

ISSUE 1

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DARPANGATHA

REFLECTING, IMPACTING & SUSTAINING



SHIKHARAPUR
COMMUNITY LEARNING CENTER



DARPANGATHA

Reflecting for Change, Engaging for Impact, Sustaining for Better World



WHAT IS DARPANGATHA?

We welcome you to the very first edition of **Darpangatha**. This newsletter is an initiation by Shikharapur Community Learning Center (SCLC) with an aim to reflect, connect and engage our readers with the stories that were embarked upon the last six months.

In every 6 months, Darpangatha will serve you with the success stories and reflection of the projects done in different foundations of SCLC while it will also dive into various working arenas of CLC highlighting the progress updates.



This is the official logo for the half yearly newsletter; Darpangatha. The word “Darpangatha” is derived by connecting two Nepali words, “दर्पण” and “गाथा” meaning the stories of reflection and realities. The newsletter shall embody the initiatives and actions taken by the SCLC and engage the readers by highlighting the impactful projects and fostering collaboration for a collective goal.

"Stay inspired. Never stop creating."

The Words of Wisdom...



Niroj Shrestha

Program Director

niroj@pharping.org.np

These above slogan captures the heart of what we do at SCLC. Darpangatha, our half-yearly newsletter, helps us share our message with more people. I hope this edition reaches many readers and highlights the amazing work we are doing. Through this newsletter, we want to show the world what SCLC has achieved and continue to inspire others with our story. "Reflecting for Change, Engaging for Impact, and Sustaining for a Better World" are the guiding principles that drive our mission at SCLC.

We constantly reflect on our practices to foster positive change, engage with our community to create meaningful impact, and sustain our efforts to build a better world for future generations. By staying true to these principles, we ensure that our actions today will lead to a brighter and more equitable tomorrow. Together, we can continue to make a difference.

We appreciate the unwavering support from ONGD-FNEL, Ministry of Foreign and European Affaires (MAEE) Luxembourg, Nepal Government, local Municipalities, and all our stakeholders, which has been instrumental in creating an environment where we can effectively serve our community.

Objectives of Darpangatha

- To inform the public about the events and completed tasks.
- Engage and update the readers of the newsletter.
- To collect feedbacks and ensure to inculcate them.



'REFLECTING FOR CHANGE'



'ENGAGING FOR IMPACT'



'SUSTAINING FOR BETTER WORLD'

EDITORIAL ADVISORS

“OUR COMMITMENT TO COLLABORATION...”



Shyam Bahadur KC
Chairperson

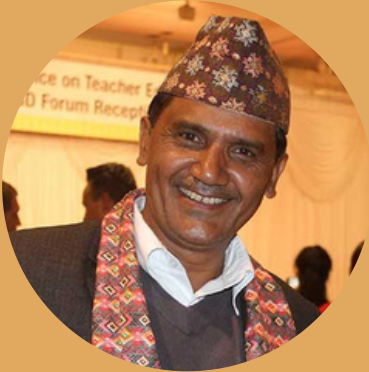
We are excited to launch “Darpangatha”, our new newsletter celebrating the achievements of Shikharapur CLC. Established in 2063 in Dakshinkali Municipality, SCLC is dedicated to promoting literacy and continuing education through various community initiatives, including literacy programs, skill development, and entrepreneurship.

Our commitment extends to climate action, sustainable practices, and rebuilding efforts after the earthquakes. We focus on women’s entrepreneurship, job creation, and agricultural sustainability to enhance economic independence and food security.



Collaboration with local government ensures our programs align with community needs, and the unwavering support of ONGD-FNEL has greatly amplified our impact. As we aim to spread literacy across the region and country by 2030, we look forward to your continued support. Stay tuned to Darpangatha for updates on our journey and accomplishments.

