



RITINJALI

The Newsletter / August 2010

DRISHTI

Ritinjali has been in the thick of preparations for the training of teachers in the Life Skills Programme in Kota, Jhalawar and Baran districts of Rajasthan. The training programme for one teacher from each of the Upper Primary Schools and the Secondary Schools will take place for a week in each of the 3 districts. The District Collectors of Jhalawar and Baran have been apprised of the training programme. The DEOs have issued orders to relieve the Master Trainers and the Trainee Teachers to attend our training sessions.

A few minor changes were made to upgrade the Ritinjali Life Skills Books. They are now ready for distribution to all the trainee teachers and trainers of the 3 districts of Kota, Jhalawar and Baran.

The training programme in Jhalawar is scheduled from the 6th to the 10th of September and in Baran from the 13th to the 18th September. In Kota the training programme will take place from the 20th to the 25th of September 2010. Training centres have been organized in each of the blocks of the 3 districts. Wherever the geographical area of the block is vast, provision has been made for two centres in the block.

Like the other two districts of Kota and Jhalawar, the teachers of Baran will be privileged to undergo a well formulated, activity based and highly specialised training on Gender. This is an all important component of life skills and it will be imparted by ICRW, New Delhi.

Ritinjali also participated in a day long meeting organized by Sangath- a Goa based NGO. Several other NGO imparting educational programmes in other parts of the country also attended the meeting. A case study evaluation of all the NGOs was also conducted.

SECOND CHANCE SCHOOL

Five new boys have joined the Second Chance School. **Jatin Kumar** from Dehradun has been enrolled for the class 12 exams through NIOS and is undergoing a course in Computer Applications.

Sasvind from Delhi who will appear for the class 8 examinations through OBE has joined a Bakery and Confectionary Course.

Noor Ahmed and **Javed** came in from the Night School. While **Noor** will undergo a Computer course, **Javed** will pursue the Motor Mechanics Course. **Anil** who is from Orissa will appear for the Class 12 NIOS exam. He is simultaneously pursuing a Computer Course. All the new members of the Second Chance Family are very happy in their new environment and are determined to make the best of the golden opportunity that has come their way to forge ahead in life.

Shabaaz who was working in a wheel alignment shop has been placed as an apprentice in the Bakery and Confectionary section of Hotel Peppermint. He is thrilled with the shift and gave all the other SCS boys a treat with his first stipend.

Faisal and **Ali**, the two Afghan boys have put their tragic past well behind them. They have successfully cleared the class 8 OBE exams and have now been enrolled for the class 10 exams. They continue to do very well at their respective jobs at Hotel Trident and Cosmic Kitchen. They are extremely grateful to Ritinjali for all the support extended to them and for turning their lives around.

Dinesh Rai who had successfully completed the Cutting and Tailoring Course from Ritinjali then enrolled himself for the same course from ITI. He has now been placed as an apprentice with **Mr. Tarun Tahiliani**. It is a great opportunity for him to work with one of the finest designers. A very special thank you to Mr. Tahiliani for giving a very deserving Dinesh a big break.

Alley who worked at the wheel alignment shop at Mahipalpur has gone to his village to meet his parents and relatives.

Abbas who has been having problems with a dislocated arm ever since childhood has undergone surgery at Safdarjang Hospital and is now on the road to recovery.

All the school going boys **Minku, Suraj, Naseer** and **David** have been regular to school and are doing well in their studies.

Independence Day was celebrated with patriotic fervour. The National flag was unfurled by the youngest member of the SCS. The boys were then divided into two groups and they played soccer and cricket separately. This was followed by a painting workshop organized by Mr. Reyaz Baddrudin. Each of the boys painted a picture using water colours. Lunch followed and the boys were happy with the T-shirts they received too. The boys enjoyed the movie 3 Idiots that was screened specially for them. After a day full of fun, the boys went back home, happy and content.

The Second Chance boys extended themselves fully in the relief and rehabilitation work for the victims of the flash flood at Leh. They were instrumental in carrying the huge load of material, segregating and packing it, loading it all into the truck and finally dispatching it to the airport to be airlifted to Leh.

NATHUPUR PAHARI

The learning centre has borne the brunt of the incessant rains and has all but caved in. A large part of the roof has got blown away and a lot of grass has grown making the Centre look very unkempt. Snakes and other insects have been seen around on the bamboo poles of the Centre. All in all it has made the Centre a very unattractive place for children to come in voluntarily. The mobilization drives undertaken to bring in more children from the locality to the Centre have not been successful. The Centre is in urgent need of repairs.

Independence Day on the 15th of August was a memorable occasion for the children of the Centre. 45 children were taken to Anandgram for a day full of fun and excitement. The event was sponsored by American Express and 15 of their employees organized games and races for the children.

The event began with drill exercises to the beat of the drums. Poems based on Independence were recited and patriotic songs were sung by the children. They were then divided into groups and various races were held. The winners were awarded prizes of bats, balls and racquets. They were given medals too. After the event, the children enjoyed a sumptuous lunch and went back home happily.

Although the Learning Centre is in dire need of repairs, the few children who came in regularly were given lessons in Hindi, English, Math and EVS. A number of poems were taught and games such as badminton, foot ball and Antakshari were played. Along with oral work to increase language competency, written practice on slates was also done to increase number sense and to improve the formation of letters.

