

PAPA'S HOUSE MAGAZINE

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THE HEART OF THE CHELSEA CENTER

PHOTO: GITA KHATRI



INTRODUCTION

The previous issue of Papa's House Magazine opened with a story entitled "The Youngest in the Chelsea Center," written by Anu Basnet. Anu told readers, "I have been living at Papa's House ever since I was a child. I am working as an adult instructor at the CECC. I started my work as an intern here. . .[and then] got the opportunity to work here." Just over a year and a half later, Anu is a seasoned teacher at the Center, and has led the charge in putting together this current issue of Papa's House Magazine! Her enthusiasm, initiative, positive attitude, kindness, and intelligence—not to mention her advanced writing skills—have produced a wonderful assortment of articles, interviews, poems, and reflections. As the articles that follow indicate, the Chelsea Center has provided a venue for learning, life skills, and laughter, and has created a community where women continue to thrive.



Before I begin let me introduce myself briefly. My name is Selina Shahi. I am originally from China, now I live in Dhapasi nearby Chelsea Center. I have been learning English at Chelsea Center for 6 years. It's almost half the time I have been in Nepal. As one of the oldest students of the Chelsea Center, I have seen a lot of changes around me and the Chelsea Center.

When I had my first class I was in the old Chelsea building. After a few months, we moved to the new spacious building to study. We had new classrooms, tables, chairs, and white boards. Everything was new. But spring goes to the fall to come, the small trees planted in front of the building have grown tall; the flowers bloomed and wilted; the tables and chairs are wobbly; the carpet also becomes dirty; a lot of teachers and students joined and left, then the new joined again. My black hair is covered with a little gray hair, but my English level went from basic to advanced. The classmates I met have become my good friends, and each workshop I participated in has become my knowledge.

It seems a lot of things have changed, but also there are a lot of things that will never change. Always wanting to learn and my connection with the Chelsea Center will never ever change. The Chelsea Center wanting to help more and more women to become better and stronger will never ever change.

Selina Shahi

HOW I GOT TO JOIN THE CHELSEA CENTER

My name is Rup Maya Tamang. I belong to the Okhaldhunga district's Khijidemba village, ward number 5. I was born in 2029. My childhood was spent in cattle grazing as the school was far away from home. The memory of going to mow the grass barefoot in the winter morning and eating honey with corn rice is still fresh.

I arrived in Kathmandu in Baisakh 2050 after getting married. My husband used to educate my son and daughter while also teaching me a few English words. On Baisakh 8, 2076, my spouse officially registered me at Chelsea School.

At first, I was too shy to speak to my teachers, peers, or even my pals. I remember Tilamaya didi (sister) and I used to rush home to be away from friends and teachers. Monica Ma'am taught us to write and speak Nepali, whereas Sushma Ma'am taught English A, B, and C.

I've learned to talk and engage in conversation with everyone since moving to Chelsea. When Corona arrived later, the trial was put on hold for two to three months. I was concerned that I would lose the ability to read. When Sushma Ma'am abruptly told me over the phone that I could finish my schoolwork online, I was thrilled. Additionally, I'm taking math classes. I can talk to teachers today without any difficulty.

Rup Maya Tamang



म ओखलढुङ्गा जिल्लाको खिजिदेम्बा गाउँपालिका वडा नं. पाच फलातेमा २०२९ सालमा जन्मेको हुँ । मेरो बाल्यकाल घरदेखि स्कूल टाढा भएकाले गाउँभैसी चराउनमा नै बितियो । जाडो महिनाको बिहान खाली खुट्टा घास काट्न गएको अनि दिउसो घास लिएर मकैको भातसँग महि खाएको याद अझै ताजा छ ।

म २०५० को जेठ महिनामा बिबाहित भई काठमाडौँमा आएको थिएँ । मेरो श्रीमानले मलाई छोरा छोरीलाई सिकाउने बेलामा केहि अंग्रेजीको सब्दाहरु सिकाउनु हुन्थ्यो तर बचाहरुको साथमा पढाइलाई ध्यान दिन सकेको थिएँन ।

