



Himalayan Project Nepal

A Nepali NGO dealing with Development Aid in Nepal

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Project Completion Report

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Sagaramatha Primary School

Sagardanda, Bakanje-6, Solukhumbu

submitted to

Padborg-Kruså Rotary Klub, Denmark

by Namgyal Jangbu Sherpa

Introduction

Shree Sagaramatha Primary School is located in Bakanje-6, Solukhumbu District, east part of Nepal, there are four primary schools (running class 1-5) in Bakanje Village Development Committee (VDC) and Sagarmatha Primary school is one of them. The people of Sagardanda built the school in 1992, and ever since the government of Nepal has been supporting salary of 3 teachers, it also assisted tin roof in 1995. The school has greatest number of student after Kenja Primary School. More than 65 students enrol in the school every year, but 60 are regular. The school is running as multiclass system due to lack of teacher. There are higher number of population compare to the other villages of Bakanje VDC. Chetri People are the major dominant caste, and Sherpa, Thami, Biswakarma and Tamang are minority inhabitants in this area. There are 45 households and 300 people, most of them are illiterate and condition of the women are worse. Income level of the people is generally very low. Agro based product is the major income source which is enough for six months to live on, and they go to other place to do labour work for rest of the period due to poverty.

Problem statement

Nepal is one of the developing countries in the world. It had passed through a decade long political conflict, especially by Maoist war. During the conflict, Government lacked resources and it could not reach to remote areas like Bakanje, as result, school and health post of such area were badly affected. Moreover, people of such areas were under hard core poverty and could not afford to renovate and maintain of those facilities. So, physical condition of health posts and schools became poor. Sagarmatha Primary school also could not be an exception from that and it was incredibly in poor condition, very old building, leaking roof and no furniture. No one would believe that it was school and more than 60 children receive education in it. One of my Danish friends once observed this school building and said, in Denmark even animal would not be allowed in such bad house. The school building was in such a bad condition and that whole structure was out of function.

Activities

People of Sagardanda approached HP-DK and District Education Officer (DEO) several times to seek support for reconstruction, but HP-DK considered it rather a big project and that it would be difficult to find the donor for entire construction. It, however, were looking for a co-operative partner. Fortunately, in 2008 District Education Officer (DEO) visited the school to observe the physical condition. After the observation, he showed great interest in reconstruction of the school building.

DEO offered a support of NPR.629.000 (55.000 DKR) on the condition that local community also contribute the same amount or give labour donation equivalent to the same amount. The project included reconstruction of 2 buildings with 2 rooms each with full interior decoration; but the condition was beyond capacity of the local community. So, Sagardanda School again approached HP-DK for the support. HP-DK discussed with DEO in this regard and both agreed that school use DEO support for reconstructing 2 building and HP support for the interior decoration of those 2 buildings; stone floor, furniture, stationery and construction of toilet and shower room. The School made the contract with local people for the construction in 2009 and the local people started the construction immediately after and construction was completed in few months. DEO was very much satisfied with reconstruction and he immediately rewarded the school with NPR.550.000 (45.000 DKR) for an additional structure which was completed in the beginning of 2010. The quality of this building is also as high as the other two. Now there are 3 high standard building with 6 rooms.

In 16 April 2010, School Management Committee formed Construction Committee for the interior reconstruction. The project proposal was prepared and agreement was made between HP-DK and Construction Committee. After this agreement we changed project proposal into project description and submitted to the Padborg-Krusa Rotary Klub (PK-RK), Club No. 10184, District 1460, Denmark. PK-RK approved the proposal and transferred the first installment fund to the school bank, A/c no. 494, Rastriya Banijya Bank, branch office Salleri. Afterward, School again employed the local people on contract within agreed budget giving them job opportunity, and interior decoration started. HIPRON has, since the beginning, been monitoring the reconstruction project as agreed in the project description, reference to *100717_Sagardanda_description*.

Monitoring

As per the agreement, HIPRON monitored the project 3 times during the construction and submitted the progress report to the Padborg-Krusa Rotary Klub and HP-DK. Papa Kurt, of HP-DK also monitored project twice. In our monitoring, we only checked the quality and progress of the construction, but we did not check the account during the construction period as it was ongoing and was not updated periodically. Later we found that the school and construction committee allocated the budget from one topic to another on their own way; as a result, there was problem in the account at the end. It was well explained to them about the project budget before it was signed so there should not have been any confusion about the spending of budget. I felt quite sure they understood about handling the budget but they did not.

Establishment of floor

The stone slate is paved on the floor of all rooms (5 classrooms and 1 office room). They looked very nice and strong. With the floor of stone slate, there will not be any major repair or replacement, it is everlasting floor and cost effective, and in the future the stone slate can be re-used if required. In the project description, we had allotted NPR 282.230 (DKR 22.500) for stone floor for 6 rooms, but in reality the cost was much lower, only NPR 90.000 (DKR 7.000) in total, NPR 15.000 (DKR 1.200) for each room. So, there was NPR 192.230 (DKR15.500) surplus on flooring.

Wooden Ceiling

All 6 rooms are fixed with wooden ceiling to the wall and under roof, with high quality of wood and skilled carpentering; rooms look very beautiful and cozy. Children will feel cozy, especially in winter season when the temperature is very much low. Only a very few schools in mountain region of Nepal have such facility and Sagardanda School is very lucky in this regards. However, the price of the ceiling was incredibly much higher than the agreed budget. Moreover, lump sum contract was found to have been made for ceiling and furniture in all 6 rooms, and children stage in nursery classroom. Bills of these 3 sub projects were found mixed up. There was agreement that school complete 3 projects for NPR 268.720 (DKR 21.500), whereas the actual payments was NPR 639.000 (DKR

51.000) on those 3 projects, 2½ times more than allocated budget. This is the point we are not satisfied with construction committee. We had a lot of discussion but nothing has turn out. Maybe our budget for ceiling and furniture was too low or it may be the carpenters were too slow in their work which took too many man days in construction, whatsoever, the mistake is on School Reconstruction Committee who did not follow the agreement.

