

# Appendix A - Mount Everest Biogas Community Survey 27th May 2013

Village Name: Gorak Shep

Altitude: 5128 m asl (17,000 ft)

Number of Tea Houses: 6 including a Porter Shelter.



1) Pemba Nima Sherpa (Tea House owner – Snow Land Highest Inn)

## **What do you think about the human wastes coming from Everest Base camp?**

Ohh... awful... Pollution everywhere. Our main water source has been polluted. The dumping site is along the main trail to EBC, sometimes our local animals (yaks) fall into the pit. Even though it has been moved to different location now, I think it takes so many years to disintegrate because of the cold climate the pollution will remain there for many years.

## **What do you think about the biogas plant project?**

Good solution, but I have not seen anybody using Bio Gas above 2600 m. would be very challenging but now you guys came up with Engineer so we are positive.

## **How will the locals benefit from the project?**

The most importantly we will get rid of every year growing human waste pollution problem, secondly if the plant works fine then we will benefit as fuel or electricity, at least the Porter shelter will be benefited.



2) Phura Sonam Sherpa (owner, Buddha lodge and Kalapathar Lodge)

## **What do you think about the human waste coming from the EBC?**

Somehow we benefited from mountaineers and expeditions but the human waste from EBC... That's has been a big issue for many years. In the beginning the quantity of human waste was manageable but over years the number of expeditions grew up and now it is big problem and there is not any solutions...

The dumping sites are everywhere, porters wash the barrels in the lake, and also it has been big problem for the animals, it has ruined the scenery and the environment. Now no open space left for more dumping sites so it has been moved near the Changri Glacier but same problem will continue. I don't see any solution. Also the new site is just above the main trail.

**What do you think about the Biogas plant project?**

It is very good news for us, but since it is cold place, it won't be easy. We are thankful to you guys for kept trying and positive about the success of the project.

**How you will benefit from this Biogas project?**

-First of all, not only this particular community but whole valley will have a less polluted glacier, the most popular destination, the Everest base camp and its surroundings will have better environment with beauty.

-If enough gas produced from the plant then we will have option for light and fuel. We will use less kerosene for cooking and heating.

- Porters will benefit, since cheaper fuel will reduce their food expenses.



**3) Pasang Chhering Sherpa** (owner, Himalayan Lodge)

**What you think about the human waste problem here?**

It is very big problem for us; our small community here has been directly affected. But I think the whole trekking route will face this problem, on the main route to the most popular destination EBC, in about 5–10 meters distance you will see those human waste dumping pit and all those blue barrels they use to carry the human waste from the base camp.

Both Khumbu and Chhangrinup glaciers are very important glaciers, which feed the major river, like Dudh Koshi. We are sad but we cannot do much with its fast melting problem but at least if could get some solution to stop polluting these glacier would be great help.

**What do you think about this concept of biogas plant?**

As I told you, any solution that could help to reduce pollution would be great help. I liked the concept very much but it has been few years that you have been doing the survey but we did not see any results, I hope it won't disappear. There are so many researchers come here with different subject but they never come back with the result.

We hope this Biogas project won't disappoint us but it won't be that easy because it is a cold place.

**How you will benefit from the project?**

Most importantly we will have better environment here. The people who love Mt. Everest and dream to step on top and all the helpers who help them to fulfill their dreams will feel less guilty if they see this plant, which will convert their waste into something useful instead of polluting the glacier and this beautiful land.

We get cheaper fuel, which means all the trekkers and porters will also be benefited.



4) **Kami Diki Sherpa** (owner, Yeti Resort and also runs the porter shelter)

**What you think about the human waste problem around here?**

It has been a big problem and growing more and more every year. It has a serious affect to our environment.

We Sherpa people believe this entire mountain as abode for our deities. We worship our mountains. We don't even go to climb just by ourselves for fun as respect to our deity. Such pollutions are very offensive for our deities.

It has polluted our water source. Now there is not any open place left for more dumping site. Because of the cold climate this waste inside the pit remains for many years. They (porters) wash those blue barrels in this lake. Now it has been moved behind this glacier (chhangrinup glacier), even that is just above the main trail. How further down it would go in future? I don't see the solution...

**What do you think about the Biogas plant project?**

Nothing impossible! I am excited to see that here. If we could get enough gas then will be different story but even just enough for the porter shelter also will be a great help for the porters.