

**Report of the survey conducted in
Boadgaun Village of Bhimtar V.D.C of Sindhupalchowk District**

INTRODUCTION

Sindhupalchowk is one of the worst affected districts following the earthquake that took place on the 25th April 2015. While the initial epicenter of the earthquake was in Gorkha district, the highest magnitude (6.7 on the Richter scale) aftershock took place in Sindupolchowk district, 17 km south of Kadari (USGS 2015). As of 7 May 2015, a total of 3057 people were dead and 860 were injured. 3000 people remain unaccounted for. Many Village Development Committees (V.D.Cs) have still not been reached due to their remoteness and restricted accessibility, both in terms of roads and telecommunications (Government of Nepal, 8 May).

The general objective of this survey was to assess the family history, and lifestyle of the people of Boadgaun, one of the villages of Bhimtar V.D.C in Sindhupalchowk district. Assimilation, accommodation, adjustment and learning along with the new community in this real life situation were both challenging and wonderful.

The survey was carried out by household, and covered almost all the households in the area. The data were collected by interviewing any of the members of the house using a pre-written questionnaire. According to the survey, total population of the village was 1297, of which 637 were male and 660 were female. The total number of households covered by the study was 254.

Almost all the population of the village belongs to Majhi ethnic group and the village itself is known as the Majhi Community. The people speak national language as first language and both nuclear and extended family structures are

found in the community. All people from the village are dependent upon agriculture for the fulfillment of their basic needs.

Table 1: Gender populations within the Majhi Community

	Frequency	Percent
Male	637	49.1
Female	660	50.9
Total	1297	100.0

The massive earthquake in April 2015 caused damage to almost everyone's house; some of them, although only partially damaged, were no longer a safe place to stay and had to be demolished, leaving few households standing.

While completing the survey, it was observed high dropout rates of the children from school, early marriage that can also be termed as child marriage as girls and boys were getting married below the age of 20, i.e. in between 14-18, alcoholism, and a high number of youth leaving the village to go abroad and/or to Kathmandu district in order to make money.

FINDINGS

Total household surveyed: 254

Total population counted from the surveyed household: 1297

Occupation of the household:

