



Sabitri Pariyar attended Macchapuchare Campus outside of Pokhara and has just finished her practice teaching in math at a school in Naudanda. She says, "My high school teacher encouraged me to study and pass SLC, and then I became hopeful that I could study at campus. I live in a village where there are 25 families, all Pariyar and BK [so-called low castes, now

called Dalits]. They are all illiterate, so I will organize a mother's group of lower caste women and help them become literate."



Sumjung Lama's village is in the upper Arun Valley, near the Tibetan border. Tibetan is Sumjung's first language. Her father died 18 years ago, her mother last year. In 1998, she was recruited as one of the first female game scouts for the National Parks—enforcing the rules and doing liaison with the community. Now she is studying +2 in Education while working full

time in Kathmandu, preparing to ask for a transfer back to her area to work in a higher level job as a motivator/educator.



Sharada BK has only one living relative, a sister, having lost both her parents and two siblings. She has completed her ANM classroom work at Baglung Technical Institute, and was doing her 3 month on-the-job training at Baglung District Hospital when we visited her. We watched Sharada give immunization injections and talked with her about her

plans for the future. She liked her maternity rotation best, and wants to return to her village to do deliveries.



Lila Sherpa, from eastern Nepal, is studying ANM at Lalitpur Polytechnic Training Institute in Patan. As part of her training, she will do 1 month clinical practice at a health post in Lalitpur District, 1 month at the Kathmandu Maternity Hospital, and then 3 months on the job training at a District hospital in either Gorkha or Bhaktapur. She's

looking forward to graduating and returning to her village, where there is an opening at the health post, and where she will be able to care for her elderly widowed mother, whom she hasn't seen since she started school.



Pampha Kali BK came to Kathmandu for a 3-day advocacy and gender training. It took her 2 days of bus travel from Bardia, in the far western Terai, but she was excited to be in the big city and to be learning advocacy techniques. She passed her SLC 3 years ago, but was unable to continue her studies because of poverty. Her father left the family to seek work in

India 9 years ago and has not been heard from since. Pampha began to volunteer at a local NGO, the Nepal Dalit Welfare Organization, and they encouraged her to apply for a scholarship to study education. She lives at home and rides her bike 1 1/2 hours each way to school. Her favorite subject is health education. She plans to work with women in her village after she graduates.

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