

Quality Education for Every Child

Increasing Access to Quality Education in Nepal Through a Model Green School

*Jyotidaya Cooperative School:
Affordable Solution to Quality Education*



Proposed Design

Jyotidaya School is conceived as a national model in Nepal. When completed the school will represent:

- ✓ The power of community engagement.
- ✓ Increasing access to quality education for underprivileged children.
- ✓ Innovative and sustainable design principles.
- ✓ Holistic education.



Sarvodaya Nepal

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Sunita Bishunkhe, 11, comes from a family of *dalits* (untouchables). Her father Bir Bal Bishunkhe was a cobbler. Her mother Nirmala Bishunkhe worked as a day wage laborer. About five years back her father enlisted in the Indian army. Since then he has been out of touch, so Sunita's mother remarried, leaving her in the care of her grandmother.

At 70 years old, Sunita's grandmother can do little. Like most dalits, they have little to call their own. The Grandmother supports herself and Sunita by selling firewood and pine leaves.

Abandoned by both parents, Sunita did not do well in public school. She failed year after year.

But, now she goes to Jyotidaya School, a local community school, where she is finally making progress in her education.

Background & Problem

According to the 2001 census, less than 50% of Nepal's population is literate. One out of two children do not enroll into a secondary school. Even among those who go to a school, most do not receive quality education, especially children who live in rural communities. Nepal has two types of school systems — private schools and government-funded public schools. Private schools, mostly found in urban areas, are run as businesses and tend to be expensive. Government schools, while affordable to most people, suffer from political interventions. Highly centralized bureaucratic structures mean that teachers are not accountable to the students or the communities, and so public schools do not provide quality education. To go on to further education, after the 10th grade, every student must pass the national board examination. Public school students perform at substandard level on this exam, while private school students excel. Forty-six percent of all students passed in 2004. Of the private school students, 76% passed and 39% of public school students passed. In 1996, the completion rate was 38% for all students.

Unique Community Based Solution to Expand Quality Education in Nepal

Jyotidaya Cooperative School in Chapagaun, a village in the outskirts of Kathmandu Valley, is a model school that offers an alternative to expensive private schools and low quality public schools. Run by a group of young people, the school is the only community cooperative school in Nepal. Jyotidaya School is developed as a model nonprofit, community school where tuition is at least 40% less than comparative private schools, and 1 in 7 children, mostly orphans and children from poor families, study for free. The school offers quality education from the pre-school to the 10th grade for about 280 children. For the last four years, 100% of the students have passed the SLC examination, while the national average is only 60%. The completion rate for government school is less than 40%.

Because the school receives no government support and The teachers are underpaid has run largely on the volunteer efforts of dedicated young adults, it doesn't have adequate facilities. The classrooms are small; 280 children have fewer than 10 computers, and there is no adequate playground, no science lab or a library.

Jyotidaya school serves the poor and underprivileged families in Chapagaun area. According a household survey of Jyotidaya School students, about 63% of household have illiterate family members. Illiteracy is higher among female and older household members. The per capita income among student household is USD \$467¹, little lower than national average of USD \$568². However, the per capita income in Kathmadu valley tends be much higher than the national average. Among the household surveyed, about 60% live in less than USD \$1.25, an international metrics for extreme poverty.

