

Doctor Hope

Although we were sad that Dr. Gill decided to leave us, we were very pleased to welcome Dr. Luna Ajmali, MD as our new lead doctor at the health centre. She studied medicine at the Almaty State Medical Institute in Almaty, Kazakhstan. Combining the knowledge of a general practitioner, a gynecologist and an overall thorough administrator, we were thrilled when she joined us in October. Already Dr. Luna has integrated herself most successfully into our community and enjoys a rather impressive reputation. Her willingness to reach out and join the MMU for its visits to the slums truly portrays her dedication. She has been promoting several preventive measures with a most efficient approach. The staff follows her direction and the great team spirit is positively contagious. The Hope Project is also happy to report that we have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Faculty of Dentistry from the Jamia Millia Islamia University. Since May, we have an operational dental clinic free of cost on our premises. Twice a week two dentists tend to the members of our community. This is a great accomplishment as many of them have never seen a dentist before in their life.



Pic: Dr. Luna



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

Dargah Hazrat Inayat Khan Hope Project

Initiated by Pir Vilayat Khan in 1975

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Dargah Hazrat Inayat Khan Hope Project Newsletter

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No. 26

Written by Elisabeth Henschel
Edited by Samiur Rahman and Heiko Schrader

Reaching the Youths

We are grateful more than ever for your endless support. As many of you know, India is facing a severe economic crisis and although we are all affected and inconvenienced by it, nobody suffers more than our beneficiaries. How can people who mostly or only live from one existential crisis to the next, be asked to live off of less and pay more for life's basics? Prices keep climbing while we all pray for some relief. Your blessed generosity gives us the opportunity to continue aiding those in need – and the need is great indeed.

We have had a special focus on reaching the youths of the community for the past months. It is our desire to instill a sense of community ownership amongst them. A major drive initiated by the Hope Project resulted in a four week workshop centered on personality development. It was co-organized and facilitated by an NGO called Joining Hands in Delhi. Ten candidates from the workshop immediately had job interviews and six of them secured a position in Café Coffee Day with a good salary (cont...).



Pic: Living in the basti

cont...

For thirty bright young girls and boys the Hope Project is providing highly motivated expert teachers as tutors in science and math. Getting them interested in these subjects serves the long-term goal of preparing the kids for careers in the field of medicine and engineering. Jamia Millia Islamia, the Muslim university in Delhi, is currently welcoming four of our GNFS “graduates” in their Centre for Distance and Open Learning. The young women will be studying courses from a bachelor program. It took a lot of convincing for the parents to let their daughters enroll for a higher education. In the end, a compromise was made where the highly religious parents agreed to let their girls strive for betterment – in correspondence courses. It was and is our pleasure to support these families financially as the admission fee was not affordable and learning materials had to be purchased. The cause of striving for betterment in form of a higher education is so very near and dear to the Project’s heart. We are willing to invest money and a lot of time in counseling the parents and supporting our youngsters – they all deserve this chance and we will do anything we can to help. Remind yourselves of the difference you are making by supporting us support them. Thank you!



Pic: Three graduates from Hope at Jamia Millia Islamia

Finding Hope Again



Sharing one’s home with one’s family is hardly a rarity, but most of us do not have ten people living together. In the Basti this tradition (and necessity) is very common. Abdul Majid shares his home with nine other people. Living with his mother, his two brothers and their families makes for a crowded home. Up until six months ago there were nine people living there, but they were blessed with the arrival of Abdul’s beautiful baby daughter. Abdul’s father passed away in 1988, leaving the family to fend for itself. Times were hard, but hard work made it possible for Abdul to start taking apprentice classes with the Hope Project. From 1994 till 1999 he regularly visited the project and continuously strove for improvement. Sadly, Abdul had to drop out when his family’s shop was claimed by their neighbors and they were wrongfully sued. In these troublesome times the financial situation and the social standing of the family were in jeopardy and Abdul worked himself to the bone to keep food on the table and a roof over everyone’s head. When he married in 2011 he had another responsibility. The pressure finally becoming too much, Abdul started suffering from a severe depression. His mother got him to Hope where he found counseling and new inspiration. Studying computer science in the evenings will ensure a brighter and more lucrative future than selling caps on the street.

Strong with Hope

Ten years ago a woman named Sajjo married trouble. Her husband, a man with a bad drug habit, spent all of his earnings to feed his addiction. Over the many years, in which she also gave birth to their child, Sajjo faced one hardship after another. Her husband lacked any sense of responsibility, while Sajjo drowned in hers. However, she never wavered and never gave up. Securing a place in rehab for her husband, Sajjo now worked several domestic help jobs, while simultaneously caring for her child, all to do right by her family. In 2005 she heard about the Bachat Sangh, one of the Hope Project’s Self Help Groups. She saved up Rs.50 at first, but soon was able to save double the amount. Her current income, Rs.6200, still feels like a dream to her. After bearing her second child, Sajjo went to live with her sister, a mentally handicapped woman with a husband who was a rickshaw puller. The “new” small family struggled continuously, worrying each and every day about how they would get by. Hope was found when Sajjo realized she could borrow money from her SHG to support the family with a sustainable investment. The loan from Salam Mahila Bachat Sangh was put towards buying a cycle rickshaw, ensuring a higher income. The family is finally able to cope and new plans are already being made. After speedily paying back the current loan, Sajjo will apply for another one, with which they will buy an auto-rickshaw. This family is full of Hope.



Pic: Sayyo