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Pasang Lama's American story did not begin with a portfolio, a chain of stores or a corporate office. It began on the night shift.

When Lama arrived in Texas from Nepal in his early twenties, he was a college student looking for work. In a later interview about his business journey, he recalled finding a job through a student network as a clerk at a 7-Eleven. The work was ordinary and physically demanding: night shifts, cleaning, reports, restocking and, when staffing was thin, back-to-back shifts that could stretch deep into the next day.

That period matters because it explains the kind of entrepreneur Lama became. His later growth in convenience stores, fuel retail, wholesale and property did not begin with a theory about startups. It began by learning an existing business from the inside—what customers bought, how a store was staffed, where margins disappeared, and how much discipline was required to keep a small retail operation functioning every day.

For Nepalis abroad, that is a more useful story than the simplified version of immigrant success. The interesting question is not that Lama eventually built businesses in the United States. It is how he moved from wage work to management, from management to ownership, and from one store to a repeatable operating model.

Learning the Business Before Owning It

Lama has said that after starting as a clerk, he was promoted to assistant manager and then store manager. He later worked for EZ Mart as a district supervisor in the Dallas-Fort Worth area, overseeing multiple locations and learning the reporting, staffing and operational side of convenience retail.

That sequence—worker, manager, supervisor, owner—gave him something many first-time entrepreneurs do not have: a practical education in the business he intended to buy.

Convenience retail looks simple from the outside. The products are familiar. The transactions are small. But the economics are

difficult. Stores operate for long hours, labor has to be scheduled tightly, fuel prices move, theft and shrinkage matter, equipment breaks, and customer loyalty often depends on speed and reliability more than brand prestige.

Lama has been candid that the industry runs on thin margins and intense competition. That helps explain why his early operating experience mattered. Retail scale is not created by opening more doors; it is created by making many locations work with enough consistency that growth does not destroy the business underneath it.

The First Store

In 2002, Lama encountered an opportunity to purchase a low-volume convenience store. He presented the idea to his family, and they backed the move. He has credited his father's entrepreneurial background as an important influence during that first step.

The store became the beginning of Quick Track.

The first location was not an obvious winner. That was partly the point. A low-volume store could be improved through execution: pricing, customer service, product mix and local relationships. Lama later described the family's approach as intensely hands-on, focused on repeat customers and neighborhood familiarity.

Two years later, the family acquired a second store. From there, expansion became more systematic.

By the time Lama spoke publicly about the business in 2017, he said Quick Track had grown to 45 retail locations across North Central and East Texas. The number is less important than the pattern: he had turned one small store into a chain by repeating the same underlying operating logic.

Growth Through Acquisition

Quick Track's expansion was not limited to opening stores one at a time. It also used acquisitions.

In 2019, Quick Track acquired the convenience-retail assets of East Texas Fuels, a family business that had operated for nearly three decades. The transaction included the real-estate interests attached to the convenience-store portfolio, and Quick Track said it intended to retain store-level employees while continuing major fuel brands already associated with the sites.

That deal is important because it shows the business had moved into a different phase. Buying a single neighborhood store is entrepreneurship at one scale. Acquiring an established regional portfolio, integrating its staff and maintaining supplier relationships is another.

The following year, Quick Track was listed at the top of Convenience Store News' "Biggest Movers" ranking, with the company's position improving sharply from the previous year. LaMa Group continues to cite that 2020 recognition as a marker of the chain's expansion.

Today, the wider LaMa Group presents itself not simply as a convenience-store operator but as a platform spanning retail stores, fuel, wholesale, property transactions and operational support. The structure suggests that the business has evolved from owning locations to building an ecosystem around the economics of those locations.

Growth in fuel retail also brings regulatory exposure. A 2009 Texas Commission on Environmental Quality enforcement summary named Quick Track Inc., with Pasang Lama listed as president, in an agreed order concerning petroleum-storage-tank requirements at a Fort Worth location. The summary also stated that there were no complaints and no additional pending enforcement actions for that facility at the time. It is a useful counterpoint to the growth story: scaling a fuel-retail company requires regulatory discipline as well as commercial execution.

Why Convenience Stores Became the Vehicle

There is a reason convenience stores have been a recurring path for immigrant entrepreneurs in the United States.

The model is demanding, but it is understandable. Revenue is visible every day. Inventory turns quickly. Customers are local. Owners can improve performance through operations rather than waiting years for a product to find a market.

For someone willing to work inside the business, learn the numbers and accept long hours, a store can also become a training ground for ownership.

Lama's path fits that pattern, but with one major difference: he did not stop at self-employment. He built a structure that could acquire, lease, operate and support multiple locations.

