



# PAHAD Newsletter

Issue 9

July - October 2004

Dear Friends,

I am greatly honoured to have been elected to the post of Chairperson of PAHAD. My grateful thanks first of all to our founder Chairperson, Major Mani Prasad Rai for encouraging me to stand for the post and to the members at the last AGM for supporting me. I know I am stepping into the shoes of a man who has dedicated much of his time and effort to the organization and I will do my utmost to further enhance the reputation of PAHAD. I am also honoured that Major Rai has agreed to stay on as Treasurer in the committee and I would say this speaks volumes for the man and his dedication. Thank you, Major Rai.

At the same time I am happy that Hikmat Khadka has agreed to step up into the post of the Vice Chairperson and Bhaba Thami will take Hikmat's place as the General Secretary. Hikmat has agreed to continue with the newsletter and knowing the busy schedules of these two young men I am sure you will agree with me that it is to their credit that they have agreed to stay on. Both Major Rai and I would agree that this is what we envisioned at the founding of PAHAD that eventually it would be run by the alumni. This is definitely a step towards the right direction as most of my executive committee members are Pestalozzi alumni. It is an exciting team that I lead with quite a number of the past committee opting to stay on. At the same time I am happy to welcome a few newcomers. I know that together we will achieve much.

As I said at the last AGM this committee will continue the good works like the PAHAD Scholarship Program started by the last committee and at the same time we will initiate some new programs. In this context I want to remind all our members of the Asian Village Project. PAHAD

From the chairperson

has so far sent seven Nepali students to Dehradun and we have had very good feedback regarding our selection. PAHAD's obligation towards the Asian Village Project is:

## 1. Selection of students

This we have achieved successfully. We are grateful to executive committee member Ms. Poonam Rai for accompanying the children to Dehradun as PAHAD's representative.

One problem we faced here was having to find the travel money for some of the students we selected but we were able to solve this problem by getting sponsorships through individual efforts.

## 2. Raising 1000 pounds annually as the Nepali Foundation's contribution towards the cost of the Village.

Here I would like to appeal to members for donations or ideas to raise cash. We are already being asked to send in our contribution and I know that some of our members have been busy trying to raise money. We need your help, too.

Finally, I would like to reassure all members that this committee is dedicated towards helping the needy children in our society. We hope in the next newsletter to come up with an outline of our future activities and we hope for your support in our endeavours. Let me end by wishing all of you a very Happy and Peaceful Dasain and Tihar. Let us all pray for peace in our beloved land during these festivals.

Jana Thapa

Thank you for sending me *The PAHAD Newsletter*. I am always happy to go through it and see the good work/progress that's being carried out/made by the dedicated team out there.

*Nira Gurung, Kathmandu*

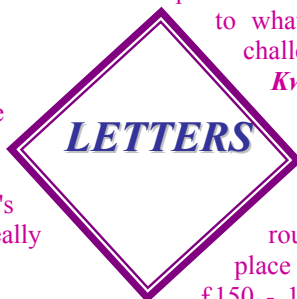
Thank you for updating me with the happenings in PAHAD Association. I have become a Life Member of PAHAD after listening to Abhishek's good thoughts. And I must say I am really proud to be a part of this association.

*Shiva Thapa, UK*

Thank you so much for *The PAHAD Newsletter*; it was a wonderful read. I am so impressed with the good work that you are doing for your people. I tell

there is nothing greater than uplifting your own people; it is such a great legacy. Johann Pestalozzi would be proud! Continue the great work and may God add on to what you are doing. PAHAD has set me a challenge.

*Kwenzakwenkosi Ncube, Zimbabwe*



*The PAHAD Newsletter* has come through brilliantly and I have circulated it around the office. There has been another round of fundraising for the children. It took place in July and raised a similar sum of around £150 - 160. In the mean time congratulations and good luck with the excellent work you are doing.

