

Report of Child Development Centers

Funded by David Argabright

April 2011

(Submitted by NCM Nepal)

Introduction

Financial improvement is a major challenge in Nepal. Finance is also considered the backbone of the country. An unhealthy backbone affects the country and its people in every aspect of human life. It affects people of every stage. Children are most affected by the poverty of Nepal. According to NDHS 2006, 54% of children under 5 are underweight in the poorest families. Goiter, even though a rare disease, is found in 32% of preschool children. Poor access to safe drinking water and sanitation as well as household food insecurity have also been reported as important causes of childhood malnutrition in Nepal. 33% of children aged 6–14 remain illiterate. 80% of those literate study in primary school, the other 20% attend secondary level school (CBS 2001).

Goal

Genuine, dedicated and promising leaders for the community and holistic transformation of the poorest families.

Objectives

- Empower children to build a peaceful, friendly and healthy community
- Protect children from malnutrition and make their guardians aware about health and nutrition
- Develop the moral and spiritual values, knowledge, skills and talents of the children
- Facilitate income generating activities for the guardians

Working Areas

S. No.	Program Area	No. of CDCs	Name of Center	Current No. of Children
1.	Eastern Nepal	2	Damak CDC	70
			Itahari	60
2.	Western Nepal	2	Bardaghat	75
			Sunawal	51
Total		4		256

Educational/Intellectual Aspects

- New enrolment of 130 children in Damak and Itahari CDCs
- Distribution of exercise books, pens, pencils, color pencils, drawing paper, geometry boxes, etc.
- Coaching classes 4–5 days a week.
- Quiz contests, spelling tests, handwriting competition, drawing competition and craft making
- House visits and consultation to parents about their children's capacity and potential

Health and Nutrition

- Teaching mothers to cook *Jaulo*, a nutritious food
- Awareness raising by health teachers on the causes, syndromes and prevention methods of different diseases
- Feeding of de-worming tablets



Feeding children De-worming tablets in Itahari CDC



Children hearing a Bible story in Itahari CDC

Social and Cultural Aspects

- Arranged a cultural program and talent show by Damak CDC on Children's Day

Spiritual and Moral Aspects

- Children have been taught biographies, stories and dramas extracted from the Bible
- Christian film shows
- Prayers in the beginning and at the end of the class

Program Impact

CDCs have been working as life transforming tools of Nazarene missions in Nepal. A number of the poorest families have benefitted and have seen Jesus' love through their children's hearts. Children have progressed in their studies and brought better results than before. Some of them have also stopped bad habits like speaking obscene words, a quarrelsome character, disobedience to parents, etc. They have learned to pray before they go to and leave the class. They have also improved the art of speech. The children do not only feel like a family in the CDC but also care for each other even outside school. Some families have met Jesus through their child attending a CDC.

Success Indicators

- Increase in the number of Sunday School children

- Parents' testimony on the improvement of their child's health, educational, moral and relational aspects
- Continuous cooperation between CDC and the local community

Main Obstacles and Prayer Request

- Some CDCs (esp. Sunawal) do not have their own building. CDCs run in local churches have insufficient rooms for running classes.

Success Story

Name: Yujan Limbu

Center: Damak

Yujan Limbu is 5 years old and he lives in Damak in the Jhapa District of Eastern Nepal. He has one brother and a sister. He studies in grade 1 in Prithvi Secondary school in Damak municipality.



Yujan's house is in a *Sukumbasi* (landless peoples' settlement) area. His family and Yujan have been living in the area for many years. His parents have no land to farm and produce food for their children. Sending their children to school is beyond their hope. In the morning the father goes to Chulachuli jungle, 12 km away, on the hillside in search of firewood. If he is able to collect enough to sell then he brings a load to Damak bazaar to sell it. When his firewood is sold he earns 100 rupees a day. "It's very difficult to get wood now; before it was easier," he explains. According to him, now the forest committee does not allow people to chop down trees for firewood. They have to collect wood from fallen branches and trees felled by natural disasters. It is a critical time for Yujan's family because his father used to collect two baskets of wood in a morning but now he can only collect one basket of wood each morning. Yujan faced many difficulties when he had no exercise books to practice and do assignments given in school. Many times this little child felt hopeless in this situation.

One day Yujan was enrolled in Damak Child Development Center run by NCM Nepal. His hope was renewed when for the first time he got help from the CDC and attended the coaching class. "My poor father had great difficulties to send me school, but now I am not alone because you (CDC) are there to help me," Yujan says. "The CDC has been a great help to my family for continuing my study."



Yujan likes playing drums in the church. He would like to one day be a singer. He also plays cricket. He sings action songs also outside the CDC. He hopes he will pass his final examination with good marks and will have a good rank. He also has been attending Sunday School in the local church. Due to his strong desire to go church every Saturday, his parents have a curiosity to know what in the church attracts their child to go there every week. Yujan needs your prayers so that he can continue his studies and his parents will understand the love of Jesus.