



RATO BANGALA PARTNERSHIP IN OUTREACH PROGRAMME

A Unique Public-Private Partnership
Adding Value to Nepal's Education Sector

JULY 2020

INTRODUCTION

The Rato Bangala Partnership in Outreach Programme (RBPOP) is a UNESCO awarded public private partnership programme of Rato Bangala School that works to uplift the education of Nepali children beyond the school itself. It was started with inputs from RBS parents, teachers and students in 2003.

MISSION STATEMENT

RBPOP works to help ensure that the children of Nepal get the opportunity to have quality education, regardless of their religion, ethnicity, socio-economic condition, or geographic origin.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

- To provide training for education leaders in the community.
- To provide teacher-training for teachers in government schools.
- To offer scholarships to needy students otherwise unable to attend school.
- To educate some deserving but disadvantaged students RBS.
- To assist public schools in

upgrading their facilities and equipment.

- To work for the welfare of children, both programmatically, and in research.

BACKGROUND

RBPOP is Rato Bangala School's social commitment to work with the community and to give back to the community. The overarching vision of the Rato Bangala group of institutions to transform communities through quality education is the driving force of RBPOP.

Involvement in community service helps Rato Bangala develop young citizens who are committed to social justice and reform.

THE LEGAL FRAMEWORK OF RBPOP

Schools such as RBS, that charge fees over and above that set for A Class schools, are expected to comply with the requirements set by Chapter 22. 9 (kha) of Nepal's Education Act and Rules of 2059.

RBS, in consultation with its stakeholders in 2003 has chosen to

charge full tuition to those studying in the school, and reserve 18% of the tuition fees and use it to provide scholarships to underprivileged children in the school, and in various schools around the country and work to provide quality education in government schools. The Program developed with the 18% of tuition fees was named Rato Bangala Partnership in Outreach Program.

Thus, RBPOP is an inalienable part of Rato Bangala School, defines its commitment to the larger community, and is embedded into the ethos of the school. The Programme is in compliance with the government's mandate and has a commitment to help uplift the education of disadvantaged Nepali children.

Parents understand, agree and sign this social commitment during the enrollment of their child.

RBPOP runs in complete transparency with a Board of Trustees consisting of five Rato Bangala parents, a legal adviser (former RBS parent) and three

Lalitpur Mayor Chiribabu Maharjan and his team at the ECD Orientation.



School leaders with the RBF Training Team



members from the school management. The Programs along with the allocation of the budget are presented, discussed and approved by the Board of Trustees annually.

The Rato Bangala community is sent updates about RBPOP projects every term in the school newsletter. Parent Representatives and PTA members are invited to every culminating program held at the school. Board members visit sites to get familiar with the RBPOP projects.

CURRENT BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Parents

Ms. Kumudini Shrestha
 Ms. Sheila Chhetri
 Mr. Shailesh Vaidya
 Ms. Shuvechha Khadka
 Mr. Bandhu Ranjan
 Mr. Ram Prasad Bhandari (Legal Advisor and former parent)

School

Ms. Shanta Dixit
 Ms. Milan Dixit
 Mr. Uttam Thapa

HISTORY OF RBPOP

RBPOP has completed two phases and is currently on its third phase of work. Since its establishment, RBPOP has worked in close collaboration with the government with a defined Memorandum of Understanding.

Phase 1: Program in Five Districts and Scholarship Programs

Phase 2: Dailekh School Project

Phase 3: Ongoing Projects in Lalitpur

Children enjoy the wooden blocks provided by RBPOP.



Phase 1: Program in Five Districts and Scholarship Programs

Five districts selected for the Phase 1 Program were Dailekh, Dhading, Lalitpur, Makwanpur and Myagdi. A Memorandum of Understanding with the Ministry of Education, Department of Education, District Education Office and each Partner School was signed. RBPOP worked with 50 schools and provided Scholarships to 250 students in these schools.

Thus RBPOP worked taking the holistic approach by doing the following:

- Training of School Leaders
- Mini Grant for infrastructure development
- Training of Teachers
- Providing essential stationery and teaching material
- Providing Scholarships

Results of Phase 1

- Student attendance improved
- Examination results were better
- Classrooms became Interactive and non-threatening
- Trained teachers stopped giving corporal punishment
- Students were involved in making decisions
- Project work and meetings done in classrooms
- Schools had books and libraries for children
- Students left private schools for RBPOP partner government schools.

Phase 2: Dailekh School Project

The Dailekh School Project worked with all the 513 schools of Dailekh District. It brought 900 school leaders and trained them in Kathmandu and it trained 1,900 teachers. Altogether 70,000 students were beneficiaries of the project. Originally planned for 2009 to 2014, the DSP upon the request of the Government extended for 2 more years, through 2016.

An innovative project within the Dailekh School Project was the Youth Project, whereby 18 high school graduates from Rato Bangala School received training to train youth volunteers to substitute teach for 3 weeks while the teachers were being trained.

The size and scope of the Dailekh School Project required RBF to raise additional funds. Mountain to Mountain from Switzerland provided the extra resource needed to complete the Dailekh School Project.

