Volunteers Initiative Nepal (VIN)  
Monthly Newsletter  
October 2012

October Accomplishments

- Cooperative board member meeting
- Communication Skills training for women
- Farmer field visit
- Art and drawing training for children
- Montessori training for ECD teachers
- Health camp at Khadwalkot Primary School
- Managed public bin at Dadagaun
- Mahadev Primary school wall construction completed
- Okhaldhunga baseline survey completed and date set for the presentation

Women’s Empowerment

Communication Skills Training for Women

Madison, an international volunteer, provided communication skills training to 19 women from Kisandol and Khadwalkot. The objectives of the class were to discuss the definition of communication, the basic principles of effective communication and the women were taught about various types of communication. The women present found the topics very interesting and learnt how being assertive whilst communicating can have a positive impact to their way of life.

Children’s Development

Farmer Field Visit

This month visits were made to the tomato tunnel project at Chisapani and to a broad leaf mustard leaf farm and a cauliflower and chili field in Koiralagaun. In all cases it was found that management of diseases in the farmed plants was poor also the irrigation provided was not sufficient. Further training on proper pruning and cultivation techniques and on the use of pesticides was provided.

Community Health & Environment

Art & Drawing Training for Children

Marlies, an international volunteer experienced in working with children teaching them arts and crafts, provided a training program for the school children of the Jitpur community. The objectives of this training was to enhance the skills of the children in art and creativity. This training can also be carried over into children’s club activities. Children will be able to utilise these new skills to prepare their monthly magazine, they will also be able to make things such as greeting cards that can be sold to raise funds. 500 children from 8 schools in the Jitpur community were able to benefit from this training.

Youth Empowerment
Montessori Training for ECD Teachers

A 7 day Montessori training program was provided for the ECD teachers of the Jitpurphedi VDC. 24 people participated in this program. The training covered the following content:
• Day 1 – What is Montessori and why is it needed
• Day 2 – Language and alphabets
• Day 3 – Rhymes, games, creating different things from a napkin
• Day 4 – Rhyme and content culture about animals
• Day 5 – Rhymes and games, how to make a garland from kite paper
• Day 6 – Rhymes and learning about the 5 senses
• Day 7 – exchange of greetings on special occasions

Through this training the teachers learned a new teaching method that is very useful for children in the 3 to 5 year old age range. This training gave ideas about the exploration and appreciation of the children’s knowledge, ideas and interest.

Health Camp at Khadwalkot Primary School

A health camp was held at Khadwalkot Primary school. The main objectives of this camp were to:
• Check the general health of the children
• Screen the oral hygiene of the children
• De-worming of the children
• Raise the children’s awareness on hygiene and sanitation

16 students and 8 local community people were examined during this camp. Most of the sick children were found to be from grades 1 & 3. The most common ailments were found to be related to the gastro intestinal system. All of the sick children were provided medicine and were advised to follow home remedies. They were also instructed to go to the health post for follow up treatment.

Health Post Update

VIN’s medical team (medical officer, nursing staff and volunteer/s) has been providing extended medical services to Jitpur community people three days a week. The major objective of this service is to improve quality of health services provided by the existing health post. In October the team were available for 8 days and 162 people were treated. International volunteer, Tom, conducted health talks on infectious diseases and prevention of such diseases.

Managed Public Bin at Dadagaun

VIN aims to establish a clean environment in Jitpur. As part of this environmental program VIN installed public bins to manage the garbage generated by the community. Large drums were installed in public positions, each drum is to support 5-6 households. Initially behaviour changed, rubbish was being deposited in the drums and the environment became cleaner. Later, however, it was found that people stopped using the bins as no one was emptying them, also the bins tended to fill with water when it rained. To manage the rainwater problem holes were drilled into the base of the drums for drainage. The community have been instructed to keep up their efforts to use the bins and keep the environment clean and have been warned that if they fail to do so the bins will be removed.

Toilet Construction in Dadagaun Status

During October local and international volunteers were able to construct 4 new. Progress again was a little slower than anticipated due to the Dashain festival. Follow up visits were conducted and the local community expressed their gratitude for this valuable work provided by VIN and their volunteers.
**General Updates**

The baseline survey report on the Okhaldhunga community is now complete.

This report covers the 13 FGD and the social mapping of the 27 wards of the 3 VDCs.

Data tabulation of the two VDCs, Bhadaure and Taluwa is also complete.

The presentation of this data has been set for 7th November at the Bhadaure VDC of Okhaldhunga.

The school wall construction project at Mahadev Primary School was also successfully completed this month.

**Call for Sponsorship**

As you know, there are never enough dollars to make the world go round. VIN has numerous volunteer programs which ultimately provide valuable funds to assist in all of VIN projects that are vital to the local community. Please browse the volunteer options available and encourage your friends, family and colleagues to consider becoming involved with our wonderful local community here in Nepal.

Any help, such as donations or fund raising ideas you can offer would be greatly appreciated.

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