

Workshop Junbesi 22. September 2000

Participants:

Leader of the workshop: **Gelu Sherpa** (Mountain Spirit)

Villagers of Beni VDC.: **Dawa Gyalzen Sherpa** (Ward Chairman Ward 4), **Chhongba Sherpa** (Ward Chairman Ward 5), **Dendi Sherpa** (Ward Chairman Ward 1), **Dorje Sherpa** (Tragdobuk), **Domi Lama** (Junbesi), **Nuru Tundu Sherpa** (Mopung), **Kancha Lama** (Junbesi Library), **Kali Das Shrestha** (Junbesi School), **Karma Ongchu Sherpa** (Pangkarma Cheese Factory), **Ang Kanchi Lama** (Junbesi), **Ang Phuti Lama** (Junbesi), **Namgyal Purba Sherpa** (Pangkarma), **Rinji Sherpa** (Mopung), **Lhakpa Sherpa** (Mopung), **Lheki Sherpa** (Mopung), **Chhewang Sherpa** (Mopung), **Kanchi Sherpa** (Junbesi) and 3-4 more.

Others: **Anne-Marie Lomborg**, **Kurt Lomborg** and **Kazi Mingma Sherpa**(interpreter) (Himalayan Project)

The meeting were called in the occasion of the visit of two members of Himalayan Project. This Danish organization have previously been showing interest in Beni VDC and does now even more want to help the people of this area to improve their society. And therefore they wanted to hear the voice of the inhabitants about their situation. Many people, who hold key positions in the society, were invited from the whole VDC, and many did participate although there showed to be an overweight of the more locals.

The meeting started with a welcome and an introduction by Kurt Lomborg, Himalayan Project:

Himalayan Project is a new organization established in 1997, and their aim is to give help to the mountain people of Nepal and they have shown a special interest to the Upper Solu Region, which for now means Beni VDC, Sagar-Bakanje VDC, Tamakhani VDC and Trakshindu VDC. Our organization have now 100 members who pay a membership fee. We arrange meetings and slideshows where the audience give donations. We apply social organizations like Rotary, Inner Wheel and Lions for contributions. This gives the funds which runs our projects. But this is not big amounts and it demands continuous work. So therefore for the moment we can only run projects, which will finish in short time and thereafter run by itself.

You might know some of our projects already:

Thorbjörns projects with Folk High School and Adult Education.

Chhumbu Primary School runs in cooperation with Rotary.

Scholarship Project - unfortunately not effective enough.

Road project between Mopung and Ringmo.

But this all for now pinpoint activities, which does not provide long-lived development.

Therefore we are working on forming Upper Solu Development Project, which can work on a more broad field for a long time, in order to establish possibilities for a more basic development, which will give more employment and social well faire.

If we succeed in formulating a good and strong project, we have a chance to receive the help from the Danish Government through Danida, which will improve the economy in our project considerably.

But what does Danida claim to sponsor our project:

Sustainability - helping you to help yourself - means your ideas, your work, your results. Not giving money to projects, which needs money for ever - only starting the process, and then

the whole society must take over.

Women influence - more women should take more active part in committees and activities.

Democratic principles - all persons, women, men, rich, poor, educated, uneducated shall have influence in the running of the society - all committees must work in full openness about decisions and economy.

Capacity of cooperators in the projects - Himalayan project and Mountain Spirit shall have the capacity to work with and to monitor each field of the projects.

Upper Solu Development Project:

In which fields could we work. Where does Himalayan Project have their capacity.

Overall we feel that we have the ideas and the capacity to overview any project. But of course it will be more effective when it will be in the fields of our own education and field of work.

Education: we can do something in primary education, but our strength is more in the education of adults, in giving special skills to grown-ups to improve their ability in employment.

Health: prevention and nutrition - which means rather education than running Health Posts.

Introduction of a new kind of health system, with more and better educated health persons, and better knowledge about and nutrition among people in common.

Agriculture: Improving productivity in well-known products, which means new ways to grow and manufacture your products to create other and different products, which can raise the economy of agriculture. But also to introduce new and reintroduce old products.

