

Project Update: October 2008

Report on the Teachers' Workshop organized on 25th October 2008.

A one-day workshop was organized to orient the project, "Involving schools and communities in environmental care and sustainable socio-economic development" for the heads and teachers of five government/community schools and Shuvatara International school.

Headmasters from Kalidevi, Sringeri, Sisnery and Lubhu schools with four teachers and five teachers each from Basuki and Shuvatara schools participated. Three members from CEEN also participated. Altogether thirty-two participants attended the workshop. Parshuram S Niraula, Executive Director of CEEN and Vice Principal of Shuvatara School facilitated the workshop.

The participants were briefed about the evolution of the earth, emergence of life and finally of the human and his activities that has accelerated the depletion of resources. Through different team-building exercises, the participants were oriented towards how each of them could play a vital role as teachers/community members to identify the local issues and gear the local development programs in a sustainable manner. The participants looked through the existing textbooks and identified topics that could be extended enabling the children to look into their immediate environment through action-research.

Five community schools divided the themes to look into the issues in depth, which is as follows:

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| 1. | Sringeri School | - | Water Issues. (river survey, etc). |
| 2. | Sisnery School | - | Socio, economic and cultural issues. |
| 3. | Kalidevi School | - | Farming patterns/Issues. |
| 4. | Basuki School | - | Forestry and Wildlife. |
| 5. | Lubhu School | - | Impact of modernization/development programs. |

Each school went into the field with a worksheet for a practice investigation and interpreted the findings in the charts in the form of an exhibition. Teachers from Shuvatara School represented in all five themes.

The schools undertaking each of the themes above have chosen the theme based on their location and interest. Children from either VI, VII or VIII need to be identified to undertake the project keeping in view that the project has started in the middle of the session, so that the children could continue with the project even in the next session.

Coordinators from each school in which headmasters themselves from Kalidevi, Sringeri and Sisnery and Sr. teachers from Basuki and Lubhu schools were finalised. Head of Social and Environment Studies Department from Shuvatara would play a pivotal role in facilitating all these schools. The coordinators are the contacts at schools and are expected to coordinate the project in their respective schools. They need to identify the grades/students in their schools and give background information of the project. They also need to develop a timetable to undertake the activities that suits their work environment within fifteen days.

The CEEN would then visit the schools and organize workshop with the participating students.

A monitoring format is being developed at CEEN to monitor the progress of the project on a fortnightly basis. Regular visits to the schools will be made to clear doubts, if any. Moreover, worksheets and questionnaires need to be supplied to the schools during the visits.

The workshop was very successful that was full of simulation and team-building activities, slide shows, field-visits, group work and presentations.

