



In Touch

Tarayana Newsletter

Vol 6 Issue 4- April 2014


From the Editor

Pico-hydro rural electrification is one of the alternative sources of power plant that the Foundation aspires to set up in rural villages where there is no electricity. The aim is not only to provide light but also to substantially reduce use of firewood. The excessive use of firewood for cooking and heating is unhealthy, especially for women and children, who are the primary ones directly exposed to indoor pollutants. We hope that the initiation of the project (electrification) will reduce such problems amongst Dali communities.

The need of electricity is also felt in preserving perishable goods produced by our farmers. With the number of groups and production increasing annually, the Foundation has taken several initiatives, such as providing the solar and electric dryers to dry vegetables and preserve for sale and self consumption. And the outcome has been positive, with communities using dryers and marketing dried vegetables in nearby villages and supplying to schools, too. This time about ninety community members will get new solar dryer sheds.

Training is also provided to enhance the efficiency of women working in textile production. About ten women in Langthel gewog, under Trongsa dzongkhag were trained on embroidery and making of different designs. Members expressed gratitude for supporting them and providing them an avenue to earn income, at a stage when financial constraints are hitting them. It is an opportunity for them to supplement their family income. Such funding support is however rendered by HomeNet South Asia to Home-based workers. We are hopeful that our communities become self-sufficient and independent without further need of our support.

With poverty alleviation as our aim, we are creating income generating opportunities through formation of more self help groups.



Happiness...

“I believe compassion to be one of the few things we can practice that will bring immediate and long-term happiness to ourselves”

Dalai Lama

Pico-hydro Rural Electrification Feasibility Survey



On 16th April, Mr. Pema Dorji Tamang, along with a team from PEEDA visited Dali village under Zhemgang Dzongkhag for a feasibility study of Pico-hydro rural electrification construction. 23 households in Dali village will be beneficiaries. Additionally, the villagers have proposed for 7 more households to be included in the pipeline for Pico-hydro project.

Based on the pre-feasibility study conducted in March and the first day's walkover survey, a site starting near the walk-way to Dali village was found feasible. According to the water flow measurement study, it was found out that the available water in Lungri Chhu is 108 liter per second. The detail survey of upstream canal section, penstock and power house area was conducted. The survey confirmed that about 17 kw of electricity power can be generated in Dali village.



The community of Dali village are eagerly waiting for the project to be commissioned. They have also pledged to contribute in whatever way they can for the success of the project.

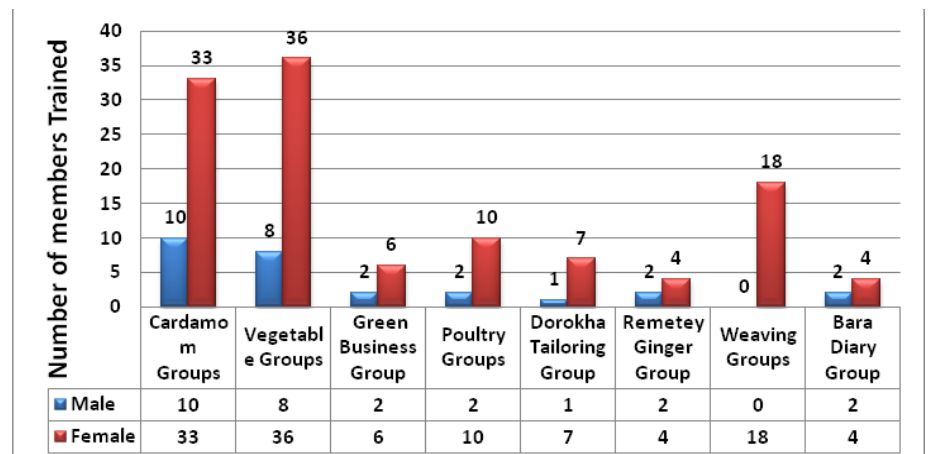
90 New Solar Dryer Sheds in Dagapela



A consultative meeting on construction of solar dryer sheds with the community of Dagapela was conducted by Mr Dawa Tshering and Kinley Rabgye on the 6th day of this month. The area for construction and availability of raw materials were completed for 90 members.

