



# DBS Bulletin

Vision: To help people, realise their potentialities and dignity, and to create their own destiny

A publication on Education, Health and other Social  
Development projects of the Delhi Brotherhood Society

## New Challenges



Fr. Solomon George  
Treasurer

The Delhi Brotherhood Society is growing in a significant manner. The new initiatives of a proposed Centre for the Rehabilitation of Trafficked Women and the Centre for Children of Sex Workers in central Delhi are issues deeply connected with human morality and social problems. All too often women and children especially girl children are the victims of their unfortunate circumstances. We have erected buildings on the land that we had procured some years ago. The present budgetary implications of these programme are as following: -

(INR)

|                    |                  |
|--------------------|------------------|
| Cost of building   | - 40,00,000.00/- |
| Furnishing         | - 10,00,000.00/- |
| Electricity        | - 1,50,000.00/-  |
| Water & Sanitation | - 80,000.00/-    |
| Recurring Expenses | - 7,20,000.00/-  |
| (for a year)       |                  |

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## The Centre for Children of Sex Workers

This is a project to support the children of the sex workers living in the pathetic condition of neglect. The Centre aims to give relevant awareness and education to this unfortunate section of society. The Centre now functions at Turkman Gate. Here the children of sex workers are brought from a nearby "red light" area. The Centre provides facilities for nutrition, literacy and counselling to such children who otherwise cannot get such facilities. The trained social worker, counsellor or field worker engage the children in literacy programmes. They also have various activities of recreation, so that their routine is diversified and keeps them away from vulnerable circumstances. We hope that this will improve the condition of these children and integrate them into the mainstream of society.

## Proposed Centre for Rehabilitation of Trafficked Women

The Delhi Brotherhood Society (DBS) has ventured into a new field of service by pioneering work among trafficked women. It is hoped that under this programme those women who have been exploited mentally and physically will be looked after by our trained social workers, counsellors and field workers. We try to give moral support to those women who have lost hope and are so disheartened for living that sometimes they may driven to commit suicide. Women who come to the Capital for employment and livelihood are unfortunately trapped by anti social elements and pushed into a network of widespread prostitution. They are brought to "red light" areas of Delhi. Once they are trapped it is almost impossible to come out of this net. With the help of trained social workers we aim to conduct rescue operations to release them from the hazardous life and bring them to our rehabilitation centre. Here we aim to establish proper facilities for their counselling and to inspire them to start a new life. At present the construction work is underway with two dormitories, one room for the matron with toilet and kitchen. The centre is likely to start in the month of May 08. Though the DBS does not have any fund for this project, but we hope that generosity of people will help us to accomplish the vision for which this centre will satnd.

## Day Care Centre for Old People

In India there is a greater awareness of the issues relating to elderly people. The rapid increase in economic development and modernisation has increased greed for money. People do not have time for their families. The joint family system has broken down in the cities. As a result they consider their elders as burden and often neglect them.

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# "To Delhi, with all love from Wye"

{Reprint of the article by Jim Little for private circulation}

A visit to the tortuous, narrow and filthy streets of north-east Delhi makes one thing abundantly clear: the economic growth for which India is grabbing headlines around the world is nothing more than a rumour for the vast majority of the country's population. Amid the racket and pollution of this chaotic city of 14 million, vast and growing numbers of urban poor struggle for survival in conditions of poor sanitation and almost non-existent economic opportunity. This desperately deprived environment feels a million miles from the peaceful east Kent villages of Wye and Brook, yet a vital link exists thanks to a charity about to celebrate its 30th birthday. Since 1978 the Wye and Brook India Trust (WBIT) has been raising funds for the Delhi Brotherhood Society, which runs schools, hostels, night shelters and a vocational training centre for 'the poorest of the poor' in India's capital city.

On the rooftop of a hostel for homeless children in the Shahidnagar district, looking out over streets in which motorbikes threaded between bullock carts and stooped old men picked at mountains of rubbish on street corners, the Brotherhood's Harsh Obraio told me: "The problem of street children in Delhi is growing at an alarming rate. Typically they are from the countryside, and run away from home at a very young age because of drunkenness or abuse in their families. They have seen an idealised image of the city on TV and in films, and they think life will be better for them here. The reality, of course, is that for a young person the streets of Delhi offer unbelievable hardship and danger. Here we provide them with a safe home and an education, the chance that one day they might take part in India's growing prosperity."

