



Dargah Hazrat Inayat Khan Hope Project Newsletter

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Dealing with Unforeseen Challenges: Momentum Generated

For more than two years the world has struggled with a pandemic that has impacted almost every single person on this planet. And as it always is, none have struggled more than those already living close to or on the edge.

It is with your continued generous support and loving concern that the Hope Project has been able to help so many during this trying time. We appreciate you more than words can say.

As you know, our street work had been as active as legally possible during the past two years. In late 2021 we were able to resume all our activities, only to be halted by the omicron variant in early January. After a brief pause, we continued our efforts end of January, knowing that we had to open our doors again – the need was too great.

Lockdowns, isolating and social distancing has taken its toll on the community. There has been an increase in spousal strife, family discord, depression, as well as behavioral setbacks and stunting of children and adolescents. It was a huge relief to our beneficiaries when we were able to reopen all of our programs with the necessary precautions.

Our health clinic and the MMU are fully operational, bringing medical services to those who would have no other access. Our social workers and teachers have been the busiest bees preparing for the re-opening. Door-to-door visits ensured that all the children were identified for preschool, our non-formal school, or government schooling; all young adults were offered a vocational training or support finding something outside of Hope; 21 boys from Evening School were registered for final government board examinations; 17 youngsters got admissions to a higher education; we set up a study corner in Hope's library; 16 boys from the Youth Forum joined doctors of the All India Medical Centre Trauma Centre, treating and learning about the effects of rash driving, excess drinking and physical violence – they take these impressions back to our young community and share their first-hand knowledge about consequences.

Our greatest struggle has been the setback of the value of education brought on by the very real struggle for income. The pandemic rendered so many families

unemployed that education took a back seat. Our social workers, teachers and trainers worked tirelessly to convince parents that investing in their children's (or their own) education now would greatly benefit them in the future. And with your support we were able to provide beauty kits and sewing machines to many a young woman striving for independence.



Foto: Beauty Parlour Course,
Welcome Colony New Centre

Empowerment through Vocational Skills



Photo: Amna

Four years ago, at the age of 14, Amna arrived in Delhi after her father had passed away and her mother migrated to the capital with Amna and her mentally and physically disabled brother.

At first, the family lived in a tiny, rented space, surviving off the food and money distributed and the Dargah – the holy shrine.

When Amna's brother passed away a few months later, Amna and her mother were pained by their loss, struggling further by the loss of yet another loved one. Hope reached out to the two women and invited them to the project. Our vocational coordinator convinced Amna's mother to let her join a 6-month Beauty Culture Course which resulted in Amna's first job in a parlor. Although she simultaneously also worked as a cook, Hope's Non-Formal School was able to tailor an educational program for her in the mornings, ensuring Amna received an education while also providing for herself and her mother.

Recently, Amna voiced her wish of working freelance. As she was unable to afford her own Beauty Kit, Hope provided one for her as a gift. Today, she works freelance in a parlor, self-reliant and self-assured.

Towards a Better Life

When Azra's husband died five years ago her life changed drastically. To support herself financially and emotionally, Azra started working for an NGO but the pandemic and the ensuing lockdown halted everyday life – Azra lost her job.

Having joined the Self-Help-Group (SHG) "Roshni" in 2004 and having received several smaller loans in the many years since, Azra was granted a loan by her group for the large sum of 70,000 INR. With it, Azra bought an electric flour mill and had it installed in her home. Business picked up instantly and Azra became an entrepreneur within her own four walls. She now makes a comfortable salary and can pay back her loan rates without any difficulty. Confident, self-reliant and grateful, Azra has a happy outlook on her life.



Photo: Azra

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Dargah Hazrat Inayat Khan Hope Project
Initiated by Pir Vilayat Khan in 1975

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