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# *Dongdendevi Secondary School*

*Labdung, Tipling VDC Ward 6 Dhading District*

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## **International Cooperation Project 2017-2018**



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# SURVEY RESEARCH AND DATA COLLECTION

Conducted by **LivingNEPAL team** (Pol Ferrús, Sara Pavone, LivingNEPAL co-founders, Marta Aguadé, Manuel Norcini, Alejandro Perez volunteers from audiovisual team members, and Living Nepal field assistant Minesh Tamang from 25/03/2017 to 07/04/2017).

## INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this first visit to Tipling is to conduct a survey research work on the field to evaluate the grade of interest of the local community in the cooperation project regarding the reconstruction of the permanent secondary school of Tipling village.

The survey is conducted through several methods:

1. **Non-participant Observation:** is the method to observe situation, changes and behaviours in the society without a direct interaction between the observer and the community or subject studied. We used photography, videos and personal observation and data collection.

2. **Questionnaires:** is a list of written questions that can be completed. Respondents have been asked to complete the questionnaire by verbally responding to questions in the presence of the researcher through a structured interview.

3. **Sampling:** a technique in which a subgroup of the population is selected to answer the survey questions; the information collected can be generalised to the entire population of interest.

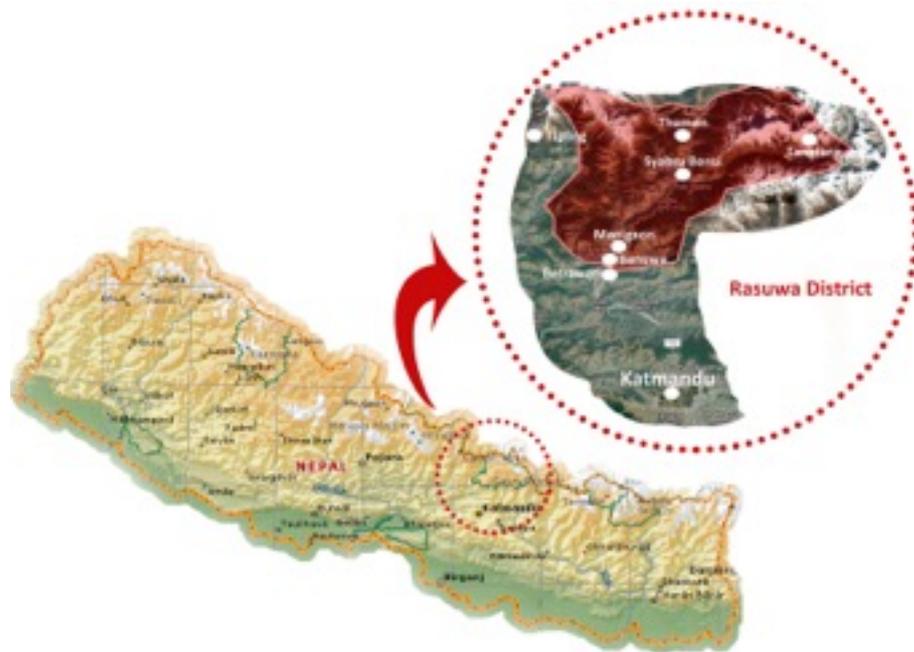
### **Sample/Subjects involved are:**

- School management committee representatives
- Principal of the school
- Teachers (Government and others)
- Representatives of VDC
- Representatives of students group
- Representatives of parents group

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## GENERAL INFORMATION

The Tamang-Ghale village of Tipling is sitting at the bottom of Ganesh Himal Range, about 160 km away from Kathmandu and reachable by a day or two by road and two more days on foot.



Ways to reach:

1. From Dhading Besi by road to Dundure (Dhading District), shared jeep or van.
2. From Pasang Lhamu to Syabru Besi/Somdang (Rasuwa district) by road, from Somdang to Pansang Pass and then Tipling, by one day walking.

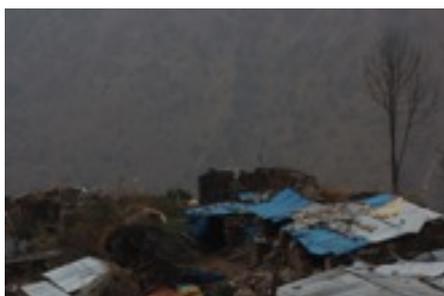
Both ways use to be extremely dangerous during the monsoon period for landslide. The monsoon starts in June and ends in September.





