

Naresh Koirala's Libraries Monitoring Report (2013)

Between December 11 and December 24, 2013 I, along with Dhan Kumar ji, NLF's program officer, visited a number of libraries supported by NLF to:

Assess their uses and to try and understand the impact these libraries have made to the local community and

To understand the issues and problems they have faced moving forward.

The assessment was based on on-site interaction/discussion with the Library Management Board and the library users. Each discussion session lasted 2 to 3 hours. At the end of the discussion we (the Library Management Board and NLF) agreed to a plan of action to address identified deficiencies, as we move forward.

I (Naresh Koirala) also visited a number of other libraries where I was invited for consultation and exploration of collaboration.

This report presents a summary of my observations and discusses the agreed action plan. An estimated cost to update each library is provided with the summary observations for that library.

Libraries Visited

1. Ranapal School Library, Dangihat (Visit date: December 11, 2013):

General Description:

Location: Rana Pal School, Morang District, about 35 KM south east of

Biratnagar (90 minutes by motorcycle);

Population: approximately 15,000

Library established: 2011

Library includes: About 600 books, two computers, children's educational toys

Interaction and Observations:

Participation: about 25 including the school headmaster (Shankar Dhakal), the librarian (Padma Giri); other school teachers and students participated in the interaction program.

Library Usage: Library has 737 members; there were a few dedicated users- the librarian read 18 books in two years. It was clear the library had not been used to its fullest capacity. The children's educational toys were hardly used.

What difference has the library made in the community? "We can get books in our own village; read and learn. Children from the village and also from distant communities have started coming to the library. We need to promote reading

and the library in the village."

Reading Club: After the initial enthusiasm, attendance at the Reading Clubs had decreased.

What can we do to improve? Regular monitoring/guidance visit by NLF; provide newspapers; new books; three computers and ready access to e-library (install a server). Revive Reading clubs.

Computers: The school has requested three more computers and servers to access the e-library.

Quotes from the interaction: " I am so much better informed than I was before the library was set up. I read 47 books in a year. We need to get new books"-

Padma Giri

" People from adjoining villages have started coming to the library looking for e-pustakalaya"- Rajendra Prashad

" Our reading club is not as active as it could be. We will work to revive it"-

Shankar Dhakal, Head Master

Action Plan for 2014

The Management committee will revive the Reading Clubs and report the usage of the library to NLF on a regular basis.

The school teachers who participated in the discussion promised to start introducing the children's educational toys.

NLF will continue to look for donors for the three computers and for server installation.

NLF monitoring will continue.

Estimated Cost: Rs 142,000 (three computers); Rs 50,000 installation of server

2. Subudhi Mahananda Academic Library (Visit date: December 13-14, 2013)

General Description

Location: Simara, Sarlahi District, approximately 18 km south of Malangwa (90 minutes by motorcycle);

Population: approximately 10,000

Library established: 2011

Library includes: About 600 books, three computers, children's educational toys

(Note: the village was connected to the national electric grid on the day we arrived. I was advised the village will start receiving electric power from

December 17)

Interaction and Observations:

Participation: about 30 including Mananda Jha (founder and financier of the library); Umesh Yadav (Chair Person, Organizing Committee); school teachers, community members and students participated in the interaction programme.

Library Usage: Library has 77 members, 28 members in Readers Club; Bishnu Dev Jha read 47 books in 2 years since the library was established.

Quotes from interaction:

What difference has the library made in the community?

We do not have to go to Malangwa to get books; we save money.

We get religious books, books on medicine ("What Do You Do If You Do Not Have A Doctor", "Ram Dev" books) in the library; that has been very helpful.

My pain in the stomach was cured because I mixed my own medicine after reading the book on “ What do you.... Doctor” - the library has changed my life. (Bisnu Jha);

I passed the Civil Service examination with flying colors by reading books from the library. (Mahadev Jha) .

Reading Club: Needs to be more active.

What can we do to improve? Provide updated Civil Service Examination books; more religious books; general knowledge books; Grade 11 books; two computers and a server connection to e-pustakalaya.; newspapers; promote library by broadcasting its advantages.

Action Plan for 2014

Start a “ Road Show “ to promote the library in the village and deliver books in the village houses.

Provide additional books and newspapers to the library.

Find donors to add two more computers and install servers to connect to e-pustakalaya.

NLF monitoring every four months.

Estimated Cost: Rs 142,000 (three computers); Rs 50,000 installation of server ; new books Rs. 40, 000; newspapers Rs. 20,000

3. Prakash Community Library, Srikhandapur, Banepa (Visit date: December 23, 2013)

General Description

Location: Srikhandapur (near Banepa), Kavre District, Simara, approximately 28 km east of Kathmandu, 45 minutes by car;

Population: approximately 5,000

Library established: 1957,closed during Panchayat period and reopened in 2011

Library includes: About 3000 books, children's educational toys

Interaction and Observations:

Participation: about 30 including Ashok Chandra Dhunju Shrestha (Chair Person, Organizing Committee); teachers and students from Shreekhandapur Higher Secondary School(SHSS).

Library Usage: Library has xxxx members, 17 members in Readers Club.

What difference has the library made in the community?