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MAJOR HIGHLIGHTS:

- Earthquake Response
"Building Hope: Temporary Learning Center Construction in Jajarkot"
- "Elevate Skills USA Expands Skill Enhancement Training in Collaboration with Shikharapur CLC"
- Empowering Women and Promoting Sustainable Agriculture: Shikharapur CLC's Transformative Initiation

Foundations with SCLC



OPEN SCHOOL SYSTEM

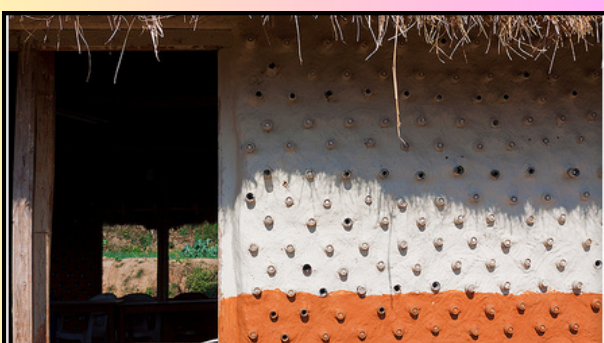
“Learning as a continuous phenomenon”

Open School is an institution to provide alternative educational service for school dropout youths together with mothers of different age groups. Shikharapur Community School is the Mother School of Open School that provides basic and secondary level open education and for school dropouts from various backgrounds and settings.



BOTTLE HOUSE

Bottle house is an architectural innovation built entirely from recycled glass bottles. More than 9000 discarded glass bottles were utilized in the process. SCLC aims to establish more eco-friendly innovations and further advance this foundation.



SHIKHARAPUR COMMUNITY SCHOOL AND CAMPUS

Shikharapur Community School and Campus are the other foundations together with SCLC. The institutions provide formal education to the students with well equipped classes and trained teachers. The school and campus are technology friendly and have become model educational institutes for Pharping.

SCLC Initiatives

AGRICULTURE LEARNING RESOURCE CENTRE (ALRC)

The ALRC is an extension to the Shikharapur Sustainable Farmer's School with the vision to provide bigger, permanent space and infrastructure to provide more expertise and sustainable support for farmers and rural youth and to expand services to wider population. This project is supported by Dakshinkali Municipality, Bagmati Province and ONGD-FNEL, Luxembourg.



SKILL DEVELOPMENT

The SCLC utilizes local resources to develop entrepreneurship skills by working with youths. Training for organic farming, crop cultivation, computer classes, digital literacy are some of the programs conducted in this foundation. SCLC collaborates with CTEVT, Skill Development Line Agencies and Municipalities for conducting such trainings over the year.



STUDENTS' RESIDENTIAL PROGRAM

The students' residential program is specifically designed for those who want to persistently continue their education but are unable; due to some hindrances like inaccessibility of schools/colleges, distance of school/college from their home. SCLC provides a platform for students and help them gain different entrepreneurial and vocational skills. This program is under ONGD-FNEL supported Youth and Women Agriculture Entrepreneurship project.

LOOKING BACK AT 2023



BIPAN FOUNDATION VISITS SCLC FOR PROJECT ASSESSMENT

Introductory meeting for project assessment and evaluation with experts from Bipan Foundation was held on 18 October, 2023. The focus was on the 5-year Youth and Women Agricultural Entrepreneurship Project Assessment, which was funded by the ONGD-FNEL.

AMAZING SCOUTS FROM FNEL LUXEMBOURG



FNEL Scouts participated in a 10-days service camp at Shikharapur. We would like to take this opportunity to thank the Scouts for their amazing service days in Shikharapur. They not only dove straight in with vigor and excitement, but they also demonstrated an amazing desire to lend a hand wherever it was needed. We are grateful to have had the chance to work with them because of their remarkable dedication to service and their enthusiasm for changing the world. Thus, we express our gratitude to the FNEL Scouts for everything they accomplished and to acknowledge the priceless contribution they make to both our community and the wider globe.

A 16-week-long **Integrated Pest Management (IPM)** training for entrepreneur farmers organized by Shikharapur CLC, coordinated by the Department of Agriculture, Dakshinkali Municipality, held at the Agriculture Learning Resource Centre (ALRC) on June 11, 2023 has been a milestone activity. It has been appreciated by all the stakeholders and the participants graduated.



