

## Journey of Rewati Rai from unskilled labor to a mason

Ms. Rewati Rai worked along the skilled mason as well as received training on quality control and construction management in the Bahuni Irrigation Scheme in Chaudandigadi Municipality, Udayapur.

What started as a mandatory participation in the construction management training for Rewati Rai, has now transformed into a source of regular income. Before the construction of Bahuni Irrigation Scheme, Rewati's name had been proposed as the unskilled laborer for training. She was hesitant at first as the work looked difficult.

"After receiving the training and working alongside the skilled mason for few months, I feel much more confident on working on my own. I have learned how to bind the reinforcement bar. Now I think I can work for building constructions as well," says Rewati.



*Ms. Rewati Rai binding the reinforcement bar in Bahuni Irrigation Scheme*



*Ms. Shanti Thapa Magar binding the reinforcement bar in Debrepani Irrigation Scheme*

A similar story followed of Ms. Shanti Thapa Magar in Debrepani Irrigation Scheme in Chaudandigadi municipality. After working in the irrigation scheme as laborer, she is now working in the construction of another irrigation scheme as a skilled laborer. "In the beginning, I didn't think being a mason would be easy. The income is good and I have not only earned money but also have gained respect from the community."

She believes that the way both her family's and community's perception towards her has changed after seeing her work as a mason. She says that participation of women in other public construction works should be mandatory as it builds the capacity of women and also provide a source of income.