

# H.E.L.G.O. e.V.

## Child Labour Project

# Annual Report 2013



## H.E.L.G.O. - Project

The H.E.L.G.O. – Project (Help for Education and Life guide Organisation) enables former child labourers to attend school and receive vocational training. Thereby we open up better prospects for them and their families, breaking the vicious circle of poverty.

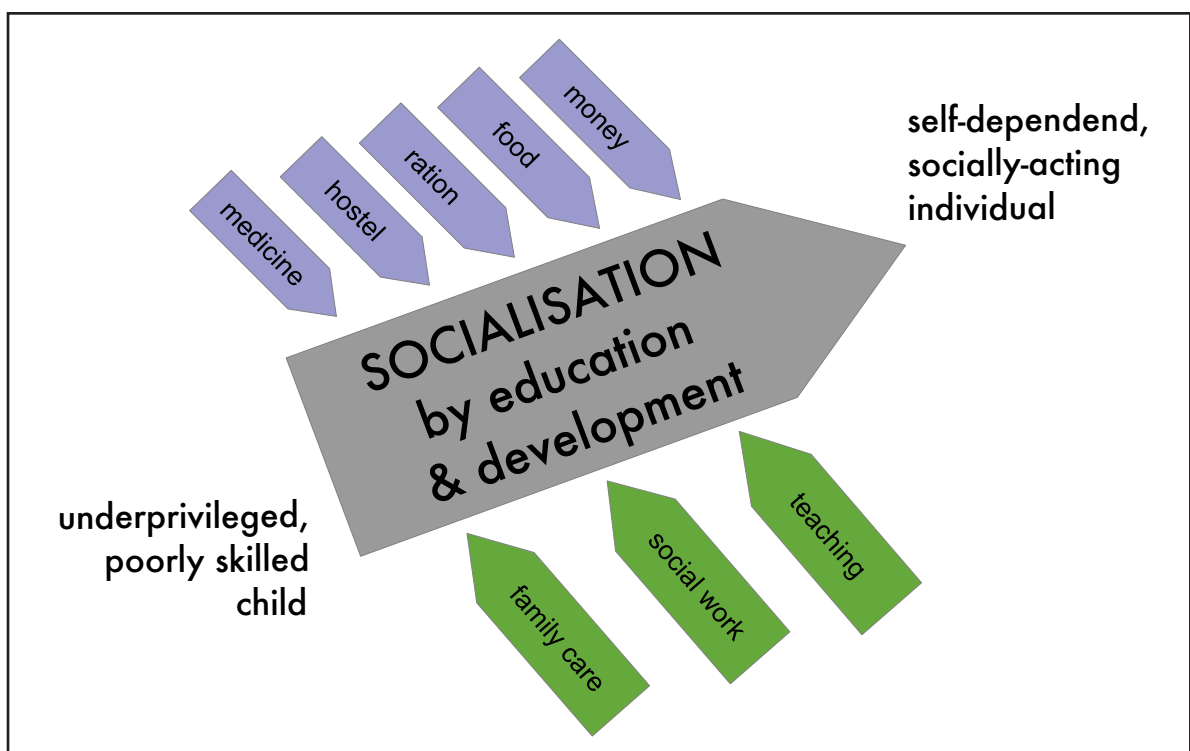
Through monthly rations of staple food and other basic necessities we provide a compensation for the missing income to the family of the former child labourers. Thereby the child has the opportunity to attend school instead of having to earn a living.

The project currently supports around 60 children in Tikiapara and intends the reopening of a Day Care Center for around 120 Children from rag picker families in Belgachhia, Liluah, which is closed for half a year because of local problems. The children are admitted in local schools and receive school materials and a midday meal as well as free coaching at our centers. In close contact with the families we support the children throughout their education including vocational training.

From 1st of April 2013 the Indian Charitable Organisation Samaritan Help Mission ([www.samaritanhelpmission.org](http://www.samaritanhelpmission.org)) has become the partner organisation of H.E.L.G.O. e.V. in India. Both organisations had been in close contact for many years already, since both work for the same goals, i.e. the education of the underprivileged in the same area, i.e. in Tikiapara, Howrah.

