



*Interview mr Henk with mr Bikas, teacher of the Dipendra School*

## Interview with Mr. Bikas Rai, Dipendra Memorial Primary School.

Mr. Rai has been working in Dipendra School since last 5 years. He is from the very beginning supporting the development of the school.

Q. What is the relationship between The Stichting and the school? Is the school able to run by itself if we stop our support?

A. Thank you all for the great help and support providing us for so many years. Before the help of the Stichting we are working in a very poor condition. We do not have good housing also even the teaching items were lacking. We are also not able to teach the students properly due to the open spaces and the neighbourhood. But after the help of the Stichting everything changes. Now the kids are getting good meal, they are getting dresses, books, stationeries and even the good class rooms. Last but not the least please don't stop the support because the government is not taking any actions in the (under developed ) areas like ours for education.

Q. What about the meal project which is supported by the Dutch donor?

A. The meal project is really successful. We are able to convince the parents to send their children at school. What is very important is that the attitude of the parents has changed so dramatically: first their attitude was negative: school was more of a punishment for the children. Now they see school as something positive: their children go to school, they have more time to make their daily living, for example by collecting firewood and selling, and they collect some extra income and can gradually improve their condition. So in this way the support of the stichting is very meaningful. The meal is attracting the children to come to school. Enrollment has gone up. Children are also very active after the break. Before there used to be less than 80% student after break but now we have 95% attendance after break also. Community is also helping the school by sending regularly their kids.

Q. Lastly what is the way of punishing the children if they disobey or do wrong?

A. Before we used to beat the children with sticks but due to the guidance and convincing of the Dutch volunteers we gave them other kind of punishment, like extra homework like 15 pages handwriting or making them to stand up in the bench for a whole class. But these things will change only slowly because the beating as a punishment is still common practice in our country!