



# SAATH

## ANNUAL REPORT

2019-2020

## MESSAGE FROM BOARD

Looking beyond the structured manifestations of what “development” should look like, SAATH has been striving and breaking barriers to directly connect with the individuals at ground level. Through our two existing programs; Hakuna Matata and Danfe, we were able to stimulate a sense of “freedom” and “commitment” amidst our targeted beneficiaries. Through our projects we have always made an attempt to ‘look beyond the numbers’ impacting and touching lives of every individual we work with.

6 years of holding up with Hakuna Matata, we are now in the process of shifting the paradigm and redesigning the project in order to redefine our set values and strategies paving way to more efficient impact. Danfe in its course of generating both the impact and a sustainable model has been reaching out to more and more young women to march forth towards their independence, which in other words is eliminating “unfreedoms” as implied by Amartya Sen in his book “Development as Freedom (1999). And we thank our valued supporters, donors, friends and family who have without a doubt helped us at this point of time where we are creating new values and enhancing our competence.

# INTRODUCTION

We stand for what we believe in. SAATH (Social Service, Awareness Raising and Advocacy for Tranquility and Humanity) is a Social Work organization. SAATH in Nepali means “Support” and “Togetherness”. SAATH works together with different individuals, groups and organizations in order to provide necessary support for needy people and marginalized communities for Social Change and Social Justice. SAATH believes that youth leadership and youth spirit generate positive vibes for innovation, entrepreneurship and socio-economic transformation.



## SAATH IN NEPALI MEANS “SUPPORT” AND “TOGETHERNESS”

## JOURNEY OF SAATH

On June 25, 2004, eleven youth with educational background in Social Work initiated SAATH Event 2004. It was organized with the support of young people, local organizations and people living with HIV and AIDS. The success of the event motivated the youth to take more action for positive change. SAATH was officially established in 2006 and voluntarily worked with youth-led programs in several social issues, including HIV and AIDS, Drug Use, LGBTI and marginalized communities. Since August 2012 we started working actively as a full-fledged organization. The right effort, commitment and leadership of these dynamic youth have made SAATH always alive and vigorous on its path.

## AFFILIATION

SAATH is registered at District Administrative Office, Kathmandu as a Non governmental Organization. It is affiliated to Social Welfare Council (SWC), Kathmandu, Nepal.

SAATH'S GOVERNMENT  
REGISTRATION NUMBER : 37

SAATH'S SOCIAL WELFARE  
CCOUNCIL NUMBER : 2271

PAN: 600637569

# STRATEGY OF SAATH

The main strategy of SAATH is to:

Provide Social Service for the needy and marginalized individuals, groups and communities

Raise Awareness among general public, including youth on existing social-economic and political issues to enhance their competencies as “agent for social change”

Advocate on behalf of marginalized communities for social justice and humanity

## GOVERNING BODY

The elected board of directors is the governing body of a SAATH. The nine board members from a pool of youth social workers (BSW Degree or MSW Degree) hold the ultimate responsibility for ensuring that the SAATH serves its mission and for the overall welfare of the organization itself.

As mentioned in the SAATH’s constitution, the core responsibilities of the board include:

**Discussing and voting on the highest priority issues**

**Setting organizational policies, and hiring and evaluating key staff**

**Approve operating budgets and establish long term plans**

**Carry out fundraising activities**

**Monitoring progress and evaluate the projects and overall performance of the staffs**

**Support and assess the performance of the organization’s chief executive**

**Ensure the effective management and use of the organization’s resources**

In every two years, the Nomination committee, comprising 4 members, inform its staff and social work members about an election for a new board of directors. The committee receives nomination forms for the positions of President, Vice president, Secretary, Treasurer and for three Member-at-large. The current board members (9) advisory board (5) and executive committee members (4) vote for the candidates for each position. The candidates receiving a higher number of votes than his/her opponents get elected for the respective positions.





## **VISION**

We envision “a society where every individual has pathways to access equal opportunities and rights”.

