

Education Related

MEDIA DOSSIER

Some articles published in newspapers on
Spiny Babbler's educational interventions

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Spiny Babbler: Media Dossier on Education

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Art festival on farming

BY OUR REPORTER

The Spiny Babbler arts festival "Farming the Himalayas" took place in association with Rotaract Club of Kathmandu Mid-town, a youth wing of Rotary Club of Kathmandu Mid-town on March 11 at the Thaibu village in Patan district. The festival aimed to encourage local residents, students, and educators to approach familiar issues through the arts in non-conventional manners.

Twenty topics related to farming from planting, weeding, fertilizers, irrigation, harvesting, to marketing were handed out a week beforehand so that villagers, teachers, students, and their parents could research and write a story or essay based on the topic. On the main festival day, 4x5 foot, mixed medium artwork was prepared using drawing and collage art forms.

According to Avash Piya, coordinator of the arts festival, Thaibu has a strong farming community and traditions. It represents many of the problems

faced by the people in the whole of the Himalayan region. "We chose this topic because we felt that these issues that are closest to the heart of the community and we believe that the festival will create greater understanding of the local people's day-to-day involvement in farming."

Villagers, educators, children and youth were the primary focus of the program and a running shield was presented to the finest art and story creator, Phuchowki Higher Secondary School. Fifteen awards were also distributed to the local youth and children for excellence in story and essay writing, art and concept, and combined presentations according to Spiny Babbler chairperson Para Limbu. The arts festival will be placed on the internet at the Spiny Babbler Museum website at www.spinybabbler.org and further programs related to the International Year of the Mountains will take place in Sankhu and Kirtipur communities among others, she said.

The Kathmandu Post
March 14, 2002

Essay-cum- painting contest ends

Post Report

LALITPUR, March 13

The essay and painting competition titled Agriculture in Mountainous Regions jointly organised by Spiny Babbler and Rotaract Club concluded here today.

Fifteen people were awarded for the best essay, states a press release issued here today. The competition targeted towards local residents, teachers and students was based on twenty different topics like seed plantation, germination, gardening, harvesting and marketing of the crops. The essays on each topic were presented with collages and sketches.

According to one organiser of the programme, Awas Piya, the location Thaiba was chosen as they too like the locals of mountainous areas suffer from problems related to agriculture.

Sankhu Arts Heritage Festival held

Spiny Babbler, in association with Friends of Sankhu, held a series of arts and research related activities culminating in the Sankhu Arts Heritage Festival over the weekend to highlight the historical importance of the township to the Kathmandu Valley and the rest of the nation.

A survey of the heritage sites was undertaken and ten sites had been identified two months in advance by Spiny Babbler researchers. Over a period of two months, among the activities that were held was a teacher's workshop for three VDCs on the cultural and architectural heritage of the area.

Teachers were given ideas on how to research, document, and present heritage sites through written, drawn or painted, and sculpted means. A workshop for students followed in which Spiny Babbler members assigned a heritage site each to gender-

balanced student groups involving village elders and women.

According to festival coordinator, Andrew Garnett, "They were asked to implement what they had learned at the workshop: Research the site they had been assigned to, draw four pictures of the site from different angles, write an essay on the site covering its history, legends, and social significance, map the site, and prepare to create three dimensional sculpted miniature replicas using locally available material of the site."

Several key issues were raised and targeted during the two month period. According to Para Limbu, Chairperson of Spiny Babbler, "Social barriers cross-cutting status, gender, age, and competition were addressed and teachers and students reported increased awareness, expression, teamwork, and activity at the community level."

स्पाइनी व्याबलर र सेन्ट जेभियर्सबीच सम्झौता

टाइम्स संवाददाता

काठमाडौं, पुस ४ । स्पाइनी व्याबलर कला र साहित्य संस्थाले लगनखेल मानसिक अस्पताल, कान्ति बाल अस्पताल, कैदीहरूका बालबालिकालाई आश्रय दिने, खतरा सामना गरिरहेका बालिका तथा युवतीहरूलाई आश्रय दिने विषयमा सेन्ट जेभियर्स कलेजसँग सहमतिपत्रहरूमा हस्ताक्षर गरेको छ ।

दुईवर्षे कला साहित्यमा आधारित मानसिक, सामाजिक तथा व्यावहारिक परीक्षण गरेपछि स्पाइनी व्याबलरले सहमतिहरूको पहल गरेको हो । परीक्षण समयमा मानसिक विशेषज्ञ, कलाकार, लेखक, शिक्षक तथा प्राध्यापकहरूको मद्दत लिइएको थियो । साहित्य र कलाको उपचारात्मक गुण कथा तथा कविता लेखन, कला रचना, नाटक प्रदर्शन तथा सांगीतिक प्रस्तुतिमा सक्रिय हुने कुरा अन्तर्राष्ट्रिय चिकित्सकहरूले मानेका छन् । सो सहमतिपत्रहरूअन्तर्गत

स्पाइटी व्याबलरले सहभागी संस्थाहरूमा मानवजीवनमा सकारात्मक असर पर्ने साहित्य र कला क्रियाकलापहरू साप्ताहिकरूपमा प्रयोगमा ल्याउने भएका छन् ।

लाइजा वोल्स्की, स्पाइनी व्याबलर सल्लाहकार तथा न्युयोर्क स्टेट विश्वविद्यालयका प्राध्यापकका अनुसार 'कथा सुन्नु तथा चित्र कोर्नुजस्ता कार्य छोटै समय भए पनि फेरिफेरि गर्दा तिनीहरूको समग्र भावनात्मक तथा मानसिक असरले भिन्दै वैचारात्मक 'वाटा' चिन्न र अनुभव गर्न मद्दत हुन्छ र यसले विरामीलाई आफूप्रतिको धारणा, विचार र विश्वास बढ्ने तथा मानसिक त्रास कम हुने गर्दछ ।'

सो सहमतिपत्रहरू स्पाइनी व्याबलरको शैक्षिक कार्यक्रमअन्तर्गत परेको छ । निःशुल्करूपमा अनुसन्धान, कार्यशाला तथा अन्य तालिममा संलग्न भएका स्वयंसेवी तथा कर्मचारीद्वारा कार्यशाला सञ्चालन हुने बताइएको छ ।

The Himalayan Times
March 15, 2002

Spiny Babbler art festival ends

Himalayan News Service

Kathmandu, March 14

The Spiny Babbler art festival "Farming the Himalayas" took place on March 11 at the Thaibu village in Patan. The festival had aimed to encourage the local residents, students and instructors to approach familiar issues through arts in non-conventional manner.

Twenty topics related to farming that ranged from planning to marketing were handed out a week before so that the villagers, teachers, students and their parents could research and write a story or essay on the topic. On the festival day, four by five foot artwork was prepared using drawing and collage art forms.

According to the press release by Spiny Babbler The festival

strong farming community and traditions.

It represents various problems faced by people in the Himalayan region. "We chose this topic because we felt these issues that are closest to the heart of the community and we believe that the festival will create greater understanding of the day to day involvement in farming of locals," said Avash Piya, coordinator of the arts festival, as per the release.

A running shield was presented to the finest art and story creator, Phulchowki Higher Secondary School.

Moreover, fifteen awards were also given away to the local youth and children for excellence in story and essay writing, art and concept and combination

राजधानी
January 31, 2003

कान्ति बाल अस्पतालमा कथा लेखन

नरपति हुमागाई
काठमाडौं, १६ माघ

स्पिनी ब्याब्लरले सर्ट स्टोरी राइटिङ्ग र आर्ट एजिबिसन कार्यक्रम बिहीबार राजधानीमा 'पिपल एट रिस्क' मूल नारासहित सञ्चालन गरेको छ ।

कान्ति बाल अस्पतालमा सञ्चालित सो कार्यक्रममा बालबालिकाको कथा लेखनलाई मूल्यांकन गर्दै कार्यक्रमका अतिथि साहित्यकार तुल्सी दिवसले कला, साहित्य र लेखन पनि विरामी मानव मस्तिष्कका लागि आनन्ददायक हुने विचार राख्नुभयो ।

'एउटै बाटोको नाम ओरालो र उकालो हुन्छ । त्यो यात्राको प्रारम्भमा भर पर्छ,'

साहित्यकार दिवसले भन्नुभयो- 'नदी, पहाड, रुखलाई अलग्याएर हेर्नुपर्छ र त्यससँग मानिसलाई जोडेर हेर्नुपर्छ ।'

सो कार्यक्रमका प्रमुख अतिथि साहित्यकार द्वारिका श्रेष्ठले अस्पतालमा पनि यस्ता साहित्यिक तथा रचनात्मक काम भएकाले अस्पतालमा प्रवेश गरेजस्तो नलागी साहित्यिक माहोलमा पुगे जस्तो लागेको विचार राख्नुभयो ।

अर्का वक्ता कान्ति बाल अस्पतालका निर्देशक पुण्यबहादुर थापाले अस्पतालका बच्चाहरूले अनुपम चित्रहरू हेर्न पाउँदा उनीहरूले पीडित मस्तिष्कमा पनि केही शान्ति मिल्ने विचार राख्नुभयो ।

निर्देशक थापाले मुलुककै सबैभन्दा ठूलो

बालबालिकाको स्वास्थ्य उपचार गर्ने अस्पतालको रूपमा विश्वसनीयता र नाम कमाइसकेको बताउनुभयो । हाल सो अस्पतालमा विशेषगरी मृगौला, क्यान्सर र मुटुरोगसम्बन्धी विभाग रहेको र अन्य सबै प्रकारका बालरोगको पनि उपचार हुँदै आएको जानकारी थापाले दिनुभयो ।

कथा लेखनमा आधारित ४८ वटा चित्रकलाहरू कार्यक्रममा राखिएको जसमा २० राष्ट्रका साठी किशोरकिशोरीले भाग लिएको कुरा 'स्पिनी ब्याब्लर' का अध्यक्ष पारा लिम्बूले बताउनुभयो । कार्यक्रमपश्चात् सो अस्पतालको खुला कक्षमा निर्मल स्कूलका दस विद्यार्थीले 'मुनामदन' गीति नाटक प्रदर्शन गरेका थिए ।

(प्रशिक्षार्थी)

The Rising Nepal
March 7, 2003

Mental patients participate in hospital cleaning

By A Staff Reporter

KATHMANDU, March 6: Mental patients at Lagankhel Mental Hospital joined hands with Spiny Babbler volunteers, school children and local club volunteers last Saturday morning to clean up the hospital.

