



مبادرات محمد بن راشد آل مكتوم العالمية
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دبي العطاء
Dubai Cares

Progress Report for Balchaur School, Nepal



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Nepal has a population of 28 million people. Although Nepal's ranking on the UN's Human Development Index has steadily improved over the last ten years, a quarter of the population remains below the poverty line of US \$1.25 a day. Before Nepal's revolution in 1950, only 1 child in 100 attended school. Today, the total adult literacy rate in Nepal is just over 50% nationally, but in rural communities like Balchaur, the illiteracy rate still nears 80%.



The village of Balchaur is a community of approximately 1,800 people located in the Kailali region. It is about 1 km from the closest main road, and 85 km from the offices of Dubai Cares' implementing partner. Most of the people are subsistence farmers who breed livestock and grow corn, rice and wheat to generate income.

With your help, the people of Balchaur now have increased access to education that will help effect change in the lives of children, parents, and grandparents for generations to come. Each new school helps Nepal increase literacy rates one community at a time.

Built by the Community

Before the support of Dubai Cares and Innoventures in Education, the community in Balchaur lacked adequate classroom space for their students and teachers. The men and women of Balchaur deemed this situation to be unsuitable for learning because teachers were teaching multiple classrooms and grade levels in the same room at the same time.

Before breaking ground on a new school, every member of the Balchaur community, both men and women, signed a Covenant. This Covenant was a solemn promise between Dubai Cares' implementing partner and the men and women of Balchaur outlining their respective contributions to the project.



The old school structure in Balchaur



Each Covenant embodies the consensus of an entire community, and for many of the women in Balchaur, it was the first time they had been asked to sign their name. Whilst most of them were only able to sign with a thumbprint, everyone was still overjoyed to pledge their commitment to a school that will improve access to education and literacy skills for their children, their grandchildren, and themselves.

Dubai Cares' implementing partner contributed the engineering, materials, skilled labor, and supervision for each project. Each village provided the land, local materials such as sand, and the unskilled labor to build the school. Additionally, every village promised to send girls and boys to school in equal numbers



Community members in Balchaur volunteer to help build the new school for their children

Balchaur School

Because of your support, a new three-classroom school block was completed in the Balchaur Village in Nepal, and has been in operation since May 2018. The school contains two gender specific latrines, and is furnished with desks and chairs, carpet for children, and permanent chalkboards.

The project broke ground in December 2017 and the parents of Balchaur contributed a combined **2,069 volunteer workdays** to help build the school for their children. Today, **213 children** (50% girls) ages 6-14 receive classes at the school in Balchaur, and there are **six teachers** who teach **five grade levels** at the school.

Dubai Cares' implementing partner will continue working with the community of Balchaur to identify out of school children in the village and enroll them in primary school classes with anticipation that enrollment will substantially increase as the 2018 school year progresses. Additionally, they will work with the community and partners at the local Ministry of Education to provide additional grade levels and classrooms as they are needed to accommodate the increasing number of enrolled students.



The entire community has not only reported increased morale of the students and parents of the community, but they have expressed their satisfaction with a vastly improved working environment for teachers. Most significantly, community members are overjoyed that students no longer need to have classes on the ground or in a structure serves as an unsuitable learning environment for children.

On behalf of the children of Balchaur, Dubai Cares would like to convey its heartfelt thanks to Innoventures Education for sponsoring the new school in Nepal. With your help, Dubai Cares is breaking the cycle of poverty, illiteracy, and low expectations through service and education one day at a time.



The students of Balchaur attending class in one of their new classrooms, and the new structure for the school's gender specific latrine



The completed primary school structure in Balchaur, Nepal