



## Mitrataa - Rouse Update

November 2021

Wow! What a crazy 18 months the world has had! Nepal has had its share of challenges during the pandemic as well. As schools and colleges reopen and the vaccination rate crawls up, we are happy to provide you with an update on the difference Rouse has made through your support.

### Roshani's Award

We continued to allocate part of your support to our Roshani's Award student, Rojina. Rojina's school which works with special needs students remained closed from March 2020 with no online classes. Rojina missed her friends and her teachers so she called the principal and asked her to have some online classes and activities. As a result, the school hosted regular online activities and competitions for the students. She has also been continuing to practise her cooking skills and has been a wonderful help with the younger students in the hostel during the lockdown. We are really proud of her leadership and hard work. Her school has recently reopened and she is loving being back with her teachers and friends.



*Rojina with Sushma in the hostel*

### Mitrataa's Heart – Moving the Hostel

Mitrataa's Heart is our hostel/office in Kathmandu. As well as being our office, it is currently home to a number of our students full time, including some class 11 and 12 students and several school students with the youngest being Raghini who is around 6 and who joined us during the year. During the pandemic, it has been their safe space from the fear and uncertainty of the coronavirus as well as their classrooms as they have spent 18 months in online classes.



*The hostel gang!*

We had to move our hostel building in February and we allocated a part of your support this year to organise new carpets, curtains, mattresses and bedding for all the students. The new hostel has a wonderful garden space and the students have spent their free time during lockdowns growing vegetables (most recently, carrots!), learning to cook new things, playing games and keeping smiles on each other's faces under the protective loving wings of our hostel in charge, Asmita, the 'mum' of the hostel – our glue!



## Financial Literacy

We have continued to set regular maths challenge for all the students during the lockdown. Seeing their confidence and creative thinking skills grow over the time and now how they approach their maths classes as a result has been fantastic. Friday nights before movie time have become maths competition time and their persistence and determination has led to many fun-filled evenings together.

We have been working on an Accounts Workbook package for class 11 and 12 students to help demystify this really important but challenging subject. It is being written by Bandana, one of our senior team members who is current studying a Bachelor of Business Administration, and Sunimaya who is currently studying to be a Chartered Accountant.

We continue to do budgeting activities with all the students who then use the skills in their families, giving them a chance to practise and helping their families to work out



*Shreya's mother shopping for stock for her new mobile clothing business*

how to balance their expenses. The students who spent the Dashain festival in the hostel all went shopping to buy new clothes (a Dashain tradition) and had to learn how to budget and bargain to get the clothes they wanted within their allowance.



*Sujina doing her Dashain shopping*

Several of the single mothers were struggling during the lockdown to take care of their families as their daily wages dried up. We supported these families during the pandemic so that the mothers could stay safely home and not risk getting covid and have helped several of them to establish their own businesses – with the support of their children's financial literacy skills – to give them more stability and certainty moving forward.

Seeing the students and their families excited about using maths in different ways has been so much fun this year and watching their confidence grow as they pass on their skills to their families is always such a thrill.

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Thank you so much for your support this year. We look forward to updating you again soon.

We hope all the Rouse family are safe and sane during this very strange time in the world.

With gratitude, Bec, Nimu and the Mitrataa team.