Nursery classroom

Nursery room is well decorated and equipped. There are one table, bench and a stage for children to play, it has got thick mattress on and fence around for the safety of the children. Additionally, HP-DK supplied nursery equipments in last autumn. Now nursery class looks children friendly environment which can help to bring more children to the school.



Furniture

All classroom and office room has got sufficient furniture. There are 40 sets of desk-bench and 5 arm chairs (8 sets desk-bench and one armchair in each class). Besides, there are big cupboard and heavy table for science lab, one table and 2 benches for nursery classroom. There are also 5 tables with drawer, 10 armchairs, 2 benches, 2 big cupboards and many shelves in the office. All furniture are of a high quality.

Educational materials

During the reconstruction, HP-DK supplied educational materials twice which was not included in this project. The stationeries supply included copies, pens, charts, sports and musical instruments. Apart from that, school received basic science equipment and additional stationeries value of NPR 38.601 (DKR 2.750) as a part of this project. HIPRON purchased them in Kathmandu and delivered to the school in May 2012. There was NPR 74.000 (DKR 5.500) for the purpose, but the budget was a bit too high, it was planned to supply the complete science equipment, but latter it was realized that Sagardanda school, as a primary school, needed only basic primary science equipments.



Sanitary Complex

Very beautiful sanitary complex has been put up at the school yard. This complex has room for shower, dressing, two toilets and boy's urinal separately draining to separate septic tank. It is well built, well functioning and long lasting sanitary complex. In addition, a Solar Water Heater is going to be installed for hot shower. It is purchased in Kathmandu and transported to the site by truck. Kami Chhiring, the most skilled person in the area, will install it at the end of June 2012.

HP-DK invented this special design for school toilet and applied at several other schools in Upper Solu. It is indeed becoming quite famous in Solukhumbu because of its multi functionality and simplicity. It is, however, a bit expensive to build. Except solar water heater, it cost about NPR 300.000 (DKR 23.000) to 350.000 (DKR 27.000) depending upon the quality, but here it cost NPR.310.000 (DKR 24.000) which is quite reasonable according to the quality. In the agreed project document, NPR 365.170 (DKR 28.000) was allocated for the sanitary complex and NPR 120.000 (DKR 9,500) for solar water heater, whereas the cost price was NPR 35.000 (DKR 2.500). So, there is NPR 55.170 (DKR 4.000) surplus on sanitary complex and NPR 85.000 (DKR 7.000) on solar water heater respectively.



Pavilion

The pavilion construction has not started due to lack of money, the budget of NPR 20.000 (DKR 1.500) was allocated for this purpose, but due to over expenditure on other constructions there was no money left for it. So, now school has to construct it on their own source, it is very important that the donor feel the project is successfully completed according to the agreement. It is also responsibility of the school as well. So therefore they should do it. We will expect it from them.

Conclusion

To conclude, Sagardanda School reconstruction has completed now. This school has got wonderful facilities and they are of a high standard. I have no complain at all about the quality and quantity of the project, but I am quite disappointed about the account that Reconstruction Committee did not control the budget of the project and Monitoring Committee never checked it, consequently, the budget was in a mess. Moreover, no bill was found in order so we only could sum up the account on the basis of payment receipts. This should not have happened according to the agreed project document when each detail of the budget were well explained, and same document was well explained to the School headmaster Hom Bhadur Pradan and reconstruction committee before it was signed. There was weakness from my side that I never monitor the budget during the monitoring. The big mistake from the school side was that School and Reconstruction committee just approved the proposed budget without knowing the reality. However, the overall project was completed inside the budget, so I want to conclude that we, in Himalayan Project and Padborg-Krusa Rotary Klub, shall be very pleased and satisfied with the result.

Recommendation

Sagardanda School should utilise the facilities in proper way, as well as take care of them. Likewise, School teacher team and parents should work harder to uplift the standard of the education along with the physical facility keeping in mind that education is most important. Sagardanda School should by own means build the pavilion to make the project complete according to project description.

Kathmandu on 21. June 2012
Namgyal Jangbu Sherpa
Manager of HIPRON

Budget summary of the Reconstruction Projects

S.N.	Transfer by Padborg -Krusaa Rotary Klub, Denmark	Received budget	Approved budget	Balance
1	1. Installment (10-10-2010)	480.000	1.130.120	
2	2. Installment (15-04-2011)	302.886		
3	3. Installment (09-09-2011)	284.715		
4	4. Installment transferred by HP-DK to HIPRON A/c	35.000		
	Total	1.102.601	1.130.120	27.519

Account summary of the Reconstruction Projects

Particulars (Expenses heads as per budget lines)	Actual expense	Approved budget	Balance
A) Establish floor in the 6 new rooms	90.000	282.230	192.230
B) Wooden ceiling and furniture in 6 classrooms:	639.000	268.720	-370.280
D) Educational materials	38.601	74,000	35.399
E) Sanitary Complex	310.000	365.170	55.170
F) Solar Heater for Hot Shower	35.000	120.000	85.000
G) Pavilion at the playground	0	20.000	20.000
h) Bank Charge	1.607		-1.607
TOTAL PROJECT COST	1.114.208	1.130.120	15.912