

A group of four people are hiking on a narrow, rocky mountain trail. The trail is composed of loose stones and dirt, and is flanked by steep, rocky slopes. The hikers are dressed in outdoor gear, including jackets and hats. The background shows a rugged mountain landscape with sparse vegetation.

RUKMINI FOUNDATION

2017 Annual Report

A year of long journeys

Table of contents

1. Who we are
2. 2017 Plan
3. Financials
4. Highlights
5. Looking ahead to 2018
6. Call to ACTION



1.

WHO WE ARE

*Welcome letter, mission and
about our program*



Celebrating the 6th Anniversary of the Foundation in Nepal

Hello! Namaste!

Thank you for taking the time to review our 2017 annual report. This was a challenging year for the foundation in ways that we could not imagine at the beginning of the year. The theme of our report is around the long journeys that we took in this year. From bringing a group of girls to New York for the 2nd HerStory Summit and bringing a team to take part in FIRST Global Robotics Challenge in Washington DC, our foundation traveled far indeed. However, the real long journey for us was in reaching out to more remote villages around the areas where we already serve. Even though geographically these villages are not that far, the challenges we saw in these areas showed us that we need to pay more attention here. We saw even higher rates of child marriage and severe cases of malnutrition in schoolchildren. We started the year wanting to reach more remote villages, and when we got there, we realized that we had to focus on these areas if we really wanted to make a difference. We believe that we are starting to see positive changes, but there is much to be done. In the end, we are proud of our journey in 2017, and we look forward to staying on this journey in 2018 along with all of our supporters. Thank you all for making this journey possible.

Bibhuti Aryal on behalf of the Board, Staff and Volunteers
Rukmini Foundation



Mission

Empower girls through quality education so that we can eradicate child marriage, end gender inequality, and enable a more equitable and prosperous Nepal.



Nirjala Basnet, a student at Kalidevi School speaks about the importance of education and importance of proper nutrition

How we achieve our mission

Empowerment is a big word, and we take it seriously. It is not just paying for tuition. It is a holistic approach to developing the scholars and providing them opportunities that they would normally not have. The core of our program involves access to quality education, mentoring support and health & wellness programs.

Educate



Scholarship / Uniforms & School Supplies
Tutoring
Teacher Training

Program details:
<http://bit.ly/2zkAhIR>

Motivate



Regular check-ins with scholars
Home visits
Special programs with women leaders

Program details:
<http://bit.ly/2gSg0Uf>

Protect



Yearly Check-Ups
Health Education Programs
Counseling

Program details:
<http://bit.ly/2vyDzZP>

We continue to add additional programming to ensure that the girls we support have the best opportunities available.



LitClub Nepal

Through our partnership with our friends at LitWorld and Global GLOW, We have a network of 10 LitClubs across various villages and cities that provide girls an opportunity to collaborate, share and explore their creativity.



Space for Moms

Many women in the communities where we work never had the chance to go to school, so we have created an environment where they can share ideas, express themselves and find solutions to their own problems in a safe, supportive environment



Music & Arts

We continue to find ways to bring more opportunities for students to sing, dance and learn musical instruments.



STEM

This year, we took part in a Global Robotics competition, and we learned a lot about how to get students involved and excited about STEM.



Sports

Sports is not just for boys, and we look to increase opportunities for girls to play sports, especially team sports where they learn valuable teamwork skills.

2.

2017 PLAN

*What we set out to do in
2017 and how we did*



Students at Shikharapur Community School enjoying the Science Lab we helped to build

Our 6 key goals
for year 6 and
how we fared on
each of those

We did great



We could do better



We did not do very well



Reach more remote villages



**Conduct Child Marriage
Prevention Programs**



**Provide Opportunities
Beyond High School**



Grow LitClub Nepal Family



Focus on Quality Education



Bring Arts to the Schools



Reaching further out

A high-angle photograph showing four women in traditional maroon and beige clothing descending a very steep and narrow dirt path. The path is carved into a rocky, light-colored hillside. The women are spaced out, with the one in the foreground smiling and carrying a bag. The background shows more of the rugged terrain and a glimpse of a blue sky.

