

Progress report

September 2016

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

The year 2016 was a memorable year in many ways. Children got to meet new visitors, got better facilities at the centres, had lot of fun and some serious studies as well. The morning centres too got included in the midday snack program. Children received loads of story books. And one more good news is that all our financial transactions became online. We could encourage all our teachers to open bank accounts – a major step towards their empowerment. There were a few staff changes at the Learning Centres. During the year there were many highs at the centres and one of the most memorable highs was the fun and frolic during the summer camp. This season children had loads of fun during the camp. Another good news from the centres is that majority of our children passed their examinations with good performances.

About the project –

Noon.ch and ASHANET have been kind enough to support the learning centers project for Concern for Humanity. Both Noon.ch and ASHANET share the total cost of running the seven centers and each provide funding assistance upto 50% of the total cost for running 7 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.

Learning Centres - 10 – All the 10 learning centres functioned effectively and attracted good attendance at the centres. Children were regular in attending the centres. CFH is very happy to announce that the total number of learning centres has gone up to 10. The new centres run in morning shift in the same community. This arrangement doesn't add to the cost of setting up new centres – such as, paying for the room rent, arranging for blackboard, racks, mattresses, etc. for the centre. Only the recurring expenses, like, teachers' salaries, stationary for children, project monitoring costs, etc. get added to the overall budget. The response to the new centres has been positive and there is a pressure from the community to start similar centres at all locations. The centre teachers are also willing to work in double shifts as it doubles their salaries. However, due to paucity of budget, at present we have limited the morning shift centres to two.

The morning shift is exclusively for the boys and the afternoon shift is for girls.





Summer vacations – This year during the summer vacations, summer camp was organized at all the centres. This was the second season of the camp. Over the years, it was being observed that the attendance at the centres used to go down during summer vacations. And the centre facilities were underutilized. In order to increase the catchment area of the centres, the admission was open to children of the community. And this year, the attraction at the centres was the four weeks long dance workshops. A young choreographer from local area was hired for doing this activity at all the centres. He worked out a time table so as to cover all centres. Children had real fun at the workshop. Every child danced to the peppy Bollywood numbers, especially those girls who always shied to perform. Besides, book reading clubs were organized and children were encouraged to read story books aloud.

Children made Math Table Booklets (2 to 16) and learnt them by heart.







Independence Day Celebration – In the second week of August, the Independence day was celebrated at all the centres. This time every child of the centre participated in program. They prepared dances on patriotic songs, speeches, songs, recitations, etc. Children made stuff for centre decoration and took nterest in the conduct of the entire program.



Teachers' Day Celebration – On September, 5, the teachers' day was celebrated at all the centres. The birthday of Dr. SarvePalli Radhakrishnan, the first Vice President of India, is celebrated as the teachers' day to acknowledge the contribution made by teachers towards the society. This is a day celebrated in all the schools across India. At our centres too, we celebrated this day with our teachers. Children presented thank you cards and commemoratives to their respective teachers and CFH acknowledged and thanked teachers for their invaluable contribution. We presented high quality water bottles to our teachers as commemoratives.



Role reversal on Teachers' Day - Students teaching the class

Diwali celebration at the centres – Diwali is the real festive time. Everywhere there is preparation for Diwali and one can feel the festival in the atmosphere. We try to make the festival a unique experience for children. This year children made diyas (made out of clay) at the centres and decorated the diyas with water colour and other decoration stuff. Children look forward festival celebrations. They get the opportunity to use all their creative imaginations to come out with great outputs. On our part, we are always prepared to provide them with the required material such as coloured papers, decoration stuff, glue, paints, etc. so that children can enjoy the whole experience of doing an activity. And we feel that all this makes the celebrations a special memorable experience for children.





Children exchanged gifts with each other on the festival of Diwali

Diwali gifts distribution to teachers – We celebrated Diwali with our teachers and gave them gifts to commemorate the festival. It was our small way of appreciating their efforts at the learning centres and to make them feel festive joy of the season. They felt too happy with this small gesture. We realized that we do not have any dedicated budget for teachers' welfare from which we could support them in their good and testing times.



Christmas time – This season children made Christmas stars at all centres. They made stars of all sizes and varieties and decorated the centres. In morning centre, Bapu Camp, children got a big surprise when one of the boys dressed up as Santa Claus, entered the classroom and shook hands with all of them. In the chilly winter morning, children had a big fun with Santa Claus.





Annual day celebration – In the first week of February, annual day was celebrated at all learning centres. The annual day was celebrated at all centres with full zeal and zest. The purpose of celebrating the annual day is to showcase children’s achievements and to motivate them. Children prepared songs, dances, recitations, street plays. Children chose social issues and prepared short dramas with social messages and presented them at the function. Prior to the main function day, intra-centre competitions were conducted and children were appreciated for their creative efforts.

