

NEWS IN FOCUS

Divine Onkar Mission



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DOM Football Team Wins at Hausla 2018



Hausla is the National Festival for Children of Child Care Institutions (CCIs). It is organised by the Ministry of Women and Child Development (MWCD). In 2018 the theme for the 4-day event was 'Child Safety.' It was held from November 26 to 29 in New Delhi.

The event was inaugurated by the Secretary of MWCD, Shri Rakesh Srivastava, who said that the idea behind the entire event is to provide a national platform for the children from CCIs across India to showcase their talent, to make them realise the hidden talent they possess and to help take it forward in their life.

More than 600 children participated from 18 states, around 37 participants from different CCI's in Odisha took part in the event including Divine Onkar Mission. They took part in competitions like: painting, athletics, relay, long jump, football, chess, speech writing, debating

and a safe neighbourhood project which took place towards the end of the festival. This activity is aimed to empower and inspire children to voice their opinions on what they perceive as Safety in Neighbourhoods.

There were six footballers from Divine Onkar Mission who took part. Their names are: Dama Hembram, Bhutal Hansdah, Phate Soren, Budhiram Majhi, Jatia Majhi and Madhusudan Marandi. Their journey began at the District level where they beat: Nabarangapur, Puri and Bhadrak. After their wins they were selected to play at National level. Here they won against States: Mizoram, Haryana and finally for the Hausla competition they won against Rajasthan. They played with determination, spirit and won the entire tournament!

Overall Odisha won 14 golds, 4 silvers and 3 bronzes totalling 21 medals, this meant they came in first position amongst all the states! The Odisha Team walked away with the Rolling Trophy. The Sports Minister of Odisha

Mr Prafulla Samal along with the Chief Minister Mr Neveen Patnaik congratulated the winners at the Secretariat building in Bhubaneswar. Mr Patnaik asked them to share their experiences with him and was full of praise for their efforts "you are the best team in the country and the number of medals you have won is truly praiseworthy." He announced a cash prize of Rs 50,000 for the first rank holders, Rs 30,000 for the second and Rs 20,000 for the third respectively.



INDIA EVENTS



Karma Dance

In September DOM took part in the Karma festival.

This is a longstanding, traditional festival in the Jharkhand region, which is a celebration for a good harvest. Since DOM's agriculture was hit hard by the cyclone, this is especially worthwhile.

The young girls at DOM took part in a local competition at the Patel School, where they were competing against other schools. They performed the Ghoomar Dance in traditional outfits and won first prize.

Science and Art Exhibitions



Today we are becoming more aware of the damage we are inflicting on the planet and the legacy we are leaving behind for future generations. For this reason it is important that we make a conscious effort to minimise our carbon footprint.

This is why it is encouraging to see our students take part in projects that focus on using recyclables for a sustainable future. In January students held an exhibition looking at how to make our communities environmentally friendly. They used materials that they had found themselves and made displays of their ideas. The exhibits were well

thought out and cleverly designed. They worked in year teams and each team had the opportunity to win in their year. They were encouraged to speak English while explaining what their projects entailed. The projects that win have the possibility to be taken further, from the inter school level to the State level. Many commercial companies would be present at the state level shows, creating the possibility of sponsorship.

Winners were: Group A-class 1, Group B-4th standard A class, Group C-10th standard.



Museum Visit

We arrange a number of educational visits over the academic year. On the 16th November the Teachers took students out for a day visit to a Military Museum in Jharkhand. A total of 60 children and 20 teachers and other members of staff went on the day trip. They learnt about the part that India played during World War I and II. Afterwards the staff members and students had lunch outside the grounds of the Museum.



Science Quiz

The Science Teachers at DOM Ramgarh organised a science quiz competition. The student worked in two Teams with 15 students per team. The Teams were named after famous scientists, Albert Einstein and C.V. Ramen. They competed in a general knowledge round and then on their knowledge of science. Subject specific questions were provided by the appropriate Teachers. There was a substantial prize of Rs. 500 for the winning team. It was a fun way for the children to deepen their learning and created healthy competition between them. The team that won were the Albert Einstein Team.



