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

Greetings!

Meet Anil Sahu

One of our many visitors to Mala Schools took some film, which I would like to share with you. It is an Interview with Anil Sahu.

Anil is the Chief Executive Officer at Project Mala in India and as such represents us. He joined us on the 21st November 2003 as an accountant. Over the years he became the go to person for problem solving. He showed such good leadership qualities that when David Rangpal retired, Anil naturally became Chief Executive. Anil still keeps on the accountancy and bookkeeping duties which means, like a number of other Mala people, he can be found working on weekends and holidays.



Anil and I work closely together. We exchange emails every day and talk on the phone at least once a week. I enjoy working with him and hope you will take time to look at the short 4 minutes video.

The interview was conducted by Paul-Jan Teeken and his son Manuel, from Zutphen in The Netherlands, who came to Project Mala because Paul-Jan wanted his son to experience a different world from Holland and to broaden his mind. In order to take the required time off school, Manuel, who is 16 and at a college studying performing arts, was asked by his school to make a video of his visit and present it to his school. Paul-Jan is a keen amateur videographer and documentary maker, and he hopes at some point soon to make a smoother and more complete video about Project Mala. Hopefully that might get some attention in Holland - who knows!

In the interview, Anil talks of the difficulty in getting good teachers. Our response to this challenge is to look for teachers who are intelligent and dedicated but who, for whatever reason (family responsibilities, marriage, qualifications) are not able to leave their communities to work elsewhere. They offer us loyalty, a commitment to the rural community and a desire to improve themselves and the children. In return we train them ourselves to a high standard and encourage them to study further through distance learning. In this way we have established a good reputation and many excellent teachers have found their way to us. The outstanding examination results of our pupils are proof of the standard of teaching which we achieve.

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

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