

Nepal Public Health Foundation

E- news letter

8th Issue, October 2014

About NPHF

Nepal Public Health Foundation (NPHF) was established in April 2010 with a mission to have concerted public health action, research, and policy dialogue for health development, particularly of the socio- economically marginalized population and with a goal to ensure Civil Society's pro- active intervention in public health such as Health policy and Systems Research, Human Resource Development, Communicable Disease Control, Non-communicable disease control, Nutritional Research, Maternal

Forward

The recent dissemination on the situation of use and effectiveness of antibacterial medicines in Nepal has indicated to the situation that requires a serious and urgent action to prevent further worsening the issue. When first antibiotic-penicillin was discovered, it was perceived as a magical medicine against the infectious diseases and was assumed that microorganisms were defeated. Time has proved this assumption to be false. We are now in the situation not better, rather worse, than the time before discovery of antibiotics. It is apparent that using available antibiotics in rational way is wiser than to spend energy in search for newer antibiotics. It demands a shift in practice and psychology of prescribers in relation to use of antibiotics that will also influence on the perception and behavior of users in the long run. Point of departure of such shift could be an enquiry and review of current teaching learning contents and methods in different academic programmes of health sciences. We need to move with mood of optimism to address the problem of antimicrobial resistance.

Prof. Dr. Sharad Onta
General Secretary



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Nominations

Dr. Badri Raj Pande, Executive Chair and Dr. Rita Thapa, Advisor NPHF has been nominated as Advisor to the newly established Forum on Health Journalism chaired by Mr. Anil Neupane.

Dr. Tirtha Rana was nominated by Ministry of Health and Population from September 10-12, 2014 as a member of Technical Review Panel in order to evaluate the expression of interests submitted by applicants for HIV and Malaria under the New funding Model of GFATM.

Activities at NPHF

Ongoing Research / Project Update

A. Overcoming barriers to scaling skilled birth attendants' utilization in improving Maternal, Newborn and Child Health in Nepal

Nepal Public Health Foundation (NPHF) has been conducting a research project titled "Understanding and overcoming barriers to scaling skilled birth attendant utilization in improving maternal newborn and child health in Nepal" which is supported by the WHO/Geneva for the period of three years. The evaluation phase has been completed and draft report is being prepared by the team members.

6th and 7th Steering Committee Meetings were held in July 17th and August 31st respectively at NPHF building under the chairmanship of Dr. Badri Raj Pande to update the members on the ongoing activities and findings of post intervention survey.



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During the time of data analysis and preparation of national dissemination, Ms. Anayda Gerarda Portela, Technical Officer of Department of Maternal, Infant, Child and Adolescent Health, WHO, Geneva had visited NPHF on 3rd September with the objective of monitoring and supervising the ongoing project. In her visit, Ms. Portela provided close guidance, suggestions and feedback in process of analysis and preparation for the national dissemination

National Level Dissemination

National Level Dissemination Programme was held on 5th September, 2014 with the purpose of sharing the overall findings of Post intervention survey and to receive the feedbacks from the stakeholders. Representative from MOHP, WHO, UNICEF, USAID, other I/NGOs and NPHF members were present in the event. Comments and feedback for further improvement were received.

B. District Investment Case

The District Investment Case (DIC) is an economic analysis of the programs of Ministry of Health at district level which encompasses a robust methodology to perform evidence based strategic planning and budgeting for Maternal Neonatal Child Health (MNCH).

The first phase was implemented in Dhading, Jajarkot and Dadeldhura. Similarly, the second phase had been implemented in Bajura, Baitadi, Bajhang and Achham. Four districts have been identified for the third phase; Dolpa, Kalikot, Jumla and Parsa. Recently, DIC team have successfully completed the workshop in Jumla on 25 to 28 July with participation of 125 individuals; Kalikot on 8 to 11 September with 153 number of participants and in Dolpa from 14 to 17 September with 116 number of participants. Appreciative Inquiry (AI) approach was used throughout the workshop, so as to create a positive attitude among the participants. The DHO staffs, health workers, political leaders and local stakeholders were present in the workshops. The draft report incorporating the entire strategic action plan and the required cost for implementing the action plan has been prepared and submitted to UNICEF.

