



ASHA

"Equality in Education for Children"



ANNUAL REPORT
2077

Foreword

ASHA” is a non-profitable organization dedicated to underprivileged children with the help of donations from people and various sources. Though we aim to educate slum/urban poor kids, poor and underprivileged for their right to quality education including pre-primary schooling.

ASHA believes that access to education is a basic human right of every child. It remains a distant dream for the kids, especially those who are poor and underprivileged who can't afford to go to schools that offer quality education, equipment and learning resources, which often come at an expensive price. All they can do is merely watch other kids from upper class attending schools and enjoying their childhood.

Year 2077 remains challenging due to COVID-19 pandemic which is the biggest human crisis worldwide, causing simultaneous human health, and huge negative impact in education and socio- economic settings worldwide including Nepal.

ASHA a small child centered NGO providing complementing support to the Government of Nepal to tackle with the COVID-19 and its impact in the community. ASHA's major project was slacking down for a while and again accelerated by changing implementing modality. ASHA pre-schooling program has been continued through several safe and physical distancing. All children received regular support from its staff applying full protective measures. Further, construction projects have been continued with close coordination with the local community and Government.

ASHA is always grateful to those who support us to reach to the most vulnerable children in Nepal. We are obliged to Nepal Himalayan Park Stiftung , Germany and its founder Mr. Heribert Wirth for his regular outstanding support for our program and institutional development. Further, we are very much grateful to our other donors and volunteer who made their valuable supports to become possible us to be here.

We are very obliged to the children and their parents for adapting ASHA modified teaching and learning strategy which became a successful milestone to keep continuing their learning even in a hard-pandemic environment. Similarly, we appreciate the efforts provided by the building construction company, Shree Ram Janakee Nirman Sewa for their hard work to keep the work continuing.

Moreover, we express our sincere gratitude to the Mayor and ward Chairperson of the Suryavinayek Municipality, Social Welfare Council and other stakeholders for their valuable support to run ASHA program activities throughout the year.

Lastly, but not least, we appreciate efforts paid by ASHA board members, its staff and advisors to keep ASHA alive even in the most difficult circumstances. We hope the same types of support will be continued in the days to come.

Thank you,

Sarika Shrestha
Chairperson

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1. Organization Background

“ASHA” is a non-for-profit organization running a school for underprivileged children with donations from people and various organizations. Though we aim to educate kids from the slum areas, we also offer help to those who are poor and underprivileged for receiving at least the pre-primary education. The main aim of ASHA is to provide quality education to underprivileged children, thereby fulfilling their dreams to build a better future. Its motto is equality in education. We want to be their strong pillar of support to make them better citizens. ASHA provides education with hygienic food and all other required basic facilities.

ASHA believes that access to education is a basic human right for every child. However, it remains unaffordable for underprivileged children to go to schools that offer quality education, equipment, and learning resources. The only access to education is through the government-funded public schools that have no specific programs and resource allocation for the education of such children. Most of the disadvantaged children are deprived of education. All they can do is merely watch other kids from the upper-class attending schools and enjoying their childhood. They might often wonder as to why they cannot join those kids and attend the school. They are so helpless that education is beyond their economic limit. Thus, bringing such disadvantaged children to school, keeping them at school for a longer period, and doing better at school is a long-held challenge.

2. Organization Objectives

Goal 1 – Early Childhood Education

NGO supports the children of the slum areas of Basundhara by providing them pre-primary level education in a friendly and comfortable environment. Our semi- Montessori and practical method of educational model helps the children to develop language and improve society as well as motor skills.

Goal 2 - Reduce Child Discrimination in Education

Through direct contact with the parents in the slums, the NGO raises awareness about the importance of education, especially for girls. By providing free schooling, we are enabling the children in the slum areas to build a good foundation for their future, irrespective of their social background and gender.

Goal - 3 Improve Child Health

In addition to teaching children the importance of hygiene and giving them healthy food, we are also providing medicines and regular vaccination programs given by the government of Nepal. Altogether, the school provides an encouraging environment for kids to grow physically, mentally, and emotionally. In addition, we provide warm nutritious meals and safe drinking water. The children also get the chance to experience a structured everyday life and learn to socially interact with other kids.

