



# South Asian Children's Times

Issue 1

March-June 2005

## Our dreams.....

I want to become doctor and also journalist to help poor people and I want to rescue that people that they want to fight between them. and I want to come peace and freedom in our country and I want to Afghan children hare a newspaper their own news paper in "ASCHIANA " because children can solve their problems by their own news paper and other children can take some lessons from the news paper.

- Mustafa (14 years)  
Aschiana, Afghanistan.

In our society nobody values our cries. We are here to take a training so that we can spread about our rights and do something for our society and country. Our society neglects us and therefore we should show them that we can also contribute towards the developments of our society.

Bikram Tiwari (15 years)  
Nepal

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## Breaking New Ground.....

South Asian Alliance of Grass root NGO's for Protection of Child Rights has been facilitated by Butterflies for bringing together partner NGO's from South Asian Countries, namely, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Nepal, India and Sri Lanka.

The priority commitment of the Alliance is to advocate and promote the Rights of Children in Especially Difficult Circumstances in the region.

Children's Development Bank and the South Asian Children's Times-both initiatives of children are directed to building the South Asian Children's Alliance.

Children's Development Bank is a strategy for empowering children and a forum for learning democratic values and practices. It is also a facility for safe keeping of children's hard earned money and for the older children,

15 years and above, to take advances to start economic enterprises.

The South Asian training workshop held in Delhi from 20th April - 2nd May 2005, provided the children with necessary skills for initiating and managing their bank and children's newspaper in their respective countries.

South Asian Children's Times is a voice of children from South Asian region for expressing their ideas, opinions and views on issues of their concern. The training workshop was insight building exercise for children on production of and publishing a newspaper. In the course of the training program the children released inaugural issue of South Asian Children's Times.

- Rita Panicker, Director  
Butterflies

Lets be united for a secured future of ours.....  
- Shyam, Butterflies

## My Story

Years back I was a different child as compared to where I am now. It was very much into addiction and my family problem of unemployment forced my to start work. During that time ( 2 years back ) Bhaiya from MDC came to our area a asked me , to join them as them work. With similar children. Then I get associated with CDB. Where I gave been working for the past one year. In the process I also bought many new child to our organise and also with the bank . While working in this organisation initially although and fared many problem but with help from Asha didi I was able to overcome them and respect and fame came to my through our work. My family members were also happy with my present life . The thing which makes me the happier person is this type of development work in raising the standard of life of children like ours which is the only way to build a better and secured future of ours.

- Razi Haider (15 years)  
MDC, Muzaffarpur



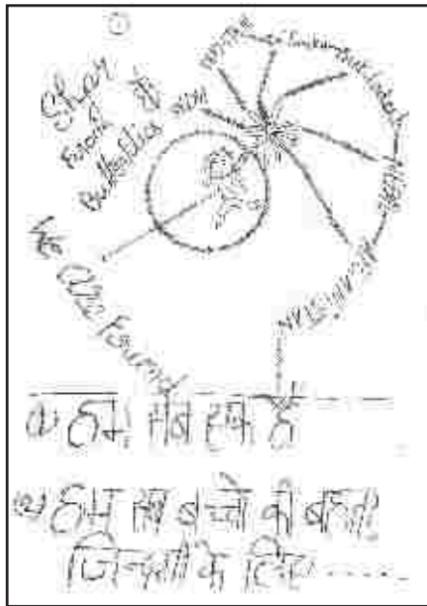
Let me tell you why are I am here in Aschiana. Aschiana is a place where it develops the minds of the children . And protects them and their rights .Especially provides a good environment for them to become a normal and active member of the society.

Also it maintains with good education, tasks and computer knowledge. Specially (I.T.), web designing and e.t.c.

It has got a video conference with the mostly foreign countries to improve their abilities, and relationship with the other children of these countries. Aschiana provides Good and healthy environment and alsocares about their health.

- Abdul Wahab Adil (13 years)  
Aschiana, Afghanistan

## "Our Logo" - The Story of Formation



As a part of the children's initiative in developing a logo for the South Asian Alliance of Children for Child Rights, a logo maker and a slogan writing competition was organized on the 23rd April as a part of the workshop. All the participant attending the workshop particip-

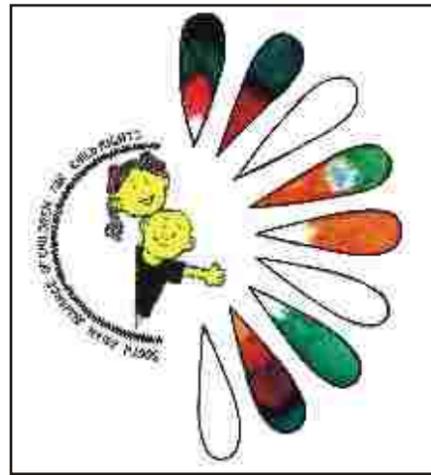
ated at the competition. During the whole process students from NIA, School of Design, help the children to visualise the concept of designing a logo for the South Asian Alliance.

