

Ex-Grantees' Idea Sharing



“Youth Action Fund and the projects supported by YAF have opened a new window of opportunity for us to expand our horizon and think of something bigger and better to empower not just oneself but everyone around us”



An idea sharing event was held at Dhulikhel Village Resort with the ex-grantees of **Youth Action Fund** from 20th to 22nd of October 2011. The program was conducted by ChangeFusion Nepal in collaboration with Alliance for Social Dialogue. Ms. Sanju Koirala from Alliance for Social Dialogue, Rafael Poudel and Ram Sapkota from ChangeFusion Nepal, organized and facilitated the program along with previous grantees of the year 2009 and 2010.

The core objective of the program was to develop a network with the grantees and to learn how they had turned their idea into action through Youth Action Fund. The meeting was fruitful as the team learnt the ex-grantees run their projects along with gaining an insight into their individual view on Youth Action Fund. The participants were able to interact with one another, sharing interesting stories which involved the difficulties and satisfaction they faced while running their projects.

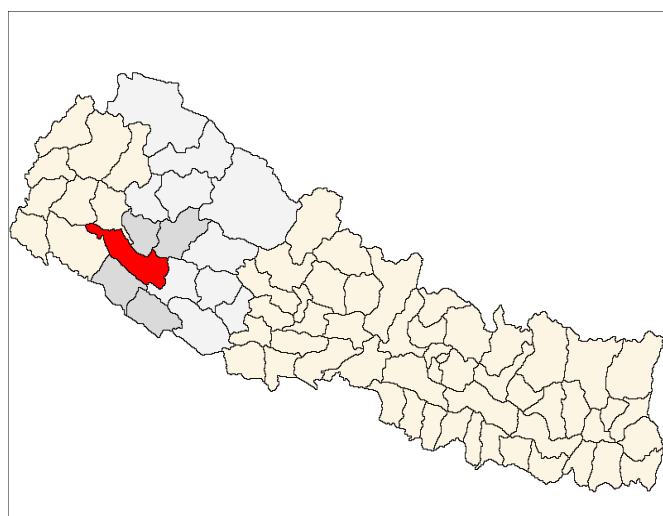




The gathering also focused on creating respective blogs so that their success stories could be conveyed through the use of social media. ChangeFusion Nepal will be developing a social network of all the grantees (old and new) and creating portfolios on each of them for future reference.

Since this is the inception year for ChangeFusion Nepal as the Youth Action Fund coordinator, the feedback from the participants was a great learning experience and will help us to be efficient and effective in implementing the program in the best way possible.

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| Name: | Binod Lamsal |
| Gender: | Male |
| Age: | 22 |
| Permanent Address: | Gairi-7, lamsu, Dailakh |
| Temporary Address: | latikoili-9, Surkhet |
| Year of Project: | 2010 |
| Area of work: | Local Governance |
| Project Location: | Surkhet and nearby locations |
| Project title: | Advocacy to participation of the marginalized community |



PROJECT IDEA

In the western region of Nepal, most of the low-caste, poor and marginalized groups do not have a say in the development and governance process. Such societies don't see women as leaders. Hence, in every sector, women are absent in the decision making role. In every village development community, there is an All Party Alliance to support local development process, but in most of these alliances, there are no marginalized, low-caste and women-participation. Therefore, I decided to make an effort to increase the participation in local governance and decision-making processes.

SOCIAL IMPACT

Dhanbir kusanda, a local public of Lakhparagul VDC-5, has now become a member of All Party Alliance in his VDC. He said, "I am planning to discuss about the marginalized people in my community. After the project, there has been a steady increase in the number of participation among the marginalized communities' in local governance level. Especially single women, *Kusanda*, *Badi* and *Raute* communities are participating in the development process. Now, they are aware about their rights and how to go about getting it."

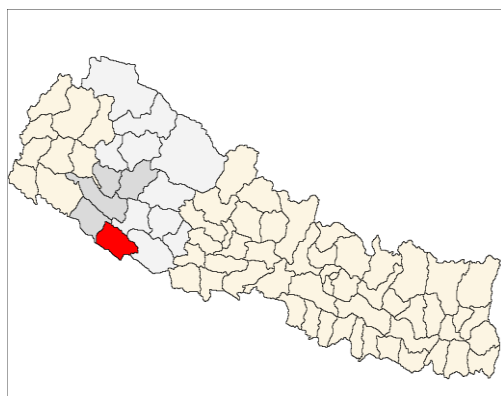
INDIVIDUAL IMPACT

From the project, I got a good opportunity to become a social facilitator in my society. Now, I have good access to social network as well as active youth network. People have changed their viewpoint about me after the project. Now, they believe in me which has really encouraged me and made me more responsible.

