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Mala News

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Government tighten education rules

Over the past few years the Indian government has brought in a universal national ID card which, together with a more rigorous system for registration of births, means that almost every citizen can now prove their identity. A year ago, every child of school age was also allocated a Personal Education Number and the education department is now able to track the progress of children through the education system for the first time.

The government has also decreed that every child should start Class 1 primary at the age of six years, and that primary education should continue for a full five years.

These are all excellent initiatives which will benefit everyone in the future, but it does mean that we have to change the format of our primary schools.

When Project Mala opened its first school in 1989, we adopted the National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS) curriculum. The Uttar Pradesh primary school curriculum has always been a 5-year course but we did not need 5 years to get our children to the standard needed to qualify for middle school, so we have always completed years 1 and 2 in the first year, 3 and 4 in the second year and year 5 in the last of the three years.

Now, NIOS may discontinue the non-formal education system at any time and we must follow the UP Education Board curriculum. So, looking to the future and to comply with the Indian government's requirement that children complete five full years of primary schooling, we have decided to integrate our pre-school with the primary and name the first two years as early primary. We will also now take in boys in early primary and the sponsorship price will remain at £8 a month for these two years. We will be advising sponsors if this affects their children.



Regards

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