

Pestalozzi Association Helping Advance Development

PAHAD
Nepal

PAHAD Newsletter

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The Editorial Board:

Major (Retd.) Mani Prasad Rai (*Advisor*)
 Hikmat Khadka (*Chief Correspondent*)
 Bhaba Bahadur Thami (*Layout and Design*)

From the Chairman

Dear Friends,

The past six months has been magical! It was very busy and highly rewarding. The POCT Reunion at the beginning of February was attended by Pestalozzi alumni from England, Thailand, India, Tibetans in India and Nepal. The Charity Fashion Show at the end of the Reunion organised and led by Poonam Rai made a profit of Rs.84,000. Additionally, the Pestalozzi Trustees paid Rs.20,000 for one of the backdrops displaying the Pestalozzi logo. We have welcomed a bunch of interesting new members - mostly brought in by Major Mallal Gurung, our Treasurer. We also received a generous windfall in the form of a donation from our well-wishers in Norway to the tune of Rs.46,633. And of course, we also added 4 more PAHAD Scholars from Dolakha and Solu Khumbu.

However, there were disappointments too. The pressure of the extra work generated by the above activities also brought out weaknesses within our working methods. We discovered false expectations and differences in attitudes. It is sad that ego, lack of commitment and poor attitudes among some could

not be easily overcome in a situation with no personal rewards.

On a different subject, my son Roshan and I, also took a calculated risk visiting my village and to extract two PAHAD Scholars to bring them out to attend a proper school. Before we went, I even asked "..... those who usually pray to please put in a good word for us!" Lal Bahadur and Uma Rai are now attending a government school in Kathmandu. They have a lot to catch up on but here at least, the daily trial of survival and selling the labour of their young bodies in the neighbourhood or having to seek fodder for their animals are no more. Instead their struggle is with home-work and personal cultural acclimatization in the city.

Today, after 3 years, I take pride in that we in PAHAD are becoming more mature and gaining in confidence. Attracting a senior Pestalozzi alumnus like Dr. Navin Thapa (thanks to Sir Richard!) is a feather in our cap! Let's hope that others in Nepal and abroad also join us in the future - at least in spirit.

Presently, the challenge is the "Asian Village" which is being organised in Dehra Doon and should open for business from 2004. Here, I am grateful to both Dr. Navin and Mrs. Jana Thapa for kindly accepting to be PAHAD's representatives to the Asian Village Management Committee. Mr. Bhaba Bahadur Thami has also agreed to assist them.

Can I also say that I feel proud to be working with the young able PCVT alumni like Hikmat and Bhaba who are beginning to get established in their personal lives and are assuming greater responsibilities in what we do. Abhisek and Ishak lead a brave band of post-school alumni facing the harsh world of tertiary education with some or little help. They are struggling but still here and still involved! Well done guys!

Everyone please remember that we need at least **16 Life Members** to see **ONE Scholar** through to SLC! So if you wish to continue supporting PAHAD **GET MORE MEMBERS** please!

May I end by wishing you All Good Health and Success in the rest of 2003 as well as BS 2060!

Aye Yours
 Mani Rai

Pestalozzi Association Helping Advance Development - PAHAD

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Fashion show an epoch

By **Tara Poudel**

The Tenth Pestalozzi Alumni Reunion My Reflections

By **Bhaba Bahadur Thami**

I could hear people coming in as we were finishing our last minute touch ups; examining each other carefully and then applying a dab of powder here or there, gently tucking in a lock or two, one more curl....

Then there was the static as the microphone cackled into life and the crowd grew silent; the night was heavy with anticipation. I had butterflies in my stomach. For the first time in the whole evening I felt the cold wind blew on me and brought goose bumps on my skin.

Once on stage, everything was so simple. The music was familiar - we had been practicing for weeks and it was a relief to surrender to the familiar throbbing beat - it took hold of me and I was walking..... Yes, I was doing CAT-WALK! And then the spell was over. We were rushing back to the changing room...changing into the costumes for the second sequence and then the third.... as if I had been modeling all my life! I must admit it was all thanks to the lady with the magic wand, Miss Poonam Rai (Poonam Didi), for sending Cinderella to the ball.

