

19 January 2010

To

Ms. Susan Butler  
President  
BODHI  
UG01/86 Northbourne Avenue  
Braddon ACT 2612

Subject: Half-Yearly Progress Report

Dear Susan,

Greetings from SNEHA!

Please find here Half-Yearly Progress Report for the project titled “Confidence and Capacity building of the underprivileged children through education in Arunachal Pradesh”.

If any clarification is required we will be always be glad to provide them.

Thank you,

Warm regards,

Susanta Chakma  
Director

## Half Yearly Progress Report

1. Title of the Project: “Confidence and capacity building of the underprivileged children through education in Arunachal Pradesh.”
2. Name and address of the implementing Agency: SNEHA
3. Implementation Period: July 2009 to December 2009.
4. Project Summary: This is an institution building project to build SNEHA as an effective, efficient and transparent organisation. This is also an educational project for building the capacity and confidence of the Chakmas and Hajongs in particular and other backward people of Diyun Circle, Changlang District in Arunachal Pradesh.
5. Approved measures implemented: The following approved measures of the project include the following points:

### I. Institution Building:

- 1) To maintain the Office of the trust
- 2) Corpus Fund
- 3) Annual General Meeting
- 4) Mobilization of Funds
- 5) Formulation of strategy, policies for the SNEHA and its Schools.

### II. Programme in Arunachal Pradesh:

1. To run a formal School to provide quality education.
2. Teachers salary
3. Laboratory Equipments

### Activities of the Reporting Period in Delhi

1. Office: SNEHA has maintained a three room set modest office at U-157 D, Upadhyay Block, Shakarpur, Vikas Marg, Delhi-110092. Three persons work at Delhi office.
2. Annual General Meeting: Annual General Body Meeting of SNEHA was held on 10<sup>th</sup> September 09’ at SNEHA Head Office, Delhi. Out of seven Trustees Mr. Amal Kanti Chakma and Dr. Sumedha Chakma were absent in the meeting for the first time. Mr. Surendra Mohan was selected Chairperson of SNEHA due to sad and untimely demise of Dr. Y.P.Chhibbar.
3. Corpus Fund: Two influential persons were engaged as volunteers of SNEHA to raise Corpus Fund for SNEHA from the well wishers of Tripura. In addition, efforts are being taken continuously in Delhi also to raise Corpus Fund from different sources. To achieve this objective we have improved the Annual Report of SNEHA.

4. Mobilization of Funds: We have been able to garner support from HDFC Ltd to construct two classrooms in SNEHA School, Diyun, Arunachal Pradesh.

The Shamdasani Foundation has been supporting the SNEHA Vidya Vihar, Bijoypur, Changlang District, Arunachal Pradesh from this ongoing session and has further assured to support two sections in each class from next session. In addition to this, they also suggested to start a community centre for the people of Bijoypur village, Changlang, Arunachal Pradesh.

The Shamdasani Foundation also expressed to give support for infrastructure development at SNEHA School Diyun that is being supported by NFI

This year also Asha Jyoti, Canada has continued providing scholarship to the poor but meritorious students of Arunachal Pradesh.

SNEHA has been following up with ECONET in Pune, Maharashtra. We were supposed to visit ECONET in November 2009 but as they were supposed to come in December 2009 we cancelled our trip. Now, it has been reconfirmed again that ECONET is coming to SNEHA in February 2010.

The office was upgraded by adding a new Desktop and a desk.

The Board of Trustees has assigned the Director to explore the possibility of acquiring land in NCR. The matter is being pursued with due diligence.

#### New Addition:

To acquire land for SNEHA on donation at free of cost, we have visited Tronica City, NTPC and Ghar Ganga in U.P on donation at free of cost. We are diligently following up the matter and expect to get soon. Acquisition of 7 acres of land at Mainpuri, U.P has been cancelled because the land owned by the Donor organisation is not eligible to donate legally as they themselves have taken in lease for 100 years. Hence, we are concentrating on Ghar Ganga and Tronica City.

5. Capacity building: Two persons namely Mr. Susanta Chakma and Ms. Champa Chakma from SNEHA Delhi attended the Leadership Development Programme held from 7<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> December 2009 in Delhi. The programme was very stimulating and educative. Dr. Kenwyn K Smith, a Professor in U.S is an excellent educator/Trainer.

Some Highlights of the programme were

- Group decision has higher probability of correct decision than an individual decision.
- Group Dynamics-how a team or a group is emerged and functions.
- Some people are good in making strategy whereas some are good in operation. Right people be placed in the right place/job.

