

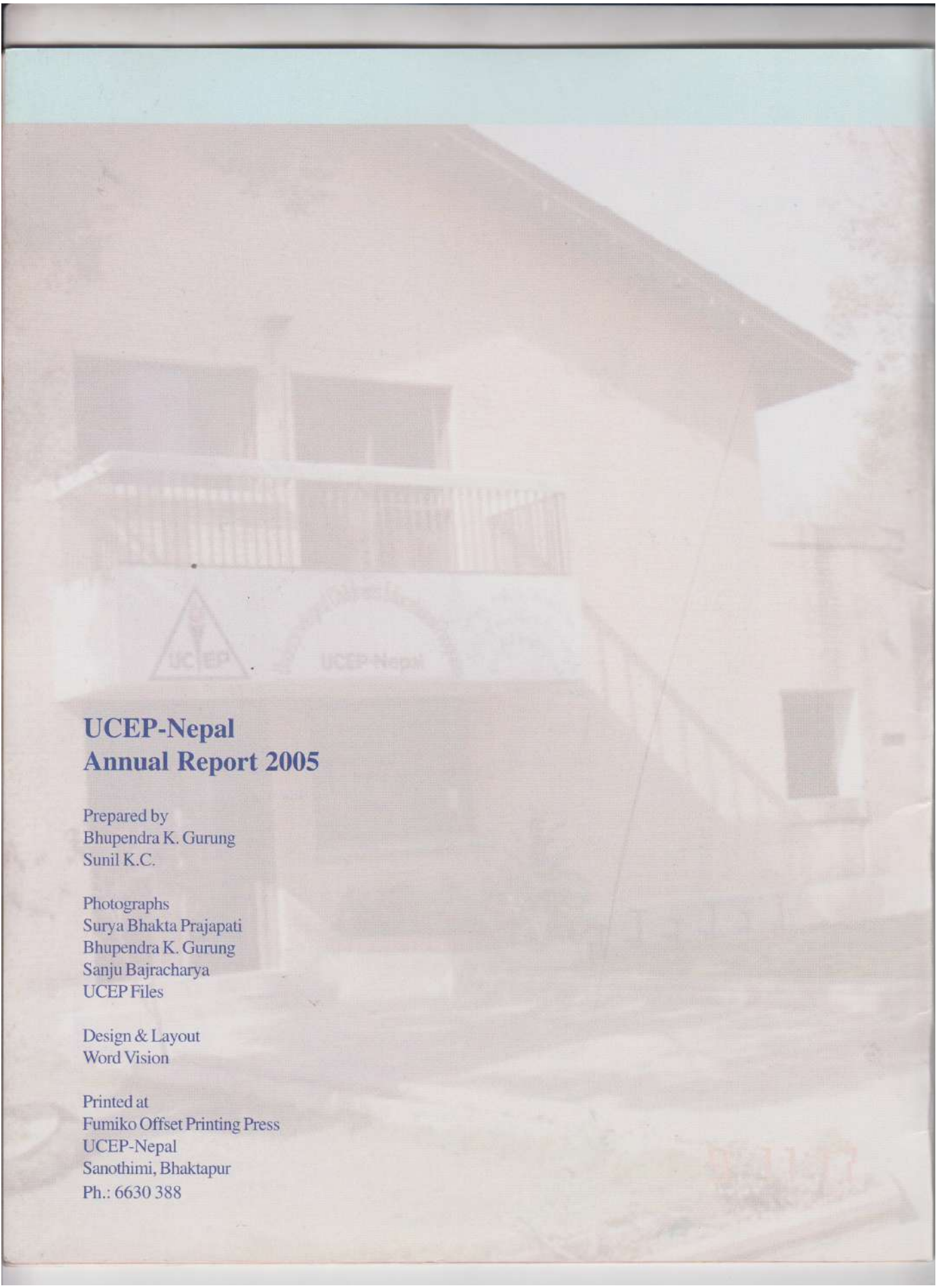


# UCEP-Nepal

*Upward mobility  
through the light of education,  
training & gainful employment*



**Annual Report 2005**



## **UCEP-Nepal Annual Report 2005**

Prepared by  
Bhupendra K. Gurung  
Sunil K.C.

Photographs  
Surya Bhakta Prajapati  
Bhupendra K. Gurung  
Sanju Bajracharya  
UCEP Files

Design & Layout  
Word Vision

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Fumiko Offset Printing Press  
UCEP-Nepal  
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Ph.: 6630 388

## Foreword

Nelson Mandela, former President of South Africa and champion of freedom, humanity and tolerance, in his message to the United Nations World Summit on Children, said: "Children are our future. By securing the future of children we are securing the future of all mankind."

Despite global realization that children should be **protected from all forms of discrimination, violence and exploitation**, each day hundreds of children are exposed to danger, physically and sexually abused or economically exploited. Children are denied of their rights by such forces of war and violence, social discrimination, disasters and poverty.

In Nepal, there are hundreds of thousand children suffering from abject poverty to deep social and economic discrimination and exclusion resulting in their lack of access to even the basic needs of life. So pervasive is poverty and social and economic exclusions that it has affected children of all geographical areas and social strata, with dalits, janjatis and other marginalized communities being the worst sufferers. The conflict of the last 10 years has made the situation even worse, with more and more of them being driven away from their lands, families and life opportunities.

To protect and promote the rights of children and cater to their needs for education, life skills and opportunities, Underprivileged Children's Educational Programs (UCEP)-Nepal has been working for the same cause for more than 25 years.

The main aim of UCEP-Nepal is to enable children have better life options through education, skill-oriented training and placement in jobs. UCEP-Nepal has adopted **Non-formal Education - Skill oriented Technical and Vocational training - Placement (gainful employment)** as its approach to enable them to lead an independent and dignified life.

Every year UCEP-Nepal provides education and technical and vocational training to several hundred children and youths through its non-formal education centers and technical and vocational programs. In 2005, it provided non-formal education to about 300 children at its three non-formal centers and technical and vocational training to 218 children and youths in seven trades under its regular training program and to more than 450 children and youths under its short-term package programs. These numbers are not big considering the number of children and youth who are devoid of basic education and skills oriented training.