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Tipling VDC, in Dhading District is divided in 9 wards. From Kami Gaon (Tipling 1), Thulo Gaon (ward 2,3,4) on the south ridge to Puru( ward 8)and Ling Zo (Tipling 9) on the north and Somdang village to the East (Tipling 7). See map above. The survey has been conducted in Labdung which includes Tipling 5, 6 and 7 wards.



Labdung is the home village of Minesh, our field assistant and his family that hosted us during all the time of the assessment and survey field works. We have been sleeping in a tent provided by the family

The total population of Tipling is around 3000 people registered by the Government census and there are two different ethnic group mixed since few generations. The **Tamangs** from Tibet and the **Ghales** from the Gurung of Gorkha.



The situation after the earthquake in the village was of absolute collapse. Near 100% of the structures got destroyed and most of the people were forced to live in temporary houses made by wood and CGI sheets. Many emigrated to the cities. Nowadays, about 75% of the villagers still live in precarious houses. The ritme of life didn't change and the

people are doing the same jobs as before the earthquake. The young people moved to the cities (Dadhingbesi, Kathmandu, etc.) to get a job, or abroad to find a better employment and help the family to rebuild the houses. Few people has got education in Kathmandu and decided to come back to Tipling to teach. There is a group of skilled and unskilled local workers who helps in rebuilding the houses one by one exchanging human labour.



The population in Tipling lives and survives by working in four different areas:

1. Cuttle: goats and cows
2. Field: Potatoes, wheat, millet, jau, mais, bean. There is a six month harvesting system.
3. Cutting Firewood for cooking and heating
4. Porters with donkeys.

All of them take almost the 90% of the available time so there is no opportunity to make any other kind of business, the economy practiced is self-sufficient and barely enough to sustain all the population. Only three shops are open, on and off, with some goods available. There is almost absence of cash in the village and people don't work for money, but by exchanging goods and food.

The goods available in Tipling are: chow chow(noodles), biscuit, rice, daal, sugar, salt, noodles, eggs, local rice, chocolates and sweets, coffee, tea, oil, masala spices, some



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basic materials, copies, pens and pencils, stuff for women, washing powder, soap, batteries, shoes, plastics, tarpaulins, fabrics to make handmade clothes.

The only way to get food to the village is by porters, donkeys or walking to nearest villages (Sertung, Borang), which are more equipped cause they are more close to the road.



There is one hotel at the entrance of Labdung village and a canteen next to the school where it is possible to get hot food, as chowmein, noodle soup and buy other items.

There are few toilets in all Labdung and they are shared among the families, 1 each three families and the conditions are pretty good.

There is availability of drinking water in the village but the pipe system was destroyed by the earthquake and temporarily repaired.

The INGOs and NGOs who came to Tipling after the earthquake are:

- ❖ FOCUS NEPAL (Helping and advising in cropping and cattle)
- ❖ UNICEF/SAVE THE CHILDREN (stationery, food distribution and blankets)
- ❖ HIMALAYAN CHILDREN CARE (Minesh is a member)
- ❖ SHANTI NEPAL (women empowerment and sanitation)
- ❖ NEPAL SOCIETY FOR EARTHQUAKE TECHNOLOGY (USAID partner, advising and teaching about earthquake resistant technology)



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## RELIGION



The main **religion** practiced is Christianity, divided in Catholics and Protestants. There is also a minority of Buddhism everyday with less presence in the area. In Tipling there are 10 Churches and a Buddhist Temple in total.

The Gesuite society appeared in Tipling for the first time 20 years ago and they helped the families who embraced their religion sponsoring children, participating in education and lending money for reconstruction.

## POLITICS

Though democracy is quite a new and modern concept in Nepal, started working only 10 years ago after the proclamation of the republic, in Tipling most of the main local issues are decided in community assemble and there are few political parties which have the power to decided about social and public issues, claims and problems.

The political representation is divided in four main political parties:

- UML. Communist Liberal Party
- Congres Party. Liberals.
- Maohists
- Rabraba Monarchic Party

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Among them there is the Congress Party the one with more followers and representation. They mostly discuss decisions about community measures in group organising meetings.

