

# NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2024

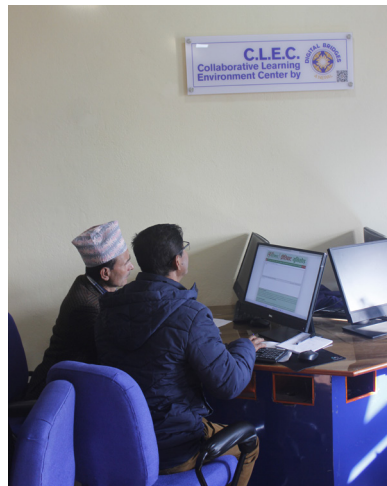
## SHORT COURSE “REALITIES OF SCHOOL LEADERS”

On November 24–25, DB4N, in partnership with Kathmandu University School of Education (KUSOED), conducted an in-person educational leadership training titled *Realities of School Leaders* for CLEC school Principals and Vice-Principals at the Collaborative Learning Education Center (CLEC) at KUSOED. The session was led by Dr. Chet Nath Panta, an expert in educational leadership, supported by co-facilitators Samiksha Hada (teacher educator at CPEC, official training unit of KU), and Nitesh Prasai and Prakash Shrestha from the DB4N Nepal Team.

The training will continue with virtual sessions on January 1–3, allowing participants to join remotely.

Seven Principals and Vice-Principals attended the in-person session and found it highly productive and insightful, with topics that they thought were not only highly relevant but also practical and relatable to their experiences.

This training, along with last year's CLEC teacher training, reflects DB4N's commitment to the sustainable growth of CLECs. By staying connected with school administrations and CLEC teachers, offering ongoing support, and providing continuous pedagogical and leadership training to CLEC teachers and school leaderships respectively, DB4N ensures CLECs remain functional and impactful over the long term.



## HAPPY NEW YEAR!

We deeply appreciate your support and collaboration in advancing DB4N's mission of "Strengthening Communities Through Education". Thanks to you, we've achieved significant milestones and look forward to an even greater impact together in the year ahead.

Wishing you and your loved ones joy, success, and prosperity in 2025!



# FIRST-EVER DONOR'S JOURNEY BY DB4N

DB4N recently organized a first-ever transformative 7-day donor journey in Nepal, blending cultural exploration, community engagement, and educational outreach. The team, alongside donors, visited iconic heritage sites like Patan Durbar Square, Swayambhunath, and Kathmandu Durbar Square, gaining deep cultural and traditional insights. They also visited Corporate Reliance Service in Sanepa to meet

with our law firm to discuss our legal works and engaged with educators at Kathmandu University School of Education (KUSOED), discussing future collaborations to strengthen Nepal's education system in rural and underserved communities of Nepal. In Pharping, the group visited sacred temples and caves, followed by a lunch at the top of a hill cooked by the beautiful couple, Saugat and Pranisha.

A key highlight was the visit to Shree Siddhakali Secondary School, where donors interacted with students and teachers, donated sports equipment, and participated



in interactive learning sessions. The team also visited DB4N's pilot project for a community, the Collaborative Learning Environment Center (CLEC) in Bhimsen Thapa Rural Municipality, which was installed in collaboration with local leaders with a vision of making the municipality digitally smart and conducting training for the various local and governmental organizations, and the local community. The mayor, municipal staff, and donors shared messages, discussed the project's potential, and extended their best wishes for its success.

This journey reaffirmed DB4N's **"Strengthening Communities Through Education"** mission in Nepal's remote areas. The trip concluded with a visit to the historic Gorkha Palace, the birthplace of King Prithvi Narayan Shah, and a farewell dinner in Kathmandu, where donors exchanged heartfelt messages, marking the end of a truly impactful journey.



## STORIES



If CLEC had been introduced when I was in grade 6, I believe I would have developed even greater skills by now. With just one year left before I complete my course, I regret not being able to use CLEC

daily. Nonetheless, the experience so far has been enriching, and I'm eager to continue learning from it in the time I have left.

- SUSHMA LAMICHHANE

*Student, Shree Siddhakali Ma Vi, Tandrang, Gorkha*



CLEC has empowered students by enabling them to use computers for independent research, fostering a culture of self-directed learning. This

experience has sparked a noticeable positive change in students' behavior, encouraging curiosity, responsibility, and innovation.

Moreover, CLEC's impact extends beyond the classroom. By raising awareness about the potential for personal and community development through local initiatives, we can inspire people to invest their skills and efforts within their communities. This could, in turn, reduce the number of individuals seeking opportunities abroad by showing them that meaningful progress can be achieved right where they are.

- NARAYAN PRASAD BHATTARAI

*Ward Chairman, Gorkha + S.M.C Chairman*



We are pleased to announce an important update regarding the organizational structure of the DB4N Liaison

Office in Nepal. As part of our ongoing efforts to enhance operational efficiency and leadership, we have selected Mr. Nitesh Prasai as the new Team Leader of the liaison office.

