
United Mission to Nepal



UMN ANNUAL
1993/94
REPORT

ERRATA - (UMN 1993/94 ANNUAL REPORT) excluding typographical errors

- pages 8, 9, 11 replace 'Rural Works Department' with 'Rural Development Department'.
- page 25 change 'six' to 'seven' private companies, adding Nepal Hydro and Electric.
- Page 26 Khimti project financing had not been finalized at the time of printing.
- page 27 replace 'two' with 'three' hydropower projects. Delete 'Tinau'.
- page 29 some organizations which are not members of the UMN Board send personnel.
add Christoffel Blindenmission, Diakonisches Werk, Evangelische Zentralstelle für
Entwicklungshilfe e.V., TEAR Fund Nederland to donor list.

Acknowledgements

**This is United Mission to
Nepal's Annual Report for the
fiscal year 1993/94**

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Articles from the Annual Report
may be reprinted free of cost,
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Glossary

HMG	His Majesty's Government of Nepal
INGO	International Non- governmental Organization
NFE	Non-formal Education
NGO	Non-governmental Organization
UMN	United Mission to Nepal

यूनाइटेड मिशन टु नेपाल



United Mission to Nepal



Building toward the future

During UMN's 40th anniversary year we have celebrated the opportunity to work with the people of Nepal since 1954. In response to an invitation from His Majesty's Government, eight Christian mission societies from Europe and America joined together to form the **United Mission to Nepal**, a cooperative effort that now includes 39 sponsoring agencies from 16 countries.

Activities soon expanded beyond medical work to include education, rural development, and industrial development. Some highlights of the past year include:

Over 3,000 persons each week engaged in Non-formal education, mostly women in remote areas.

The 12 megawatt Jhimruk Hydropower Project was completed on schedule and within budget.

The four UMN related hospitals cared for 330,6118 out-patients, admitted 26,081 in-patients, and performed 5,651 operations, while the community health programs emphasized preventive and promotive health work.

Developed a support program for rural NGOs with the focus on strengthening these local organizations for basic needs improvements and management of natural resources.

During this 40th anniversary year, we have also looked toward the future. Our commitment is to the increasing capacity and motivation of Nepali individuals, communities, and organizations to the development of all aspects of their society. If you have suggestions or questions about UMN's contribution toward that goal, we would be pleased to hear from you. Contact us for further information, including a copy of the statement of UMN values.

We want to thank all those who joined in this cooperative effort with the people of Nepal for the transformation of their society toward the wholeness, peace, and prosperity which God intends for all humankind: His Majesty's Government, UMN member bodies and donor agencies, and all Nepali and expatriate staff.

Edgar Metzler
Executive Director

Highlights

Easy reading

In Nepal the chance of seeing a village woman sitting in the local bazaar, reading today's newspaper, is very small. The vast majority of rural women cannot read or write, and besides, newspapers usually are much too difficult for village people to read. However, these days one might see a village woman reading a Pipal Book, borrowed from the local trunk library. Pipal Books were introduced by UMN in Nepal in 1993, and have proved to be very popular among women studying in adult literacy classes. The books are easy to read, usually with large print and many illustrations. They recount an ordinary or extraordinary story, told by a village man or woman. Punam Rai, the editor of Pipal Books, says she and her colleagues were pleasantly surprised to find that sales in 1993/94 were 70% higher than expected. For the present fiscal years she expects to be selling over 200,000 copies to NGOs and INGOs. 'Village women love reading the books. They feel each edition is telling their own story', says Punam Rai.



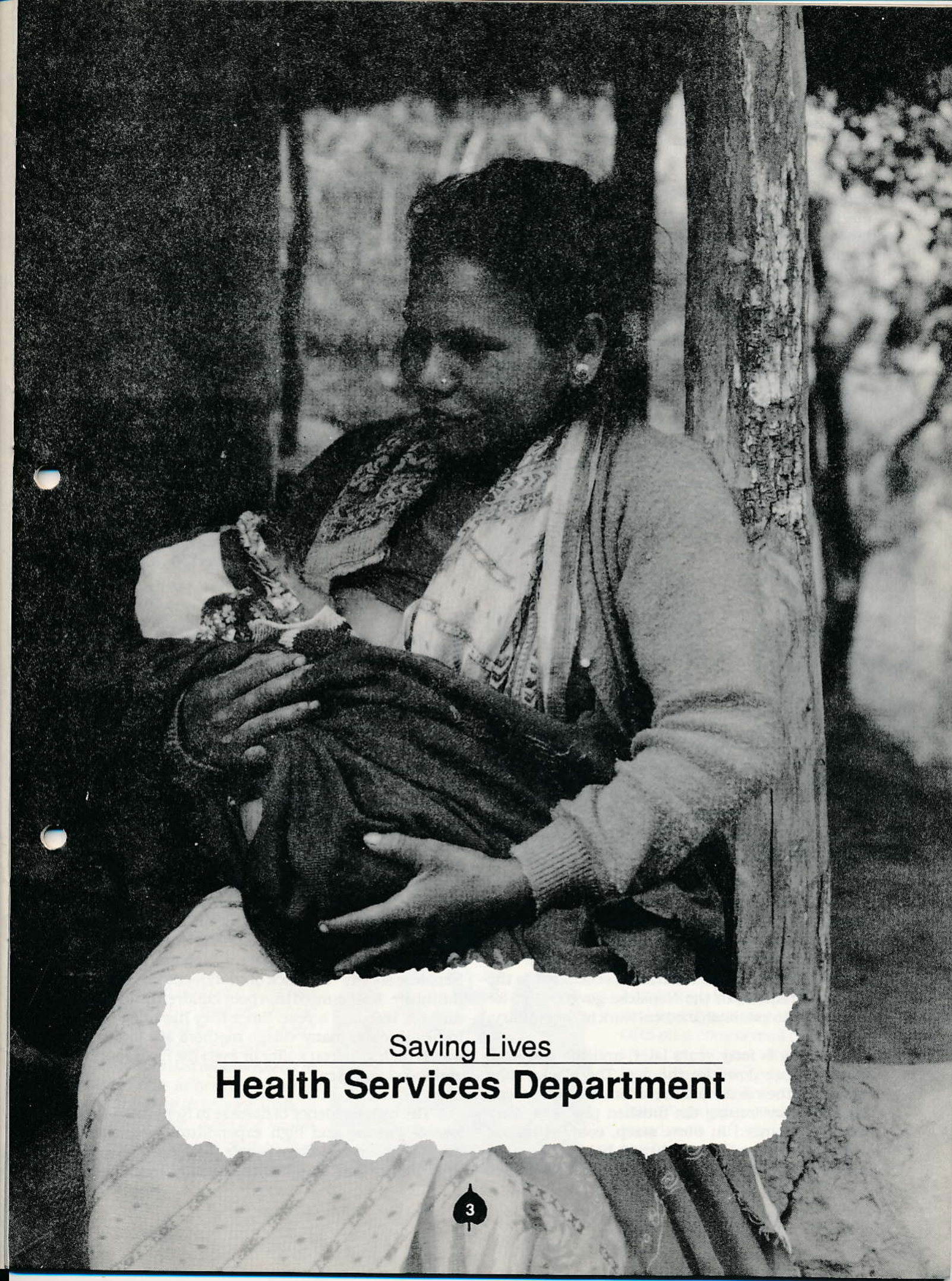
The popular village library trunk ■

No cure for the mentally ill?

Laxmi Khadka is possessed by an evil spirit from the forest. At least that is what her husband and all the people in her village think. After her baby died of diarrhoea three years ago she behaves in a strange way, talking to herself or to the baby, and wandering around the fields in winter time. Her husband took her to the 'Jhankri', the traditional healer, who performed numerous ceremonies. After he spent all his money, he decided to take Laxmi to her parents, and to look for another wife. Laxmi represents a group of seriously mentally ill in Nepal, who are usually neglected, ridiculed, or even imprisoned. Mental health services are almost non-existent in the country. UMN in its Mental Health Programme supports and encourages the development of government services in mental health, especially in rural areas. The programme is involved in community mental health projects in Lalitpur, Kaski and Morang District, while programmes are just starting in Syanja and Banke District. Staff is seconded to government mental health services and the Institute of Medicine as well as national and international NGOs. Training programmes are organised for community groups such as jhankris and health workers. Says Dr. Chris Wright, head of the programme: 'A major problem is the general attitude to mental illness. The vast majority think the cause is spiritual and that there is no cure available, except from the *jhankris*.' With mental health services reaching out to rural areas, people like Laxmi Khadka one day might be better understood and receive proper treatment.



