



Figure 17. New stitches inboard; hammering has squeezed out *chandrus*. Above, an old seam. Fish Road. Author.

pads are held in place by multiple parallel tensioned cords of coir. These are battered in turn to compress them. Each stitch involves driving in a temporary peg to prevent it slipping, as the cord has to be tensioned with a lever each time it passes from master to assistant who also wields both hammer and lever (Fig. 18). Subsequently every stitch is permanently locked with a hand-made pine wedge dipped in preservative *dikh* and driven from inboard (Fig.19). Outboard the projecting end is trimmed by the assistant, and smeared with *chunam* (Fig.12b).



Figure 18. Assistant uses force on a lever to tighten a stitch. Fish Road. Author.