

ANNUAL REPORT



PDRC
ANNUAL
REPORT
2018

PDRC
Making your dream into reality

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND RESEARCH CENTER

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Acknowledgement

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

This report is a product of all the inputs and the insights accumulated from different individuals and organizations. The PDRC Annual Report-2018 team is thankful to everyone who has been directly or indirectly associated with this work. This task would not have been possible without them.

This report constitutes all the works PDRC has undertaken in the year 2018. We owe sincere gratitude to PDRC President and Executive Director for their supervision and prime role in authenticating and analyzing of the works and the figures. We would also like to thank everyone in the leadership of PDRC for their valuable inputs.

Our gratitude is due to all the government agencies, I/NGOs, corporate houses and other institutional partners who believed in us and supported us with a huge deal of generosity. Our efforts would not have been impactful had there not been support from individuals who believed in giving. So, it is a genuine pleasure to express our deep sense of thanks to all the individual supporters.

There have been individuals this year as well who showed their concern for the endeavors of PDRC and provided their support in the form of their involvement, participation, motivational sessions and the like. It is our privilege to thank them for their positive attribute towards PDRC.

The students themselves are vital who have to take bigger steps for their success. Thus, we appreciate all the students who, in their own manner, have achieved something better in the year 2018 with their hard work, dedication, and commitment.

Finally, we would like to thank profusely all the members of PDRC management team for their regular and painstaking efforts in the making of the report.

ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

CERD:	Committee on Elimination of Racial Discrimination
DEED:	Dalit Employability Enhancement Database
DWO:	Dalit Welfare Organization
MBBS:	Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery
M&E:	Monitoring and Evaluation
MoE:	Ministry of Education
NCE:	National Campaign for Education
NDPS:	National Dalit Personnel Society
NEB:	National Examination Board
NNDSWO:	Nepal National Dalit Social Welfare Organization
PDRC:	Professional Development and Research Center
PEPSP:	PSC Exam Preparation Support Program
PSC:	Public Service Commission
SEE:	Secondary Education Examination
SWC:	Social Welfare Council
UGRAD:	Global Undergraduate Exchange Program
UN:	United Nations
USAID:	US Agency for International Development
USEF:	The United States Education Foundation
YEST:	Youth Empowerment in Science and Technology



FROM THE DESK OF PRESIDENT

Dear all

It is with pleasure and pride that I script this message as president of PDRC for the Annual Report 2018. PDRC is a symbol of struggle, sacrifice, and mission-oriented organization. It is working for over 13 years to bring the poor and marginalized youths into the mainstream of the nation by creating an environment for career development through quality higher education and professional training despite various obstacles.

The government has set forth the slogan "Happy Nepali, Prosperous Nepal". It sounds very attractive and we all definitely aspire to reach this stage. However, it is not that easy to achieve the goal as said by the government. It is because a majority of people in this country are living below the poverty line and poor and marginalized youth of deprived community do not have access to quality education despite the efforts of state and other stakeholders. On the other hand, the state has paid very little attention in terms of providing quality education to mainly deprived and marginalized communities. Majority of children and youths of the poor and deprived community go to government schools and colleges but the government has not been able to improve their quality. Neither government has adequate resources nor has the willingness to provide quality education to them. Parents of these children cannot afford a private school for them nor can guide them as most of the parents are illiterate and financially weak. So these children need systematic and organized support to bridge the gap between government and communities.

As we all know that education is the foundation for the overall development of a person and nation as a whole. Educated and professional people are the assets of a country. Educating people means making a nation prosperous. Government sole effort is not sufficient to achieve the goal of a nation. What we have realized is that it's not only government's goal but it is a common goal of all Nepalese. In order to bridge the gap between the government and community, PDRC has been playing a vital role by creating an environment for quality education; mainly higher, professional education. It has been instrumental in the last fourteen years. It has supported thousands of youths in terms of providing quality general and technical education at



FROM THE DESK OF PRESIDENT

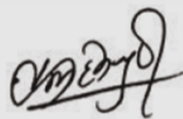
higher levels. It has put lots of efforts in making the dream of needy and talented youths into reality despite its resources crunch.

Since we are in the process of achieving our goal of prosperous Nepal, the role of an organization like PDRC has increased. It has to create a supportive environment for more and more youths. More services mean more financial resources. We all know that without resources realization goal is just a mere dream. Hence, PDRC is looking for supportive hands and generous hearts to raise fund to support needy and talented youths.

We are hopeful that we all come together for fulfilling our mission. As a president of the organization, I humbly appeal to all our donors, well-wishers and Nepalese who really love Nepal- Come together and cooperate in raising fund to educate children and youths of poor and deprived communities. Without our combined efforts it is not possible for us to make Nepal really prosperous.

Finally, I would like to thank all donors, well-wishers and my colleagues who have been collaborating so far to make our dream into reality and expect your cooperation in the future as well.

With best wishes



Kamala Hemchuri
President



FROM THE DESK OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

It is my pleasure to pen down the letter from executive director desk. Last year when I started writing the letter I felt how fast the year 2017 finished, the same kind of feeling is coming right now. At the same time, what has taken place in the year 2018 which everyone did notice through our publicity. I would say nothing is achieved which is considered as one of the best achievements. For us, every step we took was special, whether it is students' academic and career counseling, Public Service Commission's exams, Global UGRAD, Youth Empowerment in Science & Technology, preparing students for UN traineeship and USAID's internship or Research & Advocacy.

This year we have not seen students from different parts of the country come to PDRC as before. This is the impact of federalism. Now the power is decentralized so people are now attracted to their provinces. On the other side, the scholarship distribution system for the secondary level was not well managed this year that affects students of low economic condition. National Examination Board as previous years did not conduct scholarship examination this year instead the secondary schools/colleges themselves managed the scholarship so many prospective students got deprived of scholarship throughout the country. We approached concerned authorities that include the Ministry of Education (MOE), Department of Education, Kathmandu Metropolitan Education Department among others and requested them to handle the situation but the situation did not get improved. At the same time, we tried a lot from our side to support the students by coordinating almost all wards of Kathmandu metropolitan city and got full support. With the recommendation letter from wards, many students got scholarships in the schools for pursuing the 10+2 course. This is not the final solution. Hope next year the scholarship distribution process will be systematic and underprivileged students will get maximum benefit out of this opportunity.

During this year we visited many secondary schools where we interacted with students and teachers and had opportunities to meet parents as well. In every meeting, we heard the complaint of leaning and understanding of taught lessons. The students understand less though they attend the classes. There is a major drawback in the schools-lack of efficient teachers. And students' learning passion is deteriorating gradually that affects their learning achievement. On the other hand, students are addicted to mobile usages that keep them far from physical exercise and enjoyment with nature. At PDRC we have already started a discourse on this serious issue and been planning to do something that contributes to improving the situation next year.



FROM THE DESK OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Public service job has become the most lucrative government job among youths nowadays but the situation was not the same eight years ago when we started the Public Service commission's officers level preparatory classes. Recruitments in justice, law, and govt. lawyer are not fulfilled. Many deserving candidates are still not aware of all the opportunities in other govt. agencies. This is a challenge for us to disseminate information across the country especially in the remote areas so that the students can start preparing for the job as per their qualification. This year our six candidates whom we supported for preparation got govt. jobs. At this moment I would like to thank all our consortium members (Barah Jewellery Pvt. Ltd, NNDSWO, DWO, Samata Foundation, Kohinoor Diamond Nepal Pvt. Ltd and NDPS Nepal) for joining hands with PDRC to support PSC officers' level aspirants.

