



HELAMBU EDUCATION AND LIVELIHOOD PARTNERSHIP (HELP)

Enabling children to explore and grow!

SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMME 2016 REPORT



INTRODUCTION TO SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMME

Since 2010, Helambu Education and Livelihood Partnership (HELP) scholarship has been supporting deserving, needy students who pass SLC from government schools located at remote villages in Helambu region of Sindhupalchok district to continue their certificate level equivalent education (10+2 or diploma in technical education). In its first year, the programme supported 13 students from two schools in Helambu VDC i.e. Shree Melamchigaon Secondary school, Melamchigaon and Shree Golmadevi Secondary school, Timbu. HELP started the programme with financial support from MondoChallenge Foundation and contribution from many other institutions and individuals, including our past volunteers.

WHY SCHOLARSHIP

Education in government school is “free” up to grade 10 but after the School Leaving Certificate (SLC) examination the fee for higher education becomes increasingly expensive. Even as some of the local schools are upgrading themselves to higher education, courses they offer are limited to very few streams and hence most of the students have to move to Kathmandu for their further study after SLC, also called an “Iron Gate”.

Many brilliant students with bright prospects are forced to drop out after SLC owing to their poor financial background. With further study out of their reach many students land up in Arab countries and India for labor work, jeopardising their lives and careers.

Our scholarship programme covers tuition fee and stationary expense to a large extent. Many of the scholarship recipients are eager to go back to their village and work there after completing their higher education.

HOW DOES SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMME WORK

We send out scholarship forms to partner schools in Sindhupalchok district through different means and also inform as many students as possible before the SLC results are published. The forms sent are in Nepali with important questions also mentioned in English. Students who are eligible for higher studies apply by filling the form and writing essays on two topics mentioned in the form and send us their application with other relevant documents such as SLC grade sheet and recommendation from the school.

After collecting the forms from the schools and students, we review their essays and grade sheet based on which we shortlist the candidates for the interview. The shortlisted candidates are called for an interview which is conducted either in Kathmandu or locally in towns like Melamchipul Bazar depending on where students are comfortable. We then select the students that are awarded the scholarship based on their performance in interview as well as the previously submitted essays and grades.

SCHOLARSHIP 2016

APPLICATION PROCESS

We distributed the application forms among various schools via different means as soon as the SLC results were out so that as many students as possible could apply for the scholarship. Around 250 students from 34 schools applied for the scholarship. The number of applicants from a single school varied from 30- Indreswori HSS to just 1 from few of our partner schools.

The application form included the following:

- Application form in Nepali, to be filled either in Nepali or in English.
- Two essay questions- one about what the students want to study and their motivation behind that; the other essay about what makes them eligible for the scholarship which could be written either in Nepali or in English
- Recommendation from teacher and school.
- Computer printed grade sheet

SHORT LISTING

After collection of the application forms, our team reviewed each application form based on their grade sheet and essay which were marked. Based on those marks, around 115 students were shortlisted and called for the interview either in Melamchi or at HELP office in Kathmandu, based on their convenience.



INTERVIEWS

We prepared a list of general questions in alignment with the essay questions. The questions were designed to learn about their needs and to map their motivation to study further. The interview team comprised of HELP staff and other individuals working in the education sector.



DECISION

After rigorous application screening process, short listing, one-on-one interview of the candidates and verification of information provided from various reliable sources, we announced the decision on 25th July, 2016. In awarding the scholarship the key determining factors were-- the financial condition of the candidates, academic track record, their future potential and the overall character expressed through essay and interview.

Other factors which played part in selection were the gender and ethnicity balance, school representation, geographical composition which were considered to make the scholarship program more inclusive.

