

CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTERS (CDCs) REPORT – April to June 2016

SUBMITTED TO COMPASSION 575
From NCM NEPAL

Introduction

Poverty occupies Nepal, where most people live under the poverty line; as a result, children are mostly affected by the poverty of Nepal. The children become victims of many abuses, involving in labor like domestic works, hotels, brick factories and construction etc. The poverty has some devastating effects on children's education, some children have been losing education opportunities; the education of children is necessary/essential to make bright the future in their lives. CDCs have been deeply serving or working on the children's education. The CDCs are aware of the children's education on those poor children to continue their education levels. The project of the CDCs has been implemented at each quarter and year with a successful impact in the children's communities; many children have been transformed through the project of CDCs.

Goal of the CDCs

Enhance the opportunities of holistic growth of children from poorest families.

Objectives

1. To help children in continuing their education at least up to secondary level.
2. To reduce worms, malnutrition and diseases in children.
3. To create harmony among children from diverse families.
4. To develop potentials of children



Attariya CDC

Working Areas of CDCs

Area	# of CDCs	Name of the Centers	# of enrolled children
Eastern Nepal	4	Baragothe CDC	75
		Damak CDC	75
		Bayarban CDC	75
		Itahari CDC	75
Western Nepal		Bardaghat CDC	75
		Sunawal CDC	75
Far-Western Nepal		Attariya CDC	75
		Dhangadhi CDC	75
TOTAL	8		600

Activities done in the centers:

Educational/Intellectual Aspects

- ✦ Guidance in completing school assignments: Tutorial classes are conducted in each center from Monday to Friday of the week. CDC facilitators guide the children below grade 10 to complete their school assignments. Students work in groups. They exchange their understanding to each other.
- ✦ Arrange quiz contests: CDCs arrange quiz contests in the interval of 3 months. The last quiz contest was arranged in June. The questions are prepared from their course book and from the knowledge apart from the course books. This activity is so helpful to create inspirational environment of learning from different sources.
- ✦ Distribution of school materials: School materials are distributed each quarter. The last distribution was done in last May. Children received school materials required in the school such as notebooks, pens, pencils, inkpots and geometry boxes. Many children drop out of school because their parents cannot buy those things. This activity creates opportunities for children to continue their education.
- ✦ Drawing and painting days: Each center has organized drawing and painting days in the last quarter. Different figures are given to children to draw and they fill them with appropriate colors. This improves their potential skills of arts.

Others

De-worming was organized in all the centers last quarter. About 700 children both CDC and non-CDC children were fed albendazole. Games and sports days were also arranged among the children.

Storytelling, dramas, skits and bible verse memorizing were done once a week. Children also participated in Sunday school ministry and youth fellowships. Many young teens involved themselves in the compassionate ministry initiated by young people in Eastern Nepal. They contributed their labor while installing and repairing wells, digging drains and planting trees.

Children in the centers of Kathmandu valley were strongly affected by the last devastating earthquake. Many of them still remember the panic of the situation. So teachers and local church leaders provided counseling in the centers. They conducted classes on earthquake safety policies.



Stationery distribution in Damak CDC



Teacher checking assignments in Attariya CDC

Challenges

- ✦ Heavy and continuous rain prevents children to come to and return from CDC on time. It becomes dark when they wait long until the rain stops.
- ✦ Roads are narrow and children may get accident in such roads. Usually the roads are with much traffic in the evening time. Life of children is at high risk when they go back to their homes.

- ✚ Centers do not have infrastructure that can provide safe environment during the CDC hours.
- ✚ Each COMP 575 sponsored CDC will be phased out after 2 years. Out of 8 CDCs, 6 are already phased out and are without sponsorship. But they are being run so far. And the currently sponsored 2 CDCs will also be phased out within this year. These CDCs still need to be continued for some years to reach the level of some kind of sustainability.

Conclusion

CDCs are opportunities of children where they can transform their lives. At the same time they mediate church and the local community for building relationship for planning the works of community transformation. NCM Nepal is thankful to Compassion 575 for assisting to create such opportunities of transformation and growth.

Success Story: Puja Lawati; DamakCDC , Eastern Nepal

A shy girl never expected that she would win a number of rewards and prizes for being a good speaker. But Puja Lawati, 10 years, of Damak, has proved that any person develops his/her hidden potential if they get opportunities.

Puja's family has 5 members including her parents. Her father works abroad and her mother and sister-in-law weave *dhaka* clothes which is typical for Limbu ethnic people of Eastern Nepal.

Puja Lawati studies in grade 5 in Sri Chulachuli School. She is an intelligent child. She has never been second since last 3 years, and she became school topper in grade 4, last academic year. Despite of all this, Puja had low self-confidence to present things in front of a group. She used to keep silent in the groups and did not take part in any activities. She was afraid if the teachers gave her something to present in the school. So she denied participating in such activities.

3 years ago, Puja joined Damak CDC which is not an academic school but a program with an objective to identify and develop potentials of children. Puja could not stay quite without participating in the activities because CDCs are like their own families. Slowly Puja began to involve in singing, dancing and speech contests organized by the center.

Now Puja has won many awards and winning certificates on singing, dancing, drawing and speech contest. And she openly expresses her gratitude to the CDC for it all.

"The church (some parents address CDCs as church) has helped us a lot to increase my family income status", Puja's mother said while talking about Self Help Groups of the CDC parents. Puja's mother took some loan from her group and enlarged *Dhaka* clothes weaving. She manages most of the family needs out of the clothes income and saves her husband's money. Puja's mother has also won the trust of the group as she contributes her time and talent as treasurer in the group. Puja has learned many verses and stories of the bible which she shares with her mother as well. "I am a lucky girl that I am not restricted by my parents to go to the church," said Puja, "I would not be like this if they would not allow me continuously to go and take part in the activities organized by the center."

