

Partnership for Sustainable Development - Nepal

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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 supporters, 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

Namaste Friends!

Thank you very much for your kind responses to our newsletter! Since our previous newsletters have proven so popular, we enthusiastically present our newsletter regularly and this is yet another issue for your reading pleasure. We publish our newsletter on a quarterly basis to keep you informed about PSD Nepal, its work and accomplishments. This issue will focus on the work of our summer volunteers, what PSD-Nepal envisions in the future and of course, how you can help us. Please feel free to contact us if you have any announcements, articles or messages that you want to promote through our newsletter. We heartily welcome your views, comments, and 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

PSD Nepal has organized Mud Day with orphan children in Panchkhal on 14 September. We provided dress, food and soap for the 60 children and lunch together with them. The support has been raised by children from Bold Park School Australia. We found the program is very much successful and all the children thoroughly enjoyed it. It has recommended that this sort of event have to organize every year.

PSD Nepal also going to organize Olympics with orphan children during the Christmas time. All the children will make their own team and organize the event themselves but we do give guidance and supervision of the program. We will share how it will go in our next issue. Kiran from UK who carried out voluntary work with us in Orphanage has give fund to organize it.

facebook

PSD-Nepal is on facebook! It has been updated regularly with news of current activities, future events, and pictures from volunteer groups. Partnership for Sustainable Development – Nepal has over 182 fans! Please search for us on facebook and become a fan! I am waiting for all of your help to spread out PSD Nepal through face book. I have not got responses or comments in our facebook as I expected.

Article from Volunteers

**Eleanor Thackeray and Charlotte Snead,
2009 Summer ODA Volunteer**

Last summer, fifteen students from Oxford University took part in three development projects in Baglung, organised by PSD. The projects were a success and a wonderful experience for the volunteers. The projects aimed to build a community centre, a school building, soak pits, and toilets for a school. The volunteers raised money in the UK to fund the projects, and in Nepal they worked alongside local labourers, assisting them with carrying stones, moving mud, and building foundations. The volunteers were all impressed by the skill and strength of the Nepalese workers, who worked so hard to complete the building projects even under very hot, or wet, conditions.



Building which built by volunteers



foundation of building

To people living in the UK, the rural Nepalese culture was fascinating. The villages in which the projects took place were situated high in the hills of Baglung, where the countryside is beautiful and exciting. The Himalayas were clearly visible, and were covered in snow, which was a spectacular site. The local people in the villages were incredibly welcoming, and the volunteers were involved in numerous ceremonies and festivals where they joined in singing and dancing. The Nepalese food was a particularly enjoyable experience, and the host families that took care of the volunteers put in great effort to cook wonderful meals for them. They all agreed that they would greatly miss the curry and tea on returning to the UK. The volunteers bonded so well with their host families that there was great sadness when they had to leave; everyone felt that they had become part of the family.



Friendly class room prepared by volunteers to attract small children into school



PSD gave the volunteers language training in Kathmandu which came in very useful during the projects, as being able to communicate a little bit with local people helped the volunteers to settle into the community. Nevertheless, the Nepalese counterparts, who acted as teammates and translators in each group, were invaluable in allowing the projects to be a success.

Development projects such as those organised by PSD are very important; they allow sustainable changes to be made in countries who cannot afford to progress towards development without help from abroad. They also provide opportunity for countries to develop good relationships, and opportunities for sharing cultural ways and values. There is little doubt that the volunteers gained as much as the communities did from the experience.

2009 Summer SVA Volunteers

On the 16th of July 2009 we, six volunteers from the University of Glasgow, arrived in the village of Krishna Chowk in rural Chitwan, Nepal. We were warmly welcomed into the community and felt immediately at home, a feeling which lasted throughout our five week stay.

The aim of our project was to fund and aid the construction of two classrooms for Shree Sariswoti Secondary School. Additionally, informal English lessons were to be given to local children. After 35 days of hard work, we fulfilled these initial aims as well as repainting five classrooms and totally redecorating the library and adjoining reading room. We were pleased to have the time to paint illustrations in the library and a giant world map in the reading room. In terms of teaching, we gave three English lessons a week and held an art competition and sports day for the local children.



Volunteers are teaching,



Volunteers are painting which was built by volunteers

However, preparation for this project began long before the 16th of July; we began fundraising in Scotland in January. This comprised of numerous bake sales held at University; a football tournament; a 90s-themed rave; sponsored events and supermarket bag-packing, among many other things. Without the generous donations from our friends and family we would not have succeeded in raising well over our £9000 target.



Volunteers are carrying fodders.



Decorating Library for children

Our overall experience on a voluntary project was enhanced by taking part in community activities. We were pushed to our limits carrying dokos filled with grass (wicker baskets carried by a strap on the forehead); we discovered how useless we were at milking buffalos; and despite our best attempts at rice-planting we could never match the speed of the local women. It was a humbling experience witnessing the daily chores of rural Nepali life.

The immersion into a vastly foreign culture was challenging at first, but our difficulties were soon forgotten thanks to the efforts of everyone around us. We lived with a Nepali family who were outstandingly kind and generous, treating us as one of their own. Our Nepali counterpart, who was with us day and night, gave his all to ensure we had everything we needed. On the building site, the local children and other members of the community, along with the school management committee, were always there to give a helping hand. Finally, the NGO that organized our project, Partnership for Sustainable Development Nepal, deserve a huge thank you for exceeding their responsibilities and supporting us throughout our whole time in Nepal.

Medical and Summer Volunteer Program 2010

There will be 5 group of medical students from Aberdeen University will come to work with us during the Easter Holiday time. They will be working in Community Hospital, Health Post and City Hospital for clinical exposure. During their stay, they will be also helping to organize two health camp in the rural village. They also get some rural experience on health practices.

Beside this, there will be some elective students who will be carrying out their elective in different hospital through us.

We have received large number of interest to carry out internship in our organization but we can not fit all of them with us so that we are arranging internship with other our Network organization.

We are in process of preparing the project for the summer project 2010. We are planning to work with ODA, BVDA, Intervols, EGP, SVA, Aberdeen and Dandee as last year. So that we are hoping to have more groups then last year. We do have lots of request from different schools and community so that we can able to provide the support for small scale project through our volunteer program.

In Volunteers' Own Words:

"One of the kindest, most open and welcoming country in the world."

"Be aware but not worried about cultural issues Nepali people are very friendly, welcoming and look after you as if you were their own children. It is a fantastic opportunity and an amazing experience."

"Nepal is the most beautiful country in the world and the Nepali people are unbelievably welcoming. Volunteering in Nepal means making a second family and benefiting yourself as well as the people we are helping. I love Nepal"

"Volunteering in Nepal is a fantastic opportunity for those who are dedicated and motivated towards helping others and learns lots from them at the same time. My experience was the most rewarding time of my life".

Share Your Experience!

This year we celebrated the highest number of summer volunteers to date and look forward to hosting even more in the 2010. We urge all our previous volunteers to help us promote and advertise our program to potential volunteers by talking about your experience to as many people as possible, serving on the board of the volunteer organizations at your university, and by becoming a fan of PSD-Nepal on face book. If we can be of any assistance in your promotional efforts, please let us know!

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