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**AUGUST NEWSLETTER: Meet the students you support!**

## **Meet the students and teachers in Jomsom using the CLEC**

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### **Meet Tsering Bhuti Gurung, a student in grade 12.**

When we first met with Tsering in the CLEC, she was anxious and nervous to talk with us, but slowly she gathered courage to speak openly and confidently.

She loves using computers. She is amazed by the design and structure of the CLEC where she is really enjoying learning. She is a Civil Engineering student. The CLEC makes it fun to learn and better understand her subject.

#### **Have you used a computer in the classroom before?**

Yes! From class six [aged 13] we have a compulsory computer subject. From class six to eight we have to study.

#### **What subjects are you studying right now?**

It's all about technical subjects. We learn civil engineering and there are lots of technical subjects.

#### **What does it feel like to use the CLEC?**

### What makes the CLEC unique?

There is no sound system in Computer lab but here we have a smart TV for sounds and we can work in a group easily due to the setup of the room.



### Sandip Pun, a student in grade 11

Sandip Pun is from Dhorpatan, Baglung. Dhorpatan is the only Hunting Reserve in Nepal. He is currently studying in class 11. He is really interested in sports and likes to play volleyball. He wants to join the national volleyball team.

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classroom. For example, he tells us he is able to remember the things that are taught in the CLEC better. He also says his English has improved enormously thanks to CLEC.

**What skills to you want to improve using the CLEC?**

I really want to increase my typing speed. Since we have to use AutoCAD, I want to be skilled at it.

**What is your favorite thing about the CLEC?**

We can do group work in CLEC which will be easier and we can learn from our friends also. If we don't understand something from the teachers, we can come here and search on YouTube, Google, or Chat GPT and develop our knowledge.

**How do you feel when working in the CLEC?**

It's very easy to work in groups in CLEC rather than in a computer lab. Internet connection is also good in CLEC compared to the computer lab. We have to work individually in the computer lab and it is quite embarrassing if we don't know something. But in CLEC we work in a group which is easier and faster.

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### **Meet Karna Thakali, a teacher in Jomsom**

Karna Thakali is a teacher actively using the Collaborative Learning Environment Center (CLEC) in Jomsom. Karna was raised and educated in Mustang and cares deeply about his community. He's been teaching for over 15 years and holds a Masters Degree from Tribhuvan University. He is very passionate about teaching and

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of the CLEC because it gives his students the opportunity to use the latest technology and connect to the wider world.

### **What are your students like in Jomsom?**

Mustang is one of the most remote areas of Nepal and geographically it is very challenging. Also, the climate here is a big challenge we are facing.

There are students whose families are poor so they have had difficulty accessing quality education. They are from working families and struggle to get to school every day, and they often don't have enough money to buy textbooks [and other supplies].

*[Below] Karna teaching his students in the Collaborative Learning Environment Center*



### **What is it like to have a CLEC in Jomsom?**

In most of the schools, the focus is on securing good grades in [the official] SLC/SEE [exam]. If the students get good marks then the school thinks it has succeeded.

But I don't like to focus too much on grades or GPA [because then] we are only teaching them to win the competition by focusing on themselves rather than teaching them about winning together.

The lab setup of the CLEC is very different from traditional computer setup. On each table we have four students sitting together. Four students together allows them to share ideas... help each other while making presentations, and work together as a group.

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### **How has the CLEC changed the way you teach?**

Before the installation of the CLEC, I used to enter the classroom and give lectures to the students. There were no practical exercises and I did not know how much the students had learned. After installation of the CLEC, I now teach them using slides which take some time to create but will benefit them.

Students also make presentations collaboratively and present them with the computers, which has also **increased** their **speaking** skills and **leadership** skills. It will make skilled manpower in the future. This is the best thing about the CLEC.

### **Do you want to support teachers like Karna to improve young people's lives in rural and remote communities in Nepal?**

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## **Donor's Message**

**"First I'd like to thank the entire Digital Bridges 4 Nepal team for allowing me to be part of your efforts. It's incredible seeing all the progress. There's still a lot more to do but I am hopeful that our work will contribute to a brighter future and impact for all students!"**

# SHARMEELA & NABIN SHERCHAN

## New York, USA

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### Our Recent Made Trip to Jomsom



## remote villages in Nepal.

If you ask an average Nepali person about Mustang, they will say, "The country beyond the mountains." They might also tell you about the amazing apple wine produced in the region.

If you ask an average Indian person, she will tell you about the Muktinath Temple. It is one of the highest temples in the world at 3,800 meters, or over 12,000 feet. It is sacred to both Hindus and Buddhists who honor Vishnu and dakinis, or Sky Dancers at the temple.

And if you ask a tour guide about Mustang, he will speak about wild adventures, beautiful mountains, forests, waterfalls, rivers, and the kindness of the people.

### **But what about the people who live there?**

The people in Mustang experience the natural beauty and high elevation as a blessing and a curse. The geography makes modern development very difficult. Without modern infrastructure, people have difficulty meeting their basic needs. The extreme changes in temperature and high altitude make it difficult to grow any crops, so people depend on imported foods.

They have to walk miles to buy groceries. Students have to walk a long distance to reach school, and many students leave the community to continue their studies after high school.

### **Making Change in Mustang**

In 2022, members of the Janahit Ex-student Association (JESA) invited Digital Bridges 4 Nepal to install a Collaborative Learning Environment Center in Jomsom at

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In May 2023, Digital Bridges returned to Jomsom to meet with the students and teachers using the CLEC to gather feedback, make necessary repairs, and to conduct a series of teaching workshops to help maximize the impact of the CLEC.

We met with many passionate and ambitious community members and young people. We conducted interviews, gathered survey data, and had long discussions with the principal, ward leaders, teachers and most importantly, the students.

We would like you to meet some of these amazing individuals too. Continue reading below to see the vision of the school principal and the ambition and drive of some of the students in Jomsom.





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## **Do You Want to support more students like Tsering and Sandip?**

**Join us in strengthening communities through education by  
becoming a monthly donor.**

**Every dollar you donate helps more students fuel their passion  
and achieve their dreams.**

**BECOME A MONTHLY SUPPORTER**

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