

October 2018 - Odisha Report

The children are all back at their respective schools after summer vacation ended. Given the new mandate from the government, when summer vacation started, thirty children with at least one parent were “deinstitutionalized” meaning they would not come back to school when it reopened after summer. This includes the twenty-eight children who were moved to Nandapur hostel early this year. While these children and the two at Dasmantpur as well as the other older children going to various colleges are not on the roll of AGPV, their support is still being maintained by Shared Blessings and IDS. Behera says that the government has added twenty orphans to the school. Here on out, it is expected that only true orphans will be admitted at AGPV. As we knew it, there has not been any financial support from the government for the care of any child; they have only given a lukewarm statement that they are looking into it.

The children sent to Nandapur are adjusting but with difficulty. After living at our school, they are finding it hard in the new environment. Behera reports that they are not happy with the quality of food and accommodations there. He adds that they are homesick and wish they could be back at AGPV. So do we. But given that they have to stay there, and finish up with school before deciding what to do with further education or training, all of us are hoping that they will settle down. Nearly half of them are taking the board exams this year. So, they are getting busy preparing for it.

Out of the four students attending college in Bhubaneswar, only two returned after summer break (Amnath and Uja.) Behera reported that one student did not pass the final exams and has returned to Dasmantpur to take the test again. Another student got married to a fellow student over the break. As a result of this development, the girl could not return to the college per the college rules. (The boy was allowed to return.) This was disappointing news to us as the girl was one the brightest children, and had a promising future ahead of her. She is now attending local college with the help of AGPV and Shared Blessings. As this marriage took place without IDS or Behera knowing about it, and at the urging of their families, the consequences were not explored by the two children prior to getting married. The board members of AGPV met with all the older children over the summer and had a frank discussion of this situation and urged the children not to throw away the opportunity they have been given.

Several older children who are attending local college continue to live at the school. Behera reports that while they are sad and missing the children who left, they are focusing on their education and doing well.

Our first!! Fakir Chalan who completed the training in Bhubaneswar is now gainfully employed as a Fitter in the same city. He is our first case of success. We are thrilled for him. Another boy who was in the technical training in Bhubaneswar left the school and is now working in the city of Chennai in South India

Construction pace of the second floor has picked up. Due to the extending monsoon, construction had been stalled. Some interior work was being done. Our representative Sushrutha will go to Dasmantpur in early December to check the progress and will send report on it. First quarter report has been submitted to the IT company that has given the money for the construction. They are understanding of the delay in construction, and have indicated that more money will be released as it is needed and requested. Behera thinks that the construction should be complete by May or June of 2019.

Christmas is coming soon. As always, our children look forward to receiving new clothes, school supplies and a nice meal provided through the help of our supporters. This year we have even more children to take care of. If you want to send a gift for your child, or want to help others who do not have sponsors, it is not too late. As always, all of the money goes to Odisha for the cause it has been earmarked for.

Shaila is planning a quick trip to India in February, and will visit Dasmantpur as well as children at Nandapur. Hope to bring back lots of photos and updates on the children.

Finally, we want to let you know that the November 12th fundraiser had to be postponed due to unavoidable circumstances. It is now rescheduled for April 7th, 2019 – to be held at Kobasics in Sacramento. We apologize for this change and for disrupting any plans you may have already made, and hope that you will be joining us on the new date.

Beginning of the construction... the foundation had to be reinforced to bear the weight of the second floor. It was also the time to make sure that the building was in good condition and minor repairs were taken care of.

Happy Thanksgiving to all of you.
Shared Blessings Odisha Team



A few highlights.



New Child Welfare Committee from Koraput visited AGPV on date September 14, 2018



Monthly Meeting with children at Nandapur with all materials.



Mr. Lalita Das-IPS (Chairman cum Managing Director of Odisha State Police Housing and Welfare Corporation ,BBSR) visited AGPV on 30th August 2018 during inauguration of new CCI/SAA building of IDS



Independence Day observed by school children on 15th August 2018



Observation of teachers' day on dated 5th September 2018