

8

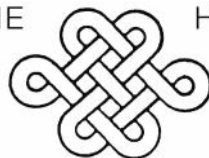
Oktober
2014

dnh brief



DEUTSCH-NEPALISCHE

HILFSGEMEINSCHAFT e.V.



GERMAN NEPALESE

HELP ASSOCIATION

www.dnh-stuttgart.org

Namaste

Dear Members and dear Friends of the GNHA,

The changeover in leadership by the new generation, that is so important for our future in Nepal, went very smoothly. Since mid-July Kedar Tamang has been responsible for managing the GNHA projects in Nepal. The retirement of Kamal Rupakheti was honoured in a very worthy setting, by a small group of members. Following the resolution passed at the Annual General Meeting, we appointed him as an honorary member of the Association.

In the meantime, the GNHA family in Nepal has now grown to 10 persons. We shall be introducing the "family" members one after the other in the following GNHA letters. In this edition we are beginning with Kedar. Here you can read about where and how he grew up, about the motives which guide him and how he came to the GNHA.

By March next year we hope to have finished building the Margarete Müller-Bull Training Centre in Badalgaon and qualifying the host families in the village, so that we can train the teachers there for the MGML during the coming school year which commences in mid-April. We sincerely hope that nobody will upset this ambitious time schedule. The main element of uncertainty is, and will in future be, the political conditions and thus any unforeseen actions taken by the various different 'interest groups'. The foundation stone was laid in mid-October.

Fabian, Jana, Corinna, Laura and Johannes have been working as volunteers during the past few years at different locations and have endeavoured to introduce English as a foreign and everyday language both on the school playground and during everyday schooling in the mostly extra-curricular activities. The duration of their voluntary service differed. In the meantime certain conclusions can be drawn from this work. Here you can read about the aspects we shall be paying attention to in the future, as regards this voluntary service.

As always, we sincerely hope that you will encourage our work and thank you for your interest and support.

With kind regards,

Yours,

Andreas Falk, Mühlhausen,

President

Kedar Tamang

- from a farmer's son to the new GNHA Representative in Nepal

Kedar has sent us a very detailed and interesting report in English about his family background, career, motivation and much more. Here is an abridged version of his report, which includes his most important milestones.

He grew up in a farming family with 10 brothers and sisters in a small mountain village in Dhading. His father was not only a farmer but also a well-known shaman who performed ritual healing practice in the surrounding villages. His trips through the many villages made him realise how important education is. As soon as his children reached the age of 5 he bought each of them the 'THULO BARNAMALA', a book with the Nepali and English alphabet, and basics in arithmetic. He told the older ones to help the younger ones learn the alphabet and the numbers. They often had a private class of children sitting in their yard. He says, that this may well have been the reason why all his brothers and sisters could read, write and do sums, although they had never seen a school from the inside.

Kedar was the first child in the family to go to junior school. The fact that he was small, thin and frail proved to be of advantage for him; his father thought that he would not manage to become a hard-working farmer. His father wanted him to at least have an education so that he could earn his living some other way, and today he is still very grateful to him for this.

After leaving junior school he moved to his brother's home in Kathmandu where he worked. Kedar's most longed-for wish was to become an architect. However, his parents soon made it quite clear to him that they could not afford to pay for study at a university. Subsequently he went to a school for economics and took on a side job at a tourist hotel where he very quickly found contact with foreign tourists.

At the beginning of the 90s Kedar met Peter Gröner (a former member of the DNH Board) at the hotel. This was his first visit to Nepal. They became good friends and Kedar showed him some of the sights. And whenever Peter was in Nepal they met up again. He brought Kedar huge sacks full of medicine and bandaging material for the Dispensary and informed him about this facility and the other GNHA activities, which impressed Kedar very much.

In 1998 Peter then told him that the GNHA was looking for an employee to relieve its representative in Nepal and regularly visit the projects, and asked Kedar whether he would be interested. You bet he was interested! He had always wanted to do something for the poorer sector of the population.

In the spring of 1998 Andreas Falk came to him. Another day he invited Kedar to take part in the opening ceremony of a newly-built primary school in Lamidanda where he then also met Kamal Rupakheti for the first time. He found this impressive. On the way back, Andreas threw him in "at the deep end". He asked Kedar to go to a village where the GNHA had financed a drinking-water project, and check whether it was functioning properly. The content of the report which Kedar wrote in English was fine, but did not quite meet his linguistic expectations! He advised Kedar to attend a language school and improve his English, which he then did.

