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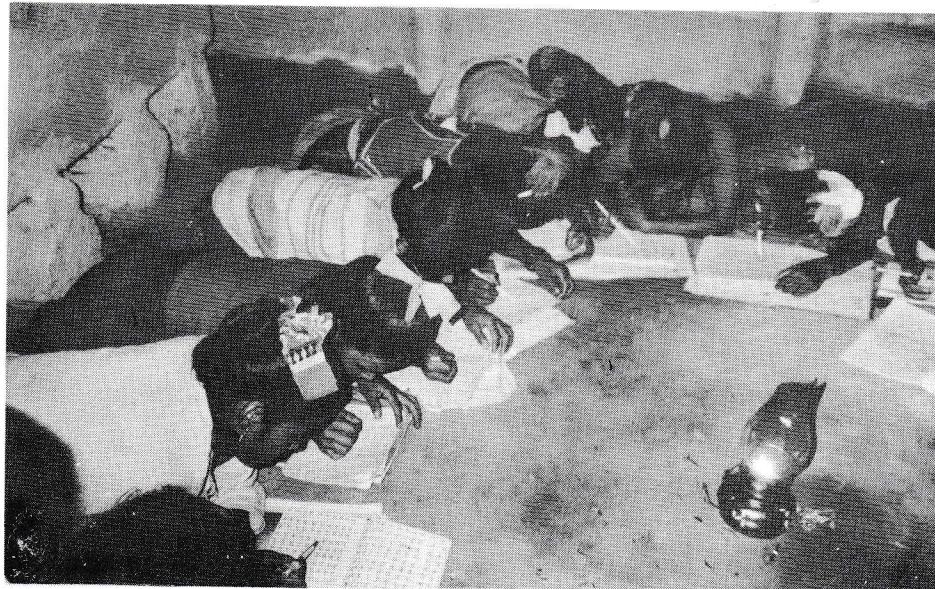
BACKWARD SOCIETY EDUCATION

SECOND YEAR REPORT

October 1992 - September 1993

for

THARU EDUCATION FOR TRANSFORMATION



Submitted to DANIDA November 1993

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ANNEX 1: CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND ADVISERS

PREFACE

Danida has the last two years supported BASE and a third year has just started. BASE has achieved a lot during these two years. The indigenous Tharu people are making slowly, but continuously, progress. They now know about their civil rights and feel that all people should be treated on an equal basis and have the same opportunities.

The Kamaiyas (bonded labourers) are also struggling for their human rights and demand that their landlords should treat them as free citizen. The Kamaiyas are making effort to release themselves from the slavery and also many landlords have realized that they should free the Kamaiyas from their debt-bondage and start to treat them as human beings.

Danida is financially supporting BASE to implement its programmes in the five far western districts of Terai. This help has already played a big role in the beginning transformation of the Tharu communities in West Nepal.

In these years many Tharus are feeling that their eyes are opening up because they are no longer illiterate.

All these achievements would not have been possible without the help of Danida. I am very thankful to the Danida mission in Kathmandu and the Danish Government for its support and hope that assistance to our organisation will be considered positively in the coming years.

Dilli Bahadur Chaudhary
Chairman of BASE



1. INTRODUCTION.

Financial supported by the Danish Development Agency (Danida), BASE started "Tharu Education For Transformation" in October 1991. As a part of the agreement BASE should keep Danida informed about project activities through annual reports, though for the first year both a half year and an annual report should be worked out. Therefore this is the third report BASE submits to Danida and this time it covers the activities in project year 2 (October 1992 - September 1993).

Although this report is specially prepared for Danida, we have also included activities financed by other donor agencies and activities financed by BASE itself. Our intention has been to give a view of all the activities run by BASE, because all can be seen as a part of an integrated Community Development Project.

Finally we hope that the report will prove to be informative for the many social workers and agencies, who have shown interest in our work during the past year.



2. BACKGROUND OF THE PROJECT.

"Tharu Education For Transformation" is a Community Development Project. The overall objective is through a comprehensive literacy programme to empower the Tharu communities for development.

The Tharus are one of the many ethnic groups in Nepal with an estimated population of 1 million (5.5 % of the total population). They are scattered throughout Nepal's southern Terai region, however, a large number of Tharus are concentrated in Mid and Far-Western Development Regions, particularly in the districts of Dang, Banke, Bardiya, Kalaili and Kanchanpur. The Tharus speak their own language and have their own culture and traditions.

Up to the 1950's, the Tharus, endowed with a natural resistance against malaria, occupied most of Terai. After the eradication of malaria, a new frontier was opened up for settlers from the hills. The result was a marginalisation of the Tharu people. Many were systematically squeezed off their land by unscrupulous moneylenders and landlords from the hill region. Threats and/or actual acts of violence, to force the Tharu to sign over their land, were used. In other cases the new settlers would just take over cultivated land, for which the Tharu did not have ownership papers and register it in their own name. In still other cases, the Brahman and Chetri settlers would take advantage of the Tharus illiteracy. They would draw up complicated loan forms, or even manipulate the figures, so that the Tharu debtor would be forced to give the moneylender the property, used a collateral, to pay off the debt.

As a result a majority of the Tharus gradually became landless and for subsistence, they were forced to either migrate or to work for the new landowners. Many as bonded labourers.



3. BACKWARD SOCIETY EDUCATION.

3.1. PRESENTATION AND HISTORY OF BASE.

BASE is an independent social grassroot organisation, committed to the development of the poor Tharu, and other disadvantaged communities in western Nepal.

Lack of education was an essential cause to the Tharu's deprivation of land and political and human rights. Therefore, in 1985, a small group of young Tharus in Dang started a club under the slogan: "Education is necessary". The club was called "The Club of Four Edges", where one edge was symbolising a village. Four edges or villages to form a square or a club.

Literacy classes were started and in 1989, 10 clubs were established involving 40 villages. At that time the club members decided to form an organisation, which main objective should be to work for the release of the debt bonded labourers, called kamaiyas. The organisation was named "Free Labour Movement", but was denied registration at the District Administration Office in Tulsipur and accused by the Panchayat government officials for being either connected with the Communist or the Congress Party.

Until the democratic revolution of 1990, the NGO sector was tightly controlled by a highly restrictive registration policy, and organisations, that were perceived to be anything other than docile supporters of the panchayat political system, could not obtain registration. As such they were also ineligible to receive funds from foreign donors. Up till then, the club members had raised the money for running the literacy classes through own work, private donations and cultural shows. However, lack of books, lanterns, kerosine, etc., and an increasing demand for starting new literacy classes made outside funding necessary.