२०७६ सालको बैशाख ८ गते मलाई श्रीमानले चेल्सी स्कूलमा भर्ना गरिदिनु भयो । सुरुमा त मलाई शिक्षक, शिक्षिका र साथीहरु संग बोल्न लाज लाग्थ्यो र बोल्न पनि सकिदैन थिएँ । तिलमाया दिदी र म घर बाट हतार हतार आउने गर्थिँम । सुरुमा म्यामले अंग्रेजी A, B C बाट र मोनिका म्यामले नेपालीको क, ख, ग बाट दुबै जनाले लेख्न र बोल्न सिकाउनु भयो । चेल्सीमा आएर शिक्षक, शिक्षिकाले पढाएका र साथीहरुसँग बोलचाल गर्न अलिक आट आउन थालिसके थियो । पछि कोरोना आयो र दुई तिन महिना पढाई रोकियो । अब पढ्न नपाउने भयो भनेर पिर ल लागि रहेको थियो । अचानक सुरुमा म्यामले फोनबाट तपाईंहरुको पढाई अनलाइनबाट हुने भयो भनेपछि धेरै खुसी लाग्यो । म अहिले गणित विषय पनि सिक्दै छु । म अहिले शिक्षक, शिक्षिका र साथीहरु संग सजिलै बोल्न सक्छु । म आफ्नो अरिचय सजिलै दिन सक्छु । म यस चेल्सी स्कूलको सम्पूर्ण शिक्षक, शिक्षिकाहरुलाई हृदयबाट आभार व्यक्त गर्न चाहन्छु ।

BEING A PART OF CHELSEA IS A BLESSING

Welcome to my article. My name is Mana Bista. My studies at Chelsea have now lasted three years. Prior to this, I was unable to read/write anything, but I can now write my name. Furthermore, I can write my introduction. I have been taking regular classes. No matter where I go, I can read the signboards that are posted over the walls at various locations. I also study Math and English here. I believe I am really fortunate. Ultimately, Chelsea is the reason for this. Through my studies here, I have learned a lot. We appreciate Chelsea teachers taking the time to open our eyes in education. Also, highly adept at instructing us, the teachers listen to our repeated requests for help while learning. We always enjoy learning, but as we age, we start to forget a lot. Yet we never give up trying. I want to express my gratitude to Chelsea, Miss, and Sir once more for teaching us.



Mana Bista

नमस्ते, म मन विष्ट। म चेल्सीमा पढ्न थालेको ३ वर्ष भयो। पहिले त मलाई केही पनि पढ्न आउँदैन थियो। अहिले त आफ्नो नाम लेख्छु। आफ्नो परिचय पनि लेख्छु। मोबाइल कक्षा पनि सिक्न थालेको छु। कतै गए पनि साएनबोर्ड हेर्न आउँछ। यो सबै चेलीले गर्दा हो। यहाँ पढेर धेरै ज्ञानगुनका कुराहरू सिक्न मोकामा पाएको छु। चेल्सीले हेर्ने आँखा खुलाइदिएकोमा धनेवाद छ। म यहाँ इंग्लिश र गणित पनि पढ्छु। आफूलाई धेरै नै भाग्यमानी ठान्छु। हामीलाई पढाउन मिसहरू पनि धेरै नै राम्रो हुनुहुन्छ जति चोटी सोधे पनि झर्को मान्नुहुन्न। हामीलाई आसाथै मनपर्छ तर के गर्न पढ्दै गयो बिर्सिन्छ उमेर गएकोले हो कि तैपनि मेहनत गर्ने छर्दिन। हामीलाई पढाउने सर, मिस र चेल्सीलाई फेरि एक चोटि धनेवाद दिन चाहन्छु।

Greetings, I'm Sushila Chaudhary. I am currently 29 years old. When I was young, my mother passed away, and because of the circumstances at home, I was unable to learn how to read and write. I'm currently working at Papa's House, and once I'm done with my work, I can go to school. Like me, many other women have had the chance to attend Chelsea. I'm inspired to study right now because I'm in Chelsea. In addition to study and writing programs, Chelsea offers a wide range of other services. Our teachers in Chelsea are excellent. I'm overjoyed to have the chance to study here. I want to extend my sincere gratitude to all teachers at Chelsea.

Sushila Chaudhary



चेल्सीमा हामीलाई पढाउने शिक्षक, शिक्षिकाहरू धेरै राम्रो हुनुहुन्छ। उहाँहरूले नबुझ्ने कुरा सिकाउनु हुन्छ। म धेरै खुसी छु यहाँ पढ्न अवसर पाएकोमा म हृदय देखि धन्यवाद व्यक्त गर्न चाहन्छु सम्पूर्ण चेल्सीका शिक्षकहरू, शिक्षिकाहरू तथा चेल्सी टिमलाई। मेरो नाम सुशीला चौधरी हो। अहिले २९ वर्षकी भएँ। म सानो हुँदा मेरो आमा बिल्नुभयो र घरको स्थितिले गर्दा मैले पढ्न र लेख्न अवसर पाएन। म अहिले पापाज हाउसमा काम गर्दै छु र आफ्नो काम सकाएर पढ्न पनि पको छु। म जस्तै अरु धेरै महिलाहरू पनि चेल्सीमा पढ्ने मौका पाएका छन्। चेल्सीमा पढ्ने गरेकोले मलाई अहिले पढ्न आउँछ। चेल्सीमा हामीलाई पढाई र लेखाइ बाहेक अरु धेरै कार्यक्रम पनि सञ्चालन गरिरहेको हुन्छ।



I am Meera Devi Thapa Magar. Age-wise, I am 54. Arghakhanchi is where I was born. The family's youngest daughter was me. There are 9 members in our family. They are my mother, father, three sisters, three brothers, and myself. Because it was uncommon to send daughters to school at the time, I had been unable to read since I was a young child. The daughters engaged in a variety of activities throughout the day, including washing, looking for firewood, and cutting grass. When I was eighteen, I got married. Kathmandu followed that. I was responsible for raising and instructing my own children. I got a chance to go to school after a long period of time. I attended Chelsea for five years. Now I am able to read articles. Compared to my old life, a lot of things have changed. I'm glad I was able to read. Chelsea, you have my sincere gratitude.

Meera Thapa Magar

मेरो नाम मीरा देवी थापा मगर हो । म ५४ वर्षकी भए । मेरो जन्म स्थान अर्घाखाँची हो । म घरको कान्छी छोरी थिए । हामी दस जनाको परिवार थियौं । तीन जना दाजु र तीन जना दिदी , एउटा भाई अनि आमा , बुबा र म थियो । म सानो देखि पढ्न पाएन किनकि त्यसबेलामा छोरीलाई स्कुल पढाउने चलन थिएन । छोरी मान्छेको दिन भरी घाँस काटेर, दाउरा खोजेर मेलापात आदि थुप्रै काम गरेर बित्यो । मेरो अठार वर्षमा बिहे भयो । त्यसपछि काठमाण्डु आइयो । बच्चाहरु भयो अनि उनीहरु हेर्न पर्यो स्कुल पढाउनु पर्यो । अनि म कामको खोजिमा हिडे अनि बुन सिके । थरी थरी किसिमको झोला, टोपी , सुइटर, पञ्जा , मौजा आदि बुन्थे । निकै वर्ष पछि पढ्न मौका पाए र चेल्सीमा पढ्न आयौं । म चेल्सीमा पढेको ५ वर्ष भयो । म अहिले लेख पढ्न गर्न सक्छु । पहिलाको जीवन भन्दा धेरै परिवर्तन आएको छ । मलाई बजार जाँदा हिसाब गर्न पनि आउँछ । म पढ्न पाए र धेरै नै खुसी छु । चेल्सी लाई मुरी मुरी भित्र बाटनै धन्यवाद दिन चाहन्छु ।

Hello! I'm Sunita Kunwar. I want to express my gratitude to you all for allowing me to write. For almost five years, I have attended classes at the Chelsea Education and Community Center. I'm thrilled to be a student. I want to express my gratitude to Papa for providing us ignorant women the access to this knowledge. Prior to coming here, I had no knowledge of education and didn't even know how to write, but as a result of my studies, a lot of things in my life have changed. I can write my name and read most things, which is a great thing. Both of those things make me very appreciative of the Chelsea Center. I want to express my gratitude to all of the instructors I've had. I appreciate all of your efforts assisting me in achieving my goals. I believe that today's me is entirely a result of your efforts. The best place to be is in Chelsea. I love being part of Chelsea Center. I am quite delighted about everything at my school. Thank you.

Sunita Kunwar



Namaste, I'm Kanchi Shrestha, and I am a resident of Dhapasi. In the year 2015, I began studying at Chelsea. Chelsea has had a significant impact on my life. My life had been bleak before Chelsea's arrival. I did not have access to formal education when I was young, and as a result, I had to face a lot of difficulties. My husband died, leaving me a widow. Following that, I was on my own to raise my children and make family decisions. Because I wasn't literate enough, I had a lot of difficulties completing the official work.

Chelsea has been a blessing in my life, and I consider myself fortunate to be a part of it. Chelsea taught me to never give up, even when it is difficult. As of now I am literate and can read and write. I'm overjoyed and grateful that I can accomplish small things in my life due to the assistance of Chelsea. Above all, I readily understand calendars and dates, as well as communicate with my children who are living abroad. Chelsea has restored my confidence, which had been shaken by my situation. Chelsea has always aided women like me, and I am grateful for that.

