

A decision well taken!

Shahid's father, Umar Farooq, a driver by profession, lives in Delhi in a rented room. His mother, Nazra, and 4 siblings live in Bihar. Two years back, Shahid came to Delhi to gain admission to a better school. He had an innate desire to study in a reputed school in Delhi. However, with his father's meager salary, he could only get admitted in a government school. When he struggled in language and mathematics, one of his classmates told him about the Hope Project. The idea of free tuition attracted Shahid to enroll at Hope but he was apprehensive about the quality of education since it was free. Nevertheless, he started studying at the Evening Support Classes. His opinion changed in a matter of days. He recalls, "The teachers counselled me and paid individual attention to my weak areas in mathematics. They were really helpful and supportive." The monthly Bal-Panchayat (Youth Parliament) sessions instilled confidence in Shahid. Today, in the absence of the regular teacher, he voluntarily teaches English and Maths to young children. He says "Hope has helped me believe in myself." He has successfully completed his Secondary Board examinations & currently attends XIth standard.



Pic: Shadid on his way back home during summer break

From Homeless to Hopeful



Pic: Meraj and his new icecream stall

Meraj, 30, was identified during an awareness program with the homeless families at DDA Park. Meraj's wife, Marjina, used to hit her children out of frustration over her husband's deteriorating health. Meraj, a rickshaw puller, was a smoker and an alcoholic. A chronic cough and breathlessness made him quit working. Local "medicine-men" did nothing but deprive them of the hard earned money. Both husband & wife were reluctant to visit a qualified doctor as they did not have faith in modern medicine. Marjina used to work as a domestic help. Increased expenditures forced Marjina to withdraw the children from school. During the awareness program, the outreach worker counselled them and persuaded them to visit Hope's Health Centre. Meraj was diagnosed with Pulmonary Kochs (a lung infection caused by tuberculosis). Hazrat Inayat Khan Health Centre provided a full course treatment free of cost. Milk & Eggs were also provided with the medicine as needed nutrition supplements. Meraj has completed his treatment & is fit to work. He has started selling ice cream in the Basti. The family has moved into a rented house and the children have resumed their education. Hope has given new meaning to their life.

Dargah Hazrat Inayat Khan Hope Project Newsletter

July, 2017

No. 33

Written by Elisabeth Henschel
Edited by Samiur Rahman and Heiko Schrader

Dear Friends,

Additions to the existing welfare activities of the Hope Project have benefitted the recipients in slums and resettlement colonies located in the neighbourhood of Nizamuddin Basti and Seelampur greatly. All additions and improvements were possible thanks to your generous support and valuable suggestions.

In order to strengthen the self help groups and make these more beneficial for the female members, each group is being linked to a nationalized bank. Out of 80 groups, 55 have so far been linked with a bank resulting in their recognition by the government and further eligibility for benefits of government welfare projects. Initially, the women were hesitant to take responsibility of operating the SHGs on their own, due to their low literacy levels and a lack of confidence. Over the years, the Hope Project has consistently trained and motivated these women to become self-reliant. The Hope Project will continue to oversee the functioning of groups and look after the financial transactions and records as suggested by the elected members of each group (cont.).



Pic: Children's Corner at Noor-Un-Nisa Library

(cont.)

With the objective of focusing on the learning outcome, the course curriculum of Girls Non Formal School was redesigned with the technical support of an educationist. PWIM (Picture Word Inductive Model) has already been introduced on different levels. Currently, the teachers are working on lesson plans. There has been a significant and visible improvement in terms of learning English, especially by the students with a difficult background. Learning English and the corresponding English conversation classes have gained momentum. 33 staff members (including 14 teachers) and 22 community boys and girls have attended the prescribed sessions conducted by English experts. The students and teachers have improved their skills in conversation and presentation.

We are so proud that the total number of girls attending higher education at the University level has crossed 25 and more girls are aspiring for the same. 4 of them are at the post-graduate level. There is a snow-ball effect in the community resulting in an increased enrollment of girls in Hope's GNFS. A few girls have also joined courses like Bachelor of Social Work and fashion design. Boys who previously dropped out of school are approaching Hope for enrollment in higher education and English conversation sessions.

Recently, 15 girls from GNFS and several alumni attended a baking class. The Baking Unit has benefited greatly from the procurement of commercial gasovens and kitchen equipment. Cody, a chef (cont.)



(cont.)

from Australia and head chef at the Zenith Summer Camp trained our staff and children in the preparation of soups and salads and baked items like cakes, cookies, muffins and bread.

In view of increasing demand from the communities by these specialists during each visit, one pediatrician and one gynecologist have been appointed to be a part of the Mobile Medical Unit. There have been several requests as the women and children requiring special treatment remained unattended for a long time. Poor people simply cannot afford private services. With the appointment of these specialists, there is a sigh of relief among the beneficiaries. In addition to general patients, 20 women & 20 children are being treated by these specialists.

In the absence of valid documents, migrated families face difficulties when attempting to open a bank account, gaining job opportunities, renting a space to set up shop, admission to schools and receiving benefits of government welfare projects. The Hope Project in collaboration with I-Pro-Bono, an NGO for legal aid, organized camps in the community to help in getting these documents. So far, 300 people have been registered. I-Pro-Bono has approached the responsible government authority so that they may fulfill their promises for the benefit of those in need.

The Noor-Un-Nisa Inayat Khan library has been renovated and furnished with the support from Angelique Foundation. A separate corner with relevant books has been set up for Pre-Primary and Primary level children. Library and storytelling time have been infused in the existing curriculum to nurture a reading habit among the children and to encourage moral lessons, empowerment and fulfilment of social responsibilities.

All Photographs from The Hope Project



<http://www.hope-project.de/>
<http://www.hopeprojectindia.org>

Dargah Hazrat Inayat Khan Hope Project

Initiated by Pir Vilayat Khan in 1975

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