

How Children Are Learning Financial Skills for Life

“We bought a board game with our Class Fund,” said Naryani Sah, a Grade 6 class monitor at Shree Satkanya Basic School in Lalitpur. It was a simple remark, but it reflected something deeper: children were not only learning about money; they were also practicing collective decision-making, responsibility, and ownership.



Through the Financial Stimulation Model (FSM), students contribute 10 percent of their earnings to a Class Fund, a shared pool used for collective priorities chosen by students themselves. Whether purchasing learning materials or improving their classroom, children experience what it means to save not only for themselves, but for a common good.

In many communities across Nepal, children grow up witnessing everyday financial realities such as loans, savings, trade-offs, uncertainty.



Yet rarely have the opportunity to understand or navigate them. Financial literacy remains largely absent from schooling, despite being fundamental to life.

At Social Lab Nepal, we see financial literacy as more than learning about money. It is about building agency, judgment, and resilience.

Through FSM, students earn tokens through participation, positive behavior, and engagement. They decide whether to save or spend individually at the Monthly Marketplace.



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It is a foundational life skill. And**

Contributing to a collective fund is mandatory. They will decide where to invest for their collective choice. In the process, abstract concepts like budgeting, teamwork, and responsible choice become lived experiences.

The effects extend beyond the classroom.



Parents have begun sharing how children now ask thoughtful questions at home about saving, borrowing, and spending wisely. These may seem like small shifts, but they signal something larger: children are influencing financial conversations within their households

What we have seen in public schools in southern Lalitpur; Shree Saraswoti Basic School, Shikharpa, and Shree Satkanya Basic School, Bhattedanda – is both simple and profound: when children are trusted to make decisions, they grow into responsibility.

When schools make room for practical life skills, learning becomes more relevant and empowering.

This is more than a school-based activity. It is groundwork for long-term resilience.

Financial literacy is not a luxury or an add-on. It is a foundational life skill. And when children learn early to save, plan, and think ahead, the impact can ripple outward – to families, communities, and over time, systems.

Sometimes change begins with a nudge. Sometimes it begins with a child who does not want to miss school on Saturday.

For the past year, Social Lab Nepal has been implementing FSM Marketplaces in these schools, complemented by weekly financial literacy sessions that use participatory, interactive, and reflective approaches to deepen learning.

