

Newsletter no. 3 2019 from KMCH Support Group

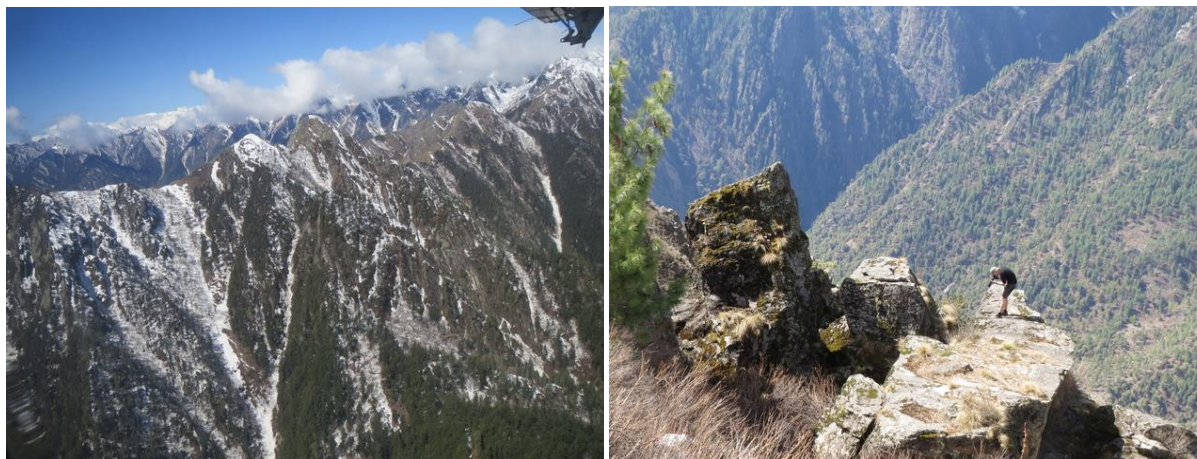
Ekerö 1 st of June 2019

Hello, Namaste och Thashi Delek

Now we have made our trip to the school home that I wrote about in the last newsletter. We were seven who were on this fantastic experience as a trip to "The Hidden Himalayas" is. Life in this barren mountain landscape is very hard. People live in small villages that climb on steep mountain sides and cultivate their most small allotments on terraces along the mountainside. Few villages have fields so large that they can be plowed by yaks, so it is usually hand force that applies. The hard and snowy winters make life even tougher.

We visiting hikers can enjoy the beautiful scenery, but can't stop to marvel at how to survive in these lands. Participants on the journey with Chembal Lama as a host were; Elisabet, Italo, Jonathan, Lallo, Mats, Pär and Hans. All 60+ or 70 + except Jonathan who is 20 +. The age difference was clearly noticeable in the difficult steepes, where all but Jonathan thought it was very hard. Although the road under construction facilitated the hike to some extent, many very strenuous parties remain. Good fitness is a prerequisite.

The landscape is, as I have often pointed out, incredibly beautiful. The flight from the town of Nepalgunj on plain on the border with India to the Humla capital Simikot is very spectacular. It takes less than an hour. You fly with small planes that scrolls between the mountain sides and almost touches at certain peaks. You see snow-capped peaks and settlements in the most inaccessible places.



A picture from the airplane and one when Jonathan perpetuates a flower on a cliff next to a precipice.

This is an extraordinary experience as well as the meeting with our children as we approach the school home. They met us on the way below the school home with flowers and Khatas. It was very touching. Then we went together up to the school home where the children offered singing and dancing.

I'll below take up and report of some points related to our trip. You will get more from the trip in coming newsletters. Through our photographer Jonathan we hope to be able to show many nice pictures in them, on the website and on Facebook. Last in this newsletter we show a thank you letter from one of the girls at the school home.

Meeting with KIRDARC (Karnali Integrated Rural Development and Research Centre).

KIRDARC is a NEPALESE NGO who, as shown by the name, works in the Karnali region in which Humla is included. They work, among other things, with Education, Peacebuilding and Development. They run about 50 projects and have about 200 employees. They cooperate, among other NGOs and governmental agencies as DANIDA.

