



# Final Report

about  
Remaining work on Office & Playground  
at  
Chhimbu Primary School  
Upper Solu, Solu-Khumbu District, Nepal  
December 2009



for

**Rotary Danmarks Hjælpefond**  
**Skivehus Rotary Klub, District 1440**  
**Schwerin Rotary Club, District 1940**  
**Skive Rotary Klub, District 1440**  
**Hellerup Rotary Klub, District 1470**  
**Rotary Club of Lichtfield Park, District 5490**  
**Rotary Club of White Tanks, District 5490**  
**Rotary Club of Peoria, District 5490**  
**Rotary Club of Sedona, District 5490**  
**Rotary Club of Prescott, District 5490**  
**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 until 1. July 2008. But before leaving their duty, Skivehus Rotary Club did wish to update the school to the best position for its further existence and development independent on future Rotary support.

With the support of Schwerin Rotary Club, Padborg-Kruså Rotary Klub and Rotary Danmark Hjælpefond, Skivehus Rotary Klub in May 2007 opened a construction work at the school, where a new wing for nursery class was built, and the playground was extended by moving the Highway in a new direction, removing a lot of soil and constructing new supporting walls along all the borders of the land of the school. This work was completed on 31. October 2007, and a Final Report was submitted to all donors of this project by 14. December 2007.

In late November 2007 the District Educational Officer were approached for lobbying towards one more public paid teacher. We told him that he actually should be very grateful toward our efforts in Solu to improve his whole educational system. He did visit Chhimbu School during winter 2008 and was very pleased with what he found there, so soon after he approved this second public teacher at the school, leaving only one teacher and one nursery teacher salary to be paid by private sources.

But at our inspection on the construction site, we found that the Office Room



built on unstable soil had started to break and threatened to fall down. Furthermore, as the office also functions as a village meeting room, it had become too small. The whole surface of the school was plastered with mud, which doesn't last long and give a poor appearance. Some disputes arose about the border of the school property. The school plant and tree nursery had been demolished during the construction period. The slate topped wall along the Highway was ruined by the traffic. Falling rain water was ruining the bottom of the walls of the buildings. The playing with balls on the playground repeatedly broke the window glass. Therefore we one more last time approached Skivehus Rotary Klub to support completing the remaining works at the school to hand it over for a successor per 1. July 2008 in a proper way.

We found support from many clubs. Especially Thøger Berg Nielsen did a great job telling about our little star project in Nepal during his GSE tour to Arizona and by visiting Danish clubs in Hellerup and Skive. And as usual, our friendship club in Schwerin was also ready to support. And our local cooperating club in Kathmandu was also ready to do this last effort for Chhimbu School. Also Rotary Danmarks Hjælpefond went into the project with a substantial contribution. Individual members of Skivehus Rotary Klub contributed too, Peter Maarbjerg, Sven Fenger, Stanny Kilde, Kaj Ove Madsen, Alfred Brunsgaard, Laust Eriksen, Kjeld Jacobsen, Henrik Lund, Jens Dahl Thomassen, Fritz Dahl, Poul Erik Christensen, Peter Christensen and Hans Boel Østergaard. More support than was needed, but then the rest went for the running of the last period of the school. So by February 2008 the work started with cutting stones and wood and soon after by tearing down the office building.

But then everything started to go wrong. We had in autumn 2007 made contract with two local craftsmen and produced a budget in which both agreed and found sufficient. Ang Gelu Sherpa from Kinja, an

experienced craftsman, should work with cement related works. Dille Thami from Chhimbu should construct all the walls and construct the office building. He was a self learnt man and not that experienced, but he had done work for us before to our satisfaction, and he promised to seek advise when he found difficulties. But soon the two contractors started to quarrel. Ang Gelu claimed that Dille didn't work in a proper way. But the teachers at the school intervned and did let Dille continue his own way. Then school committee started to suggest Dille but now he had become stubborn. In April Himalayan Project's Runner Service by Namgyal Jangbu Sherpa inspected the construction site, but at that time the wall under the office building and the raw office was completed and it dis look fine and strong and Dille claimed that he had taken many precautions, so approved the work of Dille. In May the office







building was completed with cement plaster and roof. But then the summer monsoon period started with heavy rain fall, and soon big crags were seen in the cement surface. And by mid July the supporting wall and the house end fell down. Shortly after also his back wall of the playground fell down, and almost simultaneously the nursery wall fell.