A team also visited the site where Department of Forest had permitted for the collection of timber. Areas for construction in the respective households were allotted and the foundation works have started.

Figure showing the training provided to the SHGs on book keeping, stock register, Sale ledger, Purchase ledger, Petty cash book, and Boucher.



Weaving and Tailoring Training

Funded by HomeNet South Asia's outreach programme, 66 home-based workers were trained on tailoring and weaving in Langthel. Similar training was provided to 87 home-based workers of Kengkhar in Monggar. The trainees were provided with new tailoring machines. They were taught how to fix the machines,



apart from cutting, stitching of purses, tegos and wonju making. The weavers were trained on color combination, pattern and new designs.

With this training and material support, the home-based workers hope to be more efficient in textile productions.

Paro Surgical Camp

A team of 24 (15 surgeons and 9 volunteers) from Surgicorps International arrived in Bhutan on the 26th of this month to conduct surgery for patients with cleft palate and lips, burns, scars, finger and hand deformities, victims mauled by wild animals, extra flesh, attached tongue double fistula and double toe at Paro District Hospital. The support was also rendered by Tarayana School Club volunteers and the trainees of Paro College of Education, and four volunteer nurses from Jigmi Dorji Wangchuck National Referral Hospital, Thimphu.

On the third day, Her Majesty Queen Mother Ashi Dorji Wangmo Wangchuck made a visit to the camp and granted an audience to the staff, patients, volunteers and surgery teams. A lunch was hosted by Her Majesty. Her Majesty also interacted with the patients personally and granted soelra.

In total, 273 patients were registered for the surgery, out of which only 67 of them received successful surgeries. Four surgeries had to be cancelled due to ill-health. Besides surgery, a total of 170 knee injections were carried out. The patients were also called back for the final review.



Her Majesty with the Surgeons

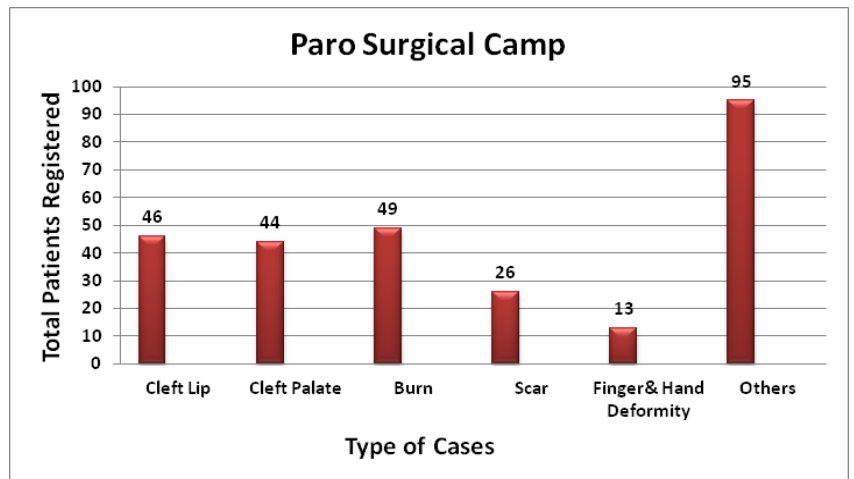


Figure showing the cases reported for the surgery

Upcoming Events May, 2014

- 2nd-4th: Celebration of 11th Tarayana Annual Fair on the theme "Rural Development in Action", BBS forum represented by field officers and Discourses on "Rural Development in Action by community members.
- 10th-12th: Interview for 31 short listed applicants for Asian University for Women, Chittagong at Bangladesh to be conducted by Ms Kathrine Roose More and Ms Sharamistha Goyal.

Support Tarayana

We invite you to be a part of reaching out to the most vulnerable members of our society through your support to Tarayana. We operate with financial support of individuals and organizations, without which we would not have the opportunity of helping so many families help themselves. Tarayana complements and supplements the initiatives of the Government in empowering rural communities towards sustainable livelihoods.

The Foundation maintains its accounts in accordance with accepted financial norms and is audited annually by the Royal Audit Authority of Bhutan. An audited financial report and an annual progress report are published every year and is available for all interested individuals and organizations.

Please contact us for more information.

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