Major Activities at a Glance...

In the year 2023, numerous activities were conducted. Each activity has been accomplished with great success and joy. One of the major successful activity is Gender Equality and Social Inclusion project under Ministry of Women, Children and Senior Citizen. We accomplished all activities in collaboration with Dakshinkali Municipality where the sole focus were on advocacy, self-defense trainings, IEC material publishing etc. We also partnered with CTEVT to provide sewing and knitting training for 20 women.



20 students completed a three-month beautician training program. This event marked the end of 2023 during December.

On May 3, 2023, Minister for Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Affairs, Luxembourg, Hon. Franz Fayot visited Shikharapur CLC.

On December 1, 2023, SCLC assisted in the reconstruction of a Temporary Learning Center for a government school in Jajarkot district that was damaged by an earthquake.

An energetic volunteer, Tamara Chacon, from ONGD FNEL, visited SCLC for her internship on January 3, 2023. She was engaged in SCLC upto May 2023.



On January 17, 2023, we organized Power Tiller Maintenance Training for the farmers which was supported by Dakshinkali Municipality, ward no. 9.



On February 11, 2023, computer training was provided to the S.E.E. group, women group, and Grade 12 group. Further, many CLCs, social work colleges and organizations visited Shikharapur CLC.

EMPOWERING FUTURES: SCLC'S DYNAMIC PARTNERSHIP



SCLC and ONGD-FNEL deepen their bond



SCLC has been working with ONGD-FNEL since 2017. On the 2nd of November 2023, delegates from ONGD-FNEL visited SCLC. The visit unfolded with the project team orchestrating a brief but insightful tour for the delegates. Embracing the rich tapestry of Nepali culture, the team extended a heartfelt welcome.

The agenda included engaging presentations and a showcase featuring various model projects funded by ONGD-FNEL, seamlessly blending the essence of cultural exchange with the demonstration of Shikharapur CLC's regular activities. It was a harmonious convergence of hospitality, cultural appreciation, and the shared commitment to meaningful projects.

IN COLLABORATION WITH



Learners' Corner...



In 2023, 18 Social work students from St. Xavier's' College completed their two week residential internship program in SCLC. Divided into two groups, each group successfully accomplished their one week internship each. During the program, teaching and learning process continued from both sides.

SCLC heartily welcomes enthusiastic students to join the organization for designated period of time. They actively work and contribute to the growth of students in a practical setting. If you are seeking for an experience and a platform to learn, SCLC is the best.

Together with learners from different community and organizations, for aspiring students of social sciences, humanities, agriculture and many more, SCLC provides residential volunteering/internship programs. The organization provides a platform for the students to learn, explore and contribute to the events, projects and overall aspect of SCLC. This program is designed to achieve the 'teach & learn' objective.

EXPERIENCE SHARING BY CLC VOLUNTEERS



Sanshila Khadka
BASW, 3rd Year
St. Xavier's College

"In this one week, I experienced varied aspects of SCLC. Visiting bottle house was always exciting. The internship was filled with learning and exposure."

"I had the opportunity to learn from a professional perspective. Throughout the internship I got to experience minute details involved in managing and mobilizing resources for the organization and the people involved"

