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BASE

BACKWARD SOCIETY EDUCATION

ONE YEAR REPORT

October 1991 - September 1992

for

THARU EDUCATION

FOR

TRANSFORMATION



Submitted to DANIDA November 1992.

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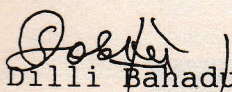
PREFACE.

To day, one year of the DANIDA - BASE co-operation has passed. It has been a very beneficial year for the indigenous Tharu people of Terai. Being illiterate and deprived of education opportunities in the past, the Tharu people feels "Tharu Education For Transformation" has given them knowledge of how to improve their living conditions. It has also assured them, there in the world exists humanitarian and friendly countries and institutions, ready to help the poor people.

This programme has proved to be extremely important for the bounded labourers (Kamaiyas). They have been living their lives as cattle, but now they have been made aware of human rights through the light of education.

Various programmes have been conducted in Dang, Bardia and Kalaili districts thanks to the support from DANIDA. Programmes which have great importance for the Tharu people.

For this co-operation, I would like, on behalf of BASE and my self, to express my heart-felt gratitude towards DANIDA.


Dilli Bahadur Chaudary

Chairman of BASE.



INTRODUCTORY REMARKS.

This one-year report is an extension or an up dated version of the half-year report, BASE submitted to DANIDA in April 1992. DANIDA approved to fund "Tharu Education For Transformation" in September 1991. As a part of the agreement BASE committed itself to present both a half year and an one year report for the first project year. In future the progress reports will cover the activities of a whole year.

The aim of this progress report is to inform DANIDA, in a short form, about the project activities and the actual situation. Considering the great interest the project has caused, we hope this small report also will prove to be informative for others as well.



SHORT INTRODUCTION TO THE BACKGROUND OF THE PROJECT.

"Tharu Education For Transformation" is a Community Development Project. The overall objective is through a comprehensive literacy programme to enable the Tharu communities in the Western part of Nepal, to help themselves in improving their living conditions.

Since the beginning of this century the Tharu hegemony over the use and administration of land has gradually and systematically been removed. Even in cases, where the Tharu's were likely to benefit from the legislation, such as the 1964 Land Reform Act, which among others sought to provide a legal basis for tenancy, the Tharu people were denied the legal tenancy rights by the landlords and their political allies.

The Tharu's, because of missing organizational strength and political power, were not able to fight back the oppression and the injustice committed against them.

Knowledge is power and a precondition for building up a prosperous society. Formerly the Tharu people's educational status was low and it still is. Illiteracy and ignorance about legal rights have caused (and still do) many problems for Tharus and many families have been the victims of unscrupulous moneylenders and landlords.



BACKWARD SOCIETY EDUCATION (BASE).

Backward Society Education is a social grass root organization mainly committed to the development of the poor Tharu societies in the western part of Nepal. The organization was established in 1985, but due to the political situation in Nepal, first registered with Social Service National Coordination (SSNCC) as a local NGO in 1990. Until recently BASE was only working in the western part of the Dang Valley. Today its activities have spread to Bardia and Kalaili districts. BASE has 51,857 members spread out on 119 villages in the mentioned districts.