As soon as I had the news I ordered the school committee to take Dille out of his contract and suspend all payments for him until I could come myself to inspect the

damages during my regular autumn visit. In August Namgyal Jangbu again inspected the site, and found that Dille had told him how it should have been build, but hadn't done what he told. The walls was thin, and only the surface was well made.

The house was just built on newly filled ind soil without connections and reinforcement to the wall. He ordered, that Dille could have payment for the materials, which he had provided, but payments for labor should be suspended until I came for the site. He ordered the also quite inexperienced craftsman Pasang Tamang to take down the building and all the wall and start from bottom again. Pasang had just completed a magnificent



work for us at Sagar-Bakanje School, and we know him as an honest and sensible man, so Namgyal just asked him to do his work by bill.

When I arrived in October Pasang had rebuild the wall and office with full support by big stones laid on firm soil and house and wall connected in one structure. And we ordered him to rebuild the two crumbled walls as well. Also Ang Gelu had completed his work in a satisfactory way. Dille was walking around with black face trying to regain his former authority. We had a very long account meeting, where Ang Gelu was paid off, and Pasang received payments for his work. But Dille claimed that he had taken loans to fulfill his part of the work and to pay off his workers, and now the loangivers was pushing for repayment, which he couldn't do unless I fulfilled our contract. But it



was told that he already had bought some buffalos and cows and had put tin roof on his own house in expectation of a considerable profit. It was very difficult for me to judge how far he was just a stupid fool or how far he had tried to fool me as he wasn't able to give me proper answers on anything, so I decided to refuse giving him anything before all the work was completed, and I would have complete view of the final account. He left me in depression and anger.



Few months later Pasang had completed his work in perfect shape. He was paid off by his bill which was honest and decent. But the transferred money from Skivehus Rotary Club nevertheless was too less, so Himalayan Project had to add economically to the project. During winter I heard rumors that Dille was in economic collapse and had to sell some of his new cows and buffalos. And by spring he was dead. He had found a riffle in the forest hidden away by the rebel maoist army. He had no proper idea about such a weapon and he hid it in a bush with the butt down. One day he wanted to go hunting, took the gun out of the bush by the barrel. But a bullet was in the chamber, the gun wasn't at safety, a branch pulled the trigger and his breast was blasted away.

Finally in autumn 2009 I could conclude the project. Pasang was paid off and even he received a honorable bonus for saving the project. And when everything was settled, I called in Dille's widow to know about her situation. Actually she started regretting her husbands behavior and she was aware that the situation she was in now was only because of his mistakes. Her house was now ripped from values and the last buffalo was taken to cut price by a loan giver. But still she owed 60.000 Rs (4.500 DKr / 800 US\$) on the last loan, and soon they would come to take her house. Now I regretted her loss primarily of Dille, who actually was my friend, and she started to cry. Then I gave her the money to repay the loan, and promised her further 40.000 Rs to regain some of her lost properties. I can't explain how relieved she was, but she cried out: Now I am safe and I can't express how humble I felt of the changeability of life.

## **Result**

**A) Office Wing:** Now the Office is a big and friendly room with skylight sheets from above, roof ceiling of plywood, and the windows can now be opened to give access to fresh air. Cupboards and shelves are in place and filled up with school equipment and stationary. Sufficient of benches and chairs to comfort a meeting in school committee or a village meeting. Nicely cut and laid stone slates on the floor. And Pasang explained how he had supported the whole building by building up with big stones from the bottom of the fundament of the supporting wall and gradually upwards to the inner end of the building. Now even an earthquake won't disturb the building.

**B) Office Wall:** The wall supporting the office and the playground is very high, but now it is build with a deep fundament 5 feet wide narrowing in steps to 2 feet wide at top. And this time it is really built up not only on the visible outer surface. As the playground at the same time was leveled by volunteer villagers so rain water will drain away from the buildings towards outlet openings in the wall no soft soil will weaken the support of the wall. The wall survived a heavy



monsoon this year without any kind of alterations.

