

www.himalayanprojects.org



himalayanprojects@gmail.com

High up in the Himalayas in the Annapurna mountain range of Nepal, there is a village called Chitre which had nor a school nor had it any medical facilities.

Being one of the world's poorest countries it lies sandwiched between Tibet and India. With merely a strip of flat lands in the south it quickly rises to steep hills resulting in some of the worlds steepest and highest mountains. Is it Shangri-La?

NO, it is hard to survive here with little industry, few government jobs (mostly reserved for the high-castes), depending largely to sustaining farming, day-jobs, cheap labor-contracts abroad and tourist-activities. With hardly any social and medical help, very few pensions and loan-sharking very few options are open to develop personally or as a community.

Nepal is truly one of the worlds most beautiful countries but also one of its poorest!. Additionally chronic underfeeding by unvaried food-staple with inadequate vitamins and minerals results in backwardness and learning difficulties for small children, inflicting their future life with intellectual and physical handicaps, lack of concentration and so on...

This is why a group of volunteers established this non-profit organization/Bikas with small-scale projects trying to stimulate and change. Yes mere:

Ripples in a vast ocean of mountains.

Our aims:

Mainly to provide structural help to the indigenous peoples of the Himalayas regardless of their social (caste), political, financial and cultural or religious status with special attention to deprived groups like low-casts and women, so as to stimulate intellectual growth and cultural awareness, especially in the more remote areas. A 'push in the back' as to speak.

And who are we?

Paul Vande Moortel (chairman), Nita Buduja Pun (secretary), Gino Versnich, Marieke Lantsoght, (board-members), Odette Hubrecht (patron), freelance volunteers and advisors and you maybe?

How it all started...

With one question to that very little town with view on + 8.000 meter mountains: "What would this village mostly need?" Reply: "A school for our young ones!" Indeed there were some schools further away and out of reach of most small children. Low caste children also couldn't go because of the high expenditure. The better off tend to send their children to boarding-schools far away, which in turn estranges them from their family and ethnic culture. More people are lured to these big cities for better job-prospects and possibly better general facilities, thus creating slums for the unfortunate. These population explosions erode the better facilities and results in a gradual decay of subculture identities.

So we acted and after agreeing with the local population on a suitable location, settling a budget, timeframe and building-plan we collected the necessary funds and handed them over to the school-comity. The actual labour was done voluntarily by the village-people, giving them a feeling of involvement.



Sturdily built with long-lasting materials, big windows and wooden floors for insulation it was connected with a new pathway. In 1999 we officially inaugurated the "Shree Lali Gurans Primary School" and later expanded to 5 classrooms, kindergarten, office, storeroom and toilets with septic tanks and 4 teachers for up to 60 children. A slide and climbing-tower and drinking-water supply was added. To provide total free education, incl. teacher's wages, uniforms and all school-materials we depend on individual sponsors.



Additionally we bought a small plot land, built a simple house on it to house our local orphaned school-children.

A second school.

In 2004 we rebuilt a near collapsing school in the vicinity of Pokhara, namely the 'Shree Sirjana Primary School' in Sarangkot on the outskirts of the city Pokhara. The children from this school mainly live in a slum on an adjacent hill. For these 70 children we only have a few sponsors yet and desperately need more to adequately provide school-, and educational materials, - uniforms and free health-care.



Himalayan Projects npo

For our schools and medical posts, dental clinic and lab, orphan- and boarding-house as well as our Study- and Emergency Fund.



Nepal

Wanted!

Sponsors for these Nepalese children.

Starting from €15 per month!

Tax-deductable starting from €40,00 per year

Contact: Himalayan Projects NPO, a fully licenced non-profit organisation/Bikas

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Setting up medical health-posts...



A second part of our mission is to provide basic-medical facilities. By the end of 2006 the 'Shree Shanti Medical Hall and Dental Clinic' (shanty meaning peace), locally staffed and supported by volunteer-doctors and experts from abroad was up and running in Chitre. A local nurse and assistant has been hired and we are looking out for more; including western medical volunteers!

A western midwife-volunteer stayed for 5 months to give training. She also introduced awareness meetings for women about health and family-planning. We installed a fully equipped dental cabinet with X-ray. A city-dentist visits regularly and gives basic training to our staff on simple procedures. Currently a well equipped lab has been installed and training provided. Also computers, telephone- and internet-access have been introduced.



Study- and Emergencyfund.

Any extra money from benefits and reserves are being used towards providing higher education and emergency (hospital) situations. One perfect example is our help to Dag Bahadur who was the 3rd only successfully operated kidney-transplant in Nepal.



Latest and future projects



As our Chitre schoolchildren grow and move to the nearby **Shikha middle school** we helped to rebuild and installed a computer-class with internet-access. Our Study Fund further assists in higher education. In Pokhara we provide boarding for schoolchildren as well as in **Kathmandu** we support Tamang children from the Langtang area. In **Rupandehi** on the Indian border we are helping some 30 orphans and street-children. A concrete **bridge** has been built in **Solu Khumbu** (Everest) as well as in Chitre where we are also putting up a **clubhouse** with sport-facilities in **Chitre**. Introduction of **tea-growing** is being considered in our main project-area. More computers planned for remote schools so plenty of ideas and plans still ahead.



With a little help from our friends?



Sustaining and conserving the ancient indigenous cultures of the Himalaya's is one of our prime endeavours. We therefore try to complement these subsistent farming communities with basic facilities to enhance their survivability to acceptable levels.

However nothing can be achieved without your support, preferably on a regular base because although large one-time structural costs can be financed by institutional donors, running costs and small relief aid and Study-Fund can only be financed by individual sponsors. Additionally some foreign schools organise fundraisings, sometimes yearly thus creating a sister-brother bond. Our school-programs help us not only to collect funds but equally important help to create awareness and realisation of Nepalese cultures and problems in the West. Some supporters organise solidarity-parties or donate some of their anniversary gifts. Please on call us for any enquiries and donations.

Upon demand we assist or organise group-visits as well to our projects. Sponsors, donors and volunteers are most welcome.