*Major Tek Bahadur Gurung, REME Arms School, UK*

### *Congratulations*

Congratulations to Committee Member **Ram Babu Subedi** on being awarded the Madhurima Samman Puraskar on 15 August 2004. The award was given by Madhurima Nepal Kala Kendra in recognition of Subedi's notable contribution to children's literature. Subedi shared the "Samman" (honour) with luminaries such as Ranudevi, Nir Shah, Santosh Pant, Kiran Kharel and Ramesh Shrestha.

Congratulations also to PAHAD's new secretary **Bhaba Thami** on his appointment as general secretary of Nepal Thami Samaj (NTS) on 11 September 2004. NTS is a national-level umbrella organisation of all Thamis.

### **PAHAD under new management**

PAHAD is now managed by a group of 13 new board members under the leadership of Mrs. Jana Thapa. Their names are given below:

#### **Office Bearers:**

**Chairperson:** Jana Thapa

**Vice-Chair:** Hikmat Khadka

**Secretary:** Bhaba Bahadur Thami

**Treasurer:** Mani Prasad Rai

**Assistant to Secretary:** Abhishek Gurung

**Assistant to Treasurer:** Ishak Gurung

#### **Committee Members:**

Ambika Khadka

Bhola Shrestha

Dhruba Kumar Shrestha

Kalyani Moktan

Poonam Rai

Ram Babu Subedi

Santosh Shrestha

They were elected at the recent AGM and will serve on the new executive committee for two years from August 2004 to August 2006. Congratulations and good luck!

*Best wishes for  
Vijaya Dashami &  
Dipawali 2061 BS  
to all our readers*

## MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

### Welcome

A hearty welcome to the **New Members**:

Sushmita Shakya

Shiva Thapa

Major Bhuwansing Limbu

Gita Devi Shrestha (Bhattarai)

Major Dalman Golay

Tilak Bahadur Praja

Major Jasbahadur Gurung

Captain Shiva Kumar Rai

Shashi Kala Pandey

Major Gyan Bahadur Gurung

Welcome to PAHAD!

PAHAD's total membership to date stands at **99**. Details are given below:

Membership Type	Numbers
Students	2
Life	81
Well Wishers	11
Friends	3
Honorary	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>99</b>

If you are an **ordinary member** or a **student member** whose membership has lapsed, please remember to renew it and bring it up to date.

Our special thanks and congratulations to **Major Mallal Gurung** and **Major Mani Prasad Rai** for bringing in a maximum number of members!

**More members are needed for their help, their skills and their money.**

***HAVE YOU BROUGHT-IN A NEW MEMBER?***

## Scholarship Update

The summary of PAHAD's scholarship programme to date is given in the following table:

Development Region	District	Girls	Boys	Total
<b>Western Nepal (3)</b>				
	Syangja	1	0	1
	Kaski (Pokhara)	1	1	2
<b>Central Nepal (9)</b>				
	Dhading	0	1	1
	Kathmandu	2	2	4
	Lalitpur	2	0	2
	Dolakha	1	1	2
<b>Eastern Nepal (4)</b>				
	Soluhumbu	3	1	4
	<b>Total</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>16</b>

The PAHAD scholars are generally doing well. In particular, **Kavita Shrestha** from Lubhoo, who was selected this year, did extremely well in her exams and her school double promoted her from grade 3 to grade 5.

The committee decided to discontinue the scholarship of **Sushma Shrestha** from October and award it to another candidate from Pokhara, **Devaka Bastakoti**. Devaka is a fourth grader at a local government school and our Pokhara-based member Dilip Ranjitkar will be responsible for monitoring her scholarship.

### Request to Members

Members, please note that PAHAD will be awarding scholarships to four new children next year. Therefore, please start looking for potential candidates and also start the selection process if possible. Forms can be obtained on request from the secretary. All completed forms are to be submitted before 15 April 2005. The final selection will take place in May 2005.

## PAHAD observes fifth AGM

PAHAD's 5<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting (AGM) took place on Saturday, 21 August 2004, at the usual venue, Malpi International College. At 14:15 hours, the quorum was complete and the MC, Abhishek Gurung, called the meeting to order. 31 people attended and Major Mani Prasad Rai, former Chairperson of PAHAD, presided the meeting.

