

DEVELOPING INDIGENOUS RESOURCES - INDIA

Summary of Activities

November 2014

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH:

Strive not to be a success, but rather to be of value. –Albert Einstein

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1. NUTRITIONAL IMPROVEMENT PRIORITY PROJECT (NIPP)

Intern Halisia Hubbard, with Health Promoter Sunil, and CEO Frederick Shaw

In this program we have tackled one of the most difficult problems there is where the improvement of young children's health is concerned. This is the problem of improving the nutritional status of children whose parents have been un-cooperative. The parents' lack of response to our efforts to motivate them to take positive action stems from a variety of different single factors as well as combinations of factors. Mental dullness which has probably

Age group	% of NIPP children
0-12 months	8
13-24 months	10
25-36 months	28
37-48 months	36
49-60 months	18

resulted from lack of good nutrition while the parents were infants seems to be a leading influence, and this causes us to strive harder to interrupt a cycle which threatens to repeat itself

endlessly. To focus and concentrate our efforts on the most serious cases, we have had each Health Promoter select the three most malnourished children in his/her area to receive special attention.

We set about getting every Priority child de-wormed during September, and managed to complete this task during October. We expect that this has contributed somewhat to the gains illustrated in the table which follows.



	Sept	Oct	Nov
% of Priority children who made a weight GAIN	36	47	39
% of Priority children whose weight status remained UNCHANGED	50	40	46
% of Priority children who had a weight LOSS	15	7	10
% of Priority children who WERE ABSENT from area	0	5	5

Because improving nutritional status depends upon behavioral change more than any other factor, we had expected that improvements would not result so early. Our Health Promoters are to be complimented on their achievements.

2. MOTHERS' HEALTH

Ms. Sangeeta -Health Promoter

In November we had 21 births; 6 were girls and 16 boys. There were no miscarriages. The total numbers of New Born are 22 because 1 lady had twins. At the beginning of the month we had 97 pregnant women and at the end 86.

20 deliveries occurred in hospital and one delivery at home. Fortunately all deliveries were normal. All 22 babies are live and healthy.

All 21 mothers who gave birth had two or more appropriate antenatal check-ups before delivery and post-partum examinations within two days of delivery.

Last Month	Delivery	Left	New	This month
97	-21	-15	+25	86

3. THE SCHOOL WITH A DIFFERENCE

Mrs Reena Paul – Teacher

Number of students: 77

As the year is coming to an end the school has a lot to share. Children's day was celebrated on 14th November.

Activities held

1. Best out of waste
2. Tear and paste
3. Coloring
4. Sticking etc.

Dr. Shaw gave gifts to all the children; crayons, pencils, erasers, biscuits and sweets were given as gifts for the day. Children were full of happiness and enjoyed the day.

On 21st November a P.T.M. was held. Parents were given the message about coming evaluation in December. Saturday activity was held in school. Children were given a message about cleanliness everywhere and how we can keep our environment clean and green.



4. INCOME GENERATING ACTIVITY

Mr. Sunil -- Health Promoter

SEWING

One of our popular classes to equip learners with income-earning skills is our Tailoring Training class which meets five days a week from 10am to noon. Currently 25 young women are attending. Some, upon completing training, will start their own small business, others will find paid employment, and a very small minority want to become proficient in order to provide tailor-made garments for their family.

STITCHED PRODUCTS

Several of the women who have taken the tailoring class, now make products at home using fabric we provide, and are getting paid, per item, when their products pass our quality-control inspection. They make cloth purses, re-usable gift wrapping for a bottle of wine, cloth cases for i-Pads, salwars, etc. For the most part we send the products overseas where they are marketed in US, France, and Switzerland. A new product we are trying this time, thanks to Maya Shaw's help, are heavy scarfs. These seem to be the rage in the U.S. and we have sent a sample installment of 10 scarfs to be sold and check the markets for such items. We are looking to shift our products to the more trendy items as per the youth in America. We will run this as a trial and see if these are viable profit making fund raiser.

5. IMMUNIZATION PROGRAMME

Ms. Sarita -Health Promoter

In the month of November, DIR-I collaborated with the government-run immunization programme on every Wednesday morning (in the DIR Centre) to provide free immunizations. A total of 225 shots were administered to children, details of which are as follows:

SHOTS	1st Dose	2nd Dose	3rd Dose	Total
Hepatitis B	23	13	16	52
DPT	23	13	16	52
DPT Booster				27
DPT 5 yrs			-	17
TT	7	15	-	22
TT 10 yrs			-	3
Measles	24	27	-	51
BCG			-	1
Total			-	225

6.D.O.T.S.

Mrs. Meenakshi- Health Promoter

*Last month, **thirteen** tuberculosis patients were being served medicines at our basti office through the government DOTS program run by DIR. Our basti office is an authorized 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 the treatment and were declared free from this disease. **Two** new patients have been diagnosed with TB this month, and we have started medication to them.

Following is the distribution of these patients in different categories and 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, plus patients with extra-pulmonary Tuberculosis are included in Category I. This month, we have **ten** patients in this category.

Category II – These are 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, plus those who had not been cured even after completing a full prescribed course. They are included in Category II. This month we have **three** patients in this category.

7. Personnel Action, Visitors, Events

Mr. Arun Gupta

Donations : We are grateful to Mrs. Joyshree Lobo, Mr. Mohinder Bajaj and Ms. Mohini Hari for their generous donations to DIR. Their contributions will be utilized in the education of children in the HOPE-E program. The HOPE-E program (Hope of Prosperity through Excellence in Education) has selected six bright students of the bastee on the basis of a competitive examination, and covers their education fees, stationery items, books, uniform and other study related items.

A one day conference was held in the Indian School of Business, Mohali. Prominent NGO's of the region were invited. Mr. Arun Gupta attended the conference on behalf of DIR. The topics discussed were setting up of NGOs, fund generation and the role of NGOs in our society.

Geet Sharma, a local photographer trained in the U.S., visited the bastee. He proposes to hold photography classes for the children of the basti, and then auction the photographs clicked by them and donate the proceeds to DIR.

Mr. Gursimran Sethi, General Manager of Forest Hill Resorts, has offered to employ local kids from the bastee to work as caddies in the gold course. DIR will propose names of children who would be willing to work as Caddies. As there is not enough work to keep the caddies occupied the whole day, it was suggested that Forest Hill employ these children for the full day as assistants to gardeners, peons and other odd jobs. They would double as caddies whenever a customer requested their services.

Mr. Vishal Anand has joined DIR as a volunteer and will mainly concentrate on CSR activities and help generate funds for DIR.