Translated by Pragya Rajbhandari, Chelsea Teacher

Due to my family's financial situation, I didn't have access to education when I was a child. I married when I was 15 years old. After we were married, I had three sons. Then I began to experience several difficult issues brought on by a shortage of money. I traveled to the Kathmandu Valley in an effort to better my family's situation or find solutions to all of our issues. I spent a year in Kathmandu's "Nepali Dormitory," a hostel. After a few months, I saw Papa and shared all the difficulties I was experiencing in my life. He decided to follow my advice and founded a new hostel called "PAPA'S HOUSE" after listening to me. I began working as a cook here as time went on. Several years later I had the opportunity to attend Chelsea Center as a student. I had terrible reading and writing skills prior to enrolling in the class, and it used to make me feel awful. I used to be hesitant to enroll in school because I knew nothing about it. But as time went on, I began to relish every class. Now that I know how to read and write correctly, I can also speak and understand English.

Women like me are receiving tremendous opportunities in Chelsea that we did not have as children. I consider myself fortunate to learn from my friends and teachers and to be able to study. Numerous fundamental aspects of my life have changed since joining this community. Educating elderly people, in my opinion, is very different from teaching children since our minds and ways of thinking are very different from theirs. We have a tendency to forget most of the things we learn on a daily basis, but our teachers are very understanding and patient, and they always teach us in a way that is calm and encouraging to the women who come here to study. I'm grateful to every member of the Chelsea team.

Dhan Kumari Gurung



मैना चरीलाई यो चेल्सी हाम्रै हो सधैभारिलाई (Chelsea Is Ours Forever)

यो चेल्सी लाउनु गुण लाछैन |
हाम्ले मात्र केहि पाछैन ||

सर मिस आउनुभो जाति |
के छ खबर बस्नु होस् मेचमाथि ||

चेल्सी आइयो भेटियो दौंतरी |
नपढनेलाई बोल्न नि मुस्किल छ ||

सेतो चोलो धुलोले मिलायो |
ज्ञानको ज्योति चेल्सी फैलायो ||

धानको बाला आलीमा छोटो छ |
चेल्सी तिम्रो ढोकामा फोटो छ ||

केवल कार छ चंद्रगीरमा |
चेल्सीले नै पढायो फिरमा ||

बिहान बेलका घरमाको काम भ्याकैछौं |
एवेरिडे नै चेल्सीमा आकाछौं ||

महतो छ बोकेको भारिको |
प्रगतिहोस स- सबै नारीको ||

सरण पर्छौं चेल्सीकै छाँयामा |
खुशी हुन्छौं सर मिसको मायामा ||

धन्यवाद।

Chelsea Is Ours Forever

The above song was written by one of the students in Kamal's advanced class. In it, she shares her gratitude towards Chelsea Center and how she manages her household responsibilities and comes to study at the Chelsea Center every single day. Referring to the teachers and her fellow students, she expresses the joy she experiences being a student of the Chelsea Center.



GRATITUDE TOWARDS CHELSEA

The name of my institution is Chelsea Education and Community Center. It was founded in 2013. It is a community center that emphasizes service and is situated in Kathmandu's Dhapasi Height. For all women residing in the Kathmandu valley community, it offers a variety of educational facilities. It is in a good, peaceful environment. Since four years ago, I have been a student here. With the assistance of one of my friends, I was able to enroll here. I knew nothing about the English language before coming here to study. I had a very difficult time understanding it. I learned a lot about the English language after attending this school. Now, I feel like a woman with education. I want to express my gratitude to each and every CECC educator for a prosperous life. I am quite happy and enthusiastic about a lot of things that will happen soon.

Tara Shrestha

MY LIFE STORY

My name is Nisha Magar. I am 25 years old. There are two people in my family: me and my husband. I was born on 2055/06/01 at a place called Jorpati. My mother left this world when I was 3 years old. My father's name is Kumar Magar. My father left this world when I was 7 years old. After that I became an orphan. After that I stayed in my uncle's house nearby. I worked and lived there. Even though I wanted to read, I couldn't read. When other friends of my age went to school, I also wanted to go to school. I told the house where I worked that I would also go to school. "Why do you have to go to school? Who will do the housework after going to school?" he scolded me. After living in that house for 6 years, I ran away from there after the housekeeper didn't behave well. After that, I started working in someone else's house. I worked there for 1 year, and after leaving there, I started building houses. I worked there for 5 years. I was 21 years old when I got married. It has been 4 years since my sister started studying at Chelsea Education and Community Center. I have learned many things since I started studying in this school. Since coming to this school, I have been able to speak confidently in every place. I am very happy to come and study in this school. Thank you, Chelsea.



