

NCEF GYAN

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE NEPALESE CHILDREN'S EDUCATION FUND

What's Inside:

HIGHLIGHTS

Student Selection Process Underway
NCEF Expands its Support to Three New Areas

Trends in Education in Nepal:
Statistics and Numbers

NCEF VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES



Student selection underway

The 2008 Selection Committee is currently reviewing applications for NCEF support. The committee has received applications from both incumbent and new students. Uttam, our student selection officer, has been involved in discussions with Umanga and Suraj, from an NGO *Kehi Garoun*, about possible changes in student selection criteria and application forms for Patan. We are taking this as an opportunity to improve the selection process by seeking input from Umanga and Suraj, who have their share of experience in running non-profits in Nepal. The focus will be incremental changes because we would like the process to be roughly similar in all the areas. The rest of the areas will not be affected by the changes in student selection process in Patan this year. If we determine that the changes improved the selection process in Patan, we will implement those ideas in other areas next year. This is the next step in our collaboration with *Kehi Garoun*, which provides logistical support to our work in Patan.

In our future issues of *Gyan*, we will feature NCEF students selected for 2008-09 academic year and interviews with student selection officers to hear about their experience of selecting deserving students.

NCEF expands its support to children in three new areas

Thanks to your generous contribution and support, we have expanded our work to three new areas in Nepal: Bharatpur, Dolkha, and Kavre.

Bharatpur, located five hours bus ride from Kathmandu, will be coordinated by Khem Bhadur Darjee. Because of poverty and lack of awareness about education, more than 20% of children do not attend school in rural areas. In urban areas, many parents can't simply afford the cost of sending their children to school.

Dolkha is located 82 miles (132km) away from Kathmandu. It will be coordinated by Tenzing Sheerab Lama, who works with a local NGO in helping the impoverished population of the region. In many Village Development Committees (VDC) of Dolkha, more than 50% of children do not attend school, mostly due to poverty, illiteracy of parents and gender discrimination.

Kavre district lies 25 miles (40km) east of Kathmandu. Uttam Panta will be coordinating students in Dollghat, a village which is located 6 hours van-ride from Banepa, a major city of Kavre. Like other areas, majority of the people in Dollghat cannot afford to send their children due to poverty, parental illiteracy and gender discrimination. Many are farmers and laborers.

These new areas will be run as "areas under evaluation". At the end of the year, these areas will be evaluated based on metrics such as achieved student visit frequency, report filing, promptness of communication, overseeing costs, and quality of applications and reports. Please visit

<http://www.nepalchildren.org/documents/newarea.html> to read about how we identify new areas, train the volunteers, and setup an area of operation. We are excited to work with the new volunteers in these new regions.

NCEF ON FACEBOOK

◇ NCEF Cause ◇

Are you in yet? Join our cause to view new pictures and videos. You can even make donations online and receive announcements.

Number of members: 851

Donations from Cause: \$295

◇ NCEF Group ◇

Also join our Facebook Group to participate in discussions on different issues and to stay up to date with recent happenings in NCEF.

