

SEVA TRUST

SOCIAL REHABILITATION AND EDUCATION OF THE CHILDREN OF MIGRANT QUARRY WORKERS

PROJECT COMPLETION AND PROGRESS REPORT

(September 2014 to July 2015)

GENERAL INFORMATION

Project Title	Social Rehabilitation Program for Children of Migrant Quarry Workers in Rajasthan.
Project Location	Dhaneshwar village, Boondi District, Rajasthan, India.
Project period	August 2012 to July 2015
Reporting Period	September 2014 to July 2015 (completion)
Target Group	60 Children of migrant quarry workers
Financially Supported by	Fair Childhood – Germany and GEW Foundations
Indian Implementing NGO Partner	SEVA Trust, 21, Avvai Nagar, Selaiyur, Chennai, India.
Project goal	Elimination of Child labor 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 workers2. Health care program for quarry workers children3. Social development activities for Tribal communities in Dhaneshwar village

NOTE: As instructed by the Government Officials here in after the school will be called as Labor Children Education Center

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

A Social Rehabilitation Program for Children of Migrant Quarry Workers had been implemented in a remote village Dhaneshwar in Boondi district of Rajasthan. The project was financially supported by GEW Foundations & Fair Childhood, Germany and monitored by XertifiX – Germany represented by its CEO Dr. Walter.

The project had been implemented since August 2012 and successfully completed by July 2015. All the proposed activities were implemented and the objectives of the project have been accomplished. The following is a completion and progress report for the third and final year of the project from September 2014 to July 2015.

Note: Although the project period is completed the SEVA team continues the Labor Children's Education center for few more months until the next phase of the project is sanctioned.

THE CONTEXT:

Most of the children belong to the marginalized families are denied access to basic education due to various socio economic reasons. In general, facilitating education of children in marginalized families became inevitable. For all the children of quarry/mine workers, 'migration' of their families still persists as a serious problem. Almost all the children of mine/quarry workers either never go to schools or being a school dropout or survive as a child labor at their tender age. In order to facilitate the education of children in migrant quarry workers families and to give them the opportunity to experience of good schooling this project was initiated. 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 at Dhaneshwar village.

WHO ARE THE BENEFICIARIES?

The project was planned originally to benefit 65 children who were living in Dhaneshwar village (Tapri) a settlement area of mine workers in Boondi district. **By the end of the project period the project served more than 95 children.** Out of 65 children identified in the age group 4-18, only 55 children have joined the school in the first year of the project and they are the primary beneficiaries. The rest 10 had refused to come to our school as they are already in their 15th year and preferred to go for work.

Inward and outward migrations being a common feature of the identified community it was not practical to maintain the same beneficiary group of 55 children. In fact at the end of the first year of the project (August 2012 to July 2013) there were 12 outward migrations and 17 new children joined the center. At the end of the second year (2013-2014) 12 children have migrated with their parents to other areas and 10 children written school exam and joined mainstream formal school. But 23 children joined the center to keep the strength as 61. As per the registration records and attendance register of the school 61 children are on roll. Among them 16 are in the age group of 11-14 and the rest 35 are in the age group of 4-10. And the rest are the 10 siblings of the children who also attend the regularly.

All the parents of the children, more than 30 illiterate women and the mine labors are considered as the secondary beneficiaries as social Development activities such as Women Groups, Adult Literacy program, labor education and Hand Work trainings were conducted for them.

THE PROJECT

Project Objectives (As envisioned at the beginning of the project)

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

Core Measures Implemented

- Education Center for 60 children of migrant quarry workers
- Health care program for children of quarry workers and children Social development activities for women in Dhaneshwar village

Objective 1: The children of migrant quarry workers get access to education and healthy childhood

Activity: Education Center for children of migrant quarry workers (Labor Children Education Center)

In order to achieve the specific objective mentioned above an Education center for the children of migrant quarry workers was conducted. This was an alternative school for the Children of migrant quarry workers. The salient features of the education center are as follows:

Children Beneficiaries: There were 95 migrant children registered and being helped to experience their healthy childhood and schooling. During the third year 61 children are on roll.

Time Table: (As reported)

Time	Activity
9.00 - 9.15 a.m.	School Prayer
9.15 – 10.15 a.m.	First Hour class (English)
10.15 – 11.15 a.m.	Second Hour class (Hindi)
11.15 – 12.00 noon	Lunch Break
12.00 – 1.00 p.m.	3 rd hour class (General knowledge)
1.00 – 2.00 p.m.	4 th hour class (Social)
2.00 – 3.00 p.m.	Extracurricular/Games

A Day for a child in the Center: (Daily Functions of the School):

A normal day in the school starts with a Prayer for about 10 minutes which is being led by the teachers and till 11.30 a.m. classes. At 11.30 children will have lunch and from 12.00 till 2 p.m. general classes and the last hour from 2.00 to 3.00 pm children are engaged in playing games. The games period is guided by the teachers.

