

DEVELOPING INDIGENOUS RESOURCES - INDIA

Summary of Activities

MAY 2014

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH:

“My choices in life were either to be a piano player in a whore house or a politician, and to tell the truth, there’s hardly any difference.”
(Harry Truman)



Our Health Promoters leave our Centre to start their daily rounds.

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1. CEO's MESSAGE

Frederick Shaw

Old people used to tell me how very fast time passes by “for older people” and I listened with what I hoped looked like politeness, although I thought the remark was a pretty silly one. Times passes, I knew, with the same speed for everyone. I am still convinced that this is the case, but have since then learned a thing or two about ratios. For instance, the five year-old child has to wait for an amount of time equal to one-fifth of his time on Earth for another birthday anniversary, whereas the eighty-five year-old man – take my word for it – has merely to wait the equivalent of one-eighty-fifth of his life-time for his next birthday. Should we be surprised the latter says “Time flies”?

Of course, it would seem that how busy a person is, and how much of his/her time s/he spends doing what s/he loves should not be ignored and probably influences the speed with which time is perceived to fly, or drag. In my own case, I feel so honoured (although that word seems pretentious; perhaps “lucky” is better; I would say “blessed” which seems fitting except there is no one to bless me) to be able to participate in DIR's programs and activities, on a daily basis, that months pass by with the speed that telegraph poles flash by the window of an express train.

Is that a prolegomenon to my remarking that it seems merely weeks ago that I was muttering about Chaucer on the Third of May last year? Yes.

I seem to get scant opportunity to think of the remarkable Geoffrey and all the other authors/artists/thinkers /creative people who have enriched my existence with beauty, but that is alright with me because I am sufficiently lucky as to have a highly satisfying job.

In this past month (MAY)our activities have been enlarged by the inclusion of a new educational venture. We have started a program for the training of beauticians. This was the brainchild of Kalpana, who has recently joined us as our Director of Public Relations. Kalpana predicts that her new (six month's long) training program will (a) be popular and attract a lot of young unemployed trainees, (b) that it will increase the number of women who can earn a livelihood working at home, (c) that it will provide income for DIR which will help subsidize our Health activities. Upon the program's opening, 17 students enrolled immediately, and this is probably the maximum number we can train at a time. In the weeks before the program opened, Kalpana not only planned the training “parlour” , but found a beauty parlour which was closing, and raised the funds to purchase and install its equipment in our centre.

In recent history, we reported the starting of training of young men and women as caddies, and this month we started training beauticians. How very far thoughts of such programs were from our minds when DIR begun! Some friends of mine have asked have we diminished our efforts to improve Health which was our initial sole goal. The answer, of course, is “No”. Improving health is still our first chief aim. The new programs should contribute to the quality of life of our beneficiaries, and will help fund our health activities. Our ambition, which – on location – we never lose sight of is that each DIR project becomes self-supporting, after the initial injection of resources from outside.

2. MOTHERS' HEALTH

Ms. Meena Kumari - Senior Health Promoter

Pregnancies

On the 1st of May there were 103 pregnant women in Janta colony and Adarsh Nagar. Of these, twenty three women delivered their babies during the month. All had appropriate postnatal examinations within two days of delivery.

Seven pregnant women shifted their residences permanently from the colony, and twenty-three new pregnancies were reported during the month.

Deliveries

Out of 23 women who delivered this month, 17 delivered in Sector-16's Government Hospital; 1 delivered in PGI, and 5 delivered at Sector 22's hospital. Of the newborns, 13 are baby girls and 10 are baby boys. All deliveries were assisted by qualified professionals except one.

3. The IMMUNIZATION PROGRAMME

Mrs. Veena Rani – Senior Health Promoter

In the month of April, DIR-I collaborated with the government-run immunization programme on the 7th, 14th, 16th and 21st. A total of 242 shots were administered to children, details of which are as follows:

(a) Measles – 12 (b) Measles Booster -14 (c) BCG -0 (d) DT -19 (e) DPT Booster - 14

SHOTS	1 st Dose	2 nd Dose	3 rd Dose
Hepatitis B	8	10	20
DPT	8	10	20
TT	9	13	-

In addition to these, 4 children of age 10 yrs and 1 child of 16 yrs were given TT shots



This is not one of our finest streets

4. D.O.T.S.

Mrs. Meenakshi- Health Promoter

Last month, **Twenty One** tuberculosis patients were being served medicines at our bustee office through the government DOTS program run by DIR. Our bustee office is an authorized DOTS centre, and patients from the vicinity get their supply of medicine from our office on a regular basis. During this month, **three** patients completed the treatment and were declared free from this disease. **One** new patient has been diagnosed having Tuberculosis this month, and have started medication from our centre.

