

From Challenges to Lasting Change: The Transformation of Kalidevi Secondary School

Facebook Page: Kalidevi Secondary School, Bagmati-02, Malta



Kalidevi Secondary School, Bagmati Rural Municipality-2, Malta, is an example of remarkable transformation through the collective efforts of school leadership, teachers, parents, the SMC, PTA, community, and REED Nepal's INTENT Project. Declared as a model school, the school has progressed toward becoming a safer, more inclusive, and child-friendly learning environment.

Just a few years ago, **Kalidevi Secondary School** faced several challenges affecting teaching quality, student safety, and the overall learning environment. Less than 40 percent of teachers participated in morning assemblies, the school lacked a secure boundary, waste management facilities were insufficient, and science, mathematics,

and computer laboratories were underutilized. ECED classes were mainly focused on rote writing of Nepali and English alphabets with limited child-centered activities, while classrooms lacked engaging learning materials. Additionally, school governance structures, including SMC and PTA, required strengthening, and parental participation in school activities remained limited.



"When I was newly appointed as the Head Teacher, I was uncertain about how to manage the school improvement process and maintain coordination with senior teachers. However, the continuous guidance and support from REED Nepal's team built my confidence and gave me a clear direction to move forward."
-Govinda Prasad Timalisina, Head Teacher, Kalidevi Secondary School

Today, Kalidevi Secondary School presents a completely different picture. Almost all teachers actively participate in the morning assembly, creating a positive school culture that promotes discipline, respect, and value-based practices such as the traditional Namaste greeting. The establishment of a secure school compound has improved student safety and significantly reduced unnecessary movement outside the school premises during breaks.

The school has also made remarkable progress in environmental management and hygiene. Twelve dustbins have been installed across the school premises, along with a compost recycling machine and a sanitary pad disposal system. These initiatives have contributed to a cleaner environment while promoting environmental awareness and menstrual hygiene management among students.

Teaching and learning practices have become more practical, engaging, and student-centered. The science laboratory, mathematics learning resources, and computer laboratory have been

revitalized and are now regularly used to support classroom instruction. Students from Grades 1 to 8 participate in computer classes at least twice a week, helping them develop essential digital skills. Through regular school-based mentoring and support from the Local Resource Teacher, particularly Ms. Rama Sharma, teachers have strengthened their instructional practices and improved the effective use of teaching and learning resources.

The transformation is especially visible in the ECED classrooms. Learning has shifted from traditional writing-focused approaches to play-based and activity-oriented methods that support children's cognitive, social, emotional, and physical development. As a result, the school now meets 17 out of 21 ECED quality standards set by the Government of Nepal, demonstrating significant progress in early childhood education quality.

Across the school, classrooms have become more vibrant and interactive learning spaces. Tools such as attendance boards, responsibility charts, weather charts, pocket charts, hanging learning materials, "My Creation" corners, and out-pass cards encourage student participation, ownership, creativity, and responsibility. Unsafe desks and benches have been repaired, creating safer and more welcoming classrooms. Child Clubs are actively participating in and leading school activities, while regularly publishing wall magazines to promote students' creativity, engagement, and leadership, as shown in the heading picture.



The impact of these improvements is reflected in student learning outcomes. Over the past three years, learning achievement has increased from 46.8 percent to 71 percent. More significantly, the Secondary Education Examination (SEE) pass rate has improved from only 10 percent three years ago to 100 percent this year. While student success is influenced by multiple factors, these achievements clearly demonstrate the positive impact of sustained investment in teacher capacity, school leadership, effective governance, and improved learning environments.

Kalidevi Secondary School's journey demonstrates that when schools, communities, local government, and development partners work together with a shared vision, meaningful and sustainable change is possible. Following REED Nepal's capacity-building training and support through the INTENT Project, community ownership has strengthened as the SMC and PTA have been restructured in line with national education policies, promoting transparent governance, active parental engagement, and stronger collaboration between parents and teachers to support children's learning.

Challenges remain. Ensuring an adequate number of motivated teachers, minimizing political influence in school affairs, and addressing the availability of unhealthy junk food around the school continue to require attention. However, the school's journey clearly demonstrates that sustainable improvement is possible when committed leadership is combined with community participation, evidence-based educational support, and long-term partnership.

The transformation of Kalidevi Secondary School is more than a story of improved facilities or higher examination results. It is a story of renewed hope, strengthened leadership, empowered teachers, engaged parents, and children learning in an environment where they feel safe, valued, and inspired.



"Over the past three years, the school has experienced significant changes. The overall environment has improved, and academic results have also increased. My daughter passed the SEE examination this year with excellent marks. I now recommend this free school with its supportive and organic learning environment rather than expensive schools in the city."
-Pramila Ghimire, Parent



"After REED Nepal declared Kalidevi as a model school, other organizations started showing interest in supporting the school. Following this, JICA constructed a residential building, and Choice Nepal and other organizations have also started approaching the school for collaboration."
-Ram Bahadur Bholun Tamang, Ward Chairperson