



# ONE WORLD

Be Educated Movement Inc. Quarterly News Letter

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## My Visit to Be Educated Libraries Children need motivation to study well



**Shinning India. Feels good,** it may be shinning where richest of rich live, good roads, sky scraper buildings, but the reality has its own sad face when you go to the outskirts of the cities. Last October, I had opportunity to visit few remote villages of Andhra Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh.

Morning Oct 24 - I, with Anand Kirti, s/w engineer and Be Educated volunteer, landed at Vijayawada airport, a nice small airport in sunny pleasant weather and we headed for a small city

Tenali, 40km away from Vijayawada. Journey to Tenali was smooth and driving was fast as this small city was well connected with highway. As we arrived there, Be Educated Regional coordinator Mr. Paul Kaila was waiting for us. We had to drive another 10km to a village where Be Educated library was located. Now the real journey started, narrow barely paved road took more time than it took us to drive from airport to Tenali. I spent time chatting with Paul about how the libraries are running in that area; Be Educated has seven libraries in that surrounding. I did not have enough time to visit all of those, so Paul had arranged meeting with all Librarians in Guntur City, another 40 km drive from this place. While driving and chatting, I was curiously exploring outside through the window. We arrived at a village now. Road ended just at the corner of the village so we had to walk few yards inside the village. People had tough life, visiting post office, bank, or even little shopping would kill entire day. Most of the people of village are daily bread earners, they do labor job, earning \$2 a day. Most of them had big joint extended family. Parents, brothers, sisters; wife and children live together in same house. This is very common family structure here. One person earns and wife works in farms, and they feed their big family. Seasonal crops provide some food and the earned money fulfills other requirements. Life is driven by Mother Nature, one drought or flood leaves the family starving and under huge pile of debt. Thinking over this problem, I arrived to a library. I entered into a small house with one room, which serves the purpose of sitting room, bedroom, kitchen for the family of 8. One of our libraries is located here, serving the community from last 4 years. We received a great hospitality even though language was a barrier. I realized that to manage the room for the library old parents took out their bed outside to the porch. I could not stop my feelings and my eyes got wet, I thanked them for their sacrifices. The father told, he would do everything for the education of the children. We visited few houses; most of them had same situations. Unfortunately not many children pass even the high school, as soon they passed 9th or 10th grade they start helping their parents in farm. Situation of girls is even more devastating. I visited a local government elementary school located in this village. Situation was pathetic.

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## Message from Be Educated Team

Dear Readers/Supporters,  
It is our pleasure to Wish You "A Happy and Prosperous New Year 2012".

Year's end is neither an end nor a beginning but time rolls on. That being said, we would like to inform you that we had an excellent year 2011, opened 12 new libraries and now we are operating more than 90 libraries. This also translates into helping more than 12000 poor and needy students.

We also carried out motivational programs like Intellectual Talent search, in which more than 4000 students in three countries participated.

We are looking forward to another successful year ahead, and with your help we are sure of making the difference in the lives of people. We are planning to start a helpline for career guidance for our library members this year.

Be Educated Team would like to thank you for your continuous support and encouragement.

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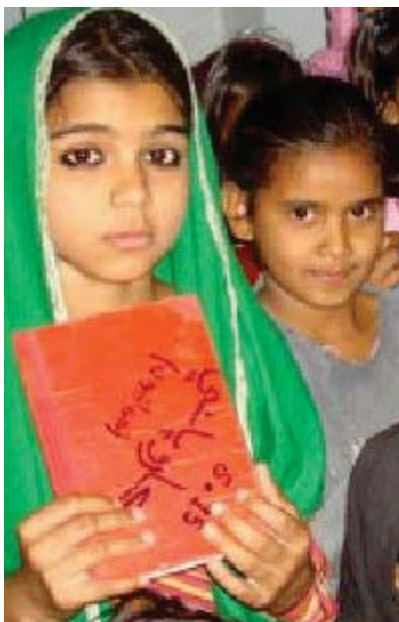
## Four New Libraries in Tribal areas of Chhattisgarh

It is pathetic to see the potholes in the developing economy. When overall economy is booming, it is sad to notice that there are enormous places in India where rays of development are still not reaching. One such area in this context is the tribal belt of Chhattisgarh. The state is super rich in the natural resources and a leader in the energy and steel sectors, however the socio-economic conditions of the people in tribal area did not change much. Be Educated Movement is planning to open 4 libraries in Bilaspur region in 2012.

## Talent Search Result be announced on Feb 28

Intellectual Talent Search program is near to be completed. It was carried out at 68 libraries in India, Nepal and Pakistan. More than 4000 children participated. The result will be announced on Feb 28, 2012.

This program has been useful in the past to identify the top talent and motivate all the library members.



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## Children need ..

