



“HOPE NEWS”

June 2014

Advocacy

Environment

Livelihood

FOCUS AREAS

Healthcare

Education

Empowerment

EDUCATION

The purpose of education is to create in a person the ability to look at the world from a wider perspective, to explore the universe and learn to live with everyone in harmony. Minds like a parachute actually function when open. There are so many factors that can change the world but without education changes at all levels are not possible.



At Agnes Kunze Academy emphasis is given not only on academic excellence but also to empowering children so that they can use and channelize their caliber to become multifaceted individuals. Keeping this philosophy in mind, the teachers and management try to impart the right training to the children so that they become good human beings. Exams, tests, curricular activities, cultural activities, inculcating good habits of nutritious eating, health & hygiene, saving money through mini banks, all help towards the holistic development and growth of the children who attend the academy. The parents are kept involved in the progress of the child through regular parent teachers meeting and invitation to various cultural programs.

It gives immense pleasure to see the children in school after vacations with lovely broad smiles on their faces - eager and enthusiastic to learn. New Session means new classes, new books, new bags, etc. A total of 37 students were admitted in different classes when the new academic session began in April 2014, taking the strength of the school to 203 students, with 100 boys and 103 girls.





There are currently 50 children in the AKS 'Hope Home' at Signiwala, Dehradun. The children enjoy their stay at the Home. In the annual exams held in the March/April, almost all the students did well and moved into new classes.

Besides academics, they are involved in a lot of other activities, which keeps them busy. A number of volunteers visit the Home from time to time, bringing with them skills and knowledge which are imparted to the children. The Home is self sufficient; having its own dairy for fresh milk for the children and along with that the staff makes sure that a nutritious diet is given to the children for healthy growth.

A day is designated for the parents and other relatives of the children to come and meet with them as well as with the staff of the Home. Thus, they are able to check on the progress of the child and also maintain a good relationship with their child.



EMPOWERMENT & LIVELIHOOD



A number of projects at AKS Hope are being implemented to empower people, especially the women and young adults, from underprivileged communities.

Self-Help groups, vocational training, stitching/tailoring, beautician's course, etc. are run to help them become economically and socially strong, thereby bringing self-confidence and awareness within themselves.

Presently, 15 SHG's are functioning in which loans are provided through Dhan Luxmi bank so that they can invest in various occupational trades and businesses in order to assist in the family income. In these 15 groups, almost 60 women are being helped. They are paying the interest regularly.



The beautician course was started from 16 January, 2013. The first batch started with 10 girls. After four or five months there were two batches because more and more girls wanted to join.



Presently, there are 20 girls divided in two batches. The timing are from 1:30 to 3:00pm. 5 girls have given their exams and scored good marks. They will be receiving their certificates from AKS and then they can either open their parlour or acquire jobs in other parlour.

At the Hope Stitching Centre, 23 girls learn stitching in two batches. Some of these girls assist their families and some work in tailoring shops. At the Centre, they learn to stitch blouses, frocks, suits, Kurta, Pyjama etc. They also learn to make earrings from paper; Quilts from cut pieces and cushion covers. It is a one year course and they will soon be receiving their diplomas.



HEALTHCARE

Health Checkup for Community – A regular health check up is conducted twice a month for the entire community including children. For children studying at Hope Academy, a

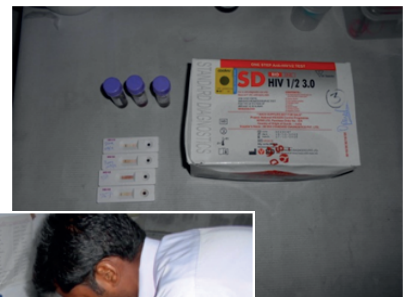


routine check up like body weight/height measurement, nails, hair, clothes, etc. is done a regular basis. Every three months they are given de-worming tablets. The community check up includes blood, sugar, urine, blood pressure check, etc. and those requiring medical attention are advised to consult the doctor.



HIV/AIDS & TB /Dots – Four awareness meetings have been conducted on HIV/AIDS & TB/Dots. The HIV/AIDS and TB persons are referred to the Government Hospital and Doon Hospital Dots center for proper health care and they are also sent to ICTC center for proper counseling. So far 14 HIV testing has been done. Every Monday, Wednesday and Friday, the staff of AKS Hope visit the persons who are taking DOTS medicine to give them TB medicine and counseling for proper diets. On 24 march 2014 'World TB Day' was celebrated in madrasi colony, in which counseling was provided to many people including youngsters on prevention, treatment and symptoms of tuberculosis.

On May 10, 2014, the Hope Vihaan Children Support and Care Centre, a project of AKS Hope, conducted a program on Nutrition Food Distribution. Special guests present at this program were Smt. Minakshi Uniyal from Uttarakhand AIDS Control Society, Program Officer, Shri. Gagan Luthra, Smt. Sujata, Member Secretary, State Women Commission, Sh. S. K. Tripathi, District Program Officer, ICDS, Smt. Asha, CDPO, ICDS, Dr. B. C. Pathak, SMO, ART, Doon Hospital, Sh. Lawrence Singh, Program Coordinator, AKS Hope Project and from PLHIV network and Vihaan CSC, Kiran and Kavita.



Nutrition Food Packets were distributed at this program. The packets contained various pulses (dal), jagri, Sugar, Porridge, Glucon D, Jam, and salt. Vihaan CSC also distributed copies and pencil to the children. Along with the distribution of the food packets, the problems of families of PLHIV were addressed by the Uttarakhand AIDS Control Society and ART Centre. Dr. Pathak tried to provide solutions to the problems raised by the family members. He also spoke to the PLHIV members about life style and taking regular medicines.

