

Ongoing Learning for teachers:

St. Mary's School, Kathmandu



The contemporary world is far more connected than ever before. The internet and the social media has brought us all close and we are citizens of this globe closely knitted together. Any event that happens in any place in the world; be it a global sporting event, a traumatic incident or an award show, the whole world has access to it either through television or social media such as Facebook or Instagram.

Whilst the virtual media connects us emotionally; migration, holidays and business travel connect us physically. Today, we see people of all religions, castes and colours representing one nation; demonstrating that we truly live in a global world. Furthermore, incidents such as the Refugee crisis in Syria and Burma, initiatives such as Global warming, the world trade organisation and natural disasters such as the Earthquake in Nepal have brought the world together, making us not just humans looking out for each other but Global citizens living under one nation, the Earth.

St.Mary's school, Kathmandu has manifold activities that teach both the staff and students that we are but **Global Citizens**. Our home is not just limited to Nepal but the whole universe is our home. The school has various clubs such as Scouting, Environment club, Friends of Zoo-FOZ, Social Service Club, Friends of Mary Ward-FMW, Students

Quality Circle-SQC, Model United Nation-MUN etc. cater the needs of the students to be educated as world citizens.

I was given the opportunity to visit the United Kingdom for the 3rd International Mary Ward Week in the year 2016. The event which was held in York in England was attended by five participants from Nepal. The group of five included a Sister, three teachers and a student. The event was similarly attended by participants from various other nations such as Germany, Hungary, South Africa and Zimbabwe. This was an awakening for me and an education in itself of how similar we all are. A week of interacting with each other, I realized that even though we all had different cultures, we had so many things in common.

The event included various spiritual talks, sharing of experiences, local cultural visits, but most importantly, the daily socials where we shared our cultures, experiences and knowledge. These social gatherings and the cultural visits made me feel like I was a part of the bigger and connected world of Mary Ward. I had then made up my mind that I would pass on these experiences to all the students in my school. This education, which was both formal and informal, was an eye opener and one that I knew I had to share with all the staff and students. I not only connected with the participants of the event but also with the staff and hosts in York. I now have a network that I can talk and socialise with whenever I can; thus making me more connected to Mary Ward schools.

In conclusion, this visit to the United Kingdom and the Mary Ward week did not come to me just as a meeting of Mary Ward schools but a meeting of like-minded individuals from all over the world. All the individuals who participated benefitted immensely and made new friends. It was a formal education in global connection for most of us who attended one of these events for the first time; one that will remain with me for the rest of my life. I have made good use of the lessons learnt during the week by passing on my experience to the students at every opportunity I have received. I understand that this is one lesson that has to be experienced to be completely understood; however, passing on one's experience with similar formal worldly education on socialisation, social media, security and globalisation will go a long way in creating awareness. As for me, I will always remember the week, where I made new friends, learnt new lessons and the peaceful mornings and evenings where, together we prayed for world peace.

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