



On day all children in Nepal will receive an excellent education.

Contact: Shisir Khanal
Phone: 981-3020253
shisir@teachfornepal.org

Teach for Nepal
C/O Sarvodaya Nepal
Saket Complex, Sixth Floor
Tripureshwor
Kathmandu, Nepal
977-1-4260409

The Issue: Education

The public education system in Nepal is in crisis.

Most children in Nepal do not have a real choice to define their life opportunities. Almost 70% of those between grade 1 and 10 have dropped out of school. Only 50% of the students who take the SLC (School Leaving Certificate Exam) – taken after 10th grade - graduate. The graduation rate for private schools is over 80%, while that for the public school system is closer to 40%. Since excellence in the SLC examination defines one's college choices and life path, most children who attend public schools lack basic opportunities their peers in private schools may take for granted.

The problems begin at very early age. A recent research conducted by British educationist Richard Thompson showed that 10% of students even at grade four do not know Nepali alphabets. Further more, 25% of these students can't recognize double digit numbers. The research also showed that almost 50% students do not attend schools regularly (only 52.8% attend), while attendance is 84% at private school¹.

The performance of a child in a classroom or on a national test is a reflection of a variety of interrelated factors. Education outcomes are a result of the child's individual intellect, family background, socio-economic class, school climate, the effectiveness of teachers, and national policy.

The quality of teachers is an extremely important element in student outcome. Because of cultural and social norms, Nepal's best and brightest young individuals prefer career options other than teaching, many entering into technical and business world. At the same time, issues related to education are complex. They often require intervention at various levels ranging from local school practices and community advocacy to national regulations and policies.

Teach For Nepal: An Education Movement

To enhance the quality of education at public schools in Nepal and to bring fundamental transformation in Nepal's education sector, we started the *Teach for Nepal* program in August 2012. *Teach for Nepal* is inspired by Teach For America in the United States and Teach First in the UK. Considered one of the most successful educational initiatives, in their countries, they are supported by a number of charitable foundations and corporate partners in the United States. Such initiatives currently exist in 27 countries around the world, including in India, China and Pakistan – each an independent national movement that share a similar model and the vision to bring quality education to every single child in their country.

Teach for Nepal brings outstanding Nepalese university graduates and young professionals -- to teach in under-resourced public schools for two years. The strategy is to tap their passion, youthful energy, and ability to bring fundamental change in education at the grassroots. We will focus on math, science and English, where over 90% students fail in the national board examinations called the School Leaving Certificate (SLC) examinations. Over the long term, *Teach for Nepal* will build an alumni network that will work inside and outside the education system to support long-term transformation.

In the long term, *Teach for Nepal* Fellows will be leaders in the field of their choosing. During the two year commitment, Fellows will make immediate impact on their classroom and show measurable impact on students' outcome. During their two year tenure, Fellows participate in a variety of professional development and leadership trainings.

¹ "Fourth Graders don't know alphabet: Report" Republica (English Daily) 06 Dec 2011 <
http://www.myrepublica.com/portal/index.php?action=news_details&news_id=39221>

After completing the two year fellowship, many of the Fellows are expected to be engaged in education issues. Some Fellows may choose to remain in the classroom, transition to school administration, or enter public education leadership. Some might choose to enter careers in policy or advocacy. Others may develop innovative curriculum or begin social enterprises to support new educational models. Still others may become leaders in the corporate or legal sectors and will continue to support and champion for quality education for all children in Nepal from these positions. In this regard, Teach for Nepal is a leadership training forum that will train the next generation of Nepalese leaders in all sectors. They will be unified in the vision of providing quality education to all children.

Mission of Teach For Nepal

One day all children in Nepal will complete High School with the grades and knowledge to be able to pursue the degree they wish in college and university and be successful in a national or global workforce. They will have real opportunity to determine their own future, regardless of their family background, community they are from, and the school they attend.

Teach for Nepal Fellows

Teach for Nepal began to accept applications for its first cohort of teaching Fellows in October 2012. During the recruitment period that lasted for two months, we received over 500 applications for 30 Fellowship positions. The applicants went through a multi-stage selection process and 33 Fellows were accepted to the program, exceeding our goals for the first year.



The Fellows come from diverse social, geographical, and academic background. Of the Fellows, 25% have completed Engineering degree, others are journalists, science graduates, social workers, business school graduates, and education majors. 33% of our Fellowship cohort are women. They have attended prestigious schools in Nepal and abroad, primarily in India.

In the early years, Teach for Nepal Fellows will be deployed small numbers, as we gain experience and insights, corps number will increase.

Placement goals for the first five years:

Year	Fellows	Actual
1 - 2013	30	33
2 - 2014	50	Recruitment begins in June 2013
3 - 2015	100	
4 - 2016	200	
5 - 2017	300	

Beginning the April 2013, the first cohort of Fellows began teaching across 16 schools in the district of Lalitpur. These Fellows are teaching in 64 classrooms to over 1,600 children.

