



Newsletter April-June 2024

Nuwakot (Betini) Education Scholarship Program

Dear Kathmandu Kids,

We are glad to share the June 2024 Newsletter with you, containing the progress and news of the **92 children** in the Nuwakot (Betini) Education Scholarship Program.



Key Highlights of this Quarter

- 90 home monitoring visits
- 33 school monitoring visits
- Distribution of scholarship materials
- Child Progress
 - Final term exam results
- Training for Adolescents
 - Life Skill Training
 - Peer Education Training
- Livelihood Development for guardians
 - Family Progress
 - Goat breeding program
 - Coop Steering Committee
 - Financial Literacy Training
 - Entrepreneurship and Saving

- Management Training
 - Skill Training
 - Cooperative Collection and Selling Centre
- Training for Parents
 - Parental Education Training
- Organizational News
 - RMPAC Meetings
- Case Stories
 - Child Progress
 - Family Progress
 - A day in the life of a sponsor child
 - A week in the life of our NGO Field Coordinator 'Kanti'

Home visits

This quarter, we organised **90 home visits**. Through the visits, we met children, guardians, other family members and neighbours where possible, and monitored the overall well-being of the children (physical and emotional). We contacted the children through **41 phone calls** that we could not meet in person.



Above: Aising with his mother

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Above: Chirring with grandmother



Above: Neema Maya during home visit



Above: Dawa Dolma and Gyalmo with father



Above: Preeti Maya with her sister



Above: Dolma during home visit



Above: Ranjita during home visit

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Above: NGO-filed officer with Tshiring



Above: Lopsang with grandmother



Above: Babin with mother



Above: Rashmi with grandfather



Above: Bijay Shyam with mother



Above: Sunit with his parents

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School visits

This quarter we conducted **33 school visits**. Through the school visits, we met sponsored children, class teachers, and school principals to monitor our sponsored children's overall performance in terms of their study, school attendance, and participation in extracurricular activities.



Above: Dupcheshwor School Visit



Above: Mahadev School visit



Above: Mangala School Visit



Above: Golfubhanjyang School Visit



Above: Visit to the Udayjalpa School

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Above: Maphle School Visit



Above: Sudikshya, Class 9, Udayjalpa SS



Above: Arjun School Visit



Above: Sarita, Class 10, Udayjalpa SS



Above: Birendra School visit



Above: Ashmita, Class 10, Mangala School

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Above: Ranjita, Class 7, Kaukeshori School



Above: Preeti Maya, Class 8, Kaukeshori School



Above: Dolma, class 10, Kaukeshwori School

Distribution of school materials

We distributed notebooks, pencils, and pens to 77 students out of 92 this quarter.



Above: Students from Mangaladevi School with educational materials



Above: Students with education materials from Mangala School



Above: Students with education materials from Maphle and Birendra SS



Above: Students with educational materials from Rukmani School



Above: Students of Udaijalpa School with education materials



Above: Students with educational materials from Kathmandu

Child Progress

Final-Term Exams Results

This quarter, the final term results were published.

Of the 92 students:

- 15 sat year 12 exams (college)
- 21 sat year 11 exams
- 26 sat year 10 exams- Secondary Education Exams (SEE)
- 30 sat Class 5-9 exams

Summary of results:

- 52 Passed
 - ✓ Distinction-1
 - ✓ 1st Div-30
 - ✓ 2nd Div-10
 - ✓ 3rd Div-11
- 35 Failed
- 5 n/a (3-year technical diploma students exams held but the result is yet to be published).

Year 12: Of 15, 9 passed (60% pass rate), all in 1st division. The 'chance exam' of the 6 who failed their first attempt at year 12 is being held from 10th-11th Sept 2024.

Year 10 (Secondary Education Exams): Of 26, 3 passed and 23 failed (12% pass rate). Of the 3 who passed, all were in 1st division. All 23 who failed are eligible to sit the 'chance exam' held from 7th-15th August 2024.

The national pass rate this year was only 47%. This includes all private schools and schools in Kathmandu where the quality of education is generally higher and much more costly as compared to our children's schools which are very remote. The national pass rate has triggered heavy criticism of the education policy, and it has been hotly debated in parliament this year.

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Year 5-9 & 11: Of the 51, **40 passed**, 6 failed and 5 n/a yet.

