

NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2025

NEW CLEC INSTALLATION IN BTRM

From April 26–29, 2025, the Digital Bridges of Nepal (DBofN) team successfully completed Phase One of establishing Collaborative Learning Environment Centers (CLECs) in three schools of Bhimsenthapa Rural Municipality (BTRM), Gorkha. The schools included Shree Bindrawati Secondary School (Masel), Shree Saraswati Secondary School (Borlang), and Shree Shanti Secondary School (Baguwa). Despite delays caused by a nationwide teachers' strike, the installations were completed on time, thanks to strong collaboration with BTRM officials, school staff, and local communities. This project was initiated at the request of Lok Prasad Banjara, Mayor of Bhimsenthapa Rural Municipality, whose vision to

bring modern, inclusive education to the region sparked the idea of building a network of CLECs across the municipality. The installation of these three CLECs represents the first major step in turning that vision into reality.

Following the installations, Phase Two began with onboarding and training programs for CLEC teachers and students, conducted from May 13 to 20. During the onboarding process for teachers and students, they were introduced to modern methodologies and

guidelines that promote peer-to-peer learning, student engagement, and collaboration using the equipment in the CLEC room.

As a part of our commitment to strengthen and upskill educators to modern collaborative approaches using technology, a total of 17 educators, including newly selected CLEC teachers and those from the existing CLEC at Shree Siddhakali Secondary School, Tandrang, participated in a 1-credit course on the CLEC approach in teaching and learning. The training was facilitated by Sandip Dhungana and Samiksha Hada from the Continuing Professional and Education Center (CPEC), Kathmandu University School of Education (KUSOED), in partnership with the DBofN team. The course focused on the CLEC methodology, emotional intelligence, innovative pedagogies, and classroom management. This phase marks a key milestone in empowering rural educators and students, aiming to create inclusive, collaborative, and future-ready learning environments in BTRM.





COLLABORATIVE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT CENTERS (CLECS) POISED TO TRANSFORM EDUCATION IN GORKHA



GORKHA, NEPAL – A transformative initiative is set to revolutionize education in Bhimsenthapa Rural Municipality (RM) with the launch of Collaborative Learning Environment Centers (CLECs) in three schools: Shanti Ma. Bi, Saraswoti Ma. Bi, and Bridawati Ma. Bi. Led by DB4N, the CLEC initiative aims to bridge the education and digital divide by equipping students and teachers with essential tech skills.

Recent baseline surveys and field visits conducted by B. N. Dhital, Research Assistant from Kathmandu University School of Education (KUSOED), in March 2025 show strong enthusiasm,

with students eager to enhance digital proficiency and teachers seeing CLECs as a tool for better collaboration and tech integration. Mr. Dhital's report finds local government officials hopeful of expanding CLECs in every ward office and schools within Bhimsenthapa RM.

Challenges remain, including limited device access, infrastructure gaps, and the need for teacher training. To ensure sustainability and maximize impact, Mr. Dhital recommends capacity building through structured digital literacy training for teachers, improving internet connectivity and upgrading school computer labs, planning and securing long-term resource allocation from LG and schools, local resource-sharing (e.g. labor), and curriculum integration through standardized CLEC syllabus and certification for students.

With the right support, CLECs can empower students, strengthen teaching, and drive digital education forward in rural Nepal.



STORIES

Students do their own research on the computer using the internet in the CLEC lab and they are adding up the new things while answering which makes me so happy.

- SUMITRA BHATTA
Teacher, Tandrang, Gorkha

EMPOWERING EDUCATORS: AI AND PRODUCTIVITY TOOLS TRAINING

Biratnagar, March 11, 2025—A recent demo training session, led by Tashi Norbu, who has taught computer science to grades 11 and 12 at Shechen monastery for over five years, introduced teachers from Shree Sarwajanik Secondary School, Biratnagar to AI and digital productivity tools, equipping them with essential skills to enhance their efficiency in education. The session focused on practical applications of AI in lesson planning and problem-solving.

Teachers explored AI tools such as POE, Quillbot, and Humane AI, learning how to use them for creating exam questions and solving mathematical problems. The session provided step-by-step guidance on integrating these tools into daily tasks, improving productivity and workflow. In addition to AI, the training covered fundamental digital skills, including email communication, Google Drive management, and the use of Google Docs, Slides, and Sheets for lesson planning and document organization. These tools were emphasized as crucial for collaboration and efficiency in teaching. Conducted remotely via Google Meet, the session engaged five teachers, with the DBofN team also present. Teachers appreciated the practical approach and requested handouts for future reference. Many participants expressed enthusiasm for more extensive training opportunities.

DB4N plans to expand training initiatives for CLEC teachers, ensuring continuous professional development. This effort aims to empower educators with essential digital skills, fostering a more dynamic and efficient learning environment.



In the CLEC room, we can work individually or in groups. Group work is easier in this space, allowing us to collaborate and learn from one another. Using computers enhances our learning experience, and if we struggle to understand something in class, we can use resources like YouTube, Google, or ChatGPT to expand our knowledge.

