

10 Years Jubilee



Hari Thapa, 2023





How it all started



In 2008, Astrid and her friend Andrea visited **Bandevi School** to assess the school's situation, as we were connected with the school at the time and they were seeking possible support.

As Astrid was in Nepal during this period, I requested that she visit the school and evaluate it. After her and Andrea's visit, she recognized the need for support, but it took some time to initiate this support.



In 2011, when Astrid came to Nepal with other friends, we decided to visit the school all together.



We all remember the day very well.....walking up the hill for hours and then having a splendid view on Gauri Shankar Himal. Andi, Stefan, Annalis, Julio, Astrid and Hari discussed with the school team, and after the team's first impression, we all decided to offer 250 CHF in support for a library.

This donation paved the way for the creation of Gauri Shankar.



All our schools are situated in the Bagmati province...one in Kathmandu valley, one in Sindhupalchowk and three in Dolakha District



Bandevi Basic School



So the first school that Gauri Shankar decided to support was Bandevi Basic School, which was only running up to grade 5 at the time. The connection to the school began in 2008, and we slowly started to provide support. Initially, we provided aid for lunch, stationery, school uniforms, warm clothes, sports materials, teacher training, library resources. We also did additional activities such as educational film show and workshops. We not only provided financial assistance, but we also encouraged them to start different activities, collaborate with parents, central and local government, and get involved with other philanthropists to further support the school. This help significantly benefited the school and contributed to its

overall improvement.



Lunch Programme started



Trainers Teaching started



Construction and renovation of two buildings started



April 25, 2015, a huge earthquake happend.....More than 8 thousand schools were damaged. Almost 1 million students life were in jeopardy. The earthquake happened on Saturday, means schools are free. If it would have happened on week days, it would be devastating. Many children would be killed. Bandevi school was also damaged. The school we just finished renovation and finished new building.



We discussed the matter with the teachers and parents, and Gauri Shankar initiated a relief program, exhibiting love and care for the school family. Gauri Shankar Switzerland was in close contact with Nepal Team. It was taking the situation seriously and providing support as quick as possible. The emergency aid that we offered included rice, oil, salt, dal, beaten rice, soybean chunks, wheat flour, and mattresses for immediate use. We connected them with other supporters during this emergency period and encouraged them to stay in touch with other organizations that were helping with building construction.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Gauri Shankar once again provided significant support to the families of the children as well as to the teachers too. At the same time, we were there to encourage and support them to provide necessary materials and advice.



Ultimately, Bandevi School has become one of the better schools in Sankhu Municipality, with quality education, enough teachers, ample buildings, a good library, and excellent early-grade teaching practices.



The progress of the school is heartening, and we are still on their side, but direct support has stopped.





On the left side one can see the headmaster of Bandevi school together with the teachers team.



