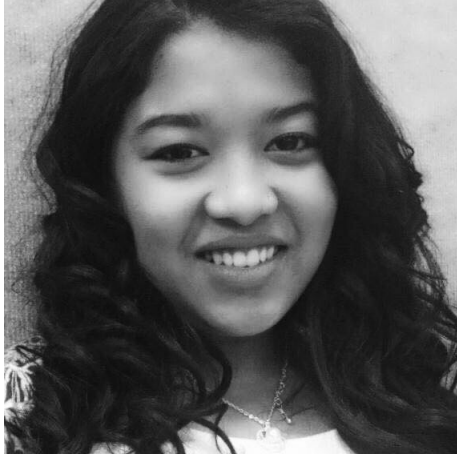


A Refugee in an Unknown Place

By: Manisha Monger

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Asmita Rai is an immigrant who came to the United States with her parents, hoping for a better future.

On September 15, 2011, Asmita Rai came to Twin Falls, Idaho with her parents and younger sister, MaryAngel. Rai was 12 years old when she came to America. Unlike any other refugees, her parents came to the United States to live a better life and also make their children's lives brighter. Rai still remembers in what conditions they used to live in Jhapa, Nepal. Govinda Rai, her father says that it was a long process to get here but it was worth it. He continues, "Now my children won't have to go through many struggles like the way we did because there are more opportunities here."

Asmita and her parents have been living together ever since she was born. She said that her parents were the ones that prepared her for pre-school when she was a child. According to Asmita, she said, "My dad used to hold my hand and help me write when I was a child." She was taught to write before she was even in pre-school. After attending pre-school back in her country, she started to learn to read and write more from her teachers. After school, she went home and practiced more with her parents. Rai grew up reading, writing and playing during her childhood.

Rai feels that everything was going smooth when she was in her country until they moved to the United States. The majority of her time was spent with teachers and her parents learning to read and write whether that was at home or school. Asmita added, "My literacy sponsors are my parents, teachers and my friends that I played with but I learned that moving to a different country can be your literacy sponsor." Rai ends with, "To survive in a new environment we had to learn to read, write in different languages and learn to adapt to the new change."
