

Partnership for Sustainable Development - Nepal

P.O. Box 19782, Buddhanagar, Kathmandu, Nepal

Tel. 977-1-4780369, Fax 977-1-4780631

psdnepal@mail.com.np

www.psdnepal.org

DAO - KTM, Reg. No. 180/059/60 GON - SWC. Affiliation No. 13981



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PSD Connect

A Quarterly Newsletter

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 non-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 the EDITOR

Namaste Friends!

With great pleasure we present you our quarterly newsletter!!! Please read our newsletter Issue 1 from year 11, only designed to keep you updated on PSD and her activities, successes and future plans! Any questions and/ or comments regarding the newsletter or about PSD-Nepal are more than welcome. Please forward this newsletter to all the friends who have worked with us and help to raise our profile. We are looking for some news from you people also; please send us any news or materials which we can publish in our next issue. 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

Completion Of School Reconstruction Projects

PSD Nepal has successfully completed the reconstruction work of five schools before the onset of monsoon season . Three schools are still under construction and will be completed very soon. There were a lot of hurdles present in the completion of these project but we successfully passed each challenge and now the students can continue their education in a safe, sound and pleasant environment. Madheshi protests, Indian blockade causing lack of supply materials and roads impaired by rain posed a challenge for us but despite all these, we worked continuously with the aim to complete reconstruction before monsoon and now we are happy to have done so. The completed schools have already started functioning facilitating the smooth running of classes in these schools. Some of the completed schools are:

Mahendra Lila Higher Secondary School, Gorkha:

The reconstruction of Mahendra Lila Higher Secondary School, Gorkha with 500 students has been completed. The reconstructed school building has resulted in regular classes and has indirectly benefitted 1175 households in the community. The completion of the reconstruction of this school building before the onset of monsoon season has added joy among the students and the teachers. They are happy that they no longer have to take classes in improvised shelters during monsoon where heavy rain would make it difficult for holding regular classes. When we visited the completed school site, a cheerful crowd of students, teachers, parents and local community welcomed us and were

thankful for the completion of school reconstruction before the summer and monsoon season. One of the students from Grade 7, Krishna said "I am happy to start studying in a new building. After the earthquake destroyed our school building I was worried whether we will be able to continue our education in the future. From the first day of school reconstruction I was eager for its completion. I would often come to this site with my friends and we would ask the workers when it will be completed. Now it is completed, I am sure that there will be no disruption in our education and I also pray that we will never have to face such



terrifying earthquake. "The school teachers, students, guardians and the School Management Committee are pleased about having joined their efforts with PSD Nepal and their international supporters. We again talked to the Assistant Head Master, Mr. Ram, who added: "We are very pleased for this assistance provided by PSD Nepal and international donors. The completed school building has filled us with new hopes and aspirations. This completed school building has not only facilitated in the education of our students but also has given a new direction and courage for the local community to forget the earthquake and move on with life. We will forever remember this great deed done by PSD and international partners." It was indeed a great pleasure and satisfaction for us to witness such happiness in faces of students, parents and teachers. Among the cheerful crowd, we heard a shout and it was Merina, a 13 year old student who talked with us in our previous visit. She again thanked us and further added "This is the happiest day of my life. It is no less than a miracle to see this completed building where we will continue our education. Many thanks to PSD and the donors for saving our future."

Jana Devi L. S. School, Gorkha: We have successfully completed the reconstruction of another school Shree Jana Devi Lower Secondary School in Gorkha with 142 students and 9 teachers. The earthquake destroyed their building and they were running classes in the Temporary Learning Centers (TLC) and these TLCs were noisy, overcrowded and Students faced many health problems. Because of this, the number of the absent students increased. The school was worried if these sorts of problems might hamper the academic activities of whole academic year. The newly constructed school building has now eased to conduct the usual classes and other academic activities in the comfortable classrooms. Now the school has adequate classrooms of their own which has put an end to rely on the TLCs and the problems occurred while running classes under TLCs.



Similarly, after the completion of this building, the number of the absent students has decreased dramatically. In the past immediately after the quakes, the guardians were not willing to send their children to the school due to the possible threat but now this school building has gained the attention of everyone and the number of students have increased each and every day in the classrooms. The school family is hopeful that they can fulfill their curriculum at the given time and they are optimistic towards the better educational scenario in their locality with this project completion.

One of the guardians , Bashu told us "After the massive earthquake we were worried about the future of our children but with the construction of the new building we are hopeful that learning activities of the school will be effective and we are happy to see the excitement in our children's face."

Bigyan Primary School, Harmi Bhyanjang Gorkha: We have completed the reconstruction of Bigyan Primary School as well. This school has nearly 100 students and 9 teachers, out of which 6 are female. Like many other schools, this school too was conducting its classes in TLCs which are uncomfortable for both the teachers and the students. Moreover, TLCs do not provide protection from heavy rain, wind nor from scorching sun. Due to this, the school suffered from the increasing the number of absentees in the school. Now after the completion of this school there has been a significant increase in the number of students as



the students are excited to go to the school. The students and teachers are happy to continue their studies in comfortable class rooms. Similarly, the school, guardians and the locals are optimistic towards the better future of the students in the upcoming years. They also opined that this project will be successful in increasing the rate of the school enrollment in this school as the school enrollment rate in the earlier years was continuously decreasing.

