

EDITORIAL COLUMN

Slaughtering Animals on Dashain

It is festival of merry-making and coming together-not being cruel to animals.

Dashain is the most auspicious and extravagant annual festival of Hinduism in Nepal. It is celebrated for 15 days to mark the victory of the Hindu goddess Durga over a feared demon, Mahisasur and symbolizes the triumph of good over evil.

Every Hindu home is cleaned and decorated to welcome the god and goddess. The markets are heaving as shoppers seek out new clothes and foodstuff, and thousands of people are returning to their home villages from the cities and from foreign countries to spend time with their families. It is the time when all family members come together to share joy, happiness and sorrow of their lives.

According to tradition, during the ten-day celebration of Dashain, hundreds of thousands of buffaloes, goats, chicken, pigs and sheep are slaughtered and sacrificed in the name of Hindu divinities, especially Durga. It is believed that the slaughtering of animals is to sacrifice and honor the goddess and prevent her anger in the year ahead.

However, in these past few years, increasingly painful voices are heard. Rightful questions are asked from different regions of Nepal, even some from outsiders, regarding about the slaughtering of animals on Dashain, which is totally unacceptable and injustice to the animals. Now, many people have become aware about animal cruelties that are done in the name of religion, gods and goddesses. At the moment, yet, these voices are still few and ineffective. All the Nepalese people should wake up and understand the reality that is happening around.

Obviously, we understand that Dashain is a festival of merry-making and coming together with families and relatives. It is not about being cruel to animals. But, there are people who are not only killing animals, they are torturing and treating them brutally by decapitating, battering and burning them alive. It is not just an inhumane act, it is against the law and morally wrong to torture fellow creatures under any circumstances, but to do in the name of religion is a sin. Such animal slaughter not only divides Hindus, but it discredits the religion itself.

Consequently, people should stop killing animals in the name of Hinduism's respected goddesses and gods. We don't need to eat animals to survive whereas we shouldn't blindly follow the tradition. Likewise, we shouldn't be creating emotional pain and suffering for the animals; they have feelings too.

On this Dashain, we hope and pray that no animals are killed. Every one of you plays an important role to enlighten your community by saying 'No to killing animals' when you go to your home. We hope this Dashain brings a lot of happiness, joy and luck in your home.

Note: We are not against Dashain celebration and Hindu religion. We are, however, against animal slaughtering practices that show inhumane acts in the name of religion.

BRANCH SCHOOL COLUMN

Branch School's Half-Yearly Exam Concluded



On 10th of September, SMD Branch School kickoff its half-yearly examination. SMD Branch School has changed its examination system from this year, where there are only two terminal exams in a year. Very Venerable Khenchen Thrangpo Rinpoche also came to invigilate in the examination hall during the last day of exam. The exam was concluded with the blessing from root lama, Thrangpo Rinpoche. The small monks really felt blessed to have Rinpoche on their last day of exam. One of the students, Dawa Palbar expressed, 'I am very much thrilled to hear my result because I did quite well.' The result will probably be announced at the end of September.



KNOW ME

Name: Niraj Rai
Admission No.: D16.1
Age: 6
Grade: KG'B'
My village: Shimri
My favorite color: Green
My favorite subject: English
My favorite game: Cricket
My favorite teacher: Norbu Wangmo
My favorite food: Pizza
My best friend: Samten Chopel
My aim: Doctor
My hobby: Watching cartoon!



Karma Dhundup from Dolpo district, one of the alumni of SMD, decided to come back at SMD to give a service. Now at SMD, he is training inter-mediate students, both boys and girls, in football after the academic hours. Here, he shares his experience outside SMD and his return.



I always felt in my heart that SMD is a very special school. This school was the place where I had my childhood memories, my childhood friends and the beginning of my love for football, till the date. Life in school and the outside world is totally different. I had to face difficulties when I first stepped out of the school. But, in some ways, it was a life changing experience. I learned to stand on my own feet.

There were times, when I was totally hopeless and restless about my life. But I didn't give up. I kept moving forward and I worked harder because I knew that every cloud has a silver lining.

