

The recent earthquake and its effect in Rapchha

Four Schools in Rapchha:

On day 7, as of writing this report, the total human casualties reached 6204, almost 1000 more than the count reported yesterday. Unfortunately two of these unfortunate 6204 are from our very own village Rapchha. Mani Kumar Rai, who is survived with two very young children and his wife, and Khasbir Rai who was still unmarried were buried under a landslide near Jagat as they were portering in a trek in Manaslu region.

All the houses of Shree Basakhali Secondary School are damaged by the quake, but two of the older blocks are unusable. Many of the windows in other blocks have been pushed inside or outside from their original position.

The wall of a block in Shree Dipendra Adarsha Primary School in Lop has collapsed whereas the current office building of Shree Chandrodaya Primary School is badly damaged too.



Damaged wall of the Secondary school

Based on the report from Pancha and the latest one from Ganesh to whom I have talked on phone a while ago, Shree Janakalyan Primary School in Bodu is said to have the least effect from the quake.

The new building of Thulodhunga school is almost completed to the ceiling level but the work has been stopped from the moment the quake hit the country. The walls have been damaged and the contractors were discussing about either to redo the walls or just try to fix where damaged. We are going to contact Ganesh tomorrow to find out more about the decision of the community and contractors (there are two of them) of this building in regards to damaged walls. And we will accordingly update you about it.

The Healthpost

The healthpost stands pretty solid though there are some minor cracks in one of the walls facing east. And a very small portion of wall has collapsed at the top of the building at west side. Healthpost toilet also has suffered a minor crack but none of above are serious.

Thank Goodness, No Landslide!

Given the geographical structure of Rapchha, landslide is one of the very probable natural disasters one can imagine being provoked by such a strong quake. However this did not happen and the whole of Rapchha is greatly relieved.

Water Systems

Rapchha has many water systems throughout the village and none has been damaged by this earthquake.

Two Micro Hydropower Plants

Personally, this was one of my biggest fears but fortunately both the plants survived. The water canal for both the plants are built in landslide prone location, and the almost

vertical iron water pipe coming to the powerhouse is attached to, or supported from the earth with not very strong concrete support.

Individual Households

And this is where the biggest damage was done. The exact number is yet to be verified but it is estimated that over 30 individual houses are damaged to the extent that they are uninhabitable. And this is the one factor which needs an immediate response.



Pictures of some of the damaged houses throughout Rapchha

All the photos used in this document are taken and provided by Pancha Rai.

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