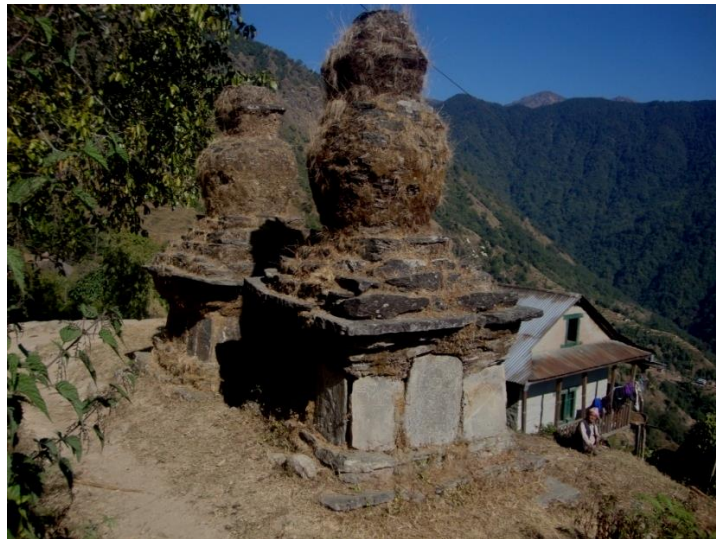


**Detroit To Nepal (D2N)
and
Navajyoti Youth Society and Creative Porters Society,
Khotang, Nepal**

A collaboration for development



**A Study Tour of Khotang District Project Area supported by
Detroit to Nepal (D2N)**

**Visited by: Dr. Richard Keidan, Miss Garima Khadka and Raju Tuladhar
(Project Visit from December 07 to 16, 2014)**

**Report by: Raju Tuladhar, Kathmandu, Nepal
(December 2014)**

Background

D2N Foundation

D2N Foundation is an American NGO based in Michigan, founded and led by Dr. Richard Keidan, is dedicated to working in Khotang district of Nepal in order to improve the public health status of the people living in the remotest places of the vicinity.



Dr. Richard Keidan Addressing to Dipsung School Ceremony

D2N supported programs:

Dipsung VDC	Toilets/sub-health post/Scholarships/Library (proposed)
Sungdel VDC	Toilets/sub-health post
Bakshila VDC	Scholarships
Rakha Bangdel VDC	Toilets/sub-health post/Scholarships
Bakachol VDC (proposed)	Library
Ainselukharka VDC (proposed)	Library

Khotang District

Khotang District, in Sagarmatha Zone, is one among the 75 districts of Nepal and Diktel is its district headquarters. The district is part of the area traditionally referred as Majh Kirat/Kirant (middle Kirat), home to the indigenous ethnic Kirat, Rai people. Apart from Rais, other ethnic groups and 'hill castes'--such as the Brahmin, Chhetri, Tamang, Limbu, Sherpa and some of the traders, Newars (trading caste migrated from Kathmandu valley)--live in Khotang.

Khotang, with its 72 village development committees, is home to a population of 'honest and intelligent' porters and guides, all of whose hard work and diligence has supported thousands

of foreign trekkers and adventurers to reach their destinations. But due to topographic difficulties and the lack of government support towards infrastructure such as roads, schools and hospitals, the socio-economic condition of Khotang inhabitants is still considerably low.

Program

D2N supported Community Based Organisations (CBOs)

1. Navajyoti Youth Society (NJYS) – Dipsung, Khotang

NYS, chaired by Mr. Jiwan Giri, was established in 2012. With the financial support of D2N, NJYS has been able to build toilets for the Dipsung VDC households and a sub-health post. The organization has also been conducting scholarship programs in Dipsung and in nearby VDCs.



Newly built Dipsung Sub-health Post with the financial support of D2N

NJYS has plans to develop the sub-health post of Dipsung into a birthing center, which will serve Dipsung and its neighbor VDCs like Sungdel, Bakshila and Rakha Bangdel.

D2N has already approved additional scholarships to be awarded to the poorest girl students from Bakshila from the year 2015 onwards, which will also be monitored by NJYS. NJYS are expecting 14 more girl-student scholarships to be proposed by D2N.



Meeting D2N with Nava Jyoti Youth Society in Dipsung

Trainings required to capacitate CBO members:

1. Leadership and Management skills (Administration, Finance, Program, Documentation etc.)
2. Strategic Planning
3. Proposal Writing
4. Need assessment, base-line, mid-line and end-line surveys
5. Impact study

2. Creative Porters Society (CPS)

A group of enthusiastic young people have been running CPS, lead by Ramesh Rai.

Area of work:

1. Building Toilets
2. Sub-Health Post – to be awarded to Rakha Bangdel VDC
3. Scholarships to the poor students
4. Agricultural Training for income generation

CPS is guided by experienced community worker Gyan Bahadur Bhattarai, who is also a member staff of DZI Foundation. CPS has experiences in a number of development projects in the area. Since, both the CPS and NYS have partnerships with D2N, a more harmonious relationship has to be developed.



D2N Meeting with Creative Porters Society in Rakha Bangdel

Conclusion

A strong supervision and monitoring mechanism has to be introduced in order to measure achievement of indicators. Base-line surveys have to be done for new projects, and a mid-line and end-line surveys need to be executed for the running projects.

A Quality Management Committee can be formed by both the CBOs in order to collaborate to improve respective project works in the Dipsung area and in the neighboring VDCs.

D2N took part in two meetings—with the chairperson of NJYS—held in government offices in Diktel, Khotang district.

District Health Office – The officials in the DHO office were found to be very cooperative and have provided assurance of support in the establishment of a Birthing Centre in Dipsung. All necessary logistics and human resource will be provided in due course of time according to government criteria.

District Development Office – DDO, Mr. Mahendra Sapkota, was very responsive and showed interest towards the development works—in Dipsung, Bakshila, Sungdel and Rakha Bangdel—and assured that all possible support will be extended to Navajyoti Youth Society and Creative Porters Society to encourage their enthusiasm.

Education and Health are the most important prerequisites for the development of the remote areas of Nepal and D2N is putting much effort in supporting and facilitating with a selfless motive.

An easy communication system between Kathmandu and Khotang has to be established. Although there are telecom service providers in the area, the implementation has not been formal and connectivity is poor, which makes it difficult for people to communicate.

Congratulations to the Khotang district for being able to make use of infrastructures like toilets and sub-health posts! The achievement is one more step towards better public health. Looking forward to better educational opportunities in the near future...

Namaste!