ABOUT NCEF

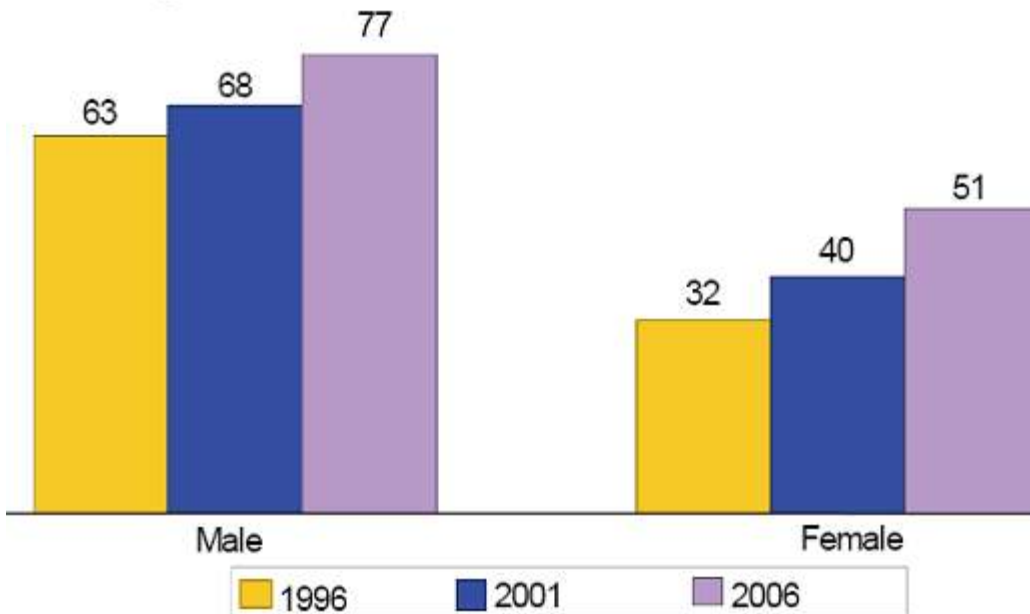
NCEF is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to develop the potential of disadvantaged Nepalese children through education. Need-based scholarships are provided to deserving students who would otherwise be unable to attend school. Our social workers in Nepal meet regularly with the selected children 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).

TRENDS IN EDUCATION IN NEPAL: STATISTICS AND GRAPHS

We present in this article some of the recent statistics to show the trends in education in Nepal. The charts and numbers are adapted from Nepal Demographic Health Survey and UNICEF.

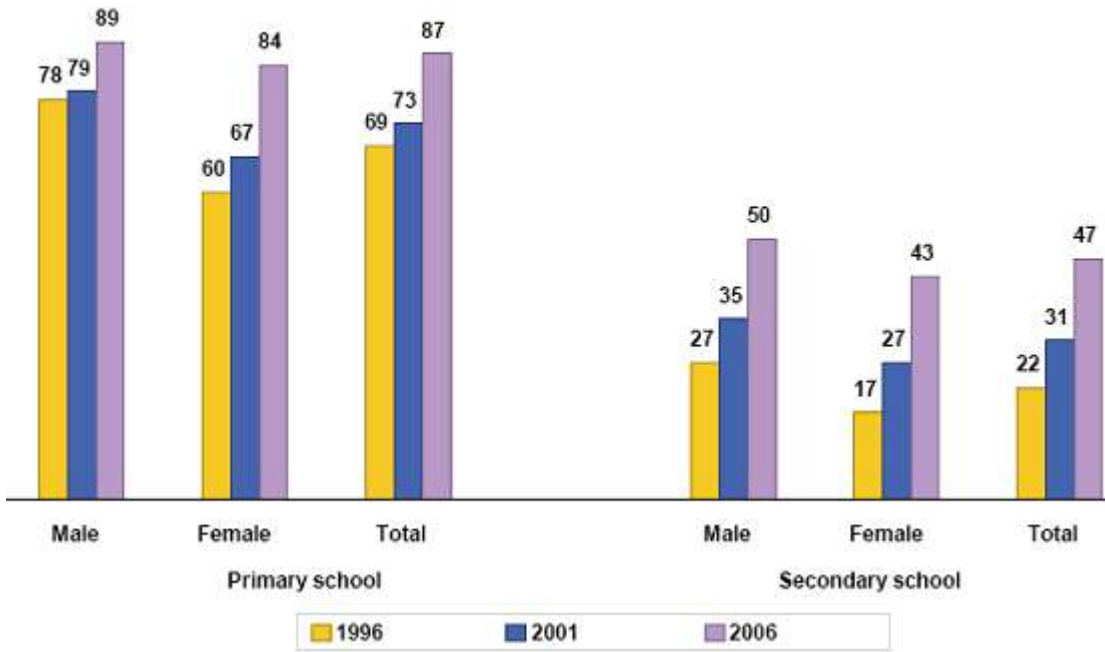
QUICK FIGURES	
Gross National Income (GNI) per capita [2006]	US \$290
Percent of population living below US \$1 a day [1995-2005]	24%
Percent of central government expenditure allocated to education [1995-2005]	18%
Total adult literacy [2000-2005]	49%
Youth (15-24 years) literacy rate [2000-2006 average]	81%
Male	60%
Female	
Gross primary school enrollment ratio	
Male	129
Female	123
Gross secondary school enrollment ratio	
Male	46
Female	40
Child Labor (5-14years) [1996-2006]	
Total	31%
Male	30%
Female	33%
Under 5 mortality rate	
1990	142
2006	59
Source: UNICEF http://www.unicef.org/infobycountry/nepal_nepal_statistics.html#46	