On 01.09.1998 he then commenced his work at the GNHA. He was fully supported by Kamal from the very beginning and after a while he had visited all the projects. Sometimes it had not been easy for him to meet project partners who were older than he was, and one project partner had thought that he was only coming to terminate GNHA support. The more experience he gained, the better he

managed. And virtues such as openness, honesty and transparency also helped him to gain the confidence of his project partners.

German members and donaters often came during 'Dasain'. He then accompanied them on their visits to the projects, and his poor family had to celebrate without him. But he had already experienced this situation during his hotel jobs, where he mostly stood in over the holiday times.

His contact to GNHA members and his visits to Germany had helped him to understand why the Germans made donations for Nepal. He says that his 16 years' experience at the GNHA will certainly help him to meet the expectations of the project partners and donaters.

Kedar Tamang, Kathmandu

Laying the foundation stone of the MMB Training Centre in Badalgaon in the Kavre district

As already mentioned in the last GNHA letter, the GNHA is now able to build a Training College for Further Education, thanks to the Margarete Müller-Bull Foundation generously promising to finance it. This Centre is located in an isolated village, but is nevertheless easy to reach. It is situated near a



school that we have been supporting financially since the GNHA was founded and where pioneering educational measures are carried out. At the same time, private accommodation is to be set up in the village, where course participants will be able to stay. In mid-October our Deputy Chairman, Dr. Richard Storkenmaier, together with the Chairman of the School Committee

there, laid the foundation stone. A Hindu priest had decided on the time for holding the celebration and gave it his blessing at a festive ceremony where a large number of the villagers were present. We have set ourselves the ambitious goal of opening the Centre at the beginning of the next school year in April 2015.

Andreas Falk, Mühlhausen/Thür.

Experience and conclusions gained from the volunteer services

When we decided, upon request, to enable two young ladies to do voluntary service in our projects, this was initially just a trial. All in all, these two work commitments – one took place in the PIN House and the other at a village school – proved to be encouraging for all those involved, and

provided certain conditions are fulfilled, we generally would not want to turn down any new requests.

During the past few months the two grammar-school leavers, Laura and Johannes, took on an assignment at our schools.

Learning certain sentences by heart and a strong fixation on written work still form an integral part of the foreign language teaching at Nepalese schools.

It is therefore hardly surprising that the written skills of many of the children are comparably well-practiced, but their own everyday use of the language and the ability to express themselves and participate in conversations are often sadly lacking. This is not only the case with the children, but quite often the teachers, too. In addition to this, they are very shy when it comes to conversing with strangers and expressing themselves. It is necessary to overcome this shyness and change the approach.

It is therefore less a question of offering perfectly planned English lessons, but of using these assignments for overcoming the inhibitions of the children and the teachers to speak freely, for



strengthening the trust in their own abilities and for encouraging them to use the word patterns they have learned. This methodology involves gradually getting the teachers to change from "parrot teaching" (purely repeating what they have heard) to proactive teaching - away from "right", "wrong" and giving marks, to stimulating creative expression and speaking freely.

When teaching the children, both volunteers explained that it was particularly important to gain emotional access to them. Their own attempts at learning the Nepalese language were experienced particularly as a "door-opener".

Ritualising processes, games, songs and speaking exercises also led to a daily improvement and a distinctly noticeable opening-up of the children and adolescents. Music, art, and the use of children's construction kits were also described as being very helpful, i.e. also speaking English outside the foreign language lessons, and during proactive work...

However, both the volunteers described lessons with the adults as difficult to put into practice at first. Although most of them greatly wanted to improve their English and their teaching methodology, the time-frame alone, often set limits to this.

Nearly all the teachers have families, often long distances away, and apart from teaching they also have other work to do, e.g. in the fields. Therefore, many of them hardly have time outside the actual lessons for in-depth practice and exchange amongst their colleagues.

One solution could be (though still hardly ever made use of), for Nepalese teachers to attend the volunteers' lessons. On the one hand they could translate if needed, and on the other, this team-teaching would in fact also enable and encourage joint planning. Other forms of learning could also be demonstrated and explained to the colleagues, simply by watching the lessons.

During their volunteer service, Laura and Johannes stayed with host families in the village where the school was located and everyone experienced and described this as being particularly important and rewarding, firstly because there could hardly be a more direct way of "landing" in a foreign country and culture, and secondly of creating a feeling of familiarity - and learning a foreign language as a real and not artificial necessity. For both sides!

All the volunteers were looked after during their stay by our colleagues in Kathmandu, and above all by our education officer, Chandra.

Sabine Starz, Friedrichshafen

Requirements for voluntary service

If anyone, therefore, is interested in doing voluntary service, in one of the GNHA projects, he/she must fulfil a number of requirements.

Volunteers are very much left to their own devices in the village and at the school, and they have to learn how to cooperate with colleagues and maintain the initiative.

