A Journey of Schooling for the Education Attainment-Story of Alina Tharu

Despite several new policies to promote disability rights, including for access to education, many children with disabilities in Nepal are not getting a quality, inclusive education. Deaf children are facing the same in the context of Nepal and among most, Alina Tharu is one who was deprived from schooling to gain education from childhood. Alina is 13 years old deaf children by birth and living in Kohalpur municipality-13, Rajhena village.



Alina in her school, Shree Adarsh Adharbhut Bidhyalaya, Khajura

Alina was growing up, but she could not hear and speak with her growing age. Initially her parents ignored by thinking she can hear and speak later but also it remained the same as usual. Alina was treated in different hospitals-Nepalgunj, Kathmandu and India but her hearing problem was not healed.

Alina was enrolled at the age 8 years old in mainstream school in local village. She neither understood any subject nor communicate with teachers and other children, though she used to go to school regularly. She received stigma-mocking, hatred, hardship from her classmate rather good education and learning from school. Due to lack of learning material related to sign language, sign language teacher and infrastructure and facilities for deaf children, many deaf children are deprived from their right to education. Finally, Alina also dropped her school from grade 2 and her willingness to gain education was ruined with her hearing impairment.

Since 2018, ENGAG project is supporting to Alina in Girls' Education Challenge in Nepal supported by Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO)-UK. Big sister and community mobilizer visited series of time to her home for counseling to her parents on disability, Alina's education, and she can go to school. Then after she received disability ID card by support from ENGAGE team. She was also enrolled in Adarsh Adharbhut Basic School-a resource school for children with hearing impairment, Khajura in Grade 1.

It was very difficult for her and her family to be separated for her education and staying away from home. However, Alina started staying in hostel of resource school and her schooling. Time was passing and Alina was enjoying her friends and learning in school. She has learned very well sign language and can communicate well. She is very good and fast learner as her teacher said.

She is now reading in grade three. She also teaches sign language to her mother and family member for easy communication while she stays at home during her vacation and holidays. Her

mother understands her communication though, she is unable to do the same and learning



Alina attending her class in the mid with her friends

from her daughter which she thinks very good change in her family. Her mother and other family member are these days to see her daughter is reading in school.