

The Devastating Earthquake in Nepal

I had never felt such a terrible quake in my 48 years life before 25th April 2015. On that day we (me and my wife Parbati) were visiting some new places in around Kathmandu. Dr. Agni Kafle who is my bosom friend in Kathmandu had invited us to join with his family. It was eleven and fifty six, I was standing just outside the door and Parbati was locking it, the house started shaking and shaking so forcefully. During the quake, it was not possible and not safe outside. When shaking stopped, we rushed outside. It was so dusty, People were running fast and trembling with fear. The electricity and telephone connections were immediately cut. Within 15 minutes the second quake started. I tried to listen to radio there was only a sad some music. We went out and started walking safely and carefully along the road. Dogs and the residents were too much afraid of it. On the way we saw crumbled roads and houses. sleeping compound walls, many traditional houses, goods of shops were scattered on the road. Within 30 minutes, we reached Balaju Bypass, we saw crowds of people stunned from fear and crying on the road. Many houses were completely and partially collapsed and scratched. We went on and Machhapokhari where bus ticket counters were located, we noticed the incredible devastating scenes there. Two big guest houses were lying on the ground. Some people were severely weeping. Some of them had been rescued, injured and missing in debris. Within one hour, dozens of aftershocks were felt.

Then we went to Gongabu Buspark, there were many people but they had no words to express. Almost buildings were badly damaged. Four famous hotel and guest houses were completely collapsed and most of them were about to lay down. The situations was being worse and danger. We came back to our apartment. We were only two. Nothing was happened to our apartment, we hoped we would be safe at that house. Physically we felt safe, mentally unsafe then and so far. We heard the news about the earthquake and loss at 3 pm from radio.

Till evening, almost people had left their houses and made a temporary shelter on open grounds and on the middle of the roads anywhere. We didn't leave our apartment yet.

On 26th April, there were many predictions coming out one after another. There was a coincidence during the prediction, the 2nd big thrust of 6.9 magnitude was felt. It was not less destructive. We spent two nights on the open air.

14 districts including Rasuwa, Nuwakot, Kathmandu have been badly damaged. Nearly 390 thousand old and traditional houses are completely damaged. More than 10 million people are severely affected by the quake. About 8000 are died and more than 15500 are seriously injured and more than 300 are missing so far.

Many historical monuments like as; 3 Darbar Squares, Bhimsen Tower, Swayambhunath, Baudhanath and other world famous heritage sites are badly ruined. Whole Langtang village has been swallowed by snow avalanche. Hundreds of foreigners and locals are missing.

My two old houses in my home town and two school buildings in Syaphrubensi have been entirely damaged. Many people who know me are urging for relief. I was a little bit busy in rescue and relief work in my home town. Most of the homeless people are compelled to spend overnight on open place for long. It is windy weather and rainy season is starting soon. Senior citizens, babies, disables and ill's life is so hard. My parents (82 and 84 years) have been facing the same intricacies. The Almighty saved our lives.

Many national and international governments and organizations have been doing their best for rescue and relief work as well. 34 countries have involved in service. India, China, Switzerland, The Netherlands, Israel and so on countries attempt was highly admirable. I would like to heartily thank them for their praiseworthy worshipping of mankind.

Dev Raj Simkhada

Syaphrubensi, Rasuwa