



TARAYANA FOUNDATION

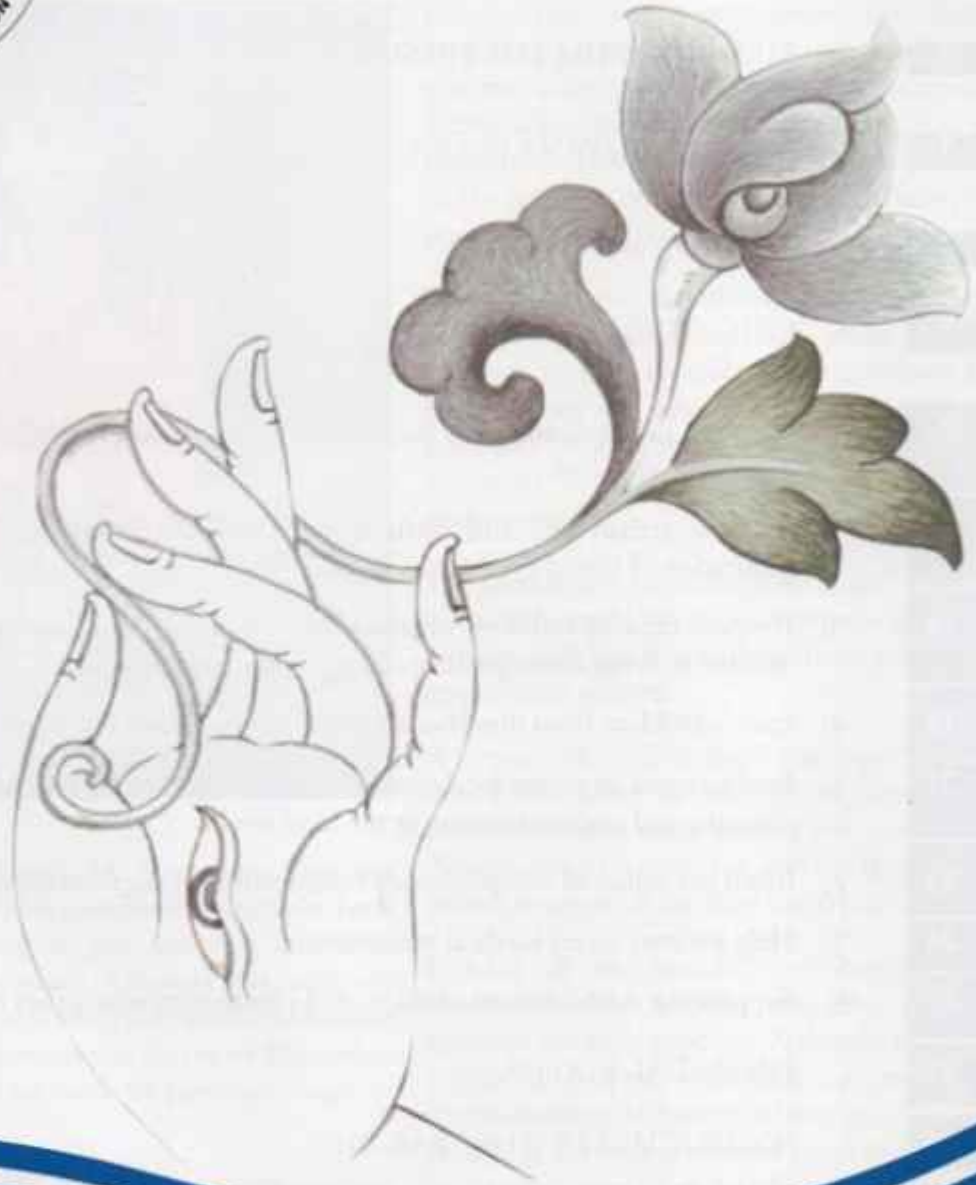
Phudima Doya, Lorokuchiu

Annual Report 2012



TARAYANA FOUNDATION

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Service from the heart

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Message from the President



It has been ten remarkable years since Tarayana Foundation was first conceived to help the rural population who require our attention and care. Over the past ten years, Tarayana has achieved outstanding results in serving our rural communities and I am happy to inform you that as of December 2012, we are working with 98 remote villages in nine Dzongkhags.

We phased out from some of the villages that are managing sustained growth on their own and we ventured into 23 new villages, in 2012. The

journey has been extraordinary and impactful in the most positive way. Rural transformation was the culmination of many interventions and Tarayana's contribution was both strategic as well as substantive. Our investment in true empowerment of the people is one of the main ingredients for the positive change.

We have not only facilitated holistic developments in the communities but take pride in the fact that our staff were accepted as members of the communities we serve. The close-bond between our Field Officers and our rural communities bear testimony to the success and relevance of our programmes.

The annual restorative surgical camps have without a doubt brought exceptional results and relief to a many individuals who have been physically and emotionally scarred.

A sense of satisfaction envelopes me every time I visit some of our project sites. The work accomplished in these villages not only articulates dedication and service, but also the trust in positive transformation of the lives we touch.

I thank all our donors, contributors, partners, volunteers, school clubs and the government agencies for their support. A decade of dedicated service in helping vulnerable communities help themselves would have not been possible without their help. We seek continued support and goodwill in ensuring many more decades of peace, prosperity and happiness from all our supporters.

Tashi Delek!

Her Majesty The Queen Mother, Ashi Dorji Wangmo Wangchuck
Founder and President

Vision:

A happy and prosperous Bhutan

Mission

To help the vulnerable and the disadvantaged help themselves

Motto

Service from the Heart

Core Values

Compassion: We will be guided by the spirit of compassion, from which the Foundation gets its name, in our service to the most vulnerable people and in working with each other

Dignity: We will act with dignity in our work and seek to respect the dignity of those we serve

Integrity: We will follow the highest ethical standards.

