

**Report on**

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**‘Street Drama’ on waste management  
In Namche Bazar, Chaurikharka and Lukla**

**And**

**‘Photo Exhibition’  
In Namche Festival 2012**

**Organized by:**  
**Saving Mount Everest – Waste Management Project**

**Prepared by:**  
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## **Background:**

This report provides details of Street Drama "Hamro Himal – Ramro Himal" that translates to 'our beautiful mountain', performed in three major villages in Mount Everest Region that was organized by Saving Mount Everest – waste management project. One major component of the project is an awareness program for locals, seasonal migrant workers and local porters. For this purpose, the Street Drama is an effective means to convey the messages to vast audiences that includes people from all occupations. Since, no street drama have been performed in this part of Nepal, this was a good opportunity for awareness program, which that was appreciated by the locals and helped to fulfil our objectives of making people aware waste management.

Street Drama is a powerful and entertaining form of communication to reach out to the people, because the people identify themselves with the characters. This is presented without the need for a stage with very few props, makeup, costumes etc. The plays are devised to suit the local audience and performed closely that allows people to easily understand and enjoy. The language and some satirical sequences were important aspects of a play to draw the attention of audience.

The best possible time for organizing this program was during Namche festival 2012, which was held for 3 days in Namche Bazar to mark and fifth International Mount Everest Day. This event was organized for the first time in this village with necessary support from District Development Committee, Village Development Committee, Nepal Mountaineering Association, Trekking Agent's Association, Nepal Tourism Board, various local institution and local enterprises. This time of the year was suitable for such occasion, as most local people were in the village while many porters and guides happen to be in the region because of expedition season.

During 2011, Saving Mount Everest Project organized photo exhibitions in Mount Everest Base Camp, Namche and in Kathmandu. This was part of awareness campaign to keep the mountains clean. Taking the opportunity of Namche Festival, we made similar photo exhibition during this period in cooperation with SPCC.

## **Objectives**

The main objective of organizing this street drama was to make people of all occupation aware of waste management, which leads to sustainable tourism and environmental preservation in the region.

## **Methodology**

Considering Namche Festival 2012 as an appropriate venue for the street drama and confirmation from Eco Himal head office, I begin to consult various street drama groups in Kathmandu for their availability, the costs and their relevant experience of performing in remote parts of Nepal on given theme. The 'Dabali Natya Samuha (DANS)', a drama group performing in Kathmandu and other parts of Nepal on various issues fits to our criteria. Upon necessary negotiation and arrangements, we prepared the script based on our objective and the group was given ample time to rehearse. Prior to leaving for Lukla, we requested the group to perform in front of us, where I invited few people to observe and make necessary recommendation. This turned out be productive as we could suggest them about local customs, the dialects and few relevant changes that was necessary.

Flight and travel arrangement were made for the group with the help of a local coordinator. Due to bad weather, we allocated cushion of few days for flight to Lukla and back. This was very good decision as there were no flights for few days since we flew to Lukla. Prior to performances, we forecasted about the play in Namche Festival program sheet and SPCC helped send information to Lukla through their local office. One show was scheduled for Phakding but having coincided with Dumji festival, most villagers were absent during those days and the program was shifted to Chaurikharka, as requested by the high school. The performance in Lukla was organized at the end of the trip, when many people were stranded in Lukla due to bad weather for flight. The people from neighbouring villages; such as Thame valley, Khumjung, Khunde, Tyangboche, Pangboche, Jorsalle, Monjo and Phakding attended the Namche Festival and they were able watch the drama. This means, most people in the region were able to observe the street drama.

Along with the street drama, the project in association with SPCC organized a photo exhibition at the festival venue, where maximum number of people can get access to such information. At the stall, recyclable bags that substitute the plastic bags were also displayed along with distribution of informational brochures.

## **Major activities**

25<sup>th</sup> May 2012 – The group flies to Lukla

27<sup>th</sup> May 2012 – Street Drama performed in Namche Bazar. The first day of Namche Festival 2012

27 – 29<sup>th</sup> May 2012 – Saving Mount Everest - Photo Exhibition during Namche Festival

1<sup>st</sup> June 2012 – Street Drama performed in Chaurikharka High School.

