

14 June 2013, I remember signing in my email account at around 9 in the evening. There were three emails awaiting that would ignite a spark in me, the role that young entrepreneurs could play in changing the lives of many. Our project 'Homestay on Annapurna Circuit' had secured the Highly Commended Team Award-2013. GEE did not just acknowledge our project but also instilled the conviction of converting paper-plans to action, in me.

I visited my village after the end-semester examinations last year. The living conditions of women were miserable, and they suffered twice; first, being the member of a poor household and second, being a woman. It was time I put words in action. Six Australian friends of my brother were to visit the village the following month. I briefed two households about how they could serve them. I couldn't help them with physical materials and finances but I believe my supervision was quite fruitful. The six Australians returned home from their one week stay there, thrilled with experience of the homestay.

We've been able to accommodate sixteen foreign and twenty-three domestic tourists at our homestay service in the past year. The project might not have given the households enough income to move up the economic ladder, but it has given a few women access to some disposable income for sure. The pilot project has been carried out in a slightly different location than the one proposed but, I believe homestay in Annapurna Circuit should prosper once we start service there, hopefully immediately after my graduation next year.

26 March 2014, The joyful experience of last year meant that I was eagerly anticipating the start of the project this time. Unlike the previous year, the leader made a more formal approach. We were to get started with the work immediately. He sought ample focus on the task that laid ahead us.

The brainstorming phase started. Having witnessed the misery of females in rural Nepal, I had realized how a simple business concept could bring an immense positive change to their lives. I put forward my idea of helping female youths and children in rural Nepal. The venture would improve the menstrual health of females and would reap the fruits in form of improvement in female education system. It turned out to be the business plan our team worked on.

The best part about GEE is the exchange of social, political, cultural and economic information between group members who are usually from many different regions of the world. You hear/see foreign events in the media but hardly ever get to interact with the person residing in those places and provide your

standpoint on it; GEE provides the platform for youths from different region of the globe to converse about these events, recommend lessons from what your region has learned from these in the past, develop cross cultural leadership. Our world would simultaneously prosper if only we openly shared our knowledge and lessons with each other. It was delightful communicating with the team members. Though, active participation from all the members would have helped us analyze the events from broader perspective.

Almost all members of the team were from the developed regions. Their perception of the problems faced by youths and children was entirely different to what we do in the LDCs. The problems here are more concerned with existence and survival while the Developed regions have gotten away with this and focus on making lives easier.

Despite extremely limited information available in the Internet, some of the members did extra-home-work to come up with ideas that perfectly suited the Nepalese rural market. The group leader, though skeptical was quite interested in learning the Nepalese way of living. At the end, it was quite pleasing for me that a bunch of foreign colleagues helped me build a business concept on Nepal, a country not many had even heard at the start.

Twelve hour's power cut a day and uncertain Internet connection for remaining twelve, three hour's daily bumpy ride on bus toing and froing up to University, ever nearing annual examinations and numerous term paper left to prepare; allocating time for team discussion was not an easy task. I used my travelling time for planning the business we were working on. It was there I thought deeply about strategies we could implement in our business.

It is always easy thinking about a business and writing the plan, but the most crucial phase lies ahead, the implementation. There are over 900 of us participating in GEE this year. If only 10 of us think about putting our respective plans into action and even if only 5 succeed, that would be an immense contribution for the global society. And, every 900 of us would be proud that a member of our GEE family has actually made difference in this world. All we need is belief and hope.

The team leader posted some popular quotes in our Facebook group everyday. The one by Napoleon Hill particularly inspired me. I've even printed it in the wall of my room. It reads,

"Whatever the mind of person can conceive and believe, it can achieve."