

EDUVOICE

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A monthly newsletter of **EduLift** Re-thinking Education

A non-profit educational initiative with a vision to re-invent Nepalese education into a holistic and experiential learning experience and prepare today's youth for the future.

Newsletter Vol. 16 April-May 2015

In this Newsletter we have updates on...

- **Explore After SLC begins...**
- **1st Thursday Guest Speaker event with Sanam Chitrakar**
- **Post April 25th's Earthquake...**
 - *Fohor ke Garney?*
 - *Saathi*
 - *Other Social Participation*

“

We will never know what is about to happen.

We can plan and try to guess what is the next step.

The most important thing is to be ready to adapt yourself to the new situation.

Everything is unexpected. Let's assume that. Therefore let's try to find a way to overcome the obstacles. ”

Miquel Comas Zamora

- Facilitator at EduLift

Explore After SLC begins...

On April 15th, we began our second year of the Explore After SLC program with 24 students who had recently given their School Leaving Certificate exam. The students belonged to government (Mahendra Boudha - Kathmandu, Shree Mahendra – Bhimphedi); private (Arunima Higher Secondary, KEBS Academy) as well as Tibetan community (Namgyal Higher Secondary, Srongsen Bhrikuti) schools. The boys to girls ratio among the participants was equal and it was the first project based learning experience for all students involved.



Group photo of second batch of Explore After SLC with the EduLift team and Sanam Chitrakar.

Explore After SLC continued...

During the first week of the program, students were guided through a series of trainings in order to come up with their own project ideas. The students achieved this through undergoing various brainstorming sessions, creating concept boards, and conducting online research on potential project ideas. What resulted was a formation of a total of five groups that wanted to work on creating job website for teenagers in the Boudha area; an interactive awareness program on Tuberculosis to students at secondary level; an awareness program for civic engagement regarding street children and their rehabilitation; a project to manage waste in Fulbari road, Boudha; and finally, to decrease the use of plastic bags in retail shops in Kathmandu and preparing questionnaires, and finally undertaking market surveys in order to test their ideas.

1st Thursday Guest Speaker event with Sanam Chitrakar

Thursday also known as *Guest Speaker Series* in the Explore After SLC program is a weekly conclusive event that highlights the EXPOSURE element of the Explore After SLC program. Students invite over a Guest Speaker to the EduLift venue. Students then take turns through their groups to present to the audience what they have experienced and learned during the week. In turn, the guest speaker also shares to the class their experiences, industry practices as well as give feedback to the groups' presentations. All in all, Thursdays are the days when the students get to not only reflect on their own endeavours but also get inputs from and connected to someone relevant from a given industry.



1st Thursday Guest Speaker event continued...

On April 23rd, our first in a series of Guest Speakers started with Sanam Chitrakar – Partner at Biruwa Ventures. Biruwa Ventures is a Private Limited Company aimed at providing financial and other support and resources to budding entrepreneurs. Since one of the key components of the program is to develop entrepreneurial skills among students and because the students had been heavily involved in bringing out their project ideas during the first week, Mr. Chitrakar with his background and expertise was a good way to start our Thursday series.

Amidst students sharing their project ideas and their market survey findings and analysis to Mr. Chitrakar sharing his multitude of experiences from working in the hospitality to the development sector to finally being a part of Biruwa Ventures, it was a day well spent. Students also sought career advices as well as got more insight into the changing aspect of one's career through the colourful stories shared by Mr. Chitrakar. Sanam also shared that he was always passionate about food and that he is currently writing a cook book of his own.



After April 25th's earthquake...



What now?

After the earthquake that affected Nepal on the 25th April 2015, daily life has been failing to grasp its momentum. Though a few businesses and offices have resumed, schools are yet to open. EduLift reopened its doors to students living in the Boudha area a week after the earthquake in order to come back and start collaborating and helping people by creating projects to promote the recovery and rebuilding of the country.

