



An ISO 9001 : 2008 Certified Charity/NGO

November 2014

# “HOPE NEWS”

## From the Managing Director

Dear Friends, Colleagues & Well Wishers,

Greetings!

It is my privilege to share with you the activities that have been carried out in the on-going projects of AKS Hope during this last quarter. At the same time, it is a joy to share about some new projects that have been initiated in which the AKS Hope team plays a leading and vital role. We are indeed thankful to God for His guidance and strength to carry out all these programs successfully.

I want to take this opportunity to thank all our friends, partners and donors who have been so supportive and have encouraged us throughout the year. Many of you have visited our projects and interacted with the children, sharing with them, teaching and playing with them, which has encouraged them so much.

We are thankful for all of our staff and value their hard work, commitment and cooperation in successfully implementing the various projects and making a difference in the lives of the children and the community that we serve.

Our children at the Academy and Hope Home and the community that they come from are the ones that are most valued and we are indeed thankful that each one working at AKS Hope is instrumental in bringing a smile on their faces and make a change in their lives.

As you read through, we hope that you will be blessed and encouraged and will continue to support us through your valued friendship and help.

We welcome you to visit any of our projects for a first hand experience of the same. Merry Christmas & Happy New Year 2015.

Manju Lawrence  
Managing Director

### FOCUS AREAS

Advocacy

Empowerment

Livelihood

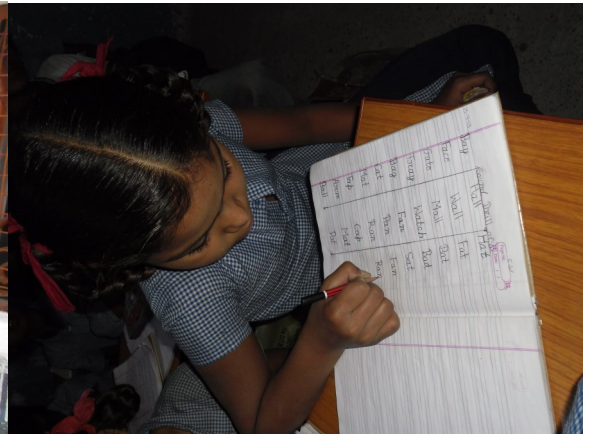
Education

Healthcare

Environment

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- Community Health, TB & other Programs



## HOPE ACADEMY

Agnes Kunze Academy currently has student strength of 209 (103 boys and 106 girls) in classes Nursery to V. Apart from Academics, which is a major focus, children receive holistic education for an all-round development.

The children were enthusiastic in resuming school after the summer break. During the summer break, the teachers helped those students who are weak in studies by conducting remedial classes. These remedial classes helped them to complete their holiday home work as well. Some of the other children of the school as well as students of Hope Higher Education program worked as volunteers in small maintenance and up-keep jobs at the school.

The activities began with celebrating Independence Day on August 15<sup>th</sup>, in which Honorable Minister, Sh. Dinesh Aggarwal was the Chief Guest. Other local representatives and Project Coordinator, Mr. Lawrence Singh were present for the celebration. Sh. Dinesh Aggarwal addressed the students, giving a motivational speech on the importance of education. Mr. Lawrence Singh also encouraged the children to strive hard and focus on education in order to succeed. Sweets were distributed to all the children and guests.



**"Apart from Academics, which is a major focus, children receive holistic education for an all-round development."**



September 5<sup>th</sup> – Teachers Day was celebrated with great enthusiasm by all the children. The children put up a special program for the teachers which was very much appreciated by the Principal and the teachers.

Along with all these activities, the children have been preparing for their monthly tests and Half yearly exams. The monthly review tests show that the children are also taking great interest in studies and work hard to get good marks.

