

**Half Yearly Report
(January 2008-June 2008)
of Welfare Activities undertaken by
Amba Foundation at its Centers in Delhi, India**

Education Center Activities:

After the winter break our Education Center re-opened in the first week of January.

The weather continued to be wet & chilly. Initially attendance was low. Donations for woolen socks & caps were arranged from local donors and distributed to all the children.

This motivated the parents to send the children to attend the classes at our Centers and attendance improved.

The period January to March is time for study, hence the teachers laid more stress on teaching & tests.

January 26th is celebrated as 'Republic Day' and it was celebrated with a 'Painting Competition' among the children.

The best paintings in each group were judged and prizes were given away. The children were also shown a Cartoon Film which they enjoyed watching very much.

In the month of March the children appear for their final exams in school. Of the 160 children of our Center who took the exams, almost all the children passed the exams. And the results were very encouraging this year since More than 50% of the children got good scores.

After exams its time for some fun workshops. This year too our volunteers conducted an Art & Craft Workshop, English speaking Workshop & Computer Workshops for the children in the months of April & May.

The children joined their new classes in April. They were given notebooks and stationery.

Some of the case studies of the children are given below:

Aukil is a class IV student comes from a family of five members his father is a rickshaw puller and they stay in Majboor Camp. A thin shy child he does not look more than 6 years old. He was subdued in class and did not study well. On Probing it was found that due to family problems Aukil was subdued and did not take interest in his studies. The atmosphere in his home was always tense and his mother use to beat him with a stick at the slightest provocation.

His teacher then counseled him and handled him patiently with love. This brought about a very positive change in him, he became more confident and showed more interest in his studies. He did well in his school exams this year and takes a lot of interest in computers.

Arti is a student of class V. Her father works in a local confectionery shop and this family of 7 members live 2 km away from our Center. Arti is very keen to study and walks everyday to our Center to attend the classes. Her mother is a housemaid and often falls sick. At such times Arti has to replace her and goes to work. This results in her frequent absence from her classes. She remained subdued & sad because of this. We tried to solve her problem by first getting her mother treated at the local hospital and by allowing Arti flexible hours of attending her classes.

Whenever she needed to help her mother she could come and attend any classes for just as much time as she could spare. This helped her to cope with her studies better and also help her mother.

Zahida is a 12 year old girl from a large family of 8 members. Her father is a painter while her mother works at a Tailoring shop to make ends meet. Zahida had been a very hyperactive girl with little interest in studies. She was disturbing other students in her class and the teachers always complained about her. The teachers called her mother to complain but it did not help her to improve. However one day our volunteer observed that Zahida was good with colors and had a good hand. She was immediately put in the art & craft group and the volunteer would encourage her to draw and paint everyday before sending her for her lessons. She was very creative and showed better focus in her studies and behavior once her creative energies were satisfied.

Health Center Activities:

For the period January to June 08 nearly 4000 patients were treated at the dispensary.

In addition all the children attending our Education Center are given free treatment & advice. Anemia is a common problem in the community especially among adolescent girls. This hampers their growth, affects their concentration and later causes child bearing difficulties and makes them prone to infections. Meetings and group discussions were held by our doctor with the girls and their mothers to explain them about Anemia and how to overcome it with the right diet and intake of folic acid. The girls were given free folic acid and iron tablets for three months to improve their blood count. Over 100 anemic girls benefited from this programme.

The patients come from poor communities living in urban slums around our Health Centre and are treated for a variety of diseases such as fevers & infections, bronchitis, allergies, liver ailments and aches & pains. In addition a number of patients suffer from stress related diseases and have hypertension. This could be attributed to stressful living in sub human shanty housing clusters coupled with work and money insecurity. A number of men are known to flitter away their day's earning in alcohol because of which their families suffer. Some of the case studies are given below.

Mustakin is a 40 year old woman suffering from "Hyper Pyrexia' for the last 6 months. She had been to various local doctors but her fever did not come down. She came to our center with 103 degree fever. On examination the doctor found her liver to be slightly enlarged. She was sent for further blood tests to the local government hospital and asked to report to the Center with the results. However the tests were negative other than marginal malarial infection. She was put on chloroquine and also a dose of antibiotics. Her fever improved and gradually came down. She was subsequently put on vitamins & topics for complete recovery.

Monica is a 4 year old child of a vegetable seller. Both her parents sit at their vegetable stall while Monica plays near the stall all day long. Monica was brought to the dispensary with high fever. She was crying all the time and had problem understanding her parent's instructions. On examination the doctor found her ear to be severely infected with impacted wax which seemed to have affected the child's hearing. The child was suffering from pain and infection and was unable to explain this to her parents. The child was sent to the local hospital for cleaning of her ear by an ENT specialist. She was put on antibiotic medicines and ear drops. She is well now and

her mother has been advised to keep her clean and guard from dust & infections.

Rajesh is a 22 year old man who works as a daily wager on a construction site nearby. At the end of the day he sits with his friends and flitters his earnings in alcohol. On getting home his mother screams and abuses him for his bad habits and does not give him food. One day in a fit of anger he kicked his mother who fell from the chair and broke her arm. He felt very remorseful and cursed his leg for having kicked his mother. A few days later he could not feel any sensation in his leg and was unable to move it. He was shown to a local doctor who gave him medicines but could not cure him. When he visited our dispensary with his father our doctor took his detailed history and diagnosed him with 'Histrionic Personality Disorder'. The doctor felt that it was defense mechanism to cover his guilt feeling for kicking his mother, and it was a 'conversion reaction'. He was an immature and dependent person with overactive reactions. His mother and other older members of the family were called and counseled on how to handle him. Rajesh was given counseling by the doctor and also put on medication for some days. After some time his leg became normal and he resumed his work. He was also referred for counseling to a de addiction center in the area.

.....