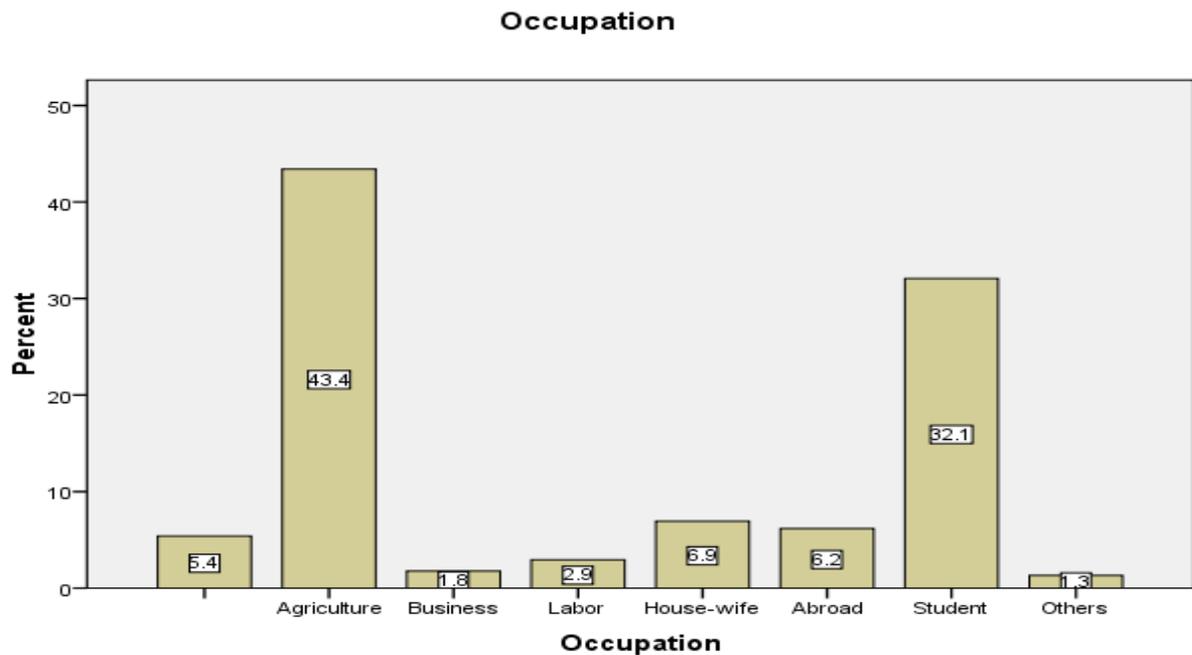


Figure 1: Occupation of the population of Boadgaun. Note that the first column represents the non-working population (babies and young children).

5.4% of the population includes the newly born babies and the children below the age of 3 years who won't be engaged in any kind of occupations. The majority of population i.e. 43.4% was engaged in agriculture and animal husbandry whereas 32.1% were students studying in school, this number includes students of higher-level education. Similarly, 6.9% were involved in household works, 6.2% had gone abroad to make money, 2.9% were laborers, 1.8% were involved in business and 1.3% qualified as 'other', which mainly includes people engaged in driving and in teaching professions.

Educational status:

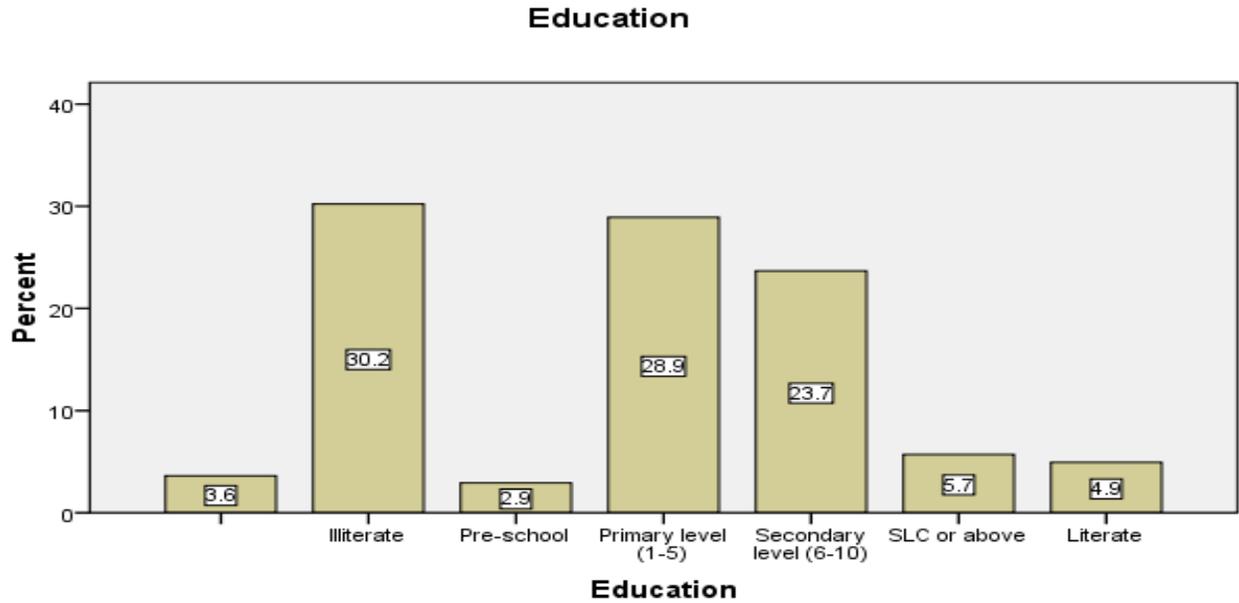


Figure 2: Educational status of the population of Boadgaun. Note that the first column represents newly born children who were not ready to go to school.

