

Dear Friends and Well wishers,

Little victories are the stones paving our children's way !

Naresh, our little polio boy used to scamper to the slide in the garden of Marica Dkk. Today, he is a graduated engineer in Electronics, has started a company and employs 10 persons working on a software used by students in operation theatres. Our fond memories and gratitude go to Sarah, Kate and the numerous visitors who helped Naresh in every possible way.

Here are the latest developments in all the schools for which we are grateful to you all :

AT MARICA I, AT TOLICHOWKI - 365 children

Four additional classes were equipped with projector and screen for audio visual classes. Classes are livelier for children having learning difficulties. They can see and understand even if language fails. In addition, 12 tablets and a computer were offered to children who are able to use them. Their device has been loaded with the correct contents and software to facilitate home work and personal repetition. Parents are also trained to use this material.

Five children received services of physio therapy and seven other of speech therapy. These children sit in the general class or in the ressource centre and these two classes become an additional optional practice. Many children progress through chain teaching : An elder student teaches a young ones during free time.

During the first 6 months children rehearsed the fable of The Thirsty Crow. On 14th November, only deaf and blind children enacted it. Mariam could now walk with the frame and she introduced the troop.

For the science exhibition, Mudassir and Maryam were lifted to the first floor. They were very happy to sit with all children and exhibit their project on the functioning of the heart. Since then, Mudassir has received a bigger wheel chair and Maryam has been operated to get a better function of her spastic legs. She is now back from Mumbai. Her surgery was successful. No more Zimmer frame. She can walk with an orthopedic stick. Her hand's spaticity has reduced and she comes back to school full of enthousiasm to start class VI with great pleasure. She knows she is a winner. Her communicative smile transforms the whole class !

Children of the smaller classes learn through interactive games, dramatisation, sports, observation and art. Children are faster to express in English, enjoy the class and eagerly come to school. The Nursery class has on line video surveillance and parents can see their little one play and learn at school. Many parents feel more comfortable when they know that their special child is well looked after and as active as all other children in the class.

Children with special needs have also progressed. Services of physio therapy, speech therapy, tactile and repetitite learning yielded good results. At the last meeting, Baktiyar's parents were happy showing us how their son could now express some sounds, Noor Jahan has mastered mobility in the school and could come to office with Malik. He led her. She could translate the word he would utter with great difficulty. Mudassir has come back from his long treatment. He is very keen on learning and so happy to start class VIII. Noor Jahan et Mehek now come regularly. Thanks to their computer, they can learn and repeat at home. They both enter the primary school in June. Their younger sister, Ayesha also suffers from very low vision and she enters Nursery.

The two sports and dance classes for very small children and resource children gives good results. Children learn to dare move or express freely. If required, one child guides another one.

As part of our policy, Marica tries to employ handicapped youth. Navya has joined a year ago, with success. She helps in the Nursery. Wajiha suffers from very low hearing. After leaving Marica, she graduated in Commerce and got a certificate in tailoring. She will start work in June, as a craft teacher. However, if need be, she might also become the administrative assistant of Marica II at Dkk.

AT MARICA II, AT Darga Khalij Khan - 450 children

The year is over and we have received the results of the public exam. Six students have to sit for re-exam of Hindi and/or Maths. The sudden demise of Mrs Afroze left a very sad mood and teachers were reluctant to come and teach here. With the leadership of Tabassum and with the help of Rana, the academic year started with 3 teachers missing. All shared the jobs, and gradually children also cheered up. Thanks to teachers on line, we could compensate the lack to human presence and complete the year. The system proved efficient as all students passed in Social, Sciences (Physics and Chemistry). Several times, Class X students were invited for special classes to Tolichowki school. There, teachers cooperated and offered remedial classes. At the time of exams, we have requested to parents to come to school to help maintain discipline. Children behave better when their parents are present. With all these special arrangements could we complete successfully the year.

The school was closed very early this year, on March 16, 2016 due to the heat wave. The thermometer rose till 48 degree Celsius in the shade in our area. The drought and storms left many people in a state of difficulty.

The annual Science exhibition took place on February 28, 2016. The Nursery children were all dressed into their favourite animal and a wonderful animated zoo welcomed the parents. Elder children presented working model of a volcano, electrical models and even hydroponic culture. The subject is appropriate and will be widely used if water becomes scarce. The country is dry and life becomes increasing difficult for the low income class. The food served at school is a boon and all enjoy it. Many children are keen on learning skills which help their family improving their regular standard living. Children are encouraged to take tools and associate their knowledge to their capacities to assemble, repair, paint, create.

For Divyam and Ameen, additional educational support is offered daily. Both children progress with joy. Divyam stays with his friends of class V. We rotate classes of the ground floor to keep access easy to his wheel chair. Ameen starts Lkg. He has daily physio therapy and walks slightly better with the help of the walker. Another 30 children learn with the Unesco club chain system. A

The nutrition was cooked and distributed to all three times a week. Children grow healthier. Malnutrition reduces in school. Memory capacity, less head ache and better concentration are the first improvements we see in many children.

