

Namaskar and Good morning to everybody.

This is Lila B Karki, President, PadmaDal Smriti Pratisthan, Nepal.

As Jo Randall, Coordinator, Conversation English for Internationals, informed you that I'm going to tell something about **PadmaDal Memorial Foundation** where I am involved in. We established it in 1997 and registered according to the Nepal government's law. I have brought flyers for you and will give you at the end.

Well, you may ask me how I got motivated to work with the deprived people instead of trying for our own decent lives?

The given time may not allow me to tell my whole experience. So I 'll share with you only two momentums that have persuaded me to participate in social service.

The first one happened during my high school age. Whenever, I bargained for facility, my father always convinced me saying, "*We have to spend according to our income.*" Money neither falls from sky nor grows on the farmland. This is why I and your mother have to work hard year round. He used to tell us repeatedly I am just an alphabetized father and your mother is illiterate, however, we are dreaming of sending our all children to school anticipating their lives to be comfortable.

Similarly, whenever, I demanded new clothes, shoes, and so on father persuaded me saying do they help you increase your grades? If yes, I will try to manage. Otherwise, you should compare with your friends who even have worse living condition than ours and think of by yourself. Yes, I found him true. The life went on and on and on.

The second one happened after my college, I have been to home after my undergraduate studies. My father was busy in constructing a school at the village. He donated the land and took the leadership to build that school because there was not any school until that time. On one hand I was amazed by his hard working with other people and on the other I tried to avoid

volunteering in that hard laboring job although he wished me to do so. I said to him well I finished my college education. Now, I should stay in capital city to search for a job and for that I need some money to live with. You know how he responded, my son, I am very proud of your academic success and you followed exactly what I said. But, "*time and tide wait for no man.*" That is why this is very high time to donate your labor to this school because you are the only one college graduate in the entire village and *now you should show people that how much of a difference an educated person can make. If I make one school you will have to make at least four in the future.* Well, hardly had I ever refused to obey him and I did not dare to disobey this time too because I did not like hurting his feelings.

You know, not only has he contributed to the education sector, but also his dedication and investment are even more tangible and praiseworthy in environment conservation and protection. I am really inspired by his simple living and high thinking personality. I wish they were with us today as we are truly committed to strengthen their **self-help** and **do no harm** attitude. Therefore, we established this foundation on their names to multiply their righteous feeling, to pay sincere respect, and commemorate them in the service of deprived people in order **to make a difference where a difference is really needed and much wanted.**

Well, what do we do?

- **Activities to reduce the poverty such as:**
 - Help people create employments by themselves
 - Empower women by providing an interest free loan to run a tailoring shop, a tea shop, grocery
- **Support services for the poorest of the poor farmers:**
 - Recognize model farmers by providing awards and appreciation certificates to encourage them to follow economically and ecologically sustainable practices

- Passing on animals and seed money as interest free gift
 - Vocational trainings for building & upgrading farmers' capacity
 - Distribution of improved breed of animals, hybrid chickens, improved varieties of vegetable seeds and so on
 - Encourage people to plant dual fodder trees, fruit saplings, & medicinal plants
- **Campaign on education for all**
 - Granting scholarships (poorest of the poor, unprivileged ethnic groups, occupational caste, girls, disabled, and orphan students).
 - Launching sanitation program at Schools & at households such as "rest room construction"

How do we do these activities?

- Working committee: field level
- Advisory Board: national level

And I, on behalf of the foundation assure you both of spending your charitable donation to the needy people in our community. Additionally, you will be given a donation appreciation certificate and I have also proposed to the working committee and the national advisory board to provide you with life time membership of the foundation.

At the last but certainly not the least:

I, on behalf of our novice foundation humbly appeal you all international friends specifically the teachers of this Conversation English program to extend your charitable hands to the needy people in our community by donating a small amount of earning and/or saving through our foundation. As I said, we will deposit your donation in a fixed account and the interest we get annually be given as scholarship (s) on your names or on the names you wish for. We know, we all are going to die one day but this institution is not. Therefore, our names on this ground will remain undying. Meaning

foundation will keep on providing scholarships and awards on your names forever.

Jo, I thank you so much for giving me this time to share with you about our foundation and I also thank you all teachers and friends for your attention.