



**MAHADEVI e.V. - Verein zur
Förderung von Frauenprojekten in
Nepal e.V.**

Detlef Gründel, 1. Vorsitzender
Ringstr. 63, 73666 Baltmannsweiler
Tel. 07153-42135, info@verein-mahadevi.de
www.verein-mahadevi.de

Major celebrations in women schools in Nepal
10 th anniversary of Mahadevi school and start of new project

11 people from Baden-Württemberg celebrated together with women of Mahadevi school.

10 years ago the Patan school to foster literacy of women was inaugurated, one year after the respective association had been founded. It is this association that provides for the financing with the aim of helping women with little or no school education. According to Ms Beena Archarya, the chairwoman of the school, 350 women have attended the school so far. Educational targets are set individually, and the speed of teaching takes into consideration the various talents of the women, aged between 20 and 80. Besides literacy and arithmetic, more than 100 women have been able to attend sewing courses, which are financed by the Georg Kraus foundation.

The impressive anniversary celebration took place in a posh restaurant near the school. It was opened by a traditional dance of a young student, followed by talks of Mr Anupendra Acharya and Detlef Gründel – the latter was expected to give his speech in Nepali (as he had done before, this time instructed by a Nepali woman in Stuttgart). The group of Germans addressed the women with three songs, and all the people present joined them for the mantra „Om Namah Shivaya“. The successful participants of the sewing course got their certificates. A children group danced to Nepali music. A delicious Dal Bhat was served. The dance floor became crowded, and the mood more and more lively.

In Nepal there is continuous need for support for women, not just in basic education. Education helps women to more self-consciousness and social participation. In the mountain village Valche Gaun, a new school was started in March in cooperation with the village administration, Ms Yamu Tamang as teacher, and our local partner, Mr. Robin Chamlin – the Saraswati Project. We had provided for substantial aid in reconstruction after the devastating earth quake of 2015. It takes a five-hour rocking trip in a four-wheel jeep to get to this distant village, and Detlef Gründel and our member Dorothea Schütz were moved by the thankfulness and warmth when they were welcomed by all of the village. A couch was placed for them on the village court, they were decorated with flower braids and welcome shawls, and the local lama performed religious ceremonies with two assistants. The village chairman and other people gave speeches, children sang, and the women of the school danced in traditional dresses. The celebration continued in the school. The teacher explained the progress that the women made. Some had not been able to hold a pencil. A solar panel and a copy machine would make teaching easier. In the evening a little procession went up to the Gompa, the small abbey that was reconstructed with the financial support from our association. And after a cold night, the guests got a hearty farewell, again with flowers.

Our association will consider in the next meeting how to continue cooperation and development. Financing is based on members' fees, donations and money raised in activities. Thus, another beneficial concert will take place with the BOB band in Hohengehren [on Dec. 12, 2018](#).