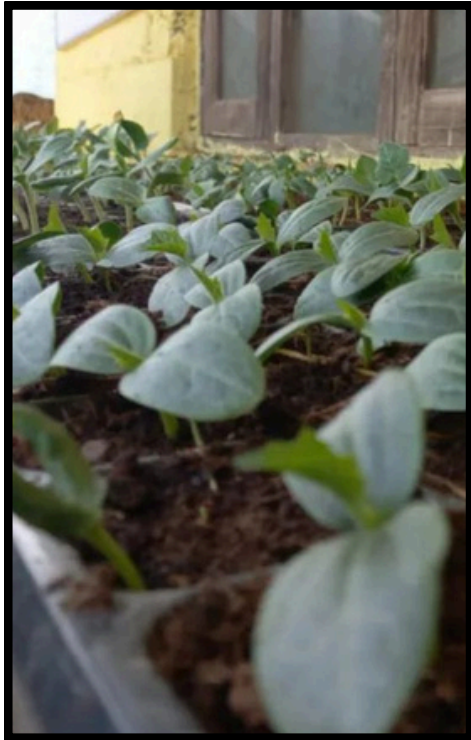


Anisha Rijal
BASW, 3rd Year
St. Xavier's College



DARPANCHHAYA

THIS IS THE DARPANGATHA'S PHOTO WALL REFLECTING THE SUCCESSFUL STORIES THAT ARE EMBROIDERED IN SCLC.



In this section we share:
Images of different activities organized by SCLC and it's partners...



BRINGING LEARNING BACK TO NEPAL: EDUCATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AT ESD WEEKS 2024 IN LUXEMBOURG



THE GOVERNMENT OF THE GRAND DUCHY OF LUXEMBOURG
Ministry of the Environment, Climate and Sustainable Development



The event "Education for Sustainable Development - ESD Weeks 2024" hosted by 'ONGD-FNEL Scouts and Guides' in Luxembourg from April 24th to May 8th, 2024 marked a significant milestone for SCLC. The event encompassed different activities that ranged from workshops to stakeholder meetings and cultural exchange programs. Mr. Niroj Shrestha, the Director of SCLC, and Ms. Lalita Lamichhane, Program Coordinator of Shikharapur Open School, with great enthusiasm joined in to represent Nepal during the sustainable livelihood sessions included on sustainable agriculture, eco-friendly construction, alternative learning, youth entrepreneurship, and youth empowerment, amongst others. SCLC delegate team presented a video featuring the best practices of sustainable agriculture and ecofriendly construction projects like Bottle House, together with the inspiring animation "Lali and Her Dream", which is a success story of one of the open school graduates, Ms Lamichhane herself. On 29th April, the team visited Mr. André Weidenhaupt, Director General at the Ministry of Environment, Climate and Biodiversity of Luxembourg and his team to have an interaction about our new project, "Empowering Communities for Sustainable Development through Continued Education, Climate Action, and Sustainable Agriculture". SCLC has successfully acquired land through this project, which will be used for further development.

ESD Weeks 2024 offered excellent opportunities for international collaboration and learning experiences to the SCLC delegates. The visit made to different educational institutions like school, colleges and NGOs, exchange of beekeeping and cultural visits made in Luxembourg, France and a few other places of Belgium and Germany were the high points. The activities upheld by Mr. Shrestha and Ms. Lamichhane deeply acknowledged the opportunity offered, saying that it laid positive impacts on their work for SCLC and the community. The knowledge and experiences gained promised to make a positive contribution to enhance the sustainable development effort in Nepal.



EARTHQUAKE RESPONSE

"Building Hope: Temporary Learning Center Construction in Jajarkot"



Mission

Our mission is to support the communities of Jajarkot and Rukum during tough times. We admire their strength and resilience. Believing that children are the hope for a better future, we are dedicated to ensuring their education continues despite challenges. We stand together to protect the safety, well-being, and education of these children. Every child deserves the chance to learn, grow, and succeed, no matter the obstacles. Together, we aim to provide the help needed to save lives, nurture dreams, and build a better future.

-Shikharapur CLC

The Shikharapur Community Learning Center (SCLC), in collaboration with the Hattiban Social Service Center, Rukmini Foundation and supported by the Rotary Club of Kathmandu, undertook a mission to construct Temporary Learning Centers (TLCs) in Jajarkot and Rukum. This initiative aimed to aid communities severely impacted by adverse conditions by providing a safe learning environment for children.



The project began with reconstructing a damaged school in Kalegaon, Bheri Municipality, raising NPR 500,000 from All Nepal CLC Network through social media and E-Sewa, alongside a 5,000 EURO donation from a German Organization to Hattiban Social Service Center and 1,000 USD from the Rukmini Foundation. The construction of a ten-room TLC was completed by a dedicated team of five members within nine days despite numerous challenges.

