

NCEF GYAN

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE NEPALESE CHILDREN'S EDUCATION FUND

What's Inside:

HIGHLIGHTS

Three "areas under evaluation selected"

A small gathering at the zoo

Assistance discontinued for a Nepalgunj student

NEW NCEF AREAS: A GLIMPSE OF OUR CHILDREN'S HOMES



gyan: *n.* knowledge acquired
by direct perception

Three “areas under evaluation” selected.

The executive committee approved to start Bengashivapur (in Dhanusa), Maneswara (in Sindhupalchowk) and Gamauli (in Dailekh) as “areas under evaluation.” Each of these regions will have one student this year as we get the coordinator and facilitator up to speed and prepare for a larger number of student next year. The "New Area Support Team" consisting of Gyami and Rameshwor has started its work by helping Bengashivapur.

A more detailed description of these regions are presented in page 2.

A small gathering at a zoo.

NCEF volunteer Hem Pokharel was in Kathmandu and has a chance to meet with the children from Kathmandu and Patan and their families. On July 30, he organized an event at the zoo, where students, parents and volunteers had a chance to talk to each other. He generously covered the costs of the event.

Assistance discontinued for a Nepalgunj student.

Hira, one of the NCEF sponsored students in Nepalgunj, has been discontinued because her mother took her away from Nepalgunj. Hira was staying with her grandparents after her parents went through marriage problems. While with her grandparents, she was attending school receiving financial help from the NCEF.

Now no word has been received about where Hira is. Some believe that her mother took her to Surkhet or Salyan (located in mid-western region of Nepal). However, this has not been confirmed. Her grandparent reportedly cried and said, “She (Hira’s mother) destroyed herself, now she will destroy her daughter as well. My granddaughter was getting a very good education with the help of your organization.”

Hira’s grandparents were in Nepalgunj just because of their granddaughter. And

**GETTING INVOLVED****Why?**

- To make a lasting difference in the lives of children.
- To be a part of an exciting team of interesting and dedicated volunteers.
- To put your spare time, no matter how little, to good use.

How?

- [Join](#) our announcements list!
- Help fundraise money for NCEF scholarships.
- Help with the administrative aspects of NCEF.
- Take part in discussions to ensure NCEF is increasingly effective.
- Help expand NCEF to new areas in Nepal
- Become a field volunteer in Nepal.
- Help lead NCEF by running for a position on the Board or Executive Committee.

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NCEF PAMPHLET

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New NCEF Areas: A Glimpse Of Our Children's Homes

NCEF recently added three new areas: Bengashivapur, Gamauli, and Maneswara. These areas will remain under evaluation for a year through our "New Area Identification Program.," The areas under evaluation will perform and be treated just like older areas. The only difference will be a much smaller number of students in the areas under evaluation. At the end of the year, the areas under evaluation will be evaluated using specific metrics outlined in our website (www.nepalchildren.org/http://nepalchildren.org/documents/newarea.html). Only the areas that have performed well will be approved for expansion with a larger number of students in the coming academic year.



● Bengashivapur

On August 22, 2006, the executive committee approved the start of Bengashivapur as an area under evaluation. Bengashivapur will have one student this year so that the coordinator and the facilitator can gain experience before serving a larger number of students next year. Mr. Sukan Shah and Trilok Shah will serve as the coordinators.



<http://www.ddedolakha.gov.np/images/chariket.jpg>

Located in Dhanusha district of Janakpur Zone, Bengashivapur is a semi-urban village situated approximately ten to fifteen minutes away by car from the district's headquarter Janakpur Dham.

In this mostly Maithili speaking village, approximately 95% of the people depend on agriculture and 20% live under the poverty line. In recent years, local villagers have started to work as laborers in the Middle East countries. Because of poverty, many people cannot pay for their children's education. About 20% of the children above age six do not attend school, and 70% of them are girls. Only 10% have formal education up to grade 10, and 2% have received up to intermediate level (grade 12) schooling. The children who do not go to school include those from ethnic groups that were previously recognized as "lower castes," such as Tatama, Chamar, Halkhor, Dum, and Musahar. In fact, 10% of the people in this locality are Dalits.

Although there are many private and public schools in the major city Janakpur, which is about an hour walk from Bengashivapur, there is only one public and one private school in this locality. Public school costs about US \$70 and private school costs about US \$130, depending on grade level.

● Gamauli

Gamauli is a rural village in Dailekh District of Bheri Zone in the Mid-Western Region of Nepal. The village is located west of Kathmandu and north of Nepalgunj. It generally takes three days to reach the village from Kathmandu. The journey involves an eighteen hour long bus ride, then a transfer to another bus and finally a walk that takes about three to four hours.

Because the village is located in a remote location, people live without electricity, phone service (available only after an hour-long walk), and a nearby post office. Residents of the village are mostly illiterate, as only 5% of the population have completed SLC (or 10th grade). Majority of the people fall under two ethnic groups: Chhetris and Dalits. Chhetris, considered upper class, generally own farms and Dalits work as laborers. Because of such poverty and caste discrimination, many Dalits cannot send their children to school. Instead of attending school, some Dalits' children even work at the homes of Chhetris.



<http://grela.be/images/Dulalthaidec2000ca1.jpg>

Mr. Min Bahadur Shahi will be coordinating this new region.

● Maneswara

Maneswara is located in Sindhupalchok district, a district that borders China along the North and Kathmandu along the South. This rural village is about 43 miles (70 km), equivalent to a four hour bus ride, from Kathmandu.

Like in Bengashivapur and Gamaudi, citizens of Maneswara also live in poverty and most residents are illiterate.

In fact, 60% of the population lives beneath the poverty line. Most of those who are impoverished are Dalits. The families who live under the poverty line often cannot send their children to school because school



is too expensive and extra hands are necessary to sustain the family's livelihood. Some parents from relatively wealthy family also do not send their children to school. According to one of the coordinators of this region, Mr. Ramesh Paudyal, one child (above the age of six) in every twenty households does not attend school. He reasons that the parents cannot afford the school supplies, uniforms and, most importantly, school fees required to send their children to school.

Mr. Achuyut Nepal will serve as the area coordinator of this region.

DONATION METER

\$16000

MAKING DONATIONS

□ Online:

www.nepalchildren.org/donation.html

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Make checks payable to:

Nepalese Children Education Fund or NCEF

Mailing address:

Nepalese Children's Education Fund

P.O. Box 380061

Cambridge, MA 02238-0061

Questions?

Website: www.nepalchildren.org

Email: contact@nepalchildren.org

THANK YOU!

ABOUT NCEF

NCEF is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to develop the potential of disadvantaged Nepalese children through education. Need-based scholarships are provided to deserving students who would otherwise be unable to attend school. Our social workers in Nepal meet regularly with the selected children and their parents to assist in each child's development. We dedicate our resources to each NCEF child until they complete high school (twelfth grade).

WHAT ARE CHILDREN DOING?

Sujal in Nepalgunj was very happy when teacher said, "Good job Sujal, keep up the good work!"

Sushila in Nepalgunj was proud to be able to answer the teacher's question in class.

Puja in Nepalgunj enjoyed participating in a cultural program at her school.

Manish in Nepalgunj was happy when she was able to recite a poem without looking at the book.