

## **Project Update: December 2022**

### **Theatre in Education: Collaborations between Science and Arts**

#### **Program 1: Collaboration with the Actors' Studio Nepal**

We collaborated with the 'Actors' Studio Nepal' in the drama "Katha Kasturi" based on the story "Sarpadansha" (Snakebite, in English) which was written by the well known writer Nayan Raj Pandey and directed by the well known actress/director Deeya Maskey. The drama was performed from 10th June - 9th July in the 'Studio Theatre Nepal', Kathmandu. At first, we conducted an informative class about snakes to all the cast and crews of the drama during the rehearsal. We also collaborated with the Kaligandaki Hospital who provided us with museum specimens of snakes for educational purposes. We displayed museum specimens and different educational materials in our stall. Whenever we got a rescue call and rescued the snake, we also showed the rescued snake to the audiences/visitors before releasing them into the natural habitats. During the drama show for different schools, we also conducted informative classes inside the hall to educate students and teachers as well. We distributed our educational and promotional materials to the audiences/visitors. Audiences also took photographs in front of our premiere booth and selfie photo booth. Some of the audience repeated the show just hoping to see snakes. When audiences were also interested in learning the snake handling methods, we showed them non-venomous snake handling methods as well. We got very good feedback from audiences/visitors. This was probably for the first of its kind in Nepal that the audiences not only got good time to enjoy the drama but also got opportunities to see live snakes and learnt to handle them (non-venomous snakes only).

#### **Program 2: Collaboration with the Mandala Theatre Nepal in Nepal International Theatre Festival (NITFest) 2022:**

After knowing the success of our idea to collaborate with the theatres in our newly created concept "Theatre in Education", we also collaborated with the 'Mandala Theatre Nepal' in the 'Nepal International Theatre Festival' (NITFest) 2022. Mandala Theatre organised the second edition of Nepal International Theatre Festival (NITFest) 2022 in Kathmandu from 25<sup>th</sup> November-3<sup>rd</sup> December 2022 with the slogan "Theatre for Social Transformation: Celebrating Diversity". In this festival, around 200 artists from 11 different countries participated in added value through their performances in the festival. A total of 18 play productions from all over the world were showcased during the festival. Besides the play production, the festival also featured by other allied events such as daily interactions, panel discussions, workshops, master class, seminar, open air performances, theatre photo exhibitions, encouragement award ceremonies, cultural, artistic and educational stalls etc. Most of the people dislike/fear and/or want to kill any snakes they encounter. Therefore, we collaborated with the Mandala Theatre Nepal in the NITFest 2022 with the aims to conduct the awareness programme regarding snakes, human-snake conflicts mitigation and snake conservation in Nepal. Through the collaboration of this educational programme, people gained basic knowledge on snakes and snakebites. We also distributed our different educational/promotional materials related to snakes and snakebites. We also informed audiences/visitors about our major programmes like, "Save The Lives", "Theatre in Education", "Education in Motion", "Save Snakes Save Nature", "Human-Snake Co-existence", "Save The King" and

"Rescue and Relocation". During this festival period, audiences not only got a chance to enjoy the drama but also got a good time to educate themselves and got opportunities to see the preserved snakes. This is probably the first time in Nepal that people have enjoyed snake educational stall in International Theatre Festival from which hundreds of people received its benefits which definitely may help to make a positive change in people's perception towards snakes.

Honorable Jeevan Ram Shrestha, Minister of Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation of the Government of Nepal also visited our stall along with the renowned actor/director/playwright Daya Hang Rai in the opening ceremony of the festival. Both showed an interest in our various programmes and appreciated our community-based snake conservation works. Our educational video film "Save The Lives" poster was launched by the renowned Actor/Director/Playwright/Producer Daya Hang Rai, Khagendra Lamichhane, Min Bham and actress Surakshya Panta. All of them appreciated our snake conservation works. At the closing ceremony, we have received an appreciation certificate from Honorable Janardan Sharma "Prabhakar", Minister of Finance, Government of Nepal. Other renowned celebrities also visited our stall and asked their queries. In overall, we got very good responses from all the people who visited our stall in NITFest 2022. It was estimated that around 5,000 people visited our stalls in two renowned theatres (Actors' Studio Nepal and Mandala Theatre Nepal).



Photo: Project Leader Mr. Kamal Devkota sharing about snakes and snakebites to the Honorable Jeevan Ram Shrestha, Minister of Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation of the Government of Nepal and to the renowned actor/director/playwright Daya Hang Rai in the opening ceremony of the NITFest 2022.



Photo: During the poster launch of our educational video film "Save The Lives".

The poster was launched by the renowned Actor/Director/Playwright/Producer Daya Hang Rai, Khagendra Lamichhane, Min Bham and actress Surakshya Panta.



Photo: Project Leader Mr. Kamal Devkota receiving a Letter of Appreciation for the participation in NITFest 2022 as Ecosystem Partner, from Honorable Janardan Sharma "Prabhakar", Minister of Finance, Government of Nepal at the closing ceremony of the NITFest 2022. In the photo Festival Director and actress Sirjana Subba is also present.



Photo: Indian Actress Shabana Azmi also attended NITFest 2022 and watched "Katha Kasturi" (Snakebite) drama.



Photo: Honorable Jeevan Ram Shrestha, Minister of Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation of the Government of Nepal, Kathmandu Metropolitan Mayor Balendra Shah, Festival Director Sirjana Subba, Indian Actress Shabana Azmi, Actor Daya Hang Rai and Saroj Khanal with many invited representatives from different sectors at the opening ceremony of NITFest 2022.



Photo: Promoting our program "Theatre in Education" in NITFest 2022 with our team members.



Photo: Project Leader Mr. Kamal Devkota sharing his knowledge to the audiences before drama starts.



Photo: Our educational/promotional materials and museum specimens of snakes (provided by Kaligandaki Hospital, Nawalpur).



Photo: Project Leader Mr. Kamal Devkota educating students and teachers inside the 'Studio Theatre' during the drama "Katha Kasturi" (Snakebite).



Photo: Actor/Director/Producer/Writer/Poet/Political Leader in a single frame. Aman Pratap Adhikari, Anup Baral, Raghuji Panta, Biplov Pratik and Subarna Thapa during the premiere show of the drama "Katha Kasturi" (Snakebite) in front of our promotional material (premiere photo booth).



Photo: Actress and Miss Nepal World 2012 Shristi Shrestha and Actress Menuka Pradhan learning to handle non-venomous Himalayan Trinket snake during the drama "Katha Kasturi" (Snakebite).



Photo: Project Leader Mr. Kamal Devkota conducting an informative class about snakes and snakebites inside the hall to aware actors/actresses of "Katha Kasturi" (Snakebite) during the rehearsal.



Photo: Theatre Practitioner and Peace Adviser Michael Thonhauser asking his queries regarding snakes and also about the "Theatre in Education" program.



Photo: Theatre and Film Actor Kamal Mani Nepal promoting our 'Theatre in Education' program.



Photo: Project Leader Mr. Kamal Devkota with his team members promoting our different programs.



Photo: Audiences/visitors asking their queries about snakes and snakebites in the NITFest 2022.



Photo: Students showing their curiosity while observing the museum specimens of snakes.



Photo: Students interested reading our brochure before the drama "Katha Kasturi" (Snakebite) starts.



Photo: Panel discussion program seen from our stall.



Photo: Artistic musical performance by various artists during the NITFest 2022.





Photos: Promoting "Save The Lives" program during "Katha Kasturi" (Snakebite) drama.



Photo: Artists making a symbolic Cobra position in "Katha Kasturi" (Snakebite) drama.