

14  
November  
2017

# dnh brief



**DNH**



[www.dnh-stuttgart.org](http://www.dnh-stuttgart.org)

**NAMASTE**

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Dear Members and dear Friends of the GNHA,,

One of the most well-known GNHA projects for girls, the PIN (People In Need) project, has now become history. This summer the PIN House was closed with the consent of all those involved. With the help of its highly dedicated donors, the GNHA had been supporting it for almost 25 years. The Final Report written by Sushma Bajracharya, the long-standing Chairperson of this NGO, summarises this epoch once again.

We share Sushma's view that with this PIN House concept a great deal has been achieved, and a considerable number of girls were able to profit long-term. However, PIN did not manage to attract a new generation of carers for implementing more up-to-date concepts for supporting girls from precarious living circumstances in a more targeted way.

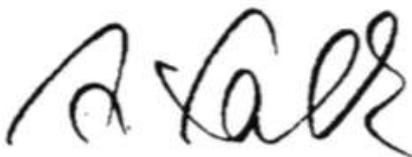
For the girls from the lowest caste, the Organisation Children Nepal in Pokhara which we support follows another approach. By closing down the PIN project and reapplying the financial scope now available we were able to stock up the number of girls looked after there from 100 to 150. The girls live at home and are looked after by social workers during their entire education, both as regards their family and schooling commitments. The article written by Sabine Pretsch will give you an exemplary insight into the family lives of these girls.

A visit to a Dalit family in the slum and to the elderly Tibetans in the refugee camp in Tashiling, left an indelible impression on one of our participants in the Project Trip (March/April 2017). You can read about his own personal experience in the report he wrote.

The repair and new construction of the classrooms in widely scattered locations throughout the earthquake area are progressing well. We are on the right track but there is still a great deal to do. A simple table will give you an insight into what we have achieved and what still remains to be done with your help.

We therefore thank you for your attention and your loyalty, and for your interest in our projects and your support, in whatever form.

In this spirit, I greet you here with a sincere "Namaste".



Andreas Falk  
President

## **PIN-Nepal – 25 Years of „Empowerment to Girl Children at Risk” (EGCR)**

*by Sushma Bajracharya*

### **START**

Six school friends after completing their higher studies and entering into professional life wanted to do something good for the society. Their thought was to return something to their own country people in deep appreciation of what they received from the country. That was the time, when everyday there would come some news on child abuse, specially the girl children. Therefore the friends decided to do something with those children. Those six friends are: Anita Mannadhar, Rose Shrestha, Rajani Shrestha, Panna Tuladhar, Kapila Shrestha and myself, Sushma Bajracharya. That was the time and now, I cannot even believe that 25 years have already gone.

Child Workers in Nepal (CWIN) helped us a lot in this regard. First we started an emergency shelter for the girls, who were rescued from being abused. We rented three small rooms in Kalimati. The girls came there, had wash, played, learned a bit to read and write, stayed there if they wanted and went back “home” if they wished. Sunita, Bina and Savitri were the first three girls. While working with them, we learned that most of their families came from rural areas in search of better living in Kathmandu. They were disillusioned and landed in the street or in the filthy squatter areas. Slowly many more girls started coming to us. Late Savitri Didi was with us from the day one. She was mother to all the girls throughout. We used to stay there in turn, since we had no staff, and did everything on our own. We picked the girls from street, from places, where they were begging to maintain their family. It was a great learning journey for all of us. Our families were not happy with us, because we were working and living with “dirty children”, they were full of lice and we were infested with lice very soon. However, we were able to clean the kids as well as ourselves within few weeks.

### **JOURNEY**

We took them out on picnic and to have coffee in restaurants. In the beginning, going with them to the restaurant was an experience in itself. First, they did not want to get inside, because they said “the owners will not allow us inside. We buy food from outside and make payment and we eat outside.” That was an eye opener for all of us. They like their money, but they won’t allow them in. When they see children going to school with bags and uniform, they would say “wish we could also go to school”. Thus, the journey of EGCR took another turn. That is the point, when we thought, maybe we should start residential programme for them. It was impossible for them to study from places where they lived. By that time, they were 11 girls. We started preparing them for school, as they had never gone to schools before.

We contacted GNHA for support and they very kindly agreed to support for up to 40 children.