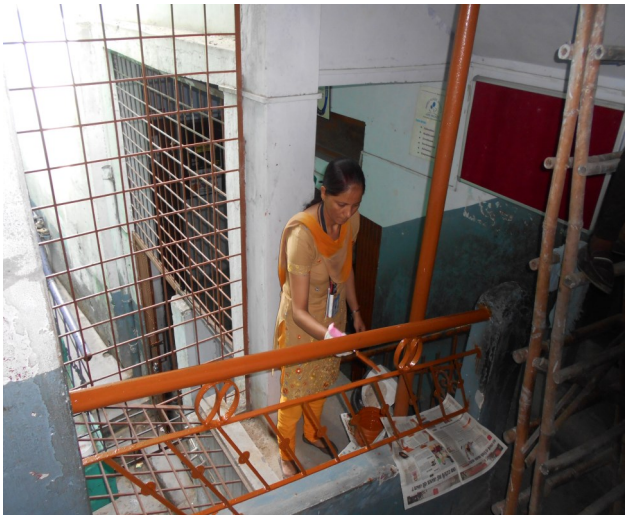
Volunteers and guests keep visiting the school from time to time, which really encourages both the staff and students. We are thankful to Mr. Joe, who visited us in July and also inaugurated the water purifiers which have been donated for the kitchen.

In September, interns from ZEE University and Aptara employees came and volunteered at the school. The children enjoyed their input and interaction and presented a small program for them when they were leaving, which they appreciated very much.



The support of the Management, friends, well-wishers and supporters has helped in the growth of the school and encouraged the staff and students to strive towards excellence.





Activities at



HOPE Academy



## HOPE HOME



### Most Significant story of change

Hey guys! I am **AKASH**. I really like my name a lot; you know it means "The Sky". It's so high and spread over the whole world and takes care of every one, that's what I feel whenever I see the Blue sky on top of my head and I whisper quietly *"I'll be like you One day"*.

I am 16 years old and I am doing my study at Hope Home. I came here when I was 7 years old. The beginning was kind of a struggle for me because of the new environment but after a while I got used to it. Before coming to Hope Home I was studying at Hope Academy at Madras Colony.

My family condition was not good. My parents did not have enough money to educate me and support me in my studies. Hope Home has brought change in my life in all areas. Here I have a good family-like environment, loving and caring staff and a great atmosphere to study. At Hope Home I started to study in 3<sup>rd</sup> class. Now I am in 11<sup>th</sup> class.

In 10<sup>th</sup> class I had important board examinations, which was very important for me and I worked very hard for that. I would wake up at 3 o'clock in the morning to study and in school my teachers helped me in all subjects. In my school there were 500 students and my position was 5<sup>th</sup> in the board exams. All my teachers and the principal, the staff at Hope Home and Manju Didi were so happy!

I would like to thank all of them for giving me a great opportunity! I am very happy in Hope Home!

Someday I would like to become a navy officer and that's a good reason for all the hard work.

Once again I especially would like to thank Manju Didi and Caroline Didi for giving me this great chance!



AKASH

## HOPE PROJECT 'BURANS' - MENTAL HEALTH PROJECT (Community & School Based)

AKS Hope is one of the five CHGN-UKC organizations that are working in "BURANS", a program on Mental Health that has been implemented in the state of Uttarakhand in partnership with EHA. Burans Program has four key components:

- ◆ Building community awareness and detection of people with mental disorders
- ◆ Primary mental health care services
- ◆ Community Based Rehabilitation – to build skills of people with mental disorders and the wider community
- ◆ Advocacy

The focus of the program is on three key disorders:

- Depression
- Psychosis
- Anxiety disorder

In the past three months, HOPE Project Burans has been able to conduct mapping exercises in 5 villages of Sahaspur block. The project staff held awareness meetings, conduct meeting with the Village Pradhan and raise the community elders to raise awareness on mental health issues. They have also made contacts with the medical doctors at the local mental health hospital. A baseline survey has been conducted in 10 villages in which 337 forms have been filled and 32 new cases of mental health were discovered, which have been referred to the hospital.



**Awareness meeting in a school**



**One to one counselling**



**Awareness meeting in a school**





## A SIGNIFICANT STORY OF CHANGE

**Name:** Pappu Singh

**Age:** 40 years

**Suffering from Mental illness – staying alone, tense and fearful. Talking to himself.**

**Village:** Off Rampur, Begampur Shadi, Tehsil Nazimabad, Dist. Bijnor, Uttarpradesh

My name is Pappu Singh and I am so happy to mention that today I have recovered almost 60% from my mental illness. I was mentally unstable and people used to call me mad. Due to this condition, everyone stayed away from me. My family also did not want to interact with me. I lost my job and did not know where I was going or what I was doing. I have seven children. Even they were afraid of me. My wife and children and the entire family was suffering along with me for the last 5 years. In the 5th year of my illness, my wife and children left me alone in the village.