We have been supporting students for their soft skill development whenever required. This year we have formulated a tool that helps us to conduct the job readiness training for youths. They will be equipped with the soft skills after completion of a certain level of education. We will start the program next year regularly.

With this note, I would like to close my letter but before that, I must thank all our students, parents, well-wishers and contributors for their continuous support in our mission. I would take the opportunity to hearty thank Dr. Tom Jacobsen and madam Berit for their unconditional financial and moral support to PDRC. At the same time, I must thank all our individual sponsors for their generous support to our students. At last but not least, I would like to thank our respected Advisory Board Members, Executive Board Members and Ex-Board members for their product support this year.

Sincerely,



Birendra Biswakarma

Executive Director

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In line with PDRC vision of creating discrimination-free society through quality education, the efforts have been directed accordingly in the year 2018. This report covers the major achievements of the programs, including the financial overview and the future plan.

The trend of prioritizing quality and quantity in different scales has been in practice from the time unknown. And like any other industries, this applies to the development sector as well. PDRC, despite its limited resources, believes in capitalizing on what it possesses. We know that it may not be possible for us to be everywhere at any time, but we believe that it is more important to be at right place at right time and that single moment can change the life of someone who, in long run can turn into a role model of her/his society. Last year, we saw a number of role models in making as the result of our support blended with their tireless effort. Six Dalit youth, who were constrained in terms of resources, got into government sector while 45 more are preparing under our programme this year. This also came with a strong message that even Dalits who are stereotyped as “reservation package” can get into open competition provided they are rightly guided and equipped with proper skills. So was the case with a PDRC student who finished his study in Aeronautical Engineering and entered Nepal Airlines Cooperation as Senior Technical Officer. Our former student of 2013/14 batch Mohan Salami Magar, got recruited as the 2nd Lieutenant while another student Deepak Diyali completed his MBA degree from the USA. These instances are sure to amplify its impact in the societies of the victorious students.

We do have convictions that walk of miles starts with a single small step. As those steps in the lives of underprivileged students, we counsel them on their academics, career, and personal wellbeing. In the year 2018, we managed to counsel 666 students from 53 districts of Nepal. This year, 20 students were granted Dr. Tom Jacobsen Scholarships which is sure to pave way for their bright future. A new scholarship fund after the name of Dr. Bidhyanath Koirala has been established this year which supports one student. In the same manner, 61 students had a remarkable year because of the scholarships accompanied with regular guidance and monitoring. As the cherry in the cake, at the beginning of 2018, 22 PDRC students had a lifetime chance to interact with Dr. Tom Jacobsen, the person who has been walking hand to hand with them towards their dream and supporting them financially.

Regarding the coordination, this year PDRC partnered with 5 likeminded organizations for the PSC preparatory support program. In the same

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

manner, an information session was held with the Fulbright Commission which has opened the door for further coordination in the days to come. As a part of advocacy, this year, Memorandum regarding provisions for the Dalit scholarship in Secondary level in the new federal structure was filled in the Ministry of Education. Since we all know that there is a sheer need for professional training for the youth from the underprivileged community, a training manual has been developed this year which will be put into action in 2019.

The path we chose was not easy and neither it is in the present. There have been changes in the funding priorities, social dynamics and every day we confront new problems and issues of student we intent to work for. The issue of sustainability stands as a huge threat and making the PDRC products accountable to their society have come as another challenge in recent times. But all of these issues and challenges are weightless when it comes to the change we see in the lives of student we support. In nutshell, the year 2018 has left us with some challenges and plentiful hope that in the days to come, more hands and hearts who believe small steps do lead to walking of miles, will join us.

01

PDRC AT A GLANCE



PDRC AT A GLANCE

Professional Development & Research Center (PDRC) has been touching the lives of youth from the underprivileged community for the last 13 years. We exclusively work to improve their access to quality and equitable education. They are further equipped with professional skills and competencies so that they can excel in their chosen career. We do support and encourage next-generation leaders to be actively engaged in social research to promote inclusive democracy in the country. PDRC, on the other hand, is a true advocate of educational right for the people placed at the bottom of society.



Vision

To create a discrimination free society through education



Mission

To ensure quality, value based and employable education for underprivileged community

02 YEAR IN THE REVIEW



YEAR IN THE REVIEW

- 80 students were provided with information on further education and technical writing through a program jointly organized with Fulbright Commission
- 67 students from 28 districts were supported for Secondary (10+2) Education Scholarship
- 60+ youths were provided with information on Awards in Australia through a program co-organized with the Australia Awards
- 45 Dalit youths were provided with Public Service Commission (PSC) Preparatory Support
- Formed a consortium with 5 like-minded organizations to conduct Public Service Commission (PSC) preparatory class
- 20 students pursuing bachelor and plus two levels were provided scholarships under Dr. Tom Jacobsen Scholarship Program
- 6 beneficiaries of PSC preparatory class got recruited in govt. sector
- 3 students clicked in MBBS, 3 in Engineering and 2 in Management for bachelor level study
- Memorandum regarding provisions for the Dalit scholarship in Secondary level in the new federal structure was filled in Ministry of Education
- Established a new scholarship under the name of educationist Dr. Bidyanaath Koirala
- Conducted an information seminar for SEE graduate of a community school in Bhaktapur
- Drafted a job readiness training manual for educated youth
- Dr. Tom Jacobsen made a visit to PDRC on January 22, 2018.
- Deepak Diyali completed his MBA degree from the United States of America
- Mohan Salami Magar, a student of PDRC got recruited as 2nd Lieutenant
- Debina Risal got selected for 2018/19 session of Global UGRAD program.
- PDRC Student Aeronautic Engineer Prabin Shreepaili got recruited in Nepal Airlines Corporation as Senior Technical Officer

Total no.
of beneficiaries
served in 2018

901

Total no. of
students
counselled in 2018

666

Total no. of
districts covered
in 2018

53

03

PROGRAMS AND SERVICES



PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

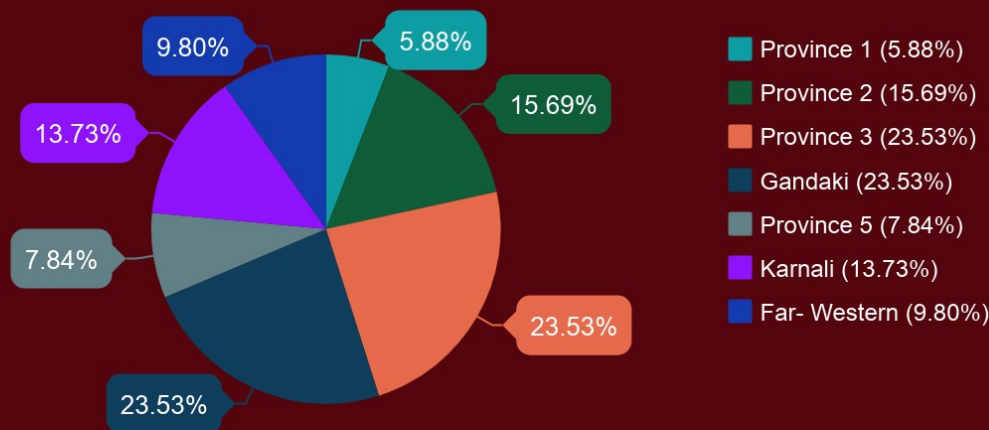
3.1. Dr. Tom Jacobsen Higher Education Support Program

This program is funded by Dr. Tom Jacobsen, a Norwegian Engineer through his company JARLA AS at Norway. For nearly a decade, Dr. Jacobsen has been playing a vital role in shaping the dreams of hundreds of Dalit and underprivileged students.