The challenge faced by UCEP-Nepal is much greater and much more difficult with the number and target groups needing interventions in terms of education, training and jobs and continues to increase mainly because of poverty, growing urbanization resulting in the migration of people from rural to urban areas and the conflict. All these groups have different requirements and need specific interventions, making it more complex and intertwined with the country's overall social, economic and political milieu. It has been UCEP-Nepal's efforts to try to involve as many of them as it can by expanding its programs and activities. For this, UCEP-Nepal has been working with different partners. We believe that each and every individual, NGO, INGO, government, corporate and private sector have their role and responsibility to ensure children of their rights and a better future to look at.

We thank all our partners, NGOs and INGOs, government agencies and other well wishers for their support and in joining hands in our noble endeavors. We look forward to their continued support and working even more closely in the quest for ensuring the rights of children and better future.

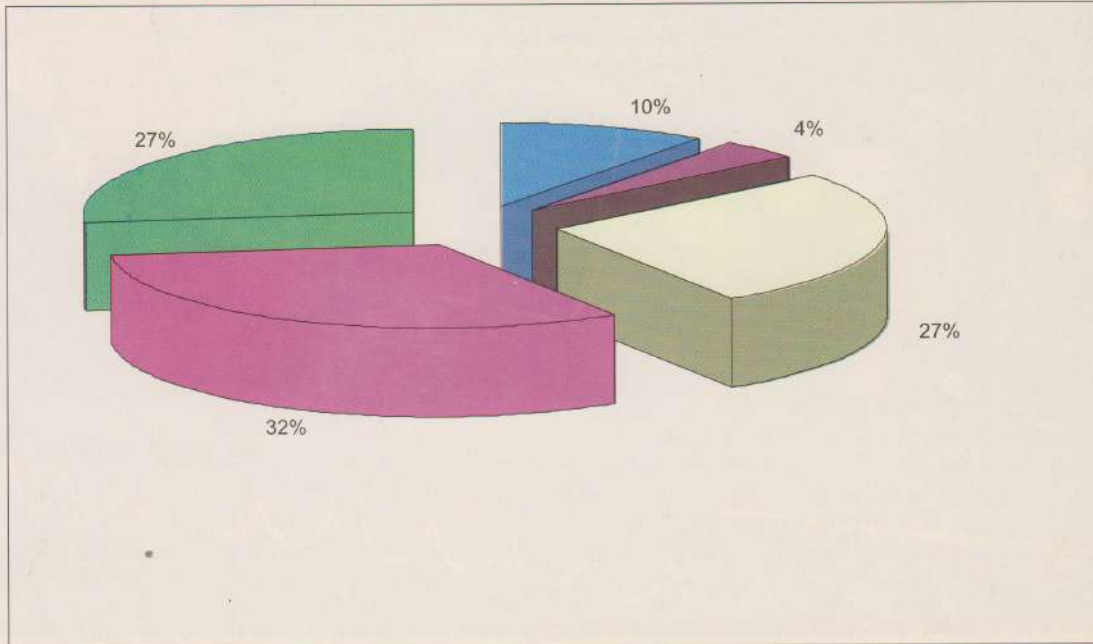
Bhupendra K. Gurung  
Executive Director

25 May 2006



## FINANCIAL REPORT

### Expenditure Allocation for 2005 (F/Y 2062/063)



- Technical and Vocational Training Program
- Non-formal Education & Advocacy & Networking
- Child Protection Program
- Young Women Gainful Employment Program
- Administration & HRD

Total Budget: 24,279,924.00



## INTRODUCTION

### Background

Underprivileged Children's Educational Programs (UCEP)-Nepal is a child rights non-governmental organization. It was founded in 1978 by Dr. Lindsay Alan Cheyne, a New Zealander, to enhance the living condition of underprivileged, disadvantaged and working children by providing them opportunities of education and job oriented technical and vocational training. Initially, UCEP-Nepal was established as an extension of UCEP-Bangladesh that was established in 1972 in Dhaka, Bangladesh.

UCEP-Nepal is dedicated to protecting and promoting the rights of child. It firmly believes that all children and youth, especially underprivileged and disadvantaged, must be provided opportunities for education and skill training to be gainfully employed or self employed and thus they can lead an independent and dignified life.

UCEP-Nepal is registered with Nepal Government, District Administration Office, Bhaktapur registration number-1374 under the Institution Registration Act 2034 and is affiliated with Social Welfare Council.

### Vision

*UCEP-Nepal envisions a society where right to education, skills and employment of every child and youth is fully guaranteed.*

### Mission

*To enable the underprivileged and disadvantaged children and youths lead an independent and dignified life by being employed upon completing quality education and technical education and vocational training programs.*

### Objectives

- Provide counseling, life skills and non-formal education to underprivileged and disadvantaged children and youths

- Impart marketable technical and vocational training to underprivileged children and youths to make them self-reliant and enable them to lead an independent and dignified life
- Assist and support training graduates in finding gainful employment
- Raise awareness among children and youths about human rights, democratic norms and human and family values
- Advocate and raise awareness on the rights of child through advocacy and social mobilization.

### Target Group

UCEP-Nepal works with and for underprivileged/disadvantaged children and youths who are left out of mainstream education and life opportunities leaving them vulnerable to unemployment and social and economic discrimination. More specifically, the target groups include:

- Underprivileged and disadvantaged children
- Child labors
- School leavers
- Street children
- Orphans
- Domestic workers
- Conflict victims
- Girls at risk of various forms of exploitations

### Focus of our Work

UCEP-Nepal being a child rights organization all our programs and activities are child centered. It always works for the protection and promotion of the rights of child by focusing basically on education, skills oriented training and gainful employment for better life options. Its program and activities thus focuses on:

- Right to quality education
- Right to skill training
- Right for better life option
- Right to protection against exploitation
- Advocacy and networking on child rights
- Right to protection from all forms of discrimination
- Right to protection from war and conflict

### Organizational Structure

UCEP-Nepal is governed by a General Assembly constituting 110 members. The General Assembly elects a nine-member Executive Board for a period of five years.

