



NITYA SEVA NEWSLETTER

News & Activities from the children's homes in Bhopal

The First Reunion of Graduates of Nitya Seva at the Pipalner Children's Home in Bhopal

Story by Asha von der Fink



On March 14th, 2021, the atmosphere at the Pipalner Children's Home was festive. The occasion was special, the first reunion of the children who had graduated from Nitya Seva! A buzz for a reunion had been going on for some time. Connected as they are with each other, a not so sure 'YES' from Asha von der Fink sent the children in a frenzy. And from here on, it was a fait accompli for the management!

Continued on page 2



Congratulations

ARJUN DEHRIYA

Story page 3

New challenges as Nitya Seva takes care of the latest addition to the family.

Story page 4

Notable

An IITK Pioneer Alum challenges his batch mates.

Story page 5

And a few reminders. Page 5



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The First Reunion

Continued from page1

Forty-five graduates showed up for the gathering scheduled for 6:00 PM. But the children started arriving at 11:00 AM, through the afternoon and into the evening. They came with their spouses and kids. Few parents, and an uncle or aunt were present too. They brought gifts, tokens of their gratitude for the founders and the staff. There was excitement in the air as the graduates spread out, checked their old dorms, and regaled the current residents with stories from their time. The kitchen was hectic. Nobody had thought of serving lunch throughout the afternoon, but the kitchen staff rose to the occasion.



The graduates were formally welcomed at an evening function arranged for them. The management of Nitya Seva, the staff and the children from the homes also attended. Each graduate was invited to say a few lines. They talked about their lives at Nitya Seva, their present lives and their employment, and the

challenges they faced. Nostalgia was in the air. Emotions ran high, regularly punctuated by humor and laughter as the fun memories were rekindled. But one advice to the younger ones now at Nitya Seva was constant, "Study hard, for you will not get this opportunity again." Some even regretted that they had not utilized the opportunity in full measure. The children were not shy about expressing their gratitude. Some were subtle, others more direct, yet others funny. But all were grateful! The function was followed by a gala feast, more mixing and mingling and dancing till twelve in the night!



"I haven't had a more joyous and carefree time in my life than my time at Nitya seva..." *Suresh, graduate from 2008.*

"This is a temple; you are lucky to have a chance like this..." *An emotional Shabbo who graduated in 2017 as she addressed the children, tears flowing down her cheeks!*



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Congratulations Arjun Dehriya



One of our star performers in the high school board exams, he went on to secure admission in professional course for hotel management at the prestigious Institute for Hotel Management in Gwalior.

Arjun, you make us proud!

As is our policy for high performing children, Nitya Seva administration has pledged to support him through college. The cost for one year of tuition, room and board is one lakh seventy thousand in Indian rupees per year for 3 years.

We are confident that our donors will rise to the occasion and help us help this deserving young man and others like him.



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New challenges

as Nitya Seva takes care of the latest addition to the family.

The story will give our readers a sense of the variety of challenges faced by the organization as it cares for the children.

The newest addition to the Nitya Seva Family is an 18-year-old in an advanced state of pregnancy. For the sake of her privacy, we are not revealing her identity. Instead, we will call her **Sita**. She is illiterate with no formal education. She had received no maternal healthcare when she arrived.

Sita is at Nitya Seva because her husband and father-in-law are in jail though they did not commit any crime. Like Sita, they are illiterate with no formal education and poor.

When a mere child, Sita and her prospective groom had an engagement arranged by their families. The families had social contact and in the ensuing years, Sita and her fiancé came to know and like each other. But Sita's father seemed to have had a change of heart in her seventeenth year. He began to negotiate her engagement again, this time for financial gain for himself. Alarmed, she left her father's house of her own free will to join her fiancé

and his family. She was living with them at the time of the arrests. Charge against the husband was kidnapping, and sexual assault. Father-in-law was charged with aiding and abetting. Authorities "recovered" Sita and were ready to send her back to her father. But she was firm in her refusal and a placement was sought instead. **Sita may be illiterate but one thing she is sure about; she wants to be with her husband and his family.** This is how she came to be at Nitya Seva.

Challenges in caring for Sita are multiple, the least of which is arranging for her maternal health and delivery and gearing up to take care of her newborn baby.

More significant are the legal challenges faced by Sita and her family. Such challenges would be hard to navigate for anyone let alone a poor and illiterate family. Sita is past eighteen and within her rights to be with her husband. **Protecting Sita's rights and procuring justice for her is as important to Nitya Seva as all the other care she needs.** Helping her new family is just an extension of the same principle. Nitya Seva was able to guide the family to obtain release of the father-in-law on bail. But the husband continues to languish in jail because the father now claims her to be sixteen. The struggle to protect Sita's rights continues!



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Notable.....

An IITK Pioneer Alum Challenges his Batch Mates

Prabhat Rastogi, a member of Nitya Seva board with three other batchmates has risen to the occasion and challenged his batchmates to raise an additional \$ 50K in 2021 to help more children and to enable financial help for university education for deserving children. We wish him luck in his ambitious project! And we cannot thank him and his team enough!

Many of this special group of people, IITK alumni, have supported Nitya Seva in cash and kind over the years and we are very grateful to all.

In the same vein, we are also grateful to all of our other Friends and Family who have supported us unconditionally and whole-heartedly all through the years.

And a few, friendly reminders.....

Corporate Matching Donations

Many corporations match employee donations. If the corporation you work for has such a program, **we urge you to use it.**

We are on the **Benevity platform** which manages corporate giving for companies such as Google, Microsoft, Apple and many more.

You shop, Amazon gives!

When shopping on Amazon, please go through **Smile. Amazon.com** instead. **Amazon will donate 0.5% of the price of eligible purchase to the charity of your choice.** Same product, same price, same service! For Nitya Seva to benefit from this program, please go to Smile. Amazon .com and use charity code 01-0958008 for a one-time registration. Alternatively, you can use <https://smile.amazon/ch/01-0958008>.

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