- The strategic people should make the strategies keeping in mind the operational people.
- In the absence proper strategy, the probability of making mistakes or highhandedness etc by the operational people will be high resulting in the high probability of failure of project.
- To creatively think of a new strategy between NGOs and community,
- Corporate Houses can be motivated for community development with the principle of The Fortune in the Bottom of the Pyramid.
- Education is not filling up information only but to ignite fire.
- Triangulation relationship-how a team leader should act during conflict in an organisation etc.
- While empowering the underprivileged sections of society, they should not become the oppressors after empowerment as it will lead to the same problem.
- To create wealth the whole group has to grow for the growth of the whole community.
- Norms and violation
- To initiate or do good works howsoever big or small one need not have born in a silver spoon or charismatic leadership quality. For example: Mandela and Abraham Lincoln and even Mahatma Gandhi.
- While empowering the underprivileged sections of society, they should not become the oppressors after empowerment as it will lead to the same problem.

The impacts of the programme are that we are able to make policies and strategies in a better way at Head office Delhi keeping in mind the operational people resulting in the successful implementation of projects and least chances of failure in future.

We are thinking creatively to build new relationship between the Chakmas and Hajongs and the State Government of Arunachal Pradesh which will bring acceptance and dignity to them.

#### Activities of the Reporting Period in School in Arunachal Pradesh

Announcement was made for re-admission, new admission, availability of seats in different classes, fees etc. New students were admitted in the school after taking an entrance test on 4th April, 2009. There was rush of students for admission but this session also we could not admit them all due to availability of limited number of seats.

The Year Plan for various programmes and activities for the whole academic session 2009-2010 was prepared. The school remained closed from 13<sup>th</sup> April, 2009 to 30<sup>th</sup> May, 2009 on account of annual summer vacation. But special classes were held from 1<sup>st</sup> May, 2009 for the students of class VIII and class IX as both these classes are going to appear for the State Board examination and CBSE.

The school was opened for all classes on 1<sup>st</sup> June, 2009 for the session 2009-2010. The total enrolment of the school in the current academic session is 429 including the new students from KG to Class IX. A social service was organized on 2<sup>nd</sup> June, 2009 to clean the surrounding of the school.

Like every year, this session also the students were divided into four houses namely Corbett House, Gir House, Kaziranga House and Namdapha House after the name of some of the important 'Sanctuaries' of the country. Each 'House' is under three teachers as House Masters to advice and guide the houses. Each house has one House Captain & a Vice-Captain elected by the members of each house.

On 10<sup>th</sup> June, 2009, Dr. Monica Banerjee, Senior Programme Manager, NFI visited the school. She interacted with the students, teachers and some parents. Teachers were very happy by her encouragement to work hard.

A "Fresher Meet" was organized by the students on 12<sup>th</sup> June, 2009 where the new & the old students met and interacted with each other. A colorful cultural programme was also organized by the students.

A Teachers meeting was held on 29<sup>th</sup> June, 2009 to discuss regarding the overall development of the school.

As the SNEHA School is not recognized under the government of Arunachal Pradesh yet, we have made arrangement for the students of class VIII in a nearby government School to enable them to appear in the State Board Examination for the current academic session 2009-10.

For the students of class IX who will appear class X Board Examination for academic session 2010-2011, we have made arrangement with a school in Kolkata affiliated to CBSE, Delhi. Hence, the first batch of SNEHA School students is going to appear their matriculation examination in March 2011.

A parents-teachers meeting was held with the parents of KG classes on 10<sup>th</sup> July, 2009. The discussion was held especially about the health & hygiene of the students, study materials like books, pencils, erasers etc. On the same day in the evening on 10<sup>th</sup> July, a sports meet was held among the four houses.

A teachers meeting was held on 13<sup>th</sup> July, 2009 in the morning session. A parents-teachers meeting was held in the afternoon to review the progress of the students.

A Drawing Competition was held among the junior students on 25<sup>th</sup> July, 2009.

A Poem recitation competition was held on 7<sup>th</sup> August, 2009 among the children and prizes were given away to the best performer to encourage them.

The School Foundation Day was celebrated on 14<sup>th</sup> August, 2009. The Independence Day was celebrated with much enthusiasm. Competitions in different games & sports were held among the students and between the parents & teachers also. The programme was attended by many well wishers, parents, students, teachers and village headmen from different villages. The celebration was culminated with a colorful cultural programme displayed by the children.

On the occasion the teachers as well as the children remembered & paid their homage to those great sons & daughters of this great nation who sacrificed their lives during the freedom movement.

SNEHA has been gaining legitimacy slowly and gradually as SNEHA School is invited every year by the Sub-Divisional Officer to participate in the Independence and Republic Day Celebration at the General Parade Ground, Diiyun. This year also SNEHA School participated in the PT Display and Patriotic Dance competition and got second prize in the Patriotic Dance Competition.

From 18<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> August, 2009 engaged by NFI, Ms. Ananem Chitra, a journalist from Manipur, visited SNEHA School for documentation.

On 26<sup>th</sup> August, 2009 a friendly football match was organized with the Mahabodhi School, Diiyun where the teachers and the children of both the schools got a chance to interact & helped them to know each other better.

