

# NCEF GYAN

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE NEPALESE CHILDREN'S EDUCATION FUND

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Correction: Mr. Bunel's Sixth Grade Class



**gyan:** *n.* knowledge acquired  
by direct perception

## Applications are in!

NCEF received 7, 3, 8, and 7 renewal applications from Kathmandu, Kavre, Nepalgunj, and Patan respectively, which brings NCEF's renewal applications total to 25. NCEF received 3, 7, 13, 22, and 2 new applications from Kathmandu, Kavre, Nepalgunj, Palpa, and Patan respectively. NCEF is pleased to have received a total of 45 new applications. In this application season, we would like to recognize Kanti Shrestha, Maheshwor Kafle, Pukar Malla, Shreejana Pokharel, Shisir Khanal, and Tarun Pokharel for translating to English the applications that were received in Nepali. This is the first instance of mobilizing such a large number of volunteers (members and non-members) for a single project. The level of volunteer participation was encouraging and we should continue such mobilization efforts in the future.

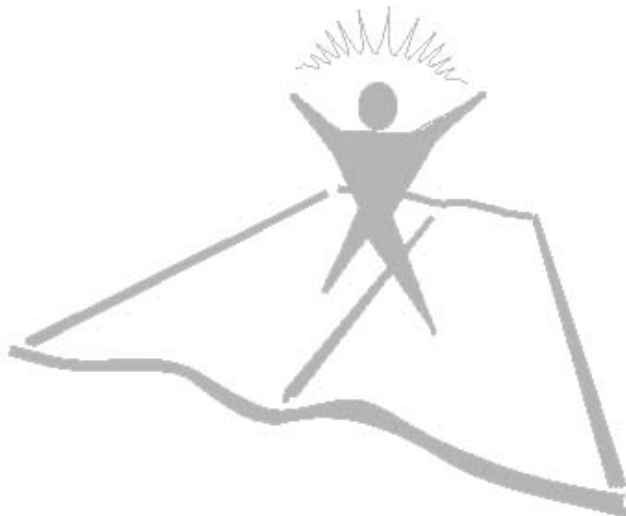
## Selection committee convened to make its decision.

The selection committee met on Sunday, April 9, 2006 to discuss the applications. After two hours of discussions on the phone, members of the committee submitted their votes. Thus the selection committee has concluded its work for now. The pending tasks for this committee are to evaluate post SLC applications when they become available and to provide feedback and suggestion for future selection process.

## Help in Palpa

There was concern about the preparedness of Palpa to start work this year. The issue was submitted to voting by the executive committee. The committee has confirmed its earlier decision to start working in Palpa this year, but it reduced the number of students for this year from five to three.

The executive committee also decided to increase the number of students in Kathmandu and Patan by up to two in each area.



## ABOUT NCEF

*NCEF is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to develop the potential of disadvantaged Nepalese children through education. Need-based scholarships are provided to deserving students who would otherwise be unable to attend school. Our social workers in Nepal meet regularly with the selected children and their parents to assist in each child's development. We dedicate our resources to each NCEF child until they complete high school (twelfth grade).*

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## NCEF PAMPHLET

*Share information about NCEF with your friends with this [printable pamphlet](#)*

Nepalese Children Education Fund (NCEF) is a 501 (c) (3) charitable organization. US Taxpayer ID: 51-0424140

# An interview with Ms. Shreejana Pokharel

*Ms. Shreejana Pokharel started volunteering with NCEF in 2003. She served as an area coordinator of Nepalgunj, a major commercial city in the western region of Nepal. She has worked with several non governmental organizations in Nepal, including Save the Children USA. Ms. Pokharel grew up in Nawalparasi District in Nepal and went to a rural government school. Now, she holds a Master's Degree in Public Health. She currently resides in Birmingham, Alabama. Her hobbies include reading about mother and child health issues, listening to music and spending time in the internet!*



## **Q: What motivated you to volunteer for the NCEF?**

When I was working for Save the Children USA in Nepalgunj, I came to know about NCEF from Atul Pokharel. When he mentioned the mission and activities of NCEF, naturally the details attracted me. After all, I was also working with an organization that is similarly trying to create real and lasting change for children in need. Most importantly, I was impressed when I heard that it is run entirely by volunteers. I already had contacts with some children who are in need of this kind support. All these things finally made me decide to take responsibility to start a new NCEF area in Nepalgunj. I was so lucky that I had very helpful team members like Rajendra Mahato (previous Nepalgunj area coordinator) and Apsara Khanal (current Nepalgunj area coordinator) so that we could start the program very smoothly. Today, though I am not there physically, I am so proud of what the members of the Nepalgunj team are doing.

## **Q: What experiences have been most meaningful to you while working with the NCEF?**

I still remember a moment when I was in a school for the admission process of one of our female students. I will never forget her innocent happiness and her grandparents' expression. She was staying with her grandparents and they were not able to send her to school when her father and mother both left her. When she knew that she was going to school again, and boarding school for that matter, she was very happy.

Though she could not express her happiness in words, I could read the joy on her cheerful face. When you see a smile on another's face because of your small contribution, you feel great. NCEF provided support to the child who otherwise might not have gone to school. I had almost a similar kind of experience with our other students in Nepalgunj.

## **Q: What projects do you feel have been most helpful and worthwhile to the children that the NCEF serves?**

I have heard about some projects in NCEF, some ongoing and some in-process i.e. calendar project, wedding gift project, memorial donation project, film show project. Though I do not have a very good idea on how these projects are progressing, I can definitely say that the collected funds will eventually help to continue our support to existing children and to increase the number of students in new areas.

