



ANNUAL REPORT

2017/18

ABSTRACT

Summary of all the activities under taken by our organization Make a difference Nepal from April 2017 to March 2018

Make a Difference Nepal

Annual Report

Annual Report of Make a Difference Nepal (April 2017 – March 2018) (Nepali Year 2074)

Make a Difference Nepal

Make a Difference Nepal was established in 2015 after the devastating earthquake in Nepal. The Nepali name is 'Parivartan Kiran Nepal' which means ray of light, a positive ray of light that impact in the lives of children on Nepal.

Make a Difference Nepal is a non-profitable, non-political Nepalese social organization which aims to add input in the field of education and health in Nepal. Make a difference Nepal's purpose is to make people aware and sensitize about their right to health and education, to maintain and improve the enrolment of students in schools and to provide health & sanitation awareness programs. MDN wants to implement pedagogical standards in Nepalese schools and promote Early Childhood Education. This includes non-formal education to children under the age of five and the play-based learning known as the 'Early Years Learning Framework' in Australia.

Principles of Make a Difference Nepal

- ❖ sustainability and participation
- ❖ active involvement of the people in the planning and working phase
- ❖ focus on education, food and sanitary infrastructure

Fundraising

Make a Difference Nepal, as a non-profit organization, depends on fundraising and sponsors supporting its work. MDN is making efforts - via information events, social media and its homepage www.mdnepal.org.np - to explore respective organizations and interested individuals to support our program for children. Transparency and responsible dealing with the donated money is one of the main ethical agendas of MDN.

Private persons from Australia, Austria, USA and the Austrian company BOI were supporting MDN in 2016. MDN is very thankful for all contributions; special thanks go to Ms. Lee Dittmar, Ms. Tracey Brock, Mr/ Ms Allison and Jeremy Jucha, Ms. Judith Hitt, Ms. Kunjang Dechen Codronand BOI Ltd.

Organisational steps in 2017/18

In 2017/18 MDN took organisational steps to improve its work in regard of professionalism, transparency and affectivity. The second working year of MDN was used for analysing the previous working experiences in the field and elaborating the new programs on these experiences.

As MDN is working with governmental schools of Nepal, the programs intended for school children are planned according to the Nepalese school year, April to March according to the Nepali calendar.

Important organisational steps in 2017/18:

- Evaluation of the running programmes, monitoring and evaluation plan
- Field visit schedule
- Protocols and project reports and annual reports
- Photo documentation
- Monthly financial reports, channelizing all the financial resources through official account of MND, auditing
- Employment contracts for MDN staff members
- Organisational guidelines, memorandum of understanding for volunteers
- Written documents and contracts with schools, contact teacher in schools

Make a Difference Nepal - Projects in 2017/18

In 2017/18 MDN organized several programs to benefit the poor, marginalized and underprivileged people specially focusing on children. This year, MDN covered Kathmandu, Dhading and Gorkha districts. Due course, MDN associated with many likeminded organizations and stakeholders. The nature of program included health camps, awareness raising programs, creative art workshops and distribution of goods. MDN is blessed with well-wishers who are the backbone of the organization and supporting us from the beginning. Along with that, many volunteers both national and international have contributed to reach our common goal to help people this year.

Programs

Health Camp

MDN organized a health camp for underprivileged and disadvantaged children of age 7 to 17 on April 07, 2017. These children are generally from street and homeless. They are being sheltered by a nongovernmental organization called UNEP (Underprivileged Children's Educational program). After visiting their facility in Sanothimi, MDN expressed its willingness to collaborate with UNEP. After a brief meeting we decided to conduct a health camp for those children. For this purpose, Korea-Nepal Friendship hospital was approached and they were kind enough to provide us the medical team for the camp voluntarily. Basic health check-up of all the children were done. Most of the children were healthy, some were suffering from cough and cold and some were referral cases. MDN also provided the medicines to children as prescribed by the doctors during the health camp. UNEP appreciated our effort and shared that this would help them to keep health records of children and will come in handy in future. MDN plan to collaborate with such organizations and continue such programs in future too.



