

**Progress report  
October 2009 – March 2010**

**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 second 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.

**Progress during the period –**

The reporting period had a mix of achievements and challenges.

Enthusiastic teachers –After a long struggle with the teachers, we were able to have a stable team of teachers. All teachers are good and regular in opening the centres. Another credible thing about the teachers is that they take very less leaves and always inform in advance in case they need to take a day off. And, as and when they go out for leave we mutually make arrangements for replacement teacher so that the centre remains open and children can come. The teachers are learning from their day to day interaction with children and are improving themselves. Children love to come to the centres and have been regular in their attendance.

Our teachers remained adamant – This season had some ups and down which were a real testing time for us. There were a couple of occasions when we got the indications from the field area/ slum that we may have to move out but it was only because our teachers could standby the situation, we continued in the area. A few months ago there were demolitions of the unauthorized constructions in the Bapu Camp area, with the result there was acute shortage of

accommodation and the landlord asked us to vacate the room. He was asking for extremely unjust rental. We had no way but to move out. But it was because of our centre teacher that we could continue in Bapu Camp. She requested one of her acquaintances to allow her to use one of their rooms for running the centre till she found alternative accommodation for running the centre.

Summer vacation – This year summers were a little less hot so the schools closed as per schedule. It was decided that we should use the vacation time in some constructive way. There should be no formal education at the centres. Instead, children should spend time to learn some new things. The Bapu camp and Sambhav camp centres have the advantage that there is a 'Bal Bhawan' very close to these slums. 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. So, the two centre teachers took the initiative of taking children of two centres to Bal Bhawan. It was in fact one of the most memorable vacations for our kids. Except for a couple of children, none of them had been to this place before. Although Bal Bhawan is at a walkable distance, these children had never been to this place because their parents never had the time to take them Bal Bhawan. Our children not only went to Bal Bhawan, in fact learnt a few new handicraft things that they can make using waste material. The teachers of the other two centres used their own skills and did similar activities with children. In view of the hot summers, the centre timings were shifted to morning time. This encouraged almost all children to turn up to the centres. Some children went away on vacation to other places mostly to their home towns. Keeping in view the vacations, the centers' timings were reduced to two hours.

Weekly meetings – The teachers spent time in developing teaching learning material, replacing the old torn stuff on the walls. In Bhatti Khurd village, we are running the centre in the community centre. This place is often used by the community for organizing wedding ceremonies, and similar get together. And during any such gatherings, the guests, out of their ignorance, tear away the work displayed on walls or the teaching-learning material pasted on the walls by the teacher. Hence, it is quite a regular exercise for the teacher to redo the stuff and decorate the walls. This time children realized this problems and pledged to sensitize the guests for not tearing away these decorations. We must confess that our kids did exceed to some

extent..because this time, it was not the guests but the monkey menace in the village who spoilt all our decorations. Nevertheless, our teachers have made cards, clay stuff, and things using ice-cream sticks for teaching to children.

### Activities at Centres –

During this period, children had lot of fun activities. In fact we tried to bargain for a good academic performance by children. They were given a challenge that if they do well in their winter session examinations then we would organize a fun day for them. Children took up the challenge and performed satisfactorily.

Celebration of sports day at centres – We organized sports day for all children of the centres. The teachers gave all freedom to children to decide what all they wanted to do – which events, how many prizes, who all to be invited, how to do the decorations, etc. Children were in the forefront and the respective teachers provided full support to them. Teachers suggested to them make goodie bags – they came out with nice carry bags made out of newspaper with nice strings. The centre teacher taught children how to make the bags. And on the D-day eatables and surprise gifts were put in these bags and given away to children. We even organized for a candy man who made candies in front of kids and gave them away. A variety of competitive events were organized including races, games, singing, etc. And winners were given away prizes. Despite severe cold, parents of children and community members were present in big numbers to cheer up children. The sports day was organized in late December for two centres and in January at the other two centres.





Celebration of Independence Day – This year we celebrated Independence Day at all four centers. Children prepared short programs such as songs, dances, and speeches. At each of the centre the national flag was unfurled and the respective teacher took the salutation. The local people including the parents of the children were present during the celebration of the Independence Day. All children were given sweets after the celebration.