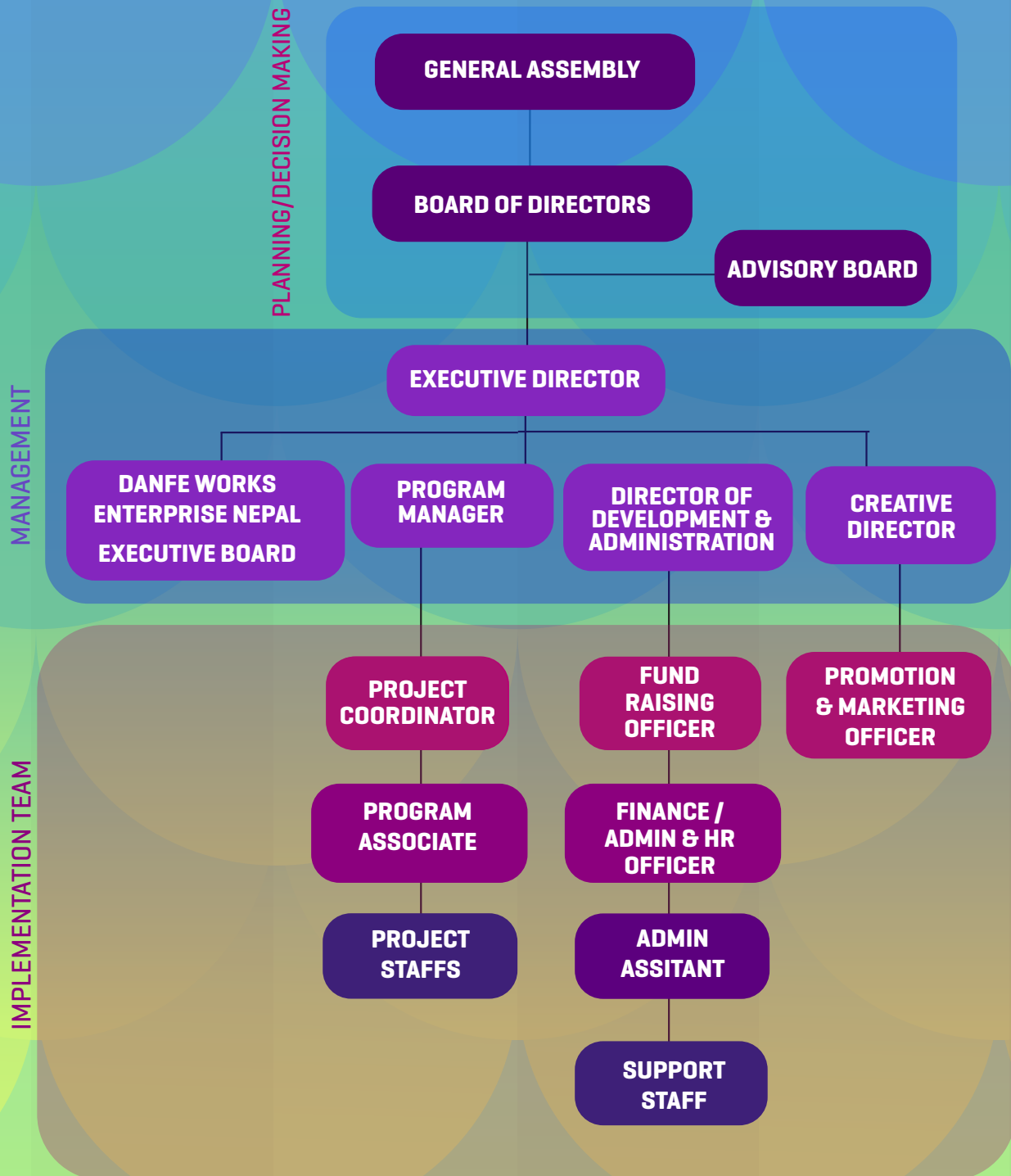
## **MISSION**

Our mission is to “Work with the most marginalized youth for positive socio-economic transformations through entrepreneurial and community-driven skills development and with children for educational support”.