Top Year 12 students



Above: Ram May, 1st div (78%)



Above: Nandani, 1st div (78%)



Above: Milan, 1st div



Above: Nawaraj, 1st div



Above: Sukmaya, 1st div



Above: Sarmila, 1st div

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Above: Saroj, 1st div

Top Secondary School Exam (SEE students)



Above: Ramkrishna, 1st div (74%)



Above: Subis, 1st div



Above: Manisha, 1st div (74%)



Above: Sarmila, 1st div



Above: Shreekrishna, 1st div (70%)

Top students Class 5-11 (ex SEE)



Above: Sudip, Class 9, distinction (83%)



Above: Dipesh, Class 11, 1st div



Above: Ashmita, Class 9, 1st div (78%)



Above: Sangita, Class 11, 1st div



Above: Lakpa, Class 11, 1st div (70%)



Above: Suman, Class 11, 1st div

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Above: Sandesh, Class 11, 1st div



Above: Jit Bahadur, Class 9, 1st div



Above: Sudip, Class 9, 1st div



Above: Ram, class 9, 1st div



Above: Dolma, Class 9, 1st div



Above: Purnima, class 9, 1st div

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Above: Sudikshya, class 9, 1st div



Above: Aishing, class 7, 1st div



Above: Ajay, class 9, 1st div



Above: Dawa Dolma, class 6, 1st div



Above: Ashika, class 9, 1st div



Above: Dawa Dolma, class 6, 1st div

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Above: Dawa Gyalmu, class 5, 1st div

Training for adolescents
Life Skill Training for Youth

We organised "life skill" training for adolescent's girls and boys (class 9-10) that provides education on problem-solving skills, communication skills, interpersonal skills and the self-realization process.

32 youth (18 girls and 14 boys) participated in this training from the Betini program.



Above: Life Skill Training

Peer Education Training for Youth

We organised 'Peer Education' training for adolescent girls and boys (class 9-10) that provided education on sexual and gender-based violence, reproductive health

and contraceptive measures, skills for peer support etc.

19 youth (8 girls and 11 boys) participated from the Betini program. This training was organized with funding of office of the Dupcheshwor Rural Municipality as part of government collaboration with our project and its activities.



Above: Peer Education Training

Livelihood Development

Family Progress

This quarter, *Dupcheshwor Krishi Saharkari* (the cooperative formed by our parents) issued loans totalling NPR 4.1K to 10 parents (4 Women, 6 Men) for; **6 for buffalos, 3 for goats and 1 for small grocery stores.**

Most other guardians continued to work to improve their livelihood with the loan they had previously received from the cooperative.

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Above: Sapana (sponsored child) with her poultry



Above: Father of Nandani



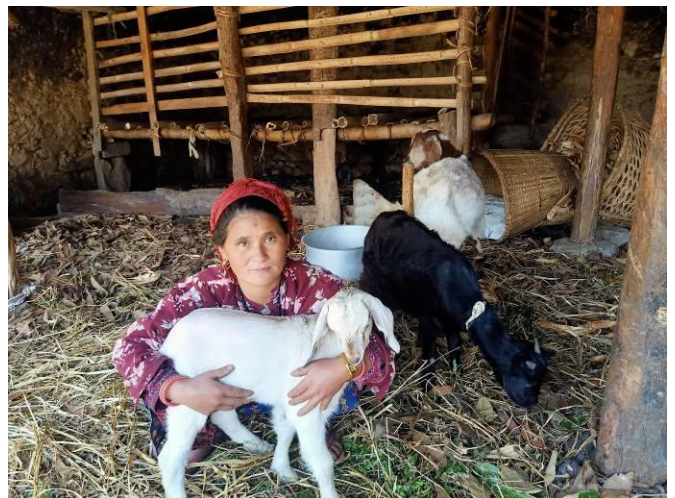
Above: Mother of Bipana with her goats



Above: Nandani with her buffalo



Above: Grandmother of Dawa Dolma



Above: Mother of Ranmaya with goats

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Above: Mother of Babin with goats



Above: Bijayshyam (Sponsored child) with buffalos



Above: Mother of Laxmi with goats



Above: Mother of Sarita



Above: Mother of Sandesh with buffalos



Above: Mother of Suman



Above: Aunt of Sujan

Goat breeding & handover program

SCAI has been running a goat breeding programme since 2017. Initially, 18 families from the education scholarship programme attended 3-day goat rearing training. Then each participant received two pregnant, vaccinated, insured female goats. When the first two female goats were born from these, they were passed on to another family, and the cycle has continued since.

There are now **76 households** that **received 2 goats** from the original 18 households. **91 goats have been passed on** to other families so far. There are now **almost 66 pregnant goats**.



Above: Recent goat handover

Cooperative Monthly Meetings

Coop members attended their meetings in subgroups (similar to their earlier savings groups) monthly and deposited their savings regularly this quarter.



