

Newsletter

September 2010

Chhibo Busty Development Trust

The summer has once again passed. I (Roger) was together with Susanne and Josh in Sweden during July, the weather was nice and hot except the last rainy week.

Here in India and Chhibo the monsoon is almost in the end, we have nice weather during the days and some rain during the nights now and then. The monsoon often destroys roads up here in the mountains, last year the road to Chhibo collapsed but this year it made it. This year we've together put some extra effort on keeping it drivable.

Chhibo Busty Development Trust (CBDT), a religious organization?

We've received a question from Sweden asking if this is a religious organization. The answer to that is NO, CBDT is religiously and politically independent organization.

CBDT was founded by Roger as a result from several queries made by the participants on his many motorcycles tours in Himalayan mountains. They wanted to know how to help the mountain people in the best way. The desire to help comes easily here when one sees the needs and the living conditions people have. So in 2008 Suzanne and Roger decided to start an organization with a goal of transferring funds and other help, in a simple and direct way, to people who needed it most. It was easiest to start in the same village were they live.

Religion is a natural part of everyday life in India. When filling in an official form with name and address you are expected to also fill in your religion. There are no atheists in this country. It is of course a different matter how much religion influences an individual person's life in practice.

In Chhibo there live people from many different religions and they live side by side respecting each others believes. When someone asks help from CBDT their religion is totally uninteresting fact and has no impact at all whether or not they will get help. The Bethany School which we are supporting, you can see it on the cover page of our leaflet, is a Christian school but many of the teachers are Hindus. Also many of the pupils are non-Christians. Most of the pupils which we are supporting, studying in various schools, are probably Hindus. There is also another school getting support from us and honestly we don't know which religious foundation it stand on. In our daily work this matter has no significance as we only want to help people. A fact is that the best and biggest schools in Kalimpong, Darjeeling and many other areas in India have been founded by Christian missionaries. CBDT is also supporting a few of students in these kind of schools.

The Pathway

A positive surprise for Chhibo is the project "100 days of work", driven by the government, with a goal to give poor people 100 days of work during a five years period. One of the targets is to improve the condition of the muddy pathway going trough several villages in Chhibo area. One of the reasons making Chhibo an interesting place for these kind of prioritized government activities is the resort where a few Swedes and Finns have bought cottages for themselves. This and the increasing number of tourists visiting the area have influenced in an indirect and positive way the hole area. The working opportunities in the resort and the government project is not enough if you have to support a family but it gives at least temporary relief and contributes in a better infrastructure in poor villages. I've too many times seen students walk the muddy path on their way to school carrying shoes to avoid them getting dirty. The new path will get a surface of stones

covered by concrete and this will make a big difference. Suzanne has been appointed to a supervisor leading the team of 40 women carrying stones, sand and other material to the construction site.



The path before it is covered by concrete and women carrying stones.

Monsoon

Before the monsoon period started CBDT gave umbrellas to students who didn't have one. They have been used frequently on the way to and from school and have contributed to dry students and books.

Health care

Monsoon is the period when people easily get sick and we've been helping people to get medical care also during this period. The latest case was yesterday morning when a desperate man came seeking for help for his seriously sick wife needing blood. When we are talking about situations like this where life is threatened and you don't have money or insurance the situation is critical. CBDT helped here financially so that the woman can get required medical care in hospital. The husband returned later in the evening, with tears in his eyes and grateful for his wife getting another chance. As a member of this support organization you are actually saving lives in Chhibo. The people getting this kind of help are truly grateful. We who are here and know many of these persons see it as a great privilege to be part of the distribution channel of your aid which really makes a big difference in their life.

Building a House

During the spring we gave a loan to a family needing a bigger house. Currently three generations are living under the same roof. The new house is almost finalized now and they will move in during the autumn.



Students

During the autumn we'll continue supporting the same students as we did during the spring.

Thank you for your help and support for people in Chhibo!

September 6 2010

Roger & Suzanne Lenngren

CBDT / India

Curt Gregers-Varg

Support Organization / Sweden