

Ninash Foundation Report (December 2015---February 2016)

Summary of India Trip:

On December 24, 2015, my family consisting of my son Raj, his wife Christina, grand-daughters Rayna and Anya, step-son Zach Millea, my wife Linda and I went to India to visit Ninash Foundation's six schools: elementary and high schools in Kuran, Gujarat, elementary and middle schools in Mahapura, Rajasthan and elementary and high schools in Dundlod, Rajasthan. We checked on all the six schools that were started by the SUNY Oneonta "Learn and Serve Study Abroad" program in India with the help of the Ninash Foundation which currently has more than 1200 female and minority children. We also adopted a seventh school for 250 tribal (adivasis) children of India in the state of Gujarat bordering Maharashtra.

The trip was full of creative activities and practical projects.



Zachary Millea, Linda Drake (Malhotra), Ashok Malhotra, Rayna Malhotra, Raj Malhotra, Anya Malhotra, Christina Malhotra

(December 26—29, 2015)

Indo-International School, Kuran, Gujarat

In the Village of Kuran, our group of seven visited the Indo-International School started on June 26, 2001 with 205 children that now has 335 students. We opened a new road, planted trees and worked with the local Panchayat (Mayor's Governing body) to help children come to school on a regular



basis. Linda, with the assistance of Rayna and Anya (grandchildren), gave away 12 dairy goats to the poorest of poor people of the village. We also visited children's homes and checked on the local handicrafts produced by the people. Rayna and Anya tried out wedding dresses created by the local artisans. Along with fun with the families, we stopped

at the water filtration plant donated to the Village of Kuran by Dr. Suzanne Miller, retired professor of education from SUNY Oneonta and supported by the Watumull Foundation of Hawaii.



Furthermore, we visited all the classes, checked children's computer skills

and mastery of three languages. We asked the principal and teachers regarding their needs and prepared a wish list that included playground set; white boards for each classroom; notebooks, tee shirts and shoes for each child and teacher; solar panels and generator for the school for electricity and state of the art WIF/Internet.

Furthermore the list included rain-harvesting; setting up scholarships for children who after graduation would like to go to college; art lessons for the children and community; and state of the art smart classrooms. Raj, Christina, Rayna and Anya donated a computer as well as provided the school funds to buy the seesaw and slides as well as notebooks for all children.



(December 29-30, 2015)

Indo-International Culture School, Mahapura (near Jaipur), Rajasthan

In Jaipur, Katie Tolan, a yoga instructor from the USA joined the group. In the Village of Mahapura, we visited the Indo-International Culture School that was providing education to 260 children from kindergarten to the 10th grade. The children entertained the guests through an educational Science Fair where each class prepared a 'show and tell' project that they learned in their science classes. Each exhibit had one to three children, who had worked together as a team, and described their projects in English. A very impressive and joyful feat when they showed us how a rocket lifts off because of the thrust supplied by the fuel that fires it.



Children and teachers entertained us by showing us the impressive stained glass art gallery with a mirror palace created in the Koller Artisan Wing where artist Pushpendra Singh Rathore was planning to start classes for the children and members of the community by demonstrating step by step method how the stained glass art work was created. The group also visited each class room where children showed their capability of speaking three language of Rajasthani, Hindi and English as well as their knowledge of various subjects.



A new road was completed which connects the school to the main road. This is a project that our team in Mahapura has been working on for years.

Once again, the group met with the teachers and asked them to give a wish list of items needed for upgrading the school. The list consisted of some of the following items: playground set; white boards for each classroom; notebooks, tee shirts and shoes for each child and teacher; solar panels and generator for electricity for the school; state of the art WIFI Internet, road connecting the school to the main road; rain harvesting plant; setting up scholarships for children, who after

graduation would like to go to college; art lessons for the children and community; and state of the art smart classrooms. A new stage was built and a wonderful performance was put on for the entire community. There will be a smart class room underneath the stage, keeping the children cool while they learn.



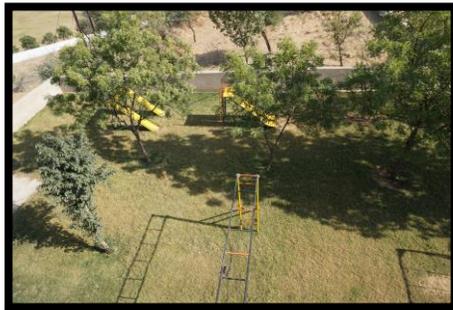
(December 30, 31, 2015 and January 1 and 2, 2016)

READS Higher Secondary School, Dundlod, Rajasthan in the village of Dundlod



In Dundlod, our group of eight was joined by Madan Malhotra (retired Indian Diplomat), his wife Prabha Malhotra and Rita Kakar (retired teacher). Our group of eleven people met with 30 alumni, who were going to colleges of their choice. While we sat around the bonfire, we listened to the success stories of these students who were the

first ones in the history of their families to go to school. They came to Ninash's school at age 5 or 6 and now after 20 years, were 25 or 26 years old would have a degree in business or medicine or engineering or secretarial diploma and would be ready to enter into the booming economy of India. To celebrate these accomplishments, students and teachers along with our group did various Bollywood dances around the fire to enjoy the New Year's Eve together. Our group also ran an open discussion session with the upper class students from grades 9-12 where the questions ranged from festivals, social conditions, politics and education in India and the USA. There was a lot of information exchanged culled with jokes and humor.



