



HOPE *worldwide* TUITION CENTRE
Bawana, New Delhi

HALF YEARLY REPORT

January - June 2009

HOPE
worldwide
INDIA

Bawana Tuition Centre



For many years HOPE was running a school in Yamuna Pushta in East Delhi. In 2004 the Delhi government decided to raze the Yamuna Pushta slum to the ground. The local population was displaced to Bawana (North of Delhi). The HOPE school had to close down.

HOPE did not want to abandon the children of the school. So we decided to open a tuition center in Bawana. In 2004 this community had no infrastructure, no running water, no electricity, hospitals, or schools. Our tuition center was one of the few places where children could get any form of education.

Since then the situation has improved somewhat but the needs are still dire. The area of Bawana is very deprived and the families live on very low incomes. Most children are left to fend for themselves on the streets while their parents go to work in Delhi.

The children who attend our tuition center go to local government schools for half a day (girls in the morning and boys in the afternoon). The classes in those schools are overcrowded and the teachers are often absent. On top of that the parents are mostly illiterate so cannot help their children with homework. The children come to us in the morning (boys) and in the afternoon (girls).

Around 180 children regularly attend the Bawana Tuition Center (we also help run a local satellite playschool but we do not include those numbers in the official tuition center count). Here is a story of one of those children...

Statistics

Number of Students	Tuition		Adult Education	TOTAL
	Boys	Girls		
Beginning of the month	77	97	4	178
Enrolments	11	33	1	45
Dropouts	19	25	2	46
Course finished	0	0	0	0
End of the month	69	105	3	177

Hope in the Heart of a Child

Nadine Templer:

"It is always amazing how children raised in horrific circumstances can display admirable resilience and courage. The smiles on their faces stand in contrast the more bias attitude of wealthier people..."

I met Madhipul (12) and his little brother Deepak (7) at the Bawana Tuition Center of HOPE worldwide just outside Delhi. The tattered rags on their backs belied the infectious joy on their faces and the devotion they show in their studies.

Madhipul seemed very protective of his younger sibling, a phenomenon I have observed countless times as I visit the slums of India. Families stand together in the face of incredible poverty. The older kids protect the younger ones. Madhipul's story broke my heart and also gave me hope...

The two brothers come from a large family of 10 children. Their father is in bad health (and not surprisingly battles depression) so he doesn't work. Their mother contracted tuberculosis several years ago and so is very weak physically. She cannot work either, not that this would be a possibility anyhow in this very traditional community. Women are not encouraged to work outside the home.

Madhipul shared with me another reason the family might be grieving. A couple of years ago the brothers were running to catch a moving train. This is a very common practise here in India, and yet extremely dangerous. On Mumbai trains alone 17 people die every day. As the boys were running Madhipul's older brother slipped and fell under the train. His body was cut to pieces right in front of his siblings.

What struck me about Madhipul was his spirit. He had a constant smile on his face and Manoj his teacher told me how dedicated he was to his studies. Due to the fact he has never had any formal education Madhipul has to sit in the first standard class with his younger brother. His infectious joy is a sight to behold. I wanted to cry as I heard Madhipul's story but I couldn't allow myself to do so as I looked into his eyes. They were full of hope.

You see, Madhipul wants to become a doctor. Whether that happens or not depends a lot on the hope living in his heart right now. I have witnessed so much determination in the lives of people here in India, so nothing would surprise me. The odds are great, but who knows?

Our encouragement, our support, financial or through volunteerism, can make a huge difference to children such as Madhipul. It gives them a running start. The rest is up to them."



We are incredibly thankful to the Lyon church (Assemblee Chretienne de Lyon) for their very generous support of the Bawana Tuition Centre. Because of their giving hundreds of children have been able to study and have hope for their future.

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