

## Quarterly Updates for Child Friendly Spaces

April 2011- May 2011

The Child Friendly Spaces Program started with 3 centres in 2008 and now has expanded to include children of labourers from Construction Sites (which are being supported by the Developers). These Non Formal Classes are the only opportunity these migrant labourers get to carry on with an education when their parents move to the city in search for work, during the non-agricultural seasons in the villages.

Today the Child Friendly Spaces is being supported by multiple stakeholders, which is making it possible to reach out to more child labourers in the city of Ahmedabad. We thank all the donors who have generously given through Global Giving – you are making it possible to help a child fully live his/her childhood.

232 children are currently being supported through this project.

### Report

1. Juhapura
2. Behrampura & Vasna
3. Non Formal Classes at Construction Sites
4. Umang Lambha Construction site

## 1. Juhapura

April 2011- May 2011

Center	No. of Girls	No. of Boys	Total Children	Age Group	Class Time
Juhapura	16	14	30	7-15	16:00 to 18:00

Juhapura - Teacher Firdoshben

Age Group	7-10 years	10-14 years	>=14 years
Female	7	5	4
Male	3	11	0

### Daily Activities

Blackboard teaching method is used at Juhapura CFS. A study kit inclusive of pens, notebooks and text books is provided. Alphabet books, picture books and chants are used for teaching them. Their class starts with a short a prayer. Attendance is taken each day and field visit is done each day to at least two students home. Children are taught math, days of the week, name of the months, counting, alphabets- in Gujarati and English, words, shapes and drawing. Singing and dancing also happens in class sometimes to freshen up the children. Homework is also given to them based on the class work.

The children have been taken on educational trips to Science City, Kakaria Lake and Zoo in the past few months.

They have had interactive session with students and interns from around the world where they come and tell them about their country and people by various photographs and teach them new things. The children also interacted with a foreign intern from Peru; Valeria Ines Rojas (Dutch university Universiteit Utrecht) who was working as a part of CFS for her research study. She told the children

about her country and people through presentation and photographs & conducted various fun filled interactive sessions with them like photography.

Sugandha Deva and Trishla Jhaveri interns at SAATH from NIT, Bhopal and Symbiosis, Pune respectively; organized a Child against Labour Week 2011 (13-17 June 2011) at all the CFS centers themed Family Security under which workshops like Origami, Movie- Jatak Tales, poetry, and storytelling were conducted and importance and love of family was inculcated.

#### PROGRAM CHALLENGES (TEACHERS)

- Convince the Child's parents.
- Seeing their Child's plight in private schools, parents were very reluctant to send their Children to CFS.
- Timing of classes with the timing of work with various students.

#### LESSONS LEARNT FROM CFS CLASSES (TEACHERS)

- Children need to be treated with care and bought under confidence of love
- You sometimes need to also discipline the Children but not too harsh or they stop coming
- Few of the many children at CFS have joined public

## Events and New Initiatives



Child Against Labour Week 2011

Field Trip



Valeria and the children



## A Note on Nutrition

Nutrition is provided to all the children. Besides conducting regular health check-ups, children receive daily snacks. Starting from this month, children started receiving an actual meal prepared by the teacher and a snack. By improving their nutrition, their health and school performance is expected to consequently improve. This is generally after the class is over. Nutrition includes healthy food material like milk and bananas and snacks like sev and peanuts. A lunch box is provided to the students in which these snacks are packed and given to them.

## Our Stories

### Shaikh Shahin Shakirbhai



Shahin's father abandoned her and her family. She lives with her mother and four siblings. Shahin's oldest brother works cutting hair, and the rest of her family works at home making kites. Given her family's situation, Shahin's work is needed to help cover the household expenses.

Shahin joined Juhapura CFS in October 2009. CFS teacher, Firdosben, says that when she first came to class, Shahin did not know how to read and write, and had a serious stammering problem. Firdosben, helped Shahin overcome her problem. Shahin's mother, Rihanaben, says that she is happy that her daughter is now able to read and write properly. She also noticed that after attending CFS, Shahin became more disciplined and responsible. She is now ready to go to formal school.

### Shaikh Usmangani Jamilbhai (11)



Juhapura CFS teacher, Firdosben, once saw Usman playing with CFS children and brought him to the center to study in September 2010.. He was in school up to 4<sup>th</sup> standard, but he used to fight and harass his classmates and teachers. For this reason, Usman was kicked out of school three times, and his parents thought he would never be able to successfully finish school. They decided that the best was to send him to work with his uncle. He works daily from 7pm to 3am at his uncle's omelet stand, where he serves and cleans the dishes.

