

FY2010 English Access Microscholarship Program Report
[Agreement No. S-ECAAL-10-CA-164(EB)]

Country of Access Program: Nepal

Name of Provider: Nepal English Language Teachers' Association (NELTA)

Date Agreement Signed: November 9, 2010



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE

English Access Microscholarship Program

AMIDEAST
امد یاست

QUARTERLY (OR SEMI-ANNUAL) NARRATIVE REPORT

*Please ensure that this report covers cohorts or programs covered by only **one** Agreement. If you have programs covered by multiple Agreements, each Agreement requires a separate report.*

Submitted by:

Name: Shyam Bahadur Pandey

Title: Program Coordinator

Phone: +977-4226522 (Office), +977-9851128985 (Cell)

Email: shyampandey15@gmail.com

Date submitted: 16 July, 2012

Quarter	Written and Financial Reports Due	Payment Authorized
1 st quarter	April, 2011 (Program begins 01/2011)	After FY10 Agreement is signed
2 nd quarter	July, 2011	After submitting 1 st quarter reports
3 rd quarter	October, 2011	After submitting 2 nd quarter reports
4 th quarter	January, 2012	After submitting 3 rd quarter reports
5 th quarter	April, 2012	After submitting 4 th quarter reports
6 th quarter	July, 2012	After submitting 5 th quarter reports
7 th quarter	October, 2012	After submitting 6 th quarter reports
8 th quarter	January, 2013 (Program ends 12/2012)	After submitting 7 th quarter reports

1 Date when most recent funds were received and date when the receipt for those funds received was sent to AMIDEAST:

Funds received: 05/27/2012

Receipt sent: 05/29/ 2012

2(A) Teaching Activities:

Total Hours: 55 hours

After a week-long Spring Camp, the English Access Microscholarship Program classes resumed smoothly on April 22, 2012. The program is in the middle of its third semester which will end at the end of August 2012. The week-long Spring Camp provided additional input to the students towards their understanding of the nature and the scope of Access Program. Now, the students have even more zeal for learning English, are even more aware of American culture, and have further developed their leadership skills. The average classroom attendance continues to be 99 percent. To a large extent, we are able to avoid our students' hesitating to speak English. Though the participants have yet to perfect their grammatical accuracy, they speak English with a great degree of confidence. The program started with a focus on fluency. Recently, the program has shifted its emphasis to improving students' accuracy. One of the course books, *Language in Use* (beginner level), has been completed, and now we are using *New Interchange* (Part One and Part Two). The course books' contents are not being used in their entirety. Instead, sections are selected to help achieve Access curriculum objectives. In addition to the course books, other materials which were donated by Regional English Language Office (RELO), U.S. Embassy, Kathmandu, are being used, such as *Celebrate!; Holidays in the U.S.A., Changing Perspectives; Book 1 and 2, Pop Culture Versus Real America, Design for Drama; Short Plays from American Literature and U.S.A. Maps with Facts in Brief*. Access teachers frequently refer to useful web links to teach and use them in the classroom. One example of a link for song lyrics is

http://www.oldielyrics.com/lyrics/the_beatles/octopuss_garden.html and for songs –

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BRu-oEwAOEc> .

Our students are becoming more and more familiar with the virtual world. They frequently visit the Access Program's official page, the Access Program's Website, the U.S. Embassy's official page and website, and the Access Program Headquarter's Facebook page. The frequently visited links are mentioned below:

Access Program, Nepal Facebook page: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/English-Access-Microscholarship-Program-Nepal/243305319037974#>

Access Program Nepal Website: <http://englishaccessnepal.weebly.com/>

U.S. Embassy Facebook page: <http://www.facebook.com/nepal.usembassy>

U.S. Embassy website: <http://nepal.usembassy.gov/>

Access Program Headquarter Facebook page: <http://www.facebook.com/AccessProgramHQ>

2(B) Training Activities:

As part of a regular teacher development program of the English Access Microscholarship Program, a four-day teacher training seminar was organized in the respective locations of the Access Program: Kathmandu, Gorkha, and Bhairahawa.

The training for the Kathmandu Access center was carried out on June 14-17, 2012, and it was facilitated by Ms. Christine Stone, a highly experienced and qualified native speaker teacher-trainer, author, and curriculum designer, and Ms. Bunu Thapa, a teacher educator and lecturer at Kathmandu University. The first two days of the trainings were led by Ms. Stone. She focused on how the books *New Interchange* (Part One and Two) can be best utilized to teach different language functions. Additionally, she taught different language games and songs such as “7 Is My Favorite Number” and “Luba’s Bistro.” Similarly, Ms. Thapa’s sessions focused on teaching language functions. She had the teachers play role functions, such as giving suggestions, accepting or rejecting requests, making comparisons, narrating, and describing people.

