



## The Nepal-Project: Women advancement in education and job opportunities in Nepal

- BPW Germany with onsite support from BPW Pokhara
- Initiated by BPW Wiesbaden and the working group International of BPW Germany
- Duration 2007 through 2013

### How it all began

In 2002, while on a private visit to Nepal, Irmgard Schlaeger, member of BPW Wiesbaden and later contact person of the BPW-Project, contacted BPW Pokhara members. Pokhara has around 200.000 inhabitants and is located 200 km west of the capital Kathmandu. Several visits followed and led to lively discussions about how to best help women in Nepal start a professional life successfully.

First, BPW Wiesbaden organized a collection of baby-beds for BPW Pokhara as a Christmas donation. Nepalese women carry their babies on their backs even during training sessions and with this donation babies had a convenient and secure place to stay while their mothers were receiving training. From this very first Christmas Donation in 2002 and an initiative of the working group International of BPW Germany arose the national BPW Germany-Project.

### What does the name "Nepal-Project" conceal?

The purpose of this project was to support women in their careers. Computer classes were offered to enhance the knowledge of internet and email. BPW Germany and many other dedicated club members supported BPW Pokhara financially in order to help people to help themselves. This financial aid helped to setup the PC-Trainings centre – paying for the centre's rent, teachers' wages and additional hard- and software. Later on, mobile training classes were offered in different areas and suburbs. The local economy benefited the most.

### What did the Project achieve?

Close to 1000 Nepalese women attended computer classes sponsored by BPW Germany and offered by BPW Pokhara from 2007 to 2013.

Which success does the project have?

Here is an original voice of a BPW Pokhara member:

“...it is difficult to trace out the benefits of participants because after completing the course they become busy in their own and we are not stationed in one place. Our mobile computer classes moves from one place to another. But it makes us proud when some of the students come across with our members and share their happiness and expresses thanks. After computer course some of them have got job in hotel, Department store, sales girls and so on. Now a days it is in a practice some group of women form Saving & Credit small scale bank. Earlier they were maintaining manual account but after learning computer course they have decided to maintain accounts on computer.”

The Nepal-Project is an impressive example of how the worldwide BPW Network can help women across continents take charge of their own lives.

Summarised by Dr. Svantje Hüwel, BPW Wiesbaden, September 2014 | English translation by Vera Flore

## The Nepal-Project — Impressions

Meena Gurung,  
1<sup>st</sup> chair-woman of  
BPW Pokhara,  
explains the  
project.



Left: The  
women are  
concentrated  
on the lesson.



Right: Learning  
on the com-  
puter. Practise  
makes perfect!



Close to 1000  
Nepalese women  
were taught  
during the project.  
Photo of the group  
in 2012.

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