Greetings from Apna Skool family. Once again here is the latest issue of Newsletter chronicling the events of the Apna Skool. It is a pleasure for us to express our heartfelt gratitude once again to all our well-wishers, donors, small and large, sponsors in the past and present, and partners in our effort to educate children of migrant workers, who represent one of the most severely underprivileged groups in India. We again reiterate that apart from the abundant love and monetary support, we look forward to your comments and suggestions. Please feel free to send your comments, particularly when you feel that we may be erring.

PRIMARY SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

In the month of November almost all kids have returned to Brick-kilns, construction sites and garbage picking sites etc. From November onward kids will have regular classes and other curriculum related activities. Activities that were taken place in four months is listed below.

November 2016

**DISTRIBUTION OF UNIFORM, SCARF SWEATER AND STATIONARY:** In all centres of APNA SKOOL uniforms were distributed. It is winter season so sweater and scarfs were also distributed to kids. We also distributed stationary material to kids like slates, pencils and rubber etc. This is the right time for distribution of such material among kids because this is the time when almost every kid is present in centres which have returned from his native place.

![Image of kids receiving uniform and stationary]

**SCIENCE EXHIBITION:** On 12th and 13th November 2016, a science exhibition was organized by Swami Vevekanand Vidyalay (SVV), Lodhar, Kanpur. APNA SKOOL kids from all centres also presented models and charts related to science and geography. People from IIT Kanpur, Many nearby schools and community came to see the exhibition. This event gave kids an opportunity to present themselves to others. Teachers were great help for them to do that.
CHILDREN’S DAY CELEBRATION: on 14th November children’s day was celebrated in memory of Pt. Jawahar Lal Nehru. Kids were told about his biography. Kids played games, sang poems etc. One pencil and one rubber were given to each kid in centres.

COMPUTER CLASSES: post primary level kids from Chaubepur area come to learn about fundamentals of computer on each Sunday in Apna Kendra building (a centre for vocational training running with the help of R.V foundation). Kids were collected from their locations and transported to Apna Kendra so that regularity could be maintained.

VISITERS

SHUSHIL HANNA, ANN (CANADA) AND RAJENDRA SAHAI: An IIT Kanpur alumni Shushil handa and his two colleagues visited APNA SKOOL centres on 2nd November. They interacted with kids. Kids presented some cultural programs and showed them science models. There was a small Taracotta sculpture exhibition also arranged for them, in which all taracotta models made by Apna Skool, and Apna ghar kids were displayed.
MAYANK SHUKLA (REPORTER FORM I-NEXT NEWSPAPER): on 19th November Mayank Shukla Ji from I-next newspaper visited APNA SKOOL centres as representative of ASHA for education. We had small meeting with him related to working in APNA SKOOL centres and funds.

December 2016

POSTER MAKING COMPETITION: Techkriti IIT Kanpur organized a poster making competition on October 7, 2016, in OAT, New SAC, IIT Kanpur on the following themes:

1. Classes upto 4: My Dreamworld
2. Classes 5 - 8: The Future I Envision
3. Classes 9 and above: Innovation and Development

In this competition 120 students participated from different schools. Haleeda, a student of class 4 (Apna Skool) got the 3rd prize in first group and Devanshi (Class -5) got the 2nd prize in second group.

TEXTILE WORKSHOP IN APNA KENDRA (KANPUR), U.P. (12TH DEC. TO 15 DEC. 2016)

**Trainer** – Aditi Raman (M.F.A, Kala Bhavan, Visva- Bharati University, Santiniketan)

**Timing:** 3pm to 5pm

**Tapestry & Appliqué:** Tapestry is a piece of thick fabric with designs or images formed on it by weaving colored weft threads or wool in the warp threads. Appliqué refers to needlework technique in which patterns or designs are created on the base cloth by the attachment of pieces of different fabric together. Participants of the workshop included Students of Apna Skool, Apna Ghar and teachers. It is an effort of R.V foundation to give exposure to these kids so that they can think of various career options.