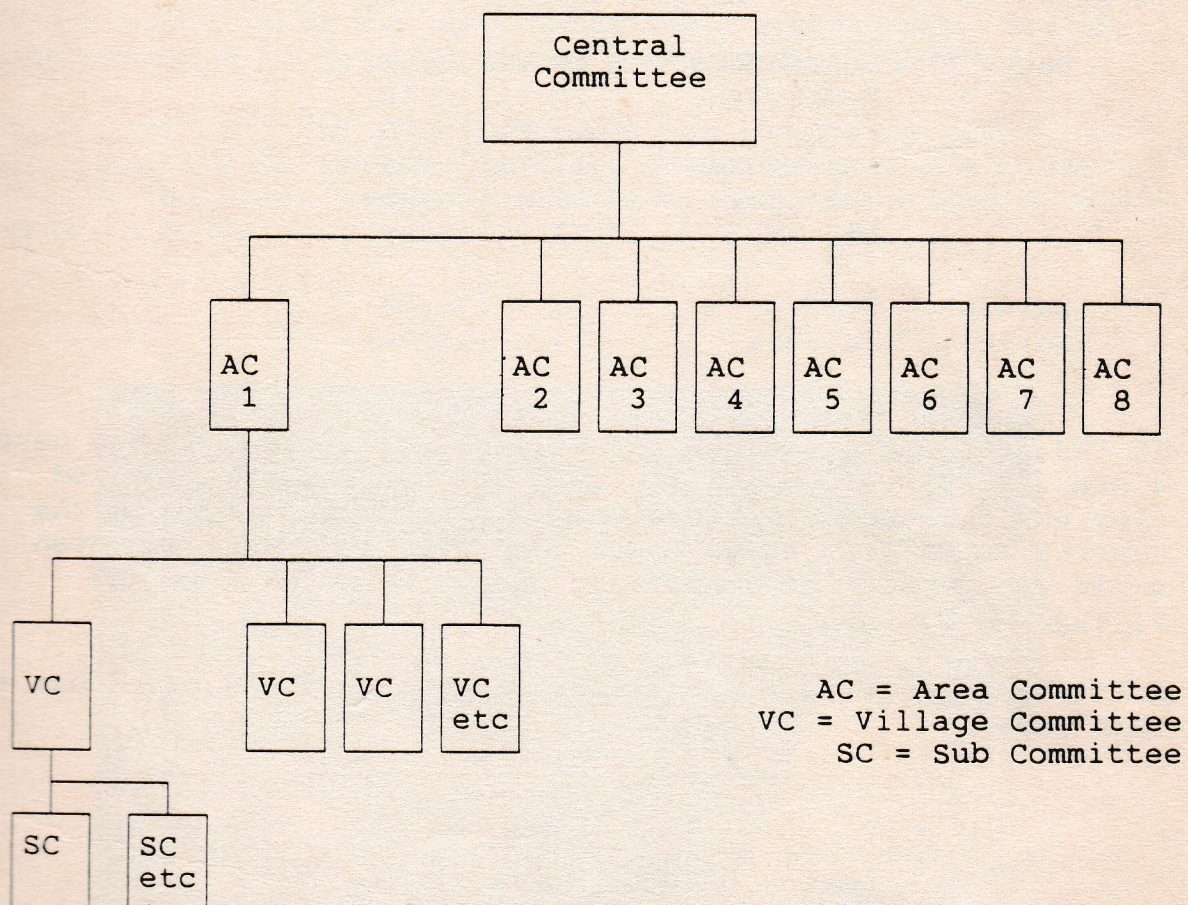
BASE has been active since 1985, where the present chairman of BASE, Dilli Chaudary, together with friends established a club. Going from village to village, they began to organize the Tharus in the Western Dang Valley. They started literacy classes, gave information about legal rights, organized training for the farmers and arranged cultural shows for the villagers. The money for running these activities, they got from own work, private donations and from singing and dancing performances.

The above mentioned work has, among the village people, created an extraordinary confidence towards BASE and is the foundation for the present popular support of BASE. A support which from month to month is ever increasing.

THE ORGANISATIONAL SET UP OF BASE.

The following chart shows in a schematic way the organizational principles of the structure of BASE.

BASE



1. Central level.

The Central Committee consist of 8 board members and one chairperson elected by the members of the Area Committees. The election period is 5 years. However, if 3/4 of the Village Committees are not satisfied with the work of the central board, they can elect a new one at any time.

The central committee meets once a month, where problems in the Area and Village Committee's are discussed and new initiatives are planned.

2. Area level.

BASE is now active in 119 villages in Dang, Bardia and Kalaili districts. To manage and coordinate the activities, BASE has set up 8 Area Committees. Six in Dang, one in Bardia and one in Kalaili.

Dang:	Luhadabara;	14 villages.
	Madhariya;	15 villages.
	Denpur;	12 villages.
	Chakhaura;	17 villages.
	Tulsipur;	16 villages.
	Ghorahi;	12 villages.
Bardia:	Bardia;	12 villages.
Kailali	Kailali;	15 villages.

In the Area Committee all the Village Committee chairmen have a seat. They meet once a month to discuss reports received from the Village Committees and make recommendations to the Central Committee. Attached to each area is a BASE employed field supervisor for supporting the work of the Area and Village Committees.

Activities covering all villages in an area are carried out at this level.

