



PIPAL
TREE

The Big Give Women & Girls Match Fund

8th–15th October 2025

www.pipaltree.org.uk

Women
& Girls
Match
Fund

BigGive



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From 8th October, 208 charities will join this year's **Big Give Women and Girls Match Fund campaign**. For one week only, every donation made online will be doubled in value - thanks to pledges already secured from supporters, companies and charitable foundations.

We're delighted to share that, once again, **Pipal Tree has come out on top**, securing the largest amount of pledges of any participating charity. We've raised **£25,000 in pledges**, which will be matched by online donations to reach our campaign target of **£50,000**.

Our appeal will support young women in Nepal who are marginalised because of caste, disability or gender. Through education and vocational training, we'll help them step into secure employment allowing them to reach their potential and bring lasting benefits to themselves, their families and impoverished communities.

Let's meet one girl or young woman from each situation:



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Jyoti

Educational bursaries

This is **Jyoti**, aged 16, from the downtrodden 'Dalit' ('untouchable') caste, photographed in her village in south Nepal. Earlier this year she passed the demanding Secondary Education Examination (SEE) - the equivalent of GCSEs in the UK. It's a remarkable achievement given the severe poverty and heavy domestic responsibilities she faces at home.

Without our financial support, Jyoti's education would have ended here, and her dream of a career in banking would have faded away. But thanks to this campaign, Jyoti and 13 other girls will receive **two-year college bursaries**, opening the door to higher education or employment. They'll join the nine girls already on the programme, bringing the total number of bursary students to 32, including nine boys.

In return, each bursary recipient volunteers their time to tutor younger children in their community. Jyoti has already stepped up as a wonderful role model for her peers.

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A young woman with dark hair tied back, wearing a pink jacket, is smiling and holding a wooden crate filled with several green saplings. She is standing in a nursery area with green plants in the background. In the top left corner, there is a purple triangle logo with the text 'Women & Girls Match Fund' and 'BigGive' below it. On the right side, the name 'Pramila' is written vertically in large, bold, yellow letters.

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Pramila

Horticulture training

Meet **Pramila**, 23, from a remote village in west Nepal. She is one of five young deaf women employed at our Lily's Leaves social enterprise nursery in Kathmandu. Here she is learning horticultural skills in cultivating saplings from seed and planting them into the small urban forests we are establishing across the city as part of our urban nature regeneration programme.

In Nepal, deaf people are often cruelly labelled *lato* - meaning 'stupid' - and disability is widely believed to be punishment for misdeeds in a past life. This stigma leaves young women like Pramila with few opportunities, even though she has successfully passed her class 12 examinations (equivalent to UK 'A' levels).

Pramila comes from a family of nine, including her parents and grandparents. Her father works as a cook but struggles to make ends meet. With her monthly salary of £120, Pramila not only supports herself but is also able to contribute towards the education of her three younger siblings.

Through this campaign, we can continue supporting Pramila and her colleagues, while welcoming three more young deaf women into the programme - helping them to gain skills, dignity, and the brighter future they deserve.



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Malati

Tailoring skills

Malati, aged 20, comes from a rural village in Sarlahi District, south Nepal – a very patriarchal community.

Earlier this year she was among 16 young women to graduate from a six-month basic tailoring course run by Lily's Leaves. At graduation, each trainee received a sewing machine, table, materials, tools, and a small start-up grant to help them rent space and launch their own businesses.

With our ongoing mentoring support, Malati is now running a small tailoring shop with another graduate. Together they make garments to order and sell directly to customers, with demand peaking during festivals and the start of the school year. Once a day labourer in the fields, Malati now has skills for life and earns a good income – transforming her prospects and independence.

Through this campaign we can offer the same opportunity to more young women, with each training place costing £1,000.

I've been following Pipal Tree's wonderful work in Nepal for many years, and I so admire all that's been achieved, despite some real challenges along the way. With all my heart I encourage you to get behind this latest campaign.



Dame Joanna Lumley DBE



The outlook for our projects in Nepal is excellent - and indeed exciting - as we look forward to expanding both our activities and impact in 2026. The recent disturbances in Nepal have now ended, and the country is expected to remain stable during the six-month tenure of the interim government (until elections next March) and beyond.

We are delighted that our ambitious programmes are supported by growing financial strength, thanks to The Big Give, grants, donations, and gifts in Wills. **And we'd love for you to be part of another Big Give success!**

You can support us by visiting the link or QR code below where at noon on the 8th October (and not before) a donate button will appear as if by magic allowing you to make a gift that will have twice the usual impact:

<https://pipaltree.info/Nepal25>



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