



Novi Survat Charitable Organisation

(New Beginnings – for the destitute of Goa)

39 Valley Way, Exmouth EX8 4PD.

Tel: 01395 276148. Email: admin@novisurvrat.org

Web-site www.novisurvrat.org

Newsletter 085 December 2024.

My visit to Goa in the last two weeks of October went well except for the very unusual weather. We had terrific thunderstorms and torrential rain and very nearly every day was cloudy. The rainfall made October 2024 the wettest for 120 years.

However, this did not reduce my enjoyment of seeing the children and staff of both Starting Point and the Day Care Centre.

The U.K., like many countries, has seen unusual weather patterns including snow and heavy rainfall causing flooding. If you have been affected by these extreme conditions, we hope they have cleared and life is back to normal.

Day Care Centre.

I always look forward to my visits to the centre to see the progress of the patients and I am often amazed at how great their improvement. Attendance is fairly consistent with 34 coming to Physiotherapy, 28 to Recreational therapy, and 32 for Occupational therapy.

In addition to the regular treatments a dental camp was organised in collaboration with Goa Dental College where 32 of our patients received a dental check-up and they and their families given a talk on how to maintain oral hygiene and each child given a dental kit consisting of a soft toothbrush, toothpaste with sodium fluoride, and a pack of tissues.

Another camp was organised for the proper fitment of orthosis where the aim was to educate and teach parents how to wear these special 'shoes' on their children. Orthosis was made for a total of 19 patients.

A visit by 9 college students from the JD College of Design entertained the children by teaching them finger painting, moulding clay into shapes such as flowers, butterflies, cats etc and then they played party games.

Educational Sponsorship Scheme.

We commenced this scheme in 2005 with children who were 3 or 4 years old. Many of them have gone on to attend colleges or university. Most of the original students have now completed their education and almost without exception have secured very good jobs, some in hotel management with prestigious companies such as the Hilton and Nova Hotel Groups, others in the medical or engineering fields.

This just shows that these children, coming from very poor 'slum' families, who would have received little or no education if it were not for the scheme, are very

Registered Charity Number: 1100768 (U.K.)

capable given the chance. This has all been made possible by the generosity of you their sponsors to whom we and they are very grateful.

As these obtain employment our commitment to the scheme is diminishing and we are now down to 46 students with sponsors. Of these 21 are attending colleges or universities!

Starting Point.

As mentioned previously, October saw the wettest month for rain for 120 years. This was reflected in the attendance of the children in school with many unable to get to school because of adverse weather conditions or sickness. On average only 24 of the 40 registered were in attendance during the two weeks I was there.

We did however manage to take 24 children on a day out at the Porvorim Mall where they had a once-in-a-lifetime experience of a soft play area, lunch at McDonalds, trips round the Mall on the indoor train and a large parcel of colouring books, pens etc kindly donated to each of them by the Mall's manager.

Outreach Work.

We continue to supply rations to 30 families who are unable to provide for themselves due to economic or disability reasons. The rations supplied consist of many different commodities including rice, flour, sugar, tea, Dal, Oil, Milk, Raagi (millet), Soya, Poha (flattened rice), soap and peanut bars. We give sufficient for 50% of their needs, the rest they have to provide themselves so as not to become entirely reliant on Novi Survat.

Sponsors & Supporters.

We are saddened to report the passing of John Pemberton who, together with his wife Pat, have been ardent supporters of Starting Point and are fondly remembered. We offer our condolences to Pat and send our best wishes.

It is less than one month to Christmas, so it remains for me to wish you all a Very Happy Christmas and New Year - as do the children of Starting Point.