Mr. Prasai will take on this critical role, leading the team with his expertise and dedication to advancing our mission and goals in Nepal.



# YOUTH AT THE HEART OF CHANGE:

## SUPPORTING DIGITAL BRIDGES 4 NEPAL



On December 28, 2024, Digital Bridges 4 Nepal (DB4N) officially launched the "Leap for Khotang" fundraising campaign during the vibrant Gurung Lhosar celebration in New York. This event not only marked the start of DB4N's journey but also highlighted the incredible potential of youth engagement in giving back to their communities.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to Mr. Om Gurung, president of The Gurung (Tamu) Society, for generously providing us with the opportunity to share our mission of strengthening communities through education. A special thanks to Eva Gurung Shrestha, Arya Dolma, Sheila Gurung, and Rakshya Gurung for their tireless efforts in raising funds and spreading awareness about DB4N's mission to support rural students in Khotang.

Our appreciation also goes to the DB4N team members Punam Gurung and Nichols Stebenne as well as the amazing moms Anu Gurung, Yangom Gurung, and Bobbie Gurung. Their dedication and hard work were instrumental in making this fundraising event a success.

This is just the beginning for DB4N. With your involvement and support, we aim to assist more schools and communities in need. Together, we can inspire the next generation and create meaningful change to strengthen our communities through initiatives like this.

Let's build bridges, one step at a time, for a brighter future.



## CLEC UPGRADE IN KUSOED AND INAUGURATION OF THE ROOM



## ROBUST PARTNERSHIP WITH KUSOED COLLABORATING WITH CPEC

**CLEC Upgrade:** 12 All-In-One PCs were added to the new CLEC building at KUSOED, replacing 8 multi-PC devices and adding an extra table with 4 chairs. DB4N also handled the electrical wiring, and carpeting, and redesigned the room to align with the Collaborative Learning Environment Center.

**Co-create moments:** Co-organized a sessions between DB4N and CPEC for understanding and future collaboration.

**MoU Signing:** An MoU was signed between CPEC and DB4N to formalize their collaboration.

**Official Inauguration:** The new CLEC room was officially inaugurated in the presence of the Dean and other key parties.

**LoA for Short Course:** A Letter of Agreement (LoA) was issued for a short course partnership.

## CLEC TEACHER'S GRADUATION

**Teacher Certification:** 8 out of 12 CLEC teachers completed their course and were formally certified by the Dean of KUSOED and other relevant authorities.



## A NOTE FROM CLAUDE, OUR TREASURER



As we close the year on behalf of our team at DB4N, we deeply appreciate all who have contributed or continue to support our work in

**helping to strengthen Nepalese communities through education. Our goal next year is to double our CLEC footprint. The best way you can support us is by visiting our website and donate. No donation is too small and your contribution will support our growth. Donate!**

We continue to identify locations for our Collaborative Learning Environment Centers(CLEC). As we begin 2025, we will have a few announcements to share with you.

We are excited to announce the opening of our liaison office in Budanilkantha Municipality, Ward No. 11, Kathmandu District, Nepal. This office enhances our efficiency, ensures a continuous local presence, and serves as the primary coordination hub for DB4N. It manages local operations, regulatory matters, stakeholder communication, and partnerships, including with KUSOED, while supporting the implementation of CLEC and other projects in Nepal. In November, Ed Antoine founder of DB4N, and several guests were in Nepal to continue promoting our work. The trip was a great success, combining cultural exploration, educational collaboration, and community impact.

We continued our collaboration with Kathmandu University School of Education (KUSOED), strengthening our partnership in 2023. Research conducted during the year underscored the collective need among students, teachers, administrators, and local governments to modernize educational approaches, and we successfully certified 8 out of 12 CLEC teachers. Building on this progress, we signed an MoU in 2024 with KUSOED's Continuing and Professional Education Centre (CPEC), which is dedicated to enhancing education standards in Nepal through training, workshops, and courses. In collaboration with CPEC, we organized a one-credit course for CLEC principals and vice principals, focusing on leadership and professional growth.

I am always amazed by all the great work that our Nepal team accomplishes. Please join me in viewing this updated report (**ABOUT US!**) and witness the impact your support is having on real people's lives.

Wishing you and your families a very prosperous holiday season and a happy New Year!

With Gratitude  
Claude

## CLEC LEADER'S COURSE

### In-Person Session

**Completion:** The 3-day in-person session at KUSOED was successfully completed by the CLEC principals and vice-principals.



## LIASION OFFICE REGISTRATION

**Liaison Office Registration:** The registration process for the liaison office in Nepal is completed.

### Setup in Progress:

The setup of the liaison office is actively in progress.

## KALIKOT SCOUTING

**Kalikot Project Scouting:** The scouting of the Kalikot project area was completed.

### Fiber Optics Installation:

The installation of fiber optics internet is currently in progress.

