

Saint-Anthony's school's ITI

Continuing our efforts to develop the villages in Asmoli area, we are starting an *Industrial Training Institute* (ITI). In the hundreds of villages around this region, there are thousands of young men and women who do not continue their education and remain unemployed after class 10. They are forced to take up daily wage odd jobs for a living. Remote rural India is full of such unemployed and unskilled people.

During the last decade, the presence of *Ceuvre des pains* in this area has touched thousands of families in one or other way through Saint-Anthony's School, village animation programs, micro-credit programs, health clinics, and vocational/skills training programs which are well appreciated by the villagers. At this point, taking a step forward to offer job opportunities to students who come out of our school after class 10 or the above mentioned group of students who have passed out from local schools seems to be appropriate. Job opportunities for qualified technicians are available in cities within 150 km and our youth can find jobs in these cities.

We have been trying to set up this Training Institution for some years now. Two years ago, we had contacted *Delhi Don Bosco's ITI*, seeking some support, however we could not proceed further as the main problem remained :

finding the right person to put this project on the right track. Call it providence or the right time came, it is under these circumstances that we got in touch with *Roy Mathews* who just got retired from his job as the Principal of a Government's ITI in Kerala (south India) in 2013. In the public sector, the retirement age is 56 years...

Mr. Roy visited the project in Asmoli (it is 2000 km from his home town) in October 2013. The backwardness of the region, the spirit of the organization, and the need of an ITI in this area motivated him to take up the project. After doing a preliminary study and visiting other schools in the nearby cities, he proposed to start the ITI with three trades which have the most job opportunities : Electrician, Fitter and COPA (*Computer Operator and Programming Assistant*) mainly aimed for the young girls of the region.

We didn't have time to wait or think twice, the academic year of ITI starts in the month of August 2014, however all the infrastructure and the paperwork have to be finished before the end of May. In the month of June, the Accreditation Committee will be visiting the site to verify if all the norms are followed as per the guidelines of the DGET (*Directorate General for Employment and Training*).



The ground floor of the new wing of the Secondary school building will be used for the ITI's education programs.

How we arranged the space needed

Have we set up a new campus for the ITI ? No, not really... Constructing a new building and setting up a new campus is ideal, but very expensive and we want to make the maximum use of what we have already. We decided to set up the ITI in the same building of *Saint-Anthony's School*. Since it is mandatory that the ITI labs have to be on the ground floor we modified the construction of the ground floor. First floor will be used for the extension of higher classes of the secondary school. We are aiming at getting both these floors ready by the end of May 2014.

Electrician & Fitter are both production oriented courses, having enough potential to get an employment/self employment. *COPA* is a service oriented course, good for girls, have high potential in service sector like data entry, software development, etc.

Trade	Duration	Entry Qualification	Workshop + class size
Electrician	2 Years	10th Pass	98 +40 sq.m
Fitter	2 Years	10th Pass	88 +40 sq.m
Computer Operator & Programming Assistant (COPA)	1 Year	10th Pass	70 +40 sq.m

BESIX Foundation's continuous support

The estimate of the ground floor and first floor together is 225.000 € and estimate for the lab equipment and the machineries are approximately 50.000 €. *BESIX Foundation* had already supported the construction of the ground floor in the year 2012-13, recently

another grant was sanctioned for the lab equipment. We look forward to your generosity as the whole expenses this year came higher than we planned earlier.

Boarding Facility

In the past, several parents had approached us for boarding facility for the children of *Saint-Anthony's School*. However, we didn't take it up since school buses are provided for the transportation of the children from the surrounding villages. Now the question come again since we will get older girl students. Should we propose the secondary school and ITI programs to young girls living beyond the *Asmoli* area, where our buses don't go ? It is possible only if we provide them the lodging facility.