I don't have a good degree. I am not in a college level, or in any learning institute. Yet, I believed that

there's always something new to learn, practice and a way to become a good person and an inspiration to the younger generations. However, I also think that education is a very crucial part of our life. It helps us to mould our future into a better prospect.

The best thing that I learned from SMD is to help others. Therefore, I have worked at several projects, building earthquake-resistant houses. The project that I have worked in is completely focused on those poor people who cannot afford to build a regular and normal house which would cost more than what they earn. Also, the building structure is mainly designed for rural regions where the transportation facilities are not available. The best thing about this building technique is that, it can be afforded, even by poor people. The houses that I build are environmentally friendly houses. Eventually, it is a unique and helpful skill to learn, especially for the Nepalese people as it is easy, affordable and less time consuming.

It is a wonderful opportunity to serve SMD School through sports, coaching football to the kids where I once was a student. I'm truly lucky to be a part of the SMD family again. It is like, being back to the school after a long vacation. It is quite exciting to see the same kids grown up and I'm happy to help them. I have no such future proposals for the kids other than that I passionately wish them to keep playing sports because it's an important part of life. It keeps you physically and mentally fit. And don't forget to enjoy every part of it so that you won't regret it later in life.

ART GALLERY



Art by Karma Sherpa, B115



Art by Dechen Sangmo, B603a



Nik, Norway



Mai, Vietnam



Nimra, Pakistan



Harry, Canada

SMD HAS THE BEST VOLUNTEERS!

3 volunteers, graduated from UWCRN, Norway and a volunteer from Canada are serving at SMD with their best. TTE took interviews of them. Let's hear, what they has to say!

Q.1: How would you define SMD School?

Nik: I would define SMD as a beautiful place in which children become free – free to learn, and play and dream of brighter futures.

Mai: SMD School is like a warm nest where SMD birds feel secure to live in, when ready spread their wings to see the world outside, yet can always return for comfort, safely and with love.

Nimra: If I had to define SMD, I would say a breeding ground for compassion, kindness, talent and creativity- but those words alone don't feel quite enough to capture the raw beauty of this place.

Harry: SMD School is a diverse, inclusive and loving family. It is a secular school educating lay-people from the Himalayan while also working to keep the language and culture of the region alive.

Q.2: What are you doing now in SMD School?

Nik: Now, I am volunteering my time and energy to teach English and social studies, leading chess class, running and photography activity. I am also learning from SMD students about their backgrounds, and aims in life, social problems in Nepal, Himalayan ways of life and much more.

Mai: I am assisting the teachers in 3 classes; EHP (grade 9) and Social studies (grade 6 and 4) during academic hours. My main activity is running yoga classes as well as yoga related activities in the morning for students. Also, I am trying to make yoga class accessible to more people by having a journal to encourage students to come. I am also helping during tuitions.

Nimra: I have mostly been working on reopening the science lab, which has been closed ever since the earthquake in 2015. The school principal, Pala Bola, helping hands group, and students from grade 9 have been incredibly helpful in setting up science lab. Apart from that, I am helping to teach Math and science to grade 9 and 10 with the early morning and after school study sessions. With the help of some students, we recently started a dance class in school, which will be focusing on Hip Hop, Contemporary and Semi-classical styles. We've also developed a plan to begin a critical thinking and debates activity after Dashain.

Harry: I am working together with Tashi Choeden and a group of students from class 4-9 to run a new student club; the Himalayan Makers Guild. The club focuses on exploring electronics, programming and the engineering design process through hands-on activities. I have also been reading out my favorite books out loud to some students in class 6-9 during the evenings.

Q.3: What is your intention to do in future for the SMD?

Nik: In the future at SMD, I intend to bring some students to a marathon, do something for children's day, organize a celebration of SMD's 30th anniversary, and keep teaching. I also intend to learn more about Buddhism and Basketball.

Mai: It may be too far away to say this, but in the future, I hope I'll be able to come back to SMD and bring whatever useful knowledge I have learnt to the children. Maybe teaching more yoga, having more project based learning. I'm excited about future learning with SMD kids, because this is the place that is difficult not to see again.