I know there had been a lot of planning in the past for fundraising activities by the PAHAD Committee but somehow we hadn't been able to materialize them. It was Poonam Didi's professionalism and some Committee Members' enthusiasm who wouldn't let their age keep them at home, who wouldn't let their busy schedule tie them up, who wouldn't let any financial or social hurdle come in their way. And at last we had done it!

The show was a grand success and an epoch-making event. I do feel that this is just the beginning. We are on our way up and I beseech you keep your fingers crossed for the future of our three year old baby, PAHAD!

(Tara is a former student of Budhanilkantha School, a senior POCT Scholar and a Life Member of PAHAD. Recently, she completed her Grade XII examinations from the Himalayan WhiteHouse Int'l College.)



Pestalozzi Reunion 2003, Kathmandu

I left Pestalozzi Village in 1999 and returned to Nepal. I felt really lost. I had no one in Kathmandu to call on for help, no money saved, no plans, nothing! Though I had applied to the UK colleges and was even accepted by some of them, funding was a real problem and therefore, I ended up returning home. Since I had no university to go to, I did not know what to do.

In a total funk I went to visit my relatives in Sikkim, India. I wanted to take a break but looking at the cost and my situation, I even thought of starting college there. For a year and a half I kept meeting financial difficulties, documentation problems and no prospects of a part time job. I was so fed up! At last, I gave up trying to complete my college there.

So, I came back to Kathmandu again. People like Hikmat and other PAHAD members helped me to get upon my feet and regain some of my self-confidence. Suddenly, there I was participating in the Tenth Pestalozzi Alumni Reunion. This was one of the best things that happened in my life after the IB days at the Pestalozzi Village. I really felt I now belonged to the big Pestalozzi family.

I joined PAHAD Association in October 2001 and got involved with different activities after the Second Anniversary of the Association. This year, I had the opportunity to help organise the Reunion in Kathmanu itself. This was, I think, a good learning experience for most of us - certainly for me!

Lots of small difficulties arose during the process but at the end, I think it all went well. I personally could not help as much as I wanted to because I was working but I know how hard some of our colleagues worked in order to make it a success. It was doubly challenging with the Charity Show being organised at the same time.

For me, it was a very pleasant experience to meet so many Pestalozzi alumni from Asia who are already successful in their career and accepting the Pestalozzi Circle as a family. I also found it a good opportunity to meet Sir Richard and Lady Butler, John Dilger and Joanna Nair. As a Pestalozzi Alumnus and being myself an enthusiast for helping children from deprived family backgrounds, I wanted to meet them. It also felt really good to meet and interact with them.

This Reunion helped to confirm my feelings that I really can interact usefully with the ex-Pestalozzi and ex-POCT students who need help and guidance. I believe that we can provide that guidance as they start their new and uncertain life after Budhanilkantha School or the Pestalozzi Village after IB - I know because I was there!

PAHAD SCHOLARS 2060

The Scholarship Committee met on 10th May and selected the following children for 2060 PAHAD Scholarship:

SN	Name of the Scholar	Age	School	Address	Grade	Sponsor
1	Bishwash Khadka	10	Shree Kshamawati High School	Suspa Kshamawati, Dolakha, Northeast Nepal	4	Bhaba Bahadur Thami
2	Dawa Phuti Sherpa	11	Jana Jagriti Lower Secondary School	Salleri Solukhumbu Northeast Nepal	4	Major M. P. Rai
3	Maina Magar	12	Jana Jagriti Lower Secondary School	Salleri Solukhumbu Northeast Nepal	4	Major M. P. Rai
4	Srijana Thami	10	Shree Kshamawati High School	Suspa Kshamawati, Dolakha, Northeast Nepal	4	Bhaba Bahadur Thami

The Scholarship is already effective. Scholarship Offer Letters were prepared on 24th May. These letters, together with the scholarship grants for this year, are to be sent to the Scholars through their Sponsors.

It is evident that these children all come from very needy families and are highly deserving cases. The financial support from PAHAD will no doubt overcome some of the family worries and enable the children to continue their school education smoothly.

