

# G RL REPORTS

ISSUE 1





WINTER 2016

*"Energy rightly applied and directed will accomplish anything."*

– Nellie Bly

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## Woman Taken to Health Post After Attack by Husband

By Pratima Khatri & Sargam Pokhrel

On Friday evening an incident took place near Mahilwar village. There was a debate between husband and wife about providing food and lodging to a road worker. A simple discussion turned into a hot debate culminating in verbal threats and physical abuse.

Talking to the wife, she mentioned that the drunk road worker was a friend of her husband's who himself was a drunkard. The two men used to go to a local restaurant for drinks on a regular basis. That very night he also came back home intoxicated asking his wife to give food and a night's lodging to his friend.

The wife explained to her husband that she was happy to provide his friend with food but she refused to provide him with any kind of lodging as he was known to be walking around Bazaar in a loud manner.

After further discussion, the husband got angry blaming her for depriving his friend of a place to sleep. He went on telling her that he was the only person to provide for their family. He suddenly slapped his wife saying, "I'm not using your father's property."

Moments later, the dispute came to a head. The woman argued with her husband telling him not to involve her father in any of their personal matters. Hearing that, the husband started beating his wife rampantly. He exclaimed, "You're possessed by demons."

Alarmed at the wife's cries, some neighbor went to their home to settle the dispute. But all attempts were in vain. As a result, the police came and warned the husband never to repeat such behavior again. The wife was taken to the health post as she was severely hurt during the fight.



## Wealth Above Health

By Sunil Baniya

As the birthplace of the Lord Buddha, Lumbini is a world-famous place of Buddhist pilgrimage. Furthermore, it is on the point of becoming a major tourist destination. Over the last couple of years, the number of tourists has significantly increased and yet Lumbini still does not have a well-equipped and well-functioning hospital to provide its people with the medical care they so desperately need.

It is as simple as that: There is

no such thing as a hospital to serve those in need, whether it is locals or tourists. And there is more to come. Many hotels have been built regardless of the fact that sustainable tourism requires efficient medical facilities. In cases of emergency, people have to go to Bhairahawa, some thirty kilometers outside of Lumbini. I therefore would truly opine that Lumbini needs a well-equipped and well-staffed hospital more than anything.

In order to improve the quality and standard of life as well as the health status of so many living in Mahilwar village, Metteyya Guru Ji has always stretched out a helping hand for the good of society. With the support of Bodhimom, friends, and devoted volunteers, he has already managed to build four schools.

He has struggled a lot to make all that possible and still, to this day, he remains keen to serve the people.

At present, he plans to build a hospital in the near future. At an informational event held some time ago, he said, "For a long time now I've been planning to build a hospital. Yet, due to the lack of available land it hasn't been an easy task."

There, he also talked about many positive aspects and benefits of hospital-based health care. The challenges at hand can only be met if there is strong support among the well-wishers and people around here. It is very hard for a single person to establish a well-equipped and well-functioning hospital in a short period of time. But, of course, it can be very easily achieved if people are willing to team up and collaborate.

Over the years, people from all walks of life have consulted Metteyya Guru Ji personally on various issues related to everyday life. Backed by the support of so many, he has led them in the path of progress and development. Metta Gurukul School, Pragma School Punnihawa, Peace Grove Institute, Karuna Girls School, and Bodhi Institute are all part of a greater vision to serve the people of Mahilwar. Without a doubt, Metteyya Guru Ji, Bodhimom and all their supporters have been working hard to bring about change and make *Lumbini Hospital* a reality. Guru Ji's foresight, consideration, and effort hereby attest to his courage and strong determination.

Stating the obvious, Lumbini is in dire need of a hospital. We should keep in mind, for the good of the people and quality improvement in health care establishing sustainable medical facilities is extremely essential. Yet, there is a certain irony in the fact that there is no hospital

to provide profound medical treatment for the people of Lumbini. In an interview, Dr. Sankar Prasad Gautam stated that some small health facilities like primary health centers, a sub-health post as well as an outpatient department provide medical services such as drug distribution and minor surgery. But all these services are insufficient and far from being accessible to all. In case of an emergency, there is no casualty department of any kind.

Further on, Dr. Gautam emphasized that existing health facilities had to be sufficiently staffed at all times to be able to treat people suffering from malnutrition, seasonal fever, respiratory as well as skin diseases appropriately. He finally called on the government to take immediate action to pave the way for a hospital-based health care system worthy of the name. In that regard, initiatives launched by NGOs in support of *Lumbini Hospital* should be actively encouraged.