Nisha Magar

मेरो नाम निसा मगर हो । म २५ वर्षको भए । मेरो परिवारमा दुई जना छौं, म र मेरो क्षीमन् । मेरो जन्म २०५५/०६/०१ जोरपाटी भन्ने ठाउँमा भएको थियो । मेरी आमा म ३ वर्षको हुँदा यो संसार छोडेर जानुभएको थियो । मेरो बुबाको नाम कुमार मगर हो । मेरो बुबा म ७ वर्षको हुँदा यो संसार छोडेर जानुभयो । तसपछि म यकिल् टुहुरी भए, त्यस पछि म त्यही नजिकै साउको घरमा । काम गरेर त्यही बस्ने गरे । मलाई पढ्न मन हुँदा हुँदै पनि मैले पढ्न पाइन, अरु आफ्नो उमेरको साथीहरु स्कूल जाँदा आफूलाई पनि स्कूल जैन मन लाग्थ्यो, मैले, म काम गर्ने घरको साउलाई म पनि स्कूल जान्छु भन्दा त्यहाँको साउले, "किन जानु पर्यो स्कूल, त गए पछि कसले घरको काम गर्छ" भनेर गालि गर्नुभयो । त्यो घरमा बसेका ६ वर्ष भयो त्यो घरको साउले राम्रो व्यवहार नगरे पछि म त्यहाँ बाट भागे । त्यसपछि म अरुकै घरमा काम गर्ने लाग्य । त्यहाँ १ वर्ष काम गर्यो, अनि त्यहाँ बाट निस्केर म घर बनाउने काम गर्न लागे । मैले त्यहाँ ५ वर्ष काम गर्य, म २१ वर्षको थिए, त्यस पछि मैले विवाह गरे ।। त्यस पछि मलाई मेरो क्षीमन्ले चेल्सी एजुकेशन एण्ड कम्युनिटी सेन्टर भन्ने स्कूलम पढ्न थालेको ४ वर्ष भयो, मैले यो स्कूलमा पढ्न थाले पछि धेरै कुराहरु सिकेको छु । म यो स्कूलमा आए पछि हरेक ठाउँमा आत्मविश्वासी भएर बोल्न सकेको छु । म यो स्कूलमा आएर पढ्न पाउँदा धेरै नै खुसी छु । धन्यवाद चेल्सी

MY VILLAGE

My village is a beautiful place
Where the fields are green and sky is blue
The houses are small, but the hearts are big
The people are kind and helpful.

The air is fresh and the water is clear
The birds are singing in a beautiful way
The sun shines bright and the moon is bright
My village is beautiful.

In my village there is a temple
The bell rings on the temple all the day
People gather to worship the god
It's my birthplace.

Usha Regmi



आमा (Mother)

written by Shakti Pun

त्यो सानो बालक देखि आज सम्म कति दुःख कति पिडा दिए होलानी आमा
मलाई नौ महिना सम्म आफ्नो गर्वमा राख्नु भयो कति दुःख कष्ट मलाई यो संसार देखाउनु
भयो
दिनुभयो त्यो न्यानो काख, ममता आज सम्म तिम्रो माया र दया ए आमा |
को खा को खा भनि पोषिलो खाने कुरा खुवाउनु भयो |
बगाईं दुधको धाराले नुहाउनु भयो |
म रुदा कराउदा पुछी दिनु भयो आँसु आज सम्म सधैं मेरो निम्ति बचने, मेरो खुसीमा हसने
मेरी आमा |
मलाई पहिलो बोलि बोल्न सिकायौ र बोलि रहेछु आज सम्म
मलाई पहिलो पाइला सार्न देखे, सुने आज सम्म सबै बाबुनानीको पहिलो बोलि नै हो "आमा"
तेसैले तिमि कति महान छौ आमा ||

-शक्ति पुन

Shakti's poem is an ode to her mother. In the poem Shakti describes the love and warmth she received from her mother, and all the sacrifices her mother made for her.

LIFE

Life is a journey, learn to enjoy it.
Life is a river, let it flow.
Life is a beautiful flower, let it flow.
Life is a bird, let it fly freely.
Life is a beautiful garden, learn to love deeply.
Life is strong, learn to understand it.
Life is a mountain, learn to climb it.
Life is also a struggle, but if you work hard, you will succeed.