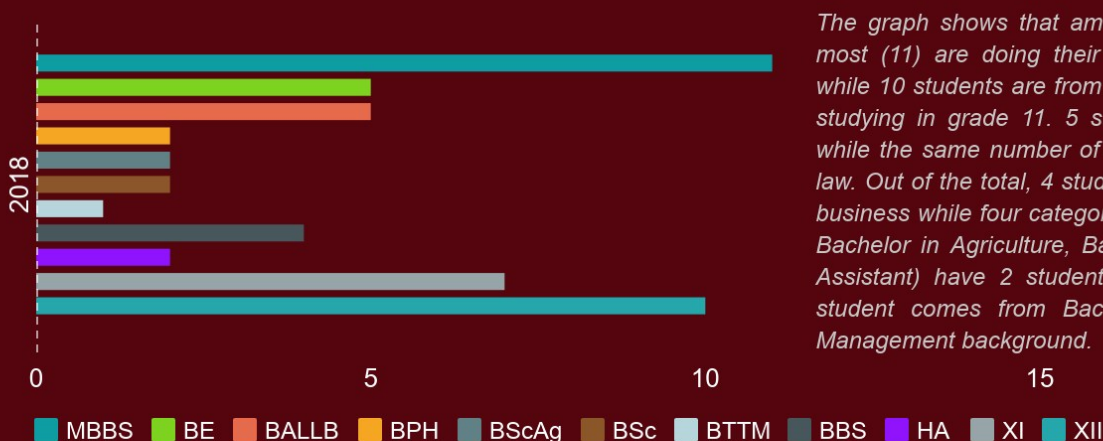
Dr. Tom Jacobsen Fund provides financial assistance to the underprivileged students so that they can acquire quality education along with skills and competencies. This assistance helps them to grow as a future leader in their respective fields. Currently, 51 students are receiving the scholarship through this fund out of which 55% are male while 45% are female

Beneficiaries of Dr. Tom's support in info-graph

Dr. Tom Jacobsen Scholarship 2018 Province -wise distribution



The chart shows that Gandaki Province along with province no. 3 has the highest number of students who cover 23.53% of the total seats of scholarship. Province no 2 occupies 15.69% while Karnali Province occupies 13.73%. The bottom three are Far-Western Province, 5 and 1 with 9.8%, 7.84%, and 5.88 % respectively.



The graph shows that among the scholarship recipients most (11) are doing their bachelor degree in medicine while 10 students are from grade 12 while 7 students are studying in grade 11. 5 students represent engineering while the same number of students are from Bachelor in law. Out of the total, 4 students are pursuing bachelors in business while four categories (Bachelor in Public Health, Bachelor in Agriculture, Bachelor in Science and Health Assistant) have 2 students each as beneficiaries. One student comes from Bachelor of Travel and Tourism Management background.



I am Dr. Tom Jacobsen Scholarship recipient and currently studying MBBS in Nepal Medical College (NMC) Jorpati, Kathmandu. After the completion of my SLC level, I had come to Kathmandu to continue my further studies. I had got a scholarship from the ministry of education but it was not sufficient for me.

I was connected with PDRC since the time when I was studying my +2 level and now PDRC provides me financial support to continue my further studies. It not only provides me with financial support but also encourages for my study. Also, PDRC shows me away and teaches discipline to get success in my life. It plays a key role in the development of my career as it supports me in every step. So I feel very lucky and proud to be a member of PDRC. And finally, I would like to give hearty thanks to Dr. Tom Jacobsen for making this happen.

Jagadish Chandra Mahate (MBBS student, Nepal Medical College)

3.2. Youth Empowerment in Science and Technology (YEST)

Through this program, we encourage students to pursue Science & Technology courses. We conducted online mock tests for medical and engineering entrance exams. This year 3 students clicked in MBBS out of which two got University Grant Commission (UGC) Scholarship while one grasped the scholarship of Ministry of Education (MOE). Meanwhile, 3 students clicked in Engineering while 2 got scholarships for management studies at bachelor level.



An organization is a unit of people that is structured and managed to meet a need or to pursue collective goals. But for me PDRC has been more of a family which has been supporting me from the last few years. This organization has helped me financially and has supported me and motivated me in every step that I have taken to fulfill my dream. It has become a bridge between me and my ambitions. Apart from these, PDRC has given me the opportunity to participate in many of the motivational sessions and has helped me by guiding me in the right path and supporting me on my decisions as well as helping me to take right actions. PDRC has become a big part of my life and it has been a privilege to be a part of this big family. I want to thank everyone for all their efforts and time. I wish in near future, I will be able to repay all the kindness and love that I have received and support the organization for the better future of students who will become a part of the PDRC family

Reema Bishunki (Computer Engineering Student)



3.3. PSC Exam Preparation Support Program (PEPSP)

In Nepal, bureaucracy is the permanent government and the officials are recruited through the Public Service Commission. The government has allocated 9% out of reserved quotas for Dalit community. As a result, Dalits have occupied around 2 % of the total Nepal Government personnel. In order to capacitate candidates from Dalit community, PDRC has been providing them with preparation sessions for the last 7 years. Till date, 71 students from PDRC have clicked in the government service. Out of them, 37 have been serving the nation as officers.

This year, 45 Dalit youth have been supported for PSC preparatory class. As every year, this year too PDRC has worked on a consortium basis. A consortium with Dalit Welfare Organization (DWO), Samata Foundation, National Dalit Personnel Society (NDPS), Nepal National Dalit Social Welfare Organization (NNDSWO), Baraha Jewellery Industries and Kohinoor Diamond Nepal Pvt. Ltd. has been formed to conduct the class.

A motivational session for Dalit PSC candidates was conducted on stress and time management. Mr. Anand Kafle, undersecretary, PM office was resource person of the session



I would like to extend my sincere thanks to Professional Development and Research Center (PDRC) for giving me the first-hand knowledge on Lok Sewa exam preparation. The preparation classes were the opportunity to understand basic techniques to appear for Lok Sewa Exam. This support played a huge role to quench my thirst of entering Foreign Affairs Service of the Government of Nepal while I was struggling with economic hardship.

I carefully and patiently followed the idea delivered in the tuition classes that ultimately lead my entry as a section officer at Ministry of Foreign Affairs. This achievement has created many moments of joy in my life- first, an opportunity to serve the nation; second, development of a self-confidence; third, realization of human dignity; fourth, constructive and realistic career pathway; and fifth, an ability to make reasonable basic living expenses.

