

ASPIRE

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Human Rights & the Forgotten People



Thank you to the Human Rights group at the IU Law School for hosting a discussion about the human rights issues faced by the camp residents in Bangladesh. We are very grateful to Professor John Clark for delivering a brilliant and insightful talk on this issue and to Katie Basbagill who shared her experience of visiting the camps with OBAT Helpers.

OBAT receives GuideStar GOLD Logo

OBAT recently received the GuideStar Exchange Gold logo as a symbol of its commitment to transparency and accountability. Check it out! <http://bit.ly/19bIPV7>

Twenty-six Working Children Graduate from Literacy Program



The graduating class of the program.

On Oct 9th, 2013, completion certificates and awards were distributed among twenty-six students in the Education for Working Children Program. The students belonging to Geneva Camp, successfully completed their six month long literacy course.

During the day, these children commonly work in workshops, barber and butcher shops. They also do embroidery work or are employed by boutiques. Most of them are between 10-12 years of age. A survey conducted in the camps determined that over 90% of them were illiterate. The kids are forced to work in order to supplement the meager earnings of their parents; hence cannot go to regular school. Through our Working Children Program, they attend daily classes from 7-9 AM which are preceded by breakfast. Some of the kids in the group

Supporter raises funds for Dhaka Preschool

are adept in their work field but eagerly yearn to read the newspaper or learn basic literary skills to enable them to carry out their daily tasks at work. We are very proud of our students and look forward to seeing more graduate from this program!

New Initiative of Think Tank- A much needed Library



Some of the library's collection

OBAT's Think Thank group in the camps is comprised of dynamic young men and women. The latest addition to their list of fast growing projects is a new library. What makes this project even more special is that the group raised \$130 from among themselves to bring it to fruition.

These are individuals who themselves struggle for survival but each of them took upon themselves the task of raising \$1.50 or 100 Takas. This library is housed inside OBAT's Dhaka School and carries books covering a range of subjects. One hundred books have been added to the collection so far. The kids corner within the library is very popular among the 8-13 year old age group.

A shortage of funding stands in the way of hiring a full time librarian. At present a voluntary management committee consisting of five teachers from OBAT's tutoring Center manage the library and the process of check outs. Murtaza Ahmed, OBAT's project officer in Dhaka is overseeing the supervision of the library, and hopes with more support to expand the library.

Scholarship students steal the show



Scholarship student, Abul Kashem

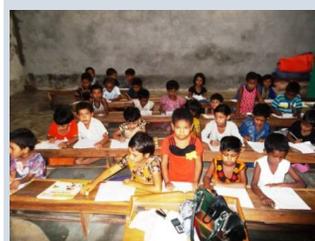
Due to the severe poverty faced by the camp residents, most of them are unable to continue their education after a certain level, as their resources are extremely restricted. OBAT recognizes that education is the key to defeating their destitution and is currently providing scholarships to approximately seven hundred students, ranging anywhere from sixth grade to post-graduate level. They are dispersed in four cities: Khulna, Dhaka, Chittagong and Rangpur. This program is one of the most essential offered by OBAT due to its potential for creating the change it aims to bring about in the camps- to empower the residents so they can hold the reigns of their future in their own hands. [Read more here.](#)

Healthier Teeth, Better Smiles- Dental camp for students



A doctor examines a student's teeth

A couple of months ago, Mr. Tousif Farhad, (Head of Logistics in the One Degree Initiative Foundation in Bangladesh), was one of four young men who visited OBAT, as a part of a visiting delegation invited by the State department in Indianapolis. Mr. Farhad promised to go back and help OBAT in every way he could. Keeping true to his word, he helped organize a dental awareness



We would like to express our deepest thanks to Neda Blessing from the Brilliant Birdie Foundation. Neda organized a fundraiser for OBAT's preschool in Dhaka and raised funds through an entertaining event comprising of live music, fabulous raffle prizes and a costume contest. The event was held at the Sinking Ship Restaurant in Indianapolis on October 31st, 2013.

SBN School Student gains admission in Government School



Sumi Ahmed

OBAT's Schools aim to not only educate their students but to also secure a bright future for them. Five students from the Sardar Bahadur Nagar (SBN) School were encouraged to appear for an admission test into a Government run high school. One of those five students, Sumi, was successful in receiving admission into grade six. We are so proud of Sumi as out of the 7,000 students who take this test, only six hundred are able to qualify for admission into the high school. Congrats Sumi!

Noodles for OBAT!

On November 13th, 2013, lots of supporters of OBAT came out to eat at the Noodles & Company at 10th

camp on November 22nd 2013, for OBAT English school students.