Now it has been 25 years. 367 girls have benefitted from residential programme and 1387 have benefitted from Day School programme. The number may not seem very big. But if we think about the impact, it is very big. We never focused on children, who have no parents. There are many more programmes for orphans from the government side as well as others. We focused on girl children with parents, who were struggling and had difficulties in managing their own lives in a big city like Kathmandu. The idea was to support the family by temporarily supporting children, so that they can better be engaged to improve their living conditions and one day, the girls can be reunited to their families.

We also supported the parents in their efforts. Thus, out of 367 total residential children up to now, 228 were reunited after a shorter period, as their parents were enabled for better livelihood. 114 of them were reunited after SLC and 25 are still at Carmen House, will be reunited or taken care otherwise by facilitating search of other options.



In our journey, we have also made some experiences, which are rather not so happy ones. Pretty much in the beginning, three children ran away from home; all three were picked from street. They perhaps loved their freedom on the street. One of them died in another home. However, in her last days, she did come and visited us regularly. We never met the other two. One child, Subarna, died of brain tumor. Though sad ones, those are also precious experiences. Recently about six months ago, our beloved Didi, who served everyone with great care from day one passed away. We are praying for her eternal peace.

This has been a great learning journey for us. We learned a lot from all the children, their families. We learned a lot about our own country, people, societies, values, happiness, sorrow and about life.

Thus while starting, we never thought that the journey would go so long. 25 years are quite long and we all have been working tirelessly.

### **Focus**

Carmen House was never run as a hostel. The focus was to make it home or family for children and an extended family for all of us. With time, our families were proud of what we were doing. They also supported us in whatever way they could. Our children found many more siblings. We made it a point that the Carmen Weiss House was run like an average Nepali family, no luxury, with sense of sharing and caring each other and complete austerity. We were perhaps not perfect, but a very happy family. Everyone takes care of others and sharing and caring was the value we maintained. It was a true community in its fullest form along with formal school education, they learned various life skills. They learned many skills, which would help them live their lives meaningfully. It was all about being a good human being.

List of some of the skills, which the girls learned, are as follows:

- Living together in a family.
- Household management, including cooking, health and hygiene, marketing, taking care of sick and weaker ones, respecting elders and loving younger ones, mutual support etc.
- soft toy making, making butter lamps, incense etc
- tailoring/knitting
- beautician
- gardening
- composting
- vermiculture
- dance/music
- painting/drawing
- poetry
- computer
- nursing
- Pasmina making
- teaching

## SOME FACTS AND FIGURES

Given below is the journey of EGCR-PIN Nepal in figures

S.No.	Activity	Total Number of Girls
1	Short term residential (1-3 years)	228
2	Long term Residential (upto high school and more)	139
3	Day School	1387
4	SLC Passes	37
5	School admission for day scholars	328
6	Support for Study beyond SLC	8

### IMPACT

As the above figure shows, EGCR has supported altogether 1754 girls through residential and day scholar programmes. The number may seem rather small. But if one thinks about its impact at least three generations and many more to come. The girls have supported their parents and their siblings. They are also successfully managing their own families and children. Their children are getting good education and will in turn be managing their lives successfully. It would not be wrong to say that the EGCR not only has vertical as well as horizontal impact.

Moreover it has been able to create some wonderful human beings, who are contributing positively to their societies.

### A LOGICAL CONCLUSION OF THE EGCR

Everything that starts has an end. This is the truth of the life, which is ever changing. When we started, I was 28 years old and now... My daughter Tara was 6 years old and now she has a son. The first children we started with, are now almost 40 years old and they are managing their families successfully. On 23<sup>rd</sup> of March 2017, we had a gathering of all the graduates of EGCR and the present children. The event was great fun. It was so nice to see all 35 children, who could make to the gathering are doing very good. Many of them have their own businesses or are working in good places. Some of the girls are working abroad like Cyprus, Dubai, Qatar and are doing very good

Many have already built a house and others have purchased lands. They are working as successful business women, nurse, tailor, beautician, sales girls. The younger ones are continuing their studies, while working side by side. They have grown to confident young ladies, very polite, cultivated and caring.

During that event, it became evident that they have very strong bond to each other and they are like family to each other. When Savitri Didi died, all the graduates supported her family even financially and also managing all the funeral and rites.

Every one of them expressed that they have learned great values of life, skills and confidence to manage their lives. They also opined that they cannot even imagine, what their life would be, if they did not get support from PIN Nepal. They were saying that they would still be living in those filthy squatters, being abused every step and their children would be on the streets. We are so happy to see that all the girls are doing well. We feel very proud to see the progress of the girls. Most of all, they are supporting others in whatever small or big way, they can and want to continue to do so.