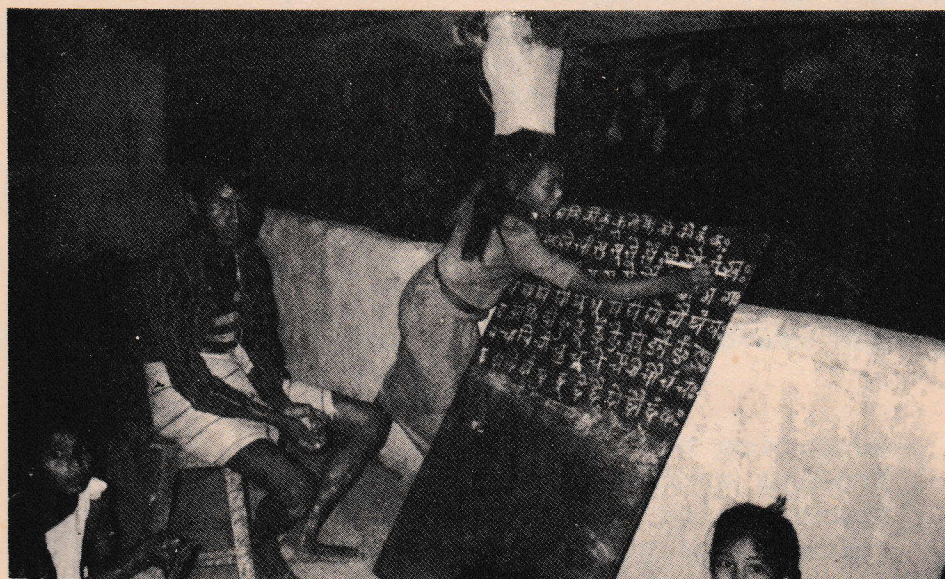
3. Village level.

A Village Committee consists of 9 members chosen by all the households in a village. The Village Committee can form several sub-committees. At present all the committees have formed an educational sub-committee. Later when a planned Community Health Programme starts, they will also establish health sub-committees.

Each sub committee reports to the Village Committee, which monitor and evaluates the on-going activities, makes suggestions and decisions for new activities. Then they report to the Area Committee. Finally the Village Committee collects the yearly member fee of 1 Nrs.

For the moment BASE emphasizes education and runs night classes for adults and children. The Village Committee select the teachers for the night classes among the literate village people. The Committees are also responsible to find room for the classes. Many villages build their own schools, while others use existing localities given by local people.

Also other activities are carried out at village level, such as community forestry, vegetable gardening etc. Furthermore the Village Committees collect money for and manages a social welfare fund.



BASE - ACTIVITIES.

Below we will in short go through last years activities.

INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES.

In the past one year BASE has taken several initiatives for strengthening the organization.

First, the organisation has established a central BASE office in Tulsipur. The office, a rented two storey building, has open day and night. It is used for running the day to day business, meetings, courses and lodging for BASE members with errands to the office.

To take care of the project activities the head office has 13 employees; a project supervisor, 2 office assistants, an accountant, a secretary and 8 area field supervisors. Moreover 8 assistants are attached to each area office.

BASE pays salary to the night class teachers. The number of paid teachers have increased the 1. of September 1992 from 80 to 316. After working voluntary for one year, the night class teachers, get the right to a monthly salary of 400 Nrs. Still 265 of them work with out getting any payment.

An accountant system, under supervision of the Administrative Officer from the NCA eye hospital in Dang, and a monitoring and supervising system for night class activities, is established.

Recently BASE has divided its administration into sections for:

- * Education activities.
- * Kamaiya support activities.
- * Construction activities.
- * Income generating activities.

Altogether 4 and later, when a planned Community Health Programme starts, a health section will be added.

In the end of every month the area field supervisors bring progress reports from the different areas to the Central Office. There, in a three days meeting, the reports are discussed, but no decisions are taken before consultations with the Area Committees.

In the past year 79 new Village Committees and 8 new Area Committees have been established. Moreover 39 community buildings in five areas have been constructed by the village people themselves. Now every Area Committee has its own office.

From the 1. of August BASE took the first step to decentralize its administrative structure. Now each area office have to submit a monthly budget to the central office. After approval the Area Committees get the money and settle the account every month at the central office.

