

Sagar Prasai



Sagar Prasai is a young and enthusiastic disability rights promoter from Nepal. He is currently working as Country Coordinator of AWARE project of Disability Rights Promotion International (DRPI) (<http://www.yorku.ca/drpi>). DRPI is a research project of York University, Canada and AWARE project is related to the employment of persons with disability. He is also currently President of the Executive Board at a newly formed nonprofit organization called Sangai Hami (www.sangaihami.org).

At the age of 27, he has already worked for more than 7 years in the disability sector by advocating and also providing direct services to people with disability of Nepal. 10 years ago after his high school, he passed an entrance test of a reputed IT college in Nepal but was denied admission because of his disability. Since then, he is an active advocate for ending discrimination on the basis of disability.

Sagar has worked for 7 years now in a NGO called National Rehabilitation Society for the Disabled (NRSB). There he taught computer to the people with physical disability and people who are blinds. He was also the initiator and supervisor of an innovative program at NRSB called- Audio Books for the visually impaired people. With only help of college volunteers, this zero budget program produced more than 200 audio books in a year. While working in NRSB, he has successfully organized different events for the disability sensitivity in Kathmandu. Some of these are- rallies demanding the accessible infrastructure, presentation and lecture at different universities etc.

Sagar has also worked for an international NGO called WaterAid which is an international organization working for providing safe water and sanitation to the poorest people of the world. He worked for their Nepal chapter reviewing their equity and inclusion framework and also advocating for making WaterAid's entire program and service facilities accessible for people with disabilities. He worked there for 7 months.

On August 2013, He was selected for a US Department of State funded fellowship called "Community Solutions Program". He was selected as one of the 56 successful participants from the 1200 applicants from all over the world. During his 4 months fellowship in US, he was placed in Institute for Community Inclusion at University of Massachusetts, Boston. At ICI, he was working full time in reviewing the inclusion indicator and accessibility checklist tools. He was also involved in understanding the disability culture and disability issues of United States. During his stay he met with many disability rights activists and high government officials of US Government including chair of Special Olympics, CEO of MBTA, Mayor of Boston, and Assistant Secretary of Department of State etc.

Sagar is an active social media campaigner. He uses Facebook as a tool to make change in society. He has a network of 3500+ friends in Facebook and Twitter. He writes posts, shares images and positive news on disability on his social media everyday to inspire people and aware them about disability issues. He has also helped international development agencies including USAID, Nepal in their strategic planning and developing socially inclusive programs. Sagar is a constant dreamer and believer in change and he is working everyday with all his capacity to uplift the life status of people with disability in Nepal.

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