

Mini drama: (Children's health issue)

**"this will never recur"**

**Summary of the drama:**

Nepal, a small Himalayan country lies in third world countries. The education rate is still very low at the rural parts of Nepal, where there's not the access of health, education and communication. Complications of pregnancy and childbirth are the leading cause of death and disability for childbearing women in many parts. Comprehensive, high-quality maternity care can help prevent infant and maternal death and disability. But there is lack of health awareness and people still have strong belief on traditional conjurer.

Figures show that, about 90% of the population lives in rural areas. Nearly 13,000 children die every year due to diarrhea-related diseases and only 45 percent of Nepal's population has access to toilets, One out of every 11 children in Nepal dies before reaching the age of five, and almost 70,000 children die yearly from preventable causes. Children are particularly vulnerable, because they are less likely to be taken long distances to health centers.

The main reason for these poor figures is the lack of health awareness among people and lack of health facilities in rural areas.

People are still not aware about the health; maternal care & childhood diseases. So in my drama I had tried to show the real scenario of our villages. After losing two children a family realizes their weakness, so they get promised to create awareness in the village so that the pain other people will not have to suffer same things as them. I think as it speaks about the reality people will be compelled to think about their habit and will initiate learning from other people from their community.

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**Characters**

**Sunmaya:** A village woman aged 20  
**Kamala:** Mother in law of Sunmaya, a little superstitious  
**Baldev:** A youth of lower middle class, Sunmaya's husband  
**Manju:** Village health worker, an educated, conscious woman  
**Mahili:** Women, neighboring to Sunmaya  
**Women 2:** Women, neighboring to Sunmaya  
**Makhankaji:** A witch doctor (conjurer) in the village

Scene-01

<b>Background:</b>	<i>Baldev and Sunmaya are husband and wife living in a rural area. They live together with Kamala, Baldev's mother. Sunmaya, as all women, is always busy doing household chores and Baldev works as a laborer in a neighboring bazaar. Sunmaya is going to give birth to a child in immediate future. Before this also Sunmaya's pregnancy ended in miscarriage at 6 months. She herself doesn't know what was the reason behind that but she thinks it all happened as god wished...This time also she is going to give birth to a new child. One day.....</i>	
<b>Location:</b>	<b>A village of rural Nepal, Sunmaya's home, About 12\1 pm, village environment SFX: noise of people, chirping of birds</b>	
S.N.	Character	Dialogue
1.	<b>Sunmaya:</b>	<i>(Crying due to pangs of childbirth)</i> ...ouch !...ouch !...oh hell !...god !...god!...ouch !...
2.	<b>Mahili:</b>	She is suffering from delivery pains for one hour long...call...Manju soon. If not she would be taken to hospital.
3.	<b>Women 2:</b>	I heard Manju has gone to markets, may be for one month.
4.	<b>Kamala:</b>	Get the wicker basket ready. Hey, go and bring the basket.
5.	<b>Sunmaya:</b>	<i>(Crying severely)</i> ouch! Ouch! ....( <i>the sound of newly born baby is heard</i> )
6.	<b>Mahili:</b>	O.k. need of wicker basket, baby is born...thanks god.
7.	<b>Kamala:</b>	(Delighted)...oh! Born... What is, son or daughter?
8.	<b>Women 2:</b>	Daughter, look, how cute she is. Kamala, now you have become a grandmother....
9.	<b>Kamala:</b>	<i>(Little sad)</i> ...oh! Daughter ( <i>with herself</i> )...Oh! God, again daughter. This time we had hoped a son.
10.	<b>Mahili:</b>	Now the navel should be removed. Bring something to cut it.
11.	<b>Kamala:</b>	<i>(A little desperate)</i> ...cut with this sickle. Here it is.
12.	<b>Mahili:</b>	Oh! Such sickle used to cut grass shouldn't be use in this case.
13.	<b>Kamala:</b>	Cut with it. Where can we get new things to cut it?
14.	<b>Women 2:</b>	These days, we get special materials to use in case of delivery. Haven't you brought that?
15.	<b>Kamala:</b>	Leave it...the thing has happened ...now, the mother should be taken to the cowshed...bring hay on which she will be made to sleep.
16.	<b>Mahili:</b>	(With uneasy feeling)...Keeping her there in shed...?
17.	<b>Kamala:</b>	So, where to get the expensive bedding ...ok...do fast.
18.	<b>Scene-02,</b>	
<b>Scene Background</b>	<i>Baldev who has gone to the market to work also knows that his wife has given birth to a daughter. He returns home drunk being desperate because of</i>	

