



Kailakuri Health Care Project



(Kailakuri & the Institute of Integrated Rural Development, IIRD)
JULY 2012

Publicity, needs of the Poor and remarkable Paramedics

Publicity for Kailakuri has continued with a visit at the beginning of June from TVNZ (Television New Zealand) to film Dr Baker's work at Kailakuri. Joy Reid (reporter) and Brent (cameraman) stayed overnight enjoying the hospitality of Kailakuri. In New Zealand while on his speaking tour Edric has also had publicity in the form of radio interviews and a newspaper article.



From being a small project that quietly concentrated on caring for the medical needs of the poor to being the focus of newspapers and television we wonder what the effects of the publicity will be BUT at the end of the day the aims and needs of the Kailakuri Health Care Project do not change.

KHCP understands it is the poorest people in the country who have the greatest health needs. This is because their poverty results in poorer nutrition, sanitation, education and health awareness and also because their poverty makes it much more difficult for them to access health services. The problem in providing health services for the poor is that:

- 1) They are able to pay almost nothing and so services must be very low cost.
- 2) Because of their poverty and social problems they have in many ways a different culture and a different way of thinking from those who are not so badly off.

Both of these factors mean that services are best provided by people of their own social group who are intelligent but of relatively low educational level and do not need high salaries. People of similar socio-economic grouping think in similar ways and are able to help each other in engaging in appropriate behaviour change and in understanding services provided, hence 'health for the poor by the poor'. Even so those who provide the services still need to be well trained and well supervised. Here at Kailakuri, as many of you know, we have a remarkable Village Hospital in which all the work done by Doctors and Nurses is normally done by Paramedics most of whom are under school certificate.

Meanwhile, our remarkable paramedics were able to



care for Liton (below) giving him his life back. Liton is 23 years old and comes from a poor, hard-working family near Kailakuri. In February of this year he suffered a severe electrical shock while at work in Dhaka. His family brought him

from a Dhaka hospital to the Mymensingh Medical Hospital (government hospital) closer to home. Mymensingh Medical told them after three days to take Liton home as he would not survive. His family brought him to Kailakuri. Liton's injuries were severe, so severe the photos shown (over page) have been taken part-way through his recovery. By the time Liton went home at the end of April he was able to eat normally and his speech was clear.

Liton's family are now hoping for a good marriage for him and we look for a plastic surgeon who can repair the injuries to his face.

The cost of Liton's stay at KHCP, based on 2011, figures was only... 203 taka, USD2.50, NZD3.20 per day (the cost for 2.5 months was 15,225 taka, USD187.50, NZD240.00)



At Kailakuri in 2011 the...

Approximate cost per person touched - 560 taka, USD7, NZD9

Average staff salary per month - 4,600 taka, USD56, NZD72

Approximate salary cost per person touched -195 taka, USD2, NZD3

To make a donation visit our websites or contact Bill Rose (USA), Glenn Baker (NZ) or Christine Steiner (BD)
*One of our most important needs is help towards the on-going running costs of the project.
 Kailakuri Health Care Project receives the full amount of your donation (less bank charges).*

And it is good to see Dr Baker, in New Zealand, becoming at least a little computer literate! He has travelled extensively and been very encouraged by the positive response from people at his meetings. At the time of writing this he is speaking at venues in the South Island. Edric will return to Kailakuri by mid-August. I (Christine) am also back in New Zealand enjoying the cooler weather until mid-September. I will continue doing some work as well as having some R&R. KHCP now has a laptop courtesy of the NZ Link Group Treasurer, Glenn Baker and it's been great being able to communicate via email. In the past this would have been more difficult as KHCP had to rely on Brother Eugene at Pirgacha Mission 4km away for emailing.



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WEBSITES

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For any changes to your contact details or if you would like to receive your newsletter by email please contact me (Christine) at kailakurihealthcentre@gmail.com