Objectives:

Help the poor communities become self reliant through the facilitation of income generating activities

Promote artisan arts and crafts through the establishment of work sheds and facilitation of sale of products

Promote capacity building, organisational, socio-economic and developmental skills needed to bring about positive change in the communities

Enable children from disadvantaged and poor families to pursue education

Facilitate and empower local communities to take a larger part in programme planning and implementation at the local level

Instill the values of compassionate volunteerism in the Bhutanese youth

Help patients access medical treatment

Support the establishment of micro and community enterprises through micro-finance

ABOUT TARAYANA



The Tarayana Foundation was formally launched by His Majesty Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck, the then Crown Prince on May 4th 2003. Tarayana is a non-profit organization working to uplift and enhance lives of vulnerable individuals and communities in Bhutan. Tarayana complements and supplements the efforts of the Royal Government in poverty reduction. The President and Founder was moved to establishing the Foundation as a means of organizing and streamlining assistance to the vulnerable communities and individuals. Having trekked to all the remote communities, it became apparent that specially targeted interventions would be required to mitigate the challenges faced by the most vulnerable groups.

Our focus on vulnerable individuals and communities

All human beings aspire to be happy. This is reflected in the balanced development philosophy initiated by His Majesty the Fourth Druk Gyalpo to enhance Gross National Happiness. Bhutan's people centered development has focused on poverty reduction and improving the lives of the people.

While considerable progress has been made in the last five decades, there is still a significant number of people who need a helping hand. The difficult terrain and the scattered nature of our communities make it very challenging for many communities to access social services and markets.

The incremental cost of reaching the benefits of development is particularly challenging for remote and isolated communities.

Tarayana with its focus on grassroots development lends itself well in serving the small and remote communities one community at a time. Tarayana strives to improve rural livelihoods by promoting participation in mainstream development initiatives and enhancing income generating activities.

Board of Trustees

The Board of Trustees, chaired by the President, comprises of individuals from diverse backgrounds. The Board meets at least twice a year to review and direct the programs of Tarayana. The members of the Board of Trustees serve for a term of three years, which may be renewed.

Executive Committee

The Executive Committee, with guidance from the Board of Trustees, supports the Secretariat in implementing the activities approved by the Board. It supervises proper maintenance of records, work plan preparation and implementation, screening of beneficiaries, allocation of funds, and its utilization. The Committee meets monthly to discuss and work on the planned activities. The members of the Executive Committee are all volunteers and also serve for a term of three years, which may be renewed.

Secretariat

The secretariat is responsible for the day-to-day functioning of the foundation and implementation of all the programs and projects in the field. It oversees administration and finance of all field programmes, projects, prepares financial statements and reports on the work progress twice a year to the Board. It implements the planned activities of the foundation and ensures that programmes are well coordinated.

Tarayana staff with the Board and Executive members





Pickle group in Lumbey, Samtse

Activity Report 2012

Objective 1: Help the poor communities become self-reliant through the facilitation of income generating activities

"Advancing Economic Opportunities of Women and Girls", an Asian Development Bank (ADB) facilitated project funded by Japan Fund for Poverty aims to provide opportunities for women and girls to take an active role in economic pursuits. This project was implemented for 531 households in two of the most disadvantaged geogs, Chhimoong and Dungmaed, of Pemagatshel Dzongkhag.

Activities covered under this project:

In **Dungmaed** geog, the project enabled the communities to generate income through formation of different Self-Help Groups. A total of six groups have been formed viz cane and bamboo production, weaving textiles, pineapple production, potato chip production, vegetable and chilli production.

These groups are in various stages of development and marketing. While some cane and bamboo products are already being marketed others like the Vegetable Group are growing new vegetables that were not grown previously and earning through their sale.

Besides the formation of these income-generating groups, the Field Officer led initiatives to increase awareness on sanitation and waste management. The community members continue the practice of thorough cleaning of their surroundings twice a month (during the religious days).

Two young girls were also trained in tailoring. They have started tailoring services in their communities.

Seven women attended a training on the construction of different kinds of toilets organized by SNV and the Public Health.

They have constructed their own toilets and also helped a few more households with the construction.

Five members (two men and three women) from the Self-Help Groups attended a month long training in group management, food processing and weaving at SEWA, Ahmedabad, India. These members will impart the skills gained to other members.

In **Chhimoong** geog, four groups have been formed. These groups are working on production of ground nuts, weaving textiles, garlic and as well as potatoes and bananas for making chips.

All essential tools, seeds, HD pipes and small machines were supplied to the groups.

Tarayana Field Officer, in collaboration with the Basic Health Unit workers also created awareness on sanitation and waste management. The community members now use pits for disposal of their waste.

However, there is still much that needs to be done especially in housing. For that, immediate support is required and the Foundation is looking for funds to replicate the 'Rukha Model of holistic development' in Pemagatshel Dzongkhag.



Figure 1. No. of Self-Help Groups

In **Samtse**, the project covers five geogs of Tading (Tabagaon, Ramtey), Duenchhukha (Boribotey, Duenchhukha & Benekha), Dumtoe (Gibjee & Kuzhug-gang), Namgay Choling (Raja Rukh & Majuwa), Dorokha (Dophoogchen) and Bara geog (Chingu & Fenchi).

A total of 15 groups have been formed and another five groups are in the process of formation. Some of the activities carried out by these groups include: cardamom cultivation, ginger, small bakery unit, poultry, beetle nuts, weaving, bow and arrow making, and cane and bamboo products. These groups have been trained in their various areas as well as supplied with the necessary equipment and materials.

With the formation of 25 groups under this project a total of 76 Self-Help Groups in seven Dzongkhags has been formed by the end of 2012.

Figure 1. shows the total number of groups formed in each Dzongkhag.

These Self-Help Groups get the opportunity to display their products during the Tarayana Fair held every May. They get to interact directly with their customers, get feedback on their products as well as take home their profits.

All the Self-Help Groups formed under this project will soon be registered with the Department of Agriculture Marketing and Co-operatives.



Training on Vermi-compost

Training on Vermi Compost

In January 2012, the community members of Digala in Zhemgang received a two-day training session on vermin culture from Tarayana's Green Technologies' Focal Person and a Green Technology Specialist from Bangladesh. 33 community members (2 men and 31 women) attended the session and learned about the importance of using natural technologies to enhance the fertility of their land, as well as to increase and diversify their vegetable crop production.

A similar training was also held for 70 community members (including 50 women) of Langdorbi in Zhemgang in collaboration with the geog Health Assistant.

In collaboration with the RNRDC, Yusipang, another training on vermi and liquid manure composting was also conducted in April in Digala and Kalamti, Zhemgang. 52 community members (17 men, 35 women) participated in the training. Two focal persons from RNRDC travelled to the communities to give hands-on training on making natural pesticides, vermi composting, and liquid manure composting. The focal persons supervised the construction of vermi compost tanks and taught the community members how to use and maintain the tanks for maximum benefit.

