

Project Proposal for Kalidevi Secondary School

Lamatar, VDC 9, Nepal

Ek Pahila Foundation is a non-profit organization established in France and aims at supporting rural government schools in Nepal with needed educational infrastructure, resources and sustainable solutions for the long term.



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Summary

The output of the project will be helping the school build its infrastructure and foster a collaborative environment through which the school and the village community members can work together for their mutual benefits and promote the socio-economic development in the region. Moreover, the project also hopes to help the local community realize that the school is an important long-term asset for the village and that a collaborative approach to maintain the school and its infrastructure will ensure a better future for the students of Kali Devi Secondary School.



1.Introduction

1.1 Key information about the school

Shree Kali Devi Lower Secondary School is a government funded community school situated in Lamatar village, approximately 19KM east of Lalitpur. The village has a population of nearly 2000 and a large majority of them are ethnic Tamangs who are categorized amongst the very socially deprived and marginalized communities of Nepal. This village is not as remote unlike other distant villages of Nepal, which lack in basic infrastructure such as roads and telecommunication but poverty, illiteracy and lack of awareness remain the main causes for their backwardness. In addition, complex social customs and traditions, hilly terrain and low yield due to poor quality soil are other citable reasons for the underdevelopment of the Tamang community of this village.

Kali Devi School is perched on a hill just below the Lakurey Bhyangang, which is at a height of nearly 7000ft overlooking Kathmandu valley and covers an area of nearly 0.25 acre (2 ropanis) terraced land. It is flanked by Basuki River at the southern corner and the dusty road linking Panauti with Lalitpur runs on the upper southern side of the school.

Initially, the school was established as a pre-primary school in 1988 with just 2 small rooms and offered education up to grade 2. At present, it has facilities to accommodate up to grade 9 and will follow the national standard School Leaving Certificate (S.L.C.) curriculum for grade 10 next year. The school is named after the famous Hindu goddess Kali, the goddess of destruction of evils, and there is a small shrine dedicated to her about 300 Meters east of the school. At present the school has a capacity of 174 students of which 85 are female students and 89 are males out of which almost all of them are Tamangs except two Bistas from Chettri casts. The school is run by a headmaster and three primary level teachers provided by the government. Besides, the school receives an annual government fund of approximately Rs 478000 to meet its daily operation cost. The amount received is spent on books, stationary, maintenance of the school, scholarship, allowance for the underprivileged class and uniform, leaving all remaining expenditure to be managed by the community.

Table 1: Number of students by gender and by grade

Class	No of students	Female	Male
Kindergarten	34	17	17
Grade 1	15	7	8
Grade 2	14	5	9
Grade 3	15	5	10
Grade 4	14	9	5
Grade 5	18	4	14
Grade 6	15	7	8
Grade 7	16	6	10
Grade 8	12	7	5
Grade 9	21	7	14
Total	174		



1.2 The issue

Since many years, the school has been facing severe problems due to inadequate funds and any external help from other sources. Paying the salary of seven additional private teachers and meeting the monthly expenses of the school always remain a grueling challenge to the school. The school management committee appointed these private teachers who are working on a very low pay –scale. The community has no independent fund of its own and has to rely totally on donations from locals, grant from the Lalitpur district and Lamatar village development committee and the amount they receive is not sufficient to meet the monthly expenses of the school. Moreover, this year the school did not receive any financial help from them due to insufficient government budget. Besides, the school has other problems too: it does not even have a tank to store drinking water, lack of desk and benches for grade 8 & 9, a library, a computer lab and the list is long. Due to financial scarcity and any external help, the school is facing a lot of hardship in maintaining and refurbishing its existing infrastructure. In spite of all these numerous complex problems, the school community is very eager to develop their school in all possible ways to provide a better learning environment to their students in order to meet the academic challenges of the 21st century.

2. Background

Ek Pahila Foundation is interested to help Kali Devi School by providing financial, logistic and technical assistance to meet its immediate, medium term and long term goals to improve its present infrastructure of the school, which is currently in a dilapidated and deteriorating condition. The school community and Ek Pahila Foundation will cooperate and coordinate with each other during the implementation of the project to ensure a complete success in fulfilling its objectives. In addition, Ek Pahila Foundation has also acquired valuable experience working for more than a year with Devasthan Secondary School in Kavre district within the Tamang community and is confident to establish a self-sustaining healthy and harmonious educational environment at Kali Devi Secondary School.

3. Project Objective

Ek Pahila Foundation has categorized its program activities as follows:

3.1 Short term objective (within 4 months)

3.1.1. Improvement of water storage and supply:

The school has a regular clean water supply for only three hours, but due to lack of storage facility, the school is not able to collect and store sufficient water for its daily need. Furthermore, there is no water supply in the existing bathrooms and as a result, they are filthy and unhygienic. In order to overcome this problem two high-density plastic tanks of 1000 and 500 liters are essential. These tanks can store sufficient water for drinking purpose and also supply water to the existing bathrooms.

3.1.2 Improvement of the Kindergarten classroom: restructuring and refurbishing

The current studying environment is undesirable for the children and has a lot of potential for improvement. At the moment, there are 34 Tamang children in the kindergarten along with 2 female teachers. Without a classroom of their own, they are forced to use half of the library room as their classroom. The children sit on pieces of carpet put together on a dusty cement floor without proper insulation. The learning environment is really beyond standard. Simple investments such as room partitions would make a big difference.

In addition, since Nepali language is not the mother tongue of the Tamang community, the children are having difficulty in properly learning the language. The lack of education materials makes it difficult for the teachers to teach effectively, and the children's learning is very limited to their classroom experience. Providing interactive learning materials will be crucial in helping students learn the national language and will allow teachers to teach in a more effective manner.