The three-storey hostel rang with laughter as a group of children ran in from cricket in the playground. "The greatest thing we can do is give them back their childhood again," Mr Obraio said. "When you have lived on Delhi's streets at the age of five or six you have lost your innocence, to say the least. We hope they will all prosper in education and have long and happy lives, but whatever they do they are already heroes in my eyes, because they have survived."

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Primary section

They migrate from farmland but end up in the slums of India's cities." Here in Shahidnagar the average family wage is equivalent to about 75p per day, and the ability of families to provide for themselves is all too frequently hit by early death - over 20 per cent of children between four and 15 supported by us have lost their father.

The contribution of the Wye and Brook India Trust - currently nearly a quarter of the Brotherhood's revenue for its child-development programme - is crucial and increasing. In 2007, £24,000 was given by personal donors, churches and schools. "The charity has helped provide education for more than 700 of young people since its foundation in 1978 by Canon David Marriott, the then Vicar of Wye, who initiated this involvement with the Delhi

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Class in progress

photo by Chloe Baxter

photo by Imran Ansari

Children living in the hostel are educated in a neighbouring building, the Deenabandhu School, which also teaches many young people born and raised in the surrounding area. Principal Rajni Sharma pointed out that, without the school, "even the luckier of our pupils - those with parents and a roof over their heads - would probably be starting full-time work by the age of eight or nine, in workshops, factories and tea stalls, for instance." Her comments were echoed by Father Monodeep Daniel, who oversees the running of the Brotherhood's schools. "It should be understood that the people who live in this part of Delhi are not only economically poor people," he said. "They are socially excluded 'untouchables'. Since antiquity these people have been forced to live on the outskirts of life, away from the sight and touch of the upper castes.

## The Prabodh Bal Niketan Junior High School: Bareilly

Prabodh Bal Niketan 'house of knowledge' for underprivileged children is a school in Bareilly, which was started in 1975 with a concern for the children of poor families, domestic helpers and daily wage workers. The



*Annual Sports Day at Prabodh Bal Niketan Ju. High School*

school provides education up to middle levels (Class VIII). The children in class VIII should not be less than thirteen years of age. The school is now an outreach programme of the educational project of the Delhi Brotherhood Society catering to about 100 children in this small town. After completing class VIII, the boys have the option of coming to Delhi and pursue their studies at the Deenbandhu High School.

### The Deenbandhu Development Centre

The Deenbandhu Development Centre in Old Delhi continues to provide training to young men and women eager to learn a few trades to enable them to have a livelihood. This centre provides computer courses for both boys and girls. The Beauty Culture and Cutting and Tailoring courses are exclusively for women. At present 60 women are attending the centre in shifts to learn stitching. A weekly health checkup is conducted for all those who attend the Centre as well as in the nearby communities by a medical team.

photo by Rajesh Singh



*Tailoring Class at the Deenbandhu Centre*

### *Rohit's commitment will bear fruits one day*

Rohit is from a poor family with one younger brother and a sister. His father is a sweeper and mother works as maid. They live in a very deprived colony of Bareilly. It was difficult to bear the expenses of the family because of the nature of their work. Apparently due to this reason they were unable to give formal education to their children. But Rohit was fortunate to study at Prabodh Bal Niketan School. Rohit was intelligent and after joining the school he became a serious and an attentive student. Consequently, with his hard work he completed his middle school, hence he was encouraged to pursue his further studies in Deenbandhu School at Delhi. He continued to work hard pursuing his studies and has appeared for his High School Examination. His aspirations are high in life and he knows the importance of education and wishes to continue his studies. The child has shown rapid growth and development down the years and is an inspiration to other children.

### **Deepak is now established**

Deepak (aged 18 yrs) after completing class XII could not find any suitable job since he had no skills, later he did a course in the Computer application from the Deenbandhu Centre and completed it successfully. Now he is working in the administration wing of Air India (Airlines)

### **Poonam has her own business**

Poonam is another success story. She did a course on Beauty Culture and she has set up her own beauty parlour in one of the shopping complexes of the city. She not only uses all her skills on the customers, but also gives employment to 4 other young women.

