



The World is Growing Bigger

Dawa builds a bridge, Karma folds a little ship out of an old newspaper, Dak-sya a folds floss out of leaves and Pasang digs a channel. The ground is soft where the new water pipe comes out. When the garden hose is turned on little runlets occur on the orphanage's front court which are enlarged by the children into rivers and landscapes. The streamlet which is carefully widened by Pasang leads to India. Nawang builds the Himalayas next to the tap and searches a while for white stones which will be the Eternal Snow. «The River originates in Tibet,» he says «without its water the Indians would die of thirst.» The boy, aged eleven, has already learnt a lot about water and its importance in school. His younger friends care less about geography: They form their streamlets into forms of humans: A smiling man with his arms joyfully raised, in the sandy ground.

It's the first time that the children of Sertshang Orphanage are able to play with water for hours. Water is valuable in Nepal and the children are used to handle it economically. Till February 2010, a tank truck came to the orphanage at least two times a week in order to fill both water tanks.

Just recently, shortages have grown. Not only is Nepal among the 10 poorest

nations of the world, but also among those countries which are hit the hardest by the global warm-up. It hardly rains in winter anymore, but summer's monsum has become way heavier. An example of the threatening effect of climate change gives the old kingdom of Mustang, which belongs to the nicest areas of Nepal. Its rich fruit plantations have all perished, because it neither rained nor snowed there within the last two years.

In Kathmandu water is becoming more and more expensive, because Nepal's capitol lacks central water supply. People fetch water from public standpipes, buy it for their tanks at merchant's or draw it from groundwater. Many initiatives with foreign support have been started in order to solve the city's problem with water. Though, yet no project could be successfully finished, because the money got lost in Nepal's swamp of corruption. Additionally, in the coming years chances for a lasting solution will be small. Therefore, the association Sertshang Orphanage decided to secure the orphanage's supply via groundwater in the long term. Thanks to a generous donation of the Anne-Frank-Fonds from Basel the project could be realized in February 2010: The water comes from a depth of 120 meters and is of good quality.

Dickyi is well informed about Nepal's water issues and its biggest problems. She is also quick in giving an explanation concerning rationalisation of Electricity, which tightens in Kathmandu winter by winter.

«The minister of energy is responsible.» says the 13-year old, «He prefers selling the power of our hydroelectric dams to India.» The teachers have explained that to us. Furthermore, the revenues were not used to benefit the population, but disappeared in the pockets of corrupt government agencies. Dickyi takes out her schoolbook and reads out what is written about Nepal's service reservoir and its problems. The book talks about Nepal as «Asia's Castle of Water», missing clarification plants and pipes. Dickyi also reads out the chapter about Nepal's development within the last decades. The population was better off years ago, because back then there was less hunger and poverty. At the first glance this is an astonishing statement, Dickyi has an explanation in readiness. «The structures of the energy and food supply could not keep up with the fast growing population.» Dickyi has learnt that its rich vegetation, its hydroelectric power and its unique landscape make Nepal a wealthy country.

«Our farming sector would be able to support the whole population, because pota-

toes can be harvested three times a year in Nepal.» Dickyi is constantly the best pupil in class. Thanks to her brilliant performance in school and a scholarship, she and two other children of the orphanage could spend a year in a northern Indian institute in Klaimpong.

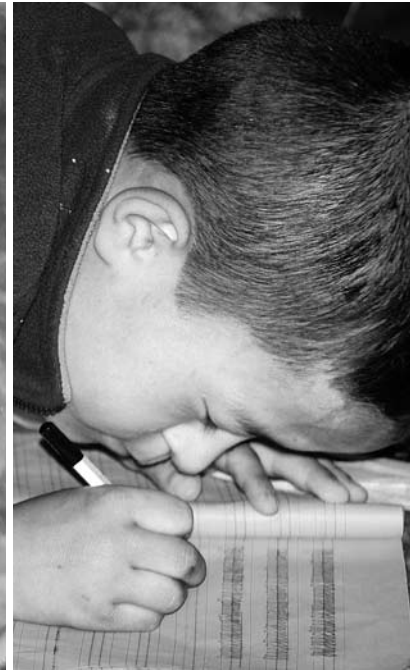
Public schools in Nepal are still in bad shape. The Maoists became the strongest party after the first free elections in 2008. Even though they promised to renew the educational system within two years, nothing has happened yet. The parties are disputing with each other and thereby block the urging social and economical process for reform. Therefore, the children of the Sertshang Orphanage Home still attend the small and simple private school in the quarter, a school in which the teachers not only cautiously care for enlarging the children's world through lots of learning. In addition, for the first time, the children from 7th to 9th grade had a school excursion for three days. They travelled to Pokhara, roughly 200 kilometres away from Kathmandu, a journey which Rohan enjoys to remember. He helps the little boys to build a lake on the dusty ground. «That's Lake Phewa of Pokhara», explains the 15-year-old. And he tells about the boat trip, the wind and the waves. Pasang, wants to know, if he was able to swim there. «No», says Rohan, the lake was