Two Years of Placement: A Leadership & Training Program

During the two years of placement, Teach for Nepal fellows will have the opportunity to participate in various leadership training programs and workshops. The programs will be designed to enhance the Fellows 'soft skill' such as presentation, project management, communication, critical thinking and writing. Such skill will prepare the fellows to be competitive in job market after the fellowship. Among other things the Fellows will be asked to do research, design, and implement a community level projects, which would have positive impact on the community and schools they are placed at.

The Leadership Programs will focus on

- *Sustainable Development & Social Entrepreneurship*
- *Enterprise / Small Business Development*
- *Government, Policy and Advocacy*
- *Education and School Leadership*

The four areas we believe will need future leaders to make meaningful and systemic changes to prevailing education context.

Each substantive course includes theoretical and practical elements, consisting of a two-day intensive session supplemented by expert speakers, discussions, and independent readings. Each course is designed to help guide career decisions and prepare Fellows to succeed in the field of their choosing.

Governance:

Teach for Nepal is housed by Sarvodaya Nepal – a registered non-profit organization--its own governing board. The members of governing board are preeminent individuals from academia, policy circle, philanthropist, people of national recognition who have made significant impact in advancement of social justice in Nepal.

Individuals in governing board and leadership council are volunteers who believe in the mission of *Teach for Nepal* and share the sense of possibility of the vision and subscribe to the core values of the organization.

Partnership

To increase the effectiveness of the program, *Teach For Nepal* has entered into partnership with the Government of Nepal, the private sector, I/NGOs, universities and other educational institutions as well as schools and communities.

Teach for Nepal is also supported by a number of organizations, who provide financial and technical assistance.

Currently, *Teach for Nepal* is financially supported by HH Bajaj (of Golchha Group), Buddha Air, Embassy of Finland, and Embassy of the United States in Kathmandu.

International Network

Teach for Nepal is be a partner in international network of similar organizations in 27 countries including in the US, the UK, Australia, India, Malaysia, China, and Pakistan.

Founding Team

Shisir Khanal, Co-Founder / CEO

Shisir Khanal is an Co-Founder and CEO of Teach for Nepal. In 2005 he started a career in non-profit sector as an Executive Director of Sarvodaya USA – a Madison, Wisconsin (USA) based non profit that supports grassroots social movement in around the world. The Sarvodaya initiatives has strong roots in Sri Lanka and in 2008 Shisir established Sarvodaya Nepal. As Executive Director Shisir managed operations, programs, donor relations, communications and fundraising efforts for Sarvodaya USA. In 2010, he lead a Facebook based campaign to win \$100,000 to build green model schools to support quality education to under-privileged children in Nepal. Since 2005, he has managed and raised over USD \$5 million for Sarvodaya network. Prior to working at Sarvodaya USA, he worked as Research Assistant at Robert M. La Follette School at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, interned with United Nations Development Program in Nepal and worked at Connecticut General Assembly.

Shisir graduated with a Masters degree in International Public Affairs (MIPA) in 2005 from the La Follette School of Public Affairs and has a Bachelor's degree in International Political Economy from University of Bridgeport. University of Wisconsin-Alumni Association awarded him 2012 "Forward Under 40" award for his outstanding work in sustainable development.

Swastika Shrestha, Co-Founder / Head of Training

Swastika Shrestha has been working in the sector of Youth Development for the past 8 years. She is co-Founder of Youth Initiative, a youth led, organization, which has gone on to become a major national youth organization in Nepal. Her interest and expertise lies in engaging young people in critical thinking and service learning activities that lead young people to understand themselves as well as the social and global context within which they exist. She co-founded Anuvuti International in 2010, a social enterprise that provides in service learning opportunities for young people in Nepal. For the last two years, Anuvuti has worked with 1,000 Kathmandu based young people on various service projects.

Prior to establishing Anuvuti, she worked with UNMIN in Nepal and consulted development organizations such as World Food Program (WFP), IUCN, and UNDP.

She has Bachelors in Psychology from Olivet College in Michigan and Masters Degree in Public Affairs with concentration in International Development from Cornell University, New York.

Members of Leadership Team:

Kedar Bhakta Mathema, Former Chancellor of Tribhuvan University, Nepal
Rameshore Khanal, Former Secretary of Finance at Ministry of Finance, Nepal
Dr. Mana Prasad Wagley, Former Dean, School of Education, Kathmandu University
Kiran Nepal, Editor, Himal Magazine, Nepal
Shekhar Golchha, Director, Golchha Organization
Anil Shaha, CEO, Mega Bank
Gagan Thapa, Political Activist
Jagadish Bhattarai, CPA, Partner, Kuber LLC
Rajan Shrestha, Head, Sales & Marketing, Goldstar Shoes
Reshu Aryal Dhungana, Program Director, Ullens School Foundation
Krishna Kumar K.C., Teacher, Saraswati Higher Secondary School, Techo

Global Advisors:

A.T. Ariyaratne, Founder President of Sarvodaya Shramadana Movement of Sri Lanka