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		<i>knowing the birth of a daughter.</i>
<b>Location: Sunmaya's home, chirping of crickets, barking of dogs</b>		
19.	<b>Baldev</b>	<i>(singing in a drunk voice)</i> All dreams turned untrue...turned untrue....oh! I reached home; how deserted the home is. Mom, oh... mom..Open the door....
20.	<b>Kamala</b>	<b>(Sound: Door Open)</b> look, you've drunk? Here, the wife has given birth to a child but the husband ....you silly....
21.	<b>Baldev</b>	<i>(Stammering)</i> ...Mom. Where is Sunmaya?
22.	<b>Kamala</b>	She is in byre....
23.	<b>Baldev</b>	I am going to meet my daughter... <b>(sound: Door Open)</b> =====How are you Sunmaya? Where is my daughter?
24.	<b>Sunmay a</b>	<i>(Feeling sad)</i> you? And now? And drunk? <i>(Sobbingly)</i> ...Do you know how much I'm suffering and you again....?
25.	<b>BaldevM</b>	<i>(in drunk voice)</i> I'm also realizing it, Sunu...but if she were son, imagine how happy. We would have been. All my friends have got son but me...again daughter...
26.	<b>Sunmay a</b>	Still, you have discrimination between son and daughter? <b>(Sound: child crying, playing with child)</b>
<b>SCENE-03, Shed where Sunmaya has been kept</b>		
<b>Scene: Background:</b>		<i>(After two weeks) It has been three days since she has last fed by the breast. Both the baby and he mother are sick.</i>
27.	<b>Sunmay a :</b>	<i>(A bit sad)</i> ... Elder sister, look...I'm not feeling well and my daughter hasn't sucked my breast since last three days. Perhaps, she is suffering from fever. She hasn't opened her eyes too.
28.	<b>Mahili:</b>	Let me see ...oh...Got...how severely burning. Sunmaya, she must be taken to hospital as soon as possible.
29.	<b>Sunmay a</b>	She should ...be...Taken...But mother has gone to call witch doctor in next village. Daughter is suffering severely and her father is also not at home at the same time.
30.	<b>Mahili</b>	Look...look...perhaps, she stopped breathing and look how calm she is !!!
31.	<b>Sunmay a</b>	<i>(hurriedly)</i> Elder sister....please call her father or mother in law as soon as possible <i>(nearly crying)</i> ...please...sister. Do fast.
32.	<b>Mahili</b>	Wait. Don't worry. I'm calling them soon.
33.	<b>Short Transitional music....., Foot steps coming closer</b>	
34.	<b>Kamala</b>	Yes... Makhankaji come here, the mother is here.
35.	<b>Makhank aji</b>	Yes...what is wrong with the baby...?
36.	<b>Sunmaya</b>	<i>(Sobbing)</i> doctor, she hasn't sucked the breast since last three days. Now, she is calm...and her limbs feel too cold.
37.	<b>Makhank aji</b>	Let me see once.... <b>(The baby is dead)</b> ...Oh! God. Kamala sister. The baby has passed away. Now, her place should be changed.
38.	<b>Sunmaya</b>	What did you say? ... -sad tempo_...This can't happen... <b>(Crying)</b> .. I will save my child any how...I will take her to hospital. I will save her any how.... <b>(crying)</b>
39.	<b>Makhank aji</b>	Sorry, now nothing can be done. It's the wish of God that taken away. Realize that you were destined to it.
40.	<b>Kamala</b>	Oh! God, how much you trouble me ...this poor. How much? <b>(crying)</b>
41.	<b>Sunmaya</b>	Mother, this all happened due to the unfortunate woman ...me, this all is because of me...now it is no worth living?
42.	<b>Kamala</b>	Don't say so. It is god's will. No one can change it. <b>-Music: sad music _</b>
43.	<b>Scene-04, Location: Sunmaya's home....noise of cows and goats, birds chirping a little far....</b>	

