Sunrise Children's Association Inc.

"Bringing a brighter future to the children of Nepal""

Newsletter
January-March
2020

Nuwakot (Shivapuri) Education Scholarship Program

Dear Sponsors,

Happy Nepali New Year 2020!

"Alone, we can do so little; together we can do so much" – Helen Keller

With your generous support we have been able to help provide hundreds of children much brighter futures over this past 10 years, and we would like to thank you sincerely.

The start to this year has been a little different than usual, with a lot less celebration and a lot more concern by many across the country about the spread and impact of COVID-19. So far the children and families are ok, but some families are facing financial challenges, as those that rely on daily wages now have no income, making it difficult for some to purchase food and other necessities.

The school year, which was due to start in mid-April, has been postponed and the students who were due to sit their final Secondary Education Exams now anxiously waiting to hear when they will be held. Some are forced to cope with illness at home, as most medical centres are only treating emergency cases as they have insufficient protective equipment.

Prior to the onset of CoVID-19 and the subsequent lockdown, there was still a lot going on, and we are very happy to share some of this news with you.

Some of the highlights include:

- Monitoring visits continued to make a positive impact
- Commendable 2nd term exam results
- Education material distributed
- Livelihood development continues with more loans being taken from Savings Groups for animal rearing

Dedicated monitoring and guidance continues to make a positive impact

This quarter our team visited **50 children's homes** and undertook **12 school/colleges visits**.

Even though the school year ended in mid-March, and the world is facing the global coronavirus pandemic, our team continues monitoring the children under our support. As vulnerable and marginalized groups are at even greater risk during the epidemic and other emergencies, we have continued to follow up the children and their families through phone calls since the lock down and practice of social distancing in Nepal since the 24th March 2020.

As always, our field coordinators are the frontline service providers, who seek to understand the children and families' issues and provide them emotional support.

Above and below: Soniya with her grandparents during her home visit by our team, and preparing for her final term

Above: Prabin with his grandmother during his home visit

Above: Parbati with her mother during her home visit

Above: Nabina with her grandmother during her home visit

Above: Pramila with her mother during her home visit

Above: Sumina with her mother during her home visit

Above: Pushpa with her mother during her home visit

Above: Sundar with his mother during his home visit

Above: Sharmila with her step-mother

Close monitoring in school also helps motivate the children

Our team continued to meet our scholarship students at their schools, consulted with the key teachers about their study, school attendance and behaviour and ensured their rights are being safeguarded. The **parent-teacher meeting** this quarter also focused on the results of their 2nd term exams and their preparation for final exams.

Above: Nisha, our field coordinator checking schoolwork of one of our students

Above: Monitoring visit of students of Mahendra Secondary School

Above: Monitoring visit of students of Gramindevi School

Above: Parent-Teacher joint meeting at Kalikadevi School

Above: Parent-Teacher joint meeting at Janagyan School

Child Progress

Commendable 2nd Term Results!

62/74 (84%) of students passed their 2nd term exams conducted by their respective schools with **1 Distinction,** 19 1st Divisions, 18 2nd Divisions and 24 3rd Divisions.

Congratulations to all!

Above: Anita with 82.2% in 2nd term

Students sat final (3rd term) exams

57 students up to year 9 attended their final exams in mid-March. Grade 10, 11 and 12 exams have been postponed because of the COVID19 pandemic and the government's directive for a strict lockdown. Results are yet to be published.

Above: Students sitting their final exams

Participation and extracurricular activities

President Running Shield 2020 was organized by Shivapuri Rural Municipality in March. Some of our scholarship students participated in different sports including high jump, long jump, triple jump, javelin, kabaddi, short and long distance running races.

- **Rojina, Sundar, Pramila, Laxman** and **Dishan Tamang** from Kalikadevi School and **Manisha BK** from Janagyan School were selected to participate.
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Above: Students participating in President Running Shield

Above: Ashmita and Rabina won 1st and 2nd prize in drawing competition organized by their school child club

Continuation of Livelihood Development Program

Monthly Saving Group meetings continue to help families move forward

As every quarter, the **5 saving groups in this program** with **78 members** continued their regular monthly meeting, with members depositing whatever savings they could.

Through this collective pool of funds, managed by their own elected savings group committees, families have been able to take loans to buy animals or start/ improve another type of small business.

Our team continued to join all 3 meetings by each group (total 15 meetings) to **record their savings, details of loans and monitor the progress of the families who have taken loans**.

Above: Monthly meeting of Uddhamshil Savings Group

Above: Monthly meeting of Janagyan Savings Group

Above: Monthly meeting of Kalikadevi Savings Group

More Family progress

We just love seeing the families of the children we support through education scholarships on the road to independence. The mother of **Saru Bhujel** and father of **Bishal Tamang** took a loan from their local savings group that SCAI formed and bought goats, which they are now rearing.

Above: Mother of Saru with their new goat

Above: Father of Bishal with their new goats

We acknowledge your gracious support and would like to thank you sincerely again for your support through this challenging time and beyond. Please stay safe and well.

Keep up to date with more news at www.facebook.com/SCAI.Aust and Instagram sunrisechildrensassociation.

Emma, Raj, Mansingh and Kusum
SCAI Australia/Nepal