

CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTERS (CDCs)

QUARTERLY REPORT TO COMPASSION 575

(Annual Report 2014)

Project Sites: Nawalparasi, Sunsari, Morang, Jhapa and Ilam Districts

Submitted by

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Introduction

Educating children in rural areas of Nepal is the biggest challenge to the Government of Nepal. Only 70% of children are able to complete the cycle of primary education at present. Still 30% of the children drop out of school before completing primary education. In the context of Nepal, 20% of children are involved in child labor. Children are becoming the victim of child marriage, child abuse, child trafficking and sexual harassment. The CDC program is helping those poor children to continue their education and graduate. Local churches are the main stakeholders and initiators of the program so that they can best serve their own community where they live. CDCs have been serving the children with compassion. Compassion is one of the principles of this program. Number of kids continuing school with good results, active and creative participation of children in program activities, friendly behavior among children, improvement in health, etc. are some of the indicators of the success of this program.

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

Education/Intellectual Aspects

- Helped children with their school assignments.
- Provided them with a child friendly environment for learning in the centers.
- Provided them with educational materials and gifts that are useful for their education.
- Organized various programs like quiz contest and general knowledge test for intellectual development, drawing competition, essay writing competition, debates and speech competition.
- Local community (churches) visited the CDC kids in the school to see whether they attended school with full concentration or not. Local church volunteers also visited school teachers and discussed on the behavior and understanding level of children in their classes.



Physical Aspects/Health and Nutrition

- Checked children's health regularly and fed de-worming tablets in the centers
- Taught mothers to cook healthy and nutritious food/snacks
- Observed the mothers whether they are feeding nutritious food to their children or not
- Organized games and sports day



Deworming Day in Bayarban CDC



Deworming Day in Bardaghat CDC

Social and Cultural Aspects

- Conducted awareness programs on child rights, child labor, child abuse
- Celebrated children's birthday in the centers
- Organized cleaning program near the centers
- Arranged games and sports in the centers to develop friendship and fellowship among children

Spiritual Aspects

- Arranged bible studies, bible storytelling and film shows for spiritual development of children
- Involved children in the activities of Sunday School and youth ministry, taught them action songs/hymns
- Arranged bible quiz contest in the centers
- Involved children in Good Friday and Easter programs
- Christmas gifts distributed to children

Impact of the program

The program has impacted children in many aspects. Regular health check up of children has improved their health and they have adopted the mentality to stay clean and tidy. Malnutrition and worms in children have been reduced. They have formed a habit of washing hands before and after eating and using the restroom. It has benefited children's health a lot and prevented them from getting diseases.



Itahari CDC Christmas program in partnership with AWANA club

Self-Sustainability

Local church has been taking initiative in designing necessary programs for the children. Local churches have given space to CDCs as a part of the church ministry like NYI, NMI and Sunday School. Local churches are planning to have in their yearly budget a separate column for CDC.

Challenges

- In Nepal, all children are school-going children. They attend the CDC after their school in the evening time. In winter it is very challenging for children to return home because it gets dark soon. There is a high risk of having road accidents.
- Some CDCs have only a very small classroom and the number of children is increasing so they are having difficulty to adjust.
- Some CDCs have only a small playground where all children cannot participate actively.
- Some parents do not send their young teen children to attend the centers because they are afraid that they become Christians.

Conclusion

CDCs are also an opportunity for local churches to build up relationships with the local community. A child can develop him/herself physically, spiritually, intellectually and socially through the guidance with love and care of the teachers.



Damak Deworming Day

Success Stories:

Name: Binod

CDC: Peltimari CDC Eastern Nepal

Bidhuwa village of Eastern part of Nepal is a small and undeveloped village. People from this village are very poor. There is jungle near the village where the villagers go and collect some wood and cut trees and sell them for their living. They also raise animals like cow, buffalo, goats, hens etc. They make local drinks by millet and sell it in the market to earn money. They also send their children to Middle East countries for work and to raise their family. They do not give importance to their children's education but give importance to earning money.

Binod is also from this village and he has adopted the living style of this village. He likes to play with friends and roam around rather than to study. He goes to jungle with his friends and spends his time killing birds and collecting wood. It has become his daily habit. He lies to his parents saying that he is going to school but he spends his time at the jungle or goes to the riverside with his friends. Seeing his naughty behavior his mother says, "He does not go to school, he only likes to play and roam around, maybe he will learn something in the CDC so I have brought him here."

Binod was very naughty compared to other children in the CDC and he has broken his hand two times. But Binod has changed a lot since he has started to come to the CDC although before he had chosen the wrong circle of friends. His family is very happy about his changed behavior. His mother says, "Nowadays he goes to the CDC on time and he also goes to school every day and does his home work as well."

Binod has become friendly with other students in the CDC and has made many friends. He also concentrates on his studies. He comes to the CDC every day with his little sister. He likes to play football with his friends. His parents have big hopes upon him and they are very happy to see him change.

