



WHERE HOPES & OPPORTUNITIES MEET

# NEWSLETTER

6<sup>th</sup> Issue July - October 2018

It is our pleasure to present the 6<sup>th</sup> Issue of our newsletter to you all. The newsletter is our strong means of communication through which we would like to inform our stakeholders and all concerned about our projects and their progress. We have consistently been working to improve the lives of children and young people through our interventions in the area of child protection, education and livelihood development.

One of our major achievements within this period was the improvement in the environment of the community schools that we have been supporting. The classrooms have become attractive to children, access to clean drinking water and sanitary facilities has been improved. Similarly, teacher training programme and extracurricular activities (art, sports and life skills) have contributed to the improved learning environment and to retain children in school.

The broadcast of 200 episode of our Milijuli Bolaun radio programme was a special occasion for us to celebrate. 75% of the FAB School first batch graduates have been placed in jobs and the second batch of trainees successfully completed their in-house training.

We are very grateful to our funding partners who have continuously been supporting us in our efforts to give hopes and opportunities to the needy children and young people of Nepal.





## Our Intervention for Child Friendly School

The term “child-friendly school” is widely used to refer to a school where children and adolescents acquire and develop knowledge, abilities and life skills in a healthy and safe environment which is inclusive, protective, gender sensitive and respectful of cultural diversity. It is the school where every child has freedom to put his/her voice and is loved, cared and supported by the teachers. In child friendly school, children are placed at the center while planning the teaching learning activities and learning is made a fun.



Sharada G.T, Education Officer

The government of Nepal has published a National Framework for Child Friendly Schools which contains indicators of CFS but its effectiveness is yet to be seen. At present, community schools of Nepal are in transition between traditional teaching and modern technology-based teaching. Most of the teachers are outdated and are not familiar with the new technology. Another challenge for the schools is to teach in English medium which most of the teachers find difficult. Due to this, private schools have become the centre of attraction. Besides, rural to urban migration is also contributing to bring down the number of children in community schools. During the last 4-years (2015-18), R4C has supported 48 government schools (12 schools a year) within the framework of the CFS project. The support is in the area of teacher training, physical environment, teaching aids, scholarships and more.



As per our experience, the Head-Teacher has a vital role to play to improve the school environment. Although R4C's support was more or less equal to all the schools, the outcomes were found to be more effective in the schools where Head-Teachers were young, energetic and motivated. In other schools, the results were below expectation mainly due to the lack of ownership, unwillingness to change and political influence. Those schools need close monitoring and a strong push for their progress.

### Preliminary Outcomes of the CFS Intervention (25 Schools)

Major Indicators	Pre Intervention (2015/016)	Post Intervention (2017/018)	Remarks
No. of Students	2945	3055	
Attendance	87.66%	92.25%	
Drop-out	7%	3%	This includes both drop-out and migration
Attendance of adolescent girls	71%	86%	Estimation based on sample cases of 3 schools

*The data presented by the table shows the changes of 25 schools supported by the project in 2015/016.*

Overall, we can say the CFS intervention has brought many positive changes. In some schools, the number of students has increased, teachers are performing better and the overall environment has improved.

# MAKING SCHOOLS ATTRACTIVE AND SAFER PLACES FOR CHILDREN

Improving Physical environment is one of the key components of the CFS project. Within this, various activities were carried out as per the need of the individual schools.



Classroom of Masina Basic School



Classroom of Deurali Basic School



Toilet reconstruction and Sanitary Space for girls in Nawaprabhat Secondary School



Classroom windows and doors of Sahara Basic School

R4C started a 6-month Internship programme for the CFS project from 2017. This year, 7 interns were selected and placed in 12 schools. **Sushmita Thapa**, one of the interns who is looking after 2 schools, shares her internship experience...



*'First of all, I would like to thank R4C for providing me a wonderful platform to enhance my skills and talents. The motto of R4C is 'Where Hopes & Opportunities Meet' which came true in my case as I was desperately hoping for similar opportunity after my graduation. I completed my Masters in Clinical Psychology where I learnt only theories and principles. The internship opportunity provided me a practical exposure to put my learning into action. In the beginning, I found it very difficult to work with teachers as they were resistant to change and lacked motivation. To overcome the challenge, I started working closely with the children. I began to study children's behavior and their psychology. I found that children love fun and enjoy activity-based learning. I have been trying my best to explain this to the teachers and helping them to create such learning environment. The teacher training programme provided by R4C proved to be fruitful in this process. My experience tells that due to the CFS project activities, schools have become more child friendly and the attendance of the students is also improving.'*



## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE PERIOD

### Teacher Training

- 4-day training for 33 ECD teachers of 15 schools and 2-day Refresher Training for 23 ECD teachers of the 3rd year schools
- 2-day Training for 76 Primary teachers of 12 schools and 1-day refresher training for 61 teachers of the 3rd year schools



Primary level spelling contests were held separately in Pumdi-Bhumdi and Puranchaur areas in which 10 beneficiary schools participated.



