

Dailekh School Project

Monthly Progress Report Jestha and Asar 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 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, 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 Jestha and Asar 2072

District Education Office (DEO) meeting:

DSP staff attended DEO meetings held at the District Headquarter on 3 Jesth and once again on 7 Asar 2072. The agenda consisted of updating DEO officials about Vocational Education Training held in Dailekh, sharing the plantation plan for Mallika RC, orientation to teachers from 4 RCs and discussions on the baseline survey forms. During the meetings DSP's work plan for the month was shared with DEO officials and DSP staff was 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. These meetings have paved way for collaborative work in the district where both parties work in close collaboration with each other.

Vocational Education Training:

Nepali National Curriculum Framework, 2007 envisions to instill vocational, occupation and technological skills amongst students from grades 6-8. These skills are expected to pave way for children to realize their interests and excel in the same thereby becoming self-reliant through employment or by acquiring substantial income-generating jobs.

The curriculum has identified 8 vocational areas of which 4 are expected to be covered in a year, within the 175 hours stipulated teaching time. Schools have the luxury to choose their areas of vocational field to teach keeping in mind the needs and available local expertise. The Vocational Education Curriculum is now being taught in schools throughout the country. Students from grades 6-8 study a subject named Vocation, Occupation and Technology. It requires schools to involve children in appropriate hands-on activities for 50% of the teaching hours involved. Most of the schools, in the country including the ones in Dailekh are without basic amenities for running VOT lessons. Computer classes are taught on the Board, without students having access to a computer or students are taught to make raised beds for a kitchen garden without actually making the same on the field. The irony is that children study about computers, clay work, herb processing or kitchen garden, within the boundaries of a room, from a textbook. Teachers have realized the importance of studying VOT subjects, outside the boundaries of the classroom. But schools lack the much needed necessary equipments and tutorial expertise to teach the subjects effectively, through actual practice. VOT, if done appropriately in classrooms can provide opportunities for students to identify their strengths in different fields of work, serving as the basis for them to decide if they are best fitted for the vocational subjects and carry on with the same in higher education.

Realizing the pressing need to impart the know-how of multiple approaches to VOT teaching, RBF along with DSP conducted a 3-day training of teachers in Narayan Municipality, Dailekh. A total of 7 teachers (Annex 1) from 3 different schools attended the training conducted at Basanta H.S.S Kumigaun, Dailekh Bazaar. The schools were supported with VOT teaching-learning materials (Annex 2) required for teaching specific subjects. The 3 chosen schools now have separate rooms for running practical lessons on knitting and sewing along with computer labs. The schools however have disproportionately less number of computers compared to the number of students in a particular class. The agricultural tools required to teach the subject have already been distributed and are put to use.

The training objectives were as follows.

- 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

The hands-on activities demonstrated during the 3 day training enabled participants to make a product each during the session. Teachers recognized the importance of doing curriculum based teaching as opposed to textbooks. Training participants mastered some of the VOT teaching strategies. In addition, teachers felt the need to have a 90 minute lesson for practical for which provisions should be provided in their new classroom schedule. As a result of the VOT classes, substantial changes are expected to be brought about in the schools and in the lives of its students. However, DSP staff as the initiators needs to constantly monitor and ensure continuity to the skills learnt during the training sessions. VOT trainings had previously been introduced and made mandatory by the Government of Nepal but had failed to materialize due to multiple factors. Dailekh might just be able to set an example for the better.

Plantation of lime and jackfruits:

Twenty five hundred lime seeds and 2500 Jackfruit seeds were distributed to schools of 2 RCs (Malika and Badakhola) in Dailekh. The seeds were provided to children of grade 3, who will plant the seeds in the school compound and on their backyard, depending upon the availability of land. Planting the seed will instill multiple benefits in a child. Children learn to observe the bountiful traits of Mother Nature, and become observant of their surroundings, they learn to reciprocate and care for that plant, which may instill a sense of belonging. Students observe how a tiny seed grows into a tree over a few years, which could one day yield commercial fruits for the family. If the tree produces multiple fruits, the lime or the walnut can be eaten or sold in the market to generate income for the family. The lime plantation as part of the social science curriculum links well with guidelines outlined in the School Sector Reform Plan, focusing on the fact that children should be encouraged to learn differently by doing and observing in a safe secure environment. (Annex 2 for details of the planting plan). The teachers for the particular grade are responsible for monitoring the growth and progress of the plant.

School visits:

DSP staff stationed in Dailekh conduct regular school visits along with RPs. They observe ongoing classes for the day and make suggestions to improve teaching learning in the same. Meetings are also held with Principals and teachers of the visited schools focusing on child clubs, student attendance, regularity of teachers etc. Significant changes have been brought about due to regular school visits. Teachers have acquired new ideas for teaching. Principals discuss problems faced by the school, most often these are addressed during DEO meetings. As a result of ongoing school visits, teachers and students are regular in schools and teaching learning practices have considerable improved. During the school visits, DSP staff organized a meeting of school Principals, teachers and discussed vital issues such as regularity of teachers and students to schools (Annex 3 list of schools visited).

Filling up of progress report forms: Progress report forms from Naumule RC, Jorebanj RC, Sermakot RC, Ratikhola RC, Tilepata RC, Narayan RC, Kharigaira RC, Bestada RC, Lakandra RC, Chamunda RC, Malika RC and Dullu RC were filled. Six schools were chosen from each RC.(2-A level schools, 2-B level schools and 2- C level schools).

