

Mahadevi News - January 2017 (1/2017)

Dear friends,

on behalf of our chair-persons I wish you a Happy New Year and more justice and peace for the world.

Please, stay well-disposed to our support of poor women in Nepal. Next year our association will look back on a ten years' commitment, and many people have contributed to financing the Mahadevi Women Educational Centre in Patan. Thanks to the lots of helpers.

This edition of Mahadevi News centres on the students and teachers of the school. But first some remarks on the situation in Nepal.

A new water-power plant started working in the Annapurna region. The airport in Pokhara is being enforced. Mr Robin Chamlin judges the political situation as on the whole unsatisfying. Distributing foreign subsidies among some 550.000 households started in the middle of 2016 but is progressing very slowly because bad work of the state employees. Some money, 1 800 € per house, has been given out but many are still waiting, and almost everywhere many people still have to live in tents or shacks. This is a shame. He says private organizations manage to help more directly and more efficiently. The government is trying to change the constitution so as to satisfy the population in the Terai area where the border and provision was blocked because of opposing opinions on the constitution. The opposition (UML) disagrees and favours new elections in the area first.

Interviews

Interview 1 of student Rukmani, 68 - taken by Nepali basic teacher Miss Sita

Question: What is your motivation to learn in this age ?

Answer: Well, all can read, write but I can't. This is a pity that I could not go to school in my youth.

No one is old to learn. So I came here in mahadevi to learn something. Education is so important.

Question: What have you learned till now ?

Answer: Now I can write the simple words, numbers and also write some lines and add the total.

Question: How are you benefiting from this course from Mahadevi ?

Answer: Oh ! There are many. I can now phone my daughter, I can read the sign boards and also check the list of shopping list. Especially it is helpful to work on my own. I don't have to ask or wait for anybody now.

Question: How long you plan to study here ?

Answer: I am not sure. It depends on my health, weather and family situation.

But I want to continue as long as I can.

Question: What problem are you facing now?

Answer: It is very cold and my eyes are weak. It is hard to remember the lessons.

Question : Anything, you want to advice us ?

Answer: Oh, Thank you for this facility in our area. It is very helpful for us. What advice I have ?
Nothing. It is all very good. She smiles....

Answer: It is very cold and my eyes are weak. It is hard to remember the lessons.

Question : Anything, you want to advice us ?

Answer: Oh, Thank you for this facility in our area. It is very helpful for us. What advice I have ?
Nothing. It is all very good. She smiles....

Interview 2 of teacher Miss Sita, 45 - taken by Anupendra Acharya

Question: What is your motivation to be a teacher in Mahadevi ?

Answer: Well, I like to teach in my life. This is the most holy work to do. I can help the women here in Mahadevi, and when they can develop in their life, this gives me happiness.

Question: How are your students in general ?

Answer: The women are wonderful and very lovely for sure. I am amazed to see their interest to learn and this gives me more power to help them better. I love them so much because they come here from long distance too. I can see their pain to come here too. Most of the women are widow and many women have their husbands out of the country in Arab countries for manual work . We have young ladies too and they need to work. The saddest things , most of the students can not be regular in the classes. Definitely, they are with us for a long time and they will continue too but they are irregular in lessons.

Question : What can be the reasons ?

Answers: She laughs ! Well, the biggest problem is the family pressure for old women. It is very hard for them to come out of the house. In nepali culture, you know very well, it is not taken good, for the women to walk around . Especially the older women. They are responsible for everything in the house because there is no body in the house in the afternoon . To lock the house and come out is a big challenge for our women . And for young women, they work and the duty time is not fixed. Many need to change the residence for some time too. Construction work is not easy. Thye shift where there is work and this is only for a short time . And some women have loads of family work and they can't just come here making the family members sad . It is all their obligation .

But they come when it is possible and this is very good. As a teacher, and as a women , I understand their problem.

I know the women feel so much refreshed and happy to come here . It is like their mother's home ! They can talk with each other, share their pain and enjoy the activities too. Thye are delighted to come here always.

Question : When you meet your old students outside, what do they say ? How they are doing ?

Answer: Oh ! Thye just treat me like their daughter, they hug me and explain me, how they are benefiting from the education from mahadevi. They try to explain me the situation where they enjoyed and how they were saved.

