

Manjil and Nepal visit

This is our visit summary of our foster child Manjil Kumar and his community on April 22nd, 2009. The local Plan International team guided us to his village Ambanyang, district Magwanpur in Nepal.



Foster child visit report including sponsor feedback

Herrenberg: May 17th, 2009

Plan office visit

We had the opportunity to see various activities in the Plan Program office in Hetauda. We understand now better how the Child-



Sponsor exchange works.
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Manjil's family visit

After arrival in the village we visited at first Manjil and his family. He was accompanied by his closest family and friends



in their home.
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Early childcare initiative

In the district Magwanpur alone Plan supports 198 childcare centers. We got some insights how the children get educated and



cared.
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Organic farmer cooperative

This program was self initiated by the farmers and gets support from Plan to further develop. We tasted the vegetables like tomatos



and they are very tasty.
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Woman microfinancing initiative

This activity was started 11 years ago just with a view rupies savings per woman. Today's size of their finance



activities are impressive.
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Namaste

In April 2009 we visited Nepal the third time. The first visit was 20 years back and the experience influenced us to support the development of the country indirect by my sponsorship and support of my fosterchild Manjil.

This years vacation included the Around Annapurna Trek, the visit of the Chitwan Nationalpark and definitely the highlight was the planned visit of Manjil, his family and community. The day of visit was set for April 22nd and we had upfront some e-mail exchange with the local Plan team in Nepal before arrival to define the visit iternary.

Coming from Chitwan to Hetauda, the the day before gave us time to get in touch with Anil Deoja, Sponsorship Program Manager for the district Magwanpur. Anil gave us an overview

and introduction of Plan Nepal and a briefing for the visit. He invited us to the Program office in the city and we got later further details how Plan is



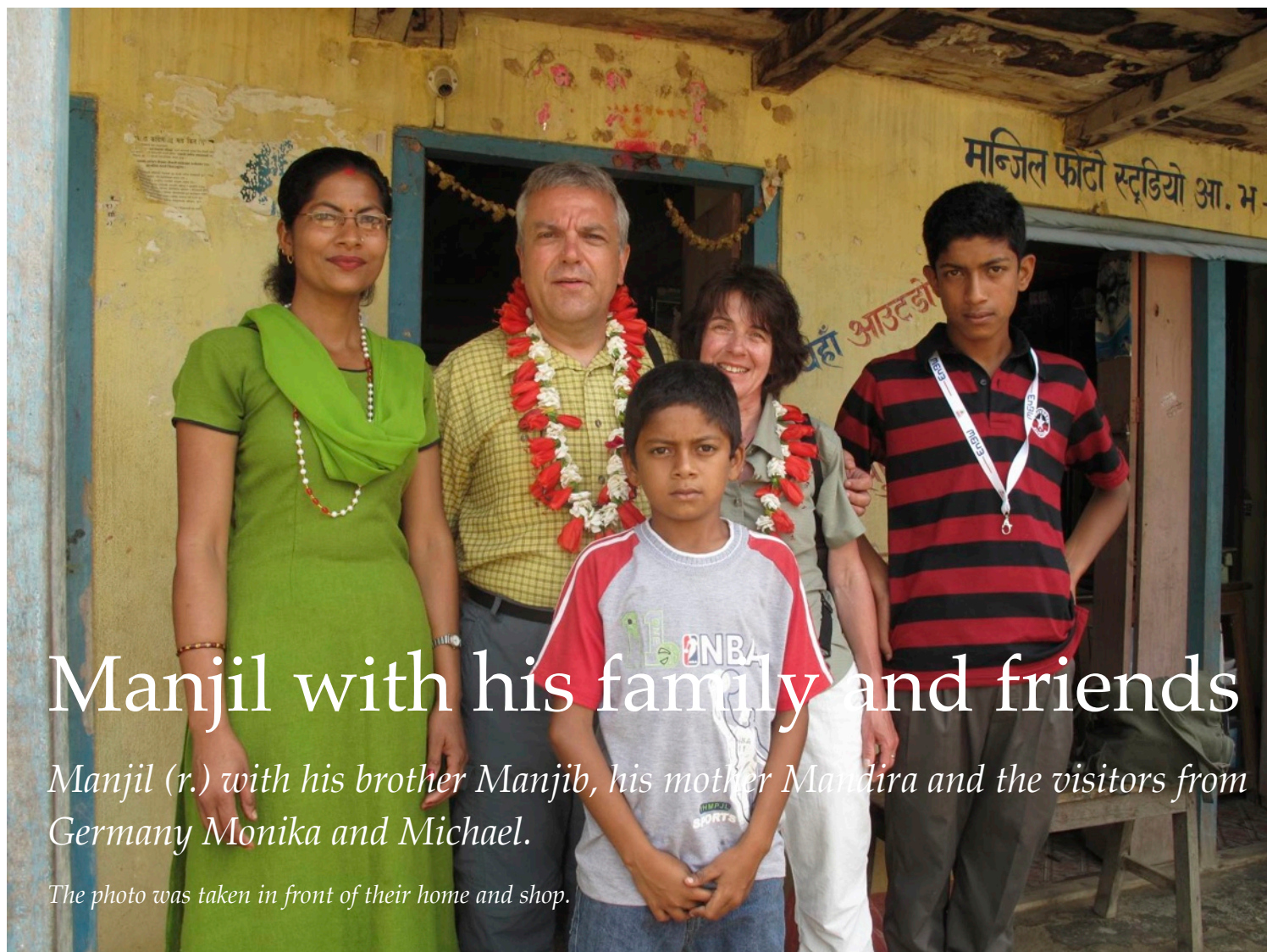
Kids coming from school by passing the Plan International jeep, well known in the villages of the district Magwanpur.

