

THE MALAGIRI SCHOOL 10th ANNIVERSARY

SPRING 2021

IMPACT REPORT



PREPARED BY

THE UNIVERSITY OF BRIGHTON'S SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

THE CONTEXT



Malagiri village nestles around a necklace shaped bend in the original road to India (Rajpath). It lies roughly 50km south-west of Kathmandu.

In 2007, a senior lecturer from the School of Education [SoE] (Kevin Fossey, pictured here), a Tibetan Monk (Pema Dorjee) and a volunteer teacher from Sweden (Carin Soderlind) visited the village and realised that there was no school and so.....the idea of 'A School for Malagiri' was born.

THE VISION



With steep hills and monsoon rains, Malagiri was not the easiest place for a building project, but with support and preparation work from the villagers, expert input from architects and builders plus funds from supporters, the SoE in the UK and a Swedish charity called Trinity, the concept began to take shape. The urgent need for this project was verified when, during a visit to Malagiri just before the building started, Kate Fleming (a SoE senior lecturer) witnessed a sight that she would never forget – the village children either in rags or bare.

Kevin's vision, that still holds true today, was to 'take local families from lack of education and the struggle for survival, to opportunities for change and hope for the future'. A charitable Trust in Nepal, The Jangchup Trust, ensures that this vision is sustained.

A VISION TO TAKE LOCAL FAMILIES FROM LACK OF EDUCATION AND THE STRUGGLE FOR SURVIVAL TO OPPORTUNITIES FOR CHANGE AND HOPE FOR THE FUTURE.

THE JOURNEY

2008

Building work starts. Malagiri becomes the charity of choice for the SoE centenary celebrations

2009

The Jangchup Charitable Trust is formed. 3 SoE students undertake 6-week placements in Nepalese schools

2011

The Malagiri school opens on 10th April with 2 classes for children aged 3-6

2012

SoE students begin visiting the school as part of an annual international placement experience

2013

Kevin's vision is recognised as he receives the University's inaugural award for 'Excellence in Community Engagement'

2014

A 3rd classroom is built and 48 children (aged 3-7) now attend the school

2015

An earthquake damages the school. A fundraising campaign for repair and rebuild is launched

2016

Following the sad passing of Kevin, SoE staff continue to visit the school to ensure that his vision and legacy lives on

2017

The repair and rebuild, following the earthquake, is completed

2020

The COVID-19 pandemic results in the closure of the school. Teachers remain in Malagiri and make home visits to the children to maintain learning

2021

The school celebrates its 10th anniversary. There are now 4 classes with 64 children aged 3-8. A link with West St Leonards Primary Academy is established

10 YEARS ON: THE MALAGIRI SCHOOL IN 2021

The school and the wider community thrives in an economically challenging environment that is still largely dependent on subsistence farming. Representatives from the Jangchup Trust and the local community ensure that there is a strong focus on the development of the whole child, that the children experience a healthy learning environment and that they are all provided with uniforms and food. The school sits firmly within the heart of the community and strives to improve family health and well-being.



When the school was required to close during the pandemic, Yubraj described how he and the staff maintained contact with the pupils and said:

'It's so good to see the children in this hard time...It's been (a) new experience going (to) their homes....We sometimes sing, dance and play with them but maintaining social distance. Our staff are really putting in their hard efforts and it's very fortunate that we are not victims of the pandemic'.

The school has 4 classes: Nursery (31 children); Lower Kindergarten (16 children); Upper Kindergarten (9 children); and Grade One (8 children). There are 4 dedicated and highly committed teachers who each have responsibility for a specialist subject. The headteacher, Yubraj Rasaili, is a science specialist and keen musician who encourages the children to express themselves creatively, often through art, song and dance.

Here Yubraj, together with the 3 other teachers, Elina Tamang (English specialist), Sarita Maya Bal (Maths specialist) and Amrit Thokar (Nepali specialist), have recorded short videos to introduce themselves.

Click on the photos of each teacher, or the links below, to view their videos.

Yubraj: <https://bit.ly/3vFOnTM>
Elina: <https://bit.ly/3ec180T>
Sarita: <https://bit.ly/3vDEyE9>
Amrit: <https://bit.ly/2POZWHs>



YUBRAJ RASAILI
HEADTEACHER AND
SCIENCE SPECIALIST



AMRIT THOKAR
NEPALI SPECIALIST



ELINA TAMANG
ENGLISH SPECIALIST



SARITA MAYA BAL
MATHS SPECIALIST

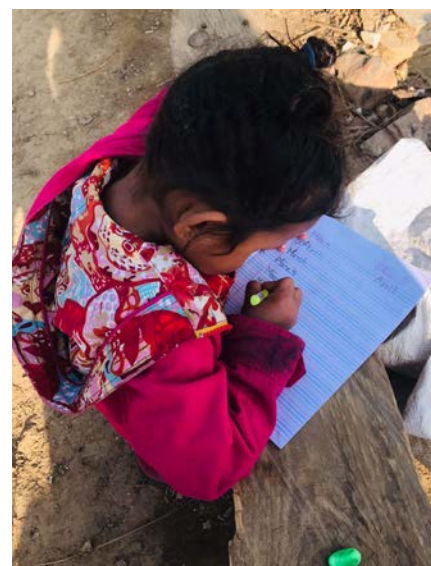
During 'normal' times, the school day begins at 8.00 am when the children arrive to wash and prepare themselves for breakfast at 8.30. At 9.00 they have an assembly, followed by a full and varied day ahead.

