

Fellowship: Nandlal Master Updates for July-Dec 2009

Jan 2009

NREGA

- Continued working on NREGA. A lot of time was spent on the implementation of this scheme
- The government promised BPL families, SC/ST and others who had received land from the govt, that they could get work done on their land under the NREGA scheme. Families could plant certain types of flowers, vegetables or fruits and the money they made from this would be for them.
- They got 500 families registered under this scheme but only about 50 of them could benefit. This was because the local BDO got busy with some other work.
- For the summer season the BDO was promised to look into this scheme.
- A family can earn 10-15 thousand rupees in about three months on one acre of land.

Schools

- Started computer classes for the children using material from the Azim Premji foundation
- Spent a month in training the teaching the children and the teachers how to use the computer and bring up the required material
- They have 13 CDs of educational material covering Social Science, Maths, Hindi, Environmental Science, English
- Created a schedule for the different classes and subjects
- One of the problems is trying to map the computer lessons with the actual syllabus being prescribed by the UP board
- Need to try to evaluate how helpful would the learning material will be.

Schools

- Schools were closed for a month in Dec-Jan because of the cold and winter break
- Children finished their half-yearly exams. This time children in the kishori kendras also had a practical exam to assess their learning

Other activities

- Organized a tree planting campaign along with the women from the self-help groups. Planted about 200 tree-saplings were made available by the Sarpanch – Mukesh
- In September Awareness campaign for women rights – to prevent female infanticide, dowry deaths etc.
- Had an awareness event in November to highlight the issues faced due to climate change.







इण्डियन हेल्थकेयर
(संगम सेवा समिति द्वारा संचालित)
ब्लाक रोड राजा तालाब वीरभानपुर - वाराणसी

सुविधायः
फिटलमानीटर
नीबोलाइजर
एनस्थेसिया टैंक
कण्डिशनर

कहेज लोभियो
को बाजा को
लोक समिति

कहेज
को बाजा को
लोक समिति

शालिका संरक्षण पखवाड़ा के अवसर पर
जागरुकता हैली
दि. 15-9-2009 मंगलवार
आयोजक - लोक समिति एवं महिला चेतना समिति

Trip to Europe

- Dana – an anthropology student from Holland visited in 2004, to study the relevance of Gandhian ideas in a globalized world. Spent six months studying the struggle of the people in Mehdiganj. Visited several times over the years
- She invited Nandlal and Ranju to visit her in Amsterdam
- Got to visit with different organizations and talk to different groups of people
 - Fair Food Organization
 - Documentary screening on Mehdiganj followed by debate on globalization
 - An organization working on water conservation
 - Another working on child labor issues
- Visited Paris for two days and Hamburg for two days.

Always Coca-Cola?

22 December, 20:30 at OT301

Films and debate on globalisation



Holy Water (2007) (30 min)

A film about India's farmers protesting against Coca-Cola, decreasing water levels and a Coke factory that had to close down because of this.

Click [here](#) for the trailer.

Mine, story of a sacred

mountain (2009) (10 min)

About the Dongria Kondh tribe that see their lands being invaded by Vedanta Resources, a London-based Mining company.

Debate on global resistance

- Nandlal Master, *Leader of the farmers movement against Coke in India*
- Geert Ritsema, *Milieudefensie*
- Gerard Oonk, *India Committee of the Netherlands*
- Tobias Schmitz, *Both Ends*

Tickets: 4 Euro (incl. donation to the farmers movement)

Location: Overtoom 301, Cinema (2nd floor), Amsterdam

www.ot301.nl

Other Updates

- A person visited from Belgium and was interested in supporting them
- Promised to support 24 children who have joined govt schools after class 5. Has already found support for 13 children at about Rs 3000/child/year
- Plans to visit with his wife and work with them for a year. Wife is interested in teaching computer skills and English to the children. In the past she has worked with children in Africa.
- Plan to bring two computers with them
- Another couple from San Francisco visited and want to help with education and learning material.

Plans

- Elections are going to be held for the Panchayat in summer. Will work on raising awareness about the rights of different groups. Will use street plays to highlight issues of the people
- The community marriage program will be organized for 30 people on 10th of May. Already 12 families have filed applications for it.
- Central government has a new scheme providing health insurance to BPL families. Rs 30 for the health card and then families are covered for about Rs 30,000 for a family of five for a year. There are problems with the scheme – only inpatient facility covered, restrictions on medicine and procedures, only hospitals in cities are authorized, etc but better than nothing.
- Continue working on NREGA