

Junbesi Multipurpose Service Facility (JMSE)

**Project under TRPAP
and supported by Himalayan Project, Denmark**

Project Site: Junbesi Village, Beni VDC, Solu-Khumbu



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Report **March 4, 2006** by Papa Kurt Lomborg

Junbesi Village has a few community facilities and wants a few more.

First of all **Junbesi Library** established in 1991 already is in existence. It is an independent institution run by "Junbesi Library Family". In the recent years the frequency of visitors at the library has diminished, and that is probably the reason why the office hours isn't regular any more. Or it could also be the other way round.

Report on Junbesi Library September 2000

The Library is run by Junbesi Library Family:

In September 2000 there were registered 892 books in total, of these

738 in Nepali, 150 in English, 2 in German, 2 in Danish

68 members pay the membership fee on 55 Rs/year

They can take the books for home

They are teachers and other adults

Students pay no fee, and has to read the books in the library.

Sometimes up to 55 students sit and read

Sometimes the school run classes in the library

Every opening day are 5-50 books taken for home - normal average is 20 books

Open daily: 7 - 10 a.m. & 1- 2 p.m. & 4 - 5 p.m.

Build 1991 by American help

1992-1993 Himalayan Trust ran the library

From 1993 Himalayan Trust pay the salary of the librarian

Fees from members and income by some sale of souvenirs and others, pay the repairs and the buying of magazines

The Library Family are applying for funds for building 4-5 new rooms for:

Lama Books, Sherpa Museum, Communication Room (telephone, E-mail, fax ...), Video Room, Administration

Does have some videotapes with films about culture and history

Wants more videotapes with cultural content and a video machine

Wants translation books English-Nepali (many), English textbooks 7.-10. class, National Geographic, Children Books

Furthermore there were until 2002 a **Telecommunication Centre**, which is now closed down. This centre were in two small rooms adjacent to the Office of Junbesi School. There is a great demand to reopen this facility in Junbesi, as the nearest communication centre is in Salleri.

The organization **Tourism for Rural Poverty Alleviation Programme - TRPAP** supported by United Nation Development Programme and working under **Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation (MoCTCA)** since 2001 has done great achievements in the area with extending and upgrading public trails and trails leading to main tourism focal points. In autumn 2005, TRPAP launched a project proposal, to establish a **Tourism Information Centre** in Junbesi.

Some villagers have expressed their wish to establish a **Sherpa Culture Museum** in Junbesi. Dawa Jangbu Sherpa from Namaste Lodge told me, that he and some of his friends already have collected some items for a museum.

Himalayan Project is interested in supporting occupational projects in the area, and among those is handicraft production. Those products should be offered at a **Souvenir Shop**, which at the same time could function as a co-operative sales organization.

Himalayan Project are supporting **Junbesi Community Trekking Group** who offer local trekking arrangements for tourists. They need an office and a store room for their equipment.

It has been suggested from villagers that there should be established a **Junbesi Cinema**, showing video films of a certain quality.

Summary of Facilities wished in Junbesi

Junbesi Library
Junbesi Cinema
Tourism Information Centre
Junbesi Community Trekking Group
Souvenir Shop
Sherpa Culture Museum
Telecommunication Centre (telephone, fax and E-mail)
Office for all above Facilities
Reception

Formulation of the Complex of Problems

Each of those Facilities or Institutions need at least one person to take care of it. It is positive, as it will raise employment. But as the individual institutions probably never will be self sustainable, the finances for employment will be from outside the community, and probably for a limited span of years, because the sources probably will dry out. The more employed, the more money and the less years.

Most of the facilities will not have uniform rate of activities during the year. The most busy period will be during the tourism season peaks, and in other periods it could be expected to be an almost zero level of activity. But cinema and library might have the opposite season, as the persons employed in tourism will be back home. This means that less persons can be more busy all through the year.

If the level of activity in each facility will be too low, it will not emphasize the employed to take proper care of their jobs. Probably even the office hours will not be taken proper care of. If costumers go in vain for the facility, they will be reluctant to try again, and a vicious spiral will be started.

If all facilities are situated in one and the same place there can be made a much better use of the employed, who will have something to do all through the year. In weak periods all the work could be handled by 1-2 persons, and in peak periods 1-2 persons extra could be employed. In

this way the incomes which the facility can generate can in a higher extend support the salaries of the officers.

Problem Solving

A logical way to solve the need of facilities in Junbesi, to make the facilities more interesting and to make the facilities long lasting and self sustainable, will be building all the facilities together in one building.

In autumn 2005 Himalayan Project had a meeting with the person in charge of TRPAP in Salleri. He did show very interested in the multipurpose idea of the project. He expressed, that there had to be a project description before end of March 2006. He also stressed, that TRPAP don't buy land, but only construct facilities.

Himalayan Project therefore had a meeting in Junbesi with the schoolteacher and member of tourism alleviation programme and chairman of Junbesi Community Trekking Group Mr. Chungba Lama, Junbesi. He did show very interested in the idea, and as he at the same time is one of the owners of the land adjacent to Junbesi Library, he was ready to sell the necessary land for Himalayan Project to fulfill the purpose of constructing a building by TRPAP. But he had to discuss the matter with his family in Kathmandu.

On the 21. January 2006 I received an email from Mr. Chungba Lama: "Hello,papa namaste. papa i discuss with grandfather and brother they do not want to sell the porpose land. construction infront of Lumukarmo(snake temple) is not good for the villagers and family .Lumukarmo is just behind the porpose land I think you know about this.papa iam very sorry for unsucess meeting.Say my namate for mama.I will back to junbesi on 22th of January. your chungba"

I was not aware, that Lumukarmo is dwelling there. Of course we shall not disturb the local deities. But I am still a little confused, that there isn't mentioned any alternatives. For instance there is also land on the other side of Library. The new building could be constructed with respect to Lumukarmo, so he could be incorporated in the construction.

Therefore for the time being the process has stopped, and no solution is within reach, here just before the termination of the deadline of TRPAP. Actually, if the villagers of Junbesi isn't interested in this facility, of course they shall not have it. But it might be a result from misunderstandings and too less informative activities among villagers, so it should have one more chance.

Conclusion

Himalayan Project will through it's cooperate Himalayan Community Development Organization (HCDO) try to revive the process in Salleri with TRPAP as well as in Junbesi, with the concerned villagers.

If the villagers of Junbesi are interested in the above mentioned **Junbesi Multipurpose Service Facility** we shall expect another approach from the villagers before a hopefully new deadline from TRPAP.

If the villagers can't find sufficient engagement in the process it shall be closed for ever from our side.

Denmark
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