



## WHO WERE or ARE YOUR BEST TEACHERS?

*“Education is too important to be left solely to the educators”*

- By Francis Keppel

That quotation made me angry when I read it the first time. I didn't want anyone to think that they could beat me as a superior teacher, but the truth prevails. Not only are there other, and better teachers than I, but they came both before and after I did. My parents were fantastic teachers! Just think of all the things I knew before I got to kindergarten! My aunts and uncles taught me how many times you could eat fried chicken on visits to Missouri, my older brother Chuck taught me I was inferior to logical thinking, the neighbors taught me stealing apples were a capital crime, the little boy next door taught me about male anatomy, and my dog Katie, taught me love and affection came with wet noses and was unconditional.

There is a beautiful Nepali woman who is in her fifties and sits in the mornings with a young child at her side and reads as the sun just breaks onto the steps of her home. The child isn't hers, maybe a niece or just a neighbor, but this girl gets extra care with her reading before school begins. That child is learning to read from a superior “teacher”.

A man in the house raises puppies. He is gentle, but has a raspy voice as he corrects those wiggly canines. The little boys have thrown stones at the puppies and the man brings the boys over and places the rope, tied to the puppies in the youngsters' hands and asks them to walk the kukors. He shows them that kindness trains the dogs to respond to his voice and the dogs become calm and obedient. The boys have

stopped throwing rocks and have learned to appreciate animals and how to train dogs. Maybe as they grow, the young men will treat humans with more kindness and patience too, and not throw stones or fists.

There are other examples of learning and education going on around us. Speech begins as we talk to each other and the babies listen and begin imitating patterns of language that they hear. They dance to rhythms and sing sounds that we play on radio or television or with our musical instruments. How many little children pick up foul language from adults? They learn to hit and kick by watching television and movies where violence is displayed. They learn to hate and put people less fortunate into categories such as castes, or disabled or retarded or other limiting labels. I saw an editorial this week where I am sure the writer didn't mean to refer to disabled persons as “slower”. Yes, some are slower because they have learning difficulties, or have a twisted leg, or have eyes that are sightless, but they may have brains that are more capable or fingers faster on a computer or voices more pure in a song. What do we teach our children as they are growing and stepping out? Do we praise them and others that we see? Do we give them understanding of other's differences and their hardships? There is a phrase “by the grace of God go ye” which means to me that I am lucky to have the things I have: legs that work, a mind that can think, arms that can hold, eyes that can see, and a chance to visit a foreign country to learn about others. I have been blessed to learn and to teach. Some teaching has been in a classroom. Other teaching is by writing and sharing experiences, things that have worked or not. Formal learning has happened in a classroom, while other education comes from the papers and books I read, the people I meet and from the mistakes I make. Mistakes are lessons! They are teaching tools that my teachers always rewarded me with checks, tests, and grades. It felt good to get a golden star on my paper, or an A, or even better a few encouraging words when my paper wasn't exactly perfect. It is so nice to be learning!! I am glad now that I make mistakes and learn from

them. Well, to be honest, I am happy for the learning, but not for making the mistakes. I still have a lot to learn and mistakes are still painful. That's important to know about education...it isn't always easy, but it is nice when the learning is accompanied by a few kind words of encouragement.

## BOARD MEETING SUMMARY

April 24, 2007

The Board accepted the resignation of Prakrit Adhikari as Interaction Coordinator. Prakash Silwal was appointed as the new Interaction Coordinator. Nancy Baker, Education Advisor, informed the Board that all donors have now completed the OD Assessment Survey and that the results will be presented at the next Board meeting along with recommendations for the timeline for planning.

## GLOBAL CAMPAIGN HELD ON WEDNESDAY

APRIL 25, 2007

There was equal representation of men and women from the EJG agency. It was wonderful to see members of our donor groups present also from UNICEF, UNESCO, and our partner VSO who shared t-shirts with us. Speakers included the head of UNESCO, the Ministries of Education and three delightful children who are sound going to be running for parliament. They were very articulate in talking about their experiences as street children, working in factories and restaurants, and being unable to participate in regular school programs.



Children from schools and street children helped encircle the Mandela, as adults formed a "chain of solidarity" around them symbolizing the desire to have all children in school. SPEAKERS WILL BE AT YAK PALACE ON FRIDAY, APRIL 27, as part of the Global Awareness Week Program. It begins at 11AM-2:30PM.

WHAT IS HAPPENING IN BHAKTAPUR SCHOOL DISTRICT'S TRAINING PROGRAM Information reported by Geraldine Clarke, VSO Education Advisor.