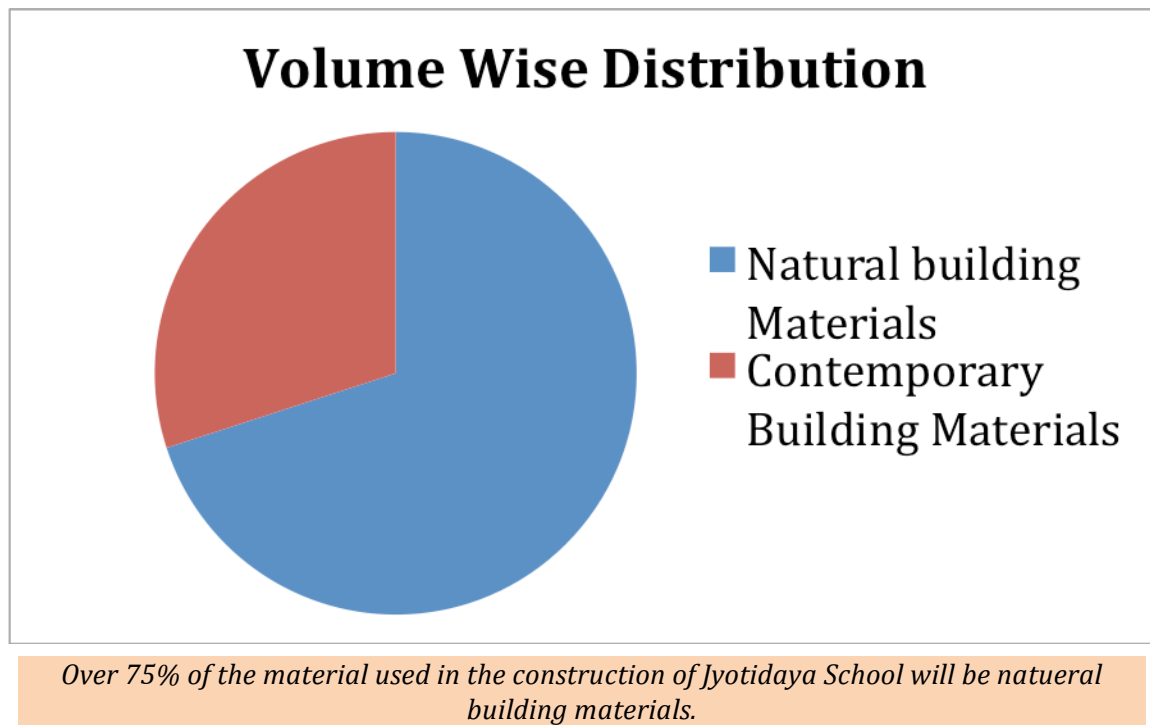
A Model Green School

Sarvodaya Nepal proposes helping school expand infrastructure to provide an adequate learning environment and extend the quality education to over 500 children in the community. The project is being developed as a national model that other rural communities in Nepal can adapt. The plan is to construct a school building using as much as of sustainable and low-cost, local materials such as adobe and bamboo. The use of sustainable resources like these is unusual and will cost at least 50 percent less than traditional concrete and

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[http://www.thehimalayantimes.com/fullNews.php?headline=Nepal's+per+capita+income+looks+to+\\$568+&NewsID=248882](http://www.thehimalayantimes.com/fullNews.php?headline=Nepal's+per+capita+income+looks+to+$568+&NewsID=248882)

mortar only building, which is used widely in private residences and school constructions throughout Nepal.



Green schools also stress improved indoor environmental quality because of its impact on student health and learning. Skylights and large windows allow daylight to stream in, reducing energy costs and improving student concentration and performance. The design of the school includes lightshelves that bounce sunlight deep into the room and provide even light distribution

Natural building material allow for comfortable indoor temperatures enhance productivity and keep students more alert. Fresher, cleaner air can be achieved with windows that open or ventilation systems that provide a constant supply of air.

The roof is designed to collect rain water in the monsoon season. An estimated 1.3 million liters of water can be collected in a year in the area. The rain water will be stored in the underground tanks and then will be distributed through the plumbing

Innovative and Interactive Local and Global Education

Nepal's education is lecture driven and promotes rote learning even in the early grades. Children are taught to memorize chapters instead of developing deep understanding of concepts and skills. Beginning in 2010, Jyotidaya School introduced interactive teaching methods in the first and second grades.

Once the school building is complete, the school we will have adequate facilities to integrate sustainable agriculture, interactive science programs, and studies on service, peace and nonviolence. A farm developed alongside the new school will provide space and opportunities for students to learn about climate change, food security and sustainable development. Through service-learning programs, children at Jyotidaya School contribute to their own community as well as in other rural communities.

In addition, the school is developing partnership with schools in the United Kingdom, France and the United States. Through the British Council's Global School partnership program, first- and second-grade students at Jyotidaya School will work with their counterparts in the United Kingdom. Initially, they will share their culture, history and society with each other. However, at higher grade levels, students will work on joint projects of global interest such as climate change, social justice, peace and globalization. Another partnership is being created with library and literacy programs in the US.

Project Beneficiaries and Expected Impact



Jyotidaya Alum Receives Presidential Recognition

Sharmila Timilsina, graduated from Jyotidaya School in 2007. Daughter of a retired policeman and a mother who works at the school for \$20 a month, Sharmila had received a free education through scholarships. She graduated at the top of her class and joined the Institute of Forestry, where she is pursuing a bachelor's degree.

In 2010, Sharmila received an award from the president of Nepal for her academic achievements. She scored the highest grades among all women studying forestry in Nepal.

The direct beneficiaries of the expansions of the school are 280 children and their parents, plus the teachers. However, once the infrastructure is completed, the school will have capacity to education 500 children in 13 grades, increasing access to quality education for additional 220 students. Chapagaun community members will benefit from quality of educational available in their own village. People throughout Nepal from the trainings provided by the Jyotidaya School on establishing community schools as well as the emphasis on sustainable building materials produced in Nepal, including adobe and bamboo, will encourage communities to use local resources. Given that government of Nepal plans to add 19,500 by 2015, these local and low-cost solutions will enable communities to build schools at faster and cheaper rates, thereby increasing access to education for thousands of children all over Nepal.