The community members of Digala and Lotokuchu continue to use vermi compost to enhance the fertility of their soil. In Samtse, the trainers supplied essential items such as flexible pipe, bowls and poly plastic to enable the people to construct vermi-tanks.

Similarly 40 farmers (10 men and 30 women) of Langdorbi, Zhemgang, received this training. These activities encouraged the farmers to improve productivity in their kitchen gardens.

A follow-up training was also conducted for the Lotokuchu Singye and Lotokuchu Wangchuck villages in Samtse. In total 110 people (20 men and 90 women) received this training that gave them the opportunity of raising issues and asking questions based on their experience.

“The goal of this activity is to provide an ongoing source of fertilizers to ensure productive food crops that will meet the nutritional needs of the communities.”

Training on Constructing Eco-toilets

Although pit latrines had been constructed in Digala and Langdorbi in Zhemgang it was found that these were not being used for reasons of distance, smell and comfort.

Therefore, the Foundation initiated the construction of eco-toilets that were more user friendly, had no smell and used very little water.

15 houses each from Digala and Langdorbi were selected as pilot houses for this initiative. Resources such as CGI sheets, cement, pipes, containers for urine collection, construction rods and building materials were also supplied to the members.

A 14 day hands-on training on the construction of eco-san toilets for 15 households was conducted by Tarayana's Green Technologies Focal Person in Digala. Masonry tools and other building materials were supplied with on-site supervision by the Field Officer in the actual construction of these toilets. As a result the two communities of Digala and Langdorbi now use these eco-san toilets that are also monitored by the Field Officer on their use and maintenance.

In Samtse, 10 eco-toilets in Lotokuchu and 10 in Lumbey are currently under construction.

Tailoring Training

Under this program 12 community members (six each from Zhemgang and Samtse) were trained in interlocking stitches on sewing machines for two weeks in March, 2012, at the Tarayana Rural Crafts' Outlet, Thimphu. The trainees learned basic techniques for stitching *wonju*, *tego* and other garments using the interlocking stitches.

All the trainees received an interlocking machine each so that they could continue practicing their new skills when they returned to their communities.

They were also supplied with essential items such as irons, ironing boards, needles and thread for the tailoring units in Zhemgang and Samtse. A portion of the funds were also allotted to repair poorly functioning sewing machines in Samtse. The trained members of Zhemgang and Samtse are now able to provide tailoring services to their fellow villagers and generate income through their skills.



Support to Self-Help Groups

A Self-Help Group for the production of tapioca products was formed in Lumbey. With the completion of the construction and electrification of the community work shed, this 26 member group (15 women and 11 men) can work with much ease and earn income from tapioca products.

Under this project, pickle bottles were supplied to the 'Pickle group' in Lumbey. The 'Orange group' of Lotokuchu was supplied with essential tools such as pruning saws, scissors, sickles and four-way sprinklers.

In the month of June, 2012, a training on marketing was conducted for the 'Paper group' in Lotokuchu, Samtse. The training included hands-on experience with designing and making paper products such as envelopes, pen and pencil holders, star lamp shades and photo frames. The participants each received an easy-to-use paper design tool kit to enable them to be more productive. Nine people participated in the training of which seven were women.

Nine women learned new patterns and color combinations through a training on weaving. At the end of the session, in addition to their usual scarves and kiras, the members were able to weave cushion covers, table runners and place mats. With demand for these products increasing it is hoped that this will enable them to generate more income.

Marketing Assistance

The staff from the Post Harvest Centre in Goleng provided training and bottling assistance to the pickle and ginger candy groups in Digala (20) and Langdorbi (32), to help them make their products market-ready. The groups received the raw materials and bottling supplies they needed. These products were brought to the Tarayana Rural Crafts in Thimphu where they are currently for sale. The members were also participated in a month-long training on weaving and designing. The Marketing Officer facilitated the training and distributed yarn to both groups.

Food Processing

The community members of Lumbey, Samtse, participated in a training on food processing co-sponsored by Tarayana and the Post Harvest Centre, Paro. The members (20 men and 24 women) learned how to make orange candy, tapioca chips, pumpkin chips and mixed vegetable pickles. This training gave them the expertise to utilize their excess vegetable produce to generate income for their families.

With technical expertise from the Post Harvest Centre, Tingtibi, a training session on the production of *Amla* (gooseberry) candy for a group of 12 women in Zhemgang was also held. This training was conducted to enable the group members to use the locally available gooseberries to generate additional income.



Objective 2: Promote artisan arts and crafts through the establishment of work sheds and facilitation of sale of products



Creativity, Design and Innovation

With assistance from AGFUND and UNDP the marketing team conducted a month-long design training for the 'Weaving group' of Lotokuchu in Samtse, Digala and Langdorbi in Zhemgang. A total of 36 women learned to diversify their weavings to include cushion covers, table runners and place mats. These textile products are in high demand, both in the domestic and international markets.

In Lotokuchu, Samtse, a week-long training on diversification of paper products was conducted. A total of nine participants from Lotokuchu Jigme, Singye and Wangchuck took part in the program. Participants learned to make pencil holders, star lamps, envelopes and different styles of photo frames. Participants also attended a practical class on producing different colored papers. The objective of this training was to teach the community members how to produce new marketable goods; to increase villagers' income and also to reduce, re-use and recycle waste. The participants got the opportunity to "increase their knowledge, use their own creativity and imagination, and obtain practical skills in making saleable paper products."

Retail and Export Market Access

The Tarayana Rural Crafts participated in various trade shows to showcase and raise awareness on products from the rural communities' besides earning around Nu.200,000 through direct sales and orders. They included three International Trade Fairs organized by BCCI (Bhutan Chamber of Commerce and Industries) in Thimphu as well as the Trade Fair Organized by APIC (Agency for Promotion of Indigenous Crafts), Thimphu.



In addition, a number of international meetings including the *International Conference on Poverty Reduction* organized by UNDP, in Paro; *Mountain Echoes Literary Festival*; *Haa Summer Festival*; *Bhutan +10 Conference* at Taj Tashi Hotel; *Fourth Network of Self-employment and Livelihood for Women in Asia* at Terma Linca; *World Entrepreneurship Day* organized by Loden Foundation at Clock Tower, Thimphu; *International Conference on GLOF (Glacier Lake Outburst Flood)* organized by UNDP; and the Green Technologies Focal Person offered an opportunity for the Tarayana Rural Crafts to set up stalls.