## **OBJECTIVES**

- Motivate and create a platform to foster youth leadership to ensure their genuine action to address socio-economic issues
- Take positive and innovative actions to promote and secure livelihood opportunities for marginalized and underprivileged people, especially youth
- Ensure capacity building and holistic development of marginalized and underprivileged children.
- Develop a strong network of like-minded organisations, academic institutions and government to promote and strengthen the impact of our work in Nepal

# ORGANISATION STRUCTURE



## SDGS- 2030

SAATH as an NGO adheres to some of the most prominent clauses of the Sustainable Development Goals through the projects it runs. The SDGs implicated by the projects are:

### GOAL 1: NO POVERTY

Poverty alleviation through income generation is one of the major goals of the project Awasar. The skill based tailoring training is given with the aim of enabling the marginalized, earthquake affected rural women to become financially competent and contribute in the livelihoods of their families.



### GOAL 3: GOOD HEALTH AND WELLBEING

This sustainable goal promotes the holistic wellbeing that is inclusive of physical, mental and emotional health. The continuous counselling sessions throughout the year ensures the mental and emotional health followed by awareness programs on different issues such as sexual and reproductive health, cancer awareness, safe sex education, etc. promote physical health and wellbeing.

### GOAL 4: QUALITY EDUCATION

This goal is promoted through soft skill promotion for capacity building for both the women and the children. The women at Awasar in addition to vocational training receive informal education classes, life skills development workshops, awareness on sexual and reproductive health and self defence classes which prepare them for their futures not only for economic security but social security as well. The children at Hakuna Matata receive workshops on public speaking leadership and other social skills which boost their capacities and confidence. So, SAATH as an NGO makes sure that quality education is received by it's beneficiaries.





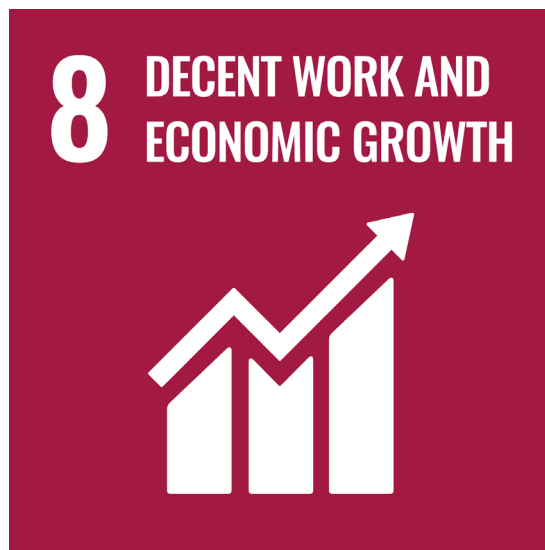
## GOAL 5: GENDER EQUALITY

The project Awasar focuses on young, vulnerable marginalized women from the rural population as they are the ones who are vulnerable in this patriarchal society of ours. Women drop out from schools and colleges in order to look after the household chores and they do not even have a chance to build a career of their own which would make them financially sound. Hence, the project enrolls such women for the skill based tailoring training providing an opportunity for them to build their economic stability. After training job opportunities are also created in our social enterprise Danfe Works and the organization promotes no violence undertaking activities to give women rights/ access to economic resources.

## GOAL 8: DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

Initiating a full cycle from developing skilled manpower to a sustainable social enterprise and creating job opportunities, we also incorporate the policy of promoting development-oriented policies of Nepal which are related to women empowerment, labor and child labor. Under the project, we provide a safe working environment for the beneficiaries, with strict policies regarding no forced labor and no child labor as well. The project also fosters entrepreneurship values to the beneficiaries through intensive business management training and practical demonstrations.

Any form of child labor does not take place in any of our working units. All the employees are above 17 years. We are committed to abiding by the International Labor Organization (ILO) Minimum Age for Employment Convention No. 138 and Nepal's Child Labor Prohibition and Regulation Act 2006/2062. We are also committed to following Nepal's Labor Act 2017/2074. We constitute a safe working environment according to Section 74 of the act and working hours according to Section 28. In case of sexual harassment, as per section 132, the service may be terminated on the basis of the seriousness of the offense.