Forestry: improving economy of forestry by active reforestation - planting specific trees and bushes, which by time can create the basis for manufacturing of new products, which can give employment and raise the economy of the society.

Communication: introduction of computer technology - radiocommunication for educational purposes and for general information - newspapers.

The plan for running USDP:

This autumn we are running some preliminary investigations about the society. We are taking in personal impressions about the living-conditions and the personalities of people in Upper Solu. And now we are having this workshop to hear the voice of the people up here.

During the winter we will work with all the informations, which we will bring from here - and we will expect you to be active in talking with each other and with all members of your society about the development of this region.

In the spring I hope Thorbjörn will come here to take up the discussion

Next autumn we will come here again with a bigger group of Himalayan Project for a longer time. Then we will again have meetings and workshops in many places of Upper Solu, and finally find out what to do and how to do it.

During the following winter you will follow up on our discussions in committees and village meetings. And we will apply Danish Government for help to run the USDP according to our common decisions.

And then I hope we will be able to start the very activities in the autumn of 2002 (Nepali 2059), probably first as a pilot-project for 2 years - and if successful we will apply for up to 5 years at a time, and again if successful for still 5 more years and so on.

So the way to achieve success in this USDP will be on your activity. You must talk with

each other and with all members of your society at all times about:

1. What do we have already of capacity.
2. What do we need to run our society as a well functioning society for all people.
3. What can you do yourself to start the process and to keep it going
4. What will you do during the winter and in the future for USDP

So now I will ask Mr. Gelu Sherpa from the Nepali Sherpa NGO, Mountain Spirit to take over the rest of the meeting and the workshop.

The Workshop:

Gelu Sherpa explained the content of a workshop, and what was expected by the participants during each point of the meeting.

1. What do we have?

We have a corrupt system, which is sending too few funds for the districts - donors should be aware that everything will happen in full openness - we should have more discussions and talkings for more clearness (Dawa Gyalzen)

We have great possibilities in the tourism, but we are confused and needs guidance. We have great corruption in VDC and upwards. (Dendi)

We have forestry with a lot of resources but we have problems with roads and infrastructure.

We have cheese-production. (Karma Ongchu)

We have a lot of natural values with mountains and rivers. And we have some well educated persons who can give their knowledge for others (Namgyal Purba)

We have knowledge about herbal medicine.

We have a lot of farming.

We have farming, religious sites, natural values, livestock, apple production and a lot of manpower, but uneducated. We have good surroundings with possibilities for the tourist industry. We have hydropower and hydroelectricity. But we are lacking economy and education to utilize it. (Kali Das)

We have cultural values, manpower, forestry, herbal medicine - but we need guidance to utilize it. (Dorje)

We have Mount Everest and tourism. (Nuru Tundu)

We have forestry and fungi but we has to learn to utilize it. (Chhewang)

We have wheat, potatoes, many plants, yak, cows, yak-wool and a lot more. (Rinji)

Junbesi is a beautiful valey with tourism. (Ang Phuti)

We have good farmland, stones and wood. (Lhakpa)

We have great possibilities in tourism in Mopung. We would like to keep the tourists for ourselves (Lheki)

We have social workers (Ang Kanchi)

We have vegetables, school. Some tourists are coming helping to educate our children. (Kanchi)

2. What do we need?

We need electricity for Junbesi and a road for Salleri (Dawa Gyalzen)

We need the Folkhighschool which can give the knowledge to the people and also we need a good school. We need cable-cars in Junbesi. (Ang Domi)

We need the success for USDP. We need telephone-line so we can talk in telephone, send telefax and E-mail. (Dendi Sherpa)

We need quality in education. (Kancha)

Enlarging the cheese-production and to employ more people in cheese-production. (Karma Ongchu)

We need to educate the children. (Namgyal Purba)

We need a paper-factory, and more people to be educated, and development and progress for tourism. (Kali Das)

In Tragdobuk we need a school, and a health post, and we also need electricity there. And we need a fence at Kutang Sutang La. (Dorje)

