanitation. To fill up these information there is programme in the field supervisor’s mobile phone provided by the project. Field supervisor further added that, it takes an hour and half to complete this form.

While doing home visits besides form fill up, we also do the monitoring and evaluation of the project in terms observing things at and around homes, we also provide counseling on nutritious food, health and hygiene. For instance, we may go toilet and then we will have idea on whether it is dirty or cleanness has been maintained. We also provide counselling to the family members so could observe the support from rest of the family members to the mothers or not.

Sometimes we have to gone through quite complex situation when we counsel to 1000 mothers on food habits and available food items in the home in front of their other family members especially, in front of mother in laws. In such situation we should counsel or talk in a bit tricky way.

We also provide counseling on behavior change communication (BCC). We had received 6 days training on BCC at the *Pokhere Bagar* a place at Myagdi. Trainers for this training was from central level. On top of BCC, we were also taught about ENA/EHA and M&E, how to use mobile phones for collecting information.

We receive adequate support from field coordinator, he not only provides support to us but also understands the difficulties field supervisors gone through. In case we become sick we inform him accordingly.

Facilities and remuneration have been increased these days than that of the initial years, which I think quite justifiable as per the job given to us. Apart from this we also get monthly allowance for meeting held at the district head quarter, we also get allowance for training.

***17th February 2015***

Before visiting to health post at Rakhu-Piple we shortly had meeting with a FVCH, from ward number 2 and with former chairperson of VDC. During interaction with FCHV that she has been working in the community as FCHV for very long, she has worked from very beginning. She further mentioned that, there has been a lot of improvements in the maternal and child heath in the community. Pregnant women these days receive travel allowance and allowance of ANC visits. Altogether, a pregnant woman gets RS, 1400 if she has made timely ANC visits as per protocol of *Aama Surakchya Programme* and has gone for institutional delivery. She further told that, amount makes better sense to those who are financially very weak. In the past, women have to visit to Beni Bazar, for the services and if any complications was arises then they had to visit even to Pokhara for the service. From the last three years, this health post has provided delivery services as well.

Pregnant women visit to health post for receiving services needed for them and their child as well. In terms of Suaahara project, she told that, it has done a positive impact on the nutrition of child in the community. Food demonstration, one event under Suaahara project that takes place at her home, women participate in the event, we had prepared *polsilo jaulo* last month and distributed to the children of 1000 days.

During interaction, she mentioned that as most of the health programmes are facilitated through FCHVs at the community they are now overloaded with the works, but no regular payment has made to them. As we have been doing such works from now we do them even we do not have incentive or any salary.

When I began to work as FCHV at the initial years, people told me that one does not have to be well educated to be a FCHV, primary education is enough for it but these days as we have to works a lot with several medicines, sometimes it is difficult for us to read out the names of medicines properly that we have to administer at the community.

We have overloaded with works without any payments, today also there is immunization programme at health post, I will go and help in conducting programme, nonetheless, there will not be any payment for my work.

We concluded talk with FCHV and moved ahead to meet the former chairperson of VDC at few minutes of walking distance from FCHV’s place. When we met the former VDC head, OC introduced JS with former head and he asked us to take seats on the bench placed at the courtyard.

JS initiated talk by briefly mentioning about research project and purpose our visit at Myagdi, Rakhu-Piple after listening to JS former head of VDC also asked the JS’s home at Nepal, job as JS mentioned his home town, then former VDC head mentioned about the health facility available at his place (palpa)and so forth.

When former VDC head talked about Suaahara project, he told that it has made a positive impact on the health and nutrition of maternal and child health at the community. He also added that pregnant women visit health post for pregnancy checkups and delivery at health facility. Apart from that, he also mentioned that, he was also participated in one health programme at *Chimkhola VDC,* one of the 41 VDCs of Myagdi district, as his political party asked him to participate in the event.

He mentioned that one of the challenging situation in this community is, in some cases, women also consume alcohol as their husbands do and the do not properly take care of their children those cases, either children are taken care by elderly children or they are facing a lot of troubles. Over all, Suhaahara project has making positive impact on community people, especially on maternal and child health.

We left his place with this short conversation with him.

As per the plan JS and OC went to Rakhu Piple health post to observe the immunization programme which was informed to them by health staff in previous visit to health post made just a day ago. Health post was remained closed until 10:30 or so. It could be so because that was the public holiday. When FCHV of ward no 2 and ANM of the health post came to the health post they also made a similar comments, health post is remained closed till now (later than usual office time) as the today is the public holiday.