We added 3 new partner schools

We reached new communities that need support

As we venture further out we are seeing areas where child marriage is very high, and even basic necessities are not being met

Mentors carefully walking their way to remote villages

Malnutrition and high rates of child marriage

As we ventured out to more remote villages, we have noticed that these issues are even more acute in these areas. Even something as simple as a child getting enough to eat is an issue in these areas. We know that it will be difficult to empower them with education if they have empty stomachs.



Students enjoying a healthy meal in Kalidevi School as we pilot the Nutrition Program

Conduct child marriage intervention program

(Niwano Peace Foundation project)

As we venture further out to areas where child marriage is very high, this effort becomes even more critical

Conducted several programs in schools and communities
Engaging the community and parents as well as students

Students at Setidevi Secondary School participate in a Counseling Program around Child Marriage to learn how to advocate for themselves

Provide opportunities beyond high school



3 Scholars (Anjana, Sajina and Junu, left to right) started a Vet Tech Vocational program

Team RukuBot member, Rubi (not pictured) supported to study Science post high school

Grow our LitClub Family



3 new LitClubs started in 2017

LitCamp program another huge success

Moms Club inaugurated

LitCamp 2017 where 90 girls from different areas came together to forge friendships

“

I have never seen or heard of this kind of program, and I was nervous about joining the LitClub. After being part of the LitCamp I am not nervous because I was able to make friends from different parts of Nepal and share stories with them while doing different activities.

Pramila Waiba

Scholar / LitClub Member, LitClub Panchakanya

Focus on Quality Education

A woman in a pink outfit is standing and reading a document to a group of seated women in a classroom setting. The seated women are also wearing pink outfits and are looking towards the standing woman. The background shows a classroom with a window and curtains.

Identified national expert to provide training and guidance

Conducted multiple teacher training sessions

Teachers have shown interest

A group of teachers participating during one of the sessions led by Mr. Amit Sijapati

12 GRADUATES

In 2017, we had 12 scholars who took the national School Exiting Examinations (SEE), which is a requirement for graduating high school. We are proud to report that all 12 passed.

9 Bs or BETTER

9 of the 12 scholars had a score of B or better.

Bring Arts to the schools

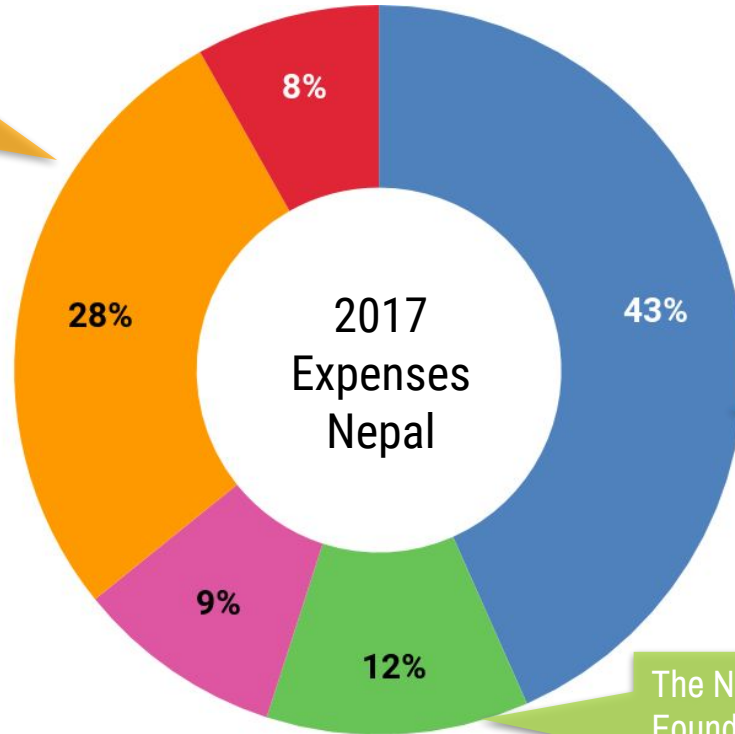
One of our graduate scholars, Deepika took part in Nepali Idol singing competition

The interest level of the kids is very high, and we know that we need to provide more opportunities

Members of the Kalaa Program performing during International Women's Day Program

NOTE: This data is UNOFFICIAL until a complete accounting of 2017 is completed. This is an analysis of our expenditure in Nepal, which is the bulk of our Expenses.