Another significant effort: The Rotary Club of Kathmandu, Shikharapur CLC, and Hattiban Social Service Center collaborated on a TLC reconstruction project at Shankar Bhawan Secondary School in Bheri Municipality Ward No. 2, Bahundada, Jajarkot. Part of the Nepal Earthquake Reconstruction 2024 initiative, this project was completed within 12 days with major funding from DRFC 2820 Japan.



Before the TLC construction, the school's infrastructure was in a dire state, posing significant risks to students and teachers. The new facilities now provide a safe and conducive learning environment, ensuring uninterrupted education. Mayor of Bheri Municipality, Mr. Chandra Prakash Gharti Magar has been great support in this mission.



The reconstruction efforts have been widely appreciated by the local government and community, with acknowledgments from the Mayor, Ward Chairperson and other relevant agencies. The financial report indicates a total expenditure of approximately NPR 1,100,969.25 for the TLC construction at Shankar Bhawan Secondary School, covering materials, labor, logistics and other necessary expenses.



The collaborative efforts of Shikharapur CLC, Hattiban Social Service Center and the Rotary Club of Kathmandu highlight the power of partnership and community involvement in post-disaster reconstruction, providing a supportive learning environment for students and fostering resilience and solidarity in the earthquake-affected regions.



Collaborative Partners



“Elevate Skills USA Expands Skill Enhancement Training in Collaboration with SCLC.”



Elevate Skills USA, a non-profit skill development project based in the USA, has partnered with Shikharapur Community Learning Center (CLC) to offer free comprehensive training to youths in Pharping, Kathmandu. This initiative, supported by the ALRC building from ONGD-FNEL, Luxembourg, and laptops from the Rukmini Foundation, aims to empower over 65 applicants with essential job readiness and career advancement skills.



The training, inaugurated by Mayor Mohan Basnet of Dakshinkali Municipality, was organized from January 15 to April 15, 2024, covering topics such as accounting, office management, communication, personality development and interview preparation.

This collaboration between Elevate Skills USA and SCLC highlights a shared commitment to accessible skill development, aiming to equip youths with the confidence and abilities needed for successful employment and personal growth. The training was led by inspiring personality CA Rajesh Trivedi, Founder of Elevate Skills USA.





GLOBAL SYNERGY: SHIKHARAPUR CLC'S TRANSFORMATIVE COLLABORATION WITH WINDESHEIM HONOURS COLLEGE, NETHERLANDS



Team Members:

Isa van Loenen

Stefan van Eekeren

Floortje Besten

Zarina Boekhoudt

Louisa Edekobi

Guadalupe P. Jimenez

A group of six students from Windesheim Honours College collaborated with SCLC in Nepal as part of their Managing Projects in a Globalized World course. Their focus was on empowering female farmers in Dakshinkali Municipality to improve sustainable agriculture practices. They explored topics from organic farming to digital marketing and engaged with farmers, SCLC staff, and the municipality through field visits. Their research findings and recommendations are detailed in a report for SCLC.

As the first group from Windesheim in Nepal this semester, they experienced an exciting learning journey filled with invaluable experiences and cultural immersion. They witnessed the resilience and dedication of female farmers and learned about sustainable agriculture practices. The group is grateful to SCLC for this unforgettable experience and looks forward to seeing their work contribute to a more sustainable agricultural future for Dakshinkali Municipality.

“My experience with Shikharapur CLC.” – Flora

My experience working with the (SCLC) on empowering female farmers in Pharping, Nepal, was truly transformative. Over two months of preparation in the Netherlands and two months of fieldwork in Pharping, I immersed myself in Nepali and Newari cultures, particularly through living with a host family. The warm welcome and invaluable support from SCLC, including insightful field visits and translators, enriched my understanding and helped overcome language barriers. This experience provided me with profound lessons and lasting memories.

