

Social and Development Research and Action Group

**Mid - Term Report on Ugta Suraj Learning and Support Centre (LSC) at Agahpur
village, Sector-41, Noida (U.P.), India**

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By
Social and Development Research and Action Group
L –16, Sector-25, NOIDA 201301
Ph. No. 9312362669 / 0120-3264313
Email: mail@sadrag.org.in
URL: www.sadrag.org.in

MID - TERM REPORT

Following the submission of End Term Report on Agahpur LSC (sent on 2 July 2009), which is running under Ugta Suraj program, we would like to furnish the details of its mid-term progress. The formal session (2009-10) began on 1 May 2009 though the Graduation ceremony for the 2008-09 session was held on 6 June 2009. We waited for the admission process to be completed in all the LSCs and the date also depended on the availability of the chief guest for the day.

However, from May09 onwards, the facilitators went around the locality (basti) to call children for the next session. Many parents came on their own to enroll their children in the centre. A list of 'out of children' was prepared and their follow up was done for the session:2009-10.

The status of children's enrolment in Agahpur LSC over the months is as following:

Table: 1 Number of children enrolled in the program

Month 2009	No. of boys	No. of girls	Total no. of children
May	12	11	23
June	11	11	22
July	24	15	39
August	25	14	39
September	24	27	51
October	23	27	50

The session from May-July 2009 was spent in knowing the children, befriending them and establishing a good rapport with their parents/community.

Following activities have been so far undertaken:

- On Ugta Suraj Graduation Day (held on 6 June 09), the children from Agahpur centre performed a dance based on an English song – MY RED BALLOON FLIES HIGH FLIES HIGH----- . It was highly appreciated by the audience to see all the children sing and dance together. All the children and their parents were brought to Nithari center to participate in the function.

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- At the onset of session, the children were divided in to various Houses named after the major rivers of India: Ganga, Yamuna, Satluj, Kaveri, Krishna and Godavari. This was done to have inter-house competitions through out the year. .
- The weather conditions (May to July) being very hot and intolerable, children remained inside and indulged in studies and indoor activities like painting, craft, story reading, singing and games like carom, ludo etc.
- A Staff meeting was held in Nithari center on 1st July 2009. The facilitators shared their problems with the Program Director and solutions were found for many. The curriculum for the entire year was discussed threadbare with each other.
- The month of August saw a lot of activity due to onset of festival season. Raksha Bandhan was celebrated on 5 August 2009. The children prepared colourful rakhis with the help of facilitators. The girls tied rakhis on the wrists of the boys who in turn vowed to look after their safety.
- Lord Krishna's birthday was celebrated as Janmashtmi on 14th August 2009. The children were told stories based on Krishnas life.
- Since 15 August was a holiday, India's Independence Day was celebrated on 14th August itself. The children were told how India achieved its independence on 15th august 1947. They made national flags and carried them home. They conducted March Past and sang patriotic songs.
- In and around Aghapur village a survey of working children was conducted at the behest of Department of Labour, District Gautum Budh Nagar. A total of 12 child workers were found during the survey which lasted over 2 days. The children were found working in road side eateries, tea stalls and petty shops. The facilitators of Ugtta Suraj programme conducted the survey under the supervision of Proqramme Coordinator.
- India celebrated International Literacy Week from 8th – 12th Sept. 2009. To commemorate the same, the children from Agahpur centre went for a day long visit to National Science Centre (NSC), Pragati Maidan, New Delhi on 12 September 09. The NSC provided discounted entry tickets for Rs 10 each, which otherwise costs Rs 40 per child. A bus was hired to ferry the children. The children went around the various scientific models and learnt the wonders of science. They learnt about evolution of mankind. They learnt about computers and ,eans of communication. Food packets were distributed among the children. The day was a rich learning cum recreational experience for the children.

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- Noida Bengali Cultural Society celebrates Durga puja every year. This year, on 20 and 21 September 09, our five children from Agahpur centre participated in a sports competition organized by the society in their premises at Sector-26, Noida. They had two long races in which Swapan stood Second and Third. He was given a cash voucher for Rs 250 by the Society. The facilitators bought him a carom board and a kitchen set to be taken home. All children were given refreshments by the hosts.
- Community interaction day was organized on 24 September 09. A total of 23 parents came to the centre and interacted with facilitators and the Programme Coordinator. There was an exchange of observations about children's studies, facilitator's performance and conduct of activities at the centre. The parental interest in Ugta Suraj was reiterated through their commitment that they would ensure their children's participation in the centre.
- Gandhi Jayanti was celebrated on 2 October 09. The life stories of Mahatma Gandhi were told to the children and his songs were sung during the day. The life history of Lal Bahadur Shastri was also shared with the children.
- Cleaning Day was organized in the centre on 6 October 2009. The children cleaned the entire centre themselves. 38 children participated in this activity. They brought plants from their homes and planted them outside the main door with a commitment to look after them. This was undertaken as a pre-Diwali activity when people clean their houses thoroughly.
- The Indian Air Force Day was celebrated in the centre on 8 October 09. Information about the history and present status of this arm of Forces was shared with children in a simple language.
- Global Hand Washing Day was celebrated in the center on 15 October 09. The advantages of washing hands with soap were explained to children who later vowed to follow it regularly.
- The festival of Diwali was celebrated in the centre on 16 Oct. 09. With 32 children present on this day, traditional puja of goddess Lakshmi was performed and stories from Lord Rama's life were exchanged with the children. The children were distributed Prasada on this day.

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