AKS HOPE TARGET TB

Asgar Ali, an MDR patient, has been suffering from liver problem for a long time, due to which he has been experiencing uneasiness and giddiness. He was contacted by the AKS Hope Target TB team and provided with medicines and a tin of Protenix. The team also gave him information on MDR medicines, nutritious diet, regular checkups and various precautions that he needs to take while in contact with others around him.

AKS Hope Target TB team has been conducting various awareness meetings in different areas of the city to create awareness, identify prospective patients, resolve problems faced by patients, increase societal and government support and fulfill the challenges faced by ACSM activities. With the help of ASHA workers in different villages, a number of people have attended these meetings. Many patients have been identified and many others have been encouraged to take regular medicines and go for timely check-ups. These meetings have also been helpful in giving information on how to protect oneself from MDR TB and the precautions that one needs to take if diagnosed.



On April 11, 2014, a meeting was organized for the Muslim community at Mehuwala and a special meeting with Maulana Mohammad Gulsher was held by the AKS Hope staff, Mr. Sanjiv Issachar. Awareness was created on TB and they were told that free treatment is available for those who are diagnosed. Mr. Sanjiv also informed the community that thus far AKS Hope, which has been working for the last 8 years, has successfully treated more than 4000 TB patients who have now completely recovered. Maulana Mohammad Gulsher appreciated the efforts of the AKS Hope Target TB team to create awareness within the muslim community and offered his complete support in trying to eradicate the disease.

At the same meeting, Mr. Sanjiv also spoke to a Muslim Tantrik (witch doctor), who had been treating TB patients through magic, witchcraft etc. providing various herbal medicines created by him. He also understood the need for regular check-ups and promised to send patients for



SOME CASE STUDIES...

Parul is a 15 year old girl from Rishikesh, who has been under treatment for the past 4 years. Her parents had taken her to all the big cities– Chandigarh, New Delhi, etc. for treatment but with no real success. She has now been receiving treatment from Dehradun MDR for the last 4 years and is improving. Due to her sickness she has been unable to attend school and the school has given notice to her for withdrawal but she and her parents have not lost hope.



Chaman Singh is 48 years old. He has received DOTS treatment twice but both the times it has been a failure. He is now undergoing MDR treatment which is helping him. Along with MDR, he is also a patient of diabetes. Through AKS Hope Target TB program, he is aware that he needs to take his medicines regularly and go for timely checkups.

Ravi, 32, a driver by profession, has been suffering from TB for the last 8 months. He has not been able to go to work due to this. His parents do not want him to work until he is completely recovered as they fear that if he goes to work, he will be influenced by his friends to take drugs and alcohol, which will bring on a relapse of the disease.



Rai Chand is 65 years old. He was diagnosed with TB and he took DOTS treatment and recovered. But he had a relapse and this time he went to local registered medical practitioners and bought medicines from local chemists without proper checkup and doctor's consultation. Due to this negligence, today he is an MDR patient and is receiving treatment through AKS Hope Target TB program. He is extremely hopeful that he will recover completely.

ADVOCACY

The AKS Hope Project staff regularly conducts awareness meetings on various issues faced by young and old. These include Youth Club Meetings, Teen Clinic, Anti-Tobacco smoking meeting, Hope Tobacco Brigade meeting, awareness on Pension plans and ration cards, Mother and Child Care meeting, awareness on non-communicable chronic diseases, etc. These regular awareness meetings have been instrumental in creating a lot of awareness in the community and the information shared has been beneficial for the people making them confident and independent.



Youth club meeting



Non-communicable chronic diseases



Anti - tobacco smoking meeting



Pension Plan / Ration Cards



Mother & child care

HOPE SAMVEDNA PROJECT

The Hope Samvedna Project has been running successfully, working amongst differently abled children and adults. During the last six months, 6 new children have joined Samvedna. They are **Rahaman**, 10 year old boy with intellectual disability. **Umer** - 5yrs old boy with C.P. His father, Rizwan, who is visually impaired comes with him. **Shubhan** - is 2 and half year old boy with C.P. He comes with his mother. **Sadik** - is 12year old boy suffering from intellectual disability. He is learning pre vocational skills. **Ritik** - is a 13 year old boy with hearing impairment. He is also learning pre-vocational skills. He comes from quite a distance by bus and he does this independently, which is building his confidence. **Arayan** - is an 8 year old boy with hearing impairment. Amongst the family support group, there is Umer's father, Rijwan, who is visually impaired and he makes greeting cards. Nagma is Shubhan's mother. She also makes greeting cards. Abid is a tailor and works in a shop in the nearby village. He is physically disabled. He makes gift bags. Gulnaaz is Sabir's sister and she makes aprons, mobile and Tab cases.

Many overseas volunteers come and live with the children at Hope Samvedna and enjoy their time with them. Some of those who visited are: Lena, Sena, Pia, Elizabeth from Germany; Mehta and Jeniks from Holland; and Gladys from France.

The Community Health Global Network Uttarakhand Cluster, through their Accessibility Fund, was able to provide postural chairs to Umer and Shubhan. They were extremely happy and thankful for this.



Every quarter a parent's meeting is conducted in which a lot of information is shared on various government schemes for PWDs. A meeting of the DPG (Disabled Peoples Group) is held every month.



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