Taking part in these events helped Tarayana to promote rural handicrafts and to identify potential international markets. As a result, Tarayana Rural Craft now ships craft products to the 'Potala Design', a shop in Sydney, Australia, which sells handicrafts from China, India, Nepal and now Bhutan; and also to 'Shin Nippon', Japan.

Award

Aum Tshendu, one of the weavers from the Nettle Weaving Centre in Beling, Trongsa, received the *Seal of Quality Award* from the Ministry of Economic Affairs for her nettle placemat woven with blue and green yarns in traditional pattern on natural background. Aum Tshendu's award-winning placemat and many other nettle products are available for sale at the Tarayana Rural Crafts Outlet in Thimphu; the Museum Gift Shop at the Folk Heritage Museum, Kawajangsa, Thimphu; and at the Tarayana shop, Paro International Airport.



Objective 3: Promote capacity building, organizational, socio-economic and developmental skills needed to bring about positive change in the communities

The Project goal: *“To contribute towards social and economic empowerment of selected rural communities and development of civil society organizations through partnership with Tarayana”.*

Tarayana has been working with the villages in Kengkhars to bring about accelerated growth and development. The communities in Kengkhars are motivated and hard working and Tarayana is grateful for this opportunity to help them realize their full potential. There are several entrepreneurs in the community making the Self-Help-Groups very dynamic.

Activities covered under this project:

Housing Construction

A total of 60 houses were completed and 30 were in various stages of construction at the end of December 2012. Through this project 172 of the poorest households would have the necessary skills to construct their houses using the age old labour contribution methods. Master carpenters and stone masons impart training to local groups through experiential learning and through the practice of using local apprentices. In the process, community members learn basic carpentry and masonry skills that are used gainfully in building or repairing homes both within and outside the communities. This also allows for income earning opportunities. Families take turns building each others' houses and in the process build community coherence and vitality. This model replicates the holistic community development approach that Tarayana initiated in Rukha.

In **Figure 2.**, the graph represents a total number of eco-friendly houses constructed by Tarayana over the years in six major Dzongkhags.

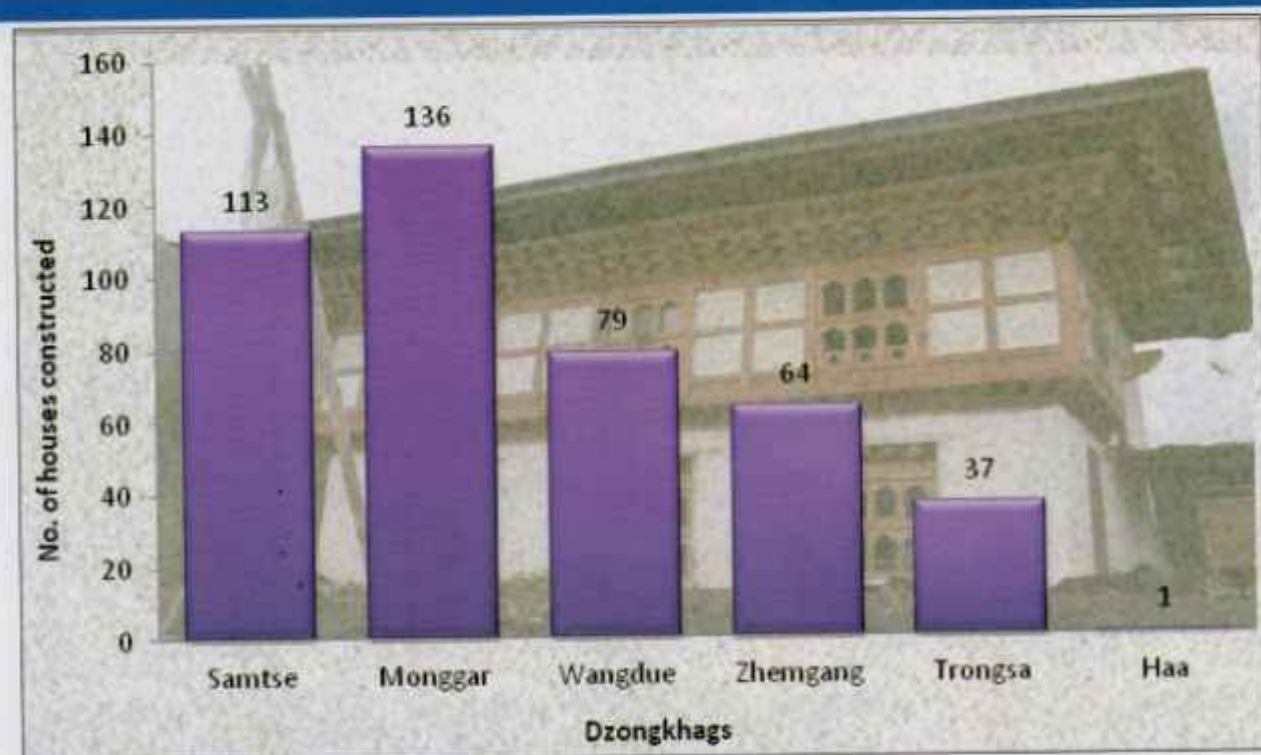


Figure 2. Houses Constructed



Women involved in constructing hedges

Marketing of crafts

Six community members from Kengkhar attended the Tarayana Fair in May 2012 to showcase their skills and market their products that included Jandom and masks. They earned a good profit at the three day Fair and this encouraged them to work even harder. This opportunity also enabled them to better understand the market requirements and to network with potential buyers. Previously, they had eight members in their crafts group and after the Fair, they now have 25 members. They have also begun to market their products through the community work facility centres/work-sheds.

Construction of Community Facility Work sheds

Four work sheds were constructed in Tongla, Yuldarig, Nanari and Murung villages in coordination with the Leveraging Cultural Diversity project funded by the EU and implemented by Helvetas. These centres are used as multipurpose halls that provide a venue for training, production, sales counters and meetings. Community members report that after the construction of these centres, they have been able to market handicrafts and fresh vegetables to nearby communities, as well to outsiders. Their income has more than tripled and they also get the opportunity to work in a communal setting, exchanging skills and sharing experiences.