According to Spiny Babbler, an organisation working for promotion of art, literature and social service, 60 people including its volunteers, children from Nirmal School, Rotaract Club volunteers and the mental hospital's mental patients cleaned up two truckloads of garbage including medical waste and construction materials littering the hospital area.

The clean-up programme was followed by a live performance of music and literary recital. Under the literary programme, ideas were shared through recital of poetry, story and essays.

This programme was held as part of Spiny Babbler's 'People at Risk' campaign that has been working with Kanti Children's Hospital, Lagankhel Mental Hospital, PIN shelter house

for girls at risk, Prisoners Assistance Mission and ROPKA shelter house for street children. Under the mental hospital programme, the mentally ill people write poetry, essays, stories, draw, paint, sing and dance, the Spiny Babbler said.

कान्तिपुर

February 7, 2003

मेरो स्मृतिमा स्पाइनी बाब्लर

जबसम्म सम्पूर्ण नागरिक आ-आफ्नो क्षेत्रबाट सचेत र सक्रिय हुँदैनन् तबसम्म त्यस ठाउँको चौतर्फी विकास असम्भव हुन्छ। राजाधानीकै नजिक रहेर पनि कतिपय समुदायमा अझै सक्रिय जनचेतनाको अभाव

खड्किएको अवस्थामा 'स्पाइनी बाब्लर' नामक संस्थाले ठैव गा.वि.स. मा गरेको जनचेतनामूलक कार्यक्रम अत्यन्त रोचक लाग्यो। प्रायःजसो संघ-संस्थाहरूले सुविधासम्पन्न होटलहरूमा कार्यक्रम गर्ने नेपाली स्वभावलाई चुनौती दिँदै ललितपुरस्थित श्री फूलचोकी मा.वि., ठैवमा गरिएको कला प्रदर्शनी हेरेर मैले आफूलाई पनि केही गर्न सकिने रहेछ भन्ने ठानेको छु। अनिशा थापा र रिमा लाखे दिदीहरू जो हाम्रो विद्यालयमा हामी सानै छँदा ठूलो कक्षामा पढ्नुहुन्थ्यो, आज सामुदायिक सेवामा यसरी विभिन्न कार्यक्रममाफत अग्रसर हुनुभएको देख्दा मलाई पनि भविष्यमा दुर्गम क्षेत्रमा गएर विभिन्न कार्यक्रम गर्ने प्रेरणा मिलेको छ।

विश्वमा नै दुर्लभ पन्छी स्पाइनी बाब्लर

(काँडे भ्याकुर), जुन नेपालमा मात्र पाइन्छ, त्यसको संरक्षण-संवर्धन गर्न समुदायलाई सक्रिय बनाउने तथा हिमाली क्षेत्रको कृषि प्रणाली विकासमा प्रोत्साहित गर्ने अधिल्लो हप्ताको आइतबार ठैव क्षेत्रका विभिन्न विद्यालयको सक्रियतामा फूलचोकी मा.वि., ठैवमा कलाप्रदर्शनीको आयोजना गरिएको थियो। यस कार्यक्रमले एकातिर राजधानीका सुविधासम्पन्न निजी विद्यालय र सरकारी विद्यालयका विद्यार्थीहरूबीच आपसी सहयोग, सद्भाव र भाइचाराको विकास गरेको छ भने अर्कातिर स्थानीय स्रोत-साधनको प्रयोग तथा प्रचार-प्रसारमा विशेष योगदान पुऱ्याएको छ। केवल किताबी ज्ञानमा मात्र सीमित नभई प्रत्यक्ष अवलोकनबाट प्राप्त हुने ज्ञान बढी प्रभावकारी हुनेरहेछ भन्ने मैले ठानें। उक्त प्रदर्शनी हेर्न शुभतारा, ज्ञानोदय, लिटिल एन्जल स्कूलका साथीहरू तथा क्याम्पेन कलेजका दाजुदिदीहरू पनि जानुभएको थियो।

निराकार बस्नेत, कक्षा ९, ज्ञानोदय बालबालिका स्कूल

सयपत्री

January 21, 2003

स्पाइनी ब्याब्लरको बृहत् कार्यक्रम

काठमाडौं/स्पाइनी ब्याब्लरले बिहीवार कान्ति बाल अस्पतालमा एक बृहत् कार्यक्रमको आयोजना गर्यो ।

कार्यक्रमको पहिलो चरणमा लघुकथा प्रतियोगिता आयोजना गरियो । प्रतियोगितामा विभिन्न शैलीका कथाहरूको सहभागिता थियो । २० राष्ट्रका ६० युवाले कथा लेखेका थिए । कार्यक्रममा ती कथाहरूमाथि तयार पारिएका चित्रकलाको पनि प्रदर्शनी गरियो । चित्रमा मनाङका विकट दृश्य, फूजी पर्वतको सुन्दरता र वावेल धरहराको भव्यता झल्काइएका थिए ।

महाकवि लक्ष्मीप्रसाद देवकोटाको मुनामदनमा आधारित नाटकले पनि कार्यक्रम मनोरञ्जक बनेको थियो । कार्यक्रममा स्पाइनी ब्याब्लरका स्वयंसेवक अनिषा राजभण्डारी,, कान्ति बाल अस्पतालका निर्देशक डा. पुण्यबहादुर थापा आदिले मन्तव्य व्यक्त गरेका थिए । स्पेसटाइम

Rising Nepal
June 27, 2004

American team in cultural exchange

By Our Correspondent _____

LALITPUR, June 26: An American delegation including professors, headmasters and teachers took part in a cultural exchange program today. The event took place at the premises of Spiny Babbler at Bakhundole, Lalitpur.

Teachers from different educational institutions of Kathmandu including Campion Kathmandu College, Shuvatara School, Little Angels School and Nirmal School took part in the program. The program featured presentations on contemporary art, literature, religion and culture.

Children from ROKPA, a shelter for street children and People In Need (PIN) Nepal presented traditional Nepalese dances and the students of Nirmal School performed a play.

THE HIMALAYAN TIMES,

MONDAY, AUGUST 30, 2004

Art today

Himalayan News Service

Kathmandu

Spiny Babbler hosted a talk programme on contemporary art in Nepal at the Spiny Babbler Reading Room, Sanepa. The speakers featured in the event were Nabendra Limbu, Sujan Chitrakar, Sunila Bajracharya, Erina Tamrakar and Om Khatri.

Organised as a part of its Education Focus Programme, this event added to the Babbler's activities in the promotion of arts. With the contemporary fine arts scene in Nepal growing more experimental, this initiative helped expose and explain the progress and development of ideas.

Book by girl gains popularity

By A Staff Reporter

KATHMANDU, March 28: A children's book written by a Nepalese child has gained popularity among the young readers and going to benefit her disadvantaged companions.

Shreeya Shrestha's "The Goblin Land" published by Spiny Babbler has lucid and vivid descriptions of fairies. The book is the testimony of the fact that children can produce nice books for themselves. Money coming from the sale of the book will go for the education of poor kids.

Here is what reviewer Tineke Moerman has to say about Shreeya's beautiful book, "Most of the children's books are written by adults. They write stories of which they think children will like it. Most of the times, children indeed like the stories that adults have written for them. But why don't children write books themselves?"

Children have enough imagination and fantasy to make stories. Shreeya Joshi is a good example of that. On

the age of ten she wrote *The Goblin Land*, about two fairy friends Twinkle and Starshine, says Moerman on the book.

According to reviewer Moerman, Shreeya describes the fairies like everything you should expect from a fairy. They have wings and carry wands made of pure silver with a star on the top. They like to sit in the trees and listen to the birds.

Everything seems peaceful until one day the two fairies get kidnapped by goblins. After a journey of three days they arrive in Goblin Land. There they have to work in the palace of Grumpious, the King of Goblin Land. But Twinkle and Starshine are very brave fairies and they make a plan to escape. Unfortunately their plan gets discovered and they are put in a cave together with Flame, a goblin dog.

They find out that Flame was actually a goblin prince who has been turned into a dog by Grumpious. Together with Flame the fairies make a new plan to escape and to give the

Goblin Land back to the real prince and his father, the reviewer says.

It is clear that Shreeya Joshi has imagination and fantasy. The story is exciting and has some unexpected turns in it. Shreeya is able to write in a style that is not often seen with children. Together with the excellent artworks of Sovit Baniya this book will be loved by both children as well as their parents.

People who buy the book will be helping under-privileged girls, because the proceeds of this book will be donated to charities for the education of those children. Shreeya Joshi is a good example for other children and hopefully *The Goblin Land* will encourage more children to write stories like this.