After the competition 11 adult facilitators accompany the children from various organizations and countries helped us to find out the best three logo and slogan created by children. Soon after, the results were announced and Shyam from Butterflies, Nayani from Srilanka and Tsomo from Leh-Ladakh received the first second and third prize in the logo making competition. Again, Shyam from Butterflies, Nayani from Srilanka and Shabbir from Pakistan received prizes for the slogan competition.

With the concepts from the children three students from National Institute of Advertising, School of Design helped us to

come up with a final logo with their professional inputs.

The nine petals of the logo speaks about the 9 countries of South Asia with six of the petals coloured with the national flags of the respective countries who have already joined this alliance. The country wise petals are in alphabetical order. The centre of the petals is having a picture of a boy and a girl child which speaks about equality.



I hope to get more knowledge and improve our children's society and to have a friendship with Children's of South Asia.

Chandra Bopitiya  
Sri Lanka

My name is Sumit Thapa. I live in Pokhara and I work in dumping side and I like in street and sometimes I went home and when I get free time I went school. When I was in street, I was taking drugs, when I came to bout the office of CWS, I came here. I always come here and read, play and I sing here. After coming coming I am very happy. After finishing training I will go back to my country. I will do my work.

- Sumit Thapa (14 years), Nepal

My name is Imran. Before coming to this workshop I was thinking a lot about . What will be going to happen. I will be meeting lots of childrens from various countries. It will be a great opportunity to meet them and also make friends during the days . I hope to have a close interaction with all the participants and by the end of the workshop we will be able to come together with plan for a better world for our future.

- Imran, (14 years) Butterflies

My first dream while coming to here is to make as many friends as I can during these days. I know we will also learn lots of good things during the trainings and will be work and help our friends when we will go back to our own places.

- Md. Nazim (14 years)  
Hope Foundation, KolKata

When I came here, I expected that I would learn a lot of things meant for children on returning to Pakistan and would make friendship with a lot of children here.

- Rana Gulzar (12 years)  
Bahawalpur, Pakistan.

## My Expectations

When I was on my way to Viswa Yuvak Kendra initially and was a little afraid of things about the whole programme and also about our performance in front of all the participants from various countries. If something goes wrong. What will happen?

Since I was not well during the last few days I was having a fear that may be due to illness. I will not be able participate in the programme for all the days.

- Shyam (13 years)  
Butterflies



"Let all the small get together and make a world of unity and love"

-Nayani Preethika, Sri Lanka

## OUR VOICE

My friend's name is Kumaran. He is 13 years old & studies in standard 8th. His mother died sometime back & his father left him and never returned home. He has a younger sister but does not know where she is. Apart from his sister, Kumaran also has an aunt & grandmother.

He was admitted in the JeevaJyothi Centre at Perambur, Chennai by his father. He is good at studies & usually ranks 5th in his class. Here, he plays with my friends and watches T.V. We get nice food here & Kumaran has enjoyed being here.

- B. Keerthi (15 years)  
Jeeva Jyothi, Chennai

My name is Afsar Ali and I really liked the day today because everyone performed well & also enjoyed, that is why I had a great time.

I also liked the film, "MAKDI" that was shown to us today. Also, the rules & discipline at the meeting today were very good. I also liked everyone a lot.

- Afsar Ali (13 years), Butterflies

My name is Manuwer Ali & I really liked the day today because everyone maintained peace & everyone had lots & lots of fun & enjoyed. That is why I liked the day!

Also, in today's film "MAKDI", I liked the first part a lot. I did not like the second part because it had a scene which had people crying, so I did not like it! Today's meeting & its rules & discipline were very good. I also liked everyone present at the meeting. A made a lot of new friends. (Today was only this good).

-Manuwer Ali (12 years), Butterflies.

My name is Razi Haider. I most liked the fact that the first meeting started with a play.

I got a chance to know about other children which I really liked. The meeting also helped us know more about the ways to make our bank grow & be more effective. Each child was given a chance to speak which I really liked. What I did not like at all was that if there has to be a children's mobile committee then where will children get mobiles from, especially C.D.B. children? I really did not like this point.

But the idea of C.D.B. children having a mobile is good because it will help children who live far away & are caught in a dangerous situation, to inform us.

- Razi Haider (15 years), MDC  
Muzzafarpur

My name is Shyam & I would like to tell you all about yesterday's programme & what I liked about it.



Md. Nazim, MJCC, Kolkata

I liked all the presentations made yesterday. Also, the fact that children were split into different groups & each group's opinion was sought was a very good thing & I really liked it.