Budget

Project Cost: Estimated construction cost is: Rs.14,062,664.67 (USD \$198,065.70)³

Sarvodaya Contribution: Rs.5,000,000 (USD \$70,422.54)

Additional Funding Required: Rs.9,062,664.67 (USD \$127,643.13)

Detailed BOQ is attached.

Donor Recognition

Giving Levels

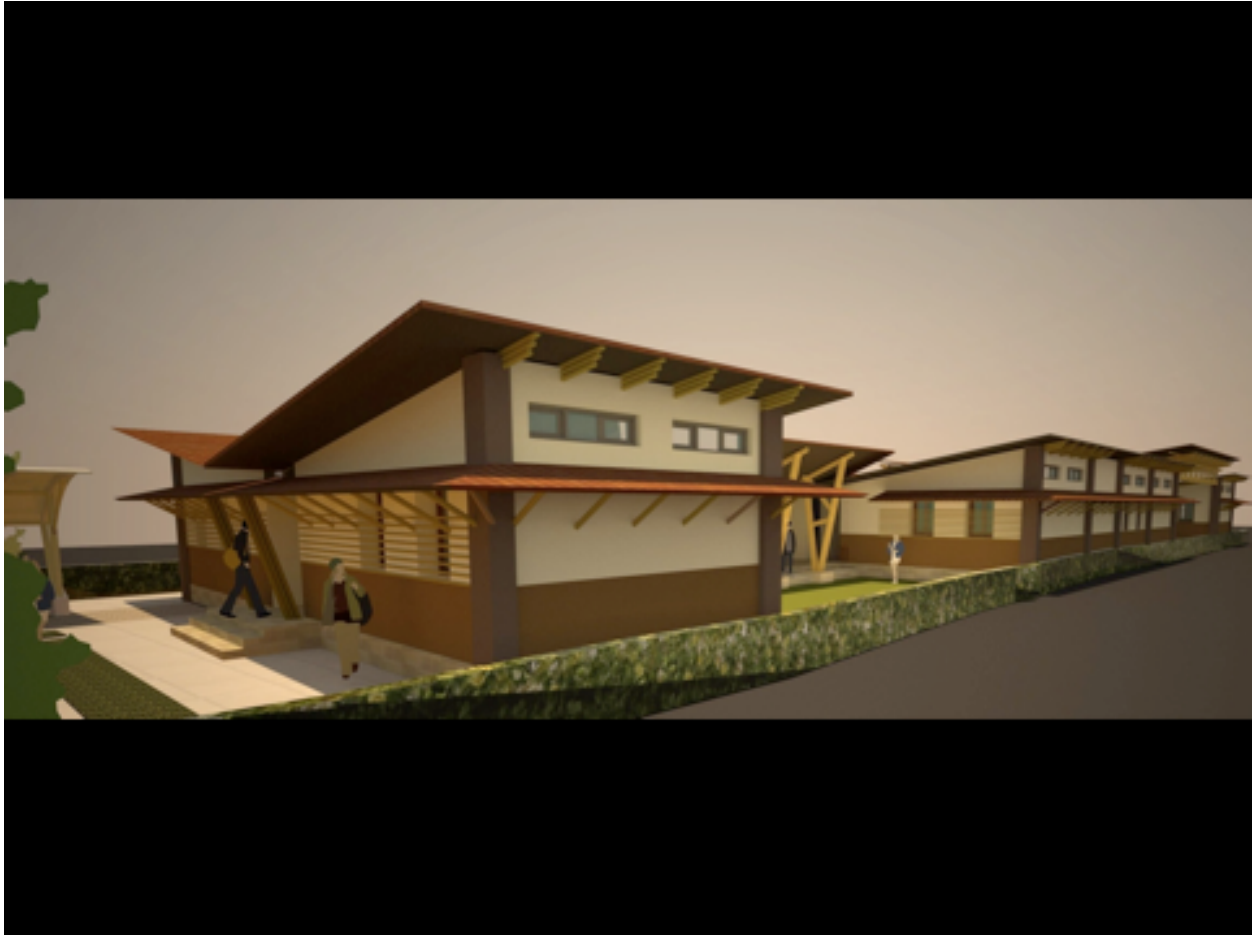
Rs.1,500,000 or more	Sages
Rs.1,000,000 or more	Visionaries
Rs. 500,000 or more	Pioneers
Rs. 250,000 or more	Pillars
Rs. 100,000 or more	Guardians
Rs. 50,000 or more	Builders
Rs. 25,000 or more	Sustainers
Rs. 24,999 or less	Friends

*Naming options available.