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INDIA EVENTS

Fancy Dress Competition

A fancy dress competition was held in October by the students. They dressed as different characters to stage drama and cultural programmes.

They presented the life of the educated in comparison with the uneducated. They also presented a drama involving different Hindu deities. Student Vaishnavi Raj Nagi came first, class 9 pupils came in second and class 5 got third prize.

The judges were: Nirmala Mehta, Poonam Bala Sharma and Kailash



Mahtho. This is a way for the children to have fun and also help with their development. The program was conducted by Mukund Kumar and Prerna Kumari. Stage decorations were designed by Anita Kumari.

Grandparents Compete

In December Neetu Nagi, Suman Devi, Meena Devi and Nidhi Singh arranged a fun activity for the grandparents of our students.



The main purpose of this day was to enable the young students to create strong connections with their family elders. It also gave the students the opportunity to honour their grandparents and elders.

The grandparents competed in many fun activities and everyone had lots of fun. Grandmother and grandfather of Satyam Kumar and Saurabh Kumar respectively along with father of Paridhi Kumari won.

Young children whose grandparents were taking part, put on a small performance to welcome their grandparents and guests to the competition. Their names were: Aanchal Raj Nagi, Vaishnavi Raj Nagi, Vishnu Ojha, Satyam Shivam.

Chandil Dam

Over the year DOM's teachers have arranged different types of extra-curricular activities. On October 2018 the students from Ramgarh went out on a day trip to

Chandil Dam. The Dam sits on the Subarnarekha River. It is 220 metres in height and the water level is 190 metres. During the day they went to a play park and had ice cream. At the end of the day both teachers and staff went out for an evening meal at a restaurant. Our students get to experience aspects of life which would otherwise be denied to them due to poverty.



Odisha Arts

Children from DOM took part in an Arts event along with four other schools in the local area. They performed a dance piece, a wall art piece and a very personal drama piece about depression, abuse and fear. This was a way for our students to meet other students in the area and share their experiences.



DISASTER RELIEF

Punjab Flood

Our DOM Team consisting of: Mr Charanjit Singh, Mr Peter Mann and Mr Herkomal Patara made their way to India to help give aid to those affected by the Punjab Floods. This is their story.

Mr Charanjit Singh was the first to arrive in India on the 3rd October. He began by making a plan to assess the damage and to find out which supplies people needed. While in Delhi he bought enough medicine and medical supplies to provide for 3000 people. He then travelled to the Punjab where he met up with Peter and Herkomal. They discovered that people needed agricultural supplies to regrow lost crops.

After buying 225 bags of fertiliser and seeds in Nakhodhar they set out to the most impoverished areas to distribute aid. Between the 6th –

12th October they travelled to two villages called Rasulpur, Ram Singh Wala, district Tarn Taran. There were 36 families living on small land holdings who were completely dependent on their crops and had lost everything. The team distributed fertiliser and financial aid to those in the most need. Baba Satnam Singh and his organisation International Panthak Dal were also there to help and worked alongside our team. The team gave the medication to them to setup a medical camp in the name of Shri Guru Nanak Dev Ji's 550th birthday. One of the Community Leaders Karamjeet Singh supervised the distribution.

The team then travelled to poor communities in Ludhiana slum basti called Toll Plaza by the Satluj River. It is a slum area consisting of 160 families who are living in poverty. On their first visit they distributed



fruit to the kids. Gurpreet Kaur volunteers her time to help children access education in the evenings, however they still are not getting the basic necessities. After the team's assessments they promised to come back with more supplies. In the meantime, they gave out stationary, food, shoes, mats and spent quality time with the children. On Taj road in Ludhiana is another slum area with 110 families and they were given fruit, shoes, mats and stationery for the children. Finally, in Nakhodhar, at a slum on Nakhodhar Road consisting of 140 families, the team distributed food and shoes.

