

Bi-annual Report

SAMAANTA
FOUNDATION



Education. Empowerment. Equality.

Introduction

Samaanta Foundation is a Nepal-based not-for-profit organization that promotes equality and empowerment by providing quality higher education opportunities to meritorious public school graduates from poor socio-economic backgrounds. The Foundation provides comprehensive Fellowships which cover tuition fees, accommodation, and any other related expenses including transportation, uniform, lab and exam fees as well as mentorship and other extra-curricular support.

Overview

The past six months at Samaanta Foundation have been busy and productive. The Fellows have shown their commitment to Paying it Forward, successfully organizing this year's Fundraising Campaign. They worked together really well and raised US\$5300 against a target of US\$4,000.

11 of the 12 fellows from the 10th cohort have been selected to continue their Samaanta Fellowship. Manoj Bisunke has become the first Samaanta Fellow to pursue Engineering. Two more Fellows, Dila KC and Upahar Rai, have received full scholarships to attend the Asian University for Women in Bangladesh.

Two fellows each from the fifth and the sixth cohort have graduated from King's College and Thames International College with excellent results.



Picture: The entire Samaanta Family at the Meet and Greet Ceremony



Picture: Archara Giri and Kumar BK from the 5th Cohort on their Graduation Ceremony, Thames International College.

12th Cohort Update

Our newest cohort have enrolled in colleges in Kathmandu, and are settling in well. They are actively participating in Samaanta workshops and training, and are building strong relationships with their peers and seniors. They contributed substantively to make the One More Fellow Campaign successful.



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Fellow Updates



9th Cohort Fellow Sunita Nepali has received a full scholarship to pursue her undergraduate studies at Whitman College in Washington, USA where she is studying Economics and Politics of Economics and Infrastructure. She completed her IB Diploma in May 2023 from UWC Red Cross Nordic, Norway with excellent results.

Picture: Sunita Nepali at Whitman College, USA

Karsang Lama, 11th cohort Fellow, has also received a full scholarship to attend Pearson UWC in Canada. She will be heading to Canada in the Fall to begin her IB degree.

Partnerships

Rachita Shrestha (8th Cohort) and Shubhalkshya Tamang (10th Cohort) have been enrolled at Kathmandu University for B.Sc. in Environmental Science and B.Sc. in Applied Physics respectively. Through their enrolment, we have established a partnership with Kathmandu University (KU), one of Nepal's leading universities, to facilitate higher education for deserving students.

We have also entered a formal partnership with King's College to support our Fellows. These partnerships put us in good stead to provide meaningful opportunities for our senior Fellows.

10th Cohort Placements

Samaanta Foundation's 10th Cohort completed their 12th grade examinations. 9 out of the 12 Fellows have been selected to pursue their Undergraduate studies in Nepal. This is the highest number of Fellows from a single cohort that have been selected for further studies. Two more Fellows have been accepted to continue their higher education on full scholarships in Bangladesh, capping the remarkable performance of the cohort. The details of our continuing Fellows are below:

S. No.	Fellow Name	College Name	Stream
1	Dipak Kumar Kurmi	King's College	Bachelor's of Business Administration (BBA)
2	Yubraj Ale Magar	Thames International College	Bachelor's of Business Administration (BBA)
3	Manoj Bisunke	National College of Engineering	Bachelors in Civil Engineering
4	Shubhalashya Tamang	Kathmandu University	B.Sc. in Applied Physics
5	Rajesh Sunar	King's College	Bachelor's of Science in Information technology (BSIT)
6	Puskar Bharati	Thames International College	Bachelor's in Journalism and Mass Communication (BJM)
7	Deepa Amagai	Thames International College	Bachelor's of Business Administration (BBA)
8	Shobha Adhikari	King's College	Bachelor's of Science in Information technology (BSIT)
9	Dila KC	AUW	Liberal Arts
10	Upahar Rai	AUW	Liberal Arts
11	Ranjita Ramtel	Thames International College	Bachelor's in Journalism and Mass Communication (BJM)

Fellow-led Fundraising Campaign

Every year, Fellows come together to raise funds to support one more deserving Fellow from a disadvantaged community in Nepal. This year, the Fellows launched a local and social media fundraising event in which individuals or groups could donate any amount of money to the Foundation. This would also help raise the Foundation's profile.

The One More Fellow Campaign is built on the principle of "Paying It Forward". Our Fellows strongly believe that the opportunity provided to them by the Foundation transformed their lives. This was an entirely Fellow-Led initiative to fund at least one more deserving candidate in the 2024 cohort.

