

## Salam

I am Salman. My father went to the Middle East to earn more and sustain our family better, though the salary was not good enough. My mother, sister and I stayed behind. I was 15, my sister 13. Many times there were emergencies that left us struggling to make ends meet. I became depressed and withdrawn; I asked God, "Why us?" I worked part-time and continued my studies; I joined evening classes at The Hope Project to complete my schooling. I completed Class XII with good marks and also attended English conversation classes. I was motivated by my mentors to accompany the Hope's tour guides who used to conduct 'Shan-e-Nizam' basti walk. Gradually I started conducting these walks myself and was always delighted to receive the donation amount. In June 2018, the Hope Project organized training for Basti walk guides and I completed it. I saved enough money and some more from my father to secure my sister's dowry and marriage. I was then encouraged to continue my education and enrolled at Delhi University. A couple of months ago, I received a wonderful opportunity to work as a tour-guide in 'Delhi by Locals'. I am earning well and studying also. I am thankful to the support and counseling I received at The Hope Project in shaping my career and personal growth. I am also determined to never leave my family behind in search of a better life.



Pic: Salam with a tourist group

## Swaleha



Pic: Self-sustained centre at Brahmपुरi

During one of the health care workshops organized at our Seelampur vocational centre, we came across Swaleha. A 45-year-old woman from Uttar Pradesh, married and settled in Brahmपुरi, a trans-Yamuna area of Delhi, Swaleha was keen to know about Hope's vocational unit since she was a trained instructor of Cutting and Tailoring. After a long talk with our vocational coordinator Ms. Asha, Swaleha suggested we open another vocational centre in Brahmपुरi since women from there couldn't come to Seelampur centre. After discussing it with the Executive Director, we decided to go ahead. We needed a proper place where we could have classes. As we remained unsuccessful in finding a suitable room, Swaleha offered us a vacant room in her house to be used as a vocational centre. Work was finally started on July 05, 2017 with the first 28 girls and women attending vocational training in cutting and tailoring. The centre gained popularity very quickly. We increased the number of groups to two per year; about 150 women. After completion of the course, many women expressed their desire to undergo a beauty culture course as well. To cater to the needs from the community, our beauty culture instructor at Nizamuddin centre conducted successful 15-day trial classes, and we also provided health check up and life skills sessions. Within one and a half years, the centre became self sustaining enough to be run independently. It is heartening to see the centre is flourishing with each passing day. Two groups of cutting and tailoring and one group of beauty culture are operational. The instructor's honorarium is financed through nominal fees paid by the women. Today the centre is 'owned' by the community.

## Dargah Hazrat Inayat Khan Hope Project Newsletter

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No. 37

Written by Samiur Rahman  
Edited by Elisabeth Henschel and Heiko Schrader

## Welcome 2019!

We have exciting things to share, all thanks to your faith and generous support.

We made significant achievements in restructuring and streamlining our education unit in the last year. We have been able to win the confidence of the parents of our students enrolled in the Non Formal School. The parents too feel that their children must get a quality education even if it takes more than the required time to complete the specific standards. However, during the assessment of students, we felt the need to pay extra attention on their language skills: both English and Hindi. This paved the way for our Language Learning Centre. All teachers are not only teaching their subject but also helping to build the four skills of language: reading, listening, speaking and writing. Separate classes are held for academically challenged students. Students themselves feel that "it's a unique step for improving our language". To further strengthen the Centre, Hope's Programme Officer was deputed to attend specialized training to teach English as a Second Language. Her skills are used in designing strategies to enhance language learning (cont.).



Pic: Language learning lab

(cont.)

We are glad to report Hope's participation at the Global Launch of SEE (Social, Emotional and Ethical) learning. Two of our staff members and two students attended the event which spread awareness to incorporate social, emotional and ethical learning in curricula. The event was presided over by His Holiness the Dalai Lama along with Nobel Laureate Mr. Kailash Satyarthi and Deputy Chief Minister of Delhi Mr. Manish Sisodia.

Selected students of Level C and Class X of our Non Formal School attended a two-day interactive workshop facilitated by The College of New Jersey in collaboration with the Illuminated Cities Project and General Raj's School, New Delhi. The students learned about solar energy and eventually assembled and installed a solar lighting system which is able to light about four LED bulbs in our library. This experience was a milestone activity in providing hands-on learning as well as understanding today's energy crisis.

It is wonderful to witness the clean and hygienic environment at Hazrat Inayat Khan Creche. In addition to the regular growth monitoring of Creche children, a food demonstration workshop was organized for the mothers which made use of low-cost nutritional options for the little ones. The aroma of well-cooked vegetables, pulses and rice was irresistible to all. A picnic was also organized for these hard-pressed mothers which provided them a day-off from their usual work routine and offered the opportunity to spend quality time with their child. (cont.)



Pic: Workshop on solar light systems

(cont.)

Our outreach workers and a nutritionist from Lady Irwin College spoke with the mothers about the importance of a balanced diet and adopting hygienic practices like washing hands before and after eating.

We welcomed our staff member Dr. Lipi Dhar who re-joined as Medical Director, Hazrat Inayat Khan Health Centre after having acquired a masters and doctorate degree in public health from Curtin University, Australia. Her experience and qualifications have enabled the Health Centre to strengthen its outreach activities. Free health camps and awareness workshops on dental hygiene, cancer and HIV/AIDS were organized under her guidance. Her initiatives and interventions have helped to restore condom depots in the health centre as well as the community. Her networking with other NGOs has led to a regular supply of female hygiene products for community women and girls enrolled at our Non Formal School. During a discussion with our students, Dr. Lipi discovered the necessity of providing a nutritious breakfast to those students who can't afford one. With the idea to inculcate the habit of a healthy breakfast, teachers identify and serve breakfast to such students on a daily basis free of cost at the Hope Project. Thus students remain energetic throughout the day and better learning outcomes are achieved.

Hope's endeavor to reach out to more and more people is always followed by the demand from the community. Our vocational centres in Seelampur and Brahmpuri have been working towards making a difference in the lives of the people. This led to an increase in demand for such courses from other areas trans-Yamuna. We have recently started with a pilot project in the area of Jaffrabad with a population of about 60,000 people. A vocational centre and one education centre have been started in the area with an enrolment of 21 and 30 women and girls respectively. Many boys and girls there aren't able to afford tuition, plus the rate of school dropouts is high. With the formation of an education centre we hope to prevent this. We are planning to start a small health program in the same area in the upcoming months.



<http://www.hope-project.de/>  
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## Dargah Hazrat Inayat Khan Hope Project

Initiated by Pir Vilayat Khan in 1975

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