

Unlocking Dawa's Leadership Potential

Kalimpong, West Bengal, February 2017



One of the main aims of the Kadam Badhate Chalo (KBC) Sports Leadership Workshops is to give youth the opportunity to develop their leadership to provide them with the tools and confidence to become young leaders. Dawa Tamang's story represents exactly how the program gives youth the right platform and opportunity to learn and develop as leaders.

17 year old Dawa Tamang's parents both died when he was young. He currently lives in Kalimpong's 16th mile with his sister and brother-in-law. Until last year, he attended a school in Singtam, Sikkim, but is currently not going to school as he does not enjoy studying. He struggles with speaking in Hindi and English, and is very shy and quiet around new people. Dawa's passion is sport – he loves football and will play any sport when he gets the opportunity.

When Dawa heard from his football friends that the KBC Sports Leadership Workshop was being held, he was interested in attending as he saw it as an opportunity to play sport. At the start of the workshop, Dawa struggled as he was very nervous and did not mix with any of the other youth, apart from his friends. This was the first time that he had the opportunity to interact with girls. He said "I was nervous because this is the first time I am playing games with girls".



Once the practical sessions of the workshop began, Dawa started to show more interest and his passion for sport was clearly visible for all. He said, "I loved playing all the games and learning about Teamwork, Leadership and Communication". He started to interact with the other youth, especially the girls, "I always thought girls were weak and could not play sport, but now I know that they can play and we should all play together because we are equal".

As the workshop progressed, significant changes could be seen in Dawa. His confidence increased and he started to show leadership skills by using his passion and knowledge of sport to assist others. In the games, he would inform his team of the best strategies they could use to win the games. Dawa's confidence was evident when he led a game for a group of children from St. Augustine's School Hostel. He delivered the game in English, ensured boys and girls mixed during the game and encouraged the children throughout.

The KBC Sports Leadership Workshop has given Dawa the opportunity to mix with other youth, and learn how to bring out his innate leadership ability. It has allowed him to develop from a shy youth who did not mix with others, to an individual who is confident and friendly. Now he wants to use the skills and knowledge he has learnt to help other youth. “This workshop has given me the confidence to talk to others, especially girls. I am also able to deliver the games and teach other youth the values of Teamwork, Leadership, Communication and Equality through sport”. Dawa is a good example of how the KBC Sports Leadership Workshops provide youth the opportunities and tools to use their different passions and skills to grow their leadership skills and assist others.



**The quotes in this article have been translated into English from Nepali, in which they were originally spoken.*