



Project Namaste XD

11th Edition [2017]

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The 11th Edition of Namaste

For the eleventh round of Project Namaste, we embarked on a humble mission to Pokhara, Nepal. As Singapore Management University's (SMU) pioneer Overseas Community Service Project (OCSP), we once again set out with the mission of encouraging the Nepalese children to take ownership of their own learning of English and to broaden their horizons outside their school curriculum.

After a long and fruitful journey, we would like to extend our sincerest gratitude to our sponsors for making this project possible.

With the sturdy support of Pokhara Chamber of Commerce & Industry, (PCCI), and with the hopes of building upon the educational framework of Gyan Jothi Secondary School that previous Project Namaste teams had established, our team returned to the Armala Mountain Range.

04.

Project Expenditure

37%

travel & accommodation

Funds that went to the purchasing of flight tickets and on the team's accommodation during the course of the project.

30%

insurance

Funds that went to the purchasing of insurance for emergency purposes

10%

education materials

Funds that were used for the purchase of teaching aids and materials to facilitate our education programme. This includes writing materials, printing of programme booklets and teaching props.

12%

meals

Funds that went to the purchasing of food during the course of our project

11%

visa

Funds that went to the purchasing of VISA travel document to facilitate our visit to Nepal

Special thanks to:



05. Education + others

student's education

Since it was the third time that Project Namaste was visiting the school, this year's team had a clear image of what challenges the students of Gyan Jothi Secondary School faced. For instance, we noticed from past experience that the students were more engaged in lessons when the program was conversational and interactive. Therefore, the education team developed a workbook that fostered participation in place among the students.

In the spirit of continuity, the team made a decision to take the same batch of students that we taught last year (grades 5 to 7). The children (8-16 years old) underwent our 2 week program, which was aimed at improving their conversational English but also expose them to the plethora of job opportunities in Nepal.



Our team managed to raise a total of 100 USD for the school through our fundraiser that took place two months before our departure.

The money will be used for the purchase of reference materials as well as the maintenance of the internet connection that will be set up in the near future.

monetary contributions



06. My Cozy Library

my cosy library

Last year, Project Namaste X got the ball rolling by painting the exterior of the Gyan Jothi secondary school's library and by donating books to the school. This year, we decided to take it one step further and implemented the 'My Cozy Library' project.



For this initiative, we painted the interior of the library and decorated it with educational messages and a world map. We also supplied the school with tables and chairs to make the library more conducive for students to use for their studies. Additionally, we arranged the books and sorted them categorically, making it easier for the students to find books for references.



07. Culture

homestay experience

For most of us, the homestay experience was the highlight of Project Namaste. The one-night stay at the villagers home left a lasting impression of way of life in Nepal. It provided the members the invaluable opportunity of experiencing first-hand what it's like living in a rural area where villagers farm for a living. But beyond just that, it serves as a stark reminder to be grateful for the life we have here in Singapore we so often take for granted.



cultural exchange day



Villagers from the homestay experience, students and teachers from the school all gathered on our last day of Gyan Jyoti to celebrate Cultural Exchange Day. Our members practiced diligently and put up a performance where we danced to a mash-up of some local tunes. In exchange, we were treated with an engaging folk dance performance.

At the end of the programme, the team also prepared a uniquely Singaporean meal for the locals such as Nasi Lemak.

08. Reflections



Chailyn Ong
Logistics Team

Having participated in other OCSPs previously, I thought that this trip to Nepal would be just as the others had been. However, I was wrong. Nepal really shocked me with its beauty from the moment we arrived and it is really a country so pure, untouched and rich in culture. I found myself touched by the hospitality of the locals and how they were so excited to have us there. It struck me that these people had so little, yet they wanted to give their guests as much as they could - contrary to the sometimes selfish and aloof attitude of people we see in Singapore.

Overall, I would definitely say that I have learnt and grown a lot as a person throughout the course of Project Namaste. I found myself appreciating little things more and I realize that life is so much more than what we possess but what is more important is how we choose to live it. It would be so much more meaningful to lead a life with purpose and drive for a good cause.

Project Namaste has been one of the most unforgettable experiences of my life and I am immensely blessed to have been able to be part of it.

From one edition to another, Nepal hasn't changed much to me. The Nepalese still give more than they have and the kids still adore you because you inspire them that much and the landscape is still as breathtaking. The real beauty of the trip is knowing that you did your best to inspire these kids in any way you could and knowing that you forged a friendship of a lifetime. It's being able to remember the smiles of these kids that are edged in your mind and hoping that one day you'll be back to witness those smiles again.

When I look back and see how far I've come - from one edition to another, how I became more willing to care and share with others, I am beyond amazed. I came into the project thinking the kids would benefit a lot from our efforts, I have never been so wrong in my entire life because I received way more than I gave.

From the kids in school to the homestay, I will always be humbled by their warmth and hospitality.



Chloe Tan
Sponsorship Team

Photo Journal



The Project Namaste XI team



Photo Journal



Cooking our meals up in the mountains



Spending time with the kids in the village & in school