The team is also preparing for monitoring visit at Jajarkot, Dadeldhura and Dhading districts. Preparation for DIC workshop in Parsa is ongoing.



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C. Farming Health and Environment Nepal (FHEN)

NPHF has been implementing Farming Health and Environment Project with a support of Danish NGO DIALOGOS, Denmark from April, 2013. The project will focus on the prevention of pesticide poisoning among vegetable farmers in the Chitwan District of Nepal by means of training, research and awareness raising activities.

MOU signing ceremony between NPHF, Kathmandu and Agriculture and Forestry University (AFU), Chitwan

The MOU signing ceremony between Nepal Public Health Foundation and Agriculture and Forestry University has been conducted on October 21, 2014 at Bharatpur Chitwan. The Executive chair of NPHF Dr. Badri Raj Pande and Research and Extension Director of Agriculture and Forestry University Prof. Dr. Naba Raj Devkota had signed together on the MOU. The both parties have agreed to conduct together in research and development areas in public health issues caused by wrong agricultural practices and injudicious use of antibiotics in farm animals and poultry.

Closing ceremony of Farmers training

The closing ceremony of Farmers Field School on Farming, Health and Environment organized by Nepal Public health foundation and Dialogos Denmark was held at Mangalpur-9 Sharanpur on November, 2-2014. The training was organized from July to September with the objective of capacity building of the farmer by changing their knowledge, attitude and practices towards healthy crop production and protecting environment from wrong agricultural practices. Twenty eight farmers of Mangalpur VDC were directly benefited from this training. The training was closed with the chairmanship of Trainers leaders Mr. Krishna Prasad Paudel, Chief guest Dr. Chatra Amatya, Executive member of NPHF, Special guest Prof. Dr. Mohan Sharma- Director of Continuum Education from Agriculture and Forestry University.

Meeting

The fifth and sixth Central Steering Committee meeting of FHEN was held on 21st July and 30th October, 2014 respectively at NPHF office under the chairmanship of Dr. Badri Raj Pande, chair of the steering committee. The agenda for the both meetings was to review and discuss on quarterly report. In 5th CSC meeting discussion on collaboration with government on new initiatives was done and Field coordinator was made responsible for this collaboration and preparation of draft documents for research activities. In 6th CSC meeting, discussion on preparation of monitoring evaluation sheet, distribution of protective materials to the farmers on cost sharing basis were done.



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D. Global Antibiotic Resistant Partnership- Nepal (GARP- Nepal)

The Global Antibiotic Resistance Partnership (GARP) works to create greater awareness among policy makers in low- and middle-income countries about the growing threat of antibiotic resistance and to develop country relevant solutions.

GARP Nepal signed MoU with AFU to conduct research on antibiotic use in livestock sector. GARP Nepal will provide financial assistance to AFU. Animal antibiotic resistance study proposal is received from AFU which is being reviewed by GARP Nepal core team. Data entry of DRI (Drug Resistant Index) is underway.

Working group member meeting

GARP Nepal working group meeting was organized on 25 August 2014 at NPHF meeting hall for writing recommendation and conclusion of situation analysis report. Altogether 6 individuals participated in the meeting.

WR Visit at NPHF:

Dr Rustom Firdosi WR representative of WHO Srilanka visited NPHF office on 2nd September 2014. Dr. Sharad Onta, Dr. Tirtha Rana, Dr. Lonim Prasai Dixit were present in the meeting and updated Dr. Firdosi on the activities of NPHF and discussed on various areas of shared interest and possible collaboration. Dr. Firdosi met NPHF staffs and interacted with them. He appreciated the work of NPHF and its contribution to overall health and public health in Nepal.



