



On July 15, 2021 Nepali Fiscal Year 2077/2078 (2020/2021) ended, strengthening the capacity of Console Mission to be more effective in the areas of supporting female community health volunteers and faith-based workers through health training. And, continued motivating children to go school, and managed skill training and business start-ups for women. It was possible with the financial assistance, prayer support and guidance from the individuals and the churches concerning the people of Nepal and the Board Member of Console Mission. Following the procedure, the staff/volunteers team managed by the executive coordinating with the Village Representatives, and the Board Member put their effort and time to meet the objective of the projects. Working partnering with ECTC¹, a network of Health Care Fellowships² and NMCN³ helped to smoothly manage the training. There were 9 FCHV⁴ in psychosocial counselling, 12 faith-based workers in soil transmitted helminths trainings and they cured more than 900 people; 197 school students from 11 villages of Nepal received regular educational coaching classes, and 8 females became capable of using tailoring machines. *Bimala*, who completed 3 months and a week of skill training was called to get the business starting kits even though she had not completed the course because of her pregnancy. Her attendance, attentiveness and straightforward plan to start business at one of Console Mission's village communities – *Naya Gaun* where she belongs, she was well treated, currently setting an example by earning and making use of the training. Console Mission needed 17 dresses for its scholarship school's children, she was asked to take a chance, she said she will try but she will talk to another trainee to join her. Another trainee helped her to take measurements but she sewed herself for all, the remaining 24 were sewed by a regular tailor of Console Mission. Students whose dresses were sewed by *Bimala* were appreciated. As informed by the Village Representative Mr. Ram Bdr. *Bimala* seems geeting sewing job every day.



Photo 1: Bimala sewing customer's order at her shop in Naya Gaun

The second lockdown was imposed from the end of April till August 11 but physical learning for the children was not opened until the second week of September 2021. The possible way was used to complete the work in time. However, some impact analysis is pending. During the lockdown, comparing the urban situation focusing on children's education in the working area, the school in *Bhatte Danda* village area started earlier and during the lockdown, they had chance to interact with the teachers by attending school on alternative days by going to school. At NOSP children were divided into 4 groups spent 1 hour daily. It was opened for 4 hours daily, similarly at other 4 OSPs in the area. But outside of the Lalitpur district the volunteers reported that they completely stopped. During that situation, Console Mission contributed in the areas of raising awareness for 450 households about Covid-19 with the help of 4 volunteers who were taught about personal hygiene, hand-washing by a trainees of Console Mission's health and management training held in 2017. This team distributed pamphlets and demonstrated hand-washing printed in local popular language. The local government's office recognized their work and financially supported them to manage computer skill training that is currently running. For more informations about it or other projects or volunteers, you are requested to email us in the email provided below.

Quarter's Activities

- At *Naya Gaun* village, 11 parents of 26 children attended a monthly parents' meeting where they talked about the progress of their children in the areas of study, discipline and health. They have been contributing their time and learning to save some money for their children's education.
- There was regular communication between volunteers and office personnel, including meetings either at *Naya Gaun* Our Study Place or at the office.
- 8 of the 2nd batch of Skill and Business Development trainees received business starting kits. The rest are still planning where and how to start as they do not live in their own village.
- A person matching the criteria to handle some responsibility for Children Sustainable Education Literacy and Alertness Project/OSP initiative met on 12th March 2021 by the executive at *Choughare* village was invited to Console Mission's office. After that meeting *Rabina*, a teenage mother, started as a paid volunteer from 18th October (1 *Kartik* 2078). Her job is to take care of *Choughare Theeing-tole* OSP. Raju, the volunteer from the village, informed about her situation, knowing that Console Mission has been studying and finding the situation of teenage married women who stopped going to school. Similarly, Ashika, a grade 12 completed, married women was motivated to start assisting children in their study at *Shiru Danda* village and she has been doing it. (please follow the link to know about *Raju* and *Rabina* respectively at <https://consolemission.blogspot.com/2021/03/inspiring-for-education.html> and <https://fb.watch/8WbtfgmBgY/> - video link *)
- Volunteers focusing on communicable diseases shared about their work to the local health posts before they reached the targeted households, learning about the situation of the community whom they taught about hygiene and how to identify disease symptoms.
- Three students who passed the grade 10 final examination from the Console Mission's focused villages approached for educational support. They were consulted for suitable career paths and informed about the available scholarships. Similarly, there was one student whose father had to return from a Middle Eastern country affected by the Covid-19 situation. Since her parents were not paying her fees, and planning to discontinue her 3-year technical course, she approached Console Mission and got assistance. Console Mission needs specific scholarships for college students. Now, there is one student who is receiving financial support with the help of 1 individual donor.
- Time was spent planning the projects for 2022 by meeting the project-relevant individuals, institutes, and the communities of people who are going to be positively affected by the project. Already there are trainees from the communities who have started tailoring business. Therefore, Console Mission is focusing on handloom but tailoring will be continued for specific to the single women.
- Online teaching of 4 students living with Console Mission, and monitoring them in their study, physical and mental health, was continued.
- SBDP/Electricity trainee from *Bulakhi Chawor* village received the certificate of completion finding effectiveness in continuing what he had been doing before based on his few experiences.
- A past health sector volunteer shared her initiative to teach about hygiene and manage medicine for her village, which is the closest district of *Lalitpur*, called *Dhading*. Console Mission managed educational materials, soaps for demonstration and medicine.
- For the first time, a community's volunteers managed an event to inspire children for education with the title "excite children for education" at *Naya Gaun* village where the school's teacher led by the school's chief was present and shared feeling of happiness by seeing children in proper school dress and the attendance and academic performance of the children of *Naya Gaun*.
- New volunteers from *Bulakhi Chawor* and *Jhakri Danda* villages attended meetings to learn about their responsibilities to help in OSP. Console Mission is more serious to start OSP at *Jhakri Danda* the closest to *Naya Gaun* after a teenage marriage is found. Before, about 14 children used to go to *Naya Gaun* OSP for study by walking 45 minutes but rainy season and the size of the room affected that they stopped. Console Mission had been trying to find a place but lack of resources, that was not happening but now when a scholarship student *Deepika*, a grade 9 girl who was referred by her school for scholarship, attended orientation, took educational materials and gave measurements for school dress recently because she was hoping that she can continue school. But when she was supposed to pick up the dress, she hesitated and collected later than the day that was distributed because she was pregnant and though she wanted to continue school, she could not. She stopped communicating with Console Mission's staff and hesitated to meet with *Suntali*, the main volunteer of *Naya Gaun* who was supposed to find out about her situation.

