



SUCCESS STORY

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Cisco Systems, Inc.
170 West Tasman Drive
San Jose, CA
95134-1706

Karvika Thapa

Nepal
Student
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Karvika Thapa was born in Kathmandu, Nepal 20 years ago. She moved to Delhi, India to study business information systems during her last two years of high school. She now lives with her parents and sister in Kathmandu. None of her immediate family is involved with Information Technology (IT) but they are all supportive of her pursuit, financially and emotionally. In her free time, Thapa surfs the web, spends time with family and friends, and enjoys traveling, particularly throughout Nepal. She says: "God has gifted [Nepal]. It is very beautiful." While working towards her major in programming at the Kathmandu College of Management (KCM), Karvika heard about the Cisco Networking Academy Program from her principal. She understood that networking could help her achieve the goal of becoming a systems analyst. When she began the Networking Academy Program, she expected to pursue practical endeavors, to gain more practical knowledge. After finishing the first semester of the Program in two months, she was satisfied that her expectations were met.

In her Cisco class, which is over one-third female, Karvika enjoys the teamwork and camaraderie she shares with all the students. "Every body is close. Guys and girls work together." She says girls don't tend to show much interest in the field, but with the help of females in programs like the Cisco Networking Academy program, girls can and should be encouraged to believe in themselves that they can do well in IT.

With her background in management, Karvika seeks to work as a networking administrator someday. She feels confident that the Networking Academy Program will help her build a career and does not limit her to a certain country or region. Ultimately, she would like to work for the Nepal government sector. She explains: "All technology is centered in the capital city. My interest would be to extend that technology through the mountains, as technology [travels] faster than any other means of communication? Right now, the government is not able to manage [it] properly. I would like to help make it more efficient." In the health, education, and defense sectors, Karvika sees technology as potentially playing a vital role, by improving communication through networking. She believes: "I can really do something for [my] country."

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