



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

Child Labour Project

Annual Report 2014



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 after school vocational training. The Project opens up prospects for the children and their families, breaking the vicious circle of poverty and offering them a chance to spend their childhood in security and dignity.

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 labourer. Thereby all Project-children have the opportunity to attend school instead of having to earn a living.

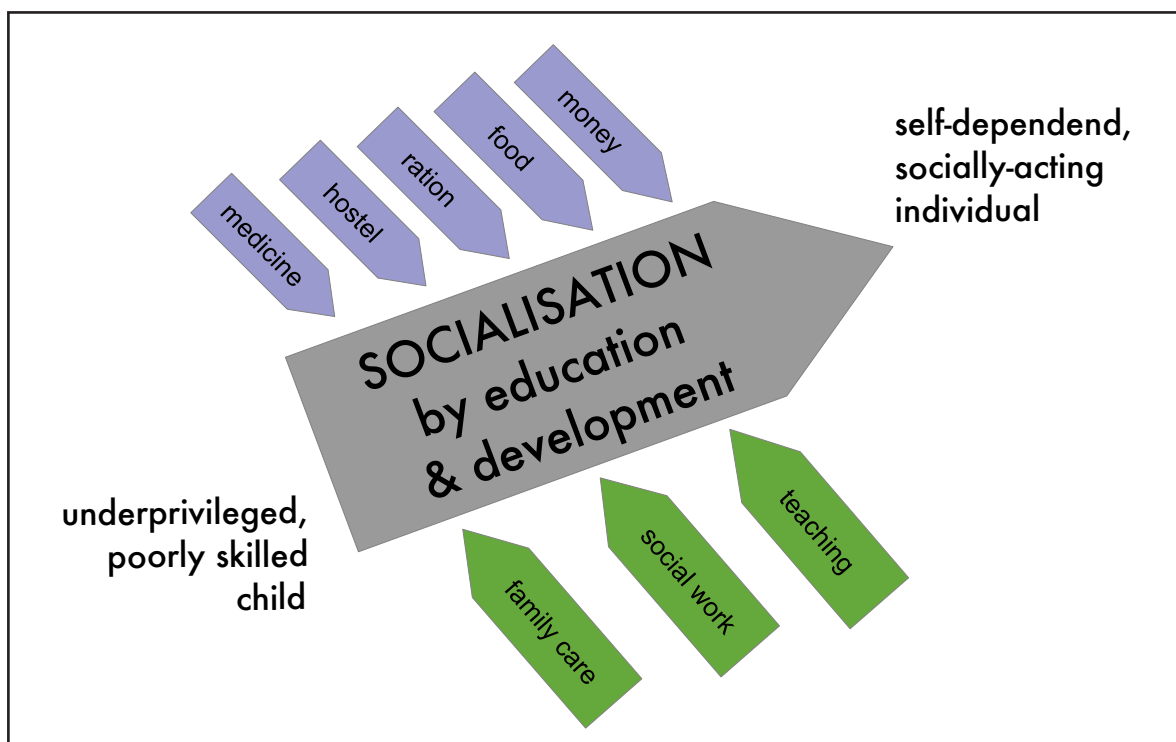
The Project currently supports around 60 children in Tikiapara and a Day Care Center for around 120 Children next to the landfill in Belgachia, Liluah for the rag picker families. The children are admitted in local schools and receive school materials and a daily midday meal as well as free coaching at our centers. In close contact with the families we support the children throughout their education including vocational training.

For the last two years, the Indian Charitable Organisation Samaritan Help Mission (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.

From April 2015 onwards, the Bengal Service Society will be the new Indian partner organisation.

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:

During the year 2014, most of our English Medium students attended Samaritan School (www.samaritanhelpmission.org), a school for the underprivileged children in Tikiapara, Howrah. Two other students went to another English Medium School next to our Day Care Center, named Sacred Heart School. Most of them performed well and with enthusiasm. They enjoyed the opportunity to go to school and even more to join the coaching classes of the H.E.L.G.O. – Project, where special attention is taken to every child. “No child is left behind” is a motto we try our best to implement. Given the poor and mostly illiterate family background of the children, this is not an easy aim to reach. But in comparison to the years before, we can proudly say, that a lot of improvement has been implemented and that our children nowadays benefit from the education, offered to them in the schools much more than in the past. This is also the result of a close co-operation between the schools and the management as well as the teachers and the social workers of the H.E.L.G.O.-Project.



Age specific learning: smaller children in our daily General-Coaching

Coaching:

The coaching classes are one of the most important aid we offer in our educational and social work. All our children come daily to our coachings in which the teachers help them to understand their school curriculum, to do their homework and work with each child on his/her weaknesses. Especially the introduction of new teaching methods (see below: “Workshop for teachers”) had a great impact on the improvement of the students in general. Instead of pure road learning, the teachers emphasize on age specific learning techniques and create an atmosphere in class, where the child can learn without fear, is encouraged to ask questions and to rise discussions with the other students and the teacher about any of the topics to be studied.

Vocational training:

We are in close co-operation with several vocational training institutes. Most important to mention is the Self Employment Research Center of Don Bosco in Mirpara (www.donbosco-seri.org). Many of our children have received in the past a vocational training from there and have got the knowledge and skills to earn their own money in a profession. The vocational training is the end of the child’s journey in our Project. We hope, that after a professional training, he or she will be able to manage their live independently and to take care of their own children in future, as we have taken care of them in the past.