Spiny Babbler, a non-profit social service and art-promoting organisation with a team of high spirited young people deserves praise for bringing this book out for young readers. Besides, the deprived kids are going to benefit from the proceeds of the book's sale.

Peoples Review

January 15-21, 2004

"My Tree" community project launched

BY OUR REPORTER

A Spiny Babbler Arts event took place in Thaiba VDC, Lalitpur to launch the "My Tree" community project on January 10. Dr. Mahesh Banskota, country representative of IDCN/World Conservation Union, launched the event featuring a series of activities including plays, local dances, puppetry, and art and verbal presentations of different project work related to agro-forestry, tree plantation, and conservation efforts.

Dr. Banskota distributed certificates and awards to students from Kshitiz, Surachana, and Pulchowki high schools and volunteers. Dr. Banskota said that the program helped to create awareness on environmental conservation and tree plantation among children and adults in Thaiba.

Under this small project, Spiny Babbler is conducting agro-forestry related efforts that involve improved farming methodologies over the next eighteen months.

The Rising Nepal
December 19, 2004

Spiny Babbler holds workshop on therapeutic art

By Our Correspondent ———

KATHMANDU, Dec. 18: Native American dream catchers, aboriginal dot painting, folded monster drawings and art work involving curves and squiggles were some of the ideas that came up during a workshop organised on Therapeutic Art International by Spiny Babbler. The workshop was organised for the young people who are currently working with the terminally ill children at the Kanti Children's Hospital, mental patients at the Mental Hospital, and drug abusers at the Richmond Fellowship.

Kelly Darragh, an Australian artist who conducted the workshop, introduced the ideas that are new to Nepal using simple things like yarn, bangles, pencils, beads and the traditional Nepalese Pote (glass beads). She said that she had learned the ideas at her homeland, where she creates and sells artwork.

Spiny Babbler has been working with the Kanti Children Hospital, the Mental Hospital and Richmond Fellowship for more than two years, where it has been trying to implement a hands on therapeutic art process. The art works created at the workshop are very simple and they can be used by the volunteers to keep the patients occupied while giving them a ray of hope.

The Kathmandu Post
March 28, 2004

Workshops on creative teaching methods

POST REPORT

KATHMANDU, March 27

Aiming at increasing the exposure of Nepalese teachers to national and international arts as well as latest teaching methodology, Spiny Babbler organized two workshops here today.

Dave Foley and Cyndy Foley, two English teachers from the US convened the workshops, a statement issued by Spiny Babbler stated.

The workshops focused on creative and persuasive writing as well as on arts. A total of

35 teachers representing various schools across the Kathmandu Valley participated in the workshops.

Cindy introduced the concept of teaching through a slide show, which included non-conventional items such as embroidery, pastel, chalk, feathers, beads and butterfly wings as some tool of expressions, the statement said.

She urged the participating teachers to help students use creative and artistic tools, said the statement.

अन्नपूर्णपोष्ट
May 13, 2005

‘गोरेटो निसाफको’ देखाइयो



एउटै छिमेक, जोडिएको घरआँगन, अति मिलनसार दुई परिवारबीच एक्कासि सानातिना कुरामा वैमनस्यता उत्पन्न भएपछि उब्जिएको समस्यालाई चित्रण गर्दै डकुड्रामा ‘गोरेटो निसाफको’ बिहोत्रार राजधानीमा पत्रकारबीच प्रदर्शन गरिएको छ। यस्तै सानातिना द्वन्द्वका कारणले तुलो रूप लिएनछे स्थानीयस्तरको द्वन्द्व स्थानीयस्तरमा नै मिलाउनुभन्दा र मेलमिलाप गरेर कसरी समाजमा बस्न सकिन्छ भन्ने शिक्षा दिन कानुनी राज्य सवलीकरण कार्यक्रम (चान्डीपी) अन्तर्गत ललितपुर जिल्लाको झारुवाराको गाउँका स्थानीय कलाकारहरूद्वारा तयार पारिएको एक सय २० मिनेटको पाँच भाग लामो डकुड्रामालाई नल्लव रञ्जनले निर्देशन गरेका छन्। ७० वर्षकी सरस्वती थापा (आमै), कृष्ण खुलाल (विजय), सुष्मा थापा (माया), मैया कार्की, लक्ष्मी थापा, शोभा सिंहलगायतका कलाकारहरूको प्रमुख भूमिका रहेको छ। स्थानीय व्यक्तिहरू नै प्रयोग गरिएकोले संवाद तथा अभिनयमा लचकता नदेखिए तापनि यो ग्रामीण परिवेशमा अति शिक्षाप्रद सन्देश हुने कुरामा दुईमत छैन।

Rajdhani
August 13, 2005

कला विषयक कार्यशाला

राजधानी समाचारदाता
काठमाडौं, २८ साउन

कला संस्था स्पाइनी व्यावलरले शुक्रवार राजधानीमा आयोजित एक समारोहका वीचा 'कोलाज समुदायको लागि कला' शीर्षकमा कार्यशाला आयोजना गर्‍यो ।

सो कार्यशाला कीर्तिपुर नगरपालिका अवस्थित टौदहका विभिन्न विद्यालयका शिक्षक शिक्षिका, स्थानीय समुदाय तथा क्लवका सदस्यहरूको लागि आयोजना गरिएको थियो । कलाको माध्यमबाट टौदह सिमसार क्षेत्रको संरक्षण र सम्बर्धनको निम्ति चेतना अभिवृद्धि गर्नु उद्देश्यले गरिएको थियो ।

स्पाइनी व्यावलरका कला निर्देशक परम लिम्बुद्वारा सञ्चालित सो कार्यशालामा सहभागीहरूलाई कलाका

विभिन्न माध्यमहरूमध्ये ग्रामीण समुदाय, शिक्षक-शिक्षिका तथा विद्यालयका विद्यार्थीहरूलाई जनचेतन सम्बन्धी सूचना प्रवाह गर्न कोलाजको महत्त्व तथा उपयोगिता बारेमा प्रकाश पार्दै कोलाज बनाउने विधि सिकाउनुभयो । सो कार्यशालामा सहभागीहरूलाई पाँचवटा समूहमा विभाजित गरी विभिन्न चित्रहरूमा कोलाज बनाउन दिइएको थियो ।

The Himalayan Times
February 21, 2005

Session conducted for former drug abusers

Himalayan News Service

Kathmandu, February 20

Former drug abusers who had faced social stigma today said the arts session conducted by the Spiny Babbler Volunteers (SBV) at the Richmond Fellowship helped them to relate their problems with others.

Sharing his past experience of drug addiction, Agni Ojha, a participant at the programme, said the art session provided therapeutic relief to him to relate his problems which was otherwise difficult due to

social stigma.

In this backdrop, the Spiny Babbler today organised a talk programme on 'Drug Abuse and Social Stigma in Nepal'.

According to a press statement issued by the Spiny Babbler here today, the interaction was organised with the aim to educating and creating awareness among the people

at risk. Educational institutions, communities and Spiny Babbler's people-at-risk volunteers were the target groups of the programme.

Spiny Babbler has been conducting regular arts-based therapeutic sessions for drug abusers, at the Richmond Fellowship, for over a year and has given the highest priority to

people at risk.

Bishnu Sharma, coordinator at the Richmond Fellowship Nepal, focussed on the status of drug abuse, prevention measures and social stigma related to drug abuse in Nepal.

He also provided information regarding drug abuse in South Asia and associated social stigma in Nepal.

People's Review
June 16-22, 2005

Spiny Babbler launches “Mero Taudaha”

BY OUR REPORTER

With the hope to raise awareness from children to adults making them understand the freshwater system, Spiny Babbler by the support of GEF/SGP officially launched 'Taudaha Freshwater Ecosystem Management for Sustainable Livelihoods Project (TEMLP)' locally known as "Mero Taudaha" a gift of nature for human life Saturday at Taudaha.

Various mediums of arts are being used as a vital component to generate awareness, organize and implement the activities related to bio-diversity conservation efforts, empowering local community people to help them develop

self-reliance and long-term capacity building in sustainable conservation of the local freshwater ecosystem and overall biodiversity to meet sustainable livelihoods.

The program was inaugurated by chief guest Gopal Sherchan, GEF/SGP Country Program Coordinator and Bishwombhar Nepal, General Secretary, Manab Kalyan Dharma Sewa Samiti, Taudaha.

Arts Director of Spiny Babbler Ms. Param Limbu addressed the mass highlighting aim and objectives of "Mero Taudaha", followed by other key speakers Gopal Sherchan, Bishwombhar Nepal, Dr. Bishnu Bhandari and Purushottam Budhathoki.

People's Review
January 20-26, 2005

Workshop on domestic child labour

BY OUR REPORTER

A workshop "the therapeutic effect of literature and its significance to domestic child labour issues" organized by Spiny Babbler on January 9 participated by organization for volunteers visiting hospitals, shelter homes, and rehabilitation centers.

The workshop highlighted three key components: literature, how it could be effectively used in communication that leads to positive impact on human life, and its effectiveness on addressing domestic child labour issues. Chairperson of Spiny Babbler, Para Limbu, led the workshop and emphasized on why it is important for participants to be involved in using literature as a medium to raise awareness among different target groups: domestic child labourers, youth, teachers, leaders, and other professionals.

The Rising Nepal
February 26, 2006

Art competition organised

By Our Correspondent _____

KATHMANDU, Feb 25: Spiny Babbler organised an inter-school art competition on the occasion of Education Day at Shree Taudaha Raastriya Madhyamik Vidhyalaya at Taudaha with the aim to increase awareness about wetland conservation.