too dirty. The greatest part of the Pokhara's waste water flows in there. Last year on a trip, eight-year-old Pasang had visited a pupil pool for the first time. Since then, he is not the only one in the orphanage who names

swimming as his favourite hobby, though opportunities are rare. Pasang takes one of the girl's dolls and teaches it in the newly build lake what he himself has not learned yet: swimming.

Kathmandu
Brigitta Niederhauser
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New Management - New House

Karma Tendar, manager of the Sertshang Orphanage Home since 2003, immigrated to the US in 2008. After a temporary solution the Tibetan Tenzin Kuntschok took over responsibility. He graduated, together with Choegyal Rimpoche, in Buddhist Studies in Kalimpong in 2009. He took care of the younger pupils in the monastery in which he lived. The new «mother» of the orphanage is the young Tibetan woman Methok Lama. In 2007, the orphanage moved from the noisy quarter Chabahil into the calmer quarter Swoyambunath at the suburb of Kathmandu. The house and garden are provided cost free to the orphanage by Shamar Rimpoche, a high Tibetan dignitary. Tashi Sertshang, the founder of the orphanage, has built another house on the same property. Originally he had planned to his set up his doctor's practice and waiting room in there. In addition, a small restaurant and internet café were planned in order to provide long term jobs. But in recent years it has turned out that the old house is too small to serve the needs of the adolescent children. For example, rooms for doing homework are missing. Learning and playing takes place outside or in the dormitories, which harbour 6 to 12 children. Moreover, space for setting up a dining room is lacking. In summer, as well as in winter, meals are taken on a covered veranda. Due to lacking space, dancing and music lessons are taking place outside, too.

Due to this background Tashi Sertshang and his son Choegyal Rimpoche have decided to make the new house available to the orphanage in order to save the space problem. The latter will take over the responsibilities for the orphanage after returning from his three-

Association Sertshang Orphanage Home

The Association supports the Orphanage of the Tibetan doctor Tashi Sertshang in Kathmandu, Nepal.

All donations to the Association account go 100 percent to the benefit of the Home. The administrative costs are carried by the Association's board.

Sertshang Orphanage Home

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year retreat. Tashi will set up his doctor's practice outside the orphanage. The girls will move into the new house and the boys stay in the old one.

The decision to use the new house for the orphanage has financial consequences. So far it was not necessary to spent money for the rent. The new house which Tashi Sertshang donated to the orphanage is still burdened with mortgage. Now, The Association Sertshang Orphanage Home is looking for sponsors and credit (interest-free or without interest) in order to repay part of the mortgage and to keep the rent as low as possible.

Sponsorship

One Sponsorship (40 Swiss francs / 30 Euros per month) covers the basic living costs for one child.

Those of the children who learn English in school early enjoy when Sponsors contact them per mail or email to establish a personal relationship and follow their development.

Sponsor Patenschaften

Additional Donations by Sponsors

The association depends on additional donations in order to pay school fees, equipment acquisition and development of the infrastructure of the orphanage.

One-time Donations

Even a one-time donation can have a big effect: With 10 Swiss francs / 7 Euros, for example, 5 high quality flashlights can be bought, which are needed in cases of frequently occurring power breakdowns. With 50 Swiss francs / 35 Euros underwear and socks for all children can be bought, whereas 100 Swiss francs / 70 Euros allow a day-trip for the whole orphanage, for example to a public pool.

