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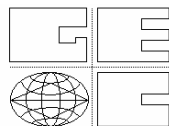
Rural Access Programme Phase-2 Nepal

RAP

Initial Effects on Household Economy and Labour Migration A Case of Doti District

WSP International Management Consulting 

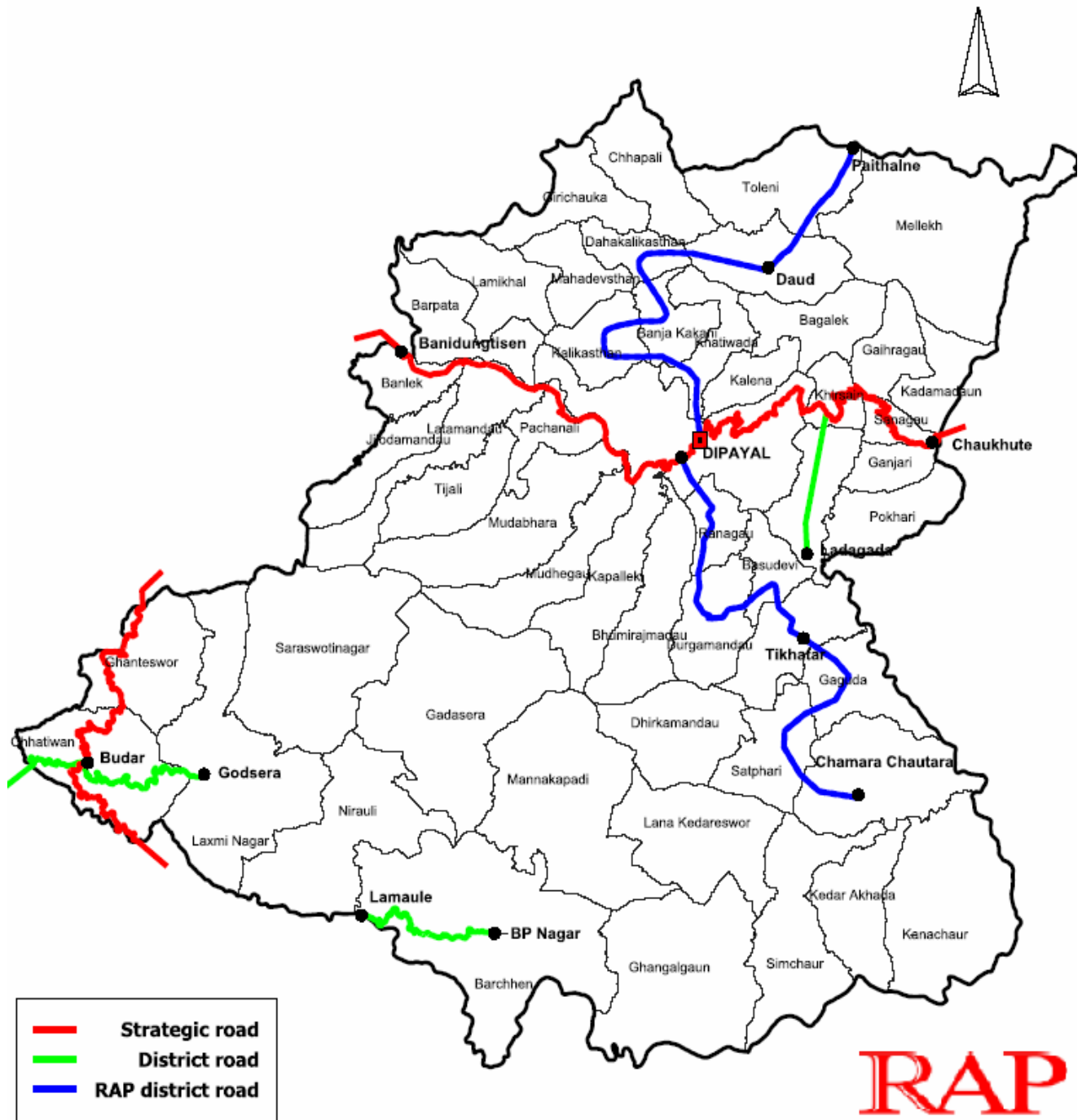
in association with



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LOCATION OF STUDY AREA (Map of Doti District)



ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

APP	Agriculture Perspective Plan
DTA	District Technical Assistance
EAP	Economically Active Population
FGD	Focus Group Discussion
Km	Kilo Meter
NGO	Non Government Organisation
RAP-2	Rural Access Programme, Phase-2
RBG	Road Building Group
RC2	Rajpur - Chawarachautara 2
SEDO	Social and Economic Development Officer
SM	Social Moiblizer
VDC	Village Development Committee
ZOI	Zone of Influence

