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# CASP Newsletter



The Community-based Alternative Schooling Project

समुदायमा आधारित वैकल्पिक विद्यालय शिक्षा परियोजना

## Technical Exchange Training in Bangladesh

August 25-31, 2008



Training participants pose with a BRAC pre-primary school teacher and students and Mr. Rana, BRAC Senior Communications Officer, in Gazipur, outside Dhaka.

A team of Kathmandu District Education Office (DEO) Planning Officer, School Supervisors (SSs)



and Resource Persons (RPs) and Section Officers of Non-formal Education Center (NFEC) participated in the technical exchange training program that took place in Bangladesh August 25 through 31.

This program was executed by BRAC, one of the largest and most renowned NGOs in the world. The 12 participants visited BRAC-run pre-primary and primary classes and a wide range of programs that cover such areas as teacher training,



Above: Mr. Rana introduces the BRAC community library

Left: Primary children



BRAC primary school

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refresher training and cultural and livelihood skill enhancement for girls, all operated by the NGO. They had a chance to see the community library and agricultural research center, too. Experiencing these programs was a real eye-opener for the participants. The invigorated team took maximum advantage of this opportunity, asking many questions and prompting discussions with BRAC personnel, BRAC school teachers, local residents and children.

They gained ideas to establish a more effective Alternative Schooling Program (ASP) in Nepal. Such ideas include: ASP can be an affordable way of effectively educating out of school children, anyone can initiate such an effort with dedication, persistence and love for the country, it is effective to utilize local human and material resources and empower women, and it is essential to tie an academic program with an occupational program.

Soon after returning to Kathmandu, each RP gave a presentation at their center to widely disseminate their newly acquired experiences, knowledge and thoughts to head teachers, facilitators, Education Volunteers (EVs), ASP Monitors (ASPMs), CMC members and parents. We hope that this training program will contribute to an improved ASP in the future.

# Field Visit to the Western Region

## September 21-26, 2008

Kathmandu-based facilitators, EVs, ASPMs, RPs, Ss, CMC members and NGOs, along with



An SOP classroom in the Parbat district. It was built by the community

the District Education Officer and Section Officer visited the Myagdi, Baglung, Parbat and Kaski districts in September. The participants studied how the ASP and CLCs functioned in these western districts, which had been hardly known to the Kathmandu team.

The group met with DEO representatives, visited CLCs and an ASP class. This experience was mutually beneficial to them and their hosting counterparts.



Kathmandu team exchanging good practices with Baglung DEO officials

On one hand, it was discovered that no Mother School-based monitoring system was implemented in these western districts, where facilitators directly report to their DEOs. The CASP system piloted in Kathmandu was commended as an innovative tool. Baglung plans to introduce the model in the district.

On the other hand, some regional strengths were noted. In Parbat, parents collect money to support the ASP even though they are poor. Community members participate well in the Ghatan CLC in Myagdi. Parents consider education important and regularly send their children to CLC, which is not the case of Kathmandu.

The team was impressed with good community participation and active presence of CLCs in the western region. They learned that with better community participation, CLCs will run better.

## Story of a Classroom: Where there is a will, there is a way -Chhaimale SOP-

Kopila Ban is 11 years old. She lives in Kerabari, Chhaimale VDC of the Kathmandu district. She attends the Chhaimale SOP class since April 2006. She enjoys studying. Prior to joining the SOP class, she was a student of grade one at a formal school, which she had to leave because it was located too far from her house. She is a good student of the SOP class.

In January-February 2008, Kopila's parents sent their daughter to a Kathmandu family as a domestic worker. Kopila did not wish to stay with this family because, against her desire to continue her study, the houseowner did not allow her to do so.

One day, Kopila called her parents and said that she wanted to come back to the village and to the class. Consulted by her parents, the facilitator and community people advised that Kopila return to Chhaimale and keep studying. Following this advice, her parents brought her back to their village the following month.

Kopila re-enrolled herself in the SOP class. She wants to complete the program and keep studying at a formal school. Her goal is to be a teacher.

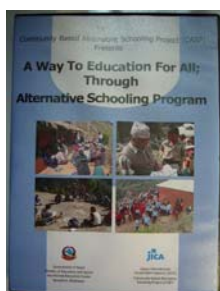
Now, Kopila and her parents are all happy.



## Latest CASP Publication

CASP Promotional Video

***"A Way to Education for All through Alternative Schooling Program"***



Available in English and Nepali

This new video, "A Way to Education for All through ASP," features the impact of CASP community mobilization activities on the pilot communities, details the mother-school based monitor-

ing system and suggests future directions of ASP.

More information

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**"Sabailai Sikchako Awasar, Dinalai Narakhoun Kasar"**  
means "Do not hesitate to provide education opportunity for all"