

JHAG CHILDREN'S VILLAGE

prem pathshala

While Australian students were enjoying their summer holidays, the school term continued for Prem Pathshala's students. Visitors provided many wonderful experiences. Donations of ten bicycles from Sydney's 'Vision on a Mission' group (Vishwaas Foundation) was a great thrill.

An English and Hindi handwriting completion for students of 1st to 5th classes was organized on 4th December. This contest focused on improving the Hindi and English handwriting skills of students, with the purpose of inculcating the habit of neat and clean copy work presentation. The winners of this competition were awarded with small presents and certificates.

A school Sports Day was organised on the 16-17 December which included several sports competitions for boys and girls, such as: High Jump, Long Jump, Kabbadi, 80 mtr race etc. The large cheering audience including local village people enjoyed the games and field events.

A student group called 'Vision on a Mission' from the Vishwaas Foundation, Sydney, visited the Jhag children's village under their International social development program. During the visit, the students organized some very special programs for the children of the Jhag Children's Village. The group also donated some much needed and appreciated supplies including 10 bicycles, a digital projector and a PA system for Prem Pathshala.

Under the policy of involving stakeholders and government representatives in Jhag Children's Village, a special visit from the city's top ranked doctors working in government hospitals was arranged. The group of doctors, including a senior surgeon, physician and neurologist visited the different projects within the Jhag Children's Village to oversee the child care and development programs. During this visit they also distributed warm pullovers to the students of Prem-Pathshala and shared some very good and basic health practices. The group also visited the health-centre which is under construction and provided their expertise and guidance.



Distribution of new pullovers



Handwriting competition



Sports Day



Sports Day

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visitors from sydney

Early morning on the 22nd of December, 2010, 14 Australian students arrived in Jaipur to spend time with the children of Jhag. Below is an extract from a letter from Sujatha, one of the members of the Vishwaas Foundation and Vision on a Mission - vishwaasfoundation.org.

On day one we received an extremely warm welcome from the Goswami family, and it honestly felt like we had known them all our lives! After an intriguing discussion about the I-India initiative and how it spawned, we set out for a tour of the children's helpline and the vocational centre. It was delightful to see that some of the volunteers were orphans who had themselves been adopted by I-India and were now contributing back to the cause.

We then headed over to one of the School on Wheels classes, which was an incredibly overwhelming experience. We were not prepared for the group of slum children that we saw before us, of varying ages, levels of attire, and cleanliness. Although heartbreaking at first, it was a significant moment as we realised that these children are the lucky ones who have been given the opportunity by I-India to make a better future for themselves.

We then made our way to Prem Pathshala where we had a quick tour, ate some delicious lunch, met some of the children, and then headed over to Ladli, where we bonded with some of the girls and also bought a lot of pretty jewellery and souvenirs for our families back home.

The second day was spent teaching and playing various team building games at the school, although we probably learnt more than we taught! Our group donated some bicycles, which arrived just on time for the children to ride around on the grounds after assembly. We were both surprised and honoured to be given a grand Rajasthani farewell with all the boys being presented with colourful turbans, and the girls being presented with pretty bangles.

For me, one of the most valuable parts of the trip was meeting inspirational people like Prabhakar Uncle and Chaaru who have dedicated their lives to such a noble cause. Their stories and experiences have changed our outlook on life, and whilst we were only there for two days, it is incredible to realise that they do this every single day of their lives. Overall it was an amazing experience. We would definitely have liked to spend more time at I-India, and we certainly hope to keep going back on an ongoing basis!

-Sujatha, on behalf of Vision on a Mission



Prem Pathshala children with Vishwaas Foundation group



Vishwaas group with staff at the Jhag Children's Village



Some of the ten bicycles generously donated by Viswaas Foundation



Children with one of their new bikes

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visitor from sydney

Amy Lambert, a former student from Burwood Girls' High School in Sydney was an active fundraiser and advocate of I-India Project Australia, raising a large amount of money through school activities in her senior year. Burwood Girls' High School has continued to be an important supporter of I-India, donating large sums raised through school activities. Amy's desire to visit India was sparked from this involvement and on the 7th December she visited The Jhag Children's Village to see the project first hand as well as I-India's other project around Jaipur, such as the Ladli Vocational Training Centre and the School on Wheels. Below is an extract from a Facebook message.

I had such an amazing day! The Jhag Childrens Village was incredible. The children were so happy and I am so so proud of what you guys are doing. I was amazed with the school! I got to teach a bit of English which was fun but unexpected - I wish I was a bit more prepared! I also spoke at the assembly which was funny. The Ladli Vocational Training Centre in Jaipur was awesome. The girls were so lovely and very happy to meet me.

Amy Lambert



Traditional welcome to Prem Pathshala



Impromptu English lesson



Shelter Home