

SHREE SHIVALAYA PRIMARY SCHOOL BHIMPOKHARA 9, SIMA NEAR BAGLUNG

April 2013

Shree Shivalaya Primary School is a simple English medium primary school located in a rural village environment, which needs help to improve the standard of teaching, as the teachers are untrained

The Placement

This is a teaching placement.

Maximum Number of Volunteers / Minimum Length of placement:

This placement can accommodate up to 4 volunteers at any one time.

To be eligible you must be signed up for a minimum of 5 weeks.

Priority will be given those volunteers with the longest placement.

Volunteer's Primary Responsibilities:

- to work with the teachers to introduce them to creative learning methods in lieu of the traditional rote learning practices taught. The school has expressed a particular interest in Montessori teaching
- to work in partnership with the teachers to teach in a creative way, English, maths, science and computers as well as introducing, where possible other creative activities into the curriculum.

Classes / Student's Ages:

Nursery to class 5 (hoping to open class 6 in 2013)

The children's are aged between approx 4 – 9 years old

No of Students at the school:

Approximately 88 students, with class sizes ranging from c9 – 18 children

School Days/Hours:

Sunday – Friday (½ day)

Last day of the Nepali month is also a ½ day

10:00hrs – 15:30hrs

Morning classes are 45 minutes each and post lunch classes 40 minutes, with a 45 minute break for lunch

School Holidays / Exams 2013 – 2014:

TBC

No Teachers:

Head Teacher – Bal Bahadur Bhandari (little English)

In total 7 teachers and 1 helper + a computer teacher

School Facilities:

Teachers room

Classrooms, 1 for each class

Computer lab

Large playground area

Long, thin, covered, concrete outdoor stage area

Toilets

Community teaching area



Shree Shivalaya Primary School



Classroom



Playground



Computer room



Community teaching rooms

Resources:

This school has a blackboard, benches and desks in each classroom, and the children all have text books. There is one classroom per class.

There is also a fully equipped computer lab.

Type of Resources Needed:

White boards/rubbers

Flash cards

Educational posters

Coloured paper, pencils etc

Picture/story books

Simple science materials

Worksheet ideas

Sports equipment

Note: VSN relies solely on donations for such resources, so please contact us in advance if you are interested in this placement.

Placement Location, Accommodation & Facilities etc.

Village Name:

Bhimpokhara, Sima

No House Holds in Village:

Approx 70

Ethnic Mix:

Brahmin, Magar and Dalit

Elevation:

Approx 1,800 metres

Nearest Large Town/City:

Baglung – approx 20 km

District:

Baglung

Distance from KTM:

Approx 320km

Main Contact Person:

BP (Bidhiyapati) 9847621182

School Contact Person:

Ram Prasad Sharma 975601592
Jukti Paudel 9847629252

Placement Location:

A beautiful rural village located in the hills above Baglung.

Accommodation:

Volunteers will live with a host family located in the village. All volunteers, unless they chose otherwise will have their own room. All homes will have a toilet (an outside squat toilet) and you will have to use the public tap to shower and wash.

Shops:

There is a small shop in the village where volunteers can buy soap, washing powder, shampoo, toothpaste/brushes, drinks, basic snacks such as biscuits, noodles, etc. For a greater variety, volunteers will need to visit Baglung.

Health:

The nearest health post is in a village called Bim Pokhara 1 which is approximately a one hour walk away. For more sophisticated medical treatment volunteers will need to go to Baglung. Please ensure you pack a comprehensive personal first aid kit, if you are interested in this placement.

Communications & Banks:

All Nepali mobile networks work in Bim Pokhara, although the signal can warp in and out. Currently, the nearest internet access is in Baglung, however the school/community is looking at internet options for the school's computer lab. Alternatively you can bring your own laptop and purchase a local sim-enable, plug-in data card.

Banks and ATMS are available in Baglung.

Transport:

Volunteers will travel from Kathmandu to Baglung by microbus (approx 9+ hours) where they will be met and spend the night. They will then be taken by local jeep to their placement in Bim Pokhara. This placement requires a small in-country supplement to be paid in order to cover the increased travel costs to get to placement.

Jeeps run from Baglung to Bim Pokhara 8 – 9 months of the year, with the current cost being approx 170 Rupees one way and it takes about 2½ hours. During the monsoon (June – September) or heavy winter rains the jeeps only run as far as Achete as the road (a very steep, narrow and rough dirt track) becomes un-navigable, and volunteers then have to walk the remainder of the way, which takes approx 2 – 2½ hours.



Additional Project Ideas

For those volunteers who are long-term, there are other optional projects they may wish to initiate alongside working with the school, such as:

- After school homework club / Friday after school activities club
- Teaching basic English and numeracy skills in the community, especially to married women who gave up their schooling upon getting married, so they can help their children with their homework
- Running community health and hygiene workshops in partnership with the local health post / women's groups
- Community computer classes
- Running a holiday club for all village children during the school vacation

Essential Volunteer Qualities for this Placement

This placement is not for the faint hearted, but for those with a great sense of adventure who are happy to embrace, remote(ish) and basic living conditions in order to give to the community they are serving.

To succeed in this placement it is essential that you come equipped with the following personality traits and skills sets:

- A sense of adventure
- A sense of humour
- A strong work ethic
- A passion to pass on your own experience and skills to others, so they learn, grow and share these skills
- Endless patience and perseverance
- A love of small children
- Enjoy living in a rural / remote setting with few facilities
- Are happy to do without your home comforts
- An ability to work independently with minimal guidance
- To be inventive, resourceful and creative
- To be able to work with limited/minimal supplies – i.e. to be able to create something out of nothing!
- An ability to thrive in an environment where language differences will be an issue
- To embrace a new culture without judgment
- To make an effort with your Nepali in order to increase your communication abilities
- The ability to live and work with little or no privacy
- The desire to succeed

Essential Equipment / Personal Effects

Below are some essential items you will need to bring with you should you consider this placement. This list is not exhaustive by any means, and please remember the more you bring, the more you may well have to carry if you are required to walk in / out.

- Your luggage must comprise of a rucksack and not a suitcase/kitbag as you may well have to walk in/out of your placement carrying your own luggage.
- Sleeping bag (lightweight for summer months, warm for winter months)
- Warm jacket, hat, scarf etc. (winter months)
- A set or lightweight waterproofs and umbrella (summer months – umbrella all seasons)
- A set of sturdy well worn-in walking shoes or boots
- A pair of sandals or flip flops
- Head torch and extra batteries
- Water bottle and water purifying drops such as Piyus (very cheap and easily available in KTM)
- Mosquito net (for summer). Cheap and easily available in KTM
- Comprehensive personal first aid kit
- Feminine hygiene products (girls only!)
- Toilet roll (if using) as we can't guarantee it will be available in the village
- Cigarette lighter to burn your toilet paper with
- Camera
- Books, cards, games, iPod etc to keep you occupied during the evenings as it gets dark between 18:00hrs – 19:30hrs depending on the time of year
- An old mobile handset and charger if you wish to buy a local sim card
- Teaching materials/ideas

If you are interested in this placement, please contact us in advance of your arrival placements@vsnpj.org