



Humana People to People India

**Report from
Academy for Working Children
Karkar Satellite, Ghaziabad –Uttar Pradesh**

Date: - 1/10/2009 to 31/12/2009

Project Leader: Chhagan Lal Sharma

PROJECT DESCRIPTION - AWC Karkar Satellite

1	Name of the project	AWC-Ghaziabad
2	Operation area	Karkar Satellite, Ghaziabad
3	Head Master	Chhagan Lal Sharma
4	Postal Address	Academy for Working Children, Karkar Satellite, Sahibabad, Ghaziabad.
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6	Project's idea and its reach	The Academy for Working Children provides basic education to poor and working children who are unable to enroll in formal schools. The children in AWC are enrolled in 1 st to 3 rd standard so that they can be streamlined into formal schools for higher education.
7	Project Staff	1.Headmaster– Chhagan Lal Sharma 2.Teacher- Dinesh Singh 3.Local teacher–Sheelu Raghav
8	Background	There are many industries in Uttar Pradesh which attracts factory workers to migrate from places like Bihar, West Bengal, Assam and Rajasthan. The workers along with their families migrate to the Sahibabad industrial area of Uttar Pradesh. In almost all the families, the parents are working in different factories while the children have become rag pickers, shoe shiners, workers in eateries or shepherds outside the township. Humana People to People India after a survey decided to take action and start Academy for Working Children in Ghaziabad. The academy is located in the industrial area and is supported by Asha Austin Foundation for Health and Education.
9	Partners	Asha Austin Foundation for Health & Education and Humana People to People India.

Number of students in AWC

The Academy for Working Children has 71 students enrolled. Following is the status of 1st, 2nd, 3rd standards and 10 Step programme and in the last week of December:

1 st standard	37 students
2 nd standard	20 students
3 rd standard	14 students
1 st Step	23 students
2 nd Step	12 students
3 rd Step	14 students
4 th Step	12 students
5 th Step	9 students
6 th Step	1 students

Students enrolled in mainstream education

During the admission session, the AWC enrolled 15 students into formal schools. These were the students who had reached the 6th Step in the '10 Step programme'. The students have been enrolled in Government school and private schools in the locality. The parents are happy that their children can have a better future. The enrolment of 15 students has encouraged other students to concentrate more on their studies and successfully complete the Ten Step programme. It has also motivated parents and teachers in continuously working towards providing education to young children.

PROJECT ACTIVITIES:

Following are the activities of the project:

- Curriculum:** A new method of teaching has been introduced which is known as the '10 Step Programme' where every student has their own 10 Step booklet with their pictures on it. The students have to complete steps within each subject to move forward in the programme. The students after reaching 10th Step have covered the curriculum of class 1-3. In the '10-Step booklet the children are getting a signature every time they pass a step. In this way they can overview the whole education and know how far they have reached. If a student has already gone to school earlier he or she can pass the first steps very fast. The students work together in groups of 4-5 on the same level and the teachers them.
- Parent-teacher meeting:** The Academy for Working Children organizes a Parent-Teacher meeting every month. This quarter, total 3 such meetings were organised where students' progress and their activities in the academy was discussed with the parents. The parents and

teachers also discussed about health issues such as HIV/AIDS, Family planning, children's nutrition, health check ups and good health. The parents discussed about their family living conditions while they were guided about cleaning actions and keeping children neat and clean. The teachers requested parents to give their inputs on improving the academy, its functioning and better teaching methods.

3. **Door to door contact with parents:** In the 3 months time, the project staff has reached to 147 houses and discussed about children's education with more than 1600 people in the area.
4. **Children's Meeting:** According to the 'Ten Step programme', students take their lessons from Monday to Friday while on Saturday they take a test on all four subjects they have been studying. The Ten Step is a new curriculum and is followed to keep a track of every student's progress. Teachers discuss with each student if he/she is facing a problem in learning the lessons. In this way the teachers are aware of every student's capacity and provide help to him/her. The teacher organise classroom meetings also with students where they discuss about method of teaching and if there are common problems faced by the class.
5. **Cleaning action:** The teachers in AWC organize cleaning action every day so that students can learn in a neat and clean environment and also know the importance of keeping house and school clean. Every month, the staff organizes cleaning of the whole academy building. Some members of the community also join hands and clean the surrounding areas of the building. The children are in this way taught about health, hygiene and the importance of a clean environment.
6. **Art competition:** Once in a month, an art competition is organised for the students where they are asked to make pictures and drawings according to their imagination. This programme has proven to be very helpful for the students as they are allowed to make anything they want out of their imagination. This makes the students happy and confident about their art and pictures. Students take help from each other and learn new ways of painting and drawing.
7. **Sports and Cultural Program:** Academy for Working Children organizes a Sports Day and a Cultural Day every month for the students. This quarter had 3 Sports Days where students along with their families and other community members were invited. The students participated in games like kho-kho, badminton, tug of war, candy race, 100 meter race and football. The winners received prizes.
There were also 3 Cultural programs which were organized for the students, their families and the community. The students presented songs and dances and took part in general knowledge quiz. The students of the academy, with the help of the teachers, enacted a play on education, poverty and health. Young students took part in poem and story recital.
8. **Awareness Building Survey:** In this activity, the project staff identifies children in the community who can be enrolled in the Academy for Working Children. This is conducted twice a month where families are visited and encouraged to send their children to school. There are still a large number of out-of-school children in this community and the teachers go personally to discuss with the parents to send their children to school. It is also important

to fill up the academy when some children have moved to Government schools or have moved to other locations with their parents. The Academy for Working Children is located in the National Capital Region and hence many families continue to migrate to and from the industrial area. The project staff targets the new migrant families and gives them examples about other children who are studying in the academy.

- 9. Life Skills Training:** Every month, the staff organizes life skills training in the academy. This training is especially for the parents where they are informed on how they can improve their health conditions and protect the children from diseases. The parents are cautioned to keep their children away from anti social activities and concentrate on the careers so that they can live a better life ahead. It is important to counsel and guide the families so that they can take care of their children better and work towards educating their children. The parents are informed about the importance of education and how it will help their children in living a better life.
- 10. Health Check up Camp:** Academy for Working Children organised Health Check up Camp on 24th December 2009. More than 70 children were examined by the doctor at the health camp. Children who were diagnosed were provided with free medicine. According to the doctor's report, the most common diseases were: cold & cough, liver problems, allergies, mild fever, headache and stomach pain. The children were asked to keep themselves neat and clean so they can have a healthy life.
- 11. Partner's visit to the AWC:** Ms Itisha Tyagi from Asha Austin Foundation for Health and Education visited the Academy for Working Children on 15th December 2009. She interacted with the students and teachers. The headmaster explained her about Humana People to People India and how the concept of Academy for Working Children started. Students entertained Ms Tyagi by presenting songs and dances. The teachers explained about the students' progress and showed her the documents. She took some pictures of the documents and also the students in the academy. She distributed sweets and stationary among the students and parents. Ms Tyagi stayed in the AWC till evening. It was a very encouraging experience for both the students and the teachers.
- 12. People reached as participants and cooperators:** Education is an important mechanism for social and economic development of the country. Higher levels of literacy leads to great economic output, higher employment levels, better health, better social structures, along with a number of other development indicators. The project staff has good relationship with the community in Karkar village. The migrant families support the project and keenly participate in project activities. Regular surveys in the area have built a bond with the people and the staff has accomplished to get their support and cooperation.