

**Progress report
April 2010 – March 2011**

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

About the project –

Noon.ch and ASHANET have been kind enough to support the learning centers project for the third consecutive year. Both Noon.ch and ASHANET share the total cost of running the four centers and each provide funding assistance upto 50% of the total cost for running 4 learning centers. As part of the project, funds have been provided for meeting teachers' salary, centers' running cost, for purchase of books and stationary for children, for organizing some events for children and for meeting the project related overheads.

Activities at Centres –

Summer vacation – Like previous years, children anxiously waited for the summer vacations to start. Over the years, the teachers have gained experience in the type of activities to plan for the summer camp. Children too very actively participate in the planning process. This year teachers organized crafts, drawing, collage, book reading, storytelling activities at the centres. The children of Bapu camp and Sambhav camp centres visited Bal Bhawan. Bal Bhawan is an institution which aims at enhancing the creative potential of children by providing them various activities, opportunities and common platform to interact, experiment, create and perform according to their age, aptitude and ability. Admission to Bal Bhawan is free for children coming from slums/ poor socio-economic background. Our centre children made a few handicraft things at Bal Bhawan and shared their experience with younger kids who could not go to Bal Bhawan. The teachers of the other two centres used their own skills and did similar activities with children. During summer break, the centres opened in the morning and remained opened for two hours only so that children could get back home before it became too hot. This ensured continuity of children at the centres and a big respite for parents in the hot summer.

Celebration of Independence Day – Like last year, this year also, we celebrated Independence Day at all the centres. Children had prepared small speeches, dances on patriotic songs and skits to mark the occasion. They wore fancy dresses for performances. The respective teachers unfurled the national flag and talked to children about the importance of the day and the sacrifices made by our freedom fighters to gain independence. Later, sweets were distributed to all children at the centres.













Making of Christmas greeting cards – In late November, we got a wonderful news from Noon.ch that they would like our children to make Christmas greeting cards for all the donors who donate to Noon.ch for our project. Our children got really excited when they heard this good news. We decided to give a professional touch to our work. In this work, noon.ch provided all possible help. They helped us to translate the message in German. We got the message printed on the cards and also brief information about the learning centre project on the back cover of the cards. The cards were then sent to children for decoration. We were advised by Martin Bissig, who was here in Delhi around that time, that we should send the cards well on time otherwise the cards will get struck due to rush and will not reach on time. We sent over 100 cards to donors and CFH acquaintances. The cards were much appreciated by the donors.

Setting up of Libraries at centres – We set up small reading corners/libraries at the centres. We had been planning to set-up reading corners for quite some time but when Dorris and Klaus also suggested for additional reading material for children, we got a booster and went ahead and started off with this initiative. We visited National Books Trust (NBT) and went through their catalogue of books and purchased lots of picture books, biographies, health related books, etc. All books were bought as single copies only so that we collect more books rather than having duplicate copies. We created a master catalogue of all books. Separate racks were bought for each centre for displaying the books.

Children were very happy to receive the set of books as summer vacation gift. The books are in rotation at the centres. Once they read the set of books sent to them, the exchange the set of books.

Medical check-up of children – Check-up was organized in parts for the general health check up of children. Dr. Bipul Kumar Sinha, Senior Resident, FORTIS Hospital, was very kind to agree to do the check-ups of children. We prepared a sample health check up form and sent it to Dr. Sinha for his approval. He liked the format and approved it. These forms were used for recording the height, weight, and other general condition of the children. The centre teachers filled up the background information about each child in advance on these forms and this made it easy for Dr. Sinha to interact with each child when his/her turn came. The highlight of the check-up was that a few mothers were also present at the time of the check up to discuss any specific health issue concerning the child. Dr. Sinha provided appropriate guidance to mothers.

As per the general outcome of the check-up, most of the children suffered from health problems, such as, worms in stomach, wax in ears (causing pain in ears), cavities and under growth (less weight and height than the prescribed norms for the age).

Visit by Rohini Muthuswamy from ASHANET – In the month of January 2011, Rohini Muthuswamy of ASHANET visited our centres. She was on an annual review visit so that further funding to our centres could be continued. She met with the children at the centres and spent time with them. She was updated on progress of children and about the library initiative at each centre. Children were extremely excited to meet her and performed dances and a skit on the discrimination of girl child at home. She was very much touched by the skit and she appreciated the acting and dialogues in the skit. The centre girls had themselves written the script and decided the roles for the actors. Rohini, herself being an academican could very well understand the plight of all such girls who reside in slums. She was satisfied with the visit.

Article in TUT magazine – With the efforts of Noon.ch, we got an opportunity to get space in the famous children's magazine 'TUT', published in Switzerland. Case study of 'Parwati' - one of our centre girls appeared in the June 2010 issue of the magazine. Parwati is an 11 year old girl residing in Bapu Camp, and is the first girl child in her family to go to school. She has six sisters and one brother, and she is sixth in the sibling order. Her oldest sibling – her sister is around 23 years old and her youngest sibling again a sister is around three years old. Her only brother - is the second eldest sibling in the family. Parwati is a bright student and has been performing consistently good. The case study of Parwati very nicely describes the challenges/struggles that children dwelling in slums have to face to be able to make space for themselves.

