



Newsletter January-March 2021

Nuwakot (Betini) Education Scholarship Program

Dear Kathmandu Kids,

Welcome to our first quarterly newsletter of 2021, featuring news of some of the **163 children** in the Betini Education Scholarship Program.



After a somewhat challenging year full of ups and downs in 2020, we are delighted that 2021 has started off smoothly and progress is being made gradually.

With the development of Covid-19 vaccines, people returned to study in November, to work and travel, and with the vaccine now being rolled out, people are more and more optimistic by the week.

THANK YOU for your support throughout 2020 and for your ongoing support, which enables our committed team to continue our important work of bringing equal access to education to hundreds of children, empowering families and ensuring children are protected and nurtured.

Key highlights of this quarter:

- Home monitoring visits of 38 children
- 16 school visits in each months
- Distribution of scholarship materials
- Career Counselling Training to graduate youth
- Savings groups, skill and small business training
- Key Child and Family progress
- Capacity Building Training to staff
- Field staff receive Covid-19 vaccine

Home visits

This quarter our team conducted home visits to **38 children** and undertook **48 school visits**.

Our team aim to visit all of the children in their schools every month and their homes every quarter (more for highest risk cases), to help provide them guidance and support, encourage their regular attendance at school and commitment to the schoolwork and home life. Coming from challenging backgrounds, the children often face additional challenges than the other students, so this regular monitoring and support to them and their families is important to help ensure their basic physiological and emotional needs are met.

Our team also takes the opportunity to reorient children and their families about the prevention measures and safety from the Covid-19 virus and issues impacting youth in the community like child marriage.



Above: Jay, Shiva and Shankar with their mother

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Above: Home visit and counselling of Kamala Tamang



Above: Purnimaya with her father during home visit



Above: Ram with his mother



Above: Home visit of Aruna BK

School visits

The schools recommenced fully from November 2020 almost after 8 months closed. It was an exciting moment for the children to be back at school with their friends and teachers.

Students sat their **1st term exams in mid-March**. The school year has been extended from March to June, so final term exams will be held in June 2021.



Above: Sundaradevi School visit

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Above: Arjun School visit



Above and below: Glimpses of scholarship materials distribution



Above: Meeting 10th grade students of Golphubhanjyang School



Above: Rukmeni School visit

School material distribution

This quarter we provided the sponsored students school copies (notebooks), stationeries, bag, shirt, sweater, shoes, stockings, socks and hygienic kits.



Above and below: Glimpses of scholarship materials distribution

Child Progress

Great Year 12 results

Both year 12 students passed their final board exam in January 2021.
Congratulations to both! Now both of these youth are planning their next steps on their path to independence.



Above: Suman Tamang (B+ Grade)



Above: Ranjita Tamang (B Grade)

Career Counselling Training for Youth

To help the graduate youth decide which career path to follow, we organized 2-day Career Counselling Training, where they learned about different fields of work including:

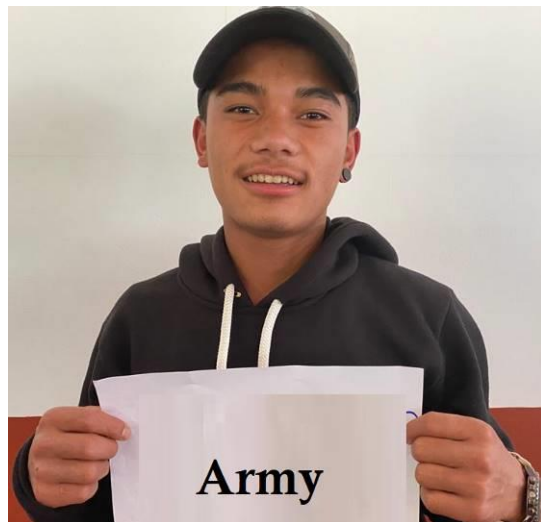
- Recruitment in public service commission, private sectors
- I/NGO sectors
- IT sector
- Engineering sector
- Medical, CTEVT and allied sciences course
- Finance and share market
- Agriculture and livestock
- Small Business
- Counselling

Total **40+ youth** from our 3 different partner NGOs participated in this valuable training.



Above and below: Some of the graduates with their future ambitions

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Above and below: Photos from the training



Livelihood Development Program

This quarter our team facilitated **30 saving group meetings across the 10 savings groups**, benefiting **135 guardians** of the children in the scholarship program and **1 small business training**.

Saving Group meetings and Small Business Training (SIYB)

Our team joined all **30 meetings** to ensure the group are recording their savings and details of loans properly and running the groups in accordance with their rules, as well as monitor the progress of the families who have taken loans.

After piloting the trainings in a few areas, we have finally been able to **roll out the trainings to all families**, after having to postpone the roll-out due to Covid last year. By teaching them **small business skills, followed by skill training** most relevant for them, the families can then take larger loans from the savings groups revolving funds to **expand or diversify their small businesses, for long term sustainability**.

The 2-day training was very practical and hands on and proved highly beneficial for the families.



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Above: Monthly meeting of Kalyan Savings Group



Above: Monthly meeting of Kaukeshwori Savings Group



Above and below: Monthly meeting of Sangini Savings Group



Above: Monthly meeting of Uday Jalpa Savings Group (Bhumesthan)



Above: Monthly meeting of Jimnang Savings Group

Vegetable and Livestock Farming Training

Vegetable and livestock farming training continues to be one of the most lucrative as well as safe options for small business in our project areas and builds on families existing knowledge and skills. The team organized these trainings after collecting business plans, following previous small business trainings. The series of **livelihood interventions is helping several families towards a more stable and sustainable future.**



Above and below: SIYB Training

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Above: Vegetable Farming Training



Above: Livestock Farming Training

Key Family Progress

This quarter **18 more families** took loans from their local savings group to improve their livelihoods.

Most of the family members that took loans bought livestock like goats, buffaloes, chickens and pigs. Some have also started vegetable farming.



Above: Ramamaya Tamang's mother started Goat rearing

Psychosocial Counselling Training

As part of our ongoing plan to build the capacity of our SCAI and NGO teams, we organized 2 day Psychosocial Counselling Training this quarter as part of an annual refresher, one in Nuwakot and one in Kathmandu. Staff and key Board members from our 3 NGO partners and our SCAI Nepal staff attended the training.



Above and below: Some of the glimpses of the capacity building trainings

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Social Audit

The annual social audit was also successfully conducted with our teams presenting the financial and activity reports in the presence of the Deputy Mayor of Dupcheshwor rural municipality, program beneficiaries including students and their guardians and school teachers.



Above and below: Some of the glimpses of the social audit



Government review meeting

As part of our project agreement compliance, we held our rural municipality level project advisory committee meeting in presence of the District Coordination Committee, Nuwakot Chair and Deputy Mayors of our two working areas of Shivapuri and Dupcheshwor Rural Municipalities. Our SCAI and NGO teams presented the recent activities and progress and received very positive feedback.



Above: Mansingh, SCAI Program Officer moderating the meeting

Field team receive Covid-19 vaccine!

With positive cases continuing to rise in Nepal and far fewer social distancing measures being implemented by the government, we are thrilled that our field team had the opportunity to be vaccinated against the Covid-19 virus.



Above: Our field team immunized with the first dose of COVID19 vaccine

We would like to express our appreciation once again for your ongoing support which makes our important work possible. Together we continue to help bring positive change to many lives.

Emma, Raj and Mansingh
SCAI Australia/Nepal