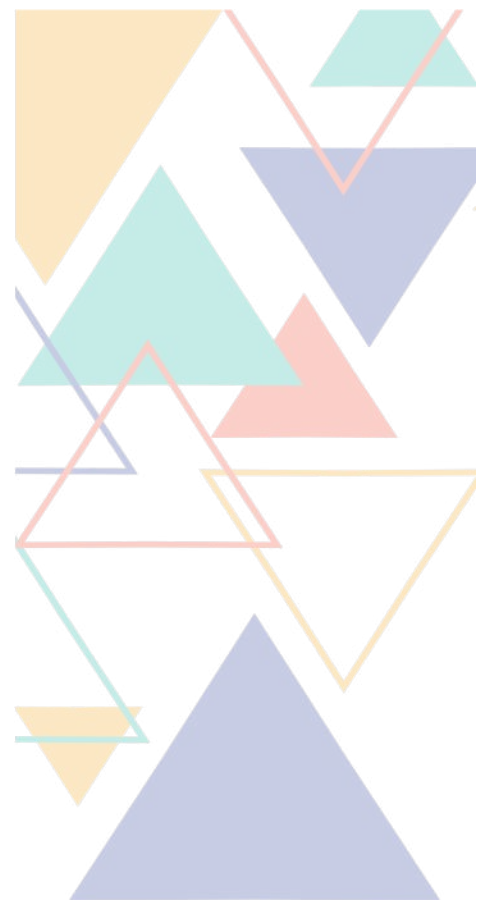
For better or worse, Lumbini is turning into a famous tourist destination and tourism is to be considered a prominent source of economic growth for Lumbini. Therefore, hotels are required to attract tourists and meet their needs. Lumbini's economy as a whole and the various hotel owners and employees are directly dependent on international cash flow. The more the merrier, one might conclude.

However, as it is known in common parlance, "No Health, No Wealth." Without health there is no use in accumulating wealth, everything appears to be meaningless.

A healthy man can wisely put his property to good use. In bad health, a man might lose all of

his material belongings because a man in poor health is like a ship without a rudder.

This being said, I still don't know whether to interpret the silence of so many as acceptance or refusal. In any case, Lumbini needs a hospital. As Dr. Sankar Prasad Gautam so aptly put it, "We hope in the near future a well-equipped first-rate hospital will be in existence to provide all kinds of medical treatment at this holy place and all kinds of physical and mental health problems among the people of this region will be solved." Without a doubt, Guru Ji's *Master Plan* will surely be the answer to our medical problems. Health is not merely the absence of disease and infirmity but also a man's ability to make the right decision and proceed.



# Lumbini Hospital

Watercolors

By Sunil Harijan



*“One day for sketching, two days for coloring.”*

– Metta's very own Sunil Harijan



## पारिजात

»आफ्नो निम्ति फुल्लु आफ्नो निम्ति फकनु र आफ्नै निम्ति भर्नु जस्तो  
एउटा बाध्यतालाई स्विकार गर्नका निम्ति भमरा सँग लाप्पा खेलै पछि ।  
भर्नु त पछि पछि भने भवँराको चोट सहेर किन भर्ने आफ्नो निम्ति भर्ने र  
आफ्नो इच्छाले भर्ने«

## English Translation

Quotation by Parijaat

You have to play with the bumblebee to accept a compulsion like to bloom for yourself, to return for yourself, and to fall for yourself. If you have to fall, why fall because of a bumblebee injury, fall for yourself, and fall of your own free will.

## राम्रो कर्म

लेखक: गौरी गुप्ता | करुणा गर्ल्स कालेज | मिति: २०७२/१०/१०

नमो तस्स पाठ गरी राम्रो पुण्य कमाई ।  
देशलाई सेवा गरी देश अगाडि बढाई ॥

शिक्षकलाई सम्मान गर्दै, लड्दै, पढ्दै, लेख्दै, हिड्दै ।  
जानु परे कतै हामी सघको हात समाउँदै ॥

आफुमा भएको सिप, कला सबैलाई देखाउँदै ।  
धर्मको बाटो समाई, कर्म राम्रो बनाउँदै ॥

मरे हामी आफु सगँ, कर्म लिएर जानी हो ।  
सधै सम्झी राखौँ हामी बुद्धको यो वाणी हो ॥

सत्यकुरा बोली हामी, असत्यलाई फाल्दै ।  
गुरुको हात समाई, गुरुलाई खुसी पाउँदै ॥

खोला तार्नु छ भने समाउँ गुरुको हात ।  
मन, वचन र कर्मले दिन्छ हामीलाई साथ ॥

## English Translation

By Gauri Gupta

Achieve divine knowledge by listening religious lessons, Do love and respect nation, Always be loyal and work in favor, By doing good karma and chanting namo tassa

Appreciate teachers, study and learning, Always move ahead by struggling.

Being faithful, religious and peace, Perform your talent, skill and words, Work for good deeds, By making good karma and walk on the way of Dhamma

When we will die, we only take karma with us, Be sure the only thing goes with us after death is good deeds said, "Lord Buddha." Then keep it in mind and practice.

