

CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTERS

QUARTERLY REPORT
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BY
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Introduction

In Nepal 41% of the total population are children below 16 years of age. Out of 100 children in Nepal 86 live in villages, 14 live in the cities, 90 are immunized, 48 are malnourished, 40 belong to extremely poor families, 80 are enrolled in school but only 51 complete the primary level. 27,000 children die of diarrhea every year. Among school-aged children 48 percent are girls. There are approximately 5,000 street children in Nepal. Children are becoming victims of child labor, child marriage, child trafficking and sexual harassment. NCM Nepal in partnership with Compassion 575 has been helping such poor and needy children through CDCs to continue their education and help them graduate. Serving in compassion is the principle of the program. The program is on its way to achieve its outcomes. NCM Nepal has experienced children transforming their lives. Children have continued their education up to grade 10 or 12. Their results have improved. They have built relationships with many children of other centers. Many have taken responsibilities in local churches and many have great testimonies.

Working areas of CDCs

Name of the area	Number of CDCs	Name of centers	Children enrolled
Eastern Nepal	4	Baragothe	75
		Damak	75
		Bayarban	75
		Itahari	75
Western Nepal	2	Bardaghat	75
		Sunawal	75
Total	6		450

Educational/Intellectual Aspects

- Guided children in doing school assignments
- Provided educational materials and gifts for the kids
- Arranged various skill development programs like speeches, debates, quiz competitions, drawing competitions and general knowledge tests
- Arranged social awareness classes in the centers



Physical Aspects/Health and Nutrition

- Children's height and weight measured and fed de-worming tablets in the centers
- Taught mothers how to cook nutritious food/snacks
- Monitored the mothers if they applied the nutrition demonstration training to feed nutritious food/snacks to their children
- Organized games and sports day

Social and Cultural Aspects

- Organized awareness program on child rights, child labor and child abuse
- Celebrated children's birthday in the centers
- Involved children in activities like fun and indoor games to develop friendly environment
- Organized picnics & trips on special days like New Year

Spiritual Aspects

- Arranged bible studies, bible storytelling and Jesus Film shows for children
- Involved children in house fellowships
- Participated them in singing spiritual songs, bible skits & dramas
- Involved children in prayer meetings and in weekly and special Sunday school ministries
- Involved children and young teens in weekly youth fellowships, rotation fellowships and other youth ministries like conference, bible quiz competition, talent show, etc.

Other Aspects

SHGs are formed so that parents practice saving and credit practices to run income generating activities to increase income from various sources like animal raising, small shops, weaving, knitting, etc. CDC parents have also been beneficiaries of the seed project funded by Canadian Foodgrains Bank/Nazarene Compassionate Ministries Canada (CFGB/NCM Canada) in Bayarban, Baragothe, and Itahari. Some 200 CDC households received agro training and vegetable seeds through this project. The main objective of involving them in this project was to help them increase farming knowledge and increase production. They also received income generating activities trainings on animal raising.

Self-Sustainability

Local churches have a good experience of the significance of CDCs. Local churches have begun to realize that they must minister to community children and that ministering to children through CDCs is a very effective way to transform the community. Local church leaders have been trained for building their capacity to understand the objectives and components of CDCs.

Challenges

- Besides CDC children other children's parents persistently request CDC teachers to enroll their children in the centers.
- Parents stop sending their children (especially boys) to CDC when they reach higher grades because they do not want their boys to go to the church.

Success Stories: Yasodha of Itahari CDC

Yasodha lives in the western corner of Itahari town in Eastern Nepal. She studies in grade 8 in a public school. She has two sisters and a brother and parents in the family. Her landless parents have built a small bamboo cottage on public land where Yasodha and her siblings were born and are being brought up.

Yasodha's parents were always faced with financial problems for feeding the family and educating their children. Her father had to provide school uniforms, admission fees, exam fees, bags, and education materials to his children. He had no job that would provide him with a regular salary. He had no funds to invest for any income generating activities. Yasodha often faced a dilemma for she could not pay exam fees on time or just before the examination. She (and many others like Yasodha) was always afraid that she would not be able to attend the examinations without prior payment of exam fees. Her father used to spend a lot of money on buying exercise books, pens, pencils and other school material for the children. "A huge amount of my father's income used to go for buying our school materials", said Yasodha.



Yasodha and her two sisters joined Itahari CDC two years ago. They learned to do school assignments up to date in the center. They also learned to keep their notebooks neat and clean. Her father could save the money that he used to spend for education materials before. Yasodha's father spends that money for paying the exam fees of his children. Yasodha realizes that she developed her skills in drawing and painting. She used to take responsibilities given in the center that made her capable to express her thoughts. "My legs trembled when I was asked to do something", she said, "but now I can sing, I can dance and I can share the things that I know."



Yasodha's mother has observed that her children have been more obedient after they joined CDC. She said, "Now nobody needs to tell them 'read'," she added, "after they eat the evening meal they pick up their books by themselves." As the eldest child in the family, Yasodha helps her mother in chores. She brings firewood from the forest and also guides her brother and sisters when they cannot solve difficult exercises in their textbooks. She likes to play volleyball and watch sports on television. She aims to be a teacher after she finishes her higher secondary education and help her brother and sisters for their further education.