Nimra: Shirley tells me that around 60 students currently do not have sponsors, and I really want to find out a way to help with that. I'm not entirely sure how, but I think spreading the message in my university in the US, amongst the network of UWC alumni and amongst my social circle back home in Pakistan would be good places to start. I will have to leave in a few months to resume my undergraduate degree, but after knowing how refreshing it feels to be here, I am certain I will return to volunteer here again as soon as I get another chunk of free time.

Harry: I will be at SMD for 10 more months, until the end of June, 2018. Before then, I would like to organize the Himalayan Makers Guild so that the students of SMD take full ownership of it and are able to continue the club for years to come. Student leaders at SMD are what are needed for the club to endure; they will decide the future of the club.

SMD GRADUATES SHARES TEACHING EXPERIENCE

This year, two of SMD graduates, Tsewang Bhuti from Nar, Manang and Maya Gurung from Manang is giving a year of service as a teacher at Padmai Ga-tshal Choiling School, a school for Himalayan children. Here, they shares their experience with TTE:

Tsewang Bhuti: I am currently giving a year-long service at Padmai Ga-tshal Choiling School as a teacher. I have been teaching for almost four and a half months. Within this short period of time, I got to learn many new things. I learned that teaching is a very beneficial job. It benefits both the student and the teacher. While teaching the small kids, I realized that I can make a huge impact in someone else's life just by sharing what I know.

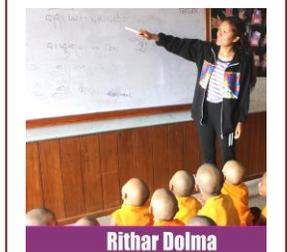
Maya Gurung: It's already been more than four months since I've been teaching here at PGC School. I experienced that teaching is not a piece of cake. Mainly, I learned that "to teach is to learn". I am having a great time teaching here at the school. I am very thankful to SMD for giving me an opportunity to give a year of service.



Tsewang Bhuti



Maya Gurung



Rithar Dolma

Rithar Dolma, from Gorkha district, one of the graduates of SMD is giving a year of service at Tsoknyi Gechak School, a nunnery school. She teaches to the small nuns. Here, she shares her experience with TTE.

Rithar Dolma: While teaching and working at Tsoknyi Gechak School for more than 4 months, I experienced that being outside SMD is challenging for me and in that process I learned to accept the challenge and deal with it. At TG School, I teach the small nuns. They are so eager to learn something new which encourages me to prepare and teach new things to them every day. They are the reason I love teaching.

कमिलो

म हुँ सानो कमिलो

किरामध्ये बलियो

मेरै गुण हेरेर मानिसले अनमोल कुरा सिक्यो
हिउँदाखेरी बाटोमा मलाइनै किच्यो।

भन्छन् मानिसलाई सर्व श्रेष्ठ प्रणी

मार्छन् हामीलाई आफ्नै कर्तव्य मानी

कहिले बन्छ मानिस बुद्धि मानी र जानी

जिउन देउ हामीलाई सुन्दर जीन्दगानी

जीउ सानो भएपनि धेरै मिहिनेत गर्छु।

आफु जास्तो सय जना एकसाथ बोक्छु।

आफ्नो अधिकार पाउँछु भने पहाड तोडी दिन्छु।

भगवान तिम्री कहिले हामीलाई खुसी जीवन

दिन्छै।

तपाईं भने कहाँ कहाँ

काल भने सधैं मानिसको पाइलामा।।

दोर्जे शेर्पा

कक्षा आठ

SING FOR JOY!