A young Jhankri ■

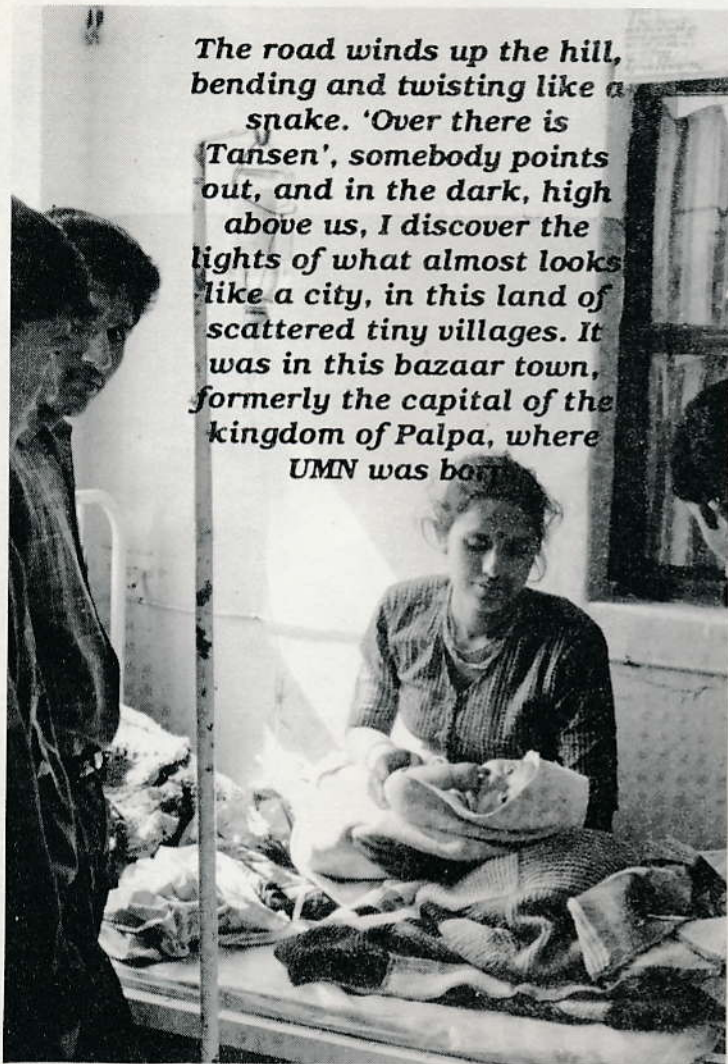


Saving Lives

Health Services Department

Security for the sick

The road winds up the hill, bending and twisting like a snake. 'Over there is Tansen', somebody points out, and in the dark, high above us, I discover the lights of what almost looks like a city, in this land of scattered tiny villages. It was in this bazaar town, formerly the capital of the kingdom of Palpa, where UMN was born



Here Carl Friedrichs and Bethel Fleming conducted a clinic in 1951, while Bethel's husband, Dr. Bob Fleming was searching for birds. The town leaders were impressed and urged the visitors to return and establish a hospital in Tansen. The request from the Tansen bazaar dwellers led to the Flemings' request to the Nepalese government for permission to establish medical work in the country.

Today it is forty years later, and the bazaar is about to close down for the day. The blacksmiths extinguish their fires, and the tailors complete a long day's work by ironing the finished products. Very little has changed in these steep, cobbled bazaar streets, where the 20th century is held back by the inaccessibility of vehicles. However, one only has to

walk up the hill a bit further to realise the town has seen important changes. Tansen today is the home of one of the country's best equipped hospitals. Tansen hospital, with an operating theater, a maternity ward, and facilities for emergency obstetric care and acute trauma, draws people from as far as the Northern mountains close to the Tibetan border, and from the Southern plains bordering India. Sick people arrive here by bus, or are carried to the hospital on stretchers made out of bamboo poles and jute, or even on the back of a relative. In their attempt to save the life of their sick family member, people sometimes walk up to three days to reach Tansen. In order to help the patients who come to Tansen - some 100,000 per year - bazaar dwellers have opened up numerous hotels and restaurants in the vicinity of the hospital. Here the out-patients and their relative can find a bed for 15 rupees per day (30 USD cents).

Insecurity

Despite improvements in some areas, the general health situation in Nepal still requires a great deal of attention. Village children suffer from needless disease like malnutrition, measles and major intestinal infections as a result of water pollution, lack of sanitation and poor diet. Out of 1,000 children born in Nepal, some 130 die before they reach the age of five. Adults as well as children are often ill with waterborne diseases, while tuberculosis remains Nepal's number one disease. Health services are few and far between. For people in the West, where good health services are regarded as a basic right, it is hard to imagine the anxiety which is caused by the lack of health clinics, hospitals and medicines. For instance the stress among Nepali village women, who on average give birth to six children. Their desire for many children is caused by cultural beliefs - women with many sons usually have a high status within Nepalese society - and lack of confidence and hope in the future. It is counted that poor children on average are sick 160 days a year. Since they have no access to health care, many village mothers are forced to watch their children suffer or even die from routine childhood diseases.

The high incidence of disease in Nepal results in loss of income and high expenditure for medical assistance among village people. In Tansen hospital it is found that in-patients, usually from poor

farming backgrounds, on average spend NRs 1,600 (USD 32) per hospital visit. Few people can afford this money. Some 40 percent manage to borrow the money from relatives. Over 30 percent of the patients are forced to go to an official moneylender, who charges high interest rates, and often have to hand over jewellery, land, animals, or even the house. Disease in a rural Nepali family often results in a financial crisis, from which the family only recovers after a few years, if ever.

Quality problem

In the last forty years Nepal's health system has seen improvements. Hospitals have been established in almost every district, and nowadays the country has its own training facilities for medical staff. The government planned to establish health posts throughout rural Nepal. However, with health facilities being concentrated in the urban areas, people in remote villages continue to have little or no access to government health services. Apart from the lack of health facilities, there is a quality problem. The health system lacks dedicated staff, since little attention is paid to ongoing training opportunities and general support, and from a lack of resources, like sufficient funds and medicines. That is for instance why zonal hospitals refer patients who need surgery to UMN hospitals, why sick people visiting the health post find that the medicines have finished,

or have not yet arrived, and why government employed health assistants illegally open commercial clinics and dispensaries in rural Nepal, in order to have some extra income.

Being among the first organisation for whom Nepal's long-locked doors of Nepal opened in 1954, UMN initially was the only agency involved in health activities. The activities of the Mission's health section has developed from running a clinic in Bhaktapur and a dispensary in Tansen forty years ago, into the present programme, which includes four hospitals with associated Community Health Programmes, an Oral Health Programme, a Mental Health Programme, and a Nutrition Programme. In addition to this UMN runs a Nursing Campus in Lalitpur and supplies medicines and equipment to the hospitals and health clinics through the Medical Supplies Department. The Health Services Department employs over 1,000 Nepali staff and handles a budget of Rs 114 million. Despite this wide range of health activities, UMN cannot possibly meet the health needs of Nepal. Says Dr. Bill Gould, Director of Health Services: 'What we can do is to be a model, to show that it is possible. In our hospitals, in our Community Health Programmes, and in every other activity we try to set an example. The main strength of our programme lies in the quality of the staff. We put a strong emphasis on development and ongoing training, so that in their work the staff know they have support.'

Laxmi and Rajendra

Laxmi had been suffering from diarrhoea for five days. Like many Nepali women, her mother Tara Maya believed it was the best not to give the child even a drop of water. Laxmi's skin had become dry and chapped. She was literally drying up. Soon she went into a semiconscious state. The girl felt thirsty, but was too weak to ask for water. Tara Maya felt helpless, and summoned the local baidya, the ayurvedic doctor. He felt the girl's pulse racing and noticed the kidneys had stopped functioning. He shook his head.

Rajendra had been ill for four days when his mother, Janeki Magar, decided to look for help. After four days of diarrhoea, Rajendra had become too weak to walk and his father had to carry him during the ten-hours' walk to the health clinic. Here the health assistant told his mother to first feed the boy a glass of 'Jeevan Jal',

or Oral Rehydration Solution. To his parents' surprise Rajendra revived and asked for more to drink. 'If only I would have known about this medicine earlier', Janeki said.

Oral Rehydration Solution (ORS) has been called 'one of the major breakthroughs of the twentieth century'. It was introduced into the country by UMN in 1972. At first the Community Health Programme taught the people how to make the life saving solution at home by mixing *Noon*, *Chini* and *Pani*: salt, sugar and water. In 1973 Nepal became the first developing country to produce ORS on a commercial base, after UMN staff San Ruohoniemi introduced the recipe to Royal Drugs Ltd. ORS, known as 'Jeevan Jal' in Nepal, has saved the lives of hundreds of thousands of children.



Health Services

Health Services in 1993/94

Promoting Health

In the forty years after the courageous doctors Fleming and Carl Friedericks established a small hospital and dispensary in Nepal, UMN's Health Services Department has worked with exactly the same mandate 'to undertake the proper care and treatment of the sick, the prevention of disease...' with the purpose 'to minister to the needs of the people of Nepal in the Name and Spirit of Christ and to make Christ known by word and life...'. UMN is involved in almost all aspects of health in Nepal, ranging from caring for the mentally ill to improving people's nutritional status, from tuberculosis control to tackling Nepal's exceptionally high maternal mortality figures. Since the early missionaries emphasized preventive health care UMN in its health programmes focuses on the promotion of good health.



Medical staff in Patan Hospital ■

'Currently in what has been a busy year HMG's Ministry of Health has kept up the momentum for Health Care professionals at all levels to reduce the horrific maternal mortality figures in this country.'