3.6% of the population were newly born children who were not prepared to go to school and get education. A large proportion of the population, 30.2%, were found to be illiterate. 28.9% were found to attend or have attended primary level education, and 23.7% were found to attend secondary level of education. Among the individuals who had attained primary and secondary level of education, half of them had dropped out of the school. Aside from these groups 4.9% of the population were found to be literate and 5.7% had passed S.L.C and above.

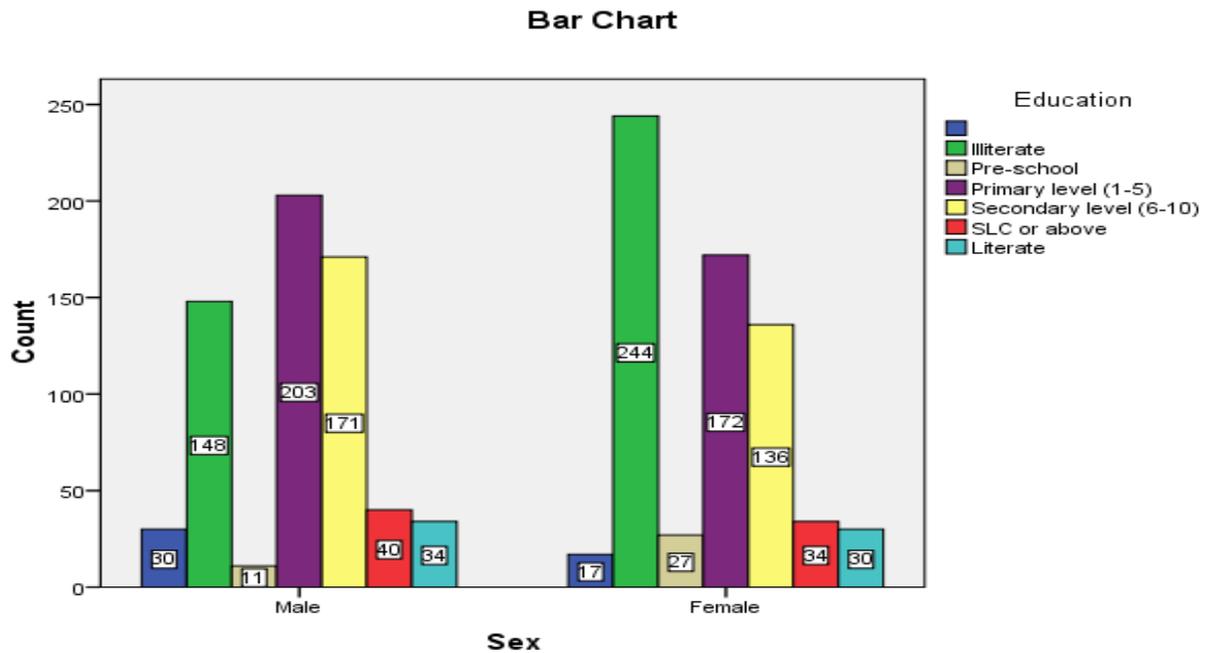


Figure 3: Gender-wise distribution of the educational status of Boadgaun. Note that the dark blue, unlabelled column represents babies and young children who are not yet old enough to go to school.

The above bar diagram shows the gender-wise distribution of the educational status of Boadgaun. Among the illiterate people of Boadgaun, the number of females was higher compared to males, whereas among the literate people of the village both the males and females were found to be nearly equal in number. The diagram shows the generally lower status of educational level among females in the community as compared to the male population.

Type of family:

The majority of the household i.e. 63.4% had a ‘nuclear’ type of family or small size of family, whereas the remaining 36.6% had a ‘joint’ type of family, which means large or extended size of family.

