

# Saathi Teachers Programme NEWSLETTER

June-August, 2024



**Primary Must Not Be Secondary**

Saathi Teachers Programme (STP) is a core programme run by Helambu Education and Livelihood Partnership (HELP) aimed at strengthening the quality of primary-level education in rural Nepal. Saathi Teachers Programme believes that the teachers should be friendlier with their learners in order to create a trusting and an effective learning environment.

The programme is run in direct partnership with the local governments and receives funding mainly from Mondo Foundation, UK as well as a partial support from Interhands and ITA.

Saathi teachers work closely with the local School Management Committee and the local teachers, an instrumental combination of forces to transform the classrooms. A Saathi teacher is a passionate teacher committed to improving students' mathematical and literacy skills and focusing on developing 21st century skills in the primary classroom in a child-friendly way through various extracurricular activities, the arts, and culture. Saathi teachers will aid in the development of the 4Cs (Creativity, Critical thinking, Communication, and Collaboration) of the 21st century among students.



HELP works in mutual collaboration with the local government and the schools to manage this programme and assist the overall growth of the students. Currently, we have 26 Saathis working in three different Municipalities: Panchpokhari Thangpal Rural Municipality (Sindhupalchowk), Tripurasundari Rural Municipality (Sindhupalchowk), and Abukhaireni Municipality (Tanahun).



**Welcome** to our latest edition of the Saathi Teachers Programme newsletter! As we move forward in our mission to enhance the quality of primary education in rural Nepal, we are excited to share our recent updates and activities. This edition highlights the activities of our Saathi teachers in the classroom and communities, and the training sessions designed to foster professional growth and improve student outcomes. Let's dive into the exciting developments of the past few months!

## 1. Annual Review Meeting at Panchpokhari Thangpal RM

This quarter started with the annual review meeting at Panchpokhari Thangpal Rural Municipality which was an opportunity for us to reflect on the progress of the last year and plan for this year. The Teacher Development Coordinator for Panchpokhari Thangpal Cluster-Amulya Shrestha and the Programme Coordinator for Saathi Teachers Programme-Sadhana Shrestha participated in the review meeting with the stakeholders from the rural municipality, the Ward Chairs, the School Management Committee Heads and the Principals. The Chairperson and the Head of the Education Department from the Rural Municipality helped the stakeholders from school-SMC Heads and the Principals to reflect on the work of our Saathi teachers and encouraged them to provide constructive feedback.

The STP representatives also shared their reflection and emphasized the importance of continued collaboration between the rural municipality, school stakeholders, and the Saathi teachers to ensure that the program continues to meet the educational needs of the community.



## 2. First Quarterly Training of the Year!

We have successfully completed the first quarterly training of the year, which took place from July 12-14, 2024 at GAN Research and Learning Centre, Karyabinayak, Lalitpur. This meetup brought together our 3rd, 4th and 5th cohort, who came together for a 3-days residential training, which centered around reflecting on our collective Saathi journey, strengthening our practices and growing our leadership. It was an amazing space to connect with each other, share insights and build our community.





The theme of this training was centered around strengthening team building and well-being among Saathi teachers by reflecting on collective journeys, addressing classroom challenges, celebrating achievements, enhancing teaching practices, promoting self-awareness and professional growth, and starting Community Action Projects that we have introduced from this year.

Over the three days, Saathi Teachers engaged in meaningful reflection on their collective journey, addressed classroom challenges, and celebrated their achievements. The sessions were designed to foster professional growth, with an emphasis on understanding students, enhancing teaching methods, and strengthening communication skills.

The Community Action Project session provided a platform for teachers to lead grassroots initiatives, reinforcing their roles as leaders in fostering positive change within their communities.

We would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to our facilitators, Ms. Anita Kafle, Mr. Mausham Shakya, Ms. Ruku Mainali Silwal, Ms. Chandra Limbu, Mr. Rajendra Kumar Deshar and Mr. Rajesh Panday for their amazing sessions.



We are also sincerely thankful to Ms. Nirmala Kunwar, the Education Head of our partner Rural Municipality Aanbookhaireni, whose presence and interactions have been valuable and enriching.



Our Saathi teachers are back to their schools after the monsoon break, where they continue to work on enhancing the literacy and numeracy skills of their students and developing their 4C skills.



3.

### Second Support Visit and Classroom Observation in Tripurasundari RM

After the quarterly training and the monsoon break, our Saathi teachers are back in their schools. With the first terminal examination coming up, our Saathis are preparing their students for the examination with revision classes and providing extra support.



