



# *Novi Survat Charitable Organisation*

(New Beginnings – for the destitute of Goa)

31 Foxholes Hill, Exmouth. EX8 2DQ  
Tel: 01395 276148. Email: [admin@novisurvrat.org](mailto:admin@novisurvrat.org)  
Web-site [www.novisurvrat.org](http://www.novisurvrat.org)

## **Newsletter 056 September 2017.**

No doubt many parents are breathing a sigh of relief as the children return to school. Another expensive week of buying school clothes, shoes and getting haircuts is over: but this all means that autumn and winter are just around the corner. The monsoons in India have by and large been average but some areas have had serious flooding leading to hundreds of lives lost and millions of people who have lost everything. Strangely little of this has been reported in our press which has been dominated with the flooding of Texas where sadly twenty five people have died.

### **Day Care Centre.**

I am delighted to be able to tell you that we have at long last been able to recruit a speech therapist who started working with us in July. At present she is working part-time helping six children per week which is a start. Hopefully we will have another physiotherapist joining us in September and are still on the lookout for an occupational therapist.



Our speech therapist Ruella whose full time employment is with the Neuro Rehab centre at Bambolim with Durgesh one of the children who regularly attend the Day Care Centre.

### **Starting Point.**

There are now forty children in regular attendance at Starting Point School following the new intake in June. I asked Jane for a few notes on some of the children and this is what she wrote.

**Sarthak** is a cute boy who constantly asks for the time as he wants to have lunch and go home. He also says he wants to touch the sun and when asked ‘how can you touch the sun’ he logically replies: “you can see the sun everywhere so it must be close. You cannot see Mapusa (a local town) as it is so far away you have to go by bus”. He thinks that as you can see the sun all you have to do is jump high enough to touch it.

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**Diya** is a chubby little girl who is liked by everyone because of her smile and nice way of talking. Every day she asks her teacher to only give her one page of writing to do because she wants to finish quickly so that she can have lunch. She keeps shouting at the other children to write fast so that lunchtime will come quicker!

**Naksh** is a very smart boy who behaves well with everyone and does his classwork and homework very attentively. For good work the children are rewarded with a star. One day Naksh did not do his homework so instead of a star he was marked a zero. Next morning his mother told Jane that Naksh had said “teacher always gives me stars but today teacher gave me a moon. Maybe teacher ran out of stars so she gave me a moon” He was doubly happy!!

**Sapna.** This little girl comes from a very poor family who come from a village in Karnataka. Her mum is a fruit seller and her father an unemployed drunkard. It is a very hard life for her mother who as well as having to carry a very heavy large basket of fruit around on her head also has to take her three youngest children with her. They can rarely afford the rent for a ‘house’ in the slums so are usually homeless migrating from one patch of land to another each time they get moved on. This means that Sapna is not very good at her studies and is unable to take work home.

### **Educational Sponsorship Scheme.**

In the last newsletter I told you of some of the successes with exam results and can now give an up to date picture.

Apika who as you know graduated as a doctor two years ago is now working at a community health centre.

Deepa pass her 12<sup>th</sup> std. exams and is now in her first year at university studying science.

There are ten others who are either in their first or second years studying for their ‘A’ level exams. When we first started this scheme our dreams were that some of the children would pass their tenth std. exams and be successful in obtaining a worthwhile job. We never expected that they would nearly all achieve much higher than this which is all down to the hard work of the staff at Starting Point and the determination of the students to do well.

### **Outreach work.**

We are very grateful for Jane and her team who continue to carry out regular visits to the slums and those who are destitute taking food and clothing. During the monsoons which take place between June and October times are very difficult for these people because there is little casual work available due to it being outside the tourist season.

### **General.**

There are moves afoot to curb the use of individual’s private information by social media sites, companies and charities. It has been common practise by many companies and charities to sell their data bases to other interested parties but I am pleased to reassure all our donors and sponsors that **we do not divulge any information to any third party.**

Roger & I will be in India from 3<sup>rd</sup> of November for two weeks when we hope to see all of the children and take up to date photos of those that are sponsored.

A very big THANK YOU to all our sponsors and supporters without whose generosity we could not continue helping those who need us.

Clive.