

Monthly Progress Report Bhadra 2072

1. Training in Tsoknyi Gechak School (TGS)

Rato Bangala Foundation in collaboration with TGS aims to provide academic services to improve the overall quality of education in TGS. On 24 Bhadra, the 5th round of trainings began with focus on observing ongoing classes and discussing project work and research based on a K.W.L (What you know, What you want to learn and what have you learnt) approach. Participants were encouraged to talk about their experiences regarding transformation seen amongst teachers, in the school, and the whole teaching-learning process, post the training sessions initiated in 2072. The strength and weaknesses observed by trainers during classroom observation was presented and discussed with RBF trainers. Using the Chobar Jal Binayak Temple as reference, participants developed appropriate questions for the Trip Sheets. Upon completing the session, participants are now able to align project objectives with research and come up with guidelines for the KWL approach.

2. Distance monitoring in Gulmi

RBF initiated and implemented "Enhancing Basic Quality Education in Western Gulmi" with the aim to help the 31 selected schools meet the minimum enabling conditions outlined in the School Sector Reform Program, by 2015. The project introduced a major educational innovation to provide quality education in a child-friendly, gender-sensitive and cost effective manner to deprived areas of rural Nepal, directly benefitting 4,000 students, 200 teachers and 6000 parents in 31 primary and secondary schools of Gulmi.

It helped develop and refine teacher training and classroom improvement methodology that can be replicated in other parts of Gulmi and outside, thus contributing to the expansion of quality basic education throughout Nepal. The project was monitored regularly for effective delivery of inputs and production of outputs. As a way of empowering the community and building ownership at the local level, students, teachers, the community, School Management Community Members, Parent Teacher Associations played key roles in monitoring and evaluating the performances and results of the project which was evaluated twice during its 3 year tenure.

During Bhadra, as part of its ongoing monitoring program, RBF staff monitored two clusters, cluster A Panchayan with 5 schools and cluster B Himalaya consisting of 6 schools, from a distance. It was discovered that cluster schools were doing well. The first term exams had been held in all schools. Child clubs were active with

interactive children doing creative activities. Parental involvement was deemed satisfactory. Apart from participating on results day, parents shared knowledge and skills with students teaching them the art of doko making or storytelling. RPs have been conducting regular monitoring visits to the cluster schools and new RPs have been recruited to provide continuity to monitoring. According to school Principals, the skills learnt during trainings conducted by RBF have been difficult to implement in the post earthquake phase. However teachers have shown commitment to improvising the school on the whole. Distance monitoring will be conducted on a regular basis by RBF staff.

3. Nawa Marga Training of Trainers (TOT)

RBF staff spent considerable time preparing lesson plans and acquiring materials for the Nawa Marga Phase III, to be initiated in Dhading during Ashoj. A TOT session was successfully conducted on 22 Bhadra 2072. RBF trainer facilitated the TOT which consisted of RBS teachers as participants. The RBS and RBF trainers will move to Dhading and conduct subject based specific trainings for Nawa Marga Phase III, focusing on teachers from grade 1-5. The training is expected to cover more than 1700 teachers.

4. RBF AGM Report Preparation

The RBF annual report to be presented at the next RBF AGM was written during Bhadra. The detailed report contains all activities undertaken by RBF during the year and its subsequent results.

5. Meeting with Representatives from Pitzer College

A meeting was held with representatives from Pitzer College on 31 Bhadra, in RBF. The agenda consisted of reviewing activities of the past year. Significant activities outlined in last year's plan remained in complete due to the earthquake. The school at Simigaun collapsed and it was impossible to resume classes there on. Hence multi - grade multi - level temporary teaching learning had to be initiated in the same. Mahendra Shanti School in Balkot has acquired a new school building and classes are running smoothly. During Ashoj, team members from RBF and Pitzer College will meet to finalize the annual plan for the next collaborative year. A joint team will visit Simigain School in Dolakha during Kartik 2072, before embarking on the actual program.

6. Primary Teacher Training Program (PTTP)

The PTTP graduation ceremony was held on 31 Bhadra 2072 in the RBS auditorium. The Chief Guest at the ceremony was Mr. Khagraj Baral- ED-NCED. Distinguished guests included Shanta Dixit RBF Chair, Prof. Mahesh Banskota Dean Kathmandu University, cooperating school Principals, Trainers, Advisors and PTTP graduates and others. Highlights of the program consisted of a speech by the Chief Guest, RBF chair, by the Dean of Kathmandu University, a dance by RBS students and poetry

recitation by the graduates of 2015. Senior RBF staff also gave a presentation on PTTP consisting of valuable data. The program the first of its kind showcased the importance of teacher training especially in the context of a country like Nepal. The program had a total of 23 student teachers graduates. After acquiring the PTTP training the graduates are well placed in schools around the valley. PTTP is a collaboration of RBF, Bank Street College of Education in NYC and Kathmandu University

Upcoming activities for Ashoj

1. Workshop on Early Child Hood Development by Amber Johnston and Kelsey Keither
2. RBF staff to visit Delhi and participate in the eNGO challenge 2015
3. RBF staff to undertake a trip to Columbia to take observe the Escuela Nueva Program
4. Nawa Marga Phase III training to commence in Dhading
5. Preparations for Bal Sahitya Mahotsav