



When this newsletter started a year ago in April 2020, it was the start of the Covid -19 pandemic. A year later, it is hard to believe that we are still grappling with it the world over. The second surge which started in India somewhere in March 2021 is the single most terrible misfortune to afflict the nation since its independence in 1947. No family is unscathed. The human

misery and strife are taking its toll. Our heartfelt sympathies to the families who are suffering. Our sincere hopes and prayers that this scourge is lifted soon. Nitya Seva has risen to this new challenge heads on to ensure the safety of the staff and children in the homes.

In this edition we are again giving you a glimpse of life inside our homes; the profile of a dorm mother to show you how the children are cared for. And Manoj's success story to give you an idea of how the kids do after they have left Nitya Seva. A few notes worthy of your attention follow on page 4.

PROFILE OF A DORM - MOTHER On page 2



Ms. Seema Rathor



This story is courtesy of Dr. Kamlesh Bhargava who has compiled stories of Nitya Seva graduates. **On page 3**

Nitya Seva USA is expanding its board membership.

We are happy to inform that five new members are joining as members of Nitya Seva Board. They are all well acquainted with Nitya Seva and enthusiastic about the work. They all bring unique capabilities to further our cause.

A warm welcome to Ms. Aditi Bhargava, Dr. Kamlesh Bhargava, Ms. Pooja Verma, Mr. Prabhat Rastogi and Dr. Rakesh Bhargava.



Profile of a "Dorm Mother": Ms. SEEMA RATHOR

by Chhaya Bali

In our September 2020 newsletter, we had mentioned how the functional unit of the children's homes is a dorm which houses several children. And quintessential to the functioning of the dorm is the dorm mother. We bring to you the profile of a Dorm mother.

Ms. Seema Rathor is one of the three dorm mothers in the Chandbad home. Fondly called Seema aunty by the kids, she has 13 boys in her dorm ranging in age from 11 to 13 years. I caught up with Seema by phone on the evening of 12/29/20 in India for a telephone interview to which she readily agreed. She is a very pleasant person to talk to, forthright and uninhibited in her answers. The profile is drawn from that interview.

Belongs to: Phandkhajon, a small village in M.P. Brought to Bhopal by a family elder after she was widowed.

Age: 35 Years.

Literacy: Literate in Hindi. Formal education to 5th grade.

Marital status: Widow. Seema was married off by her parents at age 14. Widowed 2013.

Children: Two, Amit age 13 and Sumit aