

NVF(UK) project Pathway

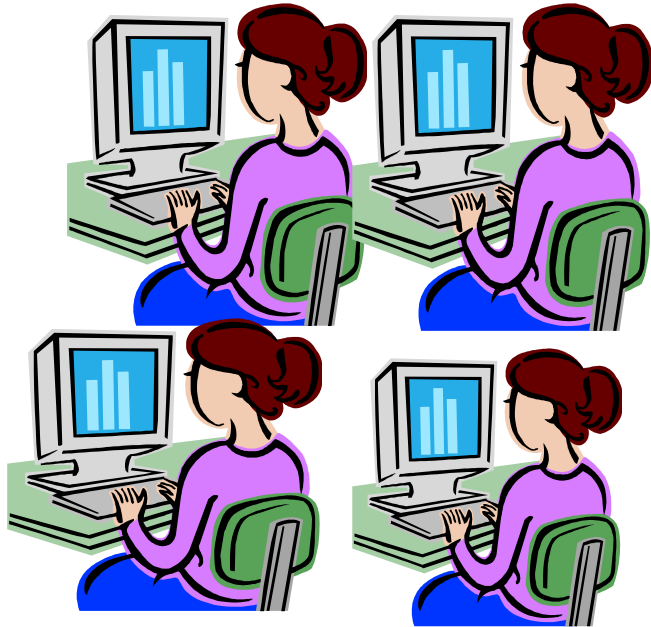
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Projects list in priority order

- Learning resource centre
- Educating the next generation
- Empower women
- Safe drinking water and sanitation
- Ending child labour and slavery
- Agriculture training and development
- Health care education and development
- Social cohesion
- Promote ecotourism

Learning resource centre



- The Learning Resource centre (LRC) will play the most important role in the village. It will be sited close to the shops and tea stall so that it is easy to access.
- We will be holding free social, educational and cultural programmes to attract new visitors to the centre.
- The location for LRC which will be convenient for the whole village and on land which is not suitable for growing food
- The staff of the LRC will have knowledge of IT, child development and education skills and adult training skills.
- Contact online education to provide vocational education for adults and provide virtual qualifications for children
- Free computer literacy for all children so they can communicate, share culture, knowledge and skills.



Educating the next generation

- Even in the 21st century many people in the Terai do not understand the value of education. The majority of girls get married in their teenage years and are mothers by the age of 16 or 18. Hardly one student in five is a girl according to information provided by school teachers. Parents keep the girls engaged in farming, house work, and so on because they think educating girl is waste of money as they will not bring any income to the birth family. Another reason children are not in school is the cost, families can't afford to pay school fees.
- Over all literacy is only 42% with the main barriers to attaining an education being; the cost and language difficulties. All of the school materials are provided in Nepali which is the national language while Maithili is the widely used language of the Terai region.
- We will visit schools run by the government and private sector to work in co-operation with teachers to motivate parents to send their children to school and find some alternative ways to motivate children to be in school.
- Find out what sort of facilities have been provided by government to the poor families and provide additional support where required.
- Visit all the families who have children in the village, assess the situation, persuade and encourage them to send their children to school.
- If a village does not have a school, we will be opening a new one and hiring professional teachers.

Empower Women

- One of the most important factors for improving the lives of families and achieving sustainable livelihoods. Even though women are the hardest working people in any family in Asia, they are undervalued, discriminated against, and do not have equal rights to men.
- Roughly 20% of women have are literacy to primary level and about 7% are graduated in Terai Nepal. Our priority is to provide sufficient help and support to empower women.
- Meet the most vulnerable women in the village first, try to understand their feelings, situation and encourage them to participate in the learning and resource centre and to work with our staff to find ways to improve their situation.
- Offer literacy classes to women
- Provide financial support and appropriate training to operate small business to improve the family income.
- Set up women's self help groups to provide support, idea sharing and advice.
- Encourage women to take a management role on the advisory boards of the organisation

Safe drinking water and Sanitation

- Drinking polluted water is one of the major causes of health problems in Terai therefore providing safe drinking water will play vital role in improving health and well being. Other than in the major towns and cities in Nepal there is no piped water supply and sanitation system. Water pumped from underground is the supply for most homes and this is not safe to drink. In the rainy season the quality of the water gets worse and people suffer from diarrhoea, fever and other related infections. In the past people used to drink water from well and it was safer than pump water but easily available pump equipments in Nepalese markets brought big changes into society, even though water from pump is not safe people find it easier and convenient.
- Work with the villagers to discuss clean drinking water and better sanitation and plan how to improve hygiene .
- Re- activate all the wells in the villages, clean them, equip them with an easier mechanism for drawing water, provide specialist water testing, dig some new wells if it required and assist with natural way of water purification system in the area where it is impossible to provide a well.
- Build toilet and shower places in centre of each small village so it will be convenient to use for everyone who lives in that village. (VDC means village development committee and in one VDC there might be 4 to 8 small villages and a VDC has normally 10 to 20 thousands population)
- Set up some sort of system to keep it going or maintain the standard of the wells and toilet and shower places in future.

Ending child labour and slavery

- Nepal has a population of 30 million of which 10.4 million are children under the age of 18 (which is 35% of total). Approximately 2.6 million children are working ,that equates to one in every four children and they are 25% of labour force in Nepal.
- Mainly illegal child labourers are used in places like factories, farming, construction, transport, as a servant in home and so on. Wages are extremely low in Nepal therefore skilled and unskilled labour force are leaving the country for overseas employment which results in a shortage of labour employers have only option to shutdown the business or employ child labour. Child labourers provide much needed income to the very poorest families .
- Get parents involved in our free training courses, motivate them towards small businesses or help to get better job opportunities and so on.
- Encourage the child to go school and do some vocational education and training so they can improve their prospects for tomorrow.
- Visit the employers to discuss about their help and assistant to send children under 16 to school and better working conditions for age over 16 child labours.