The Executive Committee appoints an Executive Director, who is the Chief Executive Officer, responsible for policy implementation, planning, program development, implementation and other management functions.

UCEP-Nepal opens its membership every year by putting a public notice.

### Resources and Sustainability

UCEP-Nepal emphasizes on sustainability and does not solely depend on outside sources for its programs and activities. UCEP-Nepal generates

its sources through income-generating activities, customized training packages, subsidized training fees and sponsorships.

It also receives some funds from the government, however majority of the operating costs are borne through income generating activities.

This makes UCEP-Nepal unique among the NGOs which not only teaches its target groups to be independent and self-reliant but also practices in its programs and activities.



## PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES

### **Non-Formal Education** *Giving children the light of education*

Education is one of the two core programs of UCEP-Nepal. In fact, UCEP-Nepal was established in 1978 with the aim of providing education to children who either never had a chance to go to school or could not complete primary/secondary schooling due to socio-economic and other conditions.



The aim of UCEP-Nepal's Non-formal Education (NFE) program is to provide both basic literacy-reading, writing and simple arithmetic-as well as help the children make up for the lost period by providing education based on the curriculum of Class 1 to 7.

Non-formal education provided by UCEP-Nepal has some basic differences from NFE of other institutions. The non-formal education undertaken by UCEP-Nepal not only provides basic education but also make the children able to attain formal schooling and/or technical and vocational training.

UCEP-Nepal now runs three non-formal education (NFE) centers at Gaushala of Kathmandu, Thimi of Bhaktapur and Narayanpur of Dang. UCEP-Nepal plans to expand its education program to the most-needy locations in the coming years. Classes are run for three hours generally in the morning so that children-domestic workers, street children, child labors etc. can continue to work during the day to earn their livelihood.

NFE centers are managed and coordinated by Community-based Organizations (CBOs) under funding, supervision and monitoring of UCEP-Nepal.

To reach the target group, the CBOs adopt both direct and indirect methods, such as leaflet, poster at strategic places, visiting their work places, homes, vegetable markets, school bus stops (for those who come for drop and pick-up children of employers), and through awareness programs such as community interaction, working with other NGOs/Ward offices as well as personal/direct contact with the children as well as their employers and parents/guardians.

Every year some students from its NFE centers are provided scholarships in different training at the Sano Thimi Technical School (STTS) of UCEP-Nepal.

### **NFE and Life Skills**

Besides the NFE centers, UCEP-Nepal also provide non-formal education and other life skills to facilitate trainees and participants of other



programs who have low level of education. Lessons in life skills cover a wide range of topic and issues such as personality development, public relations, human rights, child and woman's rights, interpersonal communication, health, hygiene and related issues.

## Technical Education and Vocational Training

*Putting skill in their hands*

### Regular Training

Every year several hundred children and youths receive skill-oriented technical and vocational training at UCEP-Nepal's Sano Thimi Technical School, thereby, increasing their prospect for



being gainfully employed and to lead an independent and dignified life.

Technical Education and Vocational Training (TEVT) is one of the two core programs of UCEP-Nepal. UCEP-Nepal believes that the best way to empower underprivileged children and youths is by providing them skills. Training not only gives skills in their hands but also instill confidence and self-respect.

It gives us an immense pleasure to see children, who were once marginalized, being transformed into skilled manpower and able to take care of themselves and their families.

This opens new avenues for them to come out of poverty, economic hardship and avoid socio-economic exclusion. Being skilled and employed helps in their empowerment and social transformation by developing self-confidence and increasing their self-esteem.

This also has trickle down effect with them becoming able to take better care of their families and children, thereby, avoiding economic and social deprivation. More importantly, these training help to bring the

underprivileged and disadvantaged children into the mainstream development process.

UCEP-Nepal's aim is to accommodate as many children and youths in its training programs. To bring skill training within the reach of poor and disadvantaged, UCEP-Nepal has sponsorship and scholarship programs along with partial fee-paying and fee-paying schemes. The fees UCEP-Nepal charge is highly subsidized and is nominal compared to other training institutes.

UCEP-Nepal has one of the most well-equipped workshops in the NGO sector for technical and vocational training. UCEP-Nepal provides training in seven trades under its regular program. The choice of training programs like general mechanics, motorcycle mechanics, automobile mechanics, offset printing press, plumbing and sanitation, draftsmanship and welding makes it the only technical school in the NGO sector in the country offering training in such diverse field.

UCEP-Nepal runs both regular and short-term package and customized training program to take technical and vocational training to a wide

### Arjun, a Domestic Worker, has become a Plumber

Arjun Prasad Luitel of Ratnanagar VDC of Chitwan district came to Kathmandu to work as a domestic worker but after training at UCEP, he is a plumber working in a housing company

He was only 13 when his father sent him to Kathmandu to earn his living. His seven-member family was too poor to send him or other siblings to school.

After coming to Kathmandu with his elder brother he started working as domestic worker at Sinamangal. While working as domestic worker he got opportunity to study at the non-formal education center run by UCEP-Nepal. He started going to school for two hours in the morning. After completing non-formal education for two years, he was enrolled and provided scholarship at STTS in plumbing trade. After completion his training he is now working as a plumber with The Comfort Housing Company at Sitapaila and is earning his living quite comfortably. He is very happy in his new profession. He says he is grateful to UCEP for non-formal education and training saying he has become independent and self-reliant. "If it was not for UCEP, I would not have got such an opportunity in life."

range clientele and target groups. It also organized and conducts mobile training programs as per the need and request of other organizations.

In the year 2005, UCEP-Nepal provided technical training to 218 children and youths in seven trades under its regular training program.

### Priority to Young Women/Girls

An important aspect of UCEP Nepal's technical training is that it encourages and gives priority to women and girls to take up unconventional training.



