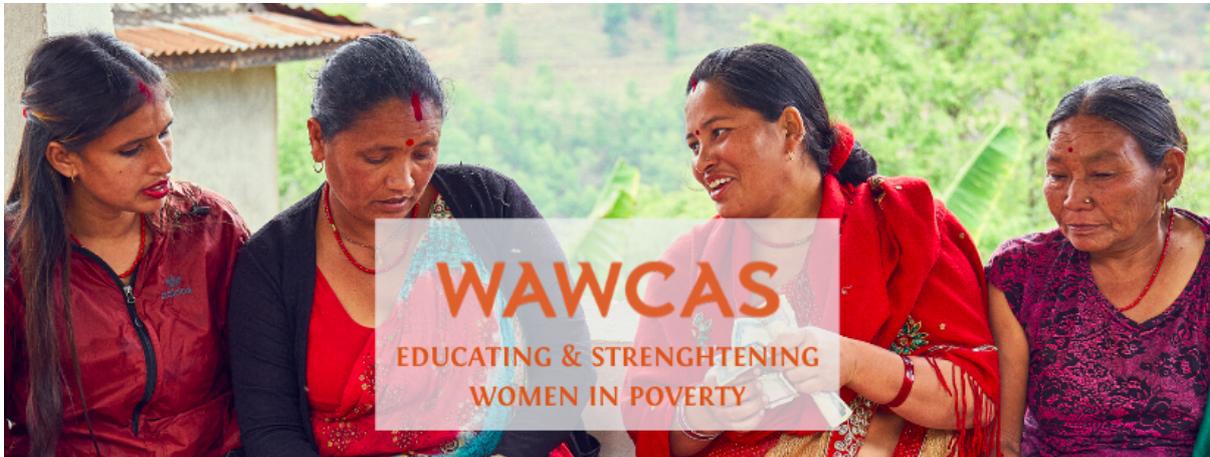


[Test] WAWCAS Winter Newsletter

WAWCAS <info@wawcas.com>

Ons 18-12-2019 11:15



WAWCAS
EDUCATING & STRENGTHENING
WOMEN IN POVERTY

Dear readers, dear friends of WAWCAS

Another year is coming to an end, and it is time to look back on what we have achieved during the last year in the WAWCAS Program.



It has been another busy and exciting year – and the fantastic trip that I made with a group of WAWCAS friends in April is one of my favorite memories of 2019. Meeting our staff and managers in Katmandu and the Lamjung area was inspiring, and meeting the many women was incredible. Some of them have been trained years ago and have been established business owners for years and have thus secured their families' good living conditions. Others just joined the WAWCAS Program and they were both enthusiastic and a bit nervous of how their life was going to change.

We also had visitors from Nepal come to visit Denmark - Sangeeta, Sirish and Krishna visited Copenhagen and Aarhus in August. In connection with this, we had meetings in the Board, the Finance Group, the Communication and training Group, and there were meetings with donors and volunteers as you can read more about below.

In WAWCAS we have a financial year that follows the Nepalese rules, meaning it begins on July 1st and ends on June 30th. We have just published our Annual Reports 2018/19, one covering the Danish activities (WAWCAS International), and one covering the combined activities in Denmark and Nepal (the WAWCAS Program). You can find them on our homepage. They show that donations are somewhat lower than our costs, but also that we still have a strong financial basis with money on our bank accounts. The vast majority of our costs are used for the operation of WAWCAS, i.e. the training of the women in Nepal. On top of this, we had minor costs to special projects – a major woman event in Katmandu and business development regarding new business areas. The cost for administration (6% of the total costs) covers finance, administration and all costs regarding offices and training facilities. In conclusion, I can assure you that we have a cost-effective organization.

As you might have seen, we have updated our homepage so that it is even more user friendly. This is also the case when it comes to donating money to WAWCAS. It can now be done very easily - just try it and spread the message to business partners, friends and family.

I would like to wish you all the best Season Greetings and thank you all for your contribution to WAWCAS during the last year. This is whether you are donor, volunteer, employee or if you in any other way are a friend of WAWCAS.

Torben Bjerre-Madsen
Chairman

WAWCAS from June to December

By Nina Schriver, International Program Director

A visit from Nepal

Sangeeta, Sirish and Krishna, WAWCAS Finance Officer, came to Denmark again this year in August. It was so great to be with all of them here and it is very important to get the chance to work together here and to meet WAWCAS sponsors and volunteers together with our nepali colleagues.

