



GIDF

AUROBINDO CHAUDHURI MEMORIAL
GREAT INDIAN DREAM FOUNDATION



Quarterly NEWSLETTER

April - June 2011

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From the Chief Functionary



“According to me, the dream of a ‘Shining India’ can fructify only if every member of the society considers giving back to the community as his prime duty. Every individual can contribute towards the development of our country in his own little way, right from planting a sapling to making large monetary contributions, no charity is small. It is the desire to bring change that matters and eventually results in bigger social drives.”

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With ACM GIDF there has been on a continuous journey of self-development. The foundation through it's developmental activities is initiating a range of activities in the last quarter it has brought in a lot of innovations in it's existing projects. As we are always facing challenges in the implementation of our projects we also keep on innovating so as to provide our beneficiaries with the best of the services. Needless to say there is lot more to achieve and we all look forward to touching millions of lives in future through more endearing endeavours of ACM GIDF.”

Arindam Paul
Chief Functionary

EDUCATION



>> e-SHIKSHA

Reaching out, reaching beyond

ACM GIDF's e-Shiksha project is designed to bring home **computer education to rural children and youth** from remote villages – in an air-conditioned van equipped with lap-tops and a self-powered back up system fitted with generators. The program is functional in district Guna, Madhya Pradesh.

In the month of April, we organized a special outreach program for the e-Shiksha participant girls coming from village Ahamdapur & Padarkhedi. **We invited the block Sub Divisional Magistrate – Mr. Vishal Chauhan to conduct a session on career development.** Besides describing in detail the operational methodology of the government – Mr Chauhan also briefed the girls

about the steps related to preparing for civil services examinations. The SDM also addressed their queries with patience, and took special initiative to motivate them to maintain cleanliness in their village as well as in their school campus.

We also conducted a number of other outreach activities under the e-Shiksha umbrella– including a special meeting session with the Head of the Digital Library, Guna. In this interaction, the girls learnt about the importance of books as well as how a modern library system functions. To add on to the fun quotient, we arranged educational tours/picnics at Shiv & Sai temple, AB Road.



e-Shiksha students meet the head of the Digital Library in Guna

OUT OF THE NET OF DEVELOPMENT

- 84% of rural India still unaware of internet.
- Just 7% of rural India use internet in school/ college or office.
- 31% of Rural Population blame unavailability of Internet access point and their limitations to run a PC.
- Total number of rural people with reach to Internet stands less than 5 percent of total net users in India.

Research by Internet and Mobile Association of India (IAMAI) and IMRB International, 2010.

SUCCESS STORY

Nothing works better than self-confidence

Rambharosa hails from an impoverished family of village Awan, one of the largest villages in Raghogarh Block, Madhya Pradesh. The finances of his family went all haywire after his father was diagnosed with a genetic disease that prevented him from taking up any work involving physical labour. Rambharosa's mother took charge, and he being the eldest son, had to share her responsibility. When we met him during one of our field visits, the young man was in a confused state. Despite all his sincere attempts, he was not being able to uplift the condition of his family, and this led to a deep sense of frustration. After much



Rambharosa

persuasion, Rambharosa decided to return to studies, and get enrolled in our e-Shiksha program.

After this, there was no looking back for Rambharosa. An extremely committed student, he scored excellent marks in

all his term exams and secured grade 'A' in the final exams conducted in association with Jan Shikshan Sansthan. All this while, he continued his studies, and also attended our life skill education and career counseling sessions.

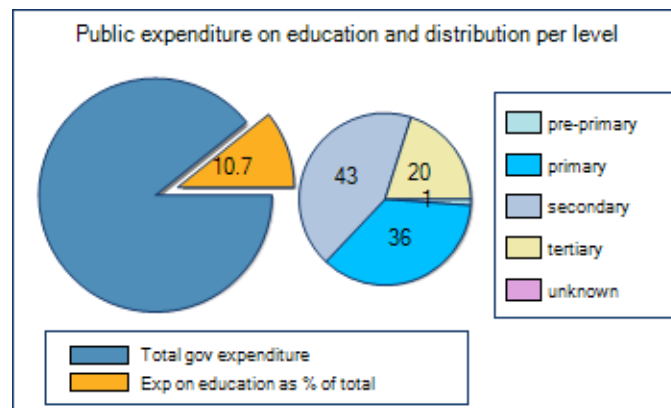
Soon, his dreams of being able to improve his family conditions became a reality – we recruited him at the position of a health educator. Besides contributing significantly to the cause of ACM GIDF, Rambharosa also enrolled himself in a BCA distance education course. After completion of his tenure with GIDF, the bright young man ensured a job for himself at the local SDM office as a computer operator and is still working there. His success story is a source of inspiration for many young kids in his village – with his eminently positive attitude he has managed to develop a very good rapport in the local government office.

