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Mala News

Patrons:

The Maharaja of Benares

Felicity Kendal CBE

Sir Mark Tully OBE

Lady Young

Madeline Weinrib

Obeetee Pvt Ltd

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An action programme for the elimination of child labour in the hand knotted carpet industry India

1,200 turn up at past students reunion



Sponsors frequently ask what happened to the child they sponsored who passed out from our school. It is hard for us to keep tabs on all the 7,000 children who have passed through our schools in the last 25 years, but we are trying. On the 26 February we held a past students day at Guria School and were amazed when 1,200 students turned up. Add this to the 450 children still at Guria, plus siblings and parents, and we had almost two thousand attend the event.

There were lots of stories of hardship and success. One father came on his own to tell us how his son had gained himself a job in Saudi Arabia. Some of our girl students came with their husbands and children, who they hoped would also be able to enrol at a Mala school.

We had Ajay, a student who passed out in 1995 after class 5 and now works as an electrician repairing fans. Ajay had not been able to continue his education after leaving us but asked to enrol for our middle school and was prepared to sit in a class with children 15 years his junior.

We have always given special preference to handicapped children and Neelam was one of them. She was very bright, so when she completed her primary school education with us in 1999, we bought her a wheelchair so she could continue her education at a school some distance away. Neelam went on to complete studies to MA level (picture shows her attending the reunion as a grown up lady). Today we could have offered her education through to grade 12 and also in modern India she would not have contracted polio.



Annual report

Our annual report to 31 March 2013 is now published months ahead of previous years, thanks to the hard work of Joan and our new Treasurer, George Robinson. The main financial source of income and expenditure is summarised on our website but the full report is now filed and can be seen by going to the Charity Commission website. Charity number 801953.

We now have sponsors in 14 different countries including 12 in Australasia, 48 in USA/Canada, 5 in Scandinavia and 7 in the Far East. UK is the most dominant with 80% of sponsors. There has also been growth in interest from schools and Rotary Clubs.

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In the end of year exams, 1,219 children were tested in the nine curriculum subjects. The average mark was 75.78% with 227 getting over 90%.



We held four PTA meetings at each school during the year and the parents' attendance was 89%.



Indian Ambassador visit to Mala Schools

It was a proud moment for us when Mrs Meera Shankar, the former Ambassador to USA and Germany, visited our schools. She found us by asking the Carpet Export Promotion Council for an NGO to visit and they recommended her to visit Project Mala.

Are children gifted at birth?

In the west, children from educated parents are brought up taking in knowledge from their parents, but out of the 1,253 children in Project Mala schools, 987 parents have had no education, yet some of our children have outstanding ability. To hear children who have been with us for just six years speaking English, is amazing.



This is Satish, He comes from a poor family. His father is a farmer and can read and write Hindi a little but his mother is illiterate. Satish started in our primary school in April 2007 and has made it into class 8 Guria middle school. The desire for these bright children to better themselves is heart warming and we all should take pride that without Project Mala they may well have grown up illiterate.

Each year we take 300 children into our primary schools. After three years we select down to 140 who are admitted into our three middle schools. Those children then have to work hard, as there are only 30 places in our secondary boarding school. We are particularly proud of the children who make it all the way through to secondary level. To achieve this they must be born gifted?

The children who make it to secondary level are our elite 10%. Our ambition is to see some of them make it all the way to university. As most of the universities are English medium, one of the main problems the children face is to obtain a high level of command of English. Anne Bate, our Teaching Adviser, is putting them through an intensive course with Linguaphone to try to combat a heavy Indian accent.

Email Newsletters

This newsletter is a synopsis of a few that we have sent out by email. We do not have an email address for all sponsors and supporters. If you have not received the email newsletters and would like to, please send us an email to mail@projectmala.org.uk and we will add you to our mailing list.