We enjoyed the Tall Ship Race, working with WAWCAS Business Manual, and WAWCAS training manuals. Had meetings with WAWCAS International board and the finance group. Meetings with new sponsors in Copenhagen and presentations of the WAWCAS program. A very nice evening at Janne and Torbens home, with sponsors, volunteers and friends of WAWCAS. We had a very good evening, with WAWCAS in the future in focus. Good discussions and very great to see so many friends of WAWCAS together. All working and supporting in different ways to make WAWCAS possible.

Workshop in Nepal

Shortly after I went to Nepal to be with the team of WAWCAS and the women. Søren, my husband and responsible for funding and business development in WAWCAS, joined to work intensively with development of WAWCAS new Business Manual.

Having competence to develop a sustainable business and to expand the business as a WAWCAS woman, and having qualifications to support the women to succeed with this as a trainer are very fundamental parts of the WAWCAS Program. And a fundamental part to be able to support the women to be self-sustainable.

To be sure, that we offer the best training and are in line with the relevant content and kind of training the women need, we have been through a participatory process with revision of the WAWCAS Business Manual. And a training process of the trainers and a group of 75 experienced WAWCAS women.

During the visit we had a three days workshop where Søren and Sirish trained the trainers in all the content, and the trainers reflections and comments were afterwards used to revise the manual again.

Later you can read about what the training means for the trainers and how Søren and Sirish, our Program Manager, have been working together many hours to make the Business Manual a high standard manual.

Meeting "old" WAWCAS women

Sangeeeta and I met with five groups of "old" WAWCAS women from 2010 – 2012. We try to make interviews with the old groups to follow up on the longterm effect of the WAWCAS Program.



Reuniting with "old" WAWCAS women from 2010-2012

It is always a fantastic and touching experience. They in general have a good life, their children are educated or have started their own business with the help of their mothers. I write "try to" because it is really difficult to get all women to come at one time, and to make them stay the same time period and not talk all at one time. The reasons for that are good. They are very busy with their businesses, and need to stay there to be with the customers. They all want to share their good stories very eagerly.



Life is soooo good now

To get a real idea of the level of their netprofit and savings is really difficult, which is quite understandable. We interpret it as the more they earn the more private they want to be about financial parts of their life. I think we all can understand that. We continue to meet with the old groups to learn from them and to make follow ups over time. And we keep on developing the way we meet with them in order to get better at getting solid data and knowledge.



I have started 3 businesses and run my own NGO now. Very Busy

Craftsisters

Lis Beck, Craftsisters visited WAWCAS while I was there. We had inspiring meetings with her and the women, and Lis ordered many nice things for her shop Craftsisters. Take a look at her website craftsisters.dk. There are many WAWCAS products, and it is a very good way to support the women.

New training manuals

In 2019 Sangeeta and I have worked on revising all WAWCAS training manuals and Dorrit, a long-term volunteer in WAWCAS, has given a lot of time and a lot of her very sharp eyes and reflections to make the Manuals even better.

We have had our first mother in law workshop, where the women join together with their mother in law, to support a good relationship between them for the benefit of the woman's ability to run her business. She needs a supportive mother in law to manage.

We have also had our first children workshop where children from several WAWCAS women groups worked together on child rights and gender issues as a way of giving them a chance to meet with each other and learn from each other. Both workshops were very successful and will be a part of the WAWCAS Program in the future.

New WAWCAS website

In 2019 we also launched our new WAWCAS website: WAWCAS.com

On the site you will find some great stories and the latest reports on our work among these the [WAWCAS Annual Program Progress Report 2018/2019](#)

The [SROI report 2019](#) made by Lind Invest is also available there. This report gives an understanding of the social return of investments in WAWCAS "*The program lasts 16 months and creates a positive social return on investment of 4.32 DKK for every 1 DKK of input*". I can only recommend you to take a look at these reports. It shows many interesting aspects of WAWCAS and the impact of the program.

Last it is now also possible to support the WAWCAS program through our website here: [Support WAWCAS](#)

Thanks for a great 2019

2019 is coming to an end and a new year starts. We have had a great 2019 in WAWCAS and are all ready for 2020 with good ideas and plans and ready to include 750 new women in the Program.

Thank you so much to all our sponsors, who believes in WAWCAS and not least in the women.

Thank you to the WAWCAS team... you all work so dedicated and focused and made it possible for more than 750 new women and their families to get on a new track in life in 2019.

Thank you to all volunteers and friends of WAWCAS. You all support in different ways with time, knowledge, reflections, good inputs, ensuring funding, in the board to guide the whole program and much more. You are 17 volunteers in WAWCAS, giving your time for free as a part of running WAWCAS.