Click on the picture, right, to view a video of the children singing.

Below is an example of the daily timetable.



TIME	NURSERY	UPPER KINDERGARTEN	LOWER KINGERGARTEN	GRADE ONE
09:30	Maths	Science	Nepali	English
10:30	English	Nepali	Science	Maths
11:30	Lunch			
12:00	Sleep	English	Maths	Nepali
13.30	Nepali	Maths	English	Science
14:30	Break	Snacks		
15:00	Snacks	Rhymes/ Colouring	Social Studies	Social Studies
15:30	Washing Hands			
15:50	Evening Assembly			
16:00	Home Time			



THE SCHOOL AS A CATALYST FOR CHANGE

The school offers unique opportunities for local employment. The two cooks, the co-ordinator and the guard all live in the village and help to ensure that decisions about the future direction of the school take account of local aspirations and needs. It is hoped that, in time, it will be possible for former Malagiri pupils to be employed as teachers.

There are 71 former pupils currently continuing their education. Some attend the Shree Manakamana Basic School (grades 2-5) whilst most move on to the Shree Bageshwori Secondary School (grades 4-9).



For some families in the village, life is exceptionally difficult, and children can often face bereavement at a very young age. The Malagiri school has arranged for 5 former pupils to continue their education at the Bright Horizon children's home in Kathmandu. 2 of these pupils, Manita and Kriti plan to support the Malagiri school children during their holidays.

Aneeta Tamang (former headteacher) describes the impact that this project has had across the entire community. She said:

'We are very proud to be part of this beautiful and meaningful journey...from the beginning till today we have shared our memories, love, compassion and much dedication towards our goals to educate the children through learning by doing in Malagiri which is inspiring so many children...There are so many positive changes which bring positive impacts on society such as the importance of school and education, [the] same education rights for daughters, the awareness to support each other...and the power of unity'.



FORMER PUPILS' SUCCESS STORIES

THESE VIGNETTES OF TWO FORMER PUPILS ILLUSTRATE THE IMPACT OF EDUCATION ON THEIR LIVES. ONE OF THE MOST SIGNIFICANT GAINS OVER THE LAST 10 YEARS HAS BEEN THE SUCCESSFUL EDUCATION OF LOCAL GIRLS.

Bimila Thokar, pictured right, attended the Malagiri school from the age of 4. She is now 13 years old and is currently continuing her education at Bageshwori Higher Secondary School. Her younger brother also attends the Malagiri school.

Bimila, a conscientious pupil, has responsibility for taking her brother to school each day and also helps him complete his homework. Her parents are very supportive and are proud of her aspiration to become a teacher.



Anil Syangtan, pictured left, is 15 years old and was one of the first pupils to attend the Malagiri School. He was described as a 'very clever and smart student'. After 5 years, he moved to another school close to Malagiri where he spent a further 2 years studying.

He is currently continuing his education in an Indian monastery, where he is learning about the Buddhist faith. He feels that his education has given him an opportunity to grow and have different hopes and dreams in his life.

WEST ST LEONARDS PRIMARY ACADEMY LINKS WITH THE MALAGIRI SCHOOL

A school in Hastings, West St Leonards Primary Academy (WSLPA) has recently established a link with the Malagiri school. Dominic O'Regan, Principal of WSLPA contacted the school during the first COVID 19 lockdown. Here, Dominic recalls the initial conversation with Yubraj and said:

'We shared our experience of working through the many challenges of a global pandemic within education [and] I quickly learned that we shared the same belief that a creative approach to learning is essential....with a focus on learning from one another, the connection will enrich student experience for all pupils using a joint teaching approach. This balanced perspective allows for all children to understand life as a student in differing cultures'.

Both schools have recently exchanged self-portraits. WSLPA pupils created outlines of their heads using a bike light and some shadow. The children then drew their favourite things inside. The Malagiri school pupils drew themselves and thought about their future goals.



SCHOOL OF EDUCATION CONTRIBUTION



To date, over 70 SoE students, 8 members of staff and numerous friends have visited the school. Every visit provides an opportunity for sponsors to come together to gain a mutual understanding of the aspirations and needs of the school and, as a result, to agree priorities for the future.

SoE students, who developed a unique understanding of international and development education, used this experience to enrich their professional practice and inform their academic work. Whilst everyone has something different to offer and something new to learn, there is no doubt that Malagiri has a lasting and profound effect on every visitor.

Since 2011, staff, students, alumni and friends of the SoE have raised almost **£100,000** in support of all aspects of school life.

Funds are raised via the following 4 activities:

- Individual, regular donations - usually monthly; either by payroll giving or via Springboard
- Individual fund-raising activities - running a marathon or fulfilling a personal challenge
- Events - collections, cake sales, Christmas fairs, gigs and social events held at Pangdean Barn
- Grant aid applications - 'INTO giving' has provided £13,000 in grants

The 10th anniversary celebration provides an opportunity for the SoE to raise the profile of this project and identify targets and activities that will be vital for the future success of the school. For example, if 10 more regular donors, each giving £10/month were recruited, £1500 would be generated (with gift aid included).

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

If you would like to support the Malagiri school, and help us to ensure its success for the next 10 years, you can donate via the Springboard platform <https://springboard.brighton.ac.uk/p/malagirischool/pitch/>.

Every penny of your donation will be used to support the school.

Should you wish to keep up to date with news and developments from Nepal, please click <https://blogs.brighton.ac.uk/malagiri/>.