They talk about their disease and treatment and also thank our medical activities from mahadevi. I remember, they don't forget to ask me.... When are you taking the blood pressure test again ? When are the guests coming from Germany ?

Question: Any advice for betterment ?

We have everything. We have the facility and we are here all the time to serve them. Women are happy and they are learning each day. And I think, this is already great. We have an extension of the sewing course too and this is so important. Now, If we have the basic beautician course / hair cutting for ladies , in the future, may be, we can help more needy women who can not afford the training cost outside, and they can come here , learn and earn good living. This would be especially good for the young women , whose are living alone and who do not have any job .

It is very hard to get the office job for the women, who have less education. But if they are skilled, they can start a small business them-self and be powerful them self.

Thank you and namastya

Interview 3 of student Ambika, 25 - taken by Anupendra Acharya

Question: What is your motivation to learn sewing course ?

Answer: It is my aim to do something in my life by my-self and I am highly interested in tailoring . Therefore, I am coming here to learn. I come from Godavri , 8 km from here by bus and it is very hard but I am happy, I am learning new things everyday.

Question: What have you learned till now ? Are you happy ?

Answer: Yes, why not? I am very happy. Now I can make small items for the kids and repair the broken dresses. I can also make trousers and some dress for ladies.

Question: How are you benefiting from this sewing course from Mahadevi ?

Answer: Not huge , right now. But I am helping my families and neighbors right now. This is a big help for them. Also this is a big experience for me. Slowly , people are coming to me and it is nice to help them. I get some money too.

Previously people did not know me, but now, because of this work, they know me in my village.

I am very happy, I see a good future ahead. If I study for next few months, this will be much better.

Question: How long you plan to study here ?

Answer: For next two months, until my course is complete.

Question: Then, any plans for the future ?

Yes, why not ? I plan to open one small shop near the road and start my own work. But the rent will be a problem in the beginning stage, I know. But I will try. I need to buy the good machines too and this is also not easy.

Question : What problems do you see to start the work ?

Answer: My financial situation is not strong . Next thing....If I come in the city, the rent will be high but I get good work, I assume. And If I stay in the village, the rent will be low but again, people will force me to work in credit for sure, and they never appear again.

Question: Any advice for us ?

Answer: Oh ! I have no advice. All is good. Bus fare is very expensive everyday to come here and go. But we are learning , and we are very happy.

Interview 4 of student Bishnu, 51 - taken by Nepali basic teacher Miss Sita

Question: What is your motivation to learn in this age ?

Answer: I am just interested to learn. I am very weak in education and I want to use my free time.

Question: What have you learned till now ?

Answer: Now I can write some lines and read the text also. I can also read the bills and the numbers.

Question: How are you benefiting from this course from Mahadevi ?

Answer: Definitely, I have lots of benefit. I can use the mobile to dial the numbers and read the papers too, the head lines. I can also read the electric meter bills and life is getting easy. I wish I had studies in my childhood. She laughs..

Question: How long you plan to study here ?

Answer: For few more months. I have time . But it is hard to come out of the house .

Question: What problem are you facing now:

Answer: Nothing. Time is the main problem. I don't have work in office but house work is always busy.

Question : Anything, you want to advice us ?

Answer: Oh, Please continue your work . It is very useful for all. I can see, so many women are coming and they are all happy to learn always . I also want to join the sewing courses. That is also very important.

Mrs Gyana is the new leader of the sewing courses. Mrs Shanti is forced to reduce her work for private reasons. She conceived the sewing and tailoring courses and has been in charge since 2011. We thank her a lot and wish her all the best for her future. And a lot of success for Mrs Gyana.

Dates and activities in 2017

- 20/21.1. Seminar Schmitz-Foundation (Rosi, Ulrike, Reinhold)
- 11.02. Hike of our members
- 19.02. Film „Urmila“ in Schorndorf
- 18.03. Network seminar of Georg-Kraus-Foundation in Hagen (Detlef)
- April Visit to the Mahadevi Centre (Detlef, Florian and others)
- 02.07. Flea market in Esslingen
- 23. 09. Concert with chansons and songs in Esslingen
- 16.11. Members meeting in Plochingen
- 25.11. Rock and Pop Concert with BOB in Hohengehren

Greetings, Namaste

Detlef Gründel

Beauty lies not in the things themselves but in the eyes of those looking at them

