

Pemba Sherpa

Written Report (whatsapp call, May 23, 2020, Doris and Pemba)

Teaching in Hile Nigale, Nepal

Report No 4: May 2020

1. Act of work done



1.1. Buddha's Birthday



Buddha's Birthday, 7 May 2020. I was the main leader to organize the whole program, with teenager students help. The villagers only started to learn about Buddhism. A monk came from Kaua and Rambule, we read Buddhist text. The monk made basic Buddhist teaching. I showed the villagers some practices: How to do prostration (bowing down), meaning of a butter lamp etc. They didn't understand the meaning and have never offered or done anything like that. Kids and parents read what they have learned from me. I was happy that everything worked I organized with my team (teenager students). Usually in the gompa it is very noisy, guests cannot understand the person who speaks. I was teaching them the cultural gaps. If we don't listen when someone speaks it is very rude. Gossiping – basic. This time it was with social manners and worked well. I divided the villagers into groups and they were responsible for different tasks, like breakfast and more. Most importantly the program was all successful due to the negotiations of collecting small amounts of money from all the parents, those who study Tibetan Buddhist text/prayer from me for an hour.

The next day I was appreciated from the whole team. We discussed in a feedback round what went well and what we can improve. I was thanking the whole team.

Improvement of the following: While breakfast the monks were still praying and guests left. Sometimes elderly people or authorities are allowed to go, elder before the younger. But usually the Monks go first. Some teenagers were taking selfies, which is rude. The kids were with the parents and very excited. Some people don't understand the basic moral and values of a ceremony like this. If somebody wants to say something, the rule is to raise hands. During the ceremony nobody should speak in the room.



Conclusion: Most of the villagers were happy and they got to learn more about Buddhism.

I am a little bit proud. I talked with the teenager students and told them they have to take some social responsibility. I would like to encourage the youth.

1.2. Medicinal garden with medicinal herbs



Banmara (medicinal herbs to control bleeding)



Pet bottles for the fence for the medicinal garden



The kids and me we made a flat land and a fence with pet bottles for a medicinal garden. All are looking after it, but specially grade 5 and 3 are taking care of it.

1.3. Pebble path around the learning center

I gave the idea to the kids to put stones around the learning center to stop the mud when it is raining. A path with pebbles helps to not get dirty feet.



1.4. Spelling contest

On the wall we wrote an English word which is useful for kids, like “teacher”, “play”, “sing” etc. I showed them the way, I gave them 3 weeks to learn for the spelling contest with all the words on the wall. They learned by themselves, they made their own schedule to learn. I divided the kids into 5 different age groups. Time mark, for each word they will have one minute to spell it. We invited parents. For the first time they have had this kind of contest, they never had this experience, parents were amazed how the kids were spelling in front of the audience. Parents were encouraging the kids learning by saying they’ll be able to provide more valuable prizes if they keep doing better in academic learning.

➔ *independent learning*: playing etc, but they had to manage their time when they want to learn for the contest.

The teacher wrote the tasks and they had to organise themselves when to study, when to play, when to help. Important is the contact with the parents to inform them about new forms of learning.

In Nepal “spoon feeding” is the regular teaching which is terrible.



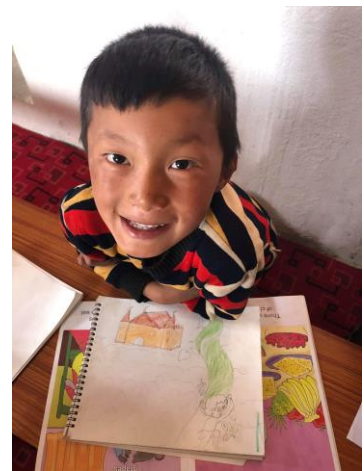
1.5. Garbage and plastic waste

In the whole community they dig big holes for the plastic rubbish, they have one for Hile and one for Nigale. We are collecting plastic together which is spread all over the place. I am not sure if it is dangerous to burn the rubbish.

Pemba Doma and me, together with grade 3 and 5 kids, we burned it all, and went away and it went well.

2. What has been achieved?

- Awareness raising of Buddhas Birthday and corresponding ceremonies.
- Rules and decency in certain rituals and practices.
- Encourage the youth to take social responsibility.
- Independence in learning at home
- Starting a medicinal school garden and a pebble stripe to stop the mud
- Teaching about the environment
- Awareness raising about cultural differences



3. What are the next steps?

I am not sure when the public school will open again. When the school will open again, there will be the academic competition. Kids talents show.

My kids want to do a picknick 😊

Planning an excursion when it is not raining.

4. Some thoughts of why I do the things the way I do them and what I want to achieve

When it comes to me to move ahead with any plans here, I mostly observe the needs of the kids: learning, interest and wants. For instance, about the cultural differences and gaps. I observed that most of the students in my classes have not seen anything of the outer world, have not even been in Kathmandu. They have not been taught to be responsible and punctual in life. I teach them how rude or impolite it is to be late in the Western World as in Nepal to be half an hour late is normal. Or for example that kissing in public in Nepal is shocking, but in the western world it is normal.

Unlike with my junior kids, I mostly make a deal with them in order to learn more. For instance, if I take them for an excursion/field trip, first they have to learn about 7 continents and some countries.

This world has different shadings, every time it is interesting to realise and be aware of how you feel if you go out of your comfort zone.

This are things that we are facing in real life. Talking with them from my experience. Telling my story, I was in Switzerland and in England they think I am from a family of millionaires!! If you are good in any skills, don't worry about the parent background. I can be a role model for them and inspire them.

5. General remarks

I spotted smart kids to support for further studies.

Cases of Corona are increasing, also in Dolakha. We don't know if we can open the learning center. Another complete lockdown from the government end of May.

Most of the parents go to Jiri and Mainapokhari, but we suggested them only to go when it is important.

I am relaxed. Before it was hard to hangout without doing anything.

We are planting a plant for making paper and also collected paper. I help the family to plant the plant. Dealing with my day time.



Paper plant before peeling



Buddha's Birthday with all the helpers



Paper plant after peeling

Hile Nigale, June 8, 2020

Signature ...Pemba Sherpa