Management and leadership training is conducted every month by the chairman. Recently 5 of the area field supervisors and the organisational secretary have been in India to get training in management and leadership.

To secure the programme activities in the long term, the Central, Area and Village Committees have their own fund raising systems. While the Village and Area Committees collect money from the village people, the staff personnel pay a certain percentage of their income to the central fund. All funds summoned up, around 200.000 Nrs. have been raised.

Several meetings and discussions with central and local authorities have been held to utilize the public service system in different fields. Also meetings and discussions with national as well as international NGO's have been held.

Finally BASE has recieved institutional support from NCA, SAVE THE CHILDREN/US, MS-NEPAL and UNICEF.

EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES.

The overall aim of "Tharu Education For Transformation" is through a comprehensive educational programme to provide the poor village people with the necessary tools and knowledge to change their own living conditions. Hence the educational activities naturally make up a major part of the BASE project.

Conducting literacy classes are the main activity of the programme. Special support to Tharu students inside the formal education system is a minor part of the programme, but an important part too. Without special support, only a few of the poor students will be able to get a higher education.

Children and women are the main target group for the literacy programme, although classes for men lately have been set up in many villages. The reasons are caused by the children who themselves are the bearer of the future and that the women have the main responsibility for the well-being of the family (if you educate a women, you educate the whole family). Furthermore the literacy rate among Tharu women is very low, almost zero, but on the whole, illiteracy is very high among all Tharus, both men and women.

There are several reasons for this:

Firstly, because the near landless and landless people hardly can afford to send their young ones to school in the daytime. Everybody has to work for the existence of the family and often, though the schooling is "officially" free of cost, parents have to pay for uniforms, stationary and different kinds of fees.

Secondly, many Tharu children, if going to school, have experienced discrimination by some teachers of the government schools. They have been told by the teachers, that Tharus don't need education for working in the landlords fields and they were too stupid to get an education.

Finally, up till now, the educational awareness among the Tharus has been very low.

1. Non-formal education.

BASE has been running literacy classes since 1985. Starting with four night classes for adult illiterate in Dang Valley, BASE expanded its activities the following five years to 37 night classes for 2500 children and women. Up till 1991 private donations, income from members work and performances covered the expenses for running the classes. However, far from all the classes were sufficient supplied with books, blackboards, copy books, pencils, lamps, kerosene etc.. There were also too many students in each class.

The financial input from DANIDA in the autumn 1991 and later on in 1992 and a donation from MS-Nepal to the classes in Bardia, enabled BASE to increase the number of classes and to improve the management.

The number of classes expanded to 616 in March 1992 and at the same time BASE extended its working area to the districts of Bardia and Kalaili. To day BASE runs 581 classes for 14.260 young women, men and children. (please look at table 1).



Table 1: Distribution of type of night classes and students by districts, September 1992.

Activity	Dang			Bardia			Kalaili		
	No of class	M	F	No of class	M	F	No of class	M	F
Adult class	164	1824	2276	17	161	300	40	100	150
Child.class	346	3020	5630	29	157	392	25	100	150
Total	510	4640	7906	36	318	692	35	200	300

Night classes.

Because most of the students have to work in the daytime, the classes are organised to run in the evening time from 7 pm. to 9 pm.

Two different types of night classes have been designed:

- one for children between 6 - 12 years old.
- one for women and men above 15 years of age.

Children's night classes lasts 12 month using the Naulo Bihani books from Ministry of Education (MOEC).

When the children have finished the night classes, BASE encourage them to join the governmental day schools. Especially BASE emphasizes the enrolment of the Kamaiya children

As a result of the literacy programme, 275 Kamaiya girls and boys, together with 200 girls from very poor families are now in the governmental day schools. It is reported that the Governmental schools have been positive towards the influx of the children from the BASE night classes. After one year in the night classes most of the children are able to cope with grade 4 in the governmental schools.

¹ BASE also runs a few classes in Banke district, monitored and supervised from the Area Committee in Bardia district.

The adult night classes run for two years as one cycle. This, because a two year cycle is suppose to reduce chances of relapsing neo-literate into illiteracy. Now in the second year of "Tharu Education For Transformation" the plan is to combine the students literacy and numeracy skills with functional activities such as income generation, knowledge and skill training about health, agriculture, forestry, legal rights etc.. The Naya Goreto set books from MOEC is used as basic books.