Similarly, a four-day teacher training seminar for the teachers of the Access Program at the Gorkha Center took place on June 22 -25, 2012. The program was facilitated by Ms. Christine Stone and Uddab Bhattarai. During the first two days of the training, Mr. Bhattari focused on how to exploit language games to enhance learners' English language ability. He also offered some sample teaching strategies using the book *New Interchange*. Ms. Stone facilitated the last two days of the seminar, which were similar to the sessions that she had facilitated at the Kathmandu Access center.

Likewise, a four-day teacher training was organized at the Bhairahawa Access center from June 8-11, 2012. The first two days of sessions were led by Mr. Shyam Pandey, Program Coordinator of Access Program, and the last two days of sessions were facilitated by Mr. Ganga Ram Gautam, Associate Professor and teacher educator at Tribhuvan University, Nepal. Mr. Pandey’s sessions were focused on developing speaking skills, such as involving students in describing daily routines, describing appearance and personality, asking or refusing permission, giving advice, and making excuses in English, which were based on language functions that are covered in Access curriculum. Mr. Gautam’s sessions were on integrating listening, speaking, reading, and writing activities based on a text. The trainer presented a sample lesson, and the participants were asked to create similar lessons based on a text from the book they use in the Access program. Participants actually experienced how an integrated-skills lesson works in the class; and according to them, the experience helped them realize the challenges that their students face when learning English. In addition, the lesson contributed towards better lesson planning for their teaching in the Access program as well as for their regular schools.

Outcome: The three training events were significant because they gave teachers new insights into teaching and to how they should utilize the textbook while engaging students in communicative activities. The training was useful because it acquainted the Access teachers with practical ideas and tips that can be replicated in their classrooms. Moreover, according to the teachers, the training fitted their needs.

2(C) Enhancement Activities:

Total Hours: 12 hours

In addition to their regular classroom activities, Access students are being exposed to enhancement activities. Some of them are briefly described below:

Clean Nepal Campaign: Clean Nepal Campaign is a series of community service programs, which aimed at raising awareness among the students regarding the deteriorating situation of the environment in Nepal, and it encouraged the students to be involved and engaged in cleaning their environment. The Access students from all three locations took part in this campaign in their respective communities, but the campaign activities varied according to the environmental concerns of each locality. Some of the projects that the students identified were cleaning the premises of a hospital, religious places, public places, and a senior citizen's home.

Clean Ratna Park is the community service program initiated by the Access students in Kathmandu. The students volunteered to create a clean and healthy environment in Ratna Park on the morning of Saturday, June 23, 2012, for two hours, from 7:00 to 9:00 a.m. They cleaned the entire park premises by picking up plastic bags and wrappers, sweeping, watering the plants, and painting the trees. All the Access students, NELTA executives, Access teachers, and other officials were involved in this campaign. The purpose of providing the students this opportunity was to raise awareness of environmental degradation through a real experience; thereby increasing their understanding of the significance of social responsibilities. It was interesting to observe that the students created their own slogan, "We can make a difference!"

Similarly, the 40 Bhairahawa-based Access students were involved in cleaning Satya Sai Senior Citizens' Home for two hours on the morning of June 23, 2012. They were given responsibilities in four groups, each comprising 10 students, with four different roles, such as cleaning and dusting the rooms, sweeping the floors, cleaning the periphery of the home, and cleaning the toilets.

Despite the heat, the dust, and the foul smell of the toilets, the Access students demonstrated a genuine effort to make the senior citizens feel good and happy. The home where 13 senior citizens (four males and nine females) reside operates on individual donations. After finishing the cleaning project, the Access students donated all the cleaning tools, which were used by them for the cleanup, such as – harpic, phenyl, brooms (hard and soft), hand mops, toilet brush, buckets, and soaps to the caretaker at the home, Ms. Maya Kharel. Ms. Kharel, the caretaker of Satya Sai Senior Citizens' Home, said that during the later period of life people do not expect anything more than the polite language and affection which the Access students showed.

Whereas one of the students said, "Although, we felt very tired, we felt very happy to see joyful smiles on the faces of the senior people at the home."

The purpose of involving the students in this program is to raise awareness about sanitation and to develop human relations. The event aimed at making the students understand and take note of the fact that education teaches society to take responsibilities, and caring for our parents and elderly is a landmark of a civilized society. The Access students learned that every good thing comes to an end. These gestures and ideas reinstate in the students a sense of acceptance and respect for senior citizens. If we treat the senior citizens with respect, our children are likely to render the same treatment to us.

