



Mahesh Mahato is a 50 year old mason, who resides in Biratnagar ward no. 17. He lives with his mother, wife and three sons. His wife is a homemaker and tends to their 2 cows, 4 goats and a few pigeons, through which she generates a small income. Mahesh's eldest son has recently gained employment in an organization, while the other two are still pursuing their education. Mahesh has worked as a mason for 25 years. He recalls earning 15 rupees per day when he started the profession. He now earns 800 rupees per day.

Long ago, Mahesh's father had traded an ox for 10 dhur (1882.5 sq.ft.) of land in Biratnagar. This is

where their family lived in a hut made of mud and straw. They were unable to build a proper house due to lack of capital required to purchase all the required materials. Being in the construction industry, Mahesh has built numerous houses but could never save enough money to build his own. Sewa's Home Loan project provided Mahesh with the required capital and provided technical assistance to build an earthquake resistant building. Due to Sewa's ongoing Home Loan project, he has been able to achieve his dream of building a permanent concrete house of his own. He is very happy because he got the opportunity to fulfill his dreams.

After receiving training from Sewa, Mahesh now stresses on the importance of building earthquake resistant houses using various techniques and technologies, while adhering to the bye laws set by the government to all his clients.

After being linked with Sewa, Mahesh has started getting work more frequently. Other people looking to build houses through Sewa's Home Loan project contact him for work. This has led to an increase in his income for which he is extremely thankful.

Mahesh says “ढुंगुगु खोजुदुदु देउतुतु मलुलुडुडु”¹

1. A common Nepali proverb which means “while searching for something small or meaningless, I found a greater cause”.