From the adult classes started in 1990/91, 3,238 women have completed a 2 year cycle. They are all able to read and write. They also learned about family planning, mother/child care, kitchen gardening and pig raising.

BASE has tested the students after one year in the night classes: 96% of the children managed to pass the Naulo² Bihani test and 69% of the adults passed the Naya Goreto test².

2. Formal Education.

To enable boys and girls from needed families to cope with the formal education system and later give them opportunities for a higher education, BASE provides two kinds of special support. 1. Scholarships for poor Tharu girls and 2. Special coaching classes for grade 10 students.

a. Tharu Girls School Education Support

Tharu girls have an extremely low educational status. They have had even less opportunities for school education than their brothers. Hence BASE has given special emphasis to support poor girls school going by giving them pens, copy books and paying the admission fees. The costs for this support are around 500 - 600 Nrs. for each girl per year. Up till now 355 girls have been supported under this programme.

² The tests are generated by MOEC.

b. Special (Coaching) class

In the Tharu community only a few number of students have ever attended the higher education system. At present, it is just impossible to pass the high school examination without attending special classes. This is an unbearable financial burden for the economic poor Tharu students. As a result they often fail to pass the SLC³ examination after grade 10 and loose the opportunity for later to enter a higher education.

Therefore BASE, as a part of the programme, has organized special 3 months coaching classes for grade 10 students to give more students chance of passing the examination.

This programme-year special classes in English and Mathematics have been organized for the SLC students. The classes were organized at three places (Chakhaura, Tulsipur, and Srigaon). Altogether 2 girls and 64 male students, from 17 villages of the Dang district, have participated in the coaching classes. The selection of students was made on the recommendation of the Village Committees.

The support proved to be a big success, 41 of the students (2 girls and 39 boys) achieved to pass the SLC examination.

For the coming SLC examination, coaching classes will start to run in October, 75 boys and 1 girl are enroled.

c. Higher Education Support

As mentioned before, only very few Tharu students continue to higher education. The main reason is their financial situation. Therefore the project has started a scholarship programme. The students, dependent on their needs, can get either 250 Nrs. or 500 Nrs. in support per month.

In the first programme year 15 men and 2 women have got support for further study at Mahendra Multiple Campus and Rapti Babai Campus in Dang.

The number of students getting scholarships will now increase to 34 men and 2 women.

³ School Leaving Certificate

KAMAIYA SUPPORT ACTIVITIES.

On the surface the Kamaiya system is a contractual agreement between a landowner and an agricultural labourer, where labour is exchanged for payment in cash or kind. The duration of the contract is one year and once a year in January/February, negotiations between the employer and the Kamaiya takes place. Often the contract is made only orally. This system is very common in the western part of the Terai and most of the Kamaiyas are Tharus.

If a Kamaiya is not satisfied with his master or can't get his demand fulfilled in the negotiations, he can in principle every year choose a new master. However, in the reality most of the Kamaiyas do not have this freedom of choice. They are forced by social, economic or other compulsions to accept the terms of conditions dictated by their masters. Therefore the Kamaiya system is mainly a cruel story about human exploitation and humiliation. There does not exist any balance of rights and duties between the Kamaiya and his master. No legislation protects the Kamaiyas from exploitation by the landlords.

Because the Kamaiya's cannot get enough payment for their labour, many of them are forced to take loan in cash or kind from the landlords. Once again labour and payment is exchanged, this time maybe involving a new family member.

The vast majority of the Kamaiyas, unable to read, "signs" the pawn tickets with their thumbprint, which bind them to conditions ensuring that they are endlessly indebted. This because the landlords wants to secure a permanent resource of cheap labour, which is more important than the recovery of the original debt itself. When the Kamaiya dies their offsprings have to take over the loan and pay it off with their labour. To day many families,, who have been debt bonded for generations can be found. Reports tells that such families have served up to several masters. Practice exist that when a landlord pays off a Kamaiyas debt, the whole family have to move to the new masters house and work for him.

The problem of debt bonded Kamaiyas seems to be biggest in the Far Western Districts of the Terai.

The literacy rate among the Kamaiyas is almost zero and has been a contributory cause to keeping the Kamaiyas in debt for generations.