**Health Services
Director**



A young patient in a UMN hospital ■

Hospital Services

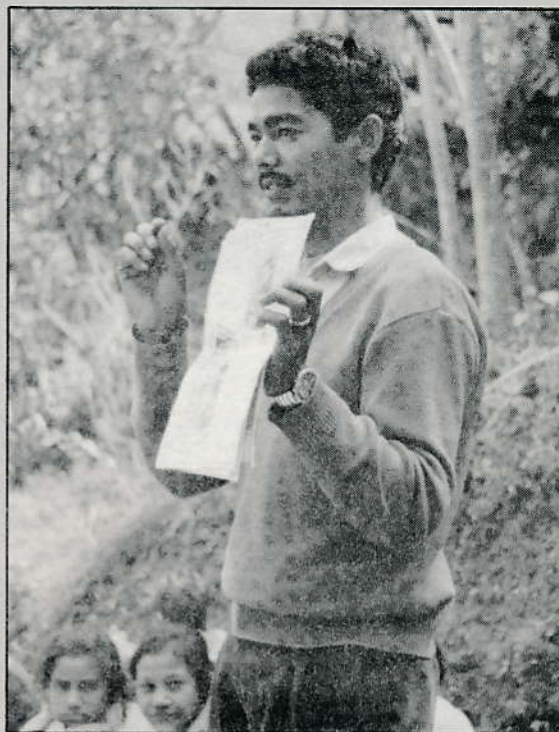
UMN administers four hospitals, located respectively in Okhaldunga, Amp Pipal, Tansen, and Patan. The hospitals in 1993/94 have seen a total number of 330,600 patients. Over 26,000 patients were admitted, while the surgeons performed 5,600 operations. Patients who cannot afford the fees depend on the UMN Medical Assistance Fund, which enables the poorest of the poor to receive quality health care. The hospitals in 1993/94 were confronted with diminishing contributions from donors. Also the sustainability of staffing is a matter of concern, since medical staff in Nepal feel reluctant to work in rural areas. Nevertheless the hospitals remain some of the best value for money available; Okhaldunga hospital for instance treats out-patients at an average cost of NRs. 47 (USD 1), and in-patients at NRs 458 (USD 9).

Community Health

The Community Health Programmes are associated with the four UMN hospitals. The programmes focus on primary and preventive health care in rural communities. A broad range of activities are being carried out in the field of water supply and sanitation, agriculture, non-formal education and primary health care. Until recently the programmes ran clinics and health posts, but in 1993/94 Community Health started to hand these over to the government and move to a position of support and empowerment. This will give the programmes more flexibility and mobility to attend to needier and poorer communities. The four programmes serve a total population of over 175,000. Since one of the goals is to encourage communities to work well with government health staff, the programme cooperates with a selected number of VDCs.

Other Programmes

The Health Services Department supports His Majesty's Government of Nepal via District Public Health Offices (DPHOs). In addition to the support via DPHOs there are three programmes: Mental Health, Tuberculosis Control and Nutrition. UMN offers staff training, technical advice, logistical support, etc. UMN's Tuberculosis Control Support Programme was born in 1989 at the request of the Ministry of Health to assist in delivering TB services in Gorkha District. The programme in 1993/94 almost completed Phase 1 (information collection) and Phase 2 (Strengthening the system: training government health workers and drug supply). The programme collected some 600 sputum smears, and diagnosed eight new TB patients. The Nutrition Programme in 1993/94 raised the awareness of target groups on how to use the most nutritious food available in the area to promote health and well being. Project visits were made at the request of health, education and development projects of UMN, the government, NGOs and INGOs. The programme offered training, orientation and consultation, and further encouraged good nutrition practices by publishing teaching materials and conducting research.



Basic health education in rural Nepal ■

Preventing sickness

Why should 139 per 1,000 girls die before they reach the age of five, as a result of easily preventable diseases like diarrhoea, measles or pneumonia?

Why are thousands of Nepalese families left motherless every year, as a result of an exceptionally high maternal mortality rate (death during delivery)?

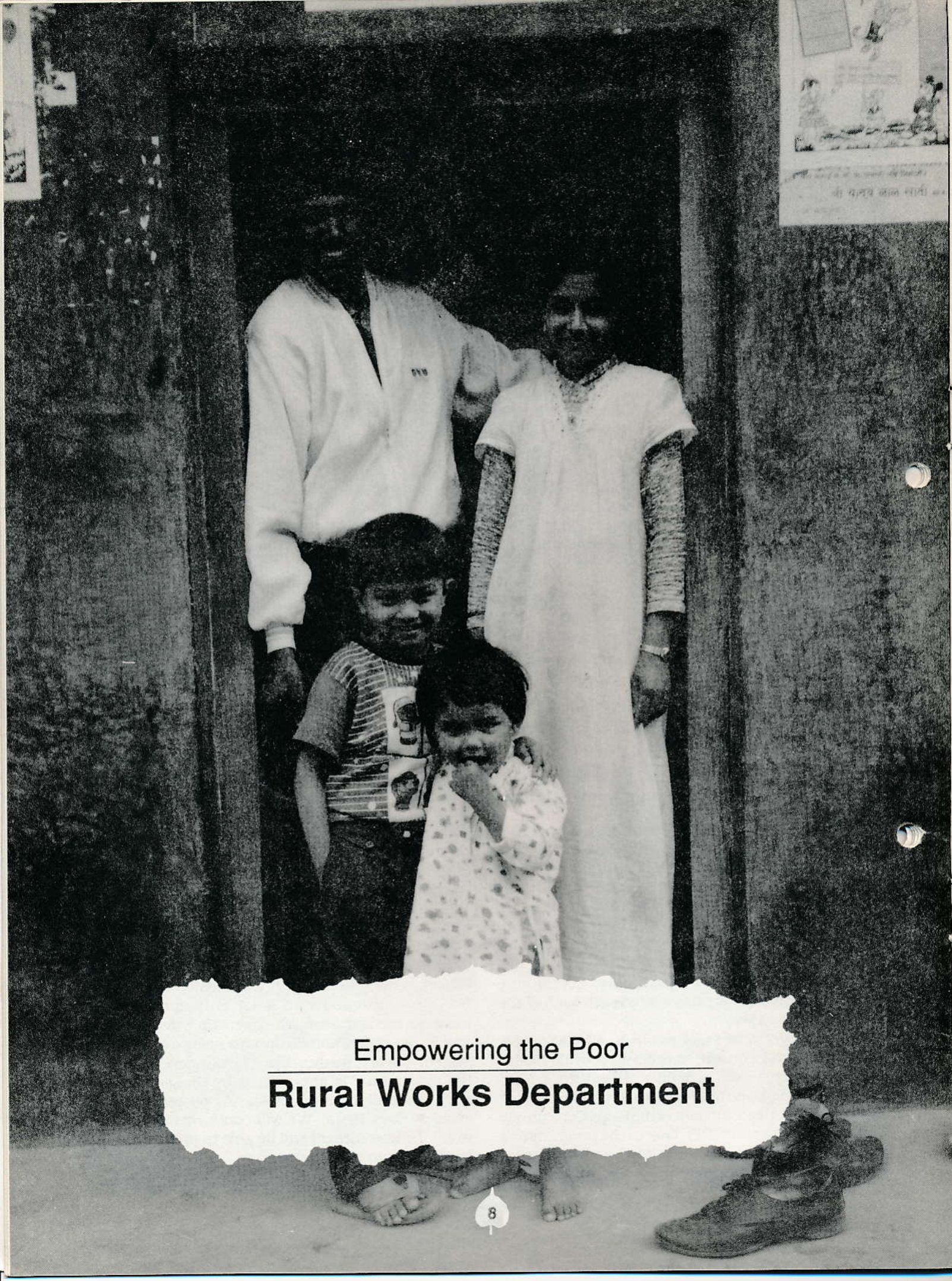
Why are Nepalese people often ignorant about basic health care, and unknowingly promote diseases in the family?

Questions like the ones above have been raised and addressed by UMN during the last forty years. The early missionaries realised that the only effective way to combat the problematic health situation in Nepal is through a long-term prevention campaign. Preventive health care focusses on better sanitation, safer drinking water, improved feeding practices and basic health education. Since the 1960s UMN has been active in preventive health care. Community Health Programmes are associated with each of the four UMN hospitals.

'Our programme reaches out to 40,000 people who live around Tansen, in order to provide health care at the village level, agricultural assistance, Non-formal education, and improved water and sanitation', says Bhagat B. Bista, director of the Palpa Community Health Programme (PCHP). Due to the programme's activities the health situation in the working area has improved considerably. The crude deathrate has

come down to 5.03 (overall Nepal: 13) and the infant mortality has dropped to 11.47 (Nepal: 98). Some 80% of the children under five are found to be well nourished.

The programme supports the government's District Health Office in providing primary health care in the area. Offering support to the Health Offices is not a luxury, but a necessity. Says Bista: 'We are confronted with a lot of malpractice, for instance medical staff who open up private clinics and dispensaries, and -in the absence of a monitoring system - wrong medication. The support offered by the programme is appreciated by the government staff, especially by the ones who are posted in remote villages. Says Bista: 'We will continue our support until the government will be able to provide quality health care in rural Nepal.'



Empowering the Poor

Rural Works Department

Rural Works

'We did not know how to cooperate'

The sun is about to disappear behind a distant mountain range when in front of us a new valley opens up. Ricefields, now turned gold, glow in the late sunlight. Children are running along the terraces and respond to the shouts of other groups of children, at the opposite side of the valley. Women return from the forest, carrying heavy loads of grasses. One of them, her wrinkled face adorned with heavy noserings and earrings, points out the trail to Namadi. 'Don't worry', she says, 'you'll be there soon.'



We have arrived in Ramechhap District in the Eastern Hills, two days travelling from Kathmandu. Here UMN in 1992 took over a project from USAID, now called the Nepal Resource Management Project (NRMP). Ramechhap is one of the two sites of the project, the other being Dhading District, located 25 kms West of Kathmandu. In Ramechhap, as in all Hill districts, subsistence farmers from various ethnic backgrounds and castes, farm their terraced land in the same way their forefathers did. The land is ploughed by hand, or with the help of two oxen and a wooden plough. On the unirrigated upper terraces millet is grown by poor but proud Tamangs. The lower tiny plots of land are covered with rice that is about to be harvested by the Bahuns and Chhetris. 'We are left out people', villagers say in Ramechhap.

Although the nearest roadhead is at a one day walking distance, most women and children have never left the district, and often speculate on what a city looks like. Government services are concentrated in Manthali, the district's service centre, and often do not reach the remote villages.