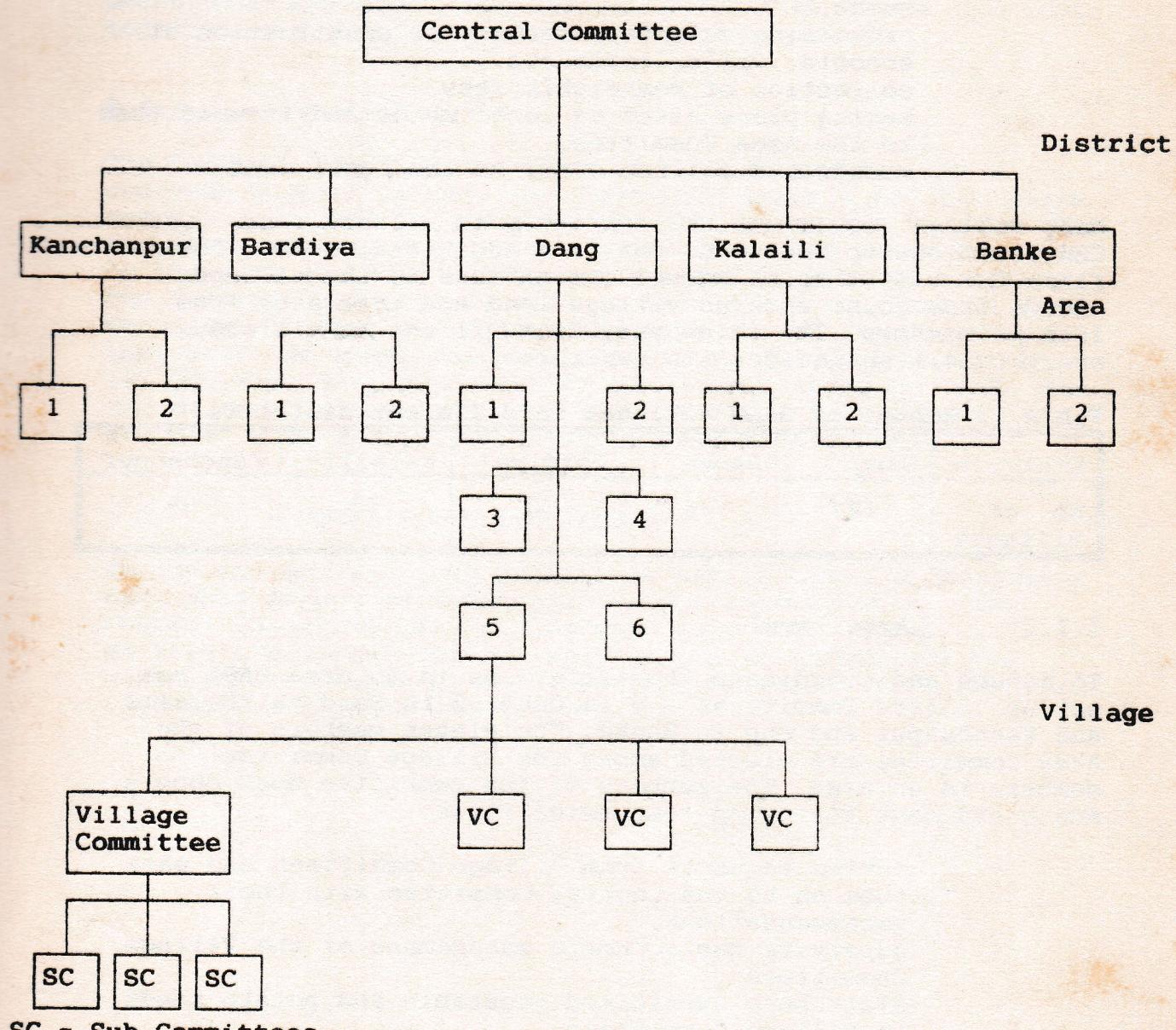
Even after the political change, the founder members had trouble with the registration authorities. Finally in February 1991 they succeeded, but first after they had changed the name of their organisation to the more harmless "Backward Society Education", in everyday language shorten to BASE.

Originally BASE was a local NGO only working in the western part of the Dang Valley, but financial and technical support from donor agencies made it possible for BASE to respond to demands coming from Tharu communities outside the Valley. Today BASE's basis organisation consists of 328 villages in the five districts of western Terai: Dang, Banke, Bardiya, Kalaili and Kanchanpur, with total 85,000 members.

3.2. THE ORGANISATIONAL SET UP OF BASE

Briefly stated, the organisation has four levels, a village, area, district and central level as shown in the below chart.

THE ORGANISATIONAL SET UP OF BASE



3.2.1. Village level.

Membership in BASE is open to anyone who is interested. But it is the poor villagers, the organisation seeks to serve. The membership fee is 1 Nrs. per. year. A Village Committee consists of nine members chosen by all the BASE households in the village. The members serve for a five year period and meet once a month. Village Committees can and generally do

appoint sub-committees to look after various programs in the village. A committee is responsible for:

- location of the nightclasses,
- looking after the night classes,
- organising the bonded labourers in the community,
- distribution of subsidised vegetable and potato seeds,
- organising voluntary labour for construction of schools, wells, roads etc.,
- collection of membership fees,
- making plans based on local needs and forward them to the Area Committee,
- manage and collect money to the local fund.

Many village committees collect money to a local fund. Contributions to the fund come from additional member fees, fines for violation of agreed conventions in the village, income from joint work on village land and interests from loan to members. The rules vary from village to village, every committee decides its own rules.

Table 1: Number of BASE villages in different districts.

District	Dang	Banke	Bardiya	Kalaili	Kanchanpur
No. of villages	147	35	62	45	39

3.2.2. Area level.

To manage and coordinate the activities in an area BASE has set up 13 Area Committees - 6 in Dang, 2 in Bardiya, Kalaili and Kanchanpur and one in Banke. The eleven members of the Area Committee are elected among the Village Committee members in an area. The members of the committee meet once a month and have following responsibilities:

- review requests from Village Committees and pass them on to the Central Committee with their recommendations.
- supervise the economic management of the Village Committees
- distribute subsidised vegetable and potato seeds to Village Committees
- together with the employed Programme Area Manager and his staff coordinate activities that cover more than one village in an area.

Like the Village Committees, some of the Area Committees collects money to a fund for public works in the area. Every Committee decides its own rules.

3.2.3. District level.

During the past year, BASE has established District Committees in Banke, Bardiya, Kalaili and Kanchanpur. In Dang the Central Committee also functions as a District Committee. Like the Area Committee eleven members are elected among the Village Committee members. Their responsibilities are to coordinate and make plans for all activities in the district together with the District Manager and his staff.

