

Pemba Sherpa

Written report (whatsapp call, July 3, 2020, Doris and Pemba)

Teaching in Hile Nigale, Nepal

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Activities

1. Kids first excursion (6 hours)	1
2. Village meeting (in the evening)	2
3. Different groups	2
4. One week lockdown holiday (end of May)	3
5. Games in school	4
6. Celebrating the ending of Saga Dawa	4
7. English handwriting competition	4
8. Youth club	5
9. A dance competition	5
10. The next steps.	5
11. General remarks	5

1. Kids first excursion (6 hours)

We had a whole school excursion for the first time involving 30 kids-grade one and above. We started at 8.30 am. and finished at 15.00 pm. We started from Hile to Pakheray, Rambule, Dada Kharka and back to Nigale.

During the walk, we did picknicking with packed lunch and water. The kids brought their own lunch. We had lunch at 12.00 in Rambule. We danced after lunch and played games on the way. I am trying to have a school trip once a month. We have to wait until the lockdown is over. Pemba Dolma was there to support her during the excursion.





2. Village meeting (in the evening)

We had a whole community meeting. Suku Dai, Sonam Dai and Pemba spoke. We mainly discussed about how the community benefits with the facilities and educational opportunities provided in the monastery and the learning center for the whole community this year. Furthermore we also had a discussion regarding the lockdown in whole Nepal, but how we were being able to access to regular learning activities without having any disturbance due to Pemba's presence there. The regular activities in the monastery and the learning center are:

- Regular Hile school kids in the morning from 9:30am to 1:00pm.
- Seniors students have class in the afternoon from 3:30pm to 4:30 (they are usually in other cities in school, due to the lockdown they are all back in Hile Nigale)
- Parents group in the evening from 5:00pm to 6:00pm.
- Pemba made the point how the community needs to come together through unity where every individual has to contribute to society.
- When problems arise, everybody needs to take initiative, not only Sonam's family.

I discussed creating different members in a society. For example Mahila Samuha (mothers group), Eco-club and Youth club, through which most of the localities get a chance to contribute to community welfare.

3. Different groups

Simultaneously, we created different groups with different kinds of social responsibilities and duties.

1. Mothers group called " Mahila Samuha"

They are responsible for social and moral values where they pay attention on domestic violence and alcoholism. They are also responsible for social events. All together there are four leaders and 25 members.

2. Youth club

There is a Youth Club with teenager members. They mostly stay in Kathmandu which means they will be in the village not very often. However, Pemba thought about creating a new club as it would be better to have someone who stays in village or who will be mostly around village and can contribute in own society in most of the time when society needs them.

Therefore, now there is a bunch of teenagers who will be available to contribute to the community .what the community needs and what they would like to offer

Their responsibilities are organizing social events. They are also responsible for social work within the community. For instance, repairing roads, water supplies and community centre in case of any dilapidation.

3. Eco-club → to keep the environment clean

The objective of an eco-club member is to keep the whole community healthy by conducting a surrounding cleaning campaign once a month. Each individual family will clean around their house in a supportive way. The Eco-club members will go around and guide them with cleaning in case of unhealthy environment.

People from the community do things together.

4. One week lockdown holiday (end of May)

Continue classes in June to senior students again. Altogether I have 25 students. This time I divided senior students into two groups according to their knowledge level in English and their age groups.

One level: With the juniors group (grade 6 to 9)

Second level: Grade 10 to bachelors = seniors.

With the senior group, I mostly guide them with formal writings and English interactions. For instance, writing CV and job interviews applications.

Meanwhile, with the juniors group, I guide them with grammars as they wanted to learn. For example, passive and active voice, direct and indirect speech, tenses etc.

Having access to internet facilities, most of the teaching material is used through YouTube. My students are really grateful and amazed to the world through internet. Kids enjoy learning through internet. Normally, we have kids movie time where they get to watch moral kids stories or fairy tales through where they get accustomed to hear English a lot and catch up any words or accent quickly.



Up until now students have learnt how our human body works, painting or art skills and Karaoke to read and sing together through YouTube.

With the parents we watched a Buddhist video where they learn how our spirit deals after our death. The movie is about the intermediate state of the soul after death and before our rebirth as any human kind. Link <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yK6EqZ0HCVQ&t=5599s>

5. Games in school

We have some skipping ropes, Badminton. Kids are enjoying it a lot. In the breaks they have time to play with it.

Tuesday Dancing class with Pemba Doma

Wednesday 1 ½ hours games.

Thursday Drawing and painting.

6. Celebrating the ending of Saga Dawa

In Tibetan calendar, the 4th months is considered as a very auspicious month. It is considered as an auspicious month due to the reason that most of the Buddha's life activities were held in this month.

Buddha was enlightened, born and died in this month. All the Buddhists celebrate this month by earning good merits as it is also called as million month which means if you earn one good merit it will be converted into millions of good karma and whereas if you earn bad merit it will be vice versa.

Meanwhile, according to the localities needs-one of my responsibility has been guiding or educating them with some basic Buddhist education. The people of the community felt like lacking knowledge about Buddhism even though being or identifying themselves as Buddhists.

Therefore, I helped the community to understand Buddhism. Buddhist prayers during a funeral, during a wedding etc. Educating the community about this month: parents and kids.

Oral and practical thing (offering butter lamp and reading Buddhist texts)



7. English handwriting competition

Due to the reason that most of these students were quite slow with writing and had difficulties with writing clear I offer handwriting competitions.

The guidelines and tips to improve on better writing skills were taught to them. They had two weeks time to prepare on their own. Then we had a competition. We selected the best three and gave them a present. The most important was that most of the kids improved with writing.

Writing nicely and clearly with proper arrangement and usage of capital and small letters in sentences.

8. Youth club

With Senior students: Iron fence around the school compound. Reasons are as follows:

- In the football ground the ball fell out of the compound.
- For the safety of the kids

9. A dance competition

As we have planned we had a dance competition to build up their confidence and explore the dance steps to perform in front of a huge audience. We invited all the parents as an audience but somehow almost the whole localities attended the program. There were two things going on. The dancing performances were divided into two categories.

1. There was an entertainment dancing performance which was taught to the students every Tuesday when do dancing classes including Zumba dance instead of stretching as exercise moves.
2. Competition dances which were learnt by students on their own in order to compete among eachothers.

All the program went very organized and well. The most impressive thing was that I was so amazed to see that my kids were to present their own talents in dancing so well. I still vividly remembered teaching them to make to move their hips by holding their hips and moving here and there with my hands. I saw there was drastic improvement in their dancing skills and confidence.

10. Next steps.

- Meeting with youth club, eco club and mother club
- Teaching kids to some activities with yarn to make decoration stuff with Coke bottles.
- Painting
- Continuing teaching Sherpa traditional dances to parents' group.
- Have school picnic in school as kids wish to have one good meal, music and play time among their friends
- Teaching part of speeches to students
- Show more videos on projector (moral stories, fairy tales, planets, animals etc)

11. General remarks

Through internet accessibility, I, Pemba, completed a short online course of a month in English called "Becoming a teacher" from Open University in England.

Now I am planning to take Language proficiency test.