Malati Pun



मेरो सहयात्री (My Fellow Traveler)

written by Sabitri Poude

शायद ज्योति हो शिक्षा |
अनि म तिम्रो हु सहयात्री ||

पाएको छु चेल्सी तिम्रो चौतरी |
लागि रहनेछु कतै न भौतारी ||

मा यात्री र तिमि चौतारीको नाता यो |
खै कसरि टुंगीएला भनन नसकिने भो ||

आतुर अहेकोछु यो ज्योति ग्रहण गर्न |
छोच्दैछु अब कदापी हुन्न पछि पर्न ||

लोकले के भन्छ बन्ने छैन ममा डर |
अब तिमिनै हुने छौं मेरो भर ||

कति समुन्द्र पार गर्री आयो |
सबको आखामा ज्योति ल्याइदियो ||

- सर्बित्री पौडेल

In the poem above, Sabitri shares what Chelsea Center and the education she received there means for her life. She uses the metaphor of light, ocean, and ongoing journey to describe her experiences of studying at the Chelsea Center.

‘जिन्दगी’ (Life)

written by Gita Subedi

-गित सुबेदी

दुःखजीलो यो जिन्दगी प्रयास पनी जिन्दगी

सुःखी पनी हो अनी वाणी यात्रा पानी जिन्द दुखेसोमा सुख पाईन्छ की ?

कल्पना को सुन्दर घर

संघर्षको पाखुरीले बन्छ की ?

यात्रा फगत यात्रा

बाटो नचीनेर हो की ?

घुम्तीको घुमाउरो संगै घुमेर

यात्रामा ठेस लगेर हो की ?

ठेला परेका गोडा तरान सकिएर ,

यात्रामा गोडा चिप्लिएर हो की ?

यात्रा नै चिप्लाएर ,

विवशता हो की वाध्यता ?

त्यसैले त जिन्दगी

यात्रा हो जिन्दगी घाम छाया हो जिन्दगी

सुःख दुःख मात्र हो जिन्दगी

दुःखै दुःखको सुःख हो जिन्दगी

पिडै पिडाको आपिडा हो जिन्दगी

आखिर विवशतामै सहजता अपार हो जिन्दगी



Gita Subedi shares the paradox of life through her poem. She shares how we experience joy in life in the midst of all suffering, how we experience harmony in the midst of a series of disharmony, and how life is both light and shadow, joy and sorrow.

Santoshi Bhujel is a 16-year-old girl. She grew up in Udhayapur, but she now resides in Basundhara, Kathmandu. She has two younger brothers and a mother. Her father died when she was 13 years old. She is the oldest daughter in her family and has a lot of responsibilities. She believes she has the obligation to do something good for her family. She began working as a domestic helper starting at the age of ten. Her family lives far from her place of work, so they are not able to meet often. Her mother and her younger brother live together, while she lives with her second brother in a separate house and works there; none of them attend school.

She met a college student one day who took her to an educational institution for enrollment. She went there and met a teacher who enrolled her in fifth grade. She struggled to keep up with her classmates because she couldn't read or write. Later, her teacher told her that she couldn't continue and that she needed to start from the fundamentals. When her teachers told her that, she felt hopeless and dropped out of school, opting to study at home instead. She made an effort to study on her own but was unable to learn much. One day her mother told her about a school. She said, "I used to go to school. It's called The Chelsea Education and Community Center. You can join the Chelsea Center." Her mother was my student. She had to drop out due to unforeseen circumstances.

Santoshi came to Chelsea Center with her mother's recommendation. She is doing exceptionally well in her academics. She is a fast and dedicated learner. I believe she has a promising future ahead of her.

Prepared by Kabita Mahato, Chelsea Teacher





Maya Rana Magar is one of our women students at the Chelsea Education and Community Center. She is 51 years old. She is originally from Solukhumbu and is currently a resident of Kathmandu. She never had an opportunity to learn to read and write during her childhood. She joined Chelsea Center in 2074. When she was in Solukhumbu she spent her life as a shepherd.

After she grew up, she got married and migrated to Kathmandu (in 2065). One of her goals in life was to learn to read and write. With this hope, she was in search of a place that could provide her with an opportunity to learn. She came to know about Chelsea Center in 2072, through one of her friends Roshani Tamang, who was studying at the Chelsea Center. She was very excited about this and was ready to join, but an unfortunate event happened in her family. Her elder son aged 22 passed away. That was the most painful time of her life. It took almost two years for her to recover from this grief.

She is studying all the three subjects (English, Nepali, and Math) we teach at the Chelsea Center. Maya Auntie is a very strong woman and a hard-working student. It is an honor to teach her!

Prepared by Kamal B.K, Chelsea Teacher

Suk Maya Gurung, one of the oldest students at the Chelsea Education and Community Center (CECC), joined on the recommendation of a friend. She was looking for a school where she could learn English. She previously worked as an adult instructor for women, teaching Nepali. She has two children, both of whom live abroad, as do her other family members.

