



Dargah Hazrat Inayat Khan Hope Project Newsletter

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Dec, 2020

No. 40

After the Lockdown: Our major challenges

Dear friends,

It has been more than six months since lockdown has begun due to the Covid-19 pandemic, making life miserable for the poor and disadvantaged in specific. A meal a day has so often been difficult – now it would seem impossible. Due to your generosity, the Hope Project did not let them starve. Simply put: with your help we are literally saving lives every day. We ensure dry rations, sometimes cash, for those in need. This is ongoing and will remain so until the families regain their source of income.

The pandemic is not over, but the life is gradually becoming normal with restricted movement and limited transport facilities. Too many have lost their jobs, scores of people have migrated back home. Hope's teachers, out-reach workers and concerned employees remained in contact with them. Efforts are on to get them back to the Basti to resume (online) education for children & employment of women. The Hope Project has initiated the process of creating livelihood opportunities for its beneficiaries through partnership with likeminded agencies.

With A LOT of hygienic precautions, we have been able to reopen the medical services.

During the monsoon water seeped into our basement leaving our library, vocational training center, finance office and computer lab in three feet of water. Damage to books and furniture, training equipment in the vocational unit and computer lab, accounting and finance documents was extensive. During lockdown Nizamuddin was declared a containment zone, only security personnel was in the office and alerted us. We reacted immediately and were able to engage specialists. But all in vain as the fault could not be detected and the water flow remains unchanged.

An expert from Jamia Millia Islamia (a central university) reported that the water was from underground wells. The solution is to use 10 Hydro abstraction wells for the management of excess water. The continuous flow of water is gradually causing damage to the building, but work is slow as each step taken is based on rigorous observations and regulations. The installation of Hydro wells will be followed by micro piling grouting, flooring etc. to make the foundation strong. The water flow is indefinite as its causes are natural.



Dr. Arif takes the temperature of a patient



Damages in the basement

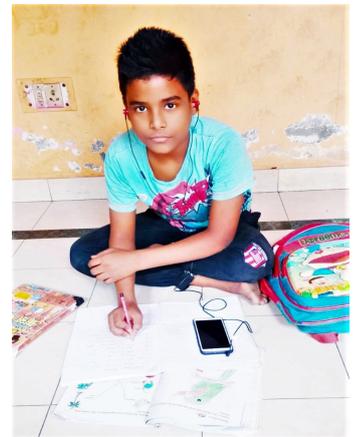
How students coped with online education

The switch from offline teaching to online mode was difficult all around. Teachers developed special lesson plans and prepared videos and audios to share teaching content through social networking platforms. The students, who had smart phones and access to internet connectivity, could easily join classes. The challenge was for those students whose families struggled to even make the ends meet. Follow ups over the phone helped us to track all these needy families. Ration packets were distributed to them and some phones, wherever possible.

Videos, audios and classes through video conferencing were being held with a view to not just impart learning to the students but to stay connected with them. It has also been inspiring to see our students reach out and help each other, whether it's sharing their phones or engaging in peer teaching.

There is always Hope.

Abhimanyu (12) joined Hope's Non Formal School last year. Illiterate, he started in entry level class, learning basic reading, writing and mathematics from his teacher in both Hindi and English. The lesson plan was tailored specifically to his needs as he was previously quite naughty and easily distracting – himself and others. The nation-wide Corona virus lockdown swiftly interrupted what had been an impressively successful learning curve. Confined to his home, Abhimanyu reverted to his teasing ways and picked on his little brother Mohit. Learning of this, his teacher reached out via mobile and counseled the boy, encouraging mindful behavior and dedication to his studies. When his father, a driver, could go back to work and online classes started, Abhimanyu and his little brother would have to wait for their dad to come home so they could use his smartphone – the only one of the household. But as fate would have it, their father had to go to a different city when a better work opportunity arose. Understanding that his sons needed this lifeline more than he did, Abhimanyu's father left his smart phone for them to use. Connected to his teacher and his classmates, Abhimanyu has learned to divert his creative energy. He is dedicated in school, quickly soaking up new things; he helps his mother around the house, and he has become a true older brother to Mohit. In July he was able to move to a higher class. His mother is all praises for his teacher who has always been an inspiration and a source of motivation for him.



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Dargah Hazrat Inayat Khan Hope Project
Initiated by Pir Vilayat Khan in 1975

<http://www.hopeprojectindia.in>