## **GOAL 10: REDUCED INEQUALITIES**

The organization is inclusive of staff and beneficiaries belonging to any gender, race, caste, creed and color. The project Awasar also enrolls women belonging from ignored and discriminated backgrounds and ensures that they are treated equally as capable as others. The project Hakuna Matata is inclusive of children who are orphans, who have HIV and those who belong from marginalized families having single parents reducing the inequality and disparities.

## **GOAL 12: RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION**

As an organization SAATH is very conscious about environmental impacts moreover because the project provides tailoring training that is bound to generate clothes wastes. To promote waste management the organization has various practices such as segregation of waste products, sessions on Zero Waste Management and product design through the generated wastes.



## **GOAL 16: PROMOTE PEACEFUL AND INCLUSIVE SOCIETIES FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, ACCOUNTABLE AND INCLUSIVE INSTITUTIONS AT ALL LEVELS**

The organization through its projects ensures non violence, inclusion, accountability, transparency, and sustainability. It also adheres to the non-discriminatory and non-violence policies of Nepal which is equally promoted during the training and workshops.

# OUR SUPPORTERS





# PROJECT OVERVIEW

## AWASAR CS

Established after the earthquake of 2015, the project initiated tailoring training with 5 women from Sindhupalchowk, Makwanpur and Kavre (earthquake affected areas) as a pilot project for 6 months. With a promising impact observed during the pilot phase, the project started in the beginning of 2016 with 30 beneficiaries who belong to marginalized communities, are unschooled/school drop-outs, have economically challenged backgrounds and are earthquake affected from Sindhupalchowk and Kavre. During this phase, we became aware about the essence of sustainability in the project for a successful project. We established our sustainability partner Danfe Works Enterprises Nepal which will enact as our supporter to resume the project during the absence of any funding opportunities.

Till date, we have trained 129 women from Sindhupalchowk and have worked with 16 different communities all together. Currently there are 25 women receiving 6 months of tailoring training. In addition to the 6 month tailoring training our project incorporates soft skill development training such as informal education classes, life skill development training, sexual and reproductive health training, self defense training, business management training, counseling sessions, women's right and gender based violence sessions and so on. This project encourages the beneficiaries to start their own tailor shop/work as a home based worker/ work in a local tailor shop by distributing sewing machines and additional materials after they graduate from the training duration through the support from like-minded organizations. Through this training we also create job opportunities through our social enterprise "Danfe Works Enterprises Nepal" which also promotes Nepal made tailored products to local consumers.