The program planning, centre decoration, program anchoring was all done by students. Parents were invited to the program to witness the gala presentations by their children. It was a proud moment for the parents as they got to see the fantastic presentations by their children. It was an opportunity for us to talk about the work of CFH and our achievements. The program at the centres concluded with distribution of goody bags.

1 February, 2016 – Sanjay Colony I, II
3 February, 2016 – Shaila, Vandana, Shazia





Wall o Books – This is an organization based in Kolkata, India, which sets up libraries on the wall of the centres. Each centre creates a tree on a wall of the centre, puts up bag which has pockets on it, where the books are kept. Each Wall o Books has 100 story books. We have set up 6 such libraries covering all our learning centres. Since it is the start of the program, all centres have got the same set of books, and it is expected that next round of books will be a mix so that they can be circulated among the centres. Children are enjoying reading these books and we are happy to receive additional reading material for children.



Teachers' training – Teachers' meeting was held every month at the field coordination office. At the meetings we shared the updates, problems, challenges and solutions. Issues that remained in focus during the meetings were uniform reading program at all centres, addressing slow learning among children, making the learning experience at the centres an enjoyable experience. One of our teachers, Menaka, is a part time Health Worker with the Department of Health. She is a resource bank on health care and sanitation. This year Delhi was badly hit by mosquito menace. Every second person was hit by viral fever which presented itself in various forms and left people with side effects which took long to go away. On our request, Menaka presented short presentations on the causes and prevention related to seasonal illnesses, such as dengue, chickengunia, viral fevers, etc. This knowledge was shared by teachers at their respective centres. Children were talked almost every day about the need to keep the surrounding clean; that they should wear such clothes which covered their whole body; cleanliness was ensured at the centres. The second major issue that was seriously taken during all teachers meetings was about child abuse and increasing verbal abuse among children leading to harsh consequences. Teachers were talked about how they should identify such behavior among children and how to counsel all children using same case studies with different names.



Nutrition – The nutritious snack program at the centres continued to be a big hit at all centres. From this year, we extended the program to include children of the two morning centres. The selection of the snack is a participatory process. Based on children’s feedback and request, the menu of weekly distribution is changed. Children have been told no request for junk snacks will be entertained, except during special get-togethers. The purpose of the snack program is to supplement their calorie requirement. It gives a great satisfaction to observe that regardless of age, all children look forward to the snack distribution.

International Yoga Day –

On 21 June, 2016, Yoga Day was observed at all CFH centres. After the school, when children reached the centres, they participated in the yoga day celebration organized by teachers. Teachers had prepared a set of yoga exercises which they did with children. It was joyfully organized session for children. On the occasion, teachers spoke to children about the advantages of including yoga in our daily life. Children thoroughly enjoyed the event.





Visitors –

Wolkar and Alexandra from Frankfurt, visited our centres and spent quality time with children. They were shared about the working of CFH and centres, the teaching process, the records keepings and the activities children do at the centres. They congratulated the Team CFH on the wonderful work being done by them.





Renewal of FCRA certificate – We are happy to inform that the FCRA certificate of Concern for Humanity has been renewed for next five years w.e.f. November 2016.

Online transfer of salaries to teachers – After a long persuasion and follow up, all our teachers now have a bank account. And from September we have started directly transfer of their salaries into their respective accounts. We are proud to say that 100% teachers now receive salaries in their bank accounts. This makes our work more organized and simplified. And this has brought a sense of worth among the teachers, who all happen to be women. They feel empowered as they are now in command of their salary and its management.

Staff changes and centre locations

Mrs. Vandana took over the charge as the centre teacher from Yogita Chauhan, who was teaching senior girls. Yogita found a better job opening based on her experience of working with CFH. Vandana is a graduate and also has done an IT course. She is smart and has been warmly accepted at the centre and by the CFH team.

Mr. Vijai Kumar Prajapati, took over charge as the Field Supervisor from Sanjeev Kumar, who moved on. Vijai is an intermediate and brings with him vast administrative experience of almost two decades. He had taken remediation classes in the past with the school children, which comes as an advantage for CFH.

Centre location changes – this year we had to change location of two centres.

- a. Sambhav colony centre had developed cracks in the room and the landlord was not getting the necessary repair work done, so we had to change the centre to another house located nearby.
- b. Sanjay Colony Centre – II, was shifted to a new rented place since the roof of the earlier rented room started to leak and the landlord was reluctant to get it repaired. The new centre is located a few lanes towards the main slum. It is a more spacious and ventilated room.

Progress of children – amidst all the activities done at the centres, our children continued to perform satisfactorily in their schools. All children graduated to the next grades. All the credit goes to our teachers. They put in their sincere efforts in teaching children. Our teachers not only help children in doing their homework, but also in preparing for their summative assessments, FAs (formative assessments), projects, and any other school related work. Three girls completed their intermediate studies and are now pursuing higher studies in the open university and also working simultaneously.