

## **THE MID-TERM REPORT ON SUSTAINING PRE-SCHOOL AND VOCATIONAL TRAINING CENTERS FOR PWDS PROJECT**

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Project Coordinator: Mrs. Tara Negi, In-charge VTC

Project Duration: May 2008 to April 2009

### **Report on the Activities of Six Months**

Upon receiving the grant from Asha for Education, USA for Concerned Action's (CAN) Vocational Training Centres, a local survey was conducted in the month of May 2008 at both Kusumpur Pahari and Dakshinpuri slums (low income areas). The feedback from the survey led to the induction of 15 members each in both the Centres for the purpose of training them in vocational crafts and providing them with a platform for interaction.




A database of all the 30 people that are currently coming to both our Centres was also compiled. At the Kusumpur Pahari Centre, CAN has 15 members ranging from the age group of 13 to 60 years. Most of them are physically handicapped while others have cross disabilities and mental handicap. While at the Dakshinpuri Centre the age group ranges from 12 to 38 years. At this Centre there is a mix of mentally retarded, physically handicapped, blind and low vision and cross disabilities. Since the month of June 2008, regular stipend of Rs. 200/- per person is being paid to all the 30 members of our Centres. This momentary assistance has proven to be very helpful for them especially during the time, when the season of sale of CAN CRAFTS is low.

At the pre-primary school, there are a total of 16 children of which, eight are disabled. Amongst the disabled children enrolled at CAN's Centres, two children have been admitted to Akshay Pratishtan, a Special School for the physically handicapped in Vasant Kunj. Furthermore, two other children from the same Centre are being taken to Samadhan School, another Special School for the mentally retarded and slow learners at Dakshinpuri. These admissions took



place in August 2008 as a result of identification, persuasion and follow-ups by Rameshwari, the Field Coordinator for Dakshinpuri Centre and Mrs. Tara Negi. Their details are as follows:-

<u>Name</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Disability</u>	<u>Admitted To</u>	<u>Status Report</u>
Vijendra	13 yrs	Locomotor Disability	Akshay Pratishtan	He has been admitted to the 3 <sup>rd</sup> class but he does not attend school on a regular basis. We have received this feedback from the school. However, his parents are keen on his attending school & we are working on improving his attendance there. The main problem is that he feels out of place as he is much older than the other children in his class.
Khushi 	6 yrs	Multiple Disability (Physical & Low Vision)	Akshay Pratishtan	She has been admitted to the 1 <sup>st</sup> class. She attends the school on a regular basis on all six days. Khushi is showing signs of improvement, better coordination in walking and is also responding better when communicated too. Her parents are happy with her progress. They have also made a Disability Certificate for her.
Dilshad	Above 4 yrs	Multiple Disability (can't stand, sit and talk – physical as well as mental)	Samadhan	He is receiving training for standing with assistance, using the toilet and mobility. As the family is being charged Rs. 70/- per session he has as of yet been there 6 times only. As the training is a

				requirement in his case, we are looking into the possibility of finding sponsorship for his training.
Kajal	3 yrs	Mentally Retarded (can't eat, talk, hand coordination missing and has squint vision)	Samadhan	She is also receiving treatment and training for her condition, twice a week at Samadhan. She is going there on a regular basis.

Besides these four children, others have also been identified that can be admitted to special schools. We are working on these cases and hope to place some more of our centre's children in special schools. The task of admitting these children will take place from March 2009, when the new session begins.

Our field coordinator Arvind Budh Singh, had taken four disabled persons from our Centres, of which Shahjahan is a present member while the remaining three persons, namely Manoj, Shakeel and Chotu are previous beneficiaries to a camp for providing free assistive devices. This camp had been organised by the NGO Goonj on 15<sup>th</sup> October 2008 in Delhi. Here Shahjahan, Manoj and Shakeel received calipers and Chotu was provided with an artificial leg. These devices have helped all four of them to increase their mobility. Chotu who before this was unable to walk is now using a cycle and is very happy.



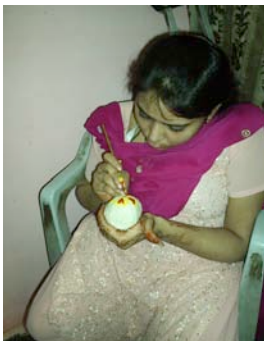
Other members of our Centres were also provided with new assistive devices at CAN's Annual Yellow and Blue Ribbon Campaign's Panel Discussion Function held on 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2008 at the UN Information Centre, New Delhi. This function is held every year to observe the International Day of Person with Disabilities. Amongst the recipients were:

<u>NAME</u>	<u>CENTRE</u>	<u>ASSISTIVE DEVICE</u>
Sushma	Kusumpur Pahari	Crutches
Manoj	Kusumpur Pahari	Crutches
Ramdas	Kusumpur Pahari	Crutches
Bhagyashree	Dakshinpuri	Wheel-Chair
Pyare Singh	Dakshinpuri	Wheel-Chair
Sonia	Dakshinpuri	Crutches
Kanhaiya	Kusumpur Pahari	Crutches

These assistive devices were presented to the above persons from the money received as donation for the said purpose by Mr. Nand Kumar and the added efforts of CAN.

We at CAN had entered talks with Shriram School, Gurgaon for the 11<sup>th</sup> grade students of the school to come and teach the children at our Centres, especially those that are attending the local integrated schools. However, this could not materialise for this year, as the students were busy with other activities. We are hopeful that the students of the school maybe be able to take up tuition activity during their summer break.

This year CAN has been fortunate to expand on its glass work at the Centre with the consultation of Ms. Madhu Roy, an artist from CRY. She has been working with our field coordinators Arvind and Sonia on different materials of glass to produce newer items. This training has been carried forward and now at the Centres we are making painted glass lanterns and vacuum tight glass gel candles. Both these items are being well received in the market because of their unique quality. CRY has approved two designs on these items and is now marketing them for CAN from its shop outlet in Mumbai. CRY is going to try and get corporate orders on these items for CAN.



Ms. Roy has been an asset for us and intends to continue her association with CAN, as a consultant. She has many bright ideas to help make the products more presentable and appealing to the buyers. She has been working with Rameshwari as well to develop a wider range of items in papier-mache. Hopefully, we will send our field coordinators for training in making translucent papier-mache items in the coming year, so that we can develop new items for the Diwali season in 2009. At the same time, we are looking into the aspect of providing training to our members in block-printing, as many of them have shown a great interest in it.

The facilities at the Centres are also being improved upon. Two ceiling fans have been purchased for the Dakshinpuri Centre. These purchases were made in the initial phase of the project during the peak of the summer season. This provided immense comfort to the members during the day-time hours. Stationery for the pre-primary school is being provided on a regular basis as well.

The Diwali and New Year season has been a good one so far. CAN received opportunities of putting up its stall at various places and received a good response. As the new year season approaches, CAN will be displaying its items at various places in the present month. A Parsi organisation, PARZOR also collaborated with CAN to promote our items at their stall. We are waiting to hear from them about the response to the items being made by our disabled members. CAN has also been simultaneously talking to new people about purchasing CAN CRAFT products, so that we can continue to support those members of our Centres that have already received training and alongside those that are at present being trained. Orders have also been placed with us from the photo gallery on our website. We are in the process of completing an order placed with us from Bahrain.

CAN would like to state that the first installment of the grant released has been fully spent and new expenses are being incurred for the activities being undertaken. CAN will be grateful if the next installment of the grant can be released at the earliest.

Submitted By: Tara Negi