One day, my brother, Mahendra Singh, came to our village and seeing my condition, had pity on me. He wanted to help me as he could not see me in this condition and was also sorry for the suffering that the entire family was going through. He contacted AKS Hope Project and spoke with the team, who immediately sent me with one of his staff to the Hospital for a check-up. I was admitted to the hospital and my treatment was started. After seven days, I went back to my village. The treatment continued on for one full year. Today, my wife and children are back with me and my whole family is supporting me. They are so happy to see the improvement in my condition. The suffering of the last five years has come to an end.

I am now able to do some farming on the piece of land that we have. I am also able to take up other daily wage jobs through which I am able to earn for my family. I feel very happy that I am able to do this. Sometimes I do get angry, but my wife is able to handle the situation. I continue to remain on medication, which is provided with the help of AKS Hope Project Burans.

I am truly grateful to AKS Hope and my brother, Mahendra Singh, who did not give up on me but helped in getting my treatment done in the village itself. I am also thankful to the staff of AKS Hope who continues to give advice and counsel to my wife and family and support us in this way. A lot of change has come in my behaviour as well. Previously, I used to run away from home and did not know where I was and my family used to worry for me. But now, all this has changed. I love to stay with my family, eat well and enjoy with them.

I am so thankful to God for saving my family from breaking due to my mental illness. I am also thankful to all the staff of AKS Hope Project who has helped me in the treatment of my condition. Seeing the positive result in my condition, two more families in my village have been referred for treatment. AKS Hope Project Burans is helping them also and there is improvement in their condition as well. I am ever grateful and thankful to them.

With much thankfulness,  
Pappu Singh

(As narrated by Pappu Singh to the Project Officer, HOPE Project Burans)

#### SNAPSHOTS PICNIC DAY, CHILDREN'S DAY, Sr. AGNES MEMORIAL DAY—14 Nov.2014





## RAPID ASSESSMENT OF DISABILITY (RAD TOOL)

The Rapid Assessment of Disability (RAD) toolkit is a set of quantitative questionnaires and accompanying guidelines which can be used to establish baseline information on the prevalence and effect of disability among adults (18 years or older), and to measure the impact of programs which aim to target or include people with disability.

The RAD toolkit contains household and individual questionnaires and a manual, which details the content of the questionnaires and their use.

This Toolkit was developed by the Nossal Institute for Global Health and the Centre for Eye Research Australia at The University of Melbourne. This RAD Tool Survey is in partnership with PHFI, CHGN-UKC, Nossal and CBM.

The RAD Tool is being implemented by four member organizations of the Community Health Global Network Uttarakhand Cluster, of which AKS Hope is one of them. The Survey began in the month of September 2014 and so far 300 forms have been completed, covering 6 Clusters. The team had to face a number of challenges during the Survey. With the cooperation of the Gram Pradhan, ASHA workers, Anganwadi Workers and Ward member, we overcame the challenges.





## HOPE SAMVEDNA

At Hope Samvedna, there are currently 25 children in different age groups, suffering from Intellectual Disability, Physical disability, Cerebral Palsy, Down Syndrome, Hearing problem and visual disability. Khushi and Tanushka, both with Down Syndrome, joined the Home this year. Besides this, there are 22 differently abled children who are unable to come to the Day Care Centre and the staff regularly visits them at their homes.



Hope Samvedna has 8 dedicated and trained staff, which assists and interacts with the children in a loving and caring way and helps them to feel a part of the wider society. The staff is encouraged by the management to attend various workshops and training programs to enhance their capabilities and better serve the children under their care.

During this quarter, the Hope Samvedna staff attended training at the National Institute for Visually Handicapped (NIVH) conducted for parents and special educators focusing on working with deaf and blind people. During the month of June, they attended a two day workshop organized at Herbertpur Christian Hospital, NIMH & Parivaar and hosted by Inspiration. The theme of the Workshop was "Towards Self Advocacy and Decision Making". The staff was also able to join the Summer camp organized by the 'Anugrah' Centre at Herbertpur Christian Hospital from May 21 to 23, 2014. It was a good exposure and a learning opportunity for the staff.



