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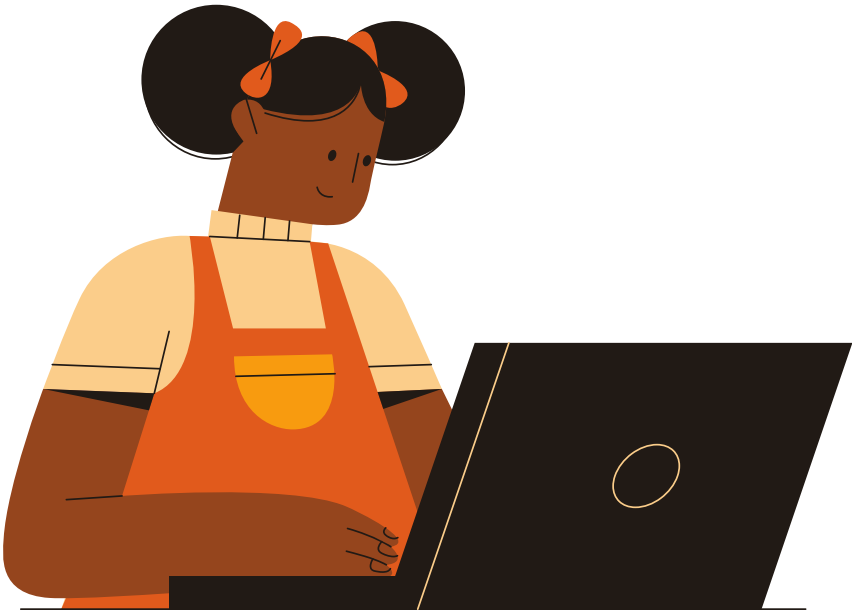
The Digital Learners' Hub



March 2021

Canopy Nepal Scholarship Programs

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Canopy Nepal is a team of visionary youths working in the field of education, skill and leadership development, diversity, and inclusion. Canopy Nepal collaborates with like-minded individuals and organizations to empower the organizations' beneficiaries with the skills they need to bring about positive change in the community. Canopy Nepal aims at creating an environment where individuals have a choice to equip themselves with skills and abilities of lifetime importance. The organization intends to promote intercultural understanding among diverse groups by means of various programs.

Preface

The Digital Learners' Hub project is initiated with the aim to support the scholars of the Canopy Nepal, who are struggling to cope up with the digital transition created by the pandemic, by equipping them with a digital device (laptop) and digital literacy classes to resume their learning. Canopy Nepal has identified scholars who are struggling to study because of the lack of a digital device or internet accessibility.

We successfully distributed laptops to 50 scholars of different public schools so that they can resume their learning and attend any kinds of online events and seminars. Similarly, we provided orientation to our scholars and parents about digital learners' hubs and how to care for the laptops provided and also making best use of it. Regular follow-ups and monitoring are being conducted to evaluate the impact of laptops in their learning process and to monitor if our scholars have been using them properly or not. Scholars will be provided with basic digital training in the days to come to enhance their digital skills.

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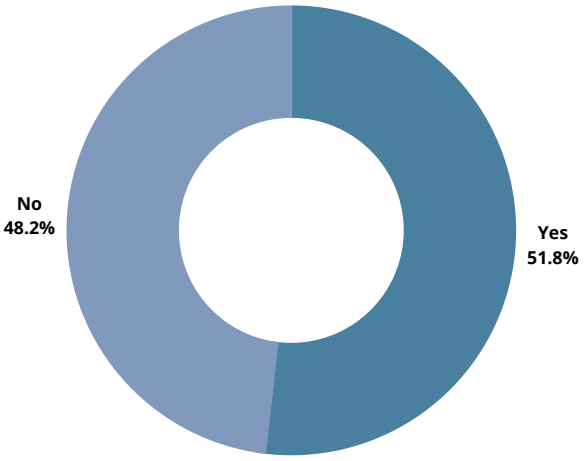
Methodology

