



VEERAYATAN
compassion in action

The Nepal Tragedy: A tragedy beyond description

Everyone will be aware of the devastating earthquakes that have struck Nepal in recent weeks with so many deaths and injuries and with livelihoods dashed. The latest reports from the country suggest that more than 8,000 people have perished in the catastrophe with close to 25,000 being injured.



What steps have already been taken?

With the blessings of Pujya Acharya Shri Chandanaji, a team of Sadhvijis and volunteers led by Pujya Sadhvi Shri Shilapiji has already reached Nepal and initiated the relief and rehabilitation work for the victims.

They have personally visited the most affected areas like Sindhupal Chok, Bakthpur, Gorkha,



Barabisa and many other damaged areas. Relief work in the country is proceeding extensively with many individuals and NGOs working hard to help the victims. However, children are ignored in the midst of this heart-breaking tragedy. The schools are damaged and children are in shock. UNICEF has stated that nearly a million children have been forced out of school and will not be able to return unless immediate action is taken to provide temporary learning spaces. Providing

education will also protect children from exploitation and abuse and the routine of school is the best medicine to help children recover from the horror of what they have seen and experienced. We need to bring children out of the trauma as early as possible.

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Veerayatan has already started establishing make-shift schools near relief camps and is now in the process of establishing a facility to rehabilitate children and women affected by the earthquake through education and vocational training, at **Krishna-Pranami Institute**. The land has been generously donated by the Trustees of Krishna-Pranami and is located 3km from Kathmandu. This area was not damaged in this disaster and will therefore be a much safer place for Veerayatan to establish its support base for children and women.

A leading English newspaper of Nepal, **The Himalayan Times**, has praised the work being carried out by Veerayatan's camp at a make-shift school at Tundikhel in a recent article: <http://epaper.thehimalayantimes.com/epaperpdf/08052015/08052015-md-hr-16.pdf>

Arati Timalisina, a mother of two heaved a sigh of relief. "My children would get scared if they heard loud noise of vehicles or when the ground vibrated due to the vehicles. This camp has helped for them forget the earthquake scares and get closer to other children.



Veerayatan's Earthquake Relief plan for the next 12 months

- ❖ **Building a 'stop-gap' school** with a hostel facility especially for those children who have lost one or both parents in this severe tragedy;
- ❖ A vocational training centre to **rehabilitate women with no family support**;
- ❖ To **provide transport facility to children from the devastated areas** to the Veerayatan centre as mobilization is a challenge for the local children.

Veerayatan's long term objectives in Nepal

- ❖ To **transform lives** of the impoverished children through imparting skills and values to build their future;
- ❖ To **empower destitute women** to become self-sufficient;
- ❖ **Create life opportunities for children**, for the first time, to realise their hidden potential;
- ❖ To **establish a permanent centre of learning** to rehabilitate affected children and women through education and vocational training.



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Veerayatan's experience and track record

Veerayatan undertook such work in the aftermath of the **2001 earthquake in Kutch** and 14 years on it continues making a significant impact on the lives of thousands of affected victims and survivors of that disaster leaving a lasting legacy in the form of the Veerayatan Kutch complex. Recently the Chief Minister of Gujarat recognised the achievements by awarding Veerayatan the '**Award for Revolution in Education**' for its unparalleled endeavours in the field of education.



Together we can save lives and make a difference

To realise the much needed goals for a school, hostel and vocational training centre. Veerayatan will need help from organisations and individuals. Through hard work and commitment many organisations and individuals have collected funds to extend a helping hand to the people of Nepal in their hour of need. The use of these funds to support the work of the Veerayatan centre at Nepal will be a great blessing to thousands affected by this severe disaster.

The funds will be used for:

- ❖ hostel with capacity for **100 residents**,
- ❖ stop-gap school with **500 students**,
- ❖ providing nourishing **food for all the children**,
- ❖ acquiring and running **buses for transporting children to and from school** and
- ❖ setting up and running a fully equipped **vocational training centre**.

Every penny of your contribution will be judiciously used for earthquake relief work in Nepal.

For further information:

E-mail: veerayatanuk@gmail.com

Bakul: 07917 708 370

Pramit: 07979 536 456

Kishorebhai: 07880 725 023



Thank You!