

LAXMI'S STORY (NEPAL)

PRIMARY (F-2) PHOTO STORYBOOK

Photo credit: Richard Wainwright/Caritas Australia



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This is Laxmi's story.



Laxmi is 16 years old and lives with her mother and siblings in Jajarkot district in Nepal.



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Jajarkot district is far away from big cities or towns.



Here, many families do not have enough money for basic needs such as food, drinking water, shelter or medicine.



Laxmi's family house is situated next to a giant suspension bridge – the second biggest in Nepal – which stretches over the mighty Bheri River.



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Even though Laxmi's family does not have very much money, Laxmi's parents really wanted Laxmi to have an education.



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Laxmi loved going to school. She joined a child's club at her school that was run with the support of Caritas Australia's partner, Caritas Nepal.



There are lots of fun activities at the child's club to help students learn how to be leaders and increase their confidence.



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“Before I was involved in child club, I was very shy and didn't talk much. Now, I talk to everyone, laugh with them. Teachers tell me, ‘You used to be so quiet. Why are you so noisy now?’”

Laxmi





The children in the child's club voted for Laxmi to be the chairperson of their club!



Laxmi put her new skills to good use. She organised activities to teach others in her community about child rights.



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They held street plays and put up posters.



They also held rallies, walking through the community together holding signs and sharing their message.



But her proudest achievement is something that will have a lasting impact for future generations: water taps!



Before there were no water taps at her school.



Laxmi and her friends at the child's club met with leaders of her school and community. They explained the need for water taps at their school.



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Speaking up for this important issue worked! A series of water taps were built on the school grounds.



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This experience made Laxmi realise that her voice matters, that her actions can make a difference.



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Laxmi has graduated from high school and is now studying engineering.



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Her dream is to work as an engineer and create a better life for her mother who is working very hard to support her children.



Laxmi continues to be involved in the child's club, serving as an advisor.



She attends the meetings regularly, mentoring the next generation of young leaders at her old school.



“Even though I don't study in this school now, I want them to learn from the things I did. Teach them what they can do.”

Laxmi

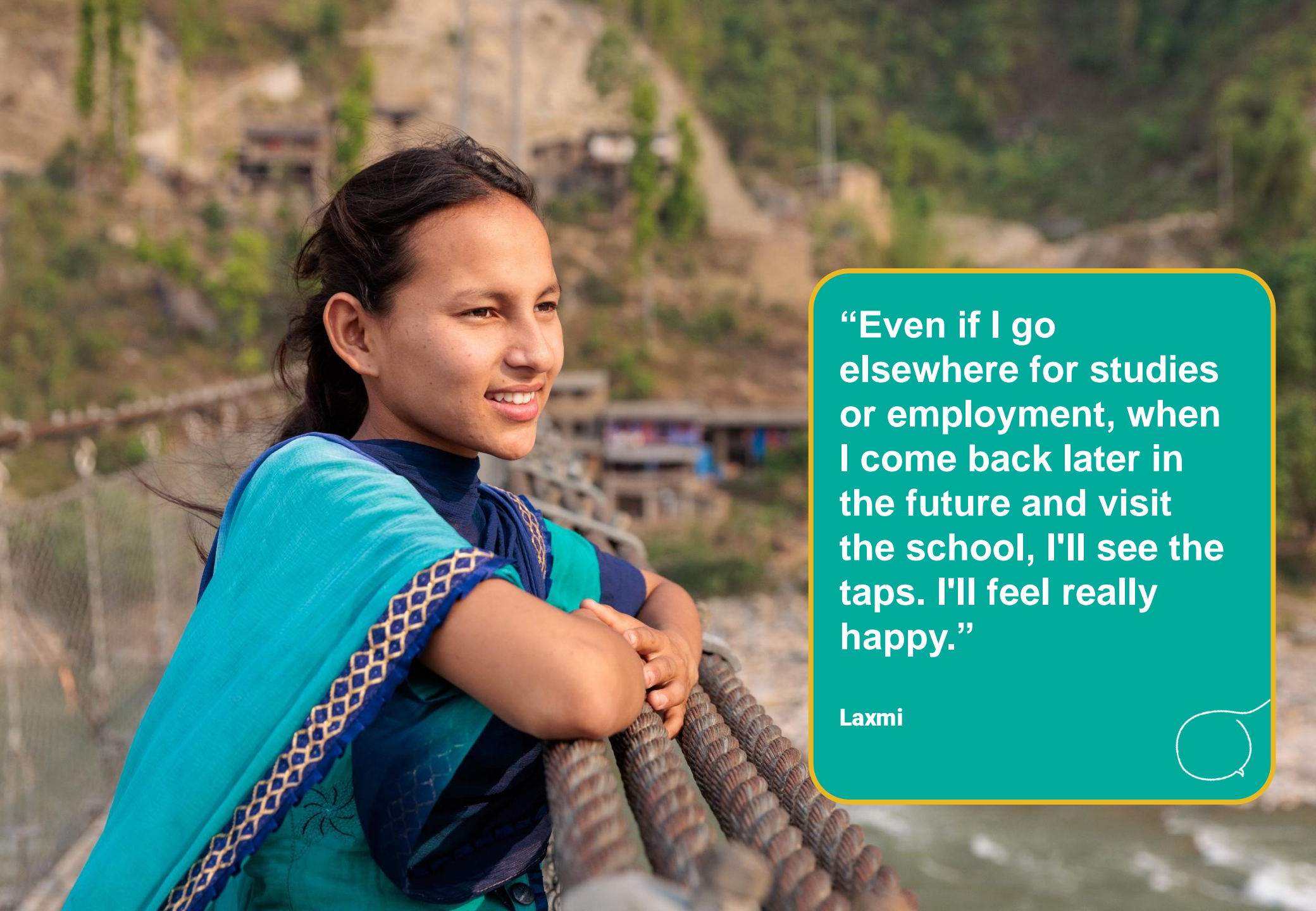


Every time Laxmi walks past her old school, she sees students using the water taps and feels proud of what she achieved.



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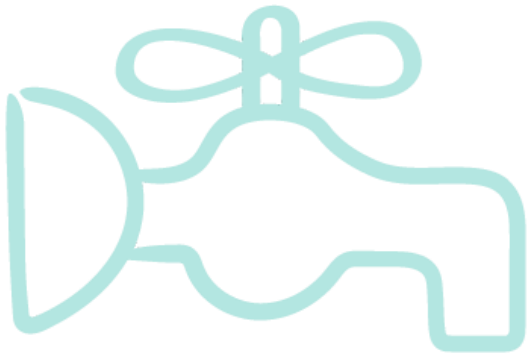
“Even if I go elsewhere for studies or employment, when I come back later in the future and visit the school, I'll see the taps. I'll feel really happy.”

Laxmi



QUESTIONS

1. What activities did Laxmi participate in at the child's club?
2. How did her involvement in the child's club help Laxmi?
3. What is Laxmi's greatest achievement?
4. How is Laxmi helping future generations?
5. How did Caritas Australia help?
6. What does Laxmi dream of?



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