

HELP SOCIETY NEPAL

Report January - June 2011



Dear friends,
here I present to you the new report of Help Society Nepal (January to June 2011).

Help Society Nepal is a non-profit, non-governmental organization working for the rights and empowerment of Nepalese women and children.

The primary focus of HSN is on female burn survivors. Recognizing this issue as being linked within a broader framework of gender and poverty related violence, HSN's philosophy is to fight all forms of gender violence and offers support to all women and children who suffer from poverty and discrimination in the Nepali society.

Thank you very much for your help!

All donations kindly made to HSN, no matter how small, have been extremely valuable and we have been able to put every penny to good use.

Kind regards,

Help Society Nepal

Radha Laxmi Shrestha

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The situation of female burn survivors in Nepal

The principal causes of burn incidents are fires created by kerosene stoves, gas explosions, open fire cooking and candles (candles are used a lot in Nepal due to frequent electricity shortages). The majority of burn accidents happen in the kitchen due to the often precarious nature of cooking equipment and a lack of health and safety awareness. Owing to the gender imbalance in Nepalese society the majority of people in such accidents are women, as they are ones who work in the kitchen. Poverty is also a key factor as due to a lack of education and work opportunities in poor families the women are forced to stay at home to do domestic chores such as cooking. Rich families, on the other hand will often hire servants for such jobs. A lot of female burns survivors are also caused by suicide attempts, in



Radha Shrestha counseling burn survivors

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which women are forced out of desperation and despair to set themselves alight in an attempt to end their life as an alternative to the daily suffering they are forced to endure. On surviving a suicide attempt they are consequently loaded with the double burden of their previous daily agony, along with the pain, suffering and stigma that comes with their scars.

Aims and objectives of HSN

- to raise awareness towards survivors of burn incidents in different places of rural and urban Nepal
- to emphasize services and help to underprivileged women and children
- to establish a progressive society with the essential information on bonfire accidents and raise awareness towards bonfire accidents
- to provide immediate physical and psychological care to burn survivors
- to offer financial support to burn survivors and women and children in financial need
- to offer food and accommodation to those in need
- to provide training and income generating activities to empower burn survivors
- to support orphans and children from poor families with their education
- to generate social awareness about burn accidents, poverty and gender related discrimination and violence

Project description

Regular activities

- HSN director visits burn patients at the hospital twice a week, at the emergency shelter every day and at their home upon needs
- HSN director provides direct individual counseling with the patient and the family
- depending on the situation, HSN will support the patient with nutrition, medical and medicines support, as well as surgery
- HSN facilitates the patient at the emergency shelter
- HSN supports the children of the women who had burn accidents with education
- HSN develops skills and creates job opportunities for the burn survivors in accordance with their wishes and their physical abilities
- HSN in partnership with network organizes awareness programs and prevention activities

Special activities

- selling the products made by the burn survivors at the local market on special occasions like New year or Christmas (see end of report for pictures of the products)

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Important achievements

- Successful medical treatment of 5 burn women, no post-operative complications. All these beneficiaries are now back at their home and live with their families.
- Ambika Saut successfully passed to the higher class, from VIII to IX class despite her burns injuries.
- Tara Ghimire was heavily handicapped due to the burns injuries. Daily medical support and care, regular physiotherapy and encouragement from HSN staff resulted in the complete recovery of Tara's physical abilities.
- HSN is now known as a charitable organization that supports female Burn survivors in Nepal.



Case studies

Tara Ghimire

Tara Ghimire is a young married woman from Sankhu. Tara is a burn survivor who had an accident at her home while cooking food on a gas stove. She received some treatment first at a government hospital. After that she went to SKM Hospital and met with Miss Radha. At that time, HSN had provided her with surgery cost,

food and physiotherapy. Her husband and in-laws gave her a lot of problems, but her mother and father were treating her in a good way.

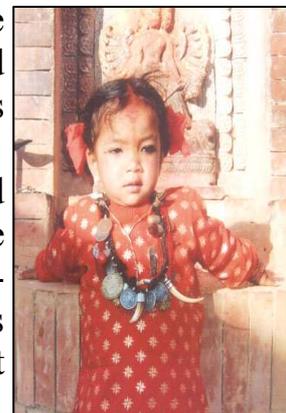


When she was at the hospital, her father was taking care of her. Now she is back at her mother's home, because she decided not to stay with her in-laws anymore. She is really happy that her family and HSN were supporting her when she was in misery. Tara is very happy to be back home and she is doing really well.

Diya Shrestha

Since 2009, HSN supports Diya Shrestha with her education. We visit her regularly at school to see how she is progressing. Diya is a very happy, young girl. She studies very hard and her grades are very good.

Diya is supported by the Rutsche family of Switzerland. HSN is very happy, that Diya



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is doing so well at school and will continue to support her.

Sumita Kapali

Sumita Kapali, who is originally from Bhaktapur, is a burn survivor who had an accident at her home while she was cooking on gas stove. After the accident her husband did not care about her at all and did not help her to get the care she needed. Sumita needed someone to help her with the treatment at the hospital. She met with Miss Radha at SKH and requested for some help.

HSN gave her support for the necessary surgery and provided her with food for two weeks. Sumita's sister was taking care of her when she was at the hospital. Now Sumita is back home and is trying to live again with her husband.