*Beauty Culture trade*

photo by Imran Ansari



## Events at the Deenbandhu School

### Environment Day

Environment day was observed on 21st July 2007. The children of the two premises of Deenbandhu Schools participated with much enthusiasm. Tree saplings were planted in the C block School campus. We hope that such participation will enable our students to learn the importance of maintaining the environment, as they will be its future custodians. This event had good publicity for the community too, as the local Hindi newspapers Amar Ujala (Light Always) and Dainik Jagaran (Daily Awakening) published the events.

Planting a tree on Environment Day



### Rhymes Competition

This was a stage performance and it certainly helped the children to get over stage fright and to gain confidence in them. The Rhyme competition was for various age groups and in both Hindi and English. Rubina (P-375) of class IV won the 1st prize in Hindi rhymes recitation and Shilpi (P-373) of class IV bagged 1st prize in English; Saurav (WBIT 757) of class I won 1st position in English rhymes recitation competition.

A girl casting her vote on election day



### Elections

The school-elections were held on 4th August 2007 in which they elected their Head boy and Head girl. This event was almost a copy of the major elections of the country! Pooja Rani (P-264) of class IX was elected as the school head girl and Riazuddin of class IX was elected as the school head boy. Our aim is to help children understand the significance of voting in the elections of a Democratic Country.

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Brotherhood," said John Prescott, chairman of WBIT. "We strive to make every pound donated as effective as possible, keeping our administrative costs down to less than two per cent of our income. Donors can make a general contribution or sponsor an individual child, and just £50 goes a long way towards paying for their books, their uniform and their share of a teacher's salary for a year."

"The contributions to WBIT to provision of both formal and informal primary and secondary education, is at the core of expanding Brotherhood charitable projects, which include a helpline for young people, a night shelter for street children, empowerment of women and a local daily newspaper. "The Brotherhood plays a truly vital role in Delhi, helping those who are otherwise largely forgotten by society. We want to make an ever-growing contribution to this. At some point perhaps India might provide for all those, irrespective of caste, who find themselves in desperate poverty," Mr Prescott concluded. "Until then, our help is sorely needed."

To find out more about helping this project, contact WBIT's Sponsorship Coordinator Sheila Child on 01233 812209 or email Ewan Michie on WandBIT@aol.com.

### My visit to the Netherlands

I was in the Netherlands from 1st Sept 07 to 30th Nov 07 for the " Bridging Gaps" programme. We were a group of ten theological students from every continent of the world. This cross-cultural experience at the Free University at Amsterdam was immensely useful for developing concerns for world peace. The programme facilitated the students to briefly study and appreciate the culture, ethical and social problems. All of us benefited from understanding the presence and ministry of the Church in each country. As a group we learned to read the Bible in an Inter-Cultural way in Prof. Hans deWit's class. We were able to visit many Dutch towns and villages where we had the privilege to stay with Dutch families and participate at the local Church services on Sunday mornings and to learn from the social outreach programmes at Amsterdam, Utrecht and other places. I also used this opportunity to contact the Dutch friends of the Brotherhood. It was a delight to meet all of them in different places. I will remember this wonderful time at Amsterdam for years to come.  
- Monodeep Daniel, bac

## Centre for Children with Speech and Hearing Impairment

Members of the felt that they Delhi Brotherhood Society, felt that they should do something for the children who have special needs in the area of speaking and hearing. As a result, a Centre for such children was started two years ago. It is the beginning of the learning process both for

photo by Eunice & Peter Griffiths



the children *Deepak, Sohail, Shabana, Shamsher, Nazreen, Pankaj, Sabia, Ravi Shankar, Arvind, Pooja* and the instructor *Mohd Akram*. The children learn the standard sign language and the instructor learns the indomitable spirit of these children. We we feel that it is best to equip them with skills of communication. They learn both alphabets and numbers in sign language. The children are collected and transported to the school. They are given breakfast, lunch and tea. During this time they enjoy communicating with each other in sign language. They also have a physical fitness class.

What about the future of these children? At present they go to the leather section in the Vocational Training Centre to learn the craft of making leather articles. This is just the beginning to initiate interest in them to learn a trade for becoming self-supporting.