3.1.3 Cabinet for teachers

Besides many basic necessities, the school has no locker facility for the teachers to keep their books, files and other essential things safely and as a result, they have to carry them to their homes every day which is causing great inconvenience to them. Providing a 12 compartment lockers to the teachers would relieve them from this unnecessary hassle.

3.1.4 Retention wall

A retention wall of length 132 ft. x 10ft height x 3ft wide is needed to build very urgently in order to protect the primary wing building from any possible damage from landslide during the current monsoon. There is a quarry approximately 100 Meters north of the school, which has sufficient quantity of stones for the construction. The wall will be built by stones inside gibbon wire mesh of each size 2meters x1 meter x 1meter and altogether 56 gibbon meshes are required to complete the wall. Alongside, the volunteer will transport the stones from the quarry to the site and will also assist the masons during the entire construction period. In addition, the wall will be covered by mud and different species of trees will also be planted for additional strength and greenery.



3.1.5. Fishpond construction project

a. The concept

A long-term plan of this project is to generate additional income to the school and develop the concept of 'self-sustainability' by utilizing its existing surplus 0.13-acre (1 ropani) land through fish farming.

b. Implementation phase

In order to achieve this objective, one built-in- ponds of size 76 feet by 76 feet will be dug with voluntary labor from the school community. Ek Pahila will provide all necessary support to materialize this project such as- plastic sheets for laying on the pond to protect from any water seepage, 2000 fish finger links, fish feed for seven months and a fishing net and any additional materials.

The school has an employee who works as a night guard and another employee, a female worker who works during the daytime to help the school during the day (cleaning, washing and cooking). These two persons will be in charge of monitoring the fishpond on a daily-basis.

3.2 Medium term objectives

3.2.1 Computers

The school has no computers till date and the computer teacher is not able to teach computer application course to grade 9 & 10 effectively in the absence of computers. Ek Pahila Foundation aims to provide 3 sets of computers and a printer as technology is predominant to meet the challenges of the 21st century._

3.2.2 Science laboratory

In absence of a basic science laboratory, the science teacher is unable to teach grade 9 and 10 students effectively with any practical demonstration and experiments. Hence, establishing a fully equipped science lab would greatly help the students to acquire more practical knowledge of science and as a result, the students will learn equally as others students from private schools.

3.3 Long term objectives

3.3.1. Construction of a new school building

1 the concept

The present building belonging to grade four to nine was built nearly 22 years ago and has become too small to accommodate the increasing number of children. The classrooms are often poorly ventilated and further, the galvanized steel roofs exacerbate this problem. The height of the classrooms are quite low and due to space constrain, the classrooms are congested and unhealthy.



c. Outcome

Quantitative

It is generally estimated that it requires seven months for a fish to gain an average weight 1.5 kg to be commercially viable to be sold in the nearest market. A net profit of nearly Rs150,000 could be made in the initial stage. The process will continue and within a year time, the school could generate a yearly income of approximately Rs125000, which will help the school to meet some of its daily expenses.

Qualitative

Employment opportunities to the local farmers, who are in most cases the parents of the students, is also another benefit of this project and bring more unity for the parents to collaborate and work together.

d. The risks factor

Out of 2000 fish finger links, there is always a possibility of 20% death rate, which is a part of the natural cycle. In spite of this loss, the profit generated from this project will still remain as a vital source of income to the school.

e. Cyclical long-term outcome

Ek Pahila Foundation will start the first fish production cycle and will give the responsibility for others cycles to the school management committee and in future, this project could be an eye-opener for the school community that could inspire to develop other self-sustaining projects for the schools.

3.1.6 Desk and benches

There are only few desk and benches in grade eight and nine and some among them are very old and beyond carpentry repair. Students are compelled to sit crammed together due to limited furniture and face an awkward situation during class hours. Adding a set of 15 new desk and benches to these classrooms will help the students for a better sitting arrangement and learn in a better classroom environment.



4. Logistic and management

Short-term objective (within 3 months)

	Accomplishments targeted	Logistic and management	Human resources involved
1	Improvement of water storage and supply	Purchase and provide one High density plastic 1000lts water tank Provide plumbing work and pipe fittings to connect the water to the taps.	6 people 1 plumber working for a day
2	Kindergarten reconstruction	Purchase insulation foam and carpet, educational materials, stationaries, color pencils, musical instruments, Construction of the partition wall	1 person will be involved to purchase and transport the goods to the school On a contract basis
3	Cabinet for teachers	Purchase and provide a teacher's cabinet for the teachers	One person will be involved to transport to the school
4	Retention wall	Purchase gibbon wire for the retention wall Purchase of stones from village quarry for retention wall Purchase of cement for construction for the wall from Lubhu town Purchase of sand for construction from Lalitpur Purchase of concrete	100 people will be involved for 10 days to complete the entire retention wall

5	Fish farming	Dig the surface for the pond Purchase the plastic sheet for the pond, 1600 fish finger links, fish feed for 7 months, net to cover the fish pond Purchase and provide fishing net for harvesting fish	3 and half feet depth to dig 50 people working for 3 days
6	Desks and benches	Purchase and provide 15 sets of desk and benches from Lubhu	1 person

Medium term objectives

	Accomplishments targeted	Logistic and management	Human resources involved
1	Computers	Purchase 3 computers and one printer, 4 tables	1 person for installation
2	Science laboratory	Purchasing the equipment and all necessary accessories for physics and chemistry in grade 8 and 9.	The science teacher- in- charge of organizing the lab.

Long-term objectives

	Accomplishments targeted	Logistic and management	Human resources involved
1	Construction of a new school building	Purchasing raw materials which are not available in the school area A local contractor will be hired without labor charge added since the labor service is on voluntary basis.	
2	Library Set-up	Partnership with “Room to Read”	1 person