

TOPIC 7: SCHOOL HOUSE IN THE CLOUDS

MEET PASANG Pasang, age 12, is from Chhubas village, which is a three-hour walk away from the closest high school at Chaurikharka.

For the past three years he has lived at the school hostel so he doesn't have to walk six hours every day to go to school.

Pasang's father is a carpenter and his mother is a house-keeper and busy looking after his 6-year-old sister. When his sister turns 10, she will join Pasang at the hostel.

Pasang says he likes staying at the hostel: "I get to stay with my friends all the time. We play football every day after school and we share our books."

"I really like to read science books. Miss Rai, the science teacher, is great. She's my favourite teacher."

"When I finish school I want to be a helicopter pilot and fly people from Kathmandu up to Mt Everest Base Camp."



MEET NIMA SHERPA

Nima is 15 years old. He lives in Surke village, one hour's walk away from his school in Chaurikharka.

For the past 11 years he has walked two hours to get to school each day – one hour there and one hour back along steep, rocky mountain tracks.

"In the monsoon, I walk to school in the rain. In winter, I walk in snow. It's always hard."

But then, finding the bright side, he adds: "Going back home is downhill, so it's easier!"