The twenty-five students were asked to prepare artwork dealing with issues like bio-diversity conservation, festivals, local legends, folklores and wetland conservation and were judged by professional artists from Nepal as well as the USA.



भित्तामा चित्र

ललितपुर । स्पाइनी
ब्याब्लरसँग स्वयंसेवकका
रूपमा काम गर्न इच्छुक
भएर ललितकला क्याम्पसका
विद्यार्थी आए । उनीहरूले

स्पाइनी ब्याब्लरको प्रतिनिधिका रूपमा काठमाडौं मेडिकल कलेजको
प्याड्रियाटिक वार्डमा आकर्षक कलाकृति बनाइरहेका छन् । यस
कार्यबाट बालबालिकाको प्याड्रियाटिक वार्डमा मनोरन्जनात्मक चित्र
तयार हुन्छन् । ती चित्रबाट बालबालिकाले मनोरन्जन लिन्छन् ।
उनीहरूको शारीरिक एवं मानसिक परिवर्तनका लागि सहयोग पुग्छ
भन्ने विश्वास अस्पतालले लिएको छ । अस्पतालका एक चिकित्सक
भन्छन्- 'यस्तो कामबाट प्याड्रियाटिक वार्डमा प्रवेश गर्ने र बिरामी
बालबालिकाले फरक अनुभूति गर्न सक्छन् । जसबाट उपचारमा
सहयोग पुग्छ ।' यस्तै कान्ति बालअस्पतालमा पनि स्पाइनी ब्याब्लर र
अरु स्वयंसेवकबाट यस्तै चित्र बनाउने कार्य भइसकेको छ ।

Children take part in story writing contest

Post Report

KATHMANDU, Jan 30

Kundan Adhikari, from Prisoners Assistance Mission (PAM), gazes at the pictures one by one as he ambles along, not without a little naughtiness.

He is one, among the more than sixty eager children gathered at the Kanti Children's Hospital to view the art exhibition, "Mountains Forever" and take part in the story writing contest.

After having moved through the 48 paintings with story titles, Adhikari finally selects "The Magic Mountain". It is a colourful picture of three clowns and mountains.

Other children, from Shelter for Street Children (ROKPA), Prisoners' Assistance Mission (PAM), People in Need (PIN- Nepal), Kanti Chil-

dren's Hospital and Choriharu, are also busy stalking their preferred pictures. They too had to choose a picture on which to write a story.

The story writing contest finally begins.

Adhikari, a class six student starts writing an imaginary story based on the picture he has just viewed. He has an hour within which time he must complete his story and he is busy scribbling away - in English.

The other children are equally involved in their writing. Some write in Nepali and some in English.

Evaluated on the basis of originality, style, story, characterization and presentation, the 'completed works' of the children were awarded prizes. The judges comprised well-known figures in the literary field, namely, Tulsi Devas,

Dwarika Shrestha and Toya Gurung.

Sanjeevani Yonzon, a volunteer from Spiny Babbler said that the prizes consisted of children's books and certificates to boost the morale of the participants, all "children at risk".

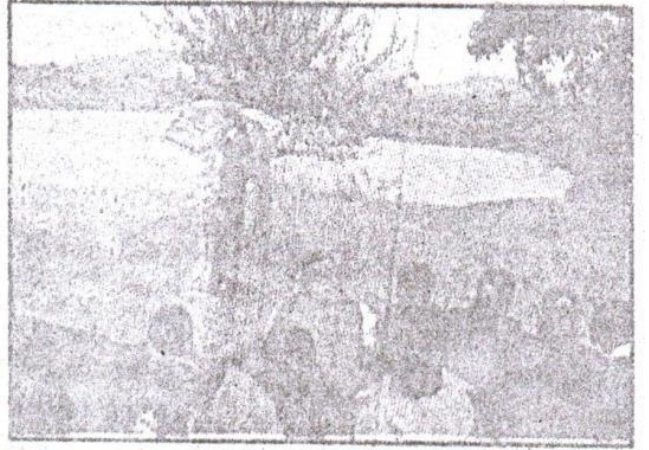
"We have selected these organisations, working for children in need, but are facing difficult conditions," she said.

Param Meyangbo, the artist of the book "Mountains Forever", who also does freelance writing, is the art director at Spiny Babbler. She said that the book was a collection of essays from twenty nations. Para Limbu, who edited the book and Meyangbo had organised the event.

Apart from the story writing contest, the play Muna Madan was also performed for the benefit of the children.

कार्यशाला

काठमाडौं। स्पाइनी व्याब्लरले हालै कीर्तिपुरको टौदह क्षेत्रमा चित्रकला कार्यशाला र प्रदर्शनी, सडकनाटक कार्यशाला र प्रदर्शनी, कोलाज कार्यशाला र प्रदर्शनी, कथा, कविता र निबन्ध लेखन तथा वाचन, फोटोग्राफी प्रदर्शनी गर्‍यो। टौदह समुदायमा सञ्चालित कला कार्यक्रममध्ये श्रव्यदृश्य कलाअन्तर्गत



चित्रकला र कोलाज कार्यशाला एवं प्रदर्शनी गरिएको थियो। यो कार्यशालामा टौदह १५ का पाँच विद्यालयका विद्यार्थीहरूको उत्साहजनक उपस्थिति थियो। यो आयोजना मा टौदह राष्ट्रिय भावि, शुभकामना एकेडेमी, श्री सन्तोषी इङ्गलिस बोर्डिङ्ग स्कूल, जल विनायक प्राथमिक विद्यालय र जलपादेवी प्राथमिक विद्यालय गरी टौदह १५ का पाँच विद्यालयका विद्यार्थीहरूमा पेन्टिङ्ग तथा कोलाज र कविता कार्यशाला गरिएको थियो जसमा करिब ११० जना विद्यार्थी सहभागी भएका थिए।

People's Review
May 11-17, 2006

"Seven Wonders of Kathmandu" nearing completion

BY OUR REPORTER

UNESCO is working with Spiny Babbler to come up with a unique approach to support the World Heritage Site of the Kathmandu Valley.

Combining arts and high end information technology, a feature length musical is being prepared containing 3D animated characters that interact with real life environment.

Work on "Seven Wonders of Kathmandu," is scheduled to complete in July and the film will be made available to television stations, educational institutions, and individual homes. With writing and

direction by Pallav Ranjan and voice management by Para Limbu, the animation-real life production will be the first of its kind to be prepared in Nepal. Spiny Babbler has been involved in 3D media technology for over five years and is preparing three more features over the coming 12 month period.

With broad ranging appeal, the film is expected to contribute to better understanding of the unique heritage of this UNESCO World Heritage Site and its seven cultural monument zones - Swayambhu, Pashupati, Baudddhanath, Changu Narayan and the durbar squares of Kathmandu, Patan and Bhaktapur) nationally as well as internationally.

The Rising Nepal
August 16, 2006

Kanjan's work advocates child rights

By Our Correspondent

KATHMANDU, Aug 15: Nepal Association of Fine Arts' hall was jam packed mostly with little children Tuesday afternoon while some of them climbed on the stage and performed a play or read out stories or poems.

At the beginning of the programme, Shanta Das Manandhar, a writer of children's stories, pushed a curtain aside to show two big acrylic posters of the covers of 'Welcome to the World', a compilation of stories and poems of working children told by Pallav Ranjan and 'The Arts in Action', approaches and experiences of the past 17 years of Spiny Babbler using the arts to create awareness shared by Para Limbu.

The stories of the children compiled in Welcome to the World are diverse as children who come from different backgrounds shared the experiences. The effort that took more than a year, aims to increase awareness about the plight of the working children, not just those working at others' place but also those that have to work a lot at home.

Speaking about the book, Ranjan said, "It shows an entirely different perspective of life, a very different one from what the privileged few experience." He added that the stories should be able to touch those that keep domestic child helpers and encourage them to take better care of the children.

More than students from 80

schools were involved in the creation of the book that is a part of the ILO/IPEC's Behaviour Change Communication programme.

Manandhar, who launched the books, said that the children should be shown respect so that they grow up to be better people. He added that the programme was very good for the children as it involved them directly.

Senior National Programme Manager at United Nations International Labour Organisation, Yadav Amatya, inaugurated the programme that featured students from Shivapuri School, Nirmal School, St. Xavier's School, Arunodaya Secondary School, Shuvatar School.

The Rising Nepal
March 3, 2006

Spiny Babbler devoted to awareness building

By Our Correspondent

KATHMANDU, Mar 2: People's expertise in their respective fields in addition to awareness and consciousness is necessary for the development of the country, said Para Limbu, Vice Chairperson of Spiny Babbler (SB), an organisation working in awareness building through art and literature.

Until now, many communities even around the Kathmandu valley do not have enough awareness & consciousness in the related field, she told a press conference organised to highlight the activities of SB.

It has also been working in different fields categorized as Multi-national Involvement, People At Risk, Education Focus and Communities, she added.

In the process of achieving its goal, SB has been organising Child to Child (C2C) programme, focused against domestic child labor, said Ramash, Kayastha, programme coordinator.

It organised a three-day digital photography workshop from February 27 to March 1 inside the valley, with objective of giving the participants the knowledge of photography. About 18 schools with 10 teachers and 36 students were the participants, he added.

Most of the participants were the child labors or the ones relating to them so we have been running this programme, he added.

Spiny Babbler is trying its hands on videos too. It is making the documentary on poets, writers and musicians, publishing books on them, making films, and holding workshops against child labor. It has also been estimating to analyse the current situation of conflict in Nepal in comparison to other nations in the world by using 3D Animation method, states a press release of SB.