“Experiencing SCLC’s Mission in Nepal.” – Isa

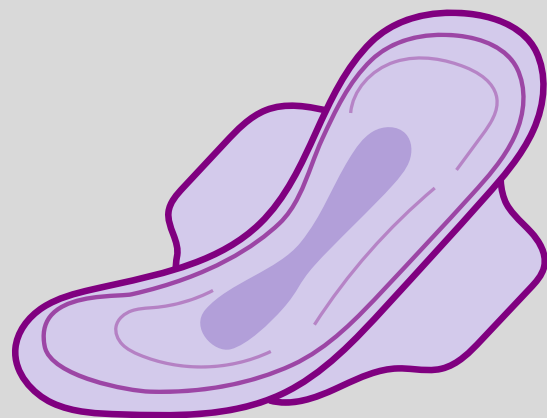
Over the past five months, my team and I had an amazing time working with SCLC to empower female farmers. From our first online meeting with Niroj Sir in the Netherlands to our 20-hour journey to Kathmandu, the adventure was unforgettable. We were warmly welcomed in Pharping and supported by SCLC throughout our project. Despite the challenges of adapting to a new culture, the experience was eye-opening and deeply rewarding. I’m grateful for the insights gained and wish SCLC all the best. Namaste and dhanyabaad!

SUCCESS STORIES

Training On

1) Reusable/Washable Sanitary Pad

Shikharapur Community Learning Center conducted an informative session to produce reusable/washable sanitary pad with the help of resourceful people of the community. The sole objective of the program was to reduce health complications and infections resulting out of pads made up of chemicals.



The program also aimed to reduce the expenditure of women on menstrual hygiene products and provide employment opportunities to the local people. The initial training was provided by Wine to Water Nepal while the refresher training has been supported by Ward no. 5, Dakshinkali Municipality



2) Beautician Training



The Vocational and Skill Development Training Center in Gajuri, Dhading, in collaboration with the Shikharapur Community Learning Center (SCLC), successfully organized a three-month beautician training for a second group of participants. Each group, both the first and the second, comprised 20 eager learners. SCLC played a pivotal role in promoting the training, selecting participants, and managing logistics, while the Gajuri Center provided funding and overall training management. The training sessions were held at the ALRC Building of SCLC, offering a blend of theoretical and practical approaches to ensure comprehensive learning.



Participants were encouraged to undertake a government-recognized skill test, which would validate their qualifications for both domestic and international job opportunities. To enhance the learning experience, trainer Subu Khadka conducted various exposure visits, motivational classes, and additional informative sessions. This collaboration not only equips participants with valuable skills but also paves the way for their professional growth and employment prospects, both at home and abroad.



3) Computer Training Program

Shikharapur Community Learning Centre and Rukmini Foundation conducted "FREE COMPUTER TRAINING AND PERSONALITY DEVELOPMENT". The program was designed to engage 70 SEE students with basic computer skills and programming knowledge while supporting their personal growth from January 9 to March 24. Though the resources were limited, there was a notable enhancement in computer literacy, articulation of thought process, and self-confidence in the students as a result of well-planned daily and weekly schedules.



Thus, the program outcome proved its efficiency in creating a conducive learning environment despite issues in student selection and engagement.



Recommendations would include more duration for the program, support continuation, and an extension of its reach to help many more communities. The collaboration epitomized strenuous efforts toward the empowerment of students and laying strong foundations for their future undertakings.

ON-GOING / UPCOMING PROJECTS & ACTIVITIES



THE GOVERNMENT
OF THE GRAND DUCHY OF LUXEMBOURG
Ministry of the Environment, Climate
and Sustainable Development

Empowering Communities for Sustainable Development through Continued Education, Climate Action, and Sustainable Agriculture.

Timeline : 2024-2028

Partner: ONGD-FNEL

Project Area: Kathmandu and Makwanpur



Youth and Women Agriculture Entrepreneurship Project

Timeline : 2024-2028

Partner: ONGD-FNEL

Project Area: Kathmandu

Shikharapur CLC has purchased 5007 Sq.M. of land for a Climate Project supported by Luxembourg's Ministry of Environment, Climate and Biodiversity through ONGD-FNEL.