The Dailekh School Project received the Unesco-Hamdan Prize 2012, the “UNESCO-Hamdan bin Rashid Al-Maktoum Prize for Outstanding Practice and Performance in Enhancing the Effectiveness of Teachers”.

This prize came with an award of \$90,000, and required a proposal for the use of the prize money. It was used for 3 different purposes:

- 40% was used to develop libraries and train librarians in 150 schools

Reading time in the library



in Dailekh

- 40% was used for the RBPOP project replication in Gulmi\
- 20% of the money was used for the 'International Conference in Quality Education' in 2013

The conference became an extensive partnership between the Government, UNESCO, UNICEF, the Asian Development Bank and the Norwegian Embassy. Over 600 educators participated, and trainers and facilitators came from many different countries.

The ICQE is now an ongoing regular conference.

Phase 3: Projects in Lalitpur

RBPOP-Phase 3 programme has continued to contribute meaningfully towards developing child-friendly schools in Nepal with the following focus areas:

- School Leadership Training to bring about a shift in the culture of the school
- Teacher training on child-friendly practice
- Early Childhood Training
- STEAM (Science Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics) Science Fellowship
- Bal Sahitya Mahotsav in Government schools
- Orientation on Early Childhood Development to elected officials in Lalitpur
- Rapid Neurodevelopmental Assessment (RNDA)
- Radio Bal Sikai

LEAD SCHOOL OF LALITPUR PROJECT (LSOL)

To make a shift towards child friendly school culture in community schools, a three year project entitled Lead Schools of Lalitpur (LSOL) was introduced in 13 schools in Lalitpur in April 2017 to be completed in May 2020. This project followed RBPOP's UNESCO Awarded Dailekh School Project (DSP) and used the learning from Dailekh to plan a new project to ensure quality in school education.

A total of 13 school leaders are undergoing training on educational leadership skills and content delivery and 106 teachers are trained in child development, as well as content areas such as Math, Science, Language Arts and Social Studies, classroom management, content delivery and how to set up and run a library. This year 24 supportive monitoring school visits and 72 regular school visits have been planned, and mostly completed.

RBPOP is providing books for the children who are deprived of learning due to Covid.

BAL SAHITYA MAHOTSAV AND STEAM PROJECT IN PARTNER SCHOOLS

RBPOP also helps to train teachers of government schools all over the country to organise children's literature festivals (Bal Sahitya Mahotsav).

This year trainers from Rato Bangala Foundation helped the lead schools to organize BSM in their schools. RBPOP also collaborated with

Karkhana to conduct the Science Fellowship Program in the lead schools for students from Grade VI to VIII. 10 RBPOP partner schools participated in Mini- Bhawishya STEAM Challenge conducted by Karkhana on July 2019 at Rato Bangala School.

EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT PROJECT, COHORT I

Considering that early childhood education is the most important in a child's life, RBPOP launched Part 2 of the RBPOP-3 focusing on Early Childhood Development Training. To create developmentally appropriate learning environments in ECD classrooms the Early Childhood Development Project, was introduced in 13 schools. The project has been planned for three years starting from July 2018- June 2021 and includes training of 42 teachers of 13 schools consisting of 27 early childhood classrooms with provision of extensive material for ECD.

Material supplied to schools include a complete set of wooden blocks, stationery, puzzles, children's books, song/poem charts, storage boxes, trays, floor cushions, puppets, wooden figures for science and social studies, math material, organizing shelves and flex chart on Eleven Essential Child Centered Practices.

ECD COHORT I PROJECT SHARING PROGRAM

After one year of the program was completed benefiting 671 Children

Bal Sahitya Mahotsav at Pravat Higher Secondary School



Lead Trainer Kalpana Parajuli does a demonstration class in Lalitpur.



(362, 53.9 % boys: 309, 46.1 % girls), ECD Project Sharing Program for Cohort I-Year I was organized. Trainees from 13 participating schools shared their learning experiences and the changes they brought in their classrooms in the presence of Mr Khagraj Baral, the then Secretary of Education, as well as the Mayor of Lalitpur.

EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT (ECD) PROJECT, COHORT II

10 more schools in Lalitpur have been selected for ECD Project ECD Cohort II. The program was introduced in July 2019 and will be completed in June 2022. RBPOP provided the same material as that provided for Cohort I to Cohort II after initial training of teachers on the use of these material.

ORIENTATION FOR ELECTED OFFICIALS ON EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT

A landmark Orientation was held at Rato Bangala School with the elected officials of Lalitpur Municipality on 26 Sep 2018. Mayor Mr Chiribabu Maharjan and Deputy Mayor Ms Gita Satyal participated with ward chairs and education officials in interactive sessions and made commitments to work together to improve the early childhood education in Lalitpur.