Figure 1 Medical team examining children during the health camp organized by MDN

English language session

MDN always welcomes volunteer who want to us in our endeavour to contribute to life of people from disadvantaged and marginalized group in ways possible. Ms. Victoria Frias, an Argentinean student of social work also joined MDN as a volunteer during this period. MDN had a wonderful sharing experience with her and vice versa. During our conversation, she showed her interest to interact with community and expressed that she could teach English language to children. We, then forwarded out intentions to teachers of Seti Devi Primary School of Dhading, and they were more than ready to host her as guest teacher. On April 23, 2017, MDN team along with Ms. Victoria Frias run a English language session for student of Seti Devi Primary School. Surprisingly, some of the children from neighbourhood villages also joined the class run by MDN. Ms. Victoria's modern teaching methodologies attracted many

children and enhanced the skills of the existing teachers of the school. The children were very attentive and interested about the sessions as at the end of the session, they were confident in interacting with Ms. Victoria. The program was a learning exchange between two cultures where MDN provided a common platform for Ms. Victoria and the children of Dhading to come together and share their experiences. Ms. Victoria was very humble and patient to interact with non-English speaking children. MDN field staff facilitated the program providing spontaneous translation during and outside class hours which helped to establish a positive relationship between Ms. Victoria and the children/ teachers. The evaluation concluded that the program helped the children to build their confidence, enhance their self-esteem and learn about a new culture (Argentina). After the session, the children shared that, they were able to learn a lot from her and understood some basics of English language too. Ms. Victoria promised to return to Dhading whenever she would visit Nepal in the future.



Figure 2 MDN volunteer Ms. Victoria Frias running English language class for the student of Seti Devi Primary School, Dhading

Creative art workshops for children of various schools

a) Ceramic art workshop at Shree Kanti Ishwori Rajya Laxmi School (SKIR)

SKIR is one of the oldest government schools of Kathmandu. Most of the student in this school comes from low income families. After some consultation session with teachers, we learned that the school do not have any kind of extracurricular activities for the students. Engaging in creative crafts has been proven to improve mental health and also help children to express their feelings. Thus, considering all this, MDN planned to organize ceramic art workshop. This program was organized in two phases. First 30 students of grade 6 was taken to SOS Ceramic Art Centre at Sanothimi, Bhaktapur to create some ceramic art structure and in second those arts were painted by the same student in SKIR school. To conclude, some outstanding performances were rewarded with prizes. All the children participating were enjoying the process thoroughly. Most of the students were trying it for the first time. Our team were able

to observe the enthusiasm amongst the children. MDN received a positive feedback as children were willing to participate in the future programs.

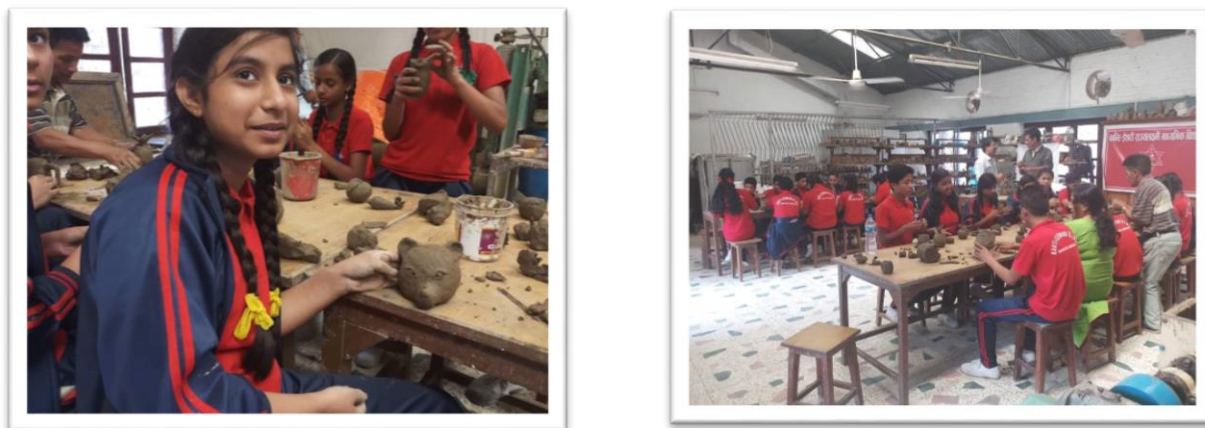


Figure 3 Student of SKIR School participating in ceramic art workshop organized by MDN

b) Ceramic & Print art workshop and Exhibition at Nava Adarsha Higher Secondary School

Nava Adarsha Higher Secondary School is also a government school located at Basantapur area in Kathmandu, with same objective as above, we organized art workshop in this school which was participated by 21 students on September 2017.

