Observations

Educate - (Identifying practices and behaviors in to inform education programs)
- Burning is the most common form of garbage disposal, despite a broad perception of burning plastic garbage as having a very negative effect on the environment and the community.
- A possible way of addressing communities’ awareness of garbage management practices may include a comprehensive and accessible education on best practices for dealing with garbage and plastic disposal.

Demonstrate - (Current plastic usage and alternatives)
- Some people surveyed and a few interviewees mentioned that plastic household products are widely used because they are readily available and affordable. This viewpoint will be analyzed in depth and our findings will be incorporated into our final report.
- Survey data and interviews revealed a lack of available or accessible alternatives locals or rural communities could utilize in lieu of plastic products.

Advocate - (Focus on social empowerment and potential partnerships)
- From the interviews, we observed that there may be a disconnect between local organizations and government departments in terms of coordination and approach.
- Of the people we interviewed, members of the department of Forestry and Soil Conservation (FSC), the Human Welfare and Environmental Protection Center (HWEPC), and the Freed Kamlari Development Forum (FKDF) expressed a willingness to form partnerships.
- FKDF may provide a network of information and manpower. While they appear to be a good fit in terms of a potential partnership, due to their current uncertain financial situation a clear definition of what that partnership would mean and look like is needed.
- FKDF and the HWEPC revealed a desire to improve social and environmental conditions in the community while including historically disenfranchised groups in their programs (women, Dalit, etc).
- Through SSIs with several stakeholders it seemed that FKDF and the Nepali Youth Foundation may lack business trainings in their entrepreneurship programs.

Findings and Observations
Dang- Deukhuri, Nepal

“We made the city dirty, isn’t it our responsibility to clean it?”
- Concerned Dang Citizen

Researchers
- Castelline Tilus
- Chndy Rogel
- Miranda Meyer
- Donna York
- Elizabeth Fisher
- Lina Yaqubian
- Travis Wells
- Charlotte Grant

Research Coordinator
Monique Takla

Field Coordinator
Amanda Bensel

Interpreters
- Sanju Shresth
- Kshitiz Karki
- Namrata Karki
- Surendra Chaudhary
- Shalin Pokharel
Introduction

In two weeks our team surveyed 148 people in 28 wards. 
**Our mission:** To research recycling and waste disposal practices in the Dang-Dhukeri District in the Terai region. 
**Our Research question:** Are local waste disposal and recycling practices creating an enabling environment for community members to participate in recycling programs?

Methodology

Survey 
• Research Locale: Dang Deukhuri district 
• Data gathering period: 9th to 20th of January 2017 
• Selection of respondents: Randomized selection of wards was done using Excel. Rolling a set of die was the random sampling method used for selecting a household to complete a survey. 

SSI: Semi-structured interview 
• Selected through referrals from the survey which included additional research on organizations in Dang 
• Qualitative information that showed different views of people concerning plastic wastemanagement. 

Data entry 
• Used the double blind method: The data entry was completed by two researchers who did not conduct the survey (one for data input and one for final review). 

Data 
• Nepali is the most widely spoken and/or preferred language of respondents (82%) followed by Tharu (14%). [Table 1] 
• Buckets and Basins, Chairs, Bottles, and Water Drums were the most common plastic household items. [Table 2] 
• Reuse of plastic bags was reported by 42% of respondents, and 95% reported reusing polypropylene bags. [Table 3] 
• Most respondents (68%) have not heard of the plastic bag ban, and of those who have, the perceived impact was neutral to somewhat positive. [Table 5] 
• Burning is the most common form of garbage disposal. [Table 6] 
• The impact of burning plastic garbage and of plastic garbage in the environment was perceived as “very negative.” [Table 7] 

Key Informants

1) Awareness vs. Practice
   a. Freed Kamali 
   Have representatives in every VDC. Women reach out to representative for job opportunities and trainings. Receive business training, but it is very basic. Heavily focused on women’s empowerment. 
   b. Department of Forestry and Soil Conservation 
   Provide trainings on how to protect wildlife and forests to communities located near forests. Training teaches disposing of plastic by burning it far from forests and wildlife. Partner with Community Forest User Groups and school Ecogroups by providing information on “good” practices

2) Available Resources
   a. Clean Nepalgunj, Green Nepalgunj 
   6 person volunteer environmental campaign which works to clean the city by planting flowers in designated greenery zones. 
   b. Freed Kamali – 
   Currently funded by Nepal Youth Foundation, but contract runs out within 5 months. Want to become self-sustaining. 

3) Policy
   a. HWEC 
   Believe a change in attitude and perception along with strong policies implemented by government will make the difference in environmental issues. Provide capacity development trainings. Currently working with the Ministry of Environment on a new program called “The Green Valley Initiative.”