Following is the distribution of these patients in different categories and what each means:

Category I – All those new patients whose pulmonary smear is positive for Tuberculosis Bacilli or those whose pulmonary smear is negative but are seriously ill, or those who have extra pulmonary Tuberculosis but are seriously ill are included in Category I. This month, we have **fourteen** patients in this category.

Category II – Those old Tuberculosis patients who had either defaulted from the treatment at an earlier stage and have re-started the treatment or those who have again contracted the disease after being cured once those who had not been cured even after completing a full prescribed course are included in Category II. This month we have **five** patients in this category.



Drying clothes tells us it's washing day on one of the paved streets in Janta Colony

5. INCOME GENERATION

Ms. Meena, Mrs Maya - Senior Health Promoters

CLOTH BAGS

Under the skills training program, a total of fifteen women from the bustee are learning to sew in our Tailoring Class. Aside from these stitching classes being held in DIR bustee office, DIR also gives paid assignments to bustee women in the form of making different kinds of cloth bags (wine bags, i-Pad bags, Sling bags, Craft bags and water bottle bags. This month 111 i-pad bags were made by 12 ladies.

We are grateful to all fabric shopkeepers who are donating remnants and patterns of fabrics, and we send thanks to all these people who buy our products. The income means a lot to the women in the slum, and the profit goes 100% to fund our Medical activities.

PAPER BAGS

"Stop using plastic bags, use paper bags to save our environment". We would like everyone to read and follow that advice. We have different sizes of paper bags (which we make out of re-cycled newspapers) to sell to every customer. If some generous local people want to donate old news paper we would be grateful. And we would be happy to provide jobs for more women if we could get more customers for our products. This month 136 paper bags were made .

Contact us if you live locally and want to donate newspapers or wish to buy the fine recycled bags our women make. Find our town office at House 105, Sector 10-A, Chandigarh. If planning to visit, please 4660419 first to ensure someone is in.



Participants in the CAP (Child Activist Programme) learn a new step

6. EDUCATION

Dr. Tavleen Kaur

Our School With A Difference is presently enrolling students for the new school year. If the present trend continues we will have enough pupils to pay all school expenses and provide some support for other DIR activities.

On 12th May, the children of two classes were taken for a picnic which was sponsored by CITCO for the under privileged children in our community. It was a day of fun and frolic for our pupils; they were accompanied by Dr. Shaw, 2 teachers, 2 health promoters and our Administrator, Mr. Arun Gupta.

A total of 33 children were taken on a ride in CITCO's open roof Double Decker Bus called "Hop on, Hop Off". Everyone rode on the top (open air) deck, and some children told us they felt they were flying through the air. They sang songs and recited poems during the drive. We passed many of Chandigarh's beautiful parks, which the children were seeing for the first time. The majority of the pupils had not stepped outside their slum, ever. We stopped at Sukhna Lake and enjoyed watching the colourful boats in water and thousands of chirping birds. On the way back from the man-made lake they stopped at CITCO's outdoor food court, "Stop and Stare" where they were served refreshments and participated in the drawing competition.

Our young pupils and the staff had a wonderful day and are thankful to Dr. Shaw and CITCO for all the arrangements.



Dr Shaw using his own skeletal system in an anatomy class

7. PERSONNEL ACTIVITY

Mr. Arun Gupta

A. VISITORS

1. Mr. Raj Saigal an NRI from USA, came to visit our project, and generously contributed to the equipping of the Beauty Salon.
2. Mr. Charanjeet Singh and Mr. Sumeer Walia of the Sikh American Chamber of Commerce visited. They have established an office in the IT Park Chandigarh, and plan to collaborate with DIR.
3. Mr. Sumeer Walia has very generously donated a refrigerator for the Basti office. The staff has really appreciated this gesture and is thankful to him.
4. Mr. Ajit, a personal friend of ours visited from California. He and his (physician) wife Sarina are contemplating acting jointly with DIR to provide OPD services in our basti. Possibilities of enlisting the volunteer services of retired physicians who are returning from the US to live in India, are being explored. Our first thought is that we should get individuals to donate time on the basis of a half (or a whole) day each week. Ajit has brought a first volunteer to see us, and to give us the welcome news that he has one day to give our community every week.