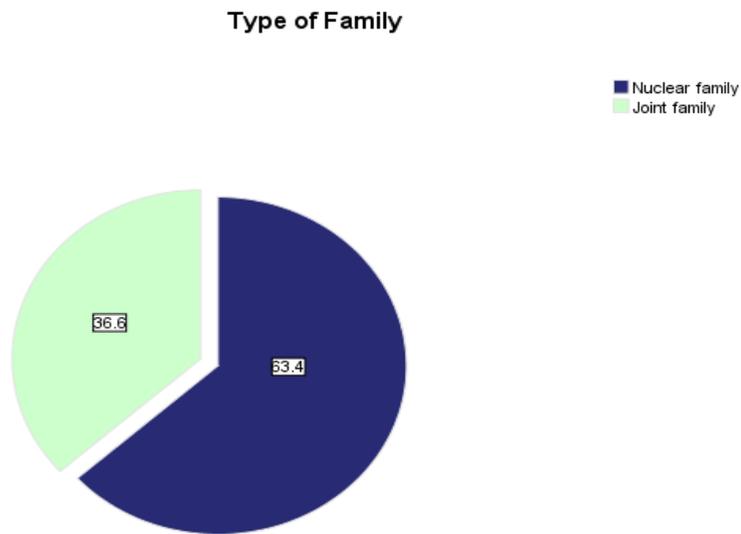


Figure 4: Type of family in Boadgaun

History of flooding or water damage:

15% of the households responded that they had a history of flooding or water damage in their house, while the rest i.e. 85% said that they had no any history of flooding or water damage.

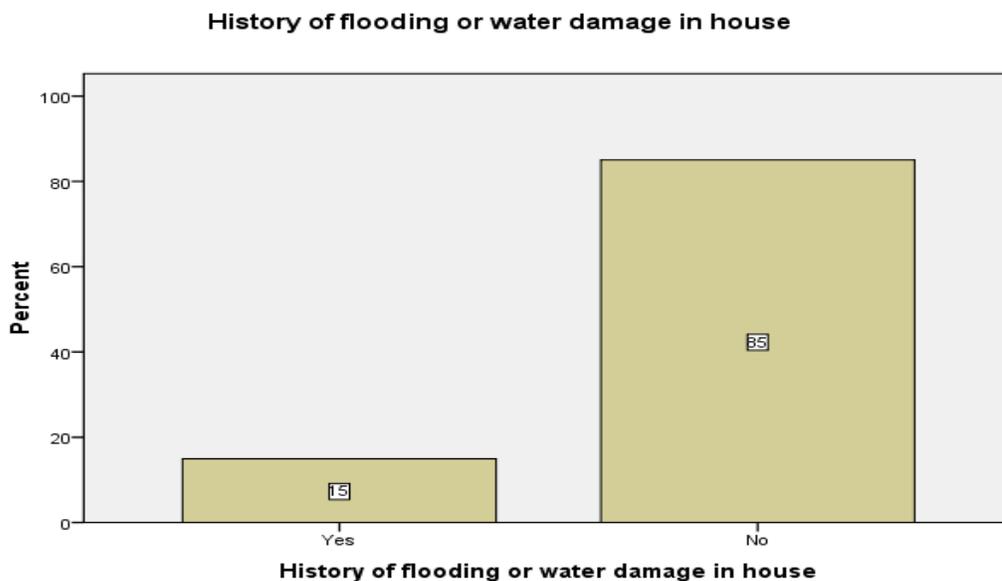


Figure 5: History of flooding or water damage.

Source of drinking water:

96.5% of the household were using tap water as the main source of drinking water while rest of them used river water and spring water for drinking purpose.