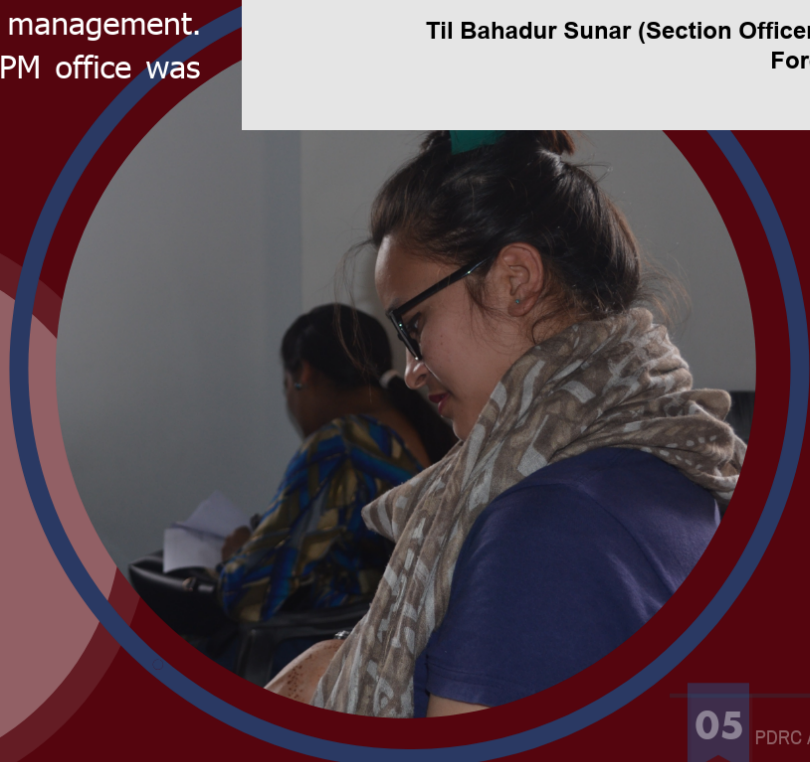
As a person emerging from the Dalit community, I am still facing several untold and unaddressed miseries. Therefore, it is high time to seek real solutions - a sustainable way of eliminating caste-based obstacles. For this, the entrance of the Dalit community in Civil Service can be a way to achieve our common goals in the most practical terms.

What I have learned from that achievement is that organization like PDRC have played a great role in changing the lives of people like me and many others. Once again, I would like to thank PDRC for providing such great support. I would like to express my commitment to support the ongoing efforts of PDRC in the days to come.

Til Bahadur Sunar (Section Officer, Ministry of Foreign Affairs)

No. of
successful
PSC
candidates in
2018

6



3.4. Dalit Employability Enhancement Database (DEED)

Dalit Employability Enhancement Database (DEED) is an online roster of educated Dalit youths. It polishes youth with capacity building programs so that they can better claim their candidacy for the career opportunities in the market. So far we have total 1100 registered data in the roster.

Inspiring Aspirants

As a part of a joint educational campaign “Inspiring Aspirants”, PDRC in collaboration with USEF Nepal organized an information seminar on 24th September 2018 at USEF Nepal. The program which saw the participation of 80 young aspirants comprised of a session on Fulbright Fellowship and USEF Education USA Services followed by experience sharing sessions from Fulbright Alumni. The program also included a resume writing session by USEF- Nepal Executive Director Dr. Thomas Robertson.



3.5. Academic and Career Development Counseling



Academic and Career Counseling is the trademark program of PDRC from the period of its incubation. Many underprivileged students, especially Dalit experience series of problems after passing Secondary Education Examination in terms of choosing appropriate subjects and mapping out their future prospect. At the same time, in countries like Nepal, students

also go through tremendous psychological challenges as well as family/peer pressure. Therefore, we provide counseling to the students in order to help them make informed choices about their educational goals and manage external influences. Along with the counseling, students are also provided with the scholarship information. Students are counseled in a package which comprises of motivation, decision making, goal setting, problem-solving, self-esteem development, scholarships, and personality development. In 2018, altogether 666 students from 53 districts were counseled out of which 414 were male while 252 were female.

My few words

“Nothing is impossible if you have a strong determination to fight against your problems”

I am a younger daughter of my mother; a housewife with four daughters who has been looking after us all alone and handling the family's economy. My father's family is a well-established family. But it believes that they need “boy child” to continue their generation and only their son can handle the house. They consider their own daughters worthless. My mother, who was not able to give a son, was thrown out of the family and my father got married to another woman.

Yes! She was my mother; left all alone to earn a livelihood with her four daughters. She was called useless just because she had only daughters but not a son. But they forgot that everything happens for good and today we all are at our best and still striving for a bright future. It was possible all because of my mother. She did every job she got in her way, whether it was fit for her or not despite being a bachelor student. Thus, finally, she was able to make us stand on our own feet. I am here today as an MBBS student of 2nd year in UCMS, Bhairahawa (MOE scholar). Being a PDRC student since grade 12, and also as part of my aim, I am determined to help students from dominated and back warded society of our country, who are deprived of education, in my near future.

I want to express my gratitude to PDRC family for supporting me, for being my parents, my family and helping me in the midst of struggle and pain so that I could rise up once again. Getting a scholarship from PDRC was a matter of honor for me and helping students in my future through PDRC will be a matter of dream come true to me. Thank you so much PDRC for everything! Thank you!!!

Anuja Devkota (MBBS student, Universal College of Medical Sciences)

3.6. Information Seminar on Australia Awards

Australia Awards are the prestigious international scholarships and fellowships funded by the Australian government offering the next generation of global leaders an opportunity to undertake study, research, and professional development.

This year, Australia Awards in partnership with PDRC conducted an information seminar in the month of March 2018 in Kathmandu. The program saw the participation of around 60 prospective candidates including people with disabilities and government agencies to the development sector. The personnel from Australia Awards made a presentation regarding the requirement and procedure to apply for Australia Awards 2018/19 intake.



3.7. Global UGRAD program

The Global Undergraduate Exchange Program provides one semester scholarships to outstanding undergraduate students from around the world for non-degree full-time study combined with community service, professional development, and cultural enrichment in the United States of America. The PDRC Global UGRAD program preparatory package comprised of the orientation session, facilitation in the documentation, essay composition, online application process, and mock interview session. Altogether In 2018, PDRC provided preparatory support to 21 potential candidates. This year one student named Debina Risal got selected for the program.

PDRC has provided undergraduates with better opportunities in life by introducing them with programs like Global UGRAD. From application procedure, documentation to interview preparation, PDRC has become a very important support for me throughout my procedures of the Global UGRAD program. I appreciate the support from PDRC in making me one of the best candidates for the program.

Dibina Rijal (Currently in the USA under Global UGRAD program 2018-19)



3.8. Support for various scholarship programs

The government of Nepal provides substantial numbers of scholarship to the students of community schools to study grade 11 and 12 under the student scholarship bank program. However, the students must go through a tough written examination conducted by individual secondary schools/colleges.

Since Nepal has entered the federal system recently, the scholarship program for Dalit students has been in mess. To find way out, PDRC took lead and coordinated with the authorities. PDRC disseminated information across the country through different networks and helped them to submit the application. In addition, PDRC also conducted a model test to make prospective students familiar with the examination format. 67 students from 28 different districts have come across PDRC for this scholarship till June last week. Out of 67, 50 represent community school.

In the year 2018, PDRC provided preparatory support to 5 students for Golden Jubilee Scholarship and 31 students for Mahatma Gandhi Scholarship. PDRC also supported students for Pokhara University Scholarship as result of which 5 students were able to get scholarships in different faculties.



04

ORGANIZATIONAL ACTIVITIES



ORGANIZATIONAL ACTIVITIES

4.1. Outreach program in community schools

In the month of May, PDRC conducted an information seminar for the SEE graduate students of a community school, Ganesh High School in Bhaktapur. The main purpose of the session was to counsel SEE graduates in academic career options they have in the future. Similarly, in October and November the same kind of informative but motivational seminars were conducted in MMES (Mickey Medium English School, a lower secondary school), Kailali for students who passed out from this school and now attending classes in community schools and another in Mission Public School, Kathmandu.

