

# NEWSLETTER OF JANUARY, 2007

Hello,

When an incident is just another bit of news, however shocking, it is one thing. When you know the individual concerned personally, it hits you a little more hard.

Rachna used to attend the classes held by Saksham for more than two years. She came along with her elder sister Archana and stayed very near the place where we had rented the rooms for running the school. Both of them stopped coming when they got admission to the Siksha Kendra, of Delhi Public School in the neighbouring sector. DPS runs alternative classes in the afternoon hours for underprivileged children.

A group of young volunteers belonging to the the Rotaract Club (the youth wing of the rotary Club) had invited Shri Saumitra Yadav, Supdt. Of Police as the chief guest. We remember him talking to the children in a manner they could understand about how important education was and how they should utilise the opportunity so that tomorrow they do not become the anti-social elements of society.

Now...that speech comes across as quite ironical as the perpetrator of the dastardly crimes that have come to light, has apparently studied in the best of institutions!!

Shri Yadav knew of the disappearances and had in fact sent a team of two Sub Inspectors to our school sometime in August to make enquiries. At Saksham, we had arranged for the parents to come the next day and they had all been unanimous in their complaint that their voices are never heard..

Nithari will most probably cease to be in the headlines in a couple of weeks' time. But all of you, had in a way pledged to contribute to what we can do in little ways to give these children a childhood they deserve. This mail is to remind you of that commitment.

Our school now runs in two shifts and includes nearly 350 children. The confidence that the older ones now have has to be seen to be believed. About seven of these children now help us teach the tiny tots in the group.

At the insistence of the older children, we also go once or twice a week to Morna, another hamlet nearby and have started teaching a group of around 40 children there. It

is overwhelmingly touching that these little children have it in themselves to want to share what they have received!!

Do talk about Saksham to your friends and colleagues in your workplace. We need money to keep this going. Beyond being shocked about what has happened, let's do something.

-General Secretary, Saksham