All buses were technically checked and repaired, some tyres changed and the fitness test could be successfully passed. They are ready for the new academic year.

In the summer, employment and nutrition are maintained for our rural cleaner and gardener.

AT KESARAM - 270 children

Our school in the fields has become a busy center for learning, seminars, training and metric public. The academic year went on smoothly. Children are docile and learn eagerly. They are curious and interested in pictures and films. How little technology we have in this school, it is much appreciated. Like in other schools, a Science exhibition was organized and our rural pupils welcomed their urban friends and acted as interpreters to parents to show and demonstrate their exhibits. Such cooperation shows children that all are talented and can learn from one another. Nutrition was distributed regularly 3 times per week.

Marica's services and equipments were noticed by the local government. Our school has been used as exam center for the distant education class X public exam.

Several social projects initiated at Tolichowki could be organized in the three schools :

- Parents teachers meetings at the end of each month to share the results of children and propose remedial techniques to improve in studies, ways to encourage parents if required.
- Elder students take some of their break time to club with younger children having difficulties to help them read, write or count mostly.
- On March 8, 2016 a seminar was held on the necessity to educate girls. Three life cases were presented, discussed and commented. Teachers learned how to interact with their peers of Tolichowki and Dkk to prepare their show in Telugu. The feedback was sent to the organizing NGO.
- Training for hygiene : a clean environment and respect of our planet: Some children attended the presentation at the Goethe Institute d'Hyderabad.
- Initiation to Western music on April 13, 2016 for the children of Tolichowki, Dkk and Kesaram . They could listen to different styles and try some instruments.
- Information, discovery of the world of snakes, at Marica Dkk on April 18, 2016. How about facing a Russell viper or a black cobra and feel friendly or indifferent ?
- Supply of books, note books, stationery and uniforms to all sponsored children and many others in the DKK and Kesaram schools.
- Supply of a tablet to all children having a learning difficulty. In Tolichowki, tablets become the property of the child for the academic year. A DKK and Kesaram, tablets are kept at school and used under the teachers supervision. At least for a start.

MARICA CHEVELLA

These projects were started. They are interrupted for the month of May, due to heat and absence of staff who left for their native villages :

- A room is equipped as a workshop for ladies to manufacture sanitary pads. 12 women have been trained.
- Tailoring classes for girls. Sripal of class V also took training, but in a tailoring shop of Chevella.
- Computer classes for children of classes IV to VI.

AT CHENGOMUL

Spoken English in the two Urdu and Telugu Government primary schools:

Tiphaine has trained Nageshwari. The latter has now taken the direction of the class. The second level could be taught. The third level was prepared and is ready. All schools received the order to close on 18th March due to the heat wave. Classes will resume 26th June.

Computers :

4 computers were offered, 3 were repaired and 1 was in use in the computer room of the secondary school of Chengomul government school. Additional works of electricity, masonry and carpentry were needed to keep the room safe. The school has agreed to start in June.

VISITORS

Catherine, a French journalist came to India along with a group of 32 students of a French college. She spent a day with us and could speak with the students and visit the projects.

Naresh (see our first special newsletter of 1996 – copy enclosed) paid a visit after he graduated in B. tech Computers. He started a company and employs 10 persons. He has developed a software that is used by students in surgery theater to take notes. Hyderabad is a major medical and university hub. Our little polio boy has become an entrepreneur and can care for his family and for others.

The founder move to places in India to go and meet sponsors.

Alexia and Etienne arrive mid July. They will continue Tiphaine's project and computer classes.

Préparation to welcome Beatrice de Fays, a Belgian artist who will spend 3 days with the children of Kesaram to let them experience interactive 3 D virtual art.

COMMUNICATION

Exchange of photos with schools in Népal to share our mutual experiences in the Maths lab and skills, through Facebook.

Assistance to a pgroup of Anantapur to translate 90 Telugu children's letters to their sponsors.

Communication with the sponsored children's families to gauge the evolution of progress in their life and orientate our assistance according to the present needs. Our selection for this year is :

- reduction of books
- increase the number of video classes for all and tablets for children with special needs,
- Increase the number of seminars, workshops and discovery trips.
- Assist handicapped youth to find employment.

A school stops being a collection of classes. It is a busy center where children learn according to their aspirations, through varied and selected workshops.

Teachers remain the core. They guide the students and call the specialists who will complete or illustrate the teaching through a discussion, an experience or a practical application.

Children learn from life and books are purely a reference to complete. Scuh practice makes them more inquisitive, curious, creative and possibly innovative. Parents become part of their child's progress.

Many thanks to you all for your dynamic and generous support and involvement in the Marica projects and sponsorships.

With the love of all at Marica.

Marie Christine de Rochemonteix
Founder

Edited at Marica Higher Educational Sty, Nizam Colony – Tolichowki – Hyderabad 500008
www.maricasch.fr mcderochemonteix@gmail.com