



New St. Anthony's School Dugawar Kindergarten Block will have 12 classrooms.

New Kindergarten Block in St. Anthony's school Dugawar

The number of students seeking admission is increasing each year in *St. Anthony's School Dugawar*. Last year we admitted 320 new students. This year also, there will be an increased demand for admission. We have nearly 2000 students and only one unused classroom is remaining for next academic year. In order to provide opportunity for more students, we decided to expand the building. Since the foundation of the primary school building was not strong enough to add one more floor, we decided to build an entire new building for the Kindergarten at the back of the land in our campus. This new building will have 12 classrooms to accommodate around 400 to 500 students. It has also the possibility to add few more classrooms in the future.

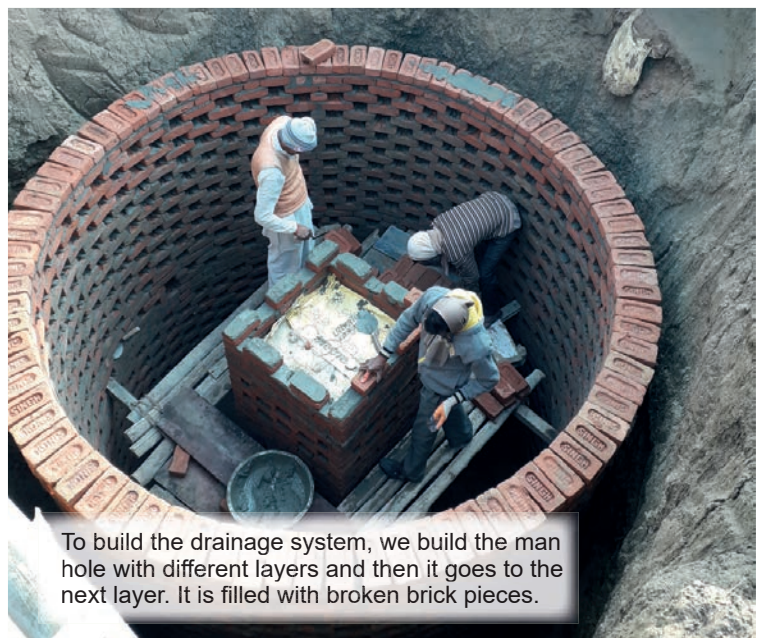
To reduce the cost, we decided to construct a single storey building, with tin sheet roof. The cost of this construction is estimated as 100.000 euros.

The work started in the month of October and is still in progress. We expect to finish this work on time to welcome our newcomers in July 2020.

Since the Kindergarten section will move to this new area, the old primary building which has 18 classrooms can occupy classes 1 to 5. This building has the capacity for 700 students.



The new construction is at the back of the land.
(Picture taken before starting the work)



To build the drainage system, we build the man hole with different layers and then it goes to the next layer. It is filled with broken brick pieces.

Village Healers

Gargi, a student of class 4, has been coming to the school with a bandage tied around her wrist for several weeks. When the teacher enquired, she told that she had a fall and that there was no fracture. One day her bandage got loose and while tying it back the teacher noticed the bone bulging out under the skin !

The staff called the parents to get more information. They said that they took their child to the village healer who put some ointment and tied clothes around her wrist for several weeks. The parents had no clue about the situation of her wrist until we pointed it out. On our request they took her to the hospital in the nearby city of Moradabad and took X-rays. The X-rays showed her wrist deformed due to the improper healing. We consulted two Ortho specialists and both affirmed that since the damage is already done to the growth plate, she has to wait to be 17 years old to go for a surgery to correct this situation. If the bone is cut now, it will cause more irregularities. She finds it difficult to write or do any work with this hand at the moment.

As soon as we come across any incidence of fall, fracture, we intervene and take proper care. Unfortunately, *Gargi* didn't come into our notice ! Awareness programs are being done to get the villagers to consult real doctors, yet we are far from changing the age-old tradition.



'Period-shaming', students forced to strip to underwear

Periods have long been a taboo and menstruating women are considered impure in India, especially among the traditional Hindus.

They are often excluded from social and religious events, denied entry into temples and shrines and kept out of kitchens.

A recent incident in an undergraduate student's hostel which is run by a conservative Hindu religious group in the western Indian state of *Gujarat* took the news headlines. The hostel maintains a register where the young girls are expected to enter their names when they get their periods, which helps the school to identify them. Being sick of the restrictions imposed during this time, a group of 68 students living in the hostel tried to challenge this. They stopped entering their name in the register.

The consequence ? They were pulled out of their classrooms and made to strip and show their underwear to female teachers to prove that they were not menstruating !

The principal and three other persons have been arrested after a complaint filed against them following a public outrage. It is not the first time female students have been humiliated on account of periods.