We saw barely 20-30 children including all 5 grades (1-5), most of the students were girls. Children were playing outside and teacher had no intention of teaching. When I asked the why there are so few children, I was surprised knowing that the parents who could even afford little prefer to send their children to nearby private schools, boys been given preferences over the girls. That's why girls get government's schools and few poorest of poor children. Some of them have just enrolled to get scholarship.

I visited few more libraries all with similar stories and finally I met with all the other librarians in Guntur city. Presented them little memento and thanked them for all their dedication for helping children and the mission. Same day evening I returned back to Hyderabad.



My next destination was to visit UP libraries, where we have 16 libraries. I was invited for an opening ceremony of a new library in Gorakhpur. I chose to visit 4-5 libraries of nearby area. I was accompanied by Country coordinator and Be Educated projects coordinator. Gorakhpur is 300km from Lucknow, the state capital of UP. We started early morning at 4:30am. By 9:00am we were in Gorakhpur.

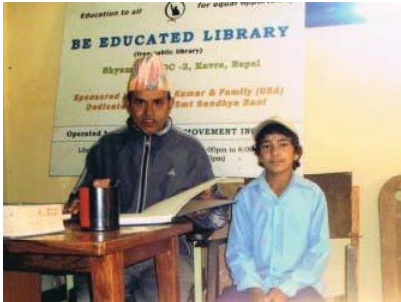
Our libraries are located 50 km away from the city. It took almost 2 hours to reach to our first closest library, which is located on highway in a village. Librarian and over 20 children gave us warm welcome. I inspected library documents, books and talked to few children and discussed about their problems, issues and future. I was happy to find children sincere about their career and future. I completely realized that how highways play major role in overall development. Development changes the thought process. I promised them to provide with the better exclusive books and selected materials. Next destination was 15 km from the highway. This was like a roller coaster journey, unpaved mud road over the canal, it was scary too. If a vehicle loses balance it will fall aside, barely one vehicle can pass. I reached to the village where our library was located. Saw women and children working in field harvesting the crops. Children playing nearby their mother did not see many men though. This place is totally opposite from the last library location. Seeing a vehicle, most of the children were running behind until it stopped. By this time more than 50 poor children surrounded us watching curiously. All of our visits were a surprise visits, it took a little while to locate the library and librarian. We asked him to call few kids (library members). When I talked with kids, found that the biggest issue is the motivation, girls wanted to continue their study but parents do not encourage them.

For sure children are using library books which are helping them to pass the grades. They need proper guidance and motivation beside the books library provides. Our librarians are volunteers; they are providing guidance and help to children with their limited knowledge and resource. We may need to provide more appropriate and formal training to our librarians so that they remain well informed about the career paths and ongoing trends. I visited over 7 libraries of UP and AP and found each one has over 200 students enrolled. Book usage data shows that most of the children visit when examination is closer. Children need to be more serious the way they do the study. We may not need to concentrate on every single member but the ones who are really sincere and provide them the proper guidance for their career developments. We need a support center where children can call and get the guidance. That will help them a lot. Now we have over 90 libraries. These libraries can play a vital role in transforming the children, making them more competitive and providing them encouragement and motivation through our programs like Intellectual Talent search.

— By Sanjay Kumar

## Be Educated Changed My Life

Story of a boy from Nepal



Shyampati is a peaceful village in the hills of Kavre district of Nepal. The beautiful landscape and a place near the site of tourist attraction called Namobuddha is yet looking forward for the developments ahead. Be Educated Movement team surveyed the place and recommended opening of the 4th library in Nepal. A local teacher in the school, Mr. Atmaram Adhikari was interested in the library opening in the village and welcomed our support. The library was opened in the year 2009 at Shree Laxmi Narayan Higher Secondary School.

Of the many beneficiaries from our small effort, we came across a local boy who has been regularly visiting the library till today. We had a short conversation with him a week ago.

Chintamani Pokhrel, 13 year old boy and 7th grade student at Shree Laxmi Narayan Higher Secondary School is currently living with his aunt in the village. His father works as a farmer. He has come to the village from adjacent district 2 years ago. There are about 75 students in his class and he has been good in his studies. He proudly says that he holds first position in the class. He aims to be a pilot in future. We came to know from him that getting books other than the course books in the village is difficult. Since the establishment of the library he has been able to borrow books of his interest. He likes literature, history and story books. He says he has improved his English with his habit of regular reading. In a letter to the Movement he says "Because of the library in this remote area all the poor villagers, teachers and students have got a chance to get knowledge in different sectors. If you give us additional books that will help us."

Be Educated Movement started the library with 245 books. The librarian has recently submitted the list of requested books due to increasing demands of the readers and changes in the curriculum. The Movement has already processed the delivery of the books to the library. The librarian holds the pride of having his library members; Bhagwati Pandey and Kuldeep Pandey who won the third and a consolation prize respectively in the Intellectual Talent Search held in the year 2009. He is still enthusiastic to continue his voluntary hours for the kids.