The SB press release further said that if the financial help of JLO continues, the SB's programme would be expanded in other parts of Nepal.

Tarun
March 6, 2006

स्पाइनी ब्यावलरको सक्रियता

कलाको प्रयोगबाट मानिसमा सकारात्मक प्रभाव पार्ने कार्यक्रम सञ्चालन गर्दै आएको स्पाइनी ब्यावलर नामक संस्थाले गतहप्ता राजधानीमा डिजिटल फोटोग्राफी कार्यशाला सम्पन्न गरेको छ । बालकहरुको सिर्जनाको माध्यमबाट घरेलु बालश्रमलाई निरुत्साहित गर्ने मुख्य उद्देश्यका साथ उक्त बालकदेखि बालकसम्म कार्यक्रमको आयोजना गरिएको हो । सो कार्यक्रम आईएलओको आर्थिक सहयोगमा सम्पन्न भएको थियो । फागुन १५, १६ र १७ गते राजधानीमा सम्पन्न सो कार्यक्रममा काठमाडौं उपत्यकाका १८ विद्यालयका ३६ विद्यार्थी र १० शिक्षकले भाग लिएका थिए । काठमाडौं, ललितपुर, भक्तपुर, मकवानपुर र चितवन जिल्लालाई सो संस्थाले लक्षित कार्यक्रम गर्ने जिल्लाको रूपमा चयन गरेको छ । स्पाइनी ब्यावलर संस्थाले अहिलेसम्म ७ वटा शिक्षक कार्यशाला र १३ वटा विद्यार्थी कार्यशाला कार्यक्रम सञ्चालनमा ल्याइसकेको छ । राजधानीमा सम्पन्न कार्यशालामा

Annapurna Post
March 3, 2006

स्पाइनी ब्याब्लरको कलाप्रेम

साहित्य, कला र संगीतको माध्यमबाट मानव जीवनमा सकारात्मक प्रभाव पार्ने प्रयासमा लागेको स्पाइनी ब्याब्लरले तीनदिने विभिन्न विद्यालयका ३६ विद्यार्थीलाई डिजिटल फोटोग्राफी तालिम लिएको छ। फागुन १५ देखि १७ सम्म सञ्चालित उक्त कार्यशालामा काठमाडौँ, ललितपुर र भक्तपुरका १८ विद्यालयका ३६ विद्यार्थी तथा १० शिक्षक शिक्षिकाहरूको सहभागिता रहेको जानकारी बिहीबार आयोजित पत्रकार भेटघाट कार्यक्रममा गरियो। कार्यशालामा सहभागीहरूलाई प्रशिक्षक मुकुन्द बोगटीले डिजिटल फोटोग्राफीसम्बन्धी आधारभूत तालिम तथा प्रयोगात्मक अभ्यास गरिएको थियो। अन्तर्राष्ट्रिय श्रम संगठन (आईएलओ) को सहयोगमा घरेलु बालश्रम उन्मूलनमा टेवा पुऱ्याउने उद्देश्यले सञ्चालित बालकदेखि बालकसम्म कार्यक्रमअन्तर्गत सो तालिम दिइएको हो।

Story contest for students

By a Post Reporter

KATHMANDU June 22- Spiny Babbler, arts and literature organization, is holding a high-school level short story programme involving more than 20 nations of the Asia Pacific region.

Students have been invited to write stories related to mountain issues. Such stories may be based on broad-ranging topics such as environment, wildlife, culture, geography, economy, and topics

on human experience. Para Limbu, chairperson of Spiny Babbler and Project Leader of the programme said the Asia Pacific Mountain Network (APMN) is supporting this attempt of the organization.

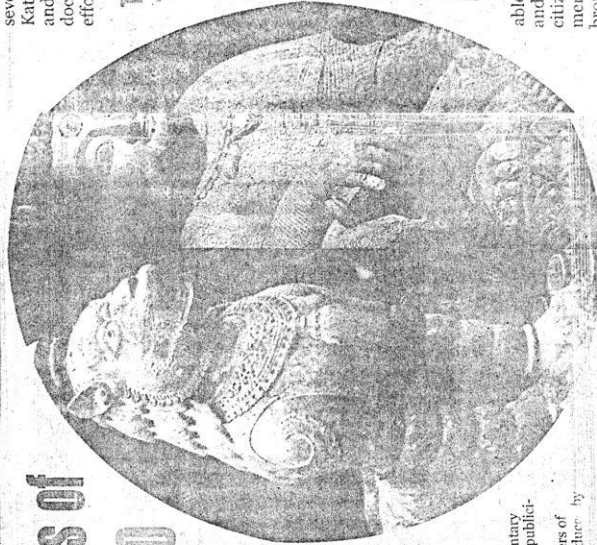
The short story competition is among a series of global interaction programmes being scheduled by Spiny Babbler as it approaches its 10th anniversary. The October edition of the literary journal is to cover approximately 50 contemporary poets of the United

Kingdom - Patricia Oxley, editor of *Acumen*, among the finest poetry journals of the present-day England is putting together the edition.

Stories submitted to the programme will be published in a special edition of Spiny Babbler monthly journal and distributed in about thirty countries worldwide.

Nations participating in the programme include Australia, India, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Nepal, New Zealand, and Singapore.

'The Seven Wonders of Kathmandu': UNESCO



At the first screening of the UNESCO's documentary for children, "Seven Wonders of Kathmandu", Anil Chitrakar, one of the coordinators of the project, shared a very interesting anecdote.

"When I was in Rome, I wondered why all the people were so laidback, and I asked one of them

HERITAGE HUBS OF THE VALLEY

the reason. The reply was very intelligent. He said that all the work had been done two thousand years ago by his ancestors, so all he had to do was to relax and reap the benefits," he said.

The same is probably true of the Kathmandu Valley, as well, with many heritage sites. We could reap huge benefits if we are only able to

UNESCO, Kathmandu 2020 and Spiny Babbler to introduce the seven important heritage sites of Kathmandu to children. Written and directed by Pallav Ranjan, this documentary is a very creative effort to introduce culturally valu-

The same is probably true of the Kathmandu Valley as well, with many heritage sites. We could reap huge benefits if we are only able to first be aware of them and then if we are able to make the rest of the world aware as well.

able places like Hanuman Dhoka and Boudha to young inquisitive citizens of the world. In the documentary, a computer animated brother and sister duo takes the viewers to a wonderful journey to the mysterious sights of

Kathmandu.

With a lot of computer generated images, the documentary is quite interactive and is captivating enough to engage young viewers. The whole journey of the siblings along with a naughty little fairy is narrated in a singsong manner.

Although the singing makes the documentary light and enjoyable, the melody is very repetitive and tends to get boring as we hop along the seven different destinations of the Valley. The animation is very clever though. The use of the little fairy not only adds humor to the documentary but also becomes a very strong narrative element to engage the children.

UNESCO hopes to revert the status of the seven sites and their sights — namely Kathmandu's Hanuman Dhoka, Boudhanath, Swayambhunath, Changu Narayan, Bhaktapur, Pashupatinath and Patan Durbar Square—to the "normal" heritage habitats list from its current "in danger" status.

The release of the current documentary in DVD format could be just the thing required to make it happen.

(PR)

Kathmandu Post
August 16, 2006

Working children tell their tales

Every individual has his or her own perspective on the world and life, and on how he or she feels or perceives it. We have read about the lives of young working children, but what are their innermost feelings and actual take on these subjects?

A new book, entitled *Welcome To The World — Stories And Poems Of Working Children*, attempts to unearth and explore that through the experiences of many working children of different ages. The book is written by noted writer Pallav Ranjan and published by the Spiny Babbler arts organization as part of its Child-to-child project. It was launched at the NAFA Art Gallery in Naxal on

Tuesday.

As told to writer Ranjan by various children, the book tries to give an insight into the lives of young working children and their thoughts on diverse subjects produced in the form of stories and poems. The pictures of the children included in the book also add to the objective.

Ranjan said that they talked with nearly 80 children during a period of one year while preparing the book. "At first, we conducted workshops in schools and we basically shared the children's thoughts during that time. But it was difficult for us to extract stories from the children as well as for them to share their feelings with

us", shared the writer.

"Some of the stories were equally traumatizing to us as to them. But each of the kids was wonderful."

Ranjan further added, "The lives of working children are very difficult, and perhaps we haven't understood life as much as they have. The world is different when seen through their eyes." According to him, the children have told stories about diverse subjects like their villages, towns, fairy tales or their dreams. "It's a gift from the children to the children."

The writer also sounded happy with the effort when he said, "The difficult part was how you were going to turn it into good literature, but I think it was worth it."

(PR)

The Rising Nepal

THE FIRST & THE FOREMOST NATIONAL BROADSHEET

April 2, 2009

Detour

Fantasies put on display

By A Staff Reporter

Kathmandu, April 2

Poet Manjul inaugurated "240 Fantasies" art and sculpture exhibition at Spiny Babbler, he shared his experiences with the art club participants and commented on the multi-media work on display, earlier week.

The exhibition was a culmination of arts products assembled over a 9-month period at the arts club. According to Spiny Babbler over children between the ages of 4 to 14 worked extensively to create the sculptures, art in dry and wet mediums, and to record songs at a professional studio. The paintings on display depict cultural issues

It is important that young people are exposed to diverse life opportunities offered through the mediums of the arts. Physical, aesthetic, psychological, and behavioral issues can be addressed to give young people greater life opportunities through broader living and informed choices," said Param Limbu director of arts programs.