Individual notes on each Scholar

Bishwas Khadka

Bishwas comes from a very poor family. So far, the huge financial shortage had been getting in the way of his education. Without support, his studies would have been seriously hampered. He is hard working, intelligent and well behaved.



Dawa Phuti Sherpa

A very bright child at school, Dawa comes from one of the poorest Sherpa families in the area. Although the family owns a small property outside the town area it does not produce enough to support the family. Therefore, the father's earning as a wood/stone worker is the main income source.



Shrijana Thami

Shrijana is a willing learner and is very hard working. Poverty has been the main problem in her family. Her parents are very eager to educate her but are experiencing difficulties paying for her textbooks and stationery costs. She is a member of the Thami community who are among the ethnic minority in Nepal.

Maina Magar

Maina's is a family struck by natural disaster in the copper mines of Wapsa - Waku. They got away with their lives and are beginning to settle in a totally new environment. Many have helped to enable them to survive but their own grit and determination is an inspiration to many.



Finding Dawa Phuti Sherpa and Maina Magar

By Major Mani Prasad Rai

Of course I had heard of the Pestalozzi Children's Village in Sussex but I never thought I would even see it! I had never imagined that I would be so involved in children's education when I retired in 1994. An 'ex-friend' of mine "dropped me" in it by suggesting to Sir Richard that I could possibly help his expanding interests in the Pestalozzi Overseas Children's Trust (POCT) in Nepal. We met in November that year and Sir Richard and Lady Butler's work has spell-bound me ever since!

Whenever, I have willing listeners, I tell them about the Pestalozzi Village and PAHAD Association. The more so in Solu Khumbu where my people live. Last April I decided to go to Solu after an absence of two years despite grave warnings from friends and family. Roshan, my son, was just as keen to go. When we got to Salleri, the administrative capital, I naturally looked up my friend, the Principal of the Lower Secondary School there. I told Mr. Premkumar Rai that I had no leads on deserving candidates for our PAHAD Scholarships for the present academic year. If he had any eligible students starting in Class 4 this year, for whom his heart cried out, he should get them to meet me when I returned the following week. I also wished to see and visit their parents.

Prem later explained that he had called his teachers together and asked them to find the most deserving families whose children were studying in Class 4. They picked these two girls. When I returned on 1st May the girls were waiting. Their parents were called while I completed the Application Forms with the Class teacher. I talked to each of the parents when they came. I was impressed by the open honesty and simplicity of Dawa Phuti's mother. I was inspired by Maina's father who had given up his village after it collapsed in the copper mining area of Wapsa. He had then taken his family, driving his animals for days to come to the outskirts of Salleri and sought refuge. Someone had let him settle on his land for free for the next 2 years. Others had given him credit to buy male buffaloes for slaughter. Pirthibahadur would kill the animal and sell the meat. Out of the money he made, he paid his creditors and the upkeep for his family. He was so upbeat! So positive that it was infectious!

Before I left, the Class teacher said: "Look, I hope they both get it but if only one should get it I could not explain it to our people. It would be better if neither received it. In the event of only one of the girls being selected for your scholarship and the other one is not, I strongly suggest that your Committee considers giving these girls even Half Scholarships each because that will give them both families a lot of hope."

On 10th May 2003 the Selection Committee awarded PAHAD Scholarship to both girls.

The Selection of The PAHAD Scholars

By Bhaba Bahadur Thami

I was going to Dolakha for some domestic purpose. I thought, why don't I bring some candidates for PAHAD?

I had already spent three days getting my domestic job done and I had only two days to look for the candidates. I did not know what to do because the school was closed and the teachers were busy with their own household chores. I too was very tired of walking to Dolakha Bazaar and back home for three days continuously. But, whatever, I wanted to give it a try. After all, it was a matter of giving an opportunity to some potentially bright but unprivileged students to develop themselves.