**Number of Beneficiaries in 6 months - 50 beneficiaries**

**Advance tailoring number - 4**

**Machine distribution- 25 beneficiaries**

**Non-formal education classes - 96 classes**

**Life skill training number of days - 4 days (2 days for follow up class)**

**Self defense number of days - 14 days**

**SRH number of days- 7 days**

**Women's right session - 1 session**

**Cyber crime session - 1 session**

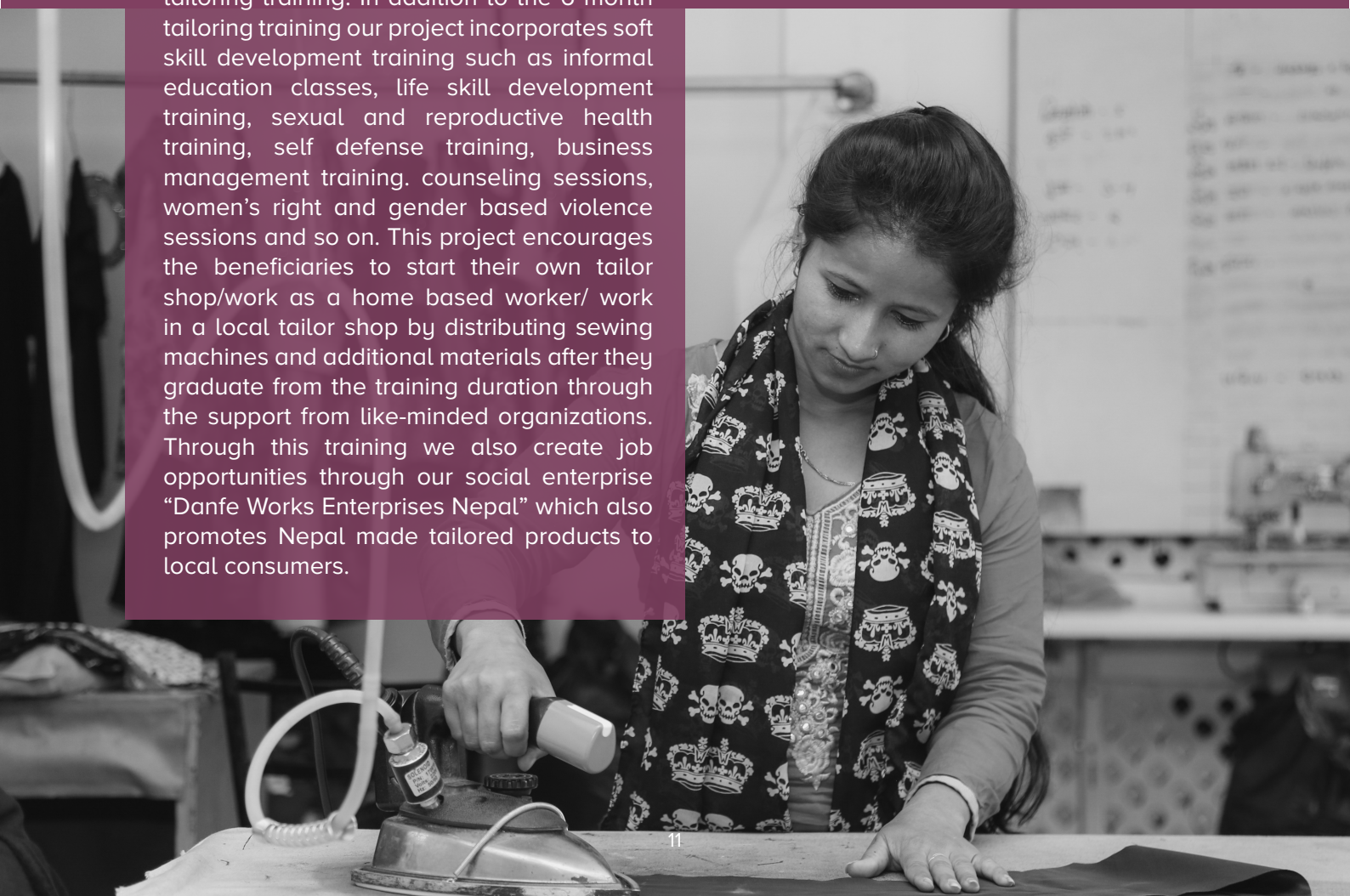
Introduction to jewelry training: Jewellery training was introduced once a week to let the beneficiaries learn and enhance a new skill which if mastered could also be a promising source of income to them.

**Embroidery training**

**Master cutting training**

**Screen printing training**

**External support to past CS beneficiaries**



## SUCCESS TESTIMONIALS

“My skill has given me the confidence to live independently” - Preeti Jonchhen

Preeti graduated from Danfe in the 6th Batch. Currently she is working at Danfe as an intern. She feels that her skill has given her the strength to sustain her livelihood. She lives in Kathmandu independently and covers her own expenses. She says she loves sewing bags and is looking forward to learning many more items during her internship at Danfe.

“Before I couldn’t even talk to my trainers but now I am working with them! I can’t be more happy!” - Sushmita Thapa

Sushmita graduated from Danfe Batch 6 and is now working as an intern in Danfe. She feels empowered to be working alongside her trainers with whom she even feared to ask her doubts. Now, she enjoys her work and is planning to stay in Kathmandu and work for Danfe Enterprises. She enjoys stitching Kurtas and is now looking forward to stitch designer lehengas.





