

# **Thamakhani Youth Club**



**Project under Himalayan Project, Denmark**

**Kjeldbjerg 16. February 2006**

**Project Site: Thamakhani Valley, Solu-Khumbu**

## **Report**

In the period 24.-27. November 2005 Himalayan Project visited Thamakhani Valley with the three members: Helga Lomborg, Dorte Just and Kurt Lomborg.

The Himalayan Project Group were approached by various local institutions for proposing their needs to improve development and living conditions:

### **Thamakhani Primary School:**

- Extending the School Playground
- Constructing one more building for classrooms
- Applying for scholarships

### **Pikey Lower Secondary School, Loding:**

- Support of Teachers salary for running 8. Class
- Acquisition for Science tools for Secondary Level
- Support for School Uniforms for 20% of the students
- Applying for Scholarship

### **Thamakhani Health Post:**

- Upgrading of the Health Post
- Facilities for hospitalization
- Construction of residence of Health Assistant

### **Thamakhani Youth Club (TYC):**

- Construction of a Clubhouse
- Support for sports equipment

The Himalayan Project Group found all the proposals worthy for further investigation and consideration. But it was also decided to go into the projects in a careful and deliberate way. First of all there has to be a local co-operator to investigate, implement and monitor the projects run in the valley in future. TYC seemed very active and enthusiastic, so it was decided to do some smaller scale work with the club.

Unfortunately we were not told before much later, that there is also a youth club in Loding and Palamkhani. By discussion with members of Loding Youth Club (LYC), it was proposed to go into collaboration with TYC for common achievements, but they didn't find it immediate possible and couldn't decide on the spot.

So it was decided that Himalayan Project would immediately work with TYC as their main partner, but would also take LYC in consideration for advise and support according to their approaches.

It was decided immediately to implement three projects and let a fourth wait to see how the three others work:

1. Production of School Uniform for all schools and students in the valley
2. Investigation, measuring, budgeting and discussion about Thamakhani Primary School Playground
3. Scholarship applications for poor students
4. TYC Clubhouse

Project Collaborator:

**Thamakhani Youth Club**

**Joylamai Adarsa Sewa Club (Flaming Enlightenment Service Club)**

**Thamakhani-6, Solukhumbu**

**Established 17. May 2005**

**Babu Kaji Magar (Program Manager)**

**Babu Ram Regmi Magar (Chairman)**

**Hira Regmi Magar (Member)**

**Chet Bahadur Magar (Adviser Chief)**

## **1. Production of School Uniform for all schools and students in the valley**

For the moment all school uniforms are sewn in Salleri for the price of 250-350 Rs per uniform for in total 250 students - in total 60-90.000 Rs are handed over from the inhabitants of the valley for tradesmen and tailors from outside.

For the moment sweaters produced in China are bought through tradesmen for 200 Rs each sweater - in total 50.000 Rs handed over from inhabitants of the valley for tradesmen from outside, and knitters in China.

In total expenses on 100-130.000 Rs per year for one set of uniforms and sweater.

Probably a little more than half of this expense is for raw materials, which probably has to be bought from outside the valley, in the nearby market town of Salleri, or the more distant market of Jiri (or Shivalaya) or even from Kathmandu, with lesser price but higher transportation rate.

But a little less than half of the expense is salaries and profit for traders, middlemen and producers from outside - means 35-50.000 Rs can be saved for the local area, and paid as salaries for locals.

It was claimed that 20% of the student's parents at Loding School couldn't afford the expenses of this uniform, resulting in many students improper and insufficiently dressed.

HP was applied to support those 20% with a uniform or partial support for uniform. But this was rejected as it would be very difficult to point a limit between supported and unsupported. And also because this project would be endless, because what next year.

Probably most of the parents who can't afford the uniform would be able to find time to be the producers themselves, taking two advantages: first producing a cheap uniform for their own child and secondly taking income for producing for the other students.

The number of students in the valley was estimated to 100 from Loding, 65 from Thamakhani and 65 from Palamkhani - in total approximately 250 students in the valley.

The students of all schools in the valley wear light blue shirts of normal design, and Loding students wear red sweaters and in Thamakhani and Palamkhani they wear dark blue sweaters.

Himalayan Project usually only support projects which imply activity and capacity building from the local society, so therefor it was decided to support the project in the following way:

1. Thamakhani Youth Club shall organize and educate a seewing and knitting group with special consideration on the most poor people.

2. HP on 26. November 2006 gave TYC 10.000 Rs for the purpose of buying two seewing machines

3. HP on 6. December 2005 bought fabric in Kathmandu for producing 250 light blue shirts, in total 11.902 RS plus 800 Rs for buttons etc plus 390 Rs for local transportation. In total 13.902 Rs - which is 55 Rs for each shirt.

4. HP on 8. December 2005 bought yarn in Kathmandu for knitting 250 red and blue sweaters. The price of yarn are considerably higher in late autumn and winter, than in spring, which should be considered in future. The price of yarn bought in the expensive period were in total 16.200 RS plus 130 Rs knitting gears plus 350 Rs for local transportation - in total 16.680 Rs - which is 66 Rs for each sweater.

