

23

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2022

dnh brief



DEUTSCH-NEPALISCHE
HILFGEMEINSCHAFT

DNH

GERMAN-NEPALESE
HELP ASSOCIATION

Over 40 years of experience

Namaste

नमस्ते

Dear Members and dear friends of the GNHA,

In many places in Nepal, elementary education remains a stepchild in the school system despite many efforts. For this reason, the GNHA planned to make a significant contribution in village primary schools about 10 years ago.

When we look at Germany we can see how correct and important this long-term commitment is. Every five years, a comprehensive study is carried out here by the Institute for Quality Development in Education (IQB). The recently published report revealed that far too many of the fourth graders fall well below the minimum standards.

The study shocked and alarmed the authorities involved in education. Learning deficits and omissions in the elementary classes are not easily made up for and have consequences for society as a whole.

In this context, reference was made to economic research, according to which there is hardly any other area that is as well documented as the positive correlation between school attendance and the acquisition of competences for the prosperity of a society.

We can prove that WISE can improve the quality of teaching and learning in the primary schools we support. This dnh brief is dedicated to this topic with several c o n t r i b u t i o n s .

We have given a young man who is making a career at Children Nepal (CN) a chance to speak. In a way, his touching report is also representative of the girls at CN, whom we enable to follow their educational path and develop their talents.

Christel Graf and her network of supporters have been working together with us for many years. She was recently honoured in a newspaper article - good reason for us to present her to our readers.

Since the last dnh brief, we have planned and implemented a number of new features. We inform our friends and those who are interested, with periodic newsletters by email. We have given the layout of our wall calendar and table calendar a new look.

We were uncertain as to whether the big Nepal Bazaar could take place in the familiar premises during the pre-Advent season. It was therefore planned and held as an open air summer event. Unfortunately, the weather did not play along.

Due to the more frequent newsletters and the Annual Report in May, we will only send you the dnh brief once more, at the end of the year. We are sure that we shall be able to keep you informed and up-to-date.

Many of these innovations were initiated and implemented with and by our Office Team. This very constructive cooperation of the Board with the current Office Team, Claudia Kurz and Elke Schnauffer, will unfortunately come to an end at the beginning of next year, after 8 years of very successful work for the GNHA. Christa Gauer is waiting in the wings to take over. She has been a friend of ours and known well to many of us for years.

During these challenging and uncertain times, it is by no means a matter of course to be open to the needs of people who are worse off than most of us. We would therefore like to thank each and every one of you for showing your interest in our work in Nepal, thereby spurring us on and making it possible through your wide range of support.

Let yourself be motivated by reading this dnh brief and please stay by our side. Rejoice with the old man who can see again after his eye surgery, and let yourself be inspired by the radiant laughter of the women whose teeth had their first encounter with a toothbrush.

On behalf of the Board and the Office Team, I greet you with a warm Namaste.

Yours,
Andreas Falk
- President -

MGML has become WISE

The fundamental, qualitative improvement of state primary schools in the remote mountain regions has been a major concern of the GNHA for many years. We have successfully introduced the innovative and child-friendly MultiGrade-MultiLevel (MGML) method in over 140 schools. We have now given the educational concept a name and a logo:



Wisely Integrated School Education (WISE)

WISE is the art of modern school education in contrast to the usual practice in Nepal's schools. It aims at children's overall development, promoting self-confidence and self-worth, curiosity and creativity, interpersonal skills and interaction, communication and exchange, solidarity, willingness to help, tolerance and diversity. Hence, WISE is neither a time-limited program nor a project. It constitutes a transformed school with proven benefits for students, teachers, parents and stakeholders.

WISE offers students and teachers of primary schools a reliable framework for both individualized and community oriented education. Its unique MGML methodology allows mixed groups of students of different age, grade and performance level to be educated together in one classroom by one teacher. The pedagogy ensures a child friendly learning environment, where each child studies in his or her own pace. The classroom is laid out accordingly and is equipped with suitable furniture and tools.

WISE is activity orientated with free working processes, which are managed by the children themselves. Hence overall focus shifts from teacher to student, from the lecturing aspect to the learning aspect. The foundation for lifelong learning is being laid as children learn how to acquire knowledge. The innovative methodology allows teachers to spend more time to guide children individually in their learning process.

Completely new teaching and learning strategies

Mr. Bhimsen Thapa is a teacher at the Shree Kolechaur Primary School in Melamchi (Sindhupalchowk District). He openly admits: "The pupils were afraid of my commanding voice". He threatened them in order to control them better. But actually, he was not really satisfied himself with the frontal teaching he practised.

