

SEVA TRUST
SOCIAL REHABILITATION AND EDUCATION OF THE CHILDREN OF MIGRANT
QUARRY WORKERS

ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT

(August 2012 to December 2013)

GENERAL INFORMATION

Project Title	Social Rehabilitation Program for Children of Migrant Quarry Workers in Rajasthan.
Project Location	Dhaneshwar village in Boondi District, Rajasthan.
Project period	August 2012 to July 2015
Reporting Period	August 2012 to December 2013
Target Group	50 Children of migrant quarry workers
Financially Supported by	GEW Foundation / Fair Childhood - Germany.
Project goal	Elimination of Child labour and universalization of education for children of migrant quarry workers and rehabilitation.
Measures Planned	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. School for children of migrant workers 2. Health care program for quarry workers 3. Bridge school for dropout school

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

‘Migration’ a small word but has its own importance. In India migration means something connected to economic activity and more specifically poor families searching for job. Migrant quarry workers are the most neglected and most marginalized community. All most all the children of mine/quarry workers either never go to schools or being a school dropout or child labor at their tender age. The children are denied access to basic education due to various socio economic and cultural reasons. Considering the pathetic living conditions and denial of basic rights of children of quarry workers and lack of access to education a project was envisaged, to serve the educational needs of the migrant children at Dhaneshwar. The prime aim of the project is to facilitate sustained education of the children of quarry workers who are school drop outs and non-starters. The team has visited more than seventeen mines and quarries found the same conditions prevail everywhere. Finally, Dhaneshwar mine/quarry was selected as many migrant

children were living without education. The information was shared to Xertifix and with their help a small project was initiated in August 2012. The project is financially supported by GEW Foundation / Fair Childhood, Germany and facilitated and monitored by XertifiX, Germany represented by Dr. Walter, CEO. The following is a narrative progress report for the period August 2012 to December 2013.

Why Dhaneshwar?

The team studied many mines and finally selected Dhaneshwar village for the following reasons:

1. The Boondi Silca mine is monitored to prevent child labour and labour welfare by Xertifix for many years.
2. The migrant workers living in Dhaneshwar are under the care of Xertifix
3. There is no school available nearer to the houses of the migrant workers
4. The government school is available 2 km from the residence of the children and they need to cross a National Highway which is dangerous to their life
5. Fearing accidents, the parents are reluctant to send their children to that school
6. More than 100 children are living in Dhaneshwar without going to school
7. Above all, the migrant people living in Dhaneshwar ask Xertifix inspectors for a school nearer to their residence

Beneficiary Children:

In August 2012, planning and motivational meetings were conducted with the parents and the final list of children with their family backgrounds was collected. 65 children were enumerated but only 55 children had agreed to come to the school and they are the primary beneficiaries. The rest 10 refused to come to our school as they are already in their 15th year and preferred to go for work.

Among the fifty, 36 children are in the age group of 3-5 and 14 children are in the age group of 6-14. Additionally 7 siblings of the children also came to school regularly as there was no one at home to look after the younger ones.

The secondary beneficiaries are 500 migrant quarry workers and their families who live on the land given by Boondi silica company at Dhaneshwar village.

THE PROJECT

Project Objectives

1. The children of migrant quarry workers get access to education and healthy childhood
2. The children of quarry workers will be protected from the exploitations and evils of child labor
3. The quarry workers will be sensitized on labor rights and child rights
4. Children of quarry workers will be prevented by dropping out from school and continue education wherever they live.
5. Getting improved access to health care services and health education

Measures Implemented

- School for children of migrant quarry workers at Dhaneshwar
- Health care program for children of quarry workers
- Social development activities in Dhaneshwar village to prevent child labor

School for children of migrant quarry workers

By the help of GEW Foundation / Fair Childhood – Germany, a Labour Children Education center (school) had been started at Dhaneshwar in August 2012. Since the initial stage the school is being conducted in a rented building.