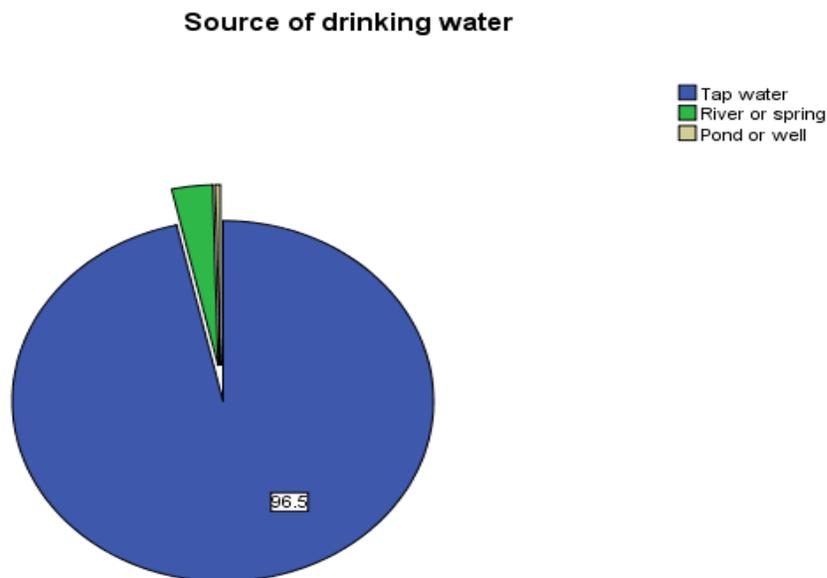


Figure 6: Source of drinking water for households.

Purification of water for drinking purpose:

Only 5.9% of the households were using a purification method like filtering and boiling before using water, while the majority i.e. 94.1% was using water for drinking purpose without purifying it.

Is water purification used?	Frequency	Percent
Yes	15	5.9
No	239	94.1
Total	254	100.0

Figure 7: Water purification in households.

Toilet in the house:

The majority of the households, i.e. 61%, had a toilet in their house or near their house; the rest, i.e. 39%, didn't have a toilet because it had been destroyed during the earthquake. Prior to the earthquake almost all of the villagers had been producing biogas by using animal dung and toilet refuse. Through our observations we also came to know that people used to collect firewood (driftwood) from the river and, prior to the earthquake, they had rarely gone to the forest to cut trees for firewood as they had been producing biogas in their home. However, due to the damage sustained to their homes, the loss of animals and the destruction of toilets during the earthquake they were no more able to produce biogas at the time of the study. This could lead to ecological damage and degradation in the near future, as there might be cases of deforestation and related issues if these problems are not addressed quickly.

