

Topic: Education

Activity: Priorities and Education: A Lesson Plan for Use With Bhutanese Refugees

Objectives	Participants will be able to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ explain why employment should be a priority over education for a family's self-sustainability in the United States✓ describe some of the educational opportunities for adults in the United States✓ identify some places where adults might seek out educational opportunities
Lesson Time	50 minutes
Materials	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Bhutanese Refugees in the United States</i> (http://www.cal.org/co/videos/Bhutanese/Bhutanese.html)• Internet access, laptop, projector, and screen, or DVD, television, and DVD player• Flipchart paper, markers, tape• <i>Priorities and Education: Images Worksheet</i>, 1 per participant (included)• Writing implements, 1 per participant• Optional: <i>Priorities and Education: Quotes Worksheet</i>, 1 per participant (included)
Introduction	<p>Tell participants:</p> <p>Remember, your family's first priority should be to become employed and self-sufficient, to support yourself as a family unit.</p> <p>However, there are educational opportunities for adults in the United States. Many of these help an individual learn more skills, which can lead to promotions and better job opportunities. Some people work full-time and go to class, training programs, or school when they are not working.</p> <p>Ask the group how many people might be interested in pursuing adult educational opportunities in the United States, or have someone in their family who might be interested.</p>
Viewing Activities	<p>Tell participants that the group will now watch a 15-minute video of interviews with Bhutanese refugees resettled in the United States. Distribute <i>Priorities and Education: Images Worksheet</i> and writing implements to participants. Tell participants to watch for the images on the worksheet, and check them off when they see them in the video. Ask participants to watch for speakers talking about educational opportunities they have taken advantage of in the video.</p> <p>View <i>Bhutanese Refugees in the United States</i>.</p>
Practice	<p>In small groups, participants talk about the different adult educational opportunities discussed in the video. Remind participants to refer to their worksheets to remind participants what was discussed.</p> <p>Bring the large group together and ask for highlights from the small group discussions. Record these on a flipchart. Then ask the large group to brainstorm where they might</p>

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Discussion Questions

find some of these adult educational opportunities. Responses may include the resettlement agency, other service providers, workplace trainings, ESL classes, the public library, local community colleges, etc.

Remind participants that their family's goal must be self-sustainability, and that employment must take precedence over education.

- Why is employment the first priority?
- Who in your family might be interested in adult educational opportunities?
- What are some opportunities that may be available? Where might you find out what is available in your community?
- Why might some of these opportunities be important?
- Why is it important to take initiative in learning English?

Variations

1. When working with more literate participants, distribute *Priorities and Education: Quotes Worksheet*. After viewing the video, participants complete the worksheet and discuss their answers in small groups. These quotes can also be utilized during the large group discussion to highlight other related topics discussed in the video.

Key English Vocabulary

education	family	full-time
opportunity	part-time	priority
school	skills	training

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Priorities and Education: Images Worksheet

Directions: As you watch the DVD, look for the images below.
Put a check (✓) in the box next to the image when you see the image.



Laxmin Gurung



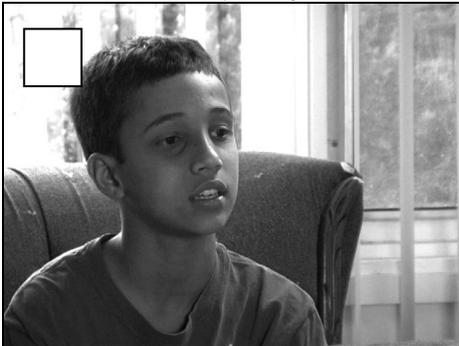
Homa Subedi



Don Maya Gurung



Dilli Ram



Krishna Adhikari



Suk Rai



Dili Rai

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Priorities and Education: Quotes Worksheet

*Directions: Read the quote from the DVD.
Determine the key messages in the statement, and how you feel about them.*

<i>Quote</i>	<i>Key messages?</i>	<i>How do you feel about these messages?</i>
<p><u>Don Maya Gurung:</u> I'm going to school, too. I get back from school and the kids return home at the same time. When I first got here, I felt lonely. I didn't understand the language and I felt awkward. Now, I'm taking English classes. We've been here for 8 to 9 months. I might not be able to converse but I can understand what the teachers are talking about. I'm starting to understand the language.</p>		
<p><u>Homa Subedi:</u> If you're able to speak English, you will find work sooner. If you don't speak English, it will take longer. So, it would be good to learn the language before you come. You can also take language classes once you arrive. Take initiative in your language and study hard.</p>		
<p><u>Laxmin Gurung:</u> You don't have to carry heavy loads. It's not hard on your body. It's mostly technical work done using machines. However, it's most important to manage your time.</p>		
<p><u>Homa Subedi:</u> It doesn't matter if you are highly educated or not – whatever you do, first, you have to get a job. Later on, you can switch to a better job.</p>		

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