

DEVELOPING INDIGENOUS RESOURCES - INDIA

Summary of Activities

June 2012



THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH:

Here are some activities and events that took place at DIR in June 2012.

Padma Sree Hans Raj Hans visited DIR on June 20. He is a famous Sufi singer, who has mesmerized Sufi lovers and Punjabis in India, Pakistan and all over the world. His performances draw huge crowds. A chance meeting with him recently gave us an opportunity to inform him about DIR program in Naya Goan. He was impressed with the work that DIR is doing, and asked us to start a similar program in his village near Jalalndhar in Punjab. We mentioned to him that we wish to replicate the program at other places but were unable to do so because of shortage of funds. He then promptly offered to help raise funds for DIR by giving free concerts- one in India and three in the USA. One search on youtube for Hans Raj Hans sufi songs and you can see and hear him. However to hear him right away without searching, you could copy and watch these links. The concert in Chandigarh is likely to take place on September 8,2012.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pV4TtTf9LDE&feature=related>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9Hbghw2uiD0&feature=related>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8D08YUY3K7U>

We met up with officials at Hotel Taj Chandigah and asked them to support DIR. Products stitched by women in the basti were shown to them and they were floored by the quality of work. Mr. Anil Malhotra, the GM who had given us an appointment upon Mr. Scot Slessor's recommendation, expressed that he is open to giving us a chance to make and supply items used by them in the hotel such as cocktail napkins, serviettes, tray mats, coasters, etc. It would be profitable if we could source material and supply the finished product to them, though his Purchase Manager suggested that the hotel could supply us the material and DIR could just do the stitching part. Search for good quality and cheap priced material is on, and we need to submit a quotation to the hotel. We also have other hotels in mind who shall be more than pleased to give us similar jobs. If we had more knowledge or expertise, we could have started this work immediately.

Shubham is a bright student studying at Indian School of Business, Mohali, who was introduced to DIR by Mr. Scot Slessor. Shubham has experience in fund-raising for NGO's and has a portal Godparents.in This is an online fund raising platform to help accredited NGO's that work with underprivileged children. Shubham and his friends from ISB visited the basti and were very impressed with the work that DIR is doing. They had a round of introductions with the Health Promoters and all the HP's informed them about the work they carry out, and other details about themselves including how long they have worked with DIR. The guests were pleasantly

surprised to note that DIR's retention rate is high. Since the salaries that DIR pays are not high, they expressed their admiration and wanted to understand the reasons behind this. It is logical and easy to believe that a feeling of pride and self worth, getting to help and empower their own community, the exciting and wonderful work environment at DIR, and Dr.Shaw's kindness and charisma makes these people stay with DIR. It is indubitable that the knowledge, grooming and confidence that DIR staff has received at DIR is something they might not have had a chance to gain in any other office.

We have requested these Management students to devise a business plan for DIR-starting with the lead we have got from Hotel Taj. If DIR can make some profits through conducting a business, it shall be achieving at least three targets: 1) Better and regular income generation means for women (and even others) in the basti. 2) Profits that are made can go in to supporting the non-profit health and education programs run by DIR. 3) Making DIR self-sustaining and depending less on donations.

PS: It might be of interest to most of you to know that out of the staff working for DIR presently, two joined in the year 2005 when DIR started the program, four joined in 2006, three joined in 2007, six joined in 2008, two joined in 2009, five joined in 2010, one in 2011 and three in 2012.



Hans Raj Hans sings for DIR Health Promoters.



Women and children in the basti flocked to see him.

NUTRITION

(Ms. Natasha Bhardwaj - DIR-I Nutritionist cum Administrator)

As the summer heat is rising day by day and there is no signs for monsoons so to cope with the heat people in busti consume beverages and ice creams which are unhygienically prepared. This results in diarrhoea and moreover due to the heat, dehydration is also a concern for all. Keeping this in view field demonstrations on repetition of the recipe of home made Oral Rehydration Solution (ORS) was given through out the bustee. This will surely benefit people during the hot weather. Another demonstration on Channa corn chaat was given which was made by locally available low cost ingredients such as Black grams, corn, potato, onion, coriander, tamarind, jaggery and lemon. This recipe is a rich source of calories, protein, iron, calcium and vitamin C. The recipe is especially valuable for growing children, pregnant and lactating mothers.

Topics such as Vitamin A, vitamin D, vitamin E- their functions and deficiencies, anemia, obesity and diabetes were taught. In the end of month Nutrition quiz was planned for the Health Promoters to judge their overall performance in the subject and most of them scored very well.

MOTHERS' HEALTH
(Ms. Meena Kumari - Senior Health Promoter)

Pregnancies

On the 1st of June, there were 103 pregnant women in Janta colony and Adarsh Nagar. Of these, 16 women delivered their babies during this month. Nine others shifted their residence permanently from the colony. Twenty two new pregnancies were reported this month. All the 16 women who delivered during the month had had three or more Antenatal check-ups.

