

Our Sister School Project in Lamidanda, Nepal (poster 2)

School and village development in cooperation with our partner CCODER

„We are the masters of our own destiny“

This is the guiding principle of the organisation CCODER, founded in Nepal about 20 years ago. The founder, Dr. Govinda Dhital, and his collaborators did not want to accept the fact that many people in their country live in great poverty and illiteracy, without any prospect of a better future. To make a lasting change the villagers have to get together, they must form a community and work together for the improvement of their situation.

CCODER's concept

The basic idea is not to make donations, but to give advice how villagers themselves can develop their village, following the democratic principle that all inhabitants participate. The aim is to become independent from help from outside.

So, the school project has to be seen in the larger frame of village development. Only if villagers have the opportunity to earn money in situ, they can maintain their own village school, together with CCODER. CCODER coordinates this process of organisation and village development.

Planning projects with our Nepalese partners

When visiting Nepal, we first of all contact the staff of the CCODER head office in Kathmandu. In Lamidanda, our contacts are the representatives of the region and those of the village. Together we have a close look at new acquisitions and achievements and evaluate them, before we talk about the perspectives for further projects. Dancing and singing for the friends from Ibbenbüren are an integral part of the visit.

As both sides can communicate in English, there is also an exchange of ideas on teaching methods, teaching material and on future challenges. The community school is especially proud of teaching subjects like social sciences and mathematics in English, even to primary level pupils. The results are amazing.

Village development

In order to support programs in the village, all participant villagers are obliged to do community service for an agreed amount of time. Lamidanda is not without reason a model village, in comparison to other villages which are not taken care of by CCODER. To create sources of income which depend on investments, Lamidanda is joined with a Community bank (microbank) which grants its members inexpensive loans. CCODER supports the village community, e.g. in processing and marketing.