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SCIENCE WORKSHOP IN APNA SKOOL CENTRE: Techkriti, IIT Kanpur organized a Science Workshop on December 17, 2016 in Apna Skool Tatiyaganj. This took place under a social campaign in techkriti named as Handing opportunities by promoting Education (HOPE). For this a team of IIT Kanpur students (Sujaya, Vishal, Shubham, Abhishek and Riya) came to guide kids for various experiments. All kids from APNA SKOOL Tatiyaganj centre and Apna Ghar took part in this workshop.

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DESKIT DISTRIBUTION (10 DECEMBER 2016): Deskit bags were distributed among 80 kids in APNA SKOOL Tatiyaganj centre. These bags have attached table so that they can be used as table for study. These bags are designed by an M.B.A student of IIT Kanpur. On 10th December Lalita ji, Amit Bajpay, Vijaya ji and centre teachers gifted these bags to kids.
**DISTRIBUTION OF SOCKS AND SHOES:** Socks and shoes were distributed to kids on all centres.

**CHRISTMAS DAY’S CELEBRATION:** Christmas day was celebrated on APNA SKOOL centres on 26th December in place on 25th because of Sunday on 25th. Kids were told the importance of the day that the Christian prophet Jesus was born on this day. Kids and teachers together decorated the Christmas tree with balloons, toffies, balls, flowers, candles etc. kids were very happy as they danced, they sang poems, songs etc. in the end, chocolates and toffies were distributed to the kids.

**VISITERS**

**PRADEEP GOTHOSKER:** Pradeep Gothosker, social activist from pune visited Murari centre of APNA SKOOL on 27th December. He took a tour to brick-kiln and saw the working environment of brick-kiln labors. He also provided financial support to few kids in Adhar card making.

**ADITI RAMAN:** Aditi Raman, visited murari and Tatiyaganj centres of Apna skool on 15th and 16th December.

**SIDDHARTH BHAIIYA:** Siddhartha Bhaiya visited centres on 30th December. He distributed chocolates among kids. Kids presented many activities to him.
UMESH CHANDRA-PANKI, KANPUR (30TH DECEMBER): an employee from woolen mill, Lal Imli, Kanpur came to visit Murari centre of APNA SKOOL. He had a small interaction with kids. Kids gifted him friendship band and paper cap.

January 2017

SWAMI VIVEKANAND JAYANTI: Swami Vivekanand’s birth anniversary was celebrated on each centre on 12th January. A detailed information about his life and teachings were given to kids. Teachers urged kids to adopt his teachings, kids took oath to follow his path. The celebration started with pushparpan on Swami Ji’s Photo. Kids drew pictures and wrote Swami Ji’s quotes on walls. Kids also performed poems and songs etc.

CHARKHA DIVAS: It is 100th year of Spinning wheel (Charkha) in India from the day it first came to India. Kids were told about Gandhi Ji and importance of Charkha in the fight of freedom. Kids spun charkha and sang songs in Tatiyaganj centre of APNA SKOOL.

REPUBLIC DAY CELEBRATION:

PRABHAT PHERI(MORNING MARCH): 26th January celebration started on centres with Prabhat Pheri(Morning March). Kids reached on centres and took Dhols, Posters etc. with them and marched in nearby villages and sites. They shouted slogans about India, corruption, water etc. many man and women also came to join them and participated as well.

FLAG HOISTING: After Prabhat Pheri, when kids returned to centres, Flag hoisting took place. Flag was hoisted by parents or Brick kiln owner or teacher followed by national anthem.

CULTURAL EVENTS: cultural events started with Sarswati Vandana followed by Physical Training (P.T.), songs, poems and drama. People gathered to watch the celebration. They appreciated kids’ efforts and encouraged them with applauds.

When the celebration was over, sweets and fruits were distributed to kids and people.
DEATH ANNIVERSARY OF DR. R. VENKATRAMAN: On 27th January, India’s 11th President Dr. R. Venkatraman’s 8th death anniversary was celebrated in same ways as last years. Flowers and garland was devoted to Dr. Venkatraman’s photo followed by 2 minute silence. Teachers told kids about Dr. Venkatraman’s life. Games and drawing competition was arranged for kids.

