Correction:

I misidentified one of the people in a photo that I showed as part of my presentation. It is a picture of two men lifting a bag of rice out of truck. I identified one as Rockey Tripathi, Venerable Metteyya’s younger brother. I misidentified the other as “Mahesh, a local organizer.” He is Rahul, a member of the larger LSSF family.

Resources:

Some information regarding LSSF projects is here: <http://servelumbini.org/about-us/>

General information about the Lumbini Masterplan and the Mayadevi Temple is available here: <https://www.lumbinitrust.org/>

If you would like to learn more about the work that LSSF is doing with local girls, please read Girl Reports, the school magazine of Karuna Girls School. The link for that is: <https://www.girlreports.org/>. I expect they will publish articles about their COVID experiences when schools reopen and the magazine project resumes.

Related Research:

I have written an ethnographic study of the Peace Grove Nunnery, part of the LSSF linked projects. It will be included in an edited volume on female religious agency to be published with Oxford. Its publication date will likely be 2021. Its editor is Ute Hüsken. If anyone would like more information about that project, please contact me at langenap@eckerd.edu. The COVID angle on Peace Grove is that four of the senior nuns trained as nurse-midwives have now been employed as a result of the increased demand for healthcare workers in the area. It is a huge achievement for these young women to be inching towards financial independence. The COVID situation has actually created employment opportunities for them (even as it has destroyed the livelihood of others in the Lumbini area).