

**A Speech by Ananda Pandey, Everest Learning Academy (ELA) President
to Dr. T's Eco-Trekking Group of Spring 2011 (April 3, 2011)
at the Parvatipur (Chitwan District) School's Annual Graduation Ceremony**

[Note: Since that speech, the number of students has almost doubled from 186 in the 2010-2011 school-year to almost 300 matriculating into the 2011-2012 school-year, and expanding now to well over 500 children, including the Community Outreach Programs – teaching reading and writing skills to orphans and lowest caste “Untouchable” children in several remote, extremely poor Communities, as well as building orphanages in Chitwan, Gorkha, and Tanaho Districts, and supporting an underprivileged school for 200 children in Golaghat area]

“First, I would like to welcome our Founder, Director, and Chief Advisor Dr. T – as well as our esteemed guests, ladies and gentleman - with a warm Namaste.

I am pleased to present to you the details of our organization as president of Everest Learning Academy.

Our organization is certified by the Social Welfare Council, as well as by all the Educational Boards, as a non-profit organization, where more than 186 students get facilitated in reading, writing, math, English, and other topics. As the proverb says, the drop of water can develop into an ocean, so are we the drop of water, and for the success of creating the drop I must never forget Dr. T, our Advisor Thakur Prasad Pandey, all of our Founding Board Members, as well as our guardians - Ecopolitan and the entire community.

It's a great challenge to run the school but the sacrifice has become an opportunity to educate children from school Nursery to Class 4, and starting this upcoming new year we are adding class five. There are currently 9 Teaching Staff and 3 non-teaching staff.

The 35 Founding Members from the community contributed to the land, the infrastructure, and the initial salaries for the staff. Until now, we have lost nearly 3 thousand rupees per months, but with the help of Ecopolitan we will reach financial balance when the new funds become available. Previously, our Director Dr. T purchased the school bus for us, but it did not work properly and had an accident; than Dr. T bought a new bus for us. Again we would like to give many thanks to Dr. T as well as to his energetic team of Ecopolitan.

This organization gives a priority for quality education, as well as provides scholarships for disabled orphans, and for dalit and janajati children. Till now we have given 22 students full scholarship, and more will be given next school year when the funds are available.

We are also giving informal education to the students who are not able to register in this school, as well as others. They are especially from the lower caste and orphans too. Just 10 days ago we have started a new ELA Community Outreach Program where 30 students are learning to read and write. Among them 10 are orphans, and the rest of them are lower caste. For this informal education, our organization advisor Thakur Prasad Pandey and our Director Dr. T give a great effort. While we speak about this new opportunity for the most disadvantaged Nepali children, everybody here feels fresh air and blood of happiness circulating in the whole body.

This school provides the children uniforms, Ecopolitan school bags, lunch box, and discounted or free tuition. We also provide the Ecopolitan bus, organic food canteen, as well as all the educational materials. These goods and services uplift our organization's reputation.

Respected guest, ladies & gentleman, thanks to your great effort we are providing education in this area, which benefits students, schools, guardians, communities, and the world too! Your great efforts to be present in this remote part of Nepal are an inspiration for our future. We still have to do a lot of work to become an ocean, which is made easier thanks to your presence. We have no good infrastructure, library, hostel, science lab, nor computers. We believe in the adage “all for education, and education for all.” Since this is the 21th century, we need 10 computers added to the program, and we need teachers' training as well as education materials too. [note: Ecopolitan has already purchased 4 new computers for the school in mid-2011]

Last - every problem will decrease if you provide us with advice, love and care - than we will reach our destination. I hope you will provide suggestions for us. Once again I would like to give thanks and welcome to everybody. Thank you & Namaste.