“The library has become a focal point of the community; mostly the students in SHSS use it; students from Sridartha Acedemy also visit the library.

Reading Club: The Creative Readers Club with membership of 17 meets occasionally ; it needs to be more active.

The Library organized an essay competition in 2012

What can we do to improve? Provide computers and a server connection to e-pustakalaya; promote library by broadcasting its advantages.

Action Plan for 2014

More frequent monitoring, the use of the library is less than its capacity

The new librarian is not trained; book keeping poor

The library to send its financial statement and usage report to NLF;

Reactivate reading club

Estimated Cost: Rs 142,000 (three computers); Rs 50,000 installation of server;

4. Biswamitra Community Library, Lamatar, Lalitpur (Visit date: December 24, 2013)

General Description

Location: Lamatar, Lalitpur District, approximately 10 km north-east of Patan; transportation to the village is by bus and foot; vehicular access by private car with four wheel drive possible; the library is adjacent to a high school.

Population: approximately 9,000;

Library established: 2013

Library includes: About xxxxx books, children's educational toys

Interaction and Observations:

Participatnts: about 30 including Thakur Prashad Upadhya (Head Master of the school) and some students.

Library Usage: Library has xxxx members, actively used by the community;
library acts as a community focal point.

Quotes from Interaction.What difference has the library made in the
community?

Has helped community to get together; we organized Teej, raised
funds(Bisnu Thapa); Children's toys are used for teaching (Bhim
Prashad); The library has become a focal point of the community; the
library and the community has symbiotic relationship (nang ra masu ko
sambadha- Bhioj Kala Dahal);

Reading and learning new things has given me confidence (Muna Acharya);

On Saturdays, children come to the library; we do not have to worry about
their whereabouts.

Reading Club: four book clubs ("Future Path";"Arambha" and two others); the
clubs also organize social activities such as Teej ; Deusi Bhailo. Ram Kumar KC
is the coordinator of Future Path club.

The Library organized an essay competition, blood donation in year xxxx

What can we do to improve? The operating cost of the library is about Rs.
100,000; Provide new books; Provide computers and a server connection to e-
pustakalaya; promote library by broadcasting its advantages.

**Kathmandu University School of Management- NLF Librarian Training
Workshop (December 19, 2013)**

About six months ago the Nepal Library Foundation and Kathmandu University School of Management signed a MOU to start a program of training librarians. The training will include short-term training for librarians in rural areas and an academic course leading to a diploma in library science. The one day workshop was organized to discuss the development of training modules which will meet Nepal's current needs. This is the first time a nationwide librarian training is being contemplated in Nepal. About 50 representatives from various organizations involved in library development in Nepal, including from government and the private sector, attended the workshop. At the end of the workshop, a number of committees were formed to develop the training module. The training program was scheduled to start in mid- February 2014.

Saraswati School, Janakpur (December 16, 2013)

Other Libraries visited by Naresh Koirala

Shree Laxmi Naraya Pustakalaya, Besishar, Lumjung (November 21, 2013)

This is a very well organized community library which has been recognized by the International Federation of Library Association (IFLA) and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation for its empowerment of the community. Under the auspices of the library a number community empowerment works (e.g. Women's co-operative; Practical Action Group) are being carried out. This library can be a model for many of NLF supported libraries. I was received by Ganesh Prashad Neupane and his team. I also met this remarkable woman, Sita Poudle, who was married when she was still a child; was barred from going to any school by her parents and in-laws; left the house and came to Lumjung. She was welcomed in the library and self taught. She went to school ; completed her highschool , writes poems and is now learning English and computer skills. Shita is about 50.

Samulai Bal-Balika Samudaya (November 29, 2013)

Devokata Pustakalaya, Biratnager (December 10, 2013)

This is an old library that acted as a focal point for political discussion in Biratnager during the Panchayat era. The library has some very old collection of books, but is not active any more. It is in total disuse. It has an excellent building with a front yard and rental shop properties along the road. It has the potential to be a very good, financially independent library if the locals take initiative to make

it so. It needs upgrading and management.

Sangam Pustakalaya, Gai Ghat, Udayapur (December 12, 2013)

Another library with huge potential . The management is enthusiastic and committed. Like Shree Laxmi Narayan, it also has a cooperative. I inaugurated Grihini Computer Training Center in the library. The library desperately needs about ten computers (Rs. 4,050,000- \$ 4500)

Sridhaya Pustakalaya, Janakpur (December 14-15, 2013)

Established in xxxx, it has been in a state of disuse since xxxx. It has its own building, a large front and back yard and potential to develop as a financially independent library. Janakpur, a town of xxxxx people, has no community library. It could meet its needs. NLF has been requested for support.

Libraries Under Construction , Auraha, near Janakpur (December 15, 2013)

Quotable Quote

"My daughter has.....improved her habits in looking over the books and started writing the names of our famiy after getting selected for (a) scholarship.....I have no words enough to thank the supporters who are the real gods for the poor people like me. I am quite optimistic that my daughter has a bright future with

this kind of support"

Mrs Suzkali Sunar of Humla (Mother of 8 year old Laxmi)

Nepal Library Foundation donated books to Laxmi's school library in Humla. The project was a Trans Himalaya Aid Society initiative.