

Saturday, 09. May 2015

Saturday is an off day in Nepal. Sunday is the first working day of the week. For us there was no day off, because we were going to Kagati Gaun in Nuwakot district for some relief work.

We were on time at as discussed meeting point, but we didn't see other people. They did not arrive until almost two hours, because the doctor and the two nurses were stuck somewhere in traffic. Although it is hot and dusty, while I was busy writing the experiences of the previous day in detail, Kritan got busy in calling and organizing things. The punctuality here is a big problem, which makes it hard to plan the day.



Kritan told me that the girls in this region are married in their very young age, between 8 to 12 years. Then they usually have to cancel their education in order to have time to take part in the new family. The early pregnancies bring the young girls in danger of death and also the infants often have poor health. That is probably one reason for the high infant mortality in Nepal. Child marriage is actually banned in Nepal.

During today's ride we were prepared for the bad roads. We accompanied a team of a total of 22 young Nepalese to build up Health Camp and to distribute some relief materials. With two small cars and several motorbikes we passed through small villages. Everywhere we could see destroyed houses. These people desperately needed new housing quickly. The food supplies as I saw

were only a temporary problem, because the fields are well ordered. Especially the radishes were being harvested and villagers were selling them on the roadside. The wheat plants also were ready for the harvest.

We moved through a police station and from there 4 policemen climbed up in the back of our pickup.

Probably to control problems of food distribution.



Suddenly we were driving through the small trails where, the road was extremely narrow, great thunderstorms were followed by heavy rain. The tires of cars started to slip in the loamy soil. The driver had to be very vigilant and had to make sure that the car does not slide down the slope. Little far away was a car with a team of doctors, their car could not come any further as the roads got slippery and worse, so decided to return back and not to take any risk. We tried to move a few yards forward, but then the rain started to fall even heavily than before we hurriedly fled to a small



shelter at a house, where are also four buffaloes. They were calm, although two cows look worried about their calves because there were many volunteers inside their shed with their helmets and jackets.

The rain lasted only for about 15 minutes. However, that changed our plan of day completely.

We were moving along but our car's tires got into the loamy soil. With many difficulties we took our tires out and we went few feet further and we got stuck again. The people around us were initially peaceful but suddenly their mood changed and they looked tensed and aggressive.



They told us repeatedly that they needed urgent help. Then more and more people started to come down from the hill too and were surrounded by many people. They expected to get something from us. They got really aggressive when we told them that, we wanted to continue further up in the hill to feed needy people there.



Many of the men were fully drunk. The mood and atmosphere there developed slightly into threatening situation, the policemen who accompanied us also looked clueless.



Eventually, after about an hour, we took the decision to distribute the food among the local people. Idea of continuing through this muddy and slippery path was not possible in any case because our our car and motorbikes were not suitable for such kind of adventures.

The threatening situation made us take the decision that we took. Although it looks reasonable but slight feelings of unhappiness still remained deep inside. Actually, we wanted to help earthquake victims, who probably didn't get any help till now, and possibly no one would also come very soon.



After distributing the relief materials we returned back. We stopped in front of a small shop and we ate and drank a little bit, this changed the mood of the team and we felt little refreshed. The shopkeeper explained about his suffering. He sells alcohols in glass bottles and many of those expensive alcohol bottles fell own and broke during the earthquake, which resulted in a huge loss to him. We could still see some bottles standing in the shelves. Furthermore, he complained that, the sales also declined significantly and therefore he said he would be glad when we could buy or consume something, he even offered a greatly reduced offers to us. My compassion for him was very limited, because all the bottles were apparently mostly alcohol bottles. Alcohol and drugs are a big problem in some populations in Nepal and the alcohol itself often leads to blindness.



In the evening we had a meeting at the restaurant Mandap in Thamel with Chris, Thomas, Shavitri, Jiwan, Rajan, Sunita and Suresh from Ganesh Disable New Life Center Nepal, to plan the next Health camps.

Translator: Kritan

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