

## The two rising stars

In the last report, we mentioned that two of the girls we support have completed the district level exam, which is a mid-term higher secondary school level exam in the Nepal education system. So, we decided to interview them to find out how they have achieved it. This report focuses on the interview.



*[Picture-1 Kamala and Nabisha posing with their 8<sup>th</sup> grade (higher secondary school) certificate]*

Kamala and Nabisha are both from the poorest of the poor, and they are the youngest children of the family. No one in this family has been educated so these girls are their hope for the future. Their family's expectations for them is enormous, and they will also be a leading example for many girls in the community. Kamala and Nabisha walk for one and a half hour every day to go to school because there are very few higher secondary schools in rural villages of Nepal. They have met all the requirements to pass the 8th grade and in a months time will participate in the 9<sup>th</sup> grade exam. This also means that they are only a year away from reaching to the final year of schooling if they pass this exam.

Kamala and Nabisha both are hopeful and are studying hard as the curriculum gets difficult towards the final year of schooling. Passing the final year exam is extremely hard because of the difficult curriculum and also the poor quality of teaching in the government schools, particularly in rural villages. This creates a demand for extra tuition classes, which generates an extra income for teachers and also increases the potential to pass the exam. The extra tuition class can be expensive and poor people cannot afford it. As a result, many pupils from poor families fail the exam and without it they cannot enter to any university, ending to their educational career.

Kamala and Nabisha both are keen to study further and now their future relies on us. Therefore our partner organisation (Hamro Samaj Nepal) is looking for a volunteer who can provide the extra tuition class for the girls. This also involves further financial commitment. If only one of our supporters gives £40 a month for a year then Kamala and Nabisha have a higher hope to pass the

exam and progressing further in their education. The financial commitment for Kamala and Nabisha will start from April 2015.