Annex 1

Participant at the Vocational Education Training

1. Amar Bahadur shahi (Krishna HSS, Lakandra)
2. Jibraaj Regmi (Krishna HSS, Lakandra)
3. Mani Neupane (Redcross SS, Bhurti Dailekh)
4. Tek Bdr KC (Redcross SS, Bhurti Dailekh)
5. Bharat kumara Khadka (Redcross SS, Bhurti Dailekh)
6. Dilli Bahadur Khatri (Basanta HSS, Kimugaun)
7. Kumar Bikram Khadka (Basanta HSS, Kimugaun)
8. Tirtha GC (Basanta HSS, Kimugaun)

Name of Trainers

1. Laxmi Shrestha
2. Ram Bahadur Majhi
3. Jitendra Bista
4. Durga Kumari Thapa

RBF staff

1. Min Shahi (Program Manager)
2. Sunil Pokhrel (Program officer)
3. Amar Thapa
4. Krishna Thapa
5. Bal Bahadur Shahi

Annex 2

Lime Plantation plan for Mallika RC.

Sn	Code / Name	Malika Rc	ward no	location	VDC	No of student (Grade 3)			1*4 =4	Total no of plant	Remark
						Girl	Boy	Total			
1	600170003	Bhairab Nepal Rasyiya Ni Ma Vi	2	Daha Badadada	Gauri	6	13	19	4	76	
2	600170004	Dip Jyoti Pra V	4	Gauri	Gauri	8	9	17	4	68	
3	600170002	Janata Pra V	9	Jumlesal	Gauri	14	8	22	4	88	
4	600170005	Jawala Pra Vi	3	Kellakosha	Gauri	6	7	13	4	52	
5	600170001	Suryodaya Ma Vi	5	Kati Gaun	Gauri	28	21	49	4	196	
6	600160004	Binda Basini Pra V	1	Chhuwala	Gamudi	15	10	25	4	100	
7	600160002	Indra Jwala Pra V	8	Rajakandh	Gamudi	10	16	26	4	104	
8	600160003	Krishna Pra V	7	Gatedichaur	Gamudi	11	6	17	4	68	
9	600160005	Mai Bhagawati Pra V	9	Gamudi	Gamudi	6	4	10	4	40	
10	600160001	Pancha Koshi Jwala Ma V	4	Gamaudi	Gamudi	19	13	32	4	128	
11	600210003	Bhairab Pra V	8	Toraya	Kal Bhairab	5	5	10	4	40	
12	600210001	Bhanu U Ma V	7	Toraya	Kal Bhairab	16	10	26	4	104	
13	600210004	Dipendra Pra V	1	Bhunikahan	Kal Bhairab	19	16	35	4	140	
14	600210005	Jana Kalyan Pra V	5	Tuldhara Binayak Paalta	Kal Bhairab	10	9	19	4	76	
15	600210002	Jwala Ni Ma V	4	Bharirav Sthan Bhukaha	Kal Bhairab	13	19	32	4	128	
16	600330009	Bhairab Pra V	2	Malika Gothpada	Malika	2	2	4	4	16	
17	600330005	Bhairab Pra V	3	Jhyanp	Malika	9	10	19	4	76	
18	600330004	Chadunga Pra V	2	Kunkatiya	Malika	8	12	20	4	80	

Sn	Code / Name	Malika Rc	ward no	location	VDC	No of student (Grade 3)			1*4 =4	Total no of plant	Remark
						Girl	Boy	Total			
19	600330010	Deuti Shtan Pra Vi	2	Biskot	Malika	5	11	16	4	64	
20	600330001	Devi Uchha Ma V	9	Binayak	Malika	16	32	48	4	192	
21	600330007	Jaya Janata Pra V	8	Lekhalgaun	Malika	18	22	40	4	160	
22	600330008	Kalikasthan Pra V	4	Malika	Malika	5	10	15	4	60	
23	600330002	Nepal Rastriya Ma Vi	7	Lekhalgaun	Malika	7	11	18	4	72	
24	600330006	Saraswati Pra V	9	Malika	Malika	13	15	28	4	112	
25	600330003	Saraswati Pra V	6	Khatigauda	Malika	9	6	15	4	60	
26	600330012	Tidayi Pra Vi	1	Chhaudang Malika	Malika	6	8	14	4	56	
27	600440004	Bhairab Pra V	8	Rijutuldhara	Chhiudipusakot	15	19	34	4	136	
28	600440006	Ganesh Mandir Pra Vi	4	Pipalchautara Chiudipushakot	Chhiudipusakot	12	12	24	4	96	
29	600440002	Laxmi Ni Ma V	5	Basnepati	Chhiudipusakot	10	18	28	4	112	
30	600440001	Mahendra Jaydev Ni Ma V	2	Pusakot	Chhiudipusakot	16	9	25	4	100	
31	600440003	Nepal Rastriya Ni Ma Vi	9	Rijupokhara	Chhiudipusakot	25	28	53	4	212	
32	600440005	Pancheshwori Pra V	5	Lujaichhiudi	Chhiudipusakot	13	11	24	4	96	
						375	402	777	4	3108	

Annex 3

List of schools visited during Asar

By Amar Thapa

- Nera PS Saldada
- Nera LSS Toli
- Nera PS Lekh toli
- Nera LSS Thandada Chauratha
- Bulbule PSS Dwari
- Nimavi Mathillo PSS, Dungeshor
- Janakalyan HSS, Sermakot
- Nera PS, Paiya Chaur , Sermakot

By Krishna Thapa

- Jayanti HSS, Kharigaira
- Palti PS, Kalasim
- Redcross SS, Bhurti
- Janajagriti PS Piuse
- Janasahayog PS Jarjekhola
- Bhairav PS Toraya

By Bal Bahadur Shahi

- Indrajwala PS
- Nera LSS Riju pokhara
- Bhairav PS Riju
- Saraswoti PS Malika
- Krishna SS Netrapani
- Janajagriti LSS, layati
- Kalika PS, Lakandra