

DELIVERING THE GIFT OF SIGHT

AN OGS SUCCESS STORY



Alisha, 10, is in the 4th grade at Shree Sansari Secondary School. Residing in a Dalit community, Alisha lives with her mother and her little sister, but her family has a difficult life in Jorsalla. Her mother and father have been separated for a number of years. Her father remarried and currently lives in Kathmandu with his new family. Though her family is in a financially fragile solution, her father has not offered to help.

Asali is Alisha's mother. Asali went through open-heart surgery a few years ago. Due to her surgery and heart condition, she cannot work long hours and the family's livelihood is dependent on agriculture and animal husbandry on a small piece of land that they own. Many factors have affected their financial stability and forced them to live hand to mouth for a few years now. COVID-19 has exacerbated their already fragile situation even more and Asali now has trouble feeding her two children and herself. Because of their dire circumstances, Asali's grandfather has been feeding the children.



BRIGHTENING A MURKY FUTURE

Alisha started noticing eye-related issues, about a year ago. However, because of the family's financial situation, she did not tell anyone. Her performance in school decreased drastically because of her vision and her mother and grandfather finally noticed her eye problem. But they were not able to do anything because of lack of money. Asali wanted to get Alisha's eyes tested but did not have enough money to pay the bus fare to the hospital, which was two hours away. As a result, Alisha has been living with hypermetropia and facing an uncertain future.

When the YLOP Phase II—funded in part by Optometry Giving Sight and money raised during the World Sight Day Challenge—conducted a school screening program in Shree Sansari Secondary School, Alisha got her eyes checked. The attending optometrist found that she was in urgent need of glasses and proper eye care. The Youth Team helped Alisha get to the hospital, where she received the medical treatment she needed. With new eyeglasses, Alisha now is reading and performing well at school and in her daily life—all thanks to a fairly simple vision correction.

ANSWERING THE CHALLENGE

Through the World Sight Day Challenge, OGS is able to fund sustainable initiatives that bring eye care and glasses to people like Alisha. While these things previously were out of reach for Alisha, her future and her family's are now both a little bit brighter.