Fellows organized themselves into teams and reached out to different organizations, companies, colleges and groups to promote the campaign. They raised a total of \$5,260 over a three-month period. As part of the fundraiser, the Fellows led a 'Deusi Bhailo Program' during the Tihar festival, where the Fellows went to the homes and offices of several well-wishers of Samaanta Foundation to play Deusi Bhailo, celebrate the festival, and raise funds.

Meet and Greet Ceremony

Samaanta Foundation Fellows hosted a Meet and Greet Ceremony to celebrate the success of the Fundraising Campaign and 12 years of the Samaanta Journey on the 23rd of December 2023. The event gathered our Fellows, alumni, partners, friends, family and well-wishers of Samaanta to appreciate their love and support. It was a grand success!



Picture: Group photo of Samaanta Foundation Alumni



Picture: Fellows at the Event

Extracurricular Activities

At Samaanta, we are committed to the overall development of our Fellows and continue to emphasize extracurricular activities. We present some highlights below.

Community Engagements: Two of our Fellows from the 11th Cohort, Suraj Mandal and Rabin Neupane, facilitated interesting sessions at their respective communities demonstrating the principle of "Paying It Forward" in action. During the Dashain festival, Suraj hosted a session on the topic "What after SEE," where he provided insights into choosing the right academic stream after the 10th grade and shared information on exploring scholarships and other learning opportunities. Rabin organized an afforestation program in his village, involving the Child Club that he had established last year.

Women Lead: Deepa Amgai, Ranjita Sarki, Shobha Adhikari and Dila KC from the 10th Cohort completed a year-long [WomenLEAD](#) Leadership Training Program in the summer of 2023. The course provides young women with intensive leadership training, skills-building opportunities, mentoring, a peer-support network, and university preparation. The Course trains 30 young women annually, who in turn train another 450 students in their schools and communities using the tools provided through the School Leadership Program. So far, 14 Samaanta Fellows have completed Women Lead fellowships.

Aakar Nepal: Eleven Fellows of the 11th cohort completed a 3-month long summer program organized by Aakar Nepal. Aakar Nepal is a Pestalozzi Development Fund-supported project aimed towards interest and confidence building among Nepali youth to design and implement solutions to problems in their community. For each participant, a professional mentor is assigned for the duration of the project. Fellows conducted various programs such as awareness programs on women's reproductive health, afforestation programs, and cancer awareness and consultations as their project. This is the second year Samaanta Fellows have played a critical role in the success of Aakar Nepal's summer program.



Left: Women Lead Graduation Ceremony, 2023



Right: Rabin in his community with the kids he conducted an afforestation program with.

Finances

In the next academic year (July 2024 – June 2025), we plan to i) expand the number of Fellows we recruit to 20, and ii) rent a bigger office. Each year, the number of eligible outstanding students is much higher than the Fellowships we can offer given the financial constraints we face, with financial resources as the primary limitation. Our current office is not large enough anymore to hold all our Fellows at the same time, which makes programming difficult.

Accounting for 20 new Fellows in the 13th cohort and a budget for renting a larger, more adequate office space, the estimated expense for the current academic 2024-25 (Jul 2024- Jun 2025) is US\$165,000. The following table presents the pledged and/or anticipated funds from our current partners for the coming year, indicating a resource gap of USD 52,000. We will look to cover this gap over the next few months. Additional resources would also enable us to deepen the Fellowship. This could include providing adequate laptops for our Fellows and expanding our programs.

Cost Estimates for the Year 2024-2025

	Pledged funds	USD
1	Home Loan Experts (HLE)	16,000
2	Foundation Care for All (FCFA)	5,500
3	Pestalozzi International Foundation, UK	12,000
4	Building Education	10,000
5	Sharing a Smile	12,000
6	Bhoos	20,000
7	Mather Fund	5,000
8	Individual contributions	20,000
9	Interest on reserve funds	5,000
10	One more fellow campaign	4,000
11	Fellows' parents' contribution	3,500
	TOTAL	\$113,000
	Estimated costs	\$165,000
	Financing gap	\$52,000

Thank You!

Samaanta Foundation and our Fellows have been on a remarkable journey over the past 12 years. We could not even have imagined in 2012 that we would become the most comprehensive higher education Fellowship program in Nepal. None of this would have been possible without your love, support, and guidance. Thank you for believing in us to help level the playing field so that talented students from disadvantaged backgrounds get the same opportunities to shine and break down barriers.