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1. INTRODUCTION

After the successful completion of its first phase¹, the second phase of Rural Access Programme (RAP-2), with the financial support of Ukaid, is under implementation in seven mountain and hill districts² of Nepal since October 2008. The programme, scheduled to end in July 2011³, aims at reducing poverty of the poor and marginalized people through the construction of an additional 362 km of district roads in 12 corridors in combination with intensive implementation of social and economic development activities. It is expected that by the end of its operation, RAP-2 will create approximately 5 - 5.5 million person-days of employment opportunities for over 16,000 poorest of the poor people living within the zone of influence of the road corridors. At the same time, the capacity building training activities, related to income generation and grassroots level organization development, will contribute to the sustainable improvement of the socio-economic status of the target population and groups.

2. RATIONALE OF THE STUDY

As in RAP-1, the fundamental approach of RAP-2 is labour-based, environment friendly and participatory. With the completion of nearly 2 years of its implementation phase, RAP-2 has been witnessing initial results of its activities in several areas. However, the assessment, documentation and sharing of these programme results remain a challenge. Although there are some ad hoc reporting, there is no systematic assessment and presentation of the effects of RAP-2 interventions. The present study is guided by the notion that this gap should be removed by initiating a systematic assessment and reporting system which is necessary to measure and share the immediate results of RAP-2. It is hoped that this study shall pave the way to more comprehensive and complete assessment and sharing of the results of RAP-2.

3. OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY

The overall objective of this case study is to assess and share the initial effects of RAP-2 in some selected variables. The specific objectives are to:

- Examine the effect of programme activities on labour migration;
- Assess the effect of the programme activities on the possession of household assets;
- Analyse the usage of wage income of target population⁴ received from road construction work; and
- Provide recommendations for future actions based on the findings of this study.

4. SCOPE OF WORK

The detail tasks under the study consists of the followings:

- Collect and analyze data/information regarding labor out-migration for seasonal employment.

¹ The RAP design phase began in 2000, with RAP1 implementation commencing in 2002. This suffered from the internal conflict, slow funding methods, complicated policies and targets, and management that did not react in time to difficult circumstances. With the cessation of conflict, changes to the funding mechanism, targets and management following a Fundamental Review at the end of 2005, work progressed well. At completion in December 2008 RAP1 had provided 6.5 million labour days of employment, and helped live the poorest people in the districts through the completion of 357 km of district roads and 276 km of feeder roads.

² Doti, Achham & Dailekh are in the West and Khotang, Bhojpur, Sankhuwasabha & Terhathum are in the East.

³ Recently completed Mid Term Review (MTR) has recommended for one-year extension. However, decision is yet to be made.

⁴ People who are organised in Road Building Groups (RBGs) to participate in RAP-2 activities i.e. in road construction and socio-economic development activities.

- Collect and analyze detail data on the types of agriculture land and their ownership patterns.
- Collect and analyze data/information on livestock holding (i.e. cow, buffalo and goats).
- Gather detail data on the wage payment received by RBG member and analyze their expenditure pattern.
- Collect community level information/data on general socio-economic conditions of the study area.
- Prepare a report, based on the basis of the analysis of above data/information.

5. METHODOLOGY

The detail methodology used to carry out the case study is described as follows.

5.1 Study Location

The study was carried out in Doti district, one of the RAP-2 districts situated in the Far Western Development Region of Nepal. To be specific, the study was concentrated in one of the road corridors of Doti called "Rajpur - chawarachautara (RC2)". This corridor passes through four VDCs i.e. Tikhatar, Gaguda, Satfari and Chawarachautara. Total length of this corridor is 31.10 Km.

5.2 Data/Information Source

The data required for the study primarily comes from household survey and Focus Group Discussions (FGDs). Primary data/information were collected mainly through household survey. The data collected through Household survey were triangulated through Focus Group Discussion (FGD) with the key informants in the study area.

5.3 Sample size and sampling method

A total of 107 RBG members (which is around 10% of total RBG members working in RC-2 road corridor) were selected for the household survey. In order to allow representation of respondents from different geographic locations, sex and ethnic groups, a multi-stage stratified random sampling method was used for the selection of respondents for household survey.

5.4 Data/Information collection Tools

Structured Questionnaire was developed for household survey and a standard checklist was prepared for Focus Group Discussion.