First of all, I visited Kshamawati High School. There, I met a teacher and talked about the scholarship scheme that I was going to work on. But he could not help me. So, I went to the Headmaster's house nearby. He was very happy to hear the news but as the results of the final examination were not out and he did not teach primary grades, he was not in a position to help either. He suggested that I go to the other teacher, Ram Shiwakoti, who taught those grades and thus, would have an idea about the students. I went to his house. He had some carpenters working with the school's furniture. He was also very enthusiastic about the whole thing but according to him none of the students from the Thami or the Dalit community were outstanding. Another problem was that the probability of these students continuing their education was very low. As the students' record books were in the school, he suggested me to visit the school early next morning.

Next morning, we met as planned and looked at the students' records. It was not very encouraging looking at their marks. However, I wanted to give it a try. So, we selected some students and I headed for the Headmaster's signature. He was happy with the selection. There, I finished the school's formality and started to visit the students' houses. I felt really good when the parents felt so pleased to hear that their child was chosen as a candidate for the scholarship. I remembered the time when I was offered the scholarship to study at Budhanilkatha School and I thought that now I can really give back something to the community which the nation would expect.

You can imagine my satisfaction when two of my three candidates were selected by the committee on 10 May 2003!

PAHAD - Acronym

Sir Richard Butler announced a competition for PAHAD as the acronym at the Reunion 2003. Mr. John Dilger was appointed to judge the best entry. Among all the entries, Mrs. Joanna Nair's was declared the winner. The winning entry was: *Pestalozzi Association Helping Advance Development*. Thereafter, we have accepted this as our official English acronym.

PAHAD's Third Anniversary Celebration

PAHAD celebrated its third Founding Anniversary on Saturday, 10th May, at the Malpi International College, Kathmandu, from 2:00 to 4:00 pm. Kishor, a senior POCT student from Budhanilkantha and a Student Member of PAHAD, acted as the Master of Ceremonies. Major Rai, the Chairman of PAHAD chaired the meeting.

A total of 33 people attended the function. Almost half were POCT students from Budhanilkantha School. We also had three very special students attending the meeting: They were, of course, our very own PAHAD Scholars. Lal Bahadur and Uma had only just come to Kathmandu from Solu Khumbu whereas Laxmi was a Kathmandu based student. Historically, this was the first event ever attended by PAHAD Scholars. We thank and congratulate these children for creating a precedence and look forward to their continued participation in the future.

The Chairman welcomed everyone. Then, the Secretary described the highlights of the past year from June 2002. He stated that it had been a very busy year. The Treasurer reported that over the past six months PAHAD had done very well financially. The Charity Show in February made good profit, cash donations were received from friends and there had been more new members.

From the floor, the students' spokesperson also stated that they were very happy to be involved in PAHAD's activities and that they found PAHAD activities always pleasant and welcome. Another PAHAD member, Mr. Ram Babu Subedi congratulated the organisation for all its achievements in the last year and wished it success in the years to come.

At 2:45 pm, the birthday cake arrived as planned. Everyone sang "Happy Birthday to PAHAD". PAHAD Scholars Uma, Laxmi and Lal Bahadur jointly blew out the candles and cut the Cake, with Mrs. Rai helping. A short photo session followed. Then everyone received a piece of the cake, together with some snacks. Soft drinks were provided by curtesy of Malpi International College.

PAHAD thanks Mrs. Thapa, Malpi International College, Budhanilkantha School and Mrs. Rai for their valuable support to the Anniversary Celebration.



PAHAD Scholars with POCT Scholars during the Third Anniversary

Asian Pestalozzi Village

The Pestalozzi Overseas Children's Trust (POCT) is starting to build an Asian Pestalozzi Village in Dehra Doon. This Village is being built to perpetuate the memory of the Pestalozzi Village in the UK. It will accept children sent by the Pestalozzi Foundations in Thailand, Nepal, India and the Tibetan community in India. PAHAD is the Nepal Pestalozzi Foundation. As such, we will be responsible for selection of the Nepali children and recruiting the Housemothers for the Village. PAHAD will also be involved in fundraising within Nepal for the children at the Village.