The project - Digital Learner's Hub involves several phases and processes. Each phase is characterized by a distinct set of activities. All these phases are explained below in brief:

Phase 1: Identification

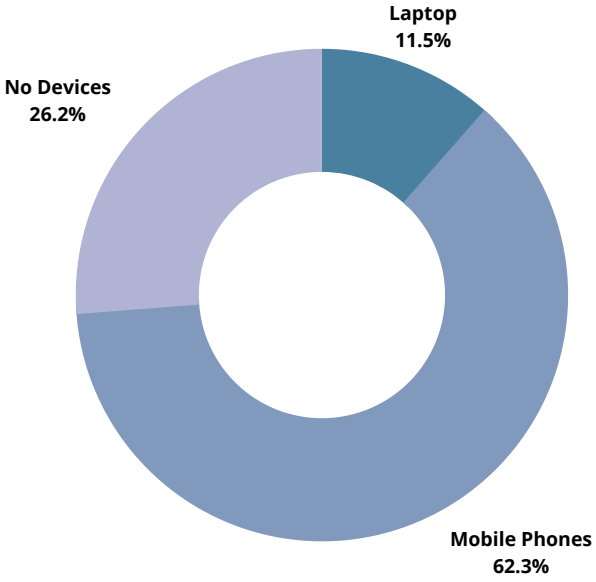
The project 'Digital Learners' Hub' was initiated with the aim to provide digital access to the scholars whose learning has been affected by the situation created by the pandemic. Realizing the fact that our scholars are struggling to cope with the digital transition, Canopy Nepal conducted a survey with the scholars through phonecalls during the lockdown on their access to digital devices like laptops, mobile.

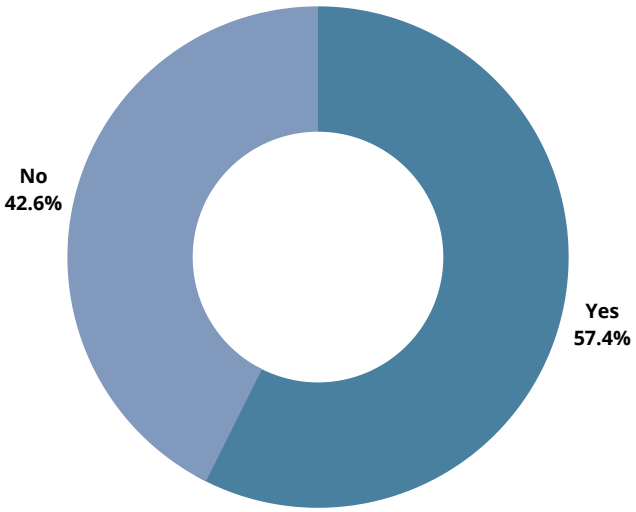


As per the survey conducted by Canopy Nepal among **61** scholars to find out more about our scholars' digital accessibility and barriers, it was found that **67.2%** of our scholars' schools and colleges have been conducting online classes. Among them, only **51.8%** attend online classes regularly whereas almost half of them, i.e. **48.2%** are struggling to attend online classes. **86.4%** of our scholars depend on mobile phones and expensive data packages.

Almost 90% of our scholars do not have laptops and those who have, also do not have them in good condition and are supposed to share the device with other family members.

Even though the majority of our scholars have access to smartphones, they are not compatible with joining online classes. From the survey, 26.2% of our scholars do not have any electronic devices at their homes, due to which they are unable to take any classes.





Easy access to internet service is another issue among our scholars. Nearly half of the scholars, ie. **42.6%** do not have access to a constant internet connection. Some of them rely on expensive data packages while many of them can't even afford data packages to attend online classes regularly.

Therefore, Canopy Nepal felt that there is a dire need of assistance from our scholars to get operating smartphones and/or laptops to continue their education

during COVID-19 and also to continue other forms of learning practices with the use of technology.

