



EDULIFT

Re-thinking Education

EduLift Academy - Ramithi, Boudha- Kathmandu

EduLift is the flagship project of Social Development Initiative Nepal (SDIN), a registered NGO under the Social Welfare Council of Nepal. It is a non-profit educational organization dedicated towards transforming the top-down educational system of Nepal with a particular focus on Tibetan Refugee Schools and Children of the Himalayan region. Since education is arguably one of the core pillars of any healthy society and because the educational pillar of Nepal is a shaky one, it goes without saying that students are in need of an education that requires a complete “re-thinking.”

OUR TEAM



Tenzin Sonam Gonsar
Founder



Tashi Sonam
Program Manager



Jamyang
Facilitator



Monica
Facilitator



Shreema
Facilitator



Kunsang
Volunteer



Pepa
Volunteer

OUR VISION

EduLift is a non-profit *educational initiative dedicated towards transforming and empowering the lives – especially of the Himalayan & Tibetan children and youth, through a new kind of education which is holistic and experiential-based.* We envision a future where the EduLift model based on relevant life-skills training through an experiential learning practice becomes accessible to all. By aiming to incorporate it as part of the mainstream curricula in Nepal, *we imagine a future where such quality education provides the necessary skills to prepare young people to lead more purposeful lives contributing to their total well-being and of their communities.*



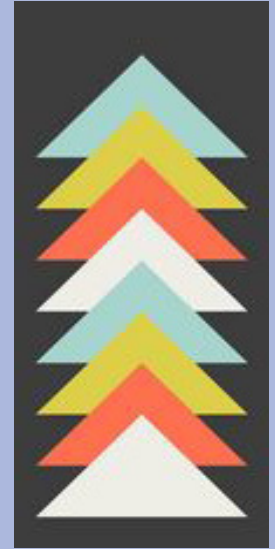
OUR MISSION

At EduLift, the focus shifts from teaching to learning. We practice an integrated approach to learning where experiential-based education is at its heart. We aim to,

Objective 1: To engage students in experiential education that involves various art forms in order to develop their Language skills along with creativity, communication, collaboration and critical thinking skills through the Art & Language program;

Objective 2: To facilitate students to create individual plans of action in order to assist them during transitional phases (from school to different academic or work area) through the Career Counselling Workshops;

Objective 3: To better equip students (post Grade 10) with life-skills (leadership, technology, and communication skills) in order to enable them to further their studies and improve their chances of livelihood through the Explore After SLC program.



PROBLEMS ASSOCIATED WITH EDUCATION IN NEPAL



- A top-down approach to education
- Lacking a student-centred learning environment
- More emphasis on grades and examinations
- Absence of learning by doing
- Arts & humanities as least prioritized subjects
- Students' skill development not part of the agenda
- Lack of adoption of alternative teaching/learning methods in classrooms

How EDULIFT ADDRESSES THESE GAPS THROUGH OUR FOLLOWING PROGRAM STRATEGIES:



ART & LANGUAGE PROGRAM

Each course is completely immersed in one particular art form. For example, in our Drama & Language course, students further their English language skills everyday through performance and enactment. Students learn the language with the support of that art form unlike regular English classes. Hence, students find themselves understanding that particular form of art and appreciating it while learning language. As the courses progress, students will be trained and enabled to use language not just as simple texts but as a tool for self expression, to tell their stories, or to share their messages across. Being able to use language in that way makes it a life skill that they could use to gain further opportunities. Due to the dynamic nature of each course, by the end of the program each student will have contributed to creating a poem, a story, a play, a design or even a video which will only establish a certain confidence of creativity and potential in each participant.



Drama- final Event at Srongsen School



“Art and Design” with thangka artist Noedup.

CAREER COUNSELING WORKSHOPS

Students doing warm up exercises before their counselling session.



Students are exposed to different concepts and ideas for personal growth and motivation. They will also be exposed to various techniques of inter and intrapersonal communication in order to help them assess better their surrounding as well as their personal skills and motivation levels.

Similar to the Explore course, research and planning skills are emphasized in these workshops. Effective use of the internet as well as good writing techniques will enable students to select and apply to their choice of schools for further study. Also, topics such as citizenship studies and social entrepreneurship help create added opportunities for students to pursue alternative paths for education or livelihood.



Students examining a local waste management project.



Group photo of “explore after SLC” students-2015 with Miquel



Students creating products from waste materials

EXPLORE AFTER SLC (AFTER CLASS 10 SLC EXAM)

The project strategy for Explore After SLC has been summed up in three distinct categories of Experiment, Explore and Exposure.

EXPERIMENT: Continuous weekly projects for 8 weeks will train students in the basic phases of research, develop, implement and present. These weekly projects will be run with minimum intervention where teachers will take the role only of facilitators. Through constant need to direct the project as well as to work and communicate well with team members for completion, students will learn to take initiative of a new idea and be creative in finding solutions. Also, they will learn through trial and error to be more patient and listen to their team mates. They will also learn to incorporate technology into their learning and during their presentation and reflection phase. Some project topics will also urge students to focus on their environment and question their own social responsiveness.

EXPLORE: Individual counselling at EduLift is student-oriented to its core. Each student will produce an Individual Action Plan by the end of their 8 weeks. With the aid of the counselor, each student gets to explore individually what their interests and potential are for further study and career growth. Students are also enabled to seek mentorship/internship opportunities via the Guest Speaker Series or through EduLift’s own network pool.

EXPOSURE: By conducting Weekly Speaker Series and participating in field visits, students get in direct touch with the people involved and the industry. Also, managing events however small, largely enhances people skills such as communication and network skills. Such opportunities not only expose students to distinguished people and sectors of our community but also give them a platform to create their own exposure to the community.

Many of the activities and opportunities described above are currently only available to the elite class in Nepal that afford the very best education, or education abroad. *EduLift works with many of the poorest and marginalized communities in Nepal and therefore brings opportunities to young people leaving school that need it the most. This is absolutely fundamental to developing a more equitable and balanced economy and society after the 10 year civil war, and the recent massive earthquake. We are dedicated as an organization to be supporting young people to develop the skills and knowledge to enter into valued and productive employment, and be a real asset to the future development of Nepal. And all this starts from the very idea of "re-thinking" the educational system in Nepal.*

PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION PLAN:

Year 1: (2014)

- Launch of Explore with EduLift pilot program among +2 students
- Launch of Explore After SLC pilot program among grade 10 students
- Launch of Art & Language pilot program with class 9 students
- *Directly impacted over 150 students from five local schools*



Year 2: (2015)

- Explore After SLC program
- Art & Language program implemented with class 8-9 students
- Career Counselling Workshop pilot program with class 10-11
- *Directly impacted over 300 students from eight local schools*



Year 3: (2016 - ongoing)

- Teacher Training Workshops (Pilot Program)
- Piloting of EduLift programs in remote areas of Nepal
- Publication of EduLift Teaching Manual/Curriculum (based on 2 years of reality testing and fine-tuning)





www.eduliftacademy.org



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