

Together we can make a difference...

An Appeal for the Cause of Destitute...

Roopnagar Nandaraj Sangraula Campus (RNS Campus)

1. Background and Introduction

Roopnagar Nandaraj Sangraula Campus (RNS Campus) is a community owned public college nestled in the heart of Roopnagar, Saptari district, in the Terai region of Nepal. Established in 2013, as a not-for-profit institution, RNS Campus is committed to providing quality education and empowering students from diverse backgrounds, especially the poor and disadvantaged sections of the society.

Affiliated with Tribhuvan University, Nepal's oldest and largest university, RNS Campus offers a Bachelor of Business Studies program. The college strives to deliver an excellent academic experience while fostering personal growth and professional development among its students.

RNS Campus plays a crucial role in the local community, particularly for students hailing from poor family backgrounds in the rural Terai region of Nepal. Given the financial constraints and limited opportunities, thousands of students from poor and disadvantaged communities are compelled to pursue their higher education in local colleges.

Unfortunately, these local colleges, including RNS Campus, face numerous challenges. They lack essential physical infrastructure, quality teaching faculties, laboratories, computers, and other necessary tools for comprehensive skill development. Despite the demand for higher education, the financial limitations prevent students from accessing the better-equipped private colleges in the vicinity.

The significance of the establishment of this campus ten years ago is heightened by the fact that, prior to the campus' establishment, the only options available for education were either exorbitantly priced foreign universities or institutions in larger cities, rendering them impractical for the economically disadvantaged.

2. Dismal educational landscape in Nepal

Nepal's educational landscape typically caters to the affluent elite or those with the means to send their children to urban centers or abroad. However, the majority of families in the vicinity fall into the third category, individuals grappling with financial constraints that make education beyond their immediate surroundings an unattainable dream. For these families, the establishment of Roopnagar Nandaraj Sangraula Campus represents a lifeline, bringing higher education to their doorsteps and breaking the cycle of generational poverty through accessible and affordable learning opportunities.

In the dynamic landscape of Nepalese education, students can be broadly categorized into three distinct groups, each navigating a unique trajectory toward knowledge and success:

- **Elite offspring of affluence:** Unveiling opulence, the first echelon comprises the scions of Nepal's wealthiest, poised to splurge millions in pursuit of academic excellence. Rather than settling for the educational offerings in local villages, these privileged youths jet off to educational powerhouses like the United States, Australia, Canada, and various European nations, crafting their destinies amid the world's educational elites.
- **Aspirants of the affluent:** Nestled in the lap of financial comfort, the second category is defined by parents and guardians who generously allocate hundreds of thousands of Nepalese rupees annually for their wards' education. Their offspring embark on educational journeys, either in the bustling urban landscapes of Nepal or across the border in neighboring India, chasing dreams nurtured in the crucible of opportunity.
- **The struggling underclass:** However, a stark and heart-wrenching reality persists for a segment of parents and guardians, those shackled by financial constraints. The mere notion of dispatching their progeny to cosmopolitan hubs like Kathmandu or Biratnagar for advanced studies is a distant dream. The prospect of international education is an unimaginable luxury, casting a shadow of despair on their aspirations.

In essence, the crux of the matter lies in the dire need for a revolution in education for the most disadvantaged the destitute who crave access to superior local schools and colleges right at their doorsteps. It is a clarion call for a transformative leap toward educational equality and empowerment.

3. We are public goods not a lucrative enterprise

One of the most commendable aspects of Roopnagar Randaraj Sangraula Campus' foundation is its not-for-profit status, emphasizing its commitment to providing education as a public good rather than a lucrative enterprise. Affiliated with Tribhuvan University, the campus operates under the governance of a dedicated Campus Management Committee formed by the local community. This unique structure ensures that the institution remains deeply rooted in the needs and aspirations of the people it serves, fostering a sense of ownership and community pride.

Roopnagar Nandaraj Sangraula Campus stands out as the sole community-owned, not-for-profit college within a 30-kilometer radius. However, the surrounding area comprises for-profit private colleges that remain financially out of reach for students from poor and disadvantaged communities. The yearly fee, a mere fraction under 125 US Dollars per student, not only encompasses tuition but also seamlessly includes exam fees, registration costs, and more. This modest sum resonates loudly, proclaiming the inherently communal and community-centric ethos that defines this campus!

Recognizing the urgent need to bridge this gap, RNS Campus is dedicated to equipping itself with world-class physical infrastructure, quality teaching faculties, and modern learning tools.

The college aspires to establish a state-of-the-art computer lab, a well-stocked library, and other essential facilities that will enhance the overall learning experience for its students.