Life on the edge

Subsistence farmers, cultivating tiny plots of land on steep mountain slopes, generally live on the edge of existence. On average, farmers cultivate about half a hectare of land, sufficient to feed the family for about half a year. A few months a year the family can only afford one meal a day. With the population expanding and environmental problems on the increase, the future of hill farming families looks grim. In Ramechhap people try to supplement the family income by looking for work elsewhere. In every family one or two men have signed up for the army, or have left to find a job in India or in more prosperous parts of the country.

'When the project people asked me what our main problems are, I didn't have to think long. 'Having no clean drinking and not being able to read and write', I said.' Durga Bahadur Khadka is chairman of the Namadi Water Committee and facilitator of non-formal education, here called Resource Conservation Education. When Durga Bahadur became involved in the construction of a complicated water system nearby his house, he realised the people in Namadi had an even more pressing problem: they did not know how to work together. When his neighbours heard that, in order to build the water system, a four kilometer long trench would have to be dugged, they raised objections. After many discussions some backed off. 'We then continued working with 42 instead of 63 households, which made the work even harder. We carried 112 bags of cement from the roadhead to Namadi, plus all the pipes. It was hard work, but it was worth it', says Durga Bahadur. Three and a half months after the participants had started digging, the scheme was completed. 'We feel very satisfied', Durga Bahadur says. 'Before we started working on the scheme we couldn't cooperate. Now we feel we can do anything. We encouraged others in the village as well. If anyone says: 'Ooh, we cannot solve this problem', we answer: 'Look at what we did. You can do that too.'

Tiny communities

Villages in Nepal consist out of tiny communities of caste-related people. Village people find it hard to carry out activities as a community. 'This lack of unity makes it hard to encourage people to do something about their problems. The local structures often lacks the strength to respond to new challenges', says Karin Doehne, director of the Rural Development Department. In Ramechhap, as in other Hill Districts, caste differences are still rigid. It took the project a long time to find a house which could be rented as an office in which low caste people would be allowed to enter. Ram Bahadur, a staffmember who belongs to the untouchable Sarki caste, initially had much trouble being accepted into high caste people's homes and is still treated differently in matters of food. 'We make a conscious effort to identify who the poor and marginalized within a community, but it is not always easy to reach them', says Karin Doehne. 'Apart from the opposition from the powerful and the rich, development activities among marginalized groups are hampered because they are busy surviving and have no time to come to meetings, trainings or evening classes.'

Although NRMP intends to focus on forestry, and cooperates with the District Forest Office, the

programme to a large extent follows the priority setting of the communities. 'Experience shows it is no good to promote forestry when people want water', says team facilitator Dicken Crawford. The people's main interests are safe drinking water and literacy classes. The Resource Conservation Education classes take up eleven months and emphasize good management of local resources. During the course the project responds to the interests of the participants, by providing special lessons on subjects like women's rights, forest management and kitchen gardening. The lessons are performance-based, and participants practice with planting seedlings, making compost, establishing a nursery or constructing toilets.

In Namadi time has come to evaluate the work and move to another VDC. 'There is much work left to do', says Durga Bahadur, who is a busy man these days. 'We badly need a bridge over the river, so we have access to Betali VDC, and besides that, the school just bought a piece of land to build two more classrooms.' When NRMP moves to Betali VDC, on the other side of the river, Durga Bahadur and his neighbours might continue to dig trenches and carry heavy bags of cement over stony mountain trails, this time without the support of the programme.

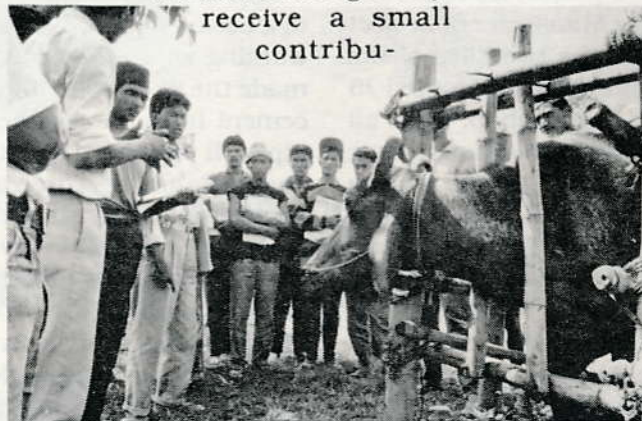
'Animals are more important than children'

Villagers in Nepal can sometimes be heard saying: 'Animals are more important than our children'. It shows how much importance subsistence farmers give to their animals, who enable them to plough the fields, to enrich the soil with manure and -by selling the animals- to have cash available in times of crisis. In a farming village, on average, around 100 animals die every year, causing great financial loss for the owners.

In the Rural Development Centre (RDC) in Pokhara a group of trainees in animal health has gathered to examine a couple of goats. Their faces show they

come from far away and belong to different ethnic groups. The trainees are selected by different development agencies, or have come from a UMN project area. After the eleven-day course they will return to their community with a medicine kit, and start working as an Animal Health Worker. Although they will

receive a small contribution



in cash, kind or labour from the villagers, the 'barefooted vets' will depend on farming as their main income source.

RDC offers performance-based practical skills training in animal health, horticulture, forestry and drinking water maintenance, preferably in the field. The trainees become key persons in their village, for instance in setting up nurseries for fruit trees, developing community forest, or maintaining water systems. All 'graduates' are being visited by a team from RDC within half a year after the course. RDC has found that 95% of the trainees are successful.

Rural Works

Rural Development in 1993/94

Empowering the poor

Two years after UMN started its medical activities in Nepal in 1954, the mission realised a different approach was needed to attack the root causes of poverty in the country. The Rural Development Department's mission is to use and increase its capacity to raise the awareness of rural people so that they can improve their own quality of life. The department implements and manages six community development projects: the Rural Development Centre in Pokhara, the Village Leathergoods Training Programme in Kathmandu, the Nepal Resource Management Project in Ramechhap District and Dhading District, the Okhaldhunga Rural Development Programme and the Surkhet Project. The Forestry Consultancy coordinates, interprets and supports UMN's diverse forestry activities. The NGO Support Project supports and strengthens existing and new Nepali institutions, programmes and projects.



Maintenance workers receive training in Surkhet ■



Farmers enjoy themselves a training session ■

'We formed our group with the hope that the foolish would become wise and do good work. In the beginning convincing members was difficult, but now everyone understands.'

Member of a Woman's Group in Okhaldhunga

Practical skills training

The Rural Development Centre (RDC) in Pokhara provides practical skills training to farmers in the areas of forestry, horticulture/agronomy, drinking water maintenance and animal health. During 1993/94 a total of 5,500 trainee days were delivered by the centre. Participants applied through other UMN programmes and NGOs and INGOs from all parts of the country. To reach community groups and Nepali NGOs as partners, an agreement was signed with the NGO Federation to train their member bodies. The Village Leathergoods Training Programme supports one of the lowest castes in Nepali society, the Sarkis, or leather-workers. The programme aims at improving the economic condition of Sarki communities by stimulating the failing market for leathergoods. In 1993/94 the participating Sarkis gained confidence in the programme, and produced NRs. 600,000 worth of newly designed leathergoods.



Poor women are trained to earn their own income ■

Raising awareness

The Nepal Resource Management Project (NRMP) aims at developing the capacity of communities to manage their own resources with a focus on the forestry sector. The project at present works in six VDCs in Dhading District and Ramechhap District and coordinates community forestry activities with HMG's District Forest Office. NRMP is regarded as a successful programme by the donors and HMG, which resulted in a high number of visitors, including the US ambassador. In 1993/94 the staff at both sites started awareness raising activities in a new VDC. Village profiles were made to determine the disadvantaged groups. Resource Conservation Education classes were held to increase the villagers' general awareness, followed by training on agriculture, forestry and health topics. People were encouraged to form local groups. In the VDCs where NRMP started working the previous year trainees and village leaders came together to identify priority needs and prepare action plans. NRMP found that 75% of the plans were well written and feasible.



The NRMP office in Namadi ■



A village woman with her grandchild ■

'In the beginning sick people were always taken to the dhaami [traditional healer-edit.]. Now, after going to the dhaami, they run straight to the hospital.'

Village teacher in Okhaldhunga

Solving problems

The Surkhet Project, based in Surkhet District in the Mid-West, is a community development initiative, based on the philosophy of the Brazilian educator Paulo Freire, which seeks to develop the problem solving skills of marginalized people. In 1993/94, after identifying the most marginalized communities, 30 groups were formed which each tried to solve two problems, using local resources. The groups were involved in activities like latrine construction, drinking water supply, tree plantation and control of alcohol production. The project conducted facilitator training to 3-4 members of the more mature groups. The Okhaldunga Rural Development Programme has been working for five years in 12 VDCs around Okhaldunga Bazaar. In July 1994 the programme was completed and a participatory evaluation was held. It was concluded that considerable progress has been made to meet basic needs.