Pray-Justin Bieber

I just can't sleep tonight.
Knowing that things ain't right.
It's in the papers, it's on the TV, it's everywhere that I go.
Children are crying. Soldiers are dying.
Some people don't have a home.
But I know there's sunshine beyond that rain
I know there's good times behind that pain
Hey, can you tell me how I can make a change?
I close my eyes and I can see a better day
I close my eyes and pray
I lose my appetite
Knowing kids starve tonight.
Am I a sinner 'cause half my dinner is still there on my plate?
Ooh, I got a vision to make a difference.
And it's starting today.
'Cause I know there's sunshine beyond that rain
I know there's good times behind that pain
Heaven, tell me I can make a change.
I pray for the broken-hearted
I pray for the life not started
I pray for all the lungs not breathing.
I pray for all the souls that need a break.
Can you give 'em one today?
I just can't sleep tonight.
Can someone tell me how to make a change?
I close my eyes and I can see a better day
I close my eyes and pray

Blue Boys and Yellow Girls lifted the Inter-House Basketball Trophy

On 10th of September, inter-house basketball tournament of boys category started off, organized by house captains and an event manager, Tenzin Loden. It was played in the league system. In the opening tournament, Blue boys (Sagarmatha) defeated the yellow boys (Sambhota) in the very first match. After a long time, the students were cheering up for their houses. It was a fascinating match to watch. Similarly, on the next day of September 11th, the girls match was played. Here, the yellow girls (Sambhota) crushed the blue girls (Sagarmatha).

Consequently, the grand finale was held on 22nd of September where the blue and yellow houses of both girls and boys category reached the final by dominating red house (Srongtsen). In the boys category, yet again, the blue boys won over the yellow boys with the score of 74-18. The blue boys kept the yellow boys quite far behind in the baskets. One of the players of the blue house shared, 'I was playing my best and I was very much thrilled that my house lifted the trophy of the grand finale.' Likewise, in the girls category, once again, the yellow girls triumphed over the blue girls by the score of 16-12. Ultimately, the blue boys and the yellow girls lifted the inter-house trophy. According to the organizers, the medals and certificates will be distributed at the assembly on Monday, 25th of September.



Happy Dashain!

Dashain, comes once in a year,
We celebrate with full of cheer.
It is moment to come together,
We forget our sorrows, forever.

Everyone puts 'tika' and 'jamara',
People enjoy and laugh till 'purnima'.
Every elder plays cards with cashes.
Kids fly kites, play swings till it rashes.

I don't like killing animals on this festive,
'NO TO KILLING ANIMALS' is my
perspective.

I wish, Happy Dashain to everyone,
Celebrate to the fullest, before it's gone.

Sweta Ale, Cl:7

Senior students listens a graphic novel from a volunteer



On 7th of September, Harry Pigot, a volunteer from Canada started reading a graphic novel for the students of grade 6 and above. This activity is running after the night tuition where it is divided into 2 groups. The main aim of this activity is boost up the imagination and listening power of students. It also encourages students to read story books. Harry doesn't only read the story thoroughly to the students, he reads in an interesting way by making different voices of every character in the novel. The students love the activity. One of the listener from grade 8, Dawa Dolma expressed, 'It is a very excellent activity that helps me to improve my listening capacity and teaches me new words. In the novel (Nausica of the valley of the wind), the warrior is a princess, she never gives up and she always keep encouraging others. The princess character has really inspired me. Thank you Harry for inspiring me and other students.'

SMD's Half-Yearly Exam Completed

On 23rd of August, SMD conducted the half-yearly exam for the first time. It was completed successfully within 9 days. The result was announced on 8th September. The remarks will be distributed on 25th of September. The overall percentage of the school was more than average. Since, this year, the Continuous Assessment System (CAS) has been conducted through every course, the result was structured according to the CA System i.e. Grading System. Tsamcho Lama from grade 7 expressed, 'This new system has helped me a lot in my studies and has made the exam easier for me.' Indeed, it is clear that CA System has benefited both the teachers and students.



Children's Day Celebrated at SMD

On 14th of September, SMD celebrated Children's Day, organized by an event manager, Tenzin Loden with the assistance from seniors, volunteers, teaching and non-teaching staff. The day began with distribution of chocolates, sweets and gifts to the kids by their class teachers in the assembly followed by fun games and activities for the kids. In the noon, the teachers performed dances, dramas, culture and fashion show in the decorated shrine hall. Dawa Dolma of grade 7 shared, 'I had a really memorable day. Thank you so much to all the teachers who were busier than ants during this day for us and made it a successful day.'