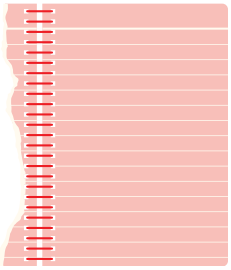
With the whole world adapting to the online learning platform because of the pandemic and an undeniable need in the future too, providing some form of digital devices to the scholars is a strong need to our scholars.

Phase 2: Preparation

In this phase, the team was involved in the process of analyzing and developing the project idea into a final project, ready for implementation. The team worked on documentation parts like work breakdown structure and set a timeline for each activity for effective implementation of the project.

Work Breakdown Structure:

Baseline survey and feasibility study: November



Proposal Writing: November-December

Preparation of offline resources: November-December

Fundraising: December-January

Phase 3: Project Appraisal

The project was analyzed from different aspects before implementation. These aspects are as follows:

Technical
Enhancement of technical and digital skills among scholars

Economical
Lessens financial burden among scholars to purchase laptops and phones for learning

Gender Equality and Social Inclusion
Increment in the access and learning outcomes for both girls and boys

Sustainability and Risk
Sustain access to laptops and their learning opportunities

Phase 4: Proposal Writing

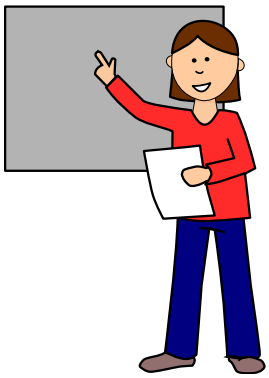
Canopy Nepal was involved in writing proposals for the Digital Learners' Hub and was actively engaged in sending them to national and international supporters.

Phase 5: Implementation

After rigorous planning, the laptops were distributed to Canopy Nepal scholars from less privileged backgrounds. The scholars of **grade 6 and above** were provided with laptops. Altogether **50** scholars are benefited from the project. Orientation sessions were conducted involving the scholars, parents, and school administration to inform the relevant parties about the project and their roles and responsibilities to make the best utilization of the laptops for an improved learning experience. In addition to this, MoUs were signed by scholars and parents agreeing to the terms and conditions.

Acquisition of laptops and transfer of offline materails: December-January

Distribution or laptops and orientation: January-February



Digital Literacy Classes: March-May (Ongoing)

Phase 6: Monitoring and Evaluation

Regular follow-ups and assessments are being carried out to monitor and evaluate the use of laptops by our scholars.

Phone calls

Reports

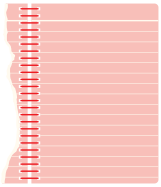
Evaluation

Digital Learners' Hub in Timeline

Identification and Planning

November

Nov-Dec



Nov-Dec

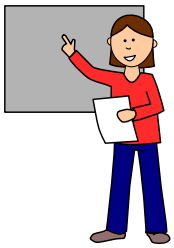
Dec-Jan

Implementation and Monitoring and Evaluation

Dec-Jan

Jan-Feb

Ongoing(3months)



(Ongoing)

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Result Chain
for
The Digital Learners' Hub

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Approaches

1.**In-depth surveys** to understand the status of digital devices.

2.**Distribution of digital device (laptops), essential offline materials (movies, e-books, etc), digital literacy traiing** directly helping scholars to learn.

3.**Rigorous monitoring** to track the effecient use of digital devices and resources and **evaluate the weekly digital trainings** to measure the digital skills of scholars.

Outcome

Scholars, in particular the most vulnerable and those affected by the digital divide, are provided with digital devices, inclusive and equitable quality digital literacy training, and learning opportunities.

Outputs

Increase and sustain access to digital trainings for girls and boys to be digitally literate.

Increase learning outcomes for girls and boys.

Increase access for personal empowerment, independent citizens and employability.

Change Strategies

System strengthening

Plan/Strategy development

Sustainable digital literacy training

Digital skills enhancement

Accountability

Capacity development

Enablers

Partner organizations

Family support

Canopy Nepal Scholarship Management Team

Safe learning environment

Supportive school administration

Digital literacy training

Scholars

Gender inclusive education

Assumptions

Provision of digital devices and digital literacy training to minimize the impacts of digital divide.