On their last evening in India the team were invited to have tea with the Dr Iqbal Singh, the former Lt Governor of Pondicherry.

The team would like to say a special thank you to: Baba Satnam Singh, Kaptan Singh, Gurpreet Lal, Ram Lubhaya, Manjit Singh Bamra Kulwant Gora and all those donors who helped during the Punjab Floods.



Cyclone Fani

Cyclone Fani hit the eastern coast of India on 3rd March 2019. It made landfall in the city of Puri in the state of Odisha, with wind speeds exceeding 130mph.

It was one of the strongest storms to hit India and caused catastrophic damage by destroying power lines, homes and uprooting vegetation. Over a million people were evacuated to higher ground where

there were emergency shelters prepared. Unfortunately, 89 people were killed.

DOM India has two bases in the Odisha state where the cyclone hit, Kendujani and Godisahi. Thankfully the people were safe and well, but the cyclone has affected our agriculture, we lost a lot of produce like: bananas, mangoes,



cashew and rice. This year we had to buy a lot of our food and seeds to re-plant our crops.



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COMMUNITY AWARENESS & PREVENTION PROGRAMMES

DOM has always encouraged our students to take part in Community Awareness and Prevention Programmes and how they can help to make a change in the forefront of our society's consciousness. These programmes educate not only our students but also ordinary citizens on a local level. Below DOM shows the partnerships we have created and the national programmes that we are part of to create better prospects for future generations.

National Girl Child Day

On the 24th January DOM celebrated National Girl Child Day. The children did a performance about the plight which girls in India face. There were speeches given including one by Mr Tersam Lal, who has always fought for equal opportunities for both boys and girls.

The day is a way to celebrate girls but also as a way to raise awareness about the inequalities faced by girls on a daily basis.

These inequalities are in a number of areas like: nutrition, legal rights, medical care, protection, child marriage, etc. Education for example is still insufficient, the current female literacy rate in India is 53.8%.

DOM is attempting to eradicate this issue by encouraging all girls into education. We also make sure that both girls and boys in our schools are treated equally and given opportunities that they would not have had before.



Combating Child Domestic Labour

At the Kendujiani School we raised awareness about Combating Child Domestic Labour.

The teachers spent the day raising awareness about the dangers of child trafficking, abuse, the laws regarding this issue, what to look out for and how to stay safe. They explained to the children that they have a right to education and it is not their responsibility to provide for their families. This is a common theme for a number of children whose families live in poverty, it is also something which some of our own students can relate to.

COMMUNITY AWARENESS & PREVENTION PROGRAMMES

Manita Kumari

Manita is an outstanding student from our School in Ramgarh. She is an all-rounder when it comes to the arts. She has skills in: singing, dancing and charcoal drawing. She was acknowledged last year for her artwork, when she did a portrait of IPS Officer Dr Tamilwanan and here are some examples of her creative projects. She is currently studying at Vinoba Bhave University; however, we would also like to recognise her work in the community.

She has taken part in a government initiative called Swachh Bharat Mission. This is a nation-wide campaign in India that aims to clean up the streets, roads and infrastructure of India's cities, towns, and rural areas. Manita and other members of the initiative go door to door, encouraging citizens to look after their environment and sharing

information on how to do this.

Manita acts as a role model to families and talks to them about the benefits of education, and how it has impacted on her own life. Manita is a self-assured and confident young woman who has inspired the younger students at the DOM School Ramgarh about living fearlessly, overcoming obstacles and pursuing your dreams. She has been an exemplary student and now a productive member of her community. We are very proud of the work she is doing and look forward to seeing what she does next.



