

# DEVELOPING INDIGENOUS RESOURCES - INDIA

## Summary of Activities

April 2011

**THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH: Patriotism to Mark Twain was “the last refuge of a scoundrel.” To GB Shaw it was “a pernicious, psychopathic form of idiocy.” To WF Shaw it is “a virtue gone sadly awry.”**

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### **A. CEO's MESSAGE**

Frederick Shaw

This March in Chandigarh we had weather like no other March. Some days were very hot, some very cold. Some nights were calm and serene and others had dramatic thunder and lightening displays. In all, to-morrow remained always unpredictable. Some sages wagged their heads and blamed Global Warming. Perhaps they had something, but it seemed more like global chaos.

Our Health programs and projects continued apace, and children appear to be making good progress in our pre-school. The 23 students who we helped get into good private schools in Chandigarh (last year), will be joined by another 20 or so at the beginning of the school year (early April). While we are delighted, it adds to problems since we will need an additional two vans to carry the pupils to school daily. As was mentioned before, our slums are – of course - not located in close proximity to elite schools, and this creates a transportation problem which is usually solved by parents contracting with a rickshaw driver on a monthly basis. With the price of petrol increasing, rickshaw fares have become impossibly high for most of our parents.

To prevent “drop-outs” we have obtained two vans, one from Indian Oil and one from the State Bank of India, and we charge the parents about half the normal fare. This new graduating class probably means that we are going to need more vehicles. Without the funds to make the purchase, we need to find donors in a hurry. One economy vehicle will cost about Rs. 820,000 (or \$18,000) and we might need two. Next month we shall know for sure.

Our recent discovery that several young children have not been developing normally because of newly-discovered gluten-intolerance, has brought it to our attention that the price of most gluten-free products here are priced beyond the financial reach of many local people. Many such food materials are imported from Australia. Thus, we are now looking into a new pilot project, concerning the production of gluten-free foods. We might collaborate with Government's Home Science College to discover all related data. How big is the demand?

What ingredients/ products could we cook, bake, manufacture? Should we think of establishing a production plant, or of just training the local people to make and sell products? What are the relevant food production and marketing regulations? Our exploratory discussions with faculty at the Home Science College received an enthusiastic response, as they see a major demand for gluten-free products, and opportunities for the involvement of their graduate students in research and experience. Our talks with the major retail grocers indicate they would be glad to retail our products. Given the growing demand and the positive responses, it is difficult not to be optimistic that we may have before us a literally golden opportunity.

## **B. NUTRITION**

(Ms. Natasha Bhardwaj – DIR-I Nutritionists)

One new Health Promoter joined DIR-I this month so some basic things in the nutrition were taught like meal planning, nutrients like carbohydrate, fats and protein. Apart from this HPs were told about the medicinal values of various locally available herbs and spices.

Due to the extra time required for the preparation, planning, rehearsing and presentation of our Cultural Evening this month, the academic classes and field visits were suspended for last 15 days. We expect that our Nutrition programme will surely be back with full force next month

## **C. MOTHERS' HEALTH**

(Ms. Meena Kumari– Senior Health Promoter)

### **Pregnancies**

On the 1<sup>st</sup> of April, there were 129 pregnant women in Janta colony and Adarsh Nagar. Of these, sixteen women delivered their babies during the month but one woman unfortunately had a miscarriage and eight others shifted their residence permanently from the colony. Thirty nine new pregnancies were reported during the month. All the sixteen women who delivered had three or more Antenatal check-ups.

### **Deliveries**

Out of Sixteen women who delivered this month, thirteen delivered in the Government Hospital, Sector-16, One in GMCH, Sector 32, One in Private hospital, Chandigarh and One home delivery. Of the newborns, eight are baby boys and eight are baby girls. All fifteen deliveries were assisted by qualified professionals. Sixteen of the ladies had their postnatal examinations within two days of delivery.