A long time ago when she was traveling in the USA she had difficulties communicating with people which made her feel embarrassed and unhappy. A few years later she realized that enrolling in classes at the Chelsea Center helped her greatly in a variety of ways, including reading information boards, text messages, and documents. She is also much better at communicating now than she was when she joined. Sukmaya feels a deep sense of gratitude to the Chelsea staff for providing her with the opportunity to study while also learning the true meaning of friendship. Previously, she had fewer friends because she is an introvert, but since started school she has made many new friends with whom she can share her feelings, talk, and learn about a variety of topics.

In retrospect she admits that she had a difficult time keeping her focus when it came to completing schoolwork, but she is proud of the changes she has noticed in herself. She's also pleased that she now understands some English when others speak to her. Suk Maya wants to keep learning and become fluent in English because she and her family will be living in the United States in the future. Her entire family is appreciative of the help and support she has received from the Chelsea Center which has made Suk Maya the woman that she is today. I am particularly encouraged by her commitment to studying, as she is one of the most dedicated and pleasant students I have ever encountered throughout my time working as a teacher at the CECC.

Prepared by Anu Basnet, Chelsea Teacher





Sakalmaya Rai is a sixty-five year old woman. Originally from Khotang, she currently lives with her family in Dhapasi, Kathmandu. She is from one of our first batches of students at Chelsea Education and Community Center. She joined Chelsea Center in 2015. She learned her first alphabets of English with Jasmina Thapa and Nepali with Divya Dhungel. She says, “They taught me by holding my hand.” She is proud to be a student of Chelsea Center. A couple of years back, she went to her village and returned to Kathmandu after a long gap. She decided to rejoin the center but felt uncomfortable, believing her teachers and friends would judge her. One of her friends, Maya Dhakal, convinced her not to let the fear stop her from going back. After some days, she was happy to be back and to have met her teachers after a long time.

She is a dedicated student. She always completes her classwork and homework. One to two pages of writing practice is never enough for her. She always asks for more homework: more than five pages! She thinks that the more she reads and writes, the more competent she will become. She has one of the best attendance rates in the class. In 2078, she had an operation. The day after the operation she came to Chelsea just to inform her teacher about what she went through. She is an inspiration for all of us at the Chelsea Education and Community Center!

Prepared by Sushma Chaudhary

Bhagiratha Aama came to say goodbye to everyone at the Chelsea Center. April 19, 2022, marked her last day as a student at the Center. She joined the Center in 2015 in the first batch of women students. She joined to learn English. In the year 2017, she received “The Inspiration Award” from the Chelsea Center for her dedication and also for motivating everyone at the Center. One of her daily rituals was to greet every individual she meets at the Center and give blessings to them. Everyone called her “Aama”, including her classmates and her teachers.

It was hard for us to bid farewell to her, but she said it is difficult for her to walk daily to the Center now. She further added that she has learned a lot at the Center, received a lot of love, and will always miss the Center. She will always be missed by all of us.

Prepared by Prashanna Bista, Director of the Chelsea Center



TESTIMONIAL OF SANU LAMA

Sanu Lama, one of our students, gave a testimonial about the Center and her gratitude for it. She has been studying with us for the past five years. She participated in a show on the topic of Romanian, Malaysian, and Croatian working visas on December 14. Here, she was questioned on a wide range of topics. She was able to respond to the inquiries made, although many respondents studying in Grades 8, 10, and 12 could not provide answers. She was the one who had neglected her academics, but she was able to have the chat and respond to the organizer’s questions in the program. She is thankful for the assistance of the Center. She was quite joyful. Auntie was commended after the meeting by the instructor. Later, she understood the true purpose of the time she had been spending at the Center.

Prepared by Anu Basnet

MY EXPERIENCE

It has been seven years that I have been teaching at Chelsea Center. Since those years, I’ve taught a lot of people, some of whom resembled my mother and sisters. They, as well as my elders, teammates, and colleagues, have taught me a lot. Since I have been teaching them very basic things, they are now able to read, write, and perform a variety of other tasks. I am very proud to be their teacher. They have gained a lot of knowledge from earlier years. This year was a little unusual for my first basic English Class pupils because it had been a while since I had taught.

One of my new students in the basic level is Kamala. She has just started school. She felt a strong connection to our three instructors, Anu, Kabita, and Sushma Mam, as soon as she stepped into the classroom. She believes she has discovered “a person I can trust and who makes me feel at ease around my daughter.” She is a single parent renting a flat by herself in KTM. She has a daughter and a son. They are both abroad.