Our Teachers Development Coordinator (TDC) for Tripurasundari RM, Aruna Shrestha Karki has completed her second support visit and classroom observation recently. The visit was centered around well-being, community engagement, and supporting our Saathi teachers in their classroom practices. After classroom observation of each Saathi teacher, she also provided personalized feedback and facilitated discussions on enhancing student engagement and fostering a positive learning environment. She will now be working on preparing for their second Tune Up Build Up (TUBU) meeting, where the challenges from classroom observation will be addressed and the cluster will come together to share their practices, resources and support each other.

Similarly, our other TDCs are also planning and preparing for their second support visit.

4.

### Saathi Teachers Sanjita and Sunita conducting their first Community Action Project !

Sanjita Shrestha and Sunita Sherchan, fourth cohort Saathi teachers of Shree Chandrodaya Basic School, Aanbookhairesni-1, Samastipur, are going to conduct the first Community Action Project this September. Community Action Projects are small scale projects led by our Saathi teachers to address grassroots issues, fostering practical solutions, ownership, and responsibility, and driving sustainable, positive change in rural communities. These projects involve Saathi teachers identifying and addressing critical issues within the communities they serve. These are introduced from this academic year and are designed to empower the educators to become active change-makers in rural communities.



Sanjita and Sunita's Community Action Project is titled 'Parenting Education' and they intend to conduct a workshop for the parents with the goal of helping the parents to know about their children's behavior and to help the parents know of the ways of supporting in their children's learning. They have sought the help of Ms. Anita Kafle, an Early Childhood Development Specialist, to facilitate the session.



## 5. Cluster Community Work in Aanbookhaireni Cluster



Our Saathi teachers of Aarambha cluster, Aanbookhaireni have completed their first community work together. The cluster came together at Shree Shree Chandidevi Basic School, Purlung, Aanbookhaireni-6, and decorated the classrooms with paintings and educational artwork to create a lively space for the students.

## 6. Cluster Community Work in Tripurasundari Cluster

Our Saathi teachers of Shuvarambha cluster, Tripurasundari conducted their first community work in Shree Kalika Secondary School, Tekanpur. The cluster came together during their monsoon vacation and painted the walls of class ECED to class 5 to create a more vibrant and engaging learning environment for the students.



## 7. Ongoing Cluster Activities

Regular home visits are an important ongoing activity taken by our Saathi teachers. Through home visits, our Saathi teachers have been able to connect with their students and families through which the families also feel that the teachers and the school are concerned about their children's education.

Celebrations in school: Apart from the academics, our Saathi teachers are also fostering diversity and inclusion in their classrooms through the celebrations of different festivals and occasions. Most recently, our Saathi teachers celebrated Raksha Bandhan with their students, making the bonds between them even stronger.





## 8. Dengue Awareness Campaign by Bishal and Jaya

Our Saathi Teachers, Bishal Ale Magar and Jaya Baidhakota placed at Shree Chandidevi Basic School, Aanbookhaireni-6, Purlung, organized a Dengue Awareness Programme on August 16 as two schools in the Rural Municipality were closed due to its spread and they also noticed that some of their students were also not attending schools for some days due to fever and body aches.



The two of them discussed this in the staff meeting and then conducted the awareness programme in their community with the help of their students and teachers of the school. They conducted a rally and performed a drama showcasing the causes, effects and preventive measures of dengue.

## 9. Saathi Teachers Programme in numbers

*Where are we now?*

**31** Saathi Alumni

**26** Saathi Teachers

**2** Districts

**3** Rural Municipalities

**1000+** Students



10.

## Express Your Interest to Saathi Teachers Programme

- ✓ Do you want to change how children experience education in rural primary schools?
- ✓ Do you want to help children to improve their literacy and numeracy while also nurturing creativity, communication, and collaboration through innovative teaching practices?
- ✓ Do you want to contribute to community development and grow your leadership skills?

If you're eager to contribute to community development and help set the foundation of students at primary level, express your interest to apply and become a part of Saathi Teachers Programme.

We will soon open applications for our 6th cohort Saathi teachers recruitment. To express your interest and stay informed, reach out to us at [saathi@help.org.np](mailto:saathi@help.org.np) or 01-4917209. Be one of the first to receive updates!

11.

## Looking forward to the next trimester

With the end of this trimester, we have our first terminal examination in all our partner schools. And then the festivities and holidays will begin! Till then, the TDCs will be supporting our Saathi teachers with classroom observation and bringing the cluster together for the second Tune Up Build Up (TUBU) meeting! We are keen to hear their learning, understanding and reflections!

We would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to all our partner municipalities, ward heads, school administration and communities for their support and collaboration. We are also deeply thankful to our funding partners Mondo Foundation, Interhands and ITA for their continued support in our work. Thank you for supporting our work.

*Primary Must Not Be Secondary*



Primary Partner



To support our work, please contact:  
[saathi@help.org.np](mailto:saathi@help.org.np) or [info@mondofoundation.org](mailto:info@mondofoundation.org)

Associate Partner