This is the right time to bring EGCR to a logical conclusion. We are not getting any younger. The girls have different interest than to continue with the EGCR. On the other hand, there are many homes around in the town, whereas, when we started, there was none for the girls with parents. Another reason is that the Carmen Weiss House as it is now, does not meet the requirements set by the government of Nepal. The house is too small to accommodate 40 children according to the government norms.

There is also another discourse in the pedagogy that it is better to support children at their homes, where their parents take the responsibility. We would like to start with something small supporting children for education. We will continue to do so on our own as we did during the start of EGCR. We are happy and proud for what we have done. We have been able to make small contribution to our societies and we are also very grateful.

GNHA has been a very faithful friend throughout our journey. It has supported us for almost 25 years. It has been instrumental in fulfilling our dreams of serving our people.

Big Thank You GNHA – GNHA board and members in Nepal as well as Germany!

**THANK YOU!**



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### **Support for the Dalit girls: Visits to the families and homes at the slum in Pokhara**

*By Sabine Pretsch*

Regular visits to the families and homes of the Dalit girls who are supported by the GNHA, present another important integral part of the educational concept of the Nepalese Help Organisation, Children Nepal (CN).

The social workers at CN know the family and social circumstances of each and every child that is supported. They devote a great deal of time to their visits which often take them to the slum area of Pokhara. Each family member is addressed by his/her name. In addition, this very polite and respectful form of address and manner of conversing is to imply that conversations are held with them as equals. The staff are informed about the individual fates and backgrounds of the families of the girls that are being supported. In addition to intergenerational discrimination, thin and thick threads of destiny interweave the costume of the lives of these Nepalese families.

These regular visits contribute towards identifying problems within the family at an early stage; problems that can lead to a disturbance in the personal and educational development of the child concerned. Thus, a means is also created for enabling targeted counteraction and timely problem solving. Subsequently, any learning problems and unexcused absences can also be discussed and clarified at an early stage.

In the slums of Pokhara, a total of 38 families are cared for by CN. Since they are regarded as untouchables and unclean, these families take on the lowest position in the caste system.

They do not own any land and the slum is the only possibility for providing a home. One or two girls from each family receive support within the framework of the school education and personal development programme.

Most travellers to Nepal know Pokhara as a picturesque town on Lake Phewa. The views of the Nepalese Matterhorn – the Machhapuchhre (fishtail) mountain – enchant the tourists. A slum in this idyll does not really fit into the picture.

I was allowed to accompany one of the CN employees during the family visits. The fates of each of these five families we met, are certainly worthy of mention. I would like to share the life story of two families with you, that particularly touched me:

We entered a dwelling without a window; some flowery material was hanging out in front of the entrance. In this dark room there was a bed, a chair and a cupboard. The wall was decorated with a gaudy poster. Everything looked tidy and well organised. School books were stacked in piles next to the chair. Purna Siri Nepali was sitting there on the chair. She gave us a warm welcome and immediately offered us a cup of tea. Purna is 42-years-old, a widow and mother of three daughters. Phul Maya (grade 7) and Ancali (grade 6) are supported by the GNHA's funding. They were both still at school, so we were not able to meet them. The oldest daughter, Anita, lives in the village with her grandparents and is in grade 11.

The little woman with her cracked and horny hands started telling us all about herself. Before her husband died he was working as a full-time street sweeper for the municipal authorities. When he suddenly died, she was offered this job as a day labourer. And now, in the early hours of the morning, she sweeps the dusty roads. Then she collects any pieces of iron lying around and tries to sell them.



This is a gruelling and highly competitive job. But this is the only way for her to provide the family enough to eat. Purna is happy and thankful that both her two younger girls are being given a school education and receive financial support.

The tiny building comprising a bedroom and a storeroom, was built by Purna herself on state land in the slum. The corrugated iron which serves as a roof, is full of holes. There are heavy stones on top to prevent the thin sheet from being blown away by a strong wind. During the monsoon season the rain penetrates everywhere and an unpleasant dampness spreads all around.

There is no running water. The cooking is done on firewood; there is not enough money to buy a gas cylinder. The toilet is located outside the home and is provisionally set up.

Slowly the industrious little lady became restless and her face was visibly stressed by hard work. For today's visit by the social worker she has stayed at home specially, instead of going to work. She has now already revealed a great deal about herself and her family. Her existential livelihood is waiting.