Sufficient and efficient offline learning materials.

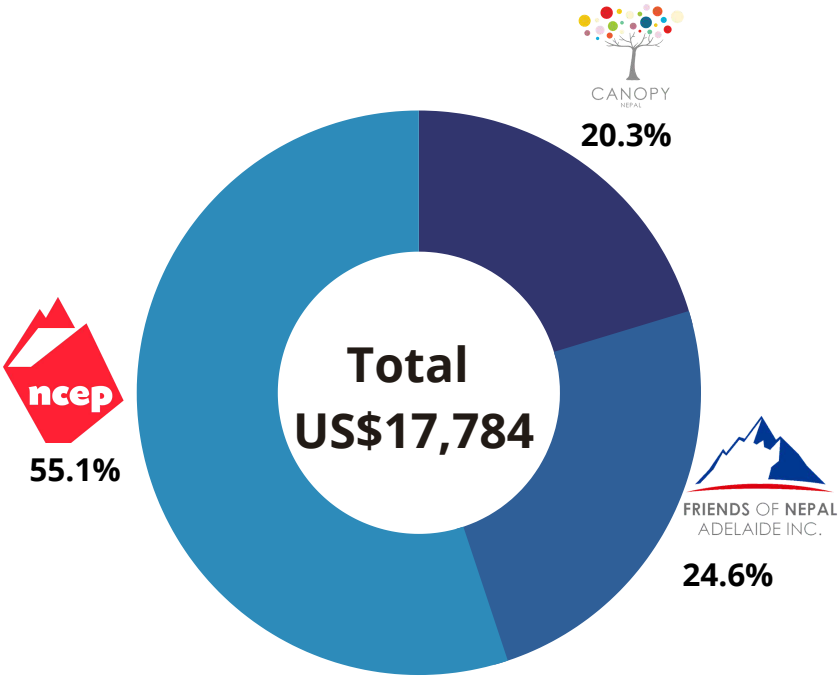
Prioritise digital literacy among girl scholars to address gender gap.

Allow scholars to be both safe and empowered in digital world.

Consistent and commitment.

