

# PROJECT REPORT

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YMCA RANCHI

Slum Centre  
Renovation Project



28 NOVEMBER 2020

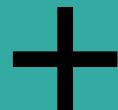
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YMCA Ranchi

Authored by: Ashish Topno & Alex Nitschke



Supported by



## Final Project Report to Indisches Forum e.V. on YMCA Slum Centre project

Ranchi, 27<sup>th</sup> of November 2020



With deep gratitude towards *Indisches Forum 'Mahatma Gandhi' e.V.* and *Die Kappe e.V.* for supporting our educational work for the poor in our urban slums in Ranchi I am humbly submitting this Project Report for your kind information after successful repair and renovation works of 3 Slum Centre Pre-Schools of our YMCA.

End of July 2019, India Forum Board Members Mr. Sebastian Keller and Mr. Alexander Nitschke visited our YMCA Ranchi and had a closer look at the educational institutions of our organization including the Pre-School Program at our urban Slum Centres at various locations in Ranchi.

After mutual signing of the project agreement in September 2019, we received the funds in our Foreign Contribution Bank Account on 09.10.2019. For the 3.000 Euro transferred by Indisches Forum, the amount of Rs. 2,28,633 /- was credited in our account which we acknowledged by mail to Indisches Forum on 19.10.19 with an attached receipt.



After intensive negotiations with the local construction expert team the work could finally start in December. By the end of January, the first two of three centres were repaired and renovated. The renovation work of the third centre delayed as changes in the requirements and needs of the local community had occurred in between. After communication with Indisches Forum, it was agreed to change the third centre to the location of Islamnagar Slumcentre. The work was supposed to start in March 2020, when the impacts of the global Corona Pandemic hit the entire country and the locality in particular. For several months it was impossible to carry out any construction or repair work. Only in August 2020 it was possible to finally perform the intended measures at Islamnagar Centre. By middle of September, also this centre was repaired and renovated and the last and final payment could be done on 17.09.2020.

Many former students of our PreSchools expressed their deeply felt thanks to YMCA for supporting them in their tender young age by offering them an access to education which changed their lives. This encouraged us a lot to continue the important work and further improve the services offered in our Slum Centres.

Once again, a **Hearty THANK YOU** and our best Regards from YMCA Ranchi.

Yours sincerely,

**Ashish Topno**

(Secretary – YMCA Ranchi)

# About the Project

## YMCA Ranchi's Slum Centres

For over 50 years the YMCA Ranchi has put the focus of its activities on serving those people in need by providing them the means and support needed to live a life in dignity. Besides other areas of work and intervention, our Slum Centres run under the Urban Community Development Program have been an efficient tool for bringing positive change to the lives of people marginalized and sidelined from the positive effects of the city's growing wealth. Some of these centres have been run by YMCA Ranchi for almost 50 years and numerous people had their first contact with the education sector in the pre-schools situated in the midst of their own neighbourhood. Some of the other centres have been successfully handed over into the care of the local communities themselves who continue running the services to the best of their abilities.



**"My heart is filled with gratitude and thanks towards our German friends of Indisches Forum and Die Kappe e.V. for their empathy and compassion shown by supporting us in our mission to improve the lives of the downtrodden and vulnerable sections of our society."**

***Ms. Madhuri Bage, President YMCA Ranchi***

A lot has changed in the last decades, also in the city of Ranchi. Unfortunately, there are still many people living in inhumane conditions with little hope of improvement. That is why we as YMCA Ranchi continue working for the downtrodden and marginalized, which is also reflected in our motto "We are in people's business".

***"We are in people's business."***

**YMCA RANCHI's SLOGAN**

# Slum Centre at Kadru Pool Toli

(8<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> of December 2019)

The first centre where restauration and renovation work was to start was the Kadru Pool Toli Slum Centre which is located in the heart of the city. For the last decades the local community had benefitted from the work carried out in the local centre. 33 children between 2 and 4 years of age visit the Pre-School. For many of the children this has been the beginning of their educational life. In the afternoon hours a tailoring teacher comes and provides training in cutting and stitching to the local women. Many of them have started their own small businesses after completing their training.

**In December 2019, the repair and renovation work at our centre in KADRU POOLTOLI could finally begin. All the teaching aids, equipment and 16 sewing machines had to be temporarily removed. One family in the slum agreed to keep the things safe at their home. Also, the evening tailoring classes could somehow continue from there.**



Before Renovation Work



Repair & Renovation Work in Progress



Preparing the walls for the new roof sheets  
after removal of old asbestos sheets.

During the entire process of repair works the students took their classes in another former slum centre UNDER THE OVERBRIDGE.



After installation of new steel roof sheets

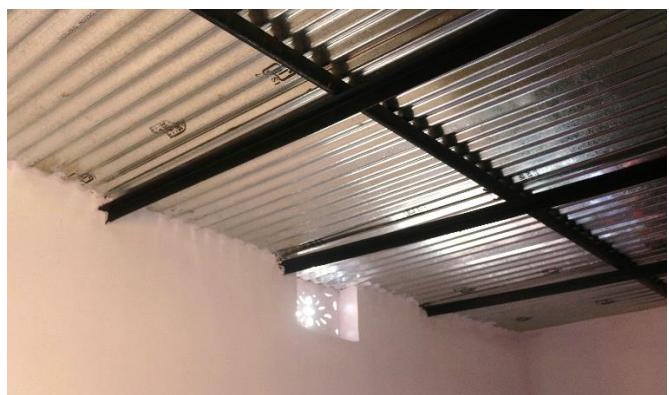


In total, 12 workers were involved in the different phases of works carried out. First, the old roof sheets were removed and replaced by the new GI steel sheets. This took around four days.



The backside of the building after repair, fresh plaster and first coat of paint.

After that, the new cement flooring was made for which the former floor had to be broken and the debris be removed. Necessary repair works in the walls, windows and doors were done before treating the walls with a new fine putty plaster giving it a smooth surface. At last the painting works happened at the inside and outside and two new black boards were installed in the room. Just before Christmas the work at Kadru Pooltoli was finally complete.



Inspection of the KADRU POOLTOLI slum centre after repair works during the Project visit of India Forum's Treasurer Mrs. Jutta Nitschke in January 2020.

The little students only saw their newly repaired and renovated school rooms in January after the holidays.

They expressed their joy with a spontaneous dance in front of their school!



Mrs. Reena Singh who has been working in the YMCA Slum Centre Kadru Pooltoli for the last 35 years, expressed her happiness and gratitude to 'Indisches Forum' and 'Die Kappe e.V.' for the repair and renovation works of the centre.

# Slum Centre at Jagannathpur

(10<sup>th</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> of January 2020)

Like the work in Kadru Pooltoli the repair work at Jagannathpur Centre started with the removal of the old roof sheets. The asbestos sheets which had not been changed in 40 years, already had several cracks. Here in India, most of the people are still not aware of the hazardous effects of asbestos.



Because of durability and lower costs of the material, many people still prefer to use asbestos sheets when constructing their roofs. We decided against it and preferred GI steel sheets instead.

Within four to five days, the roof sheets were replaced, and the new roof installed.

The regular classes for the children could continue during the work period as the neighboring congregation of North Western GEL Church allowed their rooms to be used for the Pre-School. The afternoon tailoring classes were conducted in the teacher's home for the time being.

Basically, the work was very similar to that in the first centre and it also took around 14 days to complete all the work.



On 24<sup>th</sup> of January 2020 the Jagannathpur Centre was reopened, and the children resumed their pre-school education in their old centre enjoying the new and appealing surrounding.



# Slum Centre at Islamnagar

(August/September 2020)

We consulted with India Forum Board about the necessity of changing the third centre. Originally, it was planned to repair and renovate the slum centre at Powerhouse Chutia, but in the course of the previous year the number of children had further decreased to a minimum.



A survey at the locality in Chutia brought to light that residents did not feel so much of a need for the Pre-School education anymore. At the same time, the children of Islam Nagar area were regularly coming to the centre in good numbers.



In contrast to the other slum centres, our pre-school at Islam Nagar is presently situated in the former garage of the YMCA Health Centre. The room is situated in the ground floor of a duplex building therefore there is no need for exchanging any roof sheets at this location.

