

NCEF GYAN

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE NEPALESE CHILDREN'S EDUCATION FUND

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Two new post-SLC students selected

On 9/18/2007, the selection committee selected Manoj Tharu and Shiv Raj Chaudhari as new post-SLC students in Nepalgunj. To read about them and other post-SLC students please see the next page.

2006-2007 NCEF Selection Committee has been dissolved

On 9/19/2007, Uttam Sharma, the 2006-2007 Selection Committee Chair dissolved the Committee because most of the student selection-related work for 2007 is complete. We would like to thank our volunteers for participating in the committee this year and also those volunteers who assisted with the selection process in Nepal and in the US. A new committee for 2008 will be formed later this year.



Children having fun at a zoo.

NCEF operation started in Sindhupalchok

On 9/21/2007, the New Area Identification Team selected Rashmila Bhandari and Kavita Nepal as recipients of NCEF assistance in Sindhupalchok for the 2007-2008 academic year. The executive committee reviewed and approved the decision on 9/24/2007. The New Area Identification Team selects the students in experimental areas. If an experimental area performs well over the year, it becomes an official NCEF area in the following years and supports a larger number of students. More information on NCEF's New Area Identification Program is available at <http://nepalchildren.org/documents/newarea.html>

Publicity of NCEF's work through radio shows

Inku Subedi reports that her trip to Nepal was a great opportunity to get to know the students and volunteers. She, along with Rajaram Luitel, our Kathmandu area coordinator, appeared in several radio shows and talked about education, our volunteer work, NCEF, and got the word out that we are looking for more participation from the public. In response to their call for volunteers, we received several volunteer requests and some of them are already helping out. Thanks Inku and Rajaram for the great publicity work.

Welcome to Ram Sundar Deuja, the new area coordinator in Kavre

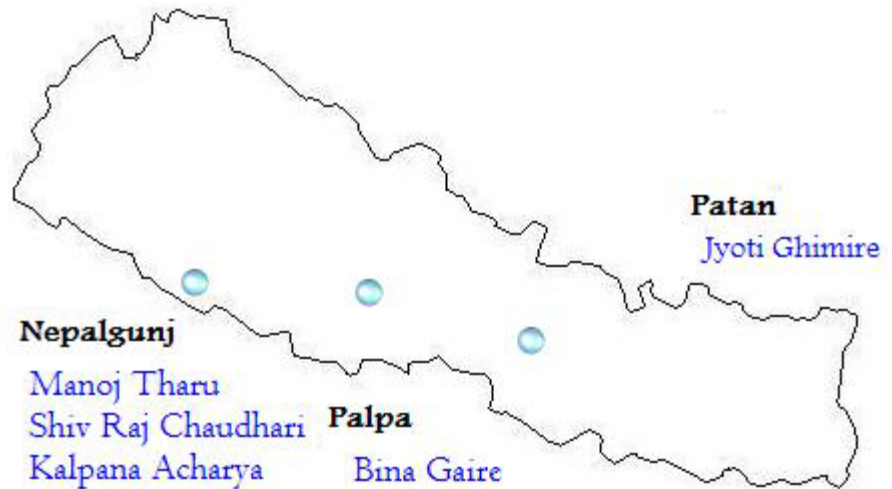
On 9/14/2007, our outgoing Area Coordinator of Kavre, Dipesh Tamrakar, informed us that Ram Sundar Deuja will be taking over the responsibilities of coordinator in Kavre. Dipesh is finishing his final year of medical school studies and will be too busy to continue his responsibilities. Hence, he recommends Ram, who has been involved with NCEF for over two years. He has been helping Dipesh with selecting students and sending student visit reports. He also has experience working with other NGOs for similar cause. We would like to welcome Ram and wish Dipesh well in his studies.

Our Older "Kids": Meet Post-SLC NCEF Students

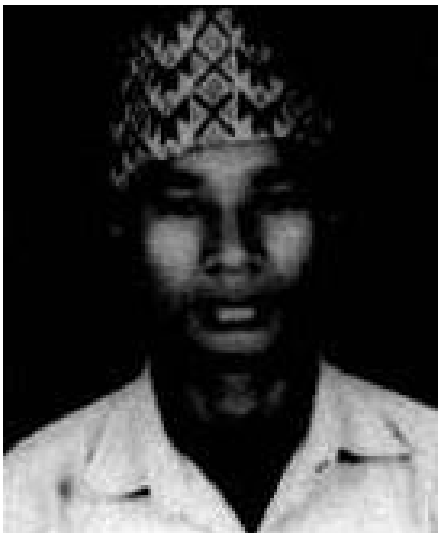
NCEF Student Selection Committee has selected post-tenth grade students for 2007-2008 academic year. With its commitment to support students until they complete grade twelve, NCEF has renewed the scholarship of three students and extended its support to two new students. Manoj Tharu and Shiv Raj Chaudhari are two new students selected in Nepalgunj. Both students are enrolled in 11th grade, after they successfully completed the SLC (School Leaving Certificate) exam - a national level exam given at the end of 10th grade to qualify for higher education. The committee has also renewed support to Jyoti Ghimire (Patan), Kalpana Acharya (Nepalgunj), and Bina Gaire (Palpa). All three students are enrolled in 12th grade. All of the selected students are from poor families who do not have resources to send them to school and either belong to a marginalized group or are female.

