

## KATHMANDU SCHOOL REPORT

The GSS School understands the educational process as something that transcends the actual school environment, which also implicates the immediate student's (the neighborhood) and the families while looking for **an integrated training of the individual** that will accompany him or her during each moment of his, her life and all activities of their collective and individual lives.

In a situation as that of today's Nepal, an obvious social de-structuring at private level (high rates of alcoholism, drug use, unemployment...) and public level (anti-government guerrilla group problems, cultural clash between the Western model and the traditional Himalayan model...) **educating for peace, educating to create agents of peace** is an urgent task.

Another aspect that calls for urgent attention is the growing environmental pollution of urban centers, especially the Katmandu valley. Besides the lack of social planning and urban infrastructures, major causes of environmental degradation, we must not ignore the educational aspects of the population which, although less predominant, are no less important. Thus, thanks to HBC 94 FM, Peace Radio, various basic educational health programs are being created in the different languages spoken by the 19 plus ethnic groups in the country. These programs require financial and technical help for their better efficiency and broadcasting.

The next step in the development of existing educational structures in the Gangchen Samling School and, in order to contribute to the solving of the demanding unemployment problem, we have elaborated a **Personal Training School**, a project that would cover those working world sectors more lacking in and more in demand of qualified labor.

This new school will be based on the continuous study of the local work market needs giving more attention to those sectors ignored by the Nepali society with possible future development.

Western professors will continuously train implementing tasks to local teachers in different courses and creating ability in workshops.

The continuous training of teachers is the basis for quality teaching.

The first experience in this new chapter of professional training directed to those less favored economical sectors arose from the need to recycle left over wool from the carpet manufacturing process, one of the most flourishing productive Katmandu sectors: from February 6 to February 27 of this year, the **first level of a training course for the production of wool felt** took place in the actual Gangchen Samling School taught by a European volunteer teacher.

The workshop was directed to housewives, women of low academic training without played jobs that have learnt, with increasing enthusiasm, this ancient recycling technique with the most accessible tools: their own hands and water and soap.

For three weeks, two courses took place simultaneously, one in the mornings the other every afternoon. A total of 30 women attended, coming in contact with and learning:

- How to work the flat felt in order to make carpets.
- The empty felt in order to manufacture bags and shoes.
- To work 'dry' with a needle in order to make decoration objects and toys.
- Lastly, to make delicate decorations with new different color wool.

Samling Carpets, the carpet factory, has manifested its intention in incorporating this felt production technique to its productive process and to employ course participants for such work.

In the near future, the following training levels in the felt production that will complete the initial objectives of this **First Professional Training Course in Nepal** will be developed.

## News

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- **Felt:** In 2007, the second level of the course in felt manufacturing will be developed. **We need financial support for bringing teachers from Europe.**
- **Bakery and pastry making:** two teachers are willing to give a course in such restoration arts. They are also willing to cover costs of their trip to Nepal and receiving free room and board. One of the aims of this course is to freely give part of the bread produced to the poorest children of Gangchen Samling School. **We currently lack the financial means to build a baker's oven.**
- **Carpentry:** A professional training teacher is willing to give a course on industrial carpentry: **We need financing in order to buy the tools needed for the students to work.** (see annex 2)
- **Restoration School:** Together with the Istituto Alberghiero G. Pastore de Varallo (Italy), we are elaborating a detailed project for the construction of a **Permanent Restoration school specialized in Bakery and Pastry Making**, (see annex 1).

*Education in action at the service of human beings:  
Share what you know and your life will have true meaning.*