As we wrote in the last newsletter, we already had children from class 10 staying in the campus for their special classes. Special classes and a conducive atmosphere for study is needed for them to prepare for their exams. For higher classes it is even more necessary. Under this circumstances we are thinking of doing some temporary arrangement to provide them lodging. Few girls could be given accommodation in the staff quarters. However, if there are more girls seeking this facility, we may transform one of the newly constructed class rooms on the first floor of the new wing into a dormitory temporarily. Depending on the needs,

gradually we will have to adapt to the situation.

The board exam of class X students was held in the city of *Sambhal* in the beginning of March. We are eagerly waiting for the results.





Affiliation accepted for Class XI & XII !

Saint-Anthony's School has become « Saint-Anthony's Senior Secondary school » because we are now affiliated to the Central Board for classes XI & XII. This affiliation allows the class X students to continue their schooling until Class XII in our school. We plan to open the admission also to students from other schools not affiliated for classes XI & XII.

The board exams of class X students was held in the beginning of March. The exam centre was in *Sambhal*, the closest city from the school (18 km from *Dugawar*). The result will be declared in the month of June.

Just a small incident to share with you : The school arranged a resource person to guide our class X students and their parents to decide which direction they could take for their future studies. It was planned to have a one to one meeting with the resource person. Parents were intimated well in advance about this meeting and the students were explained about the advantage of this meeting. In spite of this only 23 turned up out of 37 ! 14 parents didn't care to come ! The involvement of the parents in the school matters is very limited, only few parents care about this aspect.

International Women's Day

As each year International Women's Day was celebrated on 9th March. 600 women participated in this program. This year we didn't send buses to the villages, they were told to come by their own. We expected 400 women and were surprised by the huge number of them participating in the program, inspite of having no provision of transportation !

Tricycles for the physically handicapped people from the villages were distributed on this day. Children from *Saint-Anthony's school* had participated in drawing competition organized by *Prathma Bank*. Prices were distributed to the winners by the Chairman of the bank.

Yuvthi Mandals (youth groups) performed different cultural programs. A few SHG (Self



Tricycles were distributed on International Women's Day.



Students participated in a drawing competition.

Help Groups) installed shops to sell their products. It was a memorable day for the women from the villages !

Kajal is safe now !

Kajal is a sponsored child of *Œuvre des pains*, studying in class V. Her parents prepare snacks in their house and sell them in a small shop in the village *Dugawar*. On 16th December, her father was repairing a 5 Kg LPG cylinder. He was under the impression that some water had filtered into the cylinder and that there was no gas inside the cylinder. Sitting inside the house, he unscrewed the cylinder while his wife was cooking by his side. The gas from the cylinder leaked and caught fire from the fire place. Kajal was outside and heard her little brother who was on fire, screaming. She rushed inside, grabbed him and put out the fire from his clothes. Her timely action saved her brother from getting burnt. While carrying her brother, her trouser made from synthetic fibres caught fire and both her legs up to the knee were badly burnt. In the panic, nobody realized that Kajal was in trouble. Following the advice of a neighbour, they took her to an Ayurvedic hospital, which is 50 Km away from *Dugawar*. She stayed there for one week and came back even worse.

When Jena, member of our staff, went to her home and saw her, he was shocked by her condition. We took her to the specialist for the burnt cases and did all the best arrangement possible. Here is what Dr. Tyagi who treated her wrote to us :

« When *Œuvre des pains*'s team brought Kajal, she was in a very bad shape. Her burnt wounds were covered with some local medicine which was made in refined oil. Below that layer there was another layer of used black Mobil oil used in cars. We tried to remove it with warm water but due to cold weather, it was stuck to the wound and the child was having severe pain. The child surely would have died of *septicaemia* (wound infection) or *hypothermia* because open dressing was being done and the parents were keeping her on dried sugar cane leaves, which are used for cattle during winters. This was because they did not have sufficient clothes to change. I told the team of *Œuvre des pains* that the child may not survive. By God's grace she responded to the treatment and recovered very fast. »

I still cannot understand why her parents didn't contact us in the first place... and I ask myself the question : if it was their *male* child would they have kept him in this condition ?



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