### **Children's progress –**

We are happy to share the good news that the children's performance has been better than the last year. All children not only got promoted to next grades, some of them even got good grades/marks in their final exams. The centre teachers really put a lot of effort in all this. One of the reasons for this achievement has been that now these children have been coming to our centres for almost three years. In other words, our teachers know them – their strengths, weaknesses and have helped the kids to overcome their weaknesses. Some of the girls who are now in grade nine, 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. As one step forward, we are planning to open a tailoring centre for these girls so that these girls remain productively engaged.



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

### Challenges –

- a. Finding a good teacher – Of late, there have been quite a few changes in the teaching staff. And this has been quite a learning for us. We appointed young girls as teachers. They were energetic, active and very engaging with children but the biggest drawback was that they didn't stay for long in the job. The moment they got better opportunity elsewhere they resigned from the job of a teacher. In other words there was no stability of the young teachers. This very much affected the children as they would get attached to their teacher and would badly miss

her in case she left. So we decided to look for a teacher who was middle aged, qualified, experienced and lived in the same area.

- b. Accommodation for center – Running the centers in slums has its own challenges. Recently there was demolition of illegal construction in the Bapu camp slum. The result was that suddenly the rentals of the accommodations went up very high. The displaced families were willing to pay higher amount in order to be able to stay in the same area. Our landlord asked us to vacate the room immediately. We then kept looking for a room but it took us quite a toll to find a new room in the same area.

### Events held at centres –

1. Donation of solar lights by COSMOS – COSMOS Ignite donated mighty lights to our learning centres. The beauty of these lights is that they are purely solar and provide enough light for a room. The lights are used at the centres and teachers have been given the responsibility of charging the lights and looking after their maintenance. These light come handy on a cloudy day.



2. Contribution of article for TUT – Kids and Youth Magazine – TUT is published from Switzerland. Noon.ch provided us with the opportunity of contributing an article for this magazine. We prepared the case study of one of our centre girls – Parvati for this magazine and sent it along with pictures of Parvati to Adrian. Adrian took the pain of translating the article into German. The good news is that the article would be soon published in one of the forthcoming issues of the magazines.

### Visits to the Centers –

1. Visit by Martin Bissig – In December 2009, Martin Bissig, a world renowned freelance professional photographer from Switzerland visited us and we took him to our field area. Martin liked our work with children – it was evident from the questions that he asked us during his visit to our centres. The good part of the visit was that Martin offered to do photography of our centres. We connected Martin to Adrian and they mutually exchanged mails. Martin will be coming over to India in end August 2010 and will be with us for a full day and will do photography on a theme.
2. In February, 2010, Mr. Yuzuru TAKANO, Staff Correspondent, The Asahi Shimbun from their New Delhi Bureau, visited us to know about our views and our experiences about the situation of the poor kids in the slum areas where we work.

### **Expense statement – October 2009 – March 2010**

<b>S.No.</b>	<b>Expenditure Heads</b>	<b>Expense statement (October 2009 – March 2010)</b>
1.	Salary of program coordinator - @ Rs. 3,500 p.m.	21,000
2.	Salary of 4 teachers @ Rs. 1,500 p.m.	38,500
3.	Salary of 4 assistant teachers @ Rs. 1000 p.m.	4,200
4.	Honorarium for accountant	6,000
5.	Rent of centres @ Rs.800 per centre	6,900
6.	Coordination office maintenance cost @ of Rs.1800 p.m.	10,800

7.	Centre support cost (water, electricity, and daily cleaning) @ Rs.200 X 4 centres	4,800
8.	Improving facilities at learning centres @ 2000 per centre	200
9.	Teaching learning material @ Rs. 250 per child X 100 children	7,608
10.	Sports Day celebration	18,789
11.	Project monitoring expenses	7,220
12.	CFH website development – part payment	2,500
13.	Miscellaneous @ Rs.500 p.m.	664
	<b>Total</b>	<b>129,181</b>