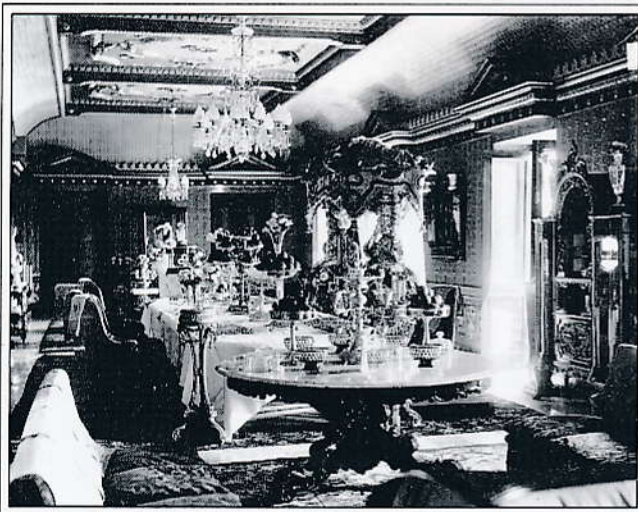
Making a village map in Surkhet ■

The rich and the poor



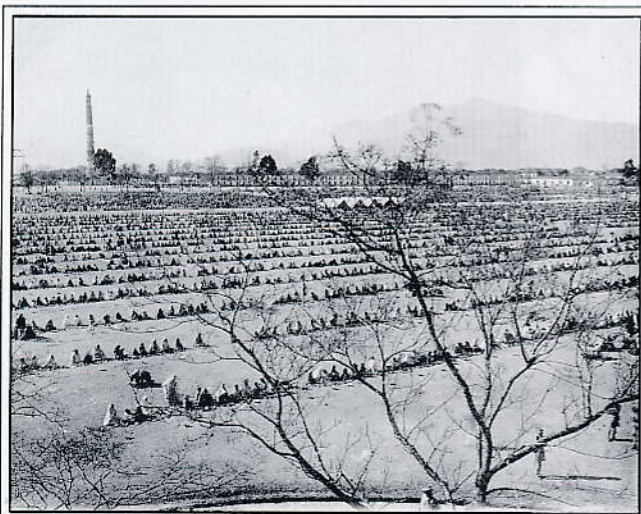
Maharaja Padma Shamsher with lord and lady Mountbatten and other senior Ranas (1945)

What did the kingdom of Nepal, locked away in the heights of the Himalaya, look like in the early fifties, when mission workers were invited to start medical work in the secretive country? Nepal at that time



The Ranas lived a very wealthy life, comparable with that of European aristocracy in the past. European art was being shipped to India and carried over the mountains to the capital.

had been closed to the outside world for almost two hundred years. In 1846 Jung Bahadur Rana had come to power, his family forming a second but very influential 'royal family' in the kingdom. Up to 1951 the Ranas ruled an isolated, stagnating country. While the Ranas and their relations lived in luxurious palaces decorated



with the finest European art, the peasants in the hills were locked in a medieval existence. The first groups of mission workers entered a country with more political freedom, but in which health and education services were virtually absent. Illiteracy was widespread and many people were dying as a result of untreated disease.

The Ranas did not encourage the development of rural Nepal. Many farmers lived in poverty and were occasionally offered free food by the rulers.

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The early days

In 1949 a small group of foreigners entered the 'hidden Kingdom' of Nepal. The group included American methodists Robert Fleming and Carl Taylor. In 1952 a bird-watching expedition reached Tansen, where Bethel Fleming and Carl Friedericks conducted a clinic in the local Bazaar. Five years later a group of

Robert Fleming, a bird specialist and one of the founders of UMN.

representatives from eight missions and churches met in Nagpur, India, and agreed to form the United Mission to Nepal. Church work was not allowed in the Hindu kingdom, but the early missionaries believed their development efforts were in themselves a demonstration of God's love.

In the early fifties a motorable road was being constructed to link Kathmandu with India. One of the first cars is being carried into the country by fifty porters.



The work that is waiting



The early missionaries felt overwhelmed by the needs of the country. The UMN board in the first year concluded that it was difficult 'to support with personnel the little work that we have started; what about the work that is waiting to be done?' The mission workers worked under

Health care in the early days: one of the mission doctors, Carl Taylor, operating a cancer patient out in the open

harsh conditions, conducting surgery out in the open, walking for many days to reach their destination and coping with poor living conditions.

The staff of Tansen Hospital in the mid-fifties including Dr. Carl & Betty Friedericks and Dr. Odd & Tulis Hofstun



Something is changing in Jajarkot!



'It's an arduous walk, first steeply uphill through cultivated fields of maize and ripening rice, then along narrow upland paths and finally into the pine forest on the ridge, enshrouded in thick mist.'

'From then on it's mostly downhill - steep, slippery, leech-infected, but breath-takingly beautiful.'

'By mid-afternoon we attained the high ridge point from whence you can look down on Jajarkot township on the left, and on the right, far down in the river valley, you can see Chaurjhari airstrip. Just at that moment, as we paused to look down, a plane soared up from the airstrip, a tiny point of glinting silver. Within seconds it was over the encircling hills and lost to our sight, on its way to Nepalganj eighteen minutes away. The young boy with me gave the commonplace plane scarcely a glance - yet he has never seen a bicycle or a car or bus. The only wheels in his village are the wheels of the water mill and the tailor's hand-wound sewing machine...'

Feudal state

As Kath White of UMN's Non-formal Education Support Office found out, visiting Jajarkot District, one of the least developed areas of Nepal, can be a demanding task. One either takes an eighteen-hour bus ride and walks for at least two days, or one flies in a small plane to an airstrip, from where one hikes

for half a day to reach the District Centre. Jajarkot is the home of the innovative Jajarkot Non-Formal Education Project, which intends to run 1,000 NFE classes within a ten-year agreement period, targeting poor farmers, women and low-caste people. In the former feudal state, where at the start of the project in 1991 only 1% of the women could read and write, nowadays some thousand students study in the NFE centre during six nights a week, for a period of nine months. Apart from learning how to read and write and how to do simple calculations, the students are introduced to issues that could improve their day-to-day lives, like vegetable gardening, child care, latrine construction, tree plantation and basic health care.

The course is non-formal, which means that discussions about social issues, usually with the help of a drawing which depicts a village situation, play an important role. Often the groups undertake community development activities, like constructing toilets and water supply systems, establishing kitchen gardens and improving footpaths. Anyone who is familiar with the situation in the poor district will agree: 'Something is changing in Jajarkot!'

100,000 participants

UMN's active participation in adult education dates back to the 1950s. Inspired by adult literacy activities in Darjeeling, UMN in 1955 started to prepare materials and train teachers for literacy classes which would include information about health and agriculture. The first classes started in Gorkha and Tansen, but unfortunately the programme was closed down by the government in the 1960s. Adult literacy programmes re-emerged in the 1980s, when non-formal education was introduced to all UMN projects. The classes are supported by the NFE Education Support Office, where teaching materials are being developed and training is being provided to local NFE facilitators and supervisors. In cooperation with the government the office developed NFE course material, which at present is being used by around 100,000 participants in all parts of Nepal.

Why does UMN give so much importance to

adult literacy? Would poor people not be better off with extra rice, instead of books, which you can't eat? One of the reasons why people are poor, is because they cannot read or write. Being illiterate, they lack access to information and ideas that could help them escape poverty. Farmers who are literate are more productive than similarly situated farmers without education. Educated women give birth to fewer children and take better care of their families. In general better-educated people feel less helpless and participate more in the process of development, thus raising their own incomes.

Social problems

In Jajarkot, women, often for the first time in their lives, are encouraged to join discussions and meetings. When talking to other women about social problems like alcoholism, debts and discrimination

they realise they do not stand alone, and that as a community they might be able to bring about changes. Through small-scale community development activities their self-esteem grows, erasing the overwhelming fatalism bred by generations of misfortune and injustice. Says a confident NFE participant: 'Through studying in the adult education class, I have become a person who knows things.'

Things are changing in Jajarkot. The first to notice were the Ranas, the former rulers of Jajarkot who are still pulling the political strings. They did not like what they saw: poor women becoming vocal and no longer keeping quiet about their social and economic problems. They mobilised an opposition against the NFE programme. The women students however, drawing on their new-found confidence and skills, defended the programme, saying they too had the right to study. After some time the classes continued, undisturbed.

Quality education, also for the poor

The echo of the bell announcing a short break for the students of Gandaki Boarding School still lingers when neatly dressed students fill up the well equipped library. They quickly take out a favourite book and settle down to read. A little girl, in fear of missing out on something, almost touches the picture book she selected with her nose. She sighs when a few minutes later the bell announces the end of the break. Reluctantly, she returns the book.

We have arrived in Lamachour, a small village in the Pokhara valley. Here UMN in 1966 established a boys' boarding school, now called the Gandaki Boarding School (GBS). It is the only Regional School in the country and provides quality education for children from all sections of society, including the very poor. Some 35% of the students' families cannot afford the fees and benefit from a scholarship programme.

Top of the list

The kind of education that is offered at GBS (English medium, international standard) is almost non-existent in a country like Nepal. 90% of the students who leave GBS continue their studies in Kathmandu or abroad, and usually can be found at the top of the academic list. Every year the school receives some 1,200 applications, from all parts of the country, while only 80 students are admitted. 'We are a kind of model school', says John Barclay,

director of GBS. 'We hope our approach will be followed by other schools in the country.'

GBS has boarding facilities for 300 boys and 130 girls. Says John Barclay: 'One of the great things of the school is that the relationships between low caste children and high castes are very good. Some people argue that it is impossible to break down the caste system, but here at GBS the students prove that it can be done.'

