



LIGHT EDUCATION DEVELOPMENT

LED's mission is to provide low-tech solutions to 3 basic needs: affordable and sustainable [solar lighting](#), basic [education](#) and essential [healthcare](#). Led by the inspiring mountain guide and climber [Val Pitkethly](#), L.E.D focuses on the remote communities of Nepal and Peru with whom Val has established strong and trusted relationships over many years.

In 1993/94 Val undertook a 12 month traverse of the Himalayas to raise funds for the Himalayan Trust (Sir Edmund Hilary Foundation). It was during this trip that the need for solar lights became apparent and the seed for L.E.D was born.

With the support of the Juniper Trust in 2004 Val purchased the first solar lights for distribution in Peru; in 2005 first aid projects commenced in the Manaslu region of Nepal and 2007 saw the dedication of the Val Pitkethly school in Quishuar, Peru. The exponential growth in activity led to the founding of L.E.D in 2008, registered as a charity in 2011.

Val is well known locally, she is a long standing guide for Keswick based KE Adventure Travel and works with other local leaders to realise L.E.D's vision. This autumn; local mountaineer/ photographer Stuart Holmes together with local doctors Lucy Dickinson and Ruth Bowmen delivered lights to the remote region of Wolungchu for L.E.D.

L.E.D. is entirely dependent on charitable donations and all of the work undertaken by them is carried out by unpaid volunteers who pay their own expenses.

Website: <https://lighteducationdevelopment.org>





Solar Lights

L.E.D aims to provide simple, mobile, cost effective solar lighting for families, individuals and local communities. Since 2002 solar lights have been distributed to more than 8000 homes throughout the remote regions of Northern Peru; Nepal and Northern India. In the autumn of 2016 alone, 726 homes in Nepal were equipped with solar lights. L.E.D supports the poorest communities in remote regions, distant from popular trekking routes and therefore often not reached by other aid organisations.



The Problem

Remote mountain villages both in South American and the Indian sub-continent have little or no electrical power. Villagers are reliant on kerosene or locally felled timber to light their homes.

Fumes can cause respiratory problems for both children and adults. Fumes can also cause eye problems and even blindness. Kerosene is expensive and often causes financial deprivation.

The Results

- Family income is increased in real terms due to reduced fuel costs.
- Health improves as fumes cause less of a problem.
- Deforestation diminishes as there is less demand for wood fuel.
- Dependence on polluting kerosene is diminished.

L.E.D's Solution

L.E.D provides small self contained solar lighting units. The units are user friendly, portable, sustainable & affordable with a life expectancy of up to 15 years.

Technicians visit regularly to train and assist with maintenance and repairs.





Education and Development Projects

Teachers in remote regions are given barely enough to cover the basics, leaving little or no money for schoolbooks and other essential supplies. It costs very little to equip a whole school – usually around £300 per year and L.E.D supplies books, paper, pencils and learning tools to a number of remote schools in Nepal and Peru.

Following the opening of the “Val Pitkethly” school in Quishuar Peru in 2007; L.E.D has expanded its work with schools with a primary focus on providing basic literacy and numeracy skills which supports the local communities & helps to discourage migration to the shanty towns surrounding the cities of Lima and Kathmandu.

In Nepal’s Manaslu region, L.E.D. have supported Samagaon school since it was built in 2010. They provide school supplies for the entire year, every year, together with sports equipment and science equipment. One of their current projects is helping the school to build a library. L.E.D also rebuilt a school in Gorkha district in Nepal following the 2015 earthquake which is attended by 69 children. Another school will open in February 2017 in the Sundalpulchok area.



In 2007 L.E.D set up the first clinic with the local community in Quishuar (Cordillera Blanca, Peru). The clinic serves 3000 people in 10 villages; an area which had no previous access to even basic healthcare.

In Nepal LED has links with PHASE-NEPAL and assists with the supply and delivery of medical supplies to their health posts in the Manaslu region and training for the health workers. A new health post was opened this year in Lalitpur and work on building a new health post in Dolakha district will commence in February.

L.E.D also operates mobile clinics in Peru and Nepal, which treat minor ailments and give basic first aid and hygiene training.