



2014

PROJECT NAMASTE IX



Moving Mountains

01. OVERVIEW

Project Namaste IX is proud to have continued the legacy as being Singapore Management University's (SMU) longest running Overseas Community Service Project (OCSP). As we come to the close of the ninth edition of this project, we would like to extend our sincerest appreciation and gratitude to our sponsors as this project was only made possible with their constant support and generosity.

This time around, our team collaborated with Pokhara Chamber of Commerce & Industry (PCCI) to develop a sustainable education programme for both teachers and students in Gyan Jyoti Secondary School, located in Armala Village. In addition, the team financed a portion of the school's new roofing, and injected an added vibrancy with fresh coats of paint and two wall murals.

This newsletter hopes to take you through our team's achievements and share with you our journey in Nepal last December.

BREAKDOWN OF FINANCES



Documentation

Funds were set aside for raising greater community outreach through photojournalism.



Educational Materials

Funds were used to purchase teaching aids and materials to facilitate our lessons.



Painting & Infrastructure

Painting materials were bought to refurbish the school's exterior.



Transportation & Logistics

Funds were used to purchase and transport logistics to support the project.



Accommodation

The remainder was spent on the team's accommodation during the course of the project.



02. EDUCATION



S t u d e n t ' s E d u c a t i o n

This year, our education programme focused on students from grades 3 to 5 (7 to 15 years old). Typically, the Nepali children are taught English through rote learning and are hence less adept at conversing in English. Our team aimed to tackle this problem through an innovative language programme. The interactive lessons incorporated crafts, games and storytelling, allowing the students to improve their ability to learn English. As an added feature, media lessons conducted exposed children to the wonders of laptops and projectors to further excite their interest in education.

Each student was also given a journal book that they could personalise. Daily worksheets and were recorded inside so that students could keep these lessons with them.

Apart from teaching the students, we also tried to show the teachers, who sat in to observe our classes, that lessons could be made more interesting while still maintaining effectiveness through such activities.

T e a c h e r ' s E d u c a t i o n

The Teacher's education programme aimed to equip teachers with basic IT skills to enable them to perform simple administrative planning and prepare educational materials with greater efficiency. Apart from familiarising them with the computer components, we also taught them how to use Microsoft Office and Paint. Due to the varying levels of IT competency, coaching was conducted on a one-to-one basis, allowing us to tailor the programme to their comfort levels. Additionally, the team also prepared instruction manuals for future reference.

With the support from our sponsors, we managed to donate two projectors and four laptops to Gyan Jyoti Secondary School. In addition, five laptops were given to schools from previous Namaste Projects to equip them with more teaching resource. We believe that the knowledge shared and tools donated can create a more effective teaching environment for the schools in the community.

03. INFRASTRUCTURE

W a l l M u r a l

The aim of the refurbishment of infrastructure was to create a vibrant and conducive learning environment. The team painted murals on the exterior of the building with the theme of colourful alphabets and animals. Also, with the generous help of our sponsors, the team was able to co-fund the construction of the roof that which was blown off by strong winds. The classroom was revamped and refurbished to become the school's library.



H o m e s t a y

For most members, the homestay experience was the highlight of the project. This traditional experience left a lasting impression of the generosity of our Nepalese host. We were welcomed into their homes and had the privilege opportunity to experience a taste of the village life in Nepal. For some, this included sampling home-made Nepali food, milking the buffaloes, singing and dancing to the tunes of Nepali folk music. The simple life served as a constant reminder to be thankful for the comforts we so often take for granted back home.

C u l t u r a l E x c h a n g e D a y

Villages from our homestay experience and the students gathered to celebrate Cultural Exchange Day. Our members practiced diligently to put up 3 song and dance performances. We were kindly treated to two engaging folk dance performances in return for our efforts. The end of the programme, the team also prepared local Singaporean dishes like 'Fried Bee Hoon' for our Nepali friends.

04. CULTURE



05. REFLECTIONS



Thng Jun Hao,
EDUCATION TEAM

The children in Nepal led a simple life. *A simple, but happy life.* They knew little of world affairs, but plenty of the ways to being contented. They were hardworking and curious beings who were amazed by the simplest technology we brought with us. Personally, the ability to bring and give the students something- a peek into the world, some knowledge of English and the lifestyle of Singaporeans- brought much satisfaction. To know that I've given them an experience and memory that no one can take away, made every sweat broke and every late night spent planning for the trip worth it.

Nicolette Tan,
SPONSORSHIP TEAM



Teaching the teachers computer skills was an eye-opener for me. Some teachers walked several hours to come for lesson just to learn really basic skills, such as how to use the mouse or keyboard. Some teachers who came were headmasters of schools, which really surprised me. Despite already having a status, they were still so humble and willing to learn from students like us. I think that this is a point, which we can learn from, which is to *always stay humble and be active in improving ourselves.*

Shannon Koh,
EDUCATION TEAM
(LEADER)



We might not always see the seeds we sow grow into trees - if they even grow at all. In the short run, we might not seem to amount to much because the students are only left with fleeting memories after our departure.

Sustainability comes when we keep this project going year after year, hoping to spark interest within them to seek quality education and *one day these seeds might just grow into trees and shelter those around them.* The more we reach out, the higher our chances of bringing positive change.



Song Yea Ram,
LOGISTICS TEAM

I went to Nepal to teach but I came back with an overwhelming feeling that I was the one being taught instead. The students' eyes filled with eagerness to learn and the teachers' long trekking journey to the school to learn IT skills, I questioned my attitude towards true learning. The daily gift of flowers picked by students during their morning walk to school gave me joy that cannot be compared to a materialistic satisfaction. Waking up to the cold breeze from the ice-capped mountain and falling asleep while admiring beautiful sky embedded with countless stars made me appreciate the simple life in nature away from the screen-sized virtual world that we are so attached to. My trip to Nepal last winter was undeniably and thankfully a true blessing and *I wish I had impacted their lives as much as they did to mine.*

06. PHOTO JOURNAL



Project Namaste IX full squad at the village of our homestay, Haripau Village.



Chelsea patiently teaching grade 5 students shapes in an outdoor activity.



Melvyn painting diligently despite the harsh weather conditions.



Students lining up in two rows as part of the welcome ceremony for the members.



Wen Xuan, leader of the team presenting the sponsored laptops to the Head Master.



Kay Hian dealing with the most playful bunch of grade 4 boys.



Jorel and Avril, the painting I/Cs, posing proudly beside their finished work.



Jorel conducting 1-on-1 IT lessons with a Nepali teacher.



Students from grade 3 to 5 gathered for a media lesson that the team prepared.