
PSD Connect
A quarterly E-Newsletter

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The PSD Connect is a quarterly e-newsletter published by the Partnership for Sustainable Development (PSD) Nepal to inform all their partners, ex-volunteers and good wishers, about our activities and news. PSD Nepal is a not-for-profit social development organization dedicated to the alleviation of poverty of Children and youth of rural Nepal. For more information please visit www.psdnepal.org.

MESSAGE FROM EDITORIAL

Dear Friends!

We would like to thank you for your warm responses to our newsletter as usual! Since the first edition of our newsletters has been such a great success, we enthusiastically present our next issue. This issue focuses on our completed and articles written by short term volunteers. In addition, this newsletter will provide a brief update of the projects that have been finalized, the current political situation in Nepal, PSD-Nepal's envisions of the future, and of course how you can support us. Please feel free to write to us, if you have any announcement, article and message you want to spread out through our newsletter. We heartily welcome your views and your comments, queries regarding the work of PSD-Nepal and/or regarding the improvement of the newsletter! You can send us an email to psdnepal@mail.com.np or call us at (9771)-4780369, fax 4780631.

Bishnu H. Bhatta

LATEST PSD NEWS

Hundred days honeymoon of Maoist led government has shown positive changes but it is unable to give relief to the poor people who live in under the poverty line. Member of constituent assemble has decided to prepare the new constituent with in one and half year time frame. They have set a plan to write constituent assemble. The government is holding talk with different rebels in the eastern Terai and there are positive responses from them. The new government approved the new budget which focused on rural development. PSD Nepal's contribution also counted in the District Development Committee budget so that we need to get the approval for the project well advance.

As we completed our summer programme, now we have been receiving lots of request from different school and community. At the moment, we are process of selecting the

project for the 2009 summer. In 2009 also we are hoping to receive the volunteers from same university as we received the volunteers this year.

Students from the Scott Creek Primary School, South Australia has raised small amount of money for the drinking water project in rural school of Nepal and we are in process of implementing it. Thank you very much for raising funds and showing generous towards Nepali children. We would like to convey our heart felt thank to Jo Larkin, Volunteer South Australia, Robin, Volunteer South Australia, Kristy Talbot – teachers Scott Creek Primary School South Australia, all the students who have been communicating each others and putting lots of effort to raise the fund for rural school of Nepal.

PSD Nepal's Early Childhood Development Initiatives

Early childhood Development is often termed as "early childhood education", "early childhood learning," and "early care" This often focuses teaching the children through play and prepares them to send to the school for formal education. This early childhood is often termed as pre-school or child care centre. But there is connotation that early childhood education is babysitting which is completely misinterpretation of the early childhood education. This misinterpretation is may be due to the mushrooming of the child care centers in the city areas without any trained human

resource.



Early years are very important because children easily catch up in their early stages. Well nurturing and care in the earliest years of the children makes them more to grow them in the healthier and to develop them physically and mentally. The cares, nurture given to the children in their earliest years help them to fully develop thinking, language, emotional and social skills. The pre-schools prepare for the formal education in the school and helps in the overall growth of the child.

In the case of Nepal, the early childhood education is a new concept. It is every child's right to have every chance to survive and thrive. If any country is to compete with the global economy based on the strength of human capital then it is most important to invest in ensuring optimal conditions for a child's early years.

PSD Nepal has been supporting for early childhood education and has been continuously supporting for equipping the schools with necessary materials required to run early childhood education

program. The physical infrastructures for early childhood education play a crucial role in the effectiveness of the program. Hence to get the best results PSD supports infrastructures

development for early childhood education as well as provide training to the teachers on early childhood education. Creativity of the children comes out when there is more equipments and more activities.



PSD believes that out door classes creates interest among the children. As many materials are available within the environment, children learn more easily as they see the things through their naked eyes and feel the things with their own hands. Moreover, this helps to create a bond between the children and the environment. This bond between them teaches them to love their environment and help them to work for clean, green and healthy environment. Children play and learn from outdoor. Acquainted with nature, children learn to protect and conserve the nature as they grow up with the nature.

During the monitoring and evaluation of the project, PSD and the school teachers has found that the children who have joined early childhood classes are quicker in grabbing the lessons in compare to those they come to join formal education without any childhood classes. Early childhood programme has made the child more curious and more expressive. This helped them to ask what, how and why questions to the teachers. It is seen that before early childhood programmes, children used to deny going to the school and also they could not talk to the teachers. The early childhood programme has helped to bond between teachers and children creating more effective teaching and learning environment in the school.

Meg Pugh and Sian Pugh Wales, UK August2008

After a six month trip around South East Asia, we arrived in Kathmandu in low season and were quick to make the most of it, checking out all the main city sights in the first few days. Seeing as there were only two of us, we were offered the choice of staying with a local host family or our own guesthouse during the orientation week. Seeing our chance to leave the bustling streets of Thamel behind, we packed our backpacks and were soon settled into a beautiful home in the local area of Anamnagar.

While we were here, we started our intensive Nepali language lessons, using the afternoons to roam the streets of the city hoping to practice our newly learnt phrases on anyone lucky, or unlucky, enough to cross our paths! Being away from the tourist scene was an ideal way to immerse ourselves in the local culture and also get to grips with scooping up *daal bhaat* with our hands, with as few dribbles as we could manage!

After a whirlwind week of preparation, we then moved to our new home in the village of Champanagar. On the edges of Chitwan National park, surrounded by bright green rice

fields with a mixture of rolling hills and snowy peaks in the distance, we were immediately taken with it.

Our project was based around the Himalaya Secondary School and was left flexible enough so we could have a go at pretty much anything. Teaching classes of inquisitive children took up most of our mornings, and afternoons were spent armed with paint brushes decorating the nursery and redesigning the library. We also hosted the school's first ever art competition, introduced the students to Frisbee and had sports activities most evenings, when the baking hot sun was less strong.

We assisted with the first few days building of the school's toilet roof and visited nearby poorer villages to help with organized sanitation advice days. This gave us a good balance of helping with both the community and the school. Nepalese are true hosts, we were made to feel incredibly welcome and everyone wanted their chance to talk to us. The villagers' curiosity was very entertaining - 'Where are you going?' 'When will you be back?' 'When are you coming to my house to drink tea?' were questions we faced with all day, everyday!

When the day came to leave, we were surrounded with red Tikas, presents and paintings from the children. Not only was the project a once in a lifetime opportunity, but the experience and the people we made friends with are unforgettable.



As we climbed the endless steps in the Annapurna region the week after our project finished, our minds were spinning with ideas of what more we could do to help this beautiful country and its even more beautiful people.

Thank you so much to PSD Crew.

FUTURE PLANS: Coming events of PSD-Nepal

- There will be short term volunteers who are joining PSD to work in Orphan center in Panchkhal.
- There will be five elective medical students from Oxford University coming to Nepal in February. They will be working in Kanti Children's Hospital, Bir Hospital and Chapagaun Primary Health Care Center and three Medical students are coming to carry out their elective from Edinburgh University.
- There will be Medical students from Aberdeen University during the Easter volunteer programme and they will be working in the rural health posts as well as city hospital.

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