



**EDUCATE THE CHILDREN  
NEPAL**



## Meet Laxmi!

Laxmi, age 38, lives in a village in Dolakha. She is married and has three daughters. She became a member of ETC's Godawari women's group in 2008, and it is no exaggeration to say that it changed her and her family's lives for the better, in many ways! As part of a broader research project, our representative recently caught up with Laxmi in her village, to find out what she has gained through ETC.

**Increased personal confidence:** Like many of her peers, Laxmi described herself as very quiet, shy, and unwilling to speak up in public prior to joining her women's group. Through increasingly active involvement in monthly meetings and regular interaction with ETC staff members, she became more verbally expressive and better able to participate actively in public settings:

*"Before joining Godawari, I was sent to Chitwan for 5 days of health related training [by] another organisation. I didn't learn anything from that project. I still remember, I was asked to introduce myself to a group of people but I didn't know how....If only I was attending that training now, I would have learnt something. This has been possible only after joining Godawari."*

**Financial and entrepreneurial skills:** Being able to earn and manage money is a very important component of women's empowerment. Laxmi attended school during a portion of her youth, unlike many of her peers, but she was lacking some other useful skills and experience. With the help of ETC staff, she learned to manage her group's financial records. This new ability has also spilled over into her home life: prior to her joining Godawari, Laxmi's husband had taken care of all their household financial management tasks, but now he turns his salary over to her and she is responsible for managing their money.

She has also started a market gardening business, cultivating vegetables on her family's land and selling them for a profit.



Laxmi (red hat) keeps track of the savings fund contributions for her women's group

*Photo by Sunita Basnet*

## **YES! I want to help women like Laxmi, and their families, in rural Nepal!**

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**Better able to support her children:** Laxmi and many other women are now able to support their children's higher education aspirations. Because of Laxmi's women's group membership, her eldest daughter could complete a three-year agriculture course at a technical college in the town of Jiri and is now working in an internship position back in Dolakha:

*"Although our daughter was capable of studying agriculture, we [wouldn't have been] able to send her to Jiri if I was not a member of the saving group because of our financial circumstances. I get a loan on time and the interest is very affordable and it is easy to apply for the loan. I have taken education loan of 60,000 to 65,000 rupees\* each year for 3 years...By the end of each year, I pay back the loan from the income I earn by selling vegetables and my husband's wages...I am a member of this saving group so I was able to invest in my daughter's education."*

*\* about \$545-590 at current exchange rates*

**Leadership aspirations:** Although she used to be very shy, Laxmi now reports having taken a more active role in lobbying local government authorities to fund activities for women and girls, focusing on income generation. She even hopes to stand for local election in the future!

Laxmi's cauliflower farm, January 2019  
Suspa-Kshamawati, Dolakha

*Photo by Sunita Basnet*



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Of course, Laxmi still faces challenges. For example, she would like to expand her farming business but does not currently have access to enough additional land. She also mentioned having lost some of her crops to red ants and diseases. However, she now possesses the skills and resources to tackle these problems, and she will surely continue to thrive.

Laxmi's story is inspiring, and she is but one of thousands of women who have made better lives for themselves and their families. All of this has been possible because of you!

***Will you please renew  
your support of ETC today?***



**Educate the Children**

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