Goal 4 – Providing the right teacher for the development of Children

Teachers are the second guardians of every child. So, it is very necessary to train the teachers to handle the children. Understanding the needs, teachers will receive training on academic course plan preparation, lesson planning, question paper setting, preparing classwork copies, singing and dancing. Also, teachers will be provided training which will be best suited for the children to help them learn in an interactive way. Pieces of training will be provided to both the male and female teachers and also to the volunteers to help them succeed in their respective fields.



3. Scaling up

ASHA has been gradually expanding its working area to Bhaktapur district in 2077. It has already completed its administrative procedures to register the ASHA in the District Administrative Office and listing the organization in Suryavinayak Municipality.

4. Major Achievement 2077

Target VS Achievement Matrix

S. No	Name of Activity	Target	Achievement
1	Run early childhood education	One center with 30 children	Operate one Early Child Education Centre in Kathmandu Metropolitan City ward-3 Basundhara, where 25 urban poor children are being benefited
2	Construction of Office building	Construct a three-floor office building with canteen	A three-floor office building and canteen is being constructed in Suryabinayak Municipality-10, Bhaktapur
3	Right to quality basic education	Support 8 poor and disadvantaged children to continue their basic education	A total of 8 poor students from Slums setting are getting enrolled in Public School (Shivapuri Secondary School) with full support.)
4	Social Relief	Provide humanitarian assistance to poor and vulnerable families (children-30)	A total of 5 Slum families with 7 children received a month's food ration. A total of 25 children received clothes, stationaries and food items.
5	Outdoor Education	Conduct one outdoor education trip to 25 students	One day socio-education trip of all 25 students has conducted
6	Monitoring and Evaluation	Conduct joint monitoring from Kathmandu Metropolitan City and Conduct Project evaluation from the Social Welfare Council.	Joint monitoring of the Early Childhood Education Centre has been conducted from Kathmandu Metropolitan City. A project evaluation from the Social Welfare Council has been Conducted for the land purchasing project in Bhaktapur.

4.1 Run Early Childhood Education

“ASHA” An Early Childhood Education class targeting the most vulnerable children from the Slums setting is being run in Kathmandu Metropolitan City Ward-3 Basundhara. A total of 25 children including 13 girls are receiving Montessori-based early childhood education there. The center has been run in close coordination with the local government. The center provides high-quality pre-schooling education to the children. The center provides a different level of pre-schooling education based on the



age and learning level of the children through play groups, Nursery, Lower Kindergartens, and Upper Kindergartens. A total of four trained teachers, a male, and three females provides their full-time support to improve the overall learning outcomes of the children.



Ongoing Covid-19 has terribly impacted the center and ASHA. As instructed by the Government of Nepal, the center has been closed temporarily. By changing its teaching approach, ASHA has continued providing regular support to the children through workbook-based teaching/learning support by dividing children in different age groups. ASHA developed its own workbook-based learning model in which children set their learning outcomes and learn through parent-child interaction. The teacher provides distance or one to one coaching and mentoring support to the children by fully using COVID-19 prevention guidelines.

4.2 Construction of office building

A three-floor office building with a canteen and guard room is under construction. The building is in full compliance with the prevailing building codes of the Government of Nepal. For this, ASHA has a separate construction committee consisting of an experienced civil engineer.

ASHA in close coordination with the donor organization **Nepal Himalayan Park Stiftung , Germany** has selected a qualified construction company through a sealed tender procurement process. The procurement process has been done directly by the donor organization. ASHA has participated in every step to ensure that every step is transparent and meets local law.

The building complies with all building codes of the Government of Nepal which is reviewed by respective authorities and approved by the Municipality.



Building construction is being monitored at various levels. Initial monitoring is being conducted by the construction company itself. Second level of monitoring is being done by YA Engineering company, which closely monitors the quality of construction materials, mixing process, time and other technical essentials to ensure the quality of the building. On top of this, one senior civil engineer from ASHA monitors construction including roles and performance performed by construction and the engineering company. Further, both ASHA's engineer and YA Engineering company closely works with the construction company to ensure all construction materials are tested and only agreed quality samples are used. Besides, ASHA board members and engineers from the respective municipality also conduct monitoring when needed.

