

**Partnership for Sustainable Development–Nepal**

ThirbamSadak-3, Dilibazaar, Kathmandu, Nepal  
Tel. 9771 4411648/ P.O.Box19782 info@psdnepal.org

[www.psdnepal.org](http://www.psdnepal.org)

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**PSD Connect**

Quarterly Newsletter

The PSD Connect is a quarterly e-newsletter published by the Partnership for Sustainable Development (PSD) Nepal to inform all their partners, previous volunteers, and long-term supporters about our activities and news. PSD Nepal is non-profit social development organization, dedicated to the alleviation of poverty of children and youth of rural Nepal. For more information please visit [www.psdnepal.org](http://www.psdnepal.org)



**MESSAGE FROM the EDITOR**

Namaste friends!

Once again, with great pleasure, we present you our updated quarterly newsletter. Please read this, Issue 1 from our 18<sup>th</sup> year of writing, designed to keep you updated with PSD Nepal and our activities, projects and future plans!

Any questions and/or comments regarding the newsletter or about PSD- Nepal are more than welcome. Please also forward this newsletter to any friends who may be interested. We heartily welcome your views, comments, and queries regarding the work of PSD- Nepal! You can send us an email to [psdnepal@gmail.com](mailto:psdnepal@gmail.com) or call us at (+977)-9841285379

Bishnu H. Bhatta

## Unforgotten Fund Project supporting wastepickers children.

With the support from Unforgotten Partnership for Sustainable Development Nepal (PSD) has been supporting 13 wastepickers children. They are studying Nursery to grade 7. For the betterment of children education we have opened Learning Center, which provides a safe place for after school tutoring 6 days a week and hosts our WASH (Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene) workshops. Our local teacher, Sarita, is making great strides with the children, helping them to keep up with their class work, as well as instruct them in personal hygiene and health. Most of the children in our



Nepal program have been thrilled to come regularly to the Learning Center and we are getting ready to open up our second classroom at the site which will feature a computer lab.

In January, our intern field social workers, Rajesh and Ira, finished a successful clothing drive that collected plenty of winter and summer clothing for the children and their families along with donations that were used to purchase bathing towels, socks, and blankets.

In *Expanding our Mission in Nepal*: The Unforgotten Fund is thrilled to announce our newest project in Nepal, the Child Bright Orphanage. This project is aimed at supporting the operations and children at the Child Bright Orphanage in Kathmandu, Nepal; which will allow us to expand our efforts in Nepal and reach a new vulnerable population of children whom we hope to support as part of our educational and WASH program.

## Photography for Change ICE (Institute for Collaborative Education) Youth Arts, Writing and Photography Program, New York, USA

**Bishnu Bhatta and NYICE team**

Since 2015 ICE and PSD Nepal have been working with the Tri-Ratna Co-Operative School (TRCS) in Bungamati, Nepal. The shared work we have done with TRCS has been a wonderful opportunity for both the young people from the NYC school and TRCS to be part of an international educational arts and environmental awareness collaboration. In this collaboration, students and educators work together in sharing information about their respective cultures, lifestyles, the environment, their homes, hopes and dreams. They communicate these ideas through student-centered workshops using photography, film, art, citizen journalism, and community service work.

Once again, this year three teachers and 13 students from the New York City Institute for Collaborative Education School were in Nepal to illustrate the examples of practical and active learning. The relevance of this project was to allow students to open up to the teachers





more easily and to provide them practical knowledge of journal writing, field work, taking and editing photos in order to create photo stories of the world around us. Students from NYC benefited from both the formal and informal cultural exchange that happened within small group workshops and a productive and creative itinerary that included NYC students teaching the host students how to use photography, art, and creative writing to give themselves a voice in their community and express their culture in

an artistic fashion. At the same time the host students from TRCS extended and contributed to that cultural exchange through informal, productive and creative introductions to their culture with ICE students using community interaction within the school and the surrounding community.