In 2005, 34 girls took training in general mechanic, automobile mechanic, motorcycle mechanic, offset printing press, welding and metal work and draftsmanship. It shows that girls are willing to take up technical training, which were once considered solely the men's domain, provided there is prospect of employment. The customized and package training programs cover even a wider range of training and UCEP-Nepal has a wide network with other training providers for training not provided at the STTS.

### New Trade established

UCEP-Nepal has added new training in electric house wiring and motor rewinding from August 2005 considering the demand in the market for such manpower. The course for the 6-month training is based on the curriculum of CTEVT.



### Girls, too, can become Motorcycle Mechanics

Customers at the Anna Lifan motorcycle workshop at Teku are often surprised to find a woman servicing their motorcycles.

For Khima BK of Tartal VDC Bardiya district, choosing to become a motorcycle mechanic was accidental. When she came to UCEP-Nepal for training she did not know which training to take. After briefing and orientation, Khima, who had passed Class 8 chose training in motorcycle mechanic, "because it was a challenging training for women," she says. Initially, her parents did not believe that their daughter would become a



mechanic, but Khima was determined to show that girls, too, could become mechanics.

At the end of the six-month training she was sent for on-the-job training to Anna Lifan Workshop in Balaju, and her dedication towards her work earned her an employment. Her seniors are impressed with her saying she is very hardworking and industrious.

Khima is thankful to UCEP-Nepal for providing her training and other support. Khima was provided shelter support for one month that included room rent and other provisions until she received her first salary. "I am indebted to UCEP for giving a new direction to my life," she says.

## Short-term and Package Training

*Widening scope of TEVT*

Beside regular training UCEP-Nepal conducts short-term and package training in different trades and areas in collaboration with various agencies and organizations, both government and non-government. These short-term and package trainings have become a regular feature



of UCEP-Nepal's activities in imparting technical and vocational skills to children and youths.

These short-term and package training are provided not only in the trades UCEP-Nepal runs under its regular training but also in other trades thus increasing the scope and reach of technical and vocational training.

All these training were tailor-made both in duration and curriculum to suit the individual

need of organizations and the target group but without compromising the quality and standard. In the year 2005, UCEP-Nepal provided short-term and package training to more than 450 children and youths in different trades and their duration were from 10 days to six months.

The agencies and organizations that UCEP-Nepal worked with for short-term and package training were: Employment Promotion Center, SNV, LWS, SCN, USC, HIO, Action Aid, Small and Cottage Industry Development Committee, Remote Area Development Committee of Ministry of Local Development, Nepal Electricity Authority Training Center, Kadoorie Agriculture Aid Association, Action Aid Nepal and Nepal Rugmark Foundation and The Asia Foundation.

### Mobile Training

UCEP-Nepal also conducts mobile training as per the need and request of partner organizations. In 2005, UCEP-Nepal conducted two training on motorcycle mechanic and plumbing to 32 participants of the Dhakaltar Rehabilitation Center, Dhakaltar, Tanahu, in collaboration with Small and Cottage Industry Development Committee. The duration of both the training was three months.

### Taking Skills to Rural Areas

UCEP-Nepal has been working with Rural Area Development Committee (RADC) under the Ministry of Local Development in providing skill training to the people in rural areas so that they could be gainfully employed or self-employed locally and earn their livelihood.

In 2005, UCEP-Nepal worked with RADC in providing six different training of four to seven weeks to 104 trainees from rural areas. They were radio/TV repair/maintenance, rural drinking water supply, offset printing press, microhydro operator, masonry and shoe-making.

All these training were designed to suit specific areas and target group and were useful in providing basic skill to people of rural areas.



## Young Women Gainful Employment Program

*Empowering Young Women at Risk*

Every year tens of thousand girls and women are reportedly trafficked for sexual and other exploitations. The main causes of the girls and women falling victim to trafficking are: poverty, lack of education and awareness, and unemployment opportunities. Many of these women and girls can be saved if they are provided education, awareness, skill training and employment.

To address the above problem, UCEP-Nepal, with the financial support from USAID through The Asia Foundation has been implementing Young Women Gainful Employment Program since July 2003.

The program is aimed at young women and girls between the age of 15 to 25 and who are at high risk of trafficking and other forms of exploitation. The main objective of the program is to minimize the risk of trafficking of young women and girls working in carpet factories and

restaurants, conflict victims, internally displaced and other vulnerable groups.



### Shanta Wants to Send Her Sisters & Brother to School

*Displaced by conflict and forced to quit studies in Class 10, Shanta hopes training will give her a means to support her family*

Shanta Parajuli of Okhaldhunga was forced to quit school in Class 10 because of conflict, displacement, poor financial condition of the family, but she was more sorry to see her two sisters and a brother leaving school. "I want them to continue their studies," she says. Her family was forced to leave the village in Okhaldhunga because of conflict. Her father was a policeman. "The job was all right when there was no conflict," Shanta says. "After the conflict started the Maoists began coming to her house and threatening us to make our father quit the job of police or else..." she says.



"I, and many others, stopped going to school for fear of being taken away by the Maoists," she said. Fearing for their lives, her father left the job and the family moved out because there was no way the family could remain in the village. Their land and house were also seized. The family now lives in Biratnagar. "Our condition is pathetic," she says. As there is no other means for survival they work on other's land as tenant.

She was selected for the Gainful Employment Program that started in October 2005. She is taking training in draftsmanship. "This training will give me a means to survive and support my family," she says. She wants to send her sisters and brother to school. To improve her chance of employment she wants AutoCAD be included in the course.

### **If it was not for Training, Ramila Would still be Weaving Carpets**

*"Ramila started working in carpet factory to support her family, but training at UCEP turned out to be the best thing in her life"*

Being the eldest child, Ramila Sapkota of Bhimphedi, Makawanpur, had to quit school and work to support her family. She was in Class 8 when she left education and came to Kathmandu to find work. The only place she found work was in carpet factory. She was removed from carpet factory and was brought for the Gainful Employment Program. "Initially, I was apprehensive of being removed from carpet factory, but this turned out to be the best thing to happen in my life," she recalls. As she came late, she was enrolled in three-month welding training. After training, she was sent to Kathmandu Aluminum for on-the-job training. After the OJT, she was offered job at the same place for her skill, dedication and hard work. This is a difficult work for woman "But it has not deterred me," she says. She says with the training and the job she can now support her family. She says if it was not for the Gainful Employment Program, she would still be weaving carpets.



