



Pic: Ruzina

Ruzina, 19, belongs to a poor family of 6, where her father, Kadir, a rag picker, is the only earning member. Poor financial conditions compelled him to go back to his native village. Ruzina dropped out of school to accompany her family. She always wanted to go back to Delhi to do something for herself and her family. Despite the odds and opposition, she finally convinced her father to let her stay with her grandmother in Delhi. She was brought to Hope's vocational centre by her aunt. She was observed to be a fast learner with a highly satisfactory performance. With the persuasion of her instructor, she also joined our Girls Non formal School. She received free lunch and had the advantage of flexible timings. She paid equal attention to both her studies as well as the vocational training. After having successfully completed the course, she was offered a job in a boutique at Lajpat Nagar market. She also received tailoring orders from the community and the neighbourhood. Recently, Ruzina was invited by Hope's vocational centre as an expert to conduct advanced course in cutting and tailoring for the trainees. Her instructor at Hope says, "Ruzina's determination and Hope's support made her what she is! She is an inspiration for many." Ruzina's parents are proud of their empowered daughter today.



Pic:  
Javed

Javed, 46, was lying under a tree with a high fever and cough when he was identified by our Outreach Worker during one of her awareness programmes. He had no place to stay; he used to sleep either in an open park, street or the dargah. He was brought to Hope's Health centre. After the x-rays and sputum tests, he was diagnosed with pulmonary tuberculosis. He was registered with the Nehru Nagar TB and chest clinic (run by the government) and his treatment started by the DOTS Centre at Hope. Besides medicine, milk and eggs were also given to him to supplement his nutritional needs. Being homeless, he was not in the habit of maintaining hygiene. He was constantly counselled about health and hygiene; he started using public toilets and bathrooms. After two months of rigorous medication and dietary changes, he tested negative; but the treatment had to be completed. Javed stopped coming to the Health centre. He refused to come as he claimed he had no TB and he was tired of taking medicine; he even started taking drugs! The TB-DOTS programme coordinator himself made a number of visits to motivate Javed to at least come to the Centre. He was thoroughly counselled about the completion of the medicine course and cautioned that his case might become type II tuberculosis which is more dreadful. He now regularly takes medicine and is determined to get cured of TB. The outreach worker now follows up with Javed daily about his lifestyle, including his medicine. Now-a-days he is seen at Hope's Health Centre every morning waiting for the medicine, eggs and milk.

Written by Samiur Rahman  
Edited by Elisabeth Henschel and Heiko Schrader

Your invaluable contribution and moral support have resulted in a gradual transformation of the lives of the underprivileged and excluded: especially women and children, girls specifically. Our experiment of enrolling boys in Girls Non formal School has become a 'success'. The initial apprehension is over. The perception of the community has changed. The mixed group of boys and girls interact in the classroom as desired in a healthy environment of learning. They learn together, play together, act together on stage, participate in children's parliament, sing together and help each other. The teachers have worked very hard in removing all the barriers to make this happen. When asked "How do you all feel?" All the children echoed "we do not find anything unusual. It is so common. We are like brothers and sisters. We enjoy learning, participating in events and excursions outside Delhi." The parents and guardians are no more apprehensive. This is a real breakthrough after three decades. With the introduction of NCERT textbooks (government certified) for all classes and co-education at all levels, the environment of our education programme has turned a new leaf. The current focus is on 'improving the quality' and 'knowledge building' rather than passing the examination. This will definitely build self confidence and the enhanced knowledge would result in looking forward to a better future.



Pic: Boys and girls together in the library

(cont.)

The boys, who have never been to school and without any meaningful engagement, remained a challenge for us. Concerted efforts of 'Hope' have resulted in enrolling 20 children in our 'Halla Gulla' programme targeting the homeless families/ street children. Using innovative methods of teaching, providing free lunch and engaging the children in joyful activities, their retention is ensured. It is worth mentioning that during the Urs of Hazrat Inayat Khan, these street children enacted a play depicting the abuses and sufferings of their own life and how education could help them for a better life. They worked very hard under the direction of theatre experts. The audience became so emotional and their dialogue delivery with appropriate action, accent and diction amazed and surprised everyone. The children are so encouraged that they have started coming regularly for their classes and the teachers too are paying individual attention.

Looking to add to the existing skills set, women were trained in cutting and stitching of shirts, trousers and tunics. This opened a new door to their earning as there is an ongoing demand from Hope's Pre-Primary School to stitch uniforms. Moreover, it has saved the parents of the children from paying exorbitant amounts to the tailors. The women also completed an order from the German School: they tailored animal costumes.



Pic: Halla-Gulla boys enacting a play

(cont.)



Pic: Self-care exercise session

Self Care and Core Wellness programmes started by Zuleikha, Director of The Storydancer Project (TSP) have benefitted more than 1500 women and girls over the years. The exercises are popular among the women with backaches, neck pain, spondylitis and obesity. Also, the women are no longer hesitant to do the exercises. We are happy to report that the Hope Project has entered into a formal collaboration with TSP.

It is encouraging to report that every year the Health centre participates in the Urs of Sufi saint Hazrat Nizamuddin Auliya and provides free medication and treatment to the pilgrims. This year, the Centre provided free medical counselling and medicines to 5086 pilgrims.

With the promotion of our Outreach Worker to the position of the Crèche supervisor, the Crèche has undergone a positive change. More space has been created for the children to play. The English teacher of GNFS visits the Crèche everyday and engages the children in rhymes, body movements and familiarises them with everyday English words. The Crèche has also started the growth monitoring of all the children as per the government health standards and early diagnosis of any physical or mental ailment. The Medical Director of Hazrat Inayat Khan Health Centre now visits the Crèche every Thursday for a routine check up and to identify any child that needs immediate medical assistance.



<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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