Percentage of Male and Female Household Population Age 6 Years and above who have ever Attended School



The figure shows an improvement in household educational attainment from 1996 to 2006. In 1996, 63 percent of males and 32 percent of females, age six years and over had ever attended school. But in 2006, the proportions increased to 77 percent for males and 51 percent for females. However, the disparities in education between men and women have continued.

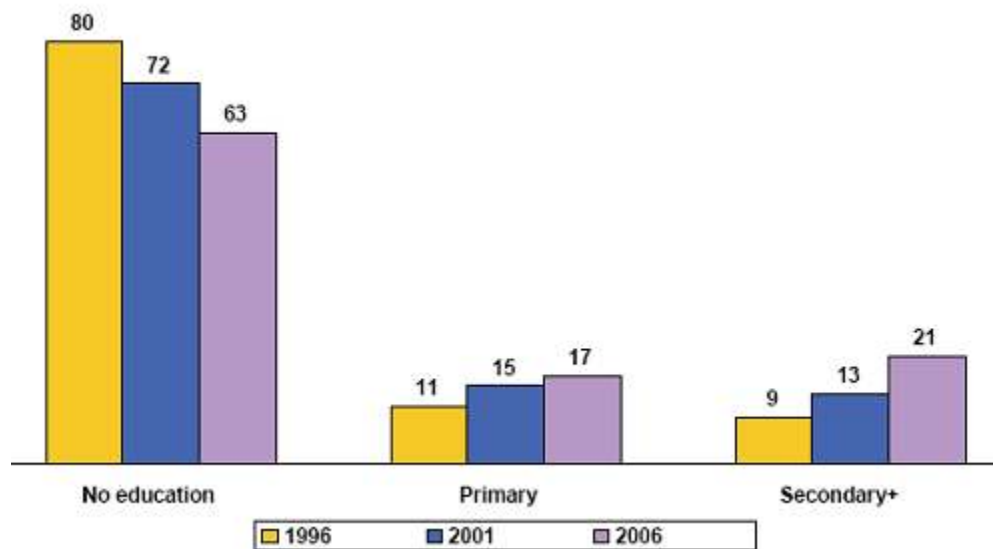
Net School Attendance Ratios at Primary and Secondary Level, by Sex of Children



The figure shows some interesting trends. In general, there has been an increase in the net attendance in both genders enrolled in both primary (6-10 years) and secondary levels (11-15 years). Girls, however, continue to lag behind boys in both levels. More prominent is the finding that many of the students who are enrolled in primary level drop out before going into secondary level. This can be the results of many potential factors, most important being the families' ability to afford their children's education. Some children are even expected to help their parents in farming and livestock rearing or earn money to make the ends meet. Girls are particularly thought of as assets that are to be given away upon marriage. With this mentality, parents upon discontinue their daughters' education and teach them to carry out household work.

The figure shows that in ten years the proportion of women age 15-49 with no education fell from 80 percent to 63 percent, which is still a relatively larger population. At the same time the proportion with primary level and secondary or higher level of schooling increased from 11 percent and 9 percent, respectively, to 17 percent and 21 percent.

