From the Founder`s Desk

Newsletter - 2011

Winters in the northern part of India at the dawn of 2011 has brought with it record low temperatures and chill. We try our best to provide woolen clothing, blankets etc. to our direct beneficiaries, but the effort is never enough and a number of street children have to brave the severity of cold huddled around community fires or taking refuge in temporary shelters.

We hope to intensify our efforts and something more in the coming years to address the problem. LI, with its ever expanding operations, faces fresh challenges. With inflation and spiraling prices there is an urgent need to find more work for Indha women and youth. We continue to focus on creating fresh opportunities for revenue generation by imparting employable skills to our children, without compromising on the quality and scope of academic inputs. We have to ensure the children do not drop out to start work to support their families. Towards this end, the role of Karigari program assumes greater significance. We have not achieved as much as we would have liked in placing the trained youth in appropriate jobs. In the coming year, we plan to create greater synergy with the job providers to assist LI in absorbing our beneficiaries.

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IT Programs:

Response to our initiative for ‘O’ level DOEACC accredited computer course has been very encouraging. Children Enrolled in the first batch have successfully cleared the semester I exams. A fresh batch will be started at Bajghera center by the end of January.

Successful completion of computer hardware training classes:

After having signed up for – Microsoft Refurbishing program – LI took charge of refurbishing the donated PCs in our hardware classes and donating it to other non profits. First Batch has successfully passed out and second batch classes are in progress.
LI has spread its wings embracing geographies beyond Delhi NCR. In addition to NCR, we have launched new centers in Rajasthan, West Bengal & Nagaland. In all the three states, we have aimed at providing vocational and developmental skills to rural women for self employment.

Some of the new initiatives are:
Dharma colony center in Palam Vihar Gurgaon will cater to the Migrant population mostly inhabiting the area. The center will fast track LI’s ‘Digital Learning cum Literacy’ program. Digital Learning at Bajgerah Chowk: street children Cyber Café program. This program has been started to map the cost of teaching through digital learning. The program is aimed at enabling willing volunteers to adopt street children and educate them through computers. There is a vast pool of IT professionals in Gurgaon who are being offered this opportunity to contribute to the betterment of Street children. LI plans to consolidate and replicate the model at other centers. Literacy India focuses on street children living in cinema hall campuses and surrounding areas as well as near by slums. Approximately 30 children are supported through rehab centers, contact points and cybercafé classrooms. This is an excellent opportunity for teachers and coordinators to be closely involved with street children and to work towards restoring childhoods and working towards a healthy, productive future through digital multimedia method developed by Literacy India. LI has also opened new Pathshala and Karigari centers in Rajendra Park, Dharampur, Mohhammad Pur in Delhi, NCR and Manoharthana, Jhiri in Rajasthan. Under the karigari program emphasis is more on learner friendly Sewing skills in addition to other vocations
FOOTBALL HIGHLIGHTS
Millenium Cup at Chiranjeev Bharti School. (schools participated RPS,DPS,Blue Bells,Swiss cottage) lost quarter final to Chiranjeev Bharti. Our team played the quarter final

Cocacola Cup at Tau Devi Lal Stadium Gurgaon (DPS,RPS, CCA Football academy, Govt School Kherla village) lost semi final to Govt. school, Kherla) though our team reached and played the semi final
Placement of Our Youth Beneficiaries

After completion of basic computer course under the Karigari program, Four of Youth Beneficiaries were placed in entry level position in a domestic call center. We wish them success in their career.

Events were handled by Lalitendra, Birender & Sohit Yadav

LI children from across various projects and centers continued to participate in Judo, Football, cricket, and chess. They excelled in various competitions held at the district and state level.

Encore Capital organized a “Fashion Event’ at their premises in Gurgaon. Girl beneficiaries from the Bijwasan center walked the ramp along with senior managers of the company.

Children had great fun on CHILDREN’S DAY with Maruti employees. Children from various centers gathered at Bajghera BAL - MELA and took part in Judo, Mehendi, chess, musical chairs, and other competitions. The year ended with a Carnival during Christmas organised by KPMG.

Please watch this video at YOUTUBE - http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DEhNJDmgCA&feature=related&list=U

by Lisa, our volunteer who captured the fun moments.

POTTERY CLASSES IN PROGRESS AT BHATI KHURD

It is observed that children, who are engaged in art activities, develop a better understanding of other subjects, right from languages to geography to even science.

For thousands of years pottery art has been one of the most beautiful forms of expression. A piece of pottery has a visual message in its shape and color. Children are learning clay modeling and having an exciting experience working on the potter wheel.
FROM DRUG REHABILITATION TO AWARENESS CAMPAIGN AT BIJWASAN FOR ,BE THE CHANGE PROGRAM ,TO REAL CHANGE TO FORCE THE MUNICIPAL TO CLEAN THE SLUMS @SHEETLA COLONY

Drug de addiction and rehabilitation
Street children suffering from drug/alcohol abuse are being counseled and offered specialized rehab treatment. The initiative is gathering momentum with intensified efforts to cover more children, loitering about the PVR, Saket complex.