Likewise, English Access Microscholarship Program, Gorkha Center, organized a Community Hospital Cleanliness Program on June 13, 2012. All the Access students and teachers, NELTA members of Gorkha, Chief of District Public Health Service, doctors and nurses of the hospital, and the public took part in the program. The program was inaugurated by the Chief Guest of the program, Mr. Bishwo Ram Shrestha, Chief, District Public Health Service, Gorkha, by starting to clean the hospital yard with a broom. The program lasted for two hours.

Community service is one of the several components of the English Access program. It builds up leadership and arouses social responsibility in the young learners. It also shows how the Access Program in Nepal is oriented towards social work and community awareness.

Bhairahawa Access Students Learn Basic Information on Safe Migration and Human Trafficking: ABC Nepal arranged an awareness program on Safe Migration and Human Trafficking, which was held at Rupandehi Lilaram Neupane Higher Secondary School on June 04, 2012. Approximately 115 students, including 40 Access students participated in the program. Ms. Pratibha Devkota, President of ABC Nepal Bhairahawa, provided input on Safe Migration while Mr. Nirjala Bhattarai, Resource Person, talked about the issues of Human Trafficking. The discussions were accompanied by self-experiences of peer educators themselves. They highlighted tricks and ways by which workers are cheated in Nepal and abroad by brokers, and how female workers are tortured abroad as illegal immigrants. They urged all to abide by the rules and regulations to avoid unpleasant circumstances, and they further urged the Access students to disseminate the information to their relatives and neighbors. The participants said that they benefited immensely from the information shared by the speakers.

Outcome: English Access students learned basic information about how to prevalent discrimination and violence against migrant workers, particularly female workers, as well as human trafficking in foreign countries. This program helped the students to learn about the risks that can occur at the workplace. The purpose of this program was to encourage the students to be agents of change in the future so that they can avoid troubles faced by Nepali workers in foreign countries.

Bhairahawa Access students involved in speech competition: The Access Bhairahawa center organized a speech competition on June 30, 2012. There were 12 participants from each Access group. Participants delivered 5-minute speeches. Almost every student delivered a compelling speech. The students presented many striking arguments during the competition.

Speaking at the program, one of the students said that “English is a common medium of communication in international programs. It is required for reading local and international books, which are written in English. It is useful to widen and deepen our knowledge because most of the books of different disciplines, such as medicine, mathematics, religion, politics, philosophy, economics, science and technology, are written in English.” The students' fluency, accuracy, content knowledge, and expressions were the basis for evaluation of the speeches. The first, second, and third positions were secured by Ms. Dimple Sunar, Ms. Indu Gyawali, and Ms. Anju Bhattarai, respectively.

Outcome: Students had an opportunity to practice their public speaking skills, which helped them to develop their leadership potential by presenting before a large audience on various subjects.

English Access students celebrate “Flag Day”: All the four Access centers celebrated “Flag Day” on June 14, 2012. The students were informed about the history of Flag Day (June 14). After a short description about “Flag Day,” they were provided with chart paper and other drawing materials. They were

instructed on how to sketch the American flag and informed of the meaning of its 50 stars and 13 stripes. Then, the students were asked to draw the flag of the USA. All students showed great interest in the activity. After the completion of the drawing competition, the students watched a video and learned to sing a song, namely, "How to Fold the Flag," and "God Bless the USA" by Lee Greenwood. Finally, the students posted the flags on their classroom walls. They were given input on the importance of the flag, and asked to compare the American flag with the flags of other countries of the world, including Nepal.

Outcome: The English Access students learned about one of the holidays of USA, i.e., "Flag Day." Sharing culture is part of learning a language. They learned about the holiday and the history of the USA, and they learned about the importance of the flag and the meaning of the American national flag.

District-wide Inter-school Cultural Dance Competition: District Education Office, Rupandehi district, organized a district-wide inter-school cultural dance competition on June 10, 2012. The 10 best participants were selected by ten cluster centers of Rupandehi in the competition. In the cultural category, there were three genres – singing, dancing, and music.

It is an annual program of the Ministry of Education, Nepal. The main objective of the program is to hold a national competition among the best participants from five regions. The students who stood first in the district competition will take part in the regional competition. A student of the Access Bhairahawa Center, Ms. Gayatri Khattri took second position in the dance competition. She received the winning prize from District Education Officer, Mr. Jhum Prasad Rai.