### H.E.L.G.O. STANDS FOR:

- HOLISTIC HUMANITARIAN APPROACH
- MULTI-PROFESSIONAL ORGANISATION
- SUSTAINABILITY, TRANSPARENCY & RELIABILITY
- PROTECTION & GUIDANCE TO SELF-DEPENDENCY
- GRASS-ROOT CONTACT
- PROMOTING LOCAL & GLOBAL AWARENESS



## Schooling:

In April 2013 our new Indian partner organisation Samaritan Help Mission offered to us to admit all H.E.L.G.O.- English Medium students into their school, an English Medium school for the underprivileged in Tikiapara. It was for the management of the H.E.L.G.O.-Project as well as for children a very helpful opportunity to put the educational standard of the children to the next level, given the rather poor results in education of these students in their former school. Hence, from April onwards all our English Medium students attended Samaritan Mission School in which they performed well and were known for their constantly good performance.

All the Hindi Medium students needed to be taken care of as well. We managed to send several students to Vikram Vidyalay, near Howrah Maidan, which is of a better standard.

In general and given the difficult family background, many of our students achieved satisfactory in school. These results are also an achievement of our work, i.e. of the coaching classes and the guidance and care of the social workers. But we know well, that there is plenty of room for improvement left.

## Coaching:

All our students attend from Monday to Saturday coaching classes in our centers. Coaching classes were divided as follows: English, Hindi, Bengali and General coaching. In these classes our children get help for their school work on understanding. But interest and fun is placed more and more importance. As playful learning, games, various projects and activities are part of our coaching classes and programs, our children like to spend time in our centers.

In order to improve the level of the coaching classes, more teachers have been engaged in the educational work of the Project and the number of students in each coaching class has been reduced. As a maximum, only 10 students study in one batch, what gives the teachers more time to focus on the needs of each child.



## Workshops for Teachers:

All coaching teachers had to attend several workshops, held by trainees from India as well as from Germany. The idea behind these teachers' trainings was to improve the level of teaching in the coaching classes. The aim of these workshops was to make the coaching teachers confident enough not to teach any longer in the traditional way of exclusively rote learning but to create a learning environment, enabling the students to be active participants of the learning process. Part of this training was also to introduce new learning materials and to train the teachers the proper use of them.



Workshop with the professional social worker Susanne Barfuss from Germany in November in Tikiapara.

## Workshops for Social Workers:



Weekly Tuesday Meetings



Guardians meeting with our social workers

Our social workers work closely together with the teachers and the management in order to give the children proper guidance in their daily life and to help and support them if problems occur, for instance in their families, in the school or in case of personal difficulties. The guidance and the support for our children are essential for our work as they come from extremely difficult family backgrounds. The families of our children are mostly not able to give their children proper care and guidance, due to extreme poverty, alcoholism or other drug abuse, sexual abuse or other types of violence at home, or due to death of the parents, etc.

Several professional social workers from Germany came to Howrah in order to give trainings to the social workers of the H.E.L.G.O.-Project on the topic of new methods of social work and helped them to implement new techniques in their daily work. E.g. during Home visits, counseling and proper guidance of the children.

Every Tuesday a Social Field Worker's Meeting has been held in which organisational matters, problems of particular children and their needs are discussed. Furthermore, on a regular basis Guardians Meetings are held, in order to incorporate and involve the parents, in the project work as much as possible in order to ensure better guidance and support. As each Social Field Worker has only a certain number of children which he/she is responsible for, on every individual child is given importance.

## Midday Meal:

All our children get daily a midday meal (except on Sundays) in order to ensure one nutritious meal a day, given the importance of proper food for the development, well-being and ability to perform well. Lunch time is always a happy time for the children, especially when fish or chicken is served.



## Arts, crafting and other workshops:

In 2013 arts and craftwork has started to become a much more essential and regular part of our activity programmes. It helps the children to express creatively their inner emotions into reality, to calm down and to learn to focus on a particular task. As many of our children have concentration problems it is a good, enjoyable and helpful task to learn to focus. Weekly our children take happily, with full enthusiasm and drive part in such projects and activities. At the end they like to proudly present their completed work..



One of our regular workshops on craftwork in Liluah.

## Hostel:

Children of the age between 5 and 15 live together in a Hostel in Tikiapara, Howrah just next to our Office and Coaching Center. The family backgrounds of these children do not allow that the children live at home because of neglect, extreme poverty, violence, drug abuse and even sexual abuse. As a result they are happy to stay together with other children in the Hostel where they get the necessary emotionally support and many facilities.