I am looking very much forward to continue to work together with all of you in 2020.

**I wish you all a peaceful Christmas and a happy New Year
Nina'**



Happy New Year 2019

The Business Manual and the Training

By Sirish Shretsha, Program Manager



This is my business plan for my additional business

A more profitable business for each woman is what WAWCAS always aims at. The WAWCAS Program has always been training our trainers in business to strengthen their competence to train the women. But we wanted to add more to it. For that, a new Business Manual had to be made and Søren and I took responsibility for that. We went through the Business Manual we had and decided which topics that had to be revised and which new topics that had to be added.



Workshop with the business women

We met with 73 experienced WAWCAS business women and had a workshop for full 3 days to get their inputs from real life. We analyzed numerous businesses in order to see how they could improve in Cash Flow and Profit.



Meeting with 73 experienced business women

We involved our 15 trainers to get their inputs. We visited numerous businesses together with them to see the possibilities to do even better. Based on all the inputs Søren and I made the first draft of the manual. We then gathered the trainers for 3 days and trained them in all the topics and got their inputs for the manual.



Training the trainers

Nina and Dorrit sat down for many days for conceptualizing the manual and for revising it. It has been a real team work for the whole WAWCAS group.....a great experience indeed.

The manual will be 70 pages and will be finished after New Year and we are all looking very much forward to start using it with the women and in the training of trainers.

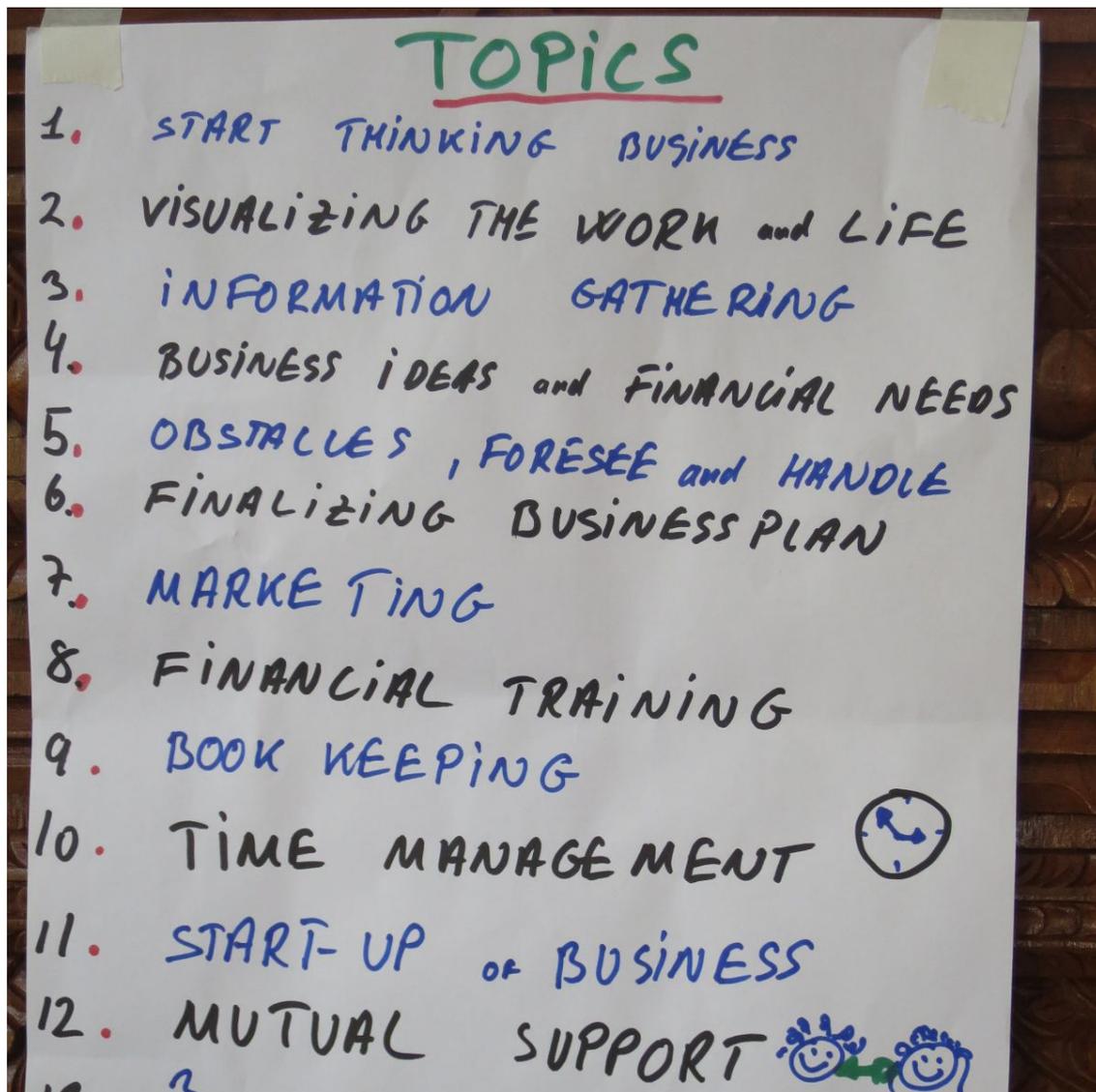
The impact on the women's businesses through business training of the WAWCAS trainers

