



**Report on  
Construction of Boys' Hostel (Chhatravas)  
in  
Bhimeshwor Municipality  
Charikot, Dolakha, Nepal**



***Submitted to:***

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## **Introduction**

Janjati Kalyan Ashram Nepal has been operating a chhatravas (hostel) since 2016, to provide protection to children who have lost their parents and to needy families who lost their homes in the 2015 Massive Earthquake. It was difficult to provide basic services to the children in the chhatravas due to the lack of proper building of the chhatravas operated in Charikot (currently Bhimeshwar Municipality) of Dolakha district.

After, Hindu Swayamsevak Sangh Nepal approved the provision of the land it owns for the construction of this chhatravas, which is doing exemplary work for the children of the poor and janajati (tribal) communities, a tripartite agreement was concluded between Sewa International Nepal, Hindu Swayamsevak Sangh Nepal, and Janjati Kalyan Ashram Nepal for the construction of the building. Based on this, a bilateral agreement was signed between Sewa UK and Sewa International Nepal on November 28, 2021.

The foundation stone for the three-storied building of the chhatravas was duly laid on December 10, 2021, while the building was completed within one year and inaugurated on December 10, 2022, and handed over to Janjati Kalyan Ashram Nepal. Currently, Janjati Kalyan Ashram Nepal is operating the chhatravas in the newly constructed building.

A brief description of Sewa International Nepal and Sewa UK are:

### **Introduction of Sewa International Nepal (SEWANP)**

Sewa International, Nepal, is registered as a non-government, non-profit, volunteer based social organization. Sewa aims to serve humanity in distress, aid local communities, and promote volunteerism. Sewa International Nepal worked for relief and support activities during the COVID-19 pandemic and has taken several initiatives for the better health, education, and prosperity of people living in Nepal.

Likewise, the organization is contributing towards the prosperity of society and the state by empowering the youth through skills by running "Skill Development Center" in five mountainous and hilly districts of the country (Panchthar, Dhankuta, Nuwakot, Dhading and Dadeldhura). Furthermore, in coordination and with financial support from various charitable and donor organizations, the SEWANP is conducting various projects related to construction work.

Main Objectives of Sewa International Nepal:

1. To help voluntary organizations working in remote and inaccessible villages, urban settlements, and among the needy people living in different corners of society plan, implement, and evaluate those projects or programs.

2. To support other organizations working in the field of social development by providing necessary financial, technical, and human resources.
3. Providing donations, materials, etc. received from national or international donors to projects or programs run by service-oriented organizations and conducting feasibility studies, pilot projects, evaluations, and research on service-oriented projects/programs.
4. Conducting workshops and training programs for the work related to sustainable social development and conducting public awareness programs as needed.
5. Conducting programs related to formal or informal education, supporting such programs in operation, and providing free proper education to children who have been deprived of formal education system due to various reasons.
6. To organize programs such as animal husbandry, veterinary services, handicrafts, and agriculture, and to make the local community self-reliant by supporting individuals and plans dedicated to such activities.
7. To conduct projects in order to promote environmental protection and environment-friendly tourism, and assist in ongoing programs/plans.
8. Assisting in activities such as employment-oriented skill development centers, self-help groups, and mobile health service camps.
9. To include economically, socially, and culturally backward communities in voluntary service programs.
10. To provide voluntary services for relief and rescue during natural or human-caused disasters.

### **Introduction of Sewa UK**

Sewa UK is a registered, not-for-profit charity established in 1989. It is based on universal, inclusive values and ethos such as serving all and respecting the divinity in all of humanity. Sewa UK is part of the larger Sewa International movement that started in India in 1989 and is active in twenty plus countries.

Sewa serves humanity irrespective of race, color, religion, gender, or nationality. Sewa UK specializes in fundraising, providing resources, and supporting disaster relief and rehabilitation. Sewa UK's development programs focus on children, tribal and refugee welfare, women's empowerment, health, and education. Sewa UK also runs two charity shops in Birmingham and Northwest London, supported by senior citizen volunteers.

In addition to the work of Sewa UK in the UK, it has undertaken development projects in India, Kenya, and Nepal.

