

Bringer of Hope

During one of the community visits, our outreach worker discovered Ayesha's (name changed) family living in a poorly ventilated warehouse in Nizamuddin basti in extreme poverty. Abandoned by the father, Ayesha's mother, along with her two daughters and a son, were examined in the Hazrat Inayat Khan health centre; Ayesha and her mother were diagnosed with tuberculosis. The family was unwilling to put Ayesha on treatment, as they, being a conservative family, were apprehensive about the future of their daughter if anyone found out about her illness. After a lot of counseling, Ayesha was sent to Nehru Nagar TB Hospital, where her condition started improving through regular monitoring and a healthy diet provided by Hope. With her health improving gradually, our medical personnel referred her to GNFS, where she successfully completed her senior secondary level education. Regular counseling and life skills sessions built confidence and helped Ayesha adopt more responsible behaviour. She now aspires to study further and supports her family by working on a part-time basis in a local NGO. Ayesha also helps us approach other TB patients who fear visiting the health centre due to social stigma. She is a bringer of Hope.



Pic: Open Basic Education at New-Seelampur



<http://www.hope-project.de/>
<http://www.hopeprojectindia.org>

Dargah Hazrat Inayat Khan Hope Project

Initiated by Pir Vilayat Khan in 1975

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Dargah Hazrat Inayat Khan Hope Project Newsletter

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Written by Elisabeth Henschel
Edited by Samiur Rahman and Heiko Schrader

Always Hopeful

Dear Reader:

“Gratitude opens the door to... the power, the wisdom, the creativity of the universe.” -Deepak Chopra

The gratitude we feel for your never ceasing support does indeed open doors. With your help, we have the means to not only do what we are doing, but to continuously grow and stay creative in promoting the betterment of the lives of our beneficiaries. Your love and support has always induced us to do more for them. We thank you.

Along with our existing programmes at the Hope Project, we now have a centre for guidance and counseling. Young community members can benefit from the wisdom and advice given by volunteers – retired government officials, educators, etc. In addition to helping the youth in individual or group studies, these experts also inspire and guide them in personal development, such as building confidence.

On that note, the Hope Project has successfully brought our educational programmes – pre-primary, Girls Non Formal School (GNFS) and evening education – under one organizational umbrella, resulting in better coordination. Close collaboration of our teachers made it possible; and studying learning outcomes and recent trends in the education system has (cont. opposite page)



Pic: College going sponsored girls

(cont. front cover)

helped us (and supporting experts) revise the entire curriculum to a higher standard. Mrs. Carmen Hussain – trustee, board member and head of the German School Kindergarten – facilitated a one day workshop with the teachers to convey tools in helping the school experience become more joyful for the children. We have also introduced three new job training courses: Photoshop, C+ Language and computer hardware, with about 15 students in each course.

A social organization named SEWA, operating in New Seelampur, has approached the Hope Project for a partnership and has agreed to provide space to hold vocational classes for cutting & tailoring and basic computer skills. Currently, there are two groups of young men and women, although there is a focus on increasing female education. Of the total 30 students, 9 women appeared in the Open Basic Education Exam conducted by the National Institute of Open Schooling. Hope will also explore the possibilities of replicating GNFS – its success and popularity are a true wonder and inspiration (Pic backpage).

On the medical front: our weekly community clinic has become very popular due to its increasing demand by the homeless and recently migrated population. We organized a 3-day health-camp to provide medical services to the pilgrims visiting the shrine of Sufi saint Nizamuddin Auliya on the occasion of celebrating the anniversary of Moinuddin Chisti's death in Ajmer. 2010 patients were treated with free distribution of required medicine. The severe and suspicious cases were referred to the government hospital and health centres. It is worth mentioning that for the first time, the welfare society run by the Dargah Committee sent a letter of appreciation to our Executive Director, Samiur Rahman. We are grateful for this sign of Hope's established credibility and increased visibility, and its merging with the general community.

(cont.)

Effective networking and coordination with all India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) resulted in providing eye care services – including surgery – to community members. However, due to unavoidable official reasons, AIIMS had to shift its centre to other communities, resulting in an abrupt halt of their services. In order to continue the services, our Mobile Medical Unit (MMU) is collaborating with an old associate, the Sai Retina Foundation. We are blessed in our partners, their interests in helping the underprivileged matching our own. The MMU has been successfully running since 2007 and has covered a total of 24 areas in Delhi. Currently, it visits 4 areas of Trans-Yamuna. The demand to expand is always growing, however, the present MMU is not compatible for further modifications due to its limited space. Therefore, there is need of a new vehicle that will include the specialties OBGYN and pediatrics, along with the general OPD. The Hope Project is currently looking for funding opportunities.



Pic: Health Camp at Urs

All Photographs from The Hope Project

Flowers and Hope



Pic: Zulekha's flower shop

The journey of 30-year-old Zulekha has been a roller coaster ride. Married at the tender age of 16, Zulekha became victim to domestic violence. Her husband, a flower-seller in front of the Dargah, was not able to provide for the family of eight; poor Zulekha had to bear the brunt of his frustration. One day, she mustered the courage to approach the Hope Project, suggested by one of her neighbours. Zulekha started saving petty cash every month and joined the Chand Self-Help-Group. Gradually, she was able to take out a loan to rent a flower shop near the Dargah. She sells rose petals, cold drinks from a small refrigerator and sundry items. All her children are studying and one of them got admitted in a reputed public school under economically weaker section quota. Zulekha herself is attending a literacy class. Her strength and the support from Hope have made her a confident woman. And now that their livelihood is safe and she and the children are stronger, Zulekha and her husband have grown to have a true marriage with respect and partnership.