The staff has also been actively involved in awareness meetings in the nearby villages and DPO/DPG meetings, which are conducted on a regular basis. Women have been taking keen interest in these meetings, discussing about various government schemes and asking a lot of questions, which is helpful for the whole group. A meeting of 13 ward members was held at the Pradhan's House in which questions like 'What is disability?' 'What are the benefits provided by the government for PWDs?', etc. were discussed. This has been a very important meeting for relation building.

The Accessibility Fund made available through the Community Health Global Network Uttarakhand Cluster has helped a number of people in accessing assistive devices, corrective surgeries and constructing accessible toilets for PWDs. HOPE Samvedna is grateful to CHGN UKC for these funds.

## COMMUNITY HEALTH, TB, & OTHER PROGRAMS

The ongoing projects of AKS Hope such as Community Health, TTB and CCSS have been functioning well and have achieved their targets in the last quarter.

In the last three months, AKS Hope CCSS has catered to 125 HIV positive patients. They have received all amenities such as food, shelter, and care free of cost at the Centre. Some of the patients have been taken to Doon Hospital for both ongoing ART treatment or starting of the treatment.

In the Hope Vihaan CSC centre, 30 to 37 children are receiving nutritious food. They also spend time interacting with the staff and other children and are able to enjoy games and sports. They are also given awareness on health and nutritious food habits and to take ART regularly.

### TOTAL PATIENT STAYED AT HOPE COMMUNITY CARE CENTRE DURING JULY 2014 TO SEPT 2014

MONTH	ADULT MALE	ADULT FEMALE	CHILD MALE	CHILD FEMALE	TOTAL
JULY 2014	9	9	15	10	43
AUGUST 2014	12	17	13	8	50
SEPTEMBER 2014	6	14	7	5	32
TOTAL	27	40	35	23	125

HOPE Target TB – In the last three months, 30 new patients of MDR have been identified under the AKS Hope TTB project. 20 patients have received additional energy building and supportive TB medicines through Target TB. One patient, Asgar Ali, was shifted to the emergency ward of Sahaspur Hospital as his condition deteriorated. The doctor mentioned that had he not received immediate medical attention, he could have become paralyzed. Asgar Ali is much better now and drives his cycle rickshaw to the hospital for his checkup and medication.

In the last quarter 3 DOTS/patient meeting were conducted to conduct routine check for HIV of TB patients. These meetings were also conducted to raise awareness about getting proper treatment done for TB, not to consume alcohol or drugs during treatment and not to resort to quacks, witch doctors, local village doctors, etc. for treatment. These awareness meetings were also conducted both at the government and non-government hospitals. House visits and providing supportive MDR-TB medicines, along with regular counseling to patients at home was also done during this last quarter.





The AKS Hope Community Health Program continues to conduct regular medical checkups of the children of Hope Academy and Hope Home. Besides, this the ongoing activities under the Community Health Program includes regular Self-Help groups, Youth club meetings, awareness meetings on non-communicable diseases, TB, HIV/AIDS, mother and child care, Old age pension plans, Widow pension, Anti-Tobacco, etc. House visitations were also conducted in which awareness was created about health and hygiene and how to protect oneself from diseases such as Dengue, Malaria, hepatitis, etc. In the 15 self-help groups, 75 women are enrolled and benefit from various government schemes for which awareness is created amongst them. They can also avail of small loans through which they are able to run small businesses to support themselves and their families, thus empowering them to become independent and self-reliant.

A meeting of the parents and children who are part of the HOPE Higher Education program was conducted to enlighten the parents on the progress of their child and to support and encourage their children to come to school for remedial coaching.







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An ISO 9001 : 2008 Certified Charity/NGO

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ISO 9001:2008 Certification Number : 53615 – UDEM  
(Society Registration No. 1104/2001-2002 (Uttarakhand State)  
Society Registration Renewal – 589/2006-2007 (Uttarakhand State)  
Society Registration Renewal – 342/2011 – 2012 (Uttarakhand State)  
FCRA Registration No. 347900096 (Home Ministry, Govt. of India)  
PAN No. AABTA2133K (Income Tax PAN Services Unit, Govt. of India)  
TAN No. MRTA02152D (Uttarakhand State Tax Dept.)  
12A Registration Certificate, Dated 09-02-2007 (Charity Status -Tax Dept.)  
80G Registration Certificate, Dated 18-11-2008 (Tax Exemption - Tax Dept.)  
AABTA2133KSD001, Dated 03/03/2011 (Service Tax Registration No.)