



Shanti Devi Shahi hails from Ward no. 14, Tikapur Municipality; Kailali. Her family consists of her husband Ram Bahadur Shahii, two sons and a daughter. Ram Bahadur Shahi was the sole bread earner for the family. Their family was financially sound and had a promising future. However, their lives instantly overturned after the 12 Baishakh 2072 (25th April 2015), Gorkha Earthquake.

Shanti Devi's husband was employed by a construction company in Gorkha. He was working in the basement of

a building when the earthquake occurred, burying him under the rubble. Ram Bahadur Shahi did not sustain any physical injuries. However after being rescued two days later, they discovered that he was paralyzed due to high blood pressure. Ram Bahadur was unconscious when he was received by Shanti Devi. She started to panic with no solution in sight. With the help of friends and relatives, she took her husband to Kathmandu based Teaching Hospital. The recovery was slow and painstaking. In order to pay for the medical expenses, Shanti Devi sold her house and property in Tikapur. Ram Bahadur was discharged from the hospital without fully recovering after 2 months in the hospital.

Only after her husband was discharged, Shanti Devi felt the gravity of her situation. She had no money left, had sold of her house and nowhere to go. With no other option, she sought refuge in her parents' house located in Kohalpur. Shanti Devi's parents were disheartened after seeing the condition of their daughter. They gave her 10 dhur(1822.5 sq.ft.) of land in Kohalpur, in order to rebuild her life.

Shanti Devi did not have the required capital to build a house in that land. Some local women informed Shanti Devi about Sewa's Home Loan project in Kohalpur. With the hope of owning a house once again, she visited Sewa. Upon returning, she discussed the matter with her children who supported the idea and pledged to chip in some amount of money each month to pay the EMI.

Shanti Devi says that the members from Sewa prepared the blueprint and assisted in the procedure for gaining the house permit. The members from Sewa also provided advice and guidance on how to build a strong, eco friendly and earthquake resistant house.

Shanti Devi now lives in her own house."There is still some work like plaster and paint left, we will do it gradually do it ", she says happily. When asked about Sewa's Home Loan project ,she says "भुक्कम्पले लुटेको खुसी सेवाले फिर्ता दिएको छ,म जस्तै विभिन्न कारणले घरवार गुमाएका सबै दीनदुःखी हरुको जिवनमा खुसी ल्याओस सेवाले ।"(The happiness that the earthquake stole has been returned by Sewa,I hope Sewa keeps bringing happiness to the lives of those who have lost their homes like me).