Mr. Pradip Pandey was reappointed as PAHAD's auditor for 2062 BS and his usual remuneration was approved.

Bhola Shrestha spoke of the Pestalozzi students and activities at Budhanilkantha School and in Doti. He also invited Mr. DK Shrestha to give an update on the vocational projects carried out at the Pestalozzi Centre at Budhanilkantha School. Major Rai spoke on the up-to-date progress of the Asian Village.

The AGM was requested to direct the new committee to explore the ways and means to achieve: a) Scholarship Trust Fund, b) Rolling Student Loan Fund, and c) Financial Grants.

The AGM also approved changes to the constitution following the presentation of an amendment draft based on previous discussions.

Former Secretary, Hikmat Khadka, summarized the minutes of PAHAD's previous AGM held in August 2003. He also gave a brief update on the PAHAD scholarship scheme and scholars.

Former Treasurer, Major Mallal Gurung, presented the accounts for the financial year from 1 Shrawan 2060 to 31 Ashad 2061. The accounts were approved by a show of hands.

Then the executive committee that had served for two years from 2002 to 2004 was dissolved and the floor was handed over to the Election Officer (EO), Lt. Gen. Krishna NS Thapa, to proceed with the election.

The EO called for nominations. 14 candidates were nominated and 13 of them were elected to the new board. The EO chaired the meeting to help decide key appointments within the new executive committee to serve for the next two years. He congratulated the newly elected committee members and wished them success in their new tenure.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 pm. Refreshments, kindly sponsored by Major Mallal Gurung, were available after the meeting.



## P e s t a l o z z i W o r l d

### Pestalozzi Children's Village Society (PCVS)

**Mr. Phuntsok Tashi, Director of the Pestalozzi Children's Village Society, wrote to Country Foundations on 20 September 2004. Extracts from his e-mail are published here:**

"It's an immense pleasure for me to inform you that a mile-stone step has been achieved in the work of the Asian ex-Pestalozzi students: the first batch of 24 children in the Pestalozzi "Village" arrived on 1st September 2004, comprising children from India, Nepal and the Tibetan refugee communities.

The children are all 11 year-olds from destitute families, selected for their high intelligence and potential to perform well in their schooling. They are 10 boys and 14 girls and a real mix of cultures and religions (Buddhists, Hindus, Christians and even one brave pagan). Considering so much killing and destruction in our world today, it's such a joy to see these young children living together as brothers and sisters.

I ask for all your prayers for the future of these young children. I would also like to request you the commitment during the reunion to contribute GBP 1000 by each Foundation for the first year towards the education and social care of these children. I request PAHAD for their contribution towards the Nepalese children, the Indians towards the Indian children and I will try my best to raise my share towards the Tibetans. I request the Thai Pestalozzi brothers and sisters for their contribution towards the general up-keep of the "Village". Such gestures from the Foundations would greatly help in making others give to our cause.

Phuntsok Tashi  
PCVS, Dehradun"

### PCVS Update

Phuntsok Tashi and his colleague Cheme Palden came to Kathmandu on 1 July to select the Nepali children. 15 children were seen and interviewed. 7 of them were selected for PCVS.

The selected children reported to Dehradun on 1<sup>st</sup> September 2004. They were delivered safely to Cheme and Phuntsok on 31 August by Poonam Rai.

Phuntsok and Cheme kindly met the party at the railway station and welcomed them with garlands.

PAHAD owes Poonam a debt of gratitude for her leadership throughout the journey - especially on the return leg for her foresight, determination and

understanding in keeping everyone together, motivated and for their safe return to their homes.

Before travelling to Dehradun, parents were asked to cover expenses for their own children. However, some children needed help with the finances. **Dr. Bimla Pradhan** (wife of Rotarian Gyanendra Pradhan) and **Hon. Bishnu Pratap Shah** (President, Rotary Club of Budhanilkantha) kindly donated Rs. 3500 each towards the needy children's journey. Likewise, **ASMAN** contributed to the travel expenses for the two girls from Mary Ward School, Lubhoo. PAHAD is very grateful to the donors for their generosity and support.

