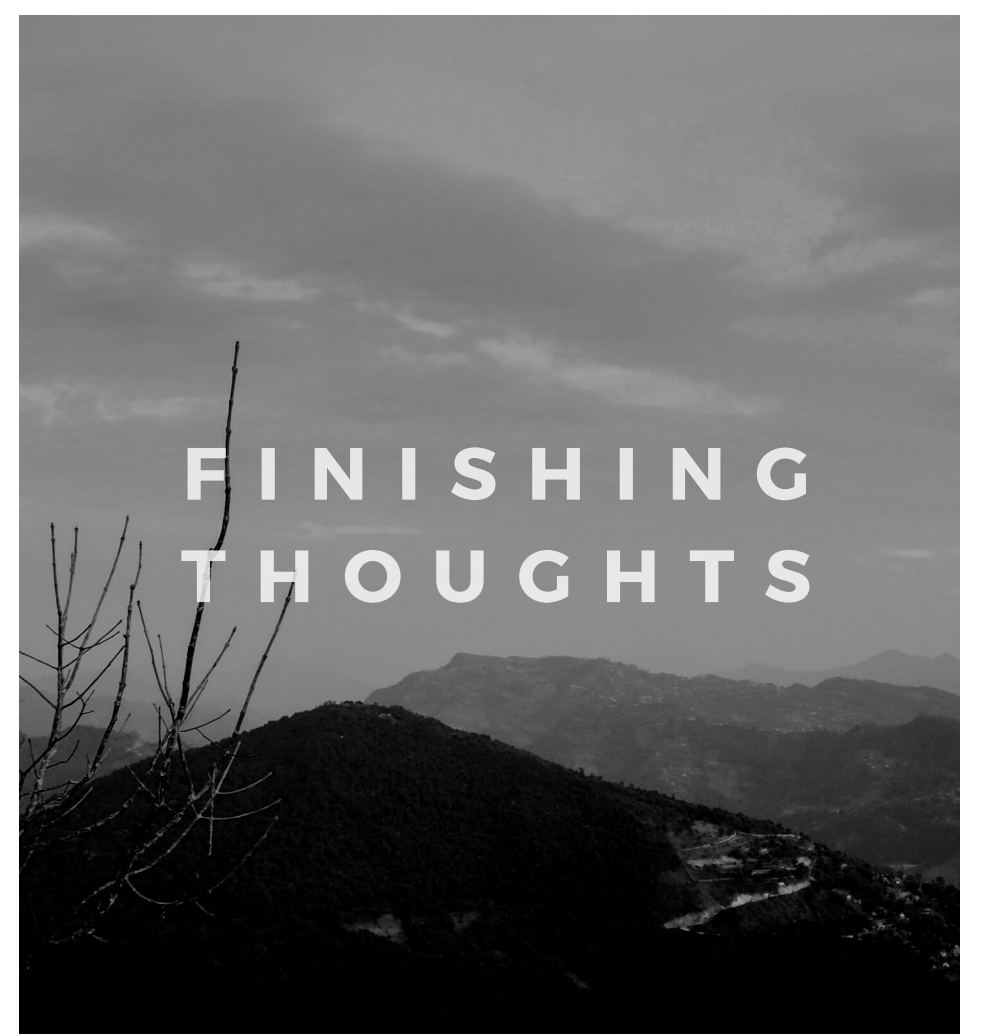
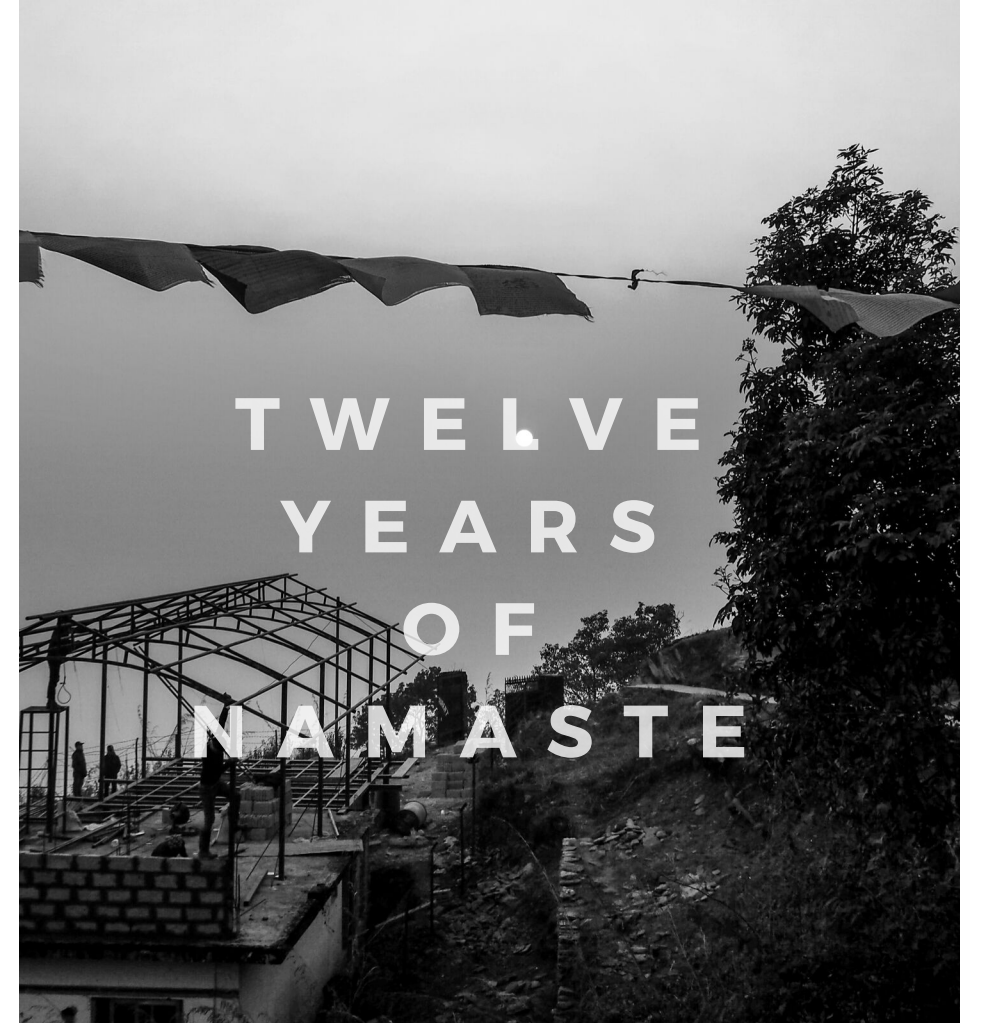