SMD joined Clean up Nepal at Boudha

On September 16th, the Nationwide Clean-up Campaign was organized in 31 districts with participation of over 24,000 people throughout the country, facilitated by Clean up Nepal and supported by the Australian Embassy in Nepal. The slogan of the campaign was 'Our waste, our responsibility'. The clean-up initiation program was held centrally at Boudha where 700 individuals participated to clean Boudha area. SMD students also joined the cleaning campaign. Pema Dekyi from grade 9 shared, 'It was a great awareness campaign for our community people because most of the people of my community are not aware about the reason for the degradation of the environment.'



Think Healthy, Be Healthy

Benefits of Vegetarian Diet

Nowadays, most of the people have become vegetarian as it has benefits in a lot of ways. Adopting a vegetarian diet can be a fantastic entry into experiencing better health. It contains adequate amount of proteins. Also, it can protect us from various food-borne illnesses. The most important reason to adopt a vegetarian diet is that it is ethical to not slaughter animals. A vegetarian diet can also help us to save money. Replacing chicken, meat, and fish with vegetables and fruits is estimated to save a lot of money. Hence, it makes economic sense as well to convert to a vegetarian diet. **Here are other benefits of vegetarian diet:**

- May improve mood
- May Improve Symptoms of skin diseases
- May Reduce Incidence of Diabetes
- Reduces Risk of Cardiovascular Disease
- Less Chance of Developing Kidney Stones
- Less Risk of Stroke and Obesity

-TTE Editor

Brainteaser

- 1.The more you take, the more you leave behind. What am I?
- 2.What five-letter word becomes shorter when you add two letters to it?
- 3.Sam walked for thirty minutes in the pouring rain without getting a single hair on his head wet. He didn't have a hat or an umbrella and his coat had no hood. How did he do that?

Answer(s): 1=Footsteps 2=Short! & 3= Sam is bald!

Source:WWW.doriddles.com

Laugh Out Loud

'Laughing is the best medicine.'

Teacher: "If I gave you 2 cats and another 2 cats and another 2, how many would you have?"

Johnny: "Seven."

Teacher: "No, listen carefully... If I gave you two cats, and another two cats and another two, how many would you have?"

Johnny: "Seven."

Teacher: "Let me put it to you differently. If I gave you two apples, and another two apples and another two, how many would you have?"

Johnny: "Six."

Teacher: "Good. Now if I gave you two cats, and another two cats and another two, how many would you have?"

Johnny: "Seven!"

Teacher: "Johnny, where in the heck do you get seven from?!"

Johnny: "Because I've already got a freaking cat!"

Source: www.jokes-best.com

Interview with the Community entrepreneur, Ram Ballav Das



"There are some words that hurt us which are not true but we know ourselves what is true. Always believe in yourself so that we can move forward and be able to help others."

Q.1: Can you give a brief introduction about yourself?

Ram: I am Ram Ballav Das and I am 36 years old. I was born in Janakpur district but now, I live in Ramhiti, Kathmandu. I am an entrepreneur and I live alone with my son.

Q.2: How was your childhood life?

Ram: My childhood life was not easy. My father passed away when I was 5 years old. As a single mother, my mother had to face a lot of difficulties to raise and send me to school. There was not enough money and food for us. When I was 9 years old, one of my uncles brought me to Kathmandu in search of work. So, I started to work in a carpet factory. While working in the carpet factory, I had to face hard times, like sometimes there wasn't enough food to eat. I didn't get enough sleep or rest. One day, when I asked my boss for my wage, he fired me from the work. After that, I didn't know what to do. I couldn't go back to home because I didn't have money for transportation to reach my village. I was lost in this big city and I ended up being a street kid. After 3 years as a street kid, luckily, Rokpa (one of the organizations which helps poor kids) took me with 9 other kids. Rokpa gave me a place to stay, educated me and provided me with really good facilities that I could never imagine and I will never forget the kindness that Rokpa has given me. I graduated my grade 10 with a good result. I am really grateful towards Rokpa for making me the man I am today.