**C) Nursery Walls:** Disputes arose with the son of the former neighbor landowner. This was another tragic story of the village. They originally was the donors of land for the school. His daughter was mental ill and she had a bad fight with her mother who was suffering from a heavy alcoholic dependence, and then the father gave up and committed suicide same evening. Few months later the mother died and now the daughter has disappeared without any sign. But the son who inherited the land claimed that his boundary towards the school wasn't clear. Therefore we decided to make it clear by building supporting walls along the boundary, but well inside the school property so new disputes will be prevented. Now it gives space for two narrow but long School Tree Nurseries where tea bushes and juniper bushes is planted for decorational and educational purposes. Also those two walls was completely rebuild after one of them fell down after Dille's construction attempts.

The villagers did during some days voluntarily clean the School Tree Nursery, which had been used as store and area for stonecutting during the construction period. Now all the dirt, soil and stone remnants was filled up behind the new nursery walls or spread out over the neighbours land. And teacher Jangbu has started to decorate the tree nursery with juniper, flowers and tea cuttings.

**D) Playground Wall:** The very huge wall at the backside of the playground is a weak point. In monsoon period a natural well is developing, which already caused the wall to collapse twice. Now Pasang have rebuild the corner with drain and in a very heavy curved construction. It survived the monsoon without any changes, even though a small stream ran out of the wall.

**E) Highway Wall:** After the moving the wall along the Highway was topped with stone slates, but it wasn't stable. The stones fell down and the wall crumpled. Now Ang Gelu have topped all the wall with iron enforced concrete. So now students can run down on top of the wall, and loadporters can take a rest by resting their basket on top of the wall without damaging anything. So now the whole appearance of the school look very impressive and complete for those traveling the road. From now on no one can pass Chhimbu School without noticing.

**F) Cement plastering of school buildings:** Except the back side walls which still remain raw all the rest of the walls are plastered with an even and nicely smoothed layer of cement. It is well and deeply fit into the raw stone wall. And after the monsoon it was painted in a delicate blue color. In future only minor repairs should be necessary every now and then, and some paint is left over for this purpose. Before with the mud plaster the buildings already after one year would look old and worn, but now it should according to local experiences remain like new and fresh for many years.

**G) Stone slates along all building:** No gutters are attached to the roof, as they would just create



a new problem how to get rid of all the water without creating new problems. Therefore all rain water just fall directly from the roof. Therefore a 1½ feet deep ditch was dug, a stone fundament build up, topped with cement in which heavy and nicely cut stone slates is laid down with a slight slope outwards. During monsoon it did show efficient. The rain splashed out without damaging walls and soil and students could walk and stand under cover without being wet.

#### H) Window grill:

All windows are now mounted with nicely made iron grills produced in Kathmandu. No window glass have now been busted even when the young men of Chhimbu by evening play an energetic tournament of volley ball on the playground. And it have also given the school a very nice and decorative appearance.

### Account & Budget

As mentioned above the accounting process was very tricky and confusing. Especially in autumn 2008 where it was depressing and in some extend marked by anger and exclusion. But in autumn 2009 we could conclude the account in a good mood, even though Himalayan Project had to add considerably for the budget. If Dille had been there it would probably not have been that easy, but now we could settle with his widow in a good and satisfactory mood.

<b>Project Income of Skivehus Rotary Klub:</b>		<b>For construction DKR</b>	<b>For running of school DKR</b>
Schwerin Rotary Club	2.000 €		14.500
Skive Rotary Klub		5.000	
Hellerup Rotary Klub		5.000	
Rotary Club of Lichtfield Park	600 \$		3.000
Rotary Club of White Tanks	300 \$		1.500
Rotary Club of Peoria	300 \$		1.500
Rotary Club of Sedona	300 \$		1.500
Rotary Club of Prescott	300 \$		1.500
Peter Maarbjerg		2.000	
Sven Fenger		1.000	
Stanny Kilde		1.000	
Kaj Ove Madsen		500	
Alfred Brunsgaard		500	
Laust Eriksen		500	
Kjeld Jacobsen		500	
Henrik Lund		500	
Jens Dahl Thomasen		500	
Fritz Dahl		500	
Poul Erik Christensen		500	
Peder Christensen		500	
Hans Boel Østergaard		150	
Rotary Danmarks Hjælpefond		15.000	
<b>TOTAL:</b>		<b>33.650</b>	<b>23.500</b>

