

Report by: Darshan Rasik Soni

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Namaste!

I have been here in India since 14th of October 2005 and since then I have been travelling and visiting different places. So far, I have attended 7 shakhas here and it's been a really great experience. Few days ago I was in Delhi and had an opportunity to visit various Sewa Projects. The experience was really moving and emotional at times and sense of pride in other projects.

The first one that we visited was Matruchhaya. It's a project run by Seva Bharati that takes in abandoned or relinquished children (Aged between 0 TO 6 MONTHS OLD!!!). They provide really good care to the kids and arrange for their adoption. The specific unit that we visited was where three years old orphans were kept and they had successfully found a home for 70 babies! These kids are mostly from unmarried mothers and unwanted girl children. Inside the building, they have two doctors and total 17 workers. When we visited, there were 21 babies (14 girls and 7 boys). They give them names and take really good care of them. I have taken lots and lots of pictures so will forward you all the pictures shortly. The head of the Matruchhaya Unit (Kusum-ji) was explaining all this to us in her office but the fact that this is a highly sensitive matter only dawned on me when we went and saw the babies.

The staffs are highly professional and well-trained. I think this Sewa project is a really good example of 'prevention is better than cure.' No one knows what these unwanted children would become. Definitely not a very good future for them without the help of Matruchhaya. The adoption procedure is also very professional and caring at the same time. They have a 'havan' when a parent decides to adopt a child. They only show one child based on the pictures of the couple that wants to adopt the child. So far, they have not had a single case when a couple rejected the first child they were offered. I can write a lot more about the experience even though we only spent 1 and half hours there. But in short, it's a really well-run, professional, meaningful, caring, and awesome project. If I remember correctly, there are 36 Matruchhayas in Bharat. The unit that we visited was relatively new but nonetheless very, very effective.

The other two projects that I visited were Ram Mandir (to help children living in Slums in Delhi) and Seva Dhaam (a hostel and school where kids from all over India come to study. These are the kids that can't afford to go to school otherwise.

It's really great to be in India!!!