To contribute to the dissolution of this humiliating and inhuman system, BASE has started following activities:

- * Problem identification meetings.
- * Kamaiya children education support.
- * A saving programme for Kamaiyas.

BASE has divided the Kamaiyas into three priority groups.

- * First priority for getting support has the debt bonded Kamaiya households without own house and where all the members work for the landlord.
- * Second priority has the Kamaiyas in households with debt, but with own house and where some are working under a Kamaiya contract and some under an Adhiya contract (share cropping).
- * Third priority has the Kamaiyas in households with no debt and own houses.

In Dang, BASE has so far identified 713 households of the first priority group.

a. Kamaiya meetings.

BASE has started to organize and conduct meetings with the Kamaiya families in the rural areas of Dang district. Up till now, 21 meetings have been conducted and the most common problems expressed were:

- * No alternative income.
- * Big family size.
- * Low nutrition status.
- * An inability to educate their children.

When the meetings are organised in the evening time all Kamaiyas takes part. Three main subjects have been discussed:

- * How to solve the problems.
- * The need for education.
- * Alternative income possibilities.

In the future BASE plans to organize one monthly meeting in each area. Furthermore BASE will start income generating programmes, such as pigeon and rabbit raising. The Kamaiya children education support will be intensified and the idea of family planning introduced.

b. The Kamaiya Saving Programme.

BASE has introduced a saving scheme for the Kamaiyas. Every day they take a handful of rice or as much as they can do without and store it in a pot. Every month they bring it to the BASE office. Then BASE sells the rice and deposits the money in a bank account in the name of the Kamaiyas.

The saving scheme has been a tremendous success. Six month ago 83 families participated. To day 283 families do and 83 of them have already reached 500 Nrs. which is the minimum amount to open a bank account. As a positive side effect, the home made raksi⁴ production has gone down. A part of the rice earlier decided for production of raksi, now goes to the saving scheme.

Data collected from Kamaiya households with debt in Dang shows, that around 81% of the households have debt between 100 Nrs. and 6,000 Nrs.

BASE has decided to add 300% annual of the saved amount for the regularly savers.

c. Kamaiya children education support.

To increase the enrolment of kamaiya children in the government schools, BASE is supporting Kamaiya families by paying the admission fees and the additional costs of uniforms and stationeries etc. This has already resulted in 275 Kamaiya girls and boys have been enroled in government schools in the Dang, Bardia and Kalaili districts.

⁴ Local alcohol.

Table 2: Distribution of no. of Kamaiya children from debt bonded households by school type and districts.

	No. of children	Night school	Day school	Non-school going children
Dang	2109	1474	235	400
Bardia	410	385	25	45
Kalaili	290	105	40	145
Total	2809	1964	300	590

INCOME GENERATING ACTIVITIES.

In the past year BASE has launched several income generating activities. As reported in the Half Year Report (April 1992), a Cutting & Tailoring Centre was started in December 1991. Later on, a Hand Loom Weaving Centre was established and a Vegetable Farming Programme conducted. The farming programme is now extended to include paddy and maize farming. Finally BASE has started to market traditional Tharu handy crafts and has opened a shop in Tulsipur for sale of products from the two above mentioned Centres.

a. Cutting and Tailoring Training.

A nine month Cutting and Tailoring training programme was started in October 1991. Twenty six women selected from 6 VDC's in the Dang district have benefitted from the training, which included literacy.

After only six months training, they started to market shirts, blouses etc. to the nearby villages to get knowledge about consumer-demands.

The training, organised by the Cutting & Tailoring Centre, is now finished. To day the women are working for the Centre in

return for the training. The Centre has also started to market the beautiful Tharu baskets (Dhaki) in Kathmandu.

BASE has invested 75.000 Nrs in establishing the Centre. After half a year the Centre will be financial sustainable.

In Kalaili BASE has started to market the traditional Rana Tharu skirts.

b. Handloom Weaving Training.

In February 1992 BASE helped a local Tharu farmer to start a Hand Loom Weaving Centre by facilitating a bank loan. In return he agreed in training and employing four sons of Kamaiyas. Now after 8 month training, they can make an income by weaving up to 15 meters of cloth every day, getting 3 Nrs. per meter.

c. Vegetable Farming Programme.

