



SWC. 48368, Reg. No.186136/074/075, Pan 606751751

Minority FOCUS
Nakhipot-14, Lalitpur, Nepal
Tel: +977-01-5170033, 9810033767
Email: official@minorityfocusco.org
Web: www.minorityfocusco.org

MINORITY FOCUS Annual Report 2024

Greetings from Minority FOCUS

We are delighted to circulate you the Annual Report 2024. Thank you for your prayers and support for the work of Minority Focus in Nepal. Your support and cooperation in making access of financial resources helped us to implement the plan during 2024.

Current Ongoing Scholars' Update

During the year 2024, a total of 125 scholars from various faculties received scholarship support, which has helped them pursue their academic goals across different fields of study. 30 students successfully completed their courses. We maintain regular contact with each of these students, ensuring consistent communication regarding their academic progress. In addition, we actively collect and monitor their academic progress reports. This ensures that scholars stay on track with their studies, and we can address any challenges they may face throughout their educational journey.

Evaluation and monitoring (SWC)

From January to March of 2024, we facilitated to do the evaluation and monitoring of the last two years of the project. The SWC (Social Welfare Council) Evaluation and Monitoring team visited our office and collected relevant information. Finally, SWC provided a report with recommendations for future projects.

Project Proposal approval

For the years 2024 to 2026, we obtained pre-approval from the social welfare department of Lalitpur metropolitan office and final approval from Social Welfare Council of the government for scholarship program project for 2 years 2024-2026.

Board Meetings

We conducted regular board meetings, made important decisions, one of the decisions was initiating an Endowment Fund in order to sustain the program in future as well. A policy was established, and a designated amount was deposited into an institutional Fixed Account. The interest generated from the fund will be used for emergencies related to projects and management crises according to the established policies. We also began efforts to explore new partners for funding.

Affiliation Renewal to SWC/Company Renewal

Minority Focus obtained renewal of affiliation from Social Welfare Council for 3 years. Simultaneously Minority FOCUS obtained annual renewal of the company as well without any obstacles. The Tax clearance certificate was also obtained. Thanks to the associated offices for their cooperation.

Key Achievements & Impact 2024

Training of Trainers in Career



We organized 2 days trainings that is Career Counseling helper course for Trainers (Training of Training) in this 15-17 December. The expert team form Career Disha Nepal NGO operated the course. Our PCI, UK partner funded for the initial courses.

This training equips participants with the necessary skills, knowledge, and tools to effectively assist others. This includes understanding career development theories, introducing new tools and techniques, and applying strategies to assess participants' strengths, interests, and potential career paths.



Participants were encouraged to share their experiences with the people and youth they have been involved with. It also helps guide other associated youth groups. We have plan to organize this course in other provinces. We have approached for funds for the course proposed to organize in this fiscal year.

Students Gathering & Career Counseling Program



On June 30, 2024, the workshop was organized to train church existing and emerging leaders to equip with the knowledge and skills of helping students in need in counseling in order to facilitate them to make right choices of faculties and associated courses or studies in order to confirm their future career. There were 35 trainees/trainers who joined this training. The day was extended like a well-crafted story, with each activity adding a new chapter.



The discussion centered on the application of the sessions presented. Some of the focus graduates among the trainees, representing their local (Church) partners, shared their inspiring and successful stories, recounting their life journeys with sincerity and passion. They spoke about the challenges they faced, the lessons they learned, and the milestones they achieved along the way. Their narratives were not only inspiring but also offered valuable insights into navigating the ups and downs of life after graduation. The audiences were deeply moved and motivated by these reflections, which added a personal and meaningful touch to the event.

Chitwan Career Counselling (Helpers Course)

The training was organized on October 10, 2024. A total of 25 trainees from various churches in Chitwan participated. The trainees were selected based on their commitment to education and their dedication to providing educational counseling, with a strong desire to help students achieve their career goals. The trainees were required to commit to being available to assist students in need of counseling.