Workshops for teachers:



In order to improve the knowledge and the skills of the students, we had started already in 2013 to improve the level of the teaching in coaching classes by offering to our coaching teachers workshops. We have put our focus especially on the younger group of students and got in contact with organisations like “Vikramshila” and “Pratham” to help us in the implementation of workshops for this age group. Highly qualified experts from Germany came as well in this year and gave workshops on „Learning by Playing“, on how to make and use different educational materials and learning aids. Three teachers even got the opportunity to go for an internship to the Sloka Waldorf School in Hyderabad for teachers training (www.slokawaldorf.org). And at the end of the year, all teachers have started a training in Montessori pedagogy in co-operation with the Bloomfield Dale International Academy in Kolkata (www.bloomingdaleacademy.co.in).

Social work:

Another important pillar of our work for the poor is the part taken over by our social workers which stay in close contact with the Project children and their families. Their job is to investigate the family background, to stay in close contact with children and families, to support especially the children and their mothers through counseling, to keep the official record updated and to assist the guardians. In order to improve the level of social work as well, different methods of social work have been introduced to our team of social workers. Over the year 2014 several professional social workers from Germany have been visiting our Project to give a number of workshops on new methods of social work, e.g. how to make a Genogramme, how to use the techniques and tools of Systemic Thinking for a better understanding of processes in the relations within a family or how to use the technique of Family Constellations. All these methods were introduced and practically trained with the staff in order to enable them to use helpful and meaningful tools, to gain a deeper insight in the relationships between the family members and, as a result to be able to offer helpful counseling and social support to those in need.



An Educational Awareness -Program at Tikiapara By Pass, held in December



Weekly meeting with all Social Field Workers to discuss their work



One of our monthly Guardians Meeting in the Center in Liluah, Belgachia, with an awareness program on awareness

Arts and other workshops:



Every Sunday and Saturday there is a drawing class for our children. Furthermore, they get the opportunity to participate in Art projects as well as in art competitions. The respond is overwhelming. The children take each opportunity in order to express their inner feelings through arts or craftwork. And they present proudly what they have managed to do in the workshop to all those, interested.



Hostel:

14 children of the age between 6 and 15 live together in a Hostel in Tikiapara, Howrah. These children come from families with extremely difficult backgrounds in which the guardians are not able to care for their child, due to extreme poverty, death of the parents, alcoholism or other drug abuse, because the child is exposed to sexual abuse or other violent behavior by another family member. We offer them a secure home and help them to grow in dignity. Daily these children attend our coachings and have access to many more facilities such as extra trainings and activities, regular excursions, games, books, readings and sports.

The boy in the hostel are supervised by our staff, the hostel in charge, the cooking personal and our two volunteers from Germany, who stay for a year with them and give them emotional support, help in their school education, organize free time activities and are their “elder brothers” and role models of great importance.



Cooking workshop and dinner in the Hostel



Hostel children helping in the kitchen

Health (treatment / prevention):

Among other health institutions, our project works in close co-operation with the Howrah Lions Hospital (www.e-clubhouse.org/sites/howrahin/index.php) which offers regular medical check-ups and provides treatment to our children, if necessary. In co-operation with the Bengal Service Society we held an eye camp for all children. Since many guests visit our project, among them the German Doctors (www.german-doctors.de) who work in co-operation with the Indian NGO Howrah South Point (www.howrahsouthpoint.com), some of them agree to give workshops and trainings for our children. E.g., in September a dentist from Germany came and gave a workshop on how to brush the teeth in a proper manner (see photo below).



Health Check-up (HIV, TB) of all our children in Tikiapara and Liluah, organized and done by the Howrah Lions Hospital in September



Eye Check up in co-operation with Bengal Service Society



A dentist from German showing how to Brush one's teeth properly

Trip to Tajpur:

Like in all the past years, a number of our children takes part in a trip for three days to places such as Tajpur or Puri. These trips are always the highlight of the year for our children and well remembered by them throughout the whole year. For most of them, it is the first time that they see the sea as well as the first time to stay without their parents.



German Volunteers:

Every summer, two volunteers from Germany come to our Project to help for one year with the social services that we offer. They stay next to our Hostel and offer help and support especially to the Hostel children. Over this time, close relations are being established between the children and the volunteers, and many of the former volunteers visit the Project even after many years after their service. The volunteers receive monitoring and are supervised by the Indian staff, the social workers, the hostel in charge and the teachers. They help to organize free time, but also teach English and Maths and give all necessary emotional support to the children.



The Hostel Children on a boat's trip and during a visit of the Botanical Garden with the German Volunteers

Sportive activities:

Every Saturday and Sunday a team of H.E.L.G.O. - children participate in football training. The training is not only meant to give the children an opportunity to play their favorite game, but helps them to learn and to share a team spirit, fair play and social behavior. Several of our children regularly express their wish to become a professional football player in future. Let us see...

Excursions, cultural events & other activities:

Beside learning we give our children the opportunity take part in excursions, cultural events, picnics, competitions and other activities which our children like very much. Our children always look forward to such programs which are a good variation to learning in the classroom. Especially in 2014 many such programs were organized about which our children are very happy. Photos of some of our programs and excursion are seen below.



The famous Indian classical singer Koushik Bhattacharjee (www.koushikbhattacharjee.com/index.php) visited with his son and the percussionist Swapan Bhattacharya our center in Liluah, in March and performed a whole concert for the children and the whole community.



A magician from Kolkata made the children's eyes glister during his performance in our center in Liluah in March.



Children and Volunteers playing Holi in March



A concert of a German Guitar Quartet together with the Indian percussionist Swapan Bhattacharya in March



A visit of the Zoological Garden Alipore in September



Hostel Children on one of our Picnics, at Park Circus Maidan in December



During a visit to Science City in December



Picnic and Competitions with children of Bengal Service Society, December