The school starts at 9 a.m. and closes by 3.30 p.m. and as in any other regular school, teaching and learning takes place. A syllabus is followed which was prepared by the Project Teacher based on the guidelines given by the state government.

According to the age, the children were divided into two sections:

Sec A – 3-5 age group (more of a play group)

Sec B – 6-14 age group (formal school pattern-combined classes for all children)

Younger children are taught alphabets in English and Hindi, rhymes, games and social habits. The children in the Section B are taught English and Hindi languages, basic Mathematics and General Knowledge. The focus of the school is to instill interest in the minds of the children on education. Equal importance is also given to social behavior development through various social activities.

Regular school attendance of children, profile of children and progress record for each child are being maintained.

Extra-Curricular Activities

Once in a week children are given value education and talent building exercises. Sub committees are formed to help the children to develop right perspectives and talents.

- A. **Child Protection Committee** – 3 members (Responsibilities: works against child labour, motivating children to go to school, identify drop outs and help)
- B. **Child Health Committee** – 3 members (Responsibilities: taking care of cleanliness in the school and in the village, personal hygiene of children and health education to prevent diseases)
- C. **Child Development Committee** – 3members (Responsibilities: works for the 4 rights of the children)

In each committee, there are 3 or 4 children, taking responsibility to speak about specific roles. Children are sensitized about village problems, drinking water issue, health problems, etc., and they are motivated to do whatever they can in the school and in the village.

Teaching Methodology

Always participatory learning methodologies are adopted. Personal or individual attention is given to all children. Teachers personally involved in helping children. Periodically, once in a month tests and assessments were being conducted.

Books and Note books supplied

All the identified 50 children were given note books (copies), a medium size school bag and necessary stationeries such as pencils, rubber, sharpener, writing pads and a fancy pen. As per the need copiers are supplied to the children. The distribution of books note books and school bags motivate children to go to school regularly and gives a feeling that they are not deprived of learning materials to continue their schooling.

Teachers use teaching manuals, text books and Guides.

Nutritious supplement for children

By the generous help of GEW Foundation / Fair Childhood, all the children who attend the school are given mid-day meal between 12-12.30 p.m. A weekly schedule of menu is made available accordingly, lunch is provided. It is being cooked every day and served to all the children coming to the school.

Days	Lunch
Monday	Kichadi (Mixture of Dal and Rice)
Tuesday	Geer (Mixture of Sugar, Milk & Rice)
Wednesday	Spice Gram, Channa, Onion, Chapathi
Thursday	Halwa (Solid Sweet), Sugi, Wheat powder, Sugar & Ghee
Friday	Poori and Sabji/Aloo
Saturday (Half working day)	Fruits and Biscuits

Health/Medical Care

All the children are vulnerable to infections due to the bad living conditions and many children suffer due to various ailments. To help the children and their mothers medical care is arranged through government nurse. Twice in a month a nurse is made to visit the school and spend more than 1 hour to do medical examination of all the children in the school. Wherever necessary, the nurse provides simple medical care and advice the parents to take care of the children according to the ailments if any. Once in 3 months, medical camps are organized in collaboration with government staff.

Project Public services

The Residential Care taker of the School (originally Transit school Instructor) has been deputed to work with the migrant community and help them in various possible ways to get all the assistance from the government. Accordingly the following services were provided.

- a) An association of **“ideal mine workers families”** has been started in which 103 families have become members. The purpose of this association is to enable the families to enhance their knowledge about child rights, workers’ rights and follow certain basic norms such as personal hygiene, environmental cleanliness, participating in common meetings, supporting social cause, preventing child labor, encouraging children’s education, etc. The families appreciate such initiatives and participate in the deliberations.
- b) **Self Help Groups** for Mine labourers have been formed (10 nos) and regular group meetings are conducted by Mr. Lalta.
- c) The migrant families are informed about and educated about various **Government schemes** such as insurance of labourers, care of Silicosis patients, election and voter ID etc..
- d) Linkage has been established between workers and **Primary Health Center/hospital**

- e) Petition has been filed to get an **Anganwadi school** from the government, a first step towards sustainability of the school
- f) Organized a **Public Hearing** on child abuse and violence against children
- g) Mobilized **housing plots** for migrant quarry workers from the state Government
- h) Organized **Handicraft training** on knitting and mehendi for village women. 24 women benefitted.

