

In the spring of 1996, I (Amrita Gurung) was brought to Kinder House.

I was taken to Alka Primary School to get admission. Mrs. Upadhaya, who was the principal, asked me to read a passage from a book. Although, I read the passage fluently, she suggested I repeat class two instead of going to class three. This was a bit heartbreaking for an eight year old girl at that time. I had to catch up a lot. With close attendance and love from my class teacher, Ms. Michelle, I excelled in my studies that I was soon double promoted. I was a very shy girl and didn't open to people during my school days and the only complaint that I had from school was that I didn't interact much and didn't express myself. However, I must admit that growing up in Kinder House was a lot of fun and school was great. Lydia mama, Mommy (Laxmi) and Buwa (Bhim) provided us with very lively environment and gave us exposure to activities other than just studies. They took us to good restaurants and during summer and made us work in the potato field and volunteer in local school which helped me develop a worldview of respect and openness to people and culture and genuinely connect and empathize with people's sufferings and differences. This also made me a very sensitive person and I am very proud that I am open to new ideas and can accept people's opinion without being judgmental. This has also helped me professionally.

During my teenage years, I became increasingly isolated and devoted my free time to reading and writing during which time I found out that I wanted to write so I studied journalism in my bachelor's degree wherein I also started working in a newspaper. But after four years of working there, I realized I didn't enjoy it so much. So I studied one year of post-graduate in social science and humanities and found new interest in research and also won a few research fellowships. Today, I work for a research institute and I am currently preparing for advanced degree. I have been living on my own for 12 years now and have went through highs and lows of life in both personal and professional life. The challenges have ranged from doing odd jobs to not finding long-term job to sustain myself in Kathmandu.

I am very fortunate to be associated with Kinder House and I will be its faithful daughter all my life. I am very glad and I want to express my gratitude to my family in Kinder House who have supported me whenever I have need needed anything and scolded and tried to make me understand things whenever they have found out that



I was going in the wrong path. Really, I must have done something really karmic in my previous life that I am blessed with not everything but so much and more that there is hardly anything to complain about, in this life. As I see more and more brothers and sisters coming out of Kinder House to live on their own and see them doing very well in their lives through various Facebook posts and interactions, I feel immensely happy and inspired. Their successes and challenges further inspire me to be strong and live a life fully and meaningfully to set example for next generations who will come and live in Kinder House. Therefore, I commit to help and support them either by being a role model or by giving them suggestions about moving ahead in life or just about anything. I want them to know that my door is always open for them. I will do as much as to help and inspire them. Having come this far in this journey, I am very grateful for what I have and

what I have achieved and feel truly blessed and lucky that I am doing fine and my family in Kinder House continues to stay as solid as a rock to me and my younger brothers and sisters. With this knowledge and love in my heart and mind, I am confident that I can brave any situation, come rain or shine!

Thank you

Amrita!

Mail: amrits.gurung@gmail.com Cell:+977 98 23 24 28 25