We also visited the classes as well as the state of the art library contributed by the generous people from Oneonta and other towns and cities of the USA. There are solar panels on the roof that run our computers. The group also got a chance to visit the families of children in the Village of Dundlod, where they met with them informally to have tea and cookies and chit chatted with them to experience the way they lived. Some members of the group were able to get lessons in art of the pottery making and the way the tie dye fabric was created.

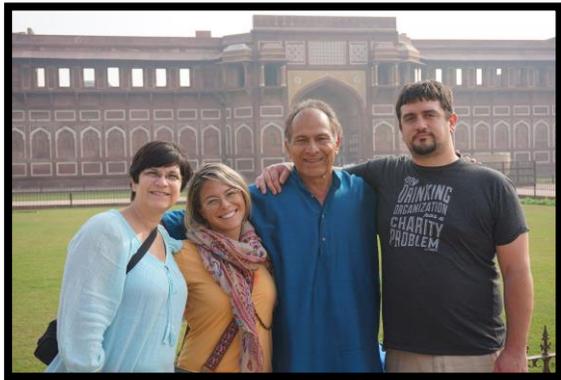


The group met also with the principal and teachers and prepared a wish list of items needed for the upgrading the school. The list consisted of some of the following items: playground set; white boards for each classroom; notebooks, tee shirts and shoes for each child and teacher; state of the art WIF/Internet, setting up scholarships for children who after graduation would like to go to college; art lessons for the children and community; sports equipment for the school including ping pong table; badminton set, carom boards etc. Once again, Raj and his family contributed to buying the ping pong table and other sports equipment for the children.

January 2 to 8, 2016

(Jaipur—Agra ---Delhi)

After the visit to the six schools, some members of the group were able to explore Jaipur, the Pink City of Rajasthan. They took an elephant ride to the famous Amber Palace, visited the bazaars in Jaipur and New Delhi. They also visited the city of Agra to learn and experience the glory of the Taj Mahal, Red Fort and Fatehpur Sikri, an abandoned kingdom of the third Mughal King Akbar.



January 19 to February 9, 2016

(Mumbai---Ahmedabad—Anand—Sagbara---Baroda---Bengaluru—Delhi)

During this visit, through the Ninash Foundation, we also adopted a seventh school for 250 tribal (adivasis) children in the village of Sagbara situated in the state of Gujarat bordering Maharashtra. The children of the school entertained us through various dances from the diverse parts of India. During the visit, we met with teachers and prepared a wish list consisting of computers, books for the library, sports equipment and building of a school with ten rooms. Since we felt that the first three items on their list were of utmost importance, we bought the school 7 new computers, 900 books for the library and sports equipment.



Ashok also gave half a dozen lectures to teachers, who received their certification to teach in villages, to students completing their Masters in Social Work at the Sardar Patel University in Anand, Gujarat and conducted yoga sessions (in Bengaluru) to reduce stress among women working for the Indian and foreign companies as well as ran chit chat sessions with students, teachers and members of the local community and mayor's council (in Kuran).

Over all, it was a very rewarding educational and productive trip through which the Ninash Foundation made a small dent and a positive difference in the lives of children of the seven schools and people living in these remote villages.

Below is the wish list. We have some work cut out for all the board members. As members, we can start thinking about ways to raise money this year in order to fund some or all of the projects on the list.

It was a fabulous educational and a service-learning trip to India.

Projects for 2016:

1. Playground set (Cost: \$1000)
2. White boards for each classroom notebooks (Cost \$500 per school)
3. Tee shirts and shoes for each child and teacher (Cost: \$500 per school)
4. Solar panels (Cost: \$7000 for each school)
5. Generator for electricity for the school (Cost: \$5000 for each school)
6. State of the art WIFI/Internet (Cost: \$500 for a year)
7. Rain Harvesting Material, pond, pipes, roofs, gutters etc. (Cost; \$4000 per school)
8. College scholarships for children, who after graduation would like to go to college
(Cost per student per year \$650 times 4=\$2500 for four years)
9. Art lessons for the children and community (Cost to hire an Art Teacher= \$3000 a year)
10. State of the art smart classrooms (Cost: \$3000 for each school)
11. New Computers (Cost: \$400 per computer times 20=\$8000)
12. A New School building for 250 tribal Children of Sagbara, Gujarat (Cost: \$80,000)