### Nepal Representative

**Bhola Shrestha is our national representative on the PCVS management committee. He will also be the main link between PCVS and PAHAD.**

### Further updates from Conference Call

*On 26 September, a telephone conference call for Pestalozzi Overseas and the Asian Foundations was organized. PAHAD also participated in it and was represented by Bhola, Bhaba and Hikmat. On behalf of the Nepal Foundation, Bhaba made a short presentation.*

*The major highlight of the conference call was the progress report on the Asian Village, which Phuntsok presented. The following information is based on his report and extracted from the minutes of the telephone conference call drafted by Joanna Nair.*

“The Centre in Dehradun has just opened and since the purchase of the land is taking some time the children are in interim accommodation (a big rented house) until the Village is built.

24 children arrived on the 1<sup>st</sup> of September; 9 Indians from Hazaribhag in the poorest state of India, 8 Tibetans from India and Nepal and 7 Nepalese from just outside Kathmandu. There are 14 girls and 10 boys.

An Indian housemother, a Nepalese Assistant housemother and a cook have been appointed.

The children are receiving intense courses in English and other subjects as well as skills training in for

example computing in order to prepare them for entry into local schools at the beginning of the school year in April 2005.

The selection of the children was carried out very carefully and has been a great success; they are likely to do well and benefit from the schooling. Initially a group of 20 children had been selected through the in country Foundations or through a similar organisation. PAHAD had carried out this first selection in Nepal and the Bishop of Hazaribhag in India, from a centre for poor children from rural backgrounds. For the next stage of selection Phuntsok and Cheme had travelled round to conduct interviews with families and IQ tests in order to select 8 children from each nationality.”

*Also at the conference call, the following information on **Reunion 2005** was given:*

“The Reunion is to take place in February, on the 19<sup>th</sup>/20<sup>th</sup> weekend. Participants will meet in Delhi on the Thursday before the Reunion weekend and be back in Delhi on the Monday following the Reunion weekend. In order to ensure that everyone gets tickets for the train and accommodation is booked in Delhi Foundations are asked to inform the POCT Office of numbers attending by Friday January 14<sup>th</sup>.

Accommodation will be in the Devloka Guest House, Clementstown, Dehradun where the meetings will also take place. The Asian Village students will put on a cultural show and Foundation members are asked to make other suggestions for the weekend's programme. Those participating should remember to bring warm clothes since the nights are cold.”

# Nepal POCT News

By Bhola Shrestha, POCT Nepal Coordinator (10 October 2004)

## ***Pestalozzi Centre, Budhanilkantha School (PCBS)***

A new PCBS students' committee has been formed for the year 2004-05. Anjushree is the president. The committee organized a welcome meeting for new POCT scholars and a farewell meeting for the outgoing ones. The committee has divided responsibilities among students to oversee the works of the centre. All post SLC students volunteer to supervise Internet project on rota.

25 junior girls (including non POCT) take sewing class held on Friday and Saturday. Cooking class is set to resume from next term (i.e. after the festival). The paddy farm covers 20 ropanis and vegetables such as radish, cauliflower, broad leaf mustard, cover 2 ropanis. Preparation is being made for large-scale potato and onion cultivation. Carpentry class, which is compulsory for grade 7, continues. All costs for these activities are borne by PCBS so far. With income from the Internet project dwindling, PCBS is seeking new ways for increasing its income in order to cover the cost of different activities it supports.

## ***Nagarkot trip***

A day trip to Nagarkot was organized on 18 July 2004. 30 Budhanilkantha students, together with a number of college students – Ambika, Shushila, Yangzee, Lokendra and Kishor (Lokendra and Kishor being UWC students), and alumni - Hikmat, Bhaba, Ganga and Dr Navin Thapa, participated enthusiastically. The rain prevented from a longer trek, so only a short trek was done. Besides, there was a lot of socializing of children with the alumni, college students and POCT coordinator and impromptu singing sessions. Time did not permit to

hold sessions on the regular stuff such as Pestalozzi philosophy, circle of success, etc. Instead, a short session to orient junior scholars on Pestalozzi philosophy was held at Budhanilkantha School on 18 September 2004. Thanks to the support of D K Shrestha and post-SLC students to organize this.