We say goodbye and Purna leaves, throwing a cloth casually over her shoulder, that is otherwise used for carrying her precious pieces of iron.

Fates are as different as the people who suffer from them. The household of the Pariyar family comprises a total of eight people. In addition to the parents with their four daughters, the father's parents also live in the house. And these are the ones who earn the entire family's living as day labourers on the construction site. The father, Devendra, is unable to work because of his severe depression. The mother, Krishna, does not have any opportunity either, at the moment, for earning an income. At the beginning of our visit, the CN employee was already wondering why the mother and the youngest daughter were not even present. By asking specific questions he tried to find out where they both were. Neither the grandmother, Purna Kali, nor the two older girls, Diya and Riya, made any comment at all.

The father was sitting in a crouched position and kept silent. Then the 7-year-old Srista suddenly blurted out everything. We then became aware of how the other family members almost wanted to hide themselves away in shame. Young children tell the truth, even if it is distressing for the parents.

We learned that the mother had drunk too much raksi (schnapps) and that the father had subsequently hit her. Then she had grabbed the youngest daughter, Priya (4 years old), and had run away to the village where her parents live.

And now she does not want to come back again. The oldest daughter, Diya (grade 7, 13-years-old) is supported by the GNHA and already makes a very grown-up and independent impression. Whenever her mother and father are "missing" and the grandparents are at work, she takes over the care and upbringing of the younger sisters. It goes without saying that in addition to homework and school exercises, she takes over a lot of household chores.

Because of this disturbed family structure, CN wants to relieve the bright little girl, Srista, and offer her additional funding.

**The family visits may come to an end, but the touching memories remain.**



## IN URGENT NEED: ASSISTANCE WITH THE GNHA PUBLIC-RELATIONS ACTIVITIES

### **Our work-group urgently needs your support!**

For instance, this involves taking on representational tasks for the GNHA independently, such as support at the stands during GNHA events, writing press reports, keeping Facebook and the website up-to-date, or providing assistance for our calendar project.

Anyone who feels addressed in this regard and would like to volunteer as a helper, please contact Claudia Kurz: Tel. 0711- 4596488.

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### **Project trip 2017 - Touching experiences and everlasting impressions**

*by Roland Mannschreck*

Having completed the first half of the project trip, with numerous visits to our school projects, we then headed westwards to Pokhara.

After gaining beautiful impressions of the country and its people, we were then confronted here with the harsh reality of life in Nepal. These days have deeply impressed me and left everlasting memories.

Our bus stopped in front of the building of Children Nepal (CN), a GNHA-supported Nepalese help organisation. We were greeted with colourful bouquets and in a conference room the staff of the organisation, as well as the students and some mothers, were all waiting for us. Reports were held on life's fates (e.g. missing fathers abroad, or deceased family members) - powerful words and deeply impressive. But these fates became even more evident during our visits to the homes of these girls' families. We then drove out behind the bus terminal into the slums of Pokhara, directly below the approach flight path of the airport runway.

One of the girls, for example, who goes to the school at Children Nepal, lives there with her family of 9 in a single-room hut made of corrugated iron. Suddenly, a few metres above us, a plane thundered past with an infernal noise.... Her father recycles pressure cookers as a livelihood for the family. He was able to finance his small business with the help of the cooperative founded by CN and the GNHA.

Inside the hut a daughter was breast-feeding her baby which was only a few days old, whilst the rest of the family welcomed us with interest, and the father proudly showed us the pots he had made.



Despite their difficult circumstances, they greeted us with a friendly smile. This was incredible in view of a life spent there in a constant struggle for survival on muddy alleyways between the simplest corrugated iron shacks.

One automatically has the urge to help, and on hearing my reports my wife immediately decided to make a monthly, project-based donation to CN to help these people with a will to achieve something. With the support of the GNHA at CN, a Dalit girl can be given a school education which is the basis for a better life.

The next day in the Tibetan Refugee Camp, "Tashiling Tibetan Refugees", I was aroused again by impressions that got under my skin and moved me very emotionally.

In a small, lovingly designed museum we learned about the history of the refugee camp since its formation in 1964 and the flight of Tibetan Buddhist believers after the occupation of Tibet by the People's Republic of China in 1954.

We then walked through the refugee camp. The old Tibetans were already waiting for us in the field next to a building where they all usually meet. They had all brought a large number of khatas with them. They placed several of these scarves around my neck, and each time I bowed and with joined hands, I responded by wishing them 'Thasi deleg' which means, "I wish you happiness and good health". And this wish came from the bottom of my heart, as these people have endured so much suffering due to their expulsion.

