




*'Bright Tooth, Bright Life'*

# FREE DENTAL CAMP

October 2008 *in Chitwan*

**Organized by: VOLNEPAL**

HIMAL DENTAL HOSPITAL      VOLUNTEER NEPAL      EMINENT EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTE

Recently Volnepal organized a mobile Dental Camp, visiting different areas of Chitwan district between 17 and 21 October 2008. Our local partners at Himal Dental Hospital supported us in this effort, as did our two local Chitwan-based doctors, Dr. Dwarika Bajgain and Dr. Kishor, who joined three international volunteers - Mr. Ziad Ali, Mr

Pinal Patel and Ms Nadine Koch. The total cost of the camp was USD1800, with USD1100 donated by Mr. Ali and Mr. Patel, with the balance of the budget covered by Volnepal. We should also mention the contribution made by dental hygienist Mr. Jayaram Joshi from Himal Dental Hospital, and thank the Clinic Nepal Team who provided us with free medicine during our Madhi Camp. Mr. Neupane of Volnepal and Hari Sapkota were responsible for managing the Camp and co-ordinating with other local groups and partners.



*Hope Orphanage Home, Chitwan*

On October 17<sup>th</sup> we organized free dental check-ups and oral health education sessions at Murry Foundation Orphanage home, Chitwan and for the Murry Foundation Village people. 52 locals, including orphans of the foundation, benefited.



*Group of children at Hope Orphanage Home*

Similarly, on October 17<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> we organized our free dental check ups and oral health education sessions at Hope orphanage home at Bharaghare, Chitwan. We were able to treat 165 of the 195 children here, many of whom required extractions. Toothbrushes, toothpaste and various medicines were distributed.

On October 19<sup>th</sup> we moved our camp to Saurah Chowk at NIDS (Nepal Indigenous Development Society) office building, where 132 patients of the local mainly Tharu (an

indigenous Nepali group) community, enjoyed the same benefits as the children the day before.

On October 20<sup>th</sup> we set up camp at Madhi, which is actually only 45km from Chitwan District headquarters, but feels rather like one of Nepal's most remote spots. Home to a large population of more than ninety thousand, Madhi is surrounded by Chitwan National Park and the northern border with India.

***Tooth Extractoin at Saurah Dental Camp***



There are no good health, electricity or communication facilities. Infrastructure is lacking to the extent that there is not even one sealed road. The literacy rate is poor and the literate people are the so-called upper classes. The poor education levels mean mostly unproductive use of local land. The area is mainly inhabited by the socially excluded and very poor indigenous group (Chaudhary/Tharu) as well as the dalit and other janajati.



***Group of children waiting for checkup at Madhi***

Co-ordinating with four Village Development

Committees, we brought the first ever free dentistry program to the area. Unfortunately due to time, resource and other constraints we were only able to help 486 people.

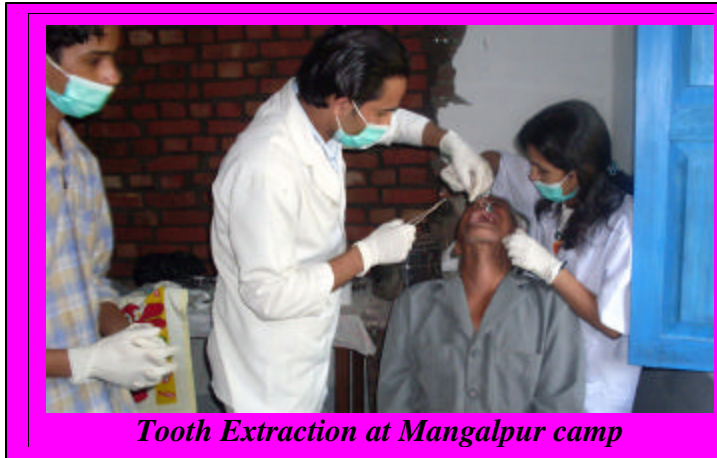


***Patients waiting for checkup at Madhi***

Madhi is situated in the south west part of the Chitwan district, which is 45 kilometers away from the district head quarters. It is surrounded by part of Chitwan National Park and the northern border of India. It seems a like separate district. There are four VDCs in Madi. The population of Madi is more than 90,000.00. They have no paved roads and lack in good health, electrical, transportation, and communication facilities, as well as so many other

developmental infrastructures. Literacy rate is poor and the literate people are the so called upper classes. The dwellings/settlements are dominated by the socially excluded and economically poor

indigenous groups (Chaudhary/Tharu) as well as the dalit and other janajati. Their is land dominated by unproductively..



**Tooth Extraction at Mangalpur camp**

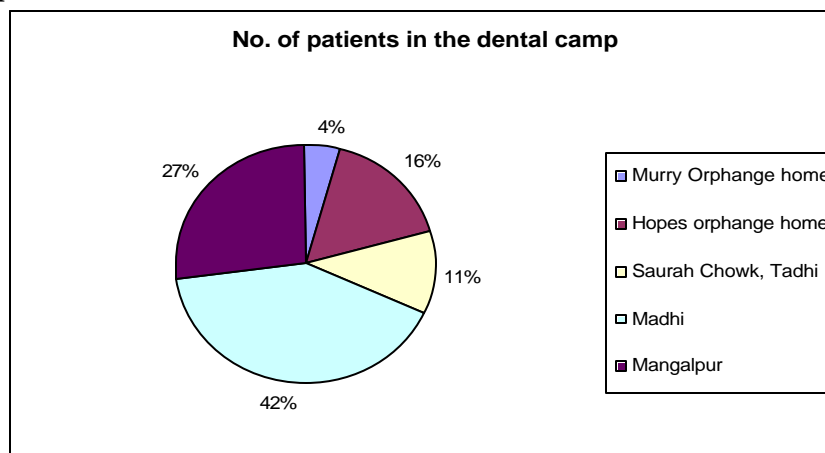
On our last day, October 21<sup>st</sup>, we set up camp with Mangalpur Village Development Committee, in association with Shree Gyaneshwor Community Forest User Group, Sanogadhi, Mangalpur, Chitwan. Here, we managed 322 check-ups. Alarmingly due to lack of education, we found locals were generally not too

concerned about their dental health and took news of problems found lightly. We tried to help village people and particularly students to appreciate the importance of healthy teeth if a good level of general health is to be achieved. We also focused on instructing patients, particularly youth who still have time to turn things around, how to take good care of teeth on a daily basis.

Overall, the mobile camp was very successful despite limited resources and duration. In a very short period of time and with a relatively paltry budget we were able to help 1187 adult patients (638 male and 549 women). We also helped 504 children below 12 years. Most time was spent on extractions and other emergency pain relief. Patient flow during our camp was like this:

S.N	Program placed	No. of patients	Male	Female	Below 12 years
1	Murry Orphanage home	52	25	27	22
2	Hopes orphanage home	195	106	89	180
3	Saurah Chowk, Tadhi	132	85	47	52
4	Madhi	486	296	190	152
5	Mangalpur	322	126	196	98
	<b>Total</b>	<b>1187</b>	<b>638</b>	<b>549</b>	<b>504</b>

### Graphical presentation



### Camp Wise patient flows