Childline

Our students and teachers took part in a 24 hour toll free telephone-a-thon for Childline. This was done in partnership with Ruchika Social Services Organisation. This helpline has been running since 2000 and is for children in distress. It is supported by the Ministry of Women & Child Development and the Government of India. After getting a call from a child in need, the Childline team members will rescue the child and provide all necessary services like food, shelter, medical help, counselling and rehabilitation/ restoration.

DOM volunteers spoke to children who were struggling with familial issues, stress, abuse and more. They found the experience highly rewarding and some spoke about how they related to the callers, since they themselves had also been in similar situations.



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PROFILES OF STUDENTS :

RAVI MALHI IN HIS OWN WORDS



I am from a place called Chandrapura, it is in Jharkhand. My father died when I was five years old, he suffered from Tuberculosis. He had been ill for a long time, we struggled to buy him any medicine, because my family was very poor.

My mother and father would look for bits of plastic in the rubbish and sell it. We did not have good food or health and at times we had to beg to feed ourselves. When my father died my mother was struggling to look after me and my two sisters. An aunt of ours told my mother about Divine Onkar Mission, that they take in children from poor backgrounds. My mother took me to the Ramgarh School and they were kind enough to take me in.

When I first came to Divine Onkar Mission I would cry all the time, because I missed my mother a lot. I would always ask Father (Mr Lal) who is going to keep me, he said we will look after you, but I was unsure. I enjoyed learning and I did well in my studies. I finally settled in, I made friends, I had nice clean clothes, but I still really missed my mother. I would get first class results in the

whole State and Father asked me what I would like for doing well over the years, I asked him if he would be willing to take in my mother and sisters to the School. He did not know that I had younger sisters. They were ill with Tuberculosis along with my mother. My younger sister had hearing problems as the infection had spread to her ears, she now has partial hearing. My two younger sisters are now studying and doing well. Kajan Malhi who is 10+2 is doing a course in textile and my other sister Pooja Malhi she is in 11th Class.

I went on to Ramgarh College to do my 12th in Computer Science and from there I went on to study Computer Science at the Gandhi Institute for Technology (GIFT). I enjoyed it there, made friends and was happy for the opportunity that DOM had given me, it was an expensive course and I am thankful to DOM for making it possible for me to attend. It was difficult living away from home, I would become homesick, and I missed my mother and family. It would make me happy when Father and my mother would come to visit me at GIFT. I appreciated them coming to see me.

The fourth year at GIFT was a placement year. I cleared the exam for the IT Company Cavisson Systems, they are based in Noida outside of Delhi. I reported for training back in February and by August I qualified as an Associate Software Engineer. It has been challenging and it is expensive living here, but I am working hard.

I feel I am the lucky one. I am living my dream that I never thought was possible for me. I am now earning and I want to look after my mother and sisters, but like Father I want to help children who are like me. I have learnt from DOM's example and want to do what DOM did for me, for others.



Ravi at College

PROFILES OF STUDENTS

Update on our initiative

Although our children were receiving a good quality education and finishing school, we found that this did not ensure them a good source of employment.

As an organisation we wished to support our students into successful careers, some students were struggling to find a pathway into prominent, permanent positions. It is for this reason that we began to seek collaboration with different organisations to ensure that our children had a way forward.

Our young people are now taking jobs in a number of fields like: nursing, catering, transport, IT, fashion and more. We continue to approach companies to initiate a collaborative relationship as preparation for future student leavers.

Shankar Karmani

Shankar's mother came to know about the charity and was initially seeking employment, she had lost her husband and became the sole breadwinner for her family. We helped by taking in her children including Shankar.

Shankar Karmani has completed his studies at Divine Onkar Mission Ramgarh High School, he then progressed to study at our ITC College at Godisahi, Odisha. He studied Engineering and was very successful, achieving second place in the final examinations. We have a collaborative agreement with, Larsen & Toubro based in Odisha. He served his apprenticeship there and has been offered a permanent job in the company.



