

## Project Proposal

### **Vocational Education Program - Nepal Youth Foundation and Rotary Club of Patan**

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According to the Department of Foreign Employment, in 2012 about half a million Nepali citizens migrated abroad for work. Most migrant workers are **young people from rural areas** who seek work overseas spurred by poverty and a lack of decent employment opportunities. Many of these youth are unskilled and often illiterate labourers who earn as little as \$150 per month, in sometimes appalling working conditions. **The exodus of the labour force is now creating a huge deficit of active manpower** in the country, in addition to **affecting the family and social structure** in rural areas of Nepal.



The Nepal Youth Foundation (NYF) has recognized the **need to impart vocational skills to poor and underprivileged youth**, who are unable to pursue higher education and are in urgent need of income to support themselves and their families. The **target population** of its programme is **girls who have been freed from indentured servitude (Kamlari)** in Western Nepal and the NYF scholarship recipients.

The NYF has a team in Kathmandu that manages their Vocational Education Programme. Since most of the trainees are girls rescued from indentured servitude, a field office has also been set up in Nepalgunj to support the programme. To date, **the NYF has trained 530 youth in highly competitive and marketable trades** such as computer technology, junior engineering, auxiliary health professionals, agriculture technicians, electricians, mechanics, carpenters and tailors. The training provided involves a range of short-term courses from three months to full technical training of up to three years. In a country that has an unemployment rate of 46 per cent, the NYF programme has succeeded in **obtaining an 80 per cent employment rate for its graduates.**



The NYF covers the full cost for each trainee and has an established approach of offering group orientations on the scope of vocational education and training opportunities, followed by individual career counselling using standard tests to identify aptitude and interest. Thereafter, the trainees are enrolled in appropriate training programmes considering their skill sets and marketability of the training. Finally, the NYF assists with job placement and small business initiatives, including regular follow-ups for at least 3 months after completion of the training.

The NYF's **plan is to provide vocational education to 500 youth annually**. In the coming years, **a large number of Kamlari girls will complete their school education and will need to be placed for further studies or vocational training**. It is with this in mind that the Rotary Club of Patan would like to assist the NYF in enabling more young people to attain gainful employment and support themselves and their families.

The Rotary Club of Patan, in its effort to reduce poverty in underserved communities and develop opportunities for productive work in Nepal, is eager to continue its successful collaboration with the NYF and support its Vocational Education Programme.

The Rotary Club of Patan is **seeking partner support to fund the NYF's vocational training program of 100 adolescents** over the next **3 years** at an estimated project **cost of US\$ 50,000** (US\$ 500 per trainee). Each young person equipped with a professional skill will uplift the standard of his or her family within the community and society at large. Considering an average family size in Nepal of five, **an additional 500 people will thus be indirectly benefited.**