The progress Usman has achieved in these past 8 months is truly impressive. Firdosben initially taught him through games, so she could slowly engage Usman into studying. He was a fast learner, and after three months he reached the level required to attend a formal school. Usman's parents were skeptical about sending him to school, but Firdosben convinced them and he started classes in January 2011. He is doing very good at school and does not cause trouble anymore.

## 2. Vasna & Behrampura

April 2011- May 2011

Center	No. of Girls	No. of Boys	Total Children	Age Group	Class Time
Vasna	20	12	32	6-13	13:00 to 16:00
Behrampura	23	9	32	9-15	12:00 to 14:00

Vasna- Teacher Jaishreeben

Age Group	6-9 years	9-11 years	11-13 years	>= 13years
Female	8	7	5	0
Male	5	4	1	2

Behrampura- Teacher Urmilaben

Age Group	7-10 years	10-14 years	>=14 years
Female	7	5	4
Male	3	11	0

### Daily Activities

Blackboard teaching method is used at Vasna and Behrampura CFS. A study kit inclusive of pens, notebooks and text books is provided. Alphabet books, picture books and chants are used for teaching them. Their class starts with a short a prayer. Attendance is taken each day and field visit is done each day to at least two students home. Children are taught math, days of the week, name of the months, counting, alphabets- in Gujarati and English, words, shapes and drawing. Singing and dancing also happens in class sometimes to freshen up the children. Homework is also given to them based on the class work.

The children have been taken on educational trips to Science City, Kakaria Lake and Zoo.

They have had interactive session with students and interns from around the world where they come and tell them about their country and people by various photographs and teach them new things. The children also interacted with a foreign intern from Peru; Valeria Ines Rojas (Dutch university Universiteit Utrecht) who was working as a part of CFS for her research study. She told the children about her country and people through presentation and photographs & conducted various fun filled interactive sessions with them like photography.

We organized at Child against Labour Week 2011 in all the CFS centers themed Family Security under which workshops like Origami, Movie- Jatak Tales, Bal Krishna; poetry, and storytelling were conducted and importance and love of family was inculcated.

#### PROGRAM CHALLENGES (TEACHER)

- Convince the child's parents.
- Seeing their child's plight in private schools, parents were very reluctant to send their children to CFS.
- Timing of classes with the timing of work with various students.

#### LESSONS LEARNT FROM CFS CLASSES (TEACHER)

- Children need to be treated with care and bought under confidence of love
- You sometimes need to also be strict with children but not too harsh or they stop coming
- Few of the many children at CFS have joined public

## Events and New Initiatives



Child Against Labour Week 2011

Science City



Activities with Foreign Students



## A Note on Nutrition

At both Behrampura and Vasna CFS, nutrition is provided to all the children. This is generally after the class is over. Nutrition includes healthy food material like milk and bananas and snacks like sev and peanuts. A lunch box is provided to the students in which these snacks are packed and given to them.



## Our Stories

### Shital Rajubhai Mesariya



Shital lived in her village with her grandparents until she completed 2<sup>nd</sup> standard and then, she moved to Ahmedabad. When Sheetal first joined Vasna CFS in December 2010, she was shy and would not answer when quizzed in class. In this last 5 months, Shital has made an impressive progress. Not only did she learn how to read and write, but also she started taking responsibilities in class. Her teacher says that Shital has become more responsible, and dedicated to her studies. This positive change is also noticed at home. Shital's mother started giving her new tasks, such as doing the household shopping and other household chores. At Vasna CFS, many girls make bracelets and sell them through Jayshreeben, who takes the finished bracelets to a nearby shopkeeper. Shital works 2-3 hours daily at home and at school. Through this bracelets activity, Shital has developed a strong sense of independence. Sometimes, Shital even makes extra bracelets and gives some to her teacher and some to the shopkeeper.

### Solanki Hansa Kantibhai



Maybe because Hansa's mother died of Tuberculosis when she was only 9 months old, she has always been a shy, quiet girl. Her father was unable to take care of her, so his brother Palabhai and sister-in-law Kantaben decided to take Hansa into their home when she was two years old. Hansa has a 15-year-old brother, who works as a waiter in a catering company outside of Ahmedabad. Urmilaben, Behrampura CFS teacher, went to Jamna's house to ask her to join the center. Kantaben asked Urmilaben to take Hansa as well. For a long time, Hansa was reluctant to participate in class and other activities. She used to sit quietly and listen carefully to the teacher. However, Hansa started to open up to her classmates and teacher. Urmilaben points out that she started to dress up nicer and come regularly to class. Hansa became more talkative at home. Now Jamna and Hansa share with the other household members what they learn in class. She also noticed that Hansa made friends with other classmates and now enjoys playing with them.