Importance of Our Study Place

Console Mission identified the fundamental reason for students losing motivation for education:the educational materials and their school necessities that their parents could not provide were used as the tools to motivate them. However, it was also important to provide a place where they could study alone or with peer groups, or get help from seniors from upper classes. Besides this, "when the children in the hills could not go to school, for example

Title of this Issue: Studying Environment for Children

because a path was blocked by a landslide, OSP was a place to learn and develop their knowledge in various ways, like playing indoor games".

Characteristics of Our Study Place

(based on the first started OSP expected to be a model one)

local people start coming together, serious about the future of their children children from grade 8, 9 and 10 understand that they can play a positive role in the progressive improvement of their community children become thoughtful about their career plans: what they will do as adults and what subjects they need to focus on easily managing community activities like treating disease, and prevention of transferable diseases.



Photo 2: OSP at *Choughare* Village recently hired for a year. In March 2021 the personnel visited, the room was incomplete. Console Mission invested by financially assisting to fix the roof. And, in 2018, student of *Choughare* learning in temporary house during earthquake.

Links for pictures with information are available at: <https://consolemission.org/q1news/> | <https://consolemission.org/Q1news/>

These OSPs are located in 4 different districts; Console Mission operates directly in its local district. In each of 18 wards under the 3 rural municipalities, based on the survey, there are about 12 small villages out of a total of 216 villages. Console Mission's priority is to start OSP in each village by motivating local people. Work is planned based on the need for help with social issues. It is important to move forward quickly in starting OSP at each village because "education is unstoppable": students may get sick, but the school continues. Hence, the OSP Console Mission is focusing on creating an environment that gives the locals the sense that it is an initiative that is linked with the Law and Human Rights. The issue that OSP is addressing is the Law that people must follow but is not being enforced. Therefore, OSP is the strategy that Console Mission developed to address an issue that is culturally sensitive all over the country, due to long-established practices that are widespread in this area.