### **Januka had to quit studies, but is sending her sister to school**

Poverty forced Januka Karki to leave school after Class 7, but after training and employment she has been able to send her sister to school. She now works as assistant mechanic at the Anna Lifan motorcycle workshop at Teku.

Januka was born in Dhankuta but the family migrated to Morang because of poverty. Even there the condition was very bad. Then she came to Kathmandu to earn a living and started working in a restaurant as waitress, when Meet Nepal, an NGO, brought her to UCEP for the Gainful Employment Program. At UCEP, she chose training in motorcycle mechanic. She took it as a chance to have a better opportunity in life. She was a hard-working student, the teachers say. "Beside, life skill classes provided me knowledge about many other things," she says. After six-month training, she was sent to Anna Lifan for OJT, which she completed to the satisfaction of the employer. She was then offered a job. Considering her dire straits she also received support from UCEP-Nepal for sustenance and accommodation until she received her first month's salary.

She says she is now earning her living in a dignified way and is even supporting her family. She has brought her sister to Kathmandu for schooling and has deep satisfaction that she could send her sister to school. She thanks UCEP-Nepal for the training as well as for finding her the job.

This is a residential program and the girls were provided accommodation, fooding and all other necessities at UCEP-Nepal's hostel, Sanothimi, Bhaktapur. This is the largest package-training program undertaken by UCEP-Nepal so far.

Under this program, the girls are first identified and selected and are relocated to UCEP-Nepal hostel where they go through various interventions- counseling and orientation, NFE and life skills, technical and vocational training and placement support leading to their family reintegration.

The first phase of the program completed in September 2005, under which 194 girls were identified, selected and provided non-formal education, life skill, technical and vocational training by UCEP-Nepal at its technical school and other training providers. The girls were placed in jobs as well as reintegrated with their families. The girls were encouraged and motivated to take up non-conventional training programs. As a result 50 girls undertook training in automobile mechanic, motorcycle mechanic, general mechanic, welding and metal work and offset printing press.

After the success of the first phase, the program has been extended for the second phase (two years) from October 2005. The important aspect of the second phase is that conflict victims, internally displaced and other vulnerable groups are included in the program. Under the second phase, 450 girls will be included in the program, of which 200 will be identified by Rugmark and 250 by UCEP-Nepal.

## Placement Support

*Helping Children and Youth to be Self-Reliant*

Placement support is an integral part of all training programs of UCEP-Nepal. As the trainees are underprivileged and disadvantaged with weak social and economic background, UCEP-Nepal's programs are intended not to leave the children it has taken under its folds half way, rather to help them find jobs and make them self-reliant and independent. Otherwise, the mission of helping them to lead a dignified life would remain unfulfilled.

To assist the training graduates, UCEP-Nepal has a separate unit to help the trainees find placement. The unit, called Placement, Career Counseling and Marking Unit (PCMU) provides counseling and career guidance, assist training graduates to find jobs with priority to daits, janjatis and other ethnic communities, and carries out follow-up progress.

It also holds regular interaction with employers and prospective employers; carries field surveys; and marketing of its training programs. The PCMU also arranges on-the-job training (OJT), which is a part of the training program, to provide real-work experience to the trainees.

In the fiscal year 2061/62, 113 out of 174 trainees, who completed regular training in six trades, were successfully placed. The overall placement percentage of 65 is quite satisfactory considering the political and economic situations of the country. Similarly, 174 out of 194 trainees under Young Women Gainful Employment Program were also placed making the placement figure at 90 per cent, which is exceptionally good.



### **Durga is now supporting her family**

***Durga Thapa Magar, who till 20, had remained virtually idle and depending on her family, is now self-reliant and even supporting her family.***

Durga had never thought that she would be a mechanic. How could she, born to a poor family, had to quit studies after Class 6 and forced to flee her village, Balajor VDC of Sindhuli district, because of conflict? Her father died when she was very young. After fleeing her village, she came to Kathmandu and started working in a carpet factory at Bhainsepati, Lalitpur. After about seven months, she was brought to UCEP-Nepal in November 2004 for training under Young Women Gainful Employment Program. After completing six-month training in general mechanic with good grades, she is now working at SN Metal Works at Chayamsingh, Bhaktapur. Her teachers still remember her as a disciplined and hard-working girl. Shanker Nakarmi, proprietor at the workshop, also says, "Durga is honest and hardworking. She is an exemplary staff."

She says the training changed her life for the better. "I have a much dignified life than I would have it was not for the training," she says. Now she is supporting her family and at the same time she says she has also been able to make some saving for her future.



## Child Protection Program

Ensuring Protection and Development Rights of Children



### Protecting rights of children in conflict with law

It is believed that a child cannot commit a crime, as s/he is considered physically and mentally incapable of doing so, but only confront with the law negatively. However, sometimes s/he might do what is prohibited by law out of emotion, ignorance, innocence and not knowing the consequence of their actions. But a child has no intention to harm others. Thus, a child is not a criminal. Therefore, a child in conflict with the

law should not be condemned or / and punished for the action rather s/he should be given chance to realize the mistake and to correct themselves. Under no circumstances such a child should be put in prison with adult prisoners or in police custody.

We believe that the best way of correction is by engaging them in community services.

### Sonam May not Have Found Mother, But Education

When 11-year-old Sonam (name changed) was released by court from Bal Sudhar Griha, it meant little to him because he had nowhere to go. After his release, there was problem for his family integration because all efforts to find his mother had failed. As he could not be kept in BSG, UCEP-Nepal made arrangement with Happy Home, a foster home, to take him in for his upbringing and education. He is now studying in a boarding school in Lagankhel, Lalitpur

Sonam was living with his mother in Boudha, Kathmandu, (his father had gone to India for work several years ago and his whereabouts is not known) before he was brought to Bal Sudhar Griha in December 2004 on murder case, which according to Sonam, he did not commit. The mother used to run a small shop and because of poor financial condition Sonam even worked as domestic servant for some time.