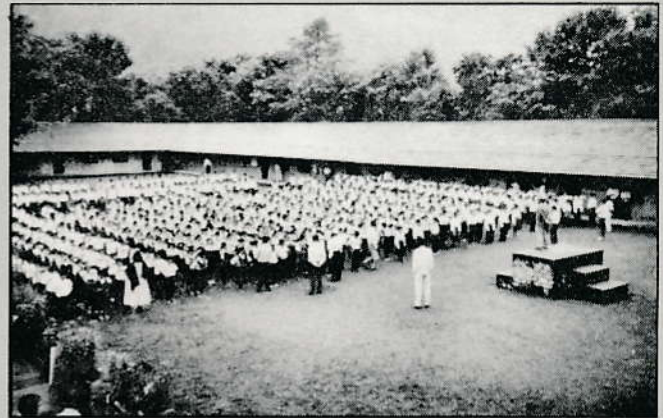


'Wiz-kids' in Gandaki Boarding School ■

Education Services in 1993/94

Fighting ignorance

UMN's involvement in education started in the 1950s when the literacy rate in the country was as low as 5%. Since then, substantial progress has been made in the field of education, although there is still a great difference between male and female literacy rates (respectively 54% and 25%). The Department's activities are conducted in four broad areas: Non-formal Education (Jajarkot NFE Programme and the NFE Support Office), Teacher and School Development (Gandaki Boarding School, Kathmandu University, curriculum development, 10 + 2 partnership and UMN Scholarship Programme), Mission Children's Education Support and Technical and Further Education (Karnali Technical School, Jumla). It further employs a Library Consultant and seconded personnel to education related programmes (government and non-government) and to Kathmandu University.



Students gather for assembly at Gandaki Boarding School ■



A new Auxiliary Nurse Midwife Course started in Karnali ■

School services

Begun in 1980, the Karnali Technical School offers 2-year courses in agriculture, construction and health to young people from the under-developed Western Region. UMN will work in the school under an agreement until 1995. In 1993/94 210 students enrolled in the school. A new Auxiliary Nurse Midwife Course was started, which increased the enrolment of women by 33%. NRs. 2.6 million worth of buildings, equipment and teaching materials were handed over to the school in the lead up to the project's conclusion. The Gandaki Boarding School (GBS) in 1993/94 reached its planned potential in terms its academic programme (up to Class 12), student numbers (586) and capital development (the UMN funded building programme is now complete). GBS again achieved outstanding results in examinations, winning the King Birendra Education Shield, and leading Nepal in sport and extra-curricular activities.

'The real outcomes of UMN's work in education are found in the transformed lives of individuals, such as the NFE class participant who wrote of her learning: 'I have become a person who knows things'.

Education Department Director



GBS students at work ■

Non-formal education

The 3-year old Jajarkot NFE Project at present works in seven VDCs. Its involvement is limited to three years, the second year including a post-basic course and the third year focusing on community development activities. In 1993/94 nearly 2,000 illiterate women, men and girls studied in literacy classes during six nights a week. A survey showed that in VDCs where the project had worked for two years the literacy rate for women increased from 1% to 28%. Amongst half of the 75 NFE workers and facilitators being trained are local women. The participants constructed a total number of 277 toilets and established 911 kitchen gardens. The girls' classes resulted in more girls entering formal school - an unplanned strategy. New activities being trialled include village mapping and village diary writing.



Female NFE students are becoming vocal ■



Education encourages people to solve their own problems ■

'Participation of lower caste groups in classes remains relatively low - between 10 - 30%. The project will try to overcome socio-economic barriers by conducting special, shorter classes for poorer people...'

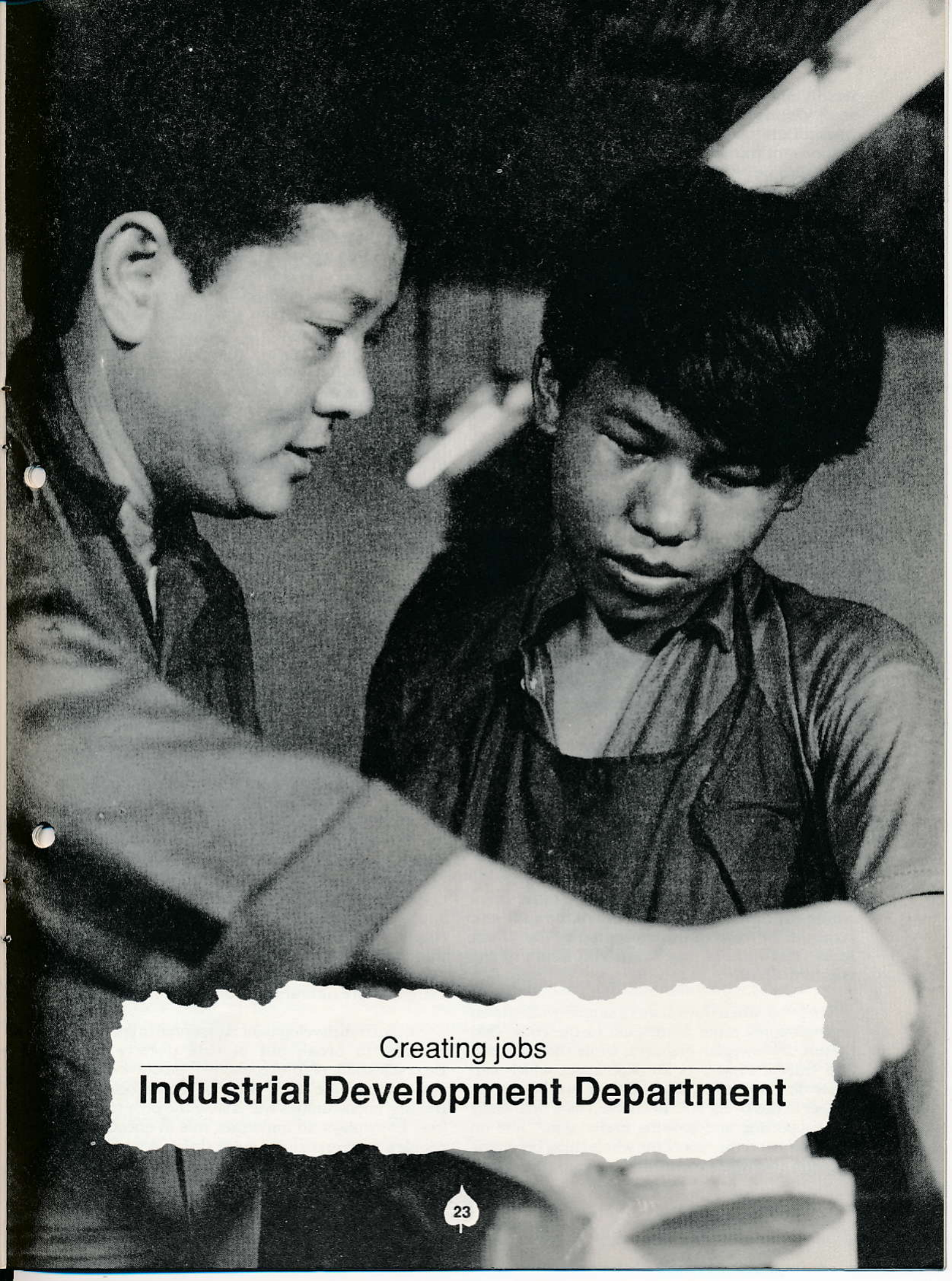
Education Department Director

Other programmes

In order to enable expatriate families to stay in Nepal for a longer period of time, UMN makes provisions for the education of their children. Primary-level tutorial groups in eight locations across the country cater for the youngest ones, while the Kathmandu International Study Centre (KISC) enables children aged 11+ to receive high quality education in the capital. In 1993/94 KISC had 58 students from 15 different countries. The Scholarship Programme enables economically disadvantaged Nepali students to go to school. In 1993/94 the programme offered financial support to 310 families of primary and lower secondary aged children, as well as to 80 campus students. Nearly half of the beneficiaries were female, while disabled students comprise 14%. Among the beneficiaries there were two boys living in prison with their fathers, and who are now studying in boarding school.



In Nepal around 100,000 people study in evening classes ■

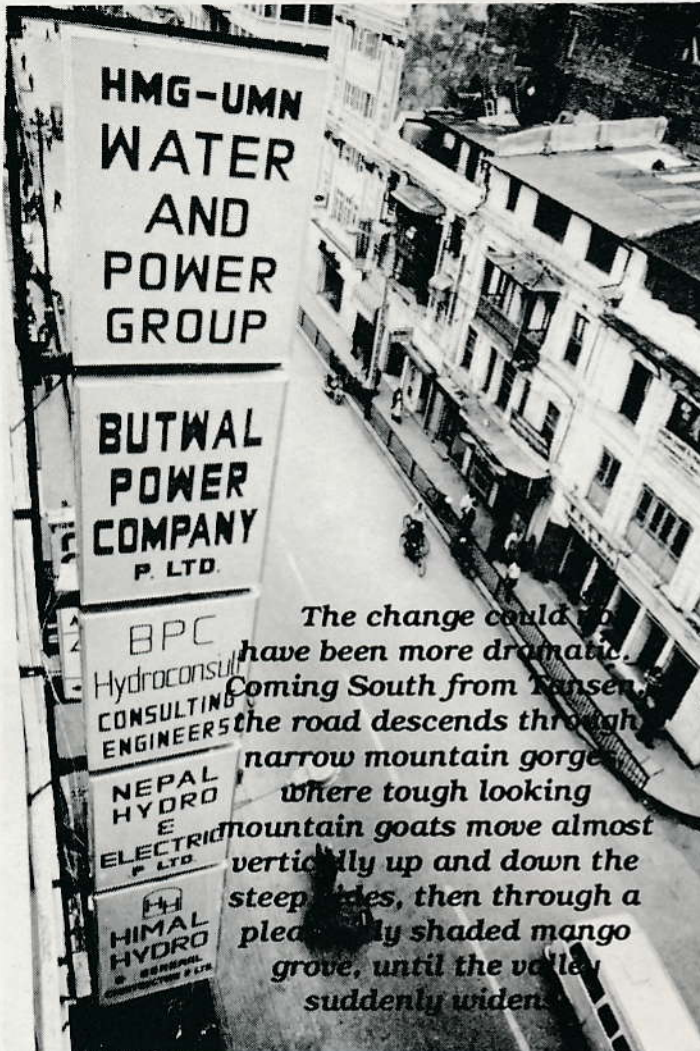


Creating jobs

Industrial Development Department

Industrial Development

A challenge called industrial development



The change could have been more dramatic. Coming South from Tanse, the road descends through narrow mountain gorge where tough looking mountain goats move almost vertically up and down the steep sides, then through a pleasantly shaded mango grove, until the valley suddenly widens.

