



CHILD ACTION NEPAL

Newsletter No 3

October 2004

Street Children: An alarming situation

There are more than 5,000 lonely children working and living on the streets in the urban area of Nepal.

About 500 children land up in the streets of Kathmandu alone each year from different districts of the country. An estimated number of 4,000 children are working as rag pickers.

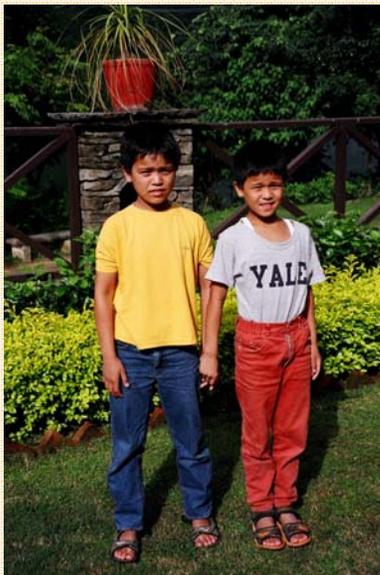


5 a.m. in the streets of Kathmandu



The Story of Raj Kumar and Hari Kumar

Raj and Hari are two beautiful boys, eleven and nine years old respectively. They are easy-going and easily adapted themselves rapidly to their new environment. Hari quickly made friends with Kirtiman, another boy of a similar age at the home and Raj Kumar's best friend is Buddhiman.



In the beginning of December 2002, Raj and Hari's mother brought her two sons to her parents' home and announced that she was going to re-marry. She then left Nepal to follow her new husband to India. As is often the case, she may well be sold into prostitution once in India.



At the beginning of January, Raj and Hari's grandmother asked us to take care of her grandsons. She loves them deeply but has still to take care of her 13 years old son and of her, usually drunk, husband. In addition they are very poor and live only on the vegetables they cultivate.

Raj and Hari went to school before coming to LBU, but their level was low and their English non-existent. Hari Kumar is now in Class I and Raj Kumar in Class II where he always ranks first or second.

Please do not hesitate to send your comments to info@childactionnepal.org.uk
Child Action Nepal, Reg. charity number: 1097447, www.childactionnepal.org.uk
c/o Florence Krief, PO Box 39679, London W2 6YP Tel. 07773 277 647



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Education

In 2004, Nepal ranks 140th in the global Human Development Index (HDI). HDI takes into account three factors: life expectancy, school enrolment/literacy and income.

Nepal is one of the worst performers for its achievement in the primary education. The adult literacy rate is only 44%. The life expectancy at birth is 59.6 years and the GDP per capita is USD 1,370.

At LBU, we want to give the best chance to the children to achieve a good education in spite of the fact that most of them never attended school before LBU. We are progressively transferring them to a better school called Emerald Academy. This year Reshma, Buddhiman, Karishma, Som Bahadur, Krishna and Arjun are studying there and next year they will be joined by Suryaman, Raj Kumar, Kalpana, Binita and Mina.

All the children really like to make their homework in the study room where we have now two computers thanks to a donation from Standard Chartered Nepal. They also are very happy with the new aquarium donated by one of our sponsors. We formed 4 groups and each of them has to take care of the fishes during one week. We want to develop their sense of responsibility. Should one fish die, they will have to buy another one with their pocket money.

Ready to go to the Emerald Academy

Arjun, Karishma and Buddhiman in the study room



Volunteering at LBU: Glenda Dunlop, 56

At 56 years old and still working as a registered nurse in Australia I came across Child Action Nepal and its orphanage LBU in Nepal whilst surfing the internet. The idea of working in a small orphanage with a family atmosphere appealed to me.

My visit to LBU was all that I thought it would be. All the children and staff were warm and friendly to me and my days just went by so quickly. During my stay I taught the children to crochet and knit. Each child made a woollen scarf for themselves. The boys also made hats and the girls made clothes for their dolls. All the children love to play marbles so we sewed small bags for their marbles. They really did enjoy learning these new crafts.

I also spent most days supervising their homework and also practicing conversational English with them and they are improving on a daily basis some quicker than others.

The children always enjoy outings and a few days before my departure I treated all the children and staff to a day trip and picnic to Karkani in the hills. We hired a bus and driver and had a fun day playing games and enjoyed a delicious picnic and the ended with everyone singing on the way home! It was a wonderful way to end my enjoyable stay at LBU.

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Healthcare

This year we had more than ten children with chicken pox at the same time. Most of our children did not suffer very much but Mina and Maya had a very strong fever. Now everybody is fine and the children did not suffer any scars. In August everybody also went to Tilganga Eye Hospital and two of our boys and three of our girls have now glasses. Everybody also went to the dentist and we were complemented by the doctors on the good state of our children's teeth. We also have had the children vaccinated for Hepatitis A and we plan to give



them BCG vaccination.

Waiting at Tilganga Eye Hospital

Music

A well known Group of Nepalese musicians is teaching dancing, flute, singing and drum lessons



Singing Lesson

At the concert



Entertainment

We try to make entertainment both enjoyable and informative. For example all the children and staff went again to Pokhara this year. We went to the Mountain museum and visited the World Peace Pagoda but the children also went to the swimming pool and to the lake. Most of them still do not know how to swim so it was a good opportunity for them to practice. This year one of our sponsors also bought three bicycles of



Breakfast in Pokhara

different sizes and the children were absolutely thrilled by that. We had to organise turns for who was going to ride them because they were so passionate about it that they started to fight! This summer, all LBU went for a week-end to Nagarkot, 30 km from Kathmandu. We all had a nice walk in the forest and country side and it reminded the children of their countryside roots. All the week-ends were sponsored by Florence.



Playing music and singing at our Nagarkot Hotel

Swimming in Begnas Tal near Pokhara



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Thank you for your support

This year again, Dawn and her friends run the Great North Run for us. Should you wish to help us by participating to a sporting event, do not hesitate to contact us.

You can also support us and have a wonderful time by participating to a Trek in the Annapurna in March 2005.



Sponsoring a child

Any donation is welcome and even £10 or £20 make a difference. However, should you wish to sponsor a particular child and follow his/her progress as he/she grows up, the cost is £40 a month. If this amount is too high for you, you can co-sponsor a child with friends or family or we can arrange for you to have a co-sponsor.

Gratefully yours

Florence Krief



CHILD ACTION NEPAL Standing Order Form

Name(s) and address of the account holder

Title:.....Forename:.....
Surname:.....
Address:.....

Postcode.....

E-mail:.....

Name and full address of your Bank/Building Society

To: The Manager.....
Bank address.....

Postcode.....

Bank/Building Society

Account number:

Sort code:

Instruction to your Bank or Building Society:

Please pay* monthly/quarterly/yearly from account number above, the sum of £.....to Child Action Nepal's account at Caf Bank Ltd:
Account No: 00010441 Sort code: 40 52 40

until further notice starting from:

DD MM YY
 (date of first payment**)

Signature:Date:

I want all donations I have made since 6th of April 2004 and all future donations to be Gift Aid until further notice. I confirm that I am a UK tax payer and the income tax and/or capital gains tax I pay will be at least equal to the tax that the charity will reclaim on these donations.

Signature:Date:

Please do not send this Standing order form direct to your bank. When completed and signed please return to: Child Action Nepal c/o Florence Krief, PO Box: 39679 London W2 6YP

* Please delete unwanted options.

** Please allow three working weeks from date of signature

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