

Newsletter No. 2 2021 from KMCH Support Group

Haverdal 5 May 2021

Hello, Namaste and Thashi Delek

Let us start by quoting KMCH Nepal Chairman Chembal Llama's introduction to his Progress Report for 2020.

"Once children and young people are given the opportunity to access quality education, skills and meaningful employment, the potential for Nepal's development can be truly unlocked," said Faris H. Hadad-Zervos, World Bank Country Manager for Nepal.

When we mention education, it weaves a simple picture in our minds of a student learning and a teacher teaching, but education is beyond the classical paper-pencil-black board theory. It has evolved into the giant wheel that has many spokes such as personality management, time management, competing beyond boundaries, etc. We strived hard to propagate our age-old theory to impart quality education to the students who seek excellence in their pursuit for an indomitable career.

In this New Year we pledged to educate more girl child and give more opportunity, so that no girls are left out of school. This is not an easy task because girls in our society face immense challenges. Mainly due to the lack of support from their families and the displeasing attitude of the society towards a school going girl child.

We have a long way to go and further hope to tap into areas where girl needs our support. One of the areas we can help is to give them quality education. I am extremely grateful to our supporters, staff, and donors for the role they have played in enabling us (KMCH) to become the voice of impoverished girls in Humla. We look forward to receiving these continuous supports to ensure that eradicate illiterate rate of girls to its fullest.

I would like to acknowledge all the supporters, donors, and friends of KMCH without whose support outcomes and performance would not have been possible. It was only with their encouragement and support that KMCH establishes a benchmark for people of Humla. We will continue to strive for the vision and enable girls to become active agents of social and economic change.

CHEMBAL LLAMA



We hope that masks and hand sanitizer helps.



It is hard to keep distance when you live as crowded as in the school home. .

From the school home

In 2020, there were 67 children living in the school home, 39 girls and 28 boys. This reflects what Chembal's suggests above that we are happy to support girls' education. There has also been more girls than boys at the school home for most of the years that KMCH has existed.



Interior from our greenhouse. There is a requests of a new one.

Of the 67 children who now live at the school home, 7 are in grades 10 and 13 in class 9. In 2019, 8 of them graduated from classes 10 and 2020 7. So far, all 19 children from KMCH, who graduated from Class 10, have passed the test that entitles them to continue studying. Everyone has also chosen to do so. So far, thanks mainly to the Olofsson Family Foundation, everyone has been able to receive financial support to varying degrees to facilitate and/or enable further studies. Five of the 19 students have been with KMCH since its start in 2007.

In previous years, most have continued their studies in Kathmandu. Now some are studying in Simikot, the capital of Humla. One is taking an agronomy course in Surkhet. One is continuing her studies at the school in Yalbang, where the school now offer a course for class 11 and 12 that will give the students a smaller teaching degree.

I am glad that a boy has chosen to study agriculture. It should be an appropriate education in an agricultural district like Humla. At the school in Yalbang, an agricultural class was supposed to start last year. It did not happen because of COVID-19 and now the authorities seem to have changed their minds so at least it will not be this year either. Sad, but we do not give up.

The 7 children who graduated from class 10 in 2020 are now continuing to study at school to make up for what they, because of COVID-19, missed during last year. They still live in the school home, so there are currently 74 children living there. They are due to take their final exams in June.

The school is now closed again due to Covid-19.

When we started writing this newsletter, everything was fine. The school home and the school home were full of kids. But on April 29, the government decided on a new lock down in Nepal. This meant that the school had to close, and our children began to walk home to their villages. No time has been set for when schools will be allowed to reopen. There is a high likelihood that this may be delayed, considering the difficult situation in neighboring India. However, it is gratifying that no case of Covid-19 has yet been recorded at the school home or school in Yalbang.

Last year, the school was closed for most of the school year. We can just hope that this will not be the case this year as well.

Up-to-date information on politics and more in Nepal (Italo)

Let us begin with some positive news, at least for people in and around Kathmandu. The Melamchiproject started twenty years ago and the complicated project to bring water from The Melamchi River in Sindhupalchok via a 27 kilometres tunnel down to Kathmandu area has had its share of problems. Not only technical problems, but also corruption. But now the Kathmandu area will benefit from a big increase of water.

The Kathmandu Post wrote recently about the plans for a railway from Kathmandu down to the Indian border. When this huge and expensive project will start is unclear. But the plans are there and that is a good start.

The number of tigers in the jungle areas in Tarai are increasing. Some might say that is good. But so far this year seven people have been killed by tigers. When prey is scarce, and waterholes are dry the tigers more often come in close contact with villages.

The traffic situation and the brick industries are two factors for the unhealthy air in Kathmandu. The winter has been unusually dry in Nepal. There have been several forest fires, especially in the Tarai Region. These fires have severely affected Kathmandu during the spring. The level of pollution in Kathmandu on the 26th of march made

Kathmandu the most polluted city on earth. Even worse that day than Mumbai and New Delhi.



The images don't do justice to the terrible traffic, but perhaps an indication of how crowded it can be on the often narrow streets of Kathmandu

The political situation in Nepal is very unstable. In December 2020 prime minister Oli knew he faced a situation where the majority of his own Nepal Communist Party was going to remove him from his position. His answer was to close the parliament and decide on a new early election in April and May.

His decision was met with many demonstrations all over Nepal. In February, the Supreme Court decided that his decisions were against the constitution. The Supreme Court also decided that the fusion between the Nepal Communist Party and the Maoist Centre was illegal. So now, instead of running a big majority in the parliament, Prime minister Oli must face opposition, not only from the Nepal Congress, but also from The Maoist Center. One day friends, the next day enemies. And in all this chaos the government must take responsibility for meeting the escalating Corona situation. The election in April-May is cancelled.

At the same time as we witness this political chaos the Corona situation has taken a sharp bend for the worst. Old people and a many doctors, nurses and other people working in the front line in the struggle to fight the virus have been vaccinated. But of course, that is not enough to stop the spread of the virus. Hospitals lack staff and equipment to help the Corona patients. India right now goes through a terrible situation with so many people getting sick with Covid 19. The situation in Tarai, with its long border to India, is getting extremely critical. Many Nepalis who work in India now try to get back home.

Starting the 29 of April and for at least till midmay Kathmandu and many other big cities decided on lockdown. All schools are closed and schools, in more isolated areas, like Humla, are also closed. Only grocery shops and pharmacies are open, though only for a

few hours in the mornings and afternoons. Libraries, gyms, shopping malls or other places where people gather are closed. Private traffic is not allowed, and all communal bus service is cancelled as well as domestic flights. A big number of people now try to leave Kathmandu to go back to their hometowns and villages. The virus will probably spread to more isolated areas of Nepal.

Support to KMCH Support Group can be paid to our bank on: BIC-SWEDSESS IBAN-SE57 8000 0832 7990 4500 6518. We are very grateful for all contributions.

Greetings from the board of
KMCH Support Group

By
Hans



School home in winter garb.

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