

## 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 he was 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 Nepal, where he lived with his grandfather, to Kathmandu, the capital, for his primary and secondary education, to Italy for his high school diploma, to the US for his undergraduate degree, and then to Australia for his teaching degree. Following his studies, he pursued a career as a secondary school science teacher in ten different countries teaching for over fifteen years. He also travelled extensively before he returned to Nepal in May 2013 from his last teaching position in Doha, Qatar.

Two months before Dorje had decided to return to Nepal for good to contribute to the education of children from socio-economic backgrounds similar to his, he was arrested in Doha for allegedly insulting Islam. Dorje was unjustly imprisoned for 12 days before an international campaign resulted in 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!

Dorje presently devotes his time in Nepal 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 is currently in North America for a six-month visit promoting his not-for-profit work, speaking publicly about the devastating earthquake that hit his home country on April 25, raising funds for relief work and rebuilding Thangpalkot and surrounding areas most of which have seen total devastation.

Email: <a href="mailto:dorje.gurung@gmail.com">dorje.gurung@gmail.com</a>	Facebook: <a href="#">Dorje's Dooing</a>
Homepage: <a href="#">Dorje's Den</a>	Google+: <a href="#">+Dorje Gurung</a>
Personal Blog: <a href="#">Dorje's Dooing</a>	Instagram: <a href="#">Dorje_sDooing</a>
Twitter: <a href="#">@Dorje_sDooing</a>	Cell Phone: (347) 822-3015

