

# PARTICIPATORY PHOTO PROJECT

Students of schools in remote Bhutan learn how to use digital photography to explore and document their own culture



*An activity of the Helvetas Bhutan / EU project:*

## Leveraging and Preserving Bhutan's Cultural Diversity



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# BUILDING BRIDGES WITH PHOTOGRAPHY

## About the participatory photo project

- The photo project is an activity of the LCD project (“Leveraging and Preserving Bhutan’s Cultural Diversity”) which is run by Helvetas and funded by the EU. Students of the local schools in four selected communities are taught how to use digital photography to explore and document their own social and cultural environment. The assignments will make the students interact with many people. This will enable them to see their own culture in a new light and to better value and respect local specialists and knowledge keepers.
- As various forms of modern media reach the most remote places of Bhutan (through mobile phones, internet, computers, DVDs, TV), it is important to help especially the young generation to learn how to deal with these media in a constructive way. By being trained how to work with digital photography actively, the students not only learn how to see and observe in a more careful and sensible way, but also how to express their own views and ideas. With insight gained by the participation in the photo project, they come to know how to use modern media in an active, creative and communicative way instead of being only naive consumers.
- The photo project connects the school with the community and with knowledgeable local people. It will strengthen the inter-generation dialogue and initiate discussions about the value of cultural heritage in the process of modernisation. This may influence efforts to keep traditions alive and to approach modernisation in a more conscious and careful way.
- The produced documents about local traditions and knowledge can be presented in different forms and through various media to a larger public and thus become an important topic of discussion within the community as well as on a regional, national and even international level. This process will contribute to raise awareness about the value of cultural diversity.

### Contact and further information:

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