We are beyond grateful to our friends at LitWorld and Global GLOW for supporting LitClub Nepal, which has become a key aspect of our overall program



- Gyan - Quality Education
- Aayush - Health & Wellness
- Didi - Mentoring
- LitClub Nepal
- Nepal Administrative

A focus on Quality Education will continue to be the core of our Program. This includes Arts, Teacher Training and more

The Niwano Peace Foundation Project focused on Health & Wellness initiatives, and we believe this program will continue to grow in 2018

3. FINANCIALS

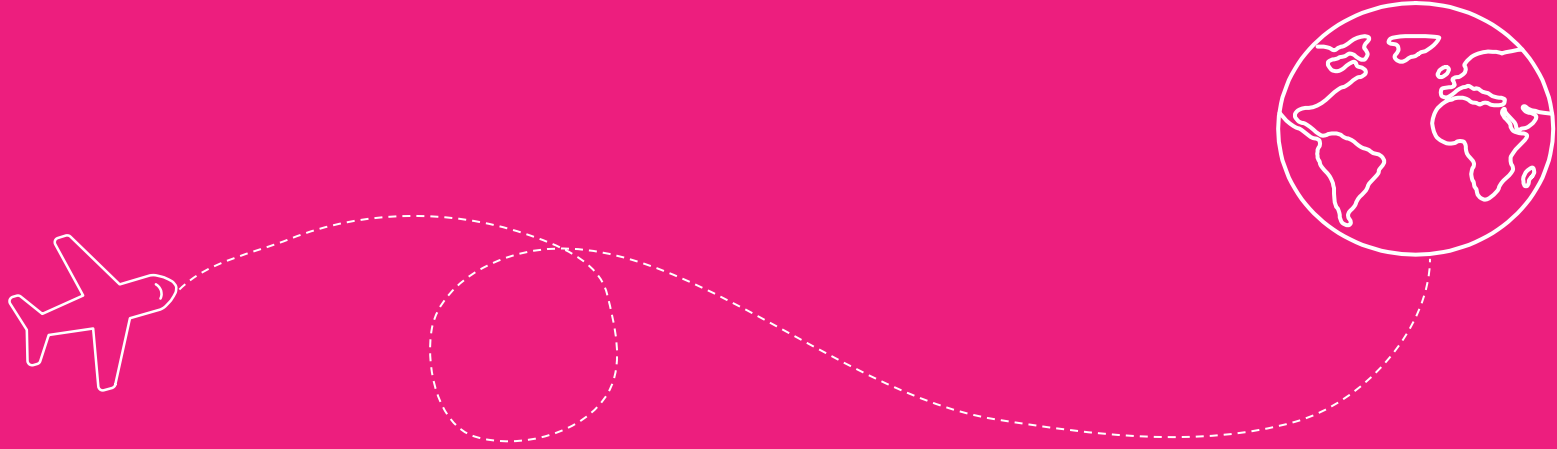
See how we allocated funds for our programs in Nepal this year

Samir, Monika, Rubi, Milan and Bipin (left to right) of Team RukuBot jumping for joy as they get ready to head to Washington DC to take part in FIRST Global Robotics Challenge

4. HIGHLIGHTS

*Whether planned or not,
these were some things that
made us jump for joy*





YEAR OF LONG JOURNEYS

We traveled far as an organization this year, and some of our highlights reflects on that journey

Journeys in 2017

In 2017, some of our team members were able to take some life-changing trips. From our 2nd HerStory Summit in New York to Team RukuBot taking part in the inaugural FIRST Global Robotics Challenge, they got to experience something that many in their villages did not dream possible.



However, when we talk about traveling far, we do not just mean by plane. This year, we had a goal of reaching further out to more remote villages, and this turned out to be quite the journey as well.



