

JANUARY 2021 | NEWSLETTER



AMERICAN SPACES NEPAL

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HAPPY NEW YEAR 2021 !

Join the January Programs --

JANUARY PROGRAMS

Skills-Based Workshop:
Protecting Terai Youth Online
from Human Trafficking

January 11, 2021 | 1-2 PM

Entrepreneur Talk Show with
Pavitra Gautam

January 18, 2021 | 1-2 PM

Beyond Borders : Book Club
The Great Gatsby | F. Scott
Fitzgerald

January 14-28, 2021 | 2:30 PM

Register

WELCOME

Namaste!

Thank you for subscribing to our American Spaces newsletter. We turn one year this month. It was only a year ago we started our newsletter. Thanks to everyone who has subscribed so far and have provided comments since our start. This newsletter would not be what it is without your valuable feedback.

The American Spaces team across Nepal continues to work to develop virtual programs to meet your needs and help you navigate this new world we live in. For January, we plan to provide programs focused on human trafficking and what tools exist to prevent vulnerable populations from being exploited. Do join us and we hope you can contribute to the conversation.

As the COVID-19 pandemic continues to alter our lives, we will provide virtual programming until we are able to open our Spaces to the public. If you have suggestions or ideas to share, feel free to contact us.

To register for our programs, please click on the given link (Register). We post our programs in our respective Corner Facebook pages (<https://np.usembassy.gov/education-culture/american-spaces/>), so keep checking the page for additional program postings. Also, feel free to share the American Center [Newsletter Subscription](https://rb.gy/el551i) link (<https://rb.gy/el551i>) with interested folks.

Sincerely,
American Spaces Team



WOMEN'S RIGHTS AND DEVELOPMENT AT THE LOCAL LEVEL

On December 10th American Spaces held a program titled, 'Women's Rights and Development' with Deputy Mayor, Ms. Sita Dahal, of Panchakhapan Municipality. To bring attention to gender-based violence (GBV), Ms. Sita spoke specifically about how it is affecting rural communities throughout Nepal and the lack of support for women. Although laws exist to help protect women, the implementation has been challenging at the local level due to lack of capacity, limited resources, and family pressures not to go public with allegations nor press charges.

WORD CLOUD RESULT

We have done a quick survey with our audience to find out what you think are the most relevant services that American Spaces Nepal provides and this is the result. The bigger the word, the more frequently it was mentioned by survey participants.

Teachers Training on Incorporating STEAM Activities in the Classroom

American Spaces Nepal partnered with Aaryashree International to organize a Teachers Training on how to incorporate STEAM activities in the classroom. Trainer Rajendra Dahal shared and compared the traditional way of teaching to the new 21st century model being adopted in the United States. The attendees learned what type of simple STEAM activities they could use both in a virtual and in-person environment. The workshop was in such high demand that we were forced to cap participation at 100 participants.



BEYOND BORDERS BOOK CLUB CONTINUES

Led by Regional Public Engagement Specialist (REPS) Mark Burrell, 'Books Beyond Borders' continues with strong participation from Afghanistan, India, Nepal, and Sri Lanka. On December, over 190 participants joined the webinar to discuss the American classic, "The House on Mango Street" by Sandra Cisneros. The participants analyzed the characters and delved into a range of themes such as identity, job prospects, society, gender and sexuality and different beliefs among certain communities in the USA.

HISTORIES FROM HOME WORKSHOP

On December 13-15, we held two sessions of Histories From Home with representatives from the Feminist Dalit Organization (FEDO). Participants were asked to recall and share their experiences about how caste has been a critical marker in their lives. They read Aachal Malhotra's - Remnants of a Separation, which prompted participants to share stories in the context of Nepal's wider political history.

ENTREPRENEUR TALK SHOW- EPISODE THREE

On December 21st, American Spaces successfully organized their third episode, Entrepreneur Talk Show, with renowned tea entrepreneur and owner from far eastern Nepal - Mr. Hari Gurung. Mr. Gurung provided insight into how he started his business, his entrepreneur journey, bureaucratic obstacles, and challenges of getting his product to both domestic and international markets.

The Societal Effects of Chhaupadi in Far West Nepal

To conclude our programming on gender based-violence (GBV) the team conducted a program on the mental effects of chhaupadi on young girls in rural communities. Titled, 'The Societal Effects of Chhaupadi in Farwest Nepal', the program brought together a range of community leaders and young girls who have had firsthand experience with the antiquated, discriminatory practice. Our goal is to educate youth about this cultural practice and to put an end to "untouchability", as it puts young women's life at risk.

Media Literacy Workshop

On December 13th and 16th, the third and fourth sessions of our Media Literacy Workshop, 'Hack the Fact' was held with students from Creative Academy. Participants submitted first drafts of their social media content strategy on various democratic practices. After discussing plagiarism, fact-checking, and copyright, participants learned about giving credit to original content creators and not taking ownership of content they didn't create.