



## **Scale-up infrastructure, specifically for gynecological and obstetrics care according to local Master Plan, Bakulahar Ratnanagar Hospital, Tandi, Chitwan, Nepal**

### **Context**

In November 2015 the Spital Limmattal donated used surgical instruments to Dr. med. Ruth Gonseth, President of the “Shanti Med Nepal” Association ([www.shanti-med-nepal.ch](http://www.shanti-med-nepal.ch)). Dr Ruth Gonseth is a retired Swiss Dermatologist, who has been working in Nepal for many years, the past two and a half at Bakulahar Ratnanagar Hospital, in the southern district Chitwan. Thomas Brack, CEO of the Spital Limmattal and Simone Kamm, Consultant in Gynaecology and Obstetrics followed the invitation of Susan Lanfranchi, the past head of Sterilization of the Spital Limmattal, to meet Dr Gonseth at the day of collection. Since the hospital committee of the Spital Limmattal had long decided to search for and establish a hospital partnership in a lower income country, this meeting was a great opportunity to identify a possible partner.

Shortly after, in January 2016, Dr med. Krishna P Paudel, Medical Superintendent and Orthopaedic surgeon of Bakulahar Ratnanagar Hospital visited the Spital Limmattal together with Dr Gonseth. An oral agreement of interest to establish a collaboration was made. In March 2016 Dr Kamm and Regula Lanter, at the time head midwife of the Spital Limmattal, travelled to Nepal to do a situational analysis of Bakulahar Ratnanagar Hospital.

**Bakulahar Ratnanagar Hospital**



The hospital was built in 2006 by and for the community (catchment area of 250'000 people). It is now a Government hospital with distinct differences. The nongovernmental hospital committee (members of the different political parties of Ratnanagar) holds the leading position and the very strong community participation continues.

Two extraordinary achievements are the building of a solar system, which makes the hospital independent of unreliable local electric supply and the building of a water cleaning system.

Due to these advances HECAF, a Nepali NGO, decided to set up a Haemodialysis station in the rooms of Bakulahar Ratnanagar Hospital in 2015. Beside the Haemodialysis station they are responsible for waste management and the ambulance service.

Delivery room, also used as gynaecological chair



The two main objectives of the visit to Ratnanagar were to meet key stakeholders and identify priorities. Other objectives were to evaluate travel safety, possible health risks, local accommodation and recreational possibilities for future visitors of the Spital Limmattal.

Several meetings with different stakeholders were held, first of all, with the leading hospital staff. The staff agreed upon three main priorities: 1. "Female Health" (sexual and reproductive health), 2. General Medicine, 3. Management and Organization.

### **Project description**

After the first visit to Bakulaha Ratnanagar Hospital in April 2016 the leaders of the two hospitals decided to start a partnership following the ESTHER Charter and Principles.

The follow up visit in March 2017 (Dr Simone Kamm) aims to:

- identify priority needs and primary illnesses of the female population of Bakulaha Ratnanagar
- catchment area (according to stated first priority)
- investigate existing national and international programs in the area
- visit nearby hospitals and health institutions and meet key health and public health persons
- contact Nepali teaching institutions (teaching hospital, nurse schools etc.)
- meet Health officials and discuss planned interventions
- learn about cultural aspects, attitudes and practices, accessibility and acceptability of health and health care
- assess needs of junior medical doctors of Ratnanagar hospital (second priority)
- Prepare further steps and further visits.



The planned steps of Bakulahar Ratnanagar Hospital are:

1. scale up infrastructure, specifically for gynecological and obstetrics care according to local Master Plan.
2. prearrange meetings with officials and inform key persons for visit in March 2017
3. discuss hiring of Gynecologist in addition to the Radiologist
4. coordinate interventions with Shanti Med Nepal (Dr. Ruth Gonseth)
5. prepare accommodation for future visitors

### **Partnership**

Independent of the exact project, which will be designed in March 2017, the partnership will focus on reciprocal capacity building. The intercultural professional exchange will improve understanding and acceptance of health and health care in different settings. We hope to raise mutual awareness of similarities and differences of the socio-cultural context of health and illness in two distinct parts of the world and in general.

### **Timeframe**

March-April 2017

### **Contact**

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