The program was first started with the ice breaker session. Then the magazine lesson was introduced. This lesson acquainted students with photography, helped them to identify the different ways a picture can be used to tell a story, send a message, and show emotions. Then students were taught to use cameras so that they can be comfortable with all the basic functions of the camera such as shutter, flash, zoom, applying different angles and be more creative with their Camera. Not only this, they were given a chance to experiment with taking photos around their school and of their friends. The next important task was storytelling through photos and drawings. As it is said



'Nothing is better than a good story', the students were given a piece of paper and were asked to create four separate drawings that tell a story. These activities help them to identify the key elements of a story, formulate their own stories, think creatively and understand the importance of visuals in telling an effective story.



Fieldwork was the next imperative activity in which teachers take the students out into the field. Here, students learned the basics of photography and how photos are used to portray a story. Further, it provides an interactive and open environment to learn in. The students were able to explore not only the village, but the outskirts from what they are used to, visiting sights such as mountain temples, other assorted temples, shops, fields and rivers.

During one of the photography classes students learned photo terms such as; composition, lighting, mood, setting, subject, foreground, background, focus, point of view, and direction. These words help students to understand when looking at photos why they like certain photos more than others. Likewise, it also makes them capable of applying these terms when taking photos.

The teachers split the students into small groups in order to teach the students the basics of a photo editing program. This program was used to edit the photos the students took whilst they were out in the field. Students became able to crop, use filters, upload pictures, change contrast and fix red eyes in a photo using the editing program.

How to Write Journal Entries about their experience with the class and with photography was another important



activity. They were given different assignments daily, including writing about different ideas for photo stories, what they want to learn about, and what they have already learned. After this task they were able to realize the importance of journaling as well as figuring out why people take photos.

In this way, Nepalese students were bestowed with different learning processes to which they were not familiar until this program that was created by Mr. Jeffrey Romanow. Students were also happy to update themselves with the new technologies of photography and these practical scenarios of learning. Some students were even determined to be a good photographer in future. Thus, this project has given optimism and the dream of being a professional photographer to some of the children of the TRCS School.

The work of these students culminates in a school-wide celebration with a photo exhibition at the Tri-Ratna Co-Operative School. This celebration included music and dance representative of the Nepali culture, the enriching academic successes of the Tri-Ratna Co-Operative School, and finally, the wonderful storytelling through photography and the arts that the students from NYICE and TRCS have created through their collaborative workshops, were the families and surrounding community of Bungamati visiting to see the work these young people have done.

### **Noteworthy Visit of team Yaka world**

This March (2023) members of the Yaka association from France paid a visit to PSD Nepal. They document environmental projects from all across the world, showcase the various sustainable development options available to humanity, and increase public awareness of major environmental concerns. This was a significant visit because they were interested in making a documentary about our PSD plastics initiative, which focuses on reusing and upcycling plastic bottles, especially those transported all the way from mountain - Langtang. They even paid interest to have some of our Upcycled products delivered to their family in their own country.

### **Collaboration with atmosfair gGmbH on the Langtang Waste Management approach**

Atmosfair gGmbH is a German non-profit organization with limited liability established under German law. PSD Nepal and Atmosfair signed a Service Agreement on January 19, 2022, to build the Langtang Community Recycling Center (CRC). The Syabrubesi CRC, which has been built, is at the heart of the waste management plan for the Langtang Trek. To ensure correct use of the new segregation and compost bins, all households and lodges will receive segregation bins and compost bins for waste separation at the source, biodegradable rubbish will be decomposed in the compost bins, and awareness and training campaigns will be held. Porters and mules are commonly used to move garbage from all eight villages, and an electric three-wheeler is used for heavy loads. The concept will cost 40,600 euros in total, with all waste kinds being sorted and processed at the CRC before being composted in the compost containers.

### **Vote of Thanks**

PSD Nepal would like to express its thanks to all those who have contributed in one way or the other to make our projects & programmes successful. We have accommodated 1,675+ volunteers in 20 years!

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