



## MANAKAMANA SCHOLARSHIP FUND 2013 NEWSLETTER

Here's some news of young women who were selected last summer and are now studying.

We have 5 girls at the Lalitpur Polytechnic Institute this year (left to right, Rupa Khadka, Bhumika Ghale, Sharmila Thapa, Jenisha Thapa and Karma Chhenjon Tamang).



Rupa Khadka's home is 3 hours' walk up from Melemchi, Sindhupalchok, and she's working toward her ANM degree. She commutes a long way to LPTI from her older sister's house in Gokarna to save money on rent. She plans to return to her village as soon as she graduates, and hopes to work in family planning, which she says has changed the lives of women in her village in a very positive way.

Bhumika Ghale is from the village of Tipti, Dhading district. She has a 6 year old son, who stays with a relative in Kathmandu so that



Bhumika can visit him on her days off. She is studying for her CMA degree and doing her on-the-job training in a rural health post, where she changes dressings, does well-baby checks, and sees TB patients.

Sharmila Thapa is from Melemchi village, Sindhupalchok. She was doing sewa (service) in her village, and the principal of her high school suggested that she apply for a Manakamana scholarship. She is getting her ANM degree.

Jenisha Thapa got a scholarship to attend a private high school because her mother works in the school cafeteria, but had no hope for further studies until she found out about the Manakamana scholarships. She hopes to study nursing after she completes her ANM degree, but will work for 2 years first.



Karma Chhenjon Tamang is from Gatlang, Rasuwa district, north of Kathmandu, a remote village near Ganesh Himal. She's working towards her CMA degree at Lalitpur Polytechnic Institute. Here's a photo of Gatlang--the red-roofed buildings are the high school.

Srijana Tamang (pictured) is from Dhading district, where she says few girls graduate from high school because they marry and quit school. She plans to return to her village when she finishes her ANM degree, and if she can't find a job, she will work as a freelance midwife and medical practitioner.

And some news of past scholarship recipients.

Sharmila, Anjana and Sushma are now working for the Nepal Nutrition Intervention Project in their home district of Sarlahi, in the eastern Terai. NNIPS has been conducting research supporting maternal and child health since 1989. These 3 young women have excellent jobs as researchers and recently received motorcycle training so that they can visit villages and do research like this hepatitis E test.



We're so proud of these young women, all of them from poor families and without the connections that are so important in a place like Nepal--they have managed, with only a small amount of outside help, to make the leap to salaried, responsible jobs, and at the same time, to benefit their communities with the work they do.

So thank you once again for your ongoing support for these remarkably effective scholarships. It's all because of your generosity!

Pam & Geeta

