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AUROBINDO CHAUDHURI MEMORIAL
GREAT INDIAN DREAM FOUNDATION

Education



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Employment



Environment

Newsletter October-December 2010

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Health

I. Vanguard Of Rural Health

GIDF started the Mobile Health Outreach Programme in district Guna of Madhya Pradesh with a vision of reaching out to the **health needs of those in remote parts of the country**. The project is now coming of age, as the people have now started expecting the arrival of the equipped medical van with a team of doctors and paramedics, along with basic healthcare and diagnostic services.

GIDF started this unique experimental programme to **act as a complement to the basic healthcare service network of the nation**. Once the affected individual

is able to pinpoint his problem area, he can then take an informed decision of what to do and where to go for further treatment. Earlier, even this diagnostic facility was not available to them. But now, every month, we conduct a certain number of health camps in order to cover various villages in Guna. **This quarter alone we conducted around 54 health camps in the district.**

II. Winning Over The Hiv Demon

GIDF and UNICEF has partnered in Madhya Pradesh to raise awareness about HIV/AIDS. This quarter, through “Project MITR”, our joint initiative, **we held health camps in Guna district to sensitize the high risk groups of truckers and sex workers**. Through this project, we interacted with more than 1500



School students participate in the HIV/AIDS awareness rally carried out on World AIDS Day

truckers, to counsel them about the HIV/AIDS awareness programme.

Apart from that we also celebrated 'World AIDS Day' in the same district. Involving students in the celebration helped the elders fight the inhibitions associated with HIV/AIDS. Around 400 students participated and rallied across the streets of GUNA reading out slogans, carrying banners & distributing information material to people related to HIV/AIDS awareness. After this, the students participated in various events organized for them like essay writing, slogan writing & quiz competition. The event was a huge hit amongst locals and the GIDF field workers have already been flooded with more events of similar nature, covering other health related issues.

Awareness Is The Key

Vimla's (name changed) world went all topsy-turvy when her truck driver husband died in a road accident and, soon afterwards, her in-laws threw her out of their house. **She somehow managed to open a small dhaba in district Guna, M.P.** and started earning enough to afford a square meal a day. But her earning from the dhaba was so meager that she decided to provide sexual favors to the customers.

We met her when we came to know about her plight.

Vimla told us that she has no idea about HIV/AIDS and STD* and was not using any protection. We

sensitized her about HIV/AIDS and got her tested. Fortunately, the results came back negative. She has now started insisting on the use of condoms and even started making her customers aware about HIV/AIDS. She always suggests her customers to get their tests done at our free clinic so that, in case they are found positive, they can avail free services from us.

We know that Vimla is in the sex-trade against her will. **Our target now is to try our best to search an alternative livelihood for Vimla.** This is to help her earn enough to get rid of this profession and thereby live a life of her choice, a life of dignity and respect.

***STD - Sexually Transmitted Diseases**



Employment

Reviving Faith In Traditions

India has a vast resource base of traditionally skilled craftsmen. Much of the products they produce has huge export potential and can also generate a major domestic demand if marketed properly, and if an efficient supply chain could be established. For that to happen, first of all, these rural artisans have to come out of their cycle of poverty and dejection, and the feeling that their crafts-work is no more wanted needs to be obliterated. That's the core purpose of GIDF's Theme based cluster project – which has now **been initiated in 7 states across India**. We identify the unique skill associated with each state and select people based on a skill test conducted by GIDF. Training is provided to these artisans to improve their level of expertise, and also, simultaneously, they are made self reliant through Self Help Groups.

This quarter saw the beginning of several Self Help Groups. It is the phase where the rural artisans are counselled & brought together in groups of 10-15. Once this was done, the artisans were given government recognized ID cards & **the next stage will be to conduct workshops for these people.**

Working Towards Progress

Our dream at GIDF is to build a confident and competent India that's well rooted in the

path of growth. This could only happen when there is a balanced and steady supply of skilled workers in various fields. Understanding that formal education is not enough to meet this crucial demand, GIDF has started various vocational training centres all over India. Be it training women in embroidery skills or arming the rural youths in vocations like plumbing, plastic processing, stitching & tailoring.

This quarter, apart from our ongoing projects, GIDF has **extended its reach to two more districts in Uttar Pradesh, namely Rae Bareilly & Sultanpur**. Work here is happening in partnership with the Ministry of Rural Development, Government of Uttar Pradesh. Where we have started 2 training centres in these two sub-urban centres and plan to **train approximately 1000 artisans by next year. The Training Centres will impart them skills in Bar Bending, Masonry & Electrician.**



A session on bar bending



Manjuhita now works in Max Mart, Assam

Manjuhita Lands A Retail Job

Manjuhita, a young girl of 22 years from Rohmaria in Assam approached us while we were organizing an awareness meeting for the Special SGSY project, which is to impart free vocational training for BPL youths. She came from a remote village. Her father is a carpenter who owns a small house, but can't afford a workshop of his own. Further, he lost three acres of farming land in a severe bout of erosion that wiped off 27 villages in the region. Being his eldest daughter, Manjuita always thought of sharing her father's burden.