Development in agriculture (Nuru Tundu)

A tourist centre in Mopung. (Chhewang)

A factory for herbal medicine, and a factory for cheese-production. To open the Balthanga area for tourism. (Rinji)

Electricity (Ang Phuti)

We need the electricity for our pleasure. And a language training centre for grown ups. (Ang Kanchi)

3. What can we do?

We can form committees consisting of honest people. (Dawa Gyalzen)

We could gather donations for a technical school and donate volunteer work for the building process. And we can send all the children for school. (Ang Domi)

Apply Telecommunication Office for telephone. (Dendi Sherpa)

Apply HMG for cottage industry and be more aware about the production of raw materials. (Chhongba)

Being more aware of the education of adults, by arranging work-shops and by advertisements. (Kancha)

Giving a better salary for teachers to assure the quality in education. Making stronger School Management Committees who should work harder. Establish more factories for chese, wood and herbal medicine. (Namgyal Purba)

Gather donations from people to build schools, and to activate the local inhabitants, not to expect the foreign help for ever. (Dorje)

Increase the peoples attention by visiting them in their houses and talk about the problems. To improve hotel management and serve nicely for the tourists. Asking foreign organizations about help to build schools, and ourselves to provide volunteer labour and try to fulfill the government quotas and criterias. (Ang Kanchi)

We can develop the agricultural products and cheese-production. We can form committees where we can discuss and apply for medicine and other necessities, and provide better cattle-breeds and employ veterinarians. (Nuru Tundu)

We can build camping-places, lodges and open new trekking-areas. We can show culture programs for tourists. We can utilize the medicine plants. We can make better advertisements for tourists, cook training and good hotel management. We can do better about keeping the environment clean and nice. (Rinji)

We can do better about government quota in the schools by producing more children (this was meant as a funny element). (Lheki)

Asking DEO about adult education, and asking NGO's about teachers for English language courses.

What will we (you) do?

We will donate volunteer labour. We will discuss to give success to the realization of new ideas. (Dawa Gyalzen)

I will do my best in the management of Junbesi School. (Ang Domi)

Involve the parents in the schools programs. (Namgyal Purba)

I did a great work in establishing Tumbuk School and Salabesi Health Post, and I will do my best for the social work in the future. (Kancha)

I will help the poor people, and do the inhabitants of Mopung Valley aware of the need of education, specially the women. (Namgyal Purba)

Work with committees for the development of Mopung Valley. (Chhongba)

I will give land for a school in Tragdobuk, and gather volunteer labourers. I will make the school self-functioning and increase the awareness among people about education. (Dorje)

I will take care of the common equipment for parties and ceremonies. (Nuru Tundu)

I will establish Kali Ri Agriculture Community. (Chhewang)

I will build a kitchen house for trekking-groups and a camping-place. (Rinji)

I will also make a camping-place. (Lheki)

I will start programs which will open peoples eyes for gender awareness and education. (Ang Kanchi)

I will enlarge my cheese factory and employ as many people as possible. (Karma Ongchu)

Conclusion and management by Himalayan project:

Many good suggestions have been produced. Some is about particular subjects, while other have a more broad sight. Both are important to have things hanging together.

Many suggestions and subjects is turning inwards for personal strengthening. Scarce suggestions have a more broad aim for social context. Both are necessary to make things functioning in a society.

Himalayan Project can deal with some suggestions and some we can't. For instance providing electricity we can't. But we can give support in education, agriculture and forestry. But we are wondering why there was so little about health and communication.

Many good suggestions about increasing the awareness about development by visiting and talking to each other and replace some of the social talk with talk about development.

Formation of Women Group we find very important and necessary.

Many suggestions can Himalayan Project involve in, but others we will let other NGO's work with.

As a start we will have a talk with those present, who has an interest in:

Women Group formation and work.

Specific development projects in Tragdobuk.

Formation of a Development Committee in Mopung.

Camping-place in Mopung.

Forestry and herbal medicine in Mopung.

Gelu Sherpa closed the meeting with expressing his satisfaction with the results and with participants engagement.