After 10:00 o’clock we have seen gradually child and mother begun to arrive at the health post, gradually number of visitors increased and until end of the programme approximately 35 mothers came health post for immunizing their children. Among them a child was brought by its grandmother and two of the mothers were accompanied by their husbands a child was accompanied by his maternal uncle along with the mother of the child to the health post, rest of others were visiting alone. Apart from the mother and child few young women were visiting to the health post for ANC visit.

Prior to this visit at health post, we had a short meeting with FCHV of ward number 2. During conversation with her she mentioned that as she has not paid for immunization programme, it is not mandatory for her to present/participate in the programme but as it a health programme she will participate and help in the programme. JS was quite curious to know what sort of help FCHV provide in the immunization programme at health post which JS mentioned to OC on the way back to health post.

In addition to other activities OC was also observing what sort of help FCHV was providing in the programme. FCHV was calling out the name of child for vaccination, handling the child of ANM during the programme so that she could vaccinate children smoothly. Apart from this FCHV also inform mothers for attending immunization programme who are yet to get into the health post. Likewise, she also ask mothers to pay attention on the programme conducted by field supervisor of Suaahara project on nutrition. As programme was not seen effective, FCHV also suggested field supervisor to conduct such programme among mothers prior to the vaccinating their children. She further told that, after vaccinating children cry and their mother could not pay attention to the programme rather their all attention is gone to their child’s cry.

About the end of the immunization programme field supervisor was asking mothers to participate in the Suaahara programme and she hang a poster of the programme with 7 messages on one the windows of the health post but it was really difficult for her to hang that poster at that particular window.

Field supervisor was trying to conduct programme and deliver the message among the 1000 days mothers on nutrition and health but she was not able to drag the attention of all the participants towards the programme but she was not able to do so. One the explicit reasons that mothers did not pay attention to talk of the Suaahara programme was, their children were crying after vaccinating them.

When programme was over in the afternoon JS and OC moved to Beni bazar. After a quick meeting at Beni bazar, basically talk was focused some reflection of the field at the community and followed by what are the things that OC will cover in 2 days in the district then we saw JS writing on project which he said based on field notes that OC prepared and the literature JS has gone through so far.

***18th February 2015***

When OC reached to the office of Milan, field supervisors were working on the rooms. It seemed to OC that they were arranging all the information they collected and filing the documents they have prepared.

In the meantime, one of the field supervisors was having problem in her mobile phone she mentioned to data management and documentation officer that her mobile does not work properly while sending weekly report from the community. As data management and documentation officer helped her out in fixing the problem of her mobile and he inform her, mobile works form now onwards.   
During their work at the office some supervisors visit to the account section for the advance to move to field and conduct programmes at the communities as per the plan.

On the other hand, field coordinator was working on his laptop and he informed to OC that he (field coordinator) has been preparing a form to keep record of the *posilo jaulo*. He also asked OC to help him to make it final especially on what sort of questions should be asked to mothers. In this regards, OC had facilitated him in formulating of the potential questions that could generate answers on preparing nutritious foods under the Suaahara project. Field coordinator often mentioned that, they are working on preparing nutritious food from the beginning but they have not kept the records of such things so this form will help us to keep the record of the things that we are doing at the communities and I am sure, regional/central will ask the information on such stuff sooner or later although they have not asked for such information yet, he added.

Before finalizing this form, field coordinator asked some of the field supervisors to go through it whether or not they understand the form and can they gather the information on the questions that are put in the form?

Field supervisors who gone through that form responded they the form is understandable and they could bring information with reference to form. Field supervisors suggested field coordinator in the putting the number of rows in the attendance page as supervisors meet participants in the communities during programmes.

While discussing about the form field coordinator mentioned that this form is not the one that is given by our office system rather it is the one we have developed on our own basically to meet two folds purpose (a) to keep record to know about what we are doing (b) provide information to regional/central when they ask for it.

When form is finalized the two of the field supervisors leave to *Sangam Pot Store* which is under the quotation of Suaahara project, all field supervisors buy necessary pots that are given to 1000 days mothers in the key life events. OC went together with them to that pot store, these two field supervisors bought some pots for giving them in the communities at the key life events. After buying those pots (rubber pots) one of the field supervisors put all the pots in the sack and asked rickshaw puller to transport upto bus station from where she gets bus for her village. The other one kept those pots at the store by saying that she will get them letter when will return from office and bring her room and along then she will bring those pots with her when she will move to field.

She and OC came to the office of Milan again and she worked on field map and OC spent time with field coordinator. By then, all other field supervisors were not at the office, however most of the field supervisors were working at the office till afternoon.