He compares his former teaching style to a kind of preaching, where the students could only listen in silence. He did not have their learning success in mind, and teaching materials, lesson planning, conducting activities in the classroom, etc. were not familiar to him. He says himself that he had no idea about child-friendly teaching methods. He and his colleagues insisted on the pupils learning the material by heart. Corporal punishment was the order of the day.

Now, thanks to the GNHA, the situation at Kolechaur Primary School has changed completely. The teachers went through a multi-level training offered by the GNHA in the "MultiGrade-MultiLevel (MGML) Method", now known as WISE.

Mr. Thapa says, "Nowadays, I teach the pupils by analysing their needs, interests, their age and their learning level, and structure the lessons with the help of a teacher's manual, a curriculum and a variety of materials. We have managed to transform our local schools with new teaching methods and different strategies."



Learning together

He and other teachers are very grateful to the GNHA. The WISE programme is effective and has brought about many positive changes in both the school and the community. "The training has not only improved the teaching skills, but also the learning achievement of the pupils," says Mr Thapa with a smile on his face.

Mr. Thapa concluded by requesting, "Please continue training the teachers and also support them in the future, so that our school becomes even better."

Brushing teeth – for the first time

With WISE (formerly: MGML) the pupils, teachers and parents are shown new ways to learn for their everyday life. A good example is the Chipling Primary School in Sindhupalchowk where the children have to answer questions about hygiene using a questionnaire.

When evaluating these questionnaires, the teachers noticed that some of the pupils and their mothers had never brushed their teeth before. Either because they do not have toothbrushes at home, or because they have never heard of dental hygiene.

The school then organised a one-day, oral hygiene programme with the support of the GNHA. Toothpaste and toothbrushes were distributed among the mothers and the correct brushing technique was demonstrated. They also practised how to wash their hands properly. The mothers had a lot of fun doing this.



Fun while brushing your teeth

After one month, the progress was checked and there was a pleasant surprise. All the students and their mothers were now brushing their teeth twice a day, the bleeding gums decreased significantly and the general hygiene standards were much better.

The school was so inspired by these results, that health education will now become an integral part of the curriculum.

Bishal Ghotane - IT Trainer at Children Nepal

Namaste!

My name is Bishal Ghotane, I am 20 years old and live in the beautiful town of Pokhara. I was born there in a poor Dalit



family and so I belong to a caste of the "untouchables". We would not dare to touch people of a higher caste, enter their house, visit one of their temples, or take water from their well. In many places, it is still not possible until today, to simply sit together or eat together.

When I was born, my mother was just 18 and my father 19. My father worked as a painter at that time, but not

regularly, because there was not enough work and no good wages were paid. My mother took care of our house at that time. She did not have any paid work. So the economic situation of my family was bad.

In 2000, God sent an angel from heaven in the form of CHILDREN-Nepal. When their social workers visited our area to help the needy Dalit families, they came across a friendly, helpless family – and that was my family.

From that day on, my family's long-standing relationship with CN began. CN offered my mother employment and the opportunity to learn new skills. Early in the morning, my mother worked as a cleaner in the offices and during the day she learned how to make toys and dolls out of cloth. In CN's own Suryamukhi handicraft business, women are employed who, like my mother, are marginalised from society. This enabled my mother to earn an income which improved the family situation somewhat.

In 2001, a new member joined the family, bringing brightness and happiness - and that was me. Everything went well, but when I turned 4, a new problem arose - my enrolment in school.

My father's and mother's income was just enough to survive, but not more. I can imagine how happy my parents were when CN found a sponsor for my education.

I went to the pre-school class of a state school near my home. School fees, school uniforms, school bags, teaching materials such as books, copies, pencils, rubbers, pencil sharpeners, etc., were provided by CN. I thanked them with consistently good grades and placements.

If I had not had this opportunity and support from CN, I would have ended up on the streets like many of my Dalit peers.

During this long period, CN has not only supported my formal education, but has also encouraged and sensitised me in various workshops, for example, how to solve conflicts by peaceful means. I also learned how to set goals and develop strategies to achieve them. Moral-ethical issues were also part of the content that was discussed in the various support measures. Recurrent health checks and occasional nutritious food enabled me and my family members to live healthily.



Board of the Suryamukhi Cooperative Society

I was offered a part-time job at the Suryamukhi Agricultural Society. It was the first job in my life. It is a cooperative that was established with the support of the GNHA.

I finished Grade 10, the school-leaving exam, with an A-plus. The whole CN family and my parents were proud of me. I cannot express my feeling of how happy I was about it.