A syllabus is followed which was prepared by the Project Teacher based on the guidelines given by the Education Department of the Rajasthan State Government.

The children were divided into two sections according to their age,:

Section A – 4-6 age group (more of a play group). There are 35 Children on roll

Section B – 7-14 age group (formal school pattern-combined classes for all children). There are 16 children on roll

Special Section - Apart from these sections a Baby section is also maintained in which 10 siblings of the children are given care. If the siblings are not allowed in the center, then the children will not come as they will be asked by their parents to remain at home to look after the younger ones.

In Section A – the younger children are taught alphabets in English and Hindi, rhymes, games and social habits.

In section B - the children are taught English and Hindi languages, basic Mathematics and General Knowledge. More detailed syllabus is maintained by the teacher. 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.

From the initial stage the school is being conducted in a rented building. From November 2015 the center is fully functioning from the new and own building of Seva Trust.

Teaching Methodology (Pedagogy)

The teacher teaches the students based on the curriculum given in text book. Participatory learning methodologies are adopted. Activity based methods of learning are used. Every child is helped to perform in the learning process by repeating the subject. All the children are given learning tools to write and draw what they learn. 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 just to understand the level of learning of the children. The parents are informed (mostly mothers) about their child's performance. Based on the test

results the children are prepared to write the government examinations to join the mainstream school.

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 labor, 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** – 3 members (Responsibilities: works for the 4 rights of the children)
- D. **Food management Committee** – 3 members (Responsibilities: test the quality of food, distribute food to 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 issues, health problems, etc., and they are motivated to do whatever they can in the school and in the village. Such initiatives are facilitated by the Care Taker of the Center. They meet the Surpanch/ Head of the village to talk about water and sanitation issues.

Celebration of National Days

To keep the children in par with other school going children all the National days such as National Independence day, Republic day have been celebrated at the school. In addition to sensitize the children on their rights Child labor prevention day and Human rights day were observed. In such events the local leaders were invited and the children perform cultural programs. The local leaders guide the children as per the situations.

Books and Note books supplied (As reported)

To motivate the children and to give them the feeling of the schooling, note books (copies), a medium size school bag and necessary stationeries such as pencils, rubber, sharpener, writing pads and a fancy pen are given. As per the need copiers are supplied again and again at least thrice in a year. The distribution of books, note books and school bags attract the children to be in school regularly and gives a feeling that they are not deprived of learning materials to continue their schooling. All the identified children who attend the center were given all the required assistance. Teachers use teaching manuals, text books and Guides for their use.

Mid-day Meal for children (As reported)

By the generous help of GEW and Fair Childhood, all the children who attend the school are given mid-day meal between 11.15 -12.00 p.m. A weekly schedule of menu was made available accordingly, lunch was provided. It was 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

Objective 2: Children of quarry workers will be prevented from dropping out from school and continue education wherever they live.

Activity: Preparing dropout children to write Government examinations:

One of the greatest achievements of the project is that 10 children, who were once just school dropouts, have rejoined the mainstream regular school after completion of appropriate Government examinations. This was possible for them because of the Labor education center at Dhaneshwar. Similarly, another group of 10 children were enabled to register for government Exam and they will write the government Exam in April 2016. All children who write government examination will get a government certificate and a transfer certificate which are very essential for their future growth and development and to continue their school education. Thus the dream of Fair Childhood - Germany “Fair childhood Bridge into Future” is being realized.

Objective 3: The children of quarry workers will be protected from all forms of exploitations and evils of child labor

Activity: Parents Meeting

The staff team once in four months gathered the parents and discussed with them about the importance of education to their children and the role of the parents in motivating and sustaining

the interests of the children in education. Also the parents and the entire labor community were educated about the child rights and labor rights.

Objective 4: Children of quarry workers get improved access to health care services and health education

Activity: Health/Medical Care

In order to attend the health care needs of the migrant quarry workers families the project staff arranged medical camps using the existing government health care program. The government nurse is visiting the center twice in a month and spend more than one hour to do medical examination of all the children in the school. Wherever necessary, the nurse provides simple medicines, also advices to the parents to take care of the children according to the ailments if any.

Objective 5: The quarry workers will be sensitized on labor rights and child rights

Activity; Community Services

Labor Committees have been formed by the Residential Care taker of the School. More than 102 workers were involved in 10 committees. The migrant quarry workers were educated about their rights. Also the worker community was educated about various government schemes and helped to avail all their entitlements from the government.