Roopnagar Nandaraj Sangraula Campus (RNS Campus) is dedicated to becoming a center of educational excellence, with a focus on providing quality education and preparing students to be efficient and competent individuals equipped with essential life skills. The Campus aims to fulfil its vision, mission, and goals through various programs and activities.

4. Our vision, mission and goals

Vision:

The vision of RNS Campus is to develop itself as a center of educational excellence, committed to providing high-quality education to its students.

Mission:

The mission of RNS Campus is to render quality education and prepare students who are efficient, competent, and equipped with ample life skills necessary for their personal and professional growth.

Goals:

- **Values, beliefs, and responsibilities:** RNS Campus aims to enable students to fulfill the values, beliefs, and responsibilities of life, fostering a strong moral character and ethical conduct.
- **Academic and professional excellence:** The campus strives to produce students who can succeed in facing any challenges that may arise in their educational qualifications and business environments, ensuring their academic and professional excellence.
- **Responsible contribution to society:** RNS Campus aims to produce human resources with academic and professional excellence that is responsible towards society, actively contributing to its development and welfare.
- **Holistic development:** The campus endeavors to provide a comprehensive educational experience by offering a range of curricular, extracurricular activities, and skill-based programs. These include basic computer training, writing and editing skills, and social science research, among others, to facilitate the holistic development of students.

5. Our academic and skills programs

Academic program:

RNS Campus offers a four-year **Bachelor in Business Studies (BBS)** program, affiliated with Tribhuvan University, Nepal, as its regular course. The program provides students with a solid foundation in business studies.

Extra-curricular skill training and learning:

In addition to the regular curriculum, RNS Campus offers various training programs to enhance the skills and knowledge of its students. These programs are aimed at developing additional competencies and fostering practical abilities.

- **Computer training:** In the first year, willing and eager students receive basic computer training, enabling them to acquire essential computer skills.
- **Writing and editing training:** In the second year, students undergo writing and editing training. This training equips them with the ability to prepare newspaper articles based on the information, statistics, and knowledge they have acquired during their studies. The focus is on developing the students' capability to produce high-quality articles.
- **Social research training:** Students in the third year have the opportunity to receive basic skills training in social research methods. This training enables them to conduct research and prepare reports on various social, economic, cultural, and environmental issues.
- **Research methodology training:** In the fourth year, students receive training in research methodology, providing them with technical knowledge about research methodology. This training is prescribed in the fourth-year course and equips students with the practical skills required to conduct social, economic, and academic research.
- **Interaction with experts:** RNS Campus facilitates interactions with experts from various fields. These experts, either invited to the campus or accessed through online virtual technology, provide valuable insights and knowledge on subjects such as social, economic, cultural, environmental, engineering, medicine, agriculture, animal husbandry, business, industry, and technology. This engagement helps students develop life skills and gain useful knowledge and information.
- **Wall newspaper publication:** RNS Campus publishes a wall newspaper, where students author articles, poems, essays, and paintings. The content for the bulletin is written and prepared by the students themselves, fostering their creativity, writing skills, and editing abilities.

Through its comprehensive academic program and extra-curricular skill training and learning initiatives, RNS Campus strives to create a conducive learning environment that nurtures the intellectual, personal, and professional growth of its students, ultimately preparing them to become competent individuals capable of making significant contributions to society.

6. The huge challenge we are facing

In the pursuit of providing quality education and life skills to the aspiring minds, our campus offers the Bachelor of Business Studies at an exceptionally nominal annual fee, less than a mere 125 US Dollars per student. However, this commitment to accessibility places our community-owned educational institution in a perpetual financial challenge, consistently operating in an 'always at deficit' mode.

Currently, the primary source of income for the campus is the modest student fee, which regrettably covers less than half of the salaries for our dedicated teaching faculties and support staff. The inherent paradox is evident: a commitment to affordability compromises our financial sustainability.

The need for quality education in this rural enclave of Nepal is compounded by the scarcity of locally available qualified teaching faculties. The demand for such educators is not only felt in our village but is a nationwide phenomenon, even in the bustling urban landscapes like Kathmandu. To attract highly qualified, research-driven teaching faculties, a competitive salary is imperative, something we, unfortunately, only wish to achieve! Our current local recruits, drawn from secondary school teachers, inadvertently result in a compromise in the quality of education we aspire to deliver.

7. Our appeal

This is where Roopnagar Nandaraj Sangraula Campus appeals for urgent external support, both in terms of financial contributions and non-monetary assistance. Your support will not only bridge the financial gap but will also empower us to secure the services of experienced, qualified teaching faculties who can elevate the standard of education we offer. Together, let's transform the narrative of RNS Campus and empower the otherwise destitute students of Nepal to dream beyond their circumstances.

Let's join hands for the cause of poorest of the poor...

Together we can make a difference!



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