



NEWSLETTER
ISSUE 2
March 2016



TRANSFORMING EDUCATION

CHANGING LIVES

DEAR FRIENDS AND PRAYER PARTNERS,

Greetings from Nepal!

It is hard to believe that it has nearly been a year since we had the devastating earthquake. It is still fresh in our memories. Following the earthquake, we also suffered very badly from the border blockade with shortages of fuel and diminishing supplies of food and medicines severely affecting people's lives in Nepal. We are thankful to our friends and prayer partners around the world for the way you showed love and care to us in these difficult times.

Despite these difficulties, we thank God that He has enabled us to carry out our programme as per our plan.

We are encouraged by the scripture from Corinthians 15:57-58, *'But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labour in the Lord is not in vain'*

Our focus for this newsletter is the relationships that we build, which enable us to improve the quality of education in Nepali schools. We appreciate your faithful partnership in our journey.

Khim Kandel
EQUIP/TEC Director



Top row (L-R): **Krishna Bohora**, Teacher Trainer; **Annie Brown**, Teacher Trainer; **Marinda Parks**, Teacher Trainer; **Khim Kandel**, EQUIP/TEC Director; **Raju Baral**, Teacher Trainer

Bottom row (L-R): **Binod Gaire**, Teacher Trainer; **Simon Hall**, Teacher Trainer; **Chris Lampart**, Teacher Trainer; **Dil Bahadur Chhetri**, Teacher Trainer; **Amit Bhandari**, Finance and Admin Officer

Missing: **Sue Gim**, Teacher Trainer; **Sophia Cameron**, Teacher Trainer; **Rae Goss**, Teacher Trainer



BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS

CONNECT, COLLABORATE, CREATE



Relationship building and making new connections is at the heart of a unique educational event that EQUIP now coordinates and runs each year for its Kathmandu partner and link schools.

KISA (Kathmandu Inter Schools Art) is a day of fun learning in which over 100 students and their teachers from schools across the valley come together to think big and make art on a giant scale. The day is packed full of practical learning opportunities for both students and teachers. Everyone is encouraged to think in new and different ways and to use their creativity to solve practical visual challenges in making exciting art together.

For this year's KISA 2016 event, we used local recycled fabric to create giant woven friezes. Working in groups, students had to connect and collaborate to interpret some universal themes and ideas (given in Nepali and English) - such as childhood, happiness and friendship. Each group had to find their own connection and communicate their ideas through a work of art.

“KISA’s overall aim is to enable everyone to Connect, Collaborate and Create and to understand the value of these attitudes and skills for their future.”

The KISA event aims to inspire and to demonstrate practical ways in which schools might be able to support creative and critical thinking through art at their own school. A teacher's training day precedes the main event to enable teachers to be familiar with the processes, skills and materials so that they are able to share in the facilitation of the learning throughout the day.

A reflective activity got students and teachers thinking about how they had been using their innate creativity to imagine and explore ideas, see new connections, take risks, solve problems, and to make something original and of value together.

*Annie Brown
Art and Thinking Skills Teacher Trainer*

DEVELOPING RELATIONSHIPS THROUGH TEACHER LEARNING COMMUNITIES



As part of our partnership with schools in the Kathmandu Valley, we run Teacher Learning Communities or TLC's on Friday afternoons.

This gathering provides an opportunity for teachers to talk and learn from each other about any aspect of their work. The session starts with an input from us, followed by discussions about how to plan and implement the new ideas. We also do classroom observations and work to plan lessons together with the teachers.

The importance of spending time with teachers like this in focus groups and one-to-one provides great

opportunities for building relationships. But it's not always easy as language mis-understandings can get in the way at times. Such as when I accidentally called a teacher, "budhi" which means old lady, when I meant to say his name "buddhi", which means wisdom!

Mistakes like this, we trust, are quickly overcome by our commitment and longevity of relationship building with our schools.

*Chris Lampart
Math Teacher Trainer*

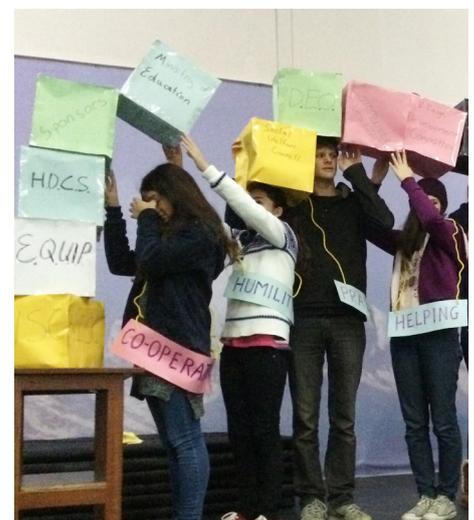
LOVE IS THE KEY

Building community through healthy relationships is key to what EQUIP is all about. To extend our community from our base in Kathmandu to schools in more remote regions takes time, planning and partnership. In a KISC secondary assembly we shared the various steps that it takes to build a strong bridge from which fruitful teacher training and support can happen.

