Kagtong Primary School

The New Multipurpose Hall 2014

Old Dining Hall

New Multipurpose Hall
The newly constructed 55ft by 19.6 ft Multipurpose Hall in Kagtong Primary School was inaugurated on 14\textsuperscript{th} May 2014. It was constructed with the financial support of Nu. 3,60,000 from Society Switzerland-Bhutan. The school did not have a proper multipurpose hall since its establishment in 2001.

In 2013, when I joined this school as its 3\textsuperscript{rd} Principal, I had to think a lot. There was neither a proper place for the children to eat their meals nor a proper place to conduct any formal activity without a proper multipurpose hall. Most of the activities were either held in the open ground or cramped classroom. Activity like cultural show had to be forgone forever. I felt it unfair to deprive our remote children. Unless an equal opportunity is given to them, there is no way these children can compete the children from town. Activities like cultural show can really uplift their confidence, courage and participation whether in the classroom or outside the classroom. It boosts individual’s self-esteem, confidence and moral. But the question is, where and how?

It was supposed to be one of the activities in 11\textsuperscript{th} five year plan. But due to austerity measures, it got dropped. Knowing that it was also the strong concern of the District Education Officers, I decided to look for alternatives.

As for 2013, we improvised the temporary stage for a cultural show but it all went wrong with heavy down pour on the very evening of the show. That was the time I realized that Kagtong really needed one Multipurpose Hall. Since then it became my obsession.

Building the stage in the open space
I approached the Bhutan-Switzerland Society in Thimphu with an application. My application was forwarded to Society Switzerland-Bhutan and was accepted. I was rendered green signal a short while later.

The school also sought the support of the Gewog. In one of the meetings with retired Gup (head of village) and parents, the construction plan was presented. They responded positively. I also received words of support and guidance from the District Education officers, Zhemgang and Panbang to really plunge into the heart of work. So as such, we ventured much deeper.

On the stipulated date, except for few, most of the people turned up to complete their share of work. Sand, stone and timber transportation was thus gathered in few days.

The comparative costing was carried out within the suppliers from Gelegphu and Phuentsholing.

The materials were purchased together with village Tshogpa from Phuentsholing, as found cheaper. The materials were transported to the road head.

Then the Teachers and students were transporting the materials form the road head to the construction site. Had it not been for the cooperation of the teachers and students, it would have been difficult to make the two ends meet.

The construction materials like planks, stones and sand were carried by teachers and students to the construction site. In not more than 20 days, a new multipurpose hall emerged beautifully. The teachers and students gave final touch with paint and whitewashing.

Teachers and students carrying stones
My teachers worked tirelessly without least sense of unwillingness for which my appreciation knew no bound. I thanked the teachers and students the appreciation during the inauguration.
Today it stands one of the most beautiful buildings among the other structures. It gives us pride to belong to this school. But nothing can compare its utility. The school is fully benefited.

Finally on the inauguration day, a lunch was served to all the villagers as a token of gratitude for their corporation. The school also thanked every stakeholder whose hand it was that brought its shape.

This school did not have a proper multipurpose hall. The old improvised ramshackle hardly protected our children from harsh weather. Today, our newly constructed multipurpose hall serves us in multiple ways. It is used as dining hall, literary hall, cultural and prayer hall, boy’s hostel, meeting hall and assembly hall during bad weather. Even the public uses it for conducting meetings which definitely help in maintaining better school public relationship. Today, our children derive a lot of utility while comfortably enjoying its facility.

We thank the concern District Education Officers for their necessary supports and guidance. We know we can never thank enough to the ones whose heart of support which made it solely possible. The Society Switzerland-Bhutan gave us this new multipurpose hall. I personally feel that I have the reason to serve this school for some more years. The credit is fully to the Society Switzerland-Bhutan. Also like to thank Bhutan-Switzerland Society who bridged the gap between our school and the ultimate donor. We thank them from the bottom of our hearts.

Thank you millions.

Report by, Sonam Wangchuk, Principal
Assembled inside the hall during monsoon.

Hall used as boy's dormitory.

Stage for cultural show.

School photograph.