**Q: What projects do you feel that the NCEF should try to launch in the future to serve the disadvantaged children in Nepal?**

Currently I have two ideas in my mind. 1) Drawing/ painting: We can encourage our children to draw something on paper about their current feelings, their happiness, and their feelings towards NCEF, their dreams or whatever they like. With this, we not only enhance the potential skills of our children, but also we can use those drawings in our fund raising activities by selling them to our donors or posting them on the NCEF website to make it more attractive. I know some of our children in Nepalgunj are very interested in drawing and painting and they can help us significantly on this regard. 2) Educational materials sharing: When I came here to the US, I was surprised to see the variety of educational materials available to schoolchildren. Children here study as if they are playing, but that is not the case in Nepal, especially in the rural area. So, if we can arrange some kind of networking event with people who want to donate some children books and money for this cause that would be great. This small effort will help our children to learn effectively, and they will feel very encouraged.

**Q: Please describe what projects you are involved with besides those of NCEF.**

I have worked with international non-government organizations and research institutes, especially on adolescent health, HIV/AIDS, family planning, nutrition and immunization programs in different parts of Nepal. I served as a Maternal and Child Health department representative in University of Alabama at Birmingham, School of Public Health Student Association and also, volunteered for: 1) "March of Dime" fund raising efforts to improve the health of babies by preventing birth defects, premature birth, and infant mortality; 2) "Give a Kid a Smile" providing free oral health care services to thousands of low-income children; and 3) "Take a Child to the Doctor's Day" designed to help promote the significance of regular health screenings for youth and their parents.

**Q: How has this experience been helpful in working with the NCEF?**

All these experiences helped me both directly and indirectly towards my NCEF work. I visited several places in different districts of Nepal when I was working there. This helped me not only to know the exact situation in the field, but also to build the network of people by which we can implement our program.

**Q: From your personal experience of working with children and volunteers of NCEF, do you feel the NCEF has been successful in living up to its mission?**

I am very glad and proud of what NCEF is doing right now. I can see the huge changes between when I just joined the NCEF in 2003 and how it is operating right now. It is working very hard to make the work transparent,

unbiased, and more professional aimed at making long-lasting change in children's education in Nepal. The team is growing and the number of well-wishers are also increasing, so I hope that one day NCEF will be a model organization working for children's education in the world.

**Q: What improvements do you think will be helpful for volunteers and children in Nepal?**

If you are asking specifically about NCEF, yes! We have to remember certain things in the future for its success. 1) Decentralization: we have to work more on empowering our area coordinators and partner organization (Campaign for Education (CE)). 2) Fund allocation: we have to make sure that our fund limit is according to the changing environment and grade of student. 3) Incentives: It has been proved by several

2006 FUNDRAISING METER

\$4500

## MAKING DONATIONS

□ **Online:**

[www.nepalchildren.org/donation.html](http://www.nepalchildren.org/donation.html)

□ **Checks:**

**Make checks payable to:**

Nepalese Children Education Fund or NCEF

**Mailing address:**

Nepalese Children's Education Fund

P.O. Box 380061

Cambridge, MA 02238-0061

**Questions?**

Website: [www.nepalchildren.org](http://www.nepalchildren.org)

Email: [contact@nepalchildren.org](mailto:contact@nepalchildren.org)

**THANK YOU!**



performance evaluations that incentives encourage and improve the performance of people. If we can develop some kind of incentive opportunities (can be either monetary or non-monetary) to our volunteers and children based on their performance, that would be great. After all, they are doing 100% volunteer work in the field and we have to recognize that in some way.

**Q: General Comments:**

I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to our area coordinators and volunteers in the field who are doing a great job despite the current adverse political situation. Also, I would like to extend my thanks to our respected donors. We would not be able to run our program and help those children who otherwise may not had chance to go to school without your generosity. Let's wish for the continued success of NCEF and CE.

**Correction:  
Mr. Bunel's Sixth Grade Class**

In our April newsletter, we had included an article "Children Helping Children" about a group of sixth grade students of Thompson Brook School (Avon, CT), who had collected more than \$200.00 for NCEF. However we were unable to include their names under the group picture. Now we have obtained the information. The corrected version of our March newsletter is available online at [www.nepalchildren.org/newsletters/0603news.pdf](http://www.nepalchildren.org/newsletters/0603news.pdf)

Once again, we appreciate their enthusiasm and generosity.

Below is the picture with caption:



*VERY BACK: MR. BUNEL*

*BACK ROW: ETHAN, PAMELA, SARAH, TANNER, ALEX, DAN, BRIAN, RYAN, AND AUSTIN*

*MIDDLE ROW: KARA, RILEY, SAMANTHA, MADDY, BILLY, SAM, JORDAN, MATT, AND JAY*

*FRONT ROW: KATIE, TORI, AND REBECCA*

*NOT IN THE PICTURE: JEREMY AND CECILIA*

**GETTING INVOLVED**

**Why?**

- To make a lasting difference in the lives of children.
- To be a part of an exciting team of interesting and dedicated volunteers.
- To put your spare time, no matter how little, to good use.

**How?**

- Join our announcements list!
- Help fundraise money for NCEF scholarships.
- Help with the administrative aspects of NCEF.
- Take part in discussions to ensure NCEF is increasingly effective.
- Help expand NCEF to new areas in Nepal
- Become a field volunteer in Nepal.
- Help lead NCEF by running for a position on the Board or Executive Committee.