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Bhutan Youth Development Fund

My Gakidh Village

Did You Know?

The growth rate of Bhutan's urban population was on average 5.7 percent per year from 2000-2010, the highest rate in South Asia

Background

My Gakidh Village is a joint initiative of Bhutan Youth Development & Aide et Action International. It is the first of its kind in Bhutan with the overall goal to curb rural-urban youth migration by providing livelihood skills and opportunities to unemployed youth within their own rural communities.



Activities

1. Community-based ecotourism: reviving the heritage trail of the Divine Madman, training local guides, establishing homestays
2. Traditional arts and crafts: training in pottery for unemployed youth
3. IT literacy and livelihood skills development: established a Media Lab in Thinleygang, conducting relevant trainings
4. Purely Organic Products: launched a youth cooperative that harvests and packages purely organic forest tea and red rice

Impact

- Over 50 youth across 21 villages trained and supported in ecotourism while gaining basic IT literacy and livelihood skills – these youth have been empowered to stay in the village for employment or self-employment
- Income generation and increase in household income for unemployed youth and their families
- Increased forest and wildlife conservation as a result of alternative economic incentives for environmental preservation, such as ecotourism

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