



Nutpurwa Project: Ground Work and Execution

Natpurwa Project: An Introduction

Nutpurwa Village:

Nutpurwa village is situated in Hardoi district of UP, about 75 Km from the capital of UP, Lucknow.

Unlike any other village of India Nutpurwa village speaks of a different story altogether. The village has a 300 years old history of prostitution, with the inhabitants belonging to mostly "Nut" caste, who actually inherited this "Flesh Trade" from their ancestors.



With a long traditions of male members becoming pimps and female members of the family forced to come into the flesh trade business, this village never saw a ray of hope until Asha (Asha For Education™, www.ashanet.org) helped the villagers open a Study Centre with the help of Asha- volunteer, NeelKamal.

Now Neelkamal runs the Asha-Study Center, in the village that teaches underprivileged kids. Neelkamal has future plans to open some more

such centers and give vocational training programs to the willing villagers to earn their livelihood.

To learn more about Natpurwa Project please visit:
<http://www.ashanet.org/projects/project-view.php?p=350>.



Plan to meet the needs of the Project:

- Raise funds for the **Nutpurwa Project**.
- Use these funds to provide Text-Books, Notebooks (For English, Mathematics & Hindi), Drawing Books, other stationary (Slate, Pencil, Eraser, Sharpener etc), Black Board, mattress as sitting arrangement for students of Nutpurwa village school run by Neelkamal.
- Visit Nutpurwa School and handover the schoolbooks and stationary purchased for the school children.
- Understand the problems faced by Neelkamal and plan to resolve them.

Team

Following persons volunteered to work directly towards fund raising and meeting the requirement of the project:

- Sudheer Mani Tripathi – Employee in HCL Technologies Ltd.
- Abhijit Pendse – Employee in HCL Technologies Ltd.
- Rahul Jha – Employee in HCL Technologies Ltd.
- Col. Ravi Shanker – Retired officer of Indian Army.
- Neelkamal – Asha Volunteer (A resident of the Nutpurwa village) who runs the Nutpurwa School.

Groundwork

- Contact Neelkamal to understand his exact requirements.
- Calculate estimates and expenses for the current books/stationary requirement of the Nutpurwa Project.
- Raise funds by donations (sale of ASHA calendars were a token towards donations).
- Contact persons / booksellers located in Lucknow, Kanpur to check out availability of books and other stationary.

Execution

Project Estimate came out to be close to Rs 15000/- and by end of 4th July 03 we could raise funds of Rs 17050/- by donations (calendars were used as a token).

We booked sleeper class tickets in Gorakhdham Express from Delhi to Lucknow for 4th of July, 03 and return tickets in Lal Quilla express for 6th July, 03 (Travel Expenses and Expenses of Taxi were not drawn from the collections).

We reached Lucknow on 5th July morning and went to a relative's home. After a quick breakfast and cursory glance over the number of shops catering to our requirement, we decided to visit Aminabad Market.

First obstacle was waiting for us, neither UP Government Books were available nor were NCERT books available. We were left with the only option of buying private books, which meant swelling of books budget. But, we decided to go ahead and buy private books, as there was no other alternative. We were able to convince the



bookseller, Avaneesh from Radha Krishna Agency, about the charity cause and he decided to give us 30% discount. This, relatively, eased the budget pressure. Neelkamal had been contacted in advance & he arrived at Aminabad market along with his friend Srinivas. Neelkamal's presence was important to check whether his requirements were met accurately. We purchased the books from Radha Krishna Agency located at Sri Ram Road-Aminabad, Lucknow. We counted the number of books to tally it with the required figures and made the payments.

The second obstacle was getting a taxi to carry the books & other goods to the village. We contacted one travel agency and he sent a taxi, but the taxi driver fled after he came to know that he was supposed to take us to a remote village. Rahul & Sudheer had to run from one agency to other to get a taxi. Our bookseller provided the guarantee & one taxi finally arrived.

The next thing was to purchase notebooks, drawing books etc. Neelkamal had asked for few more things like ballpoint pens, normal writing pencils, erasers etc and money for black board & mattress for the new school in Meerakheda. As this was not part of the initial budget, we were skeptical if we could satisfy this requirement. We had a sigh of relief when the total amount for goods apart from books turned out to be well below our notebooks budget. This would mean that we were going to save some money and we could use this money to satisfy his additional requirement. We loaded all the goods (100 KG+) into the taxi deliberately parked far away to make way for traffic in the narrow lanes.

