



Children from around 70 villages within 8 km will have access to our new St-Anthony's school.



Anthony's Bread has taken a major step to bring quality education to the children of another region. We bought 14320 sq m (3,5 acres) land in a village called Jadwar, in Sambhal District for the construction of a new St-Anthony's School. This region is thickly populated and has connecting roads to villages. Our entry in the midst of these villages will be a milestone in their lives. With your ongoing support we will provide them better opportunity to make their own destiny.

Our field staff are already in the villages, preparing for different development activities. We introduce you the family of Harpal from Jadwar village. He lives in a small house with three rooms and a common kitchen, with his 20-member family.

• Harpal, can you introduce us your family ?

I am 51 years old, I lost my wife some years ago. I live with my children, grandchildren and my brother and his family.

• How many children do you have ?

I have four sons aged 28, 25, 18 and 14 years . My first son has three kids and second son has two kids and third son got married, but no children. The last two sons are working in Delhi, in a tailoring shop. Two older sons help in the cultivation of our land and go for unskilled work around.

• Did your children go to school ?

My two younger sons went to school maybe two years. Others didn't study. One of my daughters-in-law has finished her high school, she is from the city Badaum.



- What about your younger brother ?

He is also an unskilled worker like me. He is 48 years old. He has two sons and three daughters, they are between 11 and 5 years old. The eldest girl who is 11 years, went to school only one year, her younger brother also went for one year. None of them are going to school now.

- What about the education of your grandchildren ?

One of my grandchildren is going to school, primary 1. Others are small. They do not learn anything in the school. We are happy if your school start we will be able to send our grandchildren in your school.

- Do you get enough income to feed the family from the land you have ?

Myself and my brother together have two acres of land. The cultivation from this land and the income from my children provide us enough to manage the family. However, I am concerned about the future of our children, because when they are old, there will not be enough land. We also get some ration food with reduced price from the government.

- Do you go to hospital when you get sick ?

No, hospital is in the city, far from here. In emergency we go to the village doctors (most of these village doctors have no medical qualification, some of them have not even passed secondary schools). Our children were all born in the house only.



Villagers are looking forward to get some work with our building construction.

- What do you expect from Anthony's Bread ?

We will be happy to get work when your building start. Also, we are happy that our children can go to your school.

Visit to the Government School in Jadwar

As we have mentioned in our previous news letters, as per the law enacted in 2009, education of children between 6 to 14 is made compulsory in India. Though most of the villages have government-run schools, they are dysfunctional. Even after 12 years, the situation has not changed much. Parents blame teachers for not teaching and teachers blame parents for not sending children to school.

Our field staff visited the school on 13 March 2022 and here is their findings.

There are two divisions, Primary School for children ageing from 6 to 10 and Junior School for children from 11 to 14.

In the primary session, out of 69 girls registered only 10 were present and out of 78 boys registered only 22 were present. In the junior section, three girls out of 53 and 7 boys out of 57 were present. As seen here more drop outs as they go to higher classes. For the primary section, there are two teachers and one helper employed and for the junior section, only one teacher in charge. Devender, who is the only teacher in charge of this junior school, says that since he is alone, he cannot leave the children in the school and go to the village to call other children. Hardly anybody from this school is prepared to go for higher studies.

How will the population benefit from our project ?

We hope to bring back the bigger children back in the government school. Smaller children could get into the future St. Anthony's School. We could engage, for example, the daughter-in-law of Harpal who has done high school, to be part of our awareness program and Self Help Group. And of course, some men could get manual work while we do the build-



ing constructions. These families could benefit from all our programs and certainly those women who are not ready to come out and talk now will be empowered in 5 years time.

Like Harpal's family, for the villagers, education is not a priority now. It will be our priority to bring back the children, especially girls, to the village schools. We will be closely monitoring the teachers appointed in the government schools and improve the quality of teaching. If needed we will also provide assistance to those schools in these villages.