Ideal mine workers' families

The residential care taker of the school has started an Association of "ideal mine workers' families" with the intention to enabling the community members to be sensitive to child rights, and workers' rights and to follow certain norms such as preventing child labor, encouraging children's education, etc. The families appreciate such initiatives and participate in the deliberations.

Handicraft training

Organized training on Handicraft such as knitting and mehendi for village women. It was reported that 15 women had been trained on hand work. The female with the help of another woman trained the poor women.

Adult education (Converting illiterates into literates)

The female teacher helped more than 15 illiterate women to read and write in their local language. During the leisure time in the afternoon the women gathered at one of the houses to learn the basics. The women are happy and feel proud while writing their names instead of using thump impression.

Availing Government schemes

The migrant families are informed about and educated about various Government schemes such as fair price cards for the poor, insurance of laborers, care of Silicosis patients, election ID card and voter ID card etc. Linkage has been established between workers and Primary Health Center/hospital.

General supportive Activities:

Human Resource (Staff)

The project is managed by a team of 4 staffs as follows:

1. Head Teacher
2. Female teacher
3. Residential Care taker
4. A part time cook

Since the beginning the Mr. Badal had served as Head Teacher. Later Mr. Pramod continued as Head Teacher till June 2015. At present Mr. Arun is serving as Head Teacher. Getting a right teacher is a big challenge. Meanwhile, more than three persons were appointed but they refused to continue as the school is situated in a remote place. However, the school was continued, never stopped and managed by other two staff. The present teacher is coping well with the demands of the school. It is worth mentioned here the project has been helpful in promoting a tribal girl and a daughter of a mine worker to serve as a teacher. Her status in the community has totally changed.

Monitoring:

The project was monitored periodically and appropriately to achieve the purpose for it was started. Mr. Rajnath visits often and guides the staff on all the activities of the school.

Results

1. Children developed interests in coming to school regularly.
2. On an average, 45 children are regularly attending the school.
3. Average School attendance is 90%
4. All the senior children have learned to read and write and have been prepared to join mainstream schools
5. 10 students have successfully completed the Government exam and joined the mainstream school
6. 11 children, who have never been to schools have started their schooling with us
7. The children learned new behaviors
8. Children talk about child rights

9. Children starvation is prevented

10. All the children are given 2 sets of uniform, 5 notebooks each and all stationaries

Unintended outcome of the project

- The project team owns land and a building which is a sign of sustainability
- A tribal lady and daughter of a mine worker had been promoted as teacher
- 10 children have rejoined the mainstream schools
- Good manners and behavior changes

Challenges/ Observations

Migration is the unaddressed question

The attitudes and perspective of parents about their children's education persist further as some parents are still not interested in sending their children to school.

The parents prefer to take their children along with them, whenever they go for family functions in relatives' places that very much affects the children's schooling and their learning process.

One of the major concerns is the ill health of children, which becomes the major cause for dropping out of school.

A MILE STONE ACHIEVEMENT: (Own Piece of Land a Building)

The project was started in a rented building in August 2012. The project team had a lot of challenges in maintaining the school. The team negotiated with one of the mine owners and with their permission funds were mobilized to construct a small building for the education center. Before starting the construction due to legal issues connected to the land the building could not be constructed at the proposed place. Thus, the team was facing lot hardships to find a suitable alternative land for the construction of a center. Finally a small piece of land had been bought by the effort of Seva Trust. The building work had been commenced in March 2014 and completed by end of July 2014. The building consists of three class rooms, one room for office and a small multipurpose hall for common activities. A formal inauguration was organized on 14th November 2014. The new building was inaugurated by Mr. Steffen Welzel from Fair Childhood Germany, in the presence of Mr. Benjamin Puetter, one important spirit behind the Labor Children Education center, and an official from the German Embassy, New Delhi.

Sanitation Unit for children: A special financial assistance was given by German Embassy in New Delhi to construct a sanitary unit for the use of the children.

In nut shell the Labor education center reached an important mile stone in terms of sustainability of the ventures initiated in June +July 2012 by having its own place.

Conclusion and Gratitude

It is not merely a project; it is indeed an experience with tribal and migrant children, in fact a transformation process initiated in the lives of the marginalized children in the remote village Dhaneshwar. The initiative needs to continue some more time until it has established a footing of its own. The project team is committed to sustain the good work.

The beneficiary children and their parents are very grateful for the generosity and kind help of GEW and Fair Childhood and XertifiX- Germany. With a deep sense of gratitude and hope for a future collaboration the completion report is submitted.