Q.3: Can you share the struggling times of your life and how did you face them?

Ram: There were many struggled times that I had to face in my life. My struggle started from my childhood when my father passed away. I had to take the responsibility of my family as I was the eldest son. I was a helpless child because I was just a small kid. I still remember when villagers used to look down on my mother just because she was a widow. This used to really sadden me a lot. Like, I mentioned, when I came to Kathmandu, I was treated very badly by the carpet factory's owner whereas, the worst days of my life was when I had to live a life of a street kid for 3 years. These struggles didn't weaken me at all instead it made me stronger and I would keep saying to myself that I needed to be strong. Honestly, I never give up in my life. After graduating grade 10, they gave me an opportunity to continue my studies but I refused as I thought that if I really want to do something, I had to do by myself. Eventually, I wanted to become independent. So, I started my own business. I managed to continue my further studies and business together. Still, I was struggling to do business because I was just new in this game. But, I always kept pushing myself forward. I kept thinking new ways to develop my business. Gradually, my business was doing quite well.

Q.4: You are good example for the foreign employees of Nepal, how are you maintaining a quality and happy life in this expensive city, Kathmandu, Nepal?

Ram: Nepal is a country where there is a variety of languages, cultures, and peaceful regions. There is a lot of freedom but still people tend to go abroad to earn money. I don't get it at all. If we really want to earn money, there are a lot of possible ways to earn money in Nepal. It is senseless to waste our energy and talent in foreign countries. I always did my best in every step of my life. I take my challenges in a positive way. I think, the only way to maintain quality life in Kathmandu is one should believe in and learn to trust oneself.

Q.5: You have learned and experienced a lot of ups and downs in your life. What advices you want to share to SMD kids when they move out from the school?

Ram: To SMD kids what I want to say is when you are gaining education; take it as much as you can, so that you can give it to others. Yes, we are not taught to be greedy but when it comes to education, be greedy. Some seniors or teachers may scold you, for that don't be disappointed instead take it as a lesson to go forward in your life. The second thing is, the education that you get at school is not enough for your life. It's only 40% of what you have learned; there is still 60% left to learn outside. Similarly, if you are happy of getting something then learn to lose it too. As school life is really precious, I advise you to do whatever you want to do in school from your heart so you won't regret in the future. Always open your arm with a heart of kindness and value others as you value yourself.

Q.6: Any message to the readers.

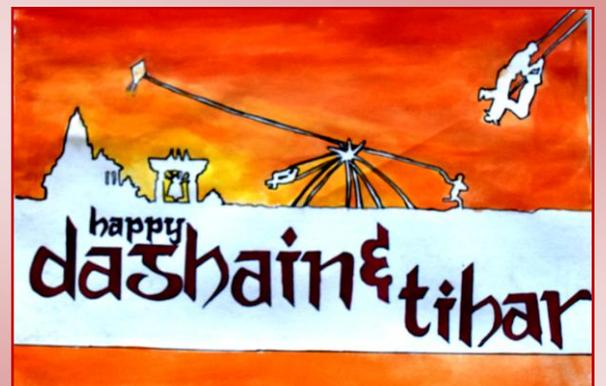
Ram: As saying goes, "the depth of an ocean can't be measured until you jump in". Yes, in reality, our world is filled with theories and opinions. There are some words that hurt us which are not true but we know ourselves what is true. Always believe in yourself so that we can move forward and be able to help others. The man who is easily ready to give up upon a small thing is a real coward. Be ready to make friends with your enemies as they make you stronger in your life. Fill up your mind with positive thoughts and live your life for the learning process. God exists in our heart if you believe from your heart. If we do good to each other then we are god to one another as Rokpa was for me.

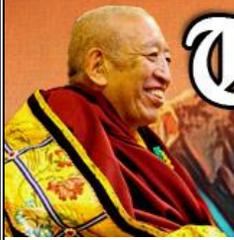
Twist Your Tongue

Source: www.funnyjokestar.com



CARTOON OF THE MONTH





The Thranqu Express

Voice of himalayan children



STOP KILLING ANIMALS ON DASHAIN!

