

From the Editor

We are pleased to issue the first volume of our in-house newsletter—The Ray of HOPE.

As the rays of the sun reach out to spread its warmth to every corner, the Ray of HOPE will reach out to all our friends and well wishers and let you know of our activities and accomplishments aimed at touching the lives of our children each term.

We are proud to say we have come a long way during the few months of our existence as HOPE. But this would not have happened without the blessings of God and your support and love.

Let us join together and do what best we can to touch the lives of these special children that God gave us.



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Eminent Singer visits HOPE

The children and staff of HOPE Qatar were encouraged in their activities by the eminent Indian singer Padmashree K S Chitra who visited them on 6 June 2006.

The visit which was organized by JACS Doha witnessed spectacular performance by the children of HOPE.

The program began with welcome address by Usha Srikanth.

The guests were honored by presenting them with bouquets of flowers by the staff and all attendees received flowers presented by Daniel, a child at HOPE.

Dr. Ciby Mathew, Coordinator of HOPE, then provided a brief introduction about its activities to the audience. She also dedicated the day's activities to the memory of late K C Varghese who was president of the advisory board, and recently passed away in Doha.

The program started with the tiny tots, Mahin dressed as a young Qatari dancing jubilantly

to the tune of Bangra played by Ranjeet. Rinesh Rajan gave a melodious touch with his favourite number 'After All' from Simon Webb's album.

The audience could only admire the rhythmic steps of Mustafa

nese Girl (Shreya), Formally dressed English Man (Rinesh), Portugese (Ghanam), Nepali Monk (Mustafa), Indonesian (Faiq), Rajasthani Dancer (Nived), Royal King (Daniel), Qatari (Mahin) and Punjabi (Ranjeet).



Chitra with the children and staff at HOPE.

Chitra then distributed sweets to the children and said a few words of praise for the activities of HOPE. She also sang her national award winning song 'enthu paranjalum'.

Advocate Nizar Kochery, founding member of HOPE and member

of the advisory committee presented Chitra with a memento which was designed and made by the HOPE team led by Hema.

The program was also attended by Father Abey K Joshua of the Marthoma Church Doha, members of the executive committee of JACS Doha, and Rajeev Thomas, founding member and member of the advisory board of HOPE.

Sheeba, Hema, Geetha, Usha and Ciby were credited with their efforts in training the children within a week's time.

and Shreya dancing to the tune of bollywood numbers 'Dol Baje' and 'Gajrare'. Amrita Ranganathan, making her guest appearance enthralled the audience with an award winning song originally sung by Chitra.

A spectacular display of costumes representing the theme 'Unity in Diversity' was next and showcased Gandhiji (Stevin), Pandit Nehru (Ashwin), Japa-

His relentless support to our plans and personal presence whenever we needed him will be missed dearly.

We will remember him forever in our hearts.

Forever in our hearts....



All of us at HOPE express our heartfelt condolences to the family of

late K C Varghese who was the president of our advisory board. KC as we fondly called him was one of the pillars on which we built the concept of HOPE.

Patron: HE the Ambassador of India



HE the Ambassador during the evaluation program at ICC.

HOPE Qatar is honored to have as its patron His Excellency the Ambassador of India who plays an active role in the conceptualizing of future programs and growth of HOPE.

Through his presence at important events of HOPE and his wholehearted support to our programs, the ambassador H E Dr. George Joseph continues to be a source of inspiration in our endeavors.

In an official communiqué issued from his office, Dr.

Joseph says: "The initiative of certain members of our expatriate community in Qatar to gift 'HOPE' is certainly worthy of admiration and emulation. To attend to children with special needs is a personal and social responsibility, not only because they, like the rest of us, are God's children, but also because they are children with special gifts. Their potential for contribution to the well-being of our society is indeed immense. I feel privileged to be associated with HOPE Qatar and am happy to

extend all support and cooperation from this Embassy."

Under his guidance, we are also considering the formation of a forum called 'Friends of HOPE' wherein more members of the community and society in general can actively support our activities under a formal forum, without directly involving in the day to day administration and educational programs. The launch of the forum and opening of membership will be announced soon.

"Each child is unique and comes with its own strengths and weaknesses"

*- Nizar Kochery
Founding Member*

Quality Education Seminar Conducted

Last year this time, HOPE launched its activities in Qatar through the conducting of a seminar at the Ministry of Education auditorium.

The seminar was conducted by Smt Parvathy Vishwanathan, director of AIKYA special school from India. She said that even though the needs of special children vary according to the nature of their disabilities, one common

characteristic is their incapacity to lead independent lives in the society at large, without specialized coaching.

Juma Ismail A Buainin former director of Qatar Petroleum (Admin) inaugurated the event and welcomed the efforts of HOPE. R. Seetharaman, then acting General Manager Doha Bank said the bank was committed to supporting the project. Nizar

Kochery (Founding Member), Ramesh Chandran (Indian Embassy), K C Varghese (President of advisory board) were amongst those who spoke on the occasion.

James Fielder (Conoco Phillips Qatar) distributed gifts to the participants.

Cultural programs were presented by children from Skill Development Centre & Shantiniketan Indian School.

Evaluation - the first step



Evaluation session at the Indian Cultural Centre

A systematic evaluation is the first step to any intervention program. In keeping with this principle, HOPE conducted an evaluation program to screen children who had shown interest in participating in its program. The evaluation focused on identifying the specific strengths and weaknesses of the children. Those with mild and moderate mental

deficiency with manageable behavioural problems were offered admission, while those with more severe problems were referred to other centres equipped to handle such cases.

