# Nuwakot: How it all Happened

**Starting**

After the biggest earthquake, I involved with Mitrataa Foundation to help people around village. Though Mitrataa usually works for educating children, they have done a lot for the earthquake victims around my village. I worked under the command of Mitrataa.

**Contributions**

At first we, Mitrataa distribute more tents to more than 300 families. This was the biggest support from any INGO at that time. We also gave some foods to the people above village.

**School Project**

As Mitrataa was working for education, our aim was to re-construct the temporary school and run classes as soon as possible. We also wanted to work with in long term. So according to my suggestion we decided to build temporary bamboo school for Bhamara School, government school on the high hill around my village. For that we had a meeting with the local authorities and Local people. All of them seemed so interested in our plans. They fully supported us. They also promised to help us in building their own school. We believed that this would be our long term project. So we started to work for building school.

We brought bamboos to the hill. As per our deal, villagers were supposed to help us. But they didn’t show impressive interest since the start. They didn’t agree to provide us old furniture. They even started to interfere in our works. Only two villagers supported us. We continued to work to fulfill our promise. We built a bamboo school for students. We built 8 rooms including our two samples rooms. We sent our girls and volunteers to run classes. They did amazing work despite villager’s behavior.

There occurred serious misunderstanding between us and Villagers. Villagers thought we’re like other organization that once gives fortune and never comes back. We’re not like them. We wanted to something sustainable. But villagers didn’t understand our vision. We wanted work together and make them feel responsible. We also wanted to develop their skills through Sherpa guys (bamboo experts). We offered them with bamboos and they were supposed to help and learn from Sherpa guys. But they refused to give something in return. We asked them to provide old tins and furniture but they didn’t give and tried to escape from us. In addition to this their school name was on the television saying they’re the neediest school in Nuwakot District. So they got many other donors who just came and gave money to the authorities and didn’t ask anything in return. Then they tried to ignore us. We thought it wasn’t worth working for them. Unfortunately, we had to give up on all our plans for the improvement of villagers and their children.

Bamboos are so hard to find in Nuwakot at this situation. So we gave all bamboos to another school –Bhumi Devi Sundari who were interests to utilize that. All the other transportation cost was borne

**As a Supervisor**

Even though we couldn’t continue school project, I am very proud that Mitrataa did so much to the victims of my village. Being a member of the village I thank Mitrataa for everything it has done for the village and would like to apologize on behalf of the villagers that we couldn’t create that chemistry and work together. Now we need to work on selecting the projects from next time. We need to negotiate with right person. I am still hopeful that we could work together in other projects in future.

Shankar Thapaliya