



TOP STORY

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DCCWConnect



Our Bal Chetna children excel at the national level!

We are both delighted and proud to announce that four of our Bal Chetna children - Sahil, Kartik, Kajal & Gudia - have won awards at the National Painting Competition in the category of challenged children. The competition was organised by the Indian Council for Child Welfare (ICCW). Every year, as part of Children's Week in November, we organise painting competitions for all categories of children attending our programmes. The best 3 paintings in each category are sent as entries to the Indian Council for Child Welfare.

Sahil, Kartik, Kajal & Gudia are part of our Bal Chetna Outreach programme, through which special needs children from under-privileged families receive day-care, rehabilitation therapies and nutrition, to help them achieve their potential. Each of these four children has shown tremendous all-round improvement compared to their initial condition, during the time they have been at our centre. Gudia has since been integrated into a mainstream school.

Our centres are located in slum and resettlement areas in Delhi, and the children enrolled attend the centres every weekday. Physiotherapists, special educators, speech therapists and counsellors work with each child individually according to his or her special requirements, and draw up a development plan for each child, against which progress is monitored regularly. Painting is one of the activities the children are involved in, along with music and other crafts. The children also receive proper nutrition at the centre, and our doctors carry out periodic medical check-ups. We are truly proud of Sahil, Kartik, Kajal & Gudia. They demonstrate that children like them are specially enabled, though often categorized as disabled by many.



Spotlight - Disha

Eight year old Disha is part of our Supervised Homework Scheme and attends our Begumpur centre. She is a student of class IV at IP Senior Secondary School. Her family comprises her grandmother, parents and two other school-going siblings. The family had to migrate from Sonapat, Haryana to Delhi due to financial constraints. Her father now works as a temporary Delhi Transport Corporation driver, and the grandmother's pension augments the family income. Disha is a very affectionate girl and loves her family. She wants to grow up to be a doctor so that she can treat her parents in their old age!

Disha's instructor at our centre says that when she enrolled in 2018 she was a shy and introverted child, but she had a talent for creative crafts. She also showed great interest in anything to do with our environment and Nature.

Today, she loves making creative utility items out of waste materials. These include a doll out of newspapers she has made as a present for her grandmother, and lovely bags out of waste plastic and cloth. She learnt about kitchen gardens at the centre and now she helps her mother to grow plants like tulsi, marigold and pomegranate in pots at home. During our Peer Educator Workshop, she amazed everyone present with her concern and thoughts about the importance of a clean and green environment.

Disha has excelled in academics too. When she joined our centre, she could just about read two letter words in both Hindi and English, and made many mistakes in writing. She faltered in counting up to 20. But today she can read and write in both languages very well for her age. In Arithmetic, she can solve 3 digits addition and subtraction. She even knows multiplication and division and can count till 100. In her Class III final examination, she scored 90.96%! Disha is a true example of a child reaching her potential given the right guidance and encouragement!



Quarterly Updates



Our Partners stand by our side

Mitsubishi Corporation set up another computer training centre at Dakshinpuri, helping our vision of making young girls and school going children digitally literate. The girls put up an enthralling performance to welcome them.

Inner Wheel Club, Civil Lines, led by PALNA well-wisher and supporter Ms Neha Gupta, raised the funds to set up an additional 10 KVA Solar unit in PALNA. This will help PALNA reduce its energy cost.

*As part of their Community Service, Bal Bharti School children held a 2-week program for 20 children of our Supervised Homework Scheme programme, holding classes on basics of Computers and Life skills. It was a great exposure to the computer labs and a tremendous learning for our children.



Dr Uday from IBHAS, Dr Surabhi Mishra and the team from Parvarish took several sessions across various centres, covering 200 children of our Educational Sponsorship and Vocational Training programmes, addressing issues of sexual abuse of children, its psychological impact, methods of handling those affected and adolescent health. We do hope that educating these young ones will have a trickle effect on those they come in contact within their communities.

PALNA received much-needed medical equipment for the Medical Crisis Unit from Friends of Sant Parmanand Hospital. It has increased our capacity when dealing with critical cases as they arrive at our door.

Boston University Alumni took it upon themselves to give a fun filled day to PALNA children by organizing a day out at the National Rail Museum, including train rides on a real train topped with a MacDonald's meal.

Finding us on the web, new donors from the United Kingdom found their way to PALNA. Suzette Price and Naomie visited PALNA and spent some time with the children.

The Educational Sponsorship programme stipend was distributed to 691 students from underprivileged families across Delhi. Apart from getting the stipend, their results were reviewed. They also received stationery items and had a general health check up.

On 9th April a Peer Educator Orientation Workshop was organised at our head office. 15 instructors and 20 children from all locations participated in it. Mrs. Smriti Pathak, Counsellor, Bal Chetna conducted this session. The session was interactive one in which instructors and children discussed their own experiences at their centres, so as to identify and share best practices.

As the new financial year started, we started registering new children in our PALNA WeeKids and Supervised Homework Scheme programmes. New batches also started in the Vocational training programme.

A 2-day workshop on adolescent health and diet counselling for young girls was conducted on



26th-27th April for about 100 adolescent girls enrolled in our Education Sponsorship programme. The aim of the workshop was to create awareness and sensitise the girls about adolescent problems and associated issues such as peer pressure, mental health, child sexual abuse, social and personal wellness, and how to deal with them.

Nav Gurukul, a Bengaluru-based organisation that educates under-privileged young men and women through a 18-month residential program, to qualify them for the IT corporate sector, held an awareness session for the girls in our Computer vocational training programme. Their parents also attended the session. We hope to have a longer term partnership with Nav Gurukul.

All Supervised Homework Scheme centres celebrated Mother's Day on 11th May. All the mothers of the respective children were invited at the centre. Children did a short play on importance of mothers in shaping their personality, and gifted cards they had made to their mothers. The mothers also actively participated and a few of them sang songs. A summer camp was also organised for children in this programme between 3rd and 29th June. Activities at the camp included language and personality development, art & craft, and games.

As part of our ongoing policy to invest in our staff, a workshop on learning disability was organized on 28th June for our teachers, counsellors and program officers. We also conducted a 2-day Induction training for new instructors of PALNA WeeKids programme on 18th – 19th June.

V isitors' Comments

Mr Praveen Agarwal, Delhi

"Excellent effort. An amazing and very heart-touching experience."

Delhi Council for Child Welfare (DCCW) is a Registered NGO (Non-Governmental Organization), established in 1952 to care for children who had been displaced during the riots that took place after the partition of India. Since its inception over 50 years ago, DCCW has grown, its services expanding and diversifying to keep pace with the changing needs of Delhi's less fortunate children. Today, DCCW provides a range of services for underprivileged children living in and around Delhi, in

