



Djullé !

hope-organisation.com

Djullé means Good day! Please! Thank you! Pardon! Goodbye! It is a term of courtesy and is used by the Ladakhis in all verbal exchanges.

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HOPE ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

« Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world. »

Nelson Mandela

In figures.

EDUCATION IN INDIA

75 MILLION

children aged 6 to 14 do not attend school

12.66 MILLION

work, according to official figures, and between 30 and 50 million according to NGOs

2 OUT OF **5**

On average, 2 out of 5 children do not complete primary school

1,237 BILLION

Population (2012)

Thanks

We express our heartfelt thanks to our volunteers in France and Switzerland who have helped us with their knowledge and experience and to our local representatives and all our members. It is thanks to you that we can pursue this wonderful adventure.

Editorial



KNOWLEDGE TO COMBAT POVERTY

Many NGOs invest in education and the construction of schools, but why do some succeed better than others? Experience shows that education requires a certain number of conditions in order to succeed:

- **First and foremost, the children must be able to get to school :** HOPE has assisted in educating children from remote areas by providing boarding facilities and financing school buses
- **Teachers :** In Zaskar, where winters are harsh, the teachers who came from the plains of India used to leave during the winter months. HOPE provided a financial incentive for them to stay on. Now, a generation later, the teachers are Ladakhis, happy to be in their own country.
- **The presence of the children at school, of course!** Families used to insist on children returning home during the harvest season or to care for a member of the family who was ill. HOPE helped the parents so that the children's schooling was not interrupted.
- **Healthy children:** poor children are often sickly and unable to benefit from schooling in normal conditions. HOPE provides health care and ensures that children are adequately nourished and suitably clothed so as to benefit fully from education.

After the Lamdon Model School in Leh and schools in Zaskar and Ladakh, since 2011 HOPE has supported a rural village kindergarten and pre-primary school in Kutubpur some 2 hours by car from Calcutta. The inhabitants of Kutubpur, isolated and poor, lead very simple lives. The head of the school and the teaching staff are motivated and passionate about their work; the children are carefully supervised and we have pleasure in sharing with you their joy and happiness at being able to attend school. Furthermore, an increasing number of families from the surrounding areas would like to send their children to school in Kutubpur.

Be it remote Himalayan valleys or isolated villages in Bengal, the living conditions are equally spartan. The success of the schools supported by HOPE is due to the financial commitment we can make thanks to your trust and your donations, as well as to that of the staff, the children and their families.

Thanks to you, we can do our bit in reducing social, cultural and economic inequality because education also helps to combat poverty.

Danielle Föllmi
President of HOPE



KUTUBPUR SCHOOL

A remote and poor village

→ Kutubpur is a remote village situated in the Hooghly district of West Bengal, some 2 hours by road from Calcutta. There are no signs indicating its name on the road from Calcutta to Kutubpur and drivers have to stop here and there to ask their way of the people working in the fields. Each one will give you a different direction, but you eventually get there all the same!

Most of the villagers are tribal agricultural workers living below the poverty line.

The village has no roads, medical care, employment or school. Families tend to be large and the children forced to work to increase the family income. It was for this reason that the *West Bengal Council of Women* felt the need to set up a school for the village children. Kutubpur has the only school in a remote area of approximately 2000 inhabitants.



The school: a local initiative

→ Some 20 years ago a small women's group called «*Mahila Mandal*» asked Mrs. Dipali Sen, President of the *West Bengal Council of Women* for help.

After some research in the region the village of Kutubpur was chosen. The proposal was welcomed by the villagers who donated a plot

of land for the school now known as *Ananda Sishu Vidyalyaya* (The Nursery School of Joy!) Its aim is to provide schooling to permit the children to be admitted to the public primary schools and then on to secondary schools.

Over the years the villagers have been able to see the advantages of schooling and more of them have sent their children to school. There is still some resistance to convincing parents that girls must also enjoy the benefits of education! The school holds monthly meetings to discuss the children's progress and regular exchanges on health and hygiene. Today the school has proved its worth: families in and around Kutubpur would like to see primary classes set up for their children. According to Mrs. Aninda Sen, this poses a problem of transport. It would be feasible to lease a vehicle for Rs 4000/- per month all costs included.

HOPE and Kutubpur

→ In 2011 HOPE received a request to support the Kutubpur School; we donated a sum of CHF 12'300 for the construction of a new classroom and running costs for 50 children for 1 year. This donation also allowed the school to introduce regular medical check-ups and to improve the quality of the meals. In 2012 HOPE made another donation of CHF 3'500 towards running costs for 2 years. In March 2012 our secretary general Patricia Bell and her husband Roger visited the school and attended the inauguration of the new classroom. HOPE has agreed to continue its support to Kutubpur School for 2 more years by giving it CHF 1'400 per year for running costs.

Teaching

→ Initially classes were held under a tree while awaiting the construction of

the first classroom. In 2011 there was only one classroom for some 50 pre-primary and primary school children; today 75 children attend classes in 3 classrooms. The teachers are qualified, the teaching of good quality and the children get good results. The *West Bengal Council of Women* provides the teaching material, the uniforms and the books, etc.

The children are of Bengali mother tongue and follow the normal syllabus; they also learn English. They do sports, learn music, art, song and dance and are also provided with the necessary skills to enable them to fit into the public schools.