Dr. Bhatia who runs a de addiction center is helping LI by taking up full rehabilitation of these children.

Manas, another foundation which also works in these areas – have helped in training our faculty members in finding and analyzing the cause for addiction.

A group of 15 children were assigned to run awareness campaign in the community about contemporary social issues like, ban of plastic bag, use of dust bins, use of recycled material for bags and cleanliness cum hygiene in living. It was an educative experience for children and teachers. This initiative will be organized in every quarter on different social issues. This project was initiated at Bijwasan center by them to be a part of BE THE CHANGE CAMPAIGN

A small initiative by women of Sheetala colony

A voluntary organization we the people joined with literacy India at Sheetala colony center to connect the common people of community where they are living with the administration in order to give them a sense of Participation and their commitment towards their family and nation. Ms. Vineeta conducted several workshops to discuss the problem of community and it was discussed with the all women that Sanitation is the big problem of Sheetala Colony. People are dumping garbage in open area. A group of women registered the complaint in MCG office gurgaon to clean the garbage form the colony.

The group started to think on this line:

• To Select & declare a problem.
• Focus and Analyze at problem.
• Brainstorming and find solutions to the problems.
• Discuss with concerned implements & submit presentations to overcome the problem.
• Bring all involved to in solving the problem to come on one table.
• And finally MCG of Gurgaon cleaned the garbage form the colony and now sending the MCG staff on regular basis to clean the colony.

AWIM & SCIENCE WORKSHOPS & EXHIBITIONS
By Bijwasan & Bajagerah Center Children

SAE International's A World In Motion® (AWIM) is a teacher-administered, industry volunteer-assisted program that brings science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) education to life in the classroom for students in Kindergarten through Grade 12. Benchmarked to the national standards, AWIM incorporates the laws of physics, motion, flight and electronics into age-appropriate hands on activities that reinforce classroom STEM curriculum. Young LI minds are encouraged to participate and develop scientific models. The activity helps in building a questioning and creative mind sets. Bajghera and Bijwasan centers invariably lead the initiative. Science workshops & exhibitions are now regular feature at these centers.

Special News:

NIOS Result: Class X results were out across our centers with more than 80 percent of our children passing the examination with flying colors.
JET TOY CAR - A MODEL MADE BY THE VIDYAPEETH CHILDREN

Story submitted by Kaushik Bandhopadhya

A workshop was held in the month of June at Maruti factory premises to provide knowledge and make feel the purpose of jet toy cars. Mr. Tanveer Anwar from Maruti organized the workshop. From Literacy India five teacher have participated in that programme from different centers. In that workshop teacher also come to know how to make the models of Jet Toy. They presented the whole concept of jet toys, preparation of jet toys was done in groups. After the completion of the training, the teachers trained the students from Class VIth to Class VIIIth in Vidyapeeth. The total number of students were more than 100. The Aim of this Project is to make a vehicle in the future which is the fastest, safest and the cutest.

A world in Motion, organized by Maruti volunteers—under the Engineering society for advancing mobility land, SAE Air and Space. Under this program building of Jet Toys was organized in our Vidyapeeth on 21st August 2010. 80 students divided in 16 groups participated in this program. Main co-ordinator was Mr. Tanvir Anwar of Maruti Suzuku. All the groups were given a separate kit for building the Jet Toy. Sadhna and Anitia, Science teacher of Vidyapeeth explained the method of preparation to the students. Half an hour was given to the students for preparation. A racing competition was organized of the ready modals. Group 10 won the competition. The winning group was given Rs.1,100/- cash as prize and a certificate to each participants of that group.

A refresher Workshop was held on 27th sep. at Sanskriti School, New Delhi. Mr. Tanveer Anawar from Maruti organized the workshop. The workshop was based on more elaborate discussion on Jet Toys. Four science teacher from Vidyapeeth attended the workshop.
GE coordinates volunteer efforts company-wide by keeping a close eye on societal needs and inviting all employees to build stronger communities where we live and work. Our employees volunteer over 1 million hours of community service every year, discovering opportunities through our online Volunteer Portal or in their own neighborhoods. And during Global Community Days, we coordinate our efforts company-wide to address urgent projects around the world.

"GE-Volunteers helped conduct various financial empowerment workshops for Literacy India's woman beneficiaries.

"I observed that the students had made massive strides since they had started their course. I always encouraged the students to keep taking small steps towards achieving their goals as they had the potential and determination to do what anyone else can do.

I thank Literacy India for providing the platform and more importantly the environment and committed leadership towards starting and successfully establishing DOEACC computer education facility as this provided me an effective platform to contribute."

Our Star Volunteer - Anil Sood

Literacy India is indebted to all donors & volunteers whose contribution has made a world of difference which can't be explained in words - we wish to show our successes in our projects by inviting them to over to all our centers.

By Indraani Singh

On Anil Sood's Farewell Gathering @Bajigera Center - he is leaving for Australia after contributing lot of time, energy and contribution of Money for many Non-Profit sectors in India, Literacy India is one of them.