

Mahadevi News 1/2021

March

Dear friends, members, supporters and everyone interested in our work in Nepal.

I hope that you are doing reasonably well in these difficult times and that you are also experiencing joyful moments. In Nepal, too, the Corona virus is affecting people's daily lives and income.

Our three women's schools have been open again for a few months after a long closure. In the Mahadevi Women's School there are currently 30 women registered, 20 for the basic courses and 10 for the sewing and tailoring courses. In the mountain schools Saraswati and Laxmi, as before the closure, 20-25 women learn reading, writing and arithmetic every day.

Mr. Anupendra reported on the **Corona situation in Nepal** at the beginning of March:

A total of 274300 infected people have been reported so far. 2700 people died in connection with Corona. The lock down started on 24 March 2020 and lasted for more than 6 months in 5 intervals. The pandemic left people very depressed. Many were forced to return to their home village because there was no work due to the closure of shops and businesses. If someone has to go to hospital, he pays for it. In the government hospitals, the fees are very low. However, it is difficult to find a free place there. The government has not supported industry nor trade. Therefore, many shops, hotels and even schools are forced to lay off staff. The virus continues to affect everyday life. The next generation is unclear. The number of cases has decreased, but perhaps this is due to less control. The shops have started to open and life seems normal. Some people are very fearful, others carefree and no longer wear masks on the street. It is uncertain how things will go on. Many worry about the future and the education of their children. At the MVEC (Mahadevi Women Education Centre) we have women with very low family incomes. They are particularly affected by the crisis. The free vaccination started a few weeks ago, first for the over-65s, then for the over-55s.

Thanks to many donors, we support many families in need. So far we have given 2050 € five times. Mrs Beena and Mr Anupendra are tirelessly organising the relief activities on site. The affected people receive food, fuel and rent subsidies. We have also contacted our Mountain Schools Coordinator, Mr Robin Chamlin (he runs a small but fine trekking agency), and his staff, as tourism is lying fallow.

Thank you for your kind concern and help, big Namaste, and millions of thanks from all of us. Robin!!

Anupendra writes:

Today was a great day in Mwec school again. The women were pleased to get the various food items like beaten rice, ghee, biscuits, noodles, sugar, corn, fried potatoes and many more. We completed the 4th distribution today. Several women have also received the rent money and also for their treatment. Few women have received help for copies and stationeries for their kids together with extra money for vegetable and cooking oil. The women have received sweaters and also some dress to wear. They were very happy. Thank you again for this great help for the women of Mwec. I will send you the list of names in next few days.

As reported several times before, the Mahadevi Women's School moved to a new building in Nakipoth last year. On the ground floor, it has moved into 7 colourful rooms. On the floor above

Surya Kiran hostel, which is sponsored by the Esslingen-based association of the same name and is also run by Mrs. Beena and her husband Anupendra. A few weeks ago, our board of directors were in contact with **Surya Kiran** to explore the **possibilities of cooperation** and joint activities. Ideas were collected and

it is up to the local people in charge to decide what can be done and when, also taking into account the Corona protection measures.

In the board we have redistributed tasks. The **new second chairperson**, Dr. Beate Ternberger, is now in charge of the two mountain schools in Valche Gaun and Nyachet and therefore the main contact person for our coordinator, Mr. Robin Chamlin. At this point I would again like to give thanks to the retired 2nd chairperson, Mrs. Ulrike Hemminger, who was on the board from the beginning.

Like the Saraswati School, the Laxmi School will receive a photocopier and solar collectors in the next few days. More than a year ago, many women from Valche Ghaun asked for a sewing and tailoring course at Saraswati School. The negotiations were interrupted then, but now they are being resumed.

Travel to Nepal is possible again, but with a 5-day quarantine after entry. Visas are no longer issued at the airport. Travel insurance and PCR test are compulsory. Changes subject to change.

We have again planned **two charity events**:

20.11.21: Pop and rock concert with BOB in Hohengehren

23.10.21: possibly a very special blues - and jazz concert, also in Hohengehren. Bianca Uhl has cancelled the theatre evening.

Let's see what will be possible.

We would like to continue our **support for families in need**. We also ask you for donations to help finance possible sewing courses in Valche.

Bank details of MAHADEVI e.V.: DE 05 6025 0010 0015 0415 66, BIC: SOLADES1WBN.

On behalf of the board, the partners and the women in Nepal, I thank you for your interest. Stay on our side. And stay or become healthy.

Namaste

Detlef Gründel

Board of Mahadevi e.V.:

Detlef Gründel (1st chairperson), Beate Ternberger (2nd chairperson), Barbara Erhardt (minutes), Reinhold Keller (finances)

In contrast to the material path, spiritual practice does not assume that happiness is to be achieved through accumulation, getting, holding on but by letting go. So life is not about getting or becoming as much as possible. It is about letting go of as much as possible, especially, of course, that which obviously makes us unhappy. An important part of this path is the practice of forgiveness - it too is a form of giving and letting go. Forgiveness has to do with giving away, freeing oneself. From Samye Dzung's Newsletter 48.