



PSD Connect

A two monthly **E-NEWSLETTER**

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The PSD Connect is a quarterly e-newsletter published by the Partnership for Sustainable Development (PSD) Nepal for all their partners. The newsletter informs about activities and news of the PSD Nepal. This newsletter is sent to all the ex-volunteers, members and relevant stakeholders of PSD Nepal. For more information on PSD Nepal and its activities please visit www.psdnepal.org.

MESSAGE FROM EDITORIAL

Dear Friends!

First of all we would like to thank you for all your support you have given PSD! Without your help, our work wouldn't be possible. Since it is our first newsletter, we will start by giving some general information on the mission, the work and the partners of PSD just to refresh your mind. Additionally this newsletter will give you a brief update of the projects that have been finalized, the people that have benefited, stories of volunteers and their work, the trainings that have been given and of course how you can also help us in the future. Enjoy the reading!!!

*Bishnu Bhatta
Charlotte van der Tak*

PSD INTRODUCTION

PSD-Nepal (Partnership for Sustainable Development- Nepal) is a not-for-profit social development organization dedicated to the alleviation of poverty of Children and youth of rural Nepal. PSD recognizes the values that the survival, protection and development of children and youth are development imperatives and integral to human development. PSD aims through it's programs to strengthen the capacity of children and youth to give them the opportunity to reach their fullest potential in their social, educational, personal and economic development.

One of the major focused areas of PSD program is an educational development program, which is based in rural areas of Nepal. We have been working with around 70 rural schools of Nepal through local partner NGOs. Thus PSD has been giving child club formation trainings, facilitation skill trainings, profession skill training for SDC staff and Profession skill development training and Project formulation training for NGO workers.

JUSTAID AT A GLANCE

One of the major partnerships that we have established is with JustAid - a UK based non-profit, non-political and non-religious, web based charity. They are working as a mediator between PSD Nepal and individuals in the UK to alleviate the poverty of children living in Nepal.



Toilet construction October 2005, Ujjwalnager, Chitwan

The way that this direct support works is first of all by local communities expressing their needs in a proposal to PSD-Nepal. Following careful consultation with the local communities, we send the list of project proposals to JustAid. Since they are a web-based charity, they post the proposed projects under the heading Wishlist on their website. This is how they raise funds from mainly individuals through online donations.

When enough funds have been raised for a project, we from PSD then coordinate the project from Kathamandu. Once a specific project has been finalized, a report of the project including pictures of the project will be sent to JustAid and then to the donor.

The unique feature of this approach is that the full 100% of the fund raised, goes towards the projects. Neither JustAid, nor PSD will charge for the service provided, since both organizations are independently funded. This means that costs such as monitoring the project are being paid by PSD-Nepal.



Health camp, Belkhu, April 2006

Some of the numerous projects that PSD has been enabled to do thanks to JustAid are: library set ups, drinking water tank, toilet constructions, school room constructions, the provision of desks, benches, and sports equipment, non formal education, Vocational Training Schemes and deep well constructions.



Vocational training

But there is more to be done and we need your help, wherever you would like to help. You can do this by surfing through the JustAid Wishlist and choosing a project you would like to support. The full amount of your donation will be forwarded to the community and the project you choose. Please forward our message to your friends, and those whom you know might want to help and maybe fund one of the projects.

For more information on JustAid, please visit their webpage at www.justaid.org.uk or email info@justaid.org.uk.

PSD ACTIVITIES

PSD Nepal has been working in partnership with various university based charities like Sending Volunteers Abroad – Glasgow University, Oxford Development Abroad – Oxford University and HELP and Aberdeen University. The objectives of these voluntary programs are; to link valuable resources (overseas youth) to the needy community of Nepal; to improve physical infrastructure of rural schools and communities of Nepal and to create learning opportunities for overseas and Nepali youth. In this summer, 5 volunteers from Aberdeen, 13 Volunteers from Glasgow and 5 volunteers from Oxford University have just finalized their volunteering project. They have been working on the development of poor government and community schools.

Volunteers reflection:

"I think every person should work as a volunteer at least once. First of all since all the work done by the volunteers has been of great benefit to the school, the children and the surrounding community. And second of all, the experiences gained from working as a volunteer counterpart have been utmost useful for my self development and improvement." (Nepalese counterpart)



Volunteers teach English lessons at the local school



Building the classrooms



Volunteers carrying bricks for building the classrooms

"I learned that you only get as much out of the project as you put into it. Thus it is good to be pro-active –if you want to do something, go for it." (Philippa, volunteer)

"Our final few days we had a large celebration with both groups and all the family, with lots of food and Nepali dancing and music. The family told us how upset they were at our leaving and we were also very sad to go, having built up such a good relationship with them."

"It's a worthwhile experience, with so many reasons to go" (Melvin, volunteer)

"We are satisfied that the completed construction work will be of value to the school and appreciated by the community at large. It will also be of benefit to the daily after school sessions run by an NGO for under privileged children in the locality."(Oxford volunteer group)

Others

Currently an intern, Charlotte van der Tak, is working within the office of PSD-Nepal. As a part of her master degree in International Development and Communication, she is working on organizations communication processes, messages and means and overall strategy.

Several projects are being implemented throughout the year. Through community support projects focusing on the local schools, work is being done on health sanitation and education by supporting projects such as the establishment of toilets, classrooms, water tanks etc.

PSD additionally gives trainings to the youth of Kathmandu focusing on the different aspects of development work in the field. These trainings entail: PRA/ PLA techniques, proposal writing skills, report writing skills, career counseling, gender and social mobilization, training skills, peace building, leadership, conflict resolution, Office management, and interpersonal communication skills. PSD members also share their experiences by doing, feasibility studies, evaluations, consultation and monitoring on the request of several organizations working in the different areas of the development field.

FUTURE PLANS

Currently PSD is in the process of developing several proposals on different programs for the coming year. One of those proposals is on a health camp. A group of about 20 medical students will come to Nepal to work side by side with Nepalese medical doctors. The aim is to provide free health care services to those people in remote areas where no (adequate) health services are available.

In the Summer of 2007, University students from different Universities, also outside of the UK, will be volunteering in several of projects focusing on the direct need of the local unprivileged schools.

PSD is planning for a 4 month volunteer program in 2007 where one overseas volunteer will work side by side with a Nepalese volunteer. This project will entail working on the empowerment, capacity and education of a community at the grass root level.

NEWS FROM NEPAL

As you may be aware, the last months have seen some major changes taking place in Nepal. These events – the 20 day nationwide strike, huge protests around the country, violence, and the eventual concessions – caught the world's attention. But the good news is that changes have taken place and order has been restoring day by day. Nowadays it seems that peace has once again come over Nepal. Thus now the time has come for our focus to be directed towards the long term development of Nepal. Since Nepal is now a safe place to travel and work in, the coming programs will mainly take place outside of the Kathamandu valley at the grass root level, where the aid and work of the volunteers is most needed.

YOUR CONTRIBUTION

Nepal's focus will now be towards rebuilding and developing the country, and there is a lot to be done. We, members of PSD, are proud of our work, but we realize that it is only a drop in the ocean. Still this drop in the form of PSD's programs regarding capacity building, education, empowerment of the youth etc., has proven a positive change in the lives of several communities. Thus we can make a difference and now your support is more important than ever. As they say: "Even if you cannot change the world, you can make a difference". We believe that you did make a difference and you still can! We therefore ask you to do anything that you can within your powers, to help support the several ongoing programs. This support can take many forms, from direct financial funding, volunteering, linking up with other individuals/ organizations or to simply 'sharing' about Nepal amongst your friends.

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