Finishing the SLC exam (School Leaving Certificate), a National-level exam that is considered "an iron gate," is a big feat for many students from disadvantaged background in Nepal. The exam is standardized and is required of both privileged students from elite English-medium schools and of students from a

low socio-economic status. Therefore students who struggle to find ways to go to school have to put in much more effort to successfully pass the examination. NCEF-supported students who have reached this level of education are definitely bright students who have managed to beat all the odds to reach higher education level in the country. In this article, we present brief biographies of each of the selected students in an attempt to reflect on the difficulties that they face in obtaining education.



Manoj Kumar Tharu



Manoj lives with his parents in Nepalgunj. Both of his parents work in the farm to make an annual income of less than NRs. 2000 (US \$ 30) and have no education. His elder sister, who is also illiterate, assists the family with the farm, and his elder brother dropped out of school after 7th grade to help support his financially weak family. However, Manoj, who had been studying with the support of a full scholarship from his school until 10th grade, hopes to continue his education. Our Nepalgunj Area Coordinator writes that Manoj is very much interested in continuing his studies. A teacher from his previous school also writes a similar comment addressing his family's very weak financial situation.

"I am from a very poor family. I had an opportunity to study with a full scholarship until 10th grade. Without funding from NCEF, I do not have means to continue my education. My family won't be able to sustain our livelihood and pay for my education by working on others' farms and doing labor work." - Manoj

Shiv Raj Chaudhari



Although Shiv successfully completed the SLC exam in 2005, he was unable to continue higher education due to financial difficulties. Instead of reading books, he was working in someone's house, earning some wages for himself and for his family. The main source of his family's income is from his father's work on other's farmland. His mother is a housewife. Both of his parents are illiterate. His elder sister is also illiterate and helps around the house, and his two younger siblings are currently studying in school. The family is in an extremely dire condition to support their children's education. Shiv's teacher commented on his inability to attend school even after completing the feared SLC exam.

"I really want to study. But due to my family's financial situation, I have been working as a domestic helper in someone's house. Even though I had passed my SLC exam in 2005 and really wanted to continue my education, I was unable to start my intermediate (post-SLC) studies because my family was unable to pay for my education." - Shiv

Bina Gaire

Bina has three sisters, all of whom are currently enrolled in school. Because her father is unemployed and her mother passed away a few years ago, the family has been financially struggling to keep the girls in school and food on the plate. Bina's aunt has been supporting the family and taking care of the girls. NCEF has been providing financial support to Bina's education since 2006. Her teacher explained to our NCEF volunteer that Bina has a deep interest in pursuing her education despite her extremely weak financial condition.



"After my mother passed away, the financial situation of my family worsened. Therefore, I really appreciate NCEF's support, which will allow me to complete higher education." -Bina

2007 FUNDRAISING METER

\$5088

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Mailing address:

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P.O. Box 380061

Cambridge, MA 02238-0061

Questions?

Website: www.nepalchildren.org

Email: contact@nepalchildren.org

THANK YOU!

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).

Jyoti Ghimire

Jyoti lives with her mother and two brothers in Patan. After her father deserted them, her illiterate mother has raised three children all by herself. After completing his higher education, her elder brother has been working to support the family, abandoning his own desire to continue education. According to our volunteer Name Raj Ghale, who assisted Jyoti with the application, she sometimes tries to support her mother by working at home so that her mother can work outside as a housemaid. Name also comments on how fortunate Jyoti feels for getting support from NCEF to pursue higher secondary education.

“I wish to join a vocational training school after I complete my higher education. This way I can be an independent girl and can look after my mother and my family.” - Jyoti

Kalpana Acharya

After her father passed away, Kalpana’s mother has been facing substantial financial difficulties. Kalpana has two younger brothers, who are also enrolled in school. Like Bina’s family, Kalpana’s family is struggling to keep the children in school and food on their plate. Working on her small farm, Kalpana’s mother keeps the house running. Our Nepalgunj Area Coordinator Apsara Khanal notes Kalpana’s academic excellence and her enthusiasm towards education.



“After my dad passed away, my mother has been the only one working to support the family. Because there is no income and no one else to support the family, our financial situation is extremely difficult. Without NCEF’s support, I would have been forced to discontinue my education and work to support the household.”

- Kalpana

Thank you for your help to NCEF and
our
CHILDREN!

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.

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NCEF PAMPHLET

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