4.3 Right to quality education

ASHA provides further education support to early childhood education graduates graduated from its own center. For this, ASHA coordinates with well known pioneer government school named Shivapuri Secondary School and helps to enroll them with full scholarships which cover full annual education expenses including school stationery, exam fees charged by the school. ASHA conducts regular follow-up and monitoring of the children and also provides its one to one counseling when needed. During the reporting period, ASHA has enrolled eight students (3 boys and 5 girls) in Shivapuri Secondary School, Maharajgunj in basic level (3 in grade five, 4 in grade four, and 1 in grade three). According to a report received from the school authority, all eight students display excellent learning performance.



I am very impressed with the ASHA supported students. Most of them display very good academic performance and are dedicated to learning. Two out of eight have demonstrated outstanding learning performance and we have upgraded them to upper class after midterm examination. I hope these children may attain an extra performance in their life ahead.

Mr. Diwakar Pandey
Principal, Shivapuri Secondary School

4.4 Social Relief

The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic has claimed millions of lives worldwide. Lockdown is considered to be an effective measure in slowing the spread of coronavirus around the globe which brought a severe negative impact on the socio-economy of the community. It has mostly impacted the poor that they became further poorer by losing all means of livelihood and economic opportunities.



ASHA works with people living in slum areas which are known as a multi hazardous community. Covid-19 has brought an unmanageable negative impact in the lives of ASHA children living in slums. Most of the parents lost their employment both in the organized and informal sectors. Most parents

are worried about their children's food, clothing, health, and education that have increased parent's pressure to keep their work running as well as to take care of schooling children at home.

Therefore, ASHA has provided emotional and social support to the children and their families by providing a minimum level of humanitarian and social relief. For this ASHA has provided one-month ration support to the five most vulnerable families. Ration includes raw rice, lentil, vegetable oil, and salt meeting a minimum 1600 kcal to each member of the family. Further, ASHA has provided clothes, stationaries and food items to support all students on the occasion of a great national festival. In addition, ASHA provided regular counseling to the parent and children to bring them back into normal settings.

4.5 Out-door education

ASHA aims to provide comprehensive support to improve the learning domains of the student in which ASHA conducts a series of in and out- door education activities including social education trips and outdoor events to attain the pre-set learning outcomes of the children.

Outdoor learning experiences offer a great deal in terms of developing holistic learning domains of the children. Therefore, ASHA's outdoor learning activities provide a range of opportunities to the children to interact with nature, social and cultural practices which contribute to positive behavior.



Further, ASHA's aim is to help children understand that learning occurs everywhere and that it can be a good alternative to in class learning considering the current Covid 19 pandemic situation. For this, ASHA facilitates individual children to illustrate learning outcomes, and support them to achieve their educational goals. In the end, ASHA conducts review consultation to ensure each individual child achieved their learning outcome.

During the reporting period, on 2077, ASHA has conducted one outdoor education event in nearby risk-free area. A total of 25 children participated in the event in high safety child safeguarding settings. The teachers and ASHA board members made their valuable support to the children to increase their learning through nature tour, object stories, social and cultural recreation, Games, and Drama. Moreover, ASHA's teacher always facilitated the individual children to interact with ongoing social, cultural, environmental, and economic/financial scenario so that they can develop coping mechanism even in worst case scenarios.

4.6 Monitoring and evaluation

ASHA conducts regular monitoring and evaluation of the project activities from its board members. The board members conduct periodic progress review, and also support the program team to implement program activities by applying project cycles such as need assessment, plan, implementation, and



monitoring and evaluation. Further, ASHA supports the staff team to use quality monitoring tools to ensure the quality of every small activity.

ASHA works in close coordination with the local government. During the year 2077, a joint monitoring of the Early Childhood Development Center was conducted by Kathmandu Metropolitan City. Ms. Bimala Koirala, Chief of the Department of Social Development (DSD), and Ms. Bhawani Kapali, officer, DSD visited the center on 2076/09/09 BS. The team deeply interacted



with local stakeholders, children, teacher, board member and parent. Team has acknowledged the ASHA efforts for quality early childhood education opportunities to the most vulnerable urban poor and most importantly to the slum children.

