

Second progress report August – December 2008

Providing basic education to poor, deprived and vulnerable children in slums of Delhi.

Project background –

Concern for Humanity has been working in Delhi since 2001 and during all these years it has worked for the uplift of poor and deprived children by way of extending education opportunities to such children. In Delhi, CFH has been working in the villages in south Delhi and running education centres. CFH was introduced to Noon.ch by ASHANET group. CFH submitted proposal to Noon.ch and in the month of January 2008, Dominic and Sabine visited CFH and were taken to the education centre at Bhatti Khurd. Before recommending CFH to Noon.ch Ravi and Sangeeta from ASHANET visited us and also went to see our work with children. At the centre they interacted with children and the teacher. Ravi, Sangeeta and Dominic & Sabine were impressed with the work of CFH and expressed their interest in extending help for the poor and needy children. Hence with a few revisions in the proposal and the budget, Noon.ch finally approved the project proposal for 50% of the total project cost. The project was officially started in the last week of March 2008. Later, ASHANET also extended their support to the project by supporting 50% of the remaining cost of running the centres.

About the project –

Noon.ch and ASHANET have been kind enough to share the total cost of running the four centres and each provided funding assistance upto 50% of the total cost for running 4 learning centres for a period of one year. As part of the project, funds have been provided for meeting teachers salary, setting up centres, purchasing books and stationary for children, and for meeting the project related overheads.

Progress so far –

The period under review was full of excitement for children, for teachers as well as for us. All of us are very grateful to Noon.ch for allowing us to change the expense head and use the same money for doing some new and meaningful activities with children. When we informed children and teachers about the children's day celebration, there was jubilation all around. We did a lot of brain storming among ourselves as to how to best utilize this opportunity for organizing children's day and in this process involved the teachers and students. This helped to improve the bonding between the centre and children. Children felt important because they were asked to give their suggestions and opinions.

Before organizing the event, a lot of brain storming was carried out. The idea was thrown open to teachers and to students and there was joy all around. Initially, the project coordinator discussed the idea with the respective teachers during the weekly teachers' meeting and invited their suggestions. First it was suggested that children should be taken out on some excursion. But later everyone agreed that it is a big responsibility to take children out of the village. So the best option would be to organize events within their own community. This will have the added advantage of informing the community of the activities at the centres.

- a. **Sports day** – At all the centres, sports day was organized. Teachers discussed the idea with children at their centres. Children came back with ideas such as organizing game events, cultural activities, competitions, etc. And finally the event was organized separately for each centre. In fact, other children from the village were also invited to enjoy and freak out. It was an open entry day so even parents were also welcomed to attend the get-together. There were games, dances, competitions, eateries and gifts. Children themselves decorated the area, arranged for the activities, children were the anchors of the day and there was all freedom. For almost all children it was the first of its kind of get-together that they had attended. There was no restriction from anyone. Each one was at his or her own freedom. Since the event was organized in the village itself, there was no need for anyone to bother to be in a group or in a line and there was tension of missing out. Even parents appreciated this event. It was strongly suggested by everyone that once in a while such activities should be organized. So we definitely want to thank Noon.ch for believing in our suggestion

and giving us the opportunity to organize this fun loving activity with and for children. A BIG THANK YOU!





- b. **Health check-up of children** - A health check up camp for all children was organized at their respective centres. For long we had been thinking about doing this type of activity with children. However due to non availability of a qualified doctor it took quite a while for us to actually organize the health check up camp. We are extremely grateful to Dr. (Mrs.) Sandhya for kindly agreeing to do the check ups. A total of 89 children were examined by the

doctor as the remaining were absent at the centres due to extreme cold on the day of examination. We intend to arrange for a separate check up for all the remaining children provided Dr. Sandhya is able to provide us a time slot. Else, we will cover them when we organize the health follow up camp next time.