The major topics highlighted and focused on introduction to informed career decisions, the bases and techniques for making decisions, and the education system of Nepal in relation to access to labor markets. The training also involved officials from Minority Focus. The trainees requested that an advanced course on career counseling be organized in the future. We will first evaluate the application and usefulness of this course, then we will make a plan for future undertaking.

“I am thankful to Minority Focus for organizing an amazing workshop. These training sessions have turned out to be very fruitful. This session has helped me better understand learning, facilitating, and guiding students in career development. Many youths in our community and churches are seeking career guidance, and this workshop has helped me gain a deeper understanding of how to provide informed career advice.” Sunita Shrestha

Jajarkot Earthquake Relief Program

On November 3, 2023, at 11:47 p.m., a 6.4 magnitude earthquake occurred in Jajarkot District in western Nepal with its epicenter at Berekot rural municipality, a total of 153 casualties have been confirmed, with 17,824 households in the two districts fully destroyed. The Earthquake Relief Program was undertaken by Minority Focus in response to the earthquake in Jajarkot district on November 3, 2023. The program aimed to provide and distribute emergency relief supplies such as food, water, and support recovery efforts in the affected communities of Jajarkot Ward 1. The total number of beneficiaries was over 300 individuals and families.



A team was organized to manage relief project. Preliminary information was adequately collected and an implementation plan was set. The target communities victimized from the earthquake were reached and delivered the packages successfully in cooperation with local governments, church leaders and community leaders. The program specifically targeted vulnerable populations, including children, elderly individuals, and people with disabilities. The beneficiary communities were much thankful for the great help and concern of Minority Focus and its funding partner.

Success story; Surakshya Acharya Bachelor in Health Care Management



Bachelor in Health Care Management

Ms. Surakshya Acharya comes from Dang district, the western province named Lumbini province of Nepal. She was interested in health care, completed her BHCM, a challenging emerging course.

Minority Focus offered a partial scholarship to do this course, received partial scholarship to her at the time when the family income sources were limited.

She joined several hospitals such as HDCS, HAMS and finally she joined Tansen UM hospital under paid intern. Recently she got married, now she is planning whether to stay on the same hospital or seek jobs in other health care organization.

She has expressed her gratitude for support she received from the partnership between Minority Focus and Medical Mission Aid, Aus. She aims to become a leader in health care management sector.

Inspiring Journey of a Medical Graduate from Remote District of Nepal

Himal B.K. is from Jajarkot, the most remote community, recently completed MBBS (Master of Medicine and Master of Surgery) in Nepal.

His own word “I was born in a remote village, Bheri Municipality-7, Jajarkot, in the mid-western part of Nepal, into a lower-middle-class family facing economic crisis. I grew up in a situation where limited access to formal education and attended a government school. Alongside my studies, I helped my parents in farming and cattle managing.

After my +2 education, I took several entrance examinations to secure a government tuition free seat from several medical colleges, but could not make it. Without a free or subsidy, to pursue MBBS was beyond my reach, but I kept strong desire to become a doctor grew day by day, preventing me from giving up. Finally, I received highly subsidized tuition free seat for the course from BPKIHS in 2018 AD. This support became a pillar that pushed me forward. I recently completed my MBBS in July 2024 and am currently working as an intern doctor at BPKIHS (hospital), Dharan. I express my gratitude and thanks to all associated organizations and friends and my family.



Staff development & Empowering

Under staff development and empowerment, our staff had the opportunity to attend several important training sessions and workshops to enhance their knowledge, skills, and competencies, thereby improving performance. These training sessions were highly beneficial in enhancing her competencies and have contributed significantly to achieving the organization's goals and objectives.



1. Introductory one day seminar on Safeguarding was organized. An expert from Asia took the session. A good participation from National Mission Commission of Nepal, Minority Focus and some other organizations. Dr. NP Maharjan and Sony Shah also took part.