TTE asked question to the random senior students of SMD regarding slaughtering animals in the name of religion, god and goddess. Let's hear their opinions!

During annual festival, Dashain, hundreds of thousands of animals are ritually slaughtered as a sacrifice for Hindu goddess Durga over a feared demon, Mahissaur and symbolizes the triumph of good over evil. Is it right to slaughter animals during the annual festivals in the name of God or religion? Give your opinion. What is your take on it?



I feel that it is a serious social evil that adversely affects the eco-system. This act of slaughtering animals is a straight violation of animal rights and if it is not controlled early, it can cause serious effects on the eco-balance of our earth. -Norbu Sandup, grade 10



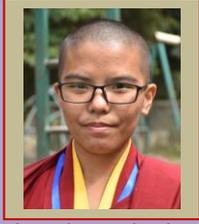
It is a pity that at this civilized time, animals are not treated in a civilized way. We talk about everyone's rights on earth. Does the word "every being" apply only on human? Well, it has become more of a tradition than the actual reason for doing it. Even if it is a way of sacrificing or being loyal to the god, we as a social being should eradicate this practice for we have the capacity to understand others pain and suffering which are the elements that define us as a "social being". -Yangchen Dolma, grade 9



As a Buddhist, I was taught that killing or harming other creatures is a sin. Some orthodox Hindu people slaughter animals on festivals to please their god but the weird thing is that they believed, all living beings are god's creation. If god made all living beings then would god be pleased if someone slaughter or harm one of his own creations? So for me being Buddhist and a social being, it is wrong to slaughter animals as they also deserve to live freely. -Tswang Palden, grade 9



It is very unjust and an evil practice because every living creature has a right to live. We cannot exploit their rights. These animals are totally innocent. Why should they carry someone's sin? On the other hand, god loves every creature equally. So, this kind of practice is adopted due to ignorance and uneducated people. So blind faith in religion may be unhealthy for society. But it does not mean that we should not celebrate Dashain. We can celebrate it in different ways. We can offer fruits instead of sacrificing animals. The main theme of religion is to not harm any living creature but to spread love and compassion through non-violence. -Lobsang Rabgey, grade 10



In my opinion, it is not good to slaughter animals during the festivals in the name of god because this social rule is only a belief of the people. They believe that if they sacrifice animals then god will become happy and fulfill their wishes. How can we become happy by harming animals instead we should offer fruits and flowers without killing animals in the name of god. All religions teach us to love and help but not harm and kill. We should show humanity instead of harming animals. -Ani Tsering Youden, grade 8



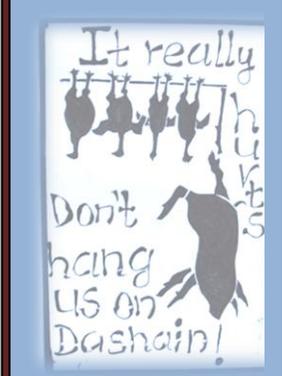
Sacrificing animals in the name of god is not acceptable because if we look back in history at our ancestors, not only humans but animals were also disciples of Buddha. If sacrificing animals is good then people should sacrifice themselves in name of god as they also belong to the category of animals. Instead of sacrificing animals, we must save and protect the animals in the name of god, only then, god will be pleased. We should raise one voice for animal rights. -Tswang Dorje, grade 8



Firstly, it is not right at all to slaughter animals. It is an illegal act, according to law. If we look back, it is believed that all the creatures are created by god, if we are killing animals then it's like we are killing one of our families. Instead, in the name of religion, we should eradicate the slaughtering of animals. -Urgen Tsomo, grade 8



In my opinion, slaughtering as a sacrifice itself is not good in anyway. How can those kind of cruel actions still be practiced as part of a religion. Festivals come as happiness for human beings but to those animals become line of death as a sacrifice for the god. I strongly think it is not fair to those animals that deserve to live happily with their family and tribes. Eventually, it is very wrong to harm animals. -Bagwati Tamang, grade 10



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