

“Ninash: A Kitchen Table Local Charity” Celebrates 22 Years of Promoting Literacy Among Underprivileged Children and 10 Years of Giving Away Dairy Goats to the Poor in Remote Villages of India”

Trip Highlights December 28, 2017 to January 18, 2018

Ashok Malhotra and Linda Drake visited Ninash’s 7 schools in Kuran and Sagbara in Gujarat as well as in Mahapura and Dundlod in Rajasthan, celebrating 22 years of promoting literacy among more than 1700 female and minority children in four remote villages of India since 1996.

Kuran School, Gujarat (Dec 30 to Jan 2, 2018)



Water Filtration Plant and Classroom

1. The Indo-International school was clean and newly painted with a new library. Because of the school and its importance, **the village of Kuran was picked by the Gujarat Government as one of the three model villages to be adjudged as the hubs of rural education** representing progress being made by local population through the efforts of Ninash. As part of this gratitude, the Government plans to build roads, park and help clean up the village through its

own resources as well as through the local government called the panchayat.

2. The High school had been provided with 5 teachers teaching various subjects to more than 35 students from 9 to 11 grades which is a drastic improvement from only one teacher who was teaching all these classes last year (2017).

3. **Suzanne Miller Water Filtration plant** needed filters which were supplied by Ninash this year so that more people could use the clean filtered water. A wall was built to protect the water treatment plant. This enclosed area will be converted into a garden and a park for recreation of the village.

4. **Reach to Teach** organization from **UK** supplied 3 teachers trained by them to teach children at the elementary and middle school according to their aptitude, inclination and level of accomplishment.

5. Flowers and plants were being grown in the school and being taken care of by children and teachers.

6. To keep the children healthy, exercise equipment was donated by a local Rotary. A stage platform to hold the equipment was donated by Ninash that constituted a new addition to the school.

7. New and clean houses with Western style toilets are being built in the village showing awareness of hygiene, self-esteem and economic benefits brought by education.



Sukuba with Linda

8. **Sakuba**, a handicapped child, growing up in the village had studied up-to the tenth grade at the school. Being a girl and with a handicap, her family had taken her out of the high school. She met with us to express her need to further her education and sought our help to find ways

to educate her further and deal with her handicapped situation professionally. We held a conference with her mother and addressed her needs. She would be helped by Ninash financially to go to high school for handicapped children in Bhuj. Sukuba's family would arrange for her living-stay with a family member in Bhuj during her studies at the school. Furthermore, Sukuba's X-rays were being delivered to doctors in Surat, India and USA to see if her present situation could be rectified through medical means. 9. All the children and teachers were given an apple each to say happy New Year from Ninash.

Sagbara, Gujarat (Jan 2-4, 2018)



Ashok and Linda as Goat Prince and Goat Princess

1. Ashok and Linda visited Sagbara where during a short ceremony, Linda gave away 17 dairy goats to—the poorest of poor. The people getting the goats signed on an agreement to give away the first baby to another poor family of the village and this would be repeated by the next receiver to extend the project to cover three villages. The vet care to check on the health of the goats will also be provided. Two student interns would study the impact of this goat project on the people of the three villages.
2. For the Waymade school in Sagbara, Ninash provided funds for four more computers to bring the existing number to ten. The computer center will be named for Gulab Watumull of Hawaii for his continuing support to literacy in India.
3. Ashok and Linda also met with the Dean of Social Work along with the Vice-Chancellor of the M.S. University of Baroda with whom they discussed the Ninash's literacy experiment of building schools for the female and minority children of India.

Mahapura School, Rajasthan (Jan 4-9)



Indo-International Culture School in Mahapura, Rajasthan



1. Rashmi Rathore, the principal of the Indo-International Culture School in Mahapura was recognized as a young pioneer in education in the rural setting. She got the Award in Jaipur and Delhi and gave one-hour interview on the national TV Doordarshan, featured as “the upcoming school in Jaipur.”

2. The Mahapura School had an imaginative Science Fair for the parents as well as for Linda and Ashok. Children showed their scientific skills through putting Science to practice.



