



Benevolent Organisation for Development, Health & Insight (BODHI)

Mitini Nepal Evaluation 2009-2010

1. Introduction

The main aim of this project is to build capacity of Nepalese lesbians (who are living in Nepal in difficult and discriminated situation in Nepali society till now) to live non-discriminated and prosperous life.

We are focusing those lesbians who are isolated from society and poor economic condition.

From June 2009- 2010 we helped 17 women attend English language classes and 6 women were helped to attend computing classes.

The women going to English classes had different aims, depending on their initial level of English and their future plans. People's aims fell into one of four categories:

1. To learn basic conversation and literacy.
2. To learn advanced conversation and literacy.
3. To learn basic conversation only (eg for those wanting to be taxi drivers)
4. To learn enough English to be able to work abroad.

The women who studied computing all wanted to get their basic diploma in computing, which is a 3 month course, and all achieved this. The women who did this course either work in the office of Mitini Nepal and wanted to improve their communication through computing; others wanted to do the course to help them get work in an office environment.

2. People assisted (target group)

All the people whom we are assisting are lesbians with little or no income. They would not be able to afford to do these courses without your help. Due to this training they are now more confident and able to negotiate applying for jobs and, for the women running Mitini, they are more confident in being able to network with other women's organisations.

3. Number of people assisted.

11 English classes, 6 English and computer classes.

4. Assistance provided

Most of the funding was used to pay the fees to the institutions providing English or Computing courses. A very small amount (approx 25 USD) was used for their bus fares to and from the colleges.

5. Outcomes achieved.

Improved English language

Their English is improving every day. Their vocabulary has improved, and can now understand English spoken by others. The majority can now read and write English, but a few learned conversation only. We feel this is a great achievement for our programme. The more experienced students can now also take part in international interaction programmes with others, write a basic project proposal and talk with international donors without an interpreter, which was not possible previously.

All people except one now has a job as a result of this programme. Their work is outlined below:

- Those who wanted to work abroad have gone and this was enabled by the training. 5 women went abroad for jobs which had 3 year contracts. One has returned because she did not like the work. However, the English courses helped them to (1) get the job via the agency in Kathmandu (2) get work that required basic English language. 3 are working as waiters, and one for a department store.
- Six people within Mitini did English language training. Two were trained in Kathmandu to run the new branch office in Jhapa, S.E Nepal. Both can now talk and write basic reports in English. In the Kathmandu office, one person can now develop proposals well. The programme manager develop financial reports for donor agencies since doing the English course. Everyone in the organization feels more confident in talking to donors who come to the office. The director is now able to go to international conferences and present in English. Mitini arranged an international conference for lesbians in S.E. Asia in April this year, and four people from the organization presented their papers in English.
- All people except one who completed the English language course now have jobs. This is a huge improvement as previously very few had a job. 3 are working as sales reps in tourist shops, 1 is working in marketing for an international company, 1 is running her own coffee shop, 1 is a waiter.

Computing skills

The people who attended the courses learned how to type, use email, used the internet, operate MS word and compile a basic XL sheet. 4 people who did the course work for Mitini and 2 have found work abroad.

Before doing the course, most people did not even know how to turn on the computer. For the people who work for Mitini, they are now able to communicate more effectively with friends, donors and other NGOs, and 2 are able to write basic project reports.

Previously, their programme reports were written by hand; now they can be emailed. All have learned how to type in Nepali and one in English. The 2 who work abroad got jobs in department stores in Dubai, and required basic computer literacy for the work.

6. Other Achievements

The English and computing training has improved people's confidence and the organizational capacity of Mitini. It has assisted them in linking with other organizations and participating in international events.

As well as the above programme, Mitini continues to have the following programmes:

1. Outreach programme: networking and providing support with other lesbians in the area.
2. Awareness raising events about the existence and rights of lesbians; eg street drama 2 x a year, peaceful protests, speeches in public places.
3. Consultation and contribution to network to fight for women to receive sexual rights in Nepal as part of women's rights network, and for sexual minorities to receive the same rights as heterosexual people (eg full marriage, land ownership, inheritance rights).
4. Have opened 2 new offices in last year 1 in Jhapa, another in Makwanpur districts. Jhapa has 2 staff, Makwanpur has 4 staff. The Jhapa staff received the English and computing training.
5. Counselling and arranging safe passage for lesbians running away from home via offices and informal networks.

7. Any other comments

First of all thanks for this project. We appreciate your support. In coming future we hope that you will support us for other programs too.

Approximately 550 pounds is left from the training. This is because we did not have many new people joining the organisation, and the 4 people in Makwanpur do not want to learn English or Computing. 12 new people have joined the organization who want to learn English in Kathmandu. Makwanpur is a rural area, and there are 50 women who would like to learn sewing as they could then earn money from home.

With the money left, Mitini could train 6 people in basic English and 20 people in sewing. They would like to ask permission to now use the leftover money for this purpose. For the sewing programme, they would like to start a cooperative once they are trained and use the profit to partly pay for more people to train.

Your Details

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