Tradijong Community Primary School Project, Phangkhar Zhemgang (2011)

Supported by
   Society Switzerland-Bhutan
   Helvetas Bhutan
   Bhutan-Switzerland Society
1. School Profile:

- **School Name**: Tradijong Community Primary School
- **School Village**: Tradijong Village
- **Gewog**: Phangkhar Gewog (One of the poorest gewogs under Zhemgang Dzongkhag)
- **Dungkhag**: Panbhang Dungkhag (2 days journey)
- **Dzongkhag**: Zhemgang Dzongkhag (2 days journey)
- **Nearest Road Point**: Gomphu village under Trong Gewog (it is practically one day journey)
- **Feeder Villages**: It caters to five villages namely;
  - a. Chapgon: 3 hours walk to school
  - b. Gojung: 2 hours walk to school
  - c. Redijong: 1 hour walk to school
  - d. Pongchula: 1 and half hours walk to school
  - e. Tradijong: 20 minutes and 45 minutes respectively to school
- **Name of the Principal**: Mr. Tashi Tshering (Running Eight Years in present School)
- **Class range**: PP-V
- **Enrolment Status**: 59 (33 boys and 26 Girls)
- **Staff Status**: 6 (4 teaching staff including principal and 2 non teaching staff)
- **Year Establishment**: 1992
- **Telecommunication Facilities**: Need to walk 5 minutes uphill for network connectivity
- **Lighting Facilities**: Had very poor or no lighting facilities until the support from Helvetas
- **School Feeding Programme**: Provided with WFP from year 2007 (2 Meals- Break Fast and Lunch)
- **Socio Economic Back Ground of the School Community**: Poor (Some even live below poverty line)
- **External Support to the School**: The Tarayana Foundation Supported 6 students till 2008 with Nu: 1500/- per annum per child.

Starting this year (2011) the Society Switzerland-Bhutan, and Helvetas Bhutan, the school was supported with School uniforms, solar lighting facilities, Lap top computers for office and students, inbuilt printer with fax, scanner and copier facility. Blankets and mattress were provided for informal boarders students of Chapgon, Gojung,. CGI Sheets for roofing of informal boarders sheds were provided. School was also provided with vegetable seeds for their kitchen Garden. For documentations one Sony digital camera was issued.
## A Comparative Report:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Before the Support</th>
<th>After the Support</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>1. School Uniform:</strong></td>
<td><img src="image1" alt="Before Uniform" /></td>
<td><img src="image2" alt="After Uniform" /></td>
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<td>The present head of the school (Principal) took over this school in 2004 with 49 students. Although the school had its blue gho and kira as school uniform at the start of the school, it was difficult for the parents of the children to buy uniforms. Since the parents were not able to afford school uniforms for the children some of the students even left school. So the school decided not to impose uniform on children and students were allowed to wear the dress of their choice. After casual uniforms were introduced, the parents welcomed the step and again the enrolment increased. The school thought that imposing uniform will not benefit the students but will act as barrier towards their right to education.</td>
<td>From this year (2011) support from the Society Switzerland-Bhutan, the school was provided with a set of school uniforms for each student as seen in the picture above. We could see the differences it made in the children from their faces. It was like a blessing in disguise as it is going to help the children of this backward community realize their educational needs. Now school will also be able to maintain full enrolment rate in the school. The picture above was taken after the school children received their uniforms from Society Switzerland-Bhutan. The children now look very confident and happy. Even the parents of the children have been very appreciative and expressed their gratefulness for the support.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>2. Housing: (Shelters of Informal Barders)</strong></td>
<td><img src="image3" alt="Housing Before" /></td>
<td><img src="image4" alt="Housing After" /></td>
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<td>The shelters of the informal boarders students living in the school campus are made of wood, bamboo and banana leaves for roofing purpose. During monsoon seasons it was very problematic for the students as water leaked through the roof due to heavy rains.</td>
<td>It was made comfortable only from this year onwards after receiving 164 CGI sheets (12 feet) which was issued to the students living around the school for roofing their shelters. <strong>With the supply of CGI sheets, it will not only protect help in building the sheds to protect from sun, rain and wind, but it would be able to make their living in the school a comfortable one.</strong> The materials provided will be fully guided by the school with proper stock entry done.</td>
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3. **Lighting Facilities:**

The school had lighting facilities provided by the Dzongkhag Education Office in Zhemgang some years back. But after some years the lights did not function well and most of the time the children had to use candles and kerosene lamps to study. Students had tough time managing with their studies especially during examination. So students had to forego night studies in the absence of proper lighting facilities. Although students managed their studies with their improvised wick lamps, it was a matter of financial burden to buy kerosene which at times was not available. Still then the school tried its best by stressing on morning studies for better performance of the students in their academic field.