## WOMEN SITUATION

There is a women's group in Tipling that became very active in the last year and is led by a woman from Tipling who married a man from the US.

The women's group organised the first program in International women's day (08/03/2017) presented by the man from US.



The second program is organised on the 29/03/2017, and we assisted to it. It was organised at the school playground by the Government to announce that all the children of Tipling are vaccinated against Polio, so Tipling is a Polio free area.



The women of Tipling achieved to forbid sell and use of alcohol, cigarettes and cards in the village, so it is not possible to get these items in the shops of the village.

Minesh's mother is member of the women's group and she works as a volunteer for the health post, promoting awareness among young women about safe and good use of condoms, and pills to avoid frequent pregnancies.

In Tipling there is no limitation of number of babies per family. There is a case of a woman with 19 children, who mostly left the village to go work abroad.

In Labdung the women are powerful and they take care of the house and family while the men are working in the fields or cutting wood faraway in the

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forest.

In Kami Gaon, the situation is still hard because most of the people are low cast and not educated. There has been a case of violence against two women who were killed by their husband.

There is a 110 years old woman, living in Tipling 7, we visited her and she is living in very precarious conditions, she can't listen and she is living alone. Apparently she is self sufficient, she cooks food for her self, she makes fire and go her self to get wood and other things. The house is messy, cold and dirty.

## HEALTH AND SANITATION

About health conditions, there is a health post on the top, not faraway from the school, where the women go to have babies and where they can cure mainly easy health problems. The hygienic conditions are not very good and it is located in a tent. Actually they are building a new hospital next to the health post.



The awareness about good health habits is introduced slowly by the women's group, who are trying to educate the community to care about their health.

In Tipling if somebody have cancer is still believed that is action of ghosts or witches, or black magic so they respond with rituals to remove the ghost action from the body. Young and educated people are spreading awareness about the main causes of diseases, limiting the old believes.

Many people get cancer in the village cause of various reasons, as smoke from the fire kitchen and no , and many diseases comes from lack of hygiene. In the last months 3 women died cause of cancer.

If somebody gets injured, the people collect money to pay a helicopter trip to Kathmandu hospital. It is a common budget among the families.

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## TELECOMUNICATION

The situation of telecommunication in Tipling is precarious because of its remote location. Recently a NCELL tower has been installed near the village and nowadays there is NCELL network. Few houses have phone given by Nepal Telecom and they can do and receive calls, mostly for emergency cases.

There is not television but somebody have radio.

Electricity is working in all houses from 6pm to 6am, few people use solar panels.

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This is the resume of the main problems and needs detected in the area:

- ❖ Precarious water pipe system.
- ❖ Lack of electricity due to precarious hidropower plants
- ❖ Hygiene and sanitation problem due to the lack of WC's (only few in each village)
- ❖ Structural and functional school problems due to the lack of learning space and the precariousness of the temporary installations being used as a learning centre
- ❖ Lack of learning materials and furnitures in the school.
- ❖ Lack of a Community learning centre to develop common plans, meetings and facilities.
- ❖ Nutritional problems due to the lack of crops. Their diet is based mostly on boiled potatoes.
- ❖ Health crisis due to the short amount of medicines, precarious conditions of the medical post area, not fixed doctor and the two nurses currently working in the health post are not enough to respond to the needs of the all population.

# SCHOOL DATA SURVEY

## GENERAL INFORMATION

The first school of Tipling was established in Thulogaon in 1978. Dongdendevi school is located in Labdung village, Tipling 6. The total number students rise to 243 and the number of teachers are 12. The school grading goes from Nursery to Class 1 up to class 10. The children age goes from 3 to 16.

3 of the teachers have a semipermanent government job contract of 5 years. 1 teacher runs the nursery class. 2 sponsored by Jesuit Society and 3 are paid by other NGOs. There are 2 assistants working in the school, 1 responsible of the maintenance and the other to assist in office job. The salary of a government teacher rounds the 200 USD per month. The principal of the school is Norsang Tamang and he is teaching in Tipling since 6 years as a government teacher, and two previous years as a volunteer in the same school. He

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became principal 7 month ago (2016) and he teaches computer lab, science and english. His education was provided under a sponsorship from the Jesuit Society.

The school Management Committee is formed by 8 members, 4 parents, 2 representatives of NGO, a Secretary and the teacher leader. They are the in charged of taking the major decisions about the school internal and external affairs.