But that's not where his story ends. Rambharosa is now pursuing his graduation and also preparing for government job exams – besides contributing significantly to his family in financial terms.

>> EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

Morning makes the day

ACM GIDF's Early Childhood Development program 'Tara' is generating confidence among those who matter the most – the impoverished parents of the pre-school kids who send their children to our nationwide learning centers. Their satisfaction is our greatest achievement in this more than five year old project – which has now reached a mature stage.



Out of the total public expenditure allocation, only 1% is dedicated to pre-primary education.

In April, we celebrated the ICC world cup victory of the Indian Cricket Team in all our centres – the children were asked to paint on the theme. At the Delhi centre, we organized a unique theme based two days Art and Craft workshop – keeping the hot summer of Delhi in mind, the children were taught to make paper fans, ice-cream cones, paper flowers of soothing colours, paper dolls etc. All Delhi centres also organized summer camps during vacations in



Painting done by the students to support the Indian cricket team during the World Cup

SUCCESS STORY

Dealing with attitude

Even at the age of three, Rocky Sardar came across as an adamant child. During his early days with ACM GIDF's Tara project, he didn't partake in the activities of the center, and at times didn't even want to come to the center despite repeated persuasions. He preferred playing alone and didn't show any interest in lessons, group activities or physical activities. The child was not only restless and lethargic; he was cut off from his peer group. It was very difficult for the educator to identify the child's interest areas and accordingly plan activities for him.

A couple of home visits helped us understand the situation better. Rocky's father was a daily labour who remained drunk most of the time and his mother worked in a factory. Being the only son, he was a pampered child at home. **His mother also said that at times, he creates very difficult situations at home and his mother is forced to agree to him. If the mother tried to be strict with the child, the father became abusive.** Moreover, being a working mother, she felt she couldn't spend enough time with the child. That was the prime reason she enrolled the child to 'Tara' – in the hope of bringing about some positive changes in his attitude.

Team GIDF came up with a strategy. We made Rocky sit with his sister at the center, and planned activities that would involve both of them. This encouraged him to complete the activities. He was also encouraged to take part in different cultural activities. **For this, the educator took initiative and prepared the child herself for the various competitions.** Gradually, the child showed improvements in his adamant behavior – and started learning to practice rhymes and alphabets.

Rocky has now been mainstreamed into Madurdaha Satyabritti Vidyalaya. His mother says there have been significant improvements in his attitude – he is more flexible and has started listening to her. A year-long association with the ECD program has helped him to open up and become more co-operative.



Students participate in the 'Art & Craft' workshop held in their learning center

June – engaging children in fun activities to enhance their personality development – activities like Art & craft, Music and Dance, Water play etc. The camp at Mehrauli ended with a gala cultural show – where all the parents and ACM GIDF ECD staff from Delhi were invited. **A unique Art and Craft Workshop was also held at Kishkinda nagar & Mahtoba Nagar center, Pune.** In this workshop, children were trained to form pictures with small, coloured thermacol balls – the basic intention being to improve their hand-eye co-ordination.

With firm belief that the educators need to constantly upgrade their skills – **ACM GIDF encourages training sessions for ECD field workers.** This also helps them develop Teacher Learning Material (TLM) which in turn helps the kids understand the basic concepts in a fun-learning way. In this schedule, we organized training sessions and workshops nationwide. At Mahtoba Nagar Centre, Kothrud, Pune - a three day workshop was held in the month of May. Workshops were also held in Delhi – where the Educators and caretakers from all the ECD centres of Delhi attended. At Hyderabad, 'Tara' conducted a two day educator training program in June.

The idea behind all these training sessions remains straight and simple – **to make the educators understand the importance of being innovative while dealing with pre-school children.** One of the most interesting exercises undertaken here was story-telling through pictures. Educators were also asked to come up with refreshing and unique ideas on communicating with children. They were asked to come up with their own TLM and showcase how they intend to use it.



Rocky receives a certificate on completion of his program

HEALTH



>> MOBILE HEALTH OUTREACH PROGRAMME

The vehicle of confidence

ACM GIDF started the Mobile Health Outreach Programme (MHOP) in district Guna of Madhya Pradesh to reach out to marginalized sections of Indian society – for them, **even the most basic healthcare services still remain almost an impossible dream.** The aim was to equip a medical van with health check up facilities and healthcare professionals, and conduct regular health camps for these villagers. The idea has not only clicked – but has become a resounding success.