We were mainly interested in a cooperation in the context of our tree planting project because KIRDARC has been pushing for that in other parts of Karnaliregionen. The meeting in Kathmandu was very positive.

The meeting with KIRDARC in Simikot later did not give what we had hoped for. They had in principle only projects in southern Humla and had not the resources form a tree planting project with us. We will thus continue with our small project until we can find another partner.

Visit to the children's school in Yalbang

As well as during previous visits to the school home, we had the opportunity to visit our children ´s school and talk to the headmaster. We met 14 out of 19 teachers. Of the 14, 5 was women. Most of the teachers come from Humla. There are about 350 students in school. The overwhelming part comes from the HCSs (Humla Children Society) and KMCHs School home.

In the latest school rankings among Nepal's state and municipal schools, the school in Yalbang was ranked number **one** among schools in so-called "Remote areas" and as number **five** in all of Nepal.

In 1999, when I visited the village there was only a small building that did not seem to work as a school. When we started KMCH in 2007 there were no working school in Yalbang. This fact together with the troubles in the area made Chembal chose to start the first school home in Kathmandu. Now the school is one of the best in Nepal. What a fantastic development!



children playing at the school home. Photos by Jonathan

And the success continues. Now teaching is also carried out in class 11 for some subject areas and next year also for class 12. Not only that, now there will also be an agricultural education, which we have been calling for since our first meeting with the school. In March 2020, an agricultural education starts for the classes 9 to 12. Two new teachers have been hired. Traineeships will also be included. The teachers in English now have higher education than before why we expect the children to be better in English.

Although the authorities are positive and contribute with the resources they have, the headmaster said that without HCS, ADARA and KMCH it would never have been possible to develop this well. KMCH is the least in the trio, but we can probably feel a certain pride though. Our site manager Lakpa is a long-time member of the school board.

Yalbang is developing more and more into a regional, and not just cultural a center. Beside a monastery, a very good school with education up to class 12, there are also a health clinic, a bank office and soon also a government office. Though the village evolves into a both cultural and administrative center in the area north of Simikot.



Letter from Pema Kando Lama. A girl who leaves class ten this year.

The letter is addressed to "Elisabet & other Support Group" and was handed over to Elisabet who was our female participant on the journey. As on previous visits, the older girls gathered round our female participants. Elisabet spent a lot of time with the girls both out and in the girls ' room.

Without this contact, it is uncertain whether we had received the letter below. This indicates

how important it is to have female participants on our travels. On the picture, we see Elisabet surrounded by some of our girls.

Date:-

Dear Aliza bhet &
other support group,

firstly I would like to say thank you everyone for supporting caring and loving us. You all are our second parents who gave us chance to get education. You all gave your hand to ~~us~~ solve ~~our~~ ^{my} problem and help to complete my school level education (1 to 10) This year I will complete my school level education by getting good marks and I think ~~It's~~ ^{It's} will only possible by your support. Remote area's children cannot get education, cannot get any chance but you realized our problems, realized our pain. Thank you so much for that. There are many problems in village like health problem, economic problem etc. Main ~~pa~~ health problem ~~of~~ ^{is} villagers is eye problem. Many of them are blind like my grandpa. The blind people have many wishes and dreams but they ^{are} cannot ~~cometrue~~ ^{come true} because

of their darkness. In all life time they saw one colour that is black. Therefore I want to be a big ~~see~~ eye doctor and I want to see beautiful situation of world to blind people by their own eyes. and I think that time I got many happiness and got peace to my grandpa soul. but I don't know economic problem of my family I can give continuity to my study after see or not. but you ~~all~~ help in my school level education in every sector. and it's not necessary to help me ~~in~~ after SEE. Love, care and help you gave in the past time to me it is very enough for me. I don't know state of god in this world is true or not but I know who helps other person that is god for other person so when I was in problem you gave me your hands to solve my problem. therefore you are real god of my life. lastly I would like say bye bye! Have a safe Journey. !!!

Greetings and have a nice summer

wish the Board of

KMCH Support Group

by

Hans



The group after we have said Good Bye to the children.

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