

SHIVPURA SCHOOL CHARITY PROJECT

Donate used toys, English books and clothing for school children in India

Please bring your donations to:

Kobe Union Church (EKK)

by October 12, 2014

Or send them to:

Dinah Imanari
6-12-3 Okamoto
Higashinada-ku
Kobe 658-0072

Contact:

078-414-2833 (Imanari)
dic-pr@nifty.com

* The Primary School of Shivpura, a hamlet in the east of Rajasthan, India, is an example of a rural government school with only the most basic equipments and commodities. A dedicated principal and teacher take care of one hundred students (grade 1-5), as well as their younger siblings.

To improve the learning and living environment of the children, the school is in urgent need of picture books and simple illustrated English books, toys and warm clothes (in December and January it is as cold as in Kobe).

We are urgently looking for donations of following used items:

- **Interesting picture books for Kindergarten children**
- **Simple illustrated English books**
- **Toys (durable, didactic toys that work without batteries or electricity)**
- **Warm clothes, including caps and mufflers (for children and adults) *for adults, please donate only items that can be worn over the traditional Indian clothing, such as caps, mufflers, jackets and coats**
- **We also welcome any cash donations to pay for the shipment to India!**

A project supported by:

- Gram Bharati Samiti (India)
- Help for Self-Help in Rajasthan (Germany)
- German Protestant Congregation Kobe-Osaka (Japan)



The Primary School of Shivpura

Shivpura is a small hamlet located in a dominantly rural area of Rajasthan, in the northwest of India, where the broad base of the social pyramid comprises numerous landless groups, both Hindu and Muslim.

Rural government-run schools are more often than not dysfunctional. Teachers are usually disinclined to accept a village posting. If fated to suffer rural exile, they tend to neglect their task despite reasonable remuneration, especially if they are not locals. Hence, there are cases of children, having completed the fifth grade, who are unable to spell their names correctly! While such educational malfunctioning is rampant, there are also examples of well-run schools, which owe their success to the dedication and imagination of the individual school principals and teachers.

The Government Primary School of Shivpura provides such an example. The school has about one hundred students (grades 1 to 5). Besides the dedicated principal, there is another equally committed teacher. Some of the children are accompanied by their younger siblings because there are no kindergarten-like institutions in the area. These smaller children play in the school's courtyard, whilst someone keeps an eye on them.

Rajasthan provides school children with a free meal. It is hoped that this provision will boost the students' enrolment rate. In Shivpura, a female cook prepares nutritious food, and the groceries are kept hygienically and pest-free. To save money, the school uniforms are stitched in the school itself, enabling the children to attend school decently dressed, because many of them only possess one set of tattered clothes.

In line with the stipulated curriculum, children have to learn another language besides Hindi, which though being the medium of instruction is not their first language since it is quite distinct from their local language. The second language taught is English, in which, however, the teachers are not sufficiently trained.

What do the children need most, especially now at the beginning of the cold season? During summer, the temperatures may rise up to 40° Celsius, but in winter (December and January) they can sink to almost freezing point. In view of these extreme weather conditions, the children need warm clothes, including caps and mufflers, and so do the adults.

The children would also greatly benefit from interesting picture books and simple illustrated English books. The available books are made without consideration for the children's needs. Village children can neither identify with the contents of these books, nor learn anything useful from them, nor do they appeal to their imagination.

The same can be said for the availability of didactic toys; for that matter, any sort of toys are a rare commodity. Hence, in Shivpura, the teachers are making valiant efforts to produce didactic toys themselves.



Gram Bharati Samiti

Gram Bharati Samiti (GBS) or Society for Rural Development is an Indian NGO working in the Jaipur district of Rajasthan. GBS strives to improve the living conditions through women's empowerment, health care, education and environment programs. At the core of its activities are numerous female Self Help Groups (SHG) and a non-profit Women's Savings and Credit Bank, which help women generate some income through small entrepreneurship. Empirically proven, these women also strive to improve their children's education. GBS has a special consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council.

The distribution of the donations will be personally supervised by Ms. Sarita Yogi of GBS, who manages the SHGs and the bank.

For more information:

<http://www.gbsjpr.org/>

<http://hsh-rajasthan.de/>