At Bal Sudhar Griha except for some childish mischief his conduct and behavior were as normal as any other children of his age. He was good in studies and took interest in games. After his release in May 2005, the mother, who had visited Sonam several times at BSG, did not come into contact. She has even shifted from the place. Now, living in foster home and he is very happy. Sonam may not have found his family, but a better environment for education and upbringing.

Institutionalized care, such as child correction home, should be considered as a last option.

UCEP-Nepal has been working for protecting the rights of children in conflict with the law. It is committed to protecting their rights to education, health and hygiene, legal support and all opportunities for their optimal physical and mental development.

UCEP-Nepal has been managing the country's only Bal Sudhar Griha (Child Correction Home). The Bal Sudhar Griha was established in February 2001 within the premises of UCEP-Nepal at Sano Thimi. It is a government program managed by UCEP-Nepal, making it a unique government-NGO partnership.

Children at Bal Sudhar Griha (BSG) are involved and encouraged in management of correction home. The participation of children on management of BSG also is a unique feature.

Children at the BSG are provided formal education, training, psychosocial counseling, legal support and health care. They also have extra activities such as music, sports and art. Activities like poetry recitation, debate, discussion and other activities are conducted regularly to instill confidence and a feeling of cooperation with their peer group and ultimately for their integration into the society. The BSG has a library to help children in their reading habit and to let them know what is happening outside.



### ***BSG Gave Me a New Lease of Life'***

*Ramesh (name changed) thought that all his dreams were shattered when he was charged of sexual assault and was sentenced for five years. He was in Class 10. He says he was found guilty only because of circumstantial evidence.*

*Ramesh was born to a lower middle class family of farmer in Bhaktapur. He has a brother and a sister. He spent the first 11 months of his sentence in jail has a very bitter experience of that period. He says, "When even adults and hardened ones find the atmosphere suffocating and it degrades and demeans you physically, mentally and psychologically, I was only a child."*

*After 11 months he was brought to Bal Sudhar Griha and this gave him new hope to move forward in life. "The BSG gave me a new lease of life." He got opportunity for education and he passed SLC in Second Division. He is now in the Second Year I.A. He is very disciplined and cooperative and is involved in various activities at BSG such as managing library and health room, he also teaches smaller children. He wants to become a lawyer and help others who have to suffer despite being largely innocent.*

As children cannot attend school outside for obvious reasons, UCEP-Nepal has made arrangement with Bhaktapur English School, Gatthaghar, to provide formal education to the children in the BSG. Even children, who were not going to school before coming to BSG, are studying formal education due to encouragement and motivation. A boy of BSG passed School Leaving Certificate (SLC ) and is pursuing higher studies. He is in the Second Year I.A. as private student. Two children will be appearing in the 2006 SLC examinations.

As part of their socialization, BSG celebrates festivals and involve children in different religious,

cultural and spiritual activities to create a homely atmosphere. Children celebrate festivals like Dashain, Tihar, Loshar etc. and their families are encouraged to visit the children regularly to keep on bondage between them and their families. All activities in the BSG are guided by international norms and standards.

Till 2005, altogether 118 children in conflict with law were admitted at BSG and 80 children were released and reintegrated with their families. In 2005 alone, 24 children were taken in and 31 were released / reintegrated with their families.



## Protecting Rights of Prison Dependent Children

*No Child should be in prison for the crime committed by his/her parent(s)*

UCEP-Nepal, being a child-rights NGO working for the last 28 years, has been protecting the rights of children, who were compelled to live in prisons with their parent(s) because there is no one to take care of them.

UCEP-Nepal has been protecting the rights of prison dependent children. These children are provided with shelter, education, health care and other facilities for their physical and mental development. There is an arrangement, with support of Community Aid Bridge (CAB) of Japan, for a weekly visit of doctor at the BSG for medical check-up of the children at BSG.

These children are enrolled in different schools outside UCEP-Nepal premises. In 2005, two children (a girl and a boy) passed SLC and are pursuing higher studies in nursing and health



assistant. They now live in their college hostels and their studies have been sponsored by German NGO Arbeiterwohlfahrt Bundesverband e.v. (AWO)

BSG had received 18 prison dependent children till 2005. However, under a policy adopted in 2005, UCEP-Nepal has started transferring prison dependent children to other homes so that it could focus fully on children in conflict with law. This is done as there are a number of homes catering prison dependent children.

Under this policy, eight children were reintegrated with families as well as transferred to other suitable homes in 2005. The remaining children will also be gradually reintegrated and / or transferred to other homes.



### **'Thanks to UCEP from the Bottom of My Heart'**

After her family was virtually uprooted from her birthplace in Rolpa, Devi Pun Magar and her brother and sister had lost everything. Her father was sentenced for a long-term and the mother remarried leaving them all by themselves. With no one to take care of them, Devi, her brother and sister were living in jail as dependent children, when they were rescued by PAM, an organization working for prison dependent children. Their father died in jail. They spent a few years at PAM receiving some education. Then she and her brother were brought to UCEP-Nepal and were kept at Bal Sudhar Griha. Her sister still lives in a foster home. At UCEP-Nepal, she took training in printing press. However, considering her desire for education, UCEP-Nepal made arrangement and provided all facilities to continue her and her brother's education. "This gave us a firm ground to stand in our lives," she says.

Devi and her brother passed SLC last year. She had always wanted to become a nurse and UCEP-Nepal also arranged her for nursing studies through Sushma Koirala Memorial Trust. She is now in the certificate level of nursing. "I can see my dream of serving the poor and destitute being fulfilled," she said.

She says she thanks UCEP-Nepal and the Bal Sudhar Griha from the bottom of her heart for what it has done to her and her brother.

## Ensuring the Rights of Children Associated with Armed Conflict

Children are worst affected by the ongoing violence resulting from the armed conflict of the last 10 years. Hundreds of children have been killed or maimed, tens of thousand others forced to flee their homes and villages being displaced, and hundreds others were forced to involve in the conflict itself.