3. A number of children presented entertainment of dances, music and skits depicting India's cultural and religious diversity and of specific mention are two skits that consisted of bringing religions together and problems associated with the over use of internet in our computer age.

4. Pushpendra Rathore, the famous artist would be holding workshops on the traditional art of stained glass used in palaces and monuments in the John and Mimi Koller Artisan Wing. This will help expose the children, teachers and community to fabulous art which is an integral part of the Indian culture.

5. Ashok and Linda visited all the classes from nursery to 11th grade and heard poems, songs and their unique lessons as conducted by the teachers.

6. They met with all the teachers and had a chat session about the school and where it was and where it should be going. They were impressed with teachers and children who were trying to use English in their discourse with each other.

7. A local compassionate volunteer-teacher donated a central air-conditioning system throughout the school.

8. All the children and teachers were given two bananas each to say Happy New Year from Ninash.

Dundlod School, Rajasthan (Jan 9 to 12, 2018)



1. Linda and Ashok met with all classes at the Dundlod school from Nursery to 12th grade, chatting with children and teachers giving talks appropriate to each class.
2. The school celebrated its 22nd year of operation starting with 50 female and minority children in 1996 in a one-room to a school with 650 children at present from Nursery to 12th grade.
3. Thirteen girl students from the school won the Rajasthan State Gargi Award, named after a famous woman intellectual from the time of the Vedas, who introduced dispassionate logic by starting a philosophical cum social dialogue between men and women. These girls had achieved and maintained a grade point average from A to A+ in their examinations.
4. Children celebrated the 22nd year with music, dancing and speeches on the history of the school since 1996.
5. Celebrations also included the opening of the new Ninash Smart Classroom, Controller Room for storage of tests and Jack Finestone Music Room with a new key-board piano along with a room for table tennis and old computers stored in library for the use of small children. To utilize the space efficiently, new offices were constructed for the principal and the accountant.



6. Linda and Ashok visited the Dundlod Fort to meet with and thank Prince Raghuvendra Singh for his continuing support of the school from its beginning in 1996 to the present day.

7. They also visited the park across from the Dundlod Fort. It was built by Ninash and the local Panchayat to hold social and political meetings.
8. They visited the morning school assembly where children read headlines from the Hindi and English newspapers along with reading a story from the Grandpa's Wisdom Stories. The school will adopt this as a tradition to start the day with this kind of program for the assembly.
8. Furthermore, they discussed the possibility of using children's artistic talent to create illustrations for the Grandpa Chopra's Wisdom Stories.
9. Compassionate students who raised funds to help build a house for a poor family were recognized.
10. Dr. Ganga Singh (superintendent), A.V. George (Administrator-in-charge), Ashok and Linda gave inspirational speeches on the history of the school and the personal benefits of compassion in action.
11. All children who took the board exam passed with high grades which was a feather in the cap of the school.

Ninash's 22 Years of Promoting Literacy (November 1996 to January 2018)

Now, there are more than 1720 children getting superb education learning four languages (regional language of Gujarati or Rajasthani, national language of Hindi, International language of English and Global language of Computer) in four remote villages of India. Ninash's experiment of promoting literacy among female and minority children that started with 50 underserved children in 1996 is now bearing tremendous dividends for these underprivileged children of the four villages. More than 150 graduates from these schools are going to colleges of their choice completing degrees in medicine, engineering, computers, business and other secretarial professions along with opening their private businesses.

Beside promoting literacy among the neglected female and minority children, Ninash has undertaken such successful projects as: giving away 277 dairy goats to the poor, water filtration for clean drinking water, providing funds for building roads as well as parks, playgrounds, libraries, computers, books and recreational games such as basketball, ping pong table, musical instruments, cricket set, volleyball net, carom and equipment for exercise. This educational experiment had ripple effects leading to building self-esteem in the people of these four remote villages, who in turn have started new businesses and built modern houses as well as hospitals and dispensaries. Each village is growing and developing at a faster pace now to get its fair share from the growing economy of India. ***As Ninash raises more funds from the compassionate donors during this year and future years, it will be able to promote literacy among other underserved children who live in thousands of remote villages of India. Please go to www.ninash.org to donate through PayPal.***