MAYTYR’S DAY: Teachers told kids that 30th January, also known as martyr day, was the day when Mahatma Gandhi was shot dead by Nathuram Godse. Kids were told about the life of Gandhi ji that he was fond of non-violence and brought us freedom etc. Kids, teachers and others took 2 minute silence for Gandhi ji. Kids draw pictures and some of them asked to write 10 sentences about Gandhi Ji’s life.

ADHAR CARD CAMP ON APNA SKOOL CENTRES: An Adhar Card camp was arranged by our field coordinator BN Sharma. This camp was for all kids and their parents for the price of 50 Rs. For kids and 70 Rs. For elders. On 30 and 31st January, 90 kids and 20 guardians from 10 brick-kilns from Chaubepur area, Kanpur came to make their Adhar card in Tatiyaganj centre. In Maharajpur area, Adhar card camp was arranged on 7th January, where 26 kids from 3 brick-kilns came to make their cards.

VISITERS
RASHI JAIN FROM ASHA FOR EDUCATION: one of the persons from Asha for education, Rashi jain came to visit Apna Skool centres on 10th January. She visited Tatiyaganj centre of Apna skool. A kid rohit welcomed her with music on violin. Kids did many activities for her after that she asked kids questions about their studies. Kids gifted her friendship band and sand model of Taracotta. She was happy to see the energy of kids.
VANDANA VAHUGUNA: An IIT Kanpur resident, Vandana vahuguna visited Apna Skool centre on 10th January. She observed teaching methods of Apna Skool teachers. Teachers told her about the working condition on brick-kilns. She wrote an article about APNA SKOOL and uploaded it on a blog about her experience about APNA SKOOL.

February 2017

VASANT PANCHAMI: Basant Panchami was celebrated on each centres of APNA SKOOL on 1st February. Saraswati pooa was done on centres and kids were told about the importance of Saraswati ji in their education. Kids were also told about all seasons in India.

ANNUAL FUNCTION CELEBRATION OF SVV LODHAR: Swami Vevekanand vidyalaya, Lodhar, Kanpur celebrated their annual function on 18th February. Kids from APNA SKOOL centres also presented cultural programs in that. Kids performed dances on songs “Chhota bachcha jaan ke...” and “Jinda hai to, pyala poora bhar de...” Crowd appreciated the effort of kids and applauded.

SCIENCE DAY: 28th February was celebrated as science day on each centre of APNA SKOOL. This was told that this day is celebrated in the memory of Dr. C.V Raman’s work in the field of science. Small science models were prepared by kids and they presented them in front of other kids. One of Our teacher Kishan Vyas took kids to nearby area and showed many plants and told them about them.
VISITORS

PADAMNAVA FROM ASHA (KOLKATA): on 10\textsuperscript{th} February on member from Asha came to visit Apna Skool centre. Kids showed his science models, Herbarium file, drawings etc. He took lunch with kids and interacted with kids. Kids were very happy to meet with him. They sang poems and songs to him.

ASHOK GUPTA: Ashok Gupta, An alumni of IIT Kanpur, came to Kanpur for 50th year reunion of his batch. We had small meeting with him about the working condition of labourers in Uttar Pradesh. We also had discussion about laws and schemes available for labourers in India. He could not visit centres due to lack of time.