It has become a great challenge to protect children from armed conflict and to secure their right to their survival, protection and development. These children are physically affected and mentally, psychologically and emotionally traumatized by the conflict and they need special care package for healing the trauma along with protective and stable environment for rehabilitating and reintegrating them with their families and community.

UCEP-Nepal has been working for the protection and development rights of children associated with armed conflict. It has formed a coalition of NGOs, INGOs, UN agencies and other partners in promoting the concept of Children as Zone of Peace.

Children as Zone of Peace is a movement to isolate children from armed conflict activities and to declare and prohibit any conflict related activities in schools and other places related to children. UCEP-Nepal is an active member of the movement and it has been playing important role in protecting the rights of children involved in armed conflict.

In 2005, UCEP-Nepal started protection program for children associated with armed conflict to improve their immediate and long-term situation. The activities include protection, education, psychosocial counseling, peace education, vocational training and rehabilitation and/or reintegration with their families.

### Finding Life Away from Conflict

*Narayan (name changed) found a new life after he manage to escape from the armed groups. He says training will give him a chance to lead life away from conflict.*

*Narayan along with four other students were taken away by Maoists from their school in a district in mid-west Nepal. He comes from a poor family of nine members with six children and the family lives on farming.*

*They were separated after one day and for one year Narayan was shifted from one district another before he was back to his region. Disenchanted with the Maoists, he was thinking of escaping.*

*He got a chance to escape on the pretext of taking a bath. He says others chased him for a few hours but he escaped through the path of jungle. He went to his uncle, who took him to the district administration office to surrender. He is now under the protection of UCEP-Nepal.*



## Advocacy and Networking

### Promoting the Rights of Children

Since its inception, UCEP-Nepal has been raising voice and building pressure in creating awareness about child rights. It firmly believes advocacy and networking are effective means to bring desirable changes in the society in the best interest of the children.

Apart from actively involved in child-rights advocacy and awareness campaigns, it takes right-based approach in all its programs and

activities as well as joins hands with other organizations for the same.

Every year, UCEP-Nepal organizes and participates in various programs meant for children such as International Child Rights Day, International Women's Day, National Children Day, International Day against Trafficking of Girls and Women etc.



#### Children as Zone of Peace

Children as Zone of Peace is a national coalition of national and international child rights NGOs, UN agencies, human rights and humanitarian organization, and civil society organizations. It was formed in 2002, initially as a school as a Zone of Peace to establish the international norms and values to isolate children from any kind of armed conflict activities and prohibit any conflict related activities and armed groups in schools. Today it has become a national movement and advocating and monitoring all parties involved in armed conflict must respect the child rights by keeping them out of the conflict and not using and involving them in any kind of armed related activities.

UCEP - Nepal is associated with CZOP as steering committee member from the beginning. The Children as Zone of Peace and has been advocating and campaigning against any use of children in the armed related conflict, use of schools for any conflict activities and protection of children from attacks and safe guarding school infrastructure and services.

In the year 2005, UCEP-Nepal organized a rally on Anti-trafficking Day in Bhaktapur district. Girls of UCEP-Nepal staged an impromptu street drama against trafficking. Children at UCEP-Nepal also observed the National Children's Day at UCEP-Nepal premises with various programs. UCEP-Nepal has been making significant contribution for the cause of the children by taking child right approach in all its programs and activities.

UCEP-Nepal has representation in the networking of organizations, which works as pressure group for child rights, such as National Coalition for Children as Zone of Peace Steering Committee, Child NGO Federation of Nepal, Child Right Monitoring Group etc.

#### UCEP-Nepal, a Member of CAAFAG working group

Children Associated with Armed Groups and Armed Forces (CAAFAG) is a forum comprises of National and International Child rights NGOs and UN agencies. The overall objective of CAAFAG is to discuss, to analyze protection issues and coordinate comprehensive and harmonized response for the release, return and reintegration of children associated with armed forces and armed groups. UCEP-Nepal is one of the active members of CAAFAG working group, has been advocating, together with other members of working group, that children below 18 years of age should not be recruited of any kind of regular or irregular armed group and armed force and to the release of such children.

#### International Child Rights Day Celebration

International Child Rights Day is a day to reaffirm our commitment to children's rights and every year November 20, the day is celebrated with different programs such as rallies, symposiums, interaction programs etc. In 2005 also on the occasion of 16th International Child Rights day UCEP-Nepal organized various programmes and also participated in the programme organized by other right based organizations.



#### Celebration of Anti-Trafficking Day

Every year thousands of Nepalese girl children and young women are trafficked outside the country for commercial sex and other purposes. Awareness is the key to lessen and even to stop trafficking. Every year Chaitra 25 (7 or 8 April) has been marked as Anti-Trafficking Day to raise awareness among people and the vulnerable groups. In 2005, UCEP-Nepal played the leading role in organizing Anti-



Trafficking rally jointly with local organizations in Bhaktapur district. More than a dozen NGOs, and over 1000 students, children, men and women carrying placards and banners with anti-trafficking slogans participated in the rally. The rally assembled at Bhaktapur Durbar Square after passing through the main parts of the town.

Girls of UCEP-Nepal's Gainful Employment Program organized a street drama to raise awareness against trafficking.

## CHALLENGES AND FUTURE PROGRAMS



UCEP-Nepal, since its establishment has been working in protecting and promoting the rights of children, especially of the underprivileged and disadvantaged, by providing them better life opportunities through education, skill-oriented technical and vocational training and placement to enable them to lead an independent and dignified life. All its programs and activities are focused on children and their rights. UCEP-Nepal believes the rights of the children are impeded on one hand by general lack of awareness among the masses and on the other lack of opportunities for education, training and employment to be self-reliant.

UCEP-Nepal is proud to state that its programs and activities benefit hundreds of children and youths every year. However, there are many more UCEP-Nepal has not been able to accommodate

its programs. There has been significant increase in the number of children facing bleak future because of various political, social and economic reasons, including the conflict. As a result, the demand for non-formal education and technical and vocational training that imparted by UCEP-Nepal has also increased proportionately. So the main challenge for UCEP-Nepal is to expand and diversify its program and accommodate as many as needy children/youths in its programs. Thus, the challenge is enormous.

