

**With a Big Smile at Work!**

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Rubi Shrestha – or Why a young girl goes for Civil Technician? Rubi Shrestha is an easy-going 18-year old teenager girl from Besi Sahar. She was brought up in a lower middle-class Newar family in Besi Sahar where she mostly enjoyed a happy childhood but also experienced some bitter times in the past. Typically for kids of her age, she didn't take life too serious and only started to worry about her future after she failed the SLC (school leaving certificate) exam last year. It was then when she realized that there are almost no local options for her to proceed with further education and that she would have to leave her beloved Besi Sahar if she opted to establish herself before getting married. "Hope paired with curiosity for the new Campus were the driving forces!" she recalls her

feelings when she submitted the registration for the Civil Technician trade last year. After successfully passing the entrance exam, Rubi, together with all other applicants, was interviewed by the LSDF management team. She convinced the board with her attitude and motivation to become a skilled Civil Technician – not quite the most obvious choice for a young lady. During the first weeks of training courses last summer, her interest for the mainly technical subjects had to be awakened, but soon after her dedication at the classes impressed the instructors of the Campus. Be it in computer training, practical masonry jobs or theory classes, Rubi has clearly shown her devotion. Most importantly, Rubi is always eager to learn: she never



*....and plastering a wall at the Gairi Campus.*

shies away, neither at computer classes nor for masonry works, plastering walls or when digging the foundation for a building at a construction site. "During class sessions at the Campus, she was one of the most active students, frequently asking questions to us teachers", recalls Ganesh Sedai, Civil trade instructor of Gairi Campus.

**Talk of the town!**

After Rubi finished the first period of class session at the Campus, she had to stay home for a few days until she could start the four months on-the-job-training (OJT). It was then on an early winter morning in Besi Sahar when Rubi wrote history for the Campus .... at least local history for a few days! The family's tiny house at the main street of Besi Sahar needed outside plastering and painting.



*Rubi taking computer classes*