One of the students told us “We were worried about our future as the only school building was destroyed by the earthquake. We find TLCs too noisy and overcrowded and we were not able to study properly inside it. Now we are very happy to have a new school building and we feel safe and comfortable studying in it.”



Likewise, we have also completed the reconstruction of two more schools- Gram Sudhar Lower Secondary School, Baluwa and Tri Ratna Cooperative School, Bungmati. In a special program organized by Gram Sudhar Lower Secondary School, Mr. Mohan Parajuli, the chairman of PSD Nepal and the mayor of Gokorneshor Municipality jointly inaugurated the newly constructed three room school building of the school.

NAFA Nurishes Program

We have continued NAFA nourishes Program and so far we have increased the orphanage enrollment to 12 and assessed more than 300 children. Now that the Indian blocakde has opened, we have received plumpysup and multivitamins which were lined up at the borders. We have already distributed plumpysups to five orphanage homes and very soon we will be distributing to other homes as well. Most of the children are very happy to eat plumpysup daily and have so far liked the taste of plumpysup while few children think it does not taste great. Whatever the taste, all the children take plumpysup daily and are under observation to monitor their growth. We will measue the results such as height, weight, etc of the children in three months from the starting day of taking plumpysup. Likewise, we also distributed winter gears e.g. jackets, clothes, blankets , lactogene and body lotions to five orphanage homes.

Youth Media Education Project:

15 students and 2 teachers from Institute for Collaborative Education (ICE) New York, USA conducted media and photography training program at Tri Ratna Cooperative Secondary School, Bungmati, Lalitpur. They provided media and photography knowledge and training to the students of Grade 7, 8 and 9 and to the teachers. In total 33 students and 5 teachers participated in the training program.



The 33 students were divided in seven groups such that atleast 2 students from ICE were in each group to ensure quality training and sustainability at the end of training. Likewise, 5 teachers from Tri-Ratna school were trained by teachers from ICE. At the end of this program, they organized a photography exhibition where different photographs depicting the local culture, local lifestyle, local historical places and local flora and fauna were exhibited. The



students used a number of ropes in rows to hang the pictures and created an attractive and colorful venue. The students, teachers, parents and the local community enthusiastically participated in this photography exhibition. Similarly, students from ICE also donated 21 cameras and other educational materials to the school for photography development and educational development in the school. Likewise, they helped in painting all school classrooms, partition work in between classes, false ceiling, conducted various extra

curricular activities for the students. They also helped to design nature garden in two different places so that ECD children can play safely and smoothly at school and planted flowers and plants in the school area and handovered the garden to the school children for the preservation and protection. Both the garden are children friendly so that no accidents occur while children roam and play in the garden. The students from ICE also provided white boards to all the classes which has eased the teacher in effectively teaching the students. Similarly, Ms Jameyah Sheriff and Ms Na Ima Biniti Yusoff from CECD Malaysia also trained the teachers and supported ECD center furnishing such as carpeting, painting, learning center at Tri Ratna Cooperative Secondary School. They also provided ECD play materials and learning corners in the school.

Volunteer program appeal with universities

Analysing the post earthquake situation of Nepal, PSD is initiating a large volunteer campaign for the reconstruction and re-establishment of the education system in Nepal, which has been widely disturbed by the temblor and its continuous after shocks. To achieve its goals PSD is therefore in need of countless volunteers. To make our initiation successful, we would like to request all the individuals, organizations and universities to help us by volunteering or providing volunteers. PSD will welcome any kind of volunteer work which could make a difference for us to make the project success.

Currently, 2 medical students from Simon Fraser University are doing their medical internship at Friends of Shanta Bhawan, Jorpati. At Shanta Bhawan they are mainly involved in clinical exposure, history taking and general check up. They are also involved in providing health education training to the nursing staffs.

Likewise, 18 volunteers from OxAdventure, Kuwait arrived in Kathmandu and worked at Gram Sudhar Lower Secondary School, Baluwa. There, they carried out service learning project work for three days. The 18 volunteers carried out various activities in the schools including complete update of the school library, clearing and improving the standard of school playground, removing the bricks of the buildings damaged by the earthquake, and also donating LCD projector and Laptop for the school.



Likewise, 12 students from BVDA Bristol University, 15 students from Bond University Australia, 10 students and 2 staffs from City University Hong Kong and 20 students from OxAdventure Kuwait will be joining us and working with us in the summer.

Global Giving fund raising

For the purpose of school reconstruction, PSD Nepal is raising funds through Global Giving. Therefore we, the PSD family, would like to request all our best friends to contribute to our cause. More details you can find here:

<http://www.globalgiving.org/projects/rebuild-school-for-479-nepalese-children>

We are counting on your engagement and hope for your support. Your donation to our program will be recognized in the supporting community through the quarterly e-newsletter.

Vote of Thanks

PSD Nepal would like to express its thanks to all those who have contributed in one way or the other to make our relief programmes successful. So far we have successfully raised the funding to build 8 school buildings out of the 10 we have planned. We are still looking for funding to build at least another 2 school buildings. PSD Nepal is looking forward to work with all our well wishers and donors in future as well.

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