मैट्रिक परीक्षा में रामगढ़ के

डिवाइन ओंकार मिशन स्कूल के बच्चों ने किया शानदार प्रदर्शन
सावित्री ने 90% अंक प्राप्त किया



विद्यालय के 55 में से 51 बच्चे प्रथम श्रेणी में उत्तीर्ण

रामगढ़। शहर के टावर मोड़ के निकट स्थित डिवाइन ओंकार मिशन स्कूल के दसवीं वर्ष के बच्चों ने मैट्रिक की परीक्षा में शानदार प्रदर्शन किया है। डिवाइन ओंकार मिशन के राजेश नागी ने जानकारी देते हुए बताया कि स्कूल के 55 बच्चे दसवीं की परीक्षा में शामिल हुए थे। जिनमें से 51 बच्चे प्रथम श्रेणी में उत्तीर्ण हुए हैं। जबकि चार बच्चे द्वितीय श्रेणी में उत्तीर्ण हुए हैं। उन्होंने जानकारी देते हुए बताया कि स्कूल की टॉपर सावित्री कुमारी ने 90% यानी कि 450

अंक प्राप्त किया है। वहीं स्कूल की दूसरे नंबर के टॉपर प्रिया कुमारी 89.2 प्रतिशत 446 अंक प्राप्त किया है। स्कूल के मोहित कुमार ने 446 अंक तीसरे स्थान पर, सौरभ कुमार 441 अंक, सुरज कुमार 438 अंक, रोहित कुमार 433 अंक प्राप्त किया है। वहीं विद्यालय के 4 विद्यार्थियों ने गणित में पूरे 100 अंक प्राप्त किया है। विद्यालय के विद्यार्थियों ने साइंस में 98, हिंदी में 85, अंग्रेजी में 88, संस्कृत में 88, सोशल साइंस में 76 से ज्यादा अंक प्राप्त किया है। विद्यालय के

सचिव राजेश नागी ने विद्यालय के बच्चों द्वारा शानदार प्रदर्शन पर अभिभावक और विद्यालय के शिक्षकों को धन्यवाद दिया है। विद्यालय के बच्चों के शानदार प्रदर्शन पर विद्यालय के टोपर्स मुकुंद कुमार, अनिता, मोतु निर्मला, भूपेश, सुमन, पुनम, मोना, अनिता, जगेंद्र, शोभा कान्त, संतोष, कैलाश, रामचरण, मंगिलाल, मुंडिया, नीता, फुलमनी, पी मोहित, निधि, प्रेरणा, कौशिक ने प्रसन्नता व्यक्त किया है।

High Achievers

DOM students continue to excel in their metric exams. In May 2019, fifty one out of fifty-five students achieved a first class award, a further four students achieved a second class award.

Savitra Kumari had 450/600 meaning she achieved 90% and achieved a first class award with distinction. In joint second was Priya Kumari and Mohit Kumar who had 446/600 – 89.2%. Third was Sourabh Kumar with 441/600. 4 children achieved 100% in mathematics.

Overall Results: 98% in Maths, 88% in Hindi, 85% in English, 88% in Sanskrit, 76% in Social Science.

Mr. Rajesh Nagi, General Secretary at Divine Onkar Mission High School congratulated and thanked the children for their hard work. They have demonstrated good academic results. All the students who have passed their examinations receive congratulations from their parents and teachers.



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STRUCTURAL & ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

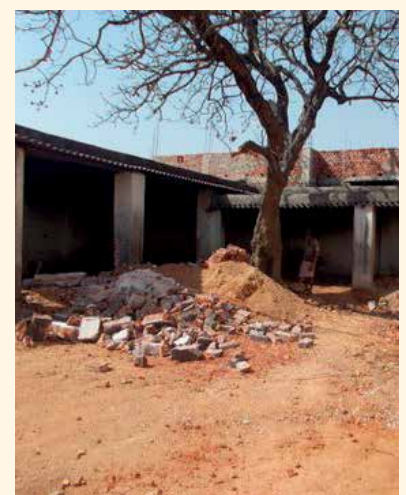
The Child Welfare Council in India have put a code in place to change how a number of institutions are organised. They have stated that our complexes along with others all across India need to be restructured. Personally we have explained below how each area has been reorganised to meet these new codes.