PROJECT
NAMASTE
XII

CONTENT PAGE



ABOUT US



This is a student-initiated project by students of Singapore Management University (SMU). Every year before heading up to Nepal, members of Project Namaste canvas for funds that would be channeled toward various work in Pokhara, Nepal.

However, the focus of our time and resources are on schools within the Armalakot, Kaski District in Nepal. The concentration of our efforts in a specific geographical location enables us to better measure the results of our program, thus emphasising on continuity, as well as sustainability. We hope to kick-start individual villages into initiating change and development within themselves, as well as the neighbouring communities.

Project Namaste believes in cooperation with the Nepalese to give them a sense of ownership of their development. It could be as simple as coming up with a small percentage of funds or providing village hands and materials to help construct the library.

12 YEARS OF NAMASTE

For the past 12 editions of Project Namaste, our project vision and mission has been largely the same, acting as our guiding pillars.

vision

To give students in Pokhara the opportunity to take ownership of their learning and ultimately broaden their horizons in life after school.

motto

To work with the teachers and students by sharing interactive learning methods and integrating existing resources and methods of teaching with newer technology and teaching methods to inspire the students in Pokhara, Nepal.



O V E R V I E W

For the twelfth edition of Project Namaste, we set foot back in the mountainous region of Nepal, with the mission of encouraging the Nepalese children to take ownership of their learning of English and to broaden their horizons outside their school curriculum. As Singapore Management University's (SMU) longest-running Overseas Community Service Project (OCSP), we were given a warm welcome by the students from Sree Kalika Higher Secondary School, our partner school for the next three years.



Since it was Project Namaste's first time working with the school, we decided to take a more universal route in terms of crafting their educational content, to get a rough sensing of the students' English level. Some of the educational content we decided on were topics like holidays, sports, music, agriculture, countries and occupations. These topics were chosen deliberately to help broaden the students' horizons, as well as give them a better idea of what lies outside of Nepal.

After spending two fulfilling weeks in Kalika Higher Secondary School with the students, we left Nepal feeling assured that we've laid the necessary groundwork for the 13th edition of Project Namaste members to continue what we have started.