5.5 Household Survey Execution

Field survey was executed in July 2010. Social Mobilizers (SMs) of partner NGOs working in RC-2 corridor were mobilized for the household survey under the close supervision and guidance of Socio-Economic Development Officer (SEDO). Prior to field survey, the SMs were provided with proper orientation and training on the study objectives and methods of filling the questionnaires. The questionnaires filled by the SMs were crosschecked and edited in the field itself by SEDO in order to avoid discrepancies and data inconsistencies. The SMs were requested to visit survey households again if any discrepancies were observed either due to negligence or human error.

5.6 Focus Group Discussion

In order to complement and also to triangulate the household survey data, the study carried out focus group discussions in 8 places (2 each in 4 programme VDCs). The focus group discussions were participated by local elites, school teachers, community leaders, local business people, key informants and other local people having knowledge about the general socio-economic situation of the study area. FGD in all 8 places was facilitated by SEDO.

6. LIMITATION OF THE STUDY

Due to limited time, the study was conducted only in one road corridor with small sample size. Moreover, the timing of field survey (Monsoon season) resulted in some disturbances in household survey. Despite these limitations, the findings of this study provide important insights on the preliminary results of RAP-2 programme interventions.

7. FINDINGS OF THE STUDY

This section presents the findings of the case study. It is to be noted that the analysis and presentation of the collected data/information has been done by Gender and Ethnicity of the sample respondents. Besides, in order to capture the changes brought about by RAP-2 interventions, the data/information were collected to represent Before and After Situations.

7.1 Background Of The Study Area

With the total physical area of 2,025 sq. m. and a population of 207,066, Doti district lies in the Far Western Development Region of Nepal. In terms of overall composite index, this district ranks 63rd among 75 districts of Nepal⁵. RAP-2 in this district is constructing rural roads in two corridors - one in the North and the other in the South of its district head quarter, Silgadhi Bazaar (Refer the Map presented elsewhere in this report). RC-2 is one of the corridors, which was selected for this study. This corridor is situated in the southern part of the district and passes through four Village Development Committees (VDCS).

Table-1: Household And Population Of Study Vdcs

VDCs	Total Households	Total Population	Male	Female
Chawarachautara	522	3,384	1,643	1,741
Gaguda	572	3,329	1,668	1,661
Satferi	455	2,894	1,458	1,436
Tikhatar	1,173	6,461	3,233	3,228
Total	2,722	16,068	8,002	8,066

Source: District Profile of Doti, 2065 B.S.

The poorest of the poor people living within the zone of influence of the road corridor are involved in road construction. The interested poor people are organized in a group of 15-20 members and form Road Building Groups to participate in RAP-2 activities. At the time of field survey, a total of 57 Road Building Groups (RBGs), with over 1,100 members, were involved in road construction work. Table-2 shows that majority of RBG members (71.07%) come from the ethnic group categorized as "Others" followed by "Dalits" (27.40%). Rest of the RBG members (1.54%) were from the ethnic group of "Disadvantaged Janajati". These figures clearly indicate that the road corridor is pre-dominated by the people falling under the ethnic group of "Others", which corresponds to the ethnic composition of district population.

Table-2: Road Building Groups and Members in the study area

Number of RBGs	Gender	Total RBG Members	%			
			Dalit	Disad Jan	Adv Jan	Others ⁶
57	Male	528	13.74	1.08	0.00	32.91
	Female	578	13.65	0.45	0.00	38.16
	Total	1,106	27.40	1.54	0.00	71.07

7.2 Characteristics of Sample Respondents

7.2.1 Gender And Ethnicity

Of the total sample respondents of 107 RBG members, 53.27% were Female and the rest 46.73% were Male. In terms of ethnicity, the sample respondents consisted of Dalits (28.04%)

⁵ District level indicators of Nepal for monitoring overall development, NPC Secretariat, CBS, 2003.

⁶ Includes Brahman, Chhetri, Thakuri, and all other caste groups which do not fall under the categories of Dalits and Janajatis.

and Others (71.96%). Tables 3 & 4 below illustrate composition of sample respondents by ethnic groups and gender.

Table-3: Sample Respondents by Gender

Gender	Number of Respondents	% Respondents
Female	57	53.27
Male	50	46.73
<i>Total</i>	<i>107</i>	<i>100.00</i>

Table-4: Sample respondents by Ethnic Group

Ethnicity	Number of Respondents	% Respondents
Dalits	30	28.04
Others	77	71.96
<i>Total</i>	<i>107</i>	<i>100.00</i>

7.2.2 Population & Family Size

Total population of sample respondents stands at 707 with Male to Female ratio of almost 1:1. The average family size was found to be 6.61 members, which can be seen in the following table. No significant difference was observed between the family size of Dalits and Others, though the family size of ethnic group Others was slightly higher than that of the Dalits.