Dr. Sandhya visited the centres and herself carried out the check-ups. The check-up included broad parameters such as height, weight, vision, dental, skin observation, and check up of the lymph nodes. The overall feedback of the doctor was quite satisfactory. She was satisfied with the overall health of children. We were also very satisfied to learn that our children were in good state of health. The doctor suggested for a follow up check up every quarter, which was actually a very good idea.

At the end of this report we have annexed a sample of the health check up profile sheet that was developed in consultation with the doctor and was used for each child. The next follow up will be in continuation to this baseline card.







Opening of new centre –

Twice a year, the attendance at the centres go down, the reason being that most of the families residing in this area have some lands in their native villages and they regularly go there for sowing and harvesting crops. This year during the October vacation some of the students along with their parents went to their native villages for crop sowing. But most of them did not return back to the village. The reason being that due to global slow down, most of the parents went out of jobs or were getting poor wages and the cost of living had gone up. And given this situation, they decided to stay back in the villages till the situation improves a little. After analyzing the situation, and in consent with the teachers, we merged the two centres at Bhatti Kala and after doing the needs assessment in the area, we set up a new centre at Sambhav colony. The new teacher was put under apprenticeship for a few days before she was given the independent charge of the centre. We are happy to inform that the centre has picked up well and there is good attendance of children at the centre. The new teacher is a graduate and has some past experience as a nursery teacher. This is coming in handy in making the learning a joyful experience for children as well in building the capacity of co-teachers during the weekly meetings.

Children's progress –

It is heartening to note that children have been enjoying coming to the centre. And this is evident from the fact that there is a good attendance at the centres everyday. Teachers are learning by experience on how to engage children in education activities as per their needs. And accordingly they help children to do their home work, provide them with extra remediation support and also do lots of drawings with them. We ensure that we do not engage children in just routine education related activities but help them to grow overall as a confident person.

One of the activities that are being done very often is that children are doing lots of drawings. During discussions with children, the centre teachers realized that in schools children are all the time busy in completing course curriculum and there is little time spent by teachers on helping children to grow their overall personality. And children love doing drawing. Our teachers also do not stop children from doing it at

centres. Children feel so happy when they get crayons, paper and an enabling environment to bring out their best. We were also amazed to see some of their drawings. Since we started to get so many of the drawings, we also started to put them in a file just to keep record of how children use this skill for their own benefit.

Children do lots of cultural activities, such as poem recitation, songs, drama, etc. at the centre. We saw them performing during sports day and during class timings. This has helped children to improve their confidence and also help towards improving their vocal skills as well as vocabulary.

At present all four centres are running at the same time, that is, from 1.30 p.m. to 5 p.m.





Meeting with parents –

Our teachers have started to meet the parents of children through home visit contact initiative. Despite of their best efforts to bring all mothers/ parents to the same place, it was not happening as most of the parents are working. Hence our teachers started to visit the mothers at their work place – the nearby fields, and their homes. We hope this system will pick up pace and will serve its purpose of involving parents in the development of their children.

Capacity building of teachers –

An effort has been made to make capacity building of teachers an ongoing process. And to this extent, the system of weekly meeting was introduced at the centres. It was suggested to teachers that every Saturday all of them should gather at the coordination office. All of them kindly agreed to this suggestion. This has helped a lot in streamlining the functioning of centres; bringing uniformity in operation and sharing of good and bad experiences by teachers with each other. Also during the meetings the teachers spend time in

developing student friendly teaching-learning material. During these meetings other routine issues such as students attendance, parents meetings, activities with children, etc. are also discussed in detail.