St. Anthony's School will be open for all who can pay a minimum charge to make the school eventually self-dependent. Selected girl children from very poor families will be educated under sponsorship. We will be like a light house, to show them the

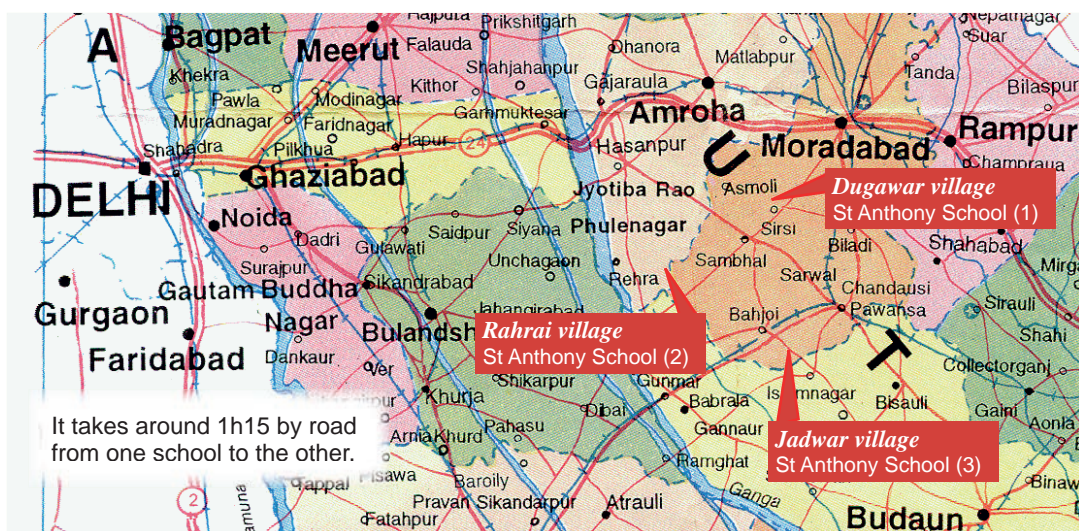


Devender is the only teacher of the junior section of the local public school.



importance of education and empower the villagers to send all their children to the existing schools.

By mid April we expect to get permission from the government to convert this agricultural land for the school purpose. The architect has visited the site and the survey of the land is done. The construction work may start after all administrative work is completed. However, to welcome the children in this academic year, from July we may have to think of an alternative, a small temporary set up.



Medical student in Ukraine

Sharukh was a student of St. Anthony's school Dugawar from 2004 to 2016. Now he is a medical student in Ukraine. Recently he visited our school and here is an interview with him.

• What is your feeling as you visit again St. Anthony's School ?

It feels like coming back home. A lot of memories of the last 13 years which shaped me to be who I am today. I was fortunate enough to be the first batch of this school.

• Did the school help you to achieve your dream ?

I want to become a doctor and St. Anthony's School helped me to pursue my dream.

• Why did you go to Ukraine ?

To get a medical seat in India is very difficult, so I decided to join Uzhhorod National University, western Ukraine. It is a 6-year course and I have completed my first three years.

• When did you come to India ?

I came for my brother's wedding on 14th January. I cancelled my return flight because of the news about the Invasion of Russia.

• Are you in touch with your friends ?

Yes, I am in contact with them. There are around 2000 Indian students studying in our

university and all of them are now evacuated.

• What is your future plan ?

It is very uncertain now. We closely follow the development and hope that the government of India will take a favorable to stand for all the medical students evacuated.

• Have you travelled in Ukraine ?

Yes, I have been to different main cities of Ukrain. Kyiv is a beautiful city where we can go and feel relaxed. Ternopil, Lviv, Odessa are other beautiful cities I visited and the people of Ukraine are very friendly.

• What do you feel about Russian Invasion of Ukraine ?

Devastated.

In India, more than 1500000 aspirants for Medicine compete for around 90000 seats recognised by the National Medical Commission every year. There are Private Medical Colleges offering this Medical Course, but it cost around 10 million rupee to complete it. Ukraine is one of the destinations for the medical students who cannot afford it in India. Over 18000 Indian students join 15 Medical Universities of Ukraine alone each year. It is said that with one to two years fees in India, they can finish their 6-year course there. After the completion of their studies, they have to pass an exam from Indian Medical Council, to work in India.

India had a tough time to evacuate thousands of medical students who were stuck in the shelters of the main cities of Kharkiv, Sumy and Kyiv during the first two weeks of the war. One medical student died of shelling and few others got injured.

In the Russian aggression over Ukraine, India tried to balance its ties with Moscow and West. India only chose some strong words in the UNSC to show it's not comfortable with the situation in Ukraine. It abstained from UN General Assembly resolution. It's hard for Delhi to overlook decades of history of diplomatic co-operation with Russia on several issues. India depends on Russian supplies of arms, missiles and other equipment to defend itself from China and Pakistan. The question was raised at home and abroad, why didn't India, the biggest democracy, take a clear stand in this war. India has only bad and worse choice at this point.



Sharukh in front of the Dnieper river in Kiev (also spelled Kyiv).