



Sailung TriNetra Newsletter No 5 January - March 2008

Welcome to our first newsletter of 2008.

For these months the action has shifted to Nepal. In late January and early February, our local NGO partner, Seto Gurans traveled to the villages for the first time to assess and evaluate the situation on the ground. Initial meetings were held with community leaders and other village representatives to discuss the broad scope of the project and provide general information about Early Childhood Development (ECD). Later in February, two more members of the local Seto Gurans team visited the villages to conduct a survey which recorded a number of key indicators such as the number of school aged children, number of under fives, health care provisions, caste type and broad attitudes towards child rearing.

Meanwhile, the villagers themselves continued to collect the raw materials - wood and stone to be used in the construction of each of the ECD Centres. From the jungle and the quarry the wood and stone then had to be carried to the sites - it's back breaking work! Final work was also done to level and prepare each of the sites for building.

In early March, Nir and I traveled with Kunti from Seto Guran's head office in Kathmandu to the district capital of Ramchhap, Manthali. The purpose of our trip was three-fold:

- To meet with local government representatives from the Education department to inform them of our ECD project and hence obtain district approval and support.

- To hold a sharing meeting with all interested parties including other NGOs, politicians and health professionals to discuss our plans and gather ideas.
- To bring together the heads of each centre's management committee and facilitators for training in the fundamentals of ECD and the ins and outs of running an ECD Centre. On this day, a video was shown so they could see exactly what goes on in a Centre; it was a great way to help them understand.

Meetings were held with Seto Guran to discuss longer-term issues of income generation, improved agricultural practices and sustainability.

Our facilitators remained in Manthali after the initial training and meetings to take part in the more intensive and longer basic facilitator training programme. This programme imparted a vast array of information and knowledge to them such as good child rearing practices, good hygiene practices, lesson ideas, song and storytelling and toy making. Check out the photos on the website in the photo gallery.

Towards the end of the month, in a couple of the villages, the construction of the Centres actually began - the foundations were laid!

April is going to be a big month, so we'll keep you posted!

Cheers

Claire