

# BPW NZ Involvement in BPW Nepal Projects



## 1. LITERACY PROGRAMME FOR ILLITERATE WOMEN

Many thanks to Franklin, Hibiscus Coast, Milton, Taupo and Warkworth Clubs for their monetary donations that will help BPW Chapters in Nepal continue with their literacy programme.

From the proceeds of the 2003 Conference raffles and the Club donations \$1555-13 was raised. This converted to US\$986-00. Of this I gave US\$886-00 to BPW Nepal and US\$100-00 to BPW Pokhara as some of the money had been raised specifically for that Chapter.

Thanks to Joan Bielby for the 47 exercise books and to Warkworth for their stationery contributions. As it is becoming more difficult to obtain a free excess baggage allowance to transport goods to Nepal, in the future cash donations for the literacy programme would be the most helpful.

This is such a worthwhile project I would urge more Clubs to make an effort to support this fund.

## 2. CLOTHING FOR CHILDREN IN DAY CARE CENTRES

As last year only two of us travelled to Nepal we had 20 kilo of free excess allowed. This meant I was left with a considerable amount of clothing I was unable to transport to Nepal in 2003.

Since then I have received contributions from Mary Moreton, Katikati (26 hooded jackets), Jocelyn Williams, Wellington (38 jerseys) and 14 jerseys from Greymouth.

On our recent visit to Nepal, Thai Airways International allocated us a total of 45 kilos free excess, so we were able to transport the stationery that had been received and all garments except for 9 jerseys. The garments included 26 hooded jackets, 135 jerseys and a few hats, slippers and babies blankets.

**Pauline Gapper**

18<sup>th</sup> April, 2004

**BPW**



## BPW NEPAL PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES

BPW Nepal comprises 7 chapters, including Young BPW and has over 700 members.

Projects and activities include:

1. **DAY CARE CENTRE SERVICES** Set up in 5 centres for children of factory working women. Four of these are now the responsibility of the industrialists in the areas with BPW Chapters involved in a supervisory capacity and providing technical assistance. Birgunj Day Care Centre is still run by local BPW members. A sixth Centre at Biratnagar is having difficulties because of lack of finance.
2. **POLYTECHNIC TRAINING CENTRE** Courses for young women university graduates who seek professional skills to enter the work force.
  - a. Secretarial and Office Management Course;
  - b. Secretarial Course designed for girls with a physical disability or who are blind; and
  - c. Three Marketing Courses – professional, short term and intensive.
3. **SCHOLARSHIPS** Chapters, including yBPW are involved. For orphans/girls from deprived families studying at Government schools. The girls are provided with tuition fees, books, stationery and uniform costs.
4. **MICRO CREDIT PROGRAMME FOR WOMEN (MCPW)** All Chapters run MCPW programmes. Sometimes women work as individuals, but more often in teams and operate co-operatives, perfecting a commodity and marketing it.
5. **LITERACY AND NON FORMAL EDUCATION PROGRAMMES** Targeted at housewives and schoolgirl dropouts. All Chapters are involved in this project and annually about 2,000 women become literate.
6. **FIVE-0 PROJECTS – NON FORMAL EDUCATION AND SKILL TRAINING** Joint venture with Nepal University Women's Association, to empower women economically, through basic education and skill development training. This has included training in literacy, numeracy, food processing, preserving, food hygiene, sanitation, cutting and sewing, and a 6 month dress designing course. Women have been trained in mushroom cultivation and organic composting.
7. **NEPAL WATER PARTNERSHIP PROGRAMME** This programme has been co-ordinated by BPW Nepal, supported by Nepal Water Supply Corporation and hosed by the Department of Water Supply and Sewerage. Since 1999, Masters Degree students of Environmental Sciences from a USA Institute of Technology have been researching, testing studying the quality of water from different parts of the country. The students have been involved in devising different types of filters for different water conditions, and training local people how to purify water at home and at community level.



8. EXPOSURE/PROMOTIONAL PROGRAMMES, INFORMATION DISSEMINATION  
Participation in festivals and competitions.  
Holding seminars and conferences.  
Websites for BPW Nepal ([www.bpwnepal.org.np](http://www.bpwnepal.org.np)) and Chapters.  
Publication of brochures, news bulletins and releases to the media.
9. TRAINING PROGRAMMES For members and non-members at Chapter level:  
Leadership, micro enterprise development, co-operative development, marketing, community development, gender and development, self-esteem, institutional management, human rights education.
10. POVERTY REDUCTION THROUGH SOCIO-ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES Targeted at rural women in 3 districts in Kathmandu Valley. Training in agriculture and literacy for women farmers to improve agricultural products and also the living standards of village women and their families.
11. AWARENESS PROGRAMMES ON: Cross border trafficking of girls, sexually transmitted disease, education of the deficiency of Vitamin A, and parental education programmes.
12. CELEBRATION ANNUALLY OF: International Women's day, World Consumer Rights Day, World Water Day and World Environmental Day by activities including seminars, talks and demonstrations, and participating in mass rallies.

**Pauline Gapper**

18<sup>th</sup> April, 2004

**BPW**