Table-5: Population and Family Size of Sample Respondents

Ethnicity	Male Population	Female Population	Total Population	Average Family Size
Dalit	89	100	189	6.30
Others	264	254	518	6.73
<i>Total</i>	<i>353</i>	<i>354</i>	<i>707</i>	<i>6.61</i>

7.3 Labor Migration in Rural Nepal

Labor migration has been an important feature of Nepalese livelihood strategies since long time ago. The contribution of labor migration to rural livelihoods is considerable as it reduces pressure on scarce resources, particularly land. Majority of the Economically Active Population, particularly from the hills and mountains in the western part of the country, leave their villages after planting the crops and not returning until immediately before the harvest. This contributes to rural livelihoods in these chronically food-deficit districts in three ways. Most importantly it reduces demands on local food supply while simultaneously increasing supply (because the returning migrants bring back food from the plains). This is especially important as the migrants return home in the pre-harvest season, when there is scarcity of food. The third contribution is the cash and non-food items migrants bring back⁷.

Doti is also one of the districts where seasonal labor migration is a common phenomenon for centuries. Since the key reason for migrating out is for livelihoods, it can be assumed that the provision of employment opportunities (in road construction) provided by RAP-2 must have impacted labor out-migration pattern in the study area. What follows next is the analysis of the same based on the findings of the present study.

⁷ *Seasonal Labour Migration in Rural Nepal: A Preliminary Overview; Gerard J. Gill; May 2003*

7.3.1 Respondent Households Reporting Seasonal Migration

Information presented in the following Tables 6 & 7 clearly indicate that there has been a significant reduction in the number of people going out of their localities for seasonal employment. The percentage of households reporting to have their family members migrating out for seasonal employment was above 68.00% before RAP-2, while the corresponding figure is 48.59% after RAP-2 intervention. When asked about the reason, the respondent households replied that the road construction work in RAP-2 provided round the year employment opportunities for their family members, which is much better than going to other places including that of India. Hence, it can safely be concluded that RAP-2 has contributed to the reduction of households sending out their family members for seasonal migration by nearly 20%.

7.3.1.1 Reporting by Gender of respondents

In terms of gender, the percentage of respondents reporting out-migration of their family members was higher among females in both situations i.e. before and after RAP-2 intervention. The percentage of Female respondents having out-migration of their family members Before RAP-2 was about 72%, while it was approximately 64% for Male respondents. Likewise, the corresponding figures after RAP-2 were 60% for Female and 36% for Male respondents. It was observed that the percentage of female respondent themselves were the RBG members and they had sent their male members to seasonal work in India. So the percent of households witnessing greater degree of reduction in out-migration of their family members was higher among female.

Table-6: Respondents (by Gender) reporting their family members migrating out for seasonal employment

Gender of Respondents	Number of Respondents	% Respondents reporting their family member (s) going out for seasonal employment		
		Before RAP-2	After RAP-2	Change (+, -)
Male	50	64.00	36.00	- 28.00
Female	57	71.92	59.64	- 12.28
<i>Total</i>	<i>107</i>	<i>68.22</i>	<i>48.59</i>	<i>- 19.63</i>

7.3.1.2 Reporting by Ethnicity of Respondents

Analysis of data across ethnic groups shows that the percentage of respondents with their family members going out for seasonal employment was slightly higher in *Dalit* groups in both situations i.e. Before and After RAP-2.

Table-7: Percent of respondents (by Ethnicity) reporting migrating out of family members for seasonal employment

Ethnicity	Number of Respondents	% Respondents reporting their family member (s) going out for seasonal employment		
		Before RAP-2	After RAP-2	Change (+, -)
Dalit	30	70.00	50.00	- 20.00
Others	77	67.53	48.05	- 19.48
<i>Total</i>	<i>107</i>	<i>68.22</i>	<i>48.59</i>	<i>-19.63</i>

7.3.2 Degree Of Seasonal Migration

An attempt was made to measure the extent of seasonal migration pattern among the sample population. For this, each sample respondent was asked to provide information about the number of his/her family member(s) who used to migrate out for seasonal employment before and after RAP-2 programme. It was interesting to note that the people migrating out were all from

the age group of 15 – 59 years. As defined by the Central Bureau of Statistics, the people falling under this age group are categorized as Economically Active Population (EAP). Hence the data in the following Tables- 8 & 9 are presented in such a way that shows the percentage of EAP of the sample population who used to out migrate for seasonal employment. Analysis of the survey data indicated that more than 28% of the EAP of the study area used to go out for seasonal employment before RAP-2 intervention. This trend was reduced almost by 9 % after RAP-2 implementation.