Ramgarh

This new code has given us the opportunity to make some much needed changes to the boy's dormitory. At the moment it takes some time for the boys to reach their classrooms due to the building formation, there has also been a shortage of rooms.

For this reason we are increasing the size of the boy's dormitory. The expansion will also help them to reach class faster. This expansion is currently in progress. We would like to take this opportunity to thank Dr Pushpa Nagrani who sponsored accommodation for the children at DOM.



Godisahi

In Godisahi the girl's dormitory has had a third storey added to it, to meet building codes and to accommodate more students. The ITC College has also been extended to accommodate more students and equipment. Along with this we are building a boundary wall on 3 acres of land.

STRUCTURAL & ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS



Kendujiani

The building regulation require DOM to have a clear boundary to show the parameters of our land. To meet these standards, we have had a boundary wall built, which is now complete.

DOM has also increased the size of the school by adding a first floor. This floor will house guest quarters and student residence. This structure is almost complete.

Dangasila

During the early stages of the charity DOM had a building in the area of Dangasila, Thakurmunda, Mayurbhanj, Odisha. It became our first school and a place where we learnt a number of lessons about how India operates. Unfortunately, over time it has fallen into disrepair. Recently however we decided to reinstate it as a school. With vast experience we now feel we can make this a success. Mr Herkomal Patara is doing his fundraising wingwalk for this school building.



Urugutu

Urugutu is not a boarding school so there has been no need to put the building regulations into action. However, we have new developments taking place concerning our students who have graduated.

We are in the process of training some of our students who have disabilities to become teachers, this is due to the lack of job opportunities for disabled people. They have recently passed the required examinations to qualify as teachers and are currently in training.



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UK EVENTS

Guru Nanak Dev Ji's 550th Anniversary Celebration

Between the 8 – 11th August 2019 a celebration of Guru Nanak Dev Ji's Birth took place at the University of Birmingham.

The symposium focused on his teachings, in particular the three core values of Naam – Mindful awareness of the divine presence, Daan – Live out the culture of altruism and to seek divine benevolence for oneself

and Humankind and Ishnaan - Practice ethics of good deeds that cleanse both body and mind.

Divine Onkar Mission was invited to speak at this auspicious occasion. A presentation was given by Founder Mr Tersam Lal and Trustee Mrs Kumlaish Kumari about DOM and all our projects, highlighting the manner in which Guru Nanak Dev Ji's teachings underpin the philosophy of the charity. The presentation was well received by those present.

We thank Bhai Sahib Bhai Mohinder Singh and Guru Nanak Nishkam Sewak Jatha for the opportunity.



Dinner Dance Fundraiser



We would like to thank all those who helped the show become a success. Special thanks to the Suglani Family, Prestige Suite, for their continued generosity and for totally funding the event.

Our annual Dinner Dance Fundraiser took place on Saturday 10th November 2018. We were able to raise £33,671.40!

Bake Off

DOM took part in the annual Bake-Off event organised by MP Pat McFadden in memory of MP Jo Cox. The event took place on the 21st June in Bilston. Signal 107's Dicky Dodd, Mayor of Wolverhampton Councillor Claire Darke, MasterChef finalist Dennice McKinnon and MP McFadden were there to judge the bakes.

Kumlaish Kumari made a beautiful 3 tier, eggless, spicy, carrot cake that had DOM's students and project pictures around it. It was entered into the design category and was applauded by Mr McFadden for its creativity. He named it the 'story cake,' as the pictures told the story of what DOM represented. Unfortunately, it did not win, but it was an opportunity for different organisations to get together.



Coventry Building Society Donation

In May 2019, Coventry Building Society in Coventry kindly donated £250 to DOM for IT equipment. With this donation DOM was able to purchase a much needed printer. We thank Ms Karen Holt and her team for their generous donation.