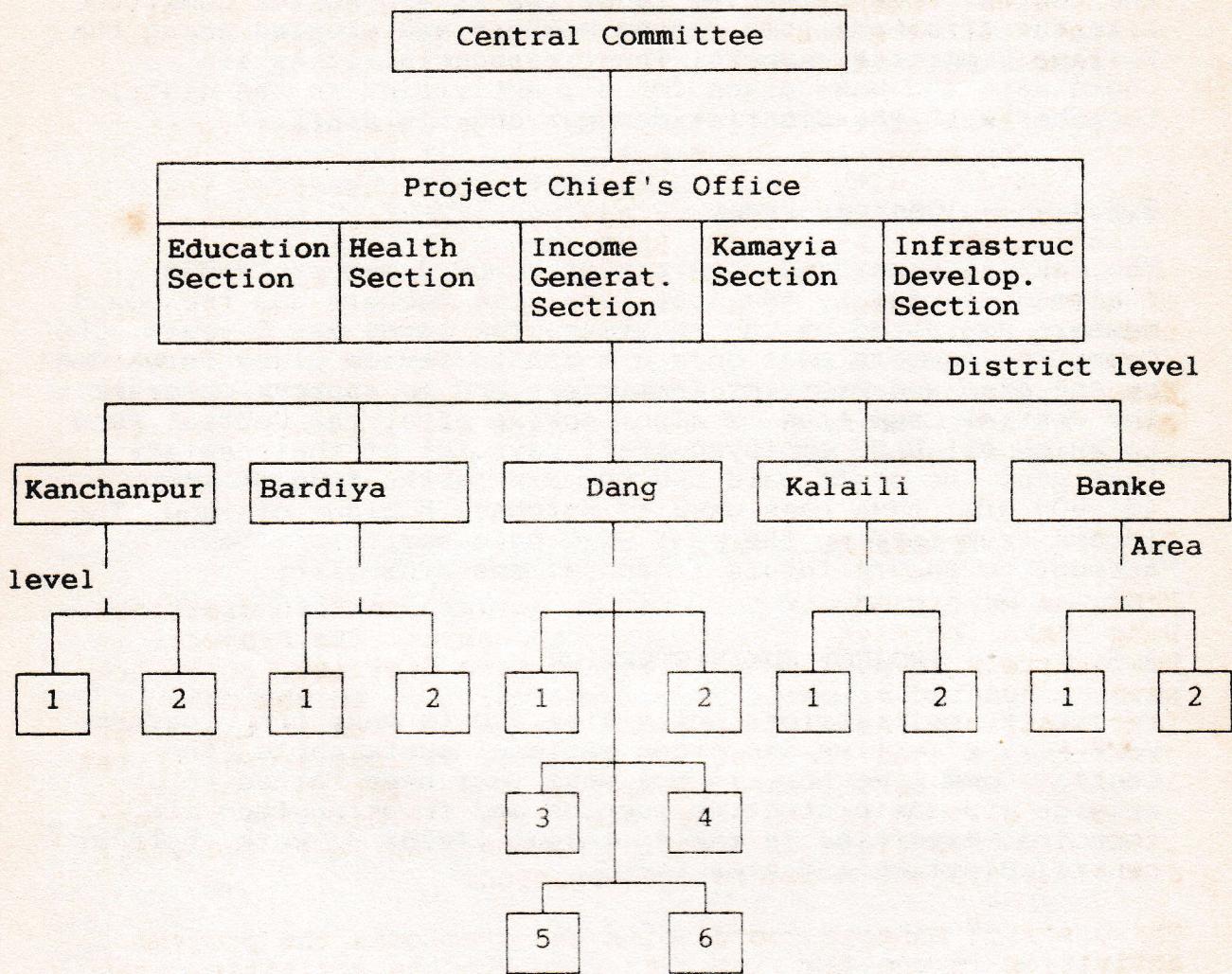
3.2.4. Central level.

The Central Committee consists of 8 board members and a chairman elected by the Area Committee members and two board members nominated by the chairman. The terms are 5 years. The Committee members meet once a month to review plans forwarded by the Area and District Committees and to approve programs. The Central Committee is also looking after the Central fund to which all BASE employed staff pays 10% of their salary. Last year the staff paid 600,000 Nrs to the fund of which 431,000 Nrs. have been used to purchase 5 bigha of land. The income from farming the land will be deposit in a bank account to secure future financial sustainability.

3.3. PROJECT ADMINISTRATION

To run the multifarious activities and to make the programme work more effective and organisational sustainable, the Central Committee has, in the past year been forced to enlarge its administration section and to strengthen its technical expertise in the different fields of work, both at central district and area level.

PROJECT ORGANISATION OF BASE



3.3.1. Area level.

At the area level one Area Manager and his assistant are responsible for the area programme. Moreover, dependent of number of classes, a different number of Education Supervisors are employed. The Area Manager also functions as

teacher trainer in the area.

The Area Manager is head of the Area Office. His/hers task is to supervise, monitor and coordinate the programme activities in the area. Further he/she is obliged to conduct regularly meetings with the Area Committee about ongoing and future programmes and later report to District Office.

The main task of the Assistant Education Supervisor is to support and supervise the night class facilitators in an area. Together with the Area Manager, he looks after the class management and conducts teacher training. He makes the village people aware of the BASE programme, motivates and mobilizes people to help to implement the programme (building of community houses, organising class rooms finding teachers, etc.).

Based on needs, the Area Office decides number of classes in each village. The night class teachers are also attached to the Area Office.

3.3.2. District level.

BASE, as mentioned earlier, is now working in five districts: Dang Banke, Bardiya, Kalaili and Kanchanpur. The Project Headquarters is placed in Tulsipur, Dang district, which are several hundred kilometres from the villages in the other four districts. As BASE expanded its activities in the other districts, a need for District Projects Offices arose. First an office was established in Bardiya and later on similar offices followed in the other districts. In Dang the Project Chief also functions as District Manager, while in the other districts project managers are employed.

The District Manager coordinates and overlooks the program activities in the district. Money to run the activities, pay the nightclass teachers, etc., are allocated from the Central Office to the District Offices every sixth month.

The District Manager is directly responsible to the Project Chief for the different programme activities in the district.

3.3.3 Central level.

The overall responsibility for programme activities is placed in Central Project Office, where Project Chief, central administrative and technical staffs are located.

Central Project Office is divided into sections for education, health, income generation, kamaiya support and infrastructure development. Ahead of each section are section managers. They are, in co-operation with Area and Village Committees, responsible for preparation of plans for ongoing

and new activities. They report directly to Project Chief. A number of employees are working in the sections (see next paragraph).

The Project Chief has the overall responsibility for all the programme activities of BASE, the administration and the finances.

3.4 PROGRAMME STAFF EMPLOYED AT DIFFERENT LEVELS.

1. CENTRAL LEVEL

1.1 Project Chief's office

Project Chief
Secretary
Administrator
Accountant (Education Programme)
Accountant (AIDS Programme)
Accountant (Family Planning Programme)
Store keeper
Computer typist
Peon

(9)

1.2 Education Section

Section Manager
Education Assistant
Educational Adviser (MS)

(3)

1.3 Health Section

Section & Family Planning Manager
Office Manager (Family Planning Programme)
2 Paramedics (Family Planning Programme)
Peon (Family Planning Programme)
Programme Manager (AIDS Prevention Programme)
Assistant Manager (AIDS Prevention Programme)
Paramedic (AIDS Prevention Programme)
Peon (AIDS Prevention Programme)

(9)

1.4 Income Generation Section

Section Manager
Assistant Manager
Women Development Coordinator

(3)

1.5 Kamaiya Section

Section Manager
Assistant Manager

(2)

Subtotal

(26)

2. DISTRICT LEVEL

5 District & Education Managers

Subtotal (5)

3. AREA LEVEL

9 Area & Education Managers

30 Field Education Supervisors

616 NFE facilitators

12 Formal school teachers

Staff Nurse (MS-Programme)

Health Adviser (MS-Programme)

Peon (MS-Programme)

6 Health Supervisors (Family Planning Programme)

30 Field Workers (Family Planning Programme)

6 Motivators (AIDS Prevention Programme)

Subtotal (712)

Total (742)



4. INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT.

As the programme and organisation are continuously growing bigger, organisational and institutional development become an important part of the programme activities.

4.1. Evaluation Report.

In January, February 1993, a team from PACT carried out an evaluation of the BASE programme for DANIDA. One of the main objectives was to asses the institutional capacity of BASE and to draw up conclusions on whether the proposed programme expansion was within BASE's organisational capacity.

The team concluded among other things, that BASE's strengths was;

- * a well-conceived administrative structure in place,
- * trust in the organisation and enthusiasm for its programmes on the part of the village participants,
- * dedicated staff,
- * unity and harmony in the Central Committee and good quality consultation in their deliberations,
- * genuine commitment to encouraging bottom-up planning,
- * able to mobilise community participation,
- * activities not money driven as most development programmes are.

But the team also stated, that BASE, as a new and growing institution, needs to be strengthen. For the different programme activities, as well as for the administrative structure, a list of recommendations was worked out.

The Evaluation, written in English, has been translated into Nepali, and distributed to Area, District and Central Committee members.

Discussions have been held among the committee members, and at the big annual meeting in January 1994, conclusions will be made concerning the recommendations given. A great deal of them has already been implemented, and the meeting will decides, what more has to be done.

