



Final Report

about
Extension School Building & Playground
at
Chhimbu Primary School
Upper Solu, Nepal
November 2007



for
Skivehus Rotary Klub, District 1440
Padborg-Kruså Rotary Klub, District 1460
Rotary Club of Kathmandu, District 3290

written by **Kurt Lomborg, member of Skivehus Rotary Klub**

Preface

Chhimbu Primary School was constructed in 1999-2000 by Skivehus Rotary Klub, District 1440, Denmark, in cooperation with Himalayan Project, Denmark, on the land donated by Ringi and Ang Gelbu Sherpa from Chhimbu. And it has been run by the same rotary club ever since as a Primary School (1.-5. class). Skivehus Rotary Club will terminate its support by 1. July 2008. But before leaving their duty, Skivehus Rotary Club wish to update the school to the best position for its further existence and development, on the conditions that the funding should come from external sources.

In 2006 Schwerin Rotary Club donated and in January 2007 Padborg-Kruså Rotary Klub donated to Skivehus Rotary Klub, but the club didn't become aware of that sufficient funding before late March, and the decision to support the project didn't come before May, and finally the transfer of the funds happened on 6. September 2007, and were further delayed by the Central Bank in Kathmandu. So the money arrived in Chhimbu mid October.

As soon as the decision to support the project was given, the school initiated the construction process by 28. May 2007. All workers and constructors agreed in doing their work in anticipation of the grant, so they worked without salary for almost 5 months. The purchase of materials were done through by the teachers, especially Jangbu did a stake.

In the period 21-23. October Namgyal Jangbu Sherpa from HIPRON and I held a meeting with all the involved persons in Chhimbu. And again 30. October to 2. November I spend my days



here. In the interim week I spend my time on a "Upper Solu School Excursion 2007" with 20 students from Chhimbu and 30 students of Sagar-Bakanje. Once again I must express that the students of Chhimbu is the most amazing, beautiful, intelligent and wonderful students I have ever meet. But this story belongs to other contexts.

The construction work were completed on 31. October 2007.

In late November the District Educational Officer were approached for lobbying towards one more public paid teacher. He actually should be very grateful toward our efforts in Solu to improve his whole educational system, so he promised to work on it. But sooner or later he has to be pushed on this issue.



Result

A) Land: Originally the brothers Jangbu and Gelu wanted to donate a piece of land behind the school, but later when it showed up that it was the whole terrace, they wanted a compensation. And when we readily agreed they approached us with a little high end price.

Similarly we wanted to buy a narrow strip of land from Ang Gelbu, to do the new layout of the Highway. But according to Land Registry Office they couldn't register so less land. We had many difficulties to mark out the actual borders of this new land. But after putting up many marking poles and suspending many ropes between them, we finally agreed in a marking which we all could agree in, and the final negotiation on the price went on undramatic over a couple of beers. This additional Payment were done by Himalayan Project excluding in the project.

Also the land under the Office which already belongs to the school were marked up and the terrace slope were included in the extra payment for Ang Gelbu.

It was decided to extend the constructions of the school right to the border to be sure having no discussions later on these border issues.

B) Removing Soil: This work was done relatively nice, although it had been difficult to get rid of the surplus soil, so the School Tree Nursery now is hidden below a thick layer. This problem will be solved by being thrown down on the newly purchased land of Ang Gelbu, after building a wall along the border.

And the Playground were cut too flat and even, leaving a risk that the monsoon rain water will create small lakes seeping slowly into the ground instead of being drained away. This point were not accepted and shall be adjusted within the budget. Unfortunately the drainage holes in the wall is made for the current level of ground and has to be adjusted to the new level.

C) Supporting Walls: The walls along the Highway and the highway itself is strong and well build with nice flat stones on top of the walls. But anyhow those stones will disintegrate along time passing, so it was decided to plaster the whole wall surface with 40-50 mm of cement strengthened by 2 pieces of 4 mm iron rod at least along the highway.

The wall between Playground and Highway is strong and well build. The wall around the Playground is quite low - too low according to my opinion. But when the surface is leveled

for more drainage it will be higher. When this work has completed, the drainage holes in the wall shall be adjusted to the surface, and then finally that upper lining of the wall, which is above the highway shall be cement topped, to secure that stones will not fall deep down on the road users.



The high wall against the backside of the Playground is huge. During monsoon it washed down and were rebuild in a stronger way. Especially in the distant corner there were problems with spring water seeping out. This part is now enforced. But anyhow the whole construction is probably the weak point of the whole project. Especially the upper lining will create problems when monsoon rain will wash down. Something has to be done to secure that the water will drain over the wall and not down into or behind the wall. But the constructors are not so worried, as all the wall already have shown their strength during monsoon, and they claim that wall build during monsoon is the strongest of all.

D) Highway: As already mentioned the Highway seems to be well build. And it looks impressive, when coming from Chhimbu City walking up the trail with nice steps and the huge wall lining of the Playground. From now on no one can pass Chhimbu School without noticing.

E) New Nursery Class Room: It was completed during the week when we were on Excursion. The result is the same quality as the rest of the school. Not too high but acceptable. Windows are binding and some hinges are wrenched. Chhimbu is a relatively warm place, so there is no need of wooden ceiling, and therefore the walls appear quite rough. The room is a little bigger than the other classrooms. Therefore it was decided to make a cupboard by the end of the room belonging to Chhimbu Progressive Women Group, for their sewing machine and materials. But also the Nursery Class and First Class combined will mean more students than in other classes. The situation of this classroom around the corner is suitable, as the activities of this level could be quite noisy from time to time. The school still have an old stock of plywood plates, which will be set up as roof ceiling. The floor is already paved with stone slates.