In our *St. Anthony's schools*, nothing as such is happening and we regularly give awareness classes to girls and empower them to stand against the social taboos.

Humanitarian Crisis in India

The ruling political party in India, the BJP is driven by the ideology of « *Hindutva* », seeing the Hindu way of life as the only authentic model for India. A resounding second victory in elections last year gave the prime minister, *Narendra Modi*, licence to pursue exclusionary policies without restraint. Recently the union minister *Giriraj Singh* said that all of India's Muslims should have been packed off to Pakistan at partition in 1947 !



Nation wide protests are held against CAA, CAB and NRC.

On 5 August 2019 Government of India revoked the special status given to *Jammu and Kashmir*, a Muslim majority state in India, located in the northern part of India bordering Pakistan. It was the demand of Hindu nationalists since the 1950. The Kashmir Valley was placed under a virtual lock down with all the communication lines cut and political leaders placed under house arrest. The local protests were brutally suppressed. The life of 11 million Kashmir people is not the same since then.

State of Kashmir is now divided into two union territories...

In order to root out illegal immigrants, over the past four years, about 33 million people in Assam have been forced to provide documents and prove that they have roots in the state dating to before March 1971. Almost 2 million people who couldn't provide adequate documents in North-East India face the threat of statelessness. Majority of these people however, were born in India and lived there for generations, according to campaigners.

Then the central government came with a law, CAA (*Citizenship Amendment Act*) a new law that allows undocumented migrants from neighboring countries to seek citizenship in India – except if they are Muslims. Though not officially said, this move was taken to integrate the Hindu population who were part of the illegal immigrants, since they didn't have enough documents. It's the first law since India gained independence that explicitly excludes Muslims, and has generated widespread protests. Muslims, who have no documents fear that they will be deemed « foreigners » even if they have lived in India for generations.

Mass opposition to this law broke out all over India from Hindus and Muslims alike.

The violence in Delhi began after a local BJP politician, told a rally that unless police cleared the streets of protests against the *Citizenship Amendment Act* (CAA), he and



Jamia Millia Islamia students and locals protesting against CAA and NRC. (photos : Sanjeev Yadav)

his supporters would do it themselves. They did it by attacking Muslim shops and homes. The death toll from the three days of violence in Delhi, largely targeting Muslims, has risen closer to 50. More than 200 others were injured in the violence.

Although the dead and injured comprise people from both the Hindu and Muslim communities, it is largely Muslims who have been affected with thousands being displaced.

Sambhal and Moradabad cities closer to our projects have Muslim majority. Protests and violent outbreaks took place in these cities costing lives and livelihoods of so many poor people. Our project didn't face any problem so far. The reality is that on the ground, Hindus and Muslims live in harmony. What is playing out in India is not a simple religious conflict between Hindus and Muslims but a political struggle between two visions of India : between those who see it as an open, and those who wish to create a chauvinist Hindu state. Who prevails in this struggle matters not just to Muslims, or to Indians, but to all of the Indians.

Cow urine pseudo-science

Cow is a sacred animal for Hindus. Since the ruling political party BJP came in power in

2014, lot more is done to safeguard cows. Huge amount of money is being invested in making cow sheds. Cow vigilant groups are formed to protect cows. At times, they were violent leading to a number of deaths.

Cow dung and cow urine have become prominent medicine for myriad of ailments. In February, this year, the *Uttar Pradesh* government had reportedly decided to give a push for use of cow urine for medicines. Science and technology ministry set up a '*national steering committee*' to guide research to assess the virtues of *Panchgavya*, a traditional concoction of cow dung, urine, milk, curd and butter.

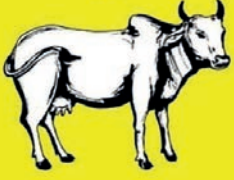
Many business companies started making profits from cow urine. One liter of cow urine can sometimes be more expensive than one liter of cow milk !

The promotion of nationalist pseudoscience under the BJP has worried Indian scientists and skeptics for years. The dangers of disinformation and misinformation are obvious : In a developing country with high Internet connectivity and low literacy, bad information could have fatal consequences. Politicians have been guilty of acting irresponsibly.

Given the country's population density and creaking public health infrastructure, experts fear that the Coronavirus could quickly overwhelm health systems if not handled correctly.



AKHIL BHARAT HINDU MAHASABHA
organising



Swami Chakrapani Ji Maharaj
National President

(To Neutralize the Effect of Corona Virus)

GAUMUTRA PARTY

You are cordially invited...

Saturday 14 March 2020
12.00 Noon onwards

VENUE
Rajeev Kumar 'Ashish'
National Vice-President
Akhil Bharat Hindu Mahasabha Bhawan
Mandir Marg, New Delhi.