After our meeting, we were shown the film "Makdi", which I really enjoyed.

Since, this was our first meeting so everyone worked together, in unity. I liked everyone present at the meeting. I also liked the rules & discipline at the meeting.

- Shyam, (13 years) Butterflies.

C.D.B. is the name of a bank, but to say that it is only a bank will not be correct. It is a place where not only money transaction takes place, but also one, where children participate in arranging & managing the bank. Earlier we had taken an initiative of forming a children's self help group but then very few children had participated in it and we also had problems in handling the money. Just at that time we heard about Butterflies. So we got touch with them and began this partnership and last year in the month of July we formally inaugurated the bank. At present there are 6 branches with 361 regular account holders.

And in just a year's time till 31st March 2005, children have saved more than Rs. 70,000/- . Amazingly, we never imagined that we could save such a big amount in such a short span.

We thank Mayurbhanj Joint Citizen Centre for giving us this opportunity in order to build a bright future. By April 2006, we plan to open 3 new branches. In West Bengal Mayurbhanj Joint Citizen Centre was the first to open a children's development bank. This year Hope Kolkata Foundation, contacted us to start a similar venture. We hope that this initiative will bring a prosperous future for all children.

- Md. Najim (14 years), MJCC, Kolkata

I am Gopal Dey. I enjoyed the three sessions on the first day of the workshop organised by Butterflies. All these days I knew that adults enjoyed the facility of saving their money in a bank, but this is for the first time I came to know that children too could save their money in a bank. I hope that the other training sessions could be equally interesting.

- Gopal Dey (13 years), Kolkata

I am Manjurika Halder studying in class 9. It's been almost 2 years now since I have been studying at the coaching centre of Kolkata Foundation. Education is free of cost in this coaching centre. Those who cannot afford education and are from very poor background are given education completely free of cost, hope Hope Kolkata Foundation has arranged for teachers to teach in their coaching centre so.

That no child faces any difficulty in continuing their studies. Hope Kolkata Foundation organises free medical checking camps where medicines free given free of cost.

- Manjurika Halder  
(14 years)  
Hope Foundation,  
Kolkata

## "OUR WORKSHOP"- Through The Lens...



Putting a new step...



Speaking with confidence...



Lets write our views...



The story is our bank...



Freedom of expression



No space of "Kallu Dada"



Learning team work



Learning while sleeping !



Lets discuss..



Standing together

"Don't give us only food but give us empowerment to understand life"

- Dina Ram, Pakistan

## HOW I SEE THE "BUTTERFLIES"



When I first heard this name " Butterflies " I couldn't imagine what it is . I could only think of the Butterflies that flew in my home country, during the months of December to May. Kantha Shakthi was invited to the workshop that was to be from 20th April to 2nd May 2005. I too was asked to accompany the six children from our organisation. The children who had never even been to the air port was thrilled to go on the journey. Their parents too, were so happy of the opportunity that their children got. Children's Development Bank Training Workshop was held for five days i.e. from 20th April to 25th and the newspaper training from 26th April to 2nd May, 2005. Both the training were organised in a child friendly manner, giving space to children to express themselves, and also

set goals for themselves and their projects.

My deepest appreciation to Butterflies for taking this initiative.

-Amita Weerasinghe  
Kantha Shakthi  
Sri Lanaka

## OUR PROBLEMS

I have a friend called Naresh, he lives in a rented house & his father runs a tea stall. Naresh shares the house with 7 other members he complains that it is difficult for 8 people to live in one house. His father urges him to work & earn for himself, since he is old enough to do so, according to his father. Naresh is often asked to live separately & find for himself.

My friend works as a Ragpicker on the streets. He

sleeps by the roadside during night. He wants to go back home but does not have a home any more. If he sleeps on the station, the police harasses & beats Naresh.

-Razi Haider (15 years),  
MDC, Muzzafarpur

## OUR RIGHTS

I work in a restaurant with difficulties

without the light of education my life is in darkness

I am not allowed to school for study before as cattle grazing is my only remedy

No one helps us to send schools

No chances to get to study in schools

I did a blunder perhaps

With my birth in a poor family closed the schools without chances as everyone

e should have chances

to bring our rights

to be done something our selves

to get our rights

to see united ourselves

No problem I will do a lot of work

And everyone can order for it

But need to be consulted

Just not to be exploited.

-Ajit Maharajan (13 years),  
Chairperson of Dakshinkali  
child club, Kathmandu



### South Asian Children's Times

is an initiative of children in collating information, writing, editing and publishing on behalf of " South Asian Alliance of Children for Child Rights" [ facilitated by Butterflies]

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Editorial Team  
BUTTERFLIES