



# SETU NEPAL

## Newsletter

Bridge For The Better Future

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### EDITORIAL

Our country is in transitional period as the formal ruling structure has been dismantled and new has not been restructured yet, The problem of unemployment, poverty, lack of electricity and water is increasing day by day but government does not feel it urgent to pay serious attention to the problem. Constitution making is still a limbo process. Nepal's peace process continues to face obstacles which need to reassess strategic, political, legal and organizational challenge associated with public security. In such fragile condition state is losing its control over rule of law and good governance. We can take the example of 10th march 2011 which filled the media house by the mystery shooting at the visitor's lunge of central Jail. This case has raised serious concern about security lapses. If the state could not even provide security to the prisoner which it keeps how could anyone be sure of the civilians especially when it cases for illiterate poor women and children who have no access to law and understanding to defend themselves?

### Computer training



On the 20<sup>th</sup> of February 2009, Mr. Bimal Pandey, Vice-Chairperson of SETU Nepal, helped distribute certificates, to the fourteen women who completed this training.

### Out - look of the activities done during the year 2009-2010

#### Sewing Training

In the first week of February, sewing training begun in SETU's training house. On the 28th of January 2009, women from marginal groups were interviewed for a Sewing Course.

Altogether, 18 women participate in the interview's, among which all were selected.

In addition advanced sewing training was held for Shova Giri, in Kohinoor Tailor, Kalamit. In February Durga Gotmae also undertook an advanced course in sewing.

#### Bead making training

Twenty women from Nepalart undertook, a bead making course. They completed the training in May 2009. The course taught the women how to make, earrings, bangles, mobile bag and charms, and a variety of different types of beads for necklaces & bead rose. In June 2009, the certificates for this course were distributed by, Mr. Kamal Rimal (Director of Cottage and Small Industry Development Board).

#### NCPD

This year, SETU was among one of seven organizations who attended a trip to Pokhara, funded by the NCPD. SETU gained many connections through this event, and it has made women within the jails familiar to our organization.. In August 2009, the NCPD organized another jail visit in Bharatpur, Palpa, Kaski, and Damaule. This event, allowed the different organizations to describe their goals and activities. This program was very productive, for SETU Nepal. It enabled to introduce itself to new prisoners, and local NGO's such as; HASTI AIDS, UNDP and the district officer of the related district.

#### The NCEP

May 2009, the NCEP became interested in the welfare of two of SETU's children. Through SETU they are sponsoring for the education of; Anju Nepali and Junu Nepali.

## Crystal bag making course



In coordination with vocational and skill development training, SETU has begun a crystal bag making course.

## New School placements

- Prithivi Sagar Gotame is now studying and residing in grade LKG in Green Garden Boarding School, in Rasuwa. In order to live in the school's hostel and attend school, his fees must be paid by both his grandparents and SETU.
- Bikram Kapali now attends Supreme School of Syambhu; he is currently studying in Grade 1. Also, his brother, Biraj Kapali, attends the same school, in grade UKG.
- Nabin Acharaya attends, Uttargaya Public English Secondary school (Nuwakot), he is the son of a new graduate, Bhawani Acharaya. Therefore, he is in need of support.

## Graduations from setu's half way home

- Hira Lama graduated in candle making on the 22nd of February, 2009.
- Durga Gotame graduated in sewing on the 25th of March. SETU purchased a sewing machine for her, which will allow her to setup a sewing business.

## Ex-graduate update

- Durga Gotame has opened a tailoring shop, making use of the skills she obtained from SETU Nepal. Her son Prithvi is studying at Green Garden boarding school.

Suntali Nepali was issued with a Sewing machine in March 2009. She is currently working in a garment factory; however, she wanted to earn a little extra money in her free time, through making clothes.

## Out –look of the .....

### Visit to Dang

A follow up of the woman and children in Dang we paid the school fees of Nabin Nepali, Anju Nepali, Manju Nepali and Yubraj, and also provided the children with free stationary, shoes and shirt's etc.

Successful news - the Women in Dang have been developing the sewing skills they acquired from SETU, by working in a tailor shop and sewing at home.

### Candle making training

In June 2009, a short term – 7 day, candle making session was undertaken by 17 women in SETU.

The training was given by the Vocational and Skill Development Training Centre.



### Dashain

As a gift for this festival, SETU distributed new clothes to all of its sponsored children.

### Beautician Training course

The Bhaisipati (Vocational and Skill Development Training Centre) approved the proposal for SETU Nepal to conduct beautician training in coordination with them.

The course started on the 31<sup>st</sup> of January 2010, and will continue for 6 months.

### Widowed women in Nuwakot

In February 2010, SETU Nepal distributed sewing machines to four former graduates, who had participated in one of SETU's sewing courses.

### Beautician training in central jail

10 participants began a three month training program on the 16<sup>th</sup> of April 2010.

### New woman

On the 25<sup>th</sup> of April 2010, a new woman entered the SETU house, and underwent candle making and incense training.

## Case study

Shova Giri has recently undertaken an advanced sewing course in Kohinoor Tailor, Kalamit, furthering the skills she obtained through SETU. She is an ex-graduate, and two of her children are currently sponsored by the organisation.

Before she joined SETU she was imprisoned in 2006, suspected of selling drugs. However, this was not the case. In order to generate money for her family, she opened a small, local hotel. Her husband was unable to provide an income, as he suffers from paralysis. The hotel was the families' only income source. Many of her regular customers were drug addicts; but she was unaware of this fact. This led the police to believe that she was in fact dealing drugs. The evidence wasn't in her favour, as the majority of her customers were taking drugs on her property; she failed to defend herself, and spent three years in prison.