The camp was held with the collaboration of a young group of doctors from the organization, "Sparkling Smile With Care." The sponsoring organization, "Mediplus Toothpaste & Toothbrush," gifted a toothbrush to each student. We are deeply grateful to Mr. Tousif Farhad for establishing this connection for OBAT, and for his presence on the day itself.

The recent Think Tank project was a medical checkup and awareness camp that was held on December 16th, 2013, once again in collaboration with the One Degree Initiative. 482 people from six different camps in Mohammadpur, Dhaka, received treatment and medical information from a team of visiting doctors who were all working as volunteers. One of them, Ms. Jennifer Ferrell was visiting from the US. We are grateful for such dedicated individuals who proactively work to help the camp residents!

Stellar Junior and Primary School Certificate results



Habiba Akhter
From Rangpur
School performed
brilliantly in the
PSC exam.

Once again, our hardworking students and teachers have made us proud. From the results we have received so far, out of the twenty-five Rangpur School Students appearing in the PSC exam (Primary School certificate), all received either an A+, A- or an A.

The Junior School Certificate exam results were no less outstanding. Fifty four students took this exam and thirty-eight of them got gleaming A's. These students belonged to Mymensingh and Dhaka tutoring center as well as to the NLJ School.

Changing Camp Communities through Youth



The students with
their young
helpers in the
back of the room

A new coaching center has been opened for grade five students from different camps in Mohammadpur, Dhaka. These students will soon be taking the Primary Education Certificate (P.E.C.) exam that would make them eligible for admission into a middle school.

The center is being run by five young members of the OBAT Think Tank who have offered their services voluntarily. Thirty students are currently studying here to prepare for their P.E.C exam.

About OBAT

OBAT Helpers is a US based non-profit, 501(C)3 organization committed to providing aid, support, education and economical empowerment to suffering and displaced people. Our immediate focus is the most forgotten and ignored Urdu speaking people, commonly known as stranded Pakistanis/Biharis, who have been suffering silently in the many shanty camps across Bangladesh for the past 42 years.

and Indiana Avenue in Indianapolis.

The sudden demand in noodles was brought on by the offer of the company to donate 25% of its sales proceeds between 4-8 pm to OBAT. Thank you, Noodles & Co and to our loyal supporters who enjoyed a good meal while supporting their favorite local nonprofit.

Upcoming events

OBAT photo exhibit at St.Luke's Methodist Church (100 W 86th St, Indianapolis, IN 46260) on Feb 2nd, 2014, at 10:30 am. View larger than life photos by Katie Basbagill depicting the camp residents and their life stories. Enjoy meeting the artist and some tasty appetizers.

Race for Rehma

OBAT is organizing its third Race for Rehma, a 5K walk held at the canal walk Indianapolis to benefit local organizations doing great good. The event is held in partnership with and to benefit, Exodus Refugee Immigration, on April 26th at 11am. Details to follow.

Click through's

- *What are your thoughts about overhead as a performance metric for a nonprofit? Learn more about the campaign to dispel the "Overhead Myth:"*

<http://bit.ly/11pu4H7>

- *Our project report on Global Giving talks about how you are changing lives of little preschoolers: <http://bit.ly/IKdkv8>*

How can YOU Help?

We hope that you will continue your generous support to provide help to these unfortunate and forgotten people. OBAT represents the only hope for them, as they don't receive much assistance and support from anywhere else around the world. Together we are making a difference in their lives as we help them fulfill their hopes and dreams.

Please pass along this message to others who can join us on this journey!

Thank you for sponsoring our educational projects. Currently our needs encompass the following areas:

Health Clinic Rangpur: \$14,500/yr
Health Clinic Syedpur: \$23,600/yr
Computer Training Center Rangpur: \$3,500/yr
Computer Training Center Dhaka: \$3,500/yr
Cataract surgery: \$15,000 (Total 1000 cataract patients will be served. Total cost \$35,000 @ \$35/person- \$20,000 donated by HCI Canada)
Economic Empowerment: \$250-\$900/project
Family Assistance program: \$300-\$600/yr
Educational scholarship: \$200-\$500/yr
Clean water infrastructure: \$6000 motorized deep tube well
Non-Formal Schools for working children: \$13,100/yr for 10 Schools
Community latrines and Drainage system: \$10,300

We value and appreciate your support tremendously. For questions and concerns, please email us at contact@obathelpers.org

[Buy our book, "Forgotten," to support our projects](#)

[Watch and share our new documentary](#)

***Review us here to show your support:
<http://bit.ly/1cSiVsa>***

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