Challenges –

- a. Finding a qualified doctor – It took us quite a while to find a qualified doctor to do the health check up of children. There was no qualified doctor around the place, only RMPs (registered Medical Practitioners) were there and we did not want to engage them into this activity. And no doctor from the main city was ready to go to the village for this work because of the distance and time factor. Finally we could convince Dr. Sandhya for doing check-ups and she agreed. Although there was some problem about her availability. So organized the check-up camps around her availability and suitability. And most rewarding part was that she is a lady doctor with whom children felt very comfortable.
- b. Holding parents-teacher meetings – Initially we insisted to our teachers that they must hold the parents meetings only when they gather in a group. And this was not happening because the timings of the meeting was not suiting the mothers. It was becoming difficult to get most of the mothers if not all of them for the meetings. Hence, we had to finally lower down our expectations from the community. We bowed down to the teachers suggestion of making home visits to meet with mothers of children as and when possible.
- c. Effect of global slow down – It was least expected that the global slow down will have its effect in the areas where we are working. But the fact of the matter is that during October vacation, some students went with their parents to their native villages and did not return back. When our teachers tried to find out the reason for poor attendance at the centres, we got to know that some of the families have postponed the decision of coming back to Delhi as there was no work and cost of living had gone up beyond their level. So we had to merge two centre at the Bhatti Kala into one centre and in replacement opened up a new centre in one of the nearby slum area, namely, Sambhav colony.

Need for qualified teacher – During October, one of our teachers expressed her desire to quit the job because of her own personal problems. But she was kind enough to agree to continue till we

find a replacement for her. With utmost difficulty we found one teacher and put her under training of the old teacher. This was a critical learning experience for us to keep ready a roaster of qualified teachers who could be engaged in running the centre without causing any problem to students to get used to the new teacher.

Expense statement – August – December 2008

S.No.	Expenditure Heads	Approved budget (in Rs.)	Expense statement (April – July 2008)	Expense statement (August – December 2008)	Remarks
1.	Salary of program coordinator - @ Rs. 2,500 p.m. X 12 months	30,000	10,000	12,500	
2.	Salary of 4 teachers @ Rs. 1,800 p.m. X 4 X 12 months	86,400	21,900	33,450	
3.	Salary of 4 assistant teachers @ Rs. 1000 p.m. X 4 X 12 months	48,000	2,000	-	With permission, we utilized the balance money for organizing children's day and for organizing the health check-up camp.
4.	Children's day celebration			16,301	
5.	Medical check up			6,110	
6.	Honorarium for accountant			2,500	
7.	Rent of centres @ Rs.800 per centre X 4 centres X 12 months	38,400		1,350	After approval, part of this amount is being utilized for paying for the maintenance cost of the coordination office.
8.	Coordination office maintenance cost @ of Rs.1600 p.m.			8,000	
9.	Centre support cost (water, electricity, and daily cleaning) @ Rs.100 X 4 centres X 12 months	4,800	1,600	2,000	

10.	Centre establishment cost @ Rs. 2,000 X 4 centres	8,000	5,833	3,069	
11.	Teaching learning material @ Rs. 250 per child X 100 children	25,000	2,418	11,672	
12.	Part audit fee to auditor			2,500	
13.	Miscellaneous @ Rs.500 p.m.	6,000	1350	3,770	
	Total	246,600	45,101	103,222	

Serial Number:.....
Centre:.....

Concern for Humanity

24/10, Rajpur Khurd Extension, New Delhi - 110 068.

HEALTH ASSESSMENT FORM

Name:..... Age:..... Sex:

Father's name:..... Mother's name:.....

Present complaints:

Past history of:

- | | | |
|-----------------|-------------------|------------------|
| a. Fits | b. Jaundice | c. Chronic cough |
| d. Major injury | e. Any operations | f. Others |

Medical examination findings

- | | | |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------|
| 1. Height: | 2. Weight: | 3. Pulse: |
| 4. BP:..... | 5. CNS | Eye/ ENT: |
| 6. Chest: | 7. CVS: | |
| 8. Per Abdomen: | 9. CNS: | |
| 10. Pallor: | 11. Lymphadenopathy:..... | |
| 12. State of skin/scalp:..... | | |
| 13. Bone deformity:..... | | |
| 14. Other:..... | | |

Final Remarks

Date:

Signature of Doctor