By Rojmon Chaudhary, Team Leader Tanahu

First of all, we would like to express our warm gratitude to Nina & Søren for using their time for Business Development Training, which was held on October 14-16, 2019 in Kathmandu.

The day started with a lot of curiosity and enthusiasm for attending the Business Training. Obviously, it was because of "new learning" and some extra inputs for our competence to support positive changes in the women's economic life.

Before the training started, one of our colleagues asked. *"What new things will we learn in this training, which we have not already implemented in our field work for the change in the women's business?"*. The answer was clearly shown in the training content shown on the wall. A lot of the content was totally new, and some we knew about already.



The training content for the Business Development Training workshop

Then, with our energy and curiosity for learning new things, Søren started the training in a very energetic way. He explained how the WAWCAS women could change their present business patterns for a better and profitable business. How could we teach or train the WAWCAS women making their business more profitable and make their economic life more sustainable.

In a very simple way Søren facilitated the training about when and how the women should start thinking about a new business. From where they should gather the required information, get business ideas from and analyze their financial needs. He also focused on the fact that predicting business obstacles, and ideas to handle them, plays a vital role before starting a business. Then only the business plan should be finalized.

After the business has started, MARKETING is a very important part to run a business smoothly and create value in the market. He also emphasized that financial training, bookkeeping and time management are the most essential aspects for running any business. The Local Program Leaders (the trainers) and the Team Leaders should have extra efforts to facilitate the women to be able to run their business and social and personal life very parallel.

Søren also emphasized the importance of mutual support between the women in the group. The women should all know who is the resource person next to them. He told that the women must make a plan to develop their businesses and maybe start an additional business, also based on a plan. For that, the women should focus on what old resources or materials they maybe could use again, and what new materials should be added, as this could help a lot managing the financial issues. And every woman should analyze sustainability before starting any business.



Sharing learning and helping each other become better trainers for the business women

This business training was obviously a lot of new learning for us, and we were trained to train the WAWCAS women to make their business life and economic part of life more easy, profitable and sustainable. This training was very meaningful for our work in the field.

Though, I am not from a business background, but this training has made me a business trainer to train the WAWCAS women more efficiently and effectively.

As a trainer, our personal development also has been enhanced due to this training.

Once again, thank you, and I look forward to have our next training.

New workshops in the WAWCAS program

By Keshav Adhikari, LPL Kathmandu & Sangeeta Shrestha, Program Director

Workshop with WAWCAS women and their mothers-in-law

With the theme "**Supporting hands of in-laws. Flourish the happiness in the family**", a workshop for WAWCAS women and their mothers-in-law was conducted.

The objectives of the workshop were:

- For the WAWCAS women to identify the ideal mother-in-law and the ideal daughter-in-law - and learn from them.
- To acknowledge the ideal mothers- and daughters-in-law and implement it to other families.
- To support WAWCAS women to expand their businesses with more support from the mothers-in-law.



Bringing a group of women and their mothers-in-law together to let them learn from, and be inspired by, each other.

Normally, the mothers-in-law are not very supportive to our WAWCAS women. We usually have meetings with them in their homes individually. But we wanted to bring a group of women and their mothers-in-law together to let them learn from, and be inspired by, each other and to show the importance of the support from the mothers-in-law in order for their daughters-in-law to succeed with their business, development and change of life.