They have to keep up their task performance in an environment that does not seem to be predestined for it at first glance.

They must have a certain degree of frustration tolerance, be able to put up with setbacks and adapt to the expectations of the situation.

We expect a period of 2 months' proactive service at the local school, that has to fit in with the Nepalese school and holiday calendar, i.e. the winter months from November to March and the wet season from June to August.

A very good knowledge of English is expected as well as teaching experience in extra tuition or as a tutor.

Interest and skills in handicraft, art or sport are desirable, so that English can be spoken during these enjoyable, extra-curricular activities.

It is not possible for the GNHA to grant any remuneration or financial support for the flight and accommodation costs.

The volunteer is responsible for finding his/her own sponsors. Their donations for this, however, are tax deductible.

The volunteers must be aware that they require a temporary tourist visa for entering the country. The GNHA is not responsible for handling any visa issues.

Sabine Starz, Friedrichshafen

Andreas Falk, Mühlhausen/Thür.

What a lot you can learn in Munich

Further training at the University Hospital in Munich for a Nepalese doctor

"Since my flight was delayed, I did not land in Munich until very late in the evening. The first thing I saw on my way to the hostel in the city centre was the bright-red, illuminated Allianz Arena. I love football and for me it was the largest football stadium that I had ever seen. Unforgettable for me also were the beautiful large churches, the paved streets, the green, clean surroundings and the Bavarians who were sitting in the 'Biergarten' drinking beer out of huge glasses."



These are just some of the personal impressions from the final report by Dr. Ranjuna Thakali who completed her 3-months' practical training in the summer at the University Hospital in Munich. Of course, her main intention for coming to Grosshadern was not to get to know Bavaria and the Bavarian lifestyle, but to increase her knowledge of nephrology. This further training was enabled by a scholarship made available to the GNHA by the company, Ray-Med Medizinprodukt Handels GmbH, the managing director of which, Mr. Centofante, has been supporting the GNHA for many years. He had also established contact with Prof. Fischereder at the University Hospital in Munich, who was responsible for the professional supervision of this further training. After overcoming numerous organisational hurdles that almost caused this project to fail at an early stage, Dr. Thakali was finally able to commence her training. With an enormous thirst for knowledge she has been able to increase her skills

considerably in treating kidney patients (for instance, dialysis patients, kidney transplant patients) and has meanwhile returned to the Western Region Hospital in Pokhara; the nephrology department there has been supported by the GNHA for several years.

We sincerely hope that through this training we will have been able to make a contribution towards a better distribution of expert medical knowledge elsewhere in the country, too, as it is very much concentrated in the capital of Kathmandu.

Dr. Richard Storckenmaier, Stuttgart

Via Nepal's mountains to Art

Art exhibition and lectures in the Town Hall in Stuttgart, (Stuttgarter Rathaus).

Heidi Sand discovered mountaineering through a severe illness. At the age of 43 the sculptress from Stuttgart received a devastating diagnosis - bowel cancer. She swore that if she were to survive this, she would climb Mount Everest. She managed both. Heidi successfully fought the illness and in 2012 she was standing on the highest mountain on Earth. In 2013 she followed this up with the Cho Oyu (8,000 m) and this year at the age of 47, with the Makalu (8,481 m), the fifth highest mountain in the world. On 25.05.14 she stood overjoyed on the summit, as the first German woman.

Besides her mountaineering hobby, Heidi Sand is also a sculptress. Her sculptures not only embody impressions derived from her family and private sphere, but above all her experience as a mountaineer on the highest mountains in the world. In addition, Heidi Sand is committed to Nepal which has gained tremendous importance for her as a result of mountaineering. Since 2013 she has been supporting the GNHA with the proceeds from her presentations.

Together with the GNHA, and with the generous support of the Town of Stuttgart, Heidi Sand organised an exhibition of her sculptures, together with pictures taken by her art colleague, Katja Fezer-Eiferat, at the end of June in the Town Hall in Stuttgart. Her pictures accompany Heidi Sand to the mountain world of Nepal and show the



forces of nature, light and shadow, expressions of mood and the endlessness of the sky and horizon.

The exhibition was opened on 17.06 and was ceremoniously accompanied by baroque music played by the recorder ensemble, "Holzpfiff", with the GNHA member, Johannes Bornmann. A presentation by Richard Storckenmaier of his trekking tour around the 8,000 m high Manaslu – the "Mountain of Souls" – forged the link to Nepal.

On the closing night of 30.06, Heidi Sand enabled the audience in the well-filled Town Hall in Stuttgart, to partake in experiencing her three successful ascents of the 8,000 m high mountains, first hand. The Mayoress of Stuttgart for Culture, Education and Sport, Dr. Susanne Eisenmann, greeted everyone.