After enrolling herself in Retail Marketing, she used to cycle for 26 kilometers everyday to regularly attend the classes. Opportunity knocked at her door when she attended practical classes at **Max Mart**. From the very first day she got herself cracking on the job. The manager was so impressed with her performance that he informed our trainer that Max Mart would like to offer her a job. **Her initial apprehensions about working till 7:30 pm disappeared after a few counseling sessions with GIDF, and she agreed to**

grab the offer.

The manager confirms to GIDF, saying that she is one of the **best employees they have had till date.** Manjuita is also happy; she says that although the job is small yet it is a good beginning for her.

Back From The Brink

GIDF believes a self-sustainable model is the best way to improve the lives of people belonging to the economically weaker sections of the society. In this model, people come together through "Self-Help-Groups" to pool resources and start income generation activities that benefit everyone in the group.

The primary purpose of setting up these SHGs in a state like Assam is to mobilise a sizeable section of the rural populace, particularly women, and motivate them towards economic emancipation through skill development. The process has already started working wonders.

GIDF now has a total of 125 SHGs in Assam. The newly formed SHG's in the state are - Sonali of Chengamari Tekela, Moromi of Barbarua Bajar, Pohar of Jamira Changmai gaon and Barnali of Barpathar Mohmari Vilage & Surujmukhi of Subhasuk Village. These groups will now have their own bank account at Assam Gramin Vikash Bank, Barbarua Branch, through which they will also be liable to take loans from the bank as and when required.

Education

I. Morning builds the day

Early Childhood Development (ECD) is critical to the development of human intelligence, personality and behaviour. Unfortunately, in India, a majority of children are deprived of this facility, mostly for economic reasons.

GIDF has taken up ECD among disadvantaged sections vigorously. This quarter, a string of activities took place in our ECD centers across India, **including celebration of festivals like Dussehra Diwali & Christmas.** The toddlers learnt the significance of the festival before participating in its celebrations. Besides, there were various other activities - **like World Arthritis Day on the 12th of October & Global Hand washing Day on the 15th of October that was celebrated.** Children in our Pune center were briefed about the importance of washing their hands before eating & also drinking milk regularly. The parents were involved in November for a discussion on Child Rights.

All the centers celebrated Gandhi Jayanti. While children in Hyderabad went for a picnic on the 22nd & 23rd of October, 2010, those in Kolkata participated in a **'Finger Painting' & 'Draw as you like' competition.** All centers celebrated Children's Day, with events like Fancy Dress & Poetry Competition.



Fancy Dress Competition

II. e – Shiksha on wheels

GIDF brings home computer education to rural children and youth in an air-conditioned van, equipped with lap-tops and a self-powered back up system fitted with generators. This unique programme is designed to make computer education available to those back-of-the-beyond hinterlands which still do not have access to adequate infrastructure to learn computers.



Students receive their certificates

The initiative started by GIDF in the year 2008 has started taking wings. Once the students clear the examination, they are given certificates which are duly certified by the government of India. So far, a sizable number of candidates from remote villages have successfully completed the course.

In district Guna of Madhya Pradesh, where the project is currently operational, **all 60 students from our 2009-10 batch cleared the examination & were given their certificates in an event organized in Guna itself by GIDF on the 4th of December, 2010.**

These students, who never imagined that they would get computer education at their doorsteps, can now think of better job prospects using their newly learnt skills. They admit that the GIDF project has helped them bridge the digital divide.

The Apple of Our Eyes

The fact that **Nayantara Mondol** grew up to be a healthy child with all normal milestones is a miracle in itself. She was a premature baby who was born at five months in a government hospital, and probably because it was an unwanted pregnancy after a failed abortion attempt, her parents forsaked her soon afterwards. **Fortunately, her grandfather took up the responsibility of bringing her up.**

It was with her grandfather that she first came to the GIDF ECD Center at Mundapara, Anandapur in South Kolkata. On 14th April'2009, she was the first child to get enrolled in the centre. Being extremely attached

to her foster parent, it was tough initially to keep Nayantara at the playschool without his presence. Even after that phase was over, she preferred to play alone and avoid interaction with other kids in the center. Observing her reticence, GIDF decided to take up individual intervention. Nayantara was made to sit in groups of 2 – 3, her behaviour was monitored. **Gradually, she started interacting in the peer group and participated in play sessions.** She was still considered a timid girl, but she started helping others to play and gradually she started communicating in the big group as well.

Nayantara gradually became a very regular child in the centre. Her grandfather, who wanted her to have a normal childhood like every other kid her age, is very happy to see her gradual but steady improvements. He appreciates GIDF for being so patient with her. **She has now been mainstreamed in Heritage School, Kolkata.**



Nayantra in class

ACM GIDF is a developmental organization of national repute; facilitating community development initiatives since 2002. We are working for the cause of human development focusing on the less privileged sections of the society in the rural & urban areas of the country. The spheres of our work are governed by issues related to Health, Education, Employment and Environment.



AUROBINDO CHAUDHURI MEMORIAL GREAT INDIAN DREAM FOUNDATION

Regd. as a National Level NGO under the Societies Registration Act XXI of 1860

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(for donation of Rs. 10,000/- and above)

₹548 for sponsoring a **child's** primary education for **one month**.

₹6,572 for sponsoring a **child's** primary education for **one year**.

₹16,440 for supporting a **Learning Centre (30 children)** for unprivileged children for **one month**.

₹1,97,160 for supporting a **Learning Center (30 children)** for unprivileged children for **one year**.

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