For the next two years (10 + 2), I was able to attend a College for Management with the financial support from CN. One day, when I came home from college, my mother told me that the CN staff wanted to see me. I changed my clothes and made my way to the office, with several thoughts running through my mind. When I then heard why I had been called, I had tears in my eyes.

The cooperative's aim is to encourage families on the margins of society to save money regularly and to provide them with low-interest loans, so that they can run a business, make a profit and improve their economic situation and standard of living.

The CN staff helped and showed me how to do the accounting for a cooperative. I started to do my work full of energy and joy. I remember the day I received my first salary and handed it to my parents. It was a very emotional moment for all of us. I could say with confidence: Momi, Baba, our good days have begun.

My mother was employed at CN for 18 years, but then had to quit because we moved to another place from where it was difficult for her to reach the office early in the morning. From poor circumstances we have developed into a well-living family.

My father's income has gradually stabilised thanks to the psycho-social support from CN. And I was also able to contribute my share. All these positive developments were only made possible by CN and its goodwill towards our family.

After I passed my management training, I was officially promoted to a full-time employee at CHILDREN-Nepal. Now I work here as a deputy coordinator and manage a project of the Learning Resource Centre as an IT instructor. At the same time, I am studying business administration for my Bachelor's degree. My goal in life is to become a conscientious manager in a good financial institution and to serve people in need and the country.

CHILDREN-Nepal has given me so much. It has been like an additional parent of mine since I was a child. CN has given hope not only to my family and me, but to hundreds of families and children. I promise that I will always be honest and always work for the benefit of CHILDREN-Nepal.

In writing this report, my heart is filled with thanks, remembrance and good wishes for those benefactors who so reliably support the work of CHILDREN-Nepal.

Damain can see again! Eye operation successful

"I never thought I could see this beautiful world with my own eyes again," said Damain, and described the dark period of the past.

Damain Singh Tamang, 65, lives in Chaurideurali in the Kavre District. He suffered from a cataract in both eyes, which led to reduced and blurred vision. Damain could neither take his daily walks in the neighbourhood, nor do any kind of household chores. He had also not asked anyone for help to treat the disease, and he did not know that it was curable.

In December 2021, the GNHA organised a two-day cataract camp together with the rural community of Chaurideurali. The Eye Clinic, Nepal Netrajyoti Sangh (NNJS) provided the medical treatment.

Damain heard about it and came to the camp full of hope. He was examined and then, like 39 other patients, was successfully operated on one of his eyes.

For him, it was a miracle that he regained his sight and can now lead an independent life again.

He says, "Now I can see my surroundings again and carry out my domestic chores independently. Thank you very much for the help".



The lady from the Black Forest and her great network

Christel Graf from Sasbachwalden is a familiar face for visitors to the GNHA events. Whether at the Bazaar or at the Annual Meeting, every time she spreads out the most diverse textile creations for sale. Her sewing work is pretty and ingenious at the same time, and goes over the counter accordingly. She donates the proceeds from the sale for specific projects, as agreed - in the past mainly for the girls in the PIN House, and now for the Dalit girls of Children Nepal and the cooperative there. This is Christel's visible activity for us.

In addition, the frequent four-digit transfers to our donation account indicate that she is tireless and highly imaginative in collecting money for the GNHA. After the earthquake, three school buildings could even be built with the money she raised. It is her network of family and neighbourhood members, rural women, schools and companies that she has built up over the years and carefully maintained, with whose support she is so successful.

In August, she was portrayed in the local press under the title "Ortenau Originals". We have placed this article about her as a person and about her activities on our homepage, and it is well-worth reading. Here is just one photo from the "Acher-Rench-Zeitung".

Anyone who has anything to do with Christel simply has to admire her efficiency, her perseverance and her resourcefulness. But much more than that, it is her warm-heartedness and her deep-rooted empathy for poor people in Nepal that make her so lovable. Despite her advanced age, she is as fit as a fiddle, and we wish her many more trips to the country she loves so much.



Emmi Zehnle and Christel Graf (right) in their element

Summer - Nepal Bazaar

After a break of 2 years, we were finally able to hold our Nepal Bazaar again with interesting lectures, yoga and singing-bowl workshops, and of course; a colourful range of products from Nepal.

We wanted to have a really nice outdoor summer festival in the late summer and had rented the Waldheim for this purpose with its beautiful grounds in S-Vaihingen.