The picture shows how we used boxes to represent the various organisations that we partner with. The bridge is supported by pillars including cooperation, humility, prayer and affirmation. The keystone of the bridge is love. We discovered that when you take love away, everything falls.

Our prayer for the next year is to continue to build lasting and positive relationships with love at the centre of all we do.

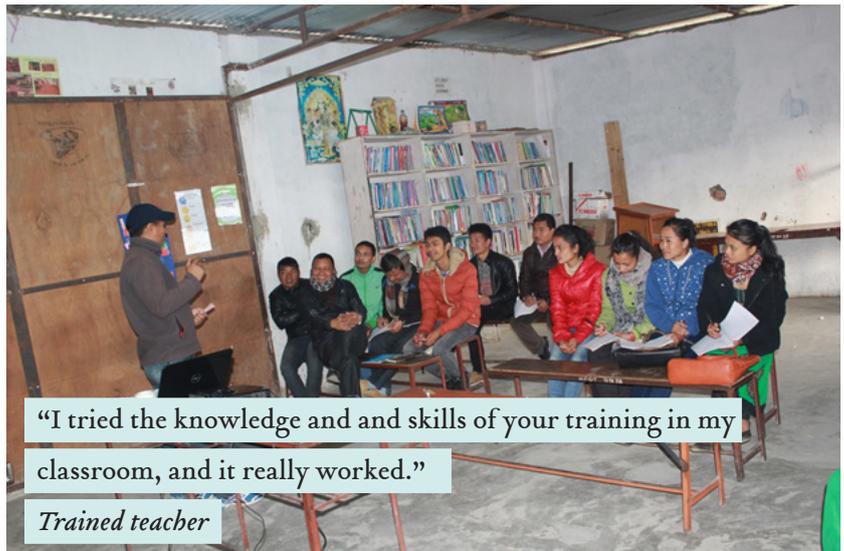
*Rae Goss and Simon Hall
Teacher Trainers*



CHECKING FOR UNDERSTANDING AND CLASSROOM MANAGEMENT

Working closely with our partner school teachers over the last few years, I noticed that they lacked ideas for managing a class without chaos and had difficulty managing transition, creating and implementing classroom rules, procedures and routines.

A new general training that EQUIP has been delivering over this last year, has enabled 154 teachers from Palpa to introduce new classroom management strategies and to keep the classroom focus on learning. The training also encourages teachers to reflect on their beliefs about classroom management in order for them to sustain that change.



“I tried the knowledge and and skills of your training in my classroom, and it really worked.”

Trained teacher

After the training one of the school principals mentioned, “I have attended many management trainings but today is the most practical and relevant training, which can be implemented from tomorrow.”



Generally teachers' strategies for checking whether their students have understood something is to address the whole class with, 'did you all get that?' or 'everybody understand?' Then move on quickly after there has been a chanted response of 'yes' from the class. Often teachers will ask questions only to those that raise their hands. Most of the checking of what students understand is ineffective and to address this need KISC EQUIP has been helping 125 teachers in Lamjung to develop a set of skills to facilitate good Checking for Understanding (CFU).

Now teachers have minimized the use of general questions and monitor students' progress without waiting for formal assessments. They also use CFU strategies for individual and group responses.

*Dil Bahadur Chhetri
Teacher Trainer*



GROWING THROUGH PARTNERSHIPS



EQUIP continues to build and extend the relationships it has with a number of schools and organizations in the Kathmandu Valley. Networking and partnering with organizations who have similar values and aims for improving education in Nepal is one of our key philosophies. It enables us to reach a wider group of school communities and extend our expertise with a greater number of teachers, parents and students.



An organisation that we have worked with many times is the Rato Bangala School. In November last year, through a new international partnership, EQUIP's Annie Brown was able to train 22 teachers and teacher trainers from the Rato Bangala School through the internationally recognized P4C (Philosophy for Children) teacher's award. Rato Bangala Group run a school but also partner with many rural schools to improve education across Nepal. The P4C training gave teachers and trainers the skills to help students reason and think for themselves and to work together to develop and discuss questions about the big ideas relating to themselves and their world.

Another collaboration has been with Rato Bangala's Bal Sahitya Mahotsav (Children's Literacy Festival). Literature and books are the focus for a range of exciting activities and workshops for many hundreds of students, teachers and parents who attend this unique festival each year in February. This year a programme of over 50 activities included puppet making, slam poetry, book making and readings by famous authors. EQUIP's Khim Kandel and Krishna Bahadur Bohora inspired teachers and parents through their interactive workshop that helped participants to see the value of parents reading aloud to their children. Annie Brown facilitated a group of young people looking more deeply at a story and having fun thinking through philosophical questioning and discussion. EQUIP were also joined by Jane Turner, an experienced UK Educator who led a workshop with young people bringing stories to life through drama tools and techniques.

