

# Activity Report

The year 1996 has been rather eventful. On 27 Nov, a group of remarkable people-who spent their time assisting various institutes in organising their programs- got together to register under the Society Registration Act XXI of 1860 by the name of **Lokarpan** (Registration no. Lucknow 1569). The main aim of the Organisation to develop and organise people action for taking up various development activities in different parts of the country. The most amazing feature was that all the programs were conducted with the assistance of our wonderful friends amongst the community - without whose full co-operation our efforts would have been in vain. We are confident of producing consistent, result-oriented work from our Institute in the coming years. We begin with an indefatigable spirit and unrelenting endeavours of the members and those associated with it.

## SPECIAL VISITS

- 23 May-25 May: NEDI staff
- 3 Jun: Students and NEDI staff
- 4 Aug-5 Aug: Dr Paul Newman, Haifa, Israel
- 10 Sep: Block Development Officer, Bidhuna
- 12 Dec: Dr R. P. Singh, Gorakhpur

## HEALTH EDUCATION

Health education programs were organised in 10 villages and during these programs the following topics were discussed:-

- Immunisation
- Iodine deficiency disorder and availability of iodine and its utilisation
- Personal health and hygiene
- Home remedies and simple curative system
- Training local health practitioners in Alternative system of medicines like yoga, acupressure and home remedies.

## COMMUNAL HARMONY AND PEACE CAMPAIGN

With the assistance of schools in nearby area cycle rally and foot-march was taken out in 5 villages.

## YOUTH ORGANISATION

2 youth clubs were formed. Club members organised a Sports meet alongside Happy Hippo Shows; they also discussed and debated the moral level of the present social system, solutions to eradicate some social evils, and to develop cooperation and a

sustainable cultural system. A Youth gathering for 2 days was also held between the 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> of December.

## **PROGRAMS HELD WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF NRVL**

The following programs were conducted by NRVI with Lokarpan's assistance in identifying beneficiaries for trainings.

### **VOCATIONAL COURSE**

Lokarpan assisted NRVI in organising two 15 days vocational course (tailoring) dated:

- 2-17 Aug, 1996
- 1-28 Sep, 1996

We began tailoring and patch work with 13 females- both old and young- from 5 villages of the Etawah and Farrukhabad districts were taught how to take measurements of 13 dresses. They were also taught the skills for cutting and stitching. In the end, 39 participants from 8 villages of Etawah, Farrukhabad and Kanpur Dehat attended the program. Out of these, 22 were able to complete the course.

During these courses, our friends and beneficiaries were also taught personal hygiene, the importance of educating children, the need to immunise children, the use of iodine etc.

### **TEACHER TRAININGS**

- 26-30 Aug: 5 day training course was attended by 14 teachers from 7 schools
- 8-9 Sep: Training course for 6 teachers(3 M, 3 F) from 4 schools
- 22-23 Sep: Training course for 10 teachers (8 M, 2 F) from 6 schools

The subjects which were taught are:

- Devotional action songs.
- Moral education (character education and stories on moral values)
- Co-operative games.
- Teaching aids (apparatus)
- Child to child health program
- Cleanliness
- Environment

This was the main focus of Lokarpan. We believe we have succeeded in changing the atmosphere of the schools to some extent. Now the children often play cooperative games rather than competitive games, they have learnt action songs, stories on moral values and prayers. The application of apparatus has been realised by very few schools. Emphasis was given on moral and character education. But it is a long term process. Students are slowly developing critical thinking skills as begin to understand the importance of cleanliness, good health and protection for the environment.

## **HOLISTIC DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP**

On seeing the enthusiasm amongst the wonderful people of these eight villages and the role of the students of NEDI in February, students were requested to come back during the summer holidays. The workshop was attended by 25 students and 3 teachers. We divided our participants in 5 groups; and 5 villages were selected out of the 8 previously visited. Summers are followed by problems in procuring water and facing poor hygiene. We focused on teaching people about medicating water sources like wells, vaccinating themselves and their livestock. Children were taught moral classes, prayers and songs. Great importance was given to personal cleanliness in our workshops. Efforts were made in building women groups who could be trained to teach girls of the village about the importance of a small family, education of children specially girl child, nutrition etc.

These students have now become a part of the family of the village and one could see them going to any house without any problems around social anxiety. It was remarkable to see students from the south, the north-east and abroad so well adjusted around life. Living without electricity and basic amenities did not hamper the zeal with which they worked.