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Participation in National and International Activities

NPHF Member's Participation

Dr. Mahesh Maskey, President, NPHF

The World Health Organization, in collaboration with the National Health and Family Planning Commission (NHFPC) and Peking University Health Science Center, had organized a health dialogue during official visit of WHO Director General Dr Margaret Chan. The panelists for the discussion included: Prof Chen Zhu, Dr Margaret Chan, Mr. GeYanfeng, Director General, Senior Research Fellow, Research Department of Social Development, Development Research Center of the State Council of China, and H.E. Mahesh Kumar Maskey, Ambassador of Nepal. The Health Dialogue was moderated by Prof. Meng Qingyue, Dean of the School of Public Health of Peking University.



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Dr. Tirtha Rana (Treasurer, NPHF) & Dr. Lonim Prasai Dixit (Joint Secretary)

Dr. Tirtha Rana and Dr. Lonim Prasai Dixit had participated in a high level meeting and workshop on "Effective non communicable disease (NCDs) prevention and control: Sharing experiences and mapping the way forward" organized by Ministry of Health and Population during September 1-2, 2014 representing NPHF. Dr. Rana chaired a group session on promoting healthy diet and the focus areas emphasized were on: safety, labeling and adulteration regulations and to strengthen supportive policies and legislations to promote healthy diet; strengthen, implement and monitor "National Dietary Guidelines" by age, sex and physical activities, reducing food with high trans-fat content and other junk food; and, support implementation of WHO set of recommendations on marketing of foods and non-alcoholic beverages to children, including mechanisms for monitoring. Dr. Lonim Prasai Dixit, worked as a rapporteur of group and was in healthy setting group.



Meeting participants on NCD prevention and control

Dr. Tirtha Rana participated in the three meetings of Pelvic Organ Prolapse (POP) Alliance representing NPHF and provided inputs while finalizing: a) Position paper of POP alliance highlights the goal as preventing POP problem amongst Nepali women in a right based approach and them to live quality life without any suffering and violence with main objective to advocate to the concerned authorities at all levels for comprehensive and quality management of POP strategic plan and programs; b) provided feedback on the POP Alliance report to be presented in the upcoming CESCR session of Amnesty International in Geneva on November, 2014. A nomination of alliance members to



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participate in this session was agreed by the last meeting of POP alliance held on Sept. 14, 2014 and representation of CAED-WRRP, SMNF (Binjwala Shrestha, who is a board member of NPHF too), WOREC and Youth Action was agreed by the POP Alliance core group members.

Dr. Gajananda Prakash Bhandari, Founding Member, NPHF

He was invited as a panel speaker in 4th Asia-Pacific Climate Change Adaptation Forum which was held on 1-3 October 2014 at the Putra World Trade Centre in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia and hosted by the Office of the Science Advisor to the Prime Minister of Malaysia with technical support from University Kebangsaan Malaysia's Southeast Asia Disaster Prevention Research Initiative (SEADPRI-UKM). Dr. Bhandari presented a process paper on how the Ministry of Health and Population of Nepal is formulating its strategy document on climate change and health based on evidences to address the effect of climate change in health.

The Adaptation Forum 2014 focused on adaptation actors and how they collaborate to form partnerships and networks. The Forum assisted participants from all levels of government, in business and society become more effective in addressing the challenges of development in a changing climate through critical reflection on the roles of actors involved and how new partnerships for resilient development can be secured.

Dr. Lonim Prasai Dixit, Joint Secretary, NPHF

Dr Lonim Prasai Dixit, coordinator of School Health and Nutrition Network, went for a monitoring visit of SHN program of Save the Children in Siraha with Department of Education team on 13th -15th October. The first day the team had an interaction meeting with District Health and District Education Office. The second day was schools and early childhood development centers visit and meeting with principal and focal teachers of respective schools. The team also interacted with 22 focal teachers and Resource persons on their meeting at the Resource Center in Siraha.

The team observed that overall Siraha district was running a very good SHN programs with motivated school teachers. Siraha district health office and district hospital were seen as best examples while the district education office was facing some challenges with transfer of staffs and CIA investigation. The team emphasized on the importance of school health and noted some challenges and suggestions which will be discussed further.



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Dr. Rita Thapa, Advisor, NPHF

Dr. Rita Thapa delivered a lecture on 6 October 2014 on Health Governance: Nepal Context at the Senior Executive Development Program organized & invited by the NASC on her personal capacity.

Dr. Rita Thapa was honored by the Ministry of Health & Population at the public function of First FP on 18 September 2014 for her contribution to head starting government's Family Planning services in Nepal & expanding it up to the villages.



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CONGRATULATIONS!!!



Heartily Congratulations to Dr. Rajani Shah, for successfully completing her degree of PhD on Medical Research - International Health from Center for International Health, Ludwig-Maximilians-University, and Munich, Germany on 22nd September, 2014. Her PhD was guided by Dr. Mahesh Kumar Maskey as the local supervisor. We wish her best for her future endeavor.

NPHF Staffs' Participation

Mr. Narayan Subedi, Program manager participated following programs:

1. Participated in regular meeting of Civil Society Alliance for Nutrition in Nepal (CSANN).
2. Visited Coronell University, USA; Summer institute for system reviews in Nutrition for Global Policy making.
3. Visited Saptari district on 2 and 3 August with the purpose of establishing the district chapter of CSANN.
4. Breast feeding week celebration programme on August 7, 2014 at Himalayan Hotel.
5. Advocacy meeting of CSANN with parliamentarian with the objective to aware and inform parliamentarians of different political parties about the importance of nutrition in Nepal.
6. Exposure visit in Bangladesh organized by Civil Society Alliance for Nutrition in Nepal (CSANN) on 13-18th October 2014. Meeting with executive committee members Civil Society Alliance for SUN (CSA for SUN), Bangladesh at BRAC center, Dhaka. Sharing



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of the activities of CSA for SUN, Bangladesh was done which was followed by presentation of CSANN activities. Similarly, visit at Nutrition rehabilitation unit, Institute of Public Health Nutrition, Slum areas were also conducted.

Mr. Janak Thapa, Program Manager participated in a talk show programme entitled "Investing for Children" by Dr. Hans Roslin on 7 August 2014. Ms. Supriya Rana and Ms. Aastha Kasaju, Program Officers, NPHF also attended the event.

Published Article

- Research articles by Ms. Binjwala Shrestha, Executive member of NPHF can be retrieved from:
<http://www.biomedcentral.com/1472-6874/14/20/abstract>
<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4140699/>
<http://www.globalhealthaction.net/index.php/gha/article/view/24580>
- Research article on "Geriatric Health in Nepal: Concerns and Experience" co-authored by Prof. Dr. Lochana Shrestha, can be retrieved from:
<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/24696938>



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Gallery

National Level Dissemination Programme of SBA project



Prof. Dr. Sharad Onta presenting during dissemination



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Ms Anayda Gerarda Portela, WHO, Geneva giving feedback

District Investment Case (DIC)



DIC workshop



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FHEN Project



Closing ceremony of Farmers' Training



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Mr. Narayan Subedi during meeting with CSA for SUN, Bangladesh



Mr. Narayan Subedi during Field visit in urban slum, at Dhaka



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Media Watch

High child mortality at zonal hospital worries service seekers

109 newborns died at hospital in last one year

JITENDRA KUMAR JHA
RAJBIRAJ, Sept 4

Child mortality rate is increasingly becoming a matter of concern in this region with death of five newborns in the last two weeks alone in the zonal hospital. Among 410 delivery cases handled by the Sagarmatha Zonal Hospital, Rajbiraj, in the last one year, 109 babies were either stillborn or died immediately after birth. People have attributed the grim scenario to negligence on the part of the health workers and doctors.

Kamini Devi Mishra of Mainakaderi village is among those whose babies died at the zonal hospital this week. After labor, she had been admitted to the hospital on Wednesday at 4 pm. She was attended by doctors only at 8 pm when she started to have vaginal bleeding. After some time she had the baby but it was stillborn. The family members blamed the doctors for



Gajendra Narayan Singh Sagarmatha Zonal Hospital

According to Kamini's husband Pintu, her condition was normal when she was brought to the hospital. "I had brought her to the hospital within half an hour of start of labor. Yet, this tragedy happened due to the hospital's negligence," he said. "During their ward round, doctors had said

the baby die?" Pintu questioned.