A recent National Rural Health Mission report confirms – out of the 22,669 Primary Health Centres, nearly 8% don't have a doctor, nearly 39% runs without a lab technician and about 17.7% without a pharmacist.

Within April – June 2011, **the MHOP Programme has conducted around 80 health camps in different villages of district Guna. We also organized a few special camps for infants & expecting mothers in Maharkimahu village,** where we focussed more on preventive methodologies as compared to curative. During this time period, we held awareness sessions in **medical camps for infants and malnourished cases and pregnant women in villages Fatehgarh & Patan.** We have also started conducting health awareness camps for women on STI. This besides our regular sensitization activities – like disseminating general awareness regarding common diseases of summer season e.g. diarrhea, fever, loose motion and dehydration.

The CSR head of GAIL (India) Ltd. - Mr. Pradosh Bhardawaj, had visited village Bhoomlakhedi for project monitoring. He expressed satisfaction on our intervention strategy and execution - after a detailed interaction with the beneficiary villagers.

>> HIV/AIDS AWARENESS PROGRAMME

Taking the devil of ignorance head-on

The tribal heavy district of Guna in Madhya Pradesh is impoverished and suffers from lack of awareness about health facilities. The district being a major transit point for high risk groups like truckers, HIV/AIDS can emerge as a major health threat. Our target is to nip that possibility in the bud.

A 2009 UNAIDS estimate says that around 2.4 million people in India are living with HIV. The vast majority of these infections occur through heterosexual sex (80%), and is concentrated among high risk groups including sex workers, men who have sex with men, and injecting drug users as well as truck drivers and migrant workers.

In Guna, we have taken up the fight against HIV on a war footing. Besides counseling High Risk Groups through a unique 'Awareness Park' project – we also conduct HIV tests and pre and post test counseling in



People get themselves checked for HIV/AIDS



Truckers are counseled about the ways to prevent the deadly disease

the region. Positive cases are referred to the local ART center for free treatment.

In the month of May, ACM GIDF distributed around 4000 condoms through various channels – including condom boxes installed near highway eateries and garages.



A Doctor consults his patient during a health camp conducted by us in Guna,MP.

In 3910 Community Health Centres, out of sanctioned posts, about 59.4% of surgeons, 45% of obstetricians and gynaecologists, 61.1% of physicians and 53.8% of paediatricians were found to be vacant. Over and above, there is a shortfall of 70.2% specialists at the CHCs.

Employment



>> ARTISAN TRAINING PROGRAM

Crafting success, together

ACM GIDF's **theme based cluster program for artisans seeks to improve the marketability of Indian traditional craft-works and in the process enhance the living conditions of the artisans.** This quarter, keeping this core target in mind, we organize workshops where the artisans could pick up new skills or improve existing skills.

A number of skill training workshops were held in Kerala – including a one day **'Umbrella Making' workshop at the Nirmallyam SHG in Pudupaddy** and a two days **'Saree Printing' workshop at Sneha SHG, Kodancherry.** Our special thanks to the local CM, Ms. Biji V J, who took an active initiative and interest in these workshops and helped us with resources. **Also, in Kerala, in association with the Al-Salama Eye Hospital, we conducted a Free Eye Medical camp in a Kozhikode school. More than 200 locals benefitted from this camp.**

Good news from Agra as well. In the month of June, a special insurance camp – the Rajeew Gandhi Artisan Health insurance cards camp, was conducted by the Handicraft Department at Nai ki Mandi, Tajganj. A large number of stone carving artisans benefited from this camp. e card camp



Free eye medical camp conducted by us in Kozikode.

>> VOCATIONAL TRAINING PROGRAMME

Redefining milestones

Under Government of India's special Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) program – in the month of June we included one more centre of vocational training at Tengakhat Block, Assam. In Dibrugarh district, now we have three training centres in three different blocks – **Barbaruah, Lahoa and now Tengakhat**. Both Barbaruah and Lahoa are conducting courses that were started in April 2011 – including welding, fitter, retail and bedside assistant courses.



A student from the SGSY project on his way to the training center

An Industry-student meet was conducted during this quarter at Raisen, MP – at the at Silvani and Bari centres. Representatives from Anant Spinning Mills interacted with students and briefed them about options available. After further counselling from GIDF, four students went on to join the factory.

>> SELF HELP GROUPS

Women in search of an identity

ACM GIDF's Self-Help-Group movement is going great guns in Assam. In fact, the 'Sakhi' project has brought home a new ray of hope for countless village women, who are lapping up this opportunity to carve their own identity and contribute to the family income. The best achievement, of course, remains the increased self



Members of a Self Help Group being briefed on various income generation activities.

confidence of these women.

