

Life is completely different from what we think. Same is with me too. My Name is Mingma Gyalje Sherpa "MINGMA". I am originally from Rolwaling, Gaurishankar-1, Nepal. I was groomed in the valley and was taken to Kathmandu, the capital city when I was 11yrs for getting good education. Though I am not from prosperous family, I got good education with the help from Rudie Baumgartner who sponsored for my education. Sometimes I think of my life if I was grown up without education. So I feel I should help others to make their life better. So I am trying to help to develop Rolwaling . Doing social works do not make my living easier again so I struggled very hard for earning money and getting position in society and today I am a owner of trekking agency and it made me much easier for convincing people and bringing development works.

Rolwaling is a narrow remote valley lying in the North East part of Nepal sharing it's borderlines with Tibet. It's is the homeland for Sherpa families who are migrated from Tibet in the North and Khumbu in the east around 14<sup>th</sup> century. Though it is part of Nepal, we the people from Rolwaling feel we are not part of Nepal. There are various reason which made us feel so.



We the people from Rolwaling are facing hard life. Here we don't have good school, no road, no any health services, no means of communication....nothing. We tried to convince our government and other related organizations for our basic needs like health service, education facility, transportation etc. but we are unable to get it as our government is not stable and we are unable to approach to them. We are

tired of convincing these people. So now we are doing development project ourselves with seeking help from organization in Nepal and from foreign countries.

Tourism made us possible to express and follow the way of development. The footprint of first tourist was found 19650s. Then it gradually increased and those tourists used the local people for carrying their goods. Being porter some of them got chance to follow the tourist to other regions and finally got the opportunity of climbing too. One by another, all started to work for foreign climbers as porter, climbing Sherpa and guide. They started entering the capital city and settled there. We are settled in the capital city but we are not satisfied staying here. We want to develop our Rolwaling and wish to return back. With the same feeling and idea, we established a club in 2003 naming **“Mt.Everest Summitters’ Club”** which will fight and work of the development of Rolwaling. Following the foreign climbers as Climbing Sherpa and Guide, almost all the Rolwaling male people have climbed Mt Everest some being 19times. So Rolwaling is also known as land of Everest summitter. So the club was name after it. We have carried out many small projects in the valley through this club and completed them successfully. Some of the successful projects are 1. First we constructed a monastery in Na village, Rolwaling. 2. We completed the Gabin Project to protect the Beding village from thread of flood which was sponsored by SDC from Switzerland, 3. We supervise illegal climbing in Rolwaling with the help from Nepal Mountaineering Association 4. Under the leadership of the head monk, Nawang Tenzing Lama, we established a school which gives free education and food in the valley with the help from individual donors and we are trying to find more donors for educating more students. These are the some of our successful projects which we are doing by ourselves with the help from our well wishers.

If our generation do not work for the development of Rolwaling then the upcoming generation will not do it because they are not born in that valley so there is no reason to think of that remote valley. So we youngsters are leading the club and we are trying to do our best with the help from our seniors for the development of Rolwaling. **People from Rolwaling are very developed within past 2decades but Rolwaling remains same as it was. Because of this, most of the people settled in the capital city and some to foreign countries. Now we are worried, if Rolwaling remains same then there remains no any human being in future.**



**Grandparents Parents and Myself..... Turned and traditional cloths to Tie**



### My uncle Dawa in 1970s' and now.....

We want to start electricity project if we get enough financial support within the country or from foreign countries. Electricity is very important source for development. We can use electrical appliances, big machine, electrical devices instead of firewood and the most important is means of communication like internet and phone services which is the present world's need. We had electricity around 4years ago built with the help of People from Norway but it is no more just a fixed electrical wires. The main reasons behind this were inefficiency and wrong site selection for power house as it was tried to run by individuals. So we want to reconstruct it through our club with efficient manpower and technicians so that it can lasts forever. For this we need to built the new power house in safer place and we need to put everything new like turbine, wire poles etc. So it is completely new project.

If we can complete electricity project then we are sure that many people from Rolwaling who are migrated will return back to the valley. Rolwaling is one of the best destination for trekkers, climbers and explorers. If there is electricity then the local people can run hotel, bakery, café, internet services and many things which give them good earning and find easier way of living too. If there is internet then the world is inside your room. We can imagine like Khumbu "Everest Region". In Khumbu also, most of the people return back after they got the electricity. So electricity project is most important for Rolwaling.

I was in Rolwaling for climbing in October 2013 and I fortunately met with the EXPLORA Team from Italy who are also exploring Rolwaling in Global world. We shared our feeling and ideas and I talked about the electricity project in Rolwaling and the team showed us hope that they can help to find fund for it. It will be one of the best support for Rolwaling people if the people from Italy can help us for generating electricity in Rolwaling.

**We live for once so we want to live our life in better way not in dark**