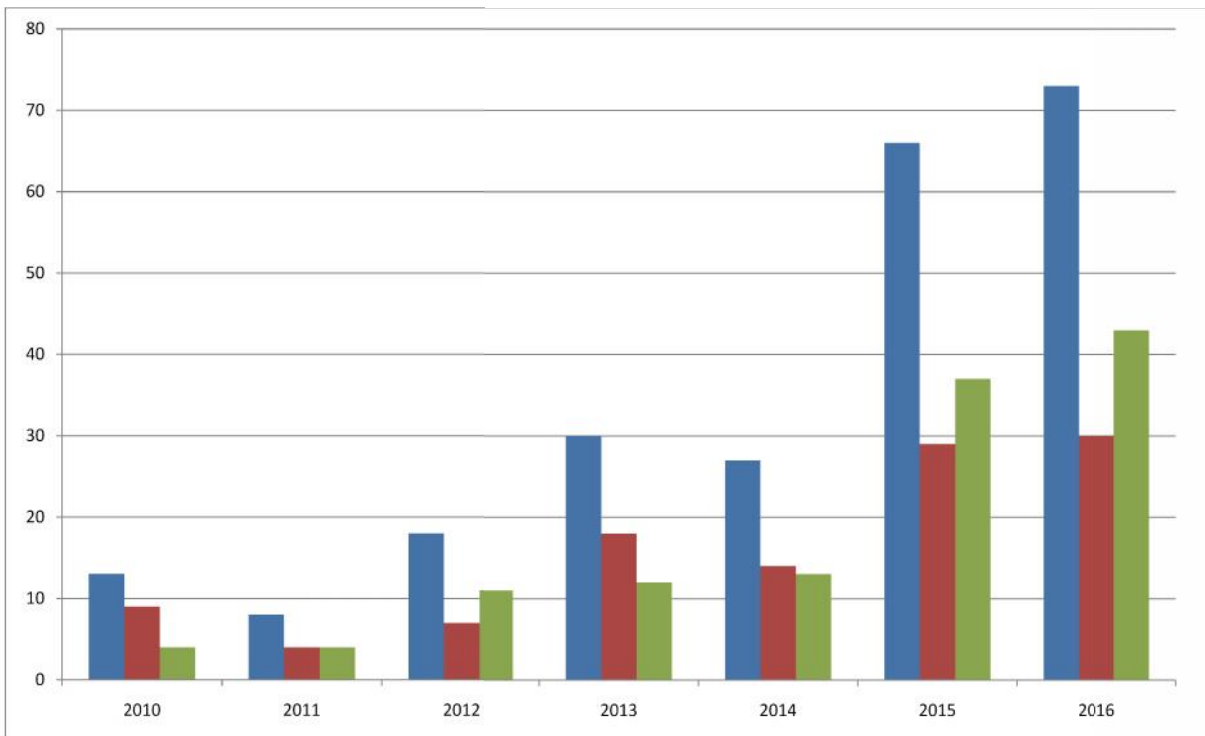
SLC 2016

After the introduction of grading system in SLC examination, the percentage of students that can pursue higher education increased to 83% from last year's 47%. We received around 250 applications this year which is roughly 25% more than what we received last year. Although the percentage of students eligible to pursue high school increased, the number of students eligible to pursue subjects like science and management for higher education is still very low, especially those from government schools.

Finally, we selected 73 students (43 female and 30 male) from 29 schools across Sindupalchowk district. Our scholarship is valued at Rs. 20,000 per annum for two years course.

SCHOLARSHIP IN DATA

History of scholarship award



Name list of scholarship recipient students

S.N.	School Name	S.n	Title	Name of students
1	Balsudhar Ma Vi, Duvachaur	1	Ms	Sanju Tamang
		2	Mr	Sukuman Tamang
2	Botangdevi Ma Vi, Botang	3	Ms	Anita Tamang
		4	Mr	Navraj Bi Ka
		5	Ms	Sukumaya Tamang
3	Chandiaka Ma Vi, Baruwa	6	Mr	Ramesh Syangbo
		7	Ms	Shristi Syangbo
4	Chilaune Ma Vi, Manekharka	8	Mr	Lhakpa Lama
5	Golmadevi Ma Vi, Timbu	9	Mr	Nima Pasang Hyolmo
		10	Ms	Phupa Dhiki Lama
		11	Ms	Dolma Sherpa
		12	Ms	Lhakpa Dolma Sherpa
		13	Ms	Alisha Gurung
14	Ms	Karmu Sherpa		
6	Shree Samata Niketan Ma Vi, Melamchi	15	Ms	Salina Dulal
7	Shree Jalpadevi HSS, Bahunipati, Melamchi	16	Ms	Dolma Tamang
8	Shree Jalpadevi HSS, Bhotechaur, Jaisigaun	17	Ms	Anita Dulal
		18	Ms	Sharmila Dulal
9	Shree Kalika Chetana Ma Vi, Fataksila	19	Ms	Januka Subedi
		20	Ms	Pratima Neupane
10	Shree Bhumeswori Ma Vi, Kiul	21	Mr	Santosh Lamichhane
		22	Mr	Sijan Bhandari
		23	Mr	Jhamkanath Bhandari
		24	Ms	Rashmi Joti
11	Shree Melamchigyang Ma Vi, Helambu	25	Ms	Jeeba Sherpini
		26	Ms	Pema Chhiten Lama
		27	Ms	Dhiki Dolma Sherpa
		28	Ms	Lhamu Sherpa
		29	Ms	Kanchhi Maya Lama
		30	Ms	Dorje Dolma Sherpa
12	Shree Yangrima Ma Vi, Sermathang	31	Ms	Sange Dolma Hyolmo
		32	Mr	Rinzen Dorje Hyolmo
13	Shree Kshetrapaleshowry Ma Vi, Tipeni	33	Ms	Inu Thapa
14	Shree Bhotenamlang Ma Vi, Bhotenamlang	34	Mr	Apsara Pandit
		35	Mr	Dipak Shrestha
		36	Mr	Gaurab Tamang
15	Shree Seti Devi Ma Vi, Gumba	37	Mr	Akhil Lama
16	Shree Mahakali Ma Vi, Giranchaur	38	Ms	Mina Tamang
		39	Ms	Lalita Tamang
17	Shree Mahendra Ma Vi, Ichok	40	Ms	Aiti Tamang
		41	Mr	Ram Hari Pandit
		42	Mr	Prakash Bhattarai
		43	Ms	Suku Maya Tamang
		44	Mr.	Dawa Tamang

