



# Project Report

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Submitted for:

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**Padborg-Kruså Rotary Klub, District 1460, Denmark** and  
**Rotary Club of Kathmandu, District 3290, Nepal**

**Project: Reconstruction of Classroom Buildings and Construction of Science Lab at Shree Chandra Jyoti Lower Secondary School**

**Location:** Sagar-Bakanje, Bakanje ward 4, SoluKhumbu District, Nepal

by Kurt Lomborg, Skivehus Rotary Klub and Himalayan Project

Himalayan Project, represented by Namgyal Jangbu Sherpa and Kurt Lomborg, did visit the project site on 18. October, and again on 11. November 2008, and finally we had a meeting with Headmaster Ang Dawa Sherpa in Kathmandu on 28. November 2008.

At our first visit we were joined by a group of Danish members of Himalayan Project, my wife Mummy Anne-Marie, Liljan & Allan Danfær, Vibeke & Wilbert Lyngsø and a group of Nepali Nurses. During this





visit the school was closed due to the celebration of the main festival of the year, the Dashain Holidays. But during the day slowly by slowly the main contractor Pasang Tamang, Headmaster Ang Dawa Sherpa, Chairman of School Managing Committee Ang Chhiring Sherpa and several teachers came to join the inspection and account examination, and finally by evening many villagers came along and a big party was held with campfire and dance in the school yard.

We immediately found that the contractor Pasang Tamang was so eager to bring us behind the school to see his Masterpiece: The new Science Lab. And really we found this building the most beautiful and well constructed building in the whole Upper Solu. And worked out by a relatively inexperienced craftsman, who has shown a ready willingness to gain experience from others adding it with personal common

sense. In the whole building we only found minor discrepancies, like a shutter which didn't fit exactly in the frame. But the rest was just perfectly shaped and strongly build. My happiness was so strong that a tear fell from my eye, and I saw that the same happened for Pasang, and I asked him to stand in front of his building to present it. Whenever possible in the future when I need a trustworthy man to do an excellent work in Solu, I will ask Pasang to join me.

The walls are done with well cut stones laid in cement mortar and the joints



enforced with cement. At winter time the rain will come strongly from south being very hard to a poorly constructed wall, but this one will remain undisturbed for many decennias ahead. The Cement Veranda Deck was thick, heavy and well done with nice self invented anchors for the veranda poles. The two first floor rooms was beautifully decorated with fresh wooden ceiling, opening to the skylight plates in the roof producing two light and friendly rooms for Computer Lab and Library. The base room also has wooden ceiling and it has cement floor. But still no furniture for any of the rooms has been produced, which were discussed with Schoolmaster Ang Dawa, and he promised to see to that it was done during the winter. The stairs and access way to the building is nicely done with stone slates laid in some cement.



Pasang also was the contractor on the wooden decorations of the rest of the school houses. Again here we found excellent work with beautiful wooden planks set up in a perfect way with openings up to the skylight plates in the roof. Namgyal told that he during Runner Service did find some of the set-up did warp because the wood was too fresh and wasn't dry enough. Pasang immediately took the drastic step to take down the whole thing to do a new set-up. Again this man shall be praised.

Unfortunately no one had taken care of our demand from the previous year to fix the veranda poles to the cement floor. Still they are just standing on the floor and will sooner or later be twisted off weakening the roof. But this house isn't part of our project, as it was constructed by the donation of Rural Reconstruction Nepal.

The two Earthquake Resistant Buildings which were in advanced decay is now repaired and plastered up and with new doors and window shutters, wooden ceiling and stone slate floors and with the skylight plates in the roof they appear as completely new with light and friendly rooms. Again the contribution of Pasang Tamang. Also the furniture which he produced 2 years ago from a donation from Venø Menighedsforening were examined and found as good as new, except from the engravings on the table desk made by boring students, who was there with their thoughts elsewhere. Actually some pieces of art around.

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at some places it did show severe cracks, which indicates that it will not be long lasting.

Nevertheless we found some points which were not to our satisfaction. None of those issues is involved in the very project of Padborg-Kruså Rotary Klub, but is rather some minor issues which the school should complete on their own behalf to make everything appear complete. The lack of bottom fixture of the veranda poles is already mentioned, but also the gutters were still not existing or of a poor quality. The Water Post

which Dawa Sherpa did set up in a poor quality is now taken down, but will be set up again according to Ang Dawa. All those three issues was also pointed out one year ago, but still not taken action on. We also pointed out some minor issues like the terrace below the class 7 & 8 building which should be leveled and have a better build up. At the new Science Lab we criticized that the deep and steep fall at the eastern side of the veranda is unprotected and dangerous if students fall down there. And at the same spot there still was some rubbish from the construction spread around, as well as the land still looks like a construction site. We asked the school to do something about it before we came back 3 weeks later, but at that time only a little digging was done at the terrace.