In primary level all the students belong to Labdung because there are other primary schools in each ward of Tipling so they don't have to move, while in secondary level the school of Labdung is the only one so there are many students coming from the other wards of the VDC. There is a number of irregular students specially coming from Kamigaon, Tipling 1. The village where low cast people live. The main reason of absenteeism is that children have to work to help the family, the poorness and lack of motivation.

In Sertung Village, there is a research centre who provided Teachers Professional Development Training to three teachers of Labdung and the research person is Ubarash Rekni.

Every year 1 Lakh Rupee is given to the school community from the government to buy stationery, less than 50000 NRS for primary level text books and stationery distribution.

The school of Labdung is free of cost but there are some taxes to pay for the exams depending on the class.

## **SITUATION AFTER THE EARTHQUAKE**

The school collapsed totally and the students have been learning in a precarious environment since then. None of the INGOs that has planed the reconstruction has accomplished the project. The army built up 15 temporary houses for homeless people in the school area but they where given back to the school after claiming them as a temporary learning centre.

From the questionnaire we proposed to the teachers we can find out that the main consequences of the earthquake and the main problems are:

Less students enrolled

Children are forced to work



Absenteeism of both students and teachers

Lack of motivation

Lack of furniture and stationery

Lack of hygiene

Lack of discipline

Lack of social network among committee, parents and students

Lack of teacher's training programs

Low quality of education

Need of practical lessons and introduction of other subjects (agriculture and sport. english classes)

All the **teachers** we interviewed seem really interested in rebuilding the permanent structure of the school and improve the quality of education of the students of Tipling. They are really young and most of them got their bachelor in Kathandu.

The building has to be safe and the environment has to respond to the needs of the students, providing a playground area to develop sport and recreative activities and stationery for learning.



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Their requests are to organise teacher's training and also to bring english teachers. Increase the salary, distribution of furniture and the reconstruction of a safe permanent learning centre. All the teachers hope a cooperation project is possible with LivingNEPAL



and want to create a link to improve the general conditions of their school and in the same way improve the quality of the education. They suggested to listen the needs of the families.

The **students** interviews went on the same direction.

Spending some time with the **parents and relatives** the feedback has been amazingly positive and they welcomed us very kindly and with respect.

We want to remark the words of Father Tek Raj Paudel from Jesuit Society when he put in evidence the importance of building up a good community base and a good education system to avoid the emigration of the young people to other country to get good job happening since two generation in the area.

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## PARENTS SURVEY

The interview to the parents was conducted to verify the grade of interest of them in their children future education and to listen from close their problems and needs. It was conducted in a family home in Labdung (Sarita's Home).

We interviewed a group of parents, around 15/20. It was difficult to meet them one by one cause they are working in the field during all day, fathers are working in the forest cutting wood and taking care of cows while women are cooking or digging fields. The average of parent's age is between 25 to 35 years old.

All the parents seemed to be interested in participating to the survey. 90% of the parents of Labdung school live in Tipling and they feed their families working in cattle and agriculture. Their houses were completely destroyed by the earthquake but many families have rebuilt a temporary or a permanent one using the government rules.

All of them have similar social and economical conditions and needs, explaining that they miss other kind of food and crops, good hygiene system, solar showers and a new pipe system for the drinking water.

They belong to Tamang and Ghale casts. The fathers know how to read and write while women received basic education through an old women education system operated by educated women in the remote villages who taught them in their homes.

Their opinion about the school of the village is of disappointment cause the quality of education is not high, the teacher are not motivated neither regular in class and that the structure is not appropriate for learning.

They are interested in the present education of their children and the future, but if they could have money they would send them to private schools in Kathmandu.

Money for them is not an issue, they are ready to collaborate with LivingNEPAL and the other NGOs as much as they can, offering time and work.

### **Main needs expressed:**

Improvement of education system, structures and delivery of furniture and stationary

Need of hostel for children who come from different wards of Tipling

After school programs and tuition programs at school

Volunteers to teach English

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Solar shower (They don't wash often cause the water is cold and they are lazy to do it)

They consider a priority rebuilding a safe school environment and improve the quality of education as better as in the cities, so their future will be plained of opportunities.

## STUDENTS SURVEY

The students appear really shy. The answers are really short which cannot define exactly all the feelings and emotions related with their problems and needs in the school environment.

