

‘By being a KBC Young Leader, I can now teach people in my Community about Gender Equality’: Faustina’s Goal

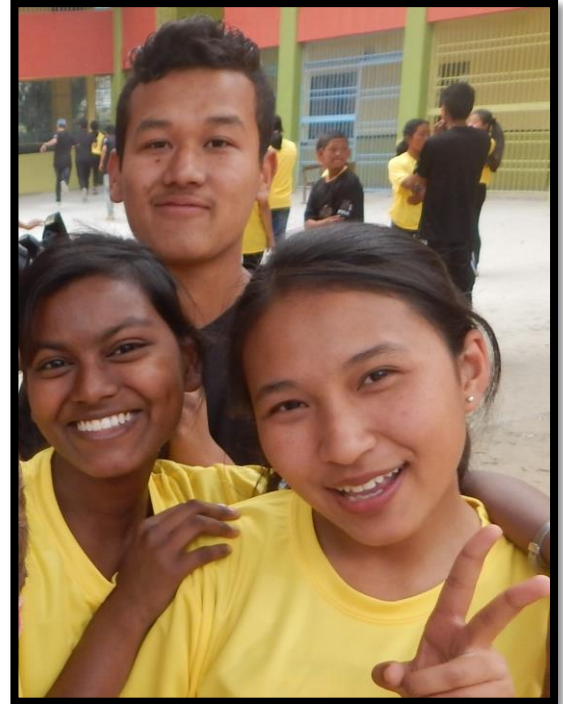
Kalimpong, West Bengal, February 2017



15 year old Faustina Thapa lives in Kalimpong, West Bengal with her parents in 16th Mile. Her Father works in the army, while her mother is a housewife. She is a friendly young person who enjoys being active and meeting new people.

She attended the Kadam Badhate Chalo (KBC) Phase 1 sports and gender camp in June last year, which focused on spreading awareness of Gender equality, Violence against Women (VAW) and learning about Leadership, Teamwork & Communication through Sport based games. Attending the workshop opened Faustina’s eyes to the inequality in her community, she said, “the workshop taught me that not everyone has the same mentality and awareness about gender equality”. This encouraged Faustina to join the KBC youth group on a regular basis so that she could play an active role in tackling this issue within her community.

Since the initial camp, there have been many occasions when Faustina has noticed how inequality is prevalent in her community. Her main observation was that girls do not get the same opportunities to play sport as the boys. The boys in the 16th mile community have a football team along with a ground that they can play in, whereas for girls there are no sports teams or facilities available.



Faustina was excited when she heard that a KBC Sports Leadership Workshop was being held in Kalimpong. “It is an amazing opportunity for us to learn and it feels great to be a part of it”. Throughout the workshop Faustina was one of the main contributors and showed a passion for learning, teaching others and making new friends. She especially enjoyed the opportunity to play games alongside boys, as normally this is not accepted by her community. Her favourite games from the workshop were Monkey in the Middle and Blindfold Course. When asked why she enjoyed these particular games, she said, “I like these games because they help me interact with other youth and learn to trust them”.

During the workshop Faustina got the opportunity to put the leadership skills she had learnt into action. On the first occasion she led a game to a group of other youth attending the workshop. She then got another opportunity at the end of the workshop to lead a group of 25 local schoolchildren from St. Augustine’s School Hostel. She said, “The first time I tried to lead a group in

the workshop I struggled and made mistakes. But I learnt from the mistakes I made earlier, so when I led the group of children from the hostel I found it more enjoyable and easy”.

The workshop has inspired Faustina to make a difference in her community. By being part of this workshop Faustina has learnt the skills of a KBC Young leader and now has the confidence and knowledge to deliver the KBC games to children in her community. She aims to teach them the same values she has learnt. She said, “by being a KBC Young Leader, I can now teach people in my community about gender equality”. She hopes to make a difference in her community by delivering the KBC games to youth along with educating them and raising awareness about inequality towards women.

