



Mitrataa - Rouse Update

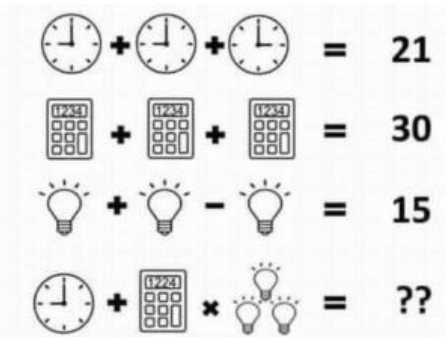
May 2020

As Nepal enters its eleventh week of lockdown to try to stop the spread of the coronavirus, we are happy to update you on the projects which Rouse has supported this year.

Financial Literacy

Our Financial Literacy Team has continued to work towards overcoming maths trauma at many levels within the Mitrataa network. Kal Bahadur, who started studying his Bachelor of Civil Engineering in November, has been mentoring all the class 10 students and we have seen a significant improvement in their confidence in maths as a result. They continued quizzing each other after the Maths Olympics activity. Unfortunately, the evening before their first SEE exam, the government made the decision to postpone the exams due to the coronavirus risk. Since Nepal has been in lockdown since mid-March and continues to be so, the exams have not been able to be held as yet. It is a very uncertain time for everyone but particularly for the class 10 students. There are rumours galore that the SEE will be cancelled, that it will be held a week after the lockdown lifts (which keeps being extended), that they will do it online etc. We have been keeping our SEE students busy with activities and projects while we wait.

Sunimaya, our other core team member for this project, started studying her Bachelor of Chartered Accounting in November too so she is now working part time, mentoring our class 11 and 12 students in Accounts, as well as some of our younger students in maths on Saturdays. During the lockdown, we have been working to develop a fun accounts training pack for our college (class 11 and 12) students with lots of practical games and activities.



We have also been setting a daily maths challenge for all the students during the lockdown. It's so great to see their ability to problem solve and use their maths outside of the textbooks develop through these activities. Here's one for you!

Bec and the team ran a workshop for 5 Australian Bachelor of Education students who were here spending 3 weeks practical training with us in

December. The workshop was also attended by 10 Nepali maths teachers from all levels.

We explored how to overcome maths trauma in our students and make it fun and relevant for the students. We taught the first 10 minutes of the workshop in Japanese to show the teachers how confusing it is for students when they cannot understand the teacher. It was a very powerful introduction and we saw all the teachers change their attitudes as they experienced how scary it can be with teachers yelling at you for not understanding! The workshop was attended by teachers from several of our partner schools and was a great





networking opportunity for them to share ideas. They now call each other regularly to swap activities and resources.

In our community kindergarten in Panauti, we have been doing shopping activities with the kids, complete with fake money which they love. We also took them out shopping one day to buy the day's vegetables for their lunch and they each were able to spend 10 rupees on a vegetable to see how much things cost and calculate change. They had so much fun.



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 how to balance their expenses. This is especially important during this coronavirus time as many of our families depend on daily wages which have stopped and so they are struggling. The team has been working to support the families as much as we can.

Seeing the students and their families excited about using maths in different ways has been such a joy this year. There is a long way to go but this project is definitely making a difference in giving the students the tools to overcoming their fear and giving the teachers ideas on how to still teach the curriculum but in a more accessible way for their classes.

Roshani's Award

This year, we have also allocated your support to our Roshani's Award student, Rojina. You can read more about this award on the website - <https://www.mitrataa.org/roshanis-award/>. Rojina is studying in a school for students with special needs and we have been nurturing her passion for cooking, singing and dance. Although she is only 11, she has early onset puberty, most likely caused by abuse when she was younger, so we have been working with her on personal protection also. During the lockdown, we sent most of the children home to their families. Rojina's father lives in Panauti and we sent her with her older brother and younger sister. Unfortunately, her father decided that as she looks grown up now, it was dangerous for her so he wanted to arrange a marriage for





her. She is now safely spending the lockdown with Bec, Nimu and a couple of the other kids in Panauti. We have been spending this time teaching her more cooking skills as well as some story writing and journal writing. Her confidence is improving a lot.

Devi's Project

We have stretched your support this year to also cover Devi's Project. Devi was a young woman with a vision impairment who we supported in the past. She met a young man on Facebook and ran off with him. It was a very sad situation and Devi took her own life last year leaving a baby son behind. Dance was Devi's way of escaping the challenging reality of her world. She came alive when she danced, building her confidence, her self-esteem and giving her a much-needed boost of energy. We wanted to share that gift with others in her memory. Partnering with Blind Rocks, a great organisation which works with young people with a vision impairment, we are running a dance program for their students. In addition to the dance classes twice a week, we provide a nutritious snack to raise awareness of nutritional importance with them.



One of our class 11 students, Sunita, who lost her sister last year to cancer and who is extremely passionate about dance, has been working on this project as an assistant dance teacher. Seeing her confidence blossom as a result has been such a joy for all of us.



The classes are currently on hold during the lockdown but Blind Rocks has been running online dance competitions for the students which we have also been supporting.

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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.