

Druk White Lotus Schools, Ladakh, Indian Himalaya

STATUS REPORT, SUMMER 2013

PROTECT A CULTURE

BUILD A FUTURE

Druk White Lotus School

Druk White Lotus School, Shey, was opened by its founder, His Holiness Gyalwang Drukpa, on 24th September 2001. On that day, 88 Nursery and Lower Kindergarten students started school life. His Eminence Kyabje Thuksey Rinpoche is the Chair of the governing body.



Residential students performing a traditional Tibetan dance at the birthday celebrations of Dr B.R. Ambedkar who is widely regarded as the father of the Indian Constitution.



Roof of the 'Roundhouse' in the new Adventure Playground.

Education

The first Druk White Lotus School students matriculate after their 2012 examinations.

The school grew year-by-year to 705 students in 2013 (360 girls and 345 boys), of whom 295 are sponsored

Nursery class (age 4) through Secondary School class 10 (age 16).

Residence Courtyard 1 opened in 2002. There are now three Residence Courtyards and another under construction.

345 residential students, mainly from remote areas, live on the Shey campus.

67 displaced-children were taken in after the August 2010 mudslide.

In Shey, there are 35 teachers, of whom 18 Ladakhi, 10 Tibetan and 7 from outside Ladakh.

There are 33 support staff in Shey.

A branch school opened in Khachey in April 2010. The school has 40 students from Nursery up to class 3.

Druk White Lotus School, Khachey, has 2 teaching and 1 support staff.

English-medium schools with study of Bothi (Ladakhi) and Hindi languages.

Montessori methods in Nursery, Lower and Upper Kindergarten.

School magazine, "Drukskat", available on www.dwls.org

Education Development

Regular training programmes are conducted for the teachers and students.

Project and activity-based learning is used across the curriculum.

Examinations and coursework are combined in the internal assessments process

Special focus on support for students studying for their external exams in classes 8 and 10.

Staff salaries have been raised in line with the Indian Government's Sixth Pay Commission.

Students of Class 9 visited a Science Exhibition organised by Bharatiya Vidya Niketan (BVN), illustrating various scientific concepts.



Student Council training programme: focus areas are leadership skills, team-building, decision-making and problem-solving.

The 2-day annual Kurman Gyalmo Inter-school literary festival was held in May at the school, the theme was 'Child Rights'.

Targeting educational sustainability through training programme for local staff.

Sustainability

A defensive structure has been completed to protect against possible future mudslides.

Buildings are orientated to maximise use of solar energy. Trombe walls use passive solar energy.

Ventilated Improved Pit (VIP) latrines minimise use of water in a desert environment.

Construction uses mainly local materials: granite, mud, poplar and willow. Buildings are earthquake resistant.

State-of-the-art solar energy system generates electricity on the campus, solar pumps used for water.

Aiming for financial sustainability in the long-term.

Featured in US television documentary series "e2 design: the economies of being environmentally conscious".

Landscape Programme

In 2012 a Landscape Programme started in collaboration with The University of Greenwich, UK.

A gardening competition for all students involved the whole school in improving the campus.

A landscape masterplan has been designed and every year graduates from Greenwich will advance the "greening" of the school.

Masterplan includes plant nursery, recycling and composting, play areas, study garden, sports areas and shade.

The Plant Nursery has developed and a drip-irrigation system is being installed.

Construction

Master Plan inspired by His Holiness Gyalwang Drukpa.

Nursery & Infant Courtyard won three World Architecture Awards.

Received 'The Emirates Glass LEAF Award for Best Sustainable Development' in 2012 and 'International Stone Architecture Award' 2013.

School designed by international team from Arup Associates and Arup, London.

Aiming to complete the Secondary School by the end of 2014.

2013-14: Residence 4, latrines, dining hall & kitchen extension, 2 classrooms, bus shelter, support staff housing, DPKEs office, central courtyard upgrade, visitor centre upgrade.



Heritage

Location for several film-shoots, including 'The 3 Idiots' Bollywood movie.

Hosted 800th anniversary celebrations of the Drukpa Lineage.

Emphasis on Ladakhi performing arts.

School welcomes children from all backgrounds and aims to ground them in their own culture.

Visitor Centre built by BaSiC Initiative architect volunteers from the USA.

Visitor Centre staff give tours of the campus to thousands of visitors and manage the Visitor Shop.



Finance

Not-for-profit fee-paying school with fee levels set at locally affordable levels.

School receives no direct financial contribution from Indian educational authorities.

US\$3.2/£2.0/€2.4 million raised to date for capital investment.

US\$214,000/£138,000/€166,000 urgently needed to complete the Secondary School.

Renewable energy equipment installed, co-financed by voluntary carbon-offset funds.

Very significant contributions in-kind from individuals and organisations.



Organisation

Druk Padma Karpo Educational Society,
Ladakh, J&K, India
non-profit society
School Governor

Live to Love International
Partner, Education & School Activities

Live to Love UK
Registered charity No. 1138534

Live To Love France

Drukpa Trust, UK
Partner, Design & Construction
Registered charity No. 1014948

Contacts

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Child Sponsorship
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Design, construction and capital funding
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International Enquiries:
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www.dwls.org

International Co-operation

Arup Associates and Arup

Childreach International
Read Initiative

La Ngonpo Project - IT workshops, Czech Republic

PRAVAH - Indian teacher training and development NGO

SEEDS - Indian disaster management NGO
Snow Leopard Conservancy, India

Vinod Chopra Films

UK Educational links: Exeter School, Kings School Worcester, Perse School Cambridge, Pilgrim School Bedford, St. Christopher School Letchworth.

The University of Greenwich UK - Landscape Architecture Department.

USA support: BaSiC Initiative, Princeton University.