		45	Ms	Gori Tamang
18	Shree Raithane Ma Vi, Thangpaldhap	46	Ms	Sunita Sapkota
		47	Ms	Bimala Tamang
		48	Mr	Krishna Pd Chaulagain
19	Shree Saraswati Ucha Ma Vi, Bhotechaur	49	Mr	Ramesh Dangal
		50	Ms	Kopila Chaulagain
		51	Ms	Dil Kumari Bhujel Magar
21	Shree Setikadevi Ma Vi, Bhotechaur	52	Mr	Sachin Chaulagain
		53	Ms	Sarjana Chaulagain
22	Shree Sindhupuranagaun Ma Vi, Sindhukot	54	Ms	Pratima Sigdel
		55	Mr	Sange Lama
23	Shree Terse Ma Vi, Talamarang	56	Ms	Karuna Shrestha
		57	Mr	Bijaya Tamang
		58	Ms	Nani Maiya Deuja
		59	Mr	Gajendra Tamang
		60	Mr	Sonam Tamang
		61	Mr	Prabhu Thapa
24	Shree Thangpladhap Ma Vi, Thangpaldhap	62	Mr	Sunil Tamang
		63	Mr	Rajan Khadka
		64	Mr	Prashanta Khadka
25	Shree Chandikaswory Ma Vi, KTM	65	Ms	Bimala Tamang
26	Shree Indreswory Ucha Ma Vi, Melamchi	66	Mr	Nirajan Thapa Magar
		67	Mr	Krishna Bdr Thapa Magar
		68	Ms	Ram Kumari Adhikari
		69	Ms	Parbati Dhital
27	Shree Jayabageswory Ma Vi, Palchok	70	Mr	Narayan Subedi
28	Shree Haibung Ma Vi, Haibung	71	Ms	Anita Tamang
29	Shree Bhim Bidhyashram SS,	72	Ms.	Nabina Bomjan
30	Mt. Everest Boarding School, KTM	73	Mr.	Chhiring Theeng

SCHOLARSHIP AWARD DISTRIBUTION CEREMONY 2016



After a long process of application distribution to selection of students, HELP on August 6, 2016 organized scholarship award distribution ceremony to handover the scholarship to the recipients. The program was held at Taragaon Museum, Boudha.

We were very fortunate to welcome young leaders from two leading national parties -- Hon. Rabindra Adhikari, Member of Legislative Parliament and Hon. Gagan Kumar Thapa, Member of Legislative Parliament – as the Guests of Honour.

We then had a host of established individuals from different walks of lives as guests speakers who were kind enough to grace us with their presence and to motivate these young children by sharing their experiences, their stories to boost their confidence. Media Personality, Editor-in-Chief of Nepal's largest private Television Channel, Kantipur TV, Dil Bhusan Pathak; one of the biggest names in the Nepali film industry, actress Rekha Thapa; youth activist and motivational speaker Brabim Kumar KC and Nepal Airlines Pilot, Capt. Srawan Rijal attended the programme as our guest speakers.

The programme that started on schedule, at 10:30 am, was facilitated by HELP's Head of Communications Richa Thapa. Scholarship recipient of 2014 Saru Giri, who is currently employed at HELP then delivered the welcome speech after which EQUIP (Education Quality Improvement Program) officers Prakash Shrestha and Ranjit Mahato briefed the gathering about the selection process for the scholarship programme.

Sarmila Dulal and Renzen Hyolmo, two students who received scholarship this year shared their feelings and experience on behalf of the scholarship students receiving the award this year.

Youth Activist Brabim Kumar KC was first from the guest panel to share his ideas and words of motivation with the children followed by Capt. Srawan Rijal. The gathering then heard an encouraging speech from Dil Bhushan Pathak.

Meanwhile, Nepali cine actress Rekha Thapa had just arrived and the children were more than eager to hear her speak and she did not let them down. Thapa talked about her own days of struggle and motivated the children, especially the girls, to carry their education further and promised them to offer advice whenever they needed it.

It was time for the students to present an act and a group from the awardees did a brilliant act, a group poem on the topic "Negligence in education- who is to be held responsible?".

After the act, all the guests watered a plant as a gesture of solidarity and handed it over to another student, Inu thapa, who had expressed her interest in environment and protection of the forests during her interview.





Our guests of honour Hon. Rabindra Adhikari and Hon. Gagan Thapa then delivered their speech on importance of education and utilization of the scholarship which the students found very useful. Their speech was followed by the scholarship certificate distribution.



Executive Director of HELP, Jimmy Lama then officially closed the programme after sharing his views with the guests and the students.