



The Chulo Project Smoke-free Cooking Stoves for Nepal

Owning a chulo is not a matter of course in Nepal. But this must change, because a chulo is the solution to many problems. Chulo is Nepali language and means stove or cooking place.

The Situation

In most of the rural households in Nepal today, open fire is used for heating and cooking inside the houses. Conventional buildings do not have a chimney, so dense smoke fills the cooking and living room before it finds its way through the roof.



Open fireplaces in Nepalese homes

Being exposed to this situation from early infancy, young people already suffer from chronic bronchial infection and choking fits. Chronic arterial vessel diseases as normally known with chain smokers (e.g. smoker's leg), are often observed.

About 500 Patients with severe and most severe burns are admitted to the SKM Hospital¹ near Kathmandu every year. Many of the casualties are young children who fell or crawled into the fire and have been hurt hands or feet. Very

often the limbs affected are lost. In the far out villages there are no means of adequate treatment, so after the healing process severe disabilities remain for the rest of the lives. Muscles, sinews and ligaments contract and limit the ability for movement down to complete stiffness.

The Solution: Smoke-free Stoves

Using simple means, trained stove makers build stoves with chimneys. The materials needed for a chulo are available at the place or are easy to have: Clay soil, cow dung, rice hulls for manufacturing the bricks, iron rods for stability, pottery made stove pipe.

¹ Sushma Koirala Memorial Hospital, hospital for plastic and reconstructive surgery in Sankhu (Kathmandu) <http://www.nepal-hospital.de>

The households are involved with providing material for the bricks and manpower. The stove maker's wage, the iron rods, and the pottery must be paid. Costs for a stove amount to about 8 Euro currently. Although this sum may seem minor to our eyes, it is an insurmountable obstacle for most of the farmers.

The Chulo project is raising funds to finance the smoke-free stoves, drives dissemination in the villages and organizes stove maker training in co-operation with ESAP².



Smoke-free, safe, and energy-efficient cooking-place

In the years 2005 to 2012 nearly 12.000 smoke-free stoves have been installed in farm-houses in the districts around Kathmandu. These activities could only support a small part of the households. We still find great demand there which has been already announced by the inhabitants.

Objective for the year 2013 is the installation of more than 6000 smoke-free stoves. In the following years these figures are to be increased further on.

This is what we need your help for. Already with a donation of 8 Euro you can supply a household with a smoke-free stove and grant a family a safer and healthier life.

More Information

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² Energy Sector Assistance Programme by the government of Nepal (ESAP-I: 1999-2005, ESAP-II: 2007-2011) to improve the energy in rural areas, supported by DANIDA (Danish International Development Assistance), the Norwegian government and many other organizations. See <http://www.aepc.gov.np>