New York, NY - Global HerStory Summit



Washington DC - FIRST Global Robotics Olympics



Nairobi, Kenya - LitClub Nepal Visits LitClub Kibera

LitClub Nepal makes an impression
in NYC...again

4 Members of LitClub Nepal shared
stories and connected with girls
across the world for a week long
program called HerStory Summit

We are looking forward to
participate in the program
again in 2018

Susmita, Alisha, Bandanaa and Prakriti (left to right) took part in the HerStory Summit where they shared their own stories and learned from girls all over the world.





Monika, Rubi, Bipin, Samir (holding RukuBot), Deepraj and Milan - left to right as they complete a day of "coopertition" at FIRST Global


We finished 38th out of 163 International teams in the 1st Annual FIRST Global Challenge Robotics Olympics

The team had no Robotics experience prior to this project

LitClub Nepal's Prakriti visited LitClub Kibera during her visit to Kenya and met with LitClub mentors and kids



LitClub Kibera welcomed Prakriti (2nd from right) and the Rukmini family

A group of young girls in school uniforms are sitting in a row, looking towards the camera. The girl in the foreground is the most prominent, with a slight smile. The background is slightly blurred, showing a window with a red curtain on the right side. The overall atmosphere is bright and positive.

Foundation celebrated International Children's Day. The program was organized and led by Scholars

Celebrating Children's Day

A photograph of two women in red saris with floral patterns, smiling and singing into microphones. They have red bindis on their foreheads and are wearing gold earrings. The woman on the left is holding a microphone, and the woman on the right is also holding a microphone. In the background, there is a large speaker and other people. A yellow sign with Nepali text and a drawing of a woman's face is visible in the foreground.

To celebrate International Women's Day, we organized a program for local women

80 local women: grandmothers, mothers, aunts and elder sisters shared their voice and spoke up for themselves in the community

The women sang, danced and played games as well as connecting with each other

Scholar, Tsultrim Sangmo being fed cake during the program



Fathers and daughters gained a better understanding of each other through programs like this

Highlighted importance of fathers in promoting girls education

MANMOHAN MEMORIAL COMMUNITY HOSPITAL (MMCH)
मनमोहन स्मृति सामुदायिक अस्पताल
दक्षिणकाली न. पा. ट. फर्पिड: काठमाडौं

Former Scholar,
Dikshya started work
as a Staff Nurse at
Manmohan
Community Hospital

EMERGENCY O.P.D. BLOCK

२४ सँ घण्टा आकस्मिकसेवा

Graduate Scholar, Dikshya (left) with Graduate Scholar and current Mentor (Susmita) in front of Manmohan Community Hospital

What our scholars, LitClub members and the community are saying about our work



Pramila Waiba
Scholar

I feel very happy to be able to feed cake to my father in front of my schoolmates and other people. He is the biggest role model in my life.



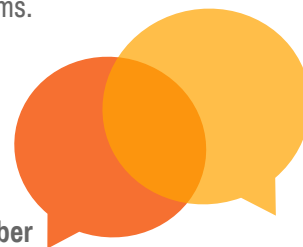
Rajan Adhikari
Headmaster , Kalidevi School

From my entire school team, thank you so much, Rukmini Foundation for choosing our school for this nutrition program. This program will help our students to be physically and mentally present in school.



Rubi Balami
Spokesperson, Team RukuBot

We are all very thankful for the opportunity we were given by the Rukmini Foundation and FIRST Global. This project proved that if we get an opportunity and support, we can succeed in anything. I feel so lucky to get this opportunity, and I will continue sharing my experience and encourage other students of our village to work hard and pursue their dreams.



Tara Adhikari
Moms Club Member

Today I had many things to do at home, but my husband said I should come to this session as he said that the program was very important to learn new things, and I am very happy that I attended.

5.

LOOKING TO 2018

*Some things we are looking
forward to doing in 2018*



Mentor, Rojin (far left), Foundation Leader, Kedar Acharya (pointing ahead) and Sr. Program Officer, Usha (far right) as they navigate through the remote villages

Our areas of focus for 2018 explained

Issues like malnutrition and basic health needs will be a focus (especially in remote villages)



As scholars graduate from high school, we need to help push them on into higher education or vocational training



Ensure more mentoring support and more frequent visits home by mentors. Get moms and female elders even more involved through Moms Club




We are looking to partner with organizations that are supporting girls and women in innovative ways

Address malnutrition in schools

The image shows two young girls in light blue school uniforms sitting at a wooden table in a school cafeteria. They are both smiling and eating a meal of rice and vegetables from metal plates. The girl on the left has her hair in a ponytail with a green hair tie, and the girl on the right has her hair in pigtails with red hair ties. In the background, other children in similar uniforms are also eating at tables. The overall atmosphere is bright and positive.