Access Student Tops the Inter School Oratory Competition in Rupandehi District: With the objectives to empower students to become active agents of sustainable and equitable development, to cultivate students' creativity and capacity for environmental cleanliness, peace, love, and non-violence, the event was a competition between various schools of Rupandehi district. Each speaker was selected by his/her school to represent the school in the competition. Each contestant competed for himself and for his/her school. One of the competitors was Ms. Dimple Sunar, competing on behalf of Access Program Bhairahawa Center and her regular school, Bhanu Higher Secondary School. She received the first prize in the Inter School Oratory Competition organized by ASPNet, Nepal National Commission for United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) on the occasion of the World Environment Day, on June 05, 2012.

The chief guests of the program were Mr. Chundamani Bhusal, President of Joint Schools Rupandehi and Coordinator of World Environment Day program; Mr. Bholu Prasad Thapaliya, National Coordinator, ASPNet Nepal; and Mr. Jhum Prasad Rai, District Education Officer, Rupandehi District.

Outcome: The theme of the competition was "Green Economy: Does It Include You?" Students had the opportunity to display their mastery in the art of oratory, which helps their leadership skills.

2(D) If little to no programming activities took place during the quarter/semester covered in this report provide a description of the reason(s) why (e.g. academic break, unexpected crises, etc).

N/A

3(C) If challenges were indicated in previous reports, provide an update on the status of those challenges and actions taken. If this is not applicable, please indicate that there were no challenges identified in previous reports. (250 word limit)

No challenges indicated in the previous report.

- 4 Please provide highlights from this quarter/semester of the Access Program including a description of the impact of the highlights. Photos and personal testimonies are welcome!



Caption: 1

Name who are in the photograph: 80 Kathmandu-based English Access students and teachers, officials and NELTA Executives

What's happening: Group of Kathmandu-based Access students, teachers, and NELTA officials marching toward Ratna Park for the clean campaign

Country: Nepal

ECA Program: English Access Microscholarship Program

Date: June 23, 2012



Caption: 2

Name of who is in the photograph: English Access students, Mena Kumari Reule, Sahanshila Shrestha, Srijana Timalisina, and Sushmita Nagarkoti

What's happening: Access students collecting garbage in Ratna Park

ECA Program: English Access Microscholarship Program

Country: Nepal

Date: June 23, 2012



Caption: 3

Name of who is in the photograph: 80 Kathmandu-based English Access students and teachers, officials, and NELTA executives

What's happening: Access students, teachers, and other officials talking photo after the completion of the hospital cleanliness program

Country: Nepal

ECA Program: English Access Microscholarship Program

Date: June 23, 2012



Caption: 4

Name of who is in the photograph: Dimple Sunar, English Access student, Bhairahawa

What's happening: Ms. Sunar holding her first prize certificate after receiving the first prize in the Inter School Oratory Competition of Rupandhi District held on June 05, 2012

Country: Nepal

ECA Program: English Access Microscholarship Program

Date: June 5, 2012



Caption: 5

Name those who are in the photograph: 40 Access students and teachers, Bhairahawa

What's happening: Group photo at the Bhairahawa Access Centre before going to the Stya Sai Senior Citizens' Home

Country: Nepal

ECA Program: English Access Microscholarship Program

Date: June 23, 2012



Caption: 6

Name who are in the picture: English Access Students in their classroom in Bhairahawa

What's happening: Access students are getting ready for the for the speech competition

Country: Nepal

ECA Program: English Access Microscholarship Program

Date: June 30, 2012



Caption: 7

Name who are in the photograph: English Access students, Tarun Chetri, Shenaj Khatun, Anju Bhattarai, Indu Gyawali, Dimple Sunar, Dharmendra Yadav, Abdul Kayum Shah and teachers, Ganesh Prasad Bhattarai, Yubraj Panthi, Shobhana Jaishi Pandey, and Kamal Nepal

What's happening: Access students and teachers taking a group photo with the winning prize of the speech competition in Bhairahawa

Country: Nepal

ECA Program: English Access Microscholarship Program

Date: June 30, 2012



Caption: 9

Name of who is in the photo: English Access students and teachers, Gorkha

What's happening: English Access students and teachers marching towards the Gorkha District Hospital for the hospital clean program

Country: Nepal

ECA program: English Access Microscholarship Program

Date: June 13, 2012



Caption: 10

Name of who is in the photo: English Access students, teachers, and hospital officials

What's happening: English Access students, teachers, and hospital officials cleaning the district hospital premises

Country: Nepal

ECA program: English Access Microscholarship Program

Date: June 13, 2012



Caption: 11

Name of who is in the photo: English Access students and teachers, Gorkha

What's happening: English Access students and teachers in group photo session after the completion of the hospital cleanliness program

Country: Nepal

ECA program: English Access Microscholarship Program

Date: June 13, 2012