Community Work shed

Mr. Tashi Wangchuk, Chairperson of Yuldarig, said that after the construction of the Community Centre, sales of crafts and fresh produce have increased dramatically. In the past, he used to earn Nu.4000 to 6000 per year; now he is earning Nu.3000 to 5000 per month and is able to meet his household expenses without difficulty.

Self-Help Groups

Ten different Self-Help Groups were formed and are fully functional. These groups produce a variety of traditional handicrafts and food products including choesham (altar wood carving); weaving, vegetable production, orange production, jandom and mask-making.

Self-help group members also formed savings groups, with members contributing a certain sum each month. The objective is to encourage saving among the members, so that the groups can purchase supplies, loan out small sums to members, and become sustainable. Through group saving, they learn the basics of how financial institutions such as Bhutan Development Bank operate their micro-credit and savings plans. Such experiences would also enable them to start micro-enterprises should they wish to.

Agricultural Productivity

Community members received several open pollinated seeds along with training in crop cultivation. This year, the farmers focused on growing potatoes on a larger scale as a trial crop. The SHGs marketed their products to Kengkhar Lower Secondary School, and plan to market their surpluses to Monggar Hospital and Gyelpoizhing Market. Encouraged by the profits they earned, the vegetable SHGs cultivated ginger, turmeric and chillies. They also have plans to expand into food processing once the group is well-established.

Trainings

Two women from the Self-Help Groups attended a food processing training at the Central Institute of Food Technology in Mysore, India, along with other members from different Dzongkhags. They learned basic techniques of making ginger and turmeric products.



Jandom



Jandom group



Jandom making



Traditional masks

Exposure Visit and Training at the Central Food Technological Research Institute (CFTRI), Mysore

Seven women from our sites in Trongsa, Monggar, Zhemgang and Samtse joined 13 others for a Food Processing Training and exposure visit to Ahmedabad and Mysore, India, in the month of April, 2012. The trip was organized by SABAH Bhutan (SAARC Business Association for Home-based workers).

The participants attended the 40th anniversary of SEWA along with other participants from Afghanistan, Nepal, Sri Lanka and three States of India: Assam, Kashmir and Meghalaya. They also visited several organizations working with SEWA, such as Calico Textile Museum, Home Net South Asia and SEWA Trade Facility Centre to learn about their activities.

At the RUDI Processing Centre, participants received an orientation on the processes of production, costing, packaging, labelling, bookkeeping and marketing. The main training was conducted at the Central Food Technological Research Institute, Mysore, where they learned the processing of ginger and turmeric, cereals for baby food and also energy food for children made from cereals and pulses. Some of the participants were already involved in the processing of ginger and turmeric products at their villages, and having gained new knowledge on it meant a lot to them.



Food processing, Weaving and Self-Help Group Management Training

A team consisting of 15 community members from Pemagatshel and Monggar accompanied by two Tarayana staff attended a month-long training program on food processing, weaving and Self Help Group Management in Ahmedabad, India. The training program was sponsored by Self Employment Women's Association (SEWA), India.

The team was divided into two groups: the Food Processing and the Weaving group. The Food Processing group members received training in procedures for making peanut butter, masala ground nut, potato chips and chakri. They also learned the process of making rice noodles.

The group also learned how to conduct surveys before procurement to see what types of foods are in high demand in a district or a village as well as to find out which foods are cheaper and better in quality.

The weaving group was hosted in Sinhol village under Anand District for 10 days. They were given hands-on training in weaving in two, four and six pressing order looms. The team found that they have very different kind of looms compared to those in Bhutan. The weavers in SEWA produce towels, bed sheets, tablecloths and handkerchiefs.

All the participants received training in various aspects of 'Self-Help Group Management'. The team also learned about organizational behavior and leadership. They also received training in financial management which some of the participants found a bit confusing and difficult, as many of them barely know to calculate correctly. In spite of all that, they managed to master the most important topics such as costing and keeping records of financial transactions. They were also taught how to prepare business plans.

At the end of the training program, the training coordinators presented each participant with a certificate of completion.



Gravity Rope-way

The project "*Piloting of Gravity Rope-way*", an Environmentally-friendly, sustainable and low-cost rural transportation option in Bhutan funded by *Small Grants Program* is being implemented in Bara geog under Samtse Dzongkhag.

The main aim of this project is to enhance the livelihood of the people by providing access to markets for their agricultural products.

It is an affordable transportation option to reduce human drudgery and travel time to & fro from their villages to the nearest road head.

Before the implementation, several consultation meetings were held with the community members to sensitize them on the project and to seek their views on this initiative. A committee named 'Greling Tshogpa' (Rope-way group) was formed to represent the communities in assisting the team to carry out the feasibility study and to start the activities.

As rope-ways is a new initiative for Tarayana, the lack of technical expertise at the Foundation made it challenging. Nevertheless to ensure the efficiency of the rope-way and to benefit more villages, experts from Practical Action, Nepal, were hired to install it successfully.

The rope-way functions only on gravitational force alone and the span of the gravity rope-way is limited to 1500 meters from one station to the next. Keeping this in view technical viability of three proposed sites (Kongkha, Chingu and Chanju) were carried out. Of these Chanju village was selected as a best bit for this activity.



Practical Action Expert

Objective 4: Enable children from disadvantaged and poor families to pursue education



Tarayana Scholarship Programme, 2012

Tarayana Foundation was fortunate to receive a scholarship offer from the Asian University for Women in Chittagong an international college in Bangladesh, this year. After a rigorous selection process, three students from our rural communities are now Bangladesh to pursue their college education.

In 2012, Tarayana Foundation also continued to send students to the *NILLM University* in Delhi, India, through the GGS (Gifted Girl and Girl Genius Scholarship) organized by Rai Foundation. The Rai scholarship covers the full tuition fee of Rs.100,000/- per annum.

This year, four girls from Digala, Khomshar and Kalamti under Zhemgang Dzongkhag and one girl from Nagor under Monggar Dzongkhag were sent to NILLM University. Tarayana covered half of their on-campus room and board fees of Nu.20,000 each, while the Rai Foundation provided support for the other half. Tarayana is proud to currently support a total of 18 students for their higher education at several excellent universities in India and Bangladesh.





Daycare children in Lotokuchu, Jigme.

Buzip Programme

The Buzip Programme was first initiated in six villages of Samtse and Zhemgang with two main objectives.

- 1) To provide reliable child-care support and peace of mind to parents in rural communities especially for women, who are as a consequence empowered to pursue income-generating activities, training opportunities, as well as providing them the time for more active engagement with local governance.
- 2) To give young children the opportunity to reach their full potential in terms of cognitive, social, and physical development by creating an accessible space where it is safe and fun to learn.

Fostering positive experiences early on will ensure that these children will be fully prepared to enter the academic system, and greatly improve their likelihood of success in years to come. By being embedded in local communities and employing local young women, the Buzip Programme is above all a fundamentally sustainable initiative which holds the promise of promoting social solidarity as well as providing invaluable services.

This activity has been appreciated by the parents as it allows them to leave their child at a safe and conducive environment while they go off to earn their livelihood.

The teachers from the formal schools in these communities are also appreciative of this initiative as the children coming out from the day care facilities are school-ready, "disciplined" and easier to teach. After the successful reception from Samtse and Zhemgang, Tarayana plans to scale up this activity in other rural communities in 2013 based on requests.



Objective 5: Facilitate and empower local communities to take a larger part in programme planning and implementation at the local level



Ritu Prasad, eco-stove user

Eco-stoves

Tarayana supplied and distributed 300 certified clean and efficient eco-cooking stoves to the poorer households in the district of Dagana, who used to make use of firewood for cooking and heating. These stoves were provided by ALSTOM Foundation, the charitable arm of the electrical and mechanical equipment manufacturer ALSTOM.

Due to limited electrification and the inaccessibility of this sparsely populated area, most households rely on the burning of wood and other biomass for cooking and heating. As a result, firewood collection is a severe threat to the remaining forest areas. Wood smoke pollution is another grave concern.

The introduction of efficient cooking stoves was essential to reduce smoke pollution and related health problems. These eco-stoves also contributed substantially to the reduction of wood consumption, thereby reducing labor for the households and conserving the neighboring forest areas.

The stoves' cumulative contribution to the environment is a substantial reduction of CO₂ emissions.

Tarayana also worked to raise awareness among the supplied households in order to ensure that the use of the stoves would be continuous and sustainable. Tarayana's Green Technologies Focal Person who attended a training in the fabrication and maintenance of the stoves taught the community members how to install the stoves in their homes.

A training on Eco-stoves fabrication was also jointly organized by the Agriculture Machinery Development Centre and Tarayana Foundation at AMDC, Paro for 11. Nine community members attended the training.

"The recipients of the eco-stoves include the most vulnerable villagers of the communities some of whom are old with no one to look after them as well as those who are disabled."

Deorali geog (a total of 140 households were distributed with Eco-stoves)

Villages	No of Households
Karmaling	72
Deorali	19
Homa	17
Jegmathang	11
Dorjiphu	17
Others	4 teacher

Gozhi geog (a total of 166 households were distributed with Eco-stoves)

Villages	No. of Households
Balakgang	51
Upper Gozhi	24
Middle Gozhi	32
Lower Gozhi	29
Dogaag	25
Others	5 (teachers and Dzongkhag officials)

An eco-stoves fabrication and maintenance workshop is currently under construction in Gozhi geog center. This workshop will also serve as a maintenance unit for the ALSTOM Solar Dryers.

Training on Solar Thermal System

Under the Joint Support Program, "Capacity Development for Mainstreaming Environment, Climate change and poverty concerns in Policies, Plans and Programs" 10 people were trained in solar thermal system by Solar Energy System Pvt. Ltd, Kathmandu, Nepal, in association with the Center for Energy Studies/Institute of Engineering/ Tribhuvan University, Nepal and Tarayana Foundation, Bhutan.

The trainees studied different types of solar cookers as well as solar water heaters; components of solar water heater plumbing, hot water distribution systems and insulation to prevent heat loss. The participants visited a Zero Energy House where the staff demonstrated a working solar water heater. They received practical training in assembling solar water heaters and connecting the solar water heating components with the existing household plumbing.

After the training program Tarayana installed two solar water heaters in Kingrabten nunnery in Trongsa and two in Pemacholing nunnery under Bumthang Dzongkhag using these trained personnel. The nuns received hands-on training in both installation and maintenance. The nuns immediately recognized that the solar heaters would help ease their workload as well as the benefit to the environment. The installation of solar water heaters at the nunneries will substantially decrease cutting of firewood and contribute to preserving Bhutan's forests.



Objective 6: Instill the values of compassionate volunteerism in the Bhutanese youth



UDHSS club members

Tarayana School Clubs

A total of 76 Tarayana school clubs have been established in all the 20 Dzongkhags. Teachers from the College of Education at Paro and Samtse initiated the School Clubs programme in 2004 in order to promote a spirit of volunteerism amongst our youth so that they learn to become compassionate and caring citizens, helping those people most in need of attention.

Besides carrying out activities like cleaning campaigns and assisting the poor with their farming activities the club members identify those having a difficult time making ends meet and assist them. In 2012, as in previous years, the students continued to pursue their objectives and plans.

Each school club receives onetime seed-money of Nu.10,000 from the Foundation. Clubs raise funds through various activities such as sports tournaments, Fete day (setting up of stalls), door to door collection of donations and outreach to members of their respective communities.

The club members also volunteer their services for renovating monasteries, making blood donations, obtaining veterinary services for stray dogs and providing tutoring services to younger students.

Some of the club members call themselves "A Beacon of GNH" for their schools, and according to their school principals and teachers, they live up to their reputation.

After nearly a decade of work, the Tarayana school clubs all over the country have made a reputable name for themselves. More teachers and students are eager to include a Tarayana Club in their school programme. As of December 2012, over 3000 students, our young volunteers are part of the Tarayana Clubs.



YHSS club members

Objective 7: Help patients access medical treatment



Restorative Surgery – Camp 2012

The President's visit to Nagor village in Monggar in 1999 highlighted the need for reconstructive surgeries to give many the opportunity to lead healthy and productive lives.

With the help of Surgicorps International, surgery camps to help correct congenital deformities such as cleft lip and palate as well as those with disfigurements due to burns, bear mauling and other accidents are carried out every year. Surgicorps held their first camp in Bhutan at the Paro District Hospital in 2007.

These camps are held in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and with institutional support from our local doctors, nurses and technicians. This year, the Surgicorps team consisted of 28 individuals, the largest team to date.

A core group of highly trained surgeons, anesthesiologists and nurses perform the reconstructive surgeries, while Surgicorps and Tarayana volunteers provide support services for the surgical team.

Surgicorps' 6th mission to Bhutan resulted in 59 surgeries and 125 knee injections. The camp was held from 13th– 23rd of April 2012. In addition, Surgicorps' first Dental Camp in Bhutan dramatically increased the number of Bhutanese served during the team's week-long stay. Volunteer dentists made a difference in the lives of many school-aged children from the rural areas by teaching them preventive care and by providing treatment to many children who otherwise would not receive dental care.

A total of 383 patients underwent surgery from 2007–2012 with the Surgicorps International.

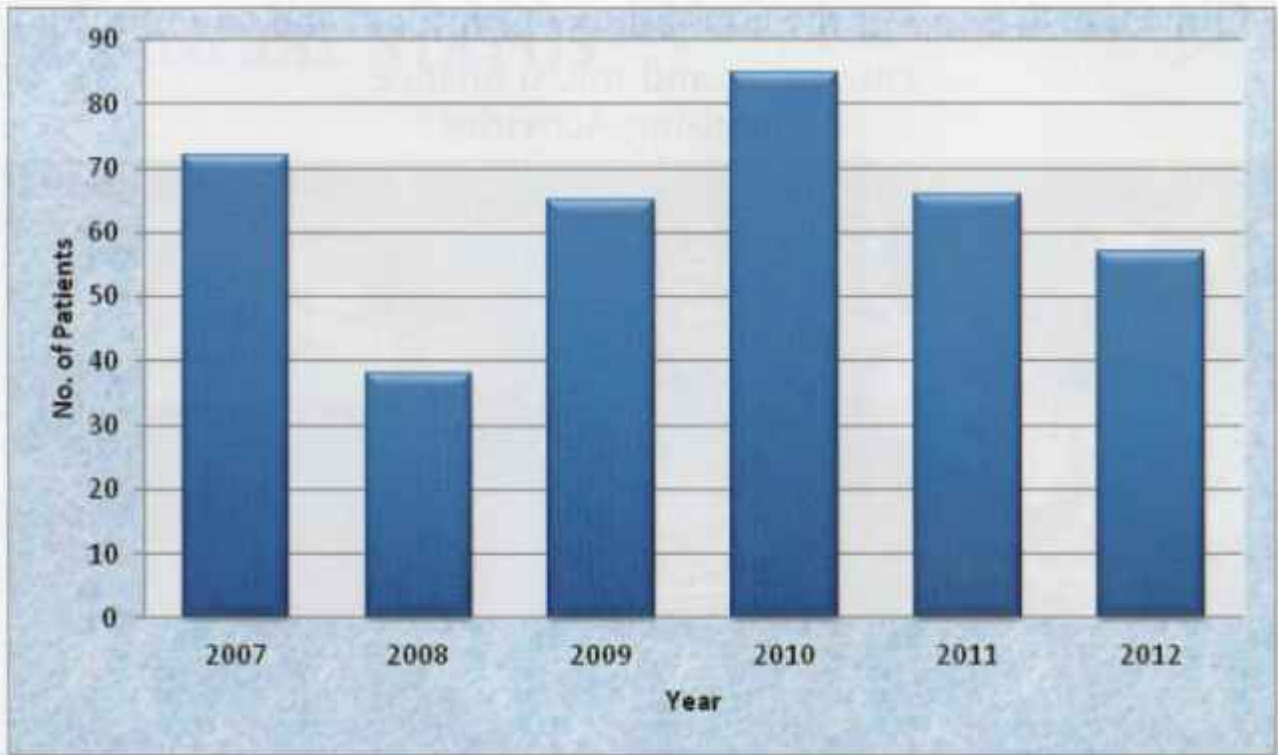


Figure 3. Patients who received reconstructive surgery

Figure 3. elucidates the exact figures on how many people received reconstructive surgery from Surgicorps International since 2007.

The Tarayana Foundation wishes to express its gratitude to all the Surgicorps team members who traveled to Bhutan and donated their time to help transform the lives of our patients.



Objective 8: Support the establishment of micro and community enterprises and micro finance Fundraising Activities



Micro Credit

The Primary mission of this initiative is to help income-qualified individuals start or build businesses and to help rural poor people escape poverty by investing in their own small businesses and farms. In most of the far flunk rural areas, people live in precarious conditions, threatened by lack of income, shelter and food.

To overcome poverty and to protect their families against adversity they need to be able to borrow, save and invest, With little income or collateral, poor people are seldom able to obtain loans from banks and other formal financial institutions.

Tarayana oversees all phases of the micro credit programme. The Tarayana Field Officers identify qualified applicants by reviewing their financial history and future prospects. Approved applicants are then granted a small loan at an interest of 7% per annum, a very low rate compared to official lending institutions. Loans are directly obtained from Tarayana's own funds and from AGFUND (UNDP).

In the year 2012, a total of 24 villagers availed the micro loan. Eight people (six women and two men) from the target communities in Zhemgang used it to purchase agricultural implements, seeds, seedlings and horses. 15 individuals (14 women and 1 man)

in Lotokuchu, Samtse, availed loan for the purpose of purchasing cardamom seeds. Sale of cardamom is one of the main income generating activities for the villagers in Lotokuchu and loans enable them to increase their income and start small scale shops in their communities. One woman from Dagana also received loan to setup a micro-shop.

The Tarayana Field Officers have been trained in financial literacy and also in bookkeeping to manage the micro credit system efficiently. They constantly monitor and guide community people with their savings, borrowing from institutions and investment.



FINANCIAL STATUS

Financial Statement for the year 2012.

Receipt		Payment	
	Amount (Nu)		Amount (Nu)
Opening Balance	2,603,825.35	Less: Total Expenditure for the year 2012	52,940,490.37
Add: Total Receipts for the Year 2012	56,237,037.60	Closing Balance	5,900,372.58
Total	58,840,862.95	Total	58,840,862.95

- This statement includes all the project funds and it is based on the bank statement.
- Unaudited statement.