Ms. Sony Shah (Program & Finance Manager) participated in the following training and workshops:

2. Coaching Skills for Leaders; This training was organized by DAI Nepal on 28th May 2024. The course focused on teaching essential leadership skills within a framework that empowers people, supports them, and provides the drive to move forward.
3. Empowering Mid-Level Managers; This workshop was facilitated by Santosh Chhetri, CEO of iLead on 20th Sep, 2024. It focused on principles and approaches for mid-level managers to effectively support their top leaders, while also showcasing leadership qualities and contributing positively to the team's success.
4. Safeguarding Advanced Level Training; Carnet Nepal, in collaboration with Asia CMS and AP Baptist Aid, conducted a three-day advanced level safeguarding training on 18 to 20, November 2024. Two international safeguarding and child protection experts Mr. Roshan and Ms. Esther delivered the training. The focus of the training was on policy-making for safeguarding included developing a code of conduct, comprehensive overview of safeguarding policies and systems, monitoring safeguarding practices.

Graduate Fund

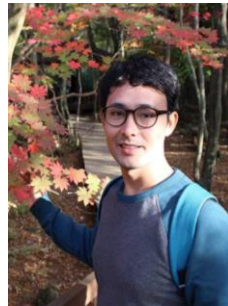
The graduate fund is essential to sustain the scholarship program. Since its establishment, the Minority Focus Scholarship Program supported over 2,000 graduates. We have provided scholarship support in various fields, including Engineering, Medicine, Law, Technical, Management, Education, Humanities, Vocational Courses, and Theology Studies. We are pleased that all of our graduates are actively engaged in their respective fields of work.

We consistently update our records and make efforts to track the professional involvement of our graduates. Annually, we receive 2% of the total income from our graduates. Some graduates contribute regularly, while others make one-time donations. Some of the graduates who live abroad are also sending their contributions, which greatly helped to support the general scholarship program. All funds raised from graduates were used to support the general scholarship program.

For the future sustainability of the Minority Focus program, the graduate fund has become one of the key and essential internal financial sources to ensure continued support the scholarship program.

Significant Impacts from the Graduate fund

We would like to share an impact story about how the Graduate Fund helps support the scholarship Program.



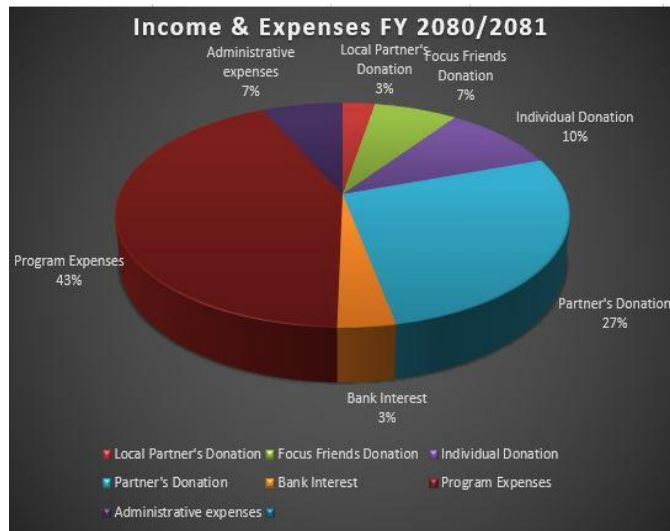
Mr. Suman Shrestha, originally from Rasuwa, is extremely passionate about his studies. He has successfully completed his Hydro Engineering course. He worked as an engineer for Sanjen Jalavichut (Hydro) Company Ltd. in Rasuwa and has also been involved in policy-making for the company.

Currently, Suman Shrestha resides in Korea with his family. He is committed to support the Minority Focus Scholarship Program from the distanced abroad. A great piece of news for Focus was that Suman shared with his friends in Korea, his positive experiences related to impacts made by Minority Focus on developing transformed leaders in Nepal, and as a result, he and three other friends have committed to support four technical students for their four years courses.

