

2012 NYF Report to Dining For Women

Freed Kamlari Development Foundation

Nepal Youth Foundation conducted six days of leadership training for 18 FKDF board members in Nepalganj. There they learned skills to enable them to take over the Kamlari rescue and awareness campaign. The girls received extensive training on human rights issues, community organizing, management, accounting, administration and finance. This training has given them the tools to become leaders and advocates in their communities where they perform street plays about the abuses they suffered, organize marches, create and distribute anti-slavery posters, host a radio show, and hold press conferences with international media. Specifically, the funding trained five outreach coordinators, five administration and finance assistants, two business managers, five office assistants and one supervisor to work with 75 volunteers in 5 different districts of Nepal.



Girls at Leadership Training

Kamala Tharu was sold into slavery as child, but she refused to be crushed by the brutality of the experience. She recognized the cruel injustice of the practice and found the courage to flee her master's house, despite pressure from her family and her landlord to stay. Kamala vowed to help end the Kamlari practice that robbed young girls of their childhoods and of their futures. She had heard about the work the Nepal Youth Foundation was doing to eradicate indentured servitude and joined our anti-Kamlari efforts in the villages. Kamala was one of several key people who formed the Freed Kamlari Development Forum and is now president of its district chapter in Bardiya.



"My dream is to abolish this inhumane practice of indentured child slavery," said Kamala. "I am grateful for receiving such opportunity which is helping me and my organization to effectively advocate against the system and strengthen our organization."

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Seamstresses and COOPS

NYF trained 20 freed Kamlari girls in financial literacy and as seamstresses through a partnership with a garment company, which hired them after their six-month training was complete. These young women now earn substantially more than the average wage earner in their community does.

Budhani is a 25-year-old former indentured servant who NYF rescued after she spent more than six years laboring for a harsh landlord. The experience cheated her out of her childhood and a formal education. Too old for regular school when she was freed, the Nepal Youth Foundation enrolled her in an intensive literacy course to teach her to read and write. After finishing the program, she began a six-month training to learn to sew garments and to understand the basics of commerce. She is now working for a California garment company in Nepal and earns substantially more than the average wage earner earns in her community. She is proud of her financial independence and of the assistance that she is providing for her family.



Budhani at work

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Sita Tharu is a young entrepreneur who has flourished through NYF's COOP training. A former Kamlari, she was 16 when NYF liberated her after spending six years as an indentured servant. Sita enrolled in a three-month basic education course, married a local boy and opened a small grocery, but their business struggled. Encouraged by NYF's work with cooperatives, Sita and several other former child laborers started their own cooperative, investing a small sum in the COOP each week until she was finally able to borrow money to grow her business. She bought chickens with the loan and developed a successful poultry business as well as a thriving grocery store. She is gradually repaying her loans and has started saving for the future.



Sita watching over her brood of chicks

"I am taking care of myself, but even more so, it makes me proud that, unlike my parents who were compelled to sell my labor for survival, I now have the capacity to send my daughter to school and pay for her education. I owe my success to the cooperative which is inspiring and enabling many other girls like me to become entrepreneurs," said Sita.



Sita tending her thriving grocery

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Tuition Assistance

350 girls – 140 through Dining for Women – received private coaching to prepare for the National School Leaving Certificate Examination, a test all 10th grade Nepali students must pass to graduate from high school. Since all of the girls attended poorly performing public schools, the private coaching was essential to give them a chance to pass the national exam.

Not all of the girls are able to attend college, but Anisha Rani Tharu was determined to complete her education. She loved school as a child, but her father sent her away to work as a bonded servant at age 10. While she enrolled in the local school, she never had time to attend because she worked as a



housemaid from early in the morning until late at night, washing clothes and dishes and scrubbing floors.

Anisha never gave up her dream of going to school. When her master and mistress traveled, she snuck out of the house to attend class. NYF freed her in 2007, and she went back to school.

NYF also provided Anisha with special coaching in 10th grade so she could pass the School Leaving Certificate Examination, a gateway to college.

She passed the test and recently enrolled in college. She says she wants to become a teacher and work at the school she attended. “I want to become a teacher because I now realize the value of an education,” Anisha said.