According to Pintu, his wife visited Dr Usha Devi of

the hospital regularly during her pregnancy. "But the doctors at the hospital do not check patients seriously

unless the patients visit the doctors' private clinics. Moreover, Dr Usha Devi had left for Kathmandu when Kamini was admitted, so nobody took the case seriously," he added.

The hospital source claimed that the baby died as it had excreted inside the womb. The nurses on duty alleged that Kamini did not allow them to examine her properly.

When patients die at the hospital, the kin stage protest. And Kamini's family did the same thing. After the hospital administration agreed to probe the matter and punish the guilty, Kamini's family stopped protest and normalcy returned to the hospital.

Although the hospital registers patients' complaints, it has still not been

able to reduce infant mortality. Due to the high child mortality at the hospital, locals call it "stillbirth hospital". According to the hospital's record keeper Tara Nanda Jha, of the 410 child delivery cases last fiscal year, the baby was either stillborn or died soon after birth in 109 cases. In the previous fiscal year, 101 babies died in 542 delivery cases at the hospital.

The obstetrics ward at the hospital is manned by around a dozen doctors and four among them are specialists. The hospital sources said most of the doctors run private clinics and give little attention to their hospital job. But the doctors blamed lack of essential equipment and poor infrastructure at the hospital for the high mortality.

Ncell SuperNet



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Liberia faces healthcare strike over Ebola

AFP
MONROVIA, Oct 13

Liberia on Monday faced a nationwide walkout by healthcare workers demanding money to care for Ebola patients, in an epidemic that has already killed dozens of their colleagues.

The strike threat came as the United States scrambled to find out how a Texan healthcare worker contracted the tropical virus, in the first case of contamination on US soil.

The new infection dealt a blow to global efforts to stem an outbreak that has claimed more than 4,000 lives, most of them in the west African countries of Guinea, Sierra Leone and the hardest-hit, Liberia.

Monday's strike call in Liberia came in defiance of an official request to avoid industrial action during the Ebola crisis, which has killed more than 2,300 in Liberia and overwhelmed its skeletal health service.

The chairman of the Liberian health workers' union, Joseph Tamba, said the walkout concerned "every hospital and every health centre including ETUs (Ebola Treatment Units)".

Healthcare workers are on the frontline of the worst outbreak on record of Ebola, which spreads through contact with bodily fluids, with 95 killed in Liberia alone, according to the World Health Organisation.

With monthly salaries said to be as low as \$250 a month, calls are mounting for pay commensurate to the acute risk of dealing with Ebola, for which there is no vaccine or widely-available treatment.

Liberian President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf acknowledged as much last week, telling a World Bank crisis meeting there was an urgent need for "compensation to healthcare workers who, for fear of the risk involved, have refused or are reluctant to return to work".

5 Ugandans in isolation after Ebola-like Marburg virus death

KAMPALA (AFP): Ugandan health officials said Monday that they are continuing to monitor five people feared to have contracted the Ebola-like Marburg virus, even though all suspected cases so far have tested negative.

A 30-year-old medical technician died from Marburg on September 28, 11 days after falling ill, at the Mengo hospital in the capital where he worked, sparking alarm in the east African nation.

"All the alert and suspect cases have been

thoroughly investigated, and have all tested negative for the Marburg virus," primary health care minister Sarah Opendi Achieng said in a statement on Monday.

But five people are in medical isolation as doctors monitor their health as a precautionary measure.

The Marburg virus is one of the most deadly known pathogens. Like Ebola, it causes severe bleeding, fever, vomiting and diarrhoea and has a 21-day incubation period.

Staff at Island Clinic, the largest government-run Ebola clinic in the Liberian capital Monrovia, have been on a "go slow" since Friday for extra pay.

Dozens of patients at the

clinic have died since then, said Alphonso Wesseh, a staff representative.