*Annie Brown
Teacher Trainer*

VALUABLE CONNECTIONS

The devastating earthquakes last year destroyed hundreds of schools. Some of our partner schools in the Kathmandu Valley and one of our partner schools in Palpa had building damage.

Through our relationships and collaborations, EQUIP has raised considerable funding to support our ongoing work with our partner schools and to overcome some of the earthquake impacts.

Generous funding has enabled us to help in the rebuilding of Shree Janadeep School in Palpa. It was great to see the progress with the new buildings of this rural school on our recent visit. Sadly, the border blockade, with fuel shortages and lack of transport has delayed and increased costs for the completion of the building work. However, we hope that with the crisis at an end, this will soon be resolved.



Deena Mitra (Friends of Poor) pre-school in Kathmandu had to move to a new location as a result of the earthquake. They leased a piece of land and built an eight room school with the support of EQUIP and many other faithful supporters. The school has about 70 students which come from marginalized and under-privileged family backgrounds, and many are children of migrant workers.

- Liz Sheppard, a former EQUIP teacher trainer continues her links with us and through her church in the UK raised funds to support the rebuilding of Deena Mitra School and also to refurbish and create a school library at Kistland School, Kathmandu.
- Sue Gim, an EQUIP teacher trainer currently undertaking post-graduate studies in the USA, coordinated with her church in Korea to provide significant funding towards the rebuilding work of Janadeep School.
- Our ongoing relationship with the North Harris Free Church, Isle of Harris, Scotland previously helped EQUIP to build a water tank for a school and to provide classroom resources, educational activities and the refurbishment of classrooms.

We are thankful to all those who have given support to EQUIP to bless the school communities that EQUIP partner with.

Through the financial support of Turning Point Church, Janesville WI, USA, we were able to provide school uniforms to 88 students (41 boys and 47 girls) at one of our Kathmandu Valley partner schools, Shree Shringery Community Secondary School. Many of the children were affected by the earthquake and the replacement of lost books, uniforms and school bags has given them fresh hope and brought back smiles.

Walderslade Baptist Church, UK, recently provided funding for another of our Palpa partner schools, Shree Ram Lower Secondary School. This will enable the school to improve two early years classrooms and provide uniforms and stationary for 70 students. This government school has 173 students, mostly from low income and lower caste family backgrounds.

EQUIP have been working closely with Mountain Child, a USA based charity whose staff work in Nepal and send their children to KISC. Funding from Mountain Child is being used to increase the support of EQUIP's existing programme, especially for the setting up of 209 classroom libraries in 21 partner schools for students up to grade 8 and for the painting of classrooms in 5 partner schools in Lamjung. This partnership will enable hundreds of Nepali children to read and instill in them a love for reading and learning.

PRAY

SERVE

GIVE

We believe that excellent education is key to changing mindsets and transforming lives in Nepal. If you would like to help us bring a lasting change to the land of Nepal, please:



PRAY

Your prayers can make a difference in the lives of Nepali children. For more information and prayer requests, please visit:

WWW.KISC.EDU.NP/PRAY

SERVE

Be an invaluable piece of the puzzle and share your expertise in teaching to transform lives and communities.

WWW.KISC.EDU.NP/VACANCIES

GIVE

TO SEND FUNDS DIRECTLY TO NEPAL

Please send checks payable to KISC to:

KISC, PO Box 2714, Dhobighat, Kathmandu, Nepal

Please make a direct transfer to our bank account in Nepal:

Bank name: NMB Bank Limited
Branch: Kumaripati, Lalitpur Nepal
Account name: Kathmandu International Study Centre
Swiftcode: NMBBNPKA
Currency: NRs Account No: 01620100137423000001
Currency: US\$ Account No: 01627700137423000003
Currency: UK£ Account No: 01627700137423000004

TO DONATE FROM EUROPE

Bank Account Name: International Nepal Fellowship
Account No: 00394482
Sort Code: 120565
BIC: BOFS GB21 255
IBAN: GB18 BOFS 1205 6500 3944 82

Address: International Nepal Fellowship
The Cottage
22 Weoley Park Road, Selly Oak
Birmingham B29 6QU
UK

TO DONATE FROM NORTH AMERICA

Please visit our partner website in the USA,

RCE International to donate:

www.rce-international.org/donate/support-a-partner-school/

Donations from the USA are tax deductible and donors will receive a receipt for tax deduction purposes.



Kathmandu International Study Centre

PO Box 2714 Dhobighat Kathmandu Nepal +977 (1) 553 8720

admin@kisc.edu.np www.kisc.edu.np

PROJECT OF HDCS HUMAN DEVELOPMENT & COMMUNITY SERVICES