

# HELP STUDENTS BUILD A SCHOOL

## A Shramadana Project for School Students



### **Background and Need**

1 in 2 students who complete primary school never finish secondary level education in Nepal. Less than 50% of secondary school age children enroll into a school. While poverty plays a role, as 1 in 3 children work as a child labor, access to education is another factor that prevents children from going to a school.

In partnership with students at Brihaspati School in Kathmandu, Sarvodaya plans to support a school in Rawal Danda of Dhading district. Situated about 80 kilometers south west of Kathmandu, the school currently provides education up to the 8th grade. For further studies, students must walk 4 hours round trip daily. Naturally, many children drop out.

Rawal Danda Lower Secondary School in Mahadev Sthan V.D.C – 5, Dhading district was established in 2045 B.S (1988 AD). The school is about eight kilometer South of Malekhu bazaar on Prithivi Highway and is accessible through a dirt road. Currently, school serves 300 families in three VDCs. Tamangs and Dalits (untouchables) make the majority of people living in the area. Most people make living through agriculture, especially as agricultural laborers or shared tenets in the land.

Currently, about 381 children studying between pre-school and 8<sup>th</sup> grade are

enrolled in the school. While many children can study at their local area primary school, for 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> grade they have to walk up to 1 hour or more to get to the Rawal Danda school. Once they complete their 8<sup>th</sup> grade, they have to walk further up to 4 hours or more (for a round trip) to go to a secondary school.

Already school runs on a limited infrastructure, because of the lack of classrooms the school has put students of grade 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> into a one room.

### The Project:

The project plans to support Rawal Danda School add a third floor to its existing building. It currently has two floors with 8 rooms. Additional floor will add four rooms to its structure, which will enable them to provide ample classrooms for its current pre-school to 8<sup>th</sup> grade as well as add two classrooms for 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grades.

To support Rawal Danda school to extend its services Sarvodaya Nepal is collaborating with Minisanity, a group of A-Level students, at Brihaspati Vidyasadan to raise funds. In addition to raising the funds, the A-level students will also go to the village and participate in shramadana where they will experience the village life and contribute their voluntary labor to build the school. In August 2009, the A-level students had had raised funds and helped renovate a school (see the video: <http://www.youtube.com/sarvodayausa>) in Lele V.D.C of Lalitpur district.

In addition to external support, students from Rawal Danda School, community members in the area will also contribute material and labor. It is estimated that material and labor contribution will be about 50% of the cost of the school.

### Budget:

| Item  | Size            | Amount             |
|---|-----------------|--------------------|
| Cost to purchase materials such as Cement and iron rods       | aprx 450 sq. ft | US\$ 5,500*        |
| Value of material and labor contribution by community members |                 | US\$ 4,500         |
| <b>Total Cost of the Building</b>                             |                 | <b>US\$ 10,000</b> |

\* External fund required to support the project. A portion of the fund required will be collected by the students through various fundraising programs, while rest is expected from individuals, corporate and foundation grants.

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### Sarvodaya Nepal

Sarvodaya Nepal is a community based organization that is active in non-violence social transformation through local community action.

### Brihaspati Vidyasadan:

Established in 1985 Brihaspati Vidyasadan in Kathmandu is well-known for its quality education. The school provides total care including health, food, and extracurricular activities to its over 1,200 students.