A total of over 15 children were screened during the evaluation program from 12-20 December 2005.

The evaluation program was led by specialists who flew in from India, along with other experts from Qatar.

Written reports were generated and given to the parents of the children who participated.

Ongoing evaluation is also provided at HOPE under the guidance of Dr. Vishnupriya.

In touch with reality



Study tour to the Dairy Farm

As part of the theme for the month of April 2006, 'cows', the children, staff and parents of the children went on a

study tour to Al Ghadeer Dairy farm on the outskirts of Doha. The group toured the different air conditioned sheds housing different categories of cows, heifers and calves, and witnessed the elaborate health measures put in place

by the farm to ensure high quality of products. They also witnessed the cows taking a shower before being milked.

The children were particularly attracted to the section where the little calves were housed, and eagerly touched and caressed the 'babies of cows'.

It was also an opportunity for the participating parents to see how the team at HOPE stretched the boundaries of training beyond the classrooms in true manifestation of the belief that 'the world is our largest classroom'. A big thanks to Maher Al Akel—General Manager Arab Qatari Company for Dairy Production and his team who made this visit possible and

were eager to show us around and explain all the aspects that were of interest to us.

Many more such study tours are under consideration to other similar locations which will provide further insight into the world around us.

At HOPE we strongly believe that the world around us is bountiful of knowledge that the children will find useful in their daily lives beyond the classrooms.

Our Aim..

Every child comes with their unique strengths and weaknesses.

To allow the children to grow socially and become an integral part of this society, HOPE aims to let a few capable students join the normal stream school for at least a few hours a day to part take in an activity they like or one that they will most benefit from.

HOPE also aims to eventually start vocational training in a very small

scale by providing the base from which the children can grow to lead an independent life.

To achieve these aims, HOPE requires the valued cooperation of the community as a whole. As individuals and groups, let us all work together to bring out the best in the children and not deny them an opportunity to reach their potential, just because they have special challenges.

If you are interested to join us in our ventures, please let us know.

As Mother Teresa once said, "my contribution may be just a drop in the ocean. Without that drop, the ocean would definitely be lesser by that single drop"

If we can collectively touch one single child's life, let us do it to the best of our abilities.

"My contribution may be just a drop in the ocean" - Mother Teresa

Flowers of Spring

May 2006 was the month of flowers and spring at HOPE. In keeping with the theme of the month, the children were involved in various activities related to flowers and spring. The flowers were kindly donated by Mrs Vasanthi Chandrasekar, winner in QAFCO flower show. The picture shows some of the children proudly displaying one of their work.



Children are beautiful flowers in Gods own garden.

In the month of June 2006, the children had their experience with baking their own cake under the careful and watchful eyes of the staff.

Not only did they have fun, messing the place up and then getting it all back in order, but they also had very good and tasty cake to eat.

Cake time



Kids having fun baking cakes.

Kudos to the children and their dedicated teachers.. Keep it up.



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Affiliated to the Indian Cultural Centre
 Under the aegis of the Embassy of India.

Spreading the Ray of HOPE

HOPE is a 'not for profit' organization founded by likeminded individuals from various expatriate communities in Qatar who have a desire to provide Help, Opportunity, Participation, and Education for children with mild to moderate mental disabilities.

HOPE functions as an affiliated organization of Indian Cultural Centre, under the aegis of the Indian Embassy Doha with his Excellency the Ambassador as its patron.

At HOPE we firmly believe that each child can develop and will reach their full potential when given the right opportunity and environment.

Each child is unique and comes with their strengths and weaknesses. Let us join together in an endeavour to provide Help, Opportunity, Participation, and Education (HOPE) to enhance their strengths to overcome their weaknesses.



It is our ongoing endeavour to enhance the facilities and to ensure the highest level of quality in our services to the children and their parents. We are constantly upgrading our capabilities. This includes procurement of software, hardware, furniture, teaching aids etc. Whilst our participants contribute partially towards the expenses, we also rely on the support of corporate sponsors and volunteers who support our activities. We wish to thank all of you who have been supportive so far and earnestly look forward to your continued cooperation in the future.

Our corporate supporters:

- Al Muftah Rent A Car
- Behzad Group of Companies
- Doha Bank
- Dr. Kutty's Clinic
- Family Food Centre
- Focus Qatar

- Global Resources
- Gulf Times
- Habib Qatar Intl. Exchange
- HBK Contracting
- IGTC Chubb Fire
- Mannai Corporation
- Nabina Transports
- Nasser Al Hajri Company
- Qatar Design Consortium
- Qatar Indian Islahi Centre
- Qatar Industrial Equipment Company
- Qatar Technical Inspection Company
- Rachana Audios & Videos
- Skills Development Centre
- Sri Lankan Airways

Our volunteers of the term:

- Mr. Radhakrishnan
- Mrs. Vasantha Radhakrishnan
- Mrs. Preetha Shahilendran

Volunteer in action



On behalf of all the children at HOPE, their parents and all the members of our team, we express our heartfelt thanks to each and every one of you.

Without your support and cooperation, it wouldn't have been possible.

You too can lend us a helping hand so that we can jointly do more for these children with special education needs.

You can team up with us through sponsorship of children, gifting of computers, furniture, audio-visual aids, purchase of teaching aids, volunteering your time especially if you have specialized skills or profession that can be of help to us. **We are also currently looking for volunteers who can teach Music, Dance, Karate, Swimming etc.**

To know more about how you too can help in spreading the ray of HOPE, please contact us.