

CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTERS (CDCs)

QUARTERLY REPORT TO COMPASSION 575

(July - September, 2014)

Project Sites: Nawalparasi, Sunsari, Morang, Jhapa and Ilam Districts

Submitted by

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Introduction

Nepal is home to 29 million people, with children younger than 15 years old making up more than 40% of population. It includes ethnic and caste groups with distinct cultures and languages. Entrenched poverty and a decade of violent political instability have taken a toll on the Nepalese people which include children. They are becoming the victims of child labor, child trafficking, sexual harassment and child marriage etc. Child labor is a wide-spread phenomenon in Nepal and one that has not declined despite the existence of laws that prohibit burdensome forms of child labor and the constant effort of many governmental, non-governmental and international organizations to protect child's rights. Nepal has 34% of its children between the age of 5 and 14 who are involved in child labor, compared with 12% in the South Asia region as a whole. In village areas children are forced to work in agriculture sector and in cities they are made to work in factories, hotels, public transportation etc. to increase the economy of the family. CDCs are helping those poor children to continue their education and graduate. CDCs have been serving the children with compassion. Many children's lives have been transformed through CDC.



Bardaghat CDC children after class



Damak CDC children hearing stories from their teacher

Working areas of CDCs

Name of the area	Number of CDCs	Name of centers	Children enrolled
Eastern Nepal	4	Baragothe	75
		Damak	75
		Bayarban	75
		Itahari	75
Western Nepal	2	Bardaghat	75
		Sunawal	75
Total	6		450

Social and Cultural Aspects

- Conducted awareness programs on child rights, child labor, child abuse and child marriage
- Arranged children's birthday celebrations in the centers
- Organized environment day observation by planting trees and flowers inside the CDC/church compounds.
- Arranged games and sports in the centers to develop friendship among children



Baragothe CDC kids playing in a group



Bayarban CDC kids playing outside together

Impact of the program

The program has impacted children in many aspects. Regular health check up of children has improved their health and they have adopted the mentality to stay clean and tidy. Children are getting nutritious food and they are de-worming free. They have formed a habit of washing hands before and after eating and using restroom. It has benefited a lot in children's health from getting diseases.

Self-Sustainability

Most of the centers have now their own buildings. CDCs have good relationship with the local community including local churches. Work and Witness teams have built buildings on the land provided by the local people. The building has been used for church's worship service and CDC activities. At the present and in the future CDCs do not have to pay any rent for hiring rooms. Local churches have freely been providing space to the centers. Local churches can mobilize volunteers to continue CDCs in the future. CDCs have also built their relationships with different organizations in the community.

Challenges

- In Nepal, all children are school-going children. They attend a CDC after their school in evening time. In winter it is very challenging for children to return home because it gets dark soon. There is a high risk of getting an accident.
- Some CDCs have small classrooms and the number of children is increasing so they are having difficulty to adjust.
- Some CDCs have very small ground for playing where all children cannot participate actively.

Conclusion

CDCs are a program that aims to create family environment among children. Thanks to brother David Argabright for giving this privilege to influence children through our love works that helps them change their behavior.

Success Story:

Name: Dipesh

CDC: Baragothe CDC, Eastern Nepal

There is a river which flows in west direction at Morangejhoda village in Illam district. In the east side there is a wide open road where lots of people come and go. There are many small houses and in between those houses there is a little mud and wood house where Dipesh and his family live.

Dipesh had a very rough childhood because his mother died when he was small. His father remarried and he was brought up by his stepmother. He did not get all the love and care from his stepmother as he could have got from his own mother. At present he lives with his two elder brothers, two younger brothers, one little sister and one sister-in-law and his father and stepmother. Altogether there are 10 members in his family.

Before he came to the CDC Dipesh was a very naughty and ill-mannered boy. He liked to sit alone in the class and his face looked aggressive most of the time. His stepmother says, "He used to be sick frequently, liked to play all the time, he killed birds with a slingshot, had fights with other boys, he did not get along with others and he did not like to study. After coming to the CDC he hasn't been sick since then," she said with a happy tone.

Dipesh is allowed to come to the CDC. His parents do not stop him. He has changed a lot. We can see improvement in his behavior. He has made many friends in the CDC and he has improved in his studies as well. Now he has become the leader of Sunday school. He has changed drastically. Now he has started to attend fellowship also. His father hated Christians but seeing his son's life changing and becoming a better person his father has removed that hatred from his heart.

Dipesh has become the light of his village. Though there are many problems in his life and his father not taking good responsibility and with society's bad culture but he still hopes and dreams for better days ahead. Now he is 14 years old and studying in grade 9. He says, "Whatever I was before I am not sad about it because I am happy who I am now."

