



Anjana Thapa Magar is from Sarlahi in the eastern Terai of Nepal. Her family is landless and very poor, so despite Anjana's excellent school record, she had no hope of continuing her education until she heard about the Manakamana scholarships. Now she is studying for her ANM degree at Makwanpur Technical Institute, where she is second in her class, and planning to return to her village to work in community health.



Rammawati Maharjan is a Buddhist nun who attends nursing school in Birgunj. She grew up in a village in Kathmandu valley and went to the village school. At 8 or 9 she first visited a nunnery, and decided she wanted to become a nun, which she did at age 13, because, as she puts it, "Nuns have the most discipline." She had been helping out at a weekly free clinic run by her nunnery, and they hope to establish a small in-patient infirmary where she will work after completing her nursing degree.



Meena Adhikari grew up in Makwanpur in a farming family. Her father died when she was 2, and she and her mother and 3 older sisters have struggled to survive. Meena was always a good student, and was given a "freeship" to finish secondary school. She scored in first division on her SLC and achieved first position on the nursing school entrance exam. She is in her first year at Birgunj Nursing Campus.



Chokyi Dolma Tamang is from Rasuwa, north of Kathmandu near the Tibetan border. She attended the local school and also studied Tibetan and English at a school for Tibetan refugees, although her family has lived in Nepal for generations. She was married at age 16 but managed to continue her studies and pass the SLC exam. Because there are no higher education institutions in her area, she is studying in Kathmandu but will return to her village to work. She is in her second year of nursing school and doing practical training at the government maternity hospital in Kathmandu.



Sabita Adhikari is a young married woman from Lamjung. She was living with her husband's family when the Maoists killed her father in law 5 years ago. When asked why they targeted him, she said she didn't know, but he had been a teacher and had a pension. The family managed to get to Kathmandu, where they've been living in rented rooms ever since. Sabita started volunteering with an NGO in Kathmandu, through which she heard about the Manakamana scholarships. She's now studying for her CMA degree at a school in Kathmandu. There are 40 students in her class, and she takes 12 subjects--her favorite is Community Health, because it is practical. She said, "Now it's suntala season in the village (the local tangerine for which Lamjung is famous), but we're here stuck in Kathmandu where we have to buy them." Sabita wants to return to her village after graduating to work in local health care.

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