4.2. Decentralisation.

BASE has started a decentralisation process. The Area level has been strengthen and the Area manager in co-operation with the Area Committee is now responsible for the implementation of the programme activities. Financial resources are allocated for a two month period and the Area Manager has to keep separate account.

For areas outside Dang, money is allocated to the District Committees for a three month period.

As a new innovation, the annual meeting in January, was open for all members. The meeting lasted for three days.

The first day, the Central Committee made a report to the members, and everybody was invited to participate in the following discussion. Next day coming years programme was discussed among all Central, District, Area and Village Committee members. The last day Central Committee made decisions concerning the coming year's activities.

For the first open annual meeting in January 1993, only few ordinary members and Village Committee members showed up and far from all Area Committee members. This year BASE will try to advertise better, but still of course many are not able to come.

4.3. Policy making.

BASE has, after discussions in the organisation, worked out policy papers for each of the five sections, education, health, kamaiya, income generation included women in development and infrastructure development.

4.4 Financial sustainability.

To increase own ability to finance needed activities in the future, BASE is building up funds at village, area and central level.

Using money from the 10% staff fund, the Central Committee has, as mentioned earlier, bought 5 bigha of land. Income from farming and tree plantation, will be put in the central fund.

At village level, BASE encourages Village Committees to establish local funds by matching the first saved 10,000 Nrs., 100%. So far 3 committees has reached the amount, and when a committee has saved 100,000 Nrs., they are obliged to donate the 10,000 Nrs. to another village fund.

Area Committees have started to sell school books, 1 Nrs. per book. The money is deposited in a bank account.

4.5 Human Resource Development.

Decentralisation and Human Resource Development have to go hand in hand. To get experienced trainers inside the organisation, BASE has been able, to send several of its staff members on courses, both abroad and in Nepal. BASE has now its own teacher trainer corps, is able to conduct leadership and management training for Area Committee members and different kind of sectorial training. In service training and workshops for staff members have been conducted by PACT, Save the Children, US and MS-Nepal.

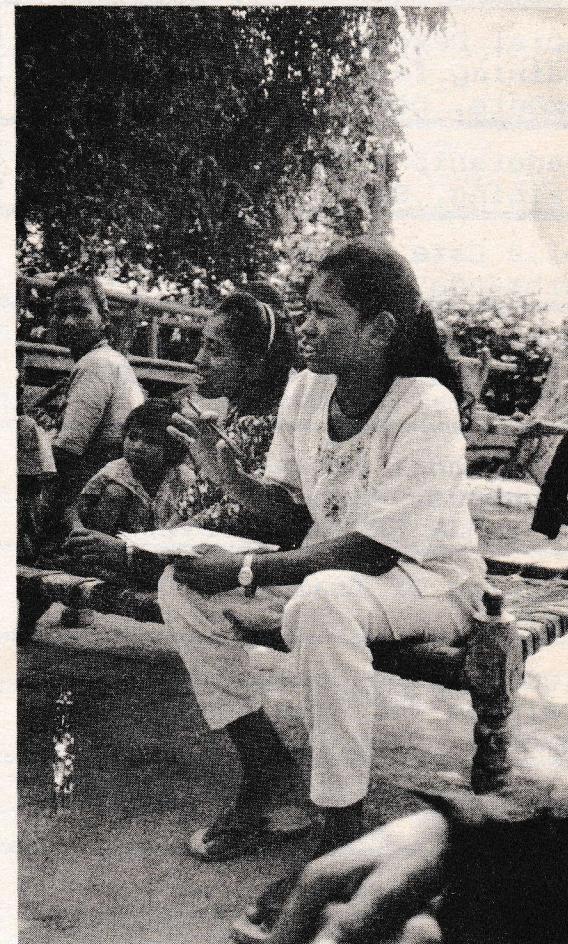


Table 2: Type of training by participants and days.

Type of training ↓	Staff/members	No. of days
International Leadership Training, Bangalour, SHARA	1 person	30
International Literacy Training Course in Thailand, UNIVERSITY OF MASS., USA	2 persons	30
National Leadership Training, Kathmandu, NERRA	1 person	7
Workshop about bonded labours, Delhi, India, BONDED LABOUR ORGANISATION	5 persons	30
Social Development Group Training for Area Committee members, Dang, BASE	12 persons	3
Leadership & Management Training, Dang, NGO FORUM	2 persons	7
Child Care Centre Training, Kathmandu, UNICEF	2 persons	21
Management Training, Kathmandu, SAVE THE CHILDREN, US	1 person	28
Situational Extension Technique, Kathmandu, CENTRE FOR HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT	1 person	7
Training Of Trainers, Dang, PACT	22 persons	14
Organisation Commanding Training for Area Committee members, Dang, BASE	12 persons	7
Micro Enterprise Development, Kathmandu, NCVA	2 persons	7
Perma Culture Training, Bairawa, NORFIELDS DEVELOPMENT CONSULTANCY	1	14

5. EDUCATION SECTION.

5.1 Problems.

The core of BASE's activity is the education programmes. The overall aim of "Tharu Education For Transformation", is to enable the Tharu communities of Western Nepal, through a comprehensive range of formal and non-formal education programmes, to help themselves to improve their living conditions.

Children and women are the main target group for the education programme, although many literacy classes for men have been conducted the past year. In general the literacy rate among the Tharus is very low. There are several reasons for that:

Firstly, the landless and near landless people hardly can afford to send their young ones to school in daytime. Everyone, also the children, has to work for the existence of the family. Besides, even though school is "officially" free of cost, parents have to pay for uniforms, stationeries and different kind of fees.

Secondly, many Tharu children, if going to school, previously experienced discrimination in the government schools. Teachers told them, that were predestined to work for the landlords and not clever enough to get an education.

The educational awareness among the Tharus has been very low.

5.2 Objectives.

The specific objectives for the education programme are:

- * to increase the literacy rate in the Tharu communities, in particular for the female population and children of bonded labourers.
- * to increase the school enrolment of school-going-age children in the Tharu communities.
- * to increase the number of children taking a School Leaving Certificate.
- * to increase the number of children getting a higher education.

5.3 Activities.

The Education Sector is divided into non-formal and formal sub-sectors with the programmes listed below.

Non-Formal Education Programmes:

- * Basic Non-Formal Education for Out-of-School Children.
- * Basic Non-Formal education for adults.
- * Advanced Non-Formal Education Courses for adults.

Formal Education Programmes:

- * Formal Night School.
- * Female Education Support.
- * SLC Coaching Support.
- * Campus support.

5.3.1. Non-Formal Education.

When most of the students have to work in daytime, the classes are organised to run in the evening (or night) time from 7 pm. to 9 pm.

Two different types of night classes have been designed:

- one for children between 6 and 14 years old.
and
- one for women and men above 15 years of age.

5.3.1.1 Non-formal classes for children.

The first mentioned types of classes are for out of school children. Most of the children come from economically poor families, which cannot afford school fees, book charges, etc. But classes are also organised for students, in particular girls, who did not start in a government school, when they were younger, and now are too ashamed to start in grade one, with the small ones. The classes run for one year and are divided into two parts. The first eight months is devoted to the study of Naulo Bihani and the last four months prepare the students for admission to fourth grade in the formal school. The classes start in January.

Table 3: No. of Out of School classes and students in different districts started in January 1993.

	No. of classes	No. of students started		
		Male	Female	Total
Dang	189	2127	2972	5099
Banke	12	121	181	302
Bardiya	14	66	203	269
Kalaili	21	167	403	570
Kanchanpur	5	15	122	137
Total	241	2,496	3,881	6,377

Later this year in December the children will be tested, to see whether they are capable to get admission in grade 4 in the formal school.