Now the school will ensure that the academic status of the school is maintained with the provision of sufficient solar lighting facilities provided by Helvetas, Bhutan. Helvetas had provided this school with enough lighting facilities both for students and teachers. Now the school conducts all the studies (Morning, Evening and Night) for all the students living as informal boarders in the school compound. With this, the school will be able to realize the dream of providing quality based education to the children. It will serve a great purpose to school in carrying out important works under the light. We would like to thank Helvetas Bhutan for generous contribution. It will make profound differences in the lives of these young learners. The school will work hard in sustaining the project through various means. The teachers will also fully benefit with the lighting and work extra hours in the evening.

4. **Office Equipments**

All official and academic works are all done with the help of Type writers and cyclostyling machines, which are old and inconvenient to use. These equipments were all manually operated and needed continuous maintenance. These equipments were supplied by the Dzongkhag Education Office in Zhemgang.

From this year the school is made comfortable in terms of equipments when the Society Switzerland-Bhutan supplied all the necessary office equipments such as laptop computers, printer with fax, photocopy, and scanner, and Helvetas Bhutan supplied the school with solar power sets. The students are now exposed to computer and information technology. All the official and academic works are done comfortably using these equipments. This report has been compiled with the help of the equipments provided by the project. The computers and printer are run by solar power.

5. **Blankets and Mattress:**

The children sleep in bare minimum bedding such as thin blankets and single plastic carpets as seen in the picture. Their pillow consists of husk wrapped in the old torn clothes.

Thirty eight students who were coming from the far off villages and living in the school campus in the temporary sheds were given blankets and mattresses. This has greatly helped students who were not able to afford bedding.
Computer Session is held twice a week on Wednesdays and Fridays after the instructional hours with detailed plan of action. The session is conducted for one hour under the coordination of concerned house master. It is being done in this manner to provide quality service to our children. Children are very keen in learning computer and this will be successful programme. It provides children with good platform to get exposed to the computer world and by the time children complete their primary schooling, they will be able to get basic computer knowledge. As per the plan the school will conduct theory class till September and will be followed by practical session afterwards (October-November). Learning by doing will take place all throughout the session. (For detail please refer Plan of Action submitted.)
Children learning computers under the guidance of their respective House Masters

Transportation of the materials:

The materials were collected from Helvetas Head Office in Thimphu by the Principal of the school. The Bhutan-Switzerland Society coordinated with the procurement of the equipments and also transportation from Thimphu to Gomphu in Zhemgang. The materials were then lifted by the people of five villages who are the direct beneficiaries of the project. The understanding was that the materials were to be transported to the school in Tradjong by the beneficiaries on a voluntary basis. No payment of any kind was made to the people who transported the materials. The transportation arrangements were jointly coordinated by the head of this school and public representative. (For details please kindly refer the load lifting list submitted). The people of this community are very happy to contribute to the project. The involvements of the beneficiaries are shown in the pictures below.
The uniforms were distributed in the presence of their parents and guardians as shown in the pictures.

**School Committees in Managing the Project.**

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<th>Sl.No</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Designation</th>
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<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Mr. Tashi Tshering (Principal)</td>
<td>Committee Chairman</td>
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<td>2.</td>
<td>Mr. Tshering Yeshi (public Tshogpa)</td>
<td>Public Representative and Member</td>
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<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Mr. Tshering Samdrup (Teacher)</td>
<td>Member</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Mr. Yeshi Ngedup</td>
<td>SMB Member and member of committee</td>
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School’s Commitments and Initiatives:

With the support rendered by the Society Switzerland-Bhutan, the school will work hard in achieving all the set goals of providing quality based education to the children of this community. The School will ensure that the purpose of such grants will be strictly adhered to and no wastage will be made. The office equipments and CGI sheets, solar materials etc. will be inventoried for any future reference.

With the support received from Society Switzerland-Bhutan and Helvetas Bhutan, the school is in much better position in terms of office equipment, lighting facilities and accommodation for the students. The School Agriculture Programme will also benefit from the provision of the seeds. The school will ensure that the children’s performance in the both curricular and non-curricular activities will be enhanced. The school will ensure that the Society and the members who contributed realize that it was a worthwhile venture. For this the school will be submitting the results of children’s performance twice a year. The school will also ensure that there is 100% enrollment and that there will be no children leaving school before they complete their primary education. The school will take an extra lead in educating the people about the society’s support. The school management is very grateful to the Society Switzerland-Bhutan for funding of school uniforms and office equipments; the Helvetas, Bhutan for supporting with solar power, and Bhutan-Switzerland Society for coordinating the procurement and transportation of the materials to the school.

Report Compiled and Submitted by: Tashi Tshering
(PRINCIPAL)
Tradjjong Community Primary School
ZHEMGANG DZONGKHAG