- GAGAN BUDATHOKI
Student, Jomsom, Mustang

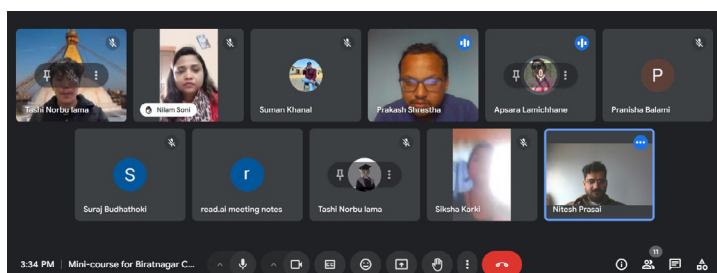
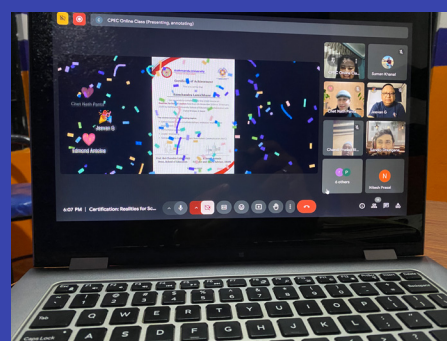
CERTIFICATION CEREMONY FOR SCHOOL LEADERS' 1-CREDIT COURSE

A virtual certification ceremony on February 6, 2025, honored the principals and vice-principals of all CLEC-installed schools for completing the 1-credit course *Realities for School Leaders*. Co-created by the Continuing Professional and Educational Center (CPEC), the official training unit of Kathmandu University, and DB4N, the course covered key topics such as school leadership, instructional leadership, leader well-being, and non-violent communication.

Training was conducted in two parts: an in-person session (November 24–25, 2024) and a virtual session (January 1–3, 2025). Dr. Chet Nath Panta, an expert in educational leadership, led the sessions with support from co-facilitators Samiksha Hada (teacher educator at CPEC) and Nitesh Prasai (team leader of DB4N Nepal).

All seven CLEC school principals and vice-principals successfully completed the course, demonstrating their dedication to professional growth, students, and their communities.

This initiative, along with last year's 3-credit course for CLEC teachers, reflects Digital Bridges' ongoing commitment to strengthening communities through education.





Kapan, February 2025—The successful establishment of a liaison office in Kapan marks a major milestone in expanding the Collaborative Learning Environment Centers (CLEC) initiative. With the office now fully operational, the team is set to enhance coordination and efficiency in daily activities.

The office setup included key installations such as a new bank account for streamlined financial transactions, internet services for seamless connectivity, and proper archiving of old documents to ensure effective record-keeping. Designed to reflect CLEC's collaborative aesthetic, the office fosters teamwork and reinforces the DB4N's vision.

To further strengthen its presence, the office has been added to Google, improving accessibility for stakeholders. Notably, Saugat Balami, a key stakeholder responsible for CLEC room design and furniture, has generously donated a custom table for the laptop equipment as a complementary addition, serving as a showcase piece in the office.

To ensure smooth operations and ongoing progress, the team conducts biweekly meetings at the office, reinforcing structured coordination. With these foundational elements in place, the liaison office is well-positioned to support CLEC's goals, driving efficiency and expanding its impact in the region.

MOU AND LOA WITH RIC, KUSOED



In January, we strengthened our partnership with Kathmandu University School of Education's (KUSOED) Research and Innovation Center (RIC) by signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) and a Letter of Agreement (LoA) to expand our data collection efforts. This collaboration, led by Dr. Rebat

Kumar Dhakal, Coordinator of RIC, and Edmond Antoine, Founder of DB4N, marks a significant step forward in measuring the impact of our initiatives.

As part of the agreement, RIC has appointed a dedicated Research Assistant, Mr. Bhola Nath Dhital, to lead a comprehensive data analysis project. This project will track and report on the impact of three new CLEC installations in Bhimsen Thapa Municipality, with concrete findings set for publication by year's end. This research goes beyond data—it drives transformation. By gathering compelling evidence of the CLEC model's effectiveness, we can refine our approach and scale our impact.

RIC, a leading hub for educational research and technological innovation, plays a vital role in developing cutting-edge solutions for modern learning challenges. The partnership between RIC and DB4N fosters long-term collaboration focused on impactful research, knowledge-sharing, and real-world applications of the CLEC model. By leveraging RIC's expertise and innovative strategies, we aim to drive meaningful societal change and advance transformative developments in education and beyond.



A NOTE FROM CLAUDE, OUR TREASURER



As we begin 2025, we do so with renewed energy and purpose—even as we feel the absence of Craig. Craig, thank you for your invaluable contributions over the years. Your legacy continues to inspire us.

We're also excited to welcome back Ed, our original founder, who has joined us as a consultant for six months. His guidance is already proving invaluable to our DB4N teams here and in Nepal.

Under Ed's supervision, we have an aggressive development schedule in Nepal led by Nitesh and his team. Our first project of the year was carried out in collaboration with the Bhimsenthapa Rural Municipality of Gorkha, where we established Collaborative Learning Environment Centers (CLECs)

in three schools. These centers had become fully operational by Q2. We're also advancing efforts in Khotang—a region we've long studied and have two promising projects developing in Triyuga. These initiatives are made possible thanks to the incredible people who work tirelessly to support our work helping to strengthen Nepalese communities through education. We are deeply grateful.

A special thank you goes to Jeevan Ji, who, despite a demanding schedule, has stepped up to launch our communications team. This is no small feat, and we're confident that clearer communication will amplify our impact and help our donors better understand the difference they're making. Thank you, Jeevan and team!

We also want to recognize our former bookkeeper, Punam, for her dedication and many contributions. While she has decided to step down to spend more time with her family, we warmly welcome GERALYN,

who is stepping in as our new bookkeeper. Thank you, Punam—and welcome aboard, GERALYN!

To all our readers: I invite you to support our mission. No donation is too small—every contribution continues to support our efforts.

Please take a moment to watch this inspiring video and see the real impact your support is having on lives: <https://youtu.be/3QqKMBLwn9o>

To date, we've launched 6 CLECs, and we're on track to double that number this year. You can help us get there.

Become a donor today:
<https://www.flipcause.com/secure/donate/MjzMilz>

Digital Bridges 4 Nepal is a 501c3 organization. Donations are tax deductible. Our Tax ID number is: 47-5248950