Most of the children complain about the lack of space in the TLC and the lack of learning materials and stationery as well as the recreative spaces like the playground and school environment are not appealing for enjoying. A common complain is the frequent absenteeism of the teachers and their lack of motivation to teach and change the traditional education system, poor in practical activities and creativity.

Most of the students think about leaving the village because of the lack of opportunities but they all would go back if the situation would change eventually.

### **Main needs evidenced:**

Permanent school building

Furniture and stationary

Motivated teachers

English class

Sport activities

Playground

Electricity availability,for managing after school tuition programs.

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# RECONSTRUCTION SURVEY



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The total collapse of the buildings in Tipling has forced most of the people to live in temporary shelters for long time and nowadays near the half of the population are still living in temporary living structures while others, slowly, have started to rebuild in local earthquake resistant style copying the proposal of dry stone systems approved by the Government under the supervising of the engineers from USAid INGO.





NSET (Nepal Society for Earthquake Technology) is a NGO working in Tipling since 9 months advising local people in reconstruction technics and giving trainings about earthquake resistant houses using the Government rules. They work together with the Government helping it to join the community in remote areas of Nepal and teaching them..

The Government gives 3.5 lacks to people who lost their houses and rebuild them following the Government rules. It gave only 50000 NRS till now and they are planning to give the second part of 1.5 lack if the construction obtains the last approval from the District's engineers.

During the first weeks of meetings and orientation programs with the villagers it was hard to communicate cause the villagers didn't accept the new way to rebuild. Slowly they got attention and acceptance and the villagers participate to the orientation program asking questions and showing interest in the new way of rebuilding. The new way to rebuild is not so different respect the traditional way and just a little bit more costly. It follows the government rules but without deleting the traditional Tamang structure of the houses.

NSET organised also an orientation program in the school. They suggested us to stay and live in contact with the community and take time to know them from near, from inside. They are optimistic about the reconstruction of the school and encourage us to follow with this project and they think the people will react positively to it.

In the school of Tipling there are 11 classroom to be rebuilt, a nursery classroom and a teachers' room. The materials available are stone and wood. The rest has to be transported from Dundure-Dhading Besi or from Somdang-PansangPass with an average cost of 55 NRS/Kg. The lift jeep from Dhading to Dundure rounds 7500 NRS/Kg ad can bring up to 2000 Kg. There are workers available with average salary of 800/1000 NRS unskilled/skilled all of the including the food. There is also option for constant electricity during the day at 2500KW for 200 NRS/hour.

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# OUR PROPOSAL

## 1. School rebuilding project

The proposal of LivingNEPAL is to rebuild the permanent learning centre of Labdung destroyed by the devastating earthquake of April 25th 2015, where will be located the new Dongdendevi Secondary school of Tipling village.

In order to achieve this aim we will cooperate directly with the community and involving everybody in the project.

We will use local materials and local man power to improve the life conditions of many families and warranty a safe future to the next generations.

RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT BY ORCHE NGO. DESIGN IMAGES WILL BE PROVIDED SOON

## 2. Social – Educational school program

In order to respond to the various needs expressed by the school community, the parents and the students, we will plan a future intervention assisting the local educational system through different ways of improvement. We will use the new building and outside space to implement sport activities, games, practical classes and we will provide volunteer english teachers and trainers.

We want to establish a line of continuity in support between LivingNEPAL and the community of Tipling and collaborate together to achieve common objectives.

The principles which inspire us are solidarity and love to this population so our actions will respect always their culture and traditions and opinions, helping to maintain the local identity. We believe that education is a tool to improve people's quality of life. For these reason will put all our effort to organise the direct help on the field after listening needs and problems and spreading hope and motivation.

We want to hire nepali teachers and support them in education techniques and methodologies.

The social educational school program should be organised with a durability of at least 1 year.

( VID. LIVING NEPAL SOCIAL EDUCATIONAL PROJECT 2017)

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## Roles of the participants

- Define the design of the school
- Calculate the budget
- Define the management roles
- Obtain the permit letter from the DDC
- Define the roles of all the participants in the project
- Define a date and duration schedule
- Organise a volunteer's self sufficient camp
- Decide the no. of needed volunteers
- Decide mechanisms of communication and management among the participants.
- Others...