We cannot fill their heads with knowledge if their bellies are empty.

Kids enjoying a tasty, healthy meal as part of our Pilot Nutrition Program

A photograph of two young women, Sushmita and Puja, smiling warmly. Sushmita is on the left, wearing a colorful earring and a dark shawl. Puja is on the right, wearing a white shawl. They are both holding a small, fluffy white puppy. The background is a blurred outdoor setting with greenery and a wooden fence.

Former scholars and now mentors, Sushmita (left) and Puja (right) are true examples of empowerment. We want to develop more mentors like them to support more remote villages

Provide more local **Didis** (mentors)

Get Moms involved more



Moms Club initiated this year and is bringing women together to lift each other up and finding solutions to the community challenges together

Support for differently-abled children, especially girls / women



Bright Star Society uses technology to bring literacy, life skills and independence to those most vulnerable in Nepal

We seek to work with organizations that support people, especially girls and women with physical disabilities, such as blindness to provide opportunities to learn to those who have historically been shut out.



Teach Music & Languages

We are planning to take an inspirational educator (Ceinwen King-Smith) from the US to Nepal who has expertise in languages and music to help develop these talents in the girls we support

Ms. Ceinwen King-Smith playing the piano and singing songs (in 5 different languages) during our Anniversary Event in October

Scholars walking to nearby hill to participate in Anniversary Event in Pharping, Nepal

In 2018, several Board Members are planning to visit Nepal to see in person the work that we have committed to. We believe this trip will help to reinforce our commitment as well as develop new ideas for the future.



Board Member Trip to Nepal

6.

CALL TO ACTION

How you can take ACTION in 2018 & beyond, and also thanking those who ACTed this year.



Scholar, Nirupa Poudel takes action by helping her family with chores as well as being a great scholar

You can ACT in 2018 to empower girls through education

A

Advocate

Connect with us on Social Media and help share our stories

Subscribe to our newsletter to stay up to date



C

Contribute

With as little as \$25 a month, we are making amazing things happen, but we need your support. There are many ways to give:

[DONATE](#) Online

Setup recurring donations

Contribute through UnitedWay

T

Take Action

Are you the type of person that has boundless energy and is passionate about equity and justice? If you are, then we are always looking for people like you to help empower girls through education. We have room for:

Board Member

Volunteers

Interns

Reach out to us by email at:

info@rukminifoundation.org

Thank you to all
those who
contributed this
year

LitWorld
Be the Story.
GLOBAL
G.L.O.W.™

Abhinav Adhikari
Alex Choi
Alexander Scheinker
Allyce Pinchback
Amanda Chevalier
Amelia Osterman
Amit Grover
Anand Perumal
Andreas Schulte
Ang & Kripa
Angela Allie
Angela Choi
Angela Hernandez
Ann Demanski
Anne Novick
Antony Gnalian
Anup Aryal
Arlane Gordon-Bray
Arthur Pang
Arun Aryal
Ashish Kafle
Ashlee Pierre
Ashley Cvrkel
Ashley Pinchback
Basant Subba
Basanta Kharel
Basu Aryal
Bekezela Mguni
Ben Witter
Benjamin Daniels
Beth Shannon
Bhavini Patel
Biraj & Sadina Guraucharya
Bob Klemens
Bonnie & John Levey
Brad Baldia
Brad & Marissa Lipinski
Branden Ballard
Brandi Fisher
Brandon Lee
Brett & Dennis
Brian Burley
Brian Clemons
Brian Magee
Brigette Patterson

