



Meet 10-year-old Preeti. Preeti is the first girl in her family to go to school, and she recently started attending UWS Helabuwesi School in the Sankhuwasabha area of eastern Nepal.

United World Schools (UWS) trains the teachers at this school to become the best teachers they can be.

This has created a fun and friendly learning environment for students to experience quality and inclusive education where boys and girls have the same opportunities to go to school. As Preeti says, "I like the school environment and I enjoy studying. I feel glad when our teachers let us play. My favorite subject is Nepali (the national language). When I grow up, I want to become a doctor".

### Community bridge teachers

Preeti's mother tongue or, Indigenous local language, is Yakkha Kulung. This is the language she speaks at home with Aunt Bhim who Preeti has lived with since her parents left when she was very young. Many of Preeti's teachers also speak the Indigenous local language as well as Nepali, which is the language of the national school curriculum.

UWS trains local people to become community bridge teachers. These teachers work alongside national government teachers and act like a bridge between local and national languages and cultures. Like Preeti, they understand the challenges of learning to read and write in a new language.

Community bridge teachers also help children to feel good about where they come from, and to value work on the farm and at home as an important part of their social and emotional wellbeing.

### Meet Aunt Bhim

Although Aunt Bhim doesn't have an education she can talk to the Community bridge teachers and enjoy Preeti's learning journey. After school, she lets Preeti do her homework while she cooks dinner and is always there when Preeti needs to talk.

Preeti learns from Aunt Bhim by, "Cleaning the house, smearing the house with red mud, sweeping the front yard every morning, feeding the pigs, cows and goats, looking after the rooster and fetching water. The cows sleep below our home, which is made of wood and straw and is on stilts," said Aunt Bhim.



### Meet headteacher Surya Bahadur Thapa

"I'm the headteacher of UWS Helabuwesi and a class teacher. I've been here for two years and let's say, I take the responsibility of almost everything.

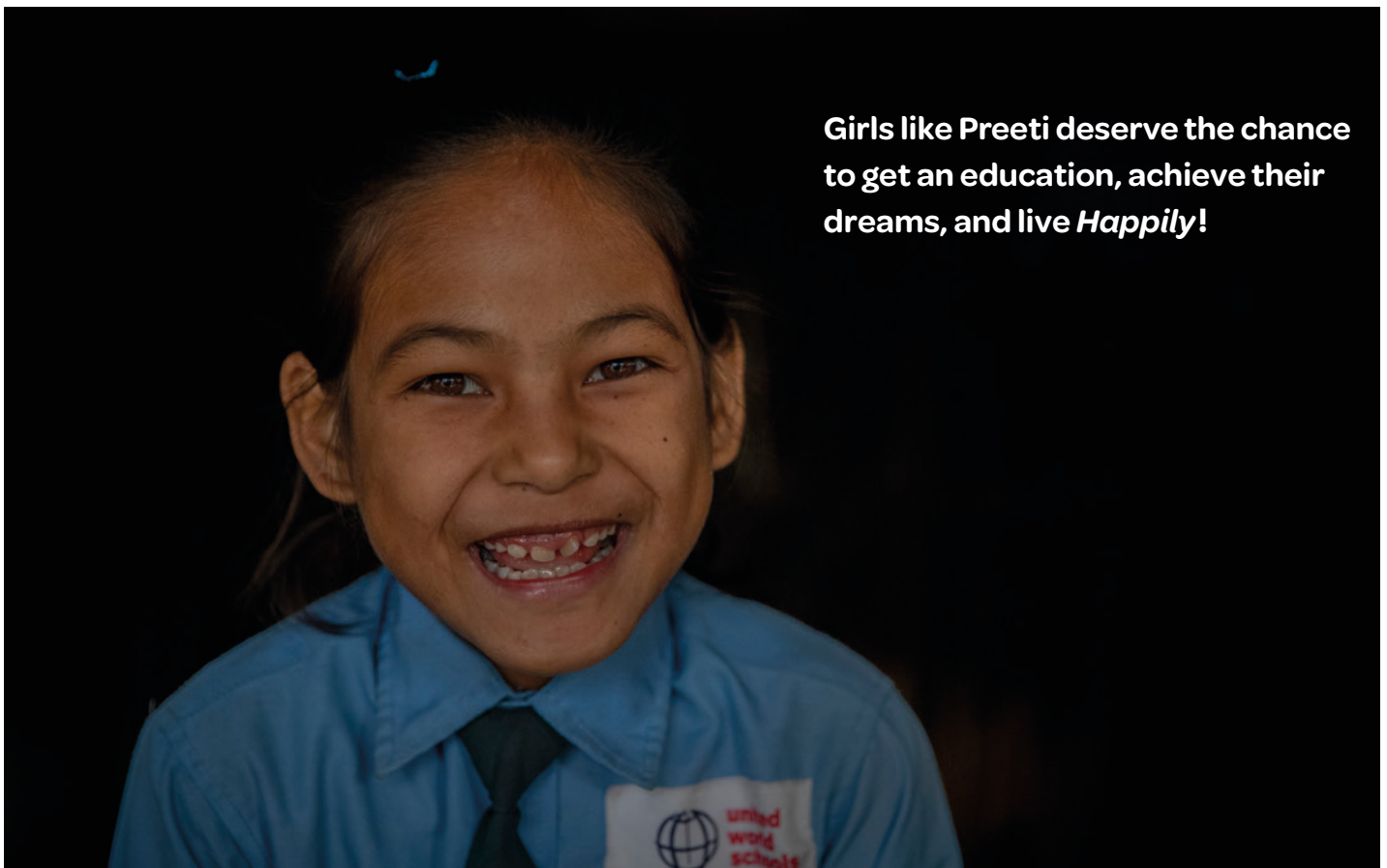
"There are currently about 11 classes here with 159 students. This includes children from other districts, who walk here for up to two hours, because of our inclusive teaching practices."

We embrace linguistic diversity in our classrooms, so teachers can teach and students can learn using both their mother tongue and national language. We phase in the national language, so children develop bi-literacy as they progress in school. We develop strategies to teach in two languages. We create aids and materials to supplement the national government curriculum and to enable ethnic language speakers to participate and learn in lessons.

UWS works at many levels to make education more inclusive and Individualized.

Surya Bahadur Thapa says, "Earlier, students used to go home in the lunch break and did not come back. But now, after the training of UWS, a good environment has been created. The teachers are now motivated to be genuinely involved in improving the school environment. More importantly, the community has been motivated to get more involved with the school, a pleasant change."

**UWS aims to build, resource, and equip 70 new schools in Nepal, train 375 local people as community bridge teachers, and reach 10,000 more children with education.**



**Girls like Preeti deserve the chance to get an education, achieve their dreams, and live *Happily!***