## ***Senior Students/Alumni News***

Bishnu began his IB course at Hastings in August and seems happy. Jayakrishna joined UWC, Pune in early September and seems well adjusted to the new environment. Ganga, after finishing his A level, is teaching at Campion School. Anuja Sigdel, who won scholarship to Japan, is well settled there and is very happy. Ambika has joined B. Sc. Environment Science at Kathmandu University. Shushila has completed her 10+2 and is preparing for medical entrance exam. In August, senior students from Budhanilkantha participated at the PAHAD AGM held at Malpi International. Santosh, Ambika, POCT college students and Sushila attended too. Yangzee and Kamala got admission in 10+2 Business course at Prime College. Hima is doing well in her nursing course in Nepalgunj. Abhishek is employed full time at a call center.

## ***Doti***

The construction of a girls' hostel is complete and is already housing students. Thanks to the British Embassy, who provided an additional fund of Rs. 395,000 for Doti girls' hostel to make up for the deficit. And thanks also to Mr. Lal Bahadur Kathayat, the headmaster of the school, for his tireless efforts. 6 POCT scholars have been selected this year too for class 6.

## P e r s p e c t i v e s

Jayakrishna and Bishnu, both former POCT students from Budhanilkantha School, are now studying the IB in India and England. In their articles below, they write about their new lives away from home.

### ***Letter from Pune***

*The first time I heard of the IB (International Baccalaureate) was when I was in grade 10. Since then, I was fascinated by the rigorous pre-university course of studies leading to examinations that meet the needs of highly motivated secondary students and the fact that it incorporates the best*

*elements of many. More than the IB, I was excited to know about the United World Colleges (UWC). The idea to bring the youths from different parts of the world together was, in fact, great, especially in today's world where the inter and intra conflict is arising due to small things. Since then, going to*

one of these UWC colleges became my dream.

It has been two weeks since arriving at the Mahindra United World College of India. The college and the programme of study are as expected. Besides regular studies, we also have an interdisciplinary Theory Of Knowledge (TOK), which transcends and unifies academic areas and inculcates in us the habit to appreciate each other's culture. Another most important thing is the opportunity to participate in the Creativity, Action and Service (CAS) activities. I have been able to take these things without difficulty as I was subjected to academic as well as extra and co-curricular activities while at Budhanilkantha School. Actually, I have no words to thank Budhanilkantha School and Pestalozzi Overseas Children's Trust (POCT), UK for providing me with this wonderful opportunity.

When I compare my current position with that of my friends, I find a lot of differences. My friends in the village are deprived of education by the so-

called Maoist insurgents. But here I am, receiving probably the best education in the world (as people say). This difference was all due to Budhanilkantha School and Pestalozzi Overseas.

At Budhanilkantha School, I was fortunate enough to represent my home region. In fact, it gave me a wonderful experience to learn about the diversities of Nepal, as the students from different social, cultural and economic strata live together as a single family. That helped me appreciate other cultures and to feel proud of my own identity. Here, at UWC of India, it is a step ahead as I am living with the students from different parts of the world. I am having a wonderful time!

I believe that I have utilized the opportunity given to me at Budhanilkantha School and hope I lived up to the expectations of the school and Pestalozzi Overseas. I will try to live up to your expectations here as well. Once again, thank you Budhanilkantha School, and thank you Pestalozzi Overseas.

### First impression of England

By Bishnu Bahadur Thapa

Just before my departure to the UK, I wondered what I would have to do after reaching Heathrow Airport. As soon as the plane landed at Heathrow, I got off and followed the directions indicated by the "arrows". But the size of the airport startled me. I had not even thought in my wildest imagination that an airport could be so huge! The walk up to the immigration desk was rather lengthy and tiresome. However, things got better after I met up with my Tibetan and Indian friends in the arrival lobby. They were also going to Pestalozzi.

