



Moanoghar 2019: What we DID

When I go to Moanoghar, I seem to have acquired two jobs in addition to visiting our project (supply the medicines for the school and outreach project). The first job is finding out where we are at and entails meeting the various groups of staff (teachers, tutors, cooks, administration) in order to hear what is what. The second job is fixing and supplying for whatever money I could bring. This is



New lights and fans in the kitchens



Main Cooks



partly the fault of Ven. Buddhadatta who is also a very practical person with constant, fabulous suggestions + my practical side which sees that the kitchens are too dark and asking what the cooks need. The cooks are busy 24/7 to feed the 600 or so children. They are the only group who DID NOT complain about their salary and only asked for fans, a storage box and big stirring spoon — no moon and stars there!

Then there was the main “road” into the compound... It had been destroyed by heavy vehicles



bringing in loads for the new classroom building. We got it mended but they did a lousy job and had to re-do it. (Never underestimate the value of checking and rechecking and re re re...)

Then there was the Girls' Compound... Getting to the toilets was an obstacle race!





Much better, no?

Then there was the bakery...
Working all day with your back to the ovens in 30+ degrees with often 100% humidity! So we



halved a room,



made a ceiling,



made a new door



AND MOVED the OVENS!



And fixed the table top.

Broke an opening



Then we changed the torn linoleum in the guest reception rooms (the inauguration of the new hostel and start of the Tech College courses event was on September 20, a day it was expected to rain so guests would need to be indoors.)

Then we moved the staff in the office around as the accounts department was so squashed and we had a new cupboard built for the office.

And then there was the creation of 12 more efficient garbage cans and a plan to repair the old ones.

And then we designed a central incinerator for garbage. (Amazingly, the engineer had built one for MSF many years ago!) And discussion over how to transport the garbage = a vehicle, a wagon into which all the cans can be emptied, pushed and pulled to the central incinerator and burned.

The plan is going ahead with construction starting today (30/9/2019) So expect updates with pictures of our new garbage dump!



In addition, we are looking at ways to use the energy coming off it... Any suggestions?

After that we plan to extend the project to Rangamati town and then the district, teaching people to put trash in bins and dispose of it in one place!! A dream, for the moment.

We visited the 3 pilot Tech College projects. The building (offered by the government) should be finished next year but so far permission has only been granted for



the bakery, computer training and sewing. We are hoping the government will approve plumbing and electricity soon.

This year, in meetings with staff and older students, we focused on Budgeting. Just basic stuff: don't over spend, what do we have to use money for first, saving, never borrowing, buying eggs rather than crisps (same price, different nutritional value). It was hard for most groups to understand that Food comes first!!! They would suggest all kinds of things that they wanted and the college students (who receive a stipend and have to manage everything) admitted to spending all in a couple of days and being hungry at the end of the month! Or, worse still, borrowing.

The format was little workshops with the participants answering questions and deciding on how they can best use the money they have. We hope that the accountant and accounting staff will continue with this kind of basic material as everyone needs it.

Oh yes and the librarian wanted a new clock for the library, so we bought one!

Feel that something has been forgotten but the list is not bad, eh? Please join us and help the students to grow into people who are an asset to their families, communities and country.

Take care, mujin

PS. Douglas A Campbell Foundation's main activity was supplying all the medicines for the school and Outreach Program as well as salaries for the medical staff. Please see the next newsletter.