## Project Background

The devastating earthquake of 7.8 on the Richter scale that struck the country with its epicenter at Mandre, Barpak VDC-02, and Gorkha at 11:56 am on 12 Baisakh 2072 (25 April 2015) and its frequent aftershocks, chiefly the two fatal ones dated April 26 and May 12, 2015, have caused an inconceivable loss of lives and properties. Thousands of people have been killed, thousands injured, and hundreds of thousands of houses completely destroyed, leaving many people homeless. Many government and public office buildings, historical, cultural, and archeological heritages have been destroyed; physical infrastructures, including public and private school buildings, bridges, roads, etc., have also been destroyed. The government has declared the fourteen districts (Gorkha, Kavrepalanchok, Dhading, Nuwakot, Rasuwa, Sindupalchok, Dolakha, Ramechhap, Okhaldunga, Makwanpur, Sindhuli, Kathmandu, Bhaktapur, and Lalitpur) as the crisis-hit districts.

Around 9,000 people were killed, of whom approximately 55 percent were female, and over 100,000 people were injured. Overall, eight million people have been impacted, which is almost one-third of the population of Nepal.

The housing sector was by far the most affected, given that numerous houses in poorer rural areas did not have any seismic-resistant features. Over 500,000 houses were destroyed and another 269,000 damaged, including historical and cultural monuments recognized as UNESCO World Heritage Sites. In addition to destroyed or damaged key infrastructure, livelihoods, e.g., in the agriculture and tourism sectors, have also been critically impacted. According to the Post Disaster Needs Assessment by the UN, World Bank, and EU, the total value of the damages and losses from the disaster was estimated at US\$7.1 billion, while the estimated needs for recovery were US\$ 6.7 billion.

The earthquake did not only cause physical damage; more than that, it caused mental and emotional damage. It made the poor Nepalis living in the hill settlements even more destitute and pushed them towards an uncertain future. It made the children even sadder.

In this situation, some children lost their parents, and the surviving parents were not able to take care of their children. Arranging children's education was more like a dream. In that situation, children without parents and without hope needed a strong hand to support and trust.

In this context, Janjati Kalyan Ashram Nepal prepared to operate a chhatravas for the children of Dolakha district in a situation where no person or organization was ready to take care of the children. Since, Janjati Kalyan Ashram Nepal has no funds of its own and has been taking care of the children in chhatravas with support from local donors, the work started with the hope that chhatravas can be operated in the same way in other districts.

After deciding to operate a chhatravas for the protection and promotion of children, during the search for a location, a building owned by an organization named "Seto Gurans" was found in an unused (because of no project/program) condition. Although the two-storied building was not fully suitable for running a chhatravas, it served as a base for starting a chhatravas at that time.

Thus, for the immediate protection of children, a chhatravas was operated in Charikot (now Bhimsewor Municipality) of Dolakha in 2016. During the six-year period of operation of the chhatravas, three children have completed their studies up to class 10, and three have completed their studies up to class 12 and returned to their families. Similarly, three children are serving as volunteers in various chhatravas run by Janjati Kalyan Ashram Nepal with the intention of doing social work after studying in the chhatravas. At present, there are 13 children in the chhatravas.

To run the chhatravas in an orderly manner and to serve more children as well, the construction of a three-storied chhatravas building has been completed with the financial support of Sewa UK. For the construction of the building, Hindu Swayamsevak Sangh Nepal has provided the land it owns, while Sewa International Nepal has played completed the necessary technical and procedural work.

## **Need of the Project**

The chhatravas were operated with various shortages due to sudden and unexpected occurrences. Once, 24 children were accommodated in the chhatravas, but due to a lack of space, those children were transferred to another chhatravas run by Janjati Kalyan Ashram Nepal.

Due to poverty and geographical difficulties, the children of Nepal have specific problems regarding quality in higher education. Among them, major problems are mentioned here:

- There is a need to work for the education, care, and development of the children who lost their parents in the massive earthquake of 2015.
- Due to the precarious economic situation of the Janajati and Dalit communities in the Himalayan and hilly regions, they are not in a position to invest in their children's education.
- In hilly and mountainous districts, schools are far away, so it is not possible to go to school from home. Also, there is no option to camp/stay in the district headquarters for college studies, which is not possible for most of the families.
- If the children interested in education get the educational opportunity in a proper environment, they will achieve higher education, which will set an example for their community. In addition, their inspiration can also bring awareness about the importance of education to other children and parents in the community.

## The Chhatravas Building Constructed Under the Project

The chhatravas building constructed under this project has a total of three floors. Since, it is a hilly area and the ground in such areas is not flat, only the upper floor is visible from the main road, and the remaining two floors are below the road surface.