organized and where they work in Nepal. He gave us a programme and activity overview for the district and explained Plans Program philosophy

and principles plus insights of the teams development and support focus and priorities. He has spend a considerable amount of his valuable time just with us to provide many details how Plan works in a programme country.

Our great day in Ambanyang

On the day of visit Anil picked us up in our hotel and we drove with the Plan jeep through tough terrain to the nearby village Manjil is living with his family. You can imagine that meeting Manjil the first time since 9 years of written exchange was our most important part for the day. The iternary included as well the visit of one of the 19 kindergardens in the village, a exchange with the organic farmer cooperative and the review of the womans microfinancing activities which provides a benifical service for the community. We realized how engaged and empowered the people participate in the Plan sponsored programmes.



Manjil with his family and friends

Manjil (r.) with his brother Manjib, his mother Mandira and the visitors from Germany Monika and Michael.

The photo was taken in front of their home and shop.

Being at Manjil's home and have the first face to face contact with him and his family was very rewarding. A day we will never forget.

The family greeted my wife Monika and myself with a flower necklet and invited us into their living room upstairs. Exchanging the presents to each other was the first activity before we exchanged in more details about us. A lot of attention got my present to Manjil a special made picture book just for him.

In the book he can see where and how we live in Germany. Details about us and our families, all kind of notes and pictures what we do in our leisure time back home. I was glad to see Manjil, one week after his 16th birthday, in good health and an environment he can prosper. His mother Mandira is a very engaged and powerful woman providing a nice home for him and his brother Manjib. Manjil's school is just 5 minutes away from his home and he told me

what he likes and that he wants to achieve after school. His performance is encouraging and I wish him that he will reach his objective becoming an biologist. A hurdle will be the funding of his studies and living away from home he told me. I'm sure there will be a way to support him in such way that he can reach his goal. The visit and exchange was so close that we got the sense we know each other since many years and have frequent exchange.



The Plan office in Hetauda downtown (l.), Anil explains Plan overall program initiatives (c.). The visitors in front of Manjil school (r.).

Nepal is much more than just nature

During our whole travel we experienced very kind Nepali people. In the last years they faced a lot of uncertainty, a lack of development and prosperity they really need and deserve.

Early childhood care centers



The visit of one of the 198 early childhood care centers, which have been established by Plan in the district Magwanpur alone, showed us that the kids learn and do in their pre-school age from 3-5 years. The kids showed us a special nice performance by singing and dancing. The governess explained that they are doing on a day to day basis. The biggest success for all the care centers is the recent acceptance by the local Nepal district government. They took over of responsibility from Plan and contribute now to the founding to.

Organic farmer cooperative



Plan provides support for a village organic farming cooperative which was established by some village farmers. They produce vegetables in their gardens and in addition in the fields with the main cultivation. During our walks through their fields we tasted fresh cucumbers with the real taste. Organic farming is still in an emerging development state but get's from day to day more attention and recognition by the Nepali consumers. I wish the farmer the endurance for their mission for a better way of cultivation.

Woman Microfinance initiative



In the village the first microfinancing activities started 11 years ago initiated by some engaged woman with the support of Plan. They explained us how the business model works, their priorities and how they developed and progressed over the years. Years ago it started with individual savings of 5 Rupies per month and now they provide even credit lines of 50000 Rupies. The number of financial transactions are incredible and they now receive support from Plan to improve their setup.

From the Sponsor

I want to express a special thank you to Anil Deoja, Makwanpur Sponsorship Program Manager and his local Plan team in Hetauda. His hosting made our visit a great life time experience we will never forget. They arranged a happy and succesful day for all of us. The visit was just to short and therefor the program reviews couldn't be to intensive. We got a broad perspective and good idea which excellent work Plan is doing in the district. We realized and experienced Plans extraordinary reputation in the village and Hetauda. We wish to come back again to meet this wonderful people again.



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