UCEP-Nepal, therefore, will work towards the diversifying and expanding its programs even at the regional level to meet the challenges of the coming days. Although UCEP-Nepal has adequate physical infrastructure on one hand, but on the other it is equally challenging for UCEP to meet all its objectives.

Generating the resources to meet its objectives is yet another challenge. It is not that easy to manage an organization without external funding. For more than a decade, UCEP-Nepal has been running without much external assistance. This policy has helped UCEP-Nepal to make autonomous and stick to its objectives making it institutionally stable, trustworthy and prestigious organization. However, running it solely by generating internal resources has become a challenge for us considering the expansion and diversification of its programs and activities.

UCEP-Nepal's future program include drive on advocacy through programs like coordination and interactions with the stakeholders and target groups, widening the networking to include both those working for children and general masses and form pressure groups. UCEP-Nepal also plans to get more involved in programs and activities related to child rights and working more closely with partner and other organizations.

Non-formal Education is one of the two core programs of UCEP-Nepal. To make its NFE more effective and to reach to more children, UCEP-Nepal plans to revitalize its NFE program by reorganizing the community-based organizations and finding new ways to reach the target group. It has also plans to add more NFE centers in the needy area/location.

The technical education and vocational training is another core program of UCEP-Nepal. Considering the need of the market and new demand for training and employment, UCEP-Nepal needs to upgrade and update its training program by updating its courses and curriculum. Apart from updating its existing training, UCEP-



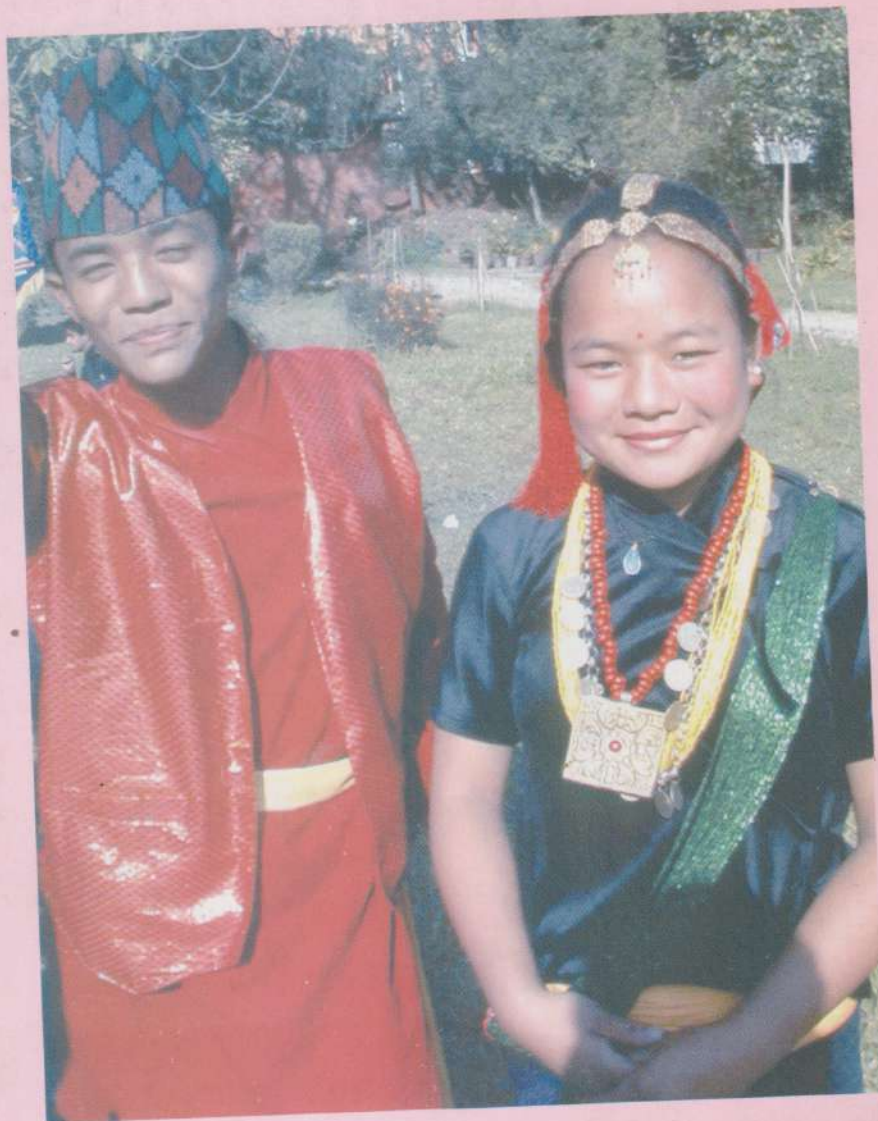
Nepal plans to add new trades in the near future and to reach to the target groups in other areas. It, therefore, has plans to expand its training geographically through outreach TEVT such as mobile and short-term and package training outside Kathmandu. The long-term plan also includes opening technical schools or centers in other areas of the country.

Beside, education and TEVT, UCEP-Nepal will focus on the over all protection of the rights of children. UCEP-Nepal believes awareness among all sections of the society is a prerequisite to protect and promote the rights of the children. It also believes advocacy and working together with like-minded organizations and partners is crucial to reach to the general populace and apprise them about child rights. UCEP-Nepal will vigorously involve in advocacy for the rights of the children through participating in and organizing child-related programs, interaction with partners and at public forums and by joining hands with organizations working for children through networking.



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## **UCEP-Nepal**

P.O. Box: 1286, Kathmandu Nepal  
Tel: 977-1-6630388/6631279 Fax: 977-1-6631294  
E-mail: [ucep@vianet.com.np](mailto:ucep@vianet.com.np), [ucep@ucep-nepal.org](mailto:ucep@ucep-nepal.org)  
URL: [www.ucep-nepal.org](http://www.ucep-nepal.org)