## COVID SCENARIO

Project Awasar CS was restructured being mindful of the ongoing crisis situation caused due to the COVID 19 pandemic. The project module in the present context provides employment opportunities to semi-skilled and skilled tailors within the Kathmandu Valley who have lost their jobs due to the economic crisis generated by the pandemic. The search for such tailors in need for jobs is done by collaborating with like minded companies, organizations, factories and boutiques who recommended tailors in need of jobs to the project; after which there is a standardized procedure to hire the tailor starting with phone interview, skill test, transport feasibility and majorly the requirement based on needs are catered.

## AWASAR ONGD

In the rural setting of Nepal, quality education or even basic education, especially for women is least emphasized. Women are considered to devote their entire life towards household chores and give utmost priority to their family needs. Predominantly there is more opportunity for men in comparison to women. Hence, creating job opportunities, providing vocational skill and soft skill development training will help them generate income, which will ultimately build their capacity, have a say in decision-making and so forth. This will over the period of time enhance their economic status as well as their individual status. In order to address the situation of women from marginalized community “Mussahar” Awasar as a project was initiated in Province 2, Dhanusha district as a community training center in Dhanushadham and Janakpur providing tailoring training and mithila art training respectively to women from the Mussahar community.

The major result that we aspire to achieve through Awasar is primarily to equip women with the tailoring skills and also assist them to acquire jobs after the completion of the training. Hence, with this the capacity for production will also be increased that will eventually expand the endowment fund through the revenue generated. Besides acquiring tailoring skills they will also gain leadership and capacity building skills through various sessions. Besides the direct beneficiaries, the project in the long run will also support children from marginalized communities. From the total sales revenue generated a certain percentage will be allocated to support another program Hakuna Matata. This is to promote the approach of sustainability of the existing project of SAATH.

**Advance training: 8 women**

**Non formal classes: 144 classes**





## SUCCESS TESTIMONIALS

"I am thankful for receiving Mithila art training and I am looking forward to use my skill to earn and establish my livelihood. Agriculture was our main source of income and until now I was unaware of how a skill besides agriculture could do. With this training and education classes I can dream to set up for my family's needs." Pramila Devi Mandal

"Before training my life revolved around household chores. Today I have something else to look forward to. Along with the training, I enjoy my education class as well. After the training is complete I will start my own enterprise and try to make a living and support my family. I have become more confident and I have realized I can do so much more in my life." - Samundri Devi Sada.



## COVID SCENARIO

Due to the pandemic, the community training had to be kept at halt due to the imposed lockdown but that didn't stop our encouraging trainers to provide a door-to-door tailoring and mithila art training with full safety measures to the women of Janakpur. Machine was distributed to all the beneficiaries along with relief material so that they do not have to miss their training or have no source to run their livelihoods. The trainer provided refresher training through those home visits to ensure that women are in touch with their skills and practicing it. The organization coordinated with local staff from the project and through the relief program initiated on 14 th June 2020 in Dhanushadham and on 1st July 2020 in Janakpur, distributed rice, lentil, salt, cooking oil, chickpeas. The total amount for the relief program was Rs. 85, 975 benefitting 22 families with an average of 5 members in each family. Support was provided to 5 local staffs of the project as well by providing them relief inclusive of rice and lentils amounting to Rs. 12, 575.

## HAKUNA MATATA (NEW MODULE)

Hakuna Matata, a project dedicated to support marginalized children to ensure holistic development. The children selected from the age group of 12-18 years are from classes 8-12 which is considered as a vulnerable group, who are most likely to drop out of school. The reason behind this is lack of proper attention, moral support, limited exposure and lack of encouragement. The selected age group, being a vulnerable mass, will be more efficient while grasping the contents educated by the resource person. Furthermore, we intend to focus more on the individual growth of the children; thus, there will be more focus on workshop, camp and boot camp in 5-year duration for each child. We also incorporated to support the children for their further education by creating a savings account and yearly depositing a certain amount for 5 year duration. This fund will help the children to continue their education in the future and also acts as a security fund as well. This project is currently operating through support from local like-minded organizations and CSR initiatives in various corporate sectors as well.

