INTRODUCTION

USM, Universal Solidarity Movement, is a movement started by the enthusiastic students of +2 department with the motto of "INSTEAD OF CURSING THE DARKNESS, LIGHT A CANDLE!" and guided by active and cooperative teachers as the moderates and is functional under St.Xaviers College, Maitighar. The movement was started as an influence of ongoing movement in India with the same name started by Fr. Varghese Alengaden on 16 July 1993 and is based upon the principles of it. It has been organizing various programs for the development of LEADERSHIP in the members and to orient them towards SERVICE WITH FUN.

The movement has been annually organizing a social camp to serve the nation by serving a remote place to uplift the status of education in it and to live up to the institution’s motto of “Dedicated to Leadership, Excellence and Service”. The camp serves its role as a way for the members to light a candle and improve oneself by dedicating oneself to service and developing leadership in the members. The movement has been also organizing an annual fundraising program to raise funds for the camp.

This year we had decided to go to Dhunge, Fasku, a very remote place of Dolakha district and help to renovate the school “Shree Rastriya Aadharbhoot School”.

OBJECTIVES OF CAMP

- To help to renovate the school building in Dhunge, Fasku.
- To develop the feeling of devotion to service among the participants.
- To develop leadership among the members.
- To serve the society and the nation and ultimately the mankind.

BRIEF INFORMATION ABOUT THE CAMP

**Date:** 2nd January to 5th January, 2017

**No of participants:** 60

- Non-members: 13
- Members: 44
- Teachers: 3

**SCHEDULE**

Day 1: Reaching the spot and making the setup.

Day 2: Painting of the school; Library management; Ground leveling

Day 3: Hiking to Sailung; Completing the unfinished works of previous day.

Day 4: Donating the stationaries and clothes; Returning to college.
DETAILS

First of all the location for the camp was to be fixed. It was done by moderator, Mr. BasuDevGhimire and Vice-principal Fr. Vijay Toppo S.J. by first hand observation. The place was Dhunge,Fasku,Dolakha, a very remote place. We were to renovate the school “Shree Rastriya Aadharbhoot School” at an altitude of 2940m. It had 4 blocks among which one was made out of bamboos and other were stone buildings. The school blocks were not colored at all and had the walls of tins above about 2 meters of stone wall (except the office block). There was not the proper supply of electricity to all the blocks of school. Even the water coming from a MUL was not continuous. The floors of the blocks are actually the open earth itself. The condition is such that the school has to be closed if there is a snowfall. The melted snow leaks through the roofs. So, by renovating the school we could do a great service to the place and the nation. We decided to paint all the 4 blocks and the toilets; put some lights before each block and level the ground between them. We really thank ‘N.J.S.I.’ for providing us the tins. Also we are grateful to the sponsors of our fund raising event.

The participants of the camp.
On the first day, all the participants were asked to gather in the college premises at 6:30 am with all the personal requirements and a sleeping bag. At 8:00 we started in a bus from Maitighar to Dolakha. The road was very dangerous especially from Mude to Dhunge. The snow had started to fall when we were about 2 hours away from our destination. The snow added even more challenge to our journey by making the roads slippery. We reached to our destination at about 2 pm. We unloaded both the buses. We had to carry the goods to the school where we were welcomed by the teachers and the students of the school. After our arrival we started to set the place up. The snowfall was getting heavier so the students returned to their houses. And, some of us started the wiring, so that lights could be placed in front of each of the blocks. Some of us went to a jungle nearby to collect the firewood. Some of us made a fireplace inside a classroom and started cooking food. The remaining of us brought some hay from nearby and spread it in 4 rooms which were later used for sleeping. The snow had made our jobs so much challenging. We had to do our works with decreased efficiency, under heavily falling snow, taking turns to warm our hands a bit in the fire to keep them functional. After completing our tasks we had meal and went to bed, all cold and tired.

Piling up of the snow.
The next day, some of us woke up early in the morning at about 5 and started preparing the breakfast. The rest of us got up at about 6:30. The snow had piled up to few inches. The water was freezing cold; electricity was also cut off due to snow. We had the breakfast. The first beams of sunlight were seen bringing some traces of hopes in our cold faces. After breakfast all of us except the cooking team changed into our working clothes. The cooking team instead, started to cook lunch using the snow itself as a source of water as the water had gone off in the tap. Some of us started to manage the goods for donation (Stationary and Clothes). The rest of us all started painting the blocks as leveling the ground was not possible till the snow melted off. After about 1 and 1/2 hours the snow melted. Then some of us started to level the ground too. The school was off due to the snow. After about 3 hours we had our lunch. After the lunch, some of us were selected as the cooking team for the supper. Some of us were assigned to the library management using the books which were already there and those we had donated. The rest of us returned to our assigned tasks. The tins were donated to the school too. Those tins were being used to cover the walls of bamboo block by local professionals. The tasks became more difficult when most of us got wet by the melting snow in the shivering cold. We left off the works at about 4 pm. We then had the supper. We then, set up a campfire and warmed ourselves a bit before going to bed.
Painting the school blocks.

Painting the school blocks.
The next day, some of us woke up early in the morning and started cooking breakfast. The rest of us woke up and had breakfast. After having breakfast, we packed our bags with dry food for the hike to Sailung. We started off for the hike at about 8:30 am. The hike was enjoyable and exciting. We were guided by 2 of the teachers of that school. We reached at the top of 2 out of 100 of hills of Sailung. After having some dry food, we started downhill. It was about 3 pm when we arrived at the school. Again the cooking team started to prepare coffee and then after the supper. The rest of us, after having coffee, started our assigned tasks of previous day. The works were almost completed at about 5-5:30 pm. We had whitewashed all the blocks and toilet, painted the doors, windows and the tins and also decorated them. Also we had set up a library in the office and leveled the ground a bit. Our trouble of wiring of 1st day had borne fruit. The electricity had finally come and the bulbs glowed in the darkness. After having the supper we went to sleep.
Tins from NJSI being wrapped around bamboo block.

The bamboo block after being wrapped around by tins.
Items to be donated.

Stationery donation program.
The next day, some of us got up early in the morning and prepared the breakfast. The rest of us got up after about ½ an hour and started packing their things as it was the day of our return to Kathmandu. After having breakfast some of us started cooking the food, some started the remaining parts of the ground leveling and the painting. After about 2 hours we had the food and started to change for the journey. The donations were brought out in the ground. The snow had almost melted off. The teacher helped us to conduct a small program for donation. Each of the students received a bag of stationaries containing copies, pencils, erasers and sharpeners. They also received few clothes each according to their sizes. After the donation program, we loaded the buses ad set off for Kathmandu. We arrived at the college at about 7:00 pm. The camp helped us realize how difficult the lifestyle in such places is and also gave us an opportunity to help the educational sector in that place.
CONCLUSION

Thus, the camp was successfully conducted with perhaps few difficulties, and also the objectives of it were met. The participants got the gist of SERVICE WITH FUN. And they probably will be serving the mankind whenever they get an opportunity. The school “Shree RastriyaAadharbhoot School” is decorated with the letters and alphabets and the glow of lights outside each blocks. It is also providing education to the students in the renovated blocks. The tins prevent the cold wind in the bamboo block. The ground has been somewhat leveled making it easier for children to play and enjoy in the school. The library now set up is systematic providing the knowledge. This has also improved the quality of education of that place in some extent.