
Pahad Association Quarterly Newsletter

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From the Chairman

Fellow Members,

Is it wrong to want more? I sometimes feel a bit of weight when we talk, make resolutions; then nothing happens! It is sometimes easy to forget that other people have work to do which is, to them, more urgent than PAHAD! We have talked about our dreams of a Pahad Village and large enough capital to pay for all scholarships we shall award. Some of us want to start doing something about it right away! And so we should!

The last several months have been very busy for your committee members. In August, we started the so called 'brainstorming sessions' at my house in order to explore adequately many questions and proposals that should be thought through. An important subject was the AGM on 31 August, when we had to elect a new committee for the next two years. Thank heavens it passed off well! One of the lighter moments was when former British Gurkha Golfers led by Major Bejoy Moktan decided to donate Rs.1050 to PAHAD on 25 August 02! Thank you Bejoy!

Another subject was the POCT International Tele-conference on 15 September, which also passed off satisfactorily. It was good to hear Pestalozzi alumni members speaking in London, Thailand and multiple locations in India. POCT raised the exciting news of the "Asian Village" which is now being planned on the ground by Phuntsok in Dehra Doon. It hopes to start receiving 24 Children from each National House including Nepal beginning in 2004. It will have direct implications for the selection of POCT scholars and PAHAD scholars because the two systems both rely on PAHAD Association to execute them.

Another item raised was the POCT Reunion in February 2003 here in Kathmandu. We are host. The Pestalozzi Centre at Budhanilkantha School is the jewel in the crown for the alumni. However, they are here to discuss other subjects too and resolve the future of the POCT movement during a sunny but rather cool time of the year. While we have yet to finalise many arrangements like the hotel where our visitors are to stay (at the time of writing), the pressure is on, first, to organise the Fashion Show, which is planned for 2nd. February.

Quite suddenly, Tihar (Deewali) was here! Everything was overtaken! Poonam said "How about Deusi for PAHAD?" The Chairman asked: "Who wants to go?" In the end Poonam,

Bhola, Ishak and Mani went. After our first Deusi House, we picked up Kumar whose baritone lent credibility to a rather timid chorus! We visited six houses and met a donor - they generously gave **Rs.7,761** altogether! Later, three more donors have given **Rs.5,002!** A total of **Rs. 12,763** - not bad for one night's work – thank you Poonam!

Dear readers, please remember that our priority remains “How to **motivate our members** – to get other members and develop a **PAHAD SPIRIT**. We need to keep growing to increase our finances - to reach out to more children in order to “Invest in their education for their future”. Are **you** helping?

With all our Best Wishes
Mani

Beginning Thought...

“Hide not your talents. They for use were made. What use is a sundial in the shade.”
- Ben Franklin

The AGM On 31 August 2002

Assuming that readers have already read the Minutes of the AGM the editor wishes to share with you some thoughts of the occasion.

Election and POCT Scholars. Electing a new Committee was entering into uncharted waters. We invented procedures and created precedents as we went. The Committee also found a way to bring POCT students at Budhanilkantha School into the AGM procedure and the election process. This will be a good historical precedence for the future. Students Shilu Shankar and Kishor Thapa did us proud that day.

- **PAHAD Scholars.** As we listened to the description of the new scholars there was suspicion that one student worked as a domestic servant. If true, the parents/guardians are surely less than committed to the child's education. PAHAD too will wish to distance itself from aiding child abuse. This needs to be investigated.
- **The Emergency.** The effect of the Emergency in the country has been huge: Our need to travel around to see our scholars in the villages, and also investigate new ones is affected. The telephone lines are down. The postal system does not work. Communication is dependent on letters carried by travelers and word of mouth.
- **Sub-Committees.** The structural proposals to set up permanent sub-committees for Fundraising and PAHAD Annual Camps will put us on firmer road to development in the future.

Trust Fund. Kumar Pandey also highlighted a potential problem regarding funding of our scholarship scheme. He said that if we project our present plans to keep adding students

annually, PAHAD will need to raise approximately 12 Lakhs (Rs.12,00,000) to meet our obligations in the next ten years alone. For this purpose a Business Plan is required.

The solution is to mount a fund raising drive and create a very large Trust Fund, which will be an invested capital that will generate sufficient interest to pay for the scholarship scheme in the future. Thank you, Kumar, for leading this initiative.

Meanwhile, all members recruiting New Members and finding yet other ways of adding to the finances should help a lot. (Ed.)

The New Executive Committee: Here we managed to retain the most active members of the previous one as well as bring in new talent into the present committee. The Chairman was particularly happy to see his old friend Major Mallal Gurung come in as the new Treasurer because, he said, we do not have anyone who can keep the accounts!

THE POCT REUNION 2003 & FASHION SHOW MEETING ON 20 SEPTEMBER 2002

The POCT Reunion 2003 will take place at Budhanilkantha School over 1 & 2 February 2003. Participants will arrive 31 January and depart 3 February 2003. As the School will be in session, POCT Scholars will be able to meet Alumni members and show them around the Pestalozzi Centre. In the evening of 1 February, PAHAD members plan to take the Alumni to a welcome supper. The next evening, PAHAD is mounting a Fashion Show to raise funds and also entertain the visitors.

The Executive Committee, itself, is naturally, the Reunion Organising Team. Bhola Shrestha is the co-ordinator. Other members are assisting.

For the moment, everything is on the back burner because everyone is working hard on the Fashion Show. Our leader is Poonam Rai helped closely by Bhola Shrestha, Kumar Pandey and Mani Rai. The venue is the Verge Inn at Tahachal. Popular musicians are being approached; Poonam is arranging the models, clothes and choreography. Design of Ramp, lights and sound systems and costs are being gone into. Next we approach the sponsors for a total of Rs.150.000.

The motto and artwork on the 200 T-shirts are to be designed exclusively for the show. Param Myangbo, a PAHAD member and a well-known artist, has kindly agreed to help.

Ending Thought...

“An obstacle is often a stepping stone.”
Prescott

“ for as long as the mustard oil shall not dry, the velvet flower shall not wither and the walnut fruit shall not decompose” may PAHAD be here to
“Invest in the Children’s education for their future”.