EDUCATION

Since this was our first year at Kalika Higher Secondary School, we wanted to lay the groundwork for the students in terms of their English.



The education team choose culturally diverse topics such as agriculture, sports, occupations and music as content to be covered in the students' workbook.

Not only are these topics easily relatable, they are also aimed at teaching the students' more about the world around them.

To encourage interactive learning, the education department worked tirelessly to produce a workbook for each student, filled with crossword puzzles, short comprehension passages and pictures alike to enhance the students' learning of conversational and written English.



THE SCHOOL



Education aside, we also worked on improving the infrastructure of the school, such as revamping their school library and painting their school compound in vibrant colours. This was all done in hopes to liven up the school, and to make it a more enjoyable place for the students to learn in.

To tie in together with our education plans, our project members wanted to help the students at Kalika Higher Secondary School to inculcate a love for reading. With that, we decided to make the refurbishment of the school library one of our main focuses this edition.

We figured that by making the school library more homely, it would encourage students to utilize it – that's why we decided to revamp the library by giving it a complete make-over.



We ended the make-over project by filtering through the library's books, and removing the outdated or damaged ones.

We also categorized the remaining books into their respective genres, so that the children will have an easier time locating them.

The refurbishment was done in hopes that the students will find a reason to visit the library more often, and in turn instil a passion for reading.



ALUMNI NIGHT



About a month before we embarked on our journey to Nepal, we hosted a 'Project Namaste Alumni Night 2018' – a much anticipated get-together where we invited members from the past editions of Project Namaste to catch up, reminisce and share their invaluable experiences with the current batch.

Some of the alumni members even belonged to the earliest editions – such as the fourth edition – of Project Namaste! Many of the alumni have remained firm friends with their fellow project members even after their edition has long ended, and were happily swapping stories with each another about their volunteering experience.

We were also treated to a plethora of amusing yet heart-warming stories, invaluable tips as well as personal anecdotes about the alumni's time spent in Nepal. We ended off the Project Namaste Alumni Night with a group photo – an apt reminder that we're all part of something bigger, and that we all play a part in continuing and carrying on the Namaste legacy for many editions to come.

THE COMMUNITY

Apart from educating the students, another trademark feature of Project Namaste is our homestay experience; an initiative to help our project members understand and better assimilate themselves into the Nepalese culture.





On the day of the homestay, all buddy pairs were allocated to their own local students, where they proceed to spend the night with them and their respective families. Away from their friends and their comfort zone, our project members were able to immerse themselves into the Nepalese way of life, from trying buffalo milk to sleeping in a hut made from mud. It was especially eye-opening for many of our project members, who are used to having clean water and electricity available at their fingertips. It truly showed us how resilient these Nepalese locals are, as many of our basic necessities are considered a luxury for them.

Most importantly, our project members took away the true meaning of 'gratitude' from their homestay experience, as these local students and their families were able to make the most out of what they have, despite not having much to start with.

FINISHING THOUGHTS



Wendy Lim
Marketing

Nepal has always been one of the Southeast Asia countries that I wanted to visit and being able to serve and do community service there really makes it even more meaningful and enjoyable for me.

The biggest takeaway for this trip was the authenticity and warmth I have received from the community. I can still remember we were warmly welcomed by the school with flowers and bright smiles from the students.

Living among the hustle and bustle life of Singapore, we can often forget the simplicity and the never-ending prestige achievements in life. Looking at how grateful and generous the kids were, it was really a reminder for me to be appreciative of what I have back in Singapore. I went there with a mindset of sharing knowledge but little did I know I received so much more from them. It was truly the experience that I would never forget and will be forever special in my heart

Throughout the journey, we were constantly basked with love and kindness from their genuine hearts – a feeling you do not often receive in the modern world of fame and fortune today.

And as the days go by, instead of emptying our own love jars, it felt like ours were refilled instead. Listening to the children's simplest stories about mealtimes, adventures or books – we realize how fortunate we were and became more motivated to serve them in the short duration we had in Kalika Higher.

I believe that each and every person from the team of Namaste XII have been reminded, taught and understood what it is like to love the people around them. Separated from the luxuries and necessities of the city, we learn to love through the simplest of actions.



Chua Ding En
Logistics

PHOTO JOURNAL



PHOTO JOURNAL



PHOTO JOURNAL



PHOTO JOURNAL





"Give a man a fish and you feed him for a day; teach a man to fish and you feed him for a lifetime."