



BODHI TREE SPECIAL SCHOOL

This is indeed pleasure for the management of Bodhi Tree Special School to share its milestones, highlights and achievements in past a few weeks. The school has practically become the "first site" where right to smile for children with mental health challenges are being deliberated. We take opportunity to thank everyone involved in the project. The school is answering deep felt aspirations of the cross communities who had lost complete hope of inclusion of their children in mainstream communities of children. We thank all those who trusted and encouraged us. Someone is better off today because of you all, Thank you from them and thank you from us.

Kajal



Kajal is a 15 year old girl from sherajpur village of Bodhgaya about 7 km far from Bodhi Tree School. We are intensively campaigning in villages towards raising awareness and understanding in cross communities about these children. Kajal has learning disability but is very sweet and humble. During our visit, the team visited her house as some villagers referred to us. Her father introduced us brother of Kajal who is potentially mental retarded with huge behavior and social issues. We inquired about kajal as some villagers had spoken to us. The father did not like to introduce Kajal but we kept on insisting so finally he agreed .Kajal sounded quiet and humble. She seemed cool in behavior so we asked father why he did not bother to get her into school. And then what he told was painful to hear. Kajal was sexually abused when she was six year old. One day parents noticed something wrong with Kajal so inquired about happening and they were shocked to know what happened. The local communities around school are very conservative and orthodox. The parents of Kajal were deeply pained to know the plight and abuse of their daughter but because of social defamation decided to confine Kajal within house. she was very restricted to even meet relatives. "Since Kajal was mentally unsound as different from others mostly quiet and we noticed it when she was about three year old .The woes of her sexual abuse would just worsen her situation.so we decided not to share it with anyone" her father burst into tears while talking. We consoled him and assured him of all support. We invited parents of Kajal to school and he

felt deeply touched to see many students with mental health challenges attending school like normal children. After an hour of counseling he nodded his head with smile full of love for kajal. Kajal moderate level of mental health issues but she is ok with her basic life skills and need no behavior modification. We all love her cool vibes and she loves to come to Bodhi Tree special school. At the beginning she was quiet but now she seems fully into the spirit of school. We then contacted Nodal Agency for certification of her disability. Now she is improving her social skills as she was confined to home over the years after traumatic sexual abuse. Her soulful, gracious and humble smile inspires us to touch many more lives trapped in ignorance and at denial.



A girl with Special need is combing Kajal after swimming session

Kajal at Horse riding session



Kajal at Diversity park with another girl with mental health challenges



Parents of Kajal with her brother Nirmal



Kajal and her brother delighted to be at school



Brother of kajal Nirmal who is potentially mentally retarded: From confined existence to limitless joy



Raushan: entrepreneur to be

This is newly admitted child Raushan is from Katorwa village about 3 km far from Bodhi Tree Special School. He is sweet , humble and lovable boy .He has never been to school and now Bodhi Tree Special School seems for him the nucleus of joy. He is 16 year old boy and does not need behavior modifications. Despite having moderate level of disability, he has social skills and life skills. We are orienting him with denominations of Indian currency with view to engage him in our community general store. Since he is sixteen and we cannot expect miraculous change but we want him to train with livelihood options. We are already training him in buying the things from Market and showcasing the things in temporary wooden store, selling it to customers and others. The temporary shop is now as training concept. Raushan is brilliantly putting himself in learning, experiencing, exploring and processing. The boy who was largely secluded in his own community is breathing entrepreneurship though much basic with sparks of confidence. He seems to be friendly with other students and that shows his taste in business. His parents seem not to believe the changes in his behavior patterns and humors into his life. Though the people from his village primarily laughed at but now they even agree that the boy is making changes and showing his maturity.Currently he is being assisted, mentored and trained .we sincerely hope that it works and we would have an example of productivity.

Raushan at General Store: Under observation of assistant teacher



Raushan first day at Bodhi Tree Special SSchool School



Raushan full of joy at Horse riding session



Sonu: The dream to see school

This boy is physically challenged with mild level of mental retardation."My husband abandoned me and Sonu only because he thought this was my fault to give birth to a physically and mentally challenged child" mother of Sonu said while tears rolled down". Though Sonu is 18 and has never been to any school but her mother always wanted him to be in school. She tried her best but Sonu was not lucky to see school.

Picture reveals a lot: Sonu with an overseas volunteer



We are also imparting vocational training to Sonu. We are exploring the possibilities for his vocational orientation for livelihood security. Her mother seems to be proud enough to see Sonu in school uniform." When I see his it takes a while to believe this is the Sonu gave birth to "she quoted.

"I have not seen god but I believe God would do the same what you all are doing "she says

Divine Injustice

Though spiritually it would be inappropriate to say divine injustice but we found three parents having two children and both are mentally challenged. "Divine punishment for us was that we have two children and both are mentally unsound" Said parents of Jubi and Raybahadur from Shivrajpur village of Bodhgaya

Parents of Jubi and Raybahadur newly admitted children from the same parents



"We lately heard about Bodhi Tree Special School but failed to believe that there may be school for such children." The parents further added. Jubi and Raybahadur have moderate and severe level of disability.

Parents of Praduman and Lokesh newly admitted child

Both are brothers and when they heard about Bodhi Tree School they made the way to reach us."Today I would rent a loudspeaker and would let the whole community know our children go to school now".



Praduman and Lokesh



Prince is now a normal child and wants to be a doctor: Good bye mental challenge

Prince a child from Ganghar village of Bodhgaya is no more a mentally challenged child. He brilliantly amazes us.



Autistic Akriti: The queen of laughter



The queen of Dance Neha: Humor of Down Syndrome