We had a meeting with senior graduate professionals on the roles of graduates in supporting the FOCUS works. This kind of discussion is planned in future as well. There is strong recommendation to organize a Team of Graduate professional to discuss on the effective participation of graduates in supporting and upgrading the program in future.

Audit of the financial transaction

The financial transaction of the past 2080-2081 (2023-2024) was audited and the report was submitted to the Board and also circulated to the associated government offices as an official document. The report was made available in our office and open for your observation.



Our sincere Gratitude

We would like to thank our financial partners, local partners (church partners), and graduates for their regular contributions to the scholarship program. We are equally grateful to our local governments and officials who supported and facilitated the successful implementation of the scholarship programs during the year. Additionally, we extend our heartfelt thanks to our Board Chairman, Treasurer, and Directors for their valuable time and effective leadership in managing the organization. We also appreciate the management team for their dedicated efforts in implementing the program.

Prayer requests

- i) Increasing need of financial partners for funds for future program due to the rising number of marginalized and underprivileged students.
- ii) Funds required for physical facilities for the Office of Minority Focus.
- iii) Funds necessary for new projects related to education, development, and income-generating initiatives.
- iv) Please pray for Minority Focus board members and Staff team
- v) Pray for our financial Partners, Ongoing students, Graduates & Local partners
- vi) Pray for our upcoming programs in 2025

Impacts of initiated/implemented Programs & Projects

Scholarship programs; More than 2,000 students (more than 50% were girls) received scholarship support across various sectors and fields of study for their education, making a significant impact on both individuals and communities. For students, scholarships provide crucial financial assistance. Beyond financial relief, scholarships can also have long-term effects on a student's career goal. Additionally, scholarships can empower students from underrepresented backgrounds, helping to create a more diverse and inclusive educational environment.

Carrer Counseling Project: Under the Career Counseling Project, we organized workshops and training to 85 youth and leaders. This project can have a wide-ranging impact on both students and communities. The core objective of the program is to guide individuals in making informed decisions for their education, career paths, and future opportunities.

Students Gathering Program: We conduct a student gathering workshop every year, which has demonstrated a profound impact on students' educational experiences, as well as their personal and social development. These programs typically involve bringing students together for discussions, workshops, group activities, or events, followed by monitoring to ensure continued engagement, progress, and support.

Children education support: Minority Focus has initiated in cooperation and partnership with Console Mission NGO in order to support the after-school coaching center in South Lalitpur. Children's education support can have a transformative impact not only on the individual child but also on families and entire communities. By providing resources, guidance, and access to quality education, these programs can lead to lasting improvements in academic performance. They strengthen the foundation for a child's future, not just academically, but also in terms of personal growth and their contribution to society. Half a dozen of students who have graduated, now engaged in nursing, dental care, civil engineering and teaching, they were once the children grown up in the center. We are working for the financial details for project related with aforesaid need.

Disaster relief support Program: A disaster relief support program plays a crucial role in providing immediate assistance and long-term recovery to communities affected by natural disasters (such as earthquakes, floods, cold waves, and corona epidemics etc.) Minority Focus had helped the people in need during disasters and epidemics. The impacts of such programs are both immediate and far-reaching, addressing a range of needs from emergency aid to long-term rebuilding and recovery.

Livelihoods project: The Livelihoods Project plays a critical role in uplifting education programs by breaking down financial barriers, creating a more supportive learning environment, and fostering a culture of education within families and communities. By improving economic conditions, livelihoods projects ensure that education becomes a sustainable priority for both children and adults. When integrated with educational programs, livelihoods projects create a more holistic approach to community development, offering long-term benefits for both individuals and society as a whole.

We strongly feel the need to start a new project, the Livelihoods Project, which can significantly uplift the educational programs by addressing the economic obstacles that prevent individuals, particularly from low-income communities, from accessing and completing their education. We are working for the financial details for this project.