

The Jhag Children's Village

June 2011



i-india project australia



Sahul, 13 years of age

DEVELOPMENTS AT THE JHAG CHILDREN'S VILLAGE

At midnight on the 18th June, 117 boys were delivered into I-India's care following a police crackdown on child labour.



In a major crackdown against child labour, Jaipur police, Childline and a network of NGOs rescued nearly 200 children from over two dozen embroidery and bangle making workshops in Hasanpura and Bhatta Basti areas, on Saturday 18th.

One hundred and seventeen boys between 7 and 18 years of age were rescued from the Bhatta Basti area by the police in the presence of members from a social organization and the district child welfare committee. The children had been taken from Bihar to Jaipur by labour contractors, many of whom were arrested during the operation. All the rescued children were handed over to I-India for protection, medical check-ups, temporary shelter and the eventual reunion with their families. I-India's Secretary, Abha Goswami, personally took custody of the children at midnight.

I-India arranged for the boys' temporary stay at the Jhag Children's Village in the newly constructed but vacant girls' shelter home. All key personnel from I-India Jaipur moved to the campus to oversee this very sensitive event. The children are receiving all necessary care and services such as shelter, contact with family, friends and relatives through I-India's helpline, nutrition through I-India's Annapurna Kitchen, healthcare, showers, clothing and recreation.

During the initial counselling, the caregivers were shocked to hear of the brutal conditions under which the children were compelled to work. They were given stale food, made to work for 14 to 16 hours a day and their wages were equivalent to 500 rupee, just \$10.50 per month.

The next day, activities were organized for the children - a friendly counselling session with Professor Prabhakar Goswami, a movie on a big screen donated by "Vishwaas Australia", sanitation and personal hygiene activities, and the opportunity to enjoy food of their choice (the wish list included meals like Aaloo Chole, Kheer and Sattu). There were also sports, dance and music activities.





Planning and preparation activities were conducted for the forthcoming term and a high level government official visited the rescued children.

I-India conducted a week long orientation and interaction programme with four shortlisted teachers at I-India's head office and Prem-Pathshala to evaluate their capabilities as child-friendly teachers and mentors. During the orientation, the teachers shared their experiences in the education sector and suggested action plans and activities schedules for Prem-Pathshala in particular. All four teachers are based in Jaipur and have extensive experience in managing lessons and activities at school.

Prem Pathshala staff organized several activities related to the planning and preparation of the upcoming academic session, including the development of teaching materials, charts, worksheets etc.

Orders were placed for school uniforms and other supplies. Improvements were made to the school's displays and basic maintenance was carried out on the premises, classrooms, library and computer room.

Mr. G.S. Bapna, the honourable Advocate General of Rajasthan visited the Jhag Children's Village on the 24th June to be thoroughly informed and briefed on the mission of I-India and the objectives of the Jhag Children's Village. He visited the different projects within the Jhag Children's Village and heard about the challenging backgrounds of resident children and the marginalized populations of Jhag and surrounding villages. The key objective of his visit was to meet with the rescued child labourers, who are presently living at the new girls' shelter home on a temporary basis.



Front Cover About the Artist

Sahul is 13 years old and came from Walter Gaunj in Uttar Pradesh. After the death of his mother, the family migrated to Delhi. Initially, his father was involved in some 'pity work' and then started pulling a rickshaw in old Delhi. The father neglected and exploited Sahul physically and mentally before completely disowning him. Community members informed the little boy that his father remarried. The children started working and begging on the streets for their survival. I-India first made contact with Sahul at Jaipur railway station where he was selling water bottles and cleaning railway coaches. For a few days, a Child Line team member counselled him and finally enrolled him in I-India's shelter services. Presently he is staying in "Snehaanchal", the Jhag, Children's Village boys' shelter home and studying in the 2nd standard at Prem-Pathshala.

p o box 204
five dock nsw 2046
australia

t +61 2 9713 9394
m +61 402 958 582
e mail@-indiaproject.org.au
w www.i-indiaproject.org.au



i-india project australia

abn 17 880 198 492