The School celebrated 'Teachers Day' on 5<sup>th</sup> September, 2009. On the occasion the children took blessing from their teachers by touching their feet. On the occasion the teachers & the children gave away speeches.

From 16<sup>th</sup> September to 17<sup>th</sup> September, 2009, Prof. Pankaj Butalia, Delhi School of Economics, New Delhi visited SNEHA School to shoot films and documentation on SNEHA activities.

On 2<sup>nd</sup> October, 2009 during 'Gandhi Jayanti' drawing competition, general knowledge and essay competitions were held relating to Gandhiji. Students were told about Gandhiji who was very simple, truthful and peaceloving.

A 'Meditation' programme was held in the school under the able guidance of Dr. Birendra Bisht from Nainital, Uttarakhand.

The 'Half yearly' examination was held from 29<sup>th</sup> October, 2009 to 7<sup>th</sup> November, 2009. Except in social science in class VI and physics in class IX the result in all the classes were well in the examination.

To find out the causes of poor performance in the above subjects a special meeting of the teachers was held on 20<sup>th</sup> November, 2009. In addition to this, the Headmaster called the

respective subject teachers and explanation was sought. He also discussed with the respective students.

Children's Day was celebrated on 14<sup>th</sup> November, 2009. On the occasion games & sports, essay competition and drawing competition were organized.

As some of the parents don't speak during parents-teachers meetings, Parents-Teachers Meetings were organized class wise on different dates viz. 21<sup>st</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> November, 2009 to interact with each and every parent to discuss about overall performance of the students.

From this session we are not conducting any formal examination system for the children of KGs and Class I as we are indirectly examining their performance through continuous evaluation system every month. We are applying this technique learned in the Teacher's Training programme at Loreto Day School in Kolkata.

The third annual school week was organized from 21<sup>st</sup> December, 2009 to 27<sup>th</sup> December, 2009. For overall personality development of the students various games & sports, literary activities, creative and cultural activities were held among the students of four Houses i.e. Kaziranga, Namdapha, Gir and Corbett House. All the students actively participated in the events. Most of the parents, local leaders, village headmen, social workers and well-wishers of the nearby villages were also present during the whole week. The Corbett House was declared the Best House among the four houses. The winners were given prizes to encourage the students and develop a sense of healthy competition.

Infrastructure: We have constructed a room for Science Laboratory made of SP Type building from the admission fees received from the students. Two classrooms of the school building made of concrete will be completed soon.

Health programme: With the support of BODHI, we started health education programme and provided de-worming medicines to the students. For safety and security of SNEHA, medicines were given to the students in front of the parents. Pictures taking medicines by the children will be sent to BODHI.

Health education in sanitation for instance washing of hands after defecation, causes and prevention of water-borne diseases, malaria, nutrition, etc is provided to the children regularly during assembly, in classrooms, in moral science period and during school weeks. Students prepare different charts and diagrams on different health issues during school week, etc. Different health issues are also part of the syllabus of Science.

Communication Skill: Books on writing paragraphs, Essays, stories and Vocabulary building were bought and received from Delhi and special focus has been taken to develop the knowledge, art and skill of writing good paragraphs, essays etc. among the students.

New Teacher: A new English teacher with B.A. (Hons.) English was appointed. The teacher is competent in teaching.

Repair and maintenance: The temporary School building which is made of bamboo was repaired. The school boundary was also repaired with bamboo.

New Addition:

Registration: Registration of SNEHA School is being held up in Itanagar due to lack of one vital document namely No Objection Certificate from Deputy Commissioner, Changlang. It is a great pleasure to inform NFI that SNEHA has been successful in obtaining the No Objection Certificate from the Deputy Commissioner, I.A.S, Changlang, Arunachal Pradesh. Now SNEHA has all the documents for registration of SNEHA School under the Govt. of Arunachal Pradesh.

We have also received No Objection Certificate for SNEHA Vidya Vihar, Bijoypur, Arunachal Pradesh.

Teachers Exposure: The Music Teacher and one Science Teacher visited Bodhicariya School for few days for observation, guidance and knowledge. The School is managed by Shishu Karuna Sangha.

6. Any change or Deviation from the original plan: Nil

7. Realization of objectives:

- 1) Began better contact with other funding agencies for resource mobilization.
- 2) Capacity building of Staff members
- 3) Infrastructure is being developed
- 4) Health programme has been initiated
- 5) Arrangement for students of classes VIII and X to appear in the State and CBSE Board examinations has been made until the registration and affiliation of SNEHA School.
- 6) Enrolment of children has increased and the school has been upgraded upto class IX.

In short the process of institution building is gradually taking place.

8. Problem faced and their solutions:

To improve the poor performance in two subjects, one teacher was asked to take extra class. In Physics, additional teacher was given the task.

9. Completion Period: 30<sup>th</sup> June 2010.

- 1) Signature of the Legal Project Holder: Mr. Susanta Chakma  
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