When we came back it was a week after the school should have started after the Dashain Holydays, but we found that some teachers still hadn't returned and others had just arrived. We were told that the general commitment of the teachers is low, and most teachers are having an excessive intake of alcohol and some even already from the morning. Most teachers are arriving late for the first class and some even several hours, and some even stay away the whole day. And regularly the teachers stay in the office instead of with the students in the class rooms. We had a meeting with the teachers who were present and they agreed that something should be done better. But we are not that confident that it will happen. I did write a letter for District Education Officer demanding that he should take action to improve the teachers standard at the school.

None among the teachers are themselves well educated in the scientific subjects, so a proper education in this field can't be expected. No teacher at the school has an even basic knowledge about computers, but on this field some of the teachers are ready to take training.

Another weak point of the village influencing our project is the status of Sagar-Bakanje Electricity. From the very beginning this project was low budget and many mistakes and bad decisions were done on the way. Therefore it has been followed by unfortunate occurrences since the very



beginning. Some initiatives were done last year and some expectations on betterments were there when a lightning stroke the system and killed teacher Jangbu last summer. The village is still in a kind of chock after this incidence and tears come in the eyes of people when the talking turns to the electricity. But for the moment the electricity isn't stable or sufficient enough to provide power for computer education.

The last building of the school which isn't touched yet is the Office, and the teachers have asked us for several years to renew this building also. But we have rejected for two reasons. The first reason it, that we find this building sufficient to the standard of the teachers. We are afraid that a new and more comfortable Office, just will keep the teachers longer on their breaks. But there is also a second reason. The school wishes to upgrade from Lower Secondary to Secondary level, so they can run class 10, which give access to the coveted SLC-certificate. If they succeed they will need two more class rooms for class 9 & 10, and they should be build on the spot of the today's Office. Then a new Office should be built as a second floor on top of these class rooms. But to obtain the approval to run those higher classes the number of students should increase and all the structures should be completely updated. The update is now on the way because of Padborg-Kruså Rotary Klub, but with an empty science lab and the current teachers standard probably nothing will happen.

In the beautiful settings of Sagar-Bakanje in magnificent weather with the view up to the Numbur Mountains we had account meeting. It did show that Pasang Tamang have no idea about mathematics and accounting but is basing his account completely on Headmaster Ang Dawa. Actually no one else around the school have any knowledge about the account but Ang Dawa. Luckily there can't be any doubt about his honesty, and he have saved all the bills and produced accounting files on behalf of Pasang, so it was quite easy and fast to check the account.



<b>ACCOUNT:</b>										Currency Rate: 12,10 NRS/DKR			
Particulars		ACCOUNT						BUDGET					
								DKR		Others		DKR	
<b>Project 9: Reconstruction:</b>													
A) Wooden ceiling in all classrooms in new school house								90.000		7.438			
B) Wooden Ceiling in all classrooms in Earthquake Buildings								99.250		8.202			
C) Administration, monitoring and reporting 15%										2.400			
<b>Project 10: Science Lab:</b>													
A-E) Whole building with surroundings								636.000		52.562			
F) Furniture Science Lab								36.000		2.975			
G) Furniture Computer Room								30.000		2.479			
H) Furniture Library Room								45.000		3.719			
I) Compound Wall								250.000		20.661			
J) Administration, monitoring and reporting 15%										12.600			
Budget for the project completed up to December 2008:										<b>1.186.250</b>		<b>113.037</b>	
F-G-H) Science Equipment, Computers and Library Books								442.000		36.529			
J) Administration, monitoring and reporting 15%										5.600			
<b>TOTAL:</b>										<b>1.628.250</b>		<b>155.166</b>	
<b>INCOME at School:</b>													
		Rate	Village	HP			PK-RK						
	1. July 2007 transfer from PKRK	11,60				191.460	16.500	2.400					
	6. September 2007 transfer from PKRK	11,93				536.984	45.000	12.600					
	3. April 2008 transfer from PKRK	12,50				449.975	36.000						
	21. October 2008 extra from HP	13,52		13.807	1.021								
	Village Contribution	13,52	5.300						til HP	7.200	533		
	Remaining Project Budget	14,00								532.000	38.000		
	<b>TOTAL:</b>	12,10 Gnms.	<b>5.300</b>	<b>13.807</b>	<b>1.021</b>	<b>1.178.419</b>	<b>97.500</b>	<b>15.000</b>		<b>539.200</b>	<b>38.533</b>		
	<b>TOTAL NRS Income:</b>	<b>1.197.526</b>					<b>112.500</b>						
<b>Project EXPENSES:</b>													
July 2008 paid to <b>Phurwa Gyalzen Sherpa</b> for Project 10-I): Compound Wall by contract:						250.000		20.661					
18. October 2008 paid to <b>Pasang Tamang</b> for Construction, Ceiling and <b>Furniture</b> work:						830.550		61.431					
11. November 2008 paid to <b>Pasang Tamang</b> from Budget according to bill:						78.194		5.784					
11. November 2008 paid to Pasang Tamang from HP to fulfill the bill:						13.807		1.021					
As soon as the villagers have completed their collection the shall pay the rest to fulfill the bill:						7.200		533					
						<b>250.000</b>		<b>929.751</b>		<b>89.430</b>			
						<b>1.179.751</b>							
<b>Balance:</b>		<b>Income:</b>		<b>1.197.526</b>									
		<b>Expenses:</b>		<b>1.179.751</b>									
		Minus Village collection:		<b>-7.200</b>									
		<b>Balance:</b>		<b>24.975</b>									