That distinction matters for diaspora entrepreneurship. Many migrants become successful small-business owners. Fewer make the transition from owning their own workplace to building an organisation that can function across many sites.

Family Capital and Immigrant Risk

Success stories often make entrepreneurship sound individual. Lama's early account suggests something more complicated.

His first store was a family decision. Family support reduced the distance between a business opportunity and the ability to act on it. His early team also included relatives, friends and long-term associates.

This is common in immigrant business communities. Capital is not only money. It can be trust, labor, shared housing, introductions, informal advice or a willingness to work difficult hours while a business becomes stable.

But family capital also carries risk. When a household invests together, a failed business can damage more than one person's finances. That makes the decision to expand fundamentally different from the mythology of the lone entrepreneur taking a dramatic bet.

Lama's story is better understood as disciplined accumulation: work experience first, ownership second, then expansion through operating knowledge and access to financing.

A Path Other Nepalis Could See

Over time, Lama also became visible within Nepali-American business circles. Earlier community coverage described him as someone who encouraged other Nepalis to consider ownership and leasing opportunities rather than remaining permanently in low-wage service work.

That idea is appealing, but it also needs qualification.

Not every immigrant worker should become an entrepreneur.

Retail ownership involves debt, regulatory obligations, long hours and exposure to market risk. A business model that worked in Texas during a period of population growth and relatively abundant commercial space cannot simply be copied everywhere.

What is transferable is the process: learn an industry deeply, understand unit economics, build a reliable operating system and expand only when the existing business can support the next step.

That is relevant to a wider question explored in whether Nepalis abroad can build businesses without immediately moving back to Nepal. Diaspora entrepreneurship is often strongest when experience gained abroad becomes a source of capital, systems knowledge and networks rather than only remittance income.

The Nepal Connection Did Not Disappear

Three decades in the United States did not sever Lama's connection with Nepal.

In August 2026, after severe flooding in Nepal, Lama contributed Rs10 million to the Prime Minister Disaster Relief Fund through the Lama Foundation. Public reporting described him as a US-based businessman involved in gas stations, wholesale and grocery businesses and noted that he had been living in the United

States for roughly 30 years.

The contribution was notable not only for its size but for what it represented: a diaspora entrepreneur using wealth built abroad to respond to a crisis at home.

That relationship between migration and responsibility is complicated. Diaspora philanthropy can provide immediate resources, but it is not a substitute for public institutions. What it can do is connect people who have accumulated capital abroad with needs that remain intensely personal because of family, memory and identity.

For many Nepalis abroad, success does not end the migration story. It changes the form of the relationship with Nepal.

Beyond the American Dream

It would be easy to frame Lama's life as a straightforward version of the American Dream: immigrant arrives with little, works hard and becomes a successful entrepreneur.

That version is not false, but it is incomplete.

Hard work alone does not explain business growth. Timing matters. Credit matters. Geography matters. Family support matters. The structure of an industry matters. So does the willingness to spend years learning work that may not look prestigious from the outside.

The more useful lesson in Lama's story is that mobility came through accumulated competence.

He learned the store floor before he owned the store. He learned management before he scaled management. He learned how one location worked before building a chain. Later, acquisitions and adjacent businesses widened the model.

That is less dramatic than the language of overnight success—and far more instructive.

What His Journey Says About the Nepali Diaspora

The Nepali diaspora in the United States has changed substantially over the past three decades. What was once a relatively small immigrant community now includes professionals, restaurant owners, technology workers, franchisees, property investors, health-care entrepreneurs and second-generation business owners.

Lama belongs to an earlier wave whose careers were built before “Nepali-American entrepreneur” was a familiar category.

His journey also complicates the idea that migration is only about leaving Nepal for better wages. Migration can produce new forms of ownership, community capital and institutional knowledge. It can also create a class of entrepreneurs whose businesses are

American in operation but still connected to Nepal through family, philanthropy and identity.

That same tension appears in stories about diaspora life between two homes and returning to Nepal to build something lasting. Not everyone returns. Some build abroad and remain connected from a distance.

Starting Again Was the Beginning

Pasang Lama's story is not remarkable because he avoided difficult work. It is remarkable because difficult work became his entry point into a business he eventually learned to own.

The clerk understood the store. The manager understood the people. The supervisor understood multiple locations. The owner understood how those pieces could be repeated.

That progression is the real architecture of his entrepreneurial journey.

For Nepalis thinking about business abroad, the lesson is not to imitate Quick Track. It is to understand what made the transformation possible: learn before scaling, treat operations as seriously as ambition, and build a business model strong enough to survive after the founder leaves the counter.