This included two sessions. In first session, on September 01, 2017, we organized a print art workshop by art professional where student creates art from easily available resources like coin, leaf etc. And in second session, on September 08, 2017 the students were taken to SOS ceramic art centre to participate in ceramic art workshop. In the workshop, the professional artistes taught them basic of ceramic art. MDN team could observe the enthusiasm amongst all the student. They were enjoying every moment there. One of the students said that, she is encouraged to continue this art form in future.

After the workshops, the students were allowed to exhibit their art pieces in the school on September 15, 2017. The best art craft was awarded with prizes all the student received candies for their participation. Apart from exhibition, we also organized a drawing competition as fun activity with the students. This type of activity helps build healthy competition amongst children. Children were very excited about this competition. All pieces collected were very creative. Then, MDN awarded few as best. Overall, it was a fun filled program which was visibly enjoyed by all the students participating. While running the program, national television channel also showed interest to cover our program that was present there to cover some other story. This was first time, we got the media coverage. This would help spread word

about our organization and our work to increase network. MDN would look into opportunities to engage with media in future too.



Figure 5 Children participating in print art workshop.

Figure 4 Art Workshops and exhibition program organized by MDN for the student of Nava Adarsha Secondary Higher School, Kathmandu



Figure 4 Student participating in drawing competition in media presence.

Distribution of goods

a) Project “Shikshya Sangalo/ Educational gifts”

i. Shree Gyanbhumi School, Gorkha

MDN has been associated with Shree Gyanbhumi School from the very beginning. We have been conducting various programs and projects in this school. This time we continued our effort to improve quality of their education by providing them stationery materials. Thus, on June 03, 2017 our team distributed notebooks, pencils, colour pen, chart papers along with game materials like Rubik’s cube and badminton sets. In addition to that, water filters were distributed to provide safe drinking water in schools.



Figure 5 Distribution of stationeries to student of Gyambhumi by MDN

ii. **Seti Devi Primary School, Dhading**

Project “Shikchya Sangalo” with the same objective was also continued in Seti Devi Primary School of Dhading district on June 19, 2018. MDN distributed stationery goods like, notebook, pencils, pen, crayons, puzzles, pencil box, volley ball, football etc to approximately 40 students of Seti Devi School with the help of their teachers.



Figure 6 Handing over the stationery materials to teachers of Seti Devi School, Dhading by MDN team.

Drawing Competition

MDN also organized a recreational activity in form of art competition amongst the children of Seti Devi School on same day. It was a fun filled activity which was participated by fifty children. Children used the art equipment distributed by MDN for this competition. The best art was chosen and was awarded a pencil case/bag. As an encouragement, all the children were given sweet treats for their active participation.

iii Nava Adarsha Higher Secondary School



Figure 7 Children participating in art competition organized by MDN in Seti Devi School, Dhading.

Nava Adarsha is a government school. We have noticed that this school as any other government school in Nepal lacks many basic facilities that are essential for quality education. When we visited the library, the teachers shared that it has not been updated since many years as the school do not have sufficient resources. Reading books develops child's brain, ability to focus and concentration. Thus, on September 03, 2017, MDN donated 32 English books including novel like alchemist and other to Nava Adarsha School library. These new books seemed to create interest amongst student. We hope these new addition of books will build enthusiasm amongst student to learn and explore.

Art Competition:

We also organized a drawing competition

b) Project "Nyano Angalo/Warm Hugs"

MDN has collaborated with Seti Devi School of Dhading previously through various programs. Since, Dhading is located in hilly region; the weather is extremely cold during the winter season. As confirmed by teachers, children often skip school on extreme cold days due to not having appropriate warm clothes. Thus, MDN decided to provide some warm wear to meet the needs of school children. On January 24, 2018, our team distributed windproof jackets to all the student of Seti Devi including teachers. Most of the children studying there could not afford warm cloths every season around. A field visit was conducted and the school confirmed that the number of absentees significantly reduced in the winter as children were protected from severe weather and parents were relieved to send their children to school.



Figure 8 Student of Seti Devi receiving windproof jackets and wearing them

Awareness raising program on menstrual hygiene and sanitation:

During the field visits, the team had identified lack of awareness among women regarding menstrual hygiene. The topic of menstruation is still considered a taboo in our society. Even though our main focus is on quality education, we could not help noticing misconception about menstrual hygiene amongst community members. During previous field visits, MDN staff Ms. Bobby Thapa had a formal conversation with the women of the village and identified that there was lack of sanitary pads in the area because there was a stigma attached in regard to menstruation.