However, on her release in 2009 she joined SETU, and undertook a basic sewing course. Shova's two sons Biraj and Bikram Kapali are also supported by SETU and attend Supreme School in Swayambuhth.

Bhawani Acharaya joined SETU in April 2010. Her Husband Hari Bahadur was killed by the Army, because he was thought to be a Maoist spy. Bhawani, was in an economically weak position, she was unable to gain help from the government, her parents or her local neighbours, who accused her of being bad luck for her family.

In April this year, she joined SETU and gained training in candle and incense making. Her motives for undertaking this course were for her to obtain skills, so she could become economically independent and support her five children.

Bhawani recently graduated and now, her son Nabin attends Uttargaya Public English Secondary school (Nuwakot). However, he is still in need of a sponsor, to ensure he can obtain an education and remain in school.



### Candle making training Nuwakot Jail

From the 19th to the 21st of January 2010, Candle making was given to 10 women within Nuwakot jail, Certificate was distributed by jail superintendent.



## Dimension of Setu Nepal

Setu Nepal is committed to serve prison released women and their children by the education support program and also working for the women and children facing various forms of conflicts. In Nepalese context, situation of women and children is often vulnerable and found in high risk. To support and uplift their condition, Setu Nepal aims to work various activities under different program:

### A. Rehabilitation and support program

- Halfway-home(residence program)
- Psychosocial counseling
- Vocational counseling
- Legal aid
- Informal education
- Economic empowerment

### (B) Half-way home

Setu Nepal has set up halfway home in Kathmandu's Gangabu, where the children of jail inmates could have food, clothes, house and could be enrolled in school and given necessary counseling and orientation. Our objective is to keep them in our half-way home until their parents gain economically, socially dignified living in society. Normally they are kept up to 6-12 months. We already passed out 20 women. Recently Setu Half-way home have no women and children sheltering but ready to keep.

### (C) Skill generating training for ex-prisoner, conflict affected and needy women

- Beautician training in central jail: In co-ordination to Bhaishpati(vocational and skill development center) and Setu Nepal beauty parlor training course started on 31st January 2010 and ran for 3 months. All together 10 interested participants completed the course.
- Sewing training in office: After running for whole 6 months, on 18th Jan we completed formally sewing training class and certificate were distributed to the graduates. 16 participants out of 19 were successfully graduated during the session. Informal program was made more enjoyable by the musical and dance presented by participants themselves.
- Computer training for community women: Shortly after finishing sewing training, community women were willing to have computer training in Setu office so, once again in coordination to Bhaishpati(vocational and skill development center) computer training formally started on 11th Feb, this is also long term training and will run



for 6 months. 10 selected community women would be benefitted from this course.

### (D) Children educational support program and sponcership

- Distribution of Dashain clothes and get -together program: Setu Nepal had organized get-together program of setu children, ex-graduates and setu staffs on the occasions of Nepali's great festival dashain. On the very occasion setu Nepal had distributed new clothes to the children. The program was organized in setu office, Gangabu.
- School visit and monitoring: the children studying in Nuwakot and Rasuwa along with the children inside the valley were visited by setu staff and their progress and health report are updated.
- Clearance of school fee; as our children under various school were heading for the final term examination, their monthly fee, exam fee and any other additional charges for this session has been cleared.
- Follow -up: Setu staff are having regular follow up of ex-graduates and their children as they are also a part of our team. Some home visits, school visit and meeting personally are done to have update information.



### (E) Reserch and development:

#### \*Recerch

#### \*Program update

- NCPD Meeting: on 17th and 31st January NCPD (Network for children, prisoner and dependent) had organized meeting for its member organization, setu Nepal as a member organization attended the meeting and elected in mutual consent remaining as general secretary of NCPD till next general assembly.
- P.A NEPAL: Setu Nepal has very friendly relation with the organization working for prisoners, women and children. One of these is P.A NEPAL (prisoner's assistance). We frequently visit P.A Nepal, share common ideas and participate in each other's program. P.A Nepal had organized a rally focusing on awareness program on women trafficking. Setu staff worked voluntarily and participated in that program.
- Guest visit: on 18th Dec, two guest (students) from Norway and Ireland visited setu office and get informed about our program. On 18th Dec, one more guest from U.K visited setu office and talked with our sewing participants too.



### (F) Survey, data collection and research program:

Central jail visit: 23rd Sep 2010, setu staff visited central jail and certificate of beauticial training was

distributed in central jail premise .Among the participants two were already released and one of them had transferred to Nuwakot jail. Participant were very excited and were active during the training. They also asked for advance training for them. Feedback from the participants and head of jail department had really added energy to do such program again in jail premise.

- Nuwakot jail visit: setu staff visited Nuwakot jail and talked with the women prisoners out there. They asked for some fabric (clothes) for sewing purpose ,as some of them had just taken sewing training and wanted to practice more and use their skill.
- Questionnaire for household research : Questionnaire for household research on the 'affect on family member when male member grounds jail' has been prepared and proceeded for further correction to the board members.



## SPONCERSHIP NEEDED

Anju nepali age 11, is studying in Gyanodaya Boarding school in class 1, Dang. She was sponsored by NCEP but the co-founder of NCEP had informed us that they could not monitor those children far from the Kathmandu due to few volunteers in their organization so they purposed for sponsorship exchange and ready to sponsor any other child studying in Kathmandu instead of Anju Nepali in Dang. Anju nepali is now studying under Setu Nepal children education sponsorship program and Anju could not be left in the middle of her study so we are looking for anybody or any organization who could sponsor for Anju Nepali's education.



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