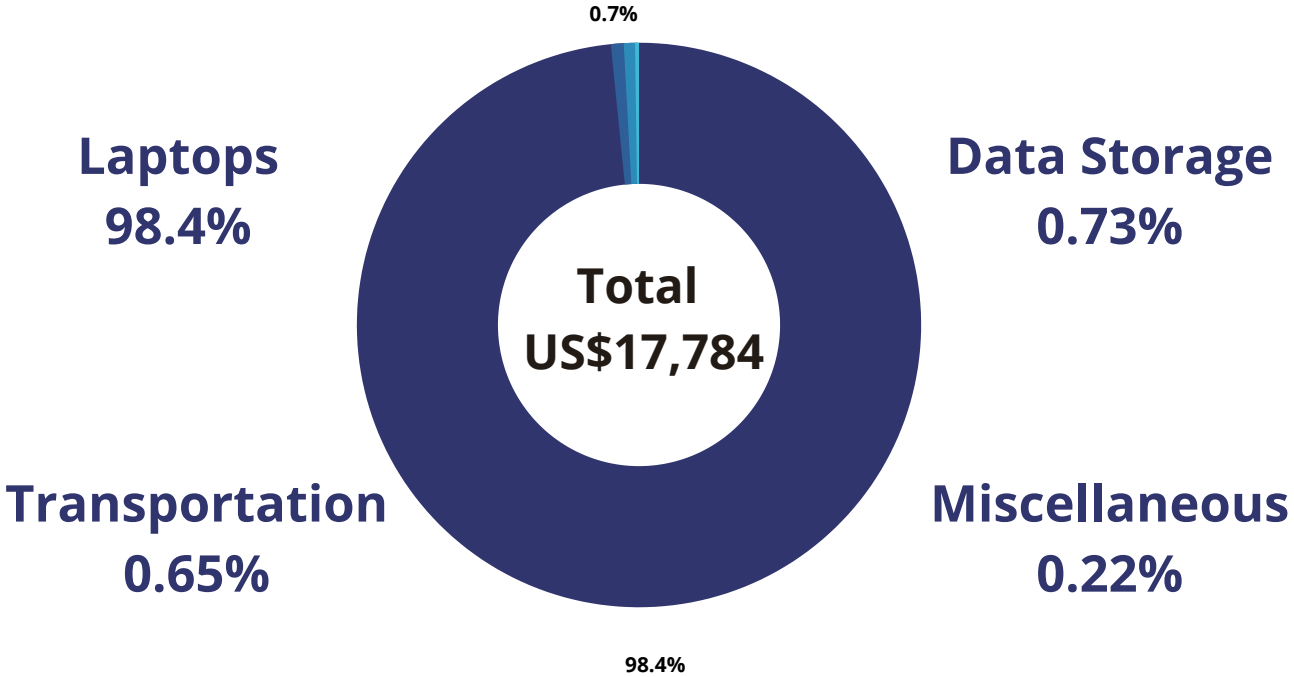
Financial Report

Fund Raised



Supporters

Project Expenses



Outputs

17 Educational Institutions Reached

50 Scholars Reached

50 Families Reached

35 Female Scholars Reached

15 Male Scholars Reached

30 Round of Follow-ups and Ongoing

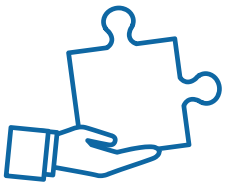
11 Orientation Sessions Conducted

Outcomes

Gender Equality and Social Inclusion

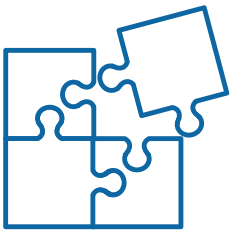
Children from less priviliged backgrounds have access to digital device

Offline resources to overcome the challenges faced without internet access



Digital Literacy Classes planned

Scholars' siblings can use the digital device for educational purposes



Self-learning and technical skills

Sustainability

Sustainability

For the sustainability of the project, Canopy Nepal has planned important factors which are as follows:

Overview of Digital Literacy Training

Digital Literacy Training is a crucial facet of the Digital Learners' Hub project. Through a three-month-long training, we aspire to ensure digital literacy, technical prowess, and the use of information and communications technologies among Canopy Nepal scholars.

Way Forward

Upon the completion of the major step of the laptop distribution to our scholars, Canopy Nepal Scholarship Team has already organized series of orientation sessions for all the scholars in recent weeks. The team has developed an interactive curriculum for three-month-long Digital Literacy Training for the scholars. Training sessions will be held on a regular basis so that the scholars receive long-term benefits and can easily access educational materials related to their course and extracurricular activities required in their academics. Adding on, the monitoring and evaluation process will also be undertaken regularly.

This project further opts to organize scholar friendly training in the respective institutions and Canopy office where they will be taught computer literacy and other computer-related skills such as Computer Fundamentals (Basics of Computer and its Operation), MS - Office (Word, Excel, and Powerpoint), etc that

Way Forward

will help them develop their technical skills in the long run. The project further targets to deliver additional scholar-friendly skill enhancement training and workshops that ultimately result in both personal and professional growth in our scholars.

In addition, scholars graduating from the Canopy Nepal Scholarship Programs will pass on their laptops to younger scholars ensuring that the laptops are used in the long run.

Concluding Remarks

Online learning is rapidly becoming one of the most cost-effective ways to educate the world's learners. Thus, this project was initiated with an aim to assist scholars who are struggling to cope with the digital change caused by the COVID -19 pandemic, by providing them with a laptop and allowing them to resume their studies. With successful completion of the project, our scholars will be able to resume their studies, as they will be able to join online classes, participate in training and sessions organized by their respective schools and colleges including Canopy Nepal to improve their skills.