Moreover, program evaluation has been done by the Social Welfare Council. A three-member evaluation team has closely reviewed the organization policies, program performance, and financial transaction to identify the project outcomes, effectiveness, efficiency, level of transparency, coordination with local government, and sustainability. The evaluation was conducted using multiple evaluation tools such as document review, interview with the program team, stakeholders, and beneficiary consultation.

5. Volunteer management

Due to COVID-19 pandemic, the year 2077 remains less effective in receiving volunteer support in ASHA. During the 2077, an international German, volunteer Cosima Schwoerer provided her valuable support to ASHA children.



While I was part of this NGO, I got to see what really is important in life.

These kids, who are living in the slum area next to the school in dark and small rooms with their whole family, are warming your heart with their smile and their open mind. But when you know their background story (some of their parents beat them, are alcoholic, or are already dead), you realize how important it is for them to get educated, so that they have a chance for a better life one day.

This is what Asha is for. The children there get taught, get raised, get one warm meal per day, get love from the staff, and have a daily routine.

The whole team is like a big family. I was warmly welcomed when I got to the school on my first day. I was feeling really comfortable with the teachers and also with the children, of course. Even though I did not have any teaching experience before, I got the chance to teach the children some English, sing, draw, and dance with them. My time at Asha was incredible. I am very inspired by the great and important work the teachers are doing there. And I am so amazed of seeing these kids so happy in school, even though they have a lot to worry about.

I am really grateful, that I got the chance to be part of the school and I will definitely come back one day.

*Cosima Schwoerer
German Volunteer*

6. Co-ordination

ASHA has been performing regular coordination with local governments both with Kathmandu Metropolitan City and Suryavinayek Municipality. For this, ASHA conducts formal and informal sharing meetings with local governments, provides the report, and seeks feedback in every action being conducted jointly.

7. Effectiveness

ASHA aimed to increase the utilization of the right to education of the most vulnerable children, most importantly poor, orphan, disable, and children from slum areas across the Kathmandu valley. As these children are still away from quality education and this project will benefit over 50 most vulnerable children every year. Furthermore, the program sites lie in the remote corner of the valley which would be a good



milestone for quality education there. Furthermore, ASHA master plan is committed to working with local public schools and the process has already begun. Now ASHA has been working with Bal Sikshya Sadan School there in Suryavinayak ward 10 to improve the quality of public school there. In addition to formal education, this project will increase vulnerable children's access to extracurricular, digital/computer training, good parenting education that would directly contribute to better education to the neediest children from the poor, socially protected, and unreached children.

8. Efficiency

ASHA is a small volunteer organization. So far, it has been running an early child development center in Kathmandu Metropolitan city with four teachers with administrative team and ASHA board members. It has also developed several strict policies regarding child safeguarding, sexual Harassment, gender discrimination, financial policies after ASHA funding portfolio increased.



A land has been purchased at a price worth 480K per Anna. As of local community response, this cost is about 35 % lower than the normal local rate for a small piece of land. The rate found a lower due volume of land. Now it cost worth Rs. 1050K Per Anna which is more than double the purchased cost. These scenarios show that land has been purchased with possible cost negotiation in presence of donor representatives. Land purchasing process including the price is well known across all board members and staff.

ASHA has been following gender policies in both staff and board members. ASHA is a woman lead organization and 57 percentage of board members are female. Likewise, 66% of staff are female including cast diversification. No board members are performing as staff members.

9. Sustainability

Nepal Himalayan Park Stiftung, Germany is a regular donor who has been supporting the building construction. The Grant flow has already begun with approval from the Social Welfare council. Moreover, ASHA has a wide network of international volunteers (both institutional and individual) that ASHA has been raising a small volume of donations including short-term



volunteer support. Over 50 volunteers have already contributed their technical support to run existing Early Child Development Education in Kathmandu.

Further, ASHA has been working to execute its fund-raising strategy which is on hold due to COVID-19 pandemic. ASHA has developed a three-year strategic plan of action for operation including fundraising. ASHA also works with local governments and supports government plan. This strategy will ensure the continuation of the ASHA program after the donor fund support ends.