In Assam, during this quarter, we have promoted 14 new SHGs in different villages. This increases the total number of SHGs in Assam to 169. These new SHGs, after training and consolidation, have now opened their bank accounts at Assam Gramin Vikas Bank, Barbaruah Branch.

SUCCESS STORY

Sunil shapes his destiny

Sunil Rajak, a resident of village Chindli, Block Deori, Madhya Pradesh, never ever thought of stepping out of his village. He thought it was his destiny to continue struggling with the frugal means of his family. Sunil belongs to a BPL family – all they have in terms of a family asset is one acre of land, only half of which is irrigated. His father can't work to his full capacity because his hands are dysfunctional. The family of five, bogged down by huge debts, depends precariously on Sunil, the eldest son.

Sunil and one of his younger brothers used to work as farm labours while the youngest brother managed a makeshift grocery shop – but their combined income was not good enough to make both ends meet. It was then Sunil learnt from a few friends about ACM GIDF's Special SGSY Project, and decided to try his luck. A short visit to our Project Training centre at Deori convinced him, and he joined our **Basic Fundamentals of Computers trade course**. Soon after completion of this four months course, he was absorbed by **Reliance Fresh as sales man in Indore**.

Sunil is now earning a handsome remuneration of Rs 5000 per month. He is performing well in his organization, and makes it a point to repay his father's loan in instalments. Sunil is also continuing his education by correspondence. He knows that this is just a beginning – and he is thankful to GIDF to help him make a turn-around in life.

Sunil, the newly appointed salesman in Reliance Fresh, Indore



GRC



READY, AND STEADY TO GO PLACES

ACM GIDF collaborates with the Government of Delhi in its program - Samajik Suvidha Sangam, an initiative aimed at social justice, equity and empowerment of the marginalized and under-privileged sections of the society. The program matches our objectives – to inspire inclusive growth and all round development.

The Gender Resource Centre-Suvidha Kendra is central component of SSS - the human interface between community and the mission convergence. While the Suvidha Kendra component facilitates community's access to welfare benefits, the Stree Shakti component institutes direct intervention programs for gender empowerment leading to holistic development of women.



Legal counseling conducted at the center

This quarter, we have undertaken a number of activities:

- Samajik Suvidha Sangam Survey of 2400 households
- 33 community meetings held in different slum clusters of Delhi to help deliver the message of welfare schemes and also to enable us to identify stake holders.
- Classes of Non Formal Education, Remedial and Adult education are being conducted regularly.
- Formation of Self Help Groups – in this quarter, GRC SKACM GIDF formed two more self help groups named **Ummid Ki Kiran and Prerna** including members from resettlement colonies of South Delhi.
- Ongoing Vocational Training for disadvantaged girls in high-demand areas – like Beauty Culture and Basic Computer Training.
- Organized Nutrition Camps, Mass Awareness Legal Camp, Legal Counseling Session and OPDs under the program.



Trainees of the beauty culture batch watch their trainer carefully

In India there is a crime against women in every three minutes, one rape every twenty nine minutes and one recorded case of dowry death in every seventy seven minutes. Cases of cruelty meted out by husbands and in laws are seen in every nine minutes.



Free computer classes for girls in Mehrauli, Delhi

ACM GIDF is a developmental organization of national repute; facilitating community development initiatives since 2002. We are working for the cause of human development focusing on the less privileged sections of the society in the rural & urban areas of the country. The spheres of our work are governed by issues related to Health, Education, Employment and Environment.



AUROBINDO CHAUDHURI MEMORIAL GREAT INDIAN DREAM FOUNDATION

Regd. as a National Level NGO under the Societies Registration Act XXI of 1860

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All contribution are 50% tax exempted under section 80G of Income Tax Act 1961

Let no girl ever dropout of school

Please fill in Block letters

Name:

Address:

Email:

Res.: Code — Code

Phone:

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Mobile:

Sex: M F DOB: — —

Pan No.

(for donation of Rs. 10,000/- and above)

₹548 for sponsoring a **child's** primary education for **one month**.

₹6,572 for sponsoring a **child's** primary education for **one year**.

₹16,440 for supporting a **Learning Centre (30 children)** for unprivileged children for **one month**.

₹1,97,160 for supporting a **Learning Center (30 children)** for unprivileged children for **one year**.

Enclosed Cheque/DD No. Date:

of ₹ Bank Name Branch.....

Made in favour of "Aurobindo Chaudhuri Memorial Great Indian Dream Foundation" payable at New Delhi.

Signature



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