View of chhatravas from road side



View of chhatravas from back side

The newly constructed chhatravas building has the following structures:

**Upper Floor:** This floor has one hall, two rooms (one of which has a bathroom attached to it), as well as public restrooms and showers.

**Middle Floor:** There are two halls, two rooms (one of which has a bathroom connected to it), and shared restrooms and showers on this floor.

**Lower Floor:** There is a hall and a kitchen on this level, as well as a dining area. There is a dishwashing area outside the kitchen.

## **Future operational process and sustainability of the Chhatravas**

Registered as a social organization in 2005, Janjati Kalyan Ashram Nepal has been operating a hostel named "Aamako Maya Chhatravas". Currently, it is operating 11 hostels in different parts of Nepal, one of which is a girl's hostel in Bharatpur, Chitwan district, while boys are receiving services in 10 other places.

The hostel provides free education, accommodation, food, and various activities for the holistic development of the children. Its aim is to prevent talented and deserving tribal students of remote areas from leaving their studies incomplete due to economic, social, and geographical difficulties.

The chhatravas being operated in Charikot, Dolakha, would serve the people of five districts, including Dolakha, Ramechhap, Sindhupalchok, Sindhuli, and Okhaldhunga. Janajati and Dalit communities are densely populated in this region.

Janjati Kalyan Ashram Nepal has created a network of local donors to cover the expenses of education, food, clothing, medication, extracurricular activities, etc. for the children in the chhatravas. Janjati Kalyan Ashram Nepal is confident that the children in the chhatravas will be nurtured efficiently by the hands of the local helpers.

### **Student Selection Criteria**

The admission process for the students in the chhatravas is as follows:

- Dissemination of information to the community through local leaders, government agencies, non-governmental organizations, etc. that children can be placed in chhatravas.
- Receiving applications from interested parents with the required documents.
- Study of the documents (citizenship, birth registration certificate, relationship proof documents, municipality/ward recommendation letter mentioning financial status).
- Interview
- The final result.
- Placement of students in different chhatravas.

## Expected Outcomes from the Chhatravas

The admission process for the students in the chhatravas is as follows:

- Strong academic performance: The chhatravas students are admitted to different schools or colleges and also provided a favorable environment and arrangements for their studies so that they can progress academically.
- Improved Social Skills: Chhatravas students are encouraged to mingle with the community surrounding the school and chhatravas and participate in various social activities. As a result, they develop skills and abilities to deal with society.
- Higher level of independence: The students of the chhatravas themselves carry out the day-to-day management of the chhatravas. Every chhatravas student is given some responsibility for the proper management of chhatravas according to their age and ability. Moreover, the responsibility changes every month. In this way, students develop managerial skills as well as a sense of responsibility so that they are able to manage themselves, and this skill provides lifelong benefits.
- Better emotional opportunity: Chhatravas children get to be with a group of like-minded students, which was not possible in their homes and villages. It encourages each other to move forward by helping each other, which makes each other mentally and emotionally compatible.
- Better positioning of the Janajati community: There are various activities that are organized in chhatravas to uplift the Janajati (tribal) community by promoting and developing the art, culture, and music of the tribes, along with education.
- Strong leadership quality: The chhatravas runs many programs for the student's development as a Janajati leader, which makes them aware of their rights, duties and responsibilities of the Janajati community in the National reconstruction process.





My name is Vikas Praja. My home is in Chitwan district, and I am 14 years old now. I am currently studying in the 6th standard, and it has been almost 4 years since I started living in this chhatravas. I started my 3rd-class studies from this chhatravas. I belong to the backward Chepang community of Nepal. I have a grandmother, a father, a mother, one brother, and one sister in my house. Our community is a forest-based community, so our forefathers just started farming.

We don't even have enough land for farming, so it is difficult to feed our family in the morning and evening. It is not possible for my parents to educate their children. I am doing well in my studies here. In the previous exam, I was ranked 16th out of 85 students in my class. I'm working harder. I will study well and become a big person. Children like us cannot study at home. We don't even have study companions in our village. It would not have been possible for me to continue my studies if I had not gotten the opportunity from "Aamako Maya Chhatravas" operated by "Janjati Kalyan Ashram Nepal".

My name is Vishnu Khadka. I am now 15 years old, and I am currently studying in class 10 in "Amako Maya Chhatravas". I have a father, a mother, two sisters, and one brother in my house. My family is financially poor. All my three sisters and brother could not continue their studies. My family's only source of income is farming, which is not enough. My brother has gone to India for work to help the family. I had almost dropped my studies while staying at home. Later, I came to this chhatravas and started studying in class



6. I have been here for 5 years. Now my studies are better. In the last exam, I was ranked 40th out of 117 students in my class. I want to study well and become a teacher, and I am working hard for it.