### 3. Non Formal Classes at Construction Sites

April 2011- May 2011

Center	No. of Girls	No. of Boys	Total Children	Age Group	Class Time
Mangalam Homes	8	7	15	3-12	9:30 to 10:30
Madhav Homes	20	15	35	3-12	11:00 to 13:00
Swaminarayan Park	20	26	46	3-11	10:00 to 13:00
Swaminarayan Park (Vasna)	7	8	15	3-10	10:00 to 13:00

Mangalam Homes – Teacher Dineshbhai

Age Group	0-3 years	3-6 years	6-9 years	>9 years
Female	0	2	4	2
Male	0	1	2	4

Madhav Homes – Teacher Dineshbhai

Age Group	0-3 years	3-6 years	6-9 years	>9 years
Female	0	4	10	6
Male	0	4	10	1

Swaminarayan Park – Teacher Kaminiben

Age Group	0-3 years	3-6 years	6-9 years	>9 years
Female	2	14	0	4
Male	5	12	6	3

Swaminarayan Park – Teacher Aartiben

Age Group	0-3 years	3-6 years	6-9 years	>9 years
Female	0	4	2	1
Male	0	5	2	1

## Daily Activities

The day starts with a prayer. The children are taught Alphabets in English, Hindi & Gujrati along with reading and writing. They also learn numbers and tables. The teacher narrates stories and teaches them songs and poems. They are taught the importance of cleanliness like clean nails, clean clothes, regular baths and hygiene like washing hands before every meal etc. They learn General Knowledge, colours, names of various objects like fruits, vegetables, parts of the body etc. Every Saturday is a day to enjoy when the Children play various games like blind fold, hopscotch, cricket, etc. The teachers also conduct tests, drawing competitions, singing competitions and speaking competitions to encourage children to come out of the box and enjoy.

The students during the past few months have been taken on educational excursions to the Kakaria Lake and Zoo. They learnt about the various kinds of animals and their habitat.

Sugandha Deva and Trishla Jhaveri interns at SAATH from NIT, Bhopal and Symbiosis, Pune respectively; organized a Child against Labour Week 2011 (13-17 June 2011) at all the CFS centers themed Family Security under which workshops like Origami, Movie- Jatak Tales, poetry, and storytelling were conducted and importance and love of family was inculcated.

Swaminarayan Park (Vasna) is a new site; the teacher there has got a tremendous response from the Children as they seem to be enthusiastic about studies and school.

### PROGRAM CHALLENGES (TEACHERS)

- Parents do not wish to educate children
- Children were shy to come to class
- Children leave for village and do not come back
- The children do not listen to the teacher
- You cannot be harsh with them or they do not come to class next day
- Often the Child comes with their 1-1 ½ yr old sibling that divert them from studies.

### LESSONS LEARNT FROM CFS CLASSES (TEACHERS)

- First lets new students to play with toys and after they settle down introduces them with studies.
- Each student has his own pace of studying
- If taught with fun, the children enjoy studies and even teach what they learn at home.
- Parents support when they see their child is learning new things
- If you smile the children

## Events and New Initiatives

### Child Against Labour Week 2011



### Kakaria Visit



## A Note on Nutrition

The children are given nutrition each day like Parle biscuits, peanuts, chhana, gatia, farsi pudu, 20-20 biscuits etc. Fried and local items are avoided as they may be unhygienic and unhealthy for Children. They are encouraged to eat food full of nutrients. A lunch box is provided to the students in which these snacks are packed and given to them.



Nutition during an excursion

## Our Stories

### NANEMA GEETA (12)



Geeta used to go to school in her village. When her parents came to the city to work a few months ago she had nowhere to go to school. Her parents worked at Shubham Construction site and then shifted to Mangalam Residency. When Dineshbhai went to persuade her parents they refused, it took them a long time to trust the teacher and send their girl to CFS.

It has been 6 months since she joined CFS classes and now attends the CFS at Mangalam Residency. She is very intelligent in class and is a quick learner. She knows all her alphabets, numbers, tables as well as can read primary books with ease. Dineshbahi says that if she is given enough support and encouragement Geeta can do wonders.

