

# Education and Disability

The Story of Home Bahadur Tharu



Home Bahadur Tharu is the youngest son of a poor family in the Banke district of Nepal. His father works as a daily labourer and his mother as a housewife. Home has two brothers and a sister who all study in a nearby public school. He himself was until recently deprived of his right to an education because he was deaf. While his siblings attended school he helped around the house doing household chores and grazing livestock.

When Home's father heard about a school for deaf children being run in Chisapani by RHERI, a local NGO, he was curious to learn more about the school and visited the RHERI office the next day. Here he talked about his son and RHERI committed to help Home by enrolling him in their school and basic sign language classes.

The school was almost 20 kilometers away from where Home lived. Luckily, Home's grandparents were living in Chisapani. Home started living with them in order to join RHERI's school for the deaf and the sign language training, which was supported by Deaf Child Worldwide.

Home learned very quickly and having completed the sign language training, Home now communicates effectively. RHERI suggested Home's father to enrol him in a public school to continue his education. Unusually, and luckily for Home, the teachers in this school were also trained in sign language, giving Home the opportunity to be integrated into the mainstream school system. Currently, Home is in the third grade. Home says "My only aim is to attend school and get an education and minimize the suffering of deaf children like me - those spending a humiliated and sad life". He communicated this through sign language.

## Letter from Home Bahadur

*I would like to share some of my grievances of the past days. My grief knew no bounds when my brothers and sisters were enrolled in a local public school and I was not.*

*I could hardly sleep that day and wept the whole night. Nobody bothered to come and console me. I considered myself the most unfortunate person on the earth. Even my own parents could not understand my feelings and ignored me, considering me worthless. Moreover, the other boys in the community also made fun of me which I could simply guess through their body language.*

*Fortunately, my father came to know about a deaf school at Chisapani run by RHERI, a local NGO. I was admitted to that school by my father and I learnt the skills of sign language. Now I can easily communicate with the people through sign language.*

*I have also been admitted into a public school. I am studying in the third grade. My teachers love me and are very kind. My classmates also communicate and like to be my friend. My ambition is to become a teacher, particularly of deaf children, so that no deaf child will suffer and be humiliated like I was.*

Source: DeafChild Worldwide:

[http://www.deafchildworldwide.info/learning\\_from\\_experience/real\\_lives/my\\_story/home\\_bahadur.html](http://www.deafchildworldwide.info/learning_from_experience/real_lives/my_story/home_bahadur.html)