रंग आफै बोल्छ

■ सिद्धार्थ आर्य, पोखरा, नेपाल

कतकत हेर्दा सार्दा बालबालिकाले गरेका चित्रकला र कलिकला भनेर परचाउने जस्तो छैन । यस्तो सार्दा बालबालिकाले कतकतलाई रंगदानी देखाउने र पाठशाला खोल्ने सबै सार्नु ल्याउनु छैन ।



बालबालिकाहरूले गरेका चित्रकला र कलिकलाहरूको प्रदर्शनी। यी चित्रहरूले बालबालिकाहरूको मनोभाव र भावनाहरूलाई जस्तै देखाउँछन्।



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हामीले बनाएको चित्र तथा मुनिकलालाई नेपालका नै उमिड मान्ने मतपत्रहरूकोमा हामीलाई अत्यन्तै खुसी लागेको छ । राउतको कुरालाई बीचमा काट्दै ११ वर्षका अपुर् बाबाले आफूले बनाएको पुजारी र मन्दिरको चित्र देखाउँदै रमाइलो मान्दै भने, 'म त मेरो जीवन नै रङ्गहरूमा बिताउन चाहन्छु ।' आफूले र अपुर्ले ललितपुरको स्नाइनी व्याखरमा सिकेका चित्रकला र मुनिकलाको अनुभवलाई साटोका हुन् ।

कतु हेर्दा सार्दा बालबालिकाले गरेका चित्रकला र मुनिकला भनेर परचाउने नसकिने सिक्ता देखाउँदै सार्दा बालबालिकाको क्षमतालाई स्नाइनी व्याखर र पाठशाला नेपालले मान्ने बाबाले चित्रकला र रंगको समतुल्यता पनि बर्णन र त्यसमा उनीहरूको बुझ्ने क्षमता अचम्मको हुँदा रहेछ । पाठशाला नेपालका कला प्रशिक्षक डन ग्याल्पोले आफूले सिक्का सार्दा बालबालिकाको चित्रहरू देखाउँदै सम्बन्धी, जीवनका धुरै रङ्ग बुझ्नका लागि कला पढ्दा सुन्दर माध्यम हो ।

मनी आउँदा भने खुसी लागेको छ । मैले शब्दमा भन्न नसके कुरालाई पनि चित्रमा व्यक्त गर्न मिल्छ जस्तो लाग्छ । आफूले बनाएको क्षमता र कितारमा उभिएका दुई मान्छेको चित्र देखाउँदै पाठशालाका अनुभवले भने, 'पलिले-पलिले चित्र र कलिकला हेर्दा मलाई पनि मन्दिर आफूमा पाएमा कोरी जस्तो लाग्छो, आज म मकल जस्तै भएको छु ।' अनुभवजस्ता माना बालबालिकाका चित्र हेर्दा कसको मन पो मनोबिगाना र ? उनीहरूको कला प्रदर्शनी हेर्दै भन्दै र हजार मानिस आउनुभएको थियो । मैले बनाएको डाइनेमिकको मुनिलाई हेर्दै जनाले मन पराएकोमा मलाई अत्यन्तै खुसी लागेको छ । स्नाइनी व्याखरमा आफूमा मुनिले र चित्रलाई देखाउँदै उभै खोल्ने भने, 'मलाई त आजकोलै ललितपुरको आफूले माया हुन्छ जस्तो लाग्छ, त्यसका रंग आफै बोल्छन् ।'

मलाई मान्नेको आवाज एउटै भए पनि, आफूले बनाएको मान्नेको चित्रलाई देखाउँदै प्रदर्शनीमा आएकाहरूले स्नाइनी व्याखरमा ८ वर्षको जीना थोडो भनिन्, 'हामी बर्गिर्छौं आफूमा सामानलाई मात्र पनि आफूमा कलाका देखाउने भए पनि त्यसले आवन्द देखाउने गर्छ ।'

बालबालिकामा पनि पनि दुनो पनिमा हुँदा रहेछ । स्नाइनी व्याखरमा कला प्रदर्शनी हेर्दाहुँ अचम्म देखाउँने उच्चतम मान्ने भन्नुपर्छ । हामीले बालबालिकाको मन बुझ्न नै कला पढाउनु छैन ।

स्नाइनी व्याखरमा ४ देखि १४ बर्गहरूमा बालबालिकाका कला प्रदर्शनीको थियो । उनी पाठशाला नेपाललाई नेपाल आउँदा बालबालिकाका कलाका मुनिले नयाँ चित्रकलाको रंग १४ देखि २१ बर्गहरूमा प्रदर्शनी गरेका हो ।

नी चित्रकलाले माना बालबालिकाले पनि आफूमा भावना चित्रहरूको माध्यमबाट पोख्न सक्छन् भन्ने बुझिन्छ ।

बालबालिकामा चित्रकला तथा मुनिकलाले उनीहरूमा लुकेको क्षमताको उजागर गर्दै महत्त्वपूर्ण तथा तयारीपूर्णको विकास गर्दछ । स्नाइनी व्याखरका विदेश तथा कला प्रशिक्षक पदव्य रङ्गबर्णले भन्नुभयो, 'बालबालिकालाई पनि कलाको क्षेत्रमा रङ्गहरूमा बोल्न दिनु भने उनीहरूले उन्मुक्त कलाको माध्यमबाट आफूलाई पालि लगाउन सक्छन् ।'

Interconnections

How different educational content and approaches can come together

By Bipasana Bajracharya with Pallav Ranjan, members of the Evolution Bionetwork

Education today is a wide web of interconnectivity. Languages, social studies, the sciences, economics, and mathematics have found ways in which to interlink with each other: algebra seeps into physics, languages feature technical scientific expressions, social sciences lay the roots for application opportunities and new need-based ideas.

Often, however, these interlinkages remain invisible and unaddressed and education suffers from isolation of different subject, faculties, and teaching tools. Text books are written by specialists in mathematics, botany, grammar. Teachers too have become specialized. Some just teach optional mathematics and offer great education in trigonometry, statistics and other topics. In general, they often will not look at how other subjects are being addressed. And this is opportunity missed. Better understandings, more complete reviews, time saving, and improved application can be the result of linking up subjects, faculties and content. This approach can lead to a more complete, wholesome educational fare.

So what is missing? Take for example the binary, decimals, hexadecimal systems and how when young people learn these in math classes, they can link it up with computer education. Use the same things to code numbers, solve problems, the formats are

the same. What would be the advantage of interconnection between mathematics and computer education? Two curricula coming together, two faculties reinforcing the same solutions, strengthening logic. For young people, revision and reinforcement of ideas, concepts, and understandings.

Similarly, when studying physics, you need maths (eg $P=dhg$ or $f=M*A$ or $p=F/A$) - a base in maths helps solve these kinds of problems. The Hindu civilization has record of complex mathematical practice dating back 800 BC, this practice was motivated by astronomy. In about 7 century Arabs improved the Hindu system of numeration. Without mathematics you would have a hard time solving situations, the pyramids could not be built, we would not be able to find solutions.

Yet interconnections are weak in today's education. Better coordination can lead to young people enjoying greater understanding of the world about them. A young man studying matrix in a bachelor's level biotechnology program commented that his lecturer said he does not know why they need to study the topic but it would appear in their examinations.

Similarly, when we read novels and/or literature our writing skills start improving. Our content development starts getting stronger. Social sciences are better. Authors such as Isaac Asimov, Lewis Carroll, Arthur C. Clarke are great mathematicians and scientists

while being wonderful writers of literature. Nepali language and grammar are interlinked with English language and grammar. We learn similar things.

Languages are created by the humankind to fulfill a basic need, that of communication. Being good in communication, having the ability to recognize content, being able to put it gracefully and well with proper technical input can be the same thing in different languages. Grammatically, we study nouns, pronouns, conjunctions, prepositions, adjectives in English and in Nepali, we read about "nam", "sarwanam", "kriyapad" etc. Developing vocabulary means so many words we read later on in the sciences, mathematics, literature, social sciences are already set in our minds.

Interconnection is really a handful. While reading a novel, young people can improve their social sciences, languages, logical skills and enter the world of a great scientist, philosopher. A word can be familiar to me from memories of a past spelling exercise. I go through the SAT vocabulary list, just to check it out again. The word is ampere. Perhaps today's world requires a separate faculty that just interconnects, recognizes patterns and repeats and lets educators and writers know where the linkages are, how young people can benefit from such insights.

Perhaps it is an idea for educational programs to consider having a personnel or department that links things up.

Learning the Basics

By Urvee Singh with Pallav Ranjan

Knowing music is like being a person who

As the world changes and the human being evolves, education needs to cater to basic skills necessary for young people to perform well in life. While these basics seem simple and not very difficult to learn, they do improve performance, add to the quality of life and change things for the better. The ability of educational institutions to integrate such learning into traditional curricula can bring great benefits to their wards. There are schools that shun technology altogether yet offer exceptional education while there are schools that entirely revolve around the latest technologies offering exceptional education. What type of learning is a priority is up to the guardians and the educators of specific institutions to select but it is clear that additional input is needed to give the best tools for our young to grow into.

One simple yet important ability is the ability to type well. Today's four year olds, such as Tejas Shrestha, are sometimes aware of where keys are located. Alphabets, words, sentences can alternate between paper and screens adding excitement to early childhood learning. Typing well brings several advantages. When you type on the computer, you can concentrate on your content rather than where the keys are. Your thought process will not get disturbed and the quality of the work is better. Meghana Rajkarnikar is attempting to do this at the age of 14. You do not want to lose time searching for the correct keys, the work you should be finishing in half an hour will take less if you know your basics. Sometimes we see that specialists who have PhDs cannot type well, their work becomes less professional and convincing. We come across papers while researching that have errors. Typos can make any work harder to understand and they can lead to misinterpretation and even ridicule. According to a former CEO of a technology firm in the family, it is really sad when people with Bachelors and Masters level education in computer programming cannot type well and make so many typos that when they are writing code and doing other essential work their whole team is losing time and effort finding "bugs" when they should have been much more productive.