There are already good mothers-in-law who always support their daughter-in-law regarding to her business or taking care of the grandchildren. Therefore, we have developed the indicators together with the mothers-in-law and the daughters-in-law, asking them what the indicators are of an ideal mother-in-law, and what the indicators of an ideal daughter-in-law are. After having finalized the indicators, we have conducted three sessions regarding why they think they are an ideal mother-in-law or an ideal daughter-in-law. What are the advantages of having an ideal mother-in-law or an ideal daughter-in-law? It was quite interesting to hear the reflections of the women and how they really feel "what am I doing" and "what need to be changed".

Saraswoti Pariyar: I am so happy to hear my daughter-in-law's appreciation of me. I feel so proud as a mother-in-law, when I hear such nice things about me from my daughter-in-law. I never thought about this.

Children workshop with the theme "Take Responsibility, Ensure the Children's Rights"

Children's rights and children's education is one of the major focuses in the WAWCAS Program.

We gathered 250 of the WAWCAS women's children from four schools to work with Children's Rights.

The main objectives of this workshop were:

- to make the parents, the teachers and the children aware of the Children's Rights.
- to develop the children's skills to act and to take action when needed regarding the Children's Rights in their family or among their friends.
- to develop the children's creative skills as a way of expressing challenging and positive issues in their life.
- to identify the children's problems and to come up with suggestions for solutions from the children's side to diminish or remove the problems.



The children presented challenging issues regarding children's rights and gender inequality in their families via role play

Many of the parents, knowingly or unknowingly, do not behave properly interacting with their children. In the workshop, the children were supported by the WAWCAS trainers to present challenging issues regarding children's rights and gender inequality in their families via role play as a way for the children to be aware and to share challenging parts of life, and as a way to make the parents aware of the issues. Based on what the children addressed and showed the trainers, the trainers will support the changes to happen during the home visits at the children's homes.

This kind of children-get-together helps the children to bring out what they experience in their everyday life. Also, this kind of workshop helps to convey awareness to the society, and it will encourage the parents to solve the problems faced by their children.

It helps the parents to know their children's capabilities and supports them to acknowledge their children in the way they can express challenging issues.

This way of working with the children helps them to develop mentally, intellectually, emotionally and socially.

Both the mother- and daughter-in-law workshop and the Children's Right Workshop will be a part of the WAWCAS program in the future. No doubt it is very giving to bring together the women, their mother-in-laws, the children and the parents in bigger groups to reflect and share. It gives a possibility to learn from many others and to understand the issues in a bigger perspective than just being personal in their own homes.

My visit to Denmark

By Krishna Maharan, Finance Officer WAWCAS Nepal

On July 24th, 2019 I went to collect my passport at the VFS office in order to get at visa. Unfortunately, I did not get the visa after having waited for 24 days. I was very embarrassed and hopeless. I thought that there was no chance to visit Denmark. But the situation turned into a very positive experience. With support from Nina, Sangeeta and the WAWCAS International team, I got a visa on August 1st, 2019 at 18.30 hours; my flight was on August 2nd, 2019.



Enjoying Copenhagen between our busy schedule

We had lots of work in Denmark such as a presentation to donors, a business manual and a meeting with the finance group of WAWCAS International. We had three presentations in Denmark, the first one in Aarhus with new donors, the next one in Torben's home with donors and volunteers in WAWCAS and finally in Copenhagen with potential sponsors. I explained how we are working in Nepal with our data system and data tracking. We had a finance meeting with Torben and the finance team. We had clear thoughts about transfer fees, financial activities, financial reports, and differences in exchange rates. I attended a meeting with Lind Invest, which was an analysis of our WAWCAS program. They analyze social return on investment and other supporting factors of the organization. I also worked with Søren and Sirish regarding cash flow, P/L account on the basis of different products on a different time frame for good

results. I also got the chance to participate in the WAWCAS International board meeting. This reflects how they are working for the WAWCAS Program, how devoted they are to raise funds and how serious they are about future planning. I met WAWCAS volunteers, who are supporting to the uplift of the WAWCAS Program.

Denmark is a totally clean and green country. I enjoyed lots of things in Denmark. On my 1st day in Denmark, I had seen a lot of old ships coming from different counties and a nice evening with too many fireworks. On the 2nd day we were going swimming in the sea and mostly enjoyed the day. On the 3rd day there was night swimming. It was memorable and refreshing after a long meeting with donors. Sirish and I wanted to test new foods and tested octopus. In Copenhagen, I visited historical places, sea sight and different places.



Watching the fireworks in Copenhagen

Thank you very much to the WAWCAS team for the opportunity to visit Denmark and for your full support. I appreciate your hard work to get my visa. I got lots of love from the team, which was more than I expected. Once again, I am very thankful to be part of the WAWCAS team.

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