It is hard to describe the atmosphere prevailing here and the emotions that move you. I shall never forget this moment. Welcoming words were exchanged, and short discussions were held with some of the Tibetans.



These moments evoked emotions and the desire to help making the lives of these warm-hearted people who have no hope of ever returning to their homes, a little easier. During our return journey by bus, I decided to support the Tibetans with a monthly donation, via the GNHA.

These days in Pokhara with Children Nepal and the Tibetan Camp, "Tashiling Tibetan Refugees" aroused the strongest impressions on me during the project trip 2017. However, I should like to add that the experience gained during our visits to the other projects in the medical care, the schools and the teachers' training, the infrastructure and the building measures, should not remain unmentioned. In addition to the excursions and on-site visits, the GNHA project trip through Nepal, organised with the active support of Sabine and Temba, was just great and provided a good picture of the work done by the GNHA in Nepal. It was also possible to see just how the Nepalese team works on site. This work deserves support, either through your cooperation or with your donation.

**Namaste!**

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## Reconstruction of the school infrastructure (as of 20th September 2017)

### Chronology

Devastating earthquake: 25th April 2015 and again on 12th May 2015

Confirmation of the construction commitment between the GNHA and the government authority: 15th December 2015

Commencement of the construction work: March 2016 (this could not be started until the border blockade was over)

Building permit granted for the building type: GNHA two-room module: 20th June 2016

**Green:** Completed and in use

**Orange:** Undergoing construction

**Red:** Yet to be completed

Number of building units	Classrooms	Construction status
25	50	New construction completed
21	48	Repair completed
6	20	New construction at an advanced stage
2	4	Repair work at an advanced stage
18	34	New construction work not yet begun
2	8	Repair work not yet begun
<b>Total volume of construction work</b>	<b>164</b>	

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### WE WOULD LIKE TO EXPRESS OUR THANKS

to all our donators - to both the new and the faithful regular donators who trust in us and give us their support!

**And to those who have also been continuing their work with tireless commitment since our last GNHA flyer came out, and collecting donations for the GNHA through their special, fund-raising campaigns.**

Our special thanks go to class 4b of the elementary school Mommenheim for their cake-sale event, and to Charly Kutasi for organising a jazz concert,

**and to all those who wished to go without presents on either a happy or sad occasion and requested donations for the GNHA instead.**

Our special thanks here go to Tudi Billo, Jörg Geiger, Hans Jörg Häss, Angelika Richter, Edeltraud Schurer, Gerhard Sommer, Ernst Tischler and Lothar and Ingrid Witopil for donations collected on their birthdays. In addition, we received donations upon the death of Jürgen Baumann and Hans Jaudas, and here, too, we would like to express our thanks and heartfelt condolences.

Once again we thank Ulrike Drasdo, Christine Reuter and Peter Schöderlein for their numerous talks held in favour of the GNHA, and also Mr. and Mrs. Rohrer for their numerous donation campaigns.

**The successes we have achieved until now have been achieved jointly and would not have been possible without your help!**

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## SPECIAL DATES AND LATEST INFORMATION

For the latest information on special dates and our projects, please see our Homepage or Facebook page:

[www.dnh-stuttgart.org](http://www.dnh-stuttgart.org)

[www.fb.com/Deutsch-Nepalische-Hilfsgemeinschaft-117494788313902/](https://www.facebook.com/Deutsch-Nepalische-Hilfsgemeinschaft-117494788313902/)

### **25.-26.11.2017: GNHA Nepal Bazaar**

Saturday, 25th November 2017: 10 a.m. – 6 p.m. | Sunday, 26th November 2017: 11 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Place: Firma Trelleborg, Handwerkstrasse 5-7, 70565 Stuttgart-Vaihingen

(in the Cafeteria, Hofgebäude 1st floor)

### **GNHA CONTACT ADDRESS:**

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Email: [buero@dnh-stuttgart.org](mailto:buero@dnh-stuttgart.org)

### **BANK ACCOUNT FOR DONATIONS**

Commerzbank Stuttgart

IBAN: DE 03 6008 0000 0182 4971 00

BIC: DRESDEFF600

**The association is recognized as non-profit-making. Donations are tax-deductible.**

Donation receipts are issued at the end of the year, but also beforehand upon special request. Last Notice of Exemption 04.04.2017