As all other children, the Hostel boys take part in the routine of the coaching classes but receive moreover extra help and enjoy extra activities and facilities which most of the other Project-children, who stay with their parents at home, do not get. Among the Hostel children there is a friendly atmosphere and they support and care each other like brothers. In general, the Hostel gives the children the necessary environment for education and development.



Hostel children playing in Belilious Park during their regular visit three times a week.



Celebration of a Birthday of a Hostel boy with the German volunteers and a social worker



In autumn 2013 an evening circle was introduced in the hostel. Every evening the Hostel children come together, sing a song, speak a verse and reflect on the passed day before going to bed. The children like the atmosphere of the evening circle very much and it forms a nice end of each day.

### German Volunteers:

Since 2005, German volunteers come for the period of a one year to our Project in Tikiapara and work there as part of a voluntary social service. In the last years, there were always two German volunteers who stayed together next to the Hostel and spend most of their time with the Hostel children. The Hostel children regard the volunteers as bigger brothers and do many projects with them together. The volunteers accompany the children through the day and become their mentors. They do also extra coachings, mostly in Math and English. Moreover they help the children to complete the homework, to get organised and are part of many extracurricular activities such as excursions, cooking, baking, craftwork etc. Both sides, the children and the volunteers benefit immensely from such an interaction. After one full year living closely together in strong relationships it is always very difficult for either side to say goodbye to each other.



Volunteer giving a coaching class



Group photo of the Hostel children with the two former and the two coming volunteers at the beginning of August

## Health (treatment / prevention):



Since the end of the year 2012, the management of the Howrah Lions Hospital ([www.e-club-house.org/sites/howrahin/index.php](http://www.e-club-house.org/sites/howrahin/index.php)) has offered a co-operation with the H.E.L.G.O. - Project, regarding regular checkups and, if necessary treatment of Project children in Lions Hospital. Especially regular dental checkups and treatments have been started over this year to ensure a proper oral hygiene. Further co-operations were discussed and will be implemented in the following year. Besides the Lions Hospital, Howrah South Point

([www.howrahsouthpoint.com](http://www.howrahsouthpoint.com)) in co-operation with the German Doctors ([www.german-doctors.de](http://www.german-doctors.de)) has been our partner in health issues for many years already to ensure professional medical help at any time.

## Trip to Puri:

A group of children from Liluah and Tikiapara went this year together with staff members and the two German Volunteers to Puri where all had a wonderful time. The children look every year forward to this trip and were not disappointed at all. They could forget their school work, tasks and responsibilities as well as their difficulties at home for the time being and fully enjoyed the time with their friends. They like to play at the water and to jump into the waves being watched by our staff. Plenty of games, competitions and activities are organised for our children on such trips. These trips are always fully successes as the children do not forget them and keep them in mind as highlights of their time as H.E.L.G.O. student.



## Vocational training:

Not only schooling and coaching is provided to our children but also vocational training is offered to them after having finished school. As we have several vocational training institutes as our partners, we can offer our children training places which enables them to learn a number of professions. After such training most of them are ready to manage their lives, standing on their own feet independantly. Some have even managed to graduate as civil engineers from Don Bosco SERI ([www.donbosco-seri.org](http://www.donbosco-seri.org)), which is an absolute success regarding their family background.

## Excursions, cultural events & other activities:

During the year 2013, many cultural events and other activities were organised. Newly introduced was a music class for some time in our center in Tikiapara, in which our children tried to learn to play the flute, but unfortunately most of them gave up to quickly. In Liluah the two German volunteers started on Sundays a playing and activity time for 3 hours weekly. The respond was astonishing and many more than expected joint. These children got for the first time in their life the opportunity to choose out of a huge variety different games, such as card-, board- and group games and to participate in activities such as drawing and crafting.

On cultural events such as concerts or shows many children always showed up to see it with their guardians. The children themselves organised a performance as well on Teachers Day and got much praise for a wonderful event at the end of the day.



Clowns without border in Spring in Liluah



Drawing competition in our Center in Liluah



Keys of Change in November in Liluah



Performance on Teachers Day



Music class

## Sportive activities:



Every Saturday and Sunday, all the Hostelboys went to football training in which they ran as much as they could. Football and also Cricket are the sports our children like the most. On picnics or during the three weekly visits of Belilious Park our children like to bring a football in order to play a nice match. Each child wants to be the winner and fights for its team with heart and soul.