- by Ashish Chandra Shrestha

## SPOTLIGHT

### Interview with Country Coordinator Pakistan



Be Educated is blessed to have dedicated volunteer to carryout its mission Mr. Ramesh Kumar Lohana is one of them. He was chosen as country coordinator of Pakistan in year 2006. He is M.A with Sociology, B.Ed, D.LT serving in teaching sector for 17 years. His wife Aasha Kumari and two lovely children Anjalee and Neha are supportive. He is working as a principal for 10 years in Ideal Public High School, Naukot. He also works as a coordinator for Non-Muslim community in Pakistan. Anamika had a telephonic conversation with him.

1. Tell me a little about yourself?

Ans- I am working as a Country Coordinator of PAKISTAN. I am here always trying to create awareness for education in villages and our team in Pakistan help the needy children and community.

2. What extra activities do you do apart from working with Be Educated Movement?

Ans- I was always interested in teaching and chose my career as teacher and I am working as a principal and it has been 10 years. Besides teaching I always offer my voluntary services to the local community, wherever whenever needed.

3. When did you start working with this organization? What made you choose this organization?

Ans- I have started working for this organization since 2007 when I was chosen as a county coordinator for Pakistan, I was always interested to serve my country through awareness about the education. When Be Educated proposed me for work as a coordinator with their organization I felt lucky and now I am happy to be part of this movement.

4. What have you learned from your past experience with this organization?

Ans- I have learned that this organization is determined for creating awareness among poor children who live in remote areas, where no other resource can reach. They are suffering from lack of resources in education. It is difficult to convince the people for supporting our efforts towards the awareness of education.

6. What are the biggest challenges you are facing while working in rural areas of Pakistan?

Ans- In rural areas people are illiterate and they are struggling with lot of day to day problems. Because of the lack of knowledge about the education it was too difficult for us to convince them. When our team went to offer them our services through opening libraries in their areas, they were very much against this in the beginning because this organization was from USA and it was difficult for them to accept our proposal but after they heard our proposal peacefully and understood our mission, they agreed to cooperate with us.

7. Anything which you want to share with us or any suggestions?

Ans- Be Educated is helping few needy children by giving the scholarship so that they can continue their education. One of beneficiaries is Muhammad Ameen, a 10th grader, his father died and now he has to work to feed his big 16 members family all alone. He still finds time to study. We are taking care of his education expenses. There are many such cases in Pakistan and they need our help.



Hello Readers,

Welcome to our third edition, Year 2011 was a great year. We were able to bring exciting stories about activities, projects and fund raising efforts as well as amazing experiences of our dedicated volunteers. Our last two issues were praised a lot by many readers. Readers were amazed by our effort to bring the ground realities in our articles. You will see more exciting stories in our upcoming issues. Please keep reading and keep sending your suggestions at [contact@beeducated.org](mailto:contact@beeducated.org).

Thanks again and Happy New Year.

Warm Regards,  
Anamika Gautam

## Two volunteers ran Marathon for Library



Fundraising is biggest challenge for any non-profit organization to function and keep the program running. Volunteers take various approaches, But when they take challenge to themselves it become motivation to others. This story is about Mani-subbu Sundaravelu (Mani) & Satyanarayana Raju (Raju) who prepared themselves,

went through rigorous training and completed 26 miles full Marathon this fall in Washington DC, Goal was to raise fund for the Library.

In words on Mani : "I am 39 years old and was running Marine Corps Marathon for third time, Age has nothing to do with it, because many who ran and completed this marathon even faster than me, were over 60 years. It's the day after the marathon, I am tired, my legs are cramping, I could not sleep well, tomorrow have to go back to work. Besides all these I had a great feeling. I DID IT, I DID IT AGAIN." This is the feel of dedication which motivates one to do it again and again.

In words of Raju : "I was running with two goals. First, through this race I wanted to create an awareness of education, Be Educated is doing commendable job toward this noble cause. Indeed I wanted to support this cause and raise enough fund to sponsor a Be Educated Library as starting point. I was happy with the response and support received from my friends and family, Mani and I raised enough money for two libraries." This is the feeling of compassion which encouraged Raju to do it for First time.

## Pictures worth a thousand words....



Children participating in Intellectual Search in India



Library Opened in Mathura, U.P. , where the Kamlesh incident took place



Mitch Greenburg and team doing a Flute concert to raise fund in Hindu Temple DE



During the AP (India) library visit, Sanjay Kumar with a child



Run for Library - Manisubbu ran Marathon in 2010 and Raise fund for this Library



Children during the opening of a library in Gorakhpur in Nov 2011