7.3.2.1 Migrants by Gender

In the study area, there was no tradition of woman leaving their villages for seasonal employment. Therefore, no woman was reported to have gone out of their villages for employment. It was only male members who are responsible to migrate out for earning livelihoods. The survey data revealed that before RAP-2 more than 56% of the economically active male population in the study area used to migrate to India for seasonal employment. This trend came down to approximately 39% after RAP-2 programme, indicating a reduction of about 18%.

Table-8: Sample EAP migrating out for seasonal employment by Gender

Gender of Migrants	Number of Sample EAP	% EAP Migrating for Employment		
		Before RAP-2	After RAP-2	Change (+, -)
Male	190	56.52	38.68	- 17.84
Female	178	-	-	-
<i>Total</i>	<i>368</i>	<i>28.26</i>	<i>19.29</i>	<i>- 8.97</i>

7.3.2.2 Migrants by Ethnicity

Data across the ethnic groups indicates that there is only a slight difference in percentage of out-migrating EAP between “Dalits” and “Others”.

Table-9: Sample EAP⁸ migrating out for seasonal employment by ethnicity

Ethnicity of Migrants	Total Number of Sample EAP	% EAP Migrating out for seasonal Employment		
		Before RAP-2	After RAP-2	Change (+, -)
Dalit	98	28.57	18.37	- 10.20
Others	270	28.15	19.63	- 8.52
<i>Total</i>	<i>368</i>	<i>28.26</i>	<i>19.29</i>	<i>- 8.97</i>

7.3.2.3 Destination of Migration

Almost all migrants go to India for seasonal employment, mainly for labor works. It was found that more than 80% of the migrants go to Ludhiana (India), and the rest go to other cities such as Delhi, Bombay, Madras and Rajasthan. The migrant workers prefer Ludhiana as every individual, regardless of his skill, gets job in various factories, agriculture farms and domestic work. They prefer Ludhiana also because most of their villagers used to go there. Some of them also do skilled job like embroidery, sewing and cutting, driving etc. Domestic work engaged most of the migrant while other sector like security guard, skilled jobs like cutting, sewing and embroidery and driving are also options where migrants are involved. From FGD, it was found that every household, which has working male population, migrates for labor work. The number of seasonal migrant goes as high as 6 in a family.

⁸ EAP stands for Economically Active Population (15-59 age group)

In Tikhatar VDC, more than 50% of the migrants are involved in domestic work, while in Gaguda VDC more than 50 % of the migrant work as skilled labor like sewing, cutting and embroidery. Out of total migrants going to India, about 50 % work for more than one year and the rest for less than a year. From FGD, it was found that 15–20 % who used to go to India for seasonal work returned for road construction work. Those who returned are mostly those migrants having vulnerable and short-term jobs. Regardless of type of their job in India, the members who don't have male members to carry out agricultural work also returned to village for road construction.

7.3.3 Benefits Of Reduction Of Seasonal Migration

Agriculture Perspective Plan (APP) has also spelt out that labor migration is one of the major reasons for low agricultural productivity. This impact in reduction on labor migration not only provides the RBG members a suitable environment for creating job in the local level, but it has also very good impact on agricultural production. From Focus Group Discussions, it was found that female members whose male members are out of the home for job can not rehabilitate irrigation canal, manage agriculture inputs and can not do difficult agriculture jobs like tillage operations resulting in low agriculture productivity. It can be assumed that retaining of male people due to RAP-2 road construction work must somehow contribute to enhanced agricultural productivity as the male members find time to work in their farms also. Further, the presence of male members also helps maintaining quality of children's education. In addition to getting job in local level the reduction in migration synergizes agriculture production, education of children and minimize perilous effect of HIV AIDS mostly that is transmitted in Nepal through migrated labor coming back from India.

7.4 Effects on Assets Holdings

As Nepal is an agrarian country, agriculture land and livestock animals are the main productive assets of the rural people. When the rural people find their income increasing, they have the tendency of investing money in these assets. The present study also tried to see if this is happening with the RAP-2 target households. Therefore, information/data on land and livestock holdings (before and after RAP-2) were also collected from the household survey and the results are discussed below.