Bryan & Kristin Briggs
Cameron & Audra Dezfulian
Candice Robinson
Carla Rivers
Carol Wong
Carolyn Wenning
Cathy Zaharko
Ceinwen King-Smith
Chase Lavsa
Chere & Cris
Cheryl Paxton-Hughes
Cheryl Ruffin
Chris Positive
Christina Unger
Christina Watson
Christy Uffleman
Clinique Brundidge
Cynthia James
Daniel Bednarczyk
Danny Haritan
Danyelee Stills
Daren Ellerbee
Dave Bentley
Dave Mackie
Dennis Kremer
Derek Tibbs
Devyn Swain
Dharendra Thapa
Ebony Pugh
Elissa Winkler
Elizabeth "Lee Anne" Pontis
Elliott Oshry
Emily Nikithser
Emily Rice
Emmai Alaquiva
Evelyn Aikin
Fariha Khan
Glynis Arnold
Gregory Davis
Gyalgin Sherpa
Heather Hopson
Helen Lyons & The Lyons
Family Fund
Helene Lee
Ila & Sarad Baral
Isha Pradhan

Isha Pradhan
Jack Hurley
Jacob Gearhart
James Forgarty
James Joshi
Jamie Griffin
Jamilla Rice
Jamilla Kamara
Janis Burley Wilson
Jasmine Cho
Jason Christy
Jason & Lauren Smathers
Jason Stuart
Jenise Shealey
Jennifer Laface
Jerry Rubin
Jerry Walter
Jessica Lee
Jessica Ruffin
Jhason Dixon
Joanna Bouldin
Joseph Kannarkat
Josh Schramm
Juan Arredondo
Julia Zebley
Julius Boatwright
Justin Forzano
Kalyani Rai Vats
Karen Clark
Karina Chavez
Kashif Henderson
Keith Marrow
Kenya Matthews
Ketaki & Girish
Khamil Scantling
Kimmil Harris
Kris Deneselya
Lachelle Binion
La'Fay Pinchback
LaKeshia Silver
La'Tasha Mayes
Latrenda Leonard-Sherrill
Laurel Tessmer
Lhakpa & Sonam
Lim Sang
Lindsay Cashman

Linh Phung
Lisa Evans
Loren Sherman
Lynnette Evans
Madeleine Cussac
Marc Plowey
Marco Tinor
Marcus Thompson
Maria Mariani
Marisa Williams
Marita Garrett
Mark Uvari
Matthew Platts
Medina Jackson
Meghan Hanney
Meghan Larsen Reidy
Mell Steven Cosnek
Michael Grande
Michal Bartko
Michelle McMurray
Mingma Sherpa
Misti McKeehen
Mumina Adams
Nicholas Malone
Nichole Coleman
Nicole Dimarco
Nila Abuabakar
Nila Devanath
Nima Sherpa
Nirabh Koirala
Nisha Blackwell
Padam Rizal
Phu Tran
PNC Foundation
Poonam Thakur
Priti & Abbal
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Shaun Tomaszewski
Shawntia Key
Shenay Jeffrey
Simone Arnold
Simone Quinerly
Sofia Trivelli
Sue Ann Langfitt
Sujan Khadka
Sunanna Chand
Surabhi Sharma
Suraj Gurung
Susan Keim
Susan Majcher
Tara Matthews
Taylor Gilmore
Terry Price
Thomas Hoffman
Tiffany Lawson
Tika Dhungana
Tokihiko Settsu
Vasil Papakroni
Vernard Alexander
Victoria Snyder
Vince Rucinski
Vishesh Maskey
Wayne Walters
Will Bentley
Yalonda Colbert
Yogesh Neupane
Zeke Rediker

Also thanks to donors who gave through:

AmazonSmile
UnitedWay
Anonymous (we appreciate you)

Ben raised enough money to support a girl in of our partner Government schools for an entire year...by selling lemonade and iced tea.

Ben was just shy of 6 in this picture.



Ben took ACTION for girls education in 2017...will you follow his lead in 2018?

Thank you for joining us on this journey

We hope you will continue taking it into the new year. Together we have been able to empower girls, moms and communities. We believe that we will have an even more active, challenging and ultimately successful year in 2018.

Happy New Year to you and your family from our Rukmini Family.



WWW.RUKMINIFOUNDATION.ORG



Students of Kalidevi School