POSITIVE VALUES OF YAF

Youth action fund inspires active youth to do creative work in their society. It is focused on supporting development and reducing local problems. It provides a good platform for youth to build network and share their ideas and activities.

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| Name: | Cheena Buda Magar |
| Gender: | Female |
| Age: | 23 |
| Permanent Address: | Rajhena-5, Banke |
| Temporary Address: | Muktipur-16, Nepaljung, Banke |
| Year of Project: | 2011 |
| Area of work: | Local Media |
| Project Location: | 10 VDCs of Banke |
| Project title: | Rural wall magazine publication in 10 different VDCs |



PROJECT IDEA

When I was small, I participated in a training on child journalism. After the training I was regularly published in the wall magazine. Wall magazine is an easiest way to provide information to the public about different activities, such as local development, education, health and many more. It is very cheap and effective in the rural sector. Hence, I was impressed with wall magazine from my childhood and I decided to publish wall magazine in my community as well to generate awareness in issues relating to the environment and human-right.

SOCIAL IMPACT

Through the wall magazine, people in 10 different VDCs got to share information and developments in their society. Now, most of the youth is active in social activities and this project has helped to fill the void in the generation gap between the local youth and their parents. Hence, the youth has a better perspective about the past and future.

INDIVIDUAL IMPACT

From the project, I got a chance to develop my personality as well as build a good network with active youth groups. All the people from the 10 VDCs have come to know me as a social worker. I hope it will help me in my professional career and also contribute to enhance my personality.

POSITIVE VALUES OF YAF

Through the Youth Action Fund, youth can get involved in social work as well as build a strong network. If you have an innovative idea to solve a social problem in your local community but you are facing financial problem, Youth Action Fund provides youth with the necessary goods, hence making them able to do something for the benefit of their society.

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| Name: | Deepak Buda |
| Gender: | Male |
| Age: | 23 |
| Permanent Address: | latikoili-9, Surkhet |
| Temporary Address: | Buddha path, Surkhet |
| Year of Project: | 2010 |
| Area of work: | Health Education |
| Project Location: | Three different VDCs in Surkhet |
| Project title: | Street Drama against HIV/AIDS |



PROJECT IDEA

In the far and mid-western development region, most of the local people migrate to India to earn money for their family. In India, they sell sex and get infected with various sexually transmitted diseases including HIV/AIDS. Most of the public in our society have a negative attitude towards these diseases. Hence, they keep it a secret with their family or sexual partners who in the process are affected as well. I decided to change this issue and applied to YAF. After the program was approved, we have shown dramas in 22 places in three different VDCs.

SOCIAL IMPACT

After the project, we have shown drama in 22 places in three different VDCs raising awareness on HIV/AIDS transmission, symptoms of the disease and protecting oneself from the sexually transmitted diseases. The program helped in changing the mind frame of the local public regarding HIV/AIDS. Local government stated that only five people were affected, but after the project when people went to Red Cross for blood check, more than 50 people were affected by HIV/AIDS. They are now regularly going to the health post and Red Cross for regular health check-up.

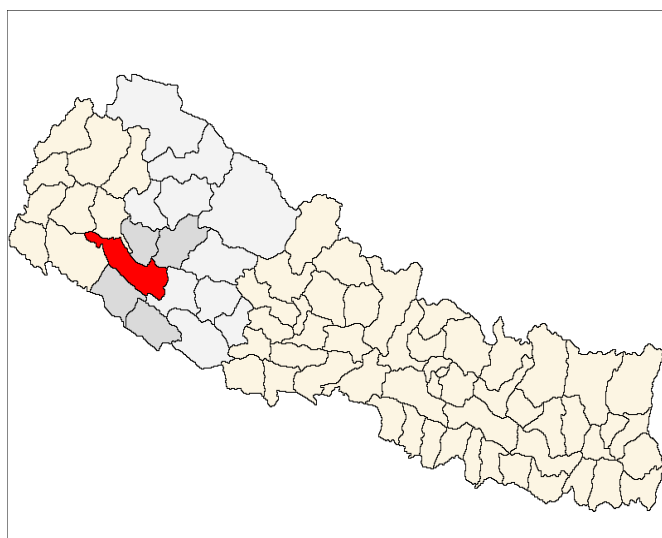
INDIVIDUAL IMPACT

Through YAF, I got an opportunity to improve myself and build-up my career. Now, all of the local public hold high regards towards me. After the YAF project, I also got funds from the different organizations. OHCHR funded us to show the drama in 10 different districts. UNDP and USAID support us to show two different dramas in 20 districts. Hence, YAF has served as a good platform in the growth of my personal and professional life.

POSITIVE VALUES OF YAF

An individual can apply for the Youth Action Fund and complete the program in co-ordination with the local supporting organizations. The program helps the youth to increase their professional skills as well as creativity. It provides youth with a good opportunity to contribute in their society.