Among the 29,707 public schools of Nepal, only 8,366 have computers⁵

OSP's and the Pandemic

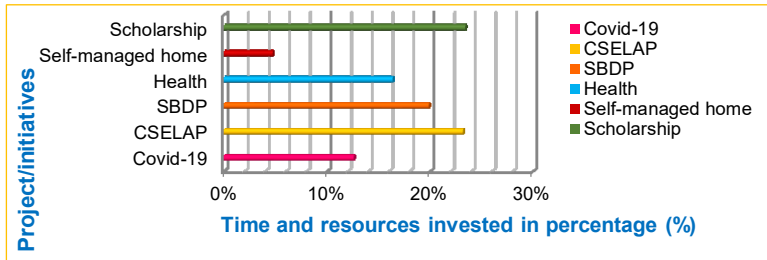
- Can we estimate how much the COVID-19 interruption is affecting learning? All schools in Nepal have been closed since 19 March 2020⁶, forcing over eight million learners to stay at home. According to researchers, the pandemic has created the largest disruption of education systems in human history, affecting nearly 1.6 billion learners in more than 200 countries.
- Closures of schools, institutions and other learning spaces have impacted more than 94% of the world's student population. This has brought far-reaching changes in all aspects of life. Social distancing and restrictive movement policies have significantly disturbed traditional educational practices. Reopening of schools after relaxation of restrictions is another challenge, with many new standard operating procedures put in place.
- According to the Education Ministry of Japan, their survey showed that changes in school and household environments have had a huge impact on children's behavior. 415⁷ children from elementary to high school age were recorded as having taken their own lives in 2021.

There was only 1 OSP running regularly. In 3 village communities it was not regular, but including 2 more in the *Lalitpur* area, 5 new OSPs were started. One more is about to start. OSPs have been the contact places for the schools when the teachers did home visits, sit for the community meetings and to keep safe from disease for the community's people. All these 5 OSPs in the rural areas of Lalitpur district were regularly monitored from the Console Mission's office. There are 5, 1 at one village in *Palpa* district and 4 at *Mahottari* district. However, it is interesting that on 29 June 2020 a person who had been following Console Mission in social sites from 2018 shared to Console Mission about the situation of education in a district called *Parsa*. As he did share, Console Mission shared the idea of OSPs. For better communication, I connected Manoj Ram to Uday Sah, one of our volunteers who participated in this initiative to assist children in their education (19-11-2020). On 14th February 2021 Console Mission received a link from Mr. Ram with a title "Peace4Dalits Foundation Nepal launches Free Tuition Classes in *Mahuwan*, *Parsa*"⁸ with the news that Peace4Dalits Foundation Nepal, Province-2, had started free tuition classes for *Dalit* Children in *Sakhuwa Prasauri* Rural Municipality ward no. 5, *Mahuwan* and *Birgunj* Metropolis ward 19, and *Bindabasini Kehuniya Dalit Basti* in *Parsa* District. There are 200 children from two Dalit Communities. Recently, Console Mission was informed that 2 more educational coaching schemes had started with a total 370 children.



Photo 3: Peace4Dalits Foundation Nepal's Founder is a teacher concerns the socially backwards of *Parsa* District, close to the *Bihar* state of India.

As an Executive focusing on social initiatives, I figured out that one important aspect that is driving Console Mission, in relation the initiative to motivate children and their parents as a whole community, is linked to what is said in Ecclesiastes 7:12 "For wisdom is a defense as money is a defense, but the excellence of knowledge is that wisdom gives life to those who have it." And in Proverbs 16:16 we can find, "How much better to get wisdom than gold! And to get understanding is to be chosen rather than silver". **Wisdom** and **understanding** are the 2 words that I found relate to the objective of OSP, an initiative that will certainly help sustain the progressive development of the Nepalese community, starting from the targeted villages.



What exactly Console Mission tells to motivate people:

- Ask those who have been in the Middle East to earn money as laborers, if they have experienced that educated people earned more and extended their working visas, but those who like them returned home after the visa ended, earned less.
- Education is very important for quality life and living
- Education helps to shape a better community, maintain peace and create hope for the future
- Education helps people not to be cheated, and to look at the positive sides of life
- It gives hope and helps people to recover from setbacks

Console Mission is hoping to develop *Naya Gaun* OSP a model

It will be much easier with your assistance

Looking Forward 2022: Psychosocial Counseling for the 54 FCHV and Teaching Skills for 36 teachers of the rural areas, Health Care Services focusing Intestinal Worms in *Manra Siswa* village of *Mahottari* district through which 2661 will received direct care and 12 will be educated; 10 single women will involve in tailoring skill and will receive business starting kits; 6 of *Bulakhi Chawor*, *Malta* and *Naya Gaun* villages will get opportunity to get training to produce handmade cloths using handloom wooden machine; Drinking Water Supply will be managed for 1 village community called *Jhakri Danda*; and continued working under CSELAP initiative.

¹ Elijah Counselling Training Center

² Network of Christian health professionals

³ National Mission Commission of Nepal

⁴ Female Community Health Volunteers

⁵ <https://tkpo.st/3erJV0Q>

⁶ http://www.internationaljournalofcaringsciences.org/docs/21_shakya_original_14_1.pdf

⁷ <https://www.businessinsider.in/latest/world/story/child-suicides-in-japan-at-record-high-during-pandemic-education-ministry-309335-2021-10-14>

⁸ <https://theraytimes.com/peace-for-dalit-foundation-nepal-launches-free-tuition-classes-in-mahuwan-parsa/>