

Empowering Older Persons through Basic Literacy Class in Nepal

SDG 4: Lifelong Learning

By:

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Pilot Phase

Piloted in 2016

With Support from NGO Committee on Ageing/NY, Virginia

Hazzard Legacy Fund

in Nepal, Togo, Mali and Mozambique

In Nepal

Area Selection

Budanilkantha Municipality, ward 10, Kathmandu

* *High rural migration*

* *Rapid Urbanization*

Local organization

Shree Asthabhuja Samaj

Process

Learners selection (*Home Visit and Registration*)



Teachers Selection (*Local, Committed & Experienced*)



Basic Literacy for Older Persons
ज्येष्ठ नागरिक आधारभूत शिक्षा
Budhanilkantha Municipality-12, Kapan, Kathmandu
July 1st to December 30th, 2016
SDG 4: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

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Basic Information of Neo-learners of Pilot Project

Number of Neo-learners: 32
(28 older women and 4 older men)

Oldest Neo-learner in the Class
78 yrs

Learning hour

- *Planned for 4 hours/day, practiced 2.5 hours/day*
- *Majority had to do household chores and take care of grandchildren*

Success Indicators

- Helped to fight loneliness and elder abuse
- Enhanced Self-respect, Self Care and Confidence to raise voice in family and community
- Create Bond of Friendship among Neo-learners



Successes.....

- *Access to New Technology like mobiles & TV-remote controller
- *Break Misconception that Older Persons Need not/Cannot Learn New Things
- *USE New Literates as a Social Resource that can be Mobilized for Societal Development



It helped to..

- Build awareness on issues of their rights, health, financial aspects, etc.
- Mobilize them in advocacy and campaigns
- Organize Health camps
- Engage in games and Entertainments (day-out, singing, dancing etc)



Conducted Survey to Measure the Success

Social Development

Changes in behaviors of family

(Include in family discussions & decision making, grandchildren started to do their homework even in my presence, show more concerns about my needs like medicine, clothes etc.)

Changes in behaviors of Neighbor

(Respect, More welcoming for casual talk, More friends)

Can take Leadership in a group



Improved



- *Developed a Book in Devnagiri Script (NEPALI) considering cognitive status of older person under guidance of Prof. Helen Abadzi (PhD), Univesrity of Texas at Arlington
- *Replicated in five communities with local organization and support from local governments

Obstacles

- Deep rooted traditional belief that older people **CANNOT** and **NEED NOT** learn to read and write, (including high offices).
- Funding support





Kanchi Gautam, 69

“Bank refused to provide loan because I was unable to write my name. Now, I can. The class has made my life much easier “.



Dhanamaya Khatiwoda, 71

“I had to wait for a grandchild to come from school and dial the phone for me.

I couldn't go for shopping alone because I neither could read signboards, street names or labels on goods I was so **dependent** .

I am a different person now”.