The exhibition and the presentations met with a very positive response and raised donations of € 2,000 altogether for the GNHA. Our special thanks go to the Town of Stuttgart for providing the room facilities free of charge, for its organisational support and for financing the catering.

Dr. Richard Storckenmaier, Stuttgart

Nepal – Charity Evening in Reichenbach/Fils

- almost € 5,000 for our PIN house -

Coordinated by Mrs. Gisela Hauff, the parishes and the community of Reichenbach have been supporting projects in Nepal for many years. "Women helping women in Nepal" – based on this guiding principle they ran a children's village in south-east Nepal together with NepaliMed until 2013. Since then these women have been looking after the girls at the PIN House in Kalimati / Kathmandu.

In June a Charity Evening was held in Reichenbach in aid of PIN. Our Board member, Dr. Richard Storckenmaier, presented Nepal as a fascinating, yet poor country and informed us about the girls' PIN House and other GNHA projects. Dr. Hans Stöckle, GNHA member and paediatrician from Göppingen, has set up a department for treating children kidney patients at the Hospital in Dhulikhel over the past few years, with great commitment. He reported about his experience and his talk was accompanied by very moving pictures. The evening was rounded off with a slide show presentation of a trekking tour around the Manaslu with impressive pictures of the rural beauty of Nepal.

During the evening the donations collected for the project, amounting by then to € 4,377.14 were ceremoniously presented to the GNHA in the presence of representatives from the parishes of Reichenbach. Then, with the proceeds received for this Charity Evening, it was possible to increase the total sum to almost € 5,000. We wish to express our sincere thanks to Mrs. Hauff and the donators in Reichenbach!

Dr. Richard Storckenmaier, Stuttgart

Trelleborg Sealing Solutions (formerly Busak + Shamban)

For many years the company has provided us its rooms for the Annual General Meeting and above all, for our Nepal Bazaar, free of charge, which is an invaluable asset for us. Furthermore, the catering company, TSS, offers us its full support with "food and drink". Without these facilities it would be impossible to hold an event like the Nepal Bazaar.

This year, Trelleborg SS was able to celebrate its 60th anniversary which was celebrated in July 2014 with a grand Summer Party for its employees and their families, and included a large number of attractions.

Amongst other things there was a raffle, and the proceeds were donated to the GNHA. All in all, a proud sum of € 1.110,00 was reached. Splendid! The GNHA was also able to present itself with an information stand.

Doris Keppeler, Stuttgart



We would like to express our sincere thanks

to all our faithful donators who provide a sustainable financial basis for our work in and for Nepal. In addition, there are always very welcome donations due to special agreements, pleasant and sad occasions, generous waivers of payment and from other sources. Without these contributions some of our projects just could not be carried through, or only to a very restricted extent.

Special agreements

We should like to thank our partner organisations, the Nepalhilfe Aachen, the Nepalhilfe Beilngries, the Margarete Müller-Bull Foundation and the Förderkreis Hilfe für Nepal Freiberg for their co-financing.

Happy and sad occasions

We should like to express our thanks to the company, Trelleborg, for donating the proceeds from the raffle that was held during its anniversary celebration.

The special birthdays of Gerlinde Gaiser, Heidi Sand, Dr. Bernd Schober and Walter Weihmann were taken as an opportunity for requesting a donation for the GNHA instead of receiving presents.

Christel and Karl Graf made a donation on the occasion of their Golden Wedding Anniversary.

The family of Manfred Kohlhammer requested donations upon his death.

Generous waiver

Ulrike Drasdo, Dr. Christine Reuter and Peter Schöderlein donated considerable amounts from their slide-show presentations.

Our member in Erfurt, Dr. Michael Heinisch, donated the fees from his part-time work for the Pharmacist Association to the GNHA and procures us considerable donations from pharmaceutical companies.

Once again, many thanks to all the donators.

Dates: For further information regarding specific dates, please visit our website, www.dnh-stuttgart.org

Your contact with the GNHA

Deutsch-Nepalische Hilfsgemeinschaft e.V.

Schulze-Delitzsch-Strasse 22

70565 Stuttgart

Germany

Phone: +49 (0)711 45 96-488

Fax: +49 (0)711 99 77-96 58

Mail: buer@dnh-stuttgart.org

BANK ACCOUNTS FOR DONATIONS

Commerzbank Stuttgart

IBAN DE 03 6008 0000 0182 4971 00

SWIFT-BIC: DRESDEFF600



The Association is recognised as a non-profit organisation .Donations are tax-deductible.

Last Notice of Exemption of 30.09.2013 for 2012.