## The Brotherhood Boys Home

It was a small beginning when the Brotherhood Boys Home started in 2004 and now it is four years old and it is a home indeed for ten 'former' orphan and street children in a three-storied house. Why 'former'? All because the children *Ayushman, Sonu, Usman, Karan, Sanjay, Asif, Vicky, Rohit* and *Arjun* now have a home and *Sharda* and *Rajkumari* along with Bro. *Raju George* care for them. The effect of such care is seen in the behaviour of the boys. First they are beginning to understand the need of discipline and accountability, which was unknown to them. So they observe the time - at times strict and at times flexible, for the various activities that

photo by Chloe Baxter



happen in their home. They also are being taught to realize that along with privileges go the responsibilities. They now know the values of their little possessions such as clothes and books and also common things like tables and the cots and of course their very favourite cricket kits. They have goals, which may change or remain the same. They know that to achieve the goals the only way is to have education. So all the boys go to school regularly and make an effort to study well. The boys know that the privileges they enjoy in this home are not available to them anywhere except where they live now. - *Raju George, bac*

## Gender Resource Centre

It much has been accomplished from the Centre, which started on 6th Sept 2006, it is because the women who have joined this centre have seized all the opportunities offered to them and learnt the courses very well. They know it too well that they cannot take things for granted as they may not have another opportunity. So, be it any

photo by Rajesh Singh



courses such as, *Beauty Culture, Cutting and Tailoring, Computer Operation* or *Handicraft Designing*, the women have given themselves for gaining knowledge. They not only want to work outside their home if there is a prospect, but also they aspire to start their own business. In this way they can earn as well as offer job opportunity to other women. *Sultana* stands as a testimony to this effect. She learnt *Beauty Culture* and now she is practising what she learnt and makes a good living. *Shoba* who comes from a poor family stood first in *Computer Operation* and is now employed in a private office.

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Keeping this in mind DBS started a new Day Care Centre for the elderly in East Delhi. At present about 42 elderly people (nearly 90 percent are women) come to

photo by Chloe Baxter



Some of the elderly enjoying their time in the centre

this Centre in two shifts one in morning and one in afternoon. This Centre provides opportunity for them to meet and share their thoughts and experiences. They are involved in activities like prayers, singing and group meetings, entertainment, watching TV news channels and making paper bags. They are also provided with light refreshments.

## Night Shelter

Calculations for the street boys come naturally. After all they do count the money when they earn and when they spend! Six of them were sent to the Boys Home to pursue formal or non-formal education. Arjun and Gautam are have completed automobile and electrical training from the vocational training centre. Even though through various means they know to a certain extent about HIV/ AIDS, workshops were conducted to update their knowledge. They had the opportunity to take part in Sports Day held at St. Stephen College. The boys not only enjoyed every aspect of the program, but also they realized what it means to participate and to have a sportsman like spirit. We hope that the boys will take full advantage of the opportunities given to them.

photo by Eunice & Peter Griffiths



Night Shelter boys preparing to go to sleep

## About Donations

People in India and overseas can help us by sending their donations through a crossed cheque drawn in favour of "Delhi Brotherhood Society". Contributions to the Delhi Brotherhood Society from within India are entitled to Income Tax relief under Section 80G of the Income Tax Act, 1961. Details will be found on the official receipt.

People in the U.K. who wish to support the education of underprivileged children can do so through the Wye & Brook India Trust. For further details please contact Ms. Sheila Child, Wye & Brook India Trust, 8 Taylor's Yard, Wye, Ashford, Kent TN25 5BT. Tel:01233 812209, email: wandbit@aol.com Friends outside India can also do Bank transfer. It is a quick and safe way to send donations directly into the Delhi Brotherhood Society's account by using the following details.

Bank Name: **Syndicate Bank**

Branch: **St. Xavier's School, Rajniwas Marg, Delhi-110054. INDIA**

Bank Swift Code: **SYNBINBB126**

Beneficiary's Bank Account Number:  
**91152010005680**

Name: **Delhi Brotherhood Society**

Please also mention the purpose, for which your money should be utilised, if you wish.

For more information on any of our projects please contact us.

Bishop. Collin Theodore, (Chairman) *or*

Fr. Monodeep Daniel, (Secretary) *or*

Fr. Solomon George, (Treasurer)

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## The Elders Celebrate Holi

On 20th March 2008 all the elderly celebrated the Holi Festival (Festival of Colours) with immense joy. They applied "Gulal" (red colour powder) on each other and sang and danced. Sweets were distributed to them. It gave them an opportunity to forget all their worries and tension in life and they enjoyed themselves thoroughly.