As I write this story now, it has been four weeks since arriving in the UK. But it doesn't feel that long. It was really exciting to go around and see places and faces before starting college. Then, I did not face even a single problem settling into the Pestalozzi International Village. Neither did I feel the slightest sense of loneliness. That was possibly due to my long boarding experience at Budhanilkantha School. And, of course, the helpful and homely Pestalozzi community made life easier for me too. I must admit it was quite difficult in the beginning to get used to the accents of some of my friends from other countries, but it is all settled now.

I always had a stereotypical thinking in my mind about England being very developed. It must be full of concrete buildings, vehicles, factories and all the other nice things - I used to think. But to my surprise, it wasn't everything I had thought. I feel England has environmental issues about which it is very concerned. It has landscapes as beautiful as the ones in my home country. The road network is organized and well maintained. The traffic system is very efficient.

Traffic congestions are rare. Seat belts are compulsory. And the list would go on... But what impresses me about the system is the way everyone respects the rules they are expected to follow. They do not breach them.

I have noticed that the English society is very much particular about punctuality. Everybody is expected to be exactly on time for all activities. I find that incredible. Even cash machines fascinate me in England. This system was new to me. Using bankcards to withdraw cash through these machines obviates the burden of carrying money while going to town. However, I find England quite expensive for shopping. Before buying any item, I tend to compare its price with its likely cost in Nepal. But it does not work that way, does it?

From time to time, I go to the sea, which is near Hastings College. Before coming to England, I often fantasized about the sea. In my imaginations, I always felt the thrill of sitting by the beach. That has become a reality now and I simply love it. I watch the sea waves rising and falling. The sea is also visible from my Biology classroom. The sight is panoramic, invigorating!!

I am definitely enjoying my new life at Pestalozzi. The staff and students are very supportive. I feel that the Pestalozzi staff are really devoted to promoting the sense of international understanding through their work. They are here to make a real difference to the lives of people like me. I look forward to the rest of my two years at Pestalozzi. I am sure they are going to be really rewarding and worthwhile!!

## DONATIONS

- **Margaret Dunham** from **REME Arms School, UK** who kindly sent us the donations in May had a fund raising tea party and raised a further **£160** for PAHAD. In September, she sent the funds with Major Tek Bahadur Gurung. This, when converted into local currency, came to Rs. 21,551.
- **Mrs. Irene Johnston** and her colleagues at **The Thrift Shop, Stavenger** in Norway donated **£170** (Rs. 22,520.50 in local currency).
- **1066 Rotaract Club, UK** raised **£500** in aid of PAHAD.
- **Ms. Kalyani Moktan** donated **Rs. 1000** in October.
- **Ms. Devi Lama** donated **Rs. 4000** towards PAHAD's scholarship trust fund.
- The band **Steam Injuns** donated a portion of their income from their charity concert on 25 September to PAHAD. Approximately **Rs. 28,000** was collected. This became possible through Poonam Rai's personal efforts. The October issue of the *Wave Magazine* (<http://www.wavemag.com.np/2004/october/hitsfm.html>) has published the following extract:

*“Abhaya and the Steam Injuns are set to release their much awaited debut album. In the meantime they gave startling performance on 25 Sept. when they presented their 'Interpretations' of Soul, Motown, Blues and Funk. This was also a charity event with proceeds donated to PAHAD, an organisation investing in education for underprivileged children.”*

*PAHAD thanks all the donors for their generosity. Thank you very much!*

### **Suggested Fundraising projects:**

- **Individual Donations** – Individual members are to be approached for donations.
- **Raffle** – A raffle is to be held in the near future, possibly in November.
- **Bring and Buy Sale** – A 'bring and buy sale' is to be organized while celebrating one of our festivals which takes place during January.

## N e w s l e t t e r 1 0

The next issue of *The PAHAD Newsletter* will be published in January 2005. Please send your feedback and contributions to [pahadonline@gmail.com](mailto:pahadonline@gmail.com) before mid-January.

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