2<sup>nd</sup> June 2012 – Street Drama performed in Lukla.

4<sup>th</sup> June 2012 – Some group members were able to fly back to Kathmandu

5<sup>th</sup> June 2012 – The rest of the group members flew back to Kathmandu.

## **Synopsis of the Street Drama ‘Hamro Himal – Ramro Himal’**

Presented by: Dabali Natya Samuha (DANS)  
Script and Director : Jeevan Shreatha  
Artists : 5 artists, 5 characters  
Duration : 35 minutes

The street drama ‘Hamro Himal – Ramro Himal’ highlighted the importance of the linkages between solid waste management and tourism promotion and the values of good health and keeping the environment clean in the region.

The drama showed how waste pollution from human activities has an effect on people. How the region gets polluted by throwing garbage around the house and on trails. People have the notion that Sagarmatha Pollution Control Committee (SPCC) will collect garbage thrown around and somehow disappears. They do not know, or maybe care, that sorting garbage into degradable and non-degradable can reduce the amount of waste drastically while the organic waste are used as manure for their fields. The drama also portrayed the effects of hygiene and sanitation that can cause sicknesses, while the lodges having good hygiene and sanitation facilities will have better business than the opposite ones.

The drama gave great emphasis on each household to reduce their waste by sorting and recycling while the non-degradable wastes dumped in nearest waste bin for proper management. Further issues were emphasized on minimizing the use of plastic bags and encouraging the local people to be alert on expeditions bringing their wastes from the mountain, which needs to be handed over to SPCC for proper management. The drama had a character that is a trekking guide working in the region. This guide loves his job, loves to trek in this region but lacks awareness on keeping the region clean as he throws biscuit wrappers and juice cans on the trail. A couple trying to keep their village clean sees the guide’s behaviour and confronts him to be sincere to the region. The guide was made to realize about the pollution caused by throwing plastics, cans and other non-degradable wastes around the trail. He was convinced that keeping the region clean would help sustain the trekking business that would bring more income for the villagers and regular jobs for the guides. Another character is a popular lodge owner, who is aware of waste management and keeps their lodges clean that helps bring her good business. She explains her success story to a colleague about the importance of keeping the lodge and surrounding clean for good health and for good lodge business. Another character was a porter, who pees on the trail, which the lodge owner and her colleague see it. The women tease him of such behaviour while explaining him not to do such thing on the trail that causes pollution leading to sickness and harming the tourism business as well. The local couple and the guide meet again, but this time the guide was carrying garbage brought from the mountain that was to be handover to SPCC. They talk about how important it is to keep the mountains

clean along with the villages. Realizing the importance of waste management, all the characters decided to make awareness campaign among their colleagues and in the villages.

## **Conclusion**

The Street Drama and the photo exhibition helped to convey the message of keeping Mount Everest and the region clean from waste produced locally and from increasing number of trekkers and mountaineers visiting the region. Apart from regular awareness programs, the Street Drama was found to be an effective means to convey the messages, which helps in reaching the grass root people and people of all occupation.

The photos exhibition was a great way to show people about the wastes in the high mountain and its implication. This exhibition is part of our awareness campaign since the project started in year 2011.

SPCC and the local people recommends in compiling the dramas and produce a DVD, which they would use it for further awareness programs in the future in various villages. The Namche Festival organizing committee and the local people appreciate our effort in bringing the drama group to this event, which added further attraction to the festival with holistic approach of making people aware of keeping the Himalayan region clean. This street drama was telecasted on national television and on news as well. The drama group were very cooperative during this whole period. They appreciate the project giving such opportunity for them to visit the region. Everything went well according to plan, except the group was stranded few days in Lukla due to bad weather for flight back to Kathmandu.

## Glimpse of SME awareness program



Drama group and media on the way to Namche



Photo exhibition



Show in Namche Bazar



Show in Chaurikharka High School and Lukla