Towards a sustainable approach: the Lhomi MTB-MLE preschool program in Nepal

Chhejap Lhomi
Nepal Lhomi Society (NELHOS)
Background of the Lhomi Community

• Northeastern mountain area – Sankhuwasabha
• 15,000 population (7500 living in villages)
• Monolingual Society
How the MTB-MLE program started

• **Government**
  Recognition of NELHOS’ Lhomi MTB bilingual adult literacy program
  Willing to partner with NELHOS to conduct this type of program & asked to develop preschool materials in the context of Lhomi

• **Lhomi Community** request for help with their children’s education
APPROACH FOR SUSTAINABLE EDUCATION
Curriculum Development Workshop

Key Stakeholders (government school teachers, District Education Officer (DEO), Resource Person (RP), School Management Committee (SMC), parents and V/DDC provided input from the start
MTB-MLE preschool program in 2 existing government schools
Tapping into existing school infrastructure

- Existing preschool class
- Existing Lhomi preschool teachers
- Existing classroom and school facilities
Collaboration with government

• Government and NELHOS shared the cost of preschool teachers’ salary
• RP, DDPO and DEO attended workshops and gave input
Contributions from community

• Assistant teachers from previous adult literacy programme

• Parents give contributions
  o They give seed money
  o They provide snacks for their children
  o They manage stationery, uniforms and school bag for children
PROGRAM PROGRESS
Awareness Raising workshop
Teacher Training
Lhomi MTB MLE preschool materials

- Theme picture
- Big book
- Listening stories
- Primer book
- Number book
- GK
Current enrolment in Lhomi preschools

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SN</th>
<th>Name of Schools</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Students</th>
<th>Teacher</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>01</td>
<td>Popti Bhanjyang Primary</td>
<td>Hatiya - 6 Seksum Sankhuwasava</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>02</td>
<td>Himsikhar Primary</td>
<td>Hatiya-9 Namuchi Sankhuwasava</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td></td>
<td>48</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Initial positive outcomes

- Program cost is low
- Parents become more concerned for their children’s education
- Resource Person (RP) visited the program
- More opportunity to work together with DEO
- Teachers are now more confident and experienced in preschool teaching
- Assistant teachers able to apply skills learned from the adult literacy program
Challenges

• Teacher shortage
• Parents’ desire for English
• No toilets and not enough classrooms
• Transition to grade 1 uncertain