The students were given information regarding opportunities at the secondary level and were motivated to work hard. PDRC Executive Director Birendra Biswakarma was the resource person in all the sessions.



4.2. Scholarship Distribution

In the first week of April, PDRC conducted a program and distributed scholarship grants to 21 needy and deserving students. Out of 21, 20 scholarships are sponsored by Dr. Tom Jacobsen Fund while 1 scholarship has been endorsed by Dr. Bidyanath Koirala Fund. Out of the total grantees, 11 students are doing their bachelors while 10 are in plus two levels. Regarding gender composition, female grantees occupy 38% while male grantees occupy the rest. Students from 18 districts have been granted with the scholarships which occupy all the provinces.

PDRC Scholarship Committee (PSC) is responsible for conducting the test and interview.



4.3. Interaction between Dr. Tom and benefitted students

PDRC has always been making efforts to bring contributor and beneficiaries together so that the contributor can feel the impact of contribution while the later can feel its value. In the starting of 2018, Dr. Tom Jacobsen, founder of the premier program of PDRC, Dr. Tom Jacobsen Scholarship Fund had an interaction with the beneficiaries of this program at PDRC hall. Dr. Tom has been supporting needy and deserving students for the last 9 years and on this occasion, 22 of them from different sectors shared the impact of Dr. Tom’s support in their lives.

Former students, who have turned professional now, shared the hardship they have faced in their lives and paid humble gratitude to Dr. Tom. They also talked about the importance of this support in their lives. In the same manner, other students also talked about how Dr. Tom Jacobsen Fund has been phenomenal in shaping their careers in the right way. In this student-focused program, some of them exhibited their singing talent with folk song and SARANGI play.



4.4. Welcoming International Expert

On April 3, PDRC welcomed Dr. John Brothers in its office at Kalanki, Kathmandu. He leads the US-based T. Rowe Foundation and teaches social welfare policy at Rutgers University and non-profit/philanthropic studies at New York University. Dr. John briefly talked about the changing landscape of non-profit management and fundraising. His experience and knowledge are likely to strengthen our ability to support the underprivileged community in Nepal.



4.5. Felicitating successful candidates of PSC program

In the mid of November, PDRC organized a program to felicitate 6 successful candidates who got recruited as officers in the government sector. The program was conducted in the presence of chairperson of ward no. 14 of Kathmandu, Shova Sapkota and ward member Urmila Senchuri. The successful candidates also shared their experiences of pain and gain during the program.



4.6. Research and publications

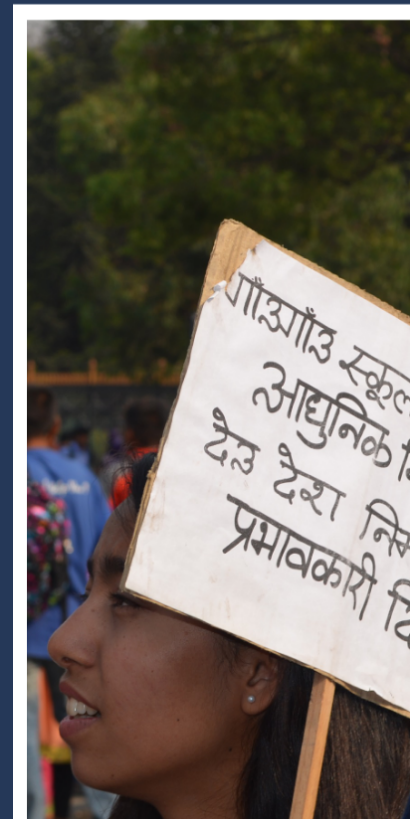
Research, as a means of knowledge production is essential from the perspective of validity and credibility for any work, and PDRC does have a keen focus on this segment. In the year 2018, PDRC worked on few works of researches which are as follows:

- Brief research on the participants of the PDRC Public Service Commission (PSC) support program was conducted which will eventually construct a complete picture of the impact of the PSC program.
- A concept paper based on secondary research of human rights dynamics of province 7 was drafted by PDRC which basically focuses on a project regarding governance in province 7.
- A concept paper on the Human Rights position of Dalit Youth of Nepal in reference to CERD was drafted which basically focused on how youth from Dalit community can lead a dignified life.
- A draft on office automation system and workplace communication skills has been drafted which will help educated youth to prepare themselves better for the competitive job market.

4.7. Participation / coordination

PDRC marked its solidarity through the participation in programs organized by various national/international organizations besides its own programs. Below are the details of major participations/engagements of PDRC in the year 2018.

- On January 13, participated in a program jointly organized by Language Commission and British Council with the objective of finding out how local languages can be made qualitative and can be incorporated in the elementary level education in this age of globalization.
- On 21 March, marked International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination through its participation in the mass rally. The civil society organizations led program saw the involvement of more than 500 participants.
- In the month of April, participated in a program organized by Samata Foundation on the implementation of CERD.
- In the month of April, participated in a program on education for Dalit Girls organized by Association for Dalit Women Advancement of Nepal (ADWAN)
- On July 7, a program was conducted at Dakshinkali Municipality ward no. 4 to empower local Dalit women on the constitutional provisions made for the Dalits. PDRC representative Dal Bahadur Bishwakarma was one of the resource persons.



- On July 12, a capacity building program for local youth leaders was conducted at Galchi Municipality and the representative from PDRC took part as one of the resource persons.
- On July 15 and 16, a representative from PDRC advocate Dal Bahadur Bishwakarma in the capacity of lead resource person took sessions conducted in Dhading on Dalit rights ensured by the constitution of Nepal 2072.
- On July 22, participated in the program by Samata Foundation held to amend the provisions stated on the fundamental rights of Dalit.
- On September 14, PDRC team met with Columbian scholar Leo and discussed on the opportunities for Dalit and underprivileged Nepalese students in Howard University.
- On September 17, participated in a meeting at MOE conducted by the Commission for Higher Education on strategies for ensuring quality education for Dalit and underprivileged students.
- On September 22, participated in a program organized by Good Human Organization and provided input on the role of the state in Tourism development.
- On September 27, participated in a program organized by National Campaign for Education to provide suggestion on the bill for education for children.
- In November, participated in a program conducted to draft a Civil Society Declaration organized by Dalit NGO Federation



4.8. Advocacy

The role of watchdog and advocacy is equally important to ensure the rights of others. Since its inception, PDRC has been advocating for Dalit's right to quality education. In this backdrop, we have partnered with government agencies, development partner as well as the private sectors.

a. Policy level advocacy for Higher Secondary Education

As Nepal has entered into federalism structure, National Examination Board (NEB) scholarship has suffered the most. This scenario is supposed to affect underprivileged students the most. In this regards, PDRC conducted a series of meetings with the Ministry of Education, Education Department, metropolitan, ward members, and other concerned bodies. Eventually, it is set that the scholarship for the moment will be governed by the local level (ward or municipality) which will recommend colleges for the scholarship.

b. Lobbying with colleges

PDRC has, for more than a decade, been making an organizational approach to the colleges for the support of Dalit and underprivileged students through its official correspondence. In the scenario where the scholarship management authority has been given to local level agencies, even the colleges have not been able to make clear announcements. PDRC approached three leading colleges in the Kathmandu, had met with its scholarship department and lobbied regarding support for Dalit students

c. Filed memorandum in the Ministry of Education

PDRC drafted a memorandum on the situation of Higher Secondary Education Scholarship requesting for the way forward in the ministry of education. This memorandum was filed on June 22 by PDRC president Kamala Hemchuri accompanied by Research & Advocacy officer Dal Bahadur Bishwakarma. This is one of the major initiations PDRC has taken in the year 2018.

d. National Campaign for Education

As every year, this year too NCE marked Global Action Week and PDRC was a member organization in this campaign. "Accountability in education and Participation of Citizens" was the slogan of this year. And with this slogan, a huge rally was demonstrated in Kathmandu on April. PDRC was one of the organizers of the rally.