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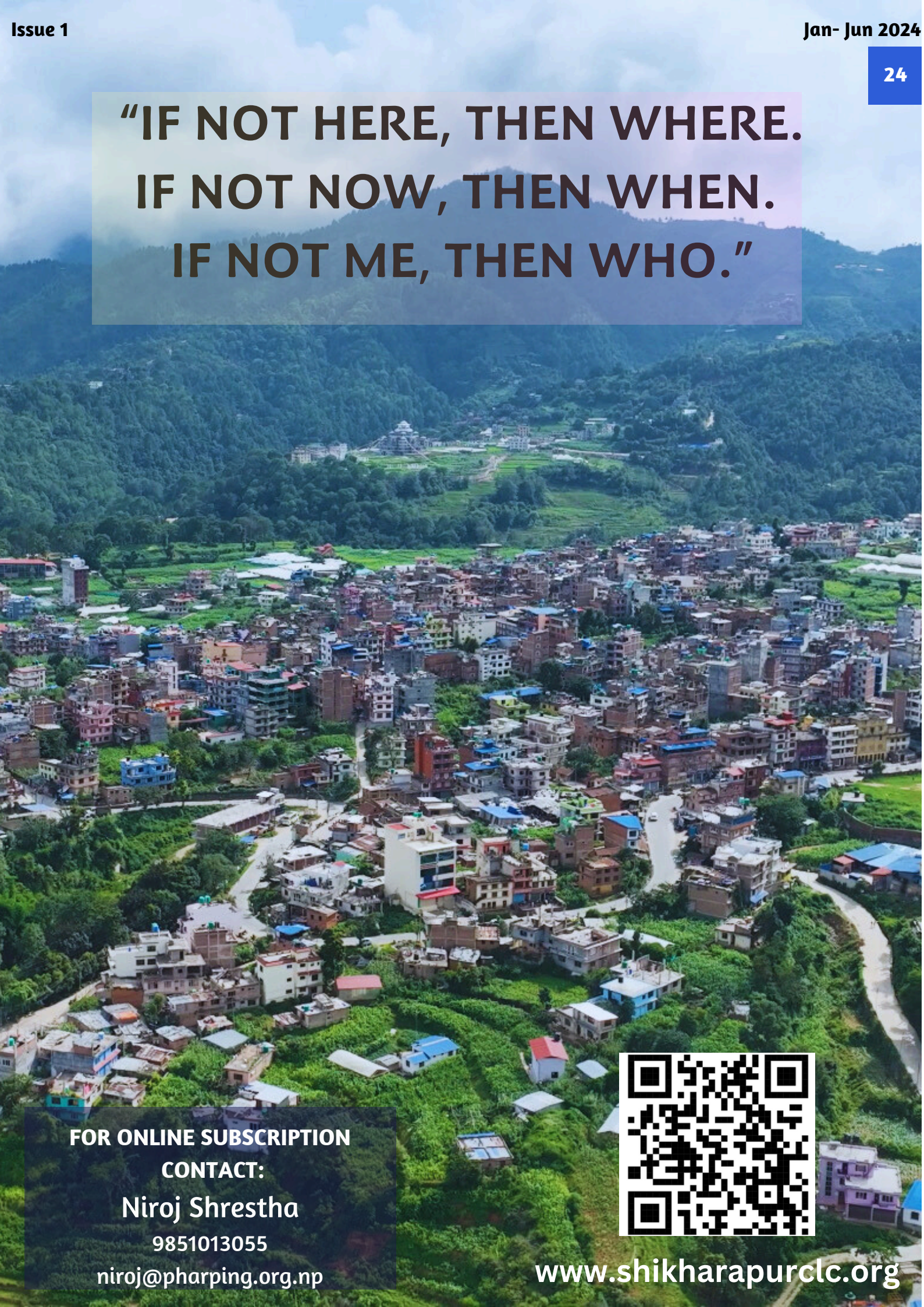


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**“IF NOT HERE, THEN WHERE.
IF NOT NOW, THEN WHEN.
IF NOT ME, THEN WHO.”**



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