

Hope is Beautiful

Neha is a younger daughter in a large family of six. The dowry Neha's father, an auto rickshaw driver, needed to marry off her older sister left the family in huge debt. Consequently Neha dropped out of school and started working as a domestic help to support the family, same as her mother. She enrolled in the cutting and tailoring and beautician courses offered at the Hope Project, and now, at 19, works part-time as a beautician. She earns around 2500 rupees a month and is able to support her family significantly. She takes great pride in knowing how much she contributes. It has also strengthened her bond with her family. This experience has reaffirmed Neha's wish to be educated and she has started attending the GNFS regularly to finish her schooling. When she thinks about her future now she can smile again. Who knows what will follow...



Pic: Neha attending beauty culture class

<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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Written by Elisabeth Henschel
Edited by Samiur Rahman and Heiko Schrader

Hope in Summer

It is inspiring to know that we are continuously able to meet the needs of the ever growing group of people desperate for help – it is thanks to your kindness. We thank you from the bottom of our hearts. It sounds cliché, but your generosity makes dreams come true, it changes lives.

From the crèche to apprenticeships, Hope's educational programs have impacted the lives of the most underprivileged and poorest; most of them are girls. Over the years, the success of so many individuals has changed the perception of the community concerning the importance and relevance of education.

We have introduced English conversation courses in collaboration with the NGO Taleem. 57 participants are instructed by experts from a reputed institution in Delhi. Poor conversational skills in English used to be a reason candidates from the Basti were turned down for jobs – this will no longer hold true. After multiple demands from the community youth, Hope's coaching centre will prepare 60 candidates for written examinations for jobs with the Delhi Police, Staff Selection Commission, Life Insurance Corporation, Metro, Banks, and related sectors (cont.).



Pic: Coaching Classes in Progress

(cont...)

It brings true joy to see the positive changes “Hope” can help make. When five years ago 20% of the GNFS attendants wanted to pursue a higher education, today its 100%. Female empowerment can also be seen in the “Fruit and Vegetable Preservation and Nutrition Training” hosted on the Hope Project’s premises by the Food and Nutrition Board from the Ministry of Women and Child Development. Attendance was at an all-time high and afterwards the women demanded a followup course – many of them are making business plans. We are creating a special fund to help these women start their venture.

On the health front we have two great things to report. The Hazrat Inayat Khan Health Centre was approached by the caretakers of Dargah Hazrat Nizamuddin Aulia about medically examining the pilgrims visiting the argah during Urs. Hope’s Medical Director and team organized a camp for three days and treated more than 600 patients and also conducted awareness lectures for promoting preventive measures. Another significant addition was an evening clinic twice a week for the elderly (60+). The majority of these patients suffer from chest infections, hypertension, diabetes, and skin allergies. They now no longer have to wait in a long uueue during general daily OPD at the health centre. We would like to specifically express our gratitude for the partnerships with national and international NGOs and institutions. Recently the Embassy of the Netherlands in New Delhi showed tremendous support for girls education. Noorunnisa Inayat Khan Library has been stacked with additional books and storytelling-time is held frequently by outside volunteers and teachers from the GNFS. “There are many little ways to enlarge your child’s world. Love of books is the best of all.” - Jacqueline Kennedy.

Back on her feet with Hope

Nazia, 23 years old now, was disowned by her family after marrying for love. Sadly, her husband abandoned her when she got pregnant, leaving her to fend for herself.

With a stroke of luck, her cousin let her stay at his house and help in his roadside shop. During this time she was blessed with a stunning baby boy. A community worker introduced her to the Hope Project and she became a member of the “Raunaq” Self Help Group in May 2014.

Her son, Subhan, started visiting the Crèche daily and Nazia finally found her footing again. Soon after, with the encouragement and help of the community worker and the members from her SHG, Nazia took out a loan of 15,000 rupees. She now stands at the entrance of Nizamuddin Dargah selling cold drinks and earns 200-300 rupees a day. This allows her to pay off her loan gradually and save money at the same time. She has plans to study in the near future.



Pic: Nazia (R) in her shop with Subhan

All Photographs from The Hope Project

Knowing hardship, knowing Hope



Pic: Children learning craft in the library

Asma (name changed) is a 26-year-old woman who saw, learned and lived the hardships of life when she was married off at the tender age of fifteen. Instead of finishing her schooling she was a wife and daughter-in-law to a cruel family that quickly started beating and abusing her for a better dowry. While she lived through this hell on earth, she became a mother to a sweet baby boy. When she was finally able to escape by divorcing her husband, her former in-law-family was granted sole custody. Devastated and alone, Asma fell deep into a depression from which there seemed no escape. Hope found her on the brink and she immediately received treatment at the clinic. With time she was introduced to the Hope’s Girl Educational programs and subsequently finished her exams for class XII with flying colors. She credits her teachers for their constant guidance and support. She herself is now a part-time teacher at the GNFS and is in the process of becoming a librarian for our library. She prays for her son daily, but is grateful for her second chance and new life. Here is confidence. Here is laughter.