Percentage of Ever-married Women Age 15-49, by Level of Education



NCEF Volunteer Opportunities

How does NCEF run without a single paid person?

*NCEF is made up of a group of extremely dedicated VOLUNTEERS who share a common vision that despite our busy schedules, if we work cohesively we can put books in the hands of children in Nepal, who lack the opportunities and privilege that we have here. Although we helped change so many lives of disadvantaged children in Nepal in 2007, we are eager to extend these opportunities to more that are very deserving. We would, therefore, like to open our arms and welcome new volunteers to join the NCEF team. Even by contributing as little as 3-4 hours per month, you can help **build the future of future-builders of Nepal**. Please see the available opportunities below and contact the designated volunteer.*

Fundraising

I. Donation Box in Restaurant Project

NCEF is starting a new project that involves installing donation boxes in local Nepali Restaurants around the US. The pilot project was very successful and the project has a great potential for raising funds for children. If you live in a city which has a Nepali restaurant(s) or similar businesses, please consider coordinating a very low time commitment project in your area. Once a donation box is installed in the restaurant, your only responsibilities will be to collect donation and transfer to NCEF. We are also looking for a Main Coordinator, whose responsibility is to communicate with regional volunteers and help new regional volunteers get started with this awesome project.

A. Regional Coordinators

Duties: Volunteers will identify restaurant in his/her city, then install a donation box at the restaurant working closely with the restaurant owner. Once the box is installed, volunteers will visit the restaurant every month and collect donation and transfer to NCEF via Paypal or check.

Commitment: 5-6hrs/month (for each participating restaurant)

Comments: If you are a busy person, but would still like to help children in Nepal, this is a great opportunity for you. All you have to do is visit the restaurant (whether if you are already going there for a nice dinner, or the restaurant is on your way) only ONCE A MONTH for a few hours. Your few hours of contribution that month alone will send a Nepali kid to school for a whole year.

Contact: chhitij@nepalchildren.org

B. National Coordinator

Duties: Volunteer will have the opportunity to expand this amazing project and will be involved with communicating with Regional Coordinators, keeping track of donations and making a report of these donations. You will work with website manager to update website for new regions. This National Coordinator will be the main project manager of the project.

Commitment: 5-10hrs/month

Comments: This opportunity fits well for people who are interested in not only learning to manage a national level project, but also in planning, evaluating and making the most out of it for the good of children in Nepal. No prior experience is necessary since you will be trained and informed about your duties and will be working very closely with the Executive Committee.

Contact: chhitij@nepalchildren.org

2. Grants Management Team

NCEF plans to expand its work and assist more needy children in Nepal, the goal that requires large donations. One particular avenue we would like to explore is to seek for Foundation grants. If you have some experience with grant writing or would like to assist someone with grant writing and thus improving these skills which are essential in both academia and NGOs, this is a great way to do so.

Quick List

Fundraising

- Donation box in restaurant project
 - National Coordinator
 - Regional Coordinators
- Grant Management

Publicity

- Website development group
- NCEF Blog/Facebook administrator
- Newsletter team
- NCEF Video Design Team

Public Relation

- Donation database management team
- Gift donation management team

Administrative

- Translator
- Monthly report reviewer

MAKING DONATIONS

Online:

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?

contact@nepalchildren.org

Do you GoodShop?

NCEF will receive donation from your online shopping at no cost to you!

When you shop online through **GoodShop**, the retailers will make a donation to NCEF at no cost to you.

Many retailers, including WalMart, Target, Best Buy, Amazon are participating in this program. Click here to start:

www.goodsearch.com/?charityid=860619

ALSO, Now every time you search the Internet using **GoodSearch**, a penny will be donated to NCEF. Please check out the link above. You can help change the lives of needy children with a click of a mouse.

Duties: Identifying Foundations; Grant writing; Coordinating and corresponding to manage grant proposals.

