

Make a difference in the world by educating A GIRL Mulsim Community in Khajura

Sahin Phatma Khan, aged 12, lives in Khajura Rural Municipality's ward number 7 Bathawa Banke and is not in school. She is one of the primary actors under the ENGAGE project. Having three sisters and parents, her family includes five members. A farmer, Rizwan Khan is her father, and a housewife, Najbun Nisha Khan is her mother. Due to their extremely poor economic background, their family does not have land of their own and relies on their parents' agricultural incomes. They do not possess any means of economic support. Due to their poor economic condition, she is unable to enjoy her basic rights, like education. Sahin was about 9 years old when she dropped out of Mainstream education for Madrasha School. Madrasha is the name of a school that teaches Islamic principles to Muslim children. While she would have preferred to study at a mainstream school, that was not an option. The poor economic background of her family is one concern, while her parents' awareness of educating the child is the other concern. Her parents considered mainstream school to be unimportant for their daughter because they were afraid the girl would get sidetracked. Therefore, they want to send her to Madrasah School.



VSO Nepal is leading DFID-funded project ENGAGE (Empowering a New Generation Adolescent Girls With Education) with the coordination and technical support of Humanity and Inclusion Nepal, Disable Empowerment, and Communication Center Nepal in the Banke district. Banke is one of three districts VSO Nepal is implementing the Project, aiming to enroll and improve attendance of marginalized and disabled girls, increase empowerment of marginalized and out-of-school girls, strengthen school governance, improve teaching quality and improve and promulgate Inclusive Education practices in learning facilities.

The moment she became aware of ENGAGE Project. In order to provide her with basic literacy and numeracy skills, big sister enrolled her in Bridge class for nine months. Big sisters are community volunteers who mentor the project students. The process of enrolling in a bridge class was difficult because her parents disagreed about sending her there. Nevertheless, Big sister visited her parents frequently and convinced them by orienting them to the importance of education for a girl's life and how with the education they can change society, country, and the world, and finally, they agreed on sending her to the class. During that time, her confidence was low. She did not approach herself confidently. The lack of interaction with friends, teachers, and big sisters had made her hesitant to talk to a new person. However, big sisters had been coming to her for mentoring, confidence-boosting, and educating her on child rights, gender-based violence, and the importance of education. Also, big sister has visited her parents to urge them to support girls' education. Five sessions of parental education orientation were provided to the parents as part of the same project to support their daughters' education. And eventually, parents recognized the importance of their daughters' education.

Nowadays, she is different from what she used to be. The language barrier no longer exists as she speaks Nepali and English. She is becoming more and more confident every day. In addition to her academic level, she has also made more friends and shown better involvement, and these days she is not shy about talking to new people.



Her parents look for different ways to make sure she remains healthy and studies well. As soon as she finished the bridge class, she was enrolled in grade 4. Studying hard, she eventually became second in her class after working hard. The progress she has made her parents very proud of. Education is valued by her parents. . Any problem she encounters during study time, she asks her teachers easily. In addition, she talks to her big sister about the problems she is facing. Thus, ENGAGE project helped her pursue education, and she found ways to improve herself as a result.