Lack of vitamin A in the daily food, which can cause blindness, is a serious problem for the people in Nepal. Keeping this in mind BASE has organised training about the importance of green vegetables and vegetable farming.

150 poor farmers were recently trained and the needed seeds were distributed free of charge.

Besides growing vegetables for own consumption, the production will enable the poor farmers to get an extra income in the future.

d. Potato Farming Programme.

Potatoes are easy to grow, easy to store and are cheap. Using potatoes as staple food instead of maize and rice will therefore be beneficial for the poor people.

Hence BASE has organised a potato farming programme, introducing improved varieties from India.

Recently 75 farmers have got training.

e. Maize Farming Programme.

For the share croppers BASE has started a Maize Farming programme. According to the contract, the share croppers have to give half of the yield of paddy and mustard and one third of the yield of wheat and lentil to the landlords. Maize has no interest for the landlords and the share croppers can keep the whole production.

Maize has traditionally been the Tharus main food crop even to this day. However the Tharu farmers have not applied new farming methods or introduced varieties and the output is very modest.

Therefore BASE selected a group of farmers from the adult literacy classes and gave them a training course in how to grow improved varieties of maize. Six spots were selected for the experiment and improved seeds and fertilizers were made available to the farmers. The result was good and BASE has planned to extent this training programme in the coming years.

f. Paddy Farming Programme.

Also concerning paddy farming BASE has organised programmes in new farming technology.

New Paddy sorts, such as "Khumal-3" and "Khumal-4" were introduced. Sorts which gets ready in a short time and can be grown with less water than the traditional sorts.

Two hundred kilo grams were distributed to six selected areas. The results were promising; the yield was good and the farmers were able to plant their potatoes in time after harvesting the paddy.

A on-the-spot visit was organised for the farmers in the literacy classes.

CULTURAL ACTIVITIES.

The Tharu culture is very old and rich in traditions. However, the loss of land and the resulting impoverishment of the Tharus have created a crisis of cultural identity. To preserve the culture and to mobilize the people, BASE, from time to time, organize cultural shows and dramas. Through these cultural activities, the local people expresses their needs and problems.

a. Cultural Programmes.

The Maghi (January the 14th.) is the Tharus greatest festival, where the Tharu new year is celebrated. On this day BASE organized a big cultural show, which included 63 different items of dances and dramas. The programme was conducted in Hekuli, near Chakhaura, and 10,000 local people together with representatives from government offices, INGO's and NGO's came and saw the show.

BASE mobilized its volunteers to manage the big event. The program ran from 9 pm. to 7 am. Due to good management, the event passed peacefully.

On the request of Chief District Officer in Dang, BASE arranged a mixed cultural programme during the visit of the ambassador of Bangladesh. On that occasion the ambassador invited BASE to establish relations with NGO's in Bangladesh.

Recently BASE has also started to organize cultural programmes at area level through the Area Committees. Through the shows the village people express their problems and needs. The best items from these programmes are later selected to be included in bigger public performances.

TRAINING ACTIVITIES.

Training of night class teachers and training in leadership and management for staff and the Area Committee members is extremely important for BASE. In the past year several training sessions have been arranged and staff members have participated in workshops organised by other organisations.

a. Teacher training.

The night class teachers are mainly school going young men from grade 8,9 and 10. Before they started, they were without any experience in teaching. To teach them how to teach, Save The Children, US, has conducted 5 training sessions for around 325 night class teachers. The training took place in Dang. In Kalaili BASE organised training for 26 night class teachers.

This is far from enough in view of the fact that BASE has 583 night class teachers. Also follow-up training is needed.

As mentioned in the half year report BASE plans to build up its own capacity and capability to train its own teachers. Therefore BASE has asked PACT, Nepal⁵ to come and conduct Training Of Trainers sessions. The first course was dated to take place in August, but has been postponed to November. UNICEF supports this part of the programme by covering the expenses to the trainers from PACT.

The request to SSNCC for a danish development worker in teaching from MS-Nepal has not yet been approved. BASE had also requested MOEC for seats at the teacher training courses at the Training Centre at Sano Timi. Two seats were promised, but never fulfilled.

A course for 40 night class teachers and 6 field supervisors has also been held within health, family planning and legal rights as subjects. The training was conducted by a development worker from MS-Nepal (health and family planning) and a local lawyer.

b. Training of Supervisors.