Commitment: depending on your availability

Comments: Any kind of help is appreciated. We already have some members with grant-writing experience willing to work in the project. So this will be a project that you can initiate and develop on your own and can be a good experience to be included in your resume.

Contact: chhitij@nepalchildren.org

Publicity

1. Website Development Group

Duties: Adding and updating content and new links

Commitment: 1-2 hrs/wk

Comments: This is a high priority job with very low time commitment. We are actively seeking volunteers for this group. You can work on various aspects of the website - regular updates on the website of documents, donors or occasional special projects such as special fundraising project publicity.

Contact: om_p@nepalchildren.org

2. NCEF Blog/Facebook Administrators

Duties: The group will be involved with maintaining and updating NCEF's social networks such as NCEF Blog, Facebook, Goodsearch. The group will also work to increase the activity and number of participants in these networks

Commitment: 3-4hrs/mnth

Comments: You will be involved with updating NCEF blog (starting discussion topics), Facebook Cause and other social networks with very little time commitment per week.

Contact: chhitij@nepalchildren.org

3. Newsletter Team

Duties: Writing short articles about children, NCEF volunteers and other relevant topics; editing articles; publishing newsletter

Commitment: 2-3hrs/mnth depending on task

Comments: You will have an opportunity to read fresh student reports, to interview volunteers about their work, NCEF students about their progress and donors and others about their thoughts. Team will discuss via email in the beginning of each month and team members will write articles, edit and publish newsletter. This is also a low-time commitment task recurring every month depending on the length of newsletter. **Contact:** chhitij@nepalchildren.org

4. NCEF Video Design team

Are you creative? Have experience with cameras, videos and video editing? Then you can help create publicity material and documentary about NCEF and Nepali children. Our volunteers have already taken videos and photographs of our children, parents, and area coordinators. If you would like to put them together into a nice, short description of NCEF, please let us know. This is a great avenue to experiment with your skills in video production.

Contact: chhitij@nepalchildren.org

Public Relations

1. Donation database management team

Duties: Adding and updating donation information; sending updates to donors at the end of the year

Commitment: 1-2 hrs/w k (more towards end of the year)

Comments: This is a priority job and will be done regularly but is not time-consuming. You will have the opportunity to learn excel and access which are good database to learn for anyone interested in development in NGOs. You can also help out with correspondence with donors which will be useful in correspondence/public relations in any kind of official work.

Contact: inku@nepalchildren.org

2. Gift donation management team

Often times NCEF receives gifts from generous donors from a wedding ceremony or funeral service or other social gatherings. NCEF publishes a web page dedicated to such donations. If a gift is given to NCEF by individual donors separately, NCEF works to keep track of donors and donations and if necessary contact them. The gift donation management team will be involved with overseeing this very important project. In 2006 alone a memorial donation contributed more than \$13,000 to children's education in Nepal!

Duties: When a gift is given to NCEF (such as memorial donation, wedding donation), you will be involved with managing the donors list and getting in touch with donors if needed.

Commitment: 3-4 hrs when gifts are received

Comments: Example: www.nepalchildren.org/memorial.html.

This job is occasional but is quite rewarding since this kind of fundraising is quite efficient and effective.

Contact: inku@nepalchildren.org

Administrative

1. Translator

Duties: Translate documents (student applications, letters, other documents) from Nepali to English and occasionally from English to Nepali

Commitment: You will be notified when such documents need to be translated. 2-3hrs 1-2 times a month

Comments: If you are proficient in Nepali and have a few hours to spare to read student applications first hand (with comments from volunteers, parents, teachers and students) and translate them to English, this is a great opportunity. This task requires very little time commitment and only a few times a year.

Contact: steven@nepalchildren.org

2. Monthly Report Reviewer

Duties: Review monthly student visit reports prepared by volunteers in Nepal and archive

Commitment: 3-4hrs hrs/month

Comments: Proficiency in Nepali NOT required

Contact: steven@nepalchildren.org

