

## The “Bahini-Educare-Foundation”

### RURAL POVERTY IN NEPAL

Despite some progress in poverty reduction in recent years, Nepal remains one of the poorest countries in the world with the Human Development Index 2018, placing it 149<sup>th</sup> out of 189 countries listed in the United Nations Human Development Report 2015.

Over 30% of Nepalese live on less than \$ 14,- per month. While the overall poverty rate for Nepal is 25%, this figure increases to 45% in the mid-western-region and 46% in the far-western-region. In the remote hill (2500 M) and Mountain regions, the terrain is rugged, rainfall is low and the poor quality soil is difficult to farm. Agricultural holdings per household are the smallest in the country.

About 80% of Nepal’s people live in rural areas and depend on farming for their livelihood. Food insecurity and mal-nutrition are major concerns in these areas. Most rural households have little or no access to primary healthcare, education, sanitation, safe drinking water or other basic services.

Poor rural in Nepal generally have large families, very small land holdings or none at all, and high rates of illiteracy. They are also confined to and concentrated in specific ethnic, caste and marginalized groups, particularly those of the lower casts (Dalits), indigenous people (Janajiti’s) and WOMEN!

After the two devastating earthquakes that struck Nepal in 2015, many of the poorest lost their habitat and their assets. Many of them had no other choice but to migrate to the cities to escape the harsh winter in the mountains. In the hope to find work and better living conditions in the urban areas’ they left their villages, only to end up in the slums that are surrounding the big cities where the majority of them are living a life in misery and constant danger.

### THE RURAL POOR IN NEPAL INCLUDE:

- 1.) Destitute people, such as those who are sick, disabled or displaced, and abandoned children.
- 2.) Extremely poor people, such as illiterate and/or landless individuals and those who have no assets.

- 3.) Moderate poor people, such as those who have small farms but are heavily indebted.
- 4.) WIDOWS WITH DEPENDENT CHILDREN who have been rejected by their in laws, who are landless and without any assets.

### THE IMPACT BY the “Bahini-Educare-Foundation” (BEF)

**BEF** is reaching out to the most vulnerable groups, especially destitute-Single Mothers-Grandmothers and Widows with dependent children.

**BEF** has demonstrated that even the most modest amounts of resources given to the most underprivileged and at high risk can dramatically improve their quality of live and thus help many of the poorest to find a sustainable path out of the vicious cycle of poverty, and this by creating a minimum of dependence for our beneficiaries!

### EVALUATING IMPACT:

An impact evaluation is showing that the overall welfare of the **BEF-FAMILIES** assisted by us has improved by 80%.

For example:

- a.) the incident of Food-Insecurity has improved by 100%
- b.) the incident of health-insecurity has improved by 80%
- c.) The incident of hygiene-insecurity has improved by 80%
- d.) The incidence of a lack of education has improved by 100%
- e.) The incidence of inappropriate shelter has improved by 70%
- f.) The incidence of insufficient clothing has improved by 80%
- g.) The incidence of general insecurity has improved by 70%

Our program is also helping to enable access to healthcare, psychological related treatments, legal advice and assistance if needed, and is actively creating women-empowerment-programs.

