

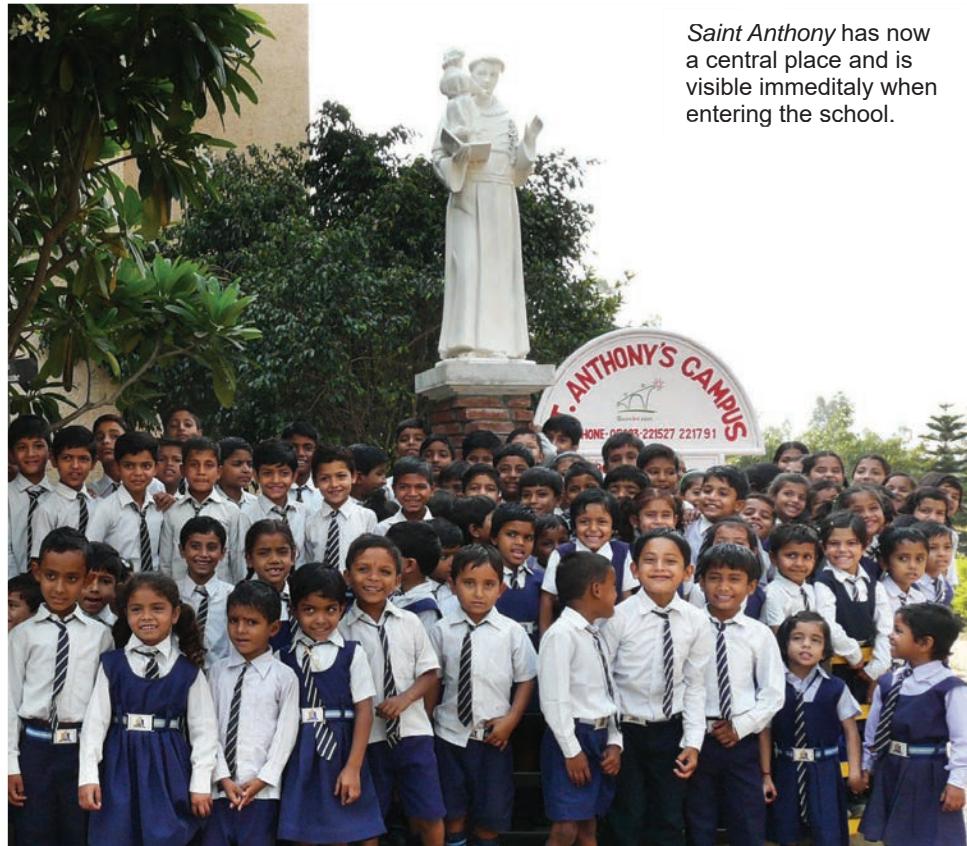


Anthony's Bread

ACB News

« Educating the children for a better world »

Quarterly magazine - n°55
2nd quarter 2017



Saint Anthony has now a central place and is visible immediately when entering the school.



A place for Saint Anthony at the entrance !

We have a new statue of *Saint Anthony of Padua* at the entrance of the school campus in *Dugawar* ! This recently erected statue is an attraction for all the children and people entering in the campus. It gives them a concrete image of Saint Anthony which was so abstract in their mind. This is also a gesture of thanks, to our benefactors, who continue to offer their support to reach out to the poor, continuing their devotion to Saint Anthony.

Our new statue was made in the southern state of *Kerala*, and transported to *Dugawar* by road, covering a distance of almost 2000 km. Most of the statues for the catholic churches in north India are made in *Kerala*. Christianity has its deep root in that state and the undocumented tradition is that Saint Thomas, one of the 12 disciples of Jesus, reached at the *Kerala* coast, *Muziris*, in AD 52. In north, in *Uttar Pradesh*, where we have our schools, Christianity was introduced during the reign of Mughal Emperor *Akbar* (1556-1605). *Akbar* was known for his secular theology. He sought

out educated Jesuits priests from *Goa*, and gave them the permissions to bring Christianity to his people. However, the religion stayed stagnant, only a tiny stagnant minority in *Uttar Pradesh* are Christians. However, the Catholic church has educational institutions well established in North India and they are well accepted and popular.