Liberia has banned reporters from Ebola clinics, making the claim impossible to verify.

Russia signs



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अन्नभण्डारको जिल्लामै कुपोषण !

सरोज ढुङ्गेल

राजविराज, साउन २१ गते । खाद्य सुरक्षाका दृष्टिले मजबुत तथा खाद्य उत्पादनको भण्डार मानिएको सप्तरी जिल्लामा समेत कुपोषणको भयावह स्थिति देखिएको छ । सरकारी तथ्याङ्क हेर्ने हो भने पनि सप्तरी जिल्लाका ११ प्रतिशत बालबालिका गम्भीर प्रकृतिको कुपोषणबाट पीडित छन् ।

जिल्ला जनस्वास्थ्य सप्तरीले गत जेठ महिनामा छ महिनादेखि पाँच वर्षसम्मका बालबालिकामा कुपोषणसम्बन्धी सर्वेक्षण गरेको थियो । सर्वेक्षणअनुसार सप्तरी जिल्लाका छ महिनादेखि पाँच वर्षसम्मका बालबालिकामा जटिल किसिमको कुपोषण देखिएको हो ।

सप्तरी जिल्लाका छ महिनादेखि पाँच वर्षसम्मका कुल ६२ हजार बालबालिकामध्ये ३५ हजार बालबालिकामा सर्वेक्षण गरिएको थियो ।

जिल्ला जनस्वास्थ्य सप्तरीका प्रमुख विजय भाले भन्नुभयो, “त्यसमध्ये पाँच प्रतिशतमा गम्भीर किसिमको कुपोषण भएको पाइयो ।”

“३५ हजार बालबालिकामध्ये १७ सय बालबालिकामा गम्भीर किसिमको कुपोषण पाइएको छ”, भाले भन्नुभयो, “२५ सय बालबालिका मध्यम खालको कुपोषणबाट ग्रसित छन् ।” जिल्ला जनस्वास्थ्य प्रमुख भाले यही अनुपातमा कुपोषित हुनेको प्रतिशत बढ्ने हो भने सप्तरी जिल्ला सोमालिया र इथोपियाजस्तै वन्नसक्नेतर्फ सचेत गराउनुभयो ।

“गम्भीर प्रकृतिको कुपोषित भएका बालबालिकालाई तत्काल उपचार नगराए उनीहरूको मृत्युसमेत हुनसक्छ”, जनस्वास्थ्य प्रमुख भाले थप्नुभयो, “३५ हजारमध्ये सात प्रतिशतलाई मध्यम खालको कुपोषण भएको छ ।” “पूरे ६२ हजार बालबालिकाको सर्वेक्षण गर्ने हो भने

यो दर बढ्नसक्छ”, जनस्वास्थ्य प्रमुख भाले भन्नुभयो, “खाद्य सुरक्षाका दृष्टिबाट मजबुत मानिएको सप्तरी जिल्लामा ३५ हजार बालबालिकामा ११ प्रतिशत कुपोषित हुनु सकारात्मक पक्ष होइन ।”

नेपाल पोषण प्रतिष्ठानकी अध्यक्ष प्राडा उमा कोइरालाले नेपालमा पोषणको विषय प्राथमिकतामा नपर्ने भएकाले तराईका जिल्लाहरूमा पनि कुपोषणको जोखिम उच्च रहेको बताउनुभयो ।

“पोषण सरकारको प्राथमिकतामा पर्दैन, त्यसैले कुपोषितको दर उच्च भएको हो”, प्राडा कोइरालाले भन्नुभयो, “पोषणको विषयलाई सरकार र अन्य सङ्घसंस्थाले पनि प्राथमिकतामा राख्नु जरुरी छ ।”

“पोषण समग्र राज्यको विकासमा टेवा पुऱ्याउने विषय हो”, पोषणविद् प्राडा कोइरालाले भन्नुभयो, “कुनै पनि व्यक्तिलाई पोषण पुगेन भने त्यसले देश विकासमा भूमिका खेल्न सक्दैन ।” (बाँकी पृष्ठ ४ मा)



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