30 children from 15 schools were provided educational support that included school uniforms, bags and stationery to enable them to continue school.



60 classrooms (ECD – grade 3) and the condition of water and sanitary hygiene improved in 10 schools.



## SPORTS4DEVELOPMENT

Sports4Development has been incorporated into the CFS project as one of its components. The main objective of this programme is to transform the lives of adolescent girls and boys through sports and life skills education. This programme is being piloted in 3 schools (Shishu Kalyan, Sarswoti Tika and Shree Ram).

*'I didn't use to enjoy school activities very much, but after the start of S4D activities in my school, I love to come to school regularly as I really enjoy them.'*

*- Sabin Gurung, Student, Shishu Kalyan secondary school*

*'Maintaining students' discipline & behavior was a major issue in our school. However, after the S4D sessions, I am delighted to see the changes in them. Those students with disciplinary problems were made leaders on rotational basis. This brought a positive result especially in controlling the group and the noise. Though it might be a small thing for others, I'm very happy to see the changes in my students as a teacher.'*

*- Radha Ranabhat, Teacher, Shreeram Basic School*





## Voices That Matter

### Milijuli Bolaun

Manita is a 6th grader from Shukraraj Secondary School, Pokhara - 22. She lives in Pumdibhumdi, 16 km away from the main city of Pokhara. She spends her Saturdays differently than most of her friends. She comes to Milijuli Bolaun radio studio every Saturday taking one hour of bus ride. It was her brother who inspired her to join the radio production team. She loves to host the radio programme and to play the role of different characters for radio dramas. She feels that her confidence level has improved a lot after joining the radio team.

Like Manita, other team members of the radio programme also feel the same. Milijuli Bolaun which was started in 2014 to advocate the rights of children has now become the voice of children. Over the years, more than 200 episodes were broadcasted on various topics related to children. Over 100 children have participated to produce the episodes. Milijuli Bolaun is not only a special platform for children but is also a voice of the voiceless children.