As a senior student in this chhatravas, I take care of the younger brothers. The chhatravas also give me various responsibilities. Currently, my responsibility is to lead the cleanliness of the chhatravas. Before this, my responsibility was hospitality. In this way, I am learning many things apart from studying in the chhatravas.

I am Ganesha Praja. I have been doing my studies in "Amako Maya Chhatravas" run by Janjati Kalyan Ashram Nepal. I am currently studying at the graduate level. I have developed my skills while studying in this chhatravas. Now, I am carrying the responsibility of coordinator of chhatravas in Dolakha. I am continuing my studies while staying in this chhatravas and mentoring the brothers in the chhatravas.



Previously, we could not provide proper facilities to the children due to a lack of suitable buildings. Dolakha, being a Himalayan district, is cold throughout the year. In the old building, children were getting sick due to the cold. As the rooms were inadequate, there was no proper place for studying, and the house was old, so it was difficult to clean it. Now all housing problems are solved. It was not possible for us to admit more children into the chhatravas, even though many children needed it. Now, after the start of the new academic session, more children will also enroll in the chhatravas. Seeing our miserable condition, the community used to treat us with compassion, but now they have started treating us with love and respect. Chhatravas children have developed confidence and new energy. I am confident that there will be a visible increase in the educational standards of the children in the chhatravas.

After the massive Earthquake of 2015, there was a need to protect the children who had lost their parents in this district, but at that time there was no organization to take responsibility for those children. In this extreme situation, "Janjati Kalyan Ashram Nepal" took over the guardianship of those children by operating "Amako Maya Chhatravas" even in the absence of any foundation or structure. Since we did not have suitable physical infrastructure, it was difficult to provide basic facilities to the children in the chhatravas. At present, we are able to provide basic facilities according to the needs of the children in the chhatravas, as we have a suitable building available. I would like to express my gratitude to "Hindu Swayamsevak Sangh Nepal" for providing the land for the construction of the chhatravas building, Sewa UK and Sewa International Nepal for providing



financial support for the construction of the chhatravas, and all the philanthropists and big-hearted people who provided financial, emotional, and other support.

Mr. Bhatta Meelan  
National Organizing Secretary  
Janajati Kalyan Ashram Nepal

Some pictures of the *Shilanyaas* (foundation stone) of the chhatravas building



Some pictures of the *Lokarpan* (Inauguration) of the chhatravas building



## Newly constructed chhatravas building at a glance



Front side (east) View of the Chhatravas



South-West View of the Chhatravas



West-North View of the Chhatravas



North-East Look of Chhatravas



Dormitory of Students in the Chhatravas



Common Study Hall

**Newly constructed chhatravas building at a glance**



Kitchen



Dining Space



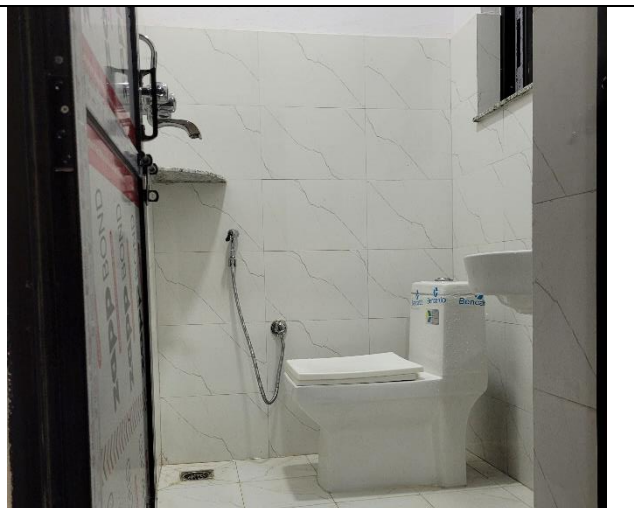
Guest Room



Attached Wash Room in Guest Room



Dishwashing Station



Attached Wash Room in Guest Room

**Newly constructed chhatravas building at a glance**



Communal Toilets and Showers



Communal Toilets and Showers



Common Shower



Communal Toilet



Inscriptions of Foundation Stone and Inauguration



Inscriptions regarding support of Sewa UK