Another campaign namely, "Open Letter to Prime Minister " was launched by NCE where community school students from grade 8 to 10 wrote letters to PM regarding how their school is and what changes they want to see in their school. In this regard, PDRC coordinated with two community schools and collected 101 letters and handed over to NCE Nepal.

Meanwhile, a program was held by NCE Nepal on budget required for free education ensued by the constitution. The program was incorporated with the feedbacks from educationists and experts.



05 MONITORING AND EVALUATION

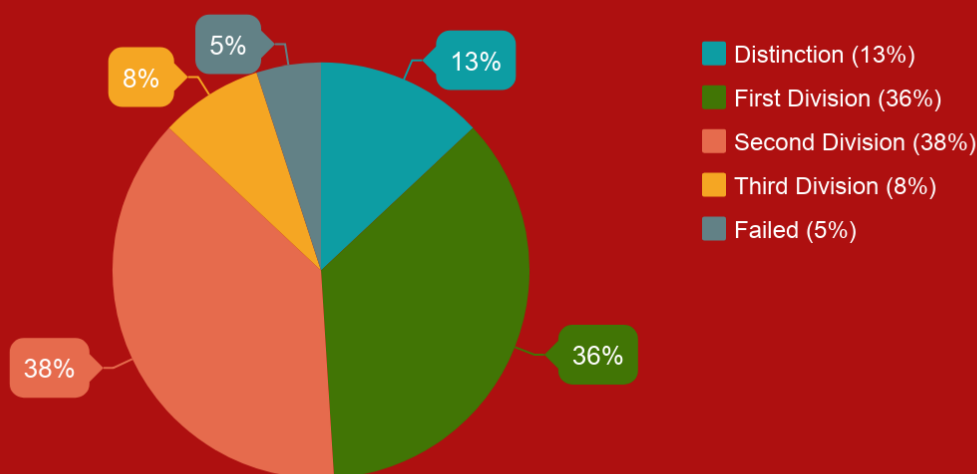


MONITORING AND EVALUATION

PDRC believes that the monitoring and evaluation of its beneficiaries are equally important to ensure the effectiveness of the support provided. In order to collect financial support, the students in the valley have to visit PDRC once a month. While for the students outside the valley, they are required to visit PDRC once in a quarter. During their visit, the students are inquired regarding their latest academic and non-academic progress. On top of that, PDRC M&E officers also make a visit to colleges of its students and take account of their progress. Similarly, quarterly meetings are also held with guardians of students as a part of Monitoring & Evaluation process.

In the case of deviation, students along with their parents are called in PDRC and in-depth inquiry is carried on. The factors resulting in poor result are identified and remedial methods are applied. PDRC also coordinates with college management to find a way out.

Performance of PDRC students in 2018



Currently, 61 students are getting support from PDRC. Out of the total, 51 are being supported under Dr. Tom Jacobsen Scholarship program while other 10 are being supported by individual donors.

As depicted in the chart above, out of total students, 13% have secured distinction, 36% have secured first division, 38% have secured second division and 8% have secured third division. Meanwhile, 5% of the students have not been able to obtain the pass mark.

PDRC Scholarship Guideline and Evaluation tool developed

In 2018, a guideline along with evaluation tool for PDRC Scholarship has been developed. The evaluation tool is used for the selection of students for the scholarship. Altogether 9 indicators are used while rating the applicants for the scholarship. The indicators are- a) Community b) Geographical proximity c) Gender d) Caste status inside underprivileged community e) Marks obtained in preceding level f) Economy g) Performance in written and interview h) Observation i) School type.

Range 1-5 and ratio depending on the nature of indicators are used for evaluation weight.

Plan approved by Social Welfare Council

Social Welfare Council (SWC), a government regulatory body in Nepal responsible for supervising the works of social organizations approved the annual plan of PDRC at the beginning of 2018. In the changing political scenario of Nepal where policies for social service are supposed to get tighter, the effort of PDRC has been marked praiseworthy by the authority itself.

06 SUPPORTING FOR IMPACT



SUPPORTING FOR IMPACT

PDRC has a firm belief that it is the collective effort of several good hearts that can strongly help to make dreams of underprivileged students come true.

This year, 6 individually funded scholarships are supporting 10 needy and deserving students in their education. The scholarships are named as follows

1. Dr. Bidhyanath Koirala Scholarship
2. Joy & Duane Poppe Scholarship
3. Anwasha Kalikote Scholarship
4. Gerd and Haakon Kyrkjeide Scholarship
5. Deepika Poudel Scholarship
6. Dr. Anjali Rasaili Scholarship

In 2018, 61 students got support from PDRC. Out of the total, 51 are supported under Dr. Tom Jacobsen Scholarship program while other 10 are being supported by individual donors.



Touching Life; making differences

Over the span of more than 13 years, PDRC has been working consistently to bring changes in the lives of the underprivileged community. We see their dreams through our eyes and try to make it happen.



We had a very miserable financial condition and our daughter was forced to join a government college. There, she did not get the proper environment to study. Now due to the support of PDRC, she is studying the subject of her interest in a good college. We are thankful to the PDRC Team.

Mother of PDRC student Sabina Rizal

The year 2014 was a very important year for me when I heard about PDRC and got a chance to visit there. After coming in contact with PDRC, I came to know about DEED program. As a part of this program, PDRC supported me in preparing for the UN traineeship program. The preparation program comprised of support in CV and cover letter writing, simulation written test, and mock interviews. Finally, through this support, I was able to get selected for UN traineeship program.

It was a great experience working as a trainee at UNICEF Nepal on Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) unit. I have now close understanding, knowledge, and skills to work with UN agencies, international and national agencies and government bodies in the field of WASH.

This was a huge stride in my professional career. I am extremely thankful to PDRC Team for its support.

Rocky Mitra
Ex UN Trainee



What we seek is what we get, but what matters is how. We all seek happiness, peace, honor, wealth etc. and there is no doubt it could not be achieved through education. Education, another word for the enlightenment, leads to consciousness and liberation.

Born in a humble family, I was naïve about the dynamics of time and technology. Early days of academics were challenging but I had a deep feeling that it is just temporary. PDRC played a crucial role in my academics and career. Dr. Tom Jacobsen scholarship and various other programmes of PDRC helped me both financially and intellectually. Birendra sir had always been there for guidance and support.

It is very difficult to do something worth remembering, especially if you are from the Dalit community. It is not that we are not competent but others assume we are not competent enough. We are constrained because of our circumstances, not caste. The only thing that matters is our determination and self-believe. It was not easy for me to be an Aeronautical engineer of Nepal Airlines from a home tutor, hard work and patience connected dots of my life. Moreover being successful is not enough for us, inspiring others is important.

Prabin Sherpaili
Aeronautical Engineer, Nepal Airlines

I NOTE 5 PRO
AL CAMERA



Being a member of a low economic background family, I faced many difficulties from childhood to this level as an Officer Cadet. I lost my parents at my very young age so my grandparents and aunt took care of me and I am really grateful to them for this.

