

Project Update: August 2009

The community members and youth, in coordination with Sisnery School, formally started the Community Information Centre. For the time being, one of the classrooms has been used. Since the school is more centrally located and more accessible to the local community, many people from the community are expected to visit the centre for updates. The centre has collection of libraries on forestry, herbs, etc.

The herbarium near the Forest Range Post is being constructed and in August 2009, it will be formally handed over to the Forest User Groups in the community. It got delayed because the monsoon was late, and the people were anxiously waiting for rice plantation. Now that the paddy plantations are done, community members are engaged in constructing the herbarium. We had a meeting with the Education officials comprising of Education Director, Head of Curriculum Division, Non-Formal Education, Teacher Training Centre, and informed about the programs that are being undertaken by the schools, with Rufford Small Grants Foundation support. We also explored the possibility of integrating the idea of Action-Research into the existing curriculum, which was taken positively by the officials. Moreover, we also had a meeting with the UNESCO officials in the Education Ministry where we informed about the project. They are eager to visit the school to see the work and looking forward to continuing this project and expanding with other schools as well. They will be invited to the exhibition and also the final report will be shared with them through power point presentation (being developed).

The exhibitions in the schools are getting ready and we are making continuous visits to help the teachers and the children to make it as effective and educative as possible. The Judges for the exhibition will be from CEEN, Education Department, an artist and the chief guest for the exhibition. The children are preparing skits, poems and also songs on their specific themes. All the guidelines have been given.

The display boards for Eco Clubs have been distributed and the signposts are being made. We are very happy to see the teachers' enthusiasm and the children's active participation in the whole process. The youth workshop is happening next weekend.