Families Starting from Ground zero...

The new academic year started in the beginning of April in India. Each year the *St. Anthony's school* of *Dugawar* welcomes approximately 170 new students. Among these 170 students, 10 percent of them are sponsored by us. This 10% quota is reserved for the girl children from very poor families who cannot afford good education. They are identified by our field staff and selected by the management after interviewing the parents and verifying the report of the field staff. From our past experience, we realized that some of our sponsored children whose parents didn't value education were not able to continue in higher classes. The parents were neither

sending these children regularly to school nor giving them enough time required to do study at home. So, in our new selection, a lot more focus is given to the motivation from the part of the parents which is also essential for the success of the child.

As mentioned at many occasions in other issues of the newsletter, having a boy is very important for the families and very often, couples will continue to have children until they get a male child. We often notice, there is a big gap between the girl child and boy. One of the reasons is that after having two or three girls children, female fetus is aborted until they get a boy. Though it is illegal, it happens widely. Investing in girl is considered waste of money as the girl will be getting married. The son is the bread winner of the family and they look for his future. In our project areas, a lot is done to send all the girl children to the local school and we are happy about the result.

Lets have a close look at the family of *Bandana*, one of our newly sponsored girl. She is 5 years old, her older sister Nidhi is 7 years and her younger brother is 1yr 6 months. Her older

sister joined St. Anthony's school (*Dugawar*) two years ago. *Bandana* also wants to study in St. Anthony's school like her older sister !

It is a typical family, parents are illiterate, they have a small piece of land (half acre) and a house made out of mud brick. The father manages to make a living with the unskilled labor he finds from time to time in the near by cities. The mother, through the micro-credit program run by *Oeuvre des pains*, bought a buffalo. They invest the income from the milk of this buffalo for the education of their first daughter. However, when it comes to educate the second daughter, they could not afford it and approached us for support. The request of this family was to give sponsorship to the second child and they promised to find a way to educate their son, when it will be his turn to join the school, in few years time.

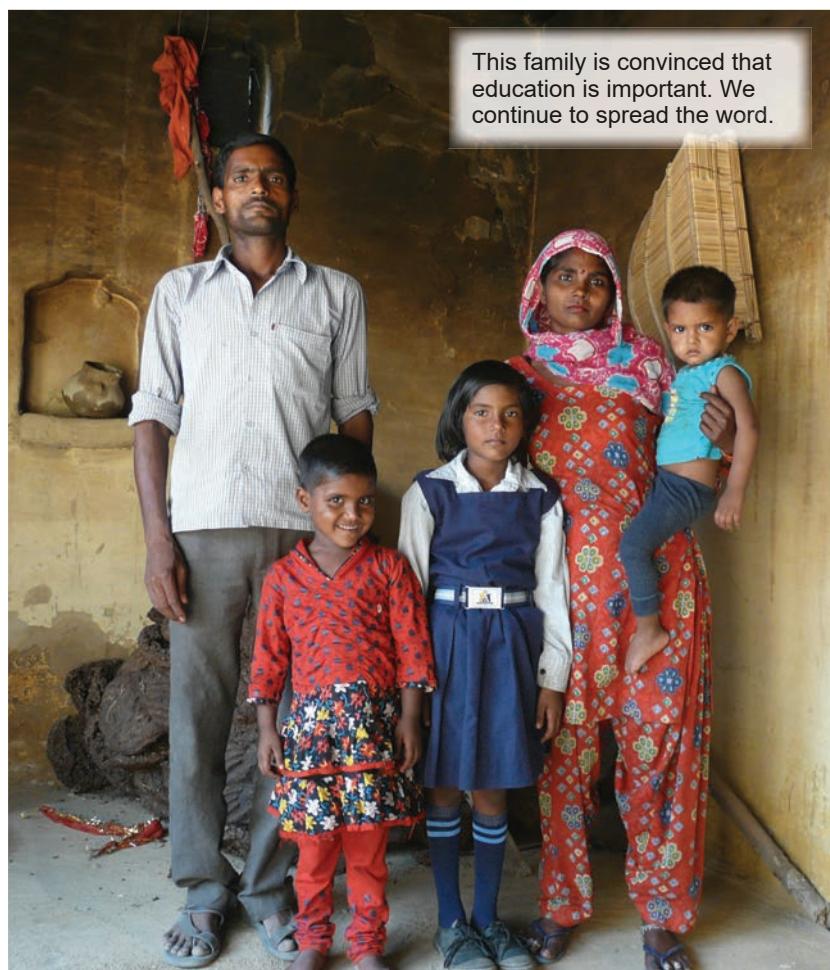
It is amazing to see that they invest all they have in educating their children and they look forward to earn more to educate all their children as well ! Yes, these are people who go hungry at the end of the day, just to make their children grow, they dream of a better future in spite of being illiterate ! This is the kind of change we expect from the community. We have been working in this village for the last 8 years and people eventually understand the importance of good education for their children.