Training has taken place for Primary Teachers in Grades 1-5 at Tatalia School. They are planning schemes for eight different areas. Experienced teachers are tutoring less experienced teachers on the length of time it takes to cover curriculum units. The Resource Persons and teachers have agreed on the same government texts and supplemental ones to use at the various grade levels.

One of the things that I discovered and that Geraldine and I talked about is that Primary Teachers in Nepal teach only one subject while in western countries the teachers teach all subjects which allows them to "cross over" subject matter. For example, I could assign a writing lesson on a science topic that we are studying. Or, I could use math to measure the distances of pyramids in social studies, etc. I think that is a good topic for discussion, which method of teaching is better? Ms. Clarke reported that one area within that school district is using the "western method" to see how well they like it and to see if there are better results in the classrooms. Specialized subjects such as music and art are often taught by a teacher with those specific talents. In California, most teachers in grades K-6 were expected to teach all subjects including music and art. Some districts and schools wrote grants to bring in specialized to work with teachers and students. My school had a grant called "Artist in Residence", where an artist came to school a few days each week to work in classrooms with students and at the same time train the teacher. This way, he or she was building

capacity, giving the classroom teacher training in a subject where they may not have an expertise. Other schools opted to have their “artist” a choral teacher, who taught music each week.

## SUMMARIES OF ENGLISH NEWS STORIES

APRIL 23-27, 2007

RN=Rising Nepal HT=Himalayan Times KP=Kathmandu Post

**April 23** HT Teams from the District of Education inspected private schools in Kathmandu, Bhaktapur, and Lalitpur announced Mahashram Sharma of the DoE. The surprise visits were to continue for one week and results were to be posted next week. The inspections are of fee structures and scholarships to conflict hit children, poor and underprivileged students, as well as those policies for all facilities.

HT ANNISU-R members roughed up NSU leader Bikash KC on his way into university offices. ANNISU-R said “it was a mistake”.

HT ED. “Find Truth and Talk” . 60 schools out of 2200 which are part of two organizations in the private Schools will be visited by the government in their inspections. This is to find that 10% of the parents have complained about too many textbooks and have to purchase books from specific book stores. Monitoring should be ongoing and there should be tougher regulations.

KP A roof blew off the Dumaruya School stopping classes.

KP ED. “Choice After SLC” by Phadendra Gadtaula. Should parents be selecting the course of study for their children based on test results rather than the interests of the student?

**April 24**

RN “Education to Workers Children” Nepal Trade Union Congress initiated an Informal Child Education Program with help of Japn International Labour Organization aiming at educating workers children in transportation, hotel and factories in 50 areas in Bajkapatan and Pokara New Business Park for 8-14 yr. olds.

RN Karnali Region seeks a new academic session and calendar to begin in January which would meet their geographical and agricultural needs

RN ED. “Education for Disabled” Most children who are disabled are not offered an opportunity in education. They do have the right for an education.

HT Gopal Action Week will include 27 NGOs and starts on Monday. The theme is awareness of those deprived of an education.

HT After a closure of 6 years by Maoists, the Pyuthan Private Schools will be opened after an agreement with Maoists of the ANNISU-R.

HT Failed students received passing marks on examinations in Nawalparasi CDO Govinda Khanal said in a probe against irregularities.

KP Schools imposed mandatory provisions on parents to purchase books and supplies from schools or selected outlets. Parents were not happy!

**April 25** There was news but the editor didn’t get it. Opps! Sorry!

**April 26** HT ED. APPOINTMENT OF THE VC: Fundamental Flaws in Our Practice” by Dr. Tirth Raj Khaniya (EJG Advisor) “It is high time we establish credible procedures for appointing the Vice Chancellors and set precedents for the future.” (Please read the entire editorial)

RN Four roofs blew off school classrooms.

RN 350 teaching certificates cannot be verified and another 80% out of 1445 cannot be traced because of coming from an Indian institution, by MOES.

**April 27**

RN Krishna Kapari reports that 520 government scholarship were turned over to communities, totaling 261 l. At the Global Campaign for Education, Ministries of State for Education Director Mohan Singh Rathour announced that children would not be deprived after timely improvements in policies are made. UNICEP Director Gillian Melsop

said children would not be forgotten . Children speaking were Bhagawati Thapa and Saraj Guragain. Hetauda reported that 39 were victimized by the Bandamudhe incident.

