

HAMARE SAPNE - IIMPACT Annual Day Celebrations

Date- Sunday, 16th November, 2008
Venue- Mehmoodabad, Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh

This year's Annual Day celebrations took place in Mahmoodabad, an hour drive from Lucknow. The theme of this program was 'HAMARE SAPNE' which translated means 'our dreams'. The event also served to commemorate Children's Day.



This was a great occasion where staff from each of the four IIMPACT hubs came together as a family. This also served as a platform bringing together people who help us make a difference. IIMPACT board members, donors and representatives from IIMPACT's partner NGO's from various parts of the country were greeted with garlands and tika, a form of respect and honour extended to all the invitees.

Mrs Manju Mithal from the Katherine and Kamal Agarwal Foundation and Mr. Syed Sarfraz Ahmed from ING Vysya were our special guests for the day.



The common thread linking all the performances was the girls' desire to receive the benefits of education and to enjoy the same rights and privileges as their brothers. The girls' dreams were depicted through songs, dances and imaginative plays. The girls made it clear that they wanted to be able to study in

order to better their own lives and futures. Keen to contribute to their families, they no longer wanted to be labeled as 'burden' on them. They provided practical solutions to every argument their parents put forward against their being educated, cleverly suggesting that everyone at home share household responsibilities in order to allow them time to focus on their own education.

Some girls came forward to share their individual experiences, describing how their lives have changed since they started studying at IIMPACT centres. Their confidence levels reflected the impact of education in their lives. To the surprise of the guests a few of the IIMPACT girls coming forward to receive their prizes were married; their determined, confident demeanor touched everyone's hearts.



On this occasion, Mr. Syed Sarfraz Ahmed, Regional Vice President of ING Vysya Life Insurance, joined us with his team to present the Excellence Award to Rubina for her all round performance. Girls from 15 ING Vysya sponsored centers were awarded for their outstanding academic performance.



The programme ended with an impressive fancy dress display where young IIMPACT girls enacted their dream of becoming doctors, engineers, police women and even President and Prime Minister of their country! As a parting gesture the children applied mehendi on the hands of

the all the ladies and presented guests with gifts especially made by them for this occasion.



The grand finale took place with a big **"THANK YOU IIMPACT"** sign held up by the girls on stage. This served as an acknowledgement to all our donors who form an integral part of the IIMPACT family. It is their valuable support to IIMPACT that makes special, meaningful moments like this possible, turning our vision into a reality.

A few relevant words on Primary Education from Dr. D. Subbarao, Governor of Reserve Bank of India

"The three critical facets of primary education are **enrolment, retention and minimum levels of achievements**. Allocating resources is only the first step; necessary, but not sufficient to achieve the above objectives. We need to complement this supply side response with interventions to raise the demand for education and improve its quality. The major thrust for this will have to come through essentially non-cash inputs. We have to convince illiterate parents that the benefits of sending their children to school are higher than the opportunity costs.

'From Hindu to secular growth rate' - Dr.D.Subbarao & K Madhava Rao. The Economic Times, February 28, 1997.

OPENING OF NEW CENTERS

SARD (Society for All Round Development) is a non-profit organization aiming at increasing the participation of minorities and disadvantaged communities in mainstream development processes.

Mewat is a culturally contiguous region located 64 kms southwest of Delhi. The entire Mewat region is situated in and around the Aravalli range of mountains. Access for education in Mewat has been a major problem, especially for girls. The abysmally poor female literacy rate here ranges from 1.76% to 2.13% being the lowest in the country.

IIMPACT's girl child education program in partnership with SARD in Mewat, Haryana was inaugurated in September this year. 12 centres across 12 villages have already been established and an additional 8 centres will be operational from January 2009.

PARTNERING WITH IIMPACT

J C Penney India, the leading international retailer, has come forward to support IIMPACT and has sponsored four learning centres in Kishangarh, Rajasthan.

Liz Claiborne, a New York based giant in fashion apparel and accessories, has identified IIMPACT's initiative as a cause meritorious of its support and is contributing towards IIMPACT's programme.

IIMPACT WOMEN'S COMMITTEE MEMBER SELECTED AS PANELIST IN A TRAINING PROGRAMME - "VISION FOR INDIA 2020"



Sharifan with Rahul Gandhi

Sharifan, the head of a women's committee, Sangharsh Mahila Manch, has been associated with IIMPACT ever since we started working in Alwar district of Rajasthan. She encourages other women's federations across 100 villages to support IIMPACT learning centres in the area in order to bring women in the forefront of economic development in the villages.

On 16th September 2008, Sharifan was one of the panelists invited along with Tarun Tejpal and Arvind Kejriwal, to address participants during the training of Indian Youth Congress and NSUI leaders. The training was titled "Vision for India 2020", the brain child of none other than Rahul Gandhi himself.

Rahul Gandhi had a separate session with the panelists during which he interacted with Sharifan for over half an hour.

Although Sharifan is illiterate, her speech received the loudest applause. Sharifan shared experiences of how she had been able to establish, through a democratic process, a large number of women's Self Help Groups under her federation.

We, at IIMPACT congratulate Sharifan and her SHGs for their achievements.