Now, it was time to depart for our final destination NUTPURWA village. There was a constant threat of the "kamani of the taxi" breaking down owing to the weight of the goods, but our skilled driver Sonu Tiwari ensured a smooth pass. After lots of twists & turns, bumps and jolts we finally reached Nutpurwa village at around 4.45



PM. Except for the bad roads we had a nice time traveling among canopy of Malihabadi mango trees. This is time when these trees are all full with the famous Dussehri mangos. We passed through verdant landscape throughout our otherwise roller coaster ride.

The first glimpse of the village ranked it among the poorest of villages of the country. There were hardly any brick houses. The houses were made of mud, which gets washed off in the monsoon rains and has to be reconstructed again and again. We were moved at the sight of village dwellers in such a pitiful condition. Children gathered



around our van and women peeped out of their houses in curiosity. Neelkamal arranged to contact his fellow supporters (Very few person support his cause) Ram Babu and Raju Bhai. We wished to visit the village but we were instructed not to roam around without one of the volunteers from the village coz of the hostile conditions.

The school was just another hut made out of mud and thatched with palm leaves. Two black boards were suspended on the walls of the school. The room was usually used to store few school equipments. Children study in open sky or under a shelter made of thatched palm leaves.

They sing a prayer in the morning before start of their school schedule. The most amazing development in the kids was their discipline and their attentiveness to the instructions of Neelkamal and his colleagues. It being an odd hour to meet children in a school, we could talk with the very few children who had gathered on Neelkamal's persuasion. We encouraged them to study hard. Few of them recited poems and numbers/tables to us. They were very prompt in doing "Namaste". This was a very heartening sight. We knew that the goods that we provide them are going to do wonders for these poor kids.

Neelkamal and his colleagues were doing a fantastic job out of whatever meager resources they had. We had a brief photo session with the children. We assured the children that books are for them to use and these would be distributed among them next day. We were happy to see their cheerful faces and it was the feeling of satisfaction through their smiling faces, which made us feel rewarded. After shaking hands with the children we left the school. We went see Neelkamal's home located near the school, we had chat with his wife and other family members. His wife is also a teacher in the school. Sudheer suggested NeelKamal to include National Anthem in the school.

We returned to Lucknow by 9:30 PM. Rahul had to return to Delhi the same night. Rest of us stayed back for another day. On Sunday we went to meet Sandeep Pandey (The co-founder of Asha and Magsaysay award winner of year 2002). We briefed him about the work we had done and need for opening an Asha-Delhi account etc. We took a receipts book to be given to persons who had contributed towards this cause. Later we went to the same bookseller to purchase the remaining books that were not available on Saturday.



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Mahesh (another Asha activist) was accompanying us, we gave him the stock we purchased & he would then arrange it to be sent to Nutpurwa.

Neelkamal has come up with some more requirement of sports equipment for children, toys for the children & a first aid box with medicines.

We decided to purchase these in Delhi and than arrange it to be sent to Nutpurwa. For which we need more funds. We plan to raise more funds through donations.

We returned to Delhi with a sense of fulfillment and satisfaction that we could successfully execute the project.

Our efforts do not really end here. We would continue to work relentlessly towards accomplishing the goal. We would need more funds and more persons to come forward and help the cause.



Special Thanks are due to **Anjali Mishra** & her brother **Abhishek Mishra** in Kanpur who provided crucial information regarding books availability. Also, we sincerely thank to **Avaneesh**, the bookseller who provided all the support and promised to give all possible help towards the cause of Social work and basic education. In the end, our special thanks to **Sonu Tiwari** our skilled driver, who not only made the journey possible but told a lot about the area and it's inhabitants.

We sincerely express our gratitude to all the donors who have donated wholeheartedly towards the cause. We hope that we would get the same devoted support in our future endeavors.

Albeit, the real heroes would be Neelkamal and his colleagues who have shown remarkable courage and endurance. Their work needs to be appreciated the most.

Thank You All

Yours truly,

Abhijit Pendse

Rahul Jha

Sudheer Mani Tripathi