### Radio Highlights

The special 200<sup>th</sup> episode celebration of Milijuli Bolaun

Speech Competition on the occasion of National Children's Day

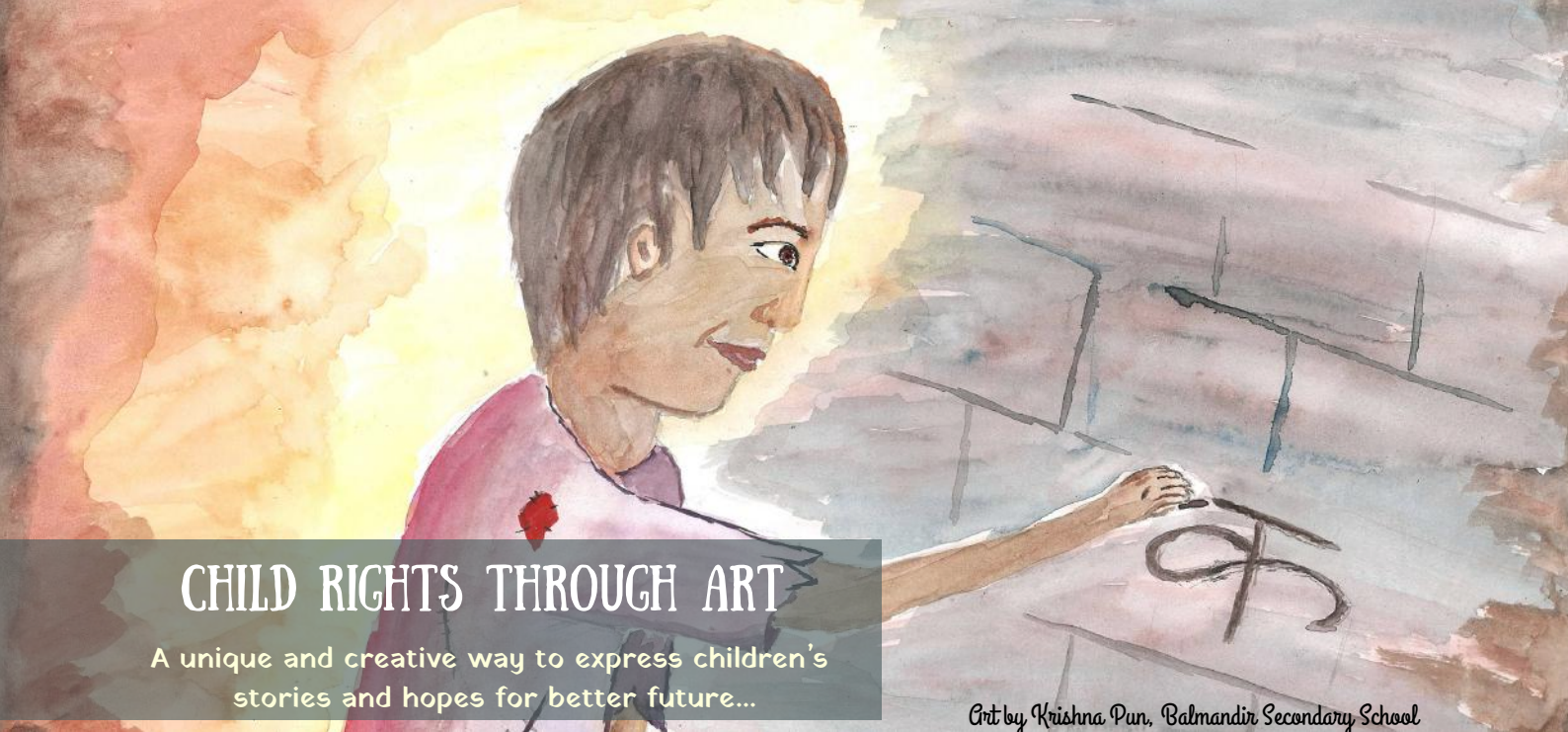


Child club management training for students

Raising awareness through radio programme in schools







## CHILD RIGHTS THROUGH ART

A unique and creative way to express children's stories and hopes for better future...

Art by Krishna Pun, Balmandir Secondary School

### Highlights of the period

- 2-day art workshops successfully carried out in 12 selected schools.
- Children were found to be very excited and really enjoyed the activities.
- Altogether 169 children actively participated in the workshops.
- Social Studies Teachers of 14 community schools were oriented on how to use the art book produced as part of the project as a teaching aid to promote child rights.



## Art Exhibition

A children's art exhibition was organized at Saraswati Tika Secondary School. A total of 50 pieces of art that reflected and promoted the rights of children were displayed during the occasion. Another purpose of the exhibition was to encourage children's creativity and talents. More than 1000 people including parents, teachers, college students, community members and children observed the exhibition.





## When a *dream* comes true...

### Ram Maya's inspiring story

Ram Maya, our 6<sup>th</sup> batch graduate, currently works for Movenpick IBN Battuta Gate in Dubai. She has been awarded the 'Employee of the Year-2017' from among 400 staff of the hotel. Despite her challenging background, Ram Maya successfully completed the training programme. Her sincerity and hard-work paid off when she was selected to work for IBN Battuta. In less than a year time, Ram Maya has grown and achieved a lot in her job as a Housekeeping Attendant. She is very happy to have such a decent job.



The job has not only helped her personally but also earns a living for her family. "One should have a dream in life and having a strong passion and hard-work makes it come true" this is the message that she wants to give to the other young people.



28 graduates of the 1st batch were placed in job ( 20 abroad and 8 locally).

### Highlights of the period

37 trainees from the 2nd batch successfully completed their training and started their on-the-job training in October.

80 youth (40 in each batch) got the opportunities to learn a job skill in one of the 3 courses (Chef, F&B Service and Housekeeping).

The household survey was conducted within the local community surrounding FAB School to find the developmental needs of the community (especially those of women, children and youth).

Around 95% of the total construction work of the phase-II (academic block, dormitories/guest house and a community building) has been completed. The opening is scheduled in January 2019.





*We are small but our dreams are bigger...*

Thank you to all our wonderful funding partners : CWSHK, ONGD FNEL Luxembourg, Movenpick Hotels & Resorts, C4C Nepal-UK, GATE College, Friends of Singapore and The Pavilions Himalayas

*Pictures by Sakina Kuman Malla*

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