5.3.1.2 Non-formal classes for adults.

The adult night classes run in a 2 year cycle. The Basic course starts in January and runs for 6 month. After the rainy season the class continue for another 6 month, called Advanced 1 level, which again leads to Advance 2 level and new 6 months in the night class. Ministry of Education's series of literacy primers for adults, Naya Goreto, is used in the classes. Advance 2 level also utilizes materials prepared by BASE and other organisations. The students are taught in subjects like family planning, human rights, importance of a clean environment, new technology in agriculture and personal hygiene

After the first six months the students are tested for their literacy and arithmetic skills. The test is similar to the tests generated by MOEC, but contrary to the government system, where students can pass with 33% correct score, BASE demands 50%. Students who do not pass examination get a 2 month extra course and continue in the same class.

Table 4: No. of Basic Adult and Advance 1 literacy classes and students in different districts started in January 1993.

		No. of classes	No. of students started		
			Male	Female	Total
Dang	Basic	160	1027	2443	3470
	Adv.1	34	178	455	633
Banke	Basic	8	111	91	202
	Adv.1				
Bardiya	Basic	59	527	1174	1701
	Adv.1	23	162	252	414
Kalaili	Basic	11	38	227	265
	Adv.1	8	36	178	214
Kanchanpur	Basic	6	32	116	148
	Adv.1				
Total		309	2,111	4,936	7,047

These students were the 2. of October 1993 examined and the results can be seen in table 4 and 5.

Table 5: No of students in different districts by start, examined and passed. Basic Adult classes.

	No. students started 1	No. students examined 2	%	No. students passed 3	%	Passed students related to started 3/1
						2/1 3/2
Dang	3470	2821	81%	2409	85%	70%
Banke	202	164	82%	153	93%	75%
Bardiya	1701	1275	75%	1087	86%	65%
Kalaili	265	242	91%	232	95%	87%
Kanchanpur	148	121	82%	97	80%	65%
Total	5,787	4,625	80%	3,981	86%	69%

As shown in the table not all of the students are coming to examination. For all districts 20% of the students were absent. It is probably due to the fact, that examination took place during the daytime, where not all of the students were able to leave their work. They will get a new chance in the

end of December. The reason for arranging the examination in daytime was lack of suitable rooms and proper light.

The next table shows the figures from the Advanced 1 classes.

Table 6: No of students in different districts by start, examined and passed. Advanced 1 classes.

	No. students started	No. students examined	%	No. students passed	%	Passed students related to started
	1	2	2/1	3	3/2	3/1
Dang	633	537	85%	483	90%	76%
Banke						
Bardiya	414	187	45%	170	91%	41%
Kalaili	214	169	79%	150	89%	70%
Kanchan pur						
Total	1,262	895	71%	806	90%	64%

The low figures for Bardiya are due to a social incident, where the local authorities forced many landless people to move to other places. Among them were many night class students.

5.3.1.3. Letter writing.

To sustain the skills of newly literates, BASE's Education Section is sending letters to all students, who have completed a cycle in a literacy class. Every 3 month former students get a letter with questions about this and that. Nearly all answer the letter.

5.3.2 Formal education.

BASE's formal education programme is much smaller than the non-formal part, but important, because it provides incentives to encourage poor children and youth to pursue their studies.

5.3.2.1 Formal night classes.

After one year in a night class most of the children are able to cope with grade 4 in a formal school. Although BASE encourages the parents to send their children in government schools, many are not able to do so. In particular the Kamaiyas have big problems. To solve this problem, BASE has started 14 night formal classes. Twelve in Dang and 2 in Bardiya. Altogether 457 students are studying in these classes. It is planned to conduct classes up to lower secondary level. Government School curriculum is used and the local primary schools are co-operating with BASE by taking examinations for those attending the night classes.

5.3.2.2 Female Education Support.

In general the School enrolment of girls is low in Nepal. For Tharu girls in Western Nepal it is extremely low. It is hardly possible to find girls with School Leaving Certificate (SLC). To improve this situation a Female Education Support Programme has been launched.

BASE gives special emphasis to support girls from poor families. Project staff and Village Committee members motivate parents to send their daughters to school and BASE pays the expenses for school dresses, reading and writing materials and school fees. In 1993, 643 girls have been supported under this programme.

5.3.2.3. SLC Coaching Classes.

Only few Tharus in Western Nepal have a higher education. To increase this number, BASE runs special tuition classes for SLC students. To day it is nearly impossible to pass the high school examination without extra courses in maths and English. Therefore BASE is organising special 2 month tuition classes just before SLC examination. Also economically poor students from other communities can apply for admission in the classes.

Table 7: Number of enroled and passed SLC students in different years.

Year	No. of enroled students	No. of SLC passed students	%
1991/92	56	42	75%
1992/93	83	43	52%
1993/94	180		

The students year 1992/93 were concentrating so much about English and Maths, that they neglected the other subjects, which they fail to pass.

While the students in the years 1991, 1992 only came from Dang Valley, the tuition classes this year benefit students from Dang, Banke, Bardiya, Kalaili, Kanchanpur and Salyan.

5.3.2.4 Campus Support.

To support students, who pass the SLC examination, BASE has a scholarship programme. The scholarship is provided for Certificate and Diploma level of education. Certificate level of education, particularly in technical fields is given priority. Scholarship for Master level of education is not included in this programme.

Students, who stay in their home while studying, get 300 Nrs. per. month, while students who live outside their homes, get 500 Nrs. per month.

Area or District Committees recommend student for scholarships.

In the first programme year 17 students from Dang were supported, now in the second year the number has increased to 57 students from Dang, Bardiya and Kalaili.

5.3.3 Training activities in Education Section.

BASE has, by help of PACT, now its own teacher trainer corps (10) and have started courses for night class facilitators, not only from BASE, but also from other NGO's as well.

Table 8 shows training activities carried out mainly by BASE's own corps of teacher trainers.

Table 8: Type of training by no. of participants and days.

Type of training ↓	No. of participants	No. of days
Training of Out of School Facilitators, BASE	237	8
Training of Basic Adult Facilitators, BASE	263	9
Training of Advance Literacy Facilitators, BASE	66	4
Refresher training of Basic Adult Literacy Facilitators, BASE	263	4
Training of Field Education Supervisors, SAVE THE CHILDREN, US & BASE	34	5
Training of Field Education Assistants, BASE	8	3
Training of facilitators in legal aid, CENTRE FOR LEGAL & SOCIAL STUDIES, NEPALGUNJ	57	1

5.4 Future plans.

During the collection of data for this report, it became clear that a proper monitor and reporting system is needed. By assistance of the Educational Adviser from MS-Nepal, BASE is now in the process of developing new formats for a better system, which will be established from January 1994.

5.5 Donor support.

Donor support to the Education Programme comes from:

- * DANIDA.
- * UNICEF.
- * PACT.
- * MS-NEPAL.
- * Save The Children, US.

6. KAMAIYA SECTION.

6.1. The Kamaiya problem.

The Kamaiyas are bonded labourers and among the poorest and most disadvantaged of the Nepalese people. On the surface the kamaiya system is a contractual agreement between an agricultural labourer and a landowner, where labour is exchanged for payment in cash or kind. Contracts last for one year and are negotiated in the month of Magh (January/February). Often the contract is made only orally. If a kamaiya is not satisfied with terms of condition, he can in principle choose a new master. However, in reality most of the kamaiyas does not have this freedom of choice and is forced by social and economic compulsions to accept the terms imposed by their masters.

