

Dear all,

As you are aware I was lucky enough to visit the incredible country that is India over the summer. For 3 weeks, I immersed myself fully in the culture and country as well as teaching street children. I spent all my time living with a family in Faridabad which meant I really felt as if I was a part of the day to day living of India. The lady I stayed with was not only inspirational but a true representation of someone who puts everyone else first. Up until 8 years ago, Mamta taught children of all ages in a school. After a personal loss, she decided to do something quite extraordinary and there began 'The Sandesh Project'.

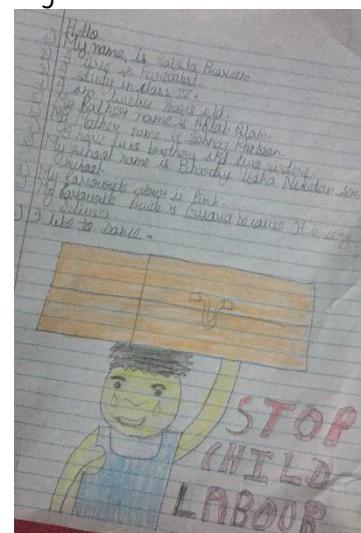
The Sandesh Project was set up to provide an education for children who cannot afford to go to school during the day or who want to learn more after school. Mamta runs this project in one room, rented in an apartment block. She has no income other than from the company I volunteered with and if there are not enough volunteers to go and help

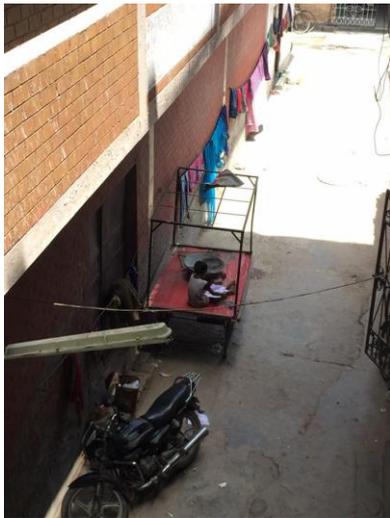


her then she pays her rent and runs the school with her mum. Anything from 10-50 children, ranging from ages 4-15, attend this project throughout the day. When there were too many children, the lessons were taken into the hallway so that different ages could learn depending on their ability. Their willingness and motivation to learn was heart-warming and many would still come to learn more after they'd spent the day at their local school. It was clear that the children saw Mamta as a second mum and came to the school for the loving, kind and enjoyable atmosphere that was shown every day. I'd be greeted every day to 'Good Morning Maam' or 'Good Afternoon Maam' and huge waves from the balcony as I arrived at the apartment block.



A few moments that really stood out for me was when one girl chose to draw a picture which stated, 'Stop Child Labour'. She was only 12. It was a moment of realisation and appreciation for what we and our children have and the opportunities we are all given within our country.





Additionally, after the morning session, a young boy of about 5 took some paper and continued his learning on a trailer outside. Another example of their determination to give themselves a better opportunity when they are older by being educated.

The money that you so kindly donated is going a long way to help Mamta and the children who attend this project. I took huge amounts of resources out with me which was greatly appreciated. Furthermore, Mamta is initially going to invest in fans for both the hallway and a new one for the room as with the Indian heat can often be unbearably hot and uncomfortable for the

children to learn.

Due to the generosity of everyone, I decided to share the money between a few organisations. Another project I have donated to is a Non-Governmental Organisation called Tender Heart organisation (website found here: <http://www.tenderheartngo.org/> ) who work with underprivileged children and women. I have been in contact with the founder, Renu Bali, who is incredibly



grateful for the donation that she received. I donated the rest of the money to rescue aid for all those affected by the floods. It was some of the worst seen in India and I saw the devastating effects first-hand having lived with families who were worried for loved ones affected by the monsoon season.

Once again, thank you very much for your kind generosity. It really will go a long way to help all the

people I have been able donate the money to.



Miss Jolliffe



Mamta (Lady next to me) and her family.