Never lie ever always be truth, Do admire and pleased your guru.

Follow and respect teachers to be godhead, Your own talent, skill and action help you to pass. Our teachers will help us to get success in our life

Our mind, words and karma will make our day bright



## Deforestation – Nepal’s Burning Issue

By Pooja Jaiswal

Deforestation is the act of cutting down forests on a large scale for commercial purposes. It thereby causes extensive changes in biodiversity and ecosystem functioning and constitutes an existential threat to all living beings.

The main cause of deforestation is agriculture. According to recent studies, commercial farming is said to be responsible for about fifty percent of tropical deforestation. On a related note, some argue that people from low-income working families are more likely to clear

forest land for want of alternatives. With birth rates at an historic high, population growth has become a primary force of tropical deforestation.

The loss of forested area significantly contributes to global warming by adding carbon dioxide to the earth's atmosphere and increasing the concentration of greenhouse gases. Farmers clear large areas of forest to convert them to grazing land. Large portions of that land are used for farming activities such as growing crops for livestock feed.

"Nepal's Wealth is her Green Forests." Without them, the survival of man and animal is at stake. The legacy of the Oli administration hinges on environmental protection.



www.arabnews.com

## Child Marriage

By Janaki Pal & Sima Bhuj

**IF TRENDS CONTINUE,  
142 MILLION  
CHILDREN WILL  
BE MARRIED BY  
2020.**



In their new home, they have to work long hours. They are also expected to give birth to a considerable number of children.

Only very few of them get a chance to go back to school.

Now, the Nepalese government and human rights groups are working together in order to help such children and teenagers. They are trying to show them how bad marriage at such an early age can be. Some success has already been made. The number of girls who were married by the time they reached fifteen has dropped from 25% to 7%.

Girls with higher levels of schooling are less likely to marry as children. In Mozambique, some 60% of girls with no education are married by the age of eighteen. Compared to 10% of girls with higher education. Educating girls has been a critical factor in increasing the age of marriage in a number of developing countries including Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Taiwan and Thailand.



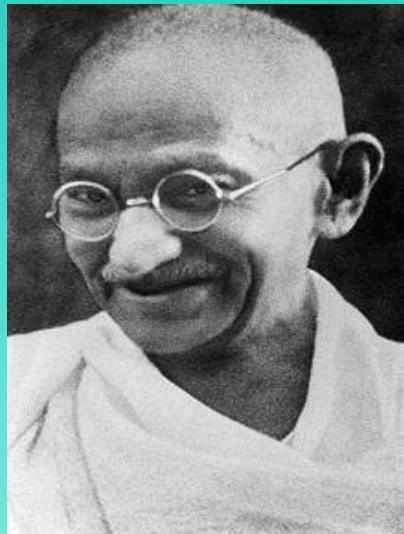
One third of the girls in developing countries are married before the age of eighteen and 1 in 9 are married before the age of fifteen. In 2012, seventy million women worldwide had been married under age. That's an average of one million girls each year.

According to human rights groups, the Nepalese government must create more jobs for women to put them in a position to pursue a profession. According to Nepalese law, a person must be at least twenty years old to get married. But people do not obey, young women all over the world are forced to get married and stay at home. Today's women will advise their children not to make the same mistake and finish school.

**GIRLS WHO COMPLETE  
SECONDARY SCHOOL ARE  
6XS LESS  
LIKELY TO  
BECOME CHILD  
BRIDES.**



#StealTheseStats



*Much as I wish that I had not to write this chapter, I know that I shall have to swallow many such bitter draughts in the course of this narrative. And I cannot do otherwise, if I claim to be a worshipper of Truth. It is my painful duty to have to record here my marriage at the age of thirteen.*

— Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi

## Who We Are



This inaugural issue was made possible by many wonderful volunteers at Karuna Girls School. In addition to those pictured above, it would not have been feasible without everyone depicted to the right.

Back (left to right): Sunil Baniya, Vanessa Martinez, Janaki Pal, Sima Bhuj, Pratima Khatri, Laxmi Maurya, Sangita Badhai, Manu Dai, Sapna Baniya.

Front (left to right): Sargam Pokhrel, Laxmi Gupta, Mamta Yadav, Rima Bhuj, Bijay Laxmi Mishra, Pooja Jaiswal, Nandani Jaiswal.



In this issue you will find articles focused on the physical and mental health of young Nepalese men and women. These range from the impacts of deforestation on Nepal as a whole, to critiques on child marriage, violence against women, and the importance of efforts to establish a hospital in Lumbini. Also included is student art and an introduction to the founding members of the Journalism Club at Karuna Girls School (KGS), who produced this first-ever installment of Girl Reports.

To learn more about Girl Reports, visit  
[www.girlreports.org](http://www.girlreports.org)

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