Deliveries

Out of 16 women who delivered this month, eleven delivered in the Government Hospital, Sector-16, three delivered in the PGI Hospital, one delivered in the GMC Hospital, Sector 32 and one delivered at home. Fifteen deliveries were assisted by qualified professionals and one assisted by local midwife. Of the newborns, 8 are boys and 8 are girls. All the women who delivered had their postnatal examinations within 2 days of delivery.

IMMUNIZATION PROGRAMME
(Ms. Veena Rani – Senior Health Promoter)

As usual, government immunizers came to the DIR Centre to give shots on every Wednesday of the month. Our Health Promoters maintain records of all the immunizations of all children under the age of five years and ensure that every child gets his/her shots on schedule.

In the four immunization days at the DIR office during the month of June, a total of 190 shots were given to the children. Details are as follows:

(a) Measles – 17 (b) Measles Booster -12(c) BCG -1 (d) DT -11 (e) DPT Booster - 13

SHOTS	1 st Dose	2 nd Dose	3 rd Dose
Hepatitis B	12	23	30
DPT	9	17	25
TT	4	10	-

In addition to these, 6 ten-year-old children were given tetanus shots, and 42 children were given a supplement dose of Vitamin A.



Immunization Camp at DIR

D.O.T.S.

(Mr. Sunny Bighania – Senior Health Promoter)

On the 1st of June, 20 Tuberculosis patients were 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, one patient completed her treatment and is declared free from this disease. Five new patients have been diagnosed having Tuberculosis this month, and have started medication from our centre.

We have Sixteen Category I Patients, and Four Category II Patients.

Following is a brief description of what each Category is:

- 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 16 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 or those who had not been cured even after completing a full prescribed course. This month we have 4 patients in this category.

Out of these twenty patients, 5 are less than 18 years old.

INCOME GENERATION

(Ms. Meena Kumari - Senior Health Promoter)

SKILLS TRAINING: Under the program of skills training, a total of Seventeen women from bustee are learning stitching in our bustee office. Under our program they improve their skills and start earning money by using their skills and fulfil the basic needs of their families. During the month of June, they made 164 wine bags, 21 craft bags, 6 i-Pad bags, 25 Purses 6 wall hangings and 3 salwars. Apart from that 265 double ply paper bags with rope handles are also made and supplied to a store in Panchkula. The women earn an income due to the program run by DIR. Pictures below are of a class in progress and a woman proudly displaying an I pad bag she has stitched.



Reeta Devi proudly displays an I-pad bag she stitched.

EDUCATION

(Ms. Sunita Sharma – Head Teacher)

School was closed for one month for summer holidays. This is the time for parents to take their kids for holidays. Janta colony parents are no exception, generally they visit their native places during this period. But still its fun time for all kids. School will reopen on 2nd July.

PERSONEL ACTIVITY

Visitors

1. Mr. Zahid, Gras Academy, Delhi. Mr Zahid pledged an amount of Rs 1500 per month and bought bags worth Rs 2000 on his visit to the basti.
2. Dr. Minh from Seoul, Korea. She has specialized in public health and is visiting India for the first time to volunteer for an NGO. She left us with regret that she learnt about DIR late, after having committed to work with another NGO. She is so impressed with DIR that she wishes to return to India and volunteer for DIR.
3. Famous Sufi Singer Padma Sree Hans Raj Hans. He announced to the local press that he would give a free concert to raise funds for DIR.
4. Mr. Guy Mullen from Canada. (Our enthusiastic volunteer and motivator)
5. Shubham Srivastava, Tej. Students from ISB School, Mohali.

Absences:

Name	Paid Leave		Unpaid Leave	
	# Days	Dates	# Days	Dates
Mrs. Natasha (Nutritionist cum Administrator)	1	20 of the month.	1	21 full day.
Mr. Pannu (Administrator)	1	12 th full day.		
Mrs Renuka (Nutritionist)	1	25 th June.		
Ms. Sangeeta (HP)	4	4, 5,6,7 full day in june.	4	8,16,23,25 full day.
Mrs. Hemanti (Maid)	5	16,19,20,21,22	7	23,25,26,27,28,29,30.
Mrs. Banita (HP)	4	18 th full day and 19, 20, 21,23,25,26 half day.		
Mrs. lata (HP)	9	18,19,20,21,22,23,25,26,27.		
Mrs. Veena (SHP)	2	23 rd and 25 th June.		
Ms. Meenakshi (HP)	7	13,14,15,18,19,20,21 June.		
Mr Sunny (Field coordinator)	2	27 and 29 June.		
Ms. Rani (HP)	1	4 th full day.		
Ms. Sarita (HP)	5	4,5,6,7,8 June.		
Mr. Sunil (HP)	3	16,18 and 21 of the month		
Mr. Nikhil	1	28 th June.		