

## TOPIC 4: ARE WE THERE YETI?

### THE FIRST DAY AT SCHOOL

Dawa Phuti was one of the very first girls to attend Khumjung School, the first school that Ed built in the Everest region.

Dawa thinks she was about 7 or 8 on her first day at school.



“When people started talking about the new school in Khumjung, my grandparents and mother didn’t like the idea of me going to school. My family thought my work collecting water and sticks for the fire was more important than school.

“I remember Louise Hillary (Ed’s wife) gave me a top to wear to school because I didn’t have any clean clothes.

“In that first class, there were only three girls and 25 boys. The girls didn’t like school because there were too many boys! Our teacher was from India and he was very strict.

“Before Ed built the school in Khumjung, we had no option of going to school.

“I went to Khumjung School for six years and the school changed a lot of things. Without that opportunity I wouldn’t be able to speak with you right now!

“I now run a small hotel. I wouldn’t have been able to do that without an education.

“Without school I would be working behind the hill collecting sticks for fuel.

“Today all parents understand that education is very important. I sent both of my children to school. “