The requirements and needs of Islamnagar centre differ from those of first two centres. The former garage is bigger in size, but it did not have any windows for example. Here we proposed to install two new windows and a partition of the comparatively big room which would enable the two (age) groups being simultaneously taught to study with less disturbances. Further we thought of installing a toilet facility for the children which is currently non-existent.



During the visit of Mrs. Nitschke (Board Member & Treasurer of Indisches Forum) in January 2020 we had an inspection of Islamnagar Centre including interaction with teachers and children and consultation talks with Senior Officers of YMCA Ranchi.

After negotiations with the builder about the details and costs the works at Islamnagar Centre were about to start in the month of March 2020. Just before the work was about to start the Corona lockdown restrictions were imposed by the Indian Government which prohibited any kinds of construction work. After more and more Corona infection cases were detected in the locality, micro containment zones were set up and the serious situation in the area made it impossible to start the work.



It took until the month of August until it became possible to finally start the works at Islamnagar Slum centre.

In this differently designed building, there was no need to make any changes about the roof. Instead two new windows were installed and the big room was divided into two by a partition.



Further, the walls were treated and repaired and then plastered with a fine layer of putty before carrying out the painting. Installing a bathroom turned out to be too expensive at this point of time as it would have also meant to include provisions for an underground septic tank.

Therefore, this part of the plan had to be postponed to the future.

In this regard, YMCA Ranchi has already started planning out further actions.





“We are happy and thankful to ‘Indisches Forum e.V.’ and ‘Die Kappe e.V.’ for supporting us in our endeavor to improve the infrastructure of our Pre-School Program in the urban slums of Ranchi by repairing and renovating our slum centres which had been due after so many years of service.”

***Chonhas Kujur, General Secretary, YMCA Ranchi***

Besides the grant received as Foreign Contribution, YMCA Ranchi managed to contribute an amount of Rs. 25,367/- from its own funds.

Despite all the difficulties which we faced in this Corona Pandemic year 2020, we are happy to report that all works were finally completed to our satisfaction in the month of September and the last payment to the construction firm done on 17.09.2020.

### **Utilization of Funds:**

**Received** from Indisches Forum e.V.                           Rs. 2,28,633 /-

**Own Contribution YMCA Ranchi**                           Rs. 25,367 /-

**Total**   **Rs. 2,54,000 /-**

#### **Spent for Renovation & Repair Works**

**@ Slumcentre Phooltoli**                                   Rs. 74,650 /-

**@ Slumcentre Jagarnathpur**                           Rs. 81,350 /-

**@ Slumcentre Islamnagar**                           Rs. 98,000 /-

**Total spent**   **Rs. 2,54,000 /-**

# Conclusion and Outlook

The successful implementation of this project has transformed our run-down Slum Centre buildings into beautiful and clean places where children can resume enjoying their pre-school classes once the Corona lockdown restrictions are lifted.

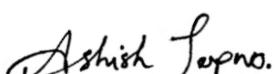
The many encounters and interactions with friends and supporters from Germany working in the field of education have made us to rethink and review our pedagogical concepts of our educational institutions. Inspired by the modern approach to children's holistic development in early age as practiced for example in German Kindergartens, we are highly motivated to make adjustments to our existing educational institutions and provide trainings to our teaching staffs in the future.

Our vision is to slowly change our Slum Centre pre-schools into Kindergarten centres which would apply more playful and creative methods to enfold the children's potential and provide them a positive and supportive environment in their very early age. So far, children in our Pre-Schools were divided into two classes according to their age and taught simultaneously by two teachers while sharing the same rather small room. For the future we would like to keep the Slum centres as Play Schools for the youngest children and integrate the slightly elder ones into our English Medium Schools' Pre-School sections.

Along with these planned adjustments, we are planning to open a Kindergarten on our YMCA City Branch premises situated in the heart of the city. Here, an existing building and spacious outdoor activity area can be utilized and transformed into a modern reform-pedagogic Kindergarten by some Repair and Renovation work.

Once again, I express my heartfelt Thanks for your support and prayers!

Yours sincerely



Ashish Topno  
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