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Mala News

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An action programme for the elimination of child labour in rural India

Greetings!

Anand joins National Thermal Power Corporation

The main aim of Project Mala is to enable underprivileged children in rural India to lift themselves out of poverty by giving them a level of education to enable them to obtain a well paid job.

Since we entered higher education by establishing middle and secondary schools, the number of our children finding jobs in industries away from their home villages has increased substantially. One of the latest children to land a highly paid job is Anand.



Anand is a junior engineer in the electrical department at the National Thermal Power Corporation Vindhyachal Sigravuli in Madhya Pradesh. What is particularly impressive about Anand is that he recognised at an early stage that he was capable of finding a better paid job in a large industry and applied himself. The result is that he has found a position in an expanding industry, with a starting salary of 30 times the average he would have earned in his home village.



Anand started his schooling in 2005 at our Hasra Primary School. In the final year of primary he stood top of all the children in class five of Project Mala schools. He qualified to join our Patehra Middle School in 2008. To reach middle school he had to ride a bicycle for a 20 kilometres round trip each day. In 2011 he qualified to attend Project Mala Secondary School at Guria, where he became the first child from Hasra to achieve that.

The above photo is an early one of him at our Hasra School. The photo below is of him last week. A major difference in looks and maturity?

We would like more children to be as successful as Anand, but living in a remote village in rural India, they cannot appreciate the work of a lawyer, doctor or engineer, as they have no exposure to these professions.

We have yet to appoint a careers master to help the children choose a career and to make them aware of what is available outside their village environment. We are working on this, but, like

most things on our wish list, they cost money.



If you know anyone who might be interested in the newsletter please pass it on.

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