We immediately understood that our program needed to be readapted to the new circumstances - firstly, that our organization could not remain closed and should open doors to offer any kind of support people may need and, secondly that it is a great chance for our students to stand out in this situation and help the victims of the earthquake. Now, almost a month later, half of the students have resumed their class. Even some students from our earlier programs have joined us to collaborate and participate in our program activities.

Fohor ke garne?

Post earthquake, there is always the possibility of diseases and epidemics as people have been living in camps and there is negligence of waste management. Therefore, students considered it necessary to aware the Boudha population of the importance of cleanliness starting with the streets. Hence, the project “*Fohor ke garne*” meaning “*What to do with garbage?*” was started.

This project had three different actions:

➤ **DAILY ACTION**

➤ **NEIGHBORHOOD AWARENESS**

➤ **SCHOOL WORKSHOP**

Fohor ke garne? continued...

Daily Action:

Every day students went around the neighborhood and checked if the trash collecting service had done its job. Else, they talked with the neighbours and shopkeepers to engage them to call the people in charge. The students reminded them the importance, now more than ever, of keeping the streets clean.



Another important action was to directly clean the street. On the 3rd of May, garbage had been in the street for more than 15 days. There was a refugee camp next to the dumping site that was getting bigger day after day. Students and teachers engaged the neighbours to clean the site themselves due to the lack of service.

Fohor ke garne? continued...

Neighbourhood Awareness:

Students prepared questionnaires and interviewed people from the neighborhood. They explained the current situation of garbage in the Fulbari street of Boudha and wanted to understand through the interviews how the community members should take care of their environment if they wanted to avoid the increasing of diseases.

They asked for the interviewees' opinions on:

How they thought the garbage problem could be solved?

If placing dustbins could be a solution?

If they knew the consequences of accumulating garbage in the street?

If they knew the symptoms or diseases caused by garbage?

If they knew that recycling was possible in Nepal?

In less than ten days, students interviewed and talked with more than 200 people and they created a graphical campaign through which they made people aware of this problem and asked for their opinion.

Fohor ke garne? continued...

School Workshop:



Students are also developing a garbage management workshop for school children. The workshop will be conducted with lower secondary students of Srongtsen Bhrikuti Boarding School – a nearby Tibetan community school, and Mahendra Boudha Higher Secondary School – a government school in Boudha in the first week of June when the schools resume.

The earthquake is an opportunity to engage children to take care of garbage. Socially in Nepal this is not taken as an important fact and people throw garbage around without thinking of its consequences. Students thought that this was an important issue and that educating in this sense through workshops to the new generation of Nepal was a step towards avoiding future problems .

Saathi

As many people are still living in camps which include many primary level children who are yet to go back to their schools, our students decided on their next project *Saathi*. Saathi which translates directly as friend aimed to do just that. It was a mixture of fun and learning activities for children currently living in the camps post earthquake. The activities consisted of ice- breaking and warm up sessions to get the children's learning and engaging mode on as well as activities from art and craft to learning subjects like English and Math.



Saathi continued...

Our students were divided into pairs and each pair took on the role of facilitators for a certain topic. The EduLift facilitators merely acted as guides providing support and coordination when needed. Through these activities, our students have gained much confidence as they have been pushed to show their own leadership and creative skills.

Though the EduLift group will be engaged in creating other weekly projects in the coming month, they will be visiting the camps on a weekly basis and continue to engage with the children there through many other learning activities.



Other social participation

Meanwhile, students also decided to support other NGOs that are bringing relief to the victims of the earthquake. Students had several early morning sessions a week after the April 25th's earthquake and helped the NGO volunteers in loading trucks with food supplies such as rice, lentils, salt and oil.

The NGOs we offered help to were two Spanish NGOs from the surrounding area – Petit Mon (Sano Sansaar) and Amics del Nepal. Both NGO have supported relief programs in different villages around Nuwakot, Dhading and Dolakha districts.



Thank you from **EduLift** Re-thinking Education

*to all our collaborators and supporters for helping us in
our mission to
re-think education in Nepal.*



Tashí Delek
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