Unfortunately, the weather let us down and the temperatures were anything but summery. The helpers at the jumble sale with the sewing and knitting articles stood outside all day in the unusually cold temperature and did a great job. Only a strong sip of Nepalese tea from the thermos flask helped.

The mood was nonetheless still cheerful and the visitors, helpers and organisers were happy to finally meet once again and browse through the colourful merchandise, enjoy some coffee and cake, or whilst having their lunch, "slurp a quarter" – as they say in Swabian - and chat during their get-together.

At the end of the bazaar, the large number of young Nepalis present enriched the bazaar with rousing music and dances. Here, once again, a big thank you to all those who participated in the bazaar.



For all those who missed our bazaar, there will be another opportunity to purchase bazaar products at the Nepal Bazaar of the Tudi Billo company at the Lindenmuseum in Stuttgart from Friday, 25.11.- Sunday, 27.11.22.

We say thank you!

We sincerely thank all our donors.

THANK YOU to the birthday boys **Hans Jörg Häss, Friedhelm Nunnemann, Jürgen Stoll** and **Ernst Tischler** who forewent gifts and instead, asked for donations for the GNHA.

Another big thank you goes to **Helga and Wolfgang Rein** who took the occasion of their diamond wedding anniversary as an opportunity to collect donations for the GNHA.

Christel Graf and **Emmi Zehnle** were again able to collect numerous donations for the GNHA at the end of last year. Their active and loyal support delights us time and again, and we say "thank you" to them from the bottom of our hearts.

Last winter, the **Melissantes-Gymnasium Arnstadt** again sold homemade Advent wreaths in benefit of the GNHA; **Helga Heckel**, as well as **Christine Reuter** and **Peter Schöderlein** held lectures and were able to collect numerous donations on these occasions. Our heartfelt thanks also go to them.

Our partner organisation, **Nepalhilfe Beilngries**, the children's missionary organisation, "**Die Sternsinger**" in **Aachen**, as well as the **Trelleborg Company** have again generously supported us with donations. We are delighted and thank them very much indeed.



Nepaltreff Stuttgart

The people from the greater Stuttgart area who are interested in Nepal, meet about 5-6 times a year for a cosy get-together and exchange information. A report usually rounds off the Meeting. We call it "Nepaltreff", which is held in the Schwarzbach Restaurant (Vereinsheim (Club House) SV Vaihingen 1889 e.V.) in Stuttgart-Rohr, Dürrolewangstr. 70. You can find the dates on our website.



Nepaltreff Stuttgart

GNHA project trip

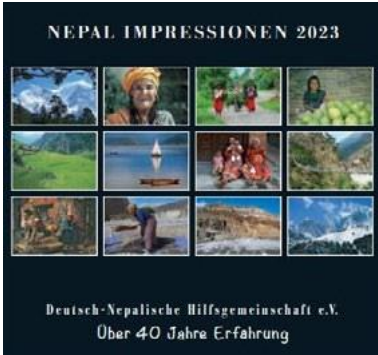
We are planning a project trip to our GNHA projects from 9th-20th October, 2023. We shall also visit the tourist highlights of Nepal. There is the possibility of extending the trip, individually. If you are interested, please contact the GNHA office. More details can be found on our website.



Kuri Village, Dolakha

GNHA calendar

You can order our beautiful Nepal calendar 2023 as a wall and mini table calendar on our website ([https:// dnh-stuttgart.org](https://dnh-stuttgart.org)) or alternatively arrange a time for picking it up in our Office.



Wall calendar



Mini table calendar

GNHA membership fees

Please remember to transfer your membership fee for 2022.

Fee for single members: 24,- EUR/year

Fee for family members: 36,- EUR/year

If you would like to give us a SEPA mandate, you can download the form from our website under the Downloads, or contact the GNHA Office.

E-mail address

Please help save resources and let us know your e-mail address if you have received this dnh brief by post.

Dates and news

For news regarding dates and our projects, please visit our homepage, Facebook page or Instagram:

Website:

<https://dnh-stuttgart.org>

Facebook page:

[www.fb.com/Deutsch-Nepalische-Hilfsgemeinschaft-117494788313902/](https://www.facebook.com/Deutsch-Nepalische-Hilfsgemeinschaft-117494788313902/)

Instagram:

[dnh_stuttgart](https://www.instagram.com/dnh_stuttgart)

Do you always want to be up-to-date? If so, then register for our newsletter on our website.

Contact to the GNHA

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DONATION ACCOUNT:

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The Association is recognised as a non-profit organisation. Donations are tax deductible. Donation receipts are issued after the end of the year, but upon special request also beforehand.

Last notice of exemption of 31.01.2022

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