



ANNUAL REPORT 2025 - 2026

Nepal: Educational Scholarship Children Program (ESCP)

The Educational Scholarship Children Program (ESCP), implemented by Nepal Matri Griha (NMG), supports vulnerable children in Nepal to access and continue quality education. Many children from low income families face significant barriers to schooling, including the inability to afford school fees, uniforms, books, and other basic learning materials. These challenges often lead to irregular attendance or early school dropout.

Through this program, children from about 3 to 12 years old (Nursery to Grade 5) are able to attend school and build a strong educational foundation. Scholarships cover essential education costs such as school fees, uniforms, textbooks, and learning materials. In addition, children and their families receive guidance, counseling, and regular follow up to support both academic progress and overall well being.

Impact at a glance



44 vulnerable children, from Nursery to Grade 5 (up to about 12 years old), received a full year of scholarship support



Every child who needed a uniform got a complete set: shirt, pants, belt, tie, socks, shoes, sweater and cap



Books were given out according to each child's grade, and stationery was handed out weekly or whenever a child ran out



Children took part in a talent show, drama, sports, picnics and other activities outside the classroom



Home visits, counselling and regular school follow-up kept track of attendance and wellbeing



A 9-day drama-based health workshop reached more than 500 children and family members

More than school supplies

The support goes beyond the classroom. Younger children played on the trampoline and slide, and older children played volleyball, football, badminton, carom and chess. They also performed in talent shows and drama, and took part in picnics and school events. NMG reports that children gained confidence, learned to work together and became more comfortable speaking in front of others.

Learning about health together

This year, NMG held a 9-day health workshop built around drama. It reached more than 500 people, including over 350 children, boys and girls, and about 190 family members. Through short plays, discussions and open questions, participants talked about healthy habits, preventing disease and looking after each other's wellbeing. Because parents and children took part together, the lessons could continue at home.

Keeping children in school

Keeping a child in school takes more than paying the fees. NMG sees that the biggest risks are family poverty, rising school costs, and children missing class because of illness or trouble at home. To catch problems early, NMG visits families at home, follows attendance at school, offers counselling to children who need it, and stays in close contact with parents and teachers. The team learned that this regular follow-up, together with support that fits each child's needs, is what keeps children in school. Next year, NMG wants to keep even better track of each child's progress.

Parents as partners

Children do better at school when their family is behind them, so NMG works with parents as well as children. This year it held awareness sessions with all families on the value of education, child protection and positive parenting. The team also stays in regular contact with parents about attendance and wellbeing, so small worries are picked up early. Children who need extra emotional or social support can talk to a counsellor, and NMG follows up afterwards. In Makima's words, the support has given her mother hope that her children can keep going to school.

Story of Change

Makima is 12 and in Grade 5. She lives with her parents and younger siblings in a small rented room in Kathmandu. Her father is working abroad, but for the past four months he has not been able to send money home, so her mother sometimes has to borrow money to pay for food and rent. Makima says that having the books and stationery she needs means she can go to school "without placing additional financial pressure on my mother." She describes herself as quiet and hardworking. Her biggest dream is to keep studying, so that one day she can support her parents, and she hopes her younger siblings will get to finish school too.

Looking ahead

NMG wants to keep supporting the children already in the program and to reach more children as resources allow. The recent floods in Nepal also affected the NMG community. The children and their immediate families are safe, but some relatives and colleagues were hit hard, and recovery will take time. NMG is now planning emergency help for affected families, including groceries, sanitary materials, mattresses, blankets and clothing.



Distribution of school books



Recreational activities outside the classroom



Parent engagement session



Makima Khatun (12)



School drama performance

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