Health related work

Regular health related surveys and work is done by our health worker Sunita Srivastava. She provides medicine in all centres of Apna Skool on regular basis. She is responsible for awareness about family planning, toilet construction in brick-kilns, immunization, for treatment of kids for serious diseases etc. small detail of work is as follows:

- Toilet is constructed in brick-kilns kalra-2, ashok, murari.
- Toilet is under construction in brick-kilns vibhu and kalra-3.
- B-compex is distributed to kids on regular basis on each centre twice a week.
- Immunization is done for Hepatitis B, tuberculosis, Kali Khansi, BCG, DPT, Khasra, polio etc. in these months around 106 kids have been vaccinated from five brick-kilns.
- A dose of vitamin A is given to each kid in six months.
- Wormicide dose is given to kids in all centres.
- Under family planning program pills and other tools are regularly distributed to parents. Some of the families are provided medical treatment also.
## Functioning Centres of "Apna Skool" (Nov.16 - Feb.17)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S.N</th>
<th>Name of Centre</th>
<th>Name of Centre Details</th>
<th>Name of Teacher</th>
<th>Centre Timing</th>
<th>Student Enrollment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Tatiyaganj -1</td>
<td>Apna Skool (Kalra-2, Saran, S.P, Jaiswal, Ashok, Samrat, Kalra-3, Vishnu Brick Kiln)</td>
<td>(1) Sanyogita (2) Pradeep (3) Nirmala</td>
<td>10:00 - 4:00</td>
<td>130</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Tatiyaganj-2</td>
<td>Apna Skool (Kalra-2, Kalra-3, Saran, S.P, Vishnu, Avon, Ashok, Samrat, Vishnu, Bajaj, Jaiswal Brick Kiln)</td>
<td>(1) Urmila (2) Chandan</td>
<td>10:00 - 4:00</td>
<td>105</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Primary School Shahpur (Jaiswal Manpur Brick Kiln)</td>
<td>(1) Ranjana Gupta</td>
<td>10:00 - 3:00</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>26</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Primary School Meghanipurva (Saran, Jaiswal)</td>
<td>(1) Raksha Bajpai</td>
<td>9:00 - 3:00</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>28</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Primary School Nathupur (Mera + Bajaj+ Ankit Brick Kiln)</td>
<td>(1) Umashankar</td>
<td>9:00 - 3:00</td>
<td>21</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>Primary School Dedupur (Vishnu Brick Kiln)</td>
<td>(1) Dharmesh</td>
<td>9:30 - 2:30</td>
<td>25</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Primary School Tikra (Murari Brick Kiln)</td>
<td>(1) Manju Bala</td>
<td>9:00 - 3:00</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>Primary School Naseniya (Khalsa + Badhawan + Murari Brick Kiln)</td>
<td>(1) Najma Khan</td>
<td>9:00 - 3:00</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>39</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>Panki Apna Skool (Construction Site)</td>
<td>(1) Laxmi</td>
<td>10:00 - 12:00</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>22</td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Gangaganj Apna Skool (slum - Rag Pickers)</td>
<td>(1) Mukesh</td>
<td>4:00 - 6:00</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>10</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>Primary School Bhisar (Jain+ Jai Durge Brick Kiln)</td>
<td>(1) Hardas Srivastav</td>
<td>10:00 - 3:00</td>
<td>40</td>
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Table 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>School Name and Details</th>
<th>Teacher(s)</th>
<th>Enrolled Kids (9:00 - 3:00)</th>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Indra-II Apna Skool (Brick Kiln) <em>(Indra-II, Indra-III, 993, 995 Brick Kiln)</em></td>
<td>(1) Shyambabu (2) Sachi</td>
<td>90 54 61 63</td>
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<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Primary School Atwa <em>(Rama+Modi Brick Kiln)</em></td>
<td>(1) Ruchi</td>
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<td>Primary School Dhamna <em>(Rama+Deepak Brick Kiln)</em></td>
<td>(1) Mithlesh</td>
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<td>15</td>
<td>Gulab Khera Apna Skool <em>(993 Brick Kiln)</em></td>
<td>(1) Sadhana Kashyap</td>
<td>14 14 17 18</td>
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<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Primary School Fattehpur <em>(991 Brick Kiln)</em></td>
<td>(1) BN Sharma</td>
<td>24 22 22 22</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Students Studying in other Schools who are supported by Apna Skool | 30 30 30 30 |

**Total Number of Students** 595 534 552 559

Table 2

*Distribution of enrolled kids in APNA SKOOL in last one year in form of bar graph*