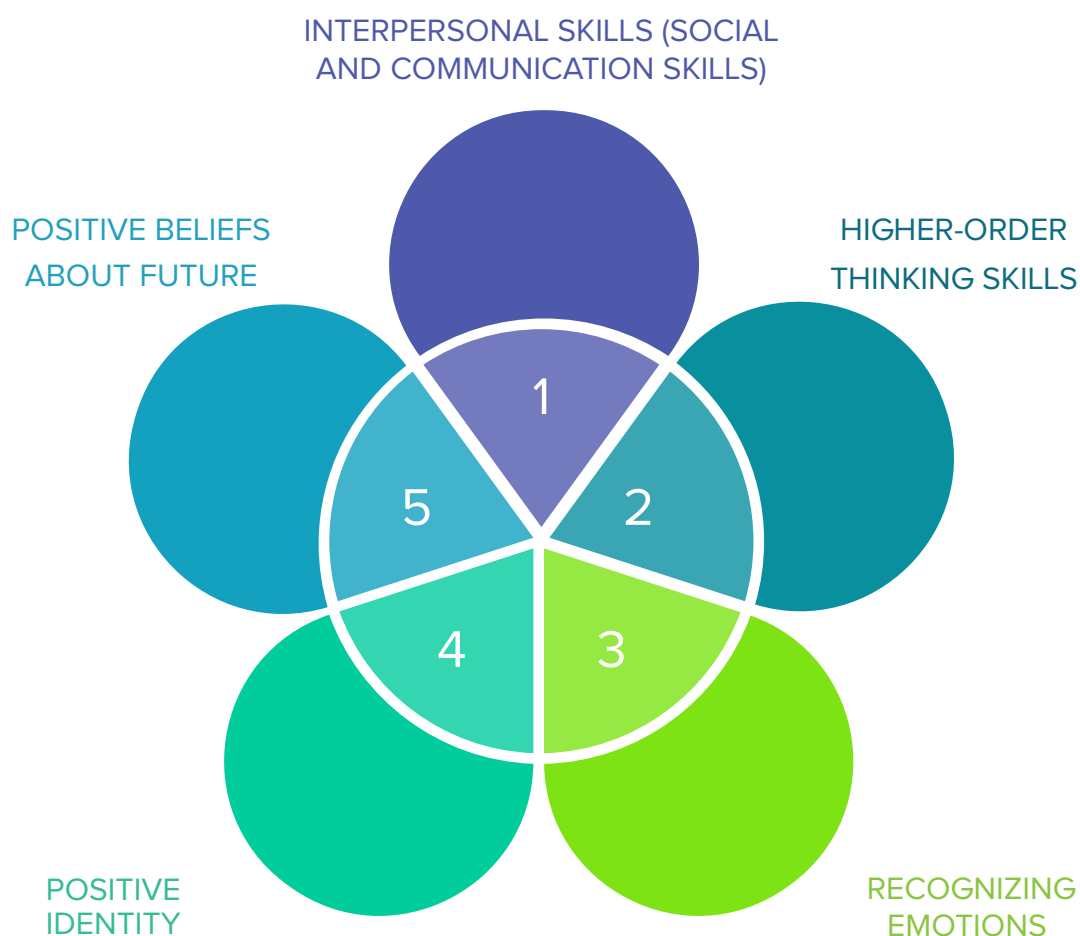
Project module outline: The five year long project will focus on conducting monthly workshops per year on public speaking, leadership, social skills, higher order thinking skills and personal/ career development skills. Each year theme specific extensive boot camps will be conducted such as physical development, mental wellbeing, art of reading and team building activities. Learning will also be made fun through yearly out of valley recreational camps.

**Number of children in kathmandu: 11**

**Pokhara: 9 beneficiaries (education support)**

**Workshop conducted:offline (6) online (10)**

**Boot camp - 1 (leadership academy)**





## COVID SCENARIO

The pandemic did not stop the project but did change its course of conducting the workshops. All the workshops were modified to be conducted online by providing internet data services to the children for full participation in the virtual workshops. This year the public speaking workshops were completed successfully and the workshops for enhancing leadership will also begin and continue online for the next year.





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