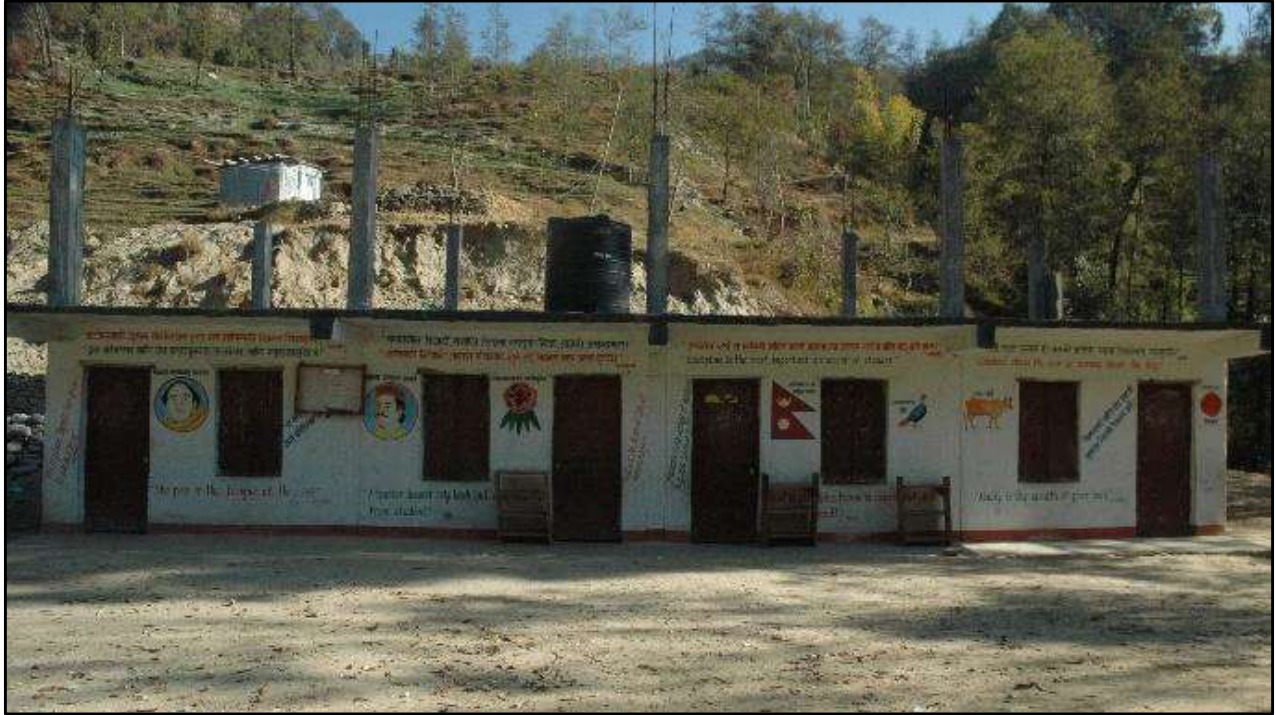
Setidevi Secondary School

After Bandevi, we started to support **Setidevi Basic School**. This school lies in Kaule of Dolakha district.



We have already noticed the shamble situation of the school. They already asked for possible support. As we teamed up as a Gauri Shankar, we visited the school and started to support here.

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The first support was adding a floor in a building. The villagers, in their labor and monetary donations, they could construct a building. This wasn't enough while their grade was increasing. The school was running up to grade 5. They wanted to go up to grade 8. For this the urgent need was classroom. They request Gauri Shankar to support to add rooms over the existing building. It was the first work Gauri Shankar did to the school. The construction work was running, we started to support for other activities like we started in Bandevi. We introduced lunch programme, stationery, school uniforms, warm clothes, sports materials, teacher training, library resources. We also did additional activities such as educational film show and workshops in the school.





Lunch programme started



Document the training and show to others schools...we invite teachers from the surrounding villages to participate in the trainings too



We built playing ground for the kids



Construction of a tennis table



Bea Brunner, went to the school as a volunteer teacher. Her expertise and love for the children and villagers was a lovely gift. She put all her energy to teach teacher and students. That shaped the teaching foundation. Bea Brunner herself became member of the Gauri Shankar management board after her deployment as a volunteer teacher.

Astrid was able to manage her time to visit the schools while she was visiting Nepal on her official and private visit to Nepal. It was a routine that Andi-Stefan, Annalis-Julio, Astrid-Dhanu would visit Nepal and school almost every

year. School visit become one of the encouraging factor to the teachers and students.



Here you can see Bea Brunner together with the teachers team of Setidevi school.



Bea is greeting the headmaster of the school...



Bea introduced teachers training to the school.



During the pandemic as well as after the earthquake we were helping with emergency packes like food, oil, spices, soap, etc.



We were also distributing school material like books.



During the pandemic we could also provide a unique kitchen stove to each of the five schools, which was donated by a member of Gauri Shankar



At the same time, l'unique foundation of Switzerland was constructing toilets and hand washing rooms; this in accordance with myself, as I was helping l'unique foundation Switzerland to get all the material out of Indian custom, which stuck somewhere in Calcutta.



Now, Setidevi is running up to grade 10. The school is one of the top school in Dolakha district. A dedicated head teacher, Dhruba Khadka running it in smooth way. So, the children come from far villages, walking almost 2 hours keep coming to fulfill their educational thirst.



Indrawoti Basic School



We knew that there was a school running in a village where only marginalized Majhi ethnic community live. And the school was running by a lady who is from a non Majhi community. We went to visit and found that the school was running by Gita KC's dedication. There was no support from Government side. Gita KC put all her energy to run this school. Seeing the situation, Gauri Shankar started supporting for building renovation, lunch, teacher support, stationaries, sports materials, school uniforms to the children.