The kamaiyas live on a breadline and are often obliged to take loans from the landlords, mortgaging their musclepower. The landlord dictates solely the terms and conditions on which loans (in cash or kind) are given and how their account is maintained. The illiterate kamaiya signs the pawn paper with a thumbprint, unaware, that it can keep him and his family in endless debt for generations. For the landlords, it is more important to secure a permanent resource of cheap labour, than to recover the original debt itself.

If another landlord pays off the debt the kamaiya family must move to the new master's farm and work there. The end result is equivalent to a form of slavery.

Any balance of rights and duties, between a kamaiya and his master, do not exist. No legislation protects the kamaiya from being exploited.

The problem of debt bonded kamaiyas seems to be biggest in the Far Western Districts of Terai.

6.2 Objectives of the programme.

The objective of the Kamaiya Support Programme is to help the kamaiyas to free themselves from slavery.

BASE has divided kamaiyas into three priority groups:

- * First priority is given to those who are in debt, who live in a house provided by the landlord, and where all the family members work for him.
- * Second priority is given to those who are in debt, but live in their own house and where some family members are working under kamaiya contract and others are share cropping (adhiya contract).

- * Third priority is given to those under kamaiya contract, who are not in debt and who live in their own house.

It is the job of the Village Committees to identify and categorize the kamaiya families living in their area. Just now, BASE is compiling data from all Village Committees, and these data will soon be available.

6.3. Strategies.

The programme is based on a self-help approach. The kamaiyas must liberate themselves, but to start the process they need support.

6.4. Activities.

BASE conducts four important programme activities for kamaiyas.

- * Kamaiya meetings.
- * Educational support for kamaiya children.
- * Hostels for Kamaiya children.
- * Kamaiya Saving Programme.
- * Seed distribution.

6.4.1 Kamaiya meetings.

Two years ago BASE started to organise and conduct meetings in different areas for kamaiya families. Monthly meetings now take place in all areas. The purpose is to identify problems and find ways to solve them. This summer 35 representatives from Dang, Bardiya, Kalaili and Kanchanpur were gathered to work out a strategy to free the kamaiya from suppression, exploitation and poverty.

The problems identified were:

- * Poverty
- * Illiteracy
- * No land and own home
- * Lack of alternative income possibilities.
- * Insufficient "payment."
- * Ignorance of human rights
- * No fixed working hours - must be at landlords disposal 24 hours a day.

To fight the problems the meeting agreed that;

- * first of all, kamaiyas should live in their own houses, outside the premises of the landlord.
- * the landlords should, in case of illness, assist in paying for the treatment, to avoid loan taking.

- * landowners should provide sufficient payment.
- * fixed and reasonable working hours should be secured.
- * creation of alternative employment possibilities is important.
- * kamaiyas shall have opportunity for education and have awareness about human rights.

6.4.2 Educational Support for Kamaiya Children.

To literate kamaiya children is extremely important, and BASE emphasis enrolment in the NFE night classes. After finishing nightclass, BASE encourages parents to send their children to government schools and supports one child from each family by paying school fees, uniforms and stationery. But many of the children are working in the daytime and not able to join the dayschools. To keep them in an educational environment, BASE has previously allowed them, to stay an extra year in the NFE nightclasses. However, last year, BASE took the consequence and started formal night classes for kamaiya children. The classes are planned to continue up to secondary level. After two or three years, Ministry of Education is suppose to take over the financial responsibility, but an agreement still has to be done.

Table 9: Number of registered kamaiya children from debt bonded families by school type and district, 1993.

	No. of children	NFE class	BASE formal school	Governm. school	Non-school going
Dang	2552	1483	360	400	309
Banke					
Bardiya	534	395	49	40	50
Kalaili	324	160		70	94
Kanchanpur					
Total	3,410	2,038	409	510	453

As the programme expands, the need for formal night classes will increase considerably.

Table 10: Number of Kamaiya children getting education support, fees, etc., 1993.

	Male	Female	Total
Dang	230	90	320
Banke			
Bardiya	30	1	31
Kalaili	45	6	51
Kanchanpur			
Total	305	97	402

A donation from Anti-Slavery International, Norway made it possible to provide scholarships for further 134 kamayia children.

6.4.3. Hostels for Kamaiya children.

Kamaiya children are used as cattle herders by the landlords. To secure their future education and protect them from being exploited, BASE has decided to built 6 hostels for the children. Two in Dang, and one each in Banke, Bardiya, Kalali and Kanchanpur.

Caritas, Denmark, has donated money for the first hostel for 100 children, and 5 bigha (3.3 hectare) of land has already been purchased. Income from farming and local donations are planned to secure financial sustainability after 3 years.

During daytime, the children will attend the local Government school and will get educational support from two employed teachers at the hostel. The children will also be involved in the farming activities.

BASE tries at the moment to find donors for the other 5 hostels.

6.4.4. Kamaiya Saving Programme.

BASE is encouraging kamaiya families, without own houses, to save money. Families are encouraged to take aside a little bowl of rice each day, and at the end of the month bring it to the BASE office. BASE sells the rice and deposits the money in a bank account in the name of the kamaiya. As an incentive BASE is matching first years saving by 300%, second years by 200% and third years by 100%. Maximum amount for matching is 1200 Nrs. in one year. The saved amount will be used to purchase a small plot of land, where the kamaiya can build his own house and thereby loosen his dependency of the landlord. One katha land (333 m^2) cost in Dang around 3-4000 Nrs. (60 - 80 \$)

Table 11: Number of families participating in the saving scheme by district.

Dang	Banke	Bardiya	Kalaili	Kanchanpur	Total
178		17	10	6	211

As a result of the saving programme, three families have been able to buy a small plot of land and build a house, this year.

BASE has disbursed 12,000 Nrs. for matching the saving done by the kamaiyas.

6.4.5 Seed distribution.

Free distribution of potato and onion seeds to kamaiya families is a part of BASE's agricultural programme. While other BASE members have to pay except for the cost of transportation, kamaiya families receive a one-time contribution of 15 kg. of potato seed. As the kamaiyas are landless, they must plant potatoes in fields belonging to the landlords and share 50% of the crop with them. The cost of fertilizer and insecticides must also be borne by the kamaiyas. If surplus, BASE encourages the kamaiyas to deposit part of the income from this programme in their saving accounts.

The past year, 259 kamaiya households, 234 in Dang and 25 in Bardiya, have benefitted from this activity.

6.4.6 Other activities

Medical treatment can be expensive and many kamaiyas take loans for paying the cost. To prevent further indebtedness of the poorest, BASE supports financially by paying the bill for medical treatment. Sixty families in Dang and 5 in Bardiya have been supported by BASE.

BASE is paying allowances and lodging for 5 kamaiyas from Dang and three kamaiyas from Bardiya, who participates in a skill development programme in Tulsipur conducted by Shramik Apurti Kendra (Labour Supply Centre) HMG.

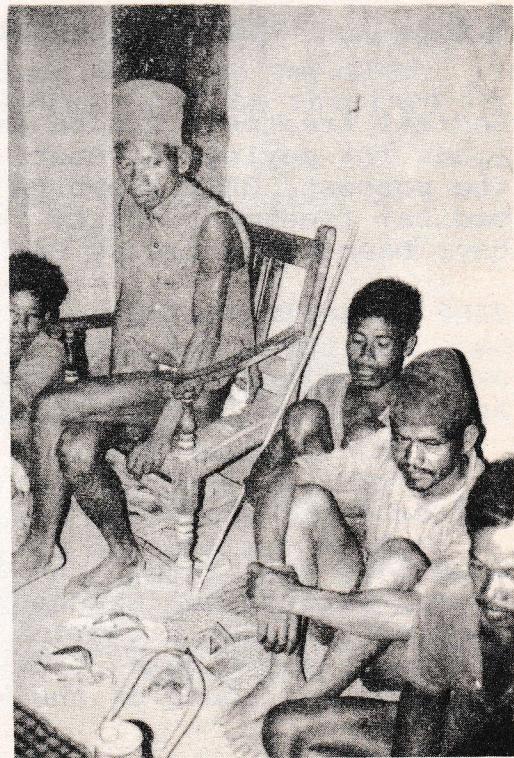
6.4.7. Future plans.

