

PROJECT WHY

SUPPORT FOR EDUCATION OF THREE CHILDREN OF OUR BOARDING SCHOOL PROGRAMME

2012-2013

Background

Project why is a non-governmental organisation working out of the Govindpuri, Okhla and Madanpur Khader slums of New Delhi. It began in 1998 with spoken English classes for about 40 children. Today project why reaches out to over 700 children. Project why runs a crèche, 4 primary and secondary after school support programmes, 3 computer centres, a day-care for mentally and physically challenged children and young adults and vocational training for 70 women. Project Why also works with the community on health and legal issues and has sponsored many critical surgeries.

Project Why is headed by Ms Anouradha Bakshi and seconded by two coordinators: Ms Rani Bharadwaj and Mr Dharmendra Beniwal supported by a team of 40 persons all belonging to deprived communities.

Initially funding for the project came from Ms Bakshi's inheritance but soon as the project expanded funds had to be sought from external donors. Major funding now comes from Asha, Enfances Indiennes, and Project Why Deutschland.

The Boarding School Programme

In 2008 Project Why started an ambitious programme whereby 4 children from extremely deprived homes receive the best education in a boarding school. This programme was started at the behest of a private donor who had committed to fund it in toto. The donor reneged and suggested Project Why disbands the project. This was against the very spirit of Project Why and it decided to continue it though it quite not know how, as the programme needed committed funding as one could not stop the education of these children midway. The children entered boarding school in April 2009 with the help of a network of friends and supporters including Asha Canada. At present the children are in classes V and III.

Residential School

The children are enrolled at Shantigyan International (<http://www.sgis.in>) since April 2009. Their performance has been excellent and they also participate in a host of extra curricular activities.

For the year 2012-2013, the cost for education of each child would be approximately 104400 Rupees. Costs have gone up in the past years due to inflation and the fees and hostel charges have thus been raised. The monthly tuition fee for this academic year is 2400Rs and the hostel charges 6300 Rs. This amounts to 104400Rs for 12 months. In addition an additional 10000Rs would be spent on annual charges (medical, annual charges, activities charges etc).

As in the past Project Why will continue to monitor the progress of the children and attend all PTA meetings.

THE CHILDREN

Babli, Age 13, Class V

This smiling pluck of a child was born with a hole in the heart. She is the middle of 3 siblings and the oldest girl. Her father at ~70 is 35 years senior to her mother Santoshi. He is asthmatic and uses this as an excuse not to work. Babli's mother is a day labourer at a nearby factory and the sole breadwinner of the family. Babli's gender and economic situation prevented her mother from seeking medical treatment for her condition.

In January 2006 Project Why sponsored her surgery. After her recovery she was handed back to the care of her parents who soon removed her from school so that she could take care of her sister and manage her father's knick-knack cart. Project why decided to intervene and in 2009 she was admitted to the boarding school. Since then she has topped her class and excelled in many fields. She is a well-mannered young girl who has a bright future ahead of her provided it is secured.

Vicky, Age 10, Class IV

Vicky is the second of 4 siblings. His older brother is mentally challenged and is being looked after at the Project Why center for special children. Six years ago the family (Vicky's grandparents, his parents, and 2 siblings) were forced to migrate to the big city when their land was flooded. He works as a daily wager and barely ekes out a living. The family lives in a tiny home with no electricity.

Vicky is an exceptionally bright child. He has topped his class and won the title of Best Scholar.

Nikhil, Age 11, Class V

Nikhil is the youngest of 3 siblings. He has two older brothers. Their family migrated to Delhi in 1987. The father has a little public call office that has become almost redundant with the advent of cheap cellular phones.

Nikhil was a slow starter but is now doing well in both academics and co-curricular activities

DONATION SPECIFICS

At present 8 children from extremely deprived backgrounds are enrolled at the Shantigyan International School. Project Why has created a common pool for all children to meet their educational and other expenses. In the case of two children there are individual donors who have committed to pay the fees all the way to class XII.

Project Why is seeking funding for one academic year (2012-2013) for the above-mentioned children. Project Why is aware of the fact that this funding is not guaranteed for the next year but will ensure that the children continue their schooling.

Project Why will manage the finances and logistics of their education and upkeep. Mrs Bakshi will represent them at PTA meetings. Children's progress reports will be made available through the blog <http://pwhyfive.blogspot.in>. Donors are welcome to drop in at Project Why and with enough notice a meeting between donors and the children can be arranged.

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