7.4.1 Effects On Agriculture Landholdings

As expected, some of the RBG members, in the study area, were found to utilize some portion of their wage income in buying agriculture land. It was observed that the average landholding size of the sample households before RAP-2 was 7.38 Rorani⁹, which was increased to 7.68 Ropani after RAP-2. It means the average increase in landholding size after RAP-2 was 0.30 Ropani.

7.4.1.1 Size of landholding by Gender

Analysis of the survey data by gender of the respondents indicated that the average size of landholding in both situations (i.e. before and after RAP-2) was higher with Male respondents. The average size of landholding of Male respondents Before and After RAP-2 were 9.05 Ropani and 9.34 Ropani, respectively. On an average, the sample households had added 0.30 Ropani of farming land after RAP-2. The corresponding figures of Female respondents were 5.92 Ropani and 6.22 Ropani, respectively. However, the rate of increase in landholding size was almost same in both male and female respondents.

⁹ One Ropani = 0.033 Hectare

Table-10: Average size of agriculture landholdings by Gender of respondents

Gender of Respondents	Average Landholding Size (Ropani)		
	Before RAP-2	After RAP-2	Change (+, -)
Male	9.05	9.34	+ 0.29
Female	5.92	6.22	+ 0.30
Total	7.38	7.68	+ 0.30

7.4.1.2 Landholding Size by Ethnic group

In terms of ethnicity of the respondents, landholding size, both before and after RAP-2, was significantly higher in “Others” ethnic group compared to that of Dalit group (Refer Table-11). It is also evident that the increment in landholding size is significantly higher in “other” ethnic group. In average, landholding has been increased by 0.35 Ropani in “Other” ethnic group, while it is only 0.16 Ropani in the case of Dalit groups. From FGD, it was found that 20 % of the members either returned back their leased land or leased in others land for cereal crop production. The tendency is more in “Others” than in “Dalit” as the “Dalit” don’t have practice of farming and they invest more in food items and repaying loan.

Table-11: Average size of agriculture landholdings by Ethnicity

Ethnicity of Respondents	Average Landholding Size (Ropani)		
	Before RAP-2	After RAP-2	Change (+, -)
Dalit	4.87	5.03	+ 0.16
Others	8.36	8.71	+ 0.35
Total	7.38	7.68	+ 0.30

7.4.2 Effect On Livestock Holding

The survey results indicate that there has been a remarkable increase in the size of animal holdings in the study area after RAP-2 intervention. Before RAP-2, the average household in the programme area used to keep an average number of 5.65 animals in their homes. This number after RAP-2 intervention has increased to 8.36 per household, indicating a net increase of 2.71 animals per household.

7.4.2.1 Holdings by Gender of Respondents

Comparison across the Gender of respondents revealed that Male respondents had higher number of animal holding than that of Female respondents in both situations i.e. Before and After RAP-2. The average numbers of animal held by male households before and after RAP-2 intervention were 6.66 and 9.38, respectively. The corresponding numbers in the case of female household were 4.77 and 7.46. Significant Increase in the number of livestock animals was observed both in male and female respondent households. However, the rate of increase across the gender of respondents was insignificant.

Table-12: Size of Livestock Holdings by Gender

Gender of Respondents	Average Size of Livestock Holding (Number)		
	Before RAP-2	After RAP-2	Change (+, -)
Male	6.66	9.38	+ 2.72
Female	4.77	7.46	+ 2.69
Total	5.65	8.36	+ 2.71

7.4.2.2 Holdings by Ethnicity of Respondents

The data presented in the following table clearly shows that the ethnic group under the category “Others” hold greater number of animals in both situations (before & after RAP-2) in comparison to “Dalit” group. In both ethnic groups, the number of animal holdings increased after RAP-2 was significant.

Table-13: Size of Livestock holdings by Ethnicity

Description	Average Size of Livestock Holding (Number)		
	Before RAP-2	After RAP-2	Change (+, -)
Dalit	3.90	5.97	+ 2.07
Others	6.34	8.36	+ 2.02
Total	5.65	8.36	+ 2.71

7.5 Wage Incomes And Their Utilization

One of the important direct benefits of RAP-2 programme has been the year round employment generation created for the target beneficiaries through their involvement in road construction activities. In aggregate, RAP-2 provides employment opportunities for over 16,000 people at any point of time. In the study area, more than 1,100 poor people are being engaged in road construction. It has been calculated that as of April 2010 the sample respondents in the study road corridor have received over NRs. 4.80 million as wage payment¹⁰. It indicates that an average respondent in the study area has received a wage income of nearly NRs. 45,000. The current study therefore has tried to investigate how the RBG members are utilizing their wage incomes. The following section presents the results of the analysis of the usage of wage incomes of the RBG members.