<b>ACCOUNT:</b>		Currency Rate:					12,10	NRS/DKR
<b>Particulars</b>		<b>Labour</b>	<b>Stone</b>	<b>Wood</b>	<b>Others</b>	<b>Transp.</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>DKR</b>
<b>Project 9 &amp; 10: Pasang Tamang Project Details:</b>								
20.01.08	Iron for veranda				915		915	76
21.07.08	Cement 11 sacks Bhandar				11.000		11.000	909
14.12.07	Cement 11 sacks & enamel & mongery				16.629		16.629	1.374
20.01.08	Cement 14 sacks KTM				6.860		6.860	567
13.04.08	Tin & Skylight & Sheet				80.186		80.186	6.627
02.05.08	Cement 70 sacks & iron rod & Nail				87.868		87.868	7.262
20.02.08	Transport hinges					1.040	1.040	86
07.12.07	wood cutting and transportation			64.062			64.062	5.294
07.12.07	wood cutting and transportation			47.380			47.380	3.916
07.12.07	wood cutting and transportation			15.600			15.600	1.289
17.12.07	transport wood					49.976	49.976	4.130
17.12.07	transport wood					31.682	31.682	2.618
20.12.07	stonecutting & transport		35.400				35.400	2.926
20.12.07	stonecutting & transport		33.750				33.750	2.789
20.12.07	stonecutting & transport		46.200				46.200	3.818
18.01.08	transport cement, iron & tin					38.173	38.173	3.155
18.01.08	transport cement					14.750	14.750	1.219
20.12.07	sand				21.950		21.950	1.814
20.12.07	gravel				12.780		12.780	1.056
22.01.08	stonelayers	73.250					73.250	6.054
22.01.08	carpenter & bricklayer	113.000					113.000	9.339
20.07.08	mudworker & cementplaster & slate	45.050					45.050	3.723
23.10.07	stairs of stone & Pasang salary	82.250					82.250	6.798
<b>TOTAL:</b>		<b>313.550</b>	<b>115.350</b>	<b>127.042</b>	<b>238.188</b>	<b>135.621</b>	<b>929.751</b>	<b>76.839</b>

## Discussion on the Account:

Actually the work of Pasang Tamang was in November 2007 agreed to be done by Contract which were signed with 489.000 Rs, plus extra for cement topping between stones in the wall approximately 30.000 Rs, plus extra for stairs and access way 40.000 Rs, plus extra for "peti" 5.000 Rs, plus extra for gutter approximately 5.000 Rs, which should be less than 600.000 Rs. Upon this is the budget for wooden ceiling on 190.000 Rs. But the bill is around 130.000 Rs higher than the agreement. And still the Furniture isn't produced.

It soon became obvious that Pasang Tamang was too inexperienced in calculating budget and making contract. To meet his budgeted contract, he could have saved on the materials and the work, but he didn't do that kind of common cheating. He continued working conscientious to produce the highest quality. In total around 1.400 Man Days of labor have been given to those two projects with a salary on 200-250 Rs per Man Day including food. Pasang himself have spent 317 Man Days of labor on the project.

Maybe 106 sacks of cement seem to be in the high end for the Science Lab, and a suspicion could come up that Phurwa Gyalzen Sherpa have taken some sacks for his contract work on the Compound Wall. On the other hand he was supposed to have a salary to be a supervisor and advisor for Pasang Tamang, but he didn't take it although he did spend time on it. But anyhow it couldn't be more than 15-20 sacks. Phurwa Gyalzen has now immigrated to America.

All in all I approved Pasang Tamang's account with the excess, because I couldn't find serious discrepancies, and because I wouldn't like Pasang to have a loss on his excellent work. He therefore received what we thought was the remaining budget plus the collection which was donated by villagers in autumn 2007, but still not paid. And to meet his expenses Himalayan Project added the deficit amount.