Soon BASE will launch an awareness programme for kamaiyas in Banke, Bardiya and Kanchanpur. By visiting kamaiya households regularly in the nighttime, BASE motivators will try to raise awareness about human rights, the need for education, discuss problems and needs of the kamaiyas and how to solve them.

6.4.7 Donor support.

Support to this part of the BASE programme come from:

- * DANIDA.
- * Anti-Slavery International, Norway.
- * Caritas, Denmark.



7. HEALTH SECTION.

In October 1992 BASE started to conduct health activities in Dang Valley caused by the serious health problems found in the Tharu communities.

7.1. Identified problems.

The hygiene standard is low, there is no use of latrines and its a problem to get safe drinking water. Due to contaminated water people get many communicable diseases.

Many children are easy victims of diseases and the mothers are not aware of the advantage of getting their children immunized. They believe in traditional ways.

Finally a big birth rate among the Tharus is a problem, which will grow bigger in the future seen in relation to the present economic situation.

7.2. Objectives for the health programme.

The objectives of BASE health programme are:

- To reduce the infant mortality rate
- To reduce the maternal mortality rate
- To reduce the high birth rate
- To reduce malnutrition
- To reduce communicable diseases
- To control the sexually transmitted diseases and avoid AIDS

7.3. Strategies.

In order to reach as many people as possible by the resources available, BASE's strategy has to be low cost. Education through the literacy classes in hygiene, family planning and basic health care has first priority.

Traditional Birth Attendants plays an important role in the Tharu communities, therefore training and cooperation with this group are important.

As number of doctors, health posts and hospitals in Dang is inadequate, Outreach Health Camps, arranged in cooperation with District Public Offices and private agencies working in this field, is the third core element in the strategy.

7.4. Activities.

So far health activities have only been conducted in the Dang Valley except one time in Banke.

7.4.1. Mother/Child Clinics (Under 5).

The health staff of BASE are running one static and 8 out-reach clinics every month in different areas in the Dang Valley.

The mobile clinics are arranged in cooperation with the District Public Health Office and the BASE Area Health Committees in the concerned areas. At the clinic the mothers buy a registration card for 10 Nrs which last for one year. The money goes into the Area Health Fund and the Area Committee decides how to spend the money.

The clinics record the weight of the children and provide vaccines and nutrition education. Severe cases are referred to the health post or hospital. Fifty-eight cases has been refereed to the hospital in the past year. Altogether 905 children and 374 pregnant mothers has been registered and has got regularly checkups at the mobile clinics. Of the 905 children, 333 has been registered as under weight children. Furthermore checkups, first aid and health education have been given to people outside the originally target group, altogether 4,690.

The Health personnel treat simple kind of diseases like worm infestations, diarrhoea, skin diseases, and eye infections. Below is expressed in percentages the registered diseases among the users of the clinics.

Table 12: Registered diseases expressed in percentages among the users of the MCH clinics.

Worms	Acute Respiratory Infection	Diarrhoea	Skin diseases	Eye infections
37%	27%	26%	11%	5%

Medicine and vaccine are provided by the Government and distributed free of charge.

7.4.2 The Madharia clinic.

The static clinic in Madharia Area has just very recently started (October 1993) after a long period of preparations. The clinic is a result of a joint venture between BASE and MS-Nepal, where BASE provides the buildings, which is constructed by the local people.

Madharia is located across the Babai river from Tulsipur. There is no bridge across the river so people are cut off from public health services during the monsoon season.

The clinic runs a MCH clinic two times a week, gives first aid, treats simple diseases and train mothers, NFE facilitators, family planning field workers and community health volunteers in the area.

Basic medicine is distributed and sold from the clinic. Government provided medicine is free of cost, while the rest is sold with 25% discount. MS-Nepal, which gives financial and manpower support and pays for the needed medicine the first years. The money from the sale is deposited in the bank on a high interest account.

As guidelines for the available drugs are used: "Management for common illnesses in children, - manual for health workers ", by Dr. Martin Kirkpatrick and Dr. Terence K. Mathews, Save the Children, UK, 1992.

The Clinic is approaching the nearest public sub-health post for a cooperation and the idea is to hand over the Clinic to the Public Health Service, when the running-in period is over and the Clinic is well functioning.

7.4.3. Health camps.

During the monsoon many villages in Dang and Banke were badly plagued by outbreak of diarrhoea and typhoid epidemics. BASE arranged in coordination with the District Health offices camps in both districts.

7.4.4. STD camps.

In Dang 3 camps were organised together with Save the Children, US, where people could be examined for sexual transmitted diseases. 735 people were examined and 10.2 % were found having venereal diseases.

7.4.5. Family Planning.

In certain areas of Dang Valley, BASE is implementing a family planning programme funded by Asia Foundation. 30 female BASE members are working as volunteers in the programme. They visit people and try to motivate couples to use family planning methods. Likewise in the literacy classes, students are taught about the importance of family planning. Moreover 6 members are employed as health supervisors for the field workers and BASE's two paramedical staffs provide education and arrange family planning camps in cooperation with the District Public Health Office in Gorahi.

7.4.6. AIDS - Prevention programme.

In Dang Valley, BASE in cooperation with American Foundation For AIDS Research, AMFAR is implementing an AIDS - education prevention programme.

BASE's nightclass teachers get information about AIDS and are teaching the students in AIDS prevention.

To run the programme and educate night class teachers, a programme manager, an assistant manager, six field workers and a medical assistant are employed by BASE.



7.4.7. Training and education.

Following training and education activities have been conducted the past year:

Table 13: Type of training by no. of participants and days.

Type of training ↓	No. of participants	No. of days
Training of Traditional Birth Attendants in safe methods of child delivery, Dang, BASE	25	10
Training of Traditional Birth Attendants in safe methods of child delivery, Dang, DPHO & BASE	25	10
Training of Health Supervisors, Dang, BASE	5	5
Training of Family Planning Workers, selected among the women in the literacy classes Dang, ASIA FOUNDATION & BASE	30	3
Training in Latrine building, Chakaura, Dang, BASE	50	2
Health Education Training for NFE facilitators, Dang, BASE	100	3
Basic Health Education for members of Women Groups, Chakaura, Dang, BASE	20	4
Eye General Training for literacy class participants in Bardiya, FATHEY EYE HOSPITAL, NEPALGUNJ	57	2
Training of NFE facilitators in identifying normal and abnormal eyes, Rapti Eye Hospital, Dang, SOUTH ASIAN CATARACT MANAGEMENT STUDY.	79	3

7.4.8 Future plans.

Investigations are already ongoing on how to expand the Family Planning and AIDS Prevention Programmes into Bardiya District, but a final decision has yet to be taken.

7.4.9 Donor Support.

Financial and technical assistance to health activities is given by:

- * American Foundation for Aids Research.
- * Asia Foundation.
- * MS-Nepal.
- * Save the Children, US.



8. INCOME GENERATION SECTION.

BASE's income generation programme activities have expanded during the past year. After studying in the night classes the students is looking for ways to improve their economic conditions using their literacy and arithmetic skills.

