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Subject: ASV visit to Lucknow

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To: "kiran chirag shah" <kiranshah69@hotmail.com>

Cc: Caroline Lobo <lobo.c@owp.com>, "Govind, Nirmal" <nirmal.govind@intel.com>

Hi everyone,

I landed in Lucknow Dec 7th afternoon and have spent all of 7th evening and all of 8th with Sonia. I also was able to shoot a video of Sonia explaining the projects and her ambitions in her own words. She is giving the projects ALL that is humanly and superhumanly possible. Whereever I am taken, be it the slums of Nadwa or the marza next to platform number 9 in Charbagh or the Indiranagar community - the love that people have for her is bubbling forth. I am very moved by her creativity, her commitment and her hard work and her infinite belief that what she is dreaming of is very possible. I hope we all can find it possible to support her even more.

I gave her some money that would go toward chappals and sweaters for the Charbagh. I will send her money later on to support the Bal Duniya publishing pilot. The Nadwa school really could use a proper roof, clothing for all 60-80 children, supplies for teaching and annual health checks for all the kids. The SpringDale project is best able to benefit from lots (LOTS) of colored construction paper, glue, scissors, colored crepe paper and anything else the creative teachers and students can use to make their own teaching materials. That project is very much on the path of preparing their own everything and it is all very refreshingly cool.

I am starting a conference now and when it is over flying back (cutting short my intended 3 month trip to 7 weeks --- reason is pickpocket and no more ATM cards and running out of trav chks).

I expect to be home by Dec 20th. After that I will send you all a detailed report and give you a photo CD and a copy of the video.

If possible other chapters should also support Sonia - so she also feels that more people care about her and her work and her wards.

I feel very inspired after I run out of tears sitting in my hotel room. Thanks to you all for making this connection possible.

Sri

Sri Sridharan, Phoenix AZ

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Bhawani Singh (Asha Chicago) Site Visit Note, September, 2005
Sirish/ Mukund/ Caroline:

I visited the 4 ASVs while i was in lucknow. I was quite impressed by the work that is being done there. Sonia and her team is quite dedicated and Sandeep takes a personal interest in making sure that teachers are following the right methods to teach the children. Sonia started a 6th school in LuvKush nagar - i think

it had been open for only 2 days since i was there. They also have some women who attend this school. In addition to these schools, they are also focussing their effort on vocational training - i actually brought back some folders and very small shoulder bags made of jute. I could send you pictures of these. But, Sandeep is going to get more when he is visiting.

Sonia wanted me to remind you and others who are responsible for funding that a second installment is due sometime in the next few months. I don't remember what that amount is or what that due date is, but timing of funding was one of her primary concerns.

let me know if you need any answers to any specific questions.
thanks, bhawani

ps: One of my cousin who teaches at a government school said that these schools were better than his school....i think that speaks very highly of Lucknow team's effort.