Understanding and learning music has important impact on mathematical and logistical skills as well as qualitative living.



knows expensive chocolate tastes different from a spoon of sugar: "sweet" both of them are but with what difference. If we do not know the timing, the beat of sound, the instruments, the composition, the difference in quality of sound and words we won't be able to play or enjoy music properly. Learning music for years, learning the 12 notes, listening to Western and Eastern folk and classical tunes, reading up on the history of this art form, each successive year I find the same notes are sounding more beautiful adding another dimension to how to play, how to hear, and how to take joy from the same thing. I think about Mozart who started composing music when he was five.

The human being has been swimming since the earliest days. Michael Phelps has won 52 gold medals and started learning at the age of six and by the he was 16, he won an Olympic gold. I am inspired by the young Nepalese swimmers learning under senior coaches at Nepal's national stadium. Their strength and stamina is amazing.

Swimming can be called an essential life skill. If we look at evolution and Darwin's theory, we came out of the water after all. If we learn

to swim correctly it may be a savior for us and others. This summer, I and friends were caught in a big two way storm in the middle of Begnas Lake. While I feared for the boat, I knew I could swim and was more worried about two friends on the boat who could not. One had a life jacket and one did not! Moreover, during normal circumstances, we can exercise, enjoy quality time swimming. Those with problems that stop them from jogging, cycling can find solace in the water where the hard pull of gravity is cushioned by the buoyancy of water especially as we grow older. Having learned under a professional coach, I realize that someday I myself may want to teach others the love of swimming and diving. Such wonderful activities have to be shared.

Another necessary life skill is the ability to do well in culinary arts. Cooking makes you self reliant. Our lives are governed by food, breakfast, lunch, tea, dinner, maybe snacks in between. Good eating makes life much more enjoyable. When something special is served, we know immediately that there is a difference and our palates are more aware. Additionally, learning fire skills so you can cook in a jungle, survive in the extremes, knowing what plants are good and bad and how they can be processed to suit human needs. Such knowledge may not only improve our outdoors experience and confidence but if there is an incident, may make a difference between being able to survive or go extinct. Cooks also learn hygiene and so can buy fresh produce and meat and be health conscious. A Nepali young woman, Shreeya Joshi wrote a book that at the age of 11 about an adventure in fairyland. We were asked to write 10 pages a day at school for a whole term so that our writing speed and content would improve and what we were saying made more sense. Of course, writing is a great skill to teach the young. No matter what career we grow into, writing and presentation and making sense of things is an essential part of living.

There is so much to prioritize. It may not be possible to do everything. It is up to educational establishments to offer what is most necessary for their wards. Is it enough just to provide book based learning? Perhaps not. Guardians and educators need to look beyond what is in front of them in the search for relevant education and identification of what are the basics in life.

Beauty Of The Flute

I was just six when I started learning music and its ideas and was eight by the time I started concentrating on learning how to play the bamboo flute. I was smaller than the usual child; my fingers would not cover the holes, I remember. First it was the local flute costing Rs. 30 and then when the smaller D scale flute was bought for me, it cost Rs. 1200! Today I am glad I persisted or was encouraged by my parents, Spiny Babbler, my guides, and later Evolution to continue my learning, for the flute is among the purest of musical instruments.

The flute has been used by the pre-historical humans to the modern ones. The oldest musical instrument discovered until now is a flute found in the Hohle Fels Cave in Ulm, Germany. Many kinds of flutes have been found there, among them is a vulture bone flute which is about 35000 years old. Another is a mammoth tusk flute with three holes in it. There are also two flutes made of swan bones.

In Slovenia, a flute made of a bear's femur has been found. This flute seems to have been made 43000 years ago. Very old but still playable flutes have been found in Jiahu, China. They are 9000 years old and human tibia bone flutes have also been found and are about 3500 years old. In a mountain-side cave in Southwest Germany, archeologists found ancient cave paintings of women playing the flutes.

While, wooden, copper, silver, even gold flutes are in use, in the Indian subcontinent, classical music flutes are usually made from bamboo and the modern scale system were developed very recently in the 1940s by Pandit Pannalal Ghosh. Scientists studying pre-historic humans have also learned a lot. Flutes also seem to have been played a lot from Africa, Asia, and Europe to Australia.

In Greece, there is a story about music from scriptures dating back to the fifth century AD. Jupiter's daughter, Kaliopé played very good music, she also sang very well. Some say she invented the double flute. Kaliopé had a son named Orpheus to whom she taught all she had learned about music. Orpheus started playing music very beautifully and day by day it got more beautiful. Slowly the news that Orpheus played very good music started spreading all over Greece and people and animal started to come to Orpheus just to listen to his music. As time went by his music became so great and powerful that legends say he could stop landslides, calm floods

and people did not even need wine to get drunk, they got drunk listening to music. Because of this, Bacchus, the god of wine, got angry and ordered to have Orpheus killed. Orpheus's well wishers and the Musae found about his death and collected his decapitated remains and buried them. They called one constellation by his name and

called it the Lyre.

In Hinduism, the flute is immortalized by Lord Krishna, the ninth avatar of Lord Vishnu. Lord Krishna was a cowherd as he was from the Yadav tribe who raised cows. When he went to the pastures with his cows, he never forgot to take his flute along with him. Lord Krishna was a fun loving god and he performed many miracles with his flute, including impressing the 1600 gopinis.

Continuously blowing into the flute is very hard and is a good exercise for our lungs. We get to create different ranges of the Sa, Re, Ga, Ma and be aware of the beats of songs. We know easily when we have made a mistake. This helps us to understand music better and this is the beauty of the flute. Also, according to a visiting flute teacher who had 40 years of teaching experience in US schools, she said to me and my friends that a flutist's lungs are 30 per cent more developed than a footballer's. That is because unlike the trumpet and saxophone this wind instrument allows for intake of air and this means the flutist has to blow more air in hence greater exercise of the lungs.

Our flute teacher Dhana Gurung teaches the flute on a weekly basis and we end up practicing at least 10 hours a week. It looks easy when others are blowing the flute but it took us one month just to correctly blow. Then we started to place our fingers on the six holes of the flute to learn Sa, Re, Ga, Ma, Pa, Dha, Ni, Sa which is the same as C, D, E, F, G, A, B, C in the Western music. Since my fingers were very small and could not even wholly cover the holes of the flute I had a tough time. This was the case with my friends Anuska Pokhrel and Aayu Tuladhar also. Even Dhana Sir was not confident that we could learn to play. But slowly, after daily practice strictly monitored by my father, I have started to play many songs including the Malashree Dhoon which is also called the Dashain Dhoon but is used by many communities in the Nepali hills, Newar communities, India, and Farasi peoples.

Unlike the uitar or the iano you need different types of bamboo flutes if you want to play different scales of sound. Right now I have got a D scale flute and a bigger and thicker flute which is in the A scale for classical music play. The A scale flute has a lower sound than the D scale flute and is much harder to blow than the D scale one. I have two more local flutes to play folk music with.

We have gone to several performances and recording studios. There were lots of other artists with different musical instruments but I noticed that the sound of the flute was perhaps the most beautiful sound of all the musical instruments.

Urvee Singh
Evaluation High School

The search for education

Education: "a wealth of knowledge acquired by an individual after studying particular subject matter or experiencing life lessons that provide an understanding of something."

I feel schooling - as the delivery medium of knowledge, skills and information from teachers to students - is an inadequate form of education that fails to capture what is really important about being and becoming educated. The process of becoming educated is perhaps the most important aspect of our daily life. With education, you are able to purchase accurately, think clearly, and act effectively to achieve self-selected goals and aspirations. Everything we are, how we choose to live our lives, the values that we, our families, our societies, and ultimately our nations and world hold is influenced by the process of education we go through.

The act or process of imparting or acquiring particular knowledge or skills or of imparting or acquiring general knowledge (by that I do not mean the somewhat meaningless numbers and irrelevant facts that are memorized for quiz competitions) and developing the powers of reasoning and judgment is education. Without education the life of a human being cannot operate well. Education teaches lessons of humanity. It shows clearly why it is necessary for every human being and here it is important to note and respect that people who are not literate but have their own understanding and "educated" view of

the world; hence the need to celebrate, document, and learn from the huge wealth of the indigenous, the elderly, and the different.

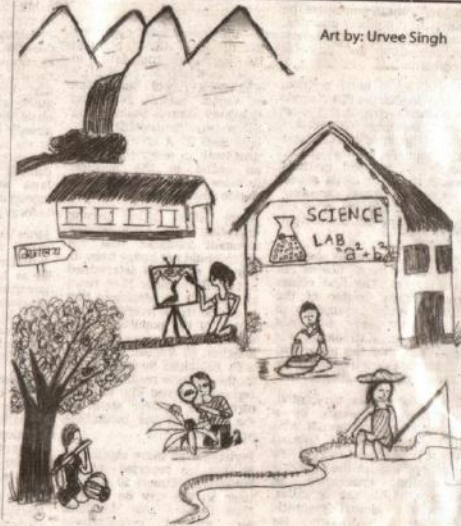
Education does not mean getting specific skills necessary to get employment. It means the knowledge, the information, and develops you from each and every angle and everything. It makes you smarter and helps you contribute to your own life, the life of the family, and the community around you. Human beings get education from their own experiences while teaching tools and personnel help bring them into perspective and fill in basics and gaps in understanding. In today's world, it doesn't mean you need to get a teacher to make you educated or a school to be an educated person, home schools are a great way that learning is achieved in the absence of formal education environment. Education, by this exploration, becomes a process which carries the human being towards success and greater opportunities.