KP 1000 schoos will receive separate toilets for boys and girls, 200 Dalit teachers, scholarships to 900,001 Dalit girls and 969,059 Dalit children. 450,00 children will receive mid-day meals. A Literacy Program will enroll 186,00 adults, 100,000 dropout children, form 1000 Community Centers . Training will be provided for 19,000 primary teachers, 11,000 secondary teachers, and 12,000 Head Teachers in the next budgetary year.

## A CHAT WITH OUR NEW ACCOUNTANT: SHANTA DHUNGANA

We welcome Shanta Dhungana to our office staff as our new Accountant. She comes with past experience in accounting by working at Navil Bank and in other NGOs. Shanta has a pleasant, quiet manner.

*Tell me about what plans you have for the future.*

I want to be a perfect accountant. I came to EJG so I could practice and refine my accounting skills after having worked at Navil Bank and many other NGOs. I want to make accounting my career.

*What would you like to be doing in a few years?*

I would like to be teaching commerce at the university level.

*What experience do you have in education?*

I was a Primary Teacher for

### GETTING TO KNOW SHANTA DHUNGANA BETTER

**Hobby:** Listening to classical music.

**Married:** No

**Birth date:** January 15, 2036 BS

**Favorite color:** White

**Favorite movies:** Documentaries

**Favorite dinner date:** Her family

**Favorite music:** Classical

**Family:** Mother, 2 brothers, 5 sisters

**School:** Pragati Secondary BA & MA from Hetauda, Makawanpur Multiple Campuses



two years

*What did you find positive about that experience?*

I liked playing with children.

*What made you decide to leave teaching and go into commerce?*

Commerce is really my field of study. The money is better in commerce and it gives me more opportunities for the future.

## THE UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD

### ARTICLES 30-42 CONTINUED

REMEMBER THAT THE “RIGHTS OF THE CHILD” ARE IMPORTANT FOR ALL JOURNALISTS AS A PROTECTION FOR YOU, AS WELL AS THE CHILD. IN WORKING WITH THEM IN THE FIELD. DON’T BE HARMED BY BREAKING THEM.

**Article 30** You have the right to enjoy your own culture, practice your own religion, and use your own Language.\*

**Article 31** You have the right to play and relax by doing things like sports, music and drama.

**Article 32** You have the right to protection from work that is bad for your health or education

**Article 33** You have the right to be protected from dangerous drugs

**Article 34** You have the right to be protected from sexual abuse.

**Article 35** No one is allowed to kidnap you or sell you.

**Article 36** You have the right from of any kind of exploitation.

**Article 37** You have the right not to be punished in a cruel or hurtful way.

**Article 38** You have a right to protection in times of war. fewer than 15 should never have to be in an army or take part in a battle \*

**Article 39** You have the right to help if you have been hurt , neglected or badly treated.

**Article 40** You have the right to help in defending yourself if accused of breaking the law.

**Article 41** You have the right to any rights in laws in your country or

internationally that give you better rights than these.

**Article 42** All adults and children should know about this convention.\*

There are 54 articles in total. Articles 43-54 are about how governments and international organizations will work to give children their rights.

### EMAILS & COMMENTS TO THE EDITOR:

**The Nepali dates should not be used when you writing in English by Babu Ram Aryal.**

*Thank you. I will learn to change next issue! NB*

**Dear Nancy,**

...Thank you for your good efforts... article on journalism was a good reading. I hope the article enlightens' some of our journalist friends. As you rightly mentioned in the article, journalism in Nepal is not professional to the desired extent although it has come of age after 1990. So was the Article on the Child Rights. It was informative to me as I did not know it in detail.

Thank you for including the quote on good journalism by our Senior Editor Mr. Surendra Nepali

Everything in the newsletter was fine except there were some spelling errors.

The reporting by Mr. Puspa Raj Poudel was fine except it would have been better had he included in it the main objectives of the forum, conclusions and suggestions, if any.

The interview of Rhithik bhai was interesting. Sorry though, he has no girlfriend!

Tell my regards to Bipendra bhai and all the friends. I always remember you fellas.

By the way, has EJG appointed a new accountant? I suggest you include our General Secretary's interview next time after having interviewed the Prez and the Vice Prez

**Best regards,**

**Deepraj Sanyal**

**Rastriya Samachar Samiti (RSS)**

**Singha Durbar, Kathmandu.**

*Yes, we will have more interviews of our Board. I am only partially responsible for spelling. I am still learning English!!!!*

**Ms Baker**

Thanks for the bulletin. I am sorry being late in responding about my feeling about it. I liked the way it is prepared, it is a good and quality work. I think it should be continued this way.

Thanks, chapala

*Thank you for your kind words.*



**Send comments, suggestions for us:**

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