## **D. IMMUNIZATION PROGRAMME**

(Mrs. Veena Rani – Senior Health Promoter)

In the month of April, DIR-I participated four times in the government-run immunization programme, on 6<sup>th</sup>

13<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> of the month. A total of 202 shots were administered to the children, details of which are as follows:

(a) Measles – 21      (b) Measles Booster - 15      (c) BCG -2      (d) DT - 19      (e) DPT Booster - 19

SHOTS	1 <sup>st</sup> Dose	2 <sup>nd</sup> Dose	3 <sup>rd</sup> Dose
Hepatitis B	16	16	15
DPT	12	17	24
TT	9	15	-

In addition to these, two children of age 10 year old child got 2 TT shots and 36 children were given a supplemental dose of Vitamin A.



*Immunization Day at DIR's bustee office.*

### **E. D.O.T.S.**

(Mr. Sunny Bighania – Senior Health Promoter)

On the 1<sup>st</sup> of April, Twelve Tuberculosis patients were being served medicines at our bustee office through the government DOTS program run by DIR. Our bustee office is an authorised DOTS centre, and patients from the vicinity get their supply of medicine from our office on a regular basis. During this month, two patients, completed their treatment and has become free from this dreaded disease. Three more patients have been diagnosed having Tuberculosis this month, and they have started their medication from our centre. With this total number of Tuberculosis patients being served by DIR-I is Twelve.

Following is the distribution of these patients in different categories with a brief description of what each means:

- Category I – All those new patients whose pulmonary smear is positive for Tuberculosis Bacilli or those whose pulmonary smear is negative but are seriously ill or those who have extra pulmonary Tuberculosis but are seriously ill are included in Category I. This month, we have 10 patients in this category.
- Category II – Those old Tuberculosis patients who had either defaulted from the treatment at an earlier stage and have re-started the treatment or those who have again contracted the disease after being cured once

those who had not been cured even after completing a full prescribed course are included in Category II. This month we have 2 patients in this category.

## **F. INCOME GENERATION**

**Ms. Sukhwinder Kaur, Administrative Assistant**

### **a. Paper Bags**

In the month of March, a total of Rs 1144 was realized from the sale of paper bags, made of old news papers by bustee women. Rs. 987 of this money was passed on to the women who made the bags and DIR-I earned Rs. 157 out of the sale, which will partially pay for the expenses DIR had to bear for the sale of these bags. Details of the sale and purchase of the bags is as follows:

S. No.	Paper Bag Size (bundles of 60 bags)	Quantity	Cost Rate (in Rupees)	Cost Price (in Rupees)	Sale Rate (in Rupees)	Sale Price (in Rupees)
1	No. 2 Small size	117	Rs. 5	585	Rs. 6	702
2	No. 3 Big Size	38	Rs. 10	380	Rs. 11	418
3	No. 4 Large big	2	Rs. 11	22	Rs 12	24
	Total	157		987		1144

### **b. Skills Training**

**Women are improving their stitching under skill training program, total 10 women are learning stitching in the bustee office. Fifteen women attempted the paid assignment, in this assignment total 102 bags are stitched by bustee women including 78 wine and 24 champagne bags and they paid total amount Rs.2040/ as per @ 20/. Bustee women also enjoying the other paid assignment of string purces,they earn total of Rs .255/ as per @ 15/.**

*Our Stitching Instructor giving tips in one of her classes.*

## **G. EDUCATION**

(Ms. Sunita Sharma – Head Teacher)

‘School with a Difference’ resumed from 4<sup>th</sup> April in a new session and a lot of new children in the school. A total of 110 children have been admitted in our school. For a number of new children, who have come to school for the first time in their life of less than 3 years, this month was along one! It was also for teachers trying their best to accommodate these children on their first separation from their families. The new children are now showing signs of enjoying school.

Apart from this all 22 eligible children in DIR’s ‘School With A Difference’ who have been successfully admitted in well reputed schools in Chandigarh schools for higher education starts going to their new schools and are very happy over there. DIR-I provides transportation to all these children on subsidized rates.