Some private schools are telling us that they provide swimming classes. But due to a maximum number of young sent to the swimming pool, the student only splashes in water and play rather than learns how to swim. There just aren't enough instructors or they are not familiarized with how to teach in numbers. In a similar case schools are telling us that they have flute lessons too. But they have more than thirty children in a class with just one teacher. How much individual attention will they get? Will the teacher

be able to teach all the students how to play flute when he spends time disciplining them? The teacher teaches only those who are really interested and who are concentrating. What will happen to other students? The teacher would never be able to care about them. Here the number game comes into play. Quality of care is important. The schools mean well, the opportunity is there for those who will take it, but not every child is a prodigy, others have to be taken where they need to go.

One of the reasons that our country is not developed is cited as lack of education. Nowadays the government is building schools but not only in towns. Villages have schools and the book based learning is available to more people. Private schools are offering excellent book based learning. However, for this generation, learning from the book is not the only important thing: talent development, disciplined hours, and optional ways of living life is also important. Some schools are trying to develop and educate the student by offering life opportunities and extra-curricular activities like swimming, music lessons, art, science specials. But the concepts are hard to follow because economics play a part and when the number of students is high it is easy to forget it is the "students" that are the focus.

When it is hard to even know who is "understanding" what is being shared and who is having real problems students fail and are withdrawn from school instead improving their



Art by: Urvee Singh

Biprasana Bajracharya, writer and Urvee Singh, Illustrator, are members of the Evolution Bionetwork.

studies. One student withdrew from a school because he had failed in five subjects three times and the school always focused on the one who always came first in the class. The school didn't know why was he failing or what to do about it.

Education should empower us to envision a better world than the one that confronts us and equip

us with the knowledge, tools, and experience to make change. We need education to give us the knowledge and skills to participate in society in a meaningful and productive way. What's the use of an approach that keeps us "learning" for decades when you don't know how to enjoy the fruit that is life?

बालबालिकाको चासो

काठमाडौं/ स्याङ्गी व्याखलर इभोलुसन, सेम द चिल्ड्रेन र उपत्यकाका १० विद्यालयका विद्यार्थीले बालमृत्युदरबारे जानकारी दिन र चेतना बढाउन कविता, गीत, कला प्रदर्शनी तथा नाटक मञ्चन गरेका छन् । १ नोभेम्बरमा गरिएको 'किपिड लभ सेफ' नामक सो कार्यक्रममा कविता, गीत, नाटक आदि साहित्यका विधा समावेश गरिएको थियो । कार्यक्रममा अर्नब राना, नोर्बु छिरिङ, टिसा

श्रेष्ठलगायतको पेन्टिङ प्रदर्शन गरिएको थियो भने आरब मल्ल, अक्रान्ति सिंह, पूजा रेग्मी, विदुर राईलगायतले कविता सुनाएका थिए । कार्यक्रममा निभिरा श्रेष्ठ, युगान राना, मनिष्का ताम्राकार, तेजस श्रेष्ठलगायतको अभिनय रहेको नाटकलाई भिडियोमा उतारेर पनि देखाइएको थियो । नाटक एकआपसमा माया र सद्भावको विकास गर्नुपर्ने, छोराछोरीलाई समान मान्नुपर्ने विषयमा केन्द्रित थियो ।



चुलबुले हात्ती

बर्दिया राष्ट्रिय निकुञ्जको हात्तीसारमा १६ वटा हात्ती रहेछन्, सबैभन्दा बूढोचाहिँ ८० वर्षको



उर्जी सिंह

कक्षा- ६, स्पाइनी ब्याबलर : इभोलुसन, सानेपा, ललितपुर

तीन महिनामात्र पुगेकी सानी हात्ती सुँडले हात समाउँदै हामीलाई आफुतिर तान्छे । 'नानु' भनेर बेलाउँदा खुसी हुन्छे । उसलाई आमासँगै बाँसको बारभित्र राखिएको छ । घरि ऊ बाँधेको बाँसको बारमाथि चढ्न खोज्छे, घरि खुट्टाले माटो खोभिएभै गर्छे । 'कति राम्रि छौ तिमी' भनेर निधार सुम्सुम्याउँदा र कानको पछिल्लो भाग कन्याउँदा 'मेरो नजिक आऊ' भनेभै गरी फेरि सुँडले तान्न तमिस्छे ।

ऊ सानी छे तर छाला कति कडा । रौ कति आरौ । तर बाल्यकालको सुन्दरता भने तीन

महिना पुगेकी नानुको जस्तै । हामी उनलाई भन्छौ, 'काठमाडौँमा तिम्रै उमेरकी नानु छिन् । तिम्रै पनि चार महिना पुग्न लागेकी, उनी पनि चार महिना पुग्न लागेकी ।' नानु भए खिल्का छाडेर हँसिन् होला, तर सानी हात्ती भने सुँड लम्काउँदै हामीतिर आउँछे । फूँ-फूँ गर्छे । केही छिनमा मोटो सिक्रीले बाँधिएको आमा कहौँ पुग्छे । काठको मुढामा आड रगड्छे ।

बर्दिया राष्ट्रिय निकुञ्जको हात्तीसारभित्र राखिएको सानी हात्तीको कहानी हो यो ।

तराईका चार जिल्लाका रैडियो प्रोड्युसर, राजनीतिक पार्टीका नेता र स्थानीय बासिन्दा भेट्न हाम्रो स्कुलबाट एउटा टोली गएको थियो । टोलीमा म पनि सहभागी थिएँ ।

बर्दिया गएर त्यहाँको राष्ट्रिय निकुञ्जमा जंगल सफारी गर्ने सल्लाहअनुसार हामीले त्यहाँको अवलोकन गर्‍यो । बर्दियाका जनावर, चराचुरुङ्गी, बोटविस्वावारे मैले सुनेकी थिएँ र स्कुलमा अनुसन्धान पनि गर्न लगाइएको थियो । यसकारण बर्दिया जानका लागि ममा धेरै पहिलेदेखि उत्सुकता जागेको थियो ।

बिहान हामी निकुञ्जको प्रवेशद्वार पस्‍यो ।

घना जंगल थियो । धेरै जनावर देखिन्छ भन्ने आश थियो । चार-पाँचपटक बाँदरहरू देखिए । एकपटक त बबई नदीको किनारमा घरियाल र मगर गोही सुतिरहेको देखिए । हामीले त्यहाँका सुन्दर दृश्य क्यामेरामा कैद गर्‍यो । मलाई फेरि त्यही सानी हात्ती भएको हात्तीसारको याद आयो ।

हात्तीसार नदीको छेउमा बनेको थियो । त्यसलाई वरिपरि भ्याड र तारहरूले घेरिएको थियो । तर पनि बाहिरबाट हात्तीका भीमकाय आकृति देखिन्थे । जावलाखेलको चिडियाखानामा देखेभन्दा पनि ठूला ! हुन पनि हात्ती विश्वकै दोस्रो ठूलो जनावर हो र त्यस हात्तीसारमा यस्ता १६ वटा हात्ती रहेछन्, धेरैजसो भाले, पोथी र दुई छ्वा । तीमध्ये सबैभन्दा बूढो हात्ती ८० वर्षको रहेछ । हामी हात्ती हेर्दै फोटो खिचिरहेका थियौँ ।

सुरुमा हामीले एउटी माउ र उनकी सात महिनाको बच्चा देख्यौँ । अरू हात्तीलाई जस्तै यो बच्चालाई पनि मोटो सिक्रीले बाँधिएको थियो । ऊ सुतिरहेकी थिई । अलि पर नै दोस्रो माउ एउटा हाँगा चपाउँदै उठिरहेकी थिइन् भने उनकी तीन महिनाको छोरी सुँडले भुईँ खनेर खेल्नरहेकी । तिनीहरूलाई बाँसको खोरीभित्र राखिएको थियो । त्यस घेराबाहिर उभिएर हामीले फोटो खिच्‍यो । सानी हात्तीले हामीलाई हेरी र बिस्तारै हामीतिर आई ।

मकहाँ आएर उसले सुँडले छुन थाली । मैले उसको टाउको कन्याइदिएँ । मैले हात्तीलाई यसरी कहिले सुम्सुम्याएकी थिइनँ । सानी हात्तीको छाला कडा र फुस्रो थियो । रौ पनि कडा घोच्लाजस्ता थिए । सानी हात्ती कति खुसी देखिएकी थिई, न्यतिबेला मलाई पल्लव सरकी तीन महिनाको छोरीको याद आयो ।

सानी हात्तीलाई खानेकुरा दिन मन लाग्यो, तर मसँग केही थिएन । मैले उसको फोटो खिच्ने र माया गरें । ऊ कति भारी र बलियो थिई । जाने बेला भइसकेको थियो, मलाई उसलाई छाडेर हिँड्ने मन थिएन ।

भोलिपल्ट हामी निकुञ्जको पैदल लाग्यौँ । यात्रामा हरिण, कृष्णसार, मुग, बाघ आदि जीवजन्तु र रमणीय दृश्य देखिए । ती दृश्यलाई आँखाभरि त सँगालेकी छु, तर मायालु सानी हात्तीको सम्झना भने सधैं आइरहेको छ ।

