

Popularly known as Moulana Ishtiyag, teacher of a Madrarsa (religious teaching institute), life was unfortunately not kind to him. Suffering from a respiratory disease, he lost all hope in ever recovering again. Living in Seelampur with his wife, three sons and a daughter, he eventually lost all his energy and became very weak, fighting for every breath that would keep him alive. Visits with local doctors were endless, never bringing him any relief, not to mention a cure. One day he visited Hope's MMU along with other patients. After having listened to his description of the illness, the attending doctor prescribed medicines free of cost for a week and asked him to report during the next visit of the MMU, which is normally once a week in one community, thus five communities per week. The next week, Moulana Ishtiyag was standing at the front of the queue with a grateful smile on his face, feeling significantly better already. After having taken the medicines for three months, Moulana Ishtiyag is fully cured without any complaints. He has become a messenger for the Hope MMU and encourages others in the community to have faith in its services. He has found that Hope is always there if you look for it.



Pic: Moulana Ishtiyag



<http://www.hope-project.de/>
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Dargah Hazrat Inayat Khan Hope Project

Initiated by Pir Vilayat Khan in 1975

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Edited by Samiur Rahman and Heiko Schrader

Hope also in Kashmir

Due to the experiential knowledge acquired in the fields of medical and social work, the Hope Project has the capacity to function as a catalyzer for other projects particularly in rural areas where poverty and vulnerability is even higher than in urban regions. In summer 2011, members from Hazrat Inayat Khan Foundation had evaluated where we could take such an intermediary function. A place was found in Mattipoora village, 30 kilometers away from Srinagar, the capital of Kashmir. The village already provided infrastructure, a vacant medical centre, which had been run by another NGO some time ago. Doctors from Florence Hospital in Srinagar, being interested in doing voluntary work, had accepted to offer their medical skills. A project application was written to this effect jointly by the villagers, the Hope Project and the interested doctors. Recently, with the installation and procurement of needed equipments funded by the German Embassy, Mattipoora Health Centre has become operational, providing primary and dental health services in organized health camps. The dentists, gynaecologists, paediatricians and general physicians treated a vast amount of patients in three camps. Community ownership was confirmed with the appointment of a local doctor by the village committee. The previously deserted look of the premises has been converted into a lively atmosphere bringing hope to many for quality health services, which was virtually non-existent before.



Pic: Mattipoora Health Centre in cooperation with Hope

Hope for a Quality Life

Your invaluable contributions on a regular basis have helped us continue the most important task of all, improving the quality of life for those living on the brink of existence. We can report only of positive changes and developments. Here are some excerpts of success:



Pic: Placement of Youth

The placement centre continues to provide job opportunities to youths by linking them with the NGOs in collaboration with the corporate sector. Over the years, the Hope Project has also developed independent support with the corporate sector, making even more jobs possible by developing the required skills. Out of six employed, four are women.

The youth forum has been very active, meeting every weekend to discuss issues concerning their education and skills development. Although a few dropped out, they have been encouraged to continue their instruction; fifteen have been enrolled in NIOS for secondary and senior secondary education.



Pic: Working with Youth

Hope for a Quality Life (cont.)



Pic: Life skills training

After the successful training initiative with 200 adolescents concerning reproductive and sexual health, 20 girls and 20 boys from the community were trained to convey the message.

They are to pass on their knowledge to their peers ensuring more responsible behaviour and a more risk-free life.

To strengthen the work centre and create more opportunities, 23 women from SHGs who have cutting and tailoring skills have been trained in entrepreneurship. Linkages have also been established with the local traders, increasing the chances of payment on a regular basis.

The Mobile Medical Unit (MMU) has enjoyed a vast increase in popularity. Reaching out, it has made incredible changes in the lives of those too poor to ever seek out a doctor. Treatment on a regular basis has already given hope to many and build rust in modern medicine rather than self-proclaimed healers. Curative cure being only one of the motives, the MMU has taken the initiative to educate adolescent boys and girls in the community, motivating them to visit awareness programs on the prevention of communicable and non-communicable diseases.

Dreaming with Hope

Zeba was enrolled at Hope in 2005 when her father suffered an accident. With wounds to the head and fractures inflicting his body, an operation was imminent. The operation was successful, but it reduced his physical abilities to a minimum, forcing him to do work that requires very little strength. He works as a peon in the nearby community of Sarai Kale Khan with reduced income due to his reduced abilities. To support the large family, Zeba's mother started selling vegetables in a nearby market. Her parents did not encourage Zeba to pursue the offered education seriously, but one of her friends, who was attending our school, decided to bring her along. It did not take her teachers and then the medical staff long to realize that Zeba was suffering from Tuberculosis. Her mother was informed and her checkups at our center also revealed that she was, indeed, inflicted with TB. Hope provides all her medicines as well as nutritional requirements ensuring that she is healthy. She is currently taking the board exams for the 10th standard.



Pic: Zeba