

Children of Nepal

by Prateek Retnaraj

Economic status creates two groups of children in Nepal—the children in poor families and the children in middle class families.

Poor children of Nepal usually live in small villages or communities in the foothills of the Himalayas. They usually gather food and firewood in the forest for their families. Even if their village has small elementary schools, most of the children will not go to school because they gather firewood. The health of the children is also not very good. Some of the children get diseases that are very dangerous but easily cured like malaria and diarrhea. Because they skip school to gather food and firewood, poor children don't have much education. Most never study beyond the fourth grade.

Children from middle class families in Nepal usually live in towns or cities. These children usually go to larger schools that have a high school. In these more urban areas the families have enough money to buy from the local market and the children are healthier than the poor children.

Healthier children are able to go to school much more often.

In Nepal the main reason why children suffer is because they are not getting a good education. Some children, such as Kamal,

are very desperate for education. **Kamal** (photo below) was born in the small village of Dhamile



located in the foothills of the Himalayas. When he was a baby his parents abandoned him. His

father married another woman and his mother married another man. His grandmother raised him and sent him to the local school in the village. Kamal was an excellent student but the village school only went to the fifth grade. Kamal then ran away to Kathmandu because he thought he was a burden to his grandmother.

In Kathmandu he washed dishes in a small hotel. Someone in the hotel felt pity for him and gave him to an orphanage. In the orphanage he was well taken care of and received a decent education. Even in Kathmandu he still went to church and never stopped believing in Christ. In the ninth



About Me

My name is Prateek and I am 13 years old. I am in the eighth grade. Some of my hobbies are to play ball sports like soccer, basketball, ping pong, and cricket. You probably have not heard of cricket. Also I like to watch television. I also like movies and video games.

grade Kamal was baptized in a church. The next year he did a national level exam called SLC. Kamal passed the exam and got a mark of 75% on it. He was one of the first people in his village to pass the SLC exam.

Ministry among the Children

Most churches have a children's Sunday school, where they learn Bible stories, songs, and they also learn the Lord's Prayer. A school run by Christians (or a mission school) is also a place where they can learn about the Bible. For example, in Dhamile there is a local elementary school in which one teacher is a Christian. The children used to be sick very often and were absent many days because they had to collect food or firewood for their families. So, to encourage children to go to the school, the mission started to make nutritious lunches for all the children in school for no cost. When this happened the children started to come to school frequently. And they learned to wash their hands before eating and to pray for the food. When they learned this at school they would then do this at home and their whole family would learn to wash their hands before eating and pray for their food.



Kathmandu Church Sunday school field trip

Children
desperate
for
education



A class in
a school in
rural Nepal

