

Progress Report AID PROGRAM DEAF SCHOOL SKARDU

‘Trip with some obstacles from May 5 -12, 2014 turned out to finally become a success

On May 5, 2014 Hans Joachim Gerber and the acoustician Michael Eggers from BORDESHOLM / GERMANY fly to PAKISTAN. In their luggage 50 kg donated materials, audiometer, hearing aids, batteries, care supplies and tools as the basic equipment for the DEAF SCHOOL SKARDU. Purpose of the trip is, to learn about the framework conditions of the school as basis for the concept development for a successful future of the school and training at the donated equipment.

Everything is planned and prepared diligently, but local conditions, weather and technical problems make a flight with PAKISTAN INTERNATIONAL AIRLINES from ISLAMABAD into the valley in KARAKORUM impossible. With Pakistani friends alternatives are discussed, to reach SKARDU despite these problems, but are ultimately discarded because a timely return to ISLAMABAD may not be ensured. The mission seems doomed to fail.

Then the two founders of the school, the couple Afzal Rasool and Anika Bano, take the decision to take the arduous 30-hour drive (about 600 miles) with a rental car over the KARAKORUM HIGHWAY up, so that in a shortened two days program in the house of a friend of Hans Joachim Gerber in RAWALPINDI the essentials for the program could be discussed and training on the donated could be conducted.

Through the mediation of the Pakistani friend there are talks with influential people in the region. They offer their help to clarify and evaluate the general conditions on site. This leaves to sparing time and effort for another trip. The conditions for a successful implementation of the project may yet be established.

Quickly a catalogue of questions is processed and first ideas on how to proceed with the program are discussed.

The friends arranged that two severely hearing impaired young men from RAWALPINDI showed up together with their mother, in whom Michael Eggers first determines the degree of hearing impairment and then for each adapts a hearing aid.

In this example, the steps and procedures are shown to Afzal Rasool and Anika Bano, which they are to perform back in SKARDU at their school independently.



A great help is that Afzal Rasool knows the use of the sign languages English and Urdu. Without him it would have been very difficult to communicate with the two young men.

In the joint work Michael Eggers realizes from what great value the older hearing aids which are brought, which require no electronic setting, but can easily be adjusted with a small screwdriver to the required volume.



The mother of the two hearing-impaired are passed two hearing aids, care products and batteries for about a year, then she will be instructed in the use and care. Unfortunately, the observed hearing impairment is so severe that despite hearing aids and a speech therapy speech understanding will not be possible. But with the hearing aids it can be assured, that at least moving in the outdoor life / road traffic will be little safer for the two young men.



In a final step, the way ahead is discussed. On the basis of the given information the following approach seems to make sense:

- For the time being to Afzal Rasool and Anika Bano maintain their work as an engineer at the Rural Development Department and as a teacher in a public school and continue to run their project DEAF SCHOOL SKARDU in their home in their spare time without pay;
- In the medium term, the aim is to rent a affordable house that offers space for a useful extension of the school, through donations to finance a full-time job of Afzal Rasool and a 'trainee teacher' at school, transporting students from SKARDU to school and the monthly ensure ongoing costs;



- In the long term has to be considered how the construction of a school with 10 classrooms, 1 hall, 1 office, 1 staff room, 1 store room, 4 washrooms, 1 kitchen and boarding for children who cannot cope with the daily way to school on provided land (there were some promising discussions on this subject) can be permanently secured and financed.

The hardships that Afzal Rasool and Aniqra Bano have taken upon themselves because of the threat of failure to meet us, have been worth it. A sufficient level of information for the continuation of work has grown on both sides, the training / briefing of donated equipment was carried out and a common idea for future steps could be worked out.

Now, when the situation assessment is completed by the partners in PAKISTAN on site and us in GERMANY and all the facts and figures are known, PAKISTAN –Hilfe zur Selbsthilfe e.V. can lay the foundations for the development of DEAF SCHOOL SKARDU with partners and conveyors in GERMANY and PAKISTAN.

Invitation to lunch by the French Ambassador in ISLAMABAD

PAKISTAN-Hilfe zur Selbsthilfe eV four months ago recorded the '**AID PROGRAM JOEL WISCHNEWSKI**' in his task catalog. This program is going to help people from the village RUPAL at the eastern foot of NANAGA PARBAT. The family of the mountaineer Joel Wischnewski, who died climbing the NANGA PARBAT in February 2013, contacted us and asked if we could help to 'do something good' for the people of RUPAL in gratitude for the recovery and burial of their son and brother. We are happy to have pledged our support. A report on the '**AID PROGRAM JOEL WISCHNEWSKI**' will be set on our website.

In this context, we are invited on the first day of our stay in PAKISTAN of the French ambassador at a lunch at his residence.



HJ Gerber, Brig reted Akram Khan, Ambassador and Mrs Thiebeau, M. Eggers, Consul Belotti

We can convey the thanks of the Wischnewski family for the great help in very hard times for the family at Ambassador Thiebeau, Consul Eric Belotti and Brigadier reted Akram Khan, who had planned and led the recovery and burial and inform about our **AID PROGRAM JOEL WISCHNEWSKI**.

Visit SAYA SCHOOL & HOSPITAL WELFARE HOSPITAL MEER KOH

On the first day in PAKISTAN we visit briefly SAYA SCHOOL & WELFARE HOSPITAL MEER KOH which we are supporting since long and hand over the donated school bags donated from people in LEONBERG / GERMANY and about 200 glasses donated by several donors from the area LÜNEBURG / GERMANY and from Federal Country SCHLESWIG-HOLSTEIN / GERMANY. With joy we have seen that the construction work was started for an extension of the school in MEER KOH. Soon the children will no longer need to be taught outdoors and in two shifts, because sufficient classrooms will be available.



The school bags are most welcome



Behind the partitions foundations for the new 8 classrooms are under construction



That's how children of SAYA SCHOOL are living and this is the team that gives them a perspective

Again many thanks to all the donors for their kind donations of funds and materials that made this trip possible.

Special thanks to our Pakistani friends who have given us all possible support, so that the journey could ultimately become a success.

THANKS – SCHUKRIA and God bless you!

PAKISTAN - Hilfe zur Selbsthilfe - e.V.

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