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| Name: | Ganesh Badhur Oli |
| Gender: | Male |
| Age: | 25 |
| Permanent Address: | Ratu-7, surkhet |
| Temporary Address: | latikoili-1, Surkhet |
| Year of Project: | 2010 |
| Area of work: | Health Education |
| Project Location: | Surkhet |
| Project title: | Radio Program (Hami Youba) against Drug addiction. |



PROJECT IDEA

Surkhet has become an educational, business and trading center for mid-western region. It is open to the development process; however youth have become vulnerable to drug addiction. Everyday more and more students from school and higher-level smoke *Ganja*. Most of them know about the negative impacts of using drugs but the addiction has made them a social nuisance and less conscious in their studies. Also, local governance remains inactive to control it. I decided to broadcast a radio program and support the youth to quit the drug addiction. I applied for the Youth Action Fund, which was approved in 2010.

SOCIAL IMPACT

Radio program, *Hami Youba*, is broadcasted from Surkhet and covers 15 different districts in the far and mid-western region. The program focuses on the issue of drug addiction, the control-act, social and economical impacts of addition, success stories, rehabilitation centers and many more. We broadcast the discussion along with government officers, security forces to control the drug production and distribution as well as controlling additions. In the program, they pledge to control the drug addiction and other social problems. After the project, the number of drug addicts has steadily decreased and there has been a rise in the number of addicts returning to rehabilitation centers.

INDIVIDUAL IMPACT

Through the project, I got a chance to get close to the youth and understand the reason behind their addiction. The program has become a platform for me to develop my personality. Most of the people know me as a social-worker as well as a media person. The best part of my satisfaction lies in reducing the drug addiction in my society.

POSITIVE VALUES OF YAF

YAF supports individuals with new and creative ideas which when implemented can support to change the society for better and build up the togetherness of the society. YAF supports youth to bolster their professional life. Hence, it is a great platform for the youth to build-up their career in social sector.

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| Name: | Lok Raj Joshi |
| Gender: | Male |
| Age: | 22 |
| Permanent Address: | Dhangadi-5, Hasanpur, Kailali |
| Temporary Address: | Rampur Campus, Rampur, Chitwan |
| Year of Project: | 2010 |
| Area of work: | Environmental |
| Project Location: | Dhangadhi Municipality and surrounding VDCs |
| Project title: | Amphibian conservation and global warming in Kailali district |



PROJECT IDEA

I was impressed by the Dr. Kerry Kriger’s idea of frog conservation while browsing internet. It was a less-known but an important concept. This type of conservation is more important for Nepal as we are rich in water resources. So, I decided to work on amphibian conservation and to broaden the scope of work I merged the idea of global warming later.

SOCIAL IMPACT

Through the program, we have conducted awareness programs in 10 different schools in Dhangadi and surrounding VDCs. We have formed Biodiversity Action Circle (BAC) in schools. Now, students are engaged in group and learn about environmental conservation. There has been wide media coverage about amphibian conservation and global warming. More than 300 people have signed for the Commitment Campion.

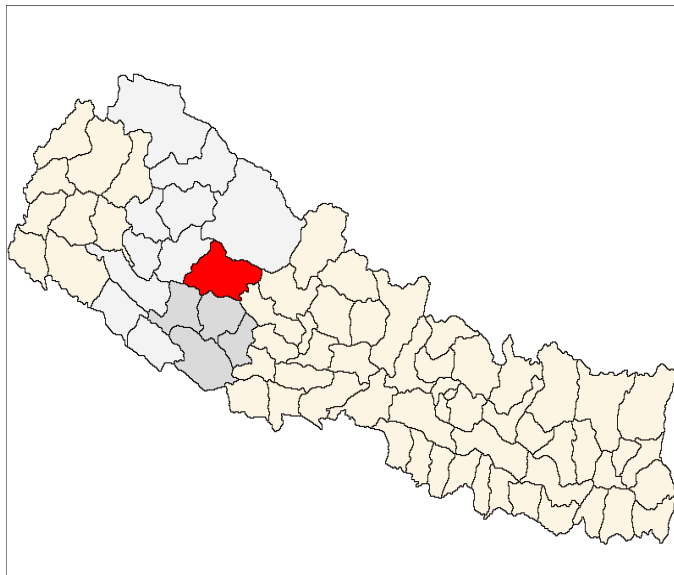
INDIVIDUAL IMPACT

After the project, I have a better personality and confidence to speak in front of mass. I now have access to professional networking and links with different NGOs. The program has given me knowledge, social recognition and respect. It has been a good learning for me and could prove helpful in furthering my career.

