

Hope Again

One day, while teaching the boys of one of her apprentice classes, Farozina (Coordinator) noticed a middle-aged man standing in the back of her classroom. He seemed unsure, almost reluctant, his hesitancy clear to see. Overcoming his obvious pause, 40-year-old Iqbal Hussain approached Farozina and, despite his embarrassment, expressed his desire to resume his studies. Dependant on an unreliable son who has yet to appreciate his education, Iqbal was sad, angry, and frustrated at his own financial and personal limitations as a junk dealer on Lodhi Road. Understanding the value of an education, he informed himself about Hope and its options and thus approached Farozina to study in her class. The possibility of working and studying simultaneously was the chance that Iqbal had been hoping for; to do right by his family as well as himself.

Iqbal's will to study and his strength and dedication are inspiring. Farozina is proud to be his teacher and supports him in every way she can. His other responsibilities – work and family – hinder Iqbal in attending class daily, yet he works relentlessly to improve his studies and thus his quality of life. We hope he continues to do so well and wish him continued strength to persevere.



Pic: Iqbal attending classes



<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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Edited by Samiur Rahman and Heiko Schrader
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Staying Strong with Hope

With your loving support, the Hope Project is proud never to have compromised the care given to our beneficiaries. And the care needed has been dire of late. The recent floods in Kashmir cost many human lives and left a harsh toll on the economy. As winter has already come to call with a harsh reality, the multitudes that have been left homeless now live in fear. Anxiety is a constant companion as everyone wonders what will happen to them as the temperature drops. Our medical staff at the Hope Project's health centre in Archandarhama works tirelessly to stave off an epidemic that would further devastate the populace. The financial support of the German Embassy in New Delhi has enabled us to procure relief materials, most of which goes to meet the urgent requirement. We ask individuals and organizations to participate in the reconstruction of houses and lives.

On a brighter note, the Hope Project is proud to report that the four young women - formerly our Girls Non Formal School (GNFS) students - attending university have successfully entered their second year. It is beautiful to see the effect their success has had on the girls currently attending GNFS.



Pic: Health Centre in Kashmir

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The four role models have inspired many a young girl to strive for a higher education as well. We are relieved to witness that many conservative parents are adapting, especially when they accept that education does not exclude traditional values. The addition of music into GNFS and pre-primary curriculum has received surprising approval as well. Taught by the Shubendra & Saskia Rao Foundation, we must also thank Ms. Zuleikha and Shabda Kahn and his group for their endless support.

The addition of another slum enroute to Mobile Medical Unit is a great success we are joyful to share with you. The community of Seemapuri made multiple requests with the Hope Project as their need for any kind of medical care was overwhelming. Visitors of the MMU now receive standard care, and possibly lifesaving information on preventive measures. Currently serving about 50,000 people in 5 communities, it is our hope that every time a community is linked to government health facilities, the MMU can move on to another urban area left untreated.

With the formation of a new government, the country is looking forward to a fundamental approach on development. Recognizing and emphasizing social and economic issues, the newly elected party has raised the hopes and expectations of youths throughout society – including our local ones right here. Let us pray together that these hopes and expectations find their relief in reality.



Pic: Music concert with Saskia

(Beautiful and Enriching)

My name is Lydia and I come from Germany. My motivation to come abroad was founded in a general dissatisfaction about the system of the western countries. I wanted to do something practical by myself, help with my own hands and spirit and in addition I wanted to see a part from the world that is different from mine. I did not guess how different it would be. For one year I had been volunteering and living in the Hope Project sharing love, affection, laughter, tears, problems and happiness with so many people coming to and working in the Project. This year changed my life in many ways. I had to adjust in a completely different cultural context without losing myself. That was not always easy. For me it took a long time to finally arrive with all my heart and soul in India but still the whole time was immensely enriching for me and this lasts until today. In the beginning the language barrier seemed to be unbelievably high. I only knew a little Hindi and listening to this complex and fast language made me desperate more than once. In the project itself the main language spoken is Hindi/Urdu so with other volunteers I quickly started to take Hindi classes. The longer we stayed the more we could express in this beautiful language. Moving in with a family in the Basti had another positive influence on my Hindi skills. Furthermore, the family became as close as my own family and we shared our lives in a wonderful way - respect, acceptance, love, understanding, sharing and caring from both sides. In this place I want to say a big thank you to Tasveer and her whole family. This experience gave me another view on India and its affectionate people.

In the project itself I worked in different departments. Most of the time I spent in the Health Center. I learned a lot about the Indian understanding of health care. It is quite different from Germany. Comparatively, it is less hygienic but more hearty which I actually prefer. Endless conversations broadened my horizon and both staff members and I learned a lot about cultural differences and different point of views.

All Photographs from The Hope Project

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Interaction with the patients and beneficiaries was a daily joy and gave me a glimpse of how poor people can be. In Germany I had never seen poverty in that extent. It made me think again about all the things that we consider to be necessary in the west. In reality we need nothing more than trust in life and God. That is what I also learned.

In the support classes I gave English lessons as well as in the GNFS where I additionally gave music lessons from time to time. Highlight was our singing performance on Urs which made all of the little artists immensely proud. While teaching I learned so much about myself and how to behave with my miniature heroes and heroines who are living their lives so bravely being strong and soft at the same time. I admired "my kids". They taught me more than I could ever have imagined and I hope that I could give them something in return.

I would like to say thank you to all the people who made my year in India as beautiful and enriching as it was and who always gave me the courage to keep going and working in the name of Hope. Thanks for creating "my India" not only for one year but for my whole life. Khuda Hafiz! Apne mujhe bhut kuch diya.. (You have given me so much...)



Pic: Lydia - our devoted volunteer