On 13<sup>th</sup> April, children celebrated Baisakhi in school. On 30<sup>th</sup> April DIR-I celebrated Cultral Evening in which school teachers along with other DIR staff participated in Group song and in National Anthem. Apart from this all staff participated in auction.

## F. PERSONNEL ACTIVITY

(Ms.Natasha Bhardwaj - Nutritionist)

### Visitors:

1. Mr Steve from St. Manjs University visited our bustee office.
2. Mr Ravinder from Mask Theatre Group helped us in preparing play on family planning and drug addiction. Every body appreciated our play during cultural evening in bustee.

**Changes:** Ms. Pooja, a Health Promoter who joined DIR recently resigned with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2011, due to her poor health. We wish her good health and happiness.

### Absences:

Name	Paid Leave		Unpaid Leave	
	# Days	Dates	# Days	Dates
Ms.Sarita	3	Full day on 15 <sup>th</sup> , 20 <sup>th</sup> and 21 <sup>st</sup> April 2011		
Ms. Meenakshi	3	Half day off on 20 <sup>th</sup> and 21 <sup>st</sup> and full day off on 11 <sup>th</sup> and 15 <sup>th</sup> of April		
Mr. Sunny	0.5	Half day on 11 <sup>th</sup> April.		
Mrs.Maya (HP)	3.5	Half day off on 11 <sup>th</sup> and full day off on 26 <sup>th</sup> , 27 <sup>th</sup> and 28 <sup>th</sup> of April	2	27 <sup>th</sup> and 28 <sup>th</sup> April
Ms. Sangeeta (HP)	16	Full day off on 4 <sup>th</sup> , 5 <sup>th</sup> , 6 <sup>th</sup> , 7 <sup>th</sup> , 8 <sup>th</sup> , 11 <sup>th</sup> , 13 <sup>th</sup> , 15 <sup>th</sup> , 18 <sup>th</sup> , 19 <sup>th</sup> , 20 <sup>th</sup> , 21 <sup>st</sup> , 25 <sup>th</sup> , 26 <sup>th</sup> , 27 <sup>th</sup> , 28 <sup>th</sup> of the month.	12	8 <sup>th</sup> , 11 <sup>th</sup> , 13 <sup>th</sup> , 15 <sup>th</sup> , 18 <sup>th</sup> , 19 <sup>th</sup> , 20 <sup>th</sup> , 21 <sup>st</sup> , 25 <sup>th</sup> , 26 <sup>th</sup> , 27 <sup>th</sup> , 28 <sup>th</sup> of April.
Mr. Sunil Vidla (HP)	5	Full day off on 1 <sup>st</sup> , 4 <sup>th</sup> , 20 <sup>th</sup> , 21 <sup>st</sup> , and 22 <sup>nd</sup> of the month.		
Mrs. Sushma (HP)	2	Half day leaves on 6 <sup>th</sup> and 15 <sup>th</sup> and full day off on 13 <sup>th</sup> of the month of April.		
Ms. Shanti	1	Full day off on 1 <sup>th</sup> of April.		
Mr. Sanjeev	1	Full day off on 20 <sup>th</sup> of April.		

Mrs. Meenahshi (School Teacher)	2	Full day off on 7 <sup>th</sup> and 11 <sup>th</sup> of the month.		
Dr. Kanika	3	Full day on 1 <sup>st</sup> , 4 <sup>th</sup> and 15 <sup>th</sup> of April 2011	3	1 <sup>st</sup> , 4 <sup>th</sup> and 15 <sup>th</sup> of April
Mrs.Hemanti (School Maid)	1	Full day off on 11 <sup>th</sup> , 13 <sup>th</sup> and 15 <sup>th</sup> of the month	2	13 <sup>th</sup> and 15 <sup>th</sup> of the month
Ms. Sukhwinder	4	Full day on 7 <sup>th</sup> , 8 <sup>th</sup> , 11 <sup>th</sup> and 18 <sup>th</sup> of the month.		