

Dorje Gurung

Dorje Gurung left Nepal for the first time in 1988, as a high school student, with dreams of pursuing further education abroad, in order to eventually help children from backgrounds similar to his.

Being born Tibeto-Nepalese – a low caste in Nepal – and into a poor family meant that he and his family suffered socially and in a number of other ways when growing up. The context of his birth meant that he wasn't even expected to go to school.

His realization, at an early age, that education would be his ticket out of poverty, helped him to remain in school and pursue an academic career — something hardly anyone in his Tibeto-Nepalese community understood at the time.

He journeyed from the barren, high-altitude desert of Mustang to Kathmandu for his primary and secondary education, then to Italy for his high school diploma, then to the US for his undergraduate degree, and finally to Australia for his teaching degree. Following his studies, he pursued a career as an international school science teacher teaching in ten different countries for over fifteen years. During that time, he also travelled extensively before he returned to Nepal in May 2013 from his last teaching position in Doha, Qatar.

Before Dorje returned to Nepal to contribute to the education of children from socio-economic backgrounds similar to his, he was arrested in Doha for allegedly insulting Islam. He was unjustly imprisoned for 12 days before an international Free Dorje Gurung campaign secured his release.

In his blog, Dorje describes himself thus:

I am a Tibetan-Buddhist Science teacher with a Jesuit education in a Hindu country (Nepal), an international education in a catholic country (Italy), a liberal arts education in the bastion of freedom and democracy (the US), with teacher-training down under (Australia), but whose choice of musical instrument is Australian (the Didjeridoo), choice of sports is American (Ultimate Frisbee), choice of dance genre is Latin American (Merengue and Salsa), and yet, still has faith in the permanence and power of change!

In Nepal Dorje devotes his time to managing, with a friend, a not-for-profit organization, COMMITTED, a registered 501(c)(3) in the US as well as in Nepal. COMMITTED implements education programs for public school in Thangpalkot and neighboring areas in the district of Sindhupalchok, one of the poorest districts in the country. He also speaks at schools to encourage children to dream; if he -- in whom few believed -- got as far as he did in his life, he believes that others can also overcome obstacles and accomplish a great deal in their lives.

Dorje currently lives in the US and is promoting his not-for-profit work, speaking publicly about the devastating earthquake that hit his home country on April 25, the crippling economic embargo, and raising funds for rebuilding schools in Thangpalkot and surrounding areas most of which have seen total devastation.



Email: dorje.gurung@gmail.com	Facebook: Dorje's Dooing
Homepage: Dorje's Den	Google+: +Dorje Gurung
Personal Blog: Dorje's Dooing	Instagram: Dorje_sDooing
Twitter: @Dorje_sDooing	Cell Phone: (347) 822-3015