Follow-up

→ The children get a balanced meal each day consisting of rice, lentils, vegetables, soya, eggs three times a week and chicken once a month. A doctor visits the school every week to carry out a check-up and the children's state of health has improved considerably. An inspector and the President of the *West Bengal Council of Women* also make regular visits to ensure that all is well.

Patricia Bell



It was with deep regret that we learned of the death of Mrs. Dipali Sen in December 2012. Her daughter Aninda who replaced her as President of the *West Bengal Council of Women* told us that until her last breath, her mother was concerned about the Kutubpur School and issuing last minute instructions to her entourage.

HOPE ORGANISATION

HOPE ESPOIR*

KUTUBPUR

8 SCHOLARSHIP
HOLDERS**16** SPONSOR-
SHIPS**75** SCHOOL
CHILDREN

*Espoir = hope in French

THE CHILDREN AND THE STUDENTS THANK YOU!

Here's what our scholarship holders have to say:

« I am into dance field too... besides the busy schedule of college studies, i made this possible to keep myself little chilled and busy in dance. i performed with some international choreographers on world dance day. it was one of the greatest day of my life. i just wanna say thanks ..deep from my heart that its because of you that i am experiencing life out of ladakh. i m proud to tell you that i recently worked with an indian well-known choreographer for an workshop. i m glad that now i can show my

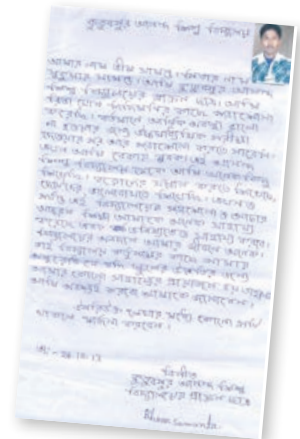
real talent here at a big stage with great crowds. thanks for the experience : thanx for this life at delhi, your daughter »
PHUNTSOG ANGMO

« I am very thankful for your love and support towards me without your support i was unable to study further so me and my family member are very thankful to you. Pay my warm Jullay to all the group member's. Your beloved »
STANZIN CHONJOR,
Leh Ladakh.

« Thank you so much to Hope organization for the kind help. With regards. »

RIGZIN CHOROL

« We want to say our heartiest thanks to you for your support and n blessings. our parents are also paying their heartiest jullay to you and ur team. frm urs daughters,phuntsog, shahnaz and rigzin. »
SHANAZ FATIMA



Here's what former Kutubpur students have to say:

« Kutubpur's contribution to my life was great! »
La contribution de l'école de Kutubpur à ma vie était géniale !
MITHUN

« Attending Kutubpur school showed me how to advance in life and bolstered my thirst of knowledge of practical things. I am currently unemployed but would be happy to help the school in any way possible. »
Les années que j'ai passé à l'école de Kutubpur m'ont montré comment avancer dans la vie et ont renforcé ma soif de connaissance des choses

pratiques. Je suis actuellement sans emploi mais serais heureux d'aider l'école si possible.
SHEIKH ZULFICAR ALI,

« Kutubpur school taught me to respect my elders and help younger people. Guidance in respect of general conduct has helped me in life. »
A l'école Kutubpur j'ai appris à respecter mes aînés et

aider les autres. Cela m'a servi d'orientation dans ma vie.
BHIM SAMANTA

« Kutubpur school gave me a thirst for knowledge and a will to advance in life. »
L'école Kutubpur m'a donné l'envie d'apprendre et une volonté d'avancer dans la vie.
SHEIKH RAFIKUL HASSAN

News from Yaoundé

The shelter for the elderly will be inaugurated in 2014. Since retiring, Angeline Nsina has settled on the plantation funded by HOPE to continue farming with members of her

association. The first harvest brought in about 105 Euros in 2012, which were used to purchase plantain seeds (for medical purposes and in cooking), macabo seeds (a type of potato) and products for eliminating mould. This year the production

increased thanks to good care of the plantation. The October harvest brought in 650 Euros. The objective is to sow the whole plot because part of the field burned and requires considerable work. Pigs were introduced on the plot, but the region was



devastated by an epidemic and they had to be sold. This experiment will not be repeated and all efforts will henceforth centre on the plantation. Message from Angeline: « THANK YOU TO HOPE WHO GIVES HOPE TO THE POOR AND THE DESTITUTE. »



« The best portion of a good man's life: his little, nameless unremembered acts of kindness and love. »

William Wordsworth (1770 - 1850)

SMALL GESTURES FOR EVERY BUDGET

A small gesture, a small sum of money, can go a long way. Such gestures include not only money but also the proof of our willingness to commit ourselves to helping those who need us.

The items mentioned on this page are little extras that the school can ill afford and which add some fun and joy to the daily life of children of families whose standard of living is below the poverty line.

MISCELLANEOUS EQUIPMENT FOR KUTUBPUR SCHOOL	€	CHF
Filing cabinet	71	90
Movie camera	142	180
Harmonium	95	120
Tape recorder	12	15
Computer	358	450
First aid kits	36	45

STATIONERY AND ART SUPPLIES	€	CHF
Miscellaneous text books	33	40
30 drawing books	24	30
50 coloured pencils	20	25
100 lead pencils	8	10
50 erasers	20	25
60 exercise books	24	30
3 paint boxes	11	13.50
30 cartoon books on Indian mythology	8	10
Plasticine	8	10
Miscellaneous supplies for handicrafts	12	15
30 pairs of scissors	10	12

(1,000.00 INR = ~15 CHF)

Our local representatives have launched their own travel agencies in Ladkah and Zanskar!



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