

# JHAG CHILDREN'S VILLAGE

## prem pathshala

Our students, many of them having attended for more than a year are taking their studies very seriously and making extremely good progress. They are very proud of their school and enjoy attending each day, Monday to Saturday. It is now their rhythm of life and the future looks bright and promising for these lucky children.

There are more children wanting to attend school than the Prem Pathshala building can accommodate, so the kindergarten class has been relocated to the common room in the shelter home. 215 students sat for an assessment, with 206 passing. I-India is extremely pleased to have achieved a 95.81% pass rate.

Now that the cooler months have begun, the school's timetable has changed. The children start their lessons at 10.30 am and they work through to 4.30 pm. The children from the local marginalised community of *Bagariya Basti*, an unorganized small slum area situated in Jhag village, attend Prem Pathshala for evening classes. The majority of the population of this community work in construction and sell toys, balloons etc. The children have never before received education or other necessary care. They are mostly engaged in rag-picking and shoe shining work. It is hoped that they will integrate into the day school in time. A visitor from England and his family generously donated new clothes to the slum children of *Bagariya Basti*.



Computer class



Playground



Library class



Assessment



Distribution of new shoes



Library class



Playtime



Assessment



Distribution of donated clothes

# JHAG CHILDREN'S VILLAGE

## prem pathshala

Six visitors from Street Child Project, Singapore were warmly welcomed by the students and staff of Prem Pathshala. Below is an excerpt from Anita Williams' recollections of their visit to the Jhag Children's Village.

*In stark contrast to the extreme poverty, sickness and hopelessness of the relocated community we had just visited, we were welcomed to Prem Pathshala - Loving School. Children greeted us with garlands of marigolds and the welcome tika. We were first shown the computer room, where several children sat immersed in a lesson. Classes were full with around 200 students attending. Students sat in the library, rich with resources, enjoying the books provided. Abha later said "I hope you don't mind but we have used the home you funded also for a school for students unable to fit into the classes at Prem Pathshala." I did not expect to see so many children, many of them girls participating in a lesson in the "common room" of the home. It brought tears of joy to my eyes. In donated uniforms and barefoot they sat cross legged on the floor listening intently to the teacher who was standing by the newly erected blackboard. Education for girls is generally not considered in poor rural India. They remain at home to work and take care of their younger siblings. When you educate a girl, you educate the whole family and the next generation. Girls will grow up empowered and self confident as well as having increased earning power and economic independence. I-India is giving hope to this very marginalized community.*



Warm welcome



School photo with visitors



Common Room classroom



Common Room classroom

## JHAG CHILDREN'S VILLAGE

### girls' shelter home and medical clinic

The Girls' Shelter Home, funded by Street Child Project in Singapore, is due for completion in January 2011.

The first shelter home which was officially opened on Anzac Day last year houses 54 boys. Initially it was to be a home for girls, but as I-India was caring for 15 boys in rented premises in Jhag, it was decided that it should become their new home to save the cost in rent. Government regulations do not allow boys and girls to share the same facility. There is an urgent need for a new shelter home for girls, as I-India's homes for girls in Jaipur are at capacity and there are many more girls in desperate need of I-India's nurturing protection.

The first stage of construction of the medical clinic has been funded by a generous couple also from Singapore. The footings were poured for a much larger building, to prepare for future expansion possibilities. The clinic will provide basic general care, as well as maternal, newborn, child health and nutrition services to the rural poor of the area. It will also provide referral services to specialised and government hospitals.



Girls' shelter home under construction in background



Internal rendering of the girls' shelter home



Local ladies employed in construction of girls' shelter home