

SHRADHA WOMEN'S SCHOOL THULO BHARYANG KATHMANDU

January 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. Recently, small community-run classes have been set up to allow these women to gain some education

The Placement

This is a teaching placement for women and girls aged 12 and over. Classed as non-formal/formal education, the students progress up class grades through yearly exams. The curriculum is varied and, apart from English and basic maths, the teaching medium is Nepali.

Maximum Number of Volunteers / Minimum Length of placement:

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

Volunteer's Primary Responsibilities:

- to teach English alongside the local teachers
- to work with the local teachers to introduce them to creative teaching methods
- to create additional teaching materials and aids to be used in the classes
- volunteers may also choose to create and run workshops outside the normal curriculum on such topics as women's health, nutrition, simple first aid, income generating ideas etc.
- to share any new teaching materials with VSN for future use

No of Students:

There are currently 50 registered ladies and classes are created according to the level of attainment, from grade 1 up to 10.

Students' Ages:

Ages range from about 12 - 50 years old.

Class Days/Hours:

Sunday – Friday
11:00 – 15:00hrs with a 20-minute break for lunch

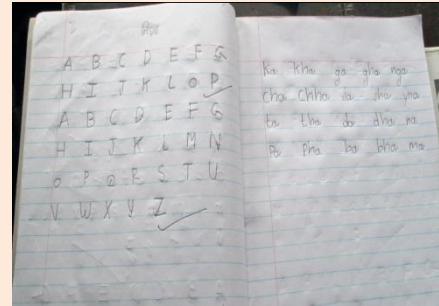
There are set term times and holidays as with regular schools; two weeks for Dashain/Tihar festival in the autumn, two weeks winter vacation in January, and two weeks for exam marking/teacher training in the spring. Classes are generally closed for major festival days.

The 'educational year' starts in April and students move up classes (or not) according to their most recent exam results. Exams are generally held in Sept, Jan and March and are all internal except for any students (classes 8 and 10) taking end of year government exams.

Class Facilities & Resources:

The ladies have their own textbooks, notebooks, pencils and rubbers. Classes are held in various-sized rooms and the ladies all sit on benches in front of desks. There is a blackboard in each classroom.

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



Learning the English & Nepali alphabets



Learning to tell the time



Happy students!



Class 3



Class 1 student

Type of Resources Needed:

- Chalk
- Flash cards (laminated if possible)
- Card games
- Educational posters
- Coloured paper, pencils, scissors, glue, etc. for making resources and taking craft sessions
- Additional teaching resources such as teaching clocks, globes, giant dice, story/picture books etc.

School Location, Transport etc.

The school has been running for about 3 years

Teachers:

Shusmita Bhatta 9849063953

Sanu Rai 9841215887

Good English spoken



Class Location:

The school is located in Thulo Bharyang, a 30-40 minute bus ride from your host family. The school can be found down a side street reached from a turning off the ring road, shown in the photos below.



Thulo Bharyang stop



Road leading off ring road



A good place for lunch



Turn right at this T junction



School gates



Sign outside school

Transport – How to get to the Shradha Women's School from Dhapasi Heights:

You will need to walk to the main road (ring road) which is a 15 minute walk from your host family.

Cross the road so you are facing where you came from and take any bus/micro heading around the ring road. The bus boy will be shouting the direction of the bus and you should hear him say "Swayambhu." Ask for Thulo Bharyang (3kms). When you see a red and blue checkered Kwality Café on the left you are there. If unsure just ask, and the bus boy/passengers will make sure you get off at the right place.

Cross the ring road and take the road directly opposite. Follow this road to the T junction at the end and then turn RIGHT. The school is a few meters along on the LEFT.

To return to Dhapasi Heights, retrace your steps to the ring road and take any bus/micro asking for Basundhara. Get off opposite to where you boarded the bus earlier and make your way home.

Host Family Location, Accommodation & Facilities etc.

Area Name: Gairi Gaun, West KTM	Nearest Large Town/City: Kathmandu	District: Sitapaila
---	--	-------------------------------

Distance from Central KTM: Approx 3kms	Main VSN Contacts: Sue 9841730133 – Volunteer Coordinator Kamaal 9851060021 – KTM Placements Officer
--	---

Host Family Location & Accommodation:

Volunteers may live with a host family located in Gairi Gaun, just outside the ring road, in the west of Kathmandu. All volunteers, unless they chose otherwise, will have their own room. This is an urban homestay, so the level of accommodation tends to be slightly more comfortable than village homestays, with indoor toilets and showers.

Shops:

This is a residential area and there are plenty of shops within a short walk from the host family where volunteers can buy most things such as new jeans, washing powder, and food. There is a small shop near the school that sells samosas and other small bites of Nepali food. This area is also located near the Swayambhu Temple (or Monkey Temple) and near the temple there is a Swayambhu Café where you can get food, coffee and free wifi.

Health:

There are pharmacies and health shops close to the school, on the street that intersects with the Ring Road, within a 15-minute walk from your host family. The main international travelers' clinic is a 20 to 30-minute taxi ride away (3kms).

Communications & Banks:

All Nepali mobile networks work in Gairi Gaun and there are internet cafes in this area. Alternatively you can bring your own laptop and purchase a local SIM-enabled, plug-in data card from the Ncell stores nearby.

The nearest ATM is a 10-minute walk from your host family just off the Ring Road on the way to Swayambhu, just before the Armed Police Force Headquarters. Alternatively, there are many banks, ATMs and money changers in Thamel, the tourist area just a 20 to 30-minute bus ride away (3kms).

Transport to Thamel, Central KTM:

A 20-minute microbus ride and costs only 15 NPR. Walk to the bus stop at the Ring Road and pick up a white microbus which a bus boy says is going to Sundhara and check it is going to Thamel. The bus will take the Ring Road to the main chowk at Balaju and then turn right towards Thamel. Ask the bus boy where to get off, cross the road and follow the side street into Thamel.

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

- Sleeping bag (lightweight for summer months, warm for winter months – you will be provided with bedding)
- Warm jacket, hat, gloves, scarf etc. (winter months)
- A set of lightweight waterproofs and umbrella (summer months – umbrella all seasons)
- A pair of sandals or flip flops for indoor use and sturdy shoes/boots for outdoor use
- Head torch and/or flash light plus extra batteries
- Water bottle and water purifying drops such as Piyus (very cheap and easily available in KTM)
- First aid kit including rehydration salts
- Feminine hygiene products (can be purchased in supermarkets) and small plastic bags for disposal
- Toilet roll and hand sanitiser (available to purchase in KTM)
- Ear plugs (if you find sleeping difficult in a noisy environment)
- Camera
- Books, cards, games, iPod/iPad etc to keep you occupied during the evenings as it gets dark between 18:00hrs – 19:30hrs depending on the time of year
- Mobile phone (unlocked) and charger if you wish to buy a local SIM card
- Teaching materials/ideas

Essential Volunteer Qualities for this Placement

This placement is for those with a passion 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 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 abilities
- The ability to live and work with little or no privacy
- A sense of adventure (you may be required to travel by local bus)
- To do pre arrival preparation