POSITIVE VALUES OF YAF

Many youth have great ideas that can change the society for better. All they need is the “seed money” to implement their ideas. Hence, YAF is the stage for these youth to transfer their ideas into reality and bring about a positive change in the society. YAF is playing the role of stepping stone for these youth who want to develop their careers in the social sector. With YAF, youth today feel that there is someone who cares and respects their ideas.

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| Name: | Dhanbir Dahal |
| Gender: | Male |
| Age: | 25 |
| Permanent Address: | Banfikot-5, Simtang Rukum |
| Temporary Address: | Khalanga, Rukum |
| Year of Project: | 2010 |
| Area of work: | Local Governance |
| Project Location: | Rukum |
| Project title: | Advocacy against same wages for similar work |



PROJECT IDEA

Female discrimination has always been a big problem in our society. It is prevalent in various sectors, male and female doing the same work have considerably different wages. Hence, I decided to do advocate this issue calling for equal pay. This will be a good start in eradicating female discrimination.

SOCIAL IMPACT

After the project, the *Banfikot* community has advocated for the “same-work, same-pay” and is the first one in the district. Before the project, most women were not aware of their rights, but, now they have realized their right to equality and are able to speak their minds.

INDIVIDUAL IMPACT

I have grown into a better human being through the project. The report is broadcasted through the media and now, I am well-known person in my society. I have good network with social-workers and media-houses. I am in the media sector and I couldn't be happier. I have improved my professional and personal career through the Youth Action Fund.

POSITIVE VALUES OF YAF

Youth Action Fund is a good platform for youth like me. I got a chance to learn more about my society. I applied to Youth Action Fund twice and I got funded twice for different two different issues. I am a good example in my society; most of the people in my locality know me as a social worker. Youth Action Fund is a small fund but it serves as a foundation to improve our career in social work.

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| Name: | Nisha Lama |
| Gender: | Female |
| Age: | 25 |
| Permanent Address: | Hetauda, Makwanpur |
| Temporary Address: | Hetauda, Makwanpur |
| Year of Project: | 2010 |
| Area of work: | Co-operative Education |
| Project Location: | Makwanpur District |
| Project title: | Radio program to increase the participation of Tamang Women in co-operatives |



PROJECT IDEA

While I was working in saving and credit, I was also reporting to the radio about the women group and their activities. I got to witness a lot of discrimination against women because they were not involved in economical activities. The group mostly comprised of women coming from a lower caste, suffering from poverty and other social discrimination. I felt that I needed to support them. Until and unless women are economically strong, they cannot empower themselves. So, I brought forward the idea of increasing economic standard of women.

SOCIAL IMPACT

A program regarding co-operatives was conducted and many women are now affiliated to different co-operatives. Loans are being taken to initiate a business which has increased their economical standard. During the period of this project, a number of women group were formed and they are still active in their economical growth activities.

INDIVIDUAL IMPACT

I have learned a lot through this project. I am recognized as a radio journalist in my society. Through the project, I got better knowledge on cooperative and its role in reducing poverty at local level as well as its contribution in the development process. I have decided to do pursue a career in the field of cooperatives.

POSITIVE VALUES OF YAF

YAF involves youth in different areas of work. YAF has been supporting the youth who are working to bring about a positive change in their society. It has changed their thinking style from “my” to “our”. Youth Action Fund is a small fund but it can bring a big change in local level as YAF supports creativity.

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| Name: | Pravez Alam Ansari |
| Gender: | Male |
| Age: | 22 |
| Permanent Address: | Dohari-8, Bara |
| Temporary Address: | Kathmandu |
| Year of Project: | 2010 |
| Area of work: | Education / awareness/ social issue |
| Project Location: | Bara District |
| Project title: | Documentary against child marriage |



PROJECT IDEA

Child marriage is a big problem in the Terai region. Early marriage is highly prevalent among the financially challenged population, specially the low-caste, marginalized and non-educated communities. When I witnessed child marriage in one of such communities, I promised to do something against it. In 2009 I applied for Youth Action Fund to make a documentary and my proposal was approved. I made a documentary against child marriage in 2010.

SOCIAL IMPACT

The documentary clarifies the reasons why people do not talk about this issue, why children are forced into early marriage and the inability of the local government to control it. After this documentary was made public and shown to people in *Bara* district, child marriage has reduced slightly and people have become aware about the issue. Now, even the local governance is being active to control child marriage. Since the documentary, HIMRIGHTS has supported the education of one girl and four boys from the *Dome* community.

INDIVIDUAL IMPACT

The documentary has given me recognition in my community. I have good networks and relation with different groups and organization through Youth Action Fund. I got knowledge on writing proposals and a priceless experience to make a documentary.

POSITIVE VALUES OF YAF

Youth Action Fund provides all the tools to make our dreams come true. It makes us responsible and provides us with an opportunity to do something in/for our society. It helps us to build networks with active youth and share ideas with them.