From our side, HSN supported her and her guardian with food. Unfortunately, Gagi lost her right hand and part of her arm due to the delay in treatment. We are very sad that Gagi lost her hand at such a young age. On the other side, we are happy that we did everything we could to help her. Gagi is now back home at her village.



HSN found Radha Shrestha and Gagi Thapa



Gagi Thapa

Gagi Thapa is a small girl who is from Pyuthan district (mid-west region). While she was playing in the garden with her brother and sister she fell down and broke her arm. She got regular treatment at the village health post, but it was not sufficient. This is why her father had to bring her to SKM hospital where she had the opportunity to get free treatment.



Gagi Thapa and her father

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Suntali Ale Magar

Suntali Ale Magar is a burn survivor who had an accident while she was cooking food on open fire.

She is from a poor family.

Suntali is a mother of two sons who are going to a local school. When Suntali and her husband came from their village in Ramechhap to Kathmandu for treatment, they did not get any help nowhere. Also they faced many problems on their way to the hospital. They were very desperate and hopeless. When they finally reached the Sushma



Koirala Memorial hospital, Suntali was provided with free treatment and informed her and her husband about HSN and our services.

Soon after her admission at the hospital, HSN supported them with daily meals for almost two months. Sunita and her husband were very happy to get some help from the hospital and from HSN.

Today wife and husband are back at their village. Suntali recovered well and feels better now. We at HSN were all very happy that Sunita could go back to her home in a healthier condition.

Ambika Saut

Ambika Saut is young a girl from Kailali. She had a bad accident with hot oil burning both her hands. Since April 2009 HSN is supporting her with her education. She is studying hard at school and has got good grades that allows her to reach grade IX.



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Ambika and her family are very grateful to HSN about all the help Ambika received. Also, her family is very happy that she is continuing her education.



Handmade products by HSN

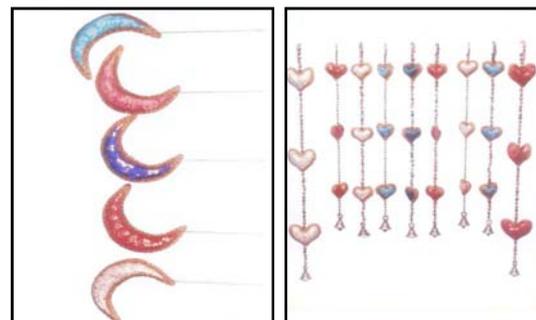
HSN has its own product line in Christmas decorations and cloth purses made by the women who have had burn accidents. Selling these items provides them with the means to earn a fair wage, and a percentage of the profit also provides financial assistance to the women whose injuries prevent them from being physically capable of working.

Summary and outlook

HSN has achieved its objectives in supporting burn survivors with their medical treatment, providing them with food and nutrition as well as education. All of these activities were successfully implemented.

Our primary incentive is to support women who have had burn accidents, but because of our philosophy of compassion for all those subjected to suffering due to social inequality and discrimination, we extend our help to all those we can. By offering financial help training and education we are providing these women, men and children opportunity to escape poverty and a build a better future for themselves.

For the future, HSN would like to expand its counseling work with burn survivors. Psycho-social assistance to the patient and her family is of great importance as it helps the patient to recover from the physical and psychological trauma.



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If you would like to purchase any of these items, make a further donation or collaborate with us in any way you can, we would greatly appreciate your support!

All money donated, no matter how small the amount has been extremely useful in enabling a better quality of life for the people mentioned above. HSN is a small volunteer run organization and every donation directly helps those who need it. No money is lost in bureaucracy, wages or overheads. We are a small organization and our resources are limited, but with time and effort we will grow and help to improve the lives of many more people to come. We invest all of our time to raise awareness of the currently ignored issues about burn accidents, poverty and gender related violence that unfortunately still exists in Nepali society. We are working for human rights equality and empowerment, to fight discrimination and bring about social change.



HSN Office and Hostel

Once again, thank you very much for your help! All donations kindly made to HSN, no matter how small, have been extremely valuable. We were able to put every donation to a good use.

Kind regards,

Help Society Nepal

Radha Laxmi Shrestha

Funds for **Help Society Nepal** can be sent to our partner organization in German **BONO-Direkthilfe e.V.** And in Switzerland **Chance Swiss** which will forward the donations to our account in Nepal. The bank details of BONO-Direkthilfe e.V. , Chance Swiss and Nepal are as follows:

BONO-Direkthilfe e.V.

Kreissparkasse Köln

BLZ: 37050299

Kontonummer: 373002353

Verwendungszweck: Help Society Nepal

Chance Swiss, 3604 Thun

Amtersparkasse Thun, 3601 Thun

PC-Nr.: 30-38118-3

BC-Nr.: 8704

Konto Nr.: 16100735900

IBAN: CH11 0870 4016 1007 3590 0

Verwendungszweck Help Society Nepal

Account Number in Nepal

Account Name ; **Help Society Nepal**

Bank Name; **NEPAL INVESTMENT BANK**

LTD

Thamel

Account no; **1649200**

Swift code; **NIBL NP KT**

Kathmandu, Nepal