VISITORS TO IIMPACT CENTRES

Ms Nalini Tandon paid a special visit to her sponsored centre Gulramu in Mahmoodabad along with her mother Ms Satya Mehrotra. Ms Tandon has provided all the girls in her centre with very useful desks. She also presented the girls with assorted gifts which were greatly appreciated.



Mr. Bjorn Palmqvist, Country Manager, H & M (Hennes & Mauritz) India and his wife Gunila at IIMPACT centres in Alwar. They interacted with the children sharing interesting information about life in Sweden.



Ms. Piroja Mehta sits in on a class. She managed to fit in a visit to learning centers in Haryana & Rajasthan during her very brief stay in Delhi.



Mrs. Jas Grewal of Soroptomist International, U.S.A visits her sponsored learning center. The personal interest taken by her in the progress of her sponsored center is much appreciated by the girls and local community.



Binu Sharma and her daughter Parul visiting from Canada enthusiastically participate in the center's activities.



SUDHA MOORTHY at an IIMPACT Centre

a hard day's work at the local stone quarries.

Ms Sudha Moorthy, Chairperson Infosys Foundation, visited our centres in Raichur, Karnataka. She voiced how impressed she was with the IIMPACT initiative and also with the earnestness and desire to learn displayed by the girls who came to study after

INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATIONS

The entire village community at IIMPACT centres came together to celebrate Independence Day. The celebrations started with the flag hoisting ceremony followed by a few cultural performances presented by the girls. Towards the end of the program the community members distributed sweets amongst all those present at the occasion.

The girls ended the celebrations and the end of kite flying season by proudly unleashing colourful, personally crafted kites into the skies.

KISHORI MELA ORGANIZED BY IIMPACT RAICHUR

The Kishori Mela, organised by IIMPACT Raichur, was held from 20th to 21st Sept. 2008 at the Sri Siddalingeshwar Temple in Mansapur. 56 children and a few parents participated with great enthusiasm. This proved to be an effective means to highlight the importance of education, health issues and individual hygiene within the community.

TEACHERS DAY - 5th September

In India, 5th September is celebrated as Teacher's Day as a mark of tribute to the contribution made by the teachers to society. It is a day looked forward to by both teachers and students alike; teachers are awarded and students come forward to show their gratitude to their teachers.



At IIMPACT teachers day celebrations comprise of cultural programs, acting and mimicry, all conducted by the teachers for the teachers. All of us at IIMPACT felicitated them with small gifts as a tribute to their hard work which allowed IIMPACT to celebrate the success of 94 girls who achieved outstanding results in this year's class V board exams.

SHARING WORKSHOP



Nirmala Tandon conducts a 'Sharing Workshop' for IIMPACT teachers in Alwar in November

GIRLS EDUCATION - A PERSPECTIVE BUILDING WORKSHOP 1st to 5th September 08 Lucknow

The aim of this workshop was to share experiences in all aspects related to girl child education in order to overcome related hindrances. The resource persons for the workshop were Ms Runu Chakravarti former Editor of 'Jagori' and Ms Nishi Mehrotra former Director of Mahila Samakhyas.

INNOVATIVE TEACHING TOOLS

Mr Arvind Gupta, (an IIT Kanpur alumnus), has done noteworthy work to promote the learning of science through books with innovative content and experiments using everyday low cost material. Cynthia Lobo from our head office attended a workshop organized by Mr. Gupta at the Science Centre at the Pune University Campus. Cynthia is now equipped to introduce these teaching models and innovative concepts to all our teachers. This will go a long way in helping our students develop an enquiring mind while making Science and Maths fun!

COMMUNITY MEETINGS



Community meetings are held on a monthly basis in every community where IIMPACT learning centres are running. These meetings help keep the community informed about the developments in the centre. Through this interaction the community is motivated to contribute towards the girls' progress and a feeling of ownership and involvement is

simultaneously allowed to develop.

IIMPACT STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING was held on November 15, 2008 at the Park Inn, Lucknow

This meeting was attended by Anil Tandon, Amal Jajodia, Arvind Mahajan, Devraj Singh, Krishan Dhawan, Biswajit Sen, Satish Kumar, G. Srinivasan, Piroja Mehta, Nirmala Tandon and Urvashi Nair.

It was agreed that since IIMPACT has so far focused on the quantum growth of the project it was now time to take stock and to consolidate internal processes and systems in order to manage future growth.

The second half of the day's session was attended by IIMPACT staff members & coordinators from our partner NGO's from all four hubs. Presentation were made by the coordinators: Hukumchand from Alwar, Sanjeev from Mahmoodabad, Vidya from Raichur and Prabhus from Ranchi each provided an update on their respective hubs. This was followed by a group interaction.

WELCOME ABOARD!

All of us at IIMPACT take this opportunity to welcome Cynthia Lobo-Assistant Programme Officer, Awan Sharma - Assistant Accounts Officer & Abhishek Gaur - Assistant Project Officer.

IIMPACT'S NEW OFFICE

IIMPACT steadily moves ahead, making a significant dent in eliminating illiteracy in the villages of India. As the scope of our activities has expanded so has the size of our organization and its need for space. Our office has now relocated to



IIMPACT's New Office

www.iimpact.net



NEWSLETTER JANUARY 2009

Warm New Year Wishes For You and Your Family

IIMPACT Annual Day Celebrations



• 275 IIMPACT LEARNING CENTRES • EDUCATING 8872 GIRLS