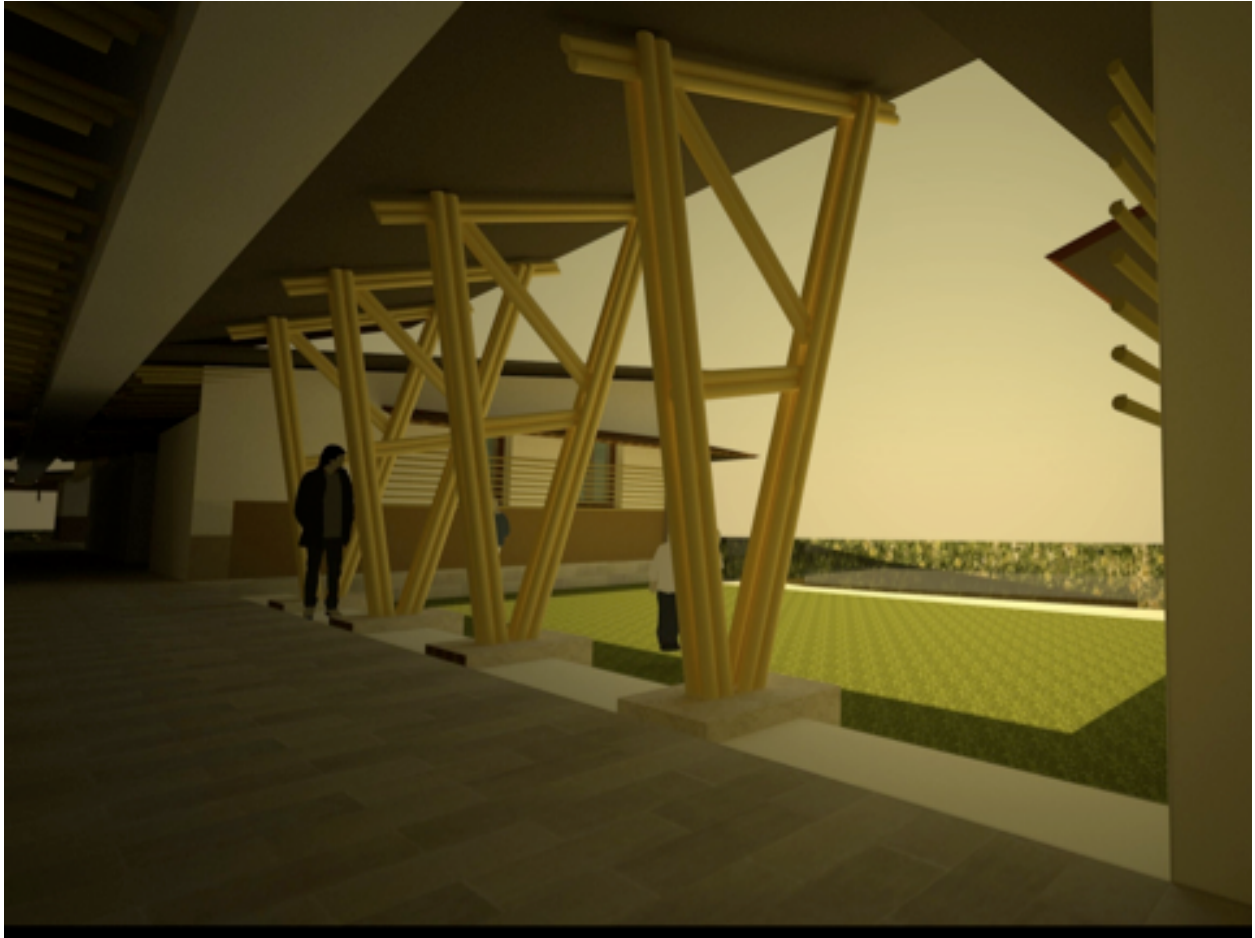
³ Calculated at USD \$1=NRS. 71

Current Project Status:

A proposed design for the building has been completed and construction began on 7 January 2011.



Proposed desian of the school usina bamboo and adobe.



This project's design includes a space for 13 classrooms as well as outdoor spaces. The school will use bamboo and adobe and will take advantage of natural lighting and air circulation. When completed, the school will be a model on the use of local materials and sustainable construction.

Construction is expected to be completed by May 2011.

About Sarvodaya Nepal

Sarvodaya Shramadana Nepal is a non-profit and non-governmental organization. Sarvodaya Nepal is inspired by Gandhian philosophy of non-violence, service and sacrifice.

Our work promotes self-help development to improve the quality of life for everyone, especially the poorest and most underprivileged people. It also seeks to influence global development policies to become more human-focused and more mindful of traditional and cultural values.

Translated from the Sanskrit, Sarvodaya means, ***“the awakening of all.”***

The Sarvodaya movement promotes self-reliance rather than dependency. It enables and empowers people to take responsibility for planning their futures. By engaging and organizing people to share voluntary communal work, the Sarvodaya approach aims toward fulfillment of individual, family, community, national and global needs.