7.5.1 Wage Earnings By Gender

Analysis of the wage incomes of RBG members by gender of respondents shows that the average wage income of female members (NRs. 46,086) is slightly higher than that of their counterparts (NRs. 43,508).

Table-14: Wage Income By Gender

Gender of Respondents	Number of respondents	Total Wage Income (NRs)	Average wage income (NRs)
Male	50	2,175,405	43,508
Female	57	2,626,897	46,086
Total	107	4,802,302	44,881

7.5.2 Wage Earnings By Ethnicity

Survey result indicates no significant difference in the wage incomes across ethnic groups. However, the income of “Others” is slightly higher (NRs. 44,788) than that of “Dalit” group (NRs. 44,372).

¹⁰ The construction work in RC-2 corridor was started from March/April 2009. Hence the total wage received accounts for a period of about 13 months.

Table-15: Wage Income By Ethnicity

Ethnicity of Respondents	Number of respondents	Total Wage Income (NRs)	Average wage income (NRs)
Dalit	30	1,331,173	44,372
Others	77	3,448,659	44,788
Total	107	4,802,302	44,881

7.5.3 Usage Of Wage Income

Of the total wage income received by the RBG members, about 6 % was found to be kept at home in cash and the rest 94% is expended for various purposes.

7.5.3.1 Usage by Gender

In terms of Gender, the female respondents were found to keep more cash at home (9.0% of total wage income) compared to male respondents (3.0% of total wage income).

Table-16: Status of Wage Income by Gender of respondents

Gender of Respondents	Total Income (NRs.)	% Cash in Hand	% Expenditure
Male	2,152,835	3.38	96.62
Female	2,626,997	7.81	92.19
Total	4,779,832	5.81	94.19

7.5.3.2 Usage by Ethnicity

The following table shows that the members of ethnic group falling under “Others” hold greater percentage of their wage income (6.30 % of total income) than that of “Dalit” (4.46% of total income).

Table-17: Status of Wage Income by Ethnicity of respondents

Ethnicity of Respondents	Total Income (NRs.)	% Cash in Hand	% Expenditure
Dalit	1,331,173	4.56	95.44
Others	3,448,659	6.30	93.70
Total	4,779,832	5.81	94.19

7.5.4 Expenditure By Purpose

It has been observed that the first five sectors in which the RBG members used to spend their wage incomes are found to be Fooding (15.50% of the total expenses), Group saving (14.69%), Animal purchase (14.69%), repaying old loans (12.98%) and purchasing agriculture land (12.02%). The RBG members were also found to invest their wage incomes in education (5.68%) and health (4.31%), which is very encouraging. About one-fifth of the total wage incomes of RBG members was found to spend in other sectors such as clothing, petty business, solar installation, jewels, festivals, house repair, donations etc. Details by Gender and Ethnicity of the respondents are presented in the following tables.

Table-18: Percent Distribution of Expenditure of Wage Income by Gender of Respondents

Gender of Respondents	Group Saving	Fooding	Land Purchase	Animal Purchase	Loan Repay	Education	Health	Others
Male	13.12	14.64	11.35	17.99	13.58	4.42	5.30	19.59
Female	16.04	16.24	12.59	11.86	12.46	6.76	3.46	20.59
Total	14.69	15.50	12.02	14.69	12.98	5.68	4.31	20.13

Table-19: Percent Distribution of Expenditure of Wage Income by Ethnicity of Respondents

Ethnicity of Respondents	Group Saving	Fooding	Land Purchase	Animal Purchase	Loan Repay	Education	Health	Others ¹¹
Dalit	15.33	20.88	9.45	14.54	16.08	4.94	2.96	15.83
Others	14.44	13.39	13.03	14.76	11.76	5.97	4.84	21.82
Total	14.69	15.50	12.02	14.69	12.98	5.68	4.31	20.13

Other studies conducted in Nepal show that poor people use to spend more than 50 % of their incomes in fooding. The lower percentage of expenditure in fooding in this study is due to the fact that our analysis is based on the wage earnings from RAP-2 road construction. We have not taken into account of other income sources of the sample respondents. The RBG members do have other sources of their household income such as seasonal employment outside their villages, off-farm enterprises, agriculture labor in their localities, income from farm production and livestock production etc.

8. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The findings of the study clearly indicate that RAP-2 intervention has started showing its initial results on the socio-economic situation of the target beneficiaries. As discussed earlier, initial positive result was observed in the reduction of seasonal labor migration since both the number of households sending their members out of their villages and the number of economically active population going out for seasonal employment were reduced significantly. This is an encouraging result, which can have tremendous impact on the socio-economic sector of the study area. Reduction of seasonal migration does not simply means the employment generation at local level, but it also impacts on increased agricultural production of the locality, improved education of the children, and minimization of the risks of fatal diseases like HIV AIDS mostly transmitted from migrant specifically in India. The number of households sending family members for seasonal employment was found higher among Dalit ethnic group in the study area. It shows that higher percentage of Dalit used to go to India due to fewer opportunities for employment in local level and less resource base in their villages. When they got opportunity in the village they returned and started working in road construction.

Besides reduction in seasonal migration, the programme has contributed to increased assets of RBG members in the study area. RBG members were found to invest their wage income in productive sectors because of RAP's effort. It was observed that the RBG members have started purchasing livestock and land after their involvement in the programme. They have been making income from labor migration since several decades but they were striving under serious problems resulting from mismanagement of their incomes. But the regular and transparent income from road construction combined with various social and economic training programmes imparted by RAP-2 prompted for investment in productive sector.

It has been realized that similar studies with broader scope and coverage should be carried out in future to track down the results produced by RAP-2 interventions. Findings of such studies could be of great importance to help influence policy-makers to plan and implement projects and programmes that are pro-poor and inclusive.

¹¹ Includes expenditure on solar installation, small business, celebrating festivals, repairing houses, gold purchase etc.

ANNEX

घरघुरी सर्वेक्षण फारम

क) परीचय

१. सडक:

२. जिल्ला:

३. ठेगाना:

४. नाम:

५. लिंग:

६. परीवार संख्या:

महिला:

पुरुष:

ख) जग्गा सम्बन्धि विवरण:

क्र.स.	जग्गाको प्रकार	कार्यक्रम पहिले क्षेत्रफल (रोपनी)	हाल क्षेत्रफल (रोपनी)
१	आफ्नो पाखो जग्गा		
२	ठेक्कामा लिएको पाखो जग्गा		
३	ठेक्कामा दिएको पाखो जग्गा		
४	आफ्नो खेत जग्गा		
५	ठेक्कामा लिएको खेत जग्गा		
६	ठेक्कामा दिएको खेत जग्गा		

ख) पशु पालन सम्बन्धि विवरण:

क्र.स.	पशु को विवरण	गाई गोरु		भैसी		वाखा		कुखुरा	
		कार्यक्रम पहिले संख्या	हाल संख्या	कार्यक्रम पहिले संख्या	हाल संख्या	कार्यक्रम पहिले संख्या	हाल संख्या	कार्यक्रम पहिले संख्या	हाल संख्या
	पशुको संख्या								

ग) बसाई सराई सम्बन्धि विवरण

क्र.स.	उमेर समुह	एक वर्ष भन्दा कम भारत काम गर्ने जानेको संख्या		एक वर्ष भन्दा बढी भारत काम गर्ने जानेको संख्या	
		पहिले संख्या र गएको ठाउँ	हाल संख्या र गएको ठाउँ	पहिले संख्या र गएको ठाउँ	हाल संख्या र गएको ठाउँ
१	१५ वर्ष मुनी महिला				
२	१५ वर्ष मुनी पुरुष				
३	१५ देखि ६० वर्ष सम्म महिला				
४	१५ देखि ६० वर्ष सम्म पुरुष				
५	६० वर्ष भन्दा माथि महिला				
६	६० वर्ष भन्दा माथि पुरुष				

घ) सडक निर्माणबाट आम्दानी र खर्चको विवरण

१. ग्रा.प.का. दोस्रो चरण अन्तर्गत सडक निर्माणबाट हालसम्मको आम्दानी कति हो ?.....

२. खर्चको विवरण

क) खाना तथा अन्य खाद्यान्न:

ख) बचत:

ग) पशु खरिद:

घ) आयमुलक कृषाकलापमा:

ड) ऋण तिर्न:

च) ऋण लगानी:

छ) सोलार खरीद:

ज) शिक्षा:

झ) स्वास्थ्य:

ञ) जग्गा खरीद:

त) चाडवाड:

थ) कपडा:

द) अन्य:

ड) हाल आम्दानीका श्रोतहरु: