

## RAMDHA HOSTEL WASHROOM PROJECT

### INTERIM REPORT

Over view of the Project:

The Ramdha Buddhist Society (RBS) is an educational hostel for Himalayan children. It is located at Sidhpur, a small town outside of Dharamshala. It is home to 60 children from the Lahul and Spiti region. The children range in age from 6-21 years old. The hostel provides room and board, tutoring and supervision for students attending primary, high school and college.



RBS has limited funding and there are several needs. At this time, their greatest need is to improve their washroom facilities. For 60 children, there are 3 toilets and 2 showers for the boys and 1 toilet and 1 shower for the girls. There is no hot water.

The hostel building itself needs repairs. A TCEF team noticed over 45 broken windows and many electrical outlets needing repair.

With funding from the Good Works Institute, Idaho, TCEF has undertaken this project to improve the washroom facilities and make vital repairs. In October a team of TCEF service trip members went to India to primarily explore the needs of children in the Tibetan settlements in Arunachal Pradesh. One member of the team, Tama Adelman, kindly volunteered to take time off to visit the site of the Ramdha Buddhist Society and report first hand on progress of the project.

When Tama was there, work on the washroom project had already begun. It seems RBS had a project committee who decided to do this project in two phases - giving priority to health and safety issues. Here is an interim report on phase 1 of this project based on images and inputs from Tama:



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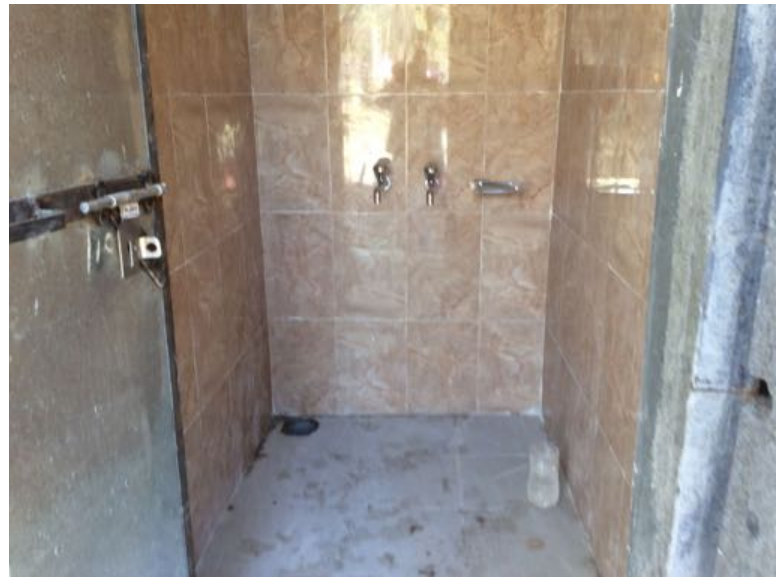


One of the greatest needs was to improve the toilets. Outside toilets, 2 for boys and 2 for girls have been renovated and improved.



Previously the staff had an old and inadequate bathroom upstairs. That bathroom is now repaired and renovated.





The shower facilities for both the boys and girls have been increased and improved.



The whole hostel was in need of repairs. Among them, the electrical installations were outdated and in very poor condition. The project saw many of the electrical installations being repaired and replaced.



The outside washing area has been improved and repaired. On previous visits, the TCEF team had noticed children complain of stomach pains and outbreaks of impetigo and other staph skin infections. We hope the improved shower, toilet and drinking

water facilities will help to lessen these complaints and improve their lives.



TCEF volunteer Tama Adelman reviewing project and making notes for her report.





The staircase needed a roof. During the monsoons, rain water would cause great discomfort.  
Work is underway to put a roof over the staircase.



The hostel is located right at the foot hills of the Himalayas. During the winters, it can get really cold here. The project installed new solar panels that will heat the water to all the washroom facilities. This will improve sanitation and bring relief and comfort to the children here

## PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT

RBS recently sent us additional images and information that the project is now complete. On top of the work already documented in the Interim Report, RBS reported the following additional work completed:

- 2 additional solar water heaters are added
- Staff bathroom has been completed
- Roof has been covered with steel fabrication completed
- New water purifier cooler has been completed with steel fabrication
- Iron Gate for a both girls and boys has been completed for security
- All electrical repair work has been completed
- 3 new water tanks have been purchased to store water
- New water motor has been added, and one motor has been repaired
- All broken windows have been repaired



New water purification and drinking water facility being installed. Also, one reason for the delay in completing the project is the location where mules had to be used to transport building materials!





Recall, the TCEF reported 45 broken windows. All those have been repaired!



Here is a final picture of all the children that will benefit from this project. Kalzang, the in charge at Ramdha sums up the project completion as follows:

“Thank you so much ,all the work has been done. The students an staff are very happy ,new bathroom,900 liter Solar hot water system has been completed ,everyday students an kitchen they get 700 liters hot water every day. New water cooler purifier has been added, all grill work has been completed, all electricity repair work has been completed. Now students they have very good electric facilities, all broken glass has been replace to new glasses ,in some windows we have put plastic glasses for more durable ,water drainage system has been done,Roof top (munty )has been done”.