Above: Cooperative Meeting, Golfu



Above: Cooperative Meeting, Jimnang



Above: Cooperative Meeting, Sangini

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Above: Cooperative Meeting, Kalyan



Above: Cooperative Meeting, Kaukeshori

Coop Executive Committee Meeting

Members of the coope executive committee met monthly and discussed their plans for the next month. They discussed conducting the annual audit and also having annual general assembly meeting.



Above: Coop Steering Committee Meeting

Financial Literacy (Cooperative Management) Training for Parents

We conducted financial literacy training this quarter. Cooperative board members, subcommittee members and staff attended this training. A total of **12 members (6 men, 6 women) participated** from the Betini program.

Training focused on formulating effective business plans for the cooperative itself and for its associated members, effective collection of savings, and mobilisation of loans for the promotion of the livelihood of cooperative members.



Above: Financial literacy training

Entrepreneurship and Saving Management Training

We also conducted "Entrepreneurship and Saving Management" training this quarter. The members of the cooperative executive working committee, subcommittee members, and staff participated in the training. A total of 24 (15 Men, 9 Women) participants attended, out of whom **10 (4 Men, 6 women) were from Betini.**

The training focused on developing entrepreneurial skills among the cooperative staff and saving management for the cooperative.

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Above: Entrepreneurship and Saving Management Training

Skill Development Training

The training provided further information to guardians about how to improve their vegetable farming. A total of **21 (12 Men, 9 Women)** guardians/parents attended the training from Betini program.



Above and below: Glimpses of Training



Cooperative Collection and Selling Centre

Dupcheshwor Mahadev Krishi Sahakari (the coop formed by project) established a "Cooperative Collection and Selling Center" at Ramati, Dupcheshwor this quarter. The plan is to collect the products of coop members at the centre and sell them to markets through this centre, providing a link between our farmers and the market. 1 staff is recruited on the percentage basis of profit in this center.



Above: Collection and Selling Center

Training for Parents Parental Education Training

Our objective is to help the parents of our sponsored children develop positive parenting skills so that they can take proper care and provide appropriate guidance to their children.

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23 guardians (12 men and 11 women) participated in this training from the Betini program. This training was organised with funding from **the Dupcheshwor Rural Municipality office** as part of government collaboration with our project and its activities.



Above: Parental Education Training

Organizational News

RMPAC Meetings

The Rural Municipality Project Advisory Committee (RMPAC) meeting was organized this quarter. This meeting is organized on an annual basis in the presence of the Rural Municipalities' Chairs/Deputy Chairs of the project areas where SCAI has been working.

We presented project updates for the year along with the issue and challenges we faced during implementation for their feedback and the necessary support and collaboration. Government officials from working Rural Municipalities appreciated our work and intervention and committed to working collaboratively for the improvement of the betterment of project as usual.



Above: Some of the key member of RMPAC

Case studies

Child Progress



Suman Tamang has 3 younger brothers, a father and a stepmother, making a total of 6 members in the family. He lost his mother when he was 21 months old, and his father remarried. His father did not have much land of his own, nor a stable means of income other than his earnings from daily wages as farm labourer. Due to this difficult condition, Suman's father was not able to afford essential school materials for him. He was about to drop out of school when he was in class 5.

SCAI Australia then enrolled Suman in the program and provided support for his education and empowered his stepmother and father with various training opportunities.

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Suman passed the very tough Secondary Education Exams exam in 1st division and has recently passed year 11. He also recently obtained a light vehicle driving license and is now in year 12 studying to become a teacher in the future.

Family Progress

Srimaya Tamang is 34 years old and has a family of 6 members; 1 daughter, 1 son, 1 daughter-in-law, 1 granddaughter and her husband. They do not have enough land of their own, so she and her husband worked as agricultural labourers on others land. Due to their poor situation, their daughter Bipana was selected as a scholarship student in 2018.



She took a loan from her savings group amounting to 20,000 NPR, which she invested in buying 3 goats in 2021. She also sold 5 goats and earned NPR 53,000. She repaid loans from the earnings and also bought 1 calf buffalo. Now she has 7 goats and 1 calf buffalo and she is planning to further expand this.



A Day in the Life of Dolma Tamang

Dolma Tamang is now 16 years old and lives in Jimnang village in Dupcheswar Rural Municipality. She is studying in class 10 at Rukmani Secondary School. She has six members in the family; mother, younger brother, younger sister, elder brother, sister-in-law, and herself. Her father passed away when she was 5 years old.

Under the program, Srimaya joined a saving group formed by the project and began saving an amount of 100 NPR / month.

Srimaya had the opportunity to take part in various trainings such as vegetable farming, poultry farming, goat farming, and buffalo rearing, which were instrumental in inspiring her to launch her own business.



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Every day she walks 2.5 hours one way to school. She also needs to support her family with household work, as they are involved in agriculture, so **she wakes up at 5 am every morning.** She then cleans the house with the broom, takes time for personal cleanliness and then **leaves home at 5.30am to collect grass** for her livestock which takes around 1 hour. She then eats breakfast and helps her mother with washing the dishes then **leaves home at 7.30am for school.**

She attends school from 10 am to 4 pm. She **reaches home at 6.30pm crossing a dense forest and waterfall and a few rivers** across the hill. She eats dinner at 7pm and starts her homework at 7.30 after helping her mother to wash the dishes. **She studies and does her homework until 10pm.**

However, she says she gets so tired after her huge 5-hour daily walk and early morning and daily routine, that sometimes she struggles to stay awake until 10pm to finish her study.

Despite all these difficulties, Dolma is regular in school and committed to accomplishing her studies. She aims to become a business woman in the future.

A week in the life of our NGO Field Coordinator Kanti Tamang

Kanti Tamang is one of our sponsored children who completed 12th grade in 2021. Now she is studying the **second year of Bachelor of Management.** Due to her diligence, positive attitude and local knowledge, she was employed as a "Field Coordinator" with our NGO partner RUDEC Nepal on the SCAI sponsored education scholarship program from which she herself graduated a few years ago.



She is **responsible for monitoring the 92 sponsored children and 10 schools** of the Betini program. She visits all 10 schools in a month and visits all 92 children at least three times in an academic year, more for particularly high-risk cases.

All 92 children reside in different villages throughout the Betini program. Except for Golfu Secondary School, Birendra School and Arjun Basic School, the rest of the schools are very far from her house and far apart, and therefore, she usually makes a week-long trip for school and home visits to meet and help the sponsored children under the program, that is **she walks for 4-6 days in any given weeks and returns home for only 1-2 days per week.**

The nearest school from her home is Arjun Basic School, which takes about 2.5 to walk there. Nearly all the schools and homes she visits require traversing a lot of steep hills and navigating often narrow isolated pathways, that could only be navigated by a local.

A sample day in the life of Kanti:

On Sunday 17 June, she left home after having breakfast at 7.30am, **walked 2.5 hours** and reached Arjun School at 10 am. She spent 2 hours there with teachers and

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sponsored children. She met teachers and asked about the educational performance, feedback on the children and checked attendance.

She then ate a light lunch (beaten rice and banana), then at 12.30pm **walked another 2 hours to home visit of two children.** She spent 1 hour at two children's homes to interact with their family/guardian. She then **walked another 3 hours to reach Samundratar crossing rivers, forests and hilly paths,** to stay the night with her sister.

On Monday 18th June, she **left her sister's room at 6.30am** to reach a far-away school, Mangala Secondary School. It took her **3 hours to walk** there. She reached Mangala Secondary School at 9.30 and took brunch in the canteen there. Then she met sponsored children and schoolteachers until 1 pm.

Then she visited the homes of sponsored children; Sudip, Mahesh and Binita until 5 pm. All three children reside in different locations so **it took her 4 hours including walking and interaction at the home of these 3 children.** She spent the night at Binita Tamang's home.

On Tuesday 19th June, she moved onto various other home visits of Sanchita, Sudip, Anita and Sapana, several hours walk away, then spent the night at Sapana's home, one of the students she visited.

On Wednesday the 20th June, she visited the homes of Sangita, Sudishya, Manisha and Sujana at the local village from 7am to 1pm and left at 1.30pm after having lunch there at a local homestay. She reached Milan's Udayajalpa School at 5pm **after walking for 3.5 hours.**

On Thursday 21st June, she visited the homes of Rajita, Pramila, Binod, Ashika and Sabita of Udayajalpa School at Thaprek village. She reached Samundratar in her sister's room at 6 pm after a **3-hour walk.**

On Friday 22nd June, she made home visits to Suman, Sandesh, Shre Krishna, and Sonam at Samundratar of Rukmani Secondary School. Then she left Samundratar at 1pm and **reached her home at 5.30pm, which took her 4.5 hours walk.**

The whole way, Kanti carries her backpack with her essentials for the week. This is a typical week for Kanti and our other field coordinators. Without their incredible commitment to the children in our program, it is **highly likely that many of them would have dropped out** from school at an early age and have very limited futures.

We also want to thank you, Kathmandu Kids very much for your generous support and long term commitment, and for enabling the students of the "Betini Education Scholarship Program" to continue their studies and pursue their future goals.

**Emma (CEO) and the SCAI Nepal team
SCAI Australia/Nepal**