In order to reduce the financial burden of the parents, the school has been giving free education to the third child. So, in a way, it is also a motivation for the parents to send their girl child in the school.

Ban of cattle slaughter in India

The ruling Hindu Nationalist party, *Bhartiya Janta Party* recently banned cow slaughtering in India by the farmers. They believe that cows should be protected, because they are considered holy by India's majority Hindu population.

India is world's largest exporter of meat, because it doesn't consume much beef as around 80% of Indian's are Hindus. The current ban of cow slaughter is appli-





cable to the farmers, the big companies and Corporate are exempt from it.

This new move from the government has shaken the basis of village economy. The poor farmers who depend on cows now lost their economy, they can't sell their cows and bulls.

Millions of Indians, including *Dalits* (formerly *untouchables*), Muslims and Christians, consume beef. Now they can't get beef from the local market. Those who made a livelihood from meat industry have to find job elsewhere. Tanning and paint industry is going to get hit hard along with the multitude who made a living out of it.

We too have a cow story in *Asmoli* : During a visit in the village, we noticed cows and buffalos being injected just before milking. We learned that it is *oxytocin*, a chemical, injected into cows and buffalo just before milking, to make them yield more milk. This milk leads to irregular hormonal growth in the children. Though it is illegal, it is widely practised.

We felt the responsibility to provide good milk to our staff who resides in the campus.



We spent Rs.50 thousand, to buy a cow and bull calf assuming that after a year, we can sell the bull for around Rs.20 thousand. Now the scenario has changed, the cow we bought is available in the market for less than Rs.20 thousand. We cannot find a buyer for our one year old bull. Recently, our cow gave birth to another bull calf...and we are really concerned, what should we do with our bulls ? If this is our story, imagine the poor villagers who depend on the cow for their livelihood...