MDN team decided that awareness raising program on this topic would help group of women and many more through them to understand the importance of menstrual hygiene and sanitation. Even though the primary objective was to conduct another project in Seti Devi School, we took this opportunity and added this program to the schedule. The team in collaboration with certified trainer on Menstrual hygiene and sanitation, Ms Shiwangi Rana facilitated the program with 15 women participants from the community. They were provided with brochures related to human body and menstruation. As a part of the program, the team also conducted a survey on menstrual hygiene. The program seemed effective as all the participants were carefully listening to the trainer and were interacting as well. In the end of the program, the team distributed sanitary pads to the women as gift for their active participation.



Figure 9 Awareness raising program on Menstrual Hygiene organized by MDN

Free tuition classes

MDN in association with Samudayik Sarathi has been successfully conducting many programs in Manohara ECD classes for the children since few years. Many underprivileged and disadvantaged family residing this area where the people are deprived of basic necessities. MDN has always been upfront about initiating sustainable and meaningful projects in different communities. MDN took this as an opportunity and decided to run tuition class for the children of the settlement area of Manohara. Children from the community are enrolled in different government school where quality of education is poor. Most of them even have poor attendance because they are engaged in chores to support their family. MDN in collaboration with social work student interns from K & K College, Kathmandu were able to run an hour long class in the evening with help of our interns. The objective was to help children with their course studies and ease them with their study. In first phase, we planned to run it from a month of March 2018.

Initially, we started with five students from neighbourhood in the same ECD classes. Within few days the number of children increased from five to twenty-eight in short period of time. Children find the classes very helpful as they find it easy to communicate with the interns than their school teacher. The friendly behaviour of the interns is attracting more children. As the location is close to their community, most of the children do not miss the class. Looking at the progress, we aim to continue this project in future too.



Figure 10 Tuition classes for children of slum area organized MDN

Monitoring and evaluation

MDN ensured that visit to all sites was done on a regular basis to monitor and evaluate the impact of our programs. During monitoring visit, we conduct one to one meeting and group discussion to understand the current situation and need of the hour. Our regular visits also help assure their trust towards MDN and helped strengthen the relationship. This year, MDN team visited Dhading, Gorkha, Manohora settlement sites and other schools to learn about their current activities and report updates. We also meet up with families from the community to collect their generous feedback. Most of the children and teacher benefitting from program designed by MDN are very happy and also expressed their gratitude. MDN is very grateful towards its humble donors, who supported us throughout the year. We look forward to help and make little difference to life of many more in future.



Figure 11 MDN team interacting with the community members during the monitoring and evaluation visit

Future project

We have been trying our best to reach out to as much people in need as possible. We are also preparing proposal for many project to ensure good quality education for the children in our working sites as well as exploring other sites. To enhance our effort, we are also continuously increasing our networking & communication skills to engage as much partners as possible. Few projects are in pipeline. For this we will need every ounce of support we can get from all well-wishers of Make a Difference Nepal.

We have planned to continue the following projects:

- Ceramic Art Workshop in government schools
- Menstrual Sanitation and Hygiene project
- Extra-curricular activities in Seti Devi School, Dhading
- Awareness programs across targeted schools
- Promotional activities

We would like to offer our sincere thanks towards our partner organizations, partner school & colleges, sponsors, interns and volunteers who collaborated and participated with “Make a Difference Nepal” across different projects.

Partner Organization:

1. Samudayik Sarathi
2. Underprivileged Children Education program(UNEP)
3. Korea-Japan Hospital
4. SOS Ceramic Art Centre

Partner School and Colleges:

1. K and K Collage, Kathmandu
2. Nava Adarsha Higher Secondary School, Kathmandu
3. Shree Raj Laxmi Primary School, Kathmandu
4. Shree Gyanbhumi Primary School, Gorkha
5. Seti Devi Primary School, Dhading.

Interns who collaborated with MDN for tuition classes:

1. Mr. Akash Gharti Magar
2. Mr. Abhishek Baral
3. Mr. Santosh Adhikari
4. Ms. Laxmi Neupane
5. Ms. Sarika Subedi
6. Ms. Jyoti Joshi
7. Ms. Anamika Parajuli
8. Ms. Jibika Pokharel
9. Ms. Bandita Magar
10. Mr. Manish Poudel

Volunteers/Sponsors:

1. Ms. Victoria Frias
2. Ms. Shiwangi Rana
3. Mr. Abish Lamichhane
4. Ms. Lee Dittmar
5. Ms. Tracey Brock
6. Mr. /Mrs. Allison and Jeremy Jucha
7. Ms. Judith Hitt
8. Ms. Kunjang Dechen Chodron