Agriculture training and development

- In Terai 80% of the population is engaged in agriculture. Farming is carried out in a very traditional manner which is highly labour intensive and shows little return for a high level of physical labour. The Terai is only 17% of the land in Nepal and yet it is so fertile that with the appropriate level of technology and more advanced farming techniques it could provide all of the food for the nation. Because of poor infrastructure and poor techniques it cannot fulfil its potential and most farmers are poor with times in the year when they can hardly feed themselves. December and January are harvesting months and mid September to late November is most difficult time for poor farmers as they are unable to maintain rice, wheat, and lentils for the whole year.
- We will be providing appropriate training to farmers on improving farming methods to get better return from their land.
- Set up some co-operative organised markets (such as dairy, rice and wheat dealers, vegetable stores etc) where farmers can get a better value for their goods and which provides seed, tools and so on at cheaper and affordable rates. This will help motivate farmers to grow more.
- Motivate the farmers to grow different varieties of crops to maintain the balance of food requirements, for example some people grow rice, some wheat, some potatoes, some green vegetables and so on.
- Lots of farmland is unused after the rice harvest because water irrigation systems are not reliable. We will be supporting the maximum use of land, proper water irrigation systems and a more diverse range of crops to be grown all year round.

Health care education and development

- Terai always have been far behind in health care. 1000s of children and adults die every year from preventable diseases such as diarrhoea, typhoid, malaria. As it is very hot place and covered by forest it is also the best place for mosquitoes and flies. Corrupt government and people, lack of professionals and recourses it is very hard to manage reliable health care services. Poor people can't afford good mosquito nets, appropriate medicine, private hospital treatment and good health education so it make life more difficult. Population growth rate is way too high and poverty growing day by day.
 - Hire medical professional to provide health education for children in school and to adults mainly women in villages at out learning resource centre or in their home.
 - Provide training to tackle common diseases, safe and mosquito flies free environment around home to prevent the cause.
 - Provide free first aids kit, mosquito net, general medicine and advice and resources to women who want to stop having baby.
 - Set up mobile health check up camps and co-operate with local government health centre to maintain services at affordable rate.
 - As our priority is prevention more than treatment, we will provide balance daily diet information widely and encourage people to grow and eat neutrino food to stay healthy.
1. To ensure every child in every family get something to eat before they go to school and bed as children is future and life expectation now in Nepal is average women 48 and man 52.

Social Cohesion

- Inside Terai mainly Maithili, Bhojpuri, Tharu, Rai and Limbu cast are exist and these casts are famous in culture and tradition. Teraien also share culture with India because of free boarder. Bihar state of Indian which is connected to Terai have been well known as violence, crime, home of gangster and most corrupt government place so these skills have been migrated into Teraien people as well. As any development and improvement begins with unity, social cohesion will be one of our major challenge.
- Encourage all different cast people to bring their cultural programme back to live as it seems lost some where and organise some events such as culture show, competition in villages.
- Tailor some information to people around villages about unity and its gain and why do we need it, what are benefits and disadvantages. Alone can do so little together can do so much.
- Provide extra help for the most venerable, unhappy and low cast people. Get them involved in, give little bit of responsibility, encouragement and respect.
- Build some events place, children playing ground, explain cast system and effect of it on people's life.
- Make available some books and films about cast, culture, and other educational film free through our library.
- As government is companioning against low and high cast system, we will fully support them to bring changes to the community.

Promote Ecotourism

- The Terai is one of the most beautiful tropical green landscapes in the world. It has hundreds of acres of wet lands, forests, national parks, it is very fertile and has lots of rivers and canals which carry melted ice water straight from the Everest region of the Himalayas. It has important historical and religious sites for instance where the Lord Buddha (Siddhartha Gautama) and Hindu Goddess Sita were born. Nepal is one of the top destinations for tourists but tourism is limited to the Kathmandu valley, Pokhara, the Everest and highlands regions. The Terai is never promoted as a tourist destination by the government or the Nepalese tourist industry.
- Set up a co-operative hotel association group to work together to maintain at least the most basic hygiene and comfortable accommodation in traditional style for tourist in Terai.
- Encourage local business people to invest in tourism. Provide professional assistance and information to local business people for profitable business and social profits.
- Promote tourism of Terai nationally and internationally through media, website, friends family etc.
- Bring to the attention of airlines the need to improve access to the Terai from outside of Nepal. Encourage the related organisations and local government to make some airports in the Terai international such as Biratnagar, Janakpur, Nepalganj etc.
- Encourage local people to organise more cultural programmes across Terai to attract tourist and promote Terai culture world wide.
- Coordinate with local and international government and with some organisations to provide some assistance to maintain condition of archaeological sites and national reserves in Terai.

Brief Note

I (Krit Sharma) originally from Terai and Nepal Village Foundation charity organisation specially designed to work with Nepalese NGOs in Nepal to develop sustainable livelihood. I have written this projects pathways from my knowledge, experience and education that I have gained from the Southern region people of Nepal. This is just a basic format that believed to work well in the region of Nepal and it will be rectified accordingly in the future if we find anything not working positively. More truth and realities about the region will be posted as soon as I finished doing my survey in Saptari district which will be carried out from February 2008.

Any questions or query about my writing please do not hesitate to contact me on krit.sharma@nvf.org.uk or visit www.nvfuk.org

Best Regards

Krit Sharma

16th October 2007.