### VISHAL RAWAL (11)



Vishal shifted from Pason village to Naroda when his parents took up work in the Swaminarayan Construction site. He used to go to a local government school but he ceased to learn at class. His parents came to Kaminiben a few months ago to help his with his studies. He did not know how to count and the teachers at school did not pay attention. So Kaminiben helped him with his studies. She taught his numbers and tables. She even has begun to help him in his school studies. He is now more confident in class as well as school. He can read as well as write. He is a very sharp student.

He gave his school exams and has passed. He will be joining in class 9<sup>th</sup> at the end of his summer. He says that he still wants to come to CFS as it provides him a friendly atmosphere unlike school where his teachers only shout at him.

#### 4. Umang Lambha Construction Site

April 2011- May 2011

Center	No. of Girls	No. of Boys	Total Children	Age Group	Class Time	Special Note
Umang (Lambha)	13	15	28	2-11	10:00 to 12:00	

Age Group	0-3 years	3-6 years	6-9 years	>9 years
Female	1	5	3	4
Male	3	5	2	5

Site: Umang Lambha Construction Site

Teacher: Jitubhai

### Daily Activities

Child Friendly Spaces at Umang Lambha Construction site started 3 months ago. The CFS class constitutes of construction worker's children. They are mostly between the age group of 2-11 years who have never received any formal education of any sort in the past.

When Jitubhai was introduced to the class the children took a lot of time to settle down. The children were more fascinated with the toys than the urge to study. So Jitubhai allowed the new students to first play with toys and after a few days when they settled down, he introduces them with studies. He always had to make sure that learning was a fun filled experience as these children due to lack of parental support in their studies would often discontinue class abruptly when they lost interest. He has begun teaching them alphabets in English, Hindi and Gurjati; fruits, numbers, vegetables, regions of Gujrat, Animal Noises etc. He also teaches them good manners, cleanliness, health and nutrition. Once a week the students are taken to a nearby banyan park to play outdoor games like cricket, blindfold, running etc. SAATH has donated innovative toys for children to play with like puzzles, blocks, lego toys etc., students enjoy assembling puzzles and making new objects with them.

Sugandha Deva and Trishla Jhaveri interns at SAATH from NIT, Bhopal and Symbiosis, Pune respectively; organized a Child against Labour Week 2011 (13-17 June 2011) at all the CFS centers themed Family Security under which workshops like Origami, Movie- Jatak Tales, poetry, and storytelling were conducted and importance and love of family was inculcated.

Educational tour is planned in the coming month to Kakria lake and zoo.

**PROGRAM CHALLENGES  
(TEACHER)**

- Class room location keeps changing daily
- Parents did not trust the teacher
- Children were shy to come to class
- Children leave for village and do not come back

**LESSONS LEARNT FROM CFS  
CLASSES (TEACHER)**

- First lets new students to play with toys and after they settle down he introduces them with studies.
- Each student has his own pace of studying



## Events and New Initiatives

### Child Against Labour Week 2011



### Play time



### Class room activities



## A Note on Nutrition

The children are given nutrition each day like Parle biscuits, peanuts, chhana, 20-20 biscuits etc. They are encouraged to eat food full of nutrients. A lunch box is provided to the students in which these snacks are packed and given to them.

## Our Stories

VANITA BHACHUBHAI (9)



Vanita joined CFS 1 month ago and since then has been regular. She is very shy with new people but at home she does all the house hold chores as well as takes care of her sister Chandrika (2) and Aashik (4). Initially it was very difficult to convince her and her parents to attend CFS, but now she has friends like Asha and Sangita also at CFS so she enjoys to come. She is a very attentive student and often has to study with her kid sister sleeping on her lap. She is learning to speak the hindi alphabets. She likes to learn in class and wants to go to school. She even wishes to become a doctor one day.

HARISH RAMESHBHAI (11)



Harish and his brother Ashok (10) are among the first students of the CFS. They have been regular for the past 3months. They are very intelligent and can read as well as write English, Hindi, Gujrati alphabets, numbers from 1-100. Harish wants to grow up and become an engineer. He say that he wants to go to school and will go to college if his parent allow but he would force them. He is a sincere and very sensible child. He studies everyday at home and even encourages his brother to do so. His parents are also proud of him. Jitubhai says, "Harish, Ashok and Raj are the most intelligent students in my class, they are quick learners. Sometimes they prefer to study over play. Raj went to the village sometime back but he hasn't returned yet."



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