

WAWCAS Newsletter, November 2024



Ten Years Impact Data of WAWCAS Program

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Year 2024 has been an amazing year. For the first time, WAWCAS can demonstrate that 10 years after the WAWCAS Women finish the 16 months Training Program, 96% are still owners of one or more profitable businesses, and 97% of their children go to school.

Outstanding data.

None of us in WAWCAS had dreamed of such high business resilience and school enrolment after so many years, and therefore we are extremely happy to be able to report key findings from our study. The positive outcomes truly demonstrate long-term positive and sustainable effects of the WAWCAS Program.

Below you will find an extract of the data report, and we kindly inform you, that the full report is available on our website www.wawcas.com.

Enjoy your reading.

1 Introduction

WAWCAS has been operating in Nepal since 2008, and during the previous 16 years, we have reported annual data demonstrating the impact experienced by the women as they go through the 16 months Entrepreneurship and Social Training Program.

A few years ago, we entertained the idea to go back to some of these WAWCAS Women, which had completed the training 5 or 10 years ago, and then investigate, if we could demonstrate long-term impact of the program. As we stay in the areas with active WAWCAS programmes for a long period, we do obtain occasional, good and positive information of the life conditions of these WAWCAS Women long time after they finish the training. But we never investigated these small pieces of information in a more detailed manner. And we wanted to obtain this specific knowledge.

So, we decided to invite groups of WAWCAS Women, who had completed training years before, with the purpose of determining if long-term beneficial effects of the WAWCAS Program could be demonstrated.

2 Methods

In the fall of 2023, WAWCAS randomly selected 12 WAWCAS Women's Groups who had completed the 16 months Entrepreneurship and Social Training Program either **5 or 10 years earlier**. Of the 295 women invited to participate in the survey, a total of 235 women responded. The remaining 60 women could not be located/contacted. A total of 50 women were from Kathmandu and the remaining 185 women from Lamjung. Altogether, the 235 women had 566 children, and of these 311 children were in the age group 6-25 years considered most important for evaluating school attendance. The women were interviewed individually by a Local Program Leader – one group at a time. The survey contained a total of 36 questions relating to their children's education, entrepreneurship (their business(es)), household stability, empowerment and group & community.

Here we report on key data reflecting the educational status of the children as well as on business resilience.

3 Results

3.1 Childrens Education

First, the vast, vast majority of children aged 6-18 years were in school. We only identified 4 children 6-18 years old, who were not in school. And three of these four children were 6 years old and simply not enrolled yet.

Child Age Group	Sex	Total no of children in age group	No of children in school	No of children not applic.	Education frequency (%)
6-25 yrs	Both	311	206	105	66,2
6-18 yrs	Both	143	139	4	97,2
12-15 yrs	Both	47	46	1	97,9
18-25 yrs	Both	191	87	104	45,5
18-25 yrs w/High Edu.	Both	191	61	104	31,9

Our data demonstrate that

- **97% of children 6-18 years old are under education**

Secondly, in the age group 12-15 years, which contains most students in secondary school and only a few in primary school, the school attendance is:

- **98% of children 12-15 years old are under education**

Finally, in the age group 18-25 years, which contains most of the students enrolled at a university/higher education, the school attendance is:

- **32% of children 18-25 years attends higher education/university**

Also, it was demonstrated that school attendance for girls and boys were similar.

Now, we did look into available reference data in particular relevant for children, who originates from the 20% of the population living in deepest poverty

- 33% of the children in secondary school age are attending secondary school, but only 10% completes secondary school (Ref: *Nepal Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS), 2019. Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS) under the National Planning Committee.*)

- 3.4% of the general population obtains minimum a Bachelor degree. For Dalits only 0.4%. (REF: *Caste-based discrimination in Nepal, Indian Institute of Dalit Studies, 2009*)

3.2 Business Resilience

We also investigated the business resilience reported by these WAWCAS Women. For the 235 responding women, the data are very positive (we have not comparable data for the 60 non-responders).

Only 9 women reported not to have their own business anymore, while the remaining **96% of the women continued to operate one or more businesses** still 10 years after finishing the WAWCAS Program.

Finally, we should add, that approx. 40% of the WAWCAS Women had their businesses disrupted during the COVID pandemic in 2020/2021, and that WAWCAS executed a Help Package Program for those in need.

4 Conclusion

For the first time, WAWCAS reports long-term impact data for the programme. Based on a well-planned and well conducted survey encompassing 235 WAWCAS Women in Kathmandu and Lamjung, we have determined that

- **97% of the children of WAWCAS women go to school**
- and
- **96% of the women are still business owners**

10 years after the women completed the WAWCAS Program.

These data are outstanding and provides the first data-based evidence of the long-term, sustainable impact of the WAWCAS Program.

End

More Stories from the WAWCAS Women and Their Children

Every month, three WAWCAS women add a new blog to their story on the WAWCAS website. And also, one of our many Child Groups upload a monthly story. You can get insight into the daily struggles and happy moments in the lives of these women and children by clicking the link below.

[Meet the Women and Their Children • Wawcas International](#)