One day she invited all the teachers to her place for a night of conversation and dinner. So we made the decision to spend the night. She treated us like queens and looked out for us like a mother and I experienced a moment where a mother had been with me.

Kamala related her moving account of how her life was affected and how difficult it was to raise her children by herself. Sharing our suffering with those who are extremely dear to us brought a sense of freshness and release, which was quite uplifting.

Kabita Mahato



THERAPY CENTER

I questioned if I would be able to adapt to my workplace the day before I started. Then, in contrast to what I had been thinking, I observe myself taking pleasure in the environment and others. My joy comes from seeing our students’ academic performance improve, which enhances their quality of life. Because of the ideals concealed beneath, our students always have a spark in their eyes when I meet them. Due to the students’ commitment and desire to learn more, there is always a good vibe in the center. I believe it to be a place for unwinding, education, sharing joys, sufferings, and problems, as well as discovering new purposes for living. It’s a healing place for all of us.

Sweta Thapa, Chelsea Center Teacher



MY STUDENTS AND ME: OUR BONDING

Working in Chelsea gives me the chance to develop. My interactions with students have always been positive. I'm incredibly appreciative that I get to instruct older female students. Even though they are older than I am, I am honored to work with them and gain knowledge from them in return. I've been hanging out with Chelsea's female students for five years and I feel a connection with them. I'm at ease talking about how I'm feeling about the things going on in my life. Some of my students are very close to me and treat me well because I spend a lot of time with them, like I am without parents. We communicate with new students in the neighborhood every year. Because of this, I believe that the world is a tiny place to live, and I'm happy that they are among those people who have gained a special place in my heart.

Sushma Chaudhary, Chelsea Center Teacher

STORY OF A TEA CUP

"The Story of Tea Cup" begins in 2016. This is a story of a woman whose journey begins while traveling from Nepal to Australia. She was traveling with her husband. The two were heading to meet their daughter in Australia. It was her first time traveling via a long flight. She was very excited to travel. It was a different atmosphere inside the plane. She had an opportunity to experience something different in her life. There were various foods and beverages offered to the travelers. There was a diversified group of individuals traveling. Each individual was asking for their favorite dish and drink. The lady also wanted to consume the best of her favorite. She overviewed the trolley, but could not find her favorite drink which was tea. Neither of her husband nor she could speak English. At this moment she had to remain silent. She could not ask for the tea and she regarded herself as not being able to quench her thirst for tea. She expressed her upset feeling to us.

She then felt the importance of education and engaged herself in search of a place where she could become literate herself. Fortunately and finally, she came in contact with Chelsea Center via one of her friends. She was enrolled in Chelsea in 2018. She is 62 years old, but despite her age she is very energetic and enthusiastic towards her course of studies. She studies English and Nepali at the Center. Her zeal is very inspiring to other aunties as well. She is able to introduce herself and organize simple communication along with small free writings. She now insists that she has found the solution to her problem. She also told us that she wants to be a polyglot, able to speak many languages. This lady with a learning attitude, source of inspiration to many others, very innocent nature and supporting character is none other than Buddha Maya Gurung.

We appreciate her dedication and willingness to learn, and we wish her good luck ahead.

Prepared by Kamal B.K.



WHAT IT FEELS LIKE WORKING
IN CHELSEA CENTER AS A TEAM

We consider our cooperative team to be one of our biggest assets, since we frequently work together to find answers to issues as they arise. The next strength of our organization is the freedom to express one's opinion without limitations. Anything we have to say is free to be said. We don't need to stress over what to say. Through our efforts to make women's lives worthwhile, the teaching staff has formed a strong community. Despite coming from various phases of life and having different professional backgrounds, we work well as a team.

Additionally, employees at the Center are motivated in a variety of ways, such as wage increases, free lunches, and Fridays off from classes. This motivates us to perform efficiently even in the absence of the burden or outside work pressure. Moreover, through various workshop sessions, students from other communities are inspired in addition to the employees. The pupils benefit from having a broad knowledge of subjects. Because of this, many students express a desire to get involved and make improvements in their lives. We see a lot of new students joining us, which has made a huge difference in their lives. We then encourage free communication between students and teachers as a powerful tool for creating trust. We value our students and receive the same respect in return. Both the teachers and the students are responsible for creating this environment. With our seven years of expertise, we may have changed the lives of many students who have come to this school, and they are certainly appreciative of us in many ways. The team and I agree that the students' motivation inspires us to do our very best work.

Anu Basnet