Annual Day celebration – In the first week of January 2011, when the children were still in their winter vacation, we organized annual day at each centre. The idea was to boost up children's morale and welcome the new year with a positive note. Various competitions were organized, and prizes were given away to the winners. All children received goody bags. Children put up the skit, songs, dances on the occasion. Despite of chilling winter, children participated with lots of enthusiasm and energy. Children did the anchoring of the program and it was a big fun party for them as well as for us. The grand celebration was held at Bapu camp and Sambhav Camp.









Children's progress –

We are extremely happy to share with everyone that over the years there has been stability among children and the dropout rate has reduced to minimum. Children are moving to next grades and their performance has been improving. The parents are also extremely cooperative and do not withhold children at home unless there is any urgent need. All this is being made possible by the untiring effort of the teachers. The teachers provide all kinds of support to children and that is one reason why parents have no hesitation in sending their children, especially girls, to the centre. Some of the girls who have moved to senior classes, still continue to come to our centres. Also there are a few girls who come only to our centres as they are over-aged for a particular grade in formal school. We encourage these girls to continue to come to our centres and learn as much as they can so that these girls will have functional literacy.

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

Staff changes –

One of our teachers, Nisha, teaching at Bhatti Kala, got married in February 2011 and her younger sister joined us as the replacement teacher. Her name is Komal and she is Matriculate (passed 10th Grade). Komal did not require any as induction training as she had been very often supporting her sister Nisha, when she was the teacher at the centre. Children also did not find any problem in accepting Komal as their new teacher.

Snowball effect of funding support from noon.ch and ASHANET

The funding from Noon.ch and ASHANET has been of immense support to us. It not only helped us to come into the limelight on internet but it also helped us to get funding for new centres from new organizations.

1. Support by Biki Sports, Switzerland – Martin Bissig, the Co-Director of this company is funding a new learning centre for

children in one of the close by slums. To begin with, its one year funding support and as part of the support, children enrolled at the centre would be provided free education, remedial support and opportunities for the overall development of children.

2. Support by LIB International, Canada – LIB International has come forward and supporting two projects for the underprivileged –
 - a. Learning centre for slum children
 - b. Tailoring centre for adolescent girls

Events and Visits to the Centers –

1. Photography by Martin Bissig – In the month of August, Martin Bissig visited our centre. He had promised during his first visit that on his next trip he would do a free photo session for our centres. It was an honour for us to get this wonderful gift from a world renowned photographer. Martin kept us his promise and in August 2010, he came loaded with his cameras, and in the scorching heat he did the picture photography. He suggested a very good idea – we tracked a day in the life of one of the girl children who comes to our centre. We chose “Parwati” for this project. We started the photo shoot from the school where Parwati and many other children coming to our centre, study. Martin took pictures of Pawati and her friends from the time school got over. We then tracked Parwati to her home and captured stills of activities that she did at home – attending to her younger siblings, serving lunch to them and to herself, washing dishes, getting ready for going over to our centre.... All this was captured by Martin through photographs. Some of the pictures were eye opening for us. Later, Martin posted a set of photographs to us as well as to Noon.ch.
2. Visit of Doris and Klaus – In late October, we had visitors from Switzerland. Doris and Klaus, two senior volunteers on behalf of Noon.ch visited our office and our Bapu camp and Sambhav colony centres. They spent time with us and our children and gifted Atlas charts to the two centres. It was a pleasant surprise for all of us when Klaus read out a couple of Hindi words on the blackboard. He then told all of us that he is learning Devanagari language. He asked children to write simple Hindi words on the board and he will read them for us....and he actually read. Children were shocked to notice that Klaus can read Hindi.

Incidentally, a fortnight ago children of our centres had participated in a clay modeling competition and we had to organize the prize distribution function. We thought that there could be no better judges than Doris and Klaus. We requested them to judge the best five entries at the two centres and give away prizes to the winners. Children thoroughly enjoyed the visit of Doris and Klaus.

3. Clay modeling project – In the month of October, during the Dussera holidays, we organized a clay modeling activity with children. Children were asked to make anything with clay except for making the traditional small lamps. We provided them with clay and decoration material such as, sequins, glitters, coloured papers, etc. Children made brilliant things with clay – fairy, doll, elephant, hut, cow, etc. Although we had planned that we will give away goodie bags to all children, we kept it as a surprise till the last minute for children.

Expense statement – April, 2010 – March 2011

S.No.	Expenditure Heads	Expense statement (April 2010 – March 2011)
1.	Salary of Program coordinator - @ Rs. 4,000 p.m.	48,000
2.	Salary of 4 teachers *	57,450
3.	Salary of Assistant Teachers	18,000
4.	Honorarium for accountant	14,400
5.	Rent of centres **	13,800
6.	Coordination office maintenance cost @ Rs.2,000 p.m.	24,000

7.	Centre support cost (water, electricity, and daily cleaning) @ Rs.200 X 4 centres	9,600
8.	Improving facilities at learning centres @ 2000 per centre	13,211
9.	Teaching learning material @ Rs. 250 per child X 100 children	20,131
10.	Annual Day celebration	3,493
11.	Project monitoring expenses	9,093
12.	Christmas Cards making	6,221
13.	Health check – up camp	2,660
14.	Independence day celebration	1,150
15.	Miscellaneous	2,908
	Total	2,44,117

* Teachers are getting salary according to their seniority. Starting salary being given is Rs.1500/- per month and senior teacher is getting Rs.1650/-per month

** We are paying rent of Rs.550 and Rs.600 per month for two centres.