

SHREE SHIVALAYA AAMA SCHOOL BHIMPOKHARA 9, SIMA NEAR BAGLUNG

Feb 2015

Education for women has not been a priority in Nepal and as a result, there are many women who struggle with literacy and numeracy. Shree Shivalaya Primary School located in a rural village environment, started Aama School or women's literacy classes for the ladies of the village.

The Placement

This is a teaching placement for ladies 24 years old and over.

Maximum Number of Volunteers / Minimum Length of placement:

This placement can accommodate up to 3 volunteers at any one time. To be eligible you must be signed up for a minimum of 6 weeks. Priority will be given to those volunteers with the longest placement.

Volunteer's Primary Responsibilities:

- to teach English alongside the local teachers and introduce them to creative teaching methods
- to create additional teaching materials and aids to be used in the classes
- to create and run workshops hand in hand with the local teachers on such topics as women's health, nutrition, simple first aid, income generating ideas
- to share any teaching materials created with VSN for future use
- There is also the opportunity to teach in the primary school in the afternoons

No of Students in each class:

There are currently 37 registered ladies, split between Class 1 (no previous education) Class 2 and 3 (some education and literate in Nepali). Approx 30 ladies attend daily and all classes are taught together in one room.

Student's Ages:

The age range is from from about 15 – 65 years old.

Class Days/Hours:

Sunday – Friday 10:00 – 13:00hrs

This time also covers simple numeracy and Nepali.

The term dates for these classes match those of the school, however extra classes can be arranged during holiday periods.

No Teachers:

Currently there is no dedicated Aama Teacher. BP the headmaster takes classes, as well as various teachers during their free lessons.

Class Facilities & Resources:

The classes are held in a community room next to the school. The ladies all have notebooks and a pencil and we are looking at getting them each a copy of an English text book at their appropriate level. They all sit on the floor and teachers work from a whiteboard and possibly poster sheets that they have prepared.



Aama School students with Headmaster BP



Morning PT with the school kids



Group exercise



Community Classroom



Testing comprehension

Type of Resources Needed:

White boards/rubbers/pens
Educational posters
Picture/story books
Flash cards

Coloured paper, pencils etc
Additional teaching resources
Low level tables to work at
Indoor games

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

Aama School Contact Person:

BP (Bidhiyapati) 9847621182

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 be taken 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-enabled, plug-in data card.

Banks and ATMS are available in Baglung.

Transport:

Volunteers will travel from Kathmandu to Baglung by jumbo microbus (approx 8 hours) where they will be met and spend the night. They will then be taken by local jeep to their placement in Bim Pokhara.

Jeeps run from Baglung to Bim Pokhara 8 – 9 months of the year (not during the monsoon) and take about 2 hours. The current cost is approx 200 NPR each way. During 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 – 2 ½ 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 Aama School, such as:

- After school homework club / Friday after school activities club
- Running community health and hygiene workshops in partnership with the local health post / women's groups
- Community computer classes

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. It is for ladies who are passionate about women's education, are willing to share their knowledge with both their co teachers and students and with a desire to help improve the education and lives of Nepal's uneducated ladies.

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 passion to pass on your own experience and skills to others, so they learn, grow and share these skills
- An interest in women's education and empowerment
- A desire to help the ladies of Nepal
- A strong work ethic and commitment to your classes
- Happy to run some teacher training classes if required
- The desire to succeed
- A sense of humour
- Patience and perseverance
- 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 ability
- The ability to live and work with little or no privacy
- To do pre arrival preparation
- Enjoy living in a rural / remote setting with few facilities
- Happy to do without your home comforts

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 spring/summer months, warm for autumn/winter months)
- A camping/sleeping mat if you find sleeping on a hard surface difficult – Nepali beds are hard!
- Warm jacket , hat, scarf etc. (autumn/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 and 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 including rehydration salts
- Feminine hygiene products (girls only!)
- Toilet roll 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/iPad etc. to keep you occupied during the evenings
- An unlocked mobile phone and charger to buy a local SIM card
- Teaching materials/ideas