

**Punarbali Shikshya Sadan
Annual Report
2007/08**



**Submitted by
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1. Preamble

Every child has right to education. It is vital for children's future that they attend school and take full advantage of this right. Beyond academic learning, education is also important for their psychosocial development. Schools provide children with a safe, structured environment, the emotional support and supervision of adults and the opportunity to learn how to interact with other children and develop social networks. Education can also reduce children's risk of HIV infection by increasing knowledge, awareness, skills and opportunities.

In the process of addressing the psychological needs of HIV positive people, Punarbal Plus, a non-government organization working in the field of HIV & AIDS, found that the greatest concern of these people were about the future of their children. Children infected with HIV/AIDS, orphans, conflict affected children and children from slum & squatter are not able to attend the schools due to prevailing stigma and discrimination in the society. Even the Government does not have a recorded data of the number of children infected and affected by the killer disease and if the children under 14 years of age are getting any education.

Though one of the objectives of National HIV/AIDS Strategy 2006 – 2011 is to set up comprehensive and well implemented legal framework on HIV/AIDS promoting human rights and establishing HIV/AIDS as a development agenda, it is sad to say that the right to education of the infected/affected children in education has not been addressed.

Therefore, sensing the urgency of the problem and realizing that very little is being done in this regard, Punarbal Plus opened a school "**Punarbal Shikshya Sadan**" in May 2007, a school without discrimination. "Punarbal Shikshya Sadan" imparts education to all the children but the priority of school is those children who are infected and affected by AIDS and the children who do not have an opportunity to attend school due to poverty.

2. Objective

- To raise awareness on HIV/AIDS in the community
- To provide formal education to the infected/affected children and orphans so that they will have the resource to build a secure future for themselves.
- To provide a safe and enabling environment for these children where their educational, medical and other similar needs will be met to in a stigma free environment.
- To link the children with the Community and mainstream them in every possible way.

3. Punarbal Plus's activities include

Provide education to children set up by the Government

Provide nutritional food in school and transportation facility for pick up and drop

Impart education to parents and other community people on HIV/AIDS

4. Overview

Punarbhal Plus, through Punarbhal Shikshya Sadan in the first year, 07/08, has imparted education to 35 children.

- ❖ 18 in Nursery, 14 in KG and 3 in class I
- ❖ 25 are boys and 10 are girls
- ❖ Age group ranges from 2.5 years to 12 years
- ❖ 28 are infected and 7 are affected
- ❖ 10 are under Anti Retroviral Therapy

5. Overview of Financial detail

The total budget spent during the fiscal year 2007/08 for school rent, food, transportation and stationary was NRs. 540,000.00. The contribution from the individual sponsors was NRs.115,100.00 and from the parents Rs. 23,000.00. The deficit amount was contributed by Punarbhal Plus members. Besides this, support in kind like books and stationeries has also been received from various sponsors.

6. Activities

Following activities were taken in the year 2007/08. The school opened from Monday to Friday from 9am to 3pm except for national holidays.

6.1 Activity 1

As per the school's gate keeping criteria, admissions were taken based on

- i) The economic status of the families
- ii) If one or no living parent
- iii) Orphans living in shelter homes
- iv) Availability of foster care.

Family contacts, contacts with the shelter homes and case records are maintained. Similarly medical reports are also kept.

6.2 Activity 2

The school provided the children with formal education in line with the education standards set by the Government. The school provided family atmosphere to the children, which gave them self-confidence and helped to nurture values that significantly increased their chances of reaching adulthood as healthy, functional members of society.

The students were enrolled in the classes depending on their age and basic



knowledge. The school conduct 2 monthly exams and 2 term tests (six monthly and final). The number of exams taken is less than other schools considering the health status of the children.

4 Teachers and 2 care takers were appointed to provide education and care to children. The conventional teaching method is used in the school to support basic literacy, Children are also given singing, dancing, arts & craft classes. In future as they grow up, alternative methods will be used for life skills and vocational training. They will also be given periodic counselling to tackle their problems.

6.3 Activity 3

As many of the children are under Antiretroviral Therapy they need healthy food. With reference to nutritional support, locally available rich high protein, carbohydrate and less fat foods are provided to the children. A work out is made on the requirements children's need basis. The school provided food (Rice, Dal, seasonal vegetable, egg 2 times a week and meat once a week) during lunch and at 2:30pm they are given milk.



6.3 Activity 4

The school recruited a part time staff nurse and has developed contacts with hospitals in case of emergency. As mentioned above, many of these children are under medication, at times needed special care. Sometimes they need to be taken to the hospital as well.

6.4 Activity 5

As the school is a non-residential school, it provided bus service to collect children from different places.

6.5 Activity 6

Trainings to the community people

Also as a part of the program, Punarbal Plus conducted training to 27 women from Swoyambhu community on HIV/AIDS on July 13th 2007. The women were from low income group with most of their husbands working in India and Gulf countries to earn making them vulnerable to HIV. Therefore feeling the need of HIV education they were provided training on the mode of transmission, window period, stages of HIV & AIDS, where to go for testing and how much does it cost, sexually transmitted infections, preventive measures and myths related to HIV & AIDS. The women were very thankful for this education.



Most of the women said they would go for check up to know their status while some were reluctant to do so. It was quite surprising to see the courage of some women who said, "We would tell our husbands to go to hospitals first to test HIV before having any relation."



Training to the teachers of Punarbal School

Four teachers of Punarbal School were imparted education on HIV & AIDS on May 21st 2007 as they are the ones to take care of the infected children. Seeing the possible risk for the teachers besides education on HIV AIDS, they were provided knowledge with adopting universal precaution by always using latex glove while handling children with fresh wound.

Training on HIV/AIDS and Drug Addiction in Superb Catalyst Academy



On October 9 2008, training on HIV/AIDS and Drug Addiction was provided in Superb Catalyst Academy, Dhading. 25 students of classes 8 to 10 and 9 teachers participated in the program. The children were imparted education on what is HIV & AIDS, the difference between HIV & AIDS, modes of transmission, window period, stages of HIV & AIDS, preventive measures. Besides this, they were also given knowledge on the relationship between HIV and drug addiction, why people abuse drugs, recent scenario of drug addiction in Nepal, characteristic of drug abuse, myths, addiction as a disease, stages of addiction, direct and indirect consequences of addiction.



7. Achievements

- At present the school has successfully completed its first year and it comprised of classes Nursery to One.
- Out of 35 students 29 students passed with flying colors in their final exams among which 19 students passed with first division and 10 with second division. While 6 were not able to attend due to chicken pox. Re-exams will be taken once they return to school.
- 6 very good students will be integrated in other school in May 2008 as a part of social reintegration. This has been a pride and greatest achievement for Punarbal Plus.
- Children are confident and happy. Now have different dreams & ambitions.
- Parents of the children are very happy that their children have place to study at nominal cost.

8. Implementation related Challenges

- The primary Challenge that the school faces is scarcity of fund. As the children enrolled are from the very poor economic background, they are not able to pay the school fees and thus are studying for free. If there is no stable funding it may face problems to run the school, to pay staff salary, transportation facility and food. Our staffs are still working as volunteers with nominal payment given only for transportation.
- The management of the school is trying to coordinate with different funding organisation for sponsorship/funding.
- Another challenge the school faces is reintegrating the children with the society for which different strategies needs to be developed by the organisation.