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<b>Scene Background:</b>		<i>Sunmaya is greatly desperate and worried since she lost her two children. Manju has returned home after participating in training about health. She works in the health post of the same village. Now she is at Sunmaya's home.</i>
44.	<b>Sunmaya</b>	(a bit sad) look, Manju sister...My two children took their last breath without getting any chance to be taken to hospital. I regret not being able to take her to hospital.
45.	<b>Manju</b>	I knew if I were here, I wouldn't let it happen. Since you and your daughter were kept in byre and your daughter suffered from pneumonia and died of it...=-change_...Sunmaya, leave all these things. It's better not to worry on spilt milk. But instead we should learn lessons from such things so that such accidents will not recur.
46.	<b>Sunmaya</b>	What could we do...Manju sis? It is the caused of our social structure. It is the fault of our society. Women giving birth to new children are kept in sheds and given the beds of hay.
47.	<b>Manju</b>	Yes, there are many things in our society that are yet to be taught. Yesterday, in nearby village, elder sister's 3 years old son died of diarrhea. Our society members think that water shouldn't be given to those who are suffering from diarrhea and consequently dehydration. Any way, Sunmaya..you should give birth to another child only after some two or three years. Giving birth to babies every year weakens the health of both the mother and the child.
48.	<b>Sunmaya</b>	That's what I'm also thinking of... But I don't think my husband and mother in law will agree on it.
49.	<b>Kamala</b>	<i>(All of a sudden)</i> ... why not? Don't I love my daughter in law?
50.	<b>Sunmaya</b>	Mom...you...?
51.	<b>Kamala</b>	Yes, daughter. I was listening to your talks from very beginning ( <i>lowering her voice</i> ). Daughter, what I did till today were done because of my insufficient thinking and understanding. We survived in this culture...but hope such accidents will not repeat. And not to let such accidents recur, I have now started thinking about the good health of mother and child.
52.	<b>Manju</b>	Now, you are absolutely correct. I have learned many things about this in Kathmandu. Now, I want to teach you all these things. There are many things that we must learn. Look, till now, we don't know even that our drinking water should be pure.
53.	<b>Baldev</b>	<i>(Footsteps coming closer)</i> ...Yes, we must know such things and teach those who don't know...
54.	<b>Manju</b>	Oh... Baldev...You...and what is this hanging?
55.	<b>Baldev</b>	Goat's meat ...since Sunmaya has grown weak; I have brought it for her...
56.	<b>Manju</b>	Oh...Yes...You have shown great love to your wife?
57.	<b>Baldev</b>	I always love her...leave this things. Now, you have come... There is no one in the village who knows about safer delivery, motherhood and immunization. There are many diseases prevailed in the village.
58.	<b>Manju</b>	Yes, now you understood...so that I have decided to organize a program named "Health Consciousness" by gathering all the villagers one day.
59.	<b>Baldev</b>	Only you say...When? I'm always ready. And I will take the responsibility to gather all the villagers. Now everybody should be made conscious about the sufferings that we suffered from.
60.	<b>Manju:</b>	Very good! Where is this goodness coming to his mind from?
61.	<b>Baldev:</b>	Others know by studying but I knew by experiencing. Isn't it, Sunmaya?
62.	<b>Sunmaya</b>	<i>(Shyly)</i> ... I don't know?
63.	<b>ALL:</b>	Everyone laughs.

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