<b>Construction Budget:</b>	<b>NRS</b>	<b>DKR</b>
Construction of Office	95.000	7.900
Office Wall	65.000	5.400
Nursery Wall	120.000	10.000
<b>Total contract of Dille Thami:</b>	<b>280.000</b>	<b>23.300</b>
Materials (cement etc) by bill	77.600	6.500
Labor cost	60.000	5.000
<b>Total contract of Ang Gelu Sherpa:</b>	<b>137.600</b>	<b>11.500</b>
Administration and monitoring for HIPRON (10%):		3.500
<b>Total Construction Budget:</b>	<b>417.600</b>	<b>38.300</b>

<b>Construction ACCOUNT at Chhimbu:</b>		<b>NRS</b>		<b>DKR</b>
		<b>INCOME</b>	<b>Expense</b>	
14.12.07	Remaining amount from previous project	59.739		5.000
05.06.08	Budget arriving from Skivehus RK	405.000		30.000
27.06.08	Paid to Dille Thami		25.000	1.852
01.09.08	-		25.000	1.852
10.09.08	-		60.000	4.444
24.09.08	-		25.000	1.852
27.09.08	-		41.000	3.037
07.10.08	-		50.000	3.704
30.10.09	Paid to Dille Thami's widow for loan		60.000	4.190
01.12.09	Paid to Dille Thami's widow for reestablishing		45.000	3.142
	<b>Total payment for Dille Thami:</b>		<b>331.000</b>	<b>24.073</b>
01.12.09	Jangbu Sherpa for roof tin and grill by bill		<b>15.870</b>	<b>1.108</b>
01.09.08	Paid to Ang Gelu Sherpa		50.000	3.704
10.11.08	-		100.000	7.407
03.05.09	-		32.365	2.397
	<b>Total Payment for Ang Gelu Sherpa:</b>		<b>182.365</b>	<b>13.508</b>
25.11.08	Paid to Pasang Tamang		71.500	5.296
31.05.09	-		15.000	1.111
29.10.09	Extra bonus to Pasang Tamang		10.000	698
	<b>Total payment for Pasang Tamang:</b>		<b>96.500</b>	<b>7.105</b>
	<b>Total construction Account:</b>	<b>468.539</b>	<b>625.735</b>	<b>45.794</b>
	<b>Total support from Himalayan Project:</b>	<b>157.196</b>		<b>10.794</b>

<b>Running costs for Chhimbu School:</b>		<b>NRS</b>	<b>DKR</b>
14.01.08	Transfer from Skivehus Rotary Klub	186.537	15.000
05.06.08	Transfer from Skivehus Rotary Klub	162.000	12.000
	<b>Total running costs for 2008:</b>	<b>348.537</b>	<b>27.000</b>

## Conclusion

Even though we faced dramatic problems during this construction part we succeeded completing the project in a very satisfactory way. The constructions are now delivered at a high quality, which will remain unaltered many years ahead. After all our account meetings and other inspection works during my stay in autumn 2009 and just before I left Chhimbu for the next village and project inspection, my dear friend, teacher Jangbu Sherpa, did put up a table, a beer and two glasses and asked the students and parents to go somewhere else, so we could have peace for a final talk and conclusion. We both felt happy and content that now Chhimbu Primary School is complete and no more construction work need to be done many years ahead. Now the school can



concentrate on educating the wonderful children of Chhimbu. Jangbu was very touched when he expressed his deepest gratitude towards Rotary for the magnificent support which has been provided for his center of the world. Without our support there would still not be any education for the children of Chhimbu.

The teachers and parents of Chhimbu School as well as the 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 **Schwerin Rotary Club**, to **Skive Rotary Klub**, to **Hellerup Rotary Klub**, to the **Rotary Clubs of Lichtfield Park, White Tanks, Peoria, Sedona and Prescott**, to **Rotary Club of Kathmandu** 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!**

Kurt Lomborg!

Member of Skivehus Rotary Klub

Chairman of Himalayan Project Danmark