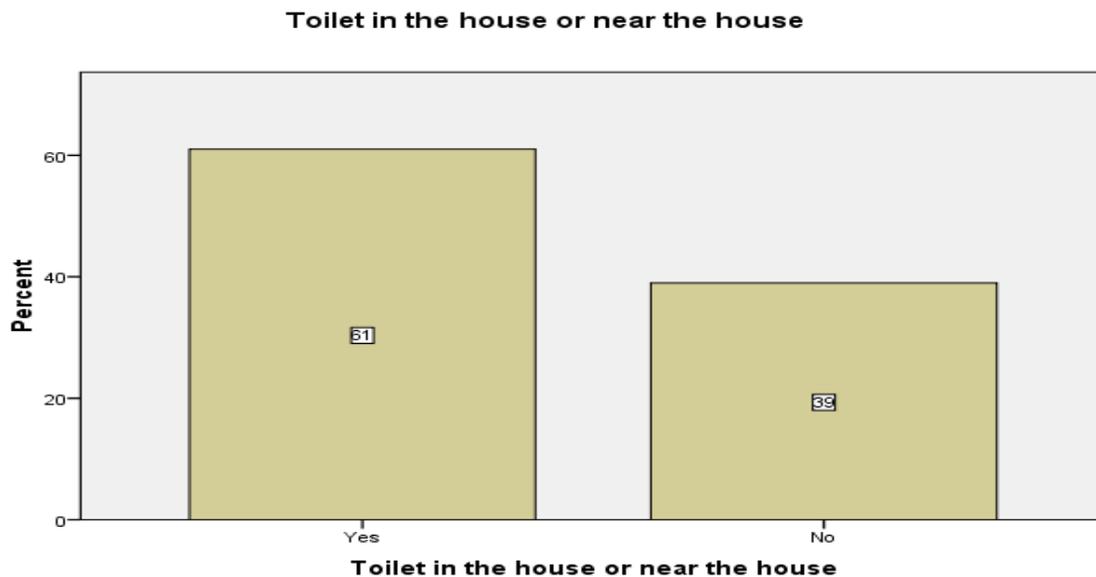


Figure 8: Availability of household toilets.

Source of income:

The main source of income for the majority of households (85.5%) was agriculture and animal husbandry, followed by labor and remittance (5.9%).

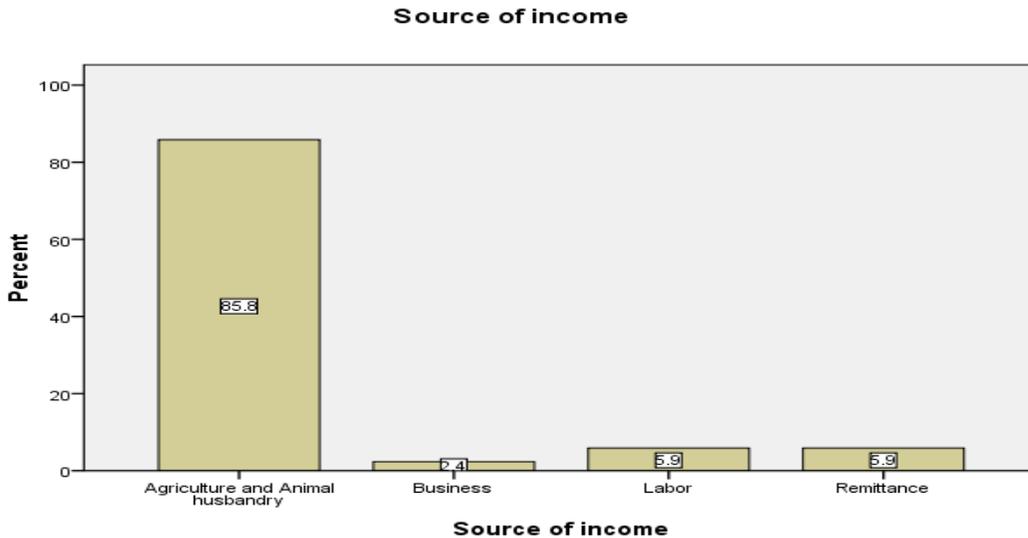


Figure 9: The sourced of income for households

CONCLUSION

The field survey that we held in Boadgaun village of Bhimtar V.D.C of Sindhupalchowk district was very important and helpful to define existing problems, available resources and set priorities for planning and implementation of new programs to be conducted for the villagers. This village holds total of 254 households in which the population residing was about 1297 people, encompassing 637 males and 660 females. The majority of the population in this village were occupationally involved in agriculture and animal husbandry (43.4%), which was the major source of income followed by labor and remittances from abroad. At the time of the survey, the majority of the population was illiterate; in general, females were more illiterate compared to the male population.

Women were found to be actively involved in both productive activities and decision-making. The male population was seen to be highly mobile group and male population was higher in number among those who had gone abroad for earning.

Sanitation practices were quite poor. The majority of the household had easy access to a water source but purification practices were very rare, which might be the major contributing factor for the high prevalence of diseases like diarrhea and other water borne diseases.

The findings indicate that the people of Boadgun were economically poor and they have no knowledge regarding construction of earthquake resistance houses. They also have little knowledge of diseases, sanitary practices, the appropriate age of marriage, number of children, and the importance of schooling and education.