Gita KC, the heart of the school, she initiated the school realizing that marginalized children would not get an education..





Temporary building is still there, as the responsible teacher is not able to organise the construction of a new building.



The school is running smoothly because of Gita KC. All the children from the village are coming to get basic education. Gita is taking good care of children.



Gita KC is not only a kindergarden teacher but also the cook to prepare the lunch for all the kids.



We will continue to support the efforts of Gita KC, as we know that without Gita KC the majority of the Mahji community children will be without access to a proper meal as well as without access to basic education.



After the earthquake as well as during the pandemic we supported the community with emergency food packages.



Mathillo Sikri Basic School



Earthquake 2015 was one of the biggest evil for Nepal. It was damaging a lot. Schools were also the place where big damaged occurred. All over Nepal more then 8000 schools and almost 30'000 classrooms were destroyed. The schools building and classrooms Gauri Shankar renovated also damaged. After the earthquake, Gauri Shankar team in Nepal was active to resume classroom activities and relief to the families, we came in contact with Mathillo Sikri School.

The school started to run in a makeshift tin roofed temporary place. The school had to move in a new place due to the crack in land.



Here you can see Mira Karki with her pupils.





A dedicated teacher, Mira Karki took the responsibilities to feed the children. She became the focal person for Gauri Shankar. School is doing great now. There are enough buildings and playground. We have reduced the support to this school. Now we are only supporting for teachers training and two teachers who are getting less salary from the school. The lunch programme is financed by the government authorities, i.e. the headteacher knows where to go for financial matters.



During Covid 19 as well as after the EQ in 2015, Gauri Shankar started to support the school with relief package to the families. Later, the school started to get all the support that Gauri Shankar did to other schools. Main thing to start was lunch programme, as the children which visit that school are also mainly from marginalized families and the lunch in the school is sometimes their first meal



Later the school got building support from Government of Nepal. But there was not enough land. The community had to buy land. But there was no financial source with the school. So, Gauri Shankar helped financially to buy the land.





During Covid 19 handwashing installations were installed, disinfection material was brought.



A dedicated teacher, Mira Karki and her children.



Nagraja Basic School



I met the head teacher of Nagraja School, Ganesh Dong, while participating in an educational program organized by Jugal Rural Municipality. After listening to my presentation, the head teacher requested that I visit his school and inquired about the possibility of receiving support. Nagraja School is located in the remote village of Selang, in the Sindhupalchok district. The residents of the village belong to the ethnic Tamang community, and their livelihood largely depends on agriculture. During my visit, I noticed that only a handful of people had completed their school education, while the head teacher and a few others were educated individuals. Recognizing the neediness of the school, I proposed to the Gauri Shankar Switzerland team to support it.



After receiving approval from Team Switzerland, we started providing support to the school. Similar to our assistance to other schools, we began supporting Nagraja School with provisions for lunch, stationery, school uniforms, warm clothes, sports materials, teacher training, and library resources. We also placed a strong emphasis on teacher training to enhance the quality of education. We also provided television screen for students to learn from videos prepared to assist teachers and students. Our focus was also to provide child friendly materials for early grade children.



Its lunchtime





We have prioritized Nagraja School and have seen significant improvements. The school now has a greater number of teachers. This is because we always asked head teacher and school management committee chair to visit rural municipality and ask for help.



The individual teacher we support is playing a vital role as a backbone for the school, despite not having an education background. In Nepal, only individuals who have studied education are eligible to participate in the permanent teachers' exam. However, the recent government announcement allowing those outside the education faculties to take the teachers' license exam may provide an opportunity for him to pursue a teaching career.



The situation at the school is gradually improving, and there is renewed hope for its future. As the village population grows, more children are expected to join the school. The community expresses happiness and gratitude to have the Gauri Shankar team on their side.

The support we provided during the challenging times of the COVID-19 pandemic has been particularly meaningful and impactful in their lives.



Gaurishankar has consistently supported the children and teachers of Nagraja School by providing warm clothes, particularly crucial in the mountain village where winters can be extremely cold in the absence of sunlight.



We have also recently assisted in renovating the school building to create additional rooms on the upper floor.







Thank you very much for your
attention