We leave the Hills and enter a different world: the hot, subtropical plains called Terai where the land is fertile and the roads wide and straight. In front of us, seperated by the Tinau River, lies Butwal, the industrial heart of the Western Terai.

In 1965, when Butwal was a simple trading town on the supply route from India to the Hills, Odd Hoftun, a Norwegian engineer, wrote the following: 'The Butwal Project is an experiment which can easily develop into a failure. On the one side is the danger of not being able to succeed as a financially self-supporting and growing undertaking, and on the other hand the risk of the whole thing becoming an institution where money and outward success are

the only things which count... What was this risky experiment which would be carried out in a small town, where people did not go out after six at night because of the wild animals that roamed around the place? Odd Hoftun's plan was to start a technical school where boys would be trained in various trade skills. Since industry was virtually absent in Nepal in the 1960s, Hoftun then wanted to set up an industrial estate with a variety of industries. This industry would meet the needs of Nepalese consumers and provide employment to local people. In Hoftun's vision an important aspect of industrial development in Nepal should be the exploitation of one of Nepal's most abundant resources: water. Cheap hydropower, he argued, would have a remarkable impact on the development of the local and national economy.

Nepal in crisis

A question that is often being asked is whether or not industrial capacity building should have a place in development efforts. To answer that question one will have to look at the overall social and economic situation of Nepal. In 1980 a group of researchers noted that '(t)he country is...in a period of crisis, a crisis whose major components, over the next decade, will include serious over-population relative to employment opportunities, ecological collapse in the densely populated and highly vulnerable hill areas...and the elimination of certain 'natural' resources (e.g. timber), both in the hills and in the Terai.' Every year thousands of people decide to leave the Hills and move to the urban areas, hoping for better economic conditions. Due to a fast growing population and environmental problems like deforestation and soil erosion farm incomes are no longer sufficient to meet the needs of farmer families. However, the country is unable to absorb the growing number of people into productive employment. The effect is that poverty migrates with the people to marginal agricultural lands and the urban areas.

Industrial development is essential to enable the country to break out of this poverty cycle. Diversification of the economy, labour-intensive employment, the right kind of technologies and training opportunities will enable the poor to break free. UMN plays an important role in encouraging people's entrepreneurial spirit through its training and support programmes for small businesses. In

the area of employment creation and the development of environmentally sound technology, the hydropower companies are making an important contribution. By accepting challenging jobs in civil works and infrastructure, the capacity of Nepali individuals and companies is strengthened.

Private companies

Butwal as it is today is partly the outcome of Hoftun's ambitious plan. Since 1963 the Butwal Technical Institute ran continuous four-year courses in different technical skills. Many of the 355 boys who graduated have established their own businesses in the area, or were employed by UMN and its related companies. While Butwal's population expanded from 8,000 in 1963 to 60,000 in 1994, UMN pioneered with the establishment of private companies in order to promote industrial development, especially in the field of hydropower. Six private companies were set up: Butwal Power Company, Himal Hydro & General Construction, Butwal Engineering Works, Butwal Wood Industries, Gobar Gas Company and Butwal Plywood Factory. The UMN related companies at present offer employment to over 3,000 people,

including day-labourers working on the Khimti Hydropower Project. Their services, especially those in the field of hydropower and appropriate technology, are enjoyed by people in different parts of the country. Development and Consultancy Services (DCS) was established in 1972 for carrying out activities in research and development of new technologies which are appropriate in rural Nepal.

Right from the start of UMN's industrial activities much attention was given to the development of Nepal's tremendous hydro-electric potential. The first project to be completed was a 1 MW hydro-power scheme in the Tinau River, which supplies much-needed electricity to the Butwal industries. Since then the Butwal Power Company, Himal Hydro & General Construction and DCS have been involved in an increasing size of hydro-power projects. At Andhi Kholra (in between Tansen and Pokhara) a 5 MW scheme was built, the first project in Nepal to combine hydropower and rural development. During the completion of the 12 MW Jhimruk scheme, the companies accepted a new challenge: the 60 MW Khimti Hydropower Project, the first hydro-power system to be owned by the private sector.

Fishing in the dark

According to his neighbours he was 'fishing in the dark', but 40-year old Jib Lal Adhikari knew he did the right thing when he joined the business training course organized by the Enterprise Development Programme (EDP) in Andhi Kola.

Jib Lal had been fighting poverty all of his life. When he was 11 years old his family moved from a village in Western Nepal to Palpa District in the Mid-West, in search of land and work. Conditions in the new place proved to be even worse, and Jib Lal, being the eldest son, was sent to India to look for a job. He first worked as a servant with a family in Delhi, earning too little to survive, and after five years managed to get a job in a

soda-water factory. While working from early morning till late evening he developed a plan for producing beverages or other chilled products in his homecountry. However, he had to wait another 25 years to turn this dream into a reality.

After having spent ten years in India, Jib Lal returned to Nepal. By running a small shop in the village he managed to pay off his family's debts. Since there was not much of a business challenge in the village Jib Lal decided to move to a nearby town. He opened a shop in the town bazaar and made good progress.

In January 1994 Jib Lal joined the EDP business training course in Andhi Kola. Although

he did not meet the educational requirements, Jib Lal was included because of his aptitude in business and vision for a new venture. The training gave him the confidence to go ahead with his long-treasured plan. He collected money from friends and relatives, and ignored the jokes of his neighbours. With an additional bank loan he started an ice confectionery unit in April 1994. The innovative businessman presently employs 2 people for production and 15 to 22 people for the sales of ice candies and ice creams on a commission basis. His average earnings are NRs 1,300 (USD 26) a day. Jib Lal, who found a way out of poverty, is thinking about other business ventures such as pickle making.

Industrial Development

Industrial Development in 1993/94

On the job-training

The Engineering and Industrial Development Department (EIDD) seeks to promote the development of Nepalese industrial and entrepreneurial capacity, grassroots business and employment opportunities in pioneering, innovative and environmentally acceptable ways. The Butwal Training Institute (BTI) was the first UMN industrial operation from which many others have grown. In 1993/94 BTI, admitted 35 trainees, including 4 girls, for a 2-year course in a wide range of trade skills. After a 6-months initial training period in BTI's workshop, the students start on-the-job training in various industries. In 1993/94 25 trainees completed the 2-year course, while 16 students graduated from the 4-year course.



Girls at work in the Butwal Training Institutel ■



The 5 MW hydro-power scheme in Andhi Khola ■

The Khimti Project

In 1993/94 two of UMN's related companies, the Butwal Power Company and Himal Hydro and General Construction, started working on the 60 MW Khimti Hydropower Project. The scheme is a breakthrough for hydropower development in Nepal, since it is the first to be constructed, owned and operated by a private company, Himal Power Ltd. The 130 million USD project is funded by the International Finance Cooperation and the Asian Development Bank. A UMN appointee is the general manager of Himal Power Ltd., Butwal Power Company and the Norwegian Statkraft SF are its main shareholders. As part of the preparatory works public hearings were held in the project area in mid 1994. Butwal Power Company started the construction of a government sponsored road from the roadhead at Nayapul to the project site at Kirne. Himal Hydro and General Construction has employed up to 2,000 daily wage workers for constructing civil works and tunnelling works. In May 1994 the work came to a standstill when BPC found itself unable to continue funding the work out of its own resources because of delays in the financing. The work was recommenced in September.



Tunneling works in Khimti ■

Appropriate technology

Andhi Khola is a pioneering project in which hydropower and rural development are combined. After completing a 500 household pilot rural electrification programme, UMN presently is involved in enterprise development, resource conservation, drinking water & sanitation and irrigation. In the fiscal year local producers and entrepreneurs were trained in small business management. Also 9 NFE classes were conducted, 72 smokeless stoves installed and 12,000 seedlings distributed. Good progress was made in the construction of water and irrigation systems. Development and Consulting Services (DCS) is a non-profit venture of HMG and UMN. DCS develops and promotes appropriate technologies for rural Nepal. The centre at present is involved in developing technology related to food processing equipment, hydropower, water lifting systems, stove development, new construction materials and appropriate shelter design. Consultancy services are offered to UMN, related companies and NGOs and INGOs. Extension offices are operated in Baitati (Far West), Surkhet (closed in 1994) and Jumla.



Electricity is a popular demand in rural Nepal ■



Construction works start in Khimti ■

UMN related companies

Butwal and Kathmandu nowadays house five UMN related companies: Butwal Power Company (BPC), Butwal Plywood Factory (BPF), Butwal Engineering Works (sold to NHE in 1994), Himal Hydro & General Construction (HH) and Nepal Hydro and Electric Company (NHE). Detail vary but in general shares are owned by UMN and HMG jointly, with UMN being the main shareholder and representative on the board of the company. In 1993/94 all companies earned a gross profit. BPC operates and maintains three medium sized hydropower projects - the Tinau, Andhi Kola and Jhimruk power plants. Due to lack of timber BPF was closed down in 1989 but was leased to a private operator in 1990. BPF manages 65 ha plantation forest and 95 ha natural 'Sal' regeneration forest (leasehold forestry), and established 192 ha plantation on the land of 1,000 farmers (farm forestry). HH in 1993/94 successfully completed civil works for the Jhimruk project and moved on to Khimti. NHE provides manufacturing facilities for electrical and mechanical equipment for hydropower. The company completed a business plan for the coming 5 years. In 1994, both BPC and HH appointed a Nepali as General Manager for the first time.