RAPID NEURODEVELOPMENTAL ASSESSMENT (RNDA)

In 2019, RBPOP launched a new programme to train a group

of educators to use the Rapid Neurodevelopmental Assessment (RNDA) tool, a tool new to Nepal. Developed in Bangladesh, RNDA assesses eight neurodevelopment domains, plus two nutritional domains of stunting and wasting, of children from birth to 16 years. To understand this tool so that it can ultimately be implemented across Nepal, educators from RBS and RBF participated in an initial six-days training of trainers together with doctors from Kanti Children's Hospital. On November 18, 2019, Report Dissemination Program of RNDA was organized to share the findings of a study done in eight child care centers of Lalitpur Metropolitan City. A total 136 children (0-7 years) were assessed during the study period from July 2019 - Aug 2019. The results reveal that the children are not getting adequate stimulation and lag behind particularly in speech, cognition and behaviour, and are nutritionally compromised too.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Scholarship at Rato Bangala School

Since its inception, RBPOP has also supported 100% scholarships to marginalised girl students who are housed in the RBS hostel. Currently there are 17 children from Dailekh, Gorkha, Kavre, Itahari, Chitwan and Lalitpur.

Initially the hostel housed both boys and girls, but now is restricted to girls. To date 14 students have

graduated from RBS and are now attending colleges in Nepal, Australia and USA. Some have returned to work in their own home towns.

Two hostel wardens, a support staff and a volunteer teacher guide the children. RBPOP continues to provide scholarships to some of the hostel students, to pursue higher studies. The hostel students are linked to RBS Online from their respective homes, and many need support. RBPOP has provided those in need with laptops and tablets, and one child with a data package in order to ensure quality participation in the classrooms.

Scholarships in Other Schools

Since 2003, RBPOP has been providing to 30 students of neighboring schools such as Patan Higher Secondary School, Adarsha Saula Higher Secondary School, Saraswati Higher Secondary School, Hari Siddhi Higher Secondary School, Yuva Pratibha Vidhya Mandir and Rudrayani Secondary School. This scholarship makes it possible for these academically strong students to get their basic requirements of uniforms, book bags and stationery so that they are able to attend school comfortably since lack of such basic requirements prevented them from attending school.

Scholarships in Bright Horizon's Children Home, Matatirtha

Bright Horizon's Children's Home (BHCH), is a charity school for the

RNDA in session



Beading is fun!

underprivileged from all over Nepal. RBPOP is sponsoring two children per year in this school.

Scholarships for Teacher Trainees

RBPOP is also providing scholarship to 10 teachers per year from the community schools for Level One Teacher Training Program.

CONFERENCES

RBPOP is one of the sponsors of the ICQE (International Conference on Quality Education) and the Bal Sahitya Mahotsav and makes it possible for government school teachers from within the Valley and outside to attend the conferences, and to take BSM to the districts.

OTHER SUPPORT

RBPOP provided stationery and sports materials to the storm affected people in Bara. It continues to provide a small grant to the Dailekh School Network. CHEERS (hospital for Children for Eye, ENT and Rehabilitation Services) received building blocks, books and learning

material. CHEERS takes in pre-school aged children and provides them with initial training and enables them to join primary classes in different schools all around Nepal.

RADIO BAL SIKAI

Responding to the Pandemic and the lockdown and to reach children who are not connected to their schools, RBPOP has begun work on a unique radio program for children between the ages of 6 to 10 in collaboration with the Association of Community Radio Broadcasters Nepal (ACORAB). As ACORAB's network is nationwide, children all over Nepal will have access to this program. This program will focus on broadcasting meaningful information to children in order to pique their general interest and get them involved and interested in things around them. Broadcast twice a week, the program will consist of story-telling, recitation in chhanda, involving the children in the planting cycle, cooking and encouraging them to think mathematically and scientifically on a daily basis. They

will listen to music, learn to dance, sing and learn some arts and crafts. The program will also encourage active participation and inspire them to be helpful and kind around the house and develop life skills. In addition to RBPOP funds, this Rato Bangala Foundation project has received funding from NCELL to provide the Radio Bal Sikai program for a longer term.

WORKING WITH LALITPUR MUNICIPALITY

RBPOP has recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Lalitpur Municipality to work in education, particularly in early childhood development. The objective of the MOU is for achieving long term sustainable programs where RBPOP as well as Lalitpur Municipality, both contribute financially. The aim is to look out for the well-being of children from disadvantaged families providing them with the opportunity to learn and grow into happy, confident and skilled individuals.

PAST BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF RBPOP ARE AS FOLLOWS:

The Pioneering Board of Trustees:

Parents	School
Ms. Helen Sherpa	Ms. Shanta Dixit
Mr. Sarad Neupane	Ms. Milan Dixit
Mr. Radhamani Khatiwada	Mr. Manesh Shrestha
Mr. Rajiv Pradhan	
Mr. Shankar Raj Pandey	
Mr. Ram Prasad Bhandari	

The following parents have served as the Board of Trustees of RBPOP and we are thank them for their valuable involvement and support through the years.

- Dr. Jagdish Agarwal
- Mr. Kedar Sharma
- Mr. Prabin Shrestha
- Ms. Preeti Thapa
- Ms. Milu Shree Shakya
- Er. Uma Shankar Sah
- Ms. Meeta Sainju Pradhan

Children in Dailekh made *Chakati* mats for the junior classes as a class project.



School leaders with the RBF Training Team

