

Photos: terre des hommes



Extra tuition and citizens' advice

Joint aid project run by *terre des hommes* and Dachser making further good progress

As the first quarterly report for 2006 shows, Dachser and *terre des hommes* have taken another big step on the way towards their goal of supporting the people in India's Uttar Pradesh region. They are now providing information for parents and extra tuition for children. While special centres have recently been set up to inform adults of their rights, extra evening tuition is being offered to children who are not doing well at school.

Citizens' rights and responsibilities

Six information centres have been set up in Uttar Pradesh to help citizens in the region find out about their rights and responsibilities. The idea behind the campaign is to make people aware that they can claim support. The centres – each of which is responsible for four or five local villages – provide basic information. They can give details not just about government programmes and budget allocations, but also about health, hygiene and children's rights.

The centres were established in cooperation with the local authorities, which provide the rooms. They are open for three hours each day, and are very busy indeed. 760 villagers have already taken advantage of the facilities, and have come along to find out about things like old-age

pensions, widow's benefit, support for the disabled, etc. The result has been positive: 16 of them now receive a disability allowance, while 79 draw an old-age pension and 33 are on widow's benefit. Three more people are now receiving housing support, and 80 voters have joined the new electoral register. Public money earmarked for a school but never released has now been paid out, helping to fund a much-needed renovation scheme.

Extra tuition for young girls

Although there are now enough high schools in the Uttar Pradesh region, the level of education is still low. The number of young people leaving school without qualifications is alarmingly high, especially among young girls in the higher years of schooling. The reason for that is simple: poorly qualified young girls in particular are forced to enter into arranged marriages, or into child labour. To combat this, support centres have now been set up in ten villages, where pupils between the ages of 14 and 18 are given extra tuition in evening classes. The courses are funded partly by money from the Dachser/*terre des hommes* aid programme, and partly by people in the region. The centres are used mainly by children from poorer families, especially girls.

At the moment, 228 girls and 28 boys attend three hours of classes each evening. Most of them are in the later years of their schooling. Of the 256 pupils, 48 have already passed their high school leaving examinations, and 23 are at college. The support centres would also like to teach young girls who are to be married at an early age, or are victims of sexual abuse or discrimination.

Young girls receive extra tuition in a new support centre in Uttar Pradesh. The classes do not just deal with academic subjects, but also teach them to assert themselves and to take action if they are mistreated.



Aid for people in need: a health centre in the Uttar Pradesh region.

The classes do not just deal with academic subjects, but also teach pupils to assert themselves and to take action if they are mistreated. This will help them to stand on their own two feet later in life, and to be independent. Perhaps the fact that the pupils at the centres now do better at school will encourage others who have broken off their education to return to school.

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