



Mitrataa - Rouse Update

May 2019

As the new school session gets underway and the class 11 and 12 students finish their board exams, we are happy to update you on the projects supported by Rouse.

Micro-entrepreneurs Platform Program - Connecting Skills (and Products) with Markets

The Bhaktapur women knitted 250 pairs of warm woollen socks for all Mitrataa students, including our kindergarten students. They used this experience to then launch a business knitting socks for college students and also to sell in Bec's Gratitude Store and Café in Panauti. They have also expanded to knitting elephants for sale in Bec's store.

The women have hosted 4 groups of visitors feeding them traditional Newari feasts, continuing to develop and showcase their catering and hosting skills.

Financial Literacy

We continue to teach budgeting skills to our families and have seen a significant change in a number of families as a result. One of the mothers recently commented that for the first time ever, they have money left over at the end of the month because they are budgeting carefully and reducing costs wherever they can. She said that her children also understand more about the value of money as they have been keeping the record of expenses (as their



mother cannot write). It has become a true family experience which has transformed their interactions with each other.

Kalbahadur, our maths tutor, has worked with some Australian teachers using their text books to develop a framework of basic skills that many of the students are lacking. By focusing on building these strong foundations, we have seen a significant improvement in many of the students who are now able to understand what is being taught in schools.

Kalbahadur and Sunimaya are also now working on a series of workshops that they will run each Saturday for different groups of students to make maths relevant and fun. Once we have developed and piloted these, we will roll them out in all our partner schools.

We had planned to run our first Mitrataa Maths Olympics in February but it had to be postponed. We now plan to run it in June so we will keep you posted.

Thank you so much for your support. We look forward to updating you again in a few months.

With gratitude, Bec