But on the other hand I will expect Pasang Tamang to produce the agreed Furniture according to the Project Description and according to the original Budget. There still is a Balance on the account on 24.976 Rs. This extra Balance comes from a mistake by Headmaster Ang Dawa Sherpa. The only paper he didn't bring for the account meeting was the Bank Account Book where the received amounts from Padborg-Kruså Rotary Klub are registered. According to his memory he claimed that by the last transfer 425.000 Rs was received, but actually it was 449.975 Rs. This Balance shall be paid to Pasang and then we shall expect him to do all furniture according to Project Description.

## **Remaining Budget on equipping the Science Lab:**

The project was supposed to continue with installing equipment in the Science Lab, Computers, Science Equipment and Library Books. But for the moment there doesn't seem to be any reason to do this.

- The Sagar-Bakanje Electricity Company hasn't succeeded in upgrading the Hydro Power Station and the Net, so electricity isn't stable enough to support computers
- There doesn't seem to be adequate teacher capacity to give proper science education and no teacher have done anything to make a list of the science equipment which is already available and what would be on the wish list.
- An application have been sent for a rotary project which provided second hand books for projects like this one, but until now we have not had any success. But also nothing else has happened. Teacher Nuru Jangbu Sherpa should be active to investigate other libraries to make a list of books which could be wished, but nothing like that has happened.
- The teachers are generally indifferent towards their job, and some are even unsuited to be teachers.

But on the other hand it will be a real project disaster to let this beautiful Science Lab remain empty. Therefore something has to be done.

The most sustainable way to improve the schools standard will be through School Management Committee and the parents of the students. Himalayan Project is trying to open a new project with support from the Danish Embassy in Nepal on Women Empowerment in Bakanje VDC. And this might in the long term lead to improvements if the Mothers can gain enough self-confidence to involve in school matters, which the men until now have failed in doing. A small but nicely build Health Station is only few years old, but almost not in use. This empowerment project could also put some efforts to this place.

We could decide to go into a project with a complete upgrading of the school and the Hydro Power Electricity and actually of the whole village. The electricity has shown to be directly dangerous to humans and it is so poorly constructed from the beginning, that something serious should be done to the whole system (see Project Partreport from 11. November 2007). In the school the Office building could be upgraded to a two storied building with two class rooms at the base and teachers room and office on first floor. And also giving a facility on this first floor for School Committee could also be an educational improvement. The wild shrubby land of the school which is now protected by a wall could be arranged with small trails and rest places. A wall could be build at the northern side of the playground. And some few other issues could be completed to make the school appear fully updated. Also the Health Station could have some minor inputs to appear more in action.

Probably both above mentioned projects will take 2-3 years to complete, so in the meantime the School Management Committee and the Teachers will have time to improved the school and apply the District Education Office for upgrade to Secondary Level, or at least show their good will so we could continue to complete this project by filling in equipment in the Science Lab.

## **CONCLUSION:**

Sagar-Bakanje is a wonderful place inhabited by good and strong farmers. The climate is a little more harsh there and the soil isn't that fertile, so the farmers has to work hard to sustain life. The educational level among the parents is quite low and many are illiterate and find it difficult to influence the school and their studying children. But we always feel very welcome when we are there. There is a very traditional attitude towards hospitality which involves not only serving of alcohol but even forcing to drink it in quite heavy quantities. Now they have learnt that I don't touch alcohol before late evening time, but it is obvious that they don't approve my attitude. But for the teachers it can be more difficult to resist, and it will be difficult for the parents after that to criticize the teachers drunkenness.

Half of the teachers are from the vicinity of the village, but still they have ½ to 1½ hours walking distance between home and school. Some even have private business with hotel, along the main road between the bus park at Jiri, and Namche Bazar with Mount Everest, to reach school timely. The rest of the teachers are from more remote places several days walking distance from Sagar-Bakanje. Some of them feel displaced and even uncomfortable at this high and cold altitude. It is generally claimed that public employed teachers feel safe in their job and doesn't need to care that much on anything else than collecting their salary.



It can be difficult to foresee what must come first and what will happen after. Shall we upgrade the village before we can expect the population to play a more active role in their society? Or shall we demand the villagers to show more activity before we upgrade their village?

Now at least the school will have a year until my arrival next autumn to show some kind of activity and improvement. I hope this report will be read and understood so the school and the village will take it as a guideline on what to do.

I hope that others also will take interest in Sagar-Bakanje from this and from previous reports and especially among donors and rotary clubs, that they will feel inspired to go into a whole village project to change a limping and staggering village into a smooth and well functioning traditional village far away from the modern facilities which are anyhow approaching and influencing the remote places. Such a project can change Sagar-Bakanje to something very interesting in a modern world.

Yours sincerely Kurt Lomborg!