Nepal Representatives: Dr. Navin Thapa and Mrs. Jana Thapa have volunteered to represent PAHAD at the Asian Village Management Committee. Mr. Bhaba Bahadur Thami is a reserve member and assistant. They will be considering all aspects of the Asian Village and represent our views at Dehra Doon. They have thus formed a sub-committee which will meet regularly and make firm recommendations to PAHAD. During this process they may also co-opt other persons for their experience and expertise as they see fit.

Please Note: The Hon. Secretary is the first point of contact initially for all PAHAD matters including the Asian Village. He is then responsible for referring the inquirer to the appropriate person.

CASH DONATIONS

In May, PAHAD received the following cash donations:

- Rs. 46633 from **Mrs. Irene Johnston and her friends** who run a thrift shop selling second hand items in Norway. The money was paid to Major Rai. We thank Mrs. Johnston and her friends for their generosity.
- US\$ 250 from **Sam**. The money was paid to Miss Poonam Rai. Many thanks to Sam for his kindness.

Some International Baccalaureate (IB) students from the Pestalozzi Village in Sussex, who are members of 1066 Rotaract Club are raising funds to support PAHAD. 1066 Rotaract is a UK based club that has already funded two projects in Nepal. We thank the 1066 Rotaract and the IB students involved for such a noble gesture and wish them every success with the fundraising campaign.

POCT Online Information

Please visit www.pestalozziworld.com for online information on the Pestalozzi Overseas Trust. We thank them for kindly including PAHAD on their website. You will also find information on the other Country Foundations on the website.

Pestalozzi Association Helping Advance Development - PAHAD

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NOTICES

PAHAD Executive Committee - Addition

Dr. Navin Thapa, a Pestalozzi Children's Village Alumnus has been co-opted into the Executive Committee with effect from Pestalozzi Reunion 2003.

PAHAD's 4th AGM

It has been proposed to hold PAHAD's 4th Annual General Meeting (AGM) on **Saturday, 23 August 2003 (6 Bhadra 2060)**. Malpi International College is the likely venue and 2:00 pm, the preferred time. Any suggestions you may have on the proposed date are to be forwarded to the Secretary.

Through this Newsletter, we invite our readers to attend the AGM. Family and friends will be welcome too. We would encourage them to be Members of PAHAD if they have not joined the organisation already. Please contact the Secretary if you are interested. Also please feel free to mail over any points that you might have to include on the Agenda.

See you there!

FROM THE DIARY**Dilip Ranjitkar's Visit**

Mr. Dilip Ranjitkar, Life Member of PAHAD and older brother of our Founding Member Ghanashyam Ranjitkar, met with the Chairman and Secretary of PAHAD on 24th May. Dilip is a Pokhara based businessman by profession. He also sponsors two of our scholars from the first group, **Miss Bel Kumari Thapa** in Syangja and **Mr. Ravi Purkoti** in Pokhara. During the meeting, he gave an update on the scholars' academic progress stating that both of them got promoted to higher grades and were performing satisfactorily. He also accepted the scholarship money from PAHAD on their behalf for the 2060 academic year.



PAHAD Scholars

Editorial Note

Dear Readers,

Welcome to the fourth Issue of the PAHAD Newsletter. The history of our Newsletters dates back to July 2001, which was when the first Issue was jointly produced by Major Rai and Ghanashyam Ranjitkar. Major Rai worked on the second and third Issues all by himself in July and November 2002. This Issue was due in February and we apologise for the delay. A 3-member team of Major Rai, Bhaba Thami and Hikmat Khadka has got together in the production of this Issue. This team hopes to be responsible for future Newsletters too as long as possible. In the mean time, we would welcome anyone interested in joining the Newsletter team or to help in any way. Please get in touch.

We welcome all types of articles from members and students sharing their thoughts and experiences. This Newsletter is merely a medium to enable us to connect and to give us a sense of family by sharing our collective happenings within the PAHAD / Pestalozzi world. This newsletter does NOT belong to the Editor; it belongs to each of you and me. Can we please use it to make it more relevant for what we want to do?

Happy reading!

Change in PAHAD's Postal Address

With effect from 1st June, PAHAD's postal address has changed. The new contact address is given at the bottom of the page.



Fashion Show in full swing

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