

Visit to CFH on 10 December 2013

(Arpana, Amit from CFH
Doris, Klaus from noon)

Before visiting the learning centres, we had met our project partners Arpana and Amit at 11 am in order to quietly exchange views on some formal and organisational issues. The conversation took place in an atmosphere of openness and mutual understanding.

Arpana and Amit cooperate with teachers and a coordinator who visits the classes four times a week. CFH is now teaching classes in 8 learning centres between 2 and 5 o'clock in the afternoon as well as a group of young women who are learning how to sew.



Classroom Sanjay colony - I



In our first conversation in their office we got interesting information from Arpana and Amit: Firstly, since working together with noon.ch, CFH has been gaining more and more attention in the Indian public and the number of visits has increased. Indian company employees visit the learning centres and have organized a programme with the children. Secondly, a film was shot by a television station and is to be broadcasted on Indian television soon.

Bal Shiksha Kendra (Children's Learning Centre)

Names of the Learning Centres supported by us:

1. Bapu Camp - I
2. Bapu Camp - II
3. Sambhav Colony
4. Sanjay colony - I
5. Sanjay colony - II

As boys and girls are separated from the 5th form onwards, there are now only girls in these classes. The older boys have school lessons in the afternoon and can no longer come to the learning classes. But since we consider the support of boys equally important, we asked whether it was possible to set up a morning class for the boys. The only costs that would arise would be those for the teacher. Arpana mentioned the difficulties of teaching a group of older boys and of finding a teacher. Obviously, boys of that age are not easy to keep under control. Amit and Arpana will consider the proposition, however.

Another supporter of CFH is the "Bici active holiday GmbH Martin" which organizes bicycle tours in India. Unfortunately, we were not able to pay a visit to this group.

The Canadian group L.I.B is promoting a sewing class and two LCs. They painted their little school house beautifully. The L.I.B. group had the idea to sew stuffed monkeys from socks and sell them in Canada. The first production consisted of as many as 150 stuffed monkeys. We hope they will sell well or at least generate a donor group loyalty. I was pleased with this idea, as well as with the sign in front of the house bearing the two logos and the words "Partner in Humanity". You know who you are dealing with.





Learning Center Shanti Camp von L.I.B

On our 26 km drive south to the Sanjay colony, we passed through an area lined with luxury bungalows standing on very large private properties - originally intended for agricultural farms - where the rich families celebrate their weddings. This sight is in stark contrast to the neighbouring "Sanjay colony", built on government's land, where the migrants, who earn their livelihood as day labourers in the city, build their little houses.

On the way, we learned more financial details from Amit: the teachers are to receive some more money from next year on, because the cost of food has increased extremely. The teachers come from the group of migrants who live in the slums. We also have to be alert to rent increases, because CFH cannot continually move the classes in order to find the cheapest



rent. Arpana and Amit focus on continuity. Besides, CFH keeps the learning centres open during the school holidays.

On our arrival at the LC Sanjay I, the children were already waiting for us. It was a real pleasure to see that new boards had been purchased, and that the small classroom was nicely decorated with pictures. The children made a bright impression. Thanks to the good advice in a bookshop in Delhi, we had bought many books in Hindi and took them as a present to the five centres. Every day, the teachers read and discuss a part of a story with the children and very often an older child gets to read. Still, the recapitulation of the subject material is the top priority in the classes. There are no "drop outs" among the children in the LCs anymore.



Children from the Learning Centre Sanjay colony - II Children from the Learning Centre Sanjay colony - I

The children in Sanjay II Learning Centre made a lively impression, too. They were all dressed nicely and looked forward to the visit. We suggested that the cottage with the classroom would look much friendlier with a touch of paint. Amit promised to take care of it. The cost will certainly be low. In addition to the classrooms, all LCs have a small enclosed schoolyard where the children can play.

Our third destination was the new LC with girls of the higher forms. They come from the other LCs. Arpana told us that one of the girls had managed to be at the top of the class, and two more were the second of their class. We were able to talk to the girls in English. This showed us that - with only a little care – even some of those children, who grew up in a disadvantaged environment, would be able to complete their school-leaving qualification after the 12th form. But even now, Arpana is worrying about what will happen to the girls afterwards, because they live 26 km outside Delhi, and the parents will not let them go for further education to the city by themselves.



Schoolgirls from Bapu Camp - 1

We were also favourably impressed on our visit to the two other LCs, promoted by noon.ch. The little children will certainly need much development work. Compared to our last visit, the small rooms were without exception colourful and cheerful.

We could see that in all LCs both the teachers and the young coordinator treated the children very kindly. Arpana and Amit seemed to work together with the teachers and the coordinator harmoniously, too. Working for CFH, the coordinator is earning the money for his studies in social sciences. He knows the children of all the learning centres by name. We also asked the children from the lower classes, whether they wanted to learn English, and an enthusiastic “Yes” resounded. Asked if they had ever seen a computer, the response was a clear “No”. All of them have a TV at home, however, and they know the television series, in which Switzerland is featured. This was the country where it was very cold, they explained to us. On the way back to Delhi, Arpana, Amit and we deliberated on the question whether we

could establish theme-work teaching in English during the holidays. Unfortunately, none of the teachers coming from the slums has any English, and we had no spontaneous idea who could teach these lessons in the slums, 26 km south of Delhi.

*Children from the Learning Centre Sambhav Colony Children from the Bapu Learning Centre Camp
– II*



Finally, Amit and Arpana showed us the new CFH office. It is on the roadside about midway between the slums and Arpana's and Amit's office in Delhi. The coordinator is currently establishing his office there. This gives the CFH NGO a fixed address and contact point. In these rooms, the teaching material will be stored; the teachers will be provided with further training and meetings will be held. Arpana is also considering the possibility of letting the group of girls from the higher forms receive a simple training here.

Visit report from Doris Eckstein, noon.ch
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