



In Touch

Tarayana Newsletter

Service from the heart

Vol. 7, Issue 7, Sept-Oct 2015

From The Editor

Tarayana is currently working in 301 villages in 16 Dzongkhags including the 49 villages where Rural Economic Advancement Programme (REAP-II) and 20 villages where National Adaptation Programme of Action (NAPA-II) are being implemented as a local partner to GNHC and NEC respectively. These two projects have allowed us to work intensively in bringing about socio-economical development on the one hand while paying heed to the micro eco-systems management on the other. Communities are equally excited to be carrying on activities that will bring them cash income while promoting efficient and mindful utilization of natural resources.

Most of these rural communities have formed Self Help Groups (SHGs) bringing about collective advantages and economics of scale where feasible and moving towards sustainability of the groups' initiatives. The opportunity to work with the remote rural communities helps the Foundation to achieve our primary goal to improve rural lives through facilitation of income generating activities, spreading awareness on health hazards and addressing climate change issues.

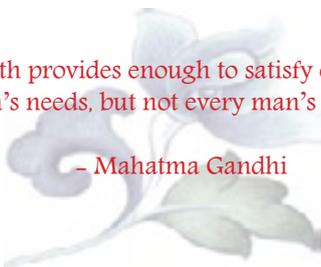
The Foundation also promotes organic farming and green technologies. In order to address the multi-dimensional vulnerabilities of these communities, Tarayana worked with several partners to introduce green technologies like fuel efficient stoves, solar lighting, rainwater harvesting, solar dryer, biogas units and eco-friendly construction techniques. Waste management is a challenge in the absence of adequate re-cycling facilities and this is true even in the remote rural areas. Effort is being made to promote re-use, composting and reducing waste wherever possible.

We, at Tarayana, will continue to promote green technologies as these interventions have significantly improved people's living standards against the backdrop of a warming world and effect sustainable local development to take place without compromising the environment.

Happy Reading

"Earth provides enough to satisfy every man's needs, but not every man's greed."

- Mahatma Gandhi



Green Technologies

Tarayana promotes the use of appropriate green technologies for the purpose of minimizing environmental impact, creating more jobs, reducing unnecessary drudgery, improving living conditions and creating sufficient time for gainful engagement. We believe that development need not compromise our environment: in fact, if integrated judiciously, they can enhance each other. Green technologies currently being promoted and adopted by communities are:

Solar Dryers and Bio-sand water filters

The annual collaboration with the College of Science & Technology (CST) in Rinchendhing, Phuentsholing has resulted in the development of easy to use cost effective green technologies for the communities. Two technologies successfully adopted by the communities in Dagana and Sarpang Dzongkhags



are the solar dryers and the bio-sand water filters in Samtse.

Solar dryers are introduced in order to foster sustainable development, which allows the communities to continue to derive incomes from agriculture using improved techniques of food preservation and reducing CO2. The driers help the farmers preserve their excess produce for use during the lean season and have contributed to their food security and nutrition enhancement as well as income generation through the sale of solar dried vegetables and fruits.



(Read More: <http://www.tarayanafoundation.org/?p=982>)

Surgical Camp at Monggar Regional Referral Hospital



Tarayana has successfully facilitated the 3rd Smile Asia (first one as Operation Smile, Singapore) Surgical Camp to treat patients with cleft lips & palates and burn contractures from the 23rd-26th of September, 2015 in collaboration with the Ministry of Health. The camp was held at Monggar Regional Referral Hospital (MRRH). The Smile Asia team consisted of 28 medical and non medical volunteers from seven different countries. The Smile Asia team was accompanied by three officers from Tarayana.

A total of 98 potential patients were screened at the camp of which 31 patients qualified for the surgeries. Most of the patients were

from the villages of Bangtar, Deothang and Gomdar in Samdrupjongkhar, Ramjar in Tashi Yangtse, Phongmey, Wamrong, Khaling and Mutangkhar in Trashigang, Narang in Monggar and Panbang in Zhemgang. All the cases were of cleft lips and burn contractures. Subsequent to the successful surgeries, Smile Asia also donated goodies for the children on the last day of the surgical camp.



(Read More : <http://www.tarayanafoundation.org/?p=917>)

Tarayana's Self Help Group



Tarayana encourages rural communities by assisting initiatives to implement holistic community developmental activities like facilitating the formation of Self Help Groups (SHGs) and supporting the promotion and marketing of their products. Tarayana also initiates in the introduction and adaption of green technologies to improve the lives of rural communities and enhance their livelihood. The 82 SHGs have undertaken income-generating activities such as farming and crafts for the sustainability of the groups as well as for capacity building purpose. The Foundation emphasizes on empowering the community members to be active, creative, and productive agents of their own change.

(Read More: <http://www.tarayanafoundation.org/?p=993>)

Lunana trip

In the month of September, the Foundation carried out a preliminary survey in Gasa Dzongkhag for the communities living in Yousena and Wachey villages under Lunana Gewog. The survey component focused mainly on the sustenance of the children living in the communities and to gather the total number of households for the REAP project. The Foundation's three member team started their journey from Thimphu on the morning of 3rd September making it to Goen Shari, Punakha in the afternoon from where their grueling journey towards the targeted villages began.

Passang, a sturdy local young man accompanied the team as the porter with his eight horses. Even seasoned hiker like him admitted to the team about how challenging the trek could be. After few hours of rigorous hike navigating through muddy steep hills the team reached a hamlet, Ramina, and halted the night there. The next day the team set their journey to Yousena; climbing up the muddy narrow steep hills, crossing several chilled rivers and walking over frozen glacier lakes. The team finally made it to Yousena after their hike for four days.



(Read More: <http://www.tarayanafoundation.org/?p=987>)



Our new range of products at Tarayana's Rural Crafts Outlet produced by our rural artisans. If you are interested in any of the products kindly contact us at +9752339510 or leave us an email tarayana2003@gmail.com. We also take in orders.

Upcoming Events December 2015

- Annual Retreat : 29th - 31st December
- Training on Community Development : 4th- 7th January

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.