UK EVENTS

Herkomal Patara's Wingwalk

Mr Herkomal Singh Patara has raised funds for the charity in the past by taking part in death defying stunts. This year he took part in a similar feat by doing a Wingwalk. This involved reaching speeds of 150mph and doing a full 360° loop! This event took place on the 27th September 2019.

He raised a total of £13065.12! The money raised will fund the creation of a new school which DOM is currently building in Odisha. The school will be located in a severely deprived, rural area, where it is difficult for children to access education.

DOM would like to take this opportunity to thank Herkomal for his fearlessness in taking part in this event and his continued support.



Message from the Founder

This has been an eventful year with great success and sadness, witnessing the cyclone in Odisha, seeing the destruction of our crops and fruit bearing trees. As well as the more recent devastation by the flooding in the Punjab, who sadly have not received any aid from Government bodies. However, our dedicated members did not hesitate to fly out and offer aid personally to those affected by the floods.

We are also very proud of our football players in Odisha, who have achieved great success without any training. Personally, observing the change in teaching styles and approaches of the staff has led to more confident students who take every opportunity to practise their English.

We have had a significant number of visitors who have seen for themselves the impact of our projects on the local citizens and children. We were honoured to host the wedding of long time volunteers, Neil and Pauline this year.

We can only do this with the ongoing support from all our donors throughout the years. They have directly contributed to changing the lives of their brothers and sisters in India. Every donor should feel proud that they are part of the solution to ending poverty and encouraging self-sufficiency.

Tersam Lal

Founder & Chairman



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VISITOR EXPERIENCE

These are the experiences of the visitors who have been to DOM'S Projects in their own words.

Neil Hudson who has been a part of DOM for over 20 years, visited the projects this year with his partner Pauline Sayhi. During their visit they got married! Here they talk about their experience in their own words:

It is fifteen years since we last visited the Divine Onkar Mission's Projects in India, but as soon as we got to Ramgarh it felt like we had arrived home as it's such a happy place.

All the pupils we knew in 2003 have all graduated, but we were able to meet several of them again, three have studied to become teachers and are helping the Charity educate the next generation of pupils. Santosh Kumar Munda, who we got to know well as a pupil, is now a teacher at the school in Ramgarh. Meena Minz and Reena Hembram, two disabled former pupils, who are now teachers running one of the village schools in Urugutu. It was very moving to see how much they supported each other through their disabilities and it's nice to see their friendship is still continuing as adults.

We also went to see Kajal, a former pupil who was brought to the hostel after her mother's murder and went on to become a



star pupil, gaining 2nd place in the whole of India in the Metric Exams. Kajal has a General Nursing and Midwifery qualification (GNM) and is now a Gold Medal winning nurse.

On the first day the whole school did an impressive Science and Art Project Presentation which ranged from a fully functioning model of a hydraulic crane all made from cardboard, syringes, with five axes of movement, sustainable agriculture, nutrition, conservation of India's wildlife, traditional farming villages, wildlife and environment, the water cycle, irrigation and water conservation, hydraulic bridges and traditional art.

It was very noticeable how much the pupil's knowledge of science and English has been improved since 2003, through the school's adoption of modern teaching methods. Though the pupils were quite nervous about speaking English at first, they soon gained confidence and wanted to practice

speaking with native English speakers, as a result some of their pronunciation will now have a Yorkshire accent!

Because I have been supporting the Charity's work for over 20 years, when the staff heard Pauline and I were planning to get married they insisted on organising a Hindu wedding with a Pundit Priest for us at Ramgarh. It took them only three days! An incredible feat of organisation and even though there were 600 guests. It cost us a fraction of what a wedding in England would cost with only 60 guests and also Indian weddings are much more fun than English weddings. It was also an opportunity for the pupils living in the hostel to be guests at a wedding to prepare them for the day when they get married because many of them have no family and have never seen or been invited to a wedding.

