

Opportunity Grant Report 2022
Baman Ghimire
Motherland Secondary School



The Activities:

We carried our two workshops in TWO cities of Nepal. One is in Far-east and the other is in Central-South Nepal. The first one on the 6th August saw 74 participants (11 Guidance Counselors and 63 high school students). This group consisted of the representatives from 10 schools in and around Itahari, the city that had first witnessed the session first of

its kind. The Program was inaugurated by Mr. Ganesh Dulal, the District Chair of High Institutions Secondary Schools Association Nepal (HISSAN)-Itahari that is the umbrella organization for the high schools in Nepal. Staying throughout the workshop despite his busy schedule, he was much grateful on bringing factual information from the first hand about the abroad study issues. For the effective execution of the events, I was accompanied by my three students – Glimpse Pandey(Full Ride Scholar, Queens University, Charlotte), Kusum Subedi (Full Ride Scholar, Lafayette College, Pennsylvania) and Arun Paudel (Simon Fraser University, Canada). Similarly, the second workshop on 31st August held in Gaidakot(Central Nepal) had 71 participants representing 8 schools. Since it was in late August, our students had already left for USA thus I could have only Arun Paudel to accompany me. Coincidentally, my student Serene Aryal (A recent 'A Level' graduate) had just appeared SAT and could attend us in sharing his experiences on preparing for and attending the exam. We ran the sessions on why abroad studies, Strategies to score high in SAT/TOEFL/IELTS/Duolingo, how to explore the college that best fit you, drafting impressive application essays, etc. The events ran for 9:00am- 4:00pm. The whole day sessions also embodied the video messages from Sandip Acharya(Graduate of Master's Degree from SUNY), Samikshya Paudel(Graduate Scholar, Thomson Rivers University, Canada), Prashant Gurung(Student, Hong Kong University), Roshan Paudel(Scholar, Sewanee: The University of South, USA), Aayesha Dhungana (Scholar, Colgate University, USA), Soniya Gurung (Case Western Reserve University, USA), AJ Rana(Mechanical Engineer, TESLA), Kushal Gautam (Intern, Microsoft/ Scholar, Rochester University, USA) on how their choice of abroad studies has changed their perspectives in learning and their goals in life. They also voiced about the challenges and beauty of studying & growing in a completely different community and environment.

Results/Outcome:

- A large number of high school students/teachers had very little idea about the education system in USA, Canada and Europe and thankfully, they are aware of the ways to apply for the admission
- They know about some application periods, documents, the standardized tests and other eligibility criteria
- Many of them have curiously started taking IELTS/TOEFL/SAT and exploring colleges
- They were much concerned about taking open online courses to see how the courses in the west are designed.
- The first-hand experience of the successful students in admission in Canada and USA offered authentic information about finding the universities so that they won't be misguided when it comes about their application time.

Long-term benefit:

- The students will rarely go to the consultancies (pseudo-counselors) for the support on application for abroad studies
- They will start preparing for the application quite early and that multiplies the chances for placements in their chosen institutions.
- The current high school students are tied to the new scholars. It means there will be strong communication and collaboration which may result into a proper guidance in application process.
- The information on the open resources to practice standardized tests, the authentic resources like USEF-Nepal(EducationUSA-Nepal) and ConcourseGlobal will help them explore their suitable niches.
- The students will face rare troubles in applying for the abroad studies
- They tend to make wise decision on abroad studies. This decision also affects in their Visa approval for Australia, USA and Canada
- The participating schools are eager to host such sessions in the days to come too. It signals the possibility of sustainable sharing among the latest scholars and prospective students.

Photos:









Workshop through Opportunity Grants-2022 **on** **'Learn through the learned: Experiences on exploring placements for abroad studies'**

August 6, 2022

Sponsored by:
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