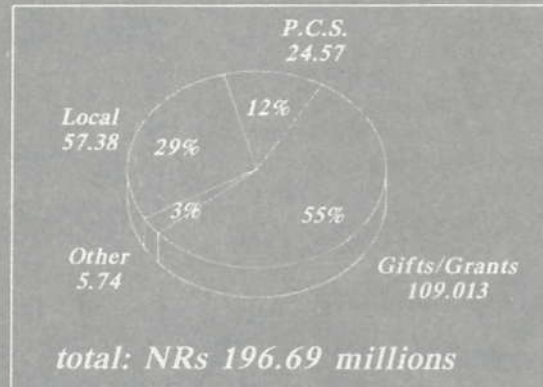


Rural electrification improves women's lives ■

Financial Summary

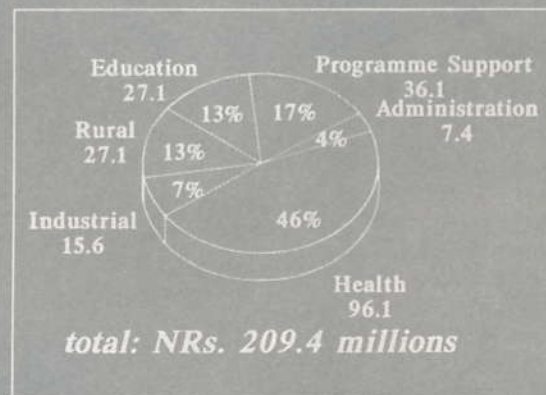
Meeting the financial commitments of UMN's programme activities is a cooperative effort between the people of Nepal, UMN's member organisations, as well as other development funding agencies and friends around the world. This combined effort has resulted in once again providing ample financial resources for the undertaking of a wide range of development activities under our four major programme sectors.

Revenue in 1993/94



Gifts & Grants	External gifts & grants
Local	Locally generated contributions and fee income
Other	Generated outside of Nepal
P.C.S.	Local value of expatriate contributed services *

Expenditure in 1993/94



Administration	Administration Service
Education	Education Department
Health	Health Services Department
Industrial	Engineering and Industrial Development Department
Programme Support	Support Service
Rural	Rural Development Department

* Each expatriate member of UMN comes as a volunteer worker fully supported financially by his/her sending organisation including the cost of local housing and overseas travel. A value for UMN expatriate staff services, equivalent to UMN's salary scale for Nepali staff, is included in the financial statements of UMN. This is done to reflect the full costs in each project or institution in the event it would be possible to operate fully with local staffing.

Thank you

The UMN would like to express its appreciation for the following organisations who have supported the work in 1993/94 with personnel and/or finances.

UMN Membership Bodies

Assemblies of God Baptist Missionary Society
Church of Scotland **Christian Church (Disciples)**
Church Missionary Society, Australia Church Missionary Society, UK
Church of North India **Church of South India**
Committee for Service Overseas, Germany Danish Santal Mission
Evangelical Free Church of Finland **Evangelical Lutheran Church of America**
Finish Evangelical Lutheran Mission Gossner Mission
Interserve **International Technical Assistance Group**
Japan Antioch Mission Japan Overseas Christian Medical Cooperative Service
Korean Christian Medico-Evangelical Association **Lutheran Church in the Philippines**
Mennonite Board of Missions Methodist Church, UK
Mennonite Central Committee **Methodist Church in India**
Norwegian Himal-Asia Mission Orebro Mission
Presbyterian Church in Canada **Presbyterian Church in Ireland**
Presbyterian Church Synod, Mizoram Presbyterian Church/USA
Swedish Free Mission **Swiss Friends for Mission in Nepal**
Tear Fund, UK United Church of Canada
United Evangelical Lutheran Churches in India **United Methodist Church**
Wesleyan Church World Concern World Mission Prayer League

Other Donors

Australian Embassy Australian Churches of Christ
Bread for the World **British Embassy**
Hope International International Science & Technology Institute
Leprosy Mission **Regional Beyond Missionary Union**
Tear Fund Australia UNICEF
USAID **Other Small Donors**

Highlights

Having a say

In Nepal multiparty democracy was introduced in 1990 when the partyless panchayat system was overturned. The new political freedoms have had a great impact on the development efforts in the country, including the work of UMN. In a move towards more transparency and staff participation within the organisation, UMN has introduced a Staff Association, which will have a say in policy and management matters. The association at the same time is an exercise in democracy: the staff elects Staff Association Officers, who in turn hold elections to appoint representatives to the UMN board. 'We want our personnel to be active democratic citizens', says Personnel Director Dorothea Friederici. The Staff Association also clears the way for more involvement of Nepalis at the management level. 'In a process of Nepalisation local staff members move towards top level positions in UMN. We hope in future skilled and motivated Nepalis will manage the organisation.' At present around 1,000 Nepali staff are directly employed by UMN, including some 200 expatriate volunteers. Some 1,500 staff work with the UMN related companies. At present 10 UMN Programmes are headed by a Nepali project manager.



A UMN staff member ■

Women at risk

While you are reading this story somewhere in a developing country two or three women have died because of pregnancy or child birth. Annually half a million women die tragically during pregnancy or delivery. Like Ruk Mani, who was twenty when she gave birth to her first child. Her husband cut the umbilical cord with a sickle. Less than 24 hours later the baby died. Ruk Mani developed a fever and soon died of septicaemia. UMN has taken the initiative to reduce the maternal mortality statistics (in Nepal, 850 mothers die per 100,000 live births) and prevent needless deaths like that of Ruk Mani. Training is offered to Traditional Birth Attendants, general health awareness promoted, and pregnant women encouraged to visit the health clinic for check ups. At Patan Hospital, where 4,000 babies were born in 1993/94, a Birthing Centre is being completed, which includes 8 labour and delivery areas and 10 beds for post delivery. The Birthing Centre will enable the hospital to concentrate more on high risk deliveries. Says Mona Bomgaars, medical director of Patan Hospital: 'The attitude of Nepali women towards ante natal care is changing fast.

Twenty years ago it was very hard to motivate a woman to come for check-ups or to deliver the baby in hospital. Now we find it hard to keep up with the demands.'

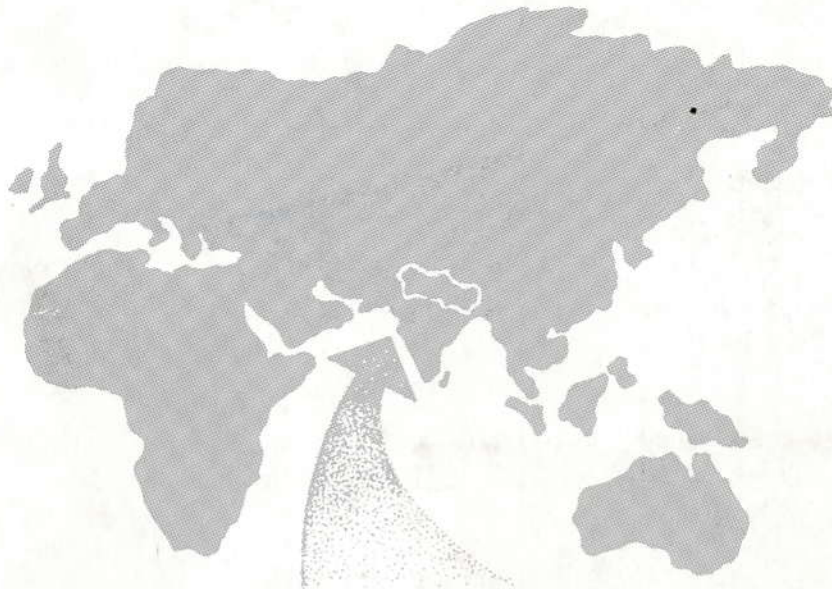


A girl bride being carried to her in-laws ■

Who is UMN ?

United Mission to Nepal

A cooperative effort between the people of Nepal
and 39 Christian organisations from 18 countries



HEALTH SERVICES

Cares for the sick and promotes health through hospitals, community health and education programmes



EDUCATION SERVICES

Assists in the development of education at different levels through formal and non-formal methods/training



INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Facilitates private sector industrial development, appropriate technology dissemination and technical training



RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Assists rural communities in their efforts to improve their quality of life through awareness building, non-formal education/training and technical support



Expatriate volunteer professionals from many countries,
working together with 2,000 Nepalis in more than 35 UMN-related projects

UMN was founded in 1954 and has since then been working under agreements with HMG, most recently renewed in 1990 for another five years. UMN's Board of Directors is made up of representatives from the 39 member bodies, and meets annually to set policies and elect the Executive Committee.

The international headquarters of UMN is located in Thapathali, Kathmandu, and is responsible for coordination of the programmes in Nepal, being the link between the member bodies and supporters around the world.

UMN seeks to serve the people of Nepal in the name and spirit of Jesus Christ in undertaking proper care and treatment of the sick, prevention of disease, education of children and adults, rural and industrial development. In all its activities UMN seeks to train the people of Nepal in professional skills and leadership.

For more information, please contact the Information Office, UMN,
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