In February six field supervisors had a week long course in Sihara in how to supervise the night class teachers. Organizer: Save The Children, US.

⁵ Privat Agencies Cooperating Together.

c. Women development training.

In the mont of April and May two girls participated in women development training arranged by Save The Children, US in Kathmandu.

d. Training in leadership and management.

A week long course for 20 members from the 8 Area Committees was organised in March by BASE in Tulsipur.

In August five of the field supervisors were on a one and a half month leadership and management training course in Bombay. It was organized by two of the biggest NGO's in the Bombay area, Bhumi Sena and Sharmik Mukti Shangathana,

At the same time the secretary of BASE were on a leadership training course in Bangalore, India for one month arranged by South Asia Rural Reconstruction Association (SARRA).

Also in August a planning work shop for staff and Area Committee members were conducted. Organizer: BASE.

e. Learner Generated Material Development.

To get knowledge about how to develop local materials for the literacy classes, three BASE staff members participated in a 5 days workshop in Gorkha arranged by SAVE THE CHILDREN, US.

In July BASE and UNICEF arranged a workshop for 20 selected women from the literacy classes and BASE staff members. The idea of the work shop was to get the participants to generate an after literacy book by using their own experiences. The women wrote and discussed about different subject selected by themselves. The outcome of the work shop will become a book for use in the second year of the adult literacy classes.

f. Education as Ophthalmic assistants.

BASE has, on request from NCA, selected four young Tharus with SLC passed, for a two years education as Ophthalmic assistants. They will later on be employed at the NCA managed eye hospitals in Tulsipur and Dhangadi.

CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES.

BASE has mobilized its members for construction and maintenance of rural roads.

Lately, BASE members has builded 15 new wells. BASE paid for the cement, while the village people did the construction work.

OTHER ACTIVITIES.

Besides the above referred activities, BASE has in cooperation with the NCA Eye Hospital in Tulsipur, organized several eye & general health camps for the village people in Dang. More than 1,800 patients were examined.

In September 1992 an international research project concerning Cataract started. Cataract, which can cause blindness, is very common in tropical countries. The project runs in three countries, Nepal, India and Bangladesh and is coordinated and funded by University of Tromsø in Norway. In Nepal the study is conducted in collaboration with Nepal Neyra Jyothi Sang and Norwegian Church Aid. Rapti Eye Hospital in Dang has been chosen as the centre for the studies in Nepal. BASE has agreed to help the project by assisting in defining the patients for inclusion, organize follow up and monitor in the villages. The BASE area supervisors will receive a 3 days course at the eye hospital.

Near the village Chakauda, night class students during the raining season have planted 70,000 trees.

FUTURE PLANS.

"Tharu Education For Transformation" was initially planned for 80 night classes in 40 villages in Dang. However the demand from the village people for basic education showed up to be must greater. The idea of starting literacy classes in every village caught on like a prairie fire. BASE has in the past year been requested to start classes in Kachanpur and Banke and extent its activities in Bardia. BASE will do that according to its financial and organisational strength.

To train the night class teachers BASE has decided to form a corps on 16 teacher trainers. These TOT trainers will in November get a 10 days training course by David Walker and his team from PACT (Private Agencies Cooperating Together).

Probably a danish teacher trainer from MS-Nepal will start to work in the coming year. The teacher trainers main task will be to work together and support the BASE corps of teacher trainers.

To develop the consciousness of the newly literate BASE plans, in cooperation with other organisations, to make guide books about legal aid, health and human rights.

To support the children, who cannot go to day schools because of work, BASE will start to run classes corresponding to grade 4, 5, 6, and 7 in the government schools. One class for the poor children will be started in each BASE area, altogether eight.

Health, sanitation and drinking water are very much related fields. Hence BASE in the future intends to start up a community health programme and a safe drinking water system project. The Community Health Programme will get support from MS-Nepal by a danish nurse and a strategy is already elaborated. A proposal for a Safe Drinking Water System Project is for the moment on the drawing board and OXFAM has so far promised to support such a project with up to 500.000 Nrs.

Then for supporting the newly literate in reading and writing, a monthly newsletter in Nepali, Dhangora & Rana Tharu language will be produced, stencilled and distributed.

New income generating projects will be elaborated and started.



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