



*Helping Others
To Help Themselves*

Being a Women's Education & Empowerment Volunteer

What can I say? The women are adorable!

I came to work with women because it's what I love. No matter what our ethnicity, social status or background, women are just women, the world over. We share the same hopes and dreams, jokes and concerns...they are just disguised in our own wrapping paper.

Picture a room full of expectant, smiling faces, greeting you with "Namaste" and prayer hands, as soon as you enter. Or a small community group who encourage each other to persevere with their learning. Or a classroom packed with willing students, working as housemaids, but wanting to continue their education.

These women lighten my heart every time I meet them and teach them. The youngest is 11 and the oldest over 60, but each have a reason to learn. It brings them self esteem, confidence and a valued place in Nepali society.

We make the lessons fun and those lovely ladies certainly respond in kind. They are happy to sing, shout, act, dance and generally let their hair down, while all the time seeds of knowledge are being planted. They help each other and learn together with whispered answers and encouraging gestures.

I cannot pick a favourite lesson, there have been so many priceless moments. A day old calf arriving, the 'grab the shape' game, sharing tea and snacks, flower blessings given, charades, dancing lessons...but especially all the laughter shared between us.

So if you have women's empowerment close to your heart and want to see it in action; come and join us, and have your heart lightened too.

Sue Smith, UK (53)

WE&E

2013 - 2015