After 4:00 in the afternoon field supervisor, field coordinator and OC leave office for *Khaja* at Hotel Yeti. While having *Khaja* field coordinator not only working at his iPad but also was receiving few calls from field supervisors and they were talking about the ideal family selection.

Apart from this, staff also talk on several issues such as staff share their experiences of the field from different communities, the crazy trails they have gone through while visiting various communities, possibilities of extension of the project or not, when each other people first met.

During conversation, while talking about his work experience field coordinator mentioned that these days I feel like whatever I do as a part of my job, does not make a lot differences in the community, although the degree of energy and enthusiasm was different when I first started my job in non-governmental organization (NGO) sector. He sounded like, he could done many things that contributed to bring positive changes and progress in many aspects of society. He also suggested to field supervisor that do your job nicely without worrying on other aspect.

In the different context, field supervisor mentioned that, mothers cannot pay adequate time to prepare *posilo jaulo* for their child although they give *jaulo*, a bit smooth rice than the regular rice to their child.

***19th February 2015***

OC went to tea shop nearby hotel, where he met a young shopkeeper who is his classmate of his younger brother. OC and shopkeeper had short chat. Shopkeeper asked OC, that what does he do these days? OC replied to him, I work in research project which basically looks at maternal and child health in Nepal. He then added, so you work in project like Suaahara? OC, further told him, not exactly but we study Suaahara in a detail way so as to know/understand how this kind of project operates at different levels.

Shopkeeper told that Suaahara has done a good job. OC asked to him, you mean? He explained that it has taught and provided nutritious food to mother and child also has been created awareness on maternal and child health including family planning. He further mentioned that, perhaps it has huge money so it has done things in well manner. OC told him that Suaahara is multi-millions project in Nepal. With this discussion, OC left from tea shop.

As today is the public holiday field coordinator was not in the office however he told OC that he will at his office when they were departed previous day. OC went to office to meet field coordinator many times but he was not found.

As after visiting Milan office OC moved to Suaahara district office. When OC reached to the Suaahara office, OC saw TS, he was compiling documents and stapling them at next to his office room OC greeted him, it was a public holiday on that day and TS mentioned OC that what do sir, if one works at NGO then he/she has to work more unexplained works than that of written one in the job description (JD) for the post. These works ranges from making approval of official documents to open the door of the office, we do not get any excuses by saying that it has not written/mentioned in our JD rather we have to work all sort of works.

With this discussion we both moved to his office room from another room. TS begin to work on his laptop and OC sat on the chair put near to TS’s table. In the meantime, he received a phone call, he talked in the phone that error occurred in the data entry so he will consult and correct and then only send it back.

With this observation OC left Suaahara district office, with hoping to meet field coordinator at some point in the afternoon while leaving TS told to OC that, field coordinator has just left the office.

In the evening time, DC, field coordinator, Data Management Officer (DMO) and a staff from central, who was there to visit the community to observe key live event, were gathered at the hotel sitting place and having chat in the meantime OC join to them. As soon I joined them, they were talking about preparing to listen to Radio programme *bhanchhin aama* DC mentioned that, he requested one the FMs to the change the broadcasting schedule for the programme as programme is broadcasted from two FMs at the same time but FM declined his request as FM has to air regular news in the requested time.

As all of us listening the programme, a staff from central was making a comment that the beauty of this programme lies in answering the queries of mothers from one district by the health workers of the different district.

TS added that on the basis of the listeners has topped another programme called *sathisanga manka kura* which is air in radio Nepal. TS further explained that it has to topped, because all the partners who are in consortium along with all the field supervisors have been putting effort to make it success programme. In the meantime a hotel boy had brought popcorn for us and we all had it while listening to the radio programme. We did not complete listening the programme due to poor internet connection.

At the end OC talked to a staff from central, he told to OC that he was at the Myagdi district to make field visit at the community, he also mentioned that where has he gone to visit? He has no idea, district office of Suaahara at Myagdi will arrange all those things. OC then left from the place and went to his room.

Doing field work together with JS had help OC in many respects, such as how one can collect ethnographically rich information at the field, while visiting at DPHO at Myagdi district, he observed documents posted on pillar and took their pictures. And, another aspect was, collected information not only should be rich and thick but also should be clearly understandable. Apart from all, conversation on several issues, and reflections of meetings, and observations were really wonderful, along with the ideas on three types of norms social, official and practical norms. OC will keep these learnings in the mind while conducting field work in other communities and districts.