

Betini Education Scholarship & Livelihood Program

Annual Impact Report 2024–25

Kathmandu Kids – Year 2 of 3



Program Overview

The **Betini Education Scholarship & Livelihood Program** supports children and families in one of Nuwakot's most remote hill communities, where illness, crop failure or disasters can quickly push households into crisis. Education is often the first thing to be sacrificed, and children may face pressure to leave school for labour, migrate or enter early marriage.

In 2024–25, your support enabled **77 children** to stay in school and **70 families** to strengthen their livelihoods. Through a combination of education scholarships, regular home and school monitoring, skill development, parental training, and small livelihood loans, families continued to gain the tools and confidence they needed to support their children's education and plan for a more secure future.

Since the program began in 2018–19, it has helped children remain safely with their families, avoid early dropout and progress steadily toward completing secondary education. **Thanks to Kathmandu Kids**, children who were once at high risk of dropping out of school, early marriage or migration are now moving toward safer, more hopeful pathways.

In 2024-25, scholarships covered **admission fees, monthly tuition, notebooks**, and **rent support** for students living away from home to attend college. Families are now covering uniforms, additional stationery, exam fees and personal items — a major step toward long-term independence as the program transitions toward exit at the end of Year 3.

Education Outcomes

All students (100%) stayed in school or college again this year — the second consecutive year with no dropouts since Kathmandu Kids began supporting the program under this 3-year Project Agreement. This continuity is a strong indicator of the impact of your support.

School students (up to class 9)

Academic progress remained comparatively strong:

- **10 of 14 (71%)** passed final examinations; 3 in 1st Division and 4 in 2nd Division
- Students engaged well at school, supported by regular home and school check-ins

SEE Students (Class 10)

Results consistent with results across Nepal:

- **31 students** sat the SEE exam
- **13 passed**; 10 in 1st and 3 in 2nd Division
- **100% of SEE graduates** continued to college; 4 in Education, 7 in Management, 1 in 3-year Diploma in Pharmacy and 1 tbc.
- 18 remain engaged and will re-sit their exams in March 2026

College & Diploma Students

- All college and diploma students continued in their respective courses
- **20 more students graduated from Year 12** - all in Education stream; 16 in 1st Division, 4 in 2nd Division
- **The 7 students pursuing a 3-year Diploma continued:** 5 in Agriculture (Plant Science), 2 in Agriculture (Animal Science)

This transition from secondary school to college represents a major shift for Betini families who previously had limited access to higher education. With sustained support, students are not only staying enrolled but progressing into higher levels of study that were once out of reach. Technical diploma programs in particular equip youth with practical skills that significantly improve their chances of securing stable employment within Nepal, reducing the need to migrate for low-paid or unsafe labour abroad and contributing to a stronger local workforce.



Child Protection & Youth Development

Regular home and school visits (325 and 118 respectively) helped staff maintain frequent contact with children and guardians, identify emerging issues early, and provide guidance and support throughout the year.

Protection Outcomes 2024–25

- **0 cases** of forced or arranged child marriage
- **0 cases** of child labour
- **0 students** withdrawn from school
- **0 cases** of youth elopement among scholarship students
- **0 cases** of trafficking or unnecessary separation from family
- Guardians showed strong commitment to keeping their children in school

These results show how essential consistent follow-up and ongoing family support are to safeguarding children's futures in rural Nepal and ensuring that education is prioritised even when families face pressure and shocks.



Skills Development & Youth Empowerment

- **17 adolescents** (10 girls, 7 boys) strengthened communication, decision-making and self-confidence in **Life-Skills training**
- **15 youth** (6 girls, 9 boys) built leadership and peer-support abilities through **Peer Education training**
- **25 youth** (15 girls, 10 boys) participated in **career counselling** and developed clearer study or career plans
- **24 parents** (16 women, 8 men) completed **Parental Education** sessions, enhancing their ability to support adolescents at home

These inputs help young people navigate peer pressure and important life decisions and help parents support them through adolescence in constructive ways.

Importantly, **the Life Skills, Peer Education and Parental Education training programs were funded by Dupcheshwor Rural Municipality**, demonstrating strong local government partnership, ownership and belief in the impact of this program.



Family Resilience

Although Kathmandu Kids support focuses on education, the program also supports guardians to participate in SCAI’s wider livelihood and cooperative initiatives, which help stabilise income and reduce dependency on scholarships.

In 2024–25:

- **70 guardians** (40 women, 30 men) participated in savings and cooperative groups
- **100% of families further built knowledge and skills** from ongoing mentoring and refresher skill trainings
- **100% of those families expanded** their small business developed under the program
- **100% of those showed stronger financial capacity** and commitment to funding their children’s ongoing schooling.
- **100%** of guardians independently covered **uniforms, hygiene items and small school expenses** for all the children in our program
- 100% of the families in the cooperative and saving groups continued to build their savings

Table 1 Average annual income

| Average increase in household income: | 2023/24 | | | 2024/25 | | |
|---------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| | Male | Female | Total | Male | Female | Total |
| NPR 320-420000 | 3 | 2 | 5 | 2 | 3 | 5 |
| NPR 220-320,000 | 4 | 4 | 8 | 4 | 9 | 13 |
| NPR 120-below 220,000 | 1 | 4 | 5 | 20 | 16 | 36 |
| NPR 80-below 120,000 | 10 | 7 | 17 | 3 | 12 | 15 |
| NPR 40-below 80,000 | 12 | 23 | 35 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Total | 30 | 40 | 70 | 30 | 40 | 70 |

These improvements are critical for the program’s **planned exit at the end of Year 3**, ensuring families are positioned to fully fund their children’s basic needs and ongoing education and are better able to withstand future crises.