5. HP supported the transportation of the raw materials with 2.000 Rs, which on 9. December 2005 were handed over for Loding Youth Club, who took care of the whole transportation. Two weeks later rumors told in Denmark, that the materials had arrived in Phaplu and were on the way for Thamakhani. HP has noticed this co-operative action of LYC.

6. In beginning of February 2006 rumors spread for Denmark, that the production had started under the guidance of Mrs. Hira.

It is the hope and expectation of HP, that we by our visit next year will experience, that a great number of predominantly economically weak persons have gained the skills of sewing and knitting, and that the right persons in the valley had an income from the project, and that all students have been able to afford or provide an uniform.

It is the hope and expectations of HP, to experience, that a new production have been prepared or initiated or even completed, without waiting for and expecting continuous support for the production.

It is the hope and expectation of HP, that TYC have shown a high level of capacity to run this project in a socially and organizational proper way, and can show detailed account and report on the project.

## **2. Investigation, measuring, budgeting and discussion about Thamakhani Primary School Playground**

By visiting Thamakhani Primary School it was the impression of HP's Group, that the Playground of the school really is very small and is giving limited possibilities for the 65 students to have activities outside of the school buildings. At our visit we did some preliminary calculations on the project to extend the Playground, and decided to go into the project.

The school also wanted to construct a new building for science education, but our preliminary

work did show, that it could be very difficult to implement if the playground also should be extended. There didn't seem at first glance, that there could be space for both projects.

We therefore asked TYC to describe the project of extending the Playground. This should be done in the following way:

1. A geometric sketch should be produced, showing in a very accurate and detailed way how the project site looks today, and how the proposed project will look.
2. Calculations on how much land is needed, how much soil to remove, where to move it and deposit it, how much stones is needed for walls, how many workers needed for how long time, etcetera.
3. Procedures on how to do the work from beginning to end, step for step. Explanations why to do the described actions. Explaining the benefits by this procedure in comparison with alternatives.
4. Time schedule of the work from beginning to immediate finalization. But also the time span for removed soil to settle and being ready to build on, or other processes influencing the future work in the school.
5. Budget. The total economic need to complete the project, explained in diminutive details, and mentioning everything; also subjects which is expected to be done voluntarily. And also the budget on local contribution, with donations, finances and volunteer labor.

If TYC don't think they have sufficient capacity to do this work, they shouldn't hesitate anyway. It is part of HP's work to support local organizations in gaining capacity. Just go ahead and forward your results, when you don't think you can do any further. Then our communications can go to and from until all are satisfied with the result.

When the result is finished and we have a detailed project description, HP will start finding donors for the project. The better description, the easier the donors will be found.

When donors support are collected, the project will implement with TYC as responsible organization for implementation and monitoring. A percentage of the whole project budget will be assigned to TYC as a subsidy for their effort. Most of this support should go for TYC as a working capital, but a designed part of it can also be given for special and substantial personal support on the project.

### **3. Scholarship Applications**

HP accepted to take 10 applications for scholarship from Loding School, and also some from Thamakhani School. We would like TYC to help the schools and HP to make sure that it is the right students who are having the opportunity to apply for support.

There shall be no nepotism from teachers and TYC's side, and applicants shall be in a very critical economic situation.

### **4. Thamakhani Youth Club Clubhouse**

For the moment TYC are having premisses in the abandoned VDC-office. But it has very limited space, and the future is unsecured. TYC wish to build a new clubhouse closer to the village of Thamakhani. TYC already have access to their own land, and they have a saving on 15.000 Rs.

If TYC really show a considerable capacity in implementing the two above projects, and if they wish to take a key role in future development works of the valley, then they definitely also need a proper workspace and activity center.

If the capacity, activity and social consciousness are waking admiration at HP, and if TYC are showing genuine will to continue in the same way in future, then HP will promise to give TYC a clubhouse, which can create the basis of their future activities.

Therefore TYC should also make proposals for the construction of their clubhouse after the same guidelines as described above.

If TYC and LYC can find a way to cooperate and to share this house, we will even from HP side try to do greater efforts to extend our support to satisfy both clubs in the same building.

For the moment the rest of above suggestions on projects are not active from HP's side. We will wait for the experiences of the right capacity from the local inhabitants side, before we will invest further in Thamakhani. When we can see that HP's investments are bearing fruits because of local efforts, we will feel that our investments are not in vain, and we will try again.

All communications should go through the office of Himalayan Community Development Organization (HCDO), Lazimpat, Kathmandu, P.O.Box 15 142, [nepalhelp@enet.com.np](mailto:nepalhelp@enet.com.np), 4446014. Our officer Prakriti Bhattarai will translate from Nepali, transcribe, type mails, do scanning and support you in other ways as well.

Let friendship grow with mutual efforts.

Kjeldbjerg, Denmark

February 16, 2006

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