

Struggle for survival with the fear of infection



Life is not an easy journey for all, and many mostly only struggle. Kamala Devi Bohora from Waiyabehedi, Dhangadi Sub-metropolitan city-2 is one of those hard-working women who has been struggling throughout to earn a livelihood and secure a good future for the family mostly her children. Currently, she has been staying in a quarantine center in Nawadurga Secondary School in Dhangadi. With a family of seven, including her husband, two sons, and three daughters, she has struggled with her husband to secure a good future for her family.

She shared, “My husband has been working in Delhi for the past 20 years but his earnings aren’t enough to manage the necessities of our family. His salary is not even enough to feed the family and educate the children. Therefore, I have always tried my best to support him. I started a small tea shop to make some earning but it didn’t do well as expected. I switched places hoping it would do well at least somewhere but it didn’t just work for me. That was when I decided to go to Delhi along with my husband and try my luck there. It had just been a month or two and the Covid-19 happened to lead to the lockdown.”

As the lockdown started she and her husband waited to hope the days would be better and they could get back to work but lockdown never seemed to end.

In a sad voice, she added, “Both of us lost our jobs and it became more difficult for us to survive there and also to manage expenses of our children, here in Nepal. We stayed for an extra month hoping times would be better and we would get new jobs but rather we started running out of savings and slowly even money to join hands to mouth. We didn’t have any other alternative to returning but we didn’t even have that money. The current situation and staying away from children bothered even more. We are grateful that my son-in-law managed some money for us to get back.”

It has been 9 days already since Kamala and her husband have been staying in the quarantine. Kamala was tested RDT positive while her husband was tested negative. However, they haven’t been tested with PCR. Being tested positive in RDT has led Kamala to worry but she is hopeful.

Revisiting her tiresome journey Kamala reflected, “The journey to Nepal was equally tiresome and painful and deep within the affection of my children here made my heart heavy. When we arrived here I received this kit from CARE Nepal and CSSD. The kit had very important materials such as toothbrush, toothpaste, soap, towel, undergarments, mask, sanitary pad, and some other useful things. While it was being difficult to manage materials to maintain personal hygiene, this kit has been really helpful. This is the first time I have ever received relief material and I am grateful. I appreciate how these organizations have considered the necessities of people in quarantine, mostly women.”

Kamala got to know of COVID-19, the symptoms, and its precautions when she came to the quarantine. She is thankful for all the information that was shared with her and she is hopeful that Covid-19 can be prevented mostly for her children. Kamala is very worried about managing her family and their expenses.

She thankfully added, “I feel so happy that I am getting to express my thoughts while talking to you. Most of the time, I have been thinking, what would happen next? What will I do to make a living? How will all the expenses be managed? Will life be harder and harsher than before? While all of these thoughts bother me, I have decided that, once I get out of the quarantine, I shall borrow some loan and open a tea-shop again. I will work to the best of my capacity.”

Like many others like her, Kamala and her family have been badly hit by the impact of Covid-19. While the fear of getting infected exists, the struggle survival bothers them even more.