Stories of Change

Bharati - Choosing Education Over Early Marriage



Bharati Tamang, now 20, comes from a family of seven who relied entirely on traditional farming. With little income and a father who drank heavily and did not support the family, her mother struggled alone to cover basic needs and school costs. Two of Bharati's older siblings had already dropped out, and her father insisted she should marry early — leaving her fearful she would lose her chance to study.

In 2018, Bharati was selected for SCAI's education scholarship programme, enabling her to stay in school. She passed her SEE and recently completed Year 12 in Education in First Division.

Bharati says, **"If SCAI and Kathmandu Kids had not supported my education, I might have been married early like my sisters, and I may not have been able to study. Thank you so much for the support."**

Sapana - Growing a Stronger Future

Sapana Tamang, now 21, comes from a large family of nine. Her parents relied on traditional farming, and her father's spinal health issues meant he could work only occasionally as a labourer. With little income, her mother struggled to cover school costs, and two of Sapana's older siblings had already dropped out. Sapana feared she would be next.

SCAI Australia began sponsoring her education in 2018. With this support, she passed her SEE in Second Division and is now studying Technical Education in Agriculture (Plant Science). She hopes to become an **Agriculture Technician**.

Sapana says, **"The organisation has played a big role in bringing change and improvement in my life, so I want to thank SCAI from the bottom of my heart."**



Laxmi - Keeping Her Dream of Teaching Alive



Laxmi Tamang, now 17, lost her father at age five, leaving her mother to raise five children alone. With no steady income and only small-scale farming to rely on, her elder brothers had to drop out of school, and her mother feared Laxmi would face the same fate.

Laxmi was selected for SCAI's education scholarship programme in 2018, allowing her to stay in school. She recently passed her SEE in First Division and is now in Class 12, studying Education. She hopes to become a teacher.

Laxmi says, "I am very thankful to SCAI for supporting my studies. Without this help, I might not have been able to continue my education. Thank you for giving me hope for my future."

These pathways reflect a major shift for students from Gaunkharka, where completion of secondary education was out of reach for many and where the children and youth's dreams and aspirations were limited.

Dil Kumari - Building Stability After Tragedy



Dil Kumari, 48, is a hardworking mother of four who struggled to support her family through traditional farming and occasional labour work. After her **husband tragically died in a stone-crushing accident**, life became even harder, and she worried constantly about providing for her children and keeping them in school.

Her children received educational scholarships from SCAI Australia, and Dil Kumari was able to join several livelihood trainings, including Start and Improve Your Business, vegetable farming, poultry, goat farming, and buffalo rearing. Motivated to build a better future, she took a NPR 5,000 loan from the project's cooperative to buy two mother goats. A year later, she sold their offspring for NPR 25,000 and used the profit to buy a buffalo calf. **Today, she earns around NPR 100,000** a year from goat and buffalo farming and now owns eight goats and two buffaloes. With her growing income and confidence, Dil Kumari has created stability for her family and ensured her children can continue their education and pursue their dreams.

How Kathmandu Kids Funding Was Used (2024–25)

Funding was used efficiently and effectively across the program's core components:

- **School & College Fees** - admission and tuition for college/diploma
- **Education Materials** - notebooks for school level
- **Rent Support** for college students studying away from home due to vast distance
- **Home & School Monitoring**, guidance and counselling
- **Livelihood development** – formal and informal refresher skills trainings
- **Program and Financial Management**

Guardians covered other fees, uniforms, hygiene items and additional stationery. This cost-sharing reflects growing family capacity and is central to a sustainable exit.

Kathmandu Kids has generously provided the following funding under the current 3-year project agreement:

FY23/24 (year 1): \$45,968

FY24/25 (year 2): \$57,774

FY25/26 (year 3): tbc

A detailed breakdown will be provided at the end of FY25/26 unless otherwise requested.

Looking Ahead – Year 3 and Planned Exit

As the program enters its final year of this 3-year project period, priorities include:

- Ensuring all students complete their current grade or year
- Supporting SEE and Year 12 students effectively
- Continuing to transition school-related costs to families
- Maintaining regular monitoring to prevent dropout due to sudden shocks
- Helping older youth transition into further study, vocational training or safe employment

By the end of Year 3, most families are expected to independently cover their children's basic needs and education costs.

Thank You

On behalf of the children and families of Betini, and the SCAI Nepal and Australia teams, we would like to **thank you** sincerely for your continued partnership.

Your support is keeping children in school, strengthening families and creating lasting change in one of Nepal's most remote communities.

We are happy to provide additional information on outcomes, finances or student progress at any time.

Sunrise Children's Association Inc. (SCAI)