 Kuenley Gyeltshen
 Finance Officer
 Tarayana Foundation




 Chime R. Wangdi
 Secretary General
 Tarayana Foundation



THE YEAR IN REVIEW

- 17th-18th January Tarayana annual retreat was held on 17th and 18th of January, 2012, at the Tarayana centre.
- 12th- 27th February Helvetas Junior Program Officer made a joint visit to selected sites in Kengkhar geog, Monggar, in order to renew the agreement with Tarayana.
- 28th February Tarayana participated in the panel discussion on '*Empowerment of Rural Women and Girls with Disabilities: Their Role in Poverty and Hunger Eradication, Development and Current Challenges*, coinciding with the 56th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW).'
- 29th February The Folk Food Festival was held at the beautiful premises of the Folk Heritage Museum.
- 9th March A joint monitoring exercise was undertaken by ALSTOM Foundation and Tarayana Foundation in the targeted communities of Gozhi geog for the eco-stove project.
- 27th March HELVETAS Swiss Inter-cooperation and Tarayana signed the third phase of HELVETAS support to Tarayana.
- 13th-23rd April Surgicorps' 6th mission to Bhutan resulted in 59 surgeries and 125 knee injections.
- 23rd-24th April The homecoming seminar Phase I participants of the FK funded project "*Promotion of Appropriate Green Technologies to bring about Rural Prosperity*" was held in Bangkok.
- 4th May Tarayana celebrated its ninth birthday on the 4th of May at the Clock Tower Square, Thimphu. The theme of the 2012 Fair was "*Leveraging Cultural Heritage for Development.*"
- 4th May Bussi-en Social Welfare Corporation and Tarayana signed an MOU coinciding with the 9th anniversary of the founding day of Tarayana.
- 21st-29th May The Director of Programmes, Sonam Pem, visited Bangladesh to sign a yearlong partnership agreement with Concern Universal Bangladesh (CUB).
- 20th May Her Majesty The Queen Mother, Ashi Dorji Wangmo Wangchuck, His Excellency Prime Minister, Jigme Y Thinley, and Festival Directors, Namita Gokhale and Pramod Kumar KG, inaugurated the 3rd edition of Mountain Echoes.
- 14th-27th June The Marketing Officer, Wangmo, conducted a two-week training on weaving and product design for the weaving self-help group in Lotokuchu, Samtse.

- 15th June Tarayana hosted a talk titled "*GNH Approach to Disaster and Conflict Prevention and Recovery*." given by Mr. Toshihiro Tanaka, Country Director, UNDP, Pakistan.
- 23rd August Tarayana sent three Scholarship candidates from our project sites to the Asian University for Women in Chittagong, Bangladesh.
- 17th–19 September Phase II midterm review and planning of round 3 of the FK funded project "*Promotion of Appropriate Green Technologies to bring about Rural Prosperity*" was held in Pokhara, Nepal.
- 24th–26th September Program Officer, Pema, the alternate member of Country Coordinating Mechanism (CCM) attended the horizontal learning exchange visit in Indonesia.
- 26th November The honorable president, Her Majesty The Queen Mother Ashi Dorji Wangmo Wangchuck visited Kengkhar geog, in conjunction with a monitoring visit. Enroute to the geog, Her Majesty inaugurated the 28 kilometer farm road leading to the geog centre at Zimzore.
- 2nd–15th November This year Tarayana Field Officer, Ugyen Tshomo and Marketing Officer, Wangmo, escorted the 5th group of *Tarayana Senior Pilgrimage* to Bodhgaya.
- 9th November Tarayana Foundation hosted the 4th Annual Network Meeting on *Self-employment & Livelihoods for Women in South Asia* at Terma Linca, Thimphu.
- 18th November Journey to Liberation – A life story of the Buddha according to Mahayana Traditions authored by Khenpo Phuntshok Tashi, Director of the National Museum, Paro, was launched by Her Majesty The Queen Mother Ashi Dorji Wangmo Wangchuck. Her Royal Highness Princess Sonam Dechan Wangchuck also attended the launch ceremony.
- 17th October Eight women came from Tarayana project sites to attend the *Grass-roots Forum for Women*, a side event for the *Bhutan+10 Gender and Sustainable Mountain Development in a Changing World*.
- 19th November–19th December A team consisting 15 community members from Pemagatshel and Monggar accompanied by two Tarayana staffs attended a month-long training program on Food processing, weaving and Self-Help Group Management in Ahmedabad, India.
- 3rd–13th December A training program on Eco-stove fabrication was jointly organized by Agriculture Machinery Centre (AMC) and Tarayana Foundation in Paro.
- 28th December Maiyesh Kumar Tamang, MA graduate in Ceramics from Shantiniketan College in Kolkotta, conducted a two-week long training for the rural artisans producing earthen pots in Trongsa (Monpa community).

Tarayana Fair 2012, “Leveraging Cultural Heritage for Development.”



Tarayana Annual Fair

Tarayana celebrated its ninth birthday on the 4th of May at Thimphu's Clock Tower Square. The fair was inaugurated by Her Royal Highness Ashi Kesang Wangmo Wangchuck, the Hon'ble Chief Guest. The theme of the Fair was "Leveraging Cultural Heritage for Development." Their Royal Highnesses, Cabinet ministers, senior Government Officials, members of the International Corp and friends and supporters of Tarayana were all present for the fair.

Mr. Ryousei Oya, Chairman of Bussi-en, a Japanese Social Welfare Corporation, led a 19 member strong delegation of Bussi-en Board members and other office bearers to Bhutan. They also attended the inaugural session of the fair.

Ms. Reema Nanavaty of SEWA and her son Somnath; Monica Raina, coordinator of SABA; and the famous designer Mr. Subrata Bhowmick also participated in the inaugural session.





Dr. Jack Demos and the Surgicorps International team were the awardees for the Special Honor. Dr. Jack and his father Mr. Anthony Demos accepted the citation on behalf of Surgicorps International.

The Annual Tarayana Fair is one of the major events where members of rural communities have the opportunity to bring their products and handicrafts to Thimphu. Experience and exposure apart, the fair is a platform for them to sell their products and to learn personally which of their different products are the most saleable in the marketplace.

The fair concluded with a grand dinner at the Terma Linca Resort, hosted by the Hon'ble President of Tarayana, Her Majesty the Queen Mother Ashi Dorji Wangmo Wangchuck. On behalf of Tarayana Foundation, Her Majesty thanked all the volunteers and members who made the 2012 Fair a huge success.

In the spirit of volunteerism, acclaimed singers and musicians joined along with a wonderful dance performance by the beautiful Ms. Elena Vrublevskaya and a soulful Hawaiian song rendered masterfully by Ms. Kutira.