Le témoignage d'Alexia

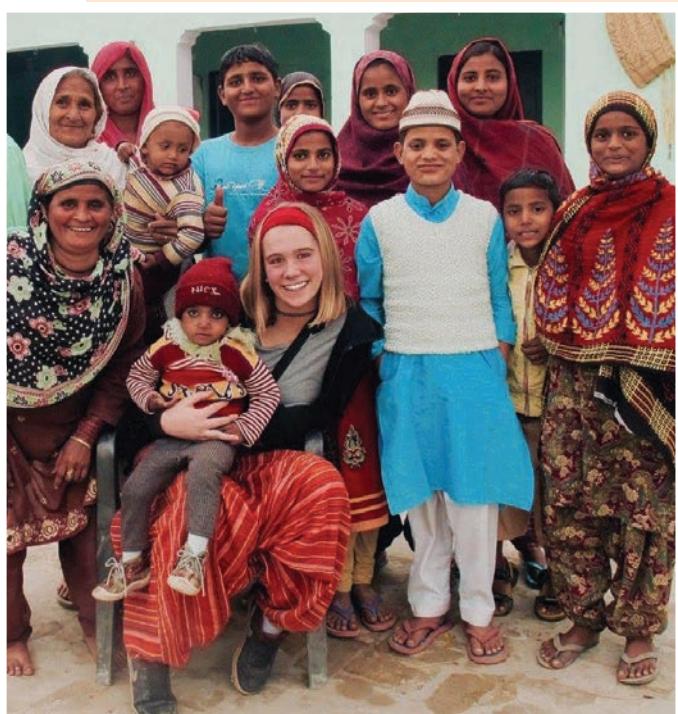
Je m'appelle Alexia, j'ai 18 ans et j'ai terminé mes humanités en juin 2016. Peu certaine dans mon choix d'études, et sortant d'une école à pédagogie active, dites très « ouverte d'esprit », j'ai décidé de prendre une année sabbatique. Cette année, divisée en 3 voyages bien distincts, avait 3 buts : apprendre l'anglais, aider des gens dans le besoin, me décider sur mes projets futurs.

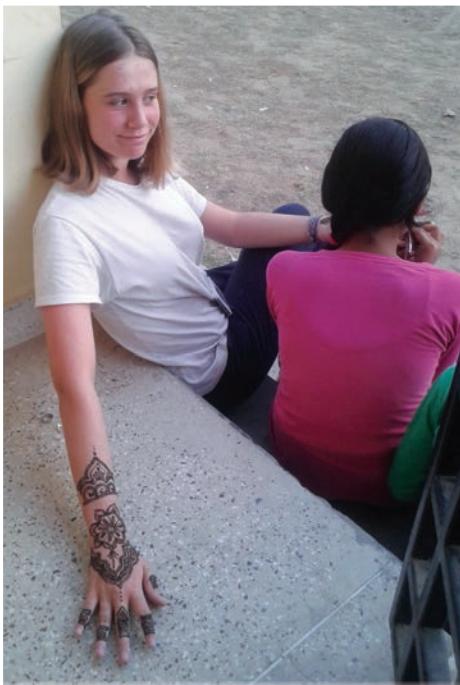
« *Aider les gens dans le besoin* », c'est cliché, et pourtant c'était la partie qui me tenait le plus à coeur. En premier, il fallait choisir la destination, parce que des gens dans le besoin... il y en a partout !

Je voyage depuis très jeune avec ma maman, loin des lieux touristiques et des clubs de vacances. J'ai eu pour habitude de partir découvrir les minorités ethniques, les bidonvilles, et de loger chez l'habitant.

En 2014, j'ai été pour la première fois en Inde, à *Mumbai* (*Bombay*) et y ai fait la rencontre de quatre volontaires, venus offrir leurs services dans une petite école du bidonville de *Dharavi*. Ayant eu un véritable coup de coeur pour ce pays durant mon séjour, j'ai décidé d'y retourner dans le cadre d'un volontariat.

Voulant orienter ce projet vers les enfants, j'ai longtemps cherché quelque chose qui tienne la route, je me suis d'abords dirigée vers les grosses organisations, avant de me rendre compte que le marketing était plus présent que l'entraide. J'ai ensuite choisi l'*Oeuvre des pains*, et l'école Saint-Antoine car, consciente de la chance que j'ai eue, l'accès à l'éducation est un sujet





Partout, j'ai été très bien accueillie.



J'ai même eu droit à ma page dans le journal !

qui me tient très à cœur et pour lequel j'avais envie de mettre la main à la pâte.

Je suis arrivée dans le village de Dugawar (*Asmoli*) début janvier, pour une durée de deux mois. Ne parlant pas hindi, et n'étant pas spécialement qualifiée pour enseigner, mon rôle était celui d'organiser des activités avec les enfants : sport, dessins, jeux,... Activités qui me semblaient banales avant mon départ, mais qui ont pris tout leur sens durant mon séjour.

Mes journées commençaient début de matinée, en même temps que les enfants de l'école primaire. Mon horaire, divisé en périodes de 30 minutes, me permettait, en l'espace d'une semaine de m'impliquer dans toutes les classes de primaire au moins deux fois.

Faisant de la danse depuis toute petite, je trouve important pour des enfants de se dépenser, j'ai donc imaginé beaucoup d'activités sportives avec eux sous forme de jeux, de courses relais, de jeux de balles, etc. Mes impressions ont été positives, les enfants ont apprécié et y ont pris beaucoup de plaisir.

La différence de langue n'a pas toujours été facile, et m'a demandé beaucoup d'adaptation (c'était une ajout au challenge). C'est également pourquoi il était important pour moi de rester ces deux mois, car au fur et à mesure, les enfants ont adoptés mes gestes, mes expressions, et se sont habitués à mon anglais, facilitant ainsi les échanges.

Je vivais dans le bâtiment où logent les professeurs. L'après-midi, après les cours, j'allais visiter les villages voisins, les maisons des élèves, ou encore le marché local. Ces visites, assez poignantes dû aux conditions de vie et à la pauvreté m'ont néanmoins agréablement surprises. Leurs maisons sont équipées de toilettes, d'électricité et sont très propres. Il y a évidemment encore des choses à améliorer dans leur quotidien car leurs conditions de vie ne sont pas idéales pour les enfants par exemple.

J'avais, avant de partir, une idée très restreinte de l'Inde : un pays pauvre, et beaucoup moins développé que le notre. Ce serait mentir de dire que ce n'est pas le cas mais j'ai été très impressionnée et très surprise de la soif d'apprendre des enfants, de leur motivation à l'école et dans chacune des activités que j'ai proposées.

L'Inde est un pays avec une culture très riche, et des gens d'une générosité époustouflante. Des gens qui malheureusement n'ont pas eu la même chance que nous, mais à qui, j'espère, j'ai pu apporter à ma façon, quelque chose, que ce soit à travers le sport, la chanson ou le dessin.

Cette expérience aura été pour moi une réelle « leçon de vie », qui restera gravée dans ma mémoire. Et j'en remercie du fond du cœur toute l'équipe de l'*Oeuvre des pains* : Roy, Molly, Krishna et tous les autres qui ont rendu ce projet réalisable.

Alexia

क्यों के साथ भी बिता रही समय, ब्रसेल्स से बच्चों के लिए लेकर आई थी खिलौने

गी ग्रामीण संस्कृति को जानने आई एलेक्सिया

क्यों बनाया भारत आने का विचार

असलीतों के लिए एवं नीं झुकाने में बदल के साथ प्रॉफेशनल ॥ जागता

झुकाने में अटक हुए हैं। यहाँ जह आगामी बाद विकास गमितों के सदर्दों के साथ आगमास के बदल गये हैं। इस उद्देश्य में भवन कर रही है। इस उद्देश्य के बदल गयों में गोपन बनकर सम्बन्ध बनाया जाता है। वह बच्चों के बदल कर हिस्सा ले रहे हैं। वह बच्चों के बदल आगामी समय बढ़ाव देता है। और उन्हें इस सब गमितों से सम्बन्धित होता है। यह बच्चों के लिए ब्रसेल्स से कुछ खिलौने भी लेकर आई है।

गहरी है। वही बच्चे भी इनके द्वाया की जाने वाली गमितियोंमें सुख सही हुए। यह बदल कर हिस्सा ले रहे हैं। वह बच्चों के बदल से बदलता जाने के द्वाया दर्शाता है। इस उद्देश्य से सहजता जाने के द्वाया दर्शाता है। यहाँ विचार के सब्द उद्देश्यकाल में है।

इस विचार की सरावनिक से उनके पालयात्रिय संस्थान है। शोध के बारे में पूछे जाने पर जानाया कि यहाँ पर आगम उद्देश्य सुन लेता जानने का मोक्ष मिलता। इन्होंने भी नहीं भरतीय संस्कृती व धारा के लिए नहीं उठे बहुत ध्वनित किया।