8.1. Objective.

The objectives of BASE income generation programme are:

- * to assist unemployed and small landholders, to become self-reliant by providing them with small capital investments.
- * to assist people to become self-reliant and employed by providing them with training in cottage industries such as textiles.

The target group is poor people with priority given to women.

Generally capital investments will be made only in form of loan, though in case of farmers, who has a dwelling but no land, BASE may provide a grant. But first after investigation of and on the recommendation of a Village, Area or District Committee.

8.2. Activities.

The Income Generation Section has divided its activities into agriculture and women development.

8.2.1. Women Development Sub-Section.

To generate new employment for poor women, a women development subsection has been established. The Tharu women are very shy and to empower them for development. BASE has formed separate women groups.

8.2.1.1 The Sewing Group.

In December 1992, BASE opened four shops in four of its community centres and employed the 22 women from the Sewing Group to manage the shops. The women had studied three years in literacy classes and got a 9 month training in tailoring and cutting. The shops were for everyday necessities and were provided with a sewing machine for clothes making. BASE invested 400,000 Nrs. to stock the shops and a wholesaler from Tulsipur added additional 300,000.

To day 10 girls are running six shops. The shops are popular among the villagers, who otherwise would have to walk for several hours to the nearest market. After 11 month the girls

only have to repay 59,000 Nrs. of the loan, then the shops will be their own.

8-10 of the girls from the same Sewing Group are trying to establish a Garment production for Tulsipur and other town markets. BASE arranges extra courses for them, to improve the quality.

8.2.1.2 Saving groups.

During the past year twelve saving groups have been started by the literacy students. The women get training in leadership and management, how to keep account, etc., by BASE's own Women Coordinators. BASE donates 2,000 Nrs. as start capital.

Table 14: Women Saving Groups.

Name of Women Group ↓	No. of participants	Amount saved Nrs	No. of individual loans taken Nrs	Total amount of individual loans taken Nrs	Potato seed loans
Durdari	11	360			
Mainali	7	850		107	
Champabati	13	755		107	
Himali	9	500		405	
Larigural	20	630		107	
Amar	14	875		107	
Sirrana	24	805		107	
Jugrit	22	752		107	
Mohanpur	15	900	3	900	270
Nanagagarti	10	1327	2	975	107
W. Nursery	8	6584	2	675	107
Gilla committee	10				

Only in three of the groups, women have started to take loans, mainly for livestock raising. Every group decides its own rules for repayment, rate of interests, etc.

8.2.1.3 Training activities.

To strengthen management of the Saving Groups, BASE has conducted several training sessions.

Table 15: Type of training by no. of participants and days.

Type of training ↓	No. of participants	No. of days
Leadership & Management Training for chairwomen and secretaries of Women Groups. Madhariya, Dang, BASE	30	3
Leadership & Management Training for chairwomen and secretaries of Women Groups. Rawatgaun, Dang, BASE	30	3
Leadership & Management Training for chairwomen and secretaries of Women Groups. Bardiya, BASE	25	3
Refresher Training in Leadership & Management for chairwomen and secretaries of Women Groups, Chakaura, Dang, BASE.	27	3
Health Education for members of Women Groups, Chakaura, Dang, BASE.	20	4
Kitchengarden Training for members of Women Groups, Chakaura, Dang, BASE	25	1

8.2.2 Agricultural Development.

8.2.2.1 Support to vegetable and potato farming.

To support the small farmers, BASE organises distribution of vegetable seed to the villages free of transportation costs. While kamaiya households get the seed free of cost others have to pay.

Table 16: Distribution of vegetable and potato seed, quantities and number of beneficiaries in different districts.

	Quantity in kg.	No. of beneficiaries, households
Potato seed	6300 kg	85
Onion seed	166 kg	545
Radish	26 kg	203
Vegetable seeds *)	46 kg	6340

*) like chili, tomato, cauliflower, cabbage, bitter gourd, lady finger, etc.

To eradicate pest and thereby increase the yield of potatoes and vegetable, BASE has purchased 66 sprayer tanks for pesticides and sold them to Village Committees with 50% price reduction. 1920 households have benefitted from it. Pesticides, were provided free of cost.

8.2.2.2 Support to improved technology.

To replace the wooden plough, BASE supports selected farmers to buy iron ploughs by paying half of the costs. 195 got this kind of support.

Irrigation for farming is a big problem in some areas, in particular in Bardiya. BASE has supported 3 Village Committees in Bardiya and 1 in Dang by purchasing 4 diesel pumps for irrigation. The Village Committees will pay back the costs in instalments. Altogether 912 households takes benefits from the pumps.

8.2.2.3 Plantation and nurseries.

BASE has established 4 plantation nurseries, in Luhadabra, Rampur, Devipur and Chakaura, to deliver trees for BASE's plantation programmes. The nurseries have also delivered trees to schools, CARE-Nepal, Area Police Office and to private persons, total 120,000 trees of different sorts.

BASE has formed forest user groups in 10 villages, two of them managed by mothergroups. Income from forest area can in future be a god income source for the village people, while meeting the daily need for animal fodder and benefit the environment.

To start new nurseries in Dang, Banke and Bardiya, BASE has purchased several thousands of Mango, Jackfruit and Litchi trees from Biratnagar.

8.2.2.4. Training activities.

Table 17: Type of training by no. of participants and days.

Type of training ↓	No. of participants	No. of days
Potato production training, Dang, BASE	28	3
Potato production training, Bankey, BASE	16	3
Potato production training, Bardiya, BASE	15	3
Potato production training, Kailali, BASE	17	3
Maize production training, Banke, BASE	16	3

8.2.3 Donor support.

Outside donor support came from:

* DANIDA



9. INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT SECTION..

The objective of the Infrastructure Development Programme is to mobilize people for self-help infrastructure development. Four main activities have been carried out:

- * Well construction.
- * Construction of community buildings.
- * Pit latrine construction.
- * Road maintenance.

BASE has worked the following guidelines for construction work:

- * For construction of dug or tube wells a Construction Sub-committee and a Maintenance Sub-committee will be formed by the Village Committee. They will fix procedures for construction and maintenance.
- * A fund of 500 Nrs. will be collected by the Maintenance Sub-committee for maintenance.
- * Construction work will be carried out only after the recommendation of the District or Area Committee and decision of the Centre.

9.1. Well construction.

Pure drinking water, sanitation systems and health are very much related. Village people are not conscious about it and contaminated drinking water causes many serious diseases. At the same time women spent a lot of time fetching water to the household.

OXFAM has given financial support and BASE technical to construction of 148 wells. The construction work was done by the villagers themselves. To help secure safe drinking water PACT has donated 15 handpumps.

9.2 Pit latrine construction.

The village people are not used to latrines, but health education in the literacy classes has made them conscious about the importance not to defecate in the open air, so to speak. BASE has developed a latrine design and has been requested by women in a village to give financial and technical support to the construction. 42 pit latrines have been build by the village people under supervision of staff from the Infrastructure Development Section. Expenses to cement, pans, etc., were paid by BASE.

9.3 Construction of community buildings.

For Area Offices, meeting halls and nightclasses, BASE members have constructed 113 community buildings. The programme has been able to pay for cement tile for 13 of the buildings.

9.4. Road construction.

BASE has recently moved its organisational headquarters to Chakaura, 15 kilometres from Tulsipur. On that occasion BASE members repaired the road between the two places. Members have also reconstructed the road between Tulsipur and Luhadobra.

9.5. Donor support.

Support has been given from:

- * DANIDA
- * OXFAM
- * PACT



