

Imperial College  
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## Maya Universe Academy

### Boarding House and Educator Project 2014

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## THE CURRENT SITUATION

Nepal is one of the poorest countries in the world with 42% of its population living below the poverty line. Out of every **100** children, **48** will be malnourished and underweight, **42** will be involved in child labour, **30** will never have been to school and **10** will die before their fifth birthday.

Furthermore, in rural parts of Nepal, most of the parents are uneducated and only send their children to school at the age of six. There are no kindergartens to provide education to young children. Children in Nepal are usually taught through parroting which doesn't enhance their understanding. The government schools provide free education but the lack of funding and qualified teachers doesn't provide a good learning environment, reducing confidence and learning ability in young children. As a result, many students above the age of 14 still experience

difficulties in communicating in English and grasping new materials and the passing rate of SLC (equivalent to GCSE) is as low as 36%. Hence, most children from rural villages don't end up pursuing higher education.

Giving these children a good education is one of the few ways that we can begin to turn around the state of affairs in Nepal. As students from Imperial College London in the UK we feel privileged and thankful for our education, and feel obliged to help those who are less fortunate. As education is the key to overcoming poverty, improving the quality of education is certainly a very solid first step in promoting development in parts of Nepal that are being left behind from the wave of globalisation and development that some regions are experiencing.



## MAYA UNIVERSE ACADEMY

A youth movement to provide free education in rural Nepal.

The Maya Model works on a very simple yet effective principle in which parents donate 2 days per month of their personal time to the school. Their time is used in agriculture, animal husbandry, school maintenance and other income generating roles. This way the parents send their kids to school without paying tuition fees and the school can **self-sustain** by cooperating with the parents.

Maya Universe Academy has been running for a 2 and half years. They currently have two schools in Nepal, one in the Udaipur District and another in the Tanahun District. The Tanahu School in the Tanahun District currently has six classrooms, three of which were built by **Project Nepal** last summer. With basic equipment the school also houses local orphans and provides 2 meals for

them a day. Both schools quickly became popular among the villagers over the last 2 years, but due to its limited capacity it could not accept all the children and requires funding for expansion. In addition to this Maya has received numerous requests from villages all around the country to start a school in their village. Hence, the Project Nepal team is dedicated to helping this wonderful initiative giving the youth of Nepal a better future.



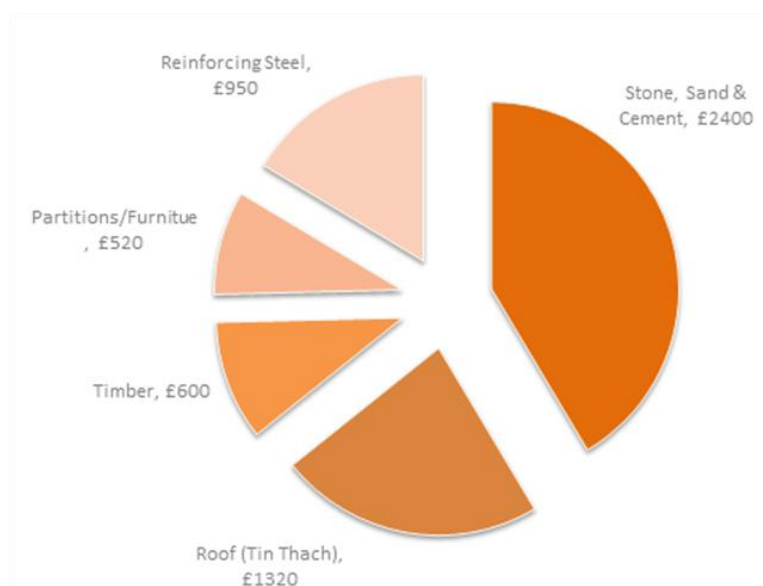
*Maya logo*



## BOARDING HOUSE PROJECT 2014

The project this summer focuses in the mountainous sub-terrain of the Himalayas at the Udaipur school. The Maya school was established there due to the lack of schooling opportunities in the area, and within months children were travelling vast distances from rural communities to come to Maya. Take for instance **Parvati**, shown in the bottom right picture. She walks three hours to Maya every day and is always the first to arrive in morning. When we asked her why she was so happy, she replied “I’m just happy to be at Maya school”.

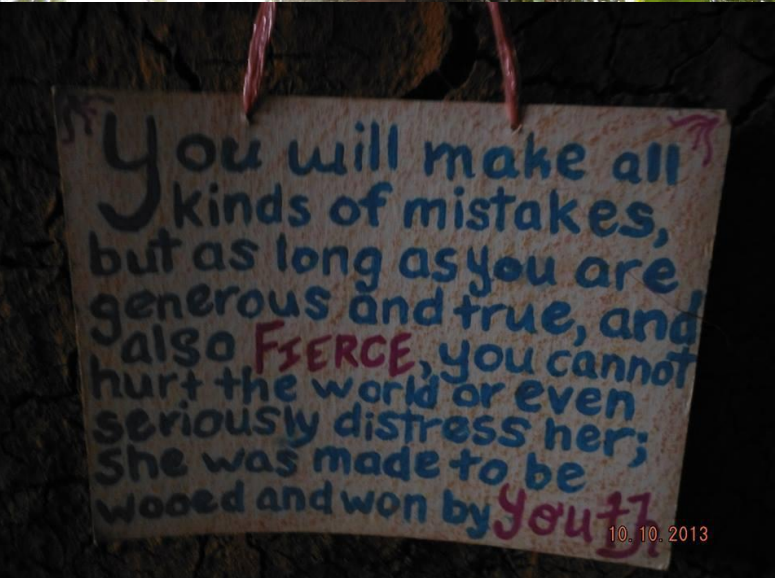
Our aim this summer is to build a boarding house near the school to house orphans and pupils like Parvati to make sure they get the most out of the school. The construction will be a simple design using stone and concrete. The budget for the construction is shown below:



The building will hope to house **16 students, 3 staff** and will have cooking and sanitary facilities. Much of the labour cost is relieved by our team who will **volunteer** their summer to help with construction. The total cost of the project which we hope to fundraise is £5790.







## BRINGING MAYA AN EDUCATOR PROJECT 2014

Many Nepalese teachers have expressed interest in volunteering at the school, but due to the schools' rural location, Maya finds it very difficult to secure highly qualified long term teachers. Furthermore, Maya has very limited access to structured teacher training.

We at Project Nepal see that there is huge potential to improve the quality of education at Maya. Therefore, this year we are dedicated to funding an educator for the school for a year or more.

This educator will act as a **full time teacher** to the children, and provide **teacher training** to all other staff in the school, thereby, improving the education quality across the board.

The qualified teacher will come from Kathmandu, live in the village, and become integrated into the community. They will not only provide teaching, but also give the children another **role model** to look up to.



To appeal to highly qualified teacher we are planning to raise a salary of £4000 p.a.



## DONATION

The project this summer in 2014 involves assisting with the education at two Maya schools and developing a civil structure for the purpose of boarding students whom live too far to come to school. We would like to request **any** amount of donation/ sponsorship that you are willing to offer to help us further our cause. In return we will keep you up to date with the project and share our progress with you. If you choose to sponsor us, your logo will be present on our banners, collection boxes, and t-shirts.

Your support will also be promoted through various events and advertisements within Imperial College London, across the city, and even in **Kathmandu**. We hope that you will consider this request and will kindly contact our team of volunteers soon to find out more about this heart-warming project. Thank you for your support.

Namaste.

Project Nepal is a student society run at  
Imperial College London Union, supporting InterVol.

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