F) Interior of the Classroom: were still not initiated but discussed briefly.

Account & Budget

It was very easy to monitor the Account & Budget, as all the work done until now were done on contract basis on a shared contract between Dille Thami, Chhimbu and Ang Gelu Sherpa, Kinja. Their contract were **410.000 NRS** for that part of the Budget saying **460.000 NRS**. They were not completely satisfied now when the result could be added up. But on the other hand they still could laugh and make jokes, and convince a goat to commit suicide and turn into a nice curry on the last day of their work. But they were not satisfied with each other, claiming that they didn't put the same emphasis in the work. I couldn't judge on this issue, as I found both of them serious working and sincere persons, although not extremely experienced. Probably they have been small wrangling because they found that the contract were a little in the low end.

The remaining works which isn't included in this project and budget will be divided between the two, and I decided to give them a better contract on this work to compensate them. This will be explained in enclosed Project Description. After that we heard no new complaints.

Skivehus RK transfer to Chhimbu	469.739 NRS	39.700 DKR	
Skivehus RK transfer to Himalayan Project			10.000 DKR
HP did buy the land in Chhimbu		3.700 DKR	÷3.700 DKR
Total Project Support	469.739 NRS	43.400 DKR	6.300 DKR
Support from Rotary Danmark Hjælpefond		22.000 DKR	
Extra paid for land of Ang Gelbu			850 DKR
Support from Skivehus RK		21.400 DKR	5.450 DKR
Payment for two contractors	410.000 NRS		
Surplus from Budget	59.739 NRS	= 5.000 DKR	

This surplus amount can be claimed repaid, as the project actually is concluded, but from my side it shall be recommended, that it shall be transferred to cover some part of the Remaining Works as mentioned below.

Remaining Work

The only work remaining in this Project and inside this Budget is:

- a) the set up of roof ceiling in Nursery Class Room
- b) the final leveling of the playground and adjusting the drainage holes in the wall to be level with the surface. But probably this work will be ongoing for 1-2 years when the actual problem is identified.
- c) doing something about the upper part of the Back Wall of the Playground.

The contractors of this project has promised to do this work in future without any new claims.

All the rest work is done, and therefore the Project can be concluded.

But new issues came up. Some are really new and have arisen since the Project Description were completed. Others came up during the inspection. Some are very necessary and others are just nice to have and nice to complete to make the school appear beautiful and complete. The **Surplus from Budget** as above mentioned could cover some smaller issues of below mentioned remaining works, but it would be more regular letting it enter into the new Project Description.

- 1) First of all the Office is now breaking down. Originally it wasn't well founded and the far part build on fill. The far end started to settle shortly after completion, and this process has continued until today. But recently it aggravated because it started to settle in the corner of the building. It is due to lack of leveling of the ground. There is a depression in the playground near the corner where water have collected and seeped down between the original surface and the soil filling from 1999 which has caused the soil to settle. Sooner or later the Office will fall down so better to build a new now.
- 2) At the same time as making a deep and solid fundament, it can be continued as an extension of the wall along border of the land below the Office. Here more surplus of soil can be deposited.
- 3) At the newly bought land under the Highway and near the Tree Nursery where the surplus soil shall be deposited, there shall be build a horizontal wall along the border with an entrance at the highway at the southern end.

- 4) The surface of the buildings are mud plastered which isn't long lasting. The whole front side of the school should be plastered in cement to give a more long lasting and more impressive appearance.
- 5) The walls along the Highway and the part of the Wall of the Playground which is above the Highway, shall have a topping by cement, and parts of it even with iron rod included to make it even more strong and resistant to the wearing of the traffic.
- 6) And some smaller issues forgotten in this project will be submitted in the new project. Like window grills, window glass, paint, stone slates at fundament (peti).

All those above mentioned issues will be submitted in a new Project Description for which there shall be initiated a new negotiation with a donor.

Conclusion

The work up to now has been done very satisfactory in a sufficiently high quality. The school now appears like a carefully prepared quality school with many comfortable and convenient details. The playground is now big and leaves room for many activities in school, but also for the villagers. The new classroom does improve the conditions for the small children of the village, who before were left alone at home or had to bore in school with their elder sisters. Now they will be taken care of. And the room also gives room for the women group, who are the only active organization in Chhimbu and who deserve having facilities to work with. Only School Tree Nursery is suffocating under 1-2 feet of gravel and soil, but this will be solved when the concluding and remaining projects is running.

The teachers and parents of Chhimbu School as well as the Nepal Committee of Skivehus Rotary Klub wishes to express our deep felt gratitude towards the interest and support for this small but beautiful and necessary school in Solu, to *Rotary Danmarks Hjælpefond*, to *Padborg-Kruså Rotary Klub*, to *Schwerin Rotary Klub* and of course to *Skivehus Rotary Klub*. Among all the recent Rotary initiatives in Upper Solu this school is the most Rotary School of them all and everyone in Upper Solu are aware of that.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH!

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Chairman of Himalayan Project Danmark

