



NAME, AGE, COUNTRY

Mayank, 3 years, Laljhadi Rural Municipality ward no.3, Kanchanpur

Story summary:

संक्षिप्त कथा : "**Transforming Mayank's Life with the help of an Assistive Device**"

A three-year-old Mayank, born with physical disabilities affecting his right limbs and speech, lives in rural Kanchanpur District, Nepal. Unable to attend schools, he remained isolated at home despite his parents' numerous medical consultations.

In September 2024, opportunity arrived through a home-based school program collaboration between Save the Children and the Nepal National Social Welfare Association (NNSWA) in Laljhadi Rural Municipality. Mayank enrolled in Grade 1 at a nearby school, with regular monitoring visits from school officials and ward leadership. The program provided educational materials and a specially trained facilitator who works with Mayank daily through exercises, games, songs, and storytelling.

In December 2024, Mayank participated in a disability screening camp organized jointly by NNSWA and Laljhadi Rural Municipality. During this assessment, his measurement was taken and created a casting for an orthosis (assistive device) designed to improve his mobility. Since receiving and being fitted with this device, Mayank has shown remarkable progress. He now demonstrates greater confidence and reduced dependence when covering short distances. Most significantly, he has gained enough mobility to walk to school independently and soon he will join regular classroom activities with his peers.

The results have been remarkable. Once isolated, Mayank now appears happier, and increasingly confident. The initiative benefits the entire household. Mayank's mother notes that with the facilitator spending four hours daily with her son, she has more time for household management and herself, creating a better balance for the family. This case demonstrates how targeted education programs and community support can transform opportunities for children with disabilities and their families.



Strong quotes:

"The concept of School at Home is highly appreciable in promoting the fundamental right to education for all children, especially for children with disabilities. In the coming days, the Rural municipality should allocate a budget for School at Home for those children with disabilities who cannot attend school at all"

Education Officer Of Lalijhadi RM, Mr. Sidhha Raj Bhatt

How is NNSWA helping (or did we help) that child or family:

Mayank has been supported with school at home program and participated in a Disability Screening Camp organized by NNSWA. During this camp, they underwent an assessment and was provided with physiotherapy services. He is receiving support for learning & playing materials, school uniform, clothes etc. Mayank was supported with Orthosis (assistive devices for mobility).

Additional interviews:

Interviewee's story in their own words (Quotes):

Mayank mother Mrs. Siramato says, "I am very happy to see my son studying and notice the positive changes in his behaviour. I cannot fully express my feelings in words. Before, I could not find any time for myself, but now, with a dedicated facilitator who oversees and educates my child, I have time to care for myself and attend to other family responsibilities"



Notes from the interviewer: NA

Background / Project information

NNSWA, in partnership with Save the Children, is implementing the EU-funded project Quality Education-Leaving No One Behind: Strengthening Civil Society in Nepal to Drive Inclusive Access to Education for All Children. This initiative operates across Karnali, and Sudurpaschim provinces, aiming to address educational inequities and promote inclusive access to quality education, particularly for marginalized groups such as children with disabilities, Dalits, and LGBTQI+ youth. The 42-month project focuses on empowering civil society to advocate for inclusive policies, reducing barriers to education, and enhancing collaboration between civil society and government. By integrating community-driven solutions, model schools, and capacity-building efforts, the project aims to create a scalable framework for equity and inclusion in Nepal's education sector.

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Interview translated by: Kshitiz Joshi

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Story edited by: Durga Prasad Tiwari

Story Approved by: Bishan Dev Joshi – Project Manager

Country/region of interview: Nepal, Kanchanpur district

Interview language: Nepali & Tharu