

Empowering Women

For the last seven years, women have been encouraged to come together in groups of about 10-15 and save a small amount regularly. After continuously saving for about six months women can take a loan from the corpus to start micro income generating projects or spend it for necessary expenses.

Amna has been with the self help groups since 2003 and has seen her life change from being a child bride to a micro entrepreneur. She was married off at the tender age of 14 as her parents had many children to take care of. Soon after marriage, her husband deserted her and she took refuge at her sister's place.

Slowly, with the support of the Hope Project staff and community women, Amna took a small loan and started a grocery shop. As she has steady revenue, her husband has returned. She will educate all her three children and also look after their health and other needs.



Inspiring Others

Physical disability did not stop Rabiya from pursuing her studies. She was helped at each step by loving teachers at the Hope Project. Her family members never dreamt that she could do anything. For them she was not just a girl child but a lame girl child – that meant her fate was doomed. At the Hope Project she received an education that kept her desire to learn ever alive. Today, she has given her class XII exams and is a beacon of light and hope to several other young lives. She yearns to enroll for higher education and become a well qualified Teacher.



<http://www.hope-project.de/>
<http://www.hopeprojectindia.org>

Dargah Hazrat Inayat Khan

Initiated by Pir Vilayat Khan in 1975

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DONATION ACCOUNTS

Please send your donation to one of the following accounts.
Do not forget your name and address!

COUNTRY	RECIPIENT	ACCOUNT No. [BANK CODE] NOTE
United States	Please send checks made out to Hope Project Charitable Trust, P.O.Box 657, New Lebanon, NY 12125	Donation to Hope Project
United Kingdom	Send checks to Sufi Order International, 23 rue de la Tuilerie, F-92150 Suresnes	Checks made out to Hope Project
Germany	Lebenshilfe Indien	271 1044 500 [472 601 21] Volksbank Paderborn-Höxter-Detmold
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Austria	Indienhilfe	03220137570 [14000], BAWAG
Netherlands	Stichting Hazrat Inayat Khan Dargah Hope Project	21.24.84.001, Triodos Bank
France	Send checks to Sufi Order International, 23, Rue de la Tuilerie 92150 SURESNE	Checks made out to Hope Project
India	Hope Project Charitable Trust	522-1-008993-4, Standard Chartered Bank, Narayan Manzil 23 Barakhamba Rd. New Delhi 110001 SWIFT CODE: SCB LINBDBEL



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Dargah Hazrat Inayat Khan Hope Project Newsletter

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Edited by Selvi Roy and Heiko Schrader

Hope for the Poor

The Hope Project continues to serve the poor and needy – THANK YOU for the contributions of each one of you. Each heart that has been served sends a prayer of thanks and blessing your way.

The last few months have been hard for the poor in Nizamuddin Basti and the other Bastis we serve, the economic downturn has also hit them. Although many of them work in the informal sector they are nevertheless connected to the world market and are the first who lose their jobs. As they are living at the edge of poverty or even below the poverty line they have no financial reserves to manage in such a crisis, and there is no Indian state social security system helping them in their misery. Many people in regular and daily wage employment lost their jobs. At the same time, inflation and price rises make life more miserable for them.

The Hope Project also suffered from the financial crisis as part of our financial reserves were greatly reduced or lost; this was in part due to some of our long-term main donors losing most of their property and no longer being able to support the project. We have cut the annual budget by almost 30% to make the project sustainable for the next years to come. Our priorities are to protect jobs and make sure that our services are reaching the most needy. To achieve this we are doing an external audit on all our programs.

Our urgent task is to balance the annual budget, increase it back to previous levels, and rebuilt our reserves. For the moment we are able to continue all programs with the same zeal and zest.



AN INSPIRATION



Lubna Sheikh is the picture of poise, grace and courage and faces life with a certain admirable equanimity.

After her father expired in 2003, her seven siblings and she were left to fend for themselves as their mother was too old to work. When her elder sister got married and had her first child, Lubna was invited to stay with her family. They promised to educate Lubna. But instead kept her only as a domestic help.

Along with her aged mother she somehow managed to reach the city in search of work. They had a few distant relatives at Nizamuddin basti and hence got temporary refuge here. Soon they were informed about the non-formal school and she enrolled at the age of twenty to begin schooling. After her mother expired two years ago, her accommodation was arranged at Bapno Ghar, a shelter home for young women like her. She travels to and fro to Hope Project without fail each day.

Today at 25 she is preparing to complete class XII and is also pursuing computer studies to be able to take up a job.

FOUNDATION YEARS

In the Nursery and Kindergarten children are aged 5-6 years. They learn about colours and shapes first and then the alphabet and numbers. They also learn numbers and alphabets. Children play with paint and clay to enhance motor skills, and have their daily healthy glass of milk. Everyday a new activity is undertaken. Most children's parents are barely literate themselves and it is essential for the children to have a strong foundation before being enrolled in formal school.



STORIES OF COURAGE



Abida and Ishrat have a lot in common. Both of them are in Class XII. More importantly, they are regular to school, take part in all academic and non-academic activities, and are a source of inspiration to other girls in school. They also share a painful childhood and a challenging environment at the home. Coming from very difficult household situations, both girls are epitomes of courage and inner strength. Abida comes from a broken family and stays in a tiny room provided by her half brother. Despite having to do all things for herself (even cook), she keeps herself busy, cheerful and happy at all times. Her smile belies the internal pain and turmoil she undergoes and voices instead her dream of becoming a Doctor.

Ishrat is the motivation to her younger sisters whom she tugs along to school. Her ailing mother is not able to do much housework and hence, Ishrat takes care of household chores as well as her five siblings and her own studies. Her father does not hold a regular job and works at times as a night watchman and at other times as a fruit vendor. Her mother used to work as a maid until ill health forced her to stay home.