**Bloom Nepal Scholarship Fund**

***Supporting education of talented but financially underprivileged children in Nepal***

Bloom Nepal is a network of schools dedicated to the mission of producing **creative**, **innovative** and **entrepreneurially spirited** **leaders** who are highly trained in the field of their interest. Bloom Nepal School’s vision is to create a society where children have highly defined expertise in at least one field of interest and where these skills are used to constantly upgrade technology, innovation and knowledge base, therefore supporting development of the country in the manner that meets the need of the time. Bloom Nepal School has a partnership with the Bloom Nepal Foundation to support scholarships for needy students.

**Background: Bloom Nepal Foundation**

Bloom Nepal Foundation is an NGO established in Nepal in 2015. The foundation is committed to promoting access to quality education for children from difficult economic backgrounds. Between 2015 and 2018, Bloom Nepal Foundation has provided over 100 scholarships – 23 full scholarships and others partial, to deserving students to study at the Bloom Nepal School. These students come from all parts of the country; many from geographically remote areas with very limited economic opportunities and even lesser opportunities for education. The foundation’s mission is to find deserving and motivated students, from all over the country, especially from the remotest parts, and provide them access to quality education.

**Current Scenario**

There are 170 students, from 35 districts of Nepal, currently studying at Bloom Nepal School. 23 of these students have received full scholarships, and many partial, from the Bloom Nepal Foundation. However, the current need is much higher. Since its inception Bloom Nepal School has had to refuse admittance to 200 students due to lack of funds, even now the school receives 50 scholarship requests annually, on average only 5 of these are funded. 30 students have even dropped out as their scholarships could not be extended owing to lack of funds. It is estimated that 5 million students, studying at community schools, would be interested to shift to Bloom Nepal School if provided scholarships. Due to the existing funding gap, the capacity of countless talented children, especially those from difficult social, economic or geographical backgrounds, are unrealized. There is a need to increase the foundation’s capacity to provide scholarships, which requires more funding as well as a more structured approach.

**Bloom Nepal Scholarship Fund**

The Bloom Nepal Scholarship Fund shall be developed as an arm of the Bloom Nepal Foundation, with the express purpose of providing scholarships to deserving and motivated students. Such scholarships will ensure that the potential of these children to manifest transformative initiatives––benefitting poverty-stricken Nepal––are no longer suppressed. By providing access to quality education, the scholarships will nurture talents and put potentials to use, enabling transformative changes to the lives of the underprivileged. The fund will be raised from various donors and sponsors with the aim to increase the capacity and outreach of the scholarships currently provided by the foundation. The scholarship fund will be managed as an endowment fund to achieve sustainability and transparency.

**Ambition:** With a scholarship fund of USD 1 million, Bloom Nepal Foundation will be able to provide full scholarships to 100 students, while another 50 partial scholarships will be provided, to students studying from grade 4 to 10.

**Selection:** The foundation shall employ 4 criteria to select scholarship recipients.

These are:

* Must come from a family with daily income of less than one dollar;
* Should be community school based and must be ranked top 1% in preceding examinations;
* Must pass the entrance exam designed to assess the student’s academic fitness; and
* Must have a well-established/ demonstrable expertise or passion in a certain field, either substantiated via a national recognition or by a selection committee.

Students must meet at least 2 of the 4 criteria to be eligible for the scholarship.

**Fees Allocation:** The fund will support education and residential expenses from grade 4 to 10 in fully residential facilities. The annual fee per student is USD 1200. With a subsidy of USD 200 from the partner school, full scholarships will amount to USD 1000 per student per year. This covers the cost of housing, tuition, fees, and textbooks. Other expenses are the salaries of teachers and staff, expenses in physical facilities, food, rent, amenities, educational tours, and materials, and the cost of teacher trainings. Scholarships will be extended for a period of 1 year, which shall be reviewed and can be extended subject to the results of regular monitoring.

Table 1: Cost disaggregation by expenditure category (in USD)

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Cost headings** | **Descriptions** | **Monthly Cost per student** | **Remarks** |
| **Salary** | Teacher salary | 15 | Teacher student ratio is 1:20 and the salary per teacher is USD 300. |
| Salary of principal and director | 7 | USD 800 each, average school size is about 300 students |
| Salary of support staffs | 8 | 4 caretakers, 2 security personnel, 4 admin staffs, 10 cooks, 2 sales person, average school size is about 300 students |
| Lawyer fees | 1 | Average school size about 300 students |
| **Food** | 4 meals | 40 | 4 meals |
| **Rent** | Room and Boarding | 20 |  |
| School building | 3 | School rent |
| **Tax** | Tax paid | 2 | Education tax, rent tax |
| **Educational materials** | Textbooks, games, stationeries, puzzles | 1 | Average school size about 300 students |
| **Staff welfare** |  | 1 | 10% of the salary |
| **Teacher training** | Training of teachers | 1 |  |
| **Miscellaneous** |  | 1 | Recreation, visits, emergency medical, visitors, meetings, material development |
| **Total Per student** | | USD 100 per month | |

**Monitoring:** Progress of the selected students will be monitored with the following indicators:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Indicators** | **Type** | **Frequency** |
| **Indicator 1:** Improvement in standardized scores | Number | Twice in a year |
| **Indicator 2:** Deviation from mean score in the weakest subject | Number | Twice in a year |
| **Indicator 3:** Overall ranking | Number | Twice in a year |
| **Indicator 4:**Scores from the Merit and Demerit cards issued by the subject teachers | Number | Cumulative annually |
| **Indicator 5:** Number of students who have been pursuing their passion for a minimum of 2 years, and have been performing exceptionally | Number | Cumulative, annually |
| *Note:* The weakest subject refers to subject area, where the students got ranked the lowest on mid-term exam of the first semester. | | |
| Table 1: Indicators to track progress of the scholarship students. | | |

**Sponsor Relationship:** The relationship between the scholarship students and the sponsors stretches beyond finance. Bloom Nepal Foundation will play an active role to establish this bond. The foundation will have a dedicated contact office at Bloom Nepal School in Lalitpur, and will communicate student’s progress via annual progress reports and quarterly updates. Student activities will also be shared frequently via Bloom Nepal’s Facebook page.

***The board of directors:*** *Surya Karki (Nepal), Olivier Coops (The Netherlands), Robert van Dortmund (The Netherlands), Aditya Mahara (USA), Willem Grimminck (Nepal)*

**Sustainability:** The sustainability of the fund shall be enabled via its structured allocation of resources. 25% of the fund will be used for immediate scholarship while 75% will be set for future.