The most emotional event was the Foundlings Birthday Party for the children who were found abandoned or lost when they were very young and so do not know anything about their history. They each got a large cake which was shared with the other children.

One of the best things to see is former pupils returning to visit Mr Lal and it makes everyone very happy to hear how their lives are progressing. We look forward to our next visit and do not plan to wait 15 years this time.



Divine Onkar Mission OUR DUTY TO MANKIND

VISITOR EXPERIENCE



By Shushill Suglani

I wanted to speak briefly about my experience when I visited the various projects in Palu old age home, Urugutu School and Ramgarh in the last 2 years. I was intrigued as to what the Divine Onkar Mission do and so found out for myself on my past 2 visits with my family. From the time I entered the different schools to when I left all I could see were children smiling and cheering. It is a feeling I have never experienced before and their happiness brought a huge smile to my face.

The first school was in Ramgarh where there are over 200 children

who are educated, fed three times a day and sometimes stay at the school if required. This was my second visit to the school and I was truly amazed by the basic things the children did; they carried out their daily chores together, all helping each other and it felt like they were one big family.

We decided to go to Odisha where there are two schools and the 8-hour drive was well worth it! I could tell the children were excited to see us as they were all ready for our arrival and even provided us with handmade flowers. What a sweet gesture! It was a little hard to communicate as the children spoke the local language - but we managed! The children sang and danced for us in the evening and their talent truly amazed me. I also learnt that a few boys played football at a tournament in Delhi, beating Rajasthan in the final. I felt so proud when they showed me their medals and spoke of their hard work.

All in all, I was truly amazed during my experiences at the Divine Onkar Mission and seeing what it has achieved. I will make one promise to the children; that next year I will sing a song in Hindi to them!

Kulwant Gora

On my visit to India, I went to visit some of the work carried out by the Divine Onkar Mission. I visited with my wife and brother (P.S. Gora) and good friends; Mr and Mrs Amar Singh Chahal (IG), Mr and Mrs Brar and Mr Gurnam Singh (ASI). We were all truly amazed by the work carried out by the charity.

During the visit we had the chance to visit wells, which have provided water for those in the community, without having to travel miles. We also had the pleasure of visiting some schools where children are educated, socialised, given food and were taught valuable skills. Two of the schools Kendujani and Ramgarh, provide accommodation for children who are orphaned or from very poor families. We were welcomed with such warm hearts by all the pupils who were all very well-mannered and sincere. The children were also excited of our visit and sung poems and danced for us. Seeing the smiles on these children's faces despite everything was truly uplifting.

Ramgarh, Orissa Visit Feb 2019

In February this year, I travelled with my Nana ji, Mr Lal and my parents to Divine Onkar's operational sites in Ramgarh and Orissa. It was my first time visiting the Charity in India and whilst I thought I knew what to expect the reality of staying onsite with my nana ji and the children was a wonderful experience. The children are very welcoming and happy, in no time at all it was easy to make friends and learn about their life and aspirations. We were very lucky that our visit coincided with the School's Science and Art Competition and India Independence day. The Children put a lot of effort into their

presentations and performances and we were treated to some impressive displays of both science and dance.

We witnessed several of the outreach projects around Ramgarh and received updates on projects in progress. I found how the Charity supports remote communities, from providing water wells to smaller education projects and the distribution of supplies; extremely touching and inspirational.

Visiting Orissa brought home the logistical challenges faced by the

Charity in managing the projects based there, as it takes 12 hours' drive to reach them from Ramgarh. Language was not a barrier to communicating with the children.

The Children were very welcoming and happy to see us and we got a good insight into how the projects are run and what they require to progress in key areas.

Staying onsite with the staff and children is a very humbling experience and it was great seeing a part of India far off the tourist trail. I have been left feeling grateful for the day to day things we often take for granted and I hope to be able to visit again soon.



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