I completed my schooling from a community school and did my 10+2 level education from Kathmandu. During my intermediate level course, I got Mahatma Gandhi scholarship and PDRC scholarship that helped me a lot in pursuing my studies. As soon as I completed my secondary education (10+2), I applied for the officer cadet. At my very first attempt I succeeded in the 2nd lieutenant exam and now I am Officer Cadet at Nepal Army.

**Mohan Solami, 2nd Lieutenant
Nepal Army**

Dream | Believe | Achieve

If you can logically prove how you can live your dream, then this would be the time for you to rethink your dream because a dream should be something so big that none of your current situations should help you predict it except your desire to listen, learn and willingness to work hard. With a couple of years of gap in my education, and living through financial and family challenges, I had just started my bachelor's degree which was totally driven by my dream and my immense desire to put everything I could do into achieving something that was logically beyond my reach.

That was the time when I met the PDRC team and in a very short period of time they were able to assess me and started coaching and mentoring me in addition to financially supporting me through Dr. Tom Jacobsen Fund. Soon I was a college topper in Excel International College from which I successfully completed my BBA.

Upon completion of my BBA, I got admission for MBA from Ashland University and moved to the United States. Despite physically being miles away, I was in touch with the PDRC team, especially with Birendra Sir and Bhim sir who have always added value in my life, expanding my dreams and fueling my actions in the pursuit to be a person of value not just to my family but to my society and my country. Not to mention that the PDRC International team has equally nurtured me to excel in my career.

With consistent hard work, dedication, and determination, I have recently completed my MBA and have got a job in the field of Business Intelligence and Data Analytics in one of the top healthcare companies of the United States. None of these would have been possible without PDRC whom I have no words to thank

**Deepak Dewali
MBA from the USA**



07

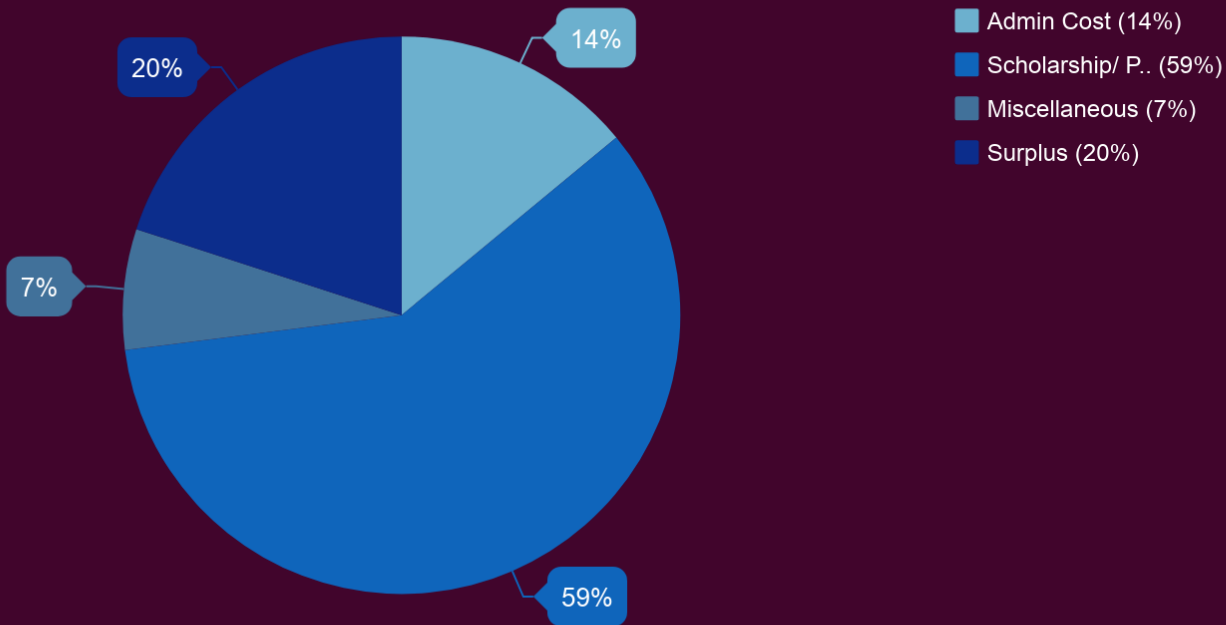
FINANCIAL OVERVIEW



FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

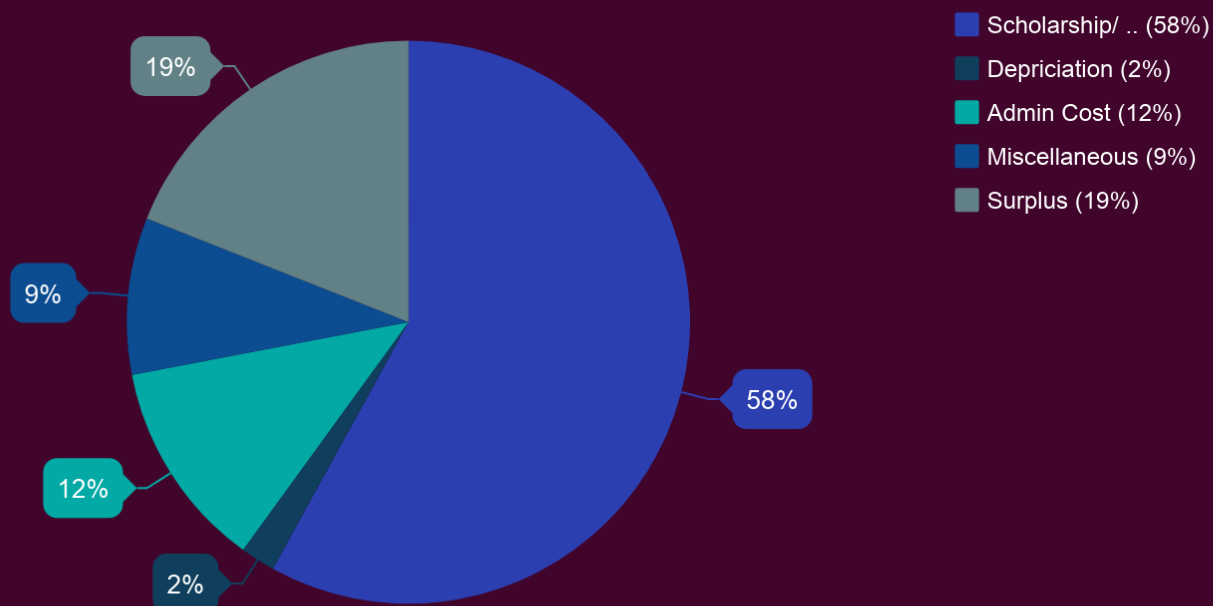
In the fiscal year 2074/75, PDRC received Rs. 4200540.60 from Dr. Tom Jacobsen Fund. The expenses are displayed in the info graph below.

Expenses of DTJF for 2074/75 as per Nepali Calendar



In the fiscal year 2074/75, PDRC received a total amount of Rs. 5360392.50. The total fund includes Dr. Tom Jacobsen Fund, individual donors, membership fees etc. The expenses of the available fund are displayed in the info graph below.

Expenses of the total fund of PDRC for FY 2074/75



08 CHALLENGES AND LESSONS



CHALLENGES AND LESSONS

Every year, as we go through our proceedings, we learn about some of the shortcomings and the issues involved with the organization. Though PDRC has been able to wrap up 2018 in a good note, the time has come where we need to strictly address some of the challenges.

