

Volunteers Initiative Nepal (VIN) Monthly Newsletter



October 2010

Women's Empowerment

Community Health &
Environment

Children's Development

Youth Empowerment

October Accomplishments

- Provided vegetable production training for four women's groups
- Published children's magazine, *Creative Souvenir*
- Helped Children's Club conduct Dashain program
- Conducted regular patient checkups in Jitpur health post
- Conducted health camp in community school in Panchmane
- Continued to provide support for toilet construction in Dadagaun
- Developed methodology/tools for midterm evaluation



Kids enjoyed learning about vegetables as well!

Vegetable Production Training for Women's Groups

VIN conducted training programs for four women's groups in two locations, focused on various issues related to vegetable farming and production. 23 women from the Mukteshwar, Mirmire, Panchmane and Tarkeshwor participated in the training sessions. The participants now have a better understanding of different behaviours of various seasonal vegetables, how to better utilize modern technology in their farming methods, how to properly prepare the land, how to handle vegetables after harvesting, how to use and handle pesticides properly, and the waiting period of pesticides. The new knowledge will help the women to increase the vegetable production yields.

General Updates

VIN is currently conducting a midterm evaluation of all programs to assess the progress toward achieving the objectives set for 2012. VIN want to assess the impact of the programs in the community since their inception, as well as to better understand what improvements or changes need to be made. VIN has hired two additional staff members and is also making use of the local and international volunteers to conduct the evaluation. The tools necessary for the evaluation such as questionnaires, surveys and baseline criteria were developed in October. Data collection and analysis will be completed in the next month.

Organic Farming Project Update

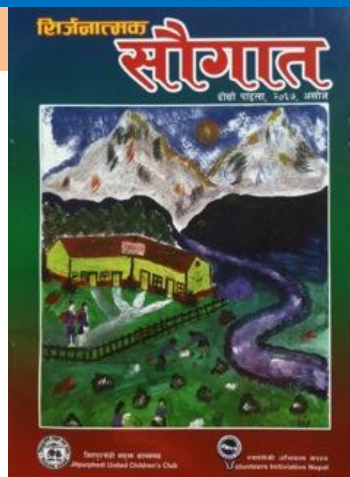
VIN had been involved in an organic farming pilot project with the Mirmire Women's Group of Jitpur community for one year since 2009. However, the project was discontinued in July 2010 due to external conflicts. This month, VIN conducted a series of meetings with Indra Aryal, a member of the Jagaran Women's Group, who is interested in starting another organic farming project. VIN will prepare a formal agreement for the project next month.

Cooperative Status Update

The Women's Cooperative VIN has helped to set up continues to increase in membership. Total number of shareholders has now reached 146, with 64 individual and 17 group saving accounts. The microcredit scheme established within the cooperative is also going well – the total loans distributed has now reached NRs 190000.

Publication of children's magazine named *Creative Souvenir*

Following the success of last year, the United Children's Club (UCC) and VIN have published the 2nd volume of the annual magazine *Creative Souvenir*. The magazine contains a compilation of English and Nepali stories, poems and other creative works by children as well as a collection of scholarly articles and perspectives by teachers and other experts. The magazine will help to encourage children and teachers to share their creative works with each other, as well as to motivate the children to read and write more. The magazine will be distributed to all children in Jitpur community schools.



Dashain program organized by UCC

The United Children's Club has been organizing bi-monthly interschool competitions in various schools. The UCC also organized a cultural program to celebrate Dashain that included various children's dances, songs and skits. 5 schools in the Jitpur community participated in the delightful program that also coincided with the launch of the children's magazine.



Health camp conducted at Panchmane ECD Center

VIN has successfully conducted a second health camp at the Panchmane ECD with the main objective to check general health of the children in the ECD as well as those in the Panchmane community. Additional objectives included checking dental health of children and increasing awareness about hygiene and sanitation. The examinations as well as medicines were conducted free of charge to the community. 28 patients, between 6 months and 60 years old were treated during the day, including one home visit. Majority of the diagnosis were respiratory related. Patients were advised to follow up at the health post.

Patients checkup at health post

VIN continued its support at the health post. VIN's doctor, Dr. Laxmi Ghimire visited the health post for 9 days and treated 230 patients in the month of October. International volunteers Bruno and Rita also provided support to the health post, maintained healthpost sterilization and kept the health post environment clean by installing new trash bins. They also posted new posters and pamphlets to increase awareness about illness prevention and sanitation.

Toilet Construction in Dadagaun Status

VIN continued its support to construct toilets in the Dadagaun community. A total of 46 toilets have been completed to date, and materials for 6 additional toilets will be provided in the first week of November. VIN aims to have completed construction of at least 100 toilets by the end of 2010.

Sponsorship Update

As you know, there are never enough dollars to make the world go round, so any help, or leads, you can offer would be really helpful for the following current projects:

1. Sponsor a Child.

VIN is searching for generous people who can change the lives of 110 children in the rural area of Jitpurphedi, 11kms from Kathmandu. A full sponsorship of 230 USD per year will ensure a disadvantaged child has the opportunity to receive a complete education.

Partial sponsorship is also available and costs 100 USD per year. This amount will be directed towards stationery and books. Please visit the [VIN website](#), and encourage your friends and colleagues to sponsor a child this Christmas!

2. Community Learning Centre at Jitpur.

Major funding is being sought for the proposed Community Learning Centre at Jitpur which will be built alongside the Kalikasaram Secondary School. We are hoping to raise over 400,000USD for this ambitious venture.

[A Christmas Fund Raising Campaign, AKA "Buy a Brick"](#) has also been launched. This is aimed at people who already have everything. We know they will be thrilled to know that, on their behalf, you have purchased a pile of bricks to help start the Centre.

Remember - When you stop giving and offering something to the rest of the world, it's time to turn out the lights!



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Volunteer's Corner



Paul (Canada) – Teacher turned autograph signing celebrity



Volunteers and staff dancing at the Dashain Party at the VIN office



Shanell (USA) being interviewed by a local news channel for "Foreigner Appreciation Week" in Kathmandu!