We are grateful to all our stakeholders who directly and indirectly supported us in this project. We are especially thankful to our long-term partners NCEP and FONAI for their invaluable financial assistance to the project. We are also grateful to our distributor Sabin & International for the timely and safe delivery of the laptops. The project would not have been a success, without the inspiration of our stakeholders and the hard work of the team who envisioned and worked collectively to make this project possible despite the challenge posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. The learning of this project has motivated us to initiate innovative projects in the near future to provided holistic support to our scholars.

Annex

Photos

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EDUCATION

Canopy Nepal Scholarship Programs
Digital Learners' Hub
Canopy Nepal

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Scholarship Programs
Our Supporters
Canopy Nepal
Reshaping Education

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Testimonials

"I am very happy after receiving the laptop. My works are being done quickly and smoothly without having to hustle much. I do all my homework, works, and sessions from the laptop provided. I have learned programing since I received the laptop. I can now conduct the sessions all by myself with slides prepared by myself and I feel very proud of that. The additional provided resources are equally being used and I am finding that very productive. I have been checking all the ebook sites, using the vocabulary app effectively, and learning many more from the laptop."

"Laptop has been a great learning experience for me. I noticed that lots of people don't know how to type in Nepali through the keyboard directly. Hence, I realized that is something I wanted to learn and having a laptop provided me the privilege. Likewise, I am using my laptop to improve my grammar, google facts, google answers to my questions and it has been a great help. I don't have any siblings to ask for help in my academics and my parents are not literate as well so before I used to struggle a lot in finding answers but now one google with clear all my confusions and I'm really very grateful to that. I have been watching movies that the CANSHIP team provided me in the laptop and that has also been a different kind of learning experience for me. Currently, I use my laptop for just 1-2 hours a day for my research because my exams are approaching and I am very happy I have this opportunity."

Testimonials

"I am a student of Bachelors in Computer Application and laptop plays a big role in my studies. Without a laptop my study was incomplete but now I feel like my study is finally making sense. It has helped a lot in my studies. I have learned programming and it is being helpful for me both personally and professionally. My last semester was completed by using a laptop for various uses like online classes, assignments, internal examinations, and many more. I learnt excel and now I am confident enough to use it for any work."

"I cannot thank Canopy Nepal enough for this privilege they're providing us. I am still shocked to say that I now own a laptop. I have been in need of a laptop for a very long time and coincidentally, my mother and I were looking for a laptop but it wasn't cheap enough so we were discussing, what could be the possible solution and how we can manage a laptop. Even during the time of COVID I was unable to attend my online classes and various sessions that the CANSHIP team organized because I didn't have a stable gadget."

"I am a student of computer science, and the laptop plays a vital role in my study and not having a laptop didn't just make my learning hard but the learnings were also incomplete. Now, I will have the full knowledge about how to use a laptop, use it for my everyday learning and grow even more from the knowledge I receive from the laptop. Also, I will be regularly attending my classes and utilizing the offline resources provided with it."

Testimonials

"Learning computer skills is becoming the main part of education, we can learn to type efficiently, we can use basic computer functions such as Ms - Office (Word, Excel & Powerpoint), email, and web browsing."

"I am currently studying in Grade 11 majoring in Computer Science. Actually, I used to be in a dilemma on how to complete my pending assignments that need research and detailed information but I am very grateful to Canopy Nepal and every individual involved in this project for all your support and hard work. This was unexpected support but I promise I will make use of it to my best."

"I am always eager to learn new skills. Likewise, I was willing to improve my typing and computer skills for a very long time but without any laptop or lack of guidance, I was always behind. I believe I received a great opportunity from Canopy Nepal to improve my computer skills and work on my weakness. Ever since I received the laptop, I am using the laptop to improve my typing skills, research, and for educational purposes only. I have been regularly going through all the offline resources (e-books, TedTalks, Motivational Movies) that are downloaded on my laptop."

We thank everyone who supported us in this process and made this possible.

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FOR MORE INFORMATION

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