- Government not prioritizing higher education in terms of funding has always been a vital challenge. In addition, the new constitution has mandated the local government to manage school level education which can yield both positive and negative effect.
- The globalization, enhanced technology, and the federal system has brought emergence of organizational restructuring and re-engineering.
- PDRC is experiencing difficulty in finding sufficient, appropriate and sustainable funding. Therefore, it is important to maximize resource mobilization skills available and seek funding nationally and internationally. This only leads PDRC to financial, project and organizational sustainability.
- Networking is very vital to further development, disseminate knowledge, empower people and influence decision-makers at various level. PDRC has limited networks with national and international organizations.
- Many of our students have been doing well in the respective field, so their contribution would be of great help for the works of PDRC. To make them accountable towards the community and ensure payback their support towards needy and deserving students comes as a challenge.
- PDRC is known for its impactful work which is carried out with a high degree of professionalism. Thus, it is always a challenge to make sure that these standards along with other core values are maintained throughout our work. Therefore, it is important to adopt new changes to win the confidence of the stakeholders.

09 WAY FORWARD



WAY FORWARD

As an organization, PDRC has always been a keen learner. It firmly believes that a good plan contributes a lot in good execution of a campaign/ program. These all come from past experiences and enhanced knowledge. Here are the actions for the year 2019.

- To formulate strong governance, accountability mechanism and strategies so as to raise fund from local business, individuals, government and other stakeholders.
- To explore national and international opportunities for youths that includes exploring educational opportunities for underprivileged youth beyond the borders.
- To coordinate with local government for ensuring quality education for Dalit and underprivileged students.
- To introduce knowledge and skill enhancing programs for staff and board members for improving organizational performance.
- To amplify its visibility as a leading name in education for underprivileged which will be increased by adopting new technological tools and techniques.
- To strengthen students alumni network for the further development of the institution and the students.
- To adopt state-of-the-art technology and trends to increase the visibility of the organization, as well as to ensure compliances given the changing political and educational landscape in the country.
- To adopt new tools and technologies so that it can make its work more efficient and effective.
- To institutionalize the student unit through the formation of alumni and make them accountable for supporting other students.

PDRC LEADERSHIP

Advisory Board



Dr. Bidyanath Koirala



Dr. Madan Pariyar



Dr. Krishna Bhattachan



Dr. Meg B. Biswakarma



Dr. Lekhnath Paudel

Executive Board (2017-2020)



Kamala Hemchuri
President



Bhim BK
Vice President



Ram Charmakar
General Secretary



Yaduni Das
Secretary



Jagu Bisunke
Treasurer



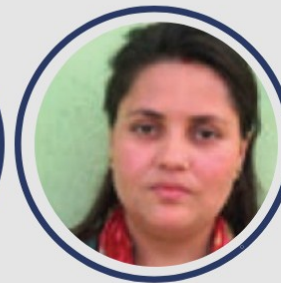
Lila Rasaili
Member



Hem Lamsal
Member



Dr. Gangaram Bishwakarma
Member



Sabitra Pariyar
Member



Pompa Sonar
Member



Raj K. Gandarv
Member



Dr. Rabina G Rasaily
Member

PDRC LEADERSHIP

Management Team



Birendra Biswakarma
Founder &
Executive Director

Birendra Biswakarma is the founder of the Professional Development and Research Center (PDRC). He established the PDRC with the mission that every student of the underprivileged community gets access to quality, value-based and employable education.

He holds Bachelor degree in Electrical Engineering from NIT Silchar (Formally Known as REC Silchar) India. He worked for Kanazia Digital System; a Mumbai based Telecom Company for 5 years as Techno Commercial Engineer. During his professional tenure, he conceptualized of PDRC. Finally, he quit his job and started a hostel in 2003 with the help of DWO for underprivileged students which after two years got registered as an organization. Since then he has been working tirelessly towards contributing to the mission of the organization.

Mr. Biswakarma always thinks of supporting students through the Technology Driven Education System based on which PDRC was conceived. He wants students to use their mobiles or patent's mobile phones not only for communication and entertainment but also for their education as an online or offline resource.



Rup Sunar
Program Manager

Mr. Rup Sunar served as the program manager of PDRC from August 2009 till April 2018. He was primarily responsible for designing and implementing both internal and external projects/programs as guided by the strategic direction of the organization. During this period, he also mentored hundreds of youths to meet their both educational and career objectives.

Mr. Sunar is one of the recipients of the 2013 minority fellowship by the Office of the United Nations High Commission for Human Rights in Geneva, Switzerland. Mr. Sunar is also an alumna of the U. S. Department of State's I.VLP exchange program titled Civil and Human Rights for Marginalized Communities. Prior to this, he also served as the youth advisor to the then US ambassador to Nepal his Excellency Mr. Peter W. Bodde in 2013.

Mr. Sunar holds post graduate degree in political science. He also regularly writes on contemporary Dalit issues in the popular Nepali daily newspapers.



D. B. Bishwakarma
Research and Advocacy Officer

Dal Bahadur Bishwakarma is serving as Research and Advocacy Officer in PDRC since 2008. He has completed master degree in political science and bachelor in law from Nepal Law College under Tribhuvan University. By Profession, he is a lawyer and an activist of Human Right in Education.

Mr. Bishwakarma has spent his two decades on advocating and researching on Dalit's issues, particularly in education and access to justice. He feels proud in supporting needy and deserving students as he believes that these supports can bring a bright future for the students.

Mr. Bishwakarma has been working in PDRC for last 10 years. In the beginning phase of the organization, he worked for 18 months on a volunteer basis. He searched no opportunity as he had always been passionate about social work.



Riban Mangrati,
Human Resource
Development Officer

Riban Mangrati has been part of PDRC since March of 2013. A Human Resource expert, Mr. Mangrati looks after the youth mobilization and capacity building section of PDRC. Since lack of professional competencies has been the major issue in the development of youth, Mr. Mangrati works on designing and implementing training modules which result in making youths competent for the opportunities. He has also coordinated a couple of national-level projects in PDRC.

With a blend of professionalism, sound interpersonal skill and thirst for innovation, Mr. Mangrati strives to bring newness to the works of PDRC. He is a master in Business and Administration from Anna University, India specialized in Human Resource and Financial Management. Mr. Mangrati is an awardee of Silver Jubilee Scholarship granted by the Indian government. He is Dalit Readers alumni and also writes for the National Dailies in the issues of Dalit and youth.



Pabita Paudel
Admin and Finance Officer

Originally from Palpa, the western part of Nepal, Ms. Pabita Paudel has been serving PDRC since 2009. She looks after finance and administrative departments and is responsible for the entire financial and administrative jobs in the organization.

Ms. Paudel contributed voluntarily for 3 months in PDRC during her initial days. She is the one who established a sound financial management system in PDRC. Ms. Paudel's sound financial management skill and experience have resulted in the sound financial health of the organization. She holds a master degree in Business Studies.



Sunita Ghimire
Administrative
Assistant

Ms. Sunita Ghimire is Administrative Assistant of PDRC who started as a trainee in 2015 and got promoted in 2017. She assists in all the administrative functions along with projects and programs of the organization. She is primarily responsible for communication and supplies in the organization. Hardworking and multitasking attributes of Ms. Ghimire has eased the works of PDRC. She is a second-year student of master degree in sociology.



Purna Maya Bishwakarma
Office Helper



PDRC
Making your dream into reality

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND RESEARCH CENTER

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