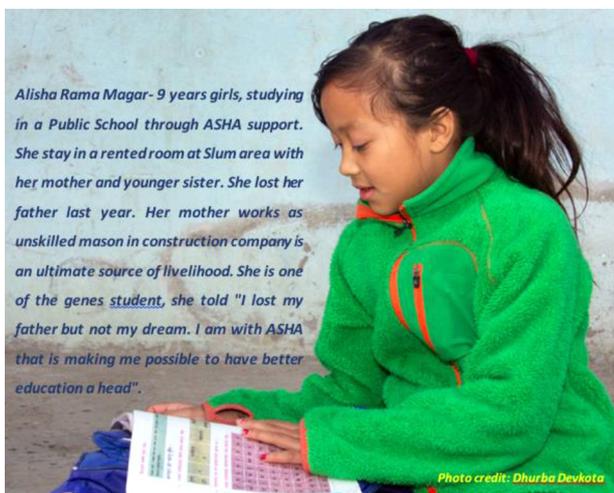
10. Transparency

AASHA has been performing public hearings so far, However, ASHA has a plan to conduct a public hearing in Suryavinayek municipality ward-10 which is on hold due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

11. Challenges

Covid-19 and its impacts on the lives of children and their families remain key challenges. With the unprecedented lockdown, most parents have worries about their children’s education and future as their school education has been halted until further notice. ASHA has also closed classroom-based learning and started home-based learning that has been vital to children who do not have access to web-based learning. Parents, due to their heavy engagement in livelihood have gradually lost their engagement with children that has ultimately affected the quality of learning among the children.

12. From the Right Holders



1. Financial report

1. Income

S. No.	Name of Donor	Amount
1.	Multiple donation	1,593,293.33

2. Expenditure

S. No	Line Items	Plan Budget	Expenditure	Percent
A	Program			
	Program staff salary	506,000.00	490,753.95	96.99
	Food for children	280,000.00	62,629.00	22.37
	Printing and stationaries for program	115,000.00	39,079.00	33.98
	Plantation	10,000.00	9,000.00	90.00
	Project evaluation SWC	270,000.00	270,000.00	100.00
	SWC meeting	5,000.00	3,500.00	35.00
	Proposal preparation	-	185,000.00	(100.00)
	Education support to student	580,000.00	-	0.00
	ECD Materials	150,000.00	-	0.00
	Capacity building of the Bal Sadan	250,000.00	-	0.00
	Documentary expenses	50,000.00	48,000.00	96.00
	Sub total Program	2,166,000.00	1,107,961.95	51.15
B	Administration			
	Audit fee	30,000.00	30,000.00	100.00
	Bank charge	5,000.00	4,216.00	84.32
	Cleaning expenses	20,000.00	17,000.00	85.00
	Computer and printer	75,000.00	71,735.00	95.65
	House Rent	250,800.00	250,800.00	100.00
	Office expenses	55,000.00	42,154.00	76.64
	Internet and communication	15,000.00	900.00	6.00
	Renewal expenses	15,000.00	15,000.00	100.00
	Transportation expenses	30,000.00	27,605.00	92.02
	Tax	2,000.00	1,522.00	76.10
	Land tax	1,400.00	1,300.00	92.86
	Legal fee	40,000.00	37,500.00	93.75
	Policy development	170,000.00	169,411.76	99.65
	Other Expenses	5,000.00	4,772.00	95.44
	Sub total Admin	714,200.00	673,915.76	94.36
	Grand total	2,880,200.00	1,781,877.71	61.87

3. Advance

S. No.	Particular	Amount
1.	Ram Janakee Nirman Sewa Startup/mobilization cost for building construction	10,000,000.00
2.	YA Engineering	695,000.00
		10,695,000.00

Overall financial performance remains 61.87 percent in 2077. Reason behind the low expenses is COVID-19 pandemic which has terribly impacted in ASHA program Implementatin. School based activities planned for the year 2077 not became possible due to closure of school. Further, changed strategy has reduced expenses planned for Early Childhood Education Center.

Advance issued for building construction is on progress. Construction company has already submitted first bills which is on approval process.



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