

## Monthly Progress Report Shrawan 2072

Dailekh School Project (DSP) is a collaboration of the Rato Bangala Foundation (RBF), a non-profit organization, Rato Bangala Partnership in Outreach Program (RBPOP) (a social wing of the Rato Bangala School) the Government of Nepal, particularly the Department of Education (DOE) and the District Education Office (DEO). The project inputs consist of teacher training programs, supportive supervision and provision of limited but durable materials to be utilized for multiple subjects. DSP seeks to overhaul teaching and learning in Dailekh, at a scale that will touch each and every household and thus be a catalyst for socio-economic transformation. The aim is to bring government school education in Dailekh at par with the national standards of classroom practice contextualized to fit the local conditions.

### Vision Statement

Quality of Education in all primary schools in Dailekh improved to commendable national standards.

### Objectives

1. Interactive and child friendly facilities in all classrooms of all schools are in place
2. Participation of SMC members, parents and volunteers in academic and management development of the school increased
3. Pro active role of students in curricular and extracurricular activities assured
4. District based teachers and likeminded stake holders capacitated to manage Child Centered Teaching Learning (CCTL) approach in all the schools
5. Lead schools developed for wider replication
6. A lean management system to deliver quality services in place

### Major activities completed during Shrawan 2072

#### 1. Village Development Committee (VDC) meetings:

DSP staff attended 3 VDC meetings held at Chauratha VDC, Badabhairab VDC and Kalbhairab VDC, during Shrawan 2072. The agenda consisted of forming a Village Education Committee (VEC) and commencing work on the Village Education Plan (VEP). In Bhadra, the VDC Secretary will organize a meeting to be attended by staff

members from DEO, DSP and other stakeholders. All progress made since the last meeting will be discussed at the next meet. The date for the same is yet to be fixed. DSP staff along with Resource Persons (RPs) supervise schools in the VDC often observing teaching learning process in the same. They hold meetings with school Principals and conduct demonstration classes thus giving teachers an opportunity to learn something new and different. Due to these ongoing visits, schools have shown commendable improvement in the above mentioned VDC. A core VEC has almost been formed and they will soon commence work on the VEP.

## **2. Monitoring of Vocational Education Curriculum:**

Nepali National Curriculum Framework, 2007 has provisions for instilling Vocational, Occupation and Technological (VOT) skills for students of grades 6-8. These will pave way for children to realize their interests and excel in the same, enabling them to be self-reliant through employment or by acquiring substantial income-generating opportunities. The curriculum is now being taught in schools throughout the country, but most are without basic amenities and tutorial expertise to teach the same. Realizing a pressing need to impart multiple approaches to VOT, DSP in collaboration with DEO organized a three day intensive training at Basanta H.S.S Kumigaun, Narayan Municipality, Dailekh. A total of 7 teachers from 3 chosen schools were trained. The names of which were Basanta H.S.S, Krishna H.S.S and Red Cross S.S. The schools were supported with VOT teaching-learning materials and are now equipped with separate rooms to run practical lessons on knitting, sewing and computer labs.

The objectives of the trainings were to:

- To familiarize participants with VOT curriculum
- To discuss the importance of teaching VOT in schools
- To engage participants with hands-on activities relating to VOT
- To help teachers develop a yearlong plan to teach VOT
- To help teachers organize the VOT training equipments
- To receive training strategy feedback from participants

During Shrawan 2072, DSP staff monitored the 3 schools where VOT was launched. Short meetings and discussions were also held with teachers and Principals of the schools. Progress made after the initial training sessions were also discussed, along with problems faced while trying to implement the curriculum. As had been envisioned out the outset, practical rooms were set up in all 3 schools, with necessary equipments. With the exception of Krishna H.S.S, DSP staff observed extensive practical classes conducted at Red Cross H.S.S and Basanta H.S.S, Lakandra. Teachers were also present to guide the students at every step of the way and have now recognized the importance of doing curriculum based teaching as opposed to learning from textbooks only. VOT, if conducted well can provide opportunities for students to identify their strengths in divergent areas of interests. The hands-on activities demonstrated during the training enabled all participants to make a product each.

### **3. District Education Office (DEO) meetings:**

DSP staff attended DEO meetings held at the District Headquarter on 26 Shrawan 2072. These monthly meetings are customary where DSP's work plan for the upcoming month is shared with DEO officials and DSP staff are in turn informed about the plans and actions initiated by DEO. The opinions of teachers and Principals are usually taken into consideration while making joint working plans. The agenda during Shrawan consisted of discussing progress made in the arena of vocational education curriculum after observing schools where the program was implemented, holding a discussion on the plantation of lime and jackfruit in Mallika RC and progress made thereafter. The regular joint meetings have paved way for collaborative work in the district where both parties work in closely with each other.

### **4. School visits/ monitoring of lime plantation:**

DSP staff stationed in Dailekh conduct regular monitoring visits to schools with RPs. They observe ongoing classes for the day and hold meetings with school teachers, Principals, child club members etc. DSP staff provides demonstration classes and discuss student progress. During Shrawan, the school visits had to be cancelled since most teachers, Principals and students were out on the street revolting against factors drafted in the new constitution. Instead DSP staff dedicated substantial amount of time to observing progress made in the arena of lime plantation in Mallika RC. They made individual visits and simultaneously followed up through phone calls to school teachers and Principals. It was deemed that parents and students were following instructions by regularly watering the plant and observing its growth and development. Community members seemed happy with the whole idea of lime plantation which could serve as a source of income generation for the family.

### **5. Collection of School Survey Forms:**

This year, 72 schools survey forms were collected, with data gathered from 6 schools in each RC in Dailekh. Every RC consists of 2 schools each in the Grade A, Grade B and the Grade C category. The schools were previously categorized a few years ago. The collected forms are sent to the central level for analysis by a statistician. The forms help RBF staff determine progress made in each of the categorized schools. If some of the schools lack behind in terms of their performance, measures are sought by DSP staff to improvise the same. The schools are monitored extensively with regular meetings held between the school authorities and DSP staff.

### **6. RBPOP Board Meeting:**

An RBPOP Board Meeting was held on 32 Shrawan 2072. The RBPOP project phase III was discussed at the meet. It was decided that RBPOP phase III project will be implemented in a district in the Terai region. The new project following the DSP model will work in tandem with Government line agencies. A steering committee

will be formed consisting of individuals well versed in the education sector and from Government Offices. A core team comprising of RBF staff will be formed to work on the project. The program and budget for the year 2072-73 were approved by the Board

### **Upcoming activities**

1. Schools Visits to be conducted
2. RC Meetings to be held
3. Chakati Program to be initiated