Celebration of National Days

All the National days such as National Independence day, Republic day, Child labor prevention day and Human rights day have been observed and celebrated at the school. Local leaders were invited and the children perform cultural programs. All the children were given special sweets.

Parents Meeting

Once in a while the parents were gathered and the team discussed with them about the importance of education to their children and the role of the parents in sustaining the interest to study. It is being emphasized that the parents need to motivate and help them to go to schools.

Human Resource (Staff)

The project is managed by a team of 3 staff and a helper for cooking.

The Teacher is a graduate with special training in teaching, serves as in-charge of the school, looking after the children in the age group of 6-14. The female teacher has completed her school education and doing her graduation (Final Year). She is a daughter of a mine worker hailing from the same migrant settlement. She is taking care of children below 5 years. A transit school instructor has been appointed as there is no activity as transit school, he is serving as a Residential Care Taker of the school involved in variety of social development activities connected to the school and the village. Primarily he is responsible for preventing children going to the Quarry/mines as Child labourers. Also he helps in bringing or collecting children every day to the school and attends to the absentees, finding reasons and motivate them accordingly to attend school. Secondly he is responsible for Social Activities such as mobilization and unionization of migrant workers, formation of women groups to work for the overall development of the community. A woman (widow) has been employed as a cook in the project.

Visitors

The school has the privilege of having the following well-wishers, friends and donors as visitors:

Mr. Ulrich Thone – GEW, Germany

Ms. Ingrid Sehrbrock – Chairperson, Xertifix

Mr. Benjamin Putter – Vice Chairperson, Xertifix

Mr. Steffen Welzel – Officer, Fair childhood

Dr. Walter Schmidt – CEO, Xertifix

Ms. Doring – Journalist in German Embassy, New Delhi

Dr. Yogesh Dubey – Chairperson, NCPCR

Ms. Mamata Sharma – National Commission for Women

Results

1. All the children connected to the school have developed lot of interests on coming to school and on education and future career.
2. On an average, 45 children are regularly attending the school and enjoy their childhood
3. 90% school attendance is achieved
4. All the 38 children learnt to read, write and prepared to join mainstream schools
5. 7 children, non starts/ non school going have started their schooling
6. The children learnt new behaviors
7. Children talk about child rights
8. Children experience improved state of health .(All the beneficiary children are given lunch, prevented from child starvation during the day time when parents are away on work)
9. All the children are given 3 sets of uniform, 7 notebooks each and all stationaries
10. Parents are sensitized about child rights and government schemes
11. All the children and many parents have received medical care on regular basis
12. 80 migrant families have received a small piece of land for housing given by the Government

Challenges/ Observations

Many children of mine workers in Dhaneshwar still wandering around who are in the age group 15 to 17 and some are less than 14. They sometime disturb the school going. We see this as one of the challenges.

The attitudes and perspective of parents about their children's education is big challenge. The migrant quarry workers prefer to keep their children always with them, instead of sending them to school. The parents prefer to take their children along with them, whenever they go for family functions in relatives' places that very much affect the children's schooling and their learning process.

Due to unhygienic conditions at home many children are affected by typhoid, viral fever, cold, and skin diseases. One of the major concerns is the ill health of children and become major cause for dropping out from schools.

Government Schools never been an attractive place for the children as the environment and other facilities are not adequate and conducive.

Conclusion and Gratitude

The migrant mine workers children in Dhaneshwar feel blessed and gifted to experience and enjoy a school life which was rather a dream for many. They told, a school life was a reality in their life only because of the generosity and kind help of GEW Foundation / Fair Childhood Germany, and the project was instrumental. The beneficiary children and their parents are thankful to GEW / Fair Childhood, Germany. With a deep sense of gratitude we submit the report.