The children were told about the significance of Independence Day and Raksha Bandhan and how they are celebrated. They learnt to sing many patriotic songs. Art and Craft work focused on drawing the national flag and making a flute.

KUSUMPUR PAHARI

The process of admission of students to mainstream schools has been completed for the year. We have been successful in admitting 23 students to mainstream Government Schools. The parents of these children were met with and quite a few of them required a lot of convincing to help them understand the importance of education and why it was imperative for their children to be in school. Nine new children have been admitted to the Learning Centre.

The enthusiasm of the children to come to the Learning Centre is heartwarming. They come in clean and tidy and they enjoy the learning process. This month the children began the day by singing patriotic songs and listened to stories that highlighted moral values. Cleanliness as a virtue is emphasized all the time so that they make a habit of it. Lessons in Hindi, Math and English then follow with oral practice and written drill of the different concepts.

Drawing activities, poems, indoor and outdoor games are also held on a regular basis.

On an average, about 20 to 25 children attend classes at the Learning Centre. They are supplied with milk, biscuits and bhutta regularly.

KUSUMPUR PAHARI'S VOCATIONAL CENTRE I AND II

Three new students have been admitted to the Cutting and Tailoring Course and two have been admitted to the Beauty Culture Course. There are in all 29 students enrolled in the Cutting and Tailoring Course and five of them are part of the NIOS stream.

These courses are popular as the students are able to work from home and earn enough to meet their daily expenses even as students.

In addition to vocational training, those students requiring academic inputs to acquire basic literacy are given separate time by the teachers. The OBE students are also taught separately.

The NIOS students are preparing in earnest for their exams which commence on the 19th of November.

All the students went on a picnic on the 7th of August. They had an enjoyable time and were served lunch too.

Independence Day was celebrated with all the teachers and students in attendance.

The Cutting and Tailoring students were taught to draft, cut and stitch umbrella cut, plain and Pathani suits, night suits, petticoats and pillow covers.

The Beauty Culture students were given demonstrations and practice in different kinds of make up, hair styling and application of Mehendi.

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF OPEN SCHOOLING (NIOS)

Cutting and Tailoring

The 10th batch of students is gearing up for their exams in November. Extra classes and time has been devoted to enable them to hone their practical skills and to help them master the know how theoretically as well.

The admission process for the 12th batch of students has been initiated.

This course continues to find an increasing number of takers as the students are very quickly able to earn even as they learn.

Lata, a student of the 11th batch has been able to pay her exam fees from the money she earned stitching clothes for relatives and friends.

Pinky, another student of the 11th batch has also started stitching clothes for her family and her neighbours. She now wishes to pursue a course in Fashion Designing.

Yet another student, Geetanjali of the 11th batch has begun earning too. She is very grateful to **Mrs. Nanjappa** for sponsoring the entire course fee. She is incredibly happy to be able to contribute to her family income and distributed sweets to all students and the staff with the money from her first earnings.

Certificate in Computer Application

Classes have been held simultaneously for the 10th and 11th batches and for the Second Chance students.

The 11th batch of students are coached in two shifts- both morning and evening so that a greater number of students who wish to undergo the course could be provided with the facility.

The boys of the Second Chance School are now increasingly familiar with computer applications. They are able to use formulae and functions, pivot tables and charts and all the menu of MS Excel.

The 10th batch of students is being grilled rigorously so that they are familiar with all the course requirements and can perform well in the forthcoming exams.

The 11th batch of students have been taught basic concepts in Computer Organisation, Software and Programming Language, Operating System, using Windows XP and the basics of MS word and its various applications.

Sanjay, a student of one of the earlier batches had dropped out due to personal reasons. He is now being helped to complete the course and extra time has been spent to help him update himself with the course requirements.

THANK YOU

For well over 15 years Ritinjali has been quietly going about building lives. Over the last 15 years, Ritinjali has been involved in a series of projects - from setting up a library and counseling centre in Tihar Jail to providing education to children living in slums of Kusumpur Pahari (Vasant Vihar), Nathupur Pahari (Gurgaon), INA night school (INA market), Second Chance School (Mahipalpur) and many others. Needless to add, building lives requires not only courage but also funds to run these projects. In the past years many members, well-wishers and many noble corporates continuously supported Ritinjali in all its ventures. We hope that we get the same support in the future as well. Let Us Together "Bring Hope Where There Is None". A special Thank you to the following people who contributed towards the Growth of Ritinjali :-

1. A special Thank You to **Mrs. Bhasin** for contributing for the mid-day snacks of our children at Kusumpur Pahari.
2. A Special Thank You to **Dr. Rahul Nagpal** for providing free consultancy services to the Ritinjali Children
3. A Special Thank You to **Mrs. Nanjappa** for sponsoring the entire fees of a student of the cutting and tailoring course in Mahipalpur.

4. A special Thank You to **American Express** for supporting the projects of Ritinjali especially Nathupur Pahari.
5. A special Thank You to **Mr. Vikram Seth** for donating T-shirts to the boys of SCS and Night School.
6. A special Thank You to **Ms. Poonam Tandon** for distributing food and volunteering at our Nathupur Centre.

CONTACT US

At Ritinjali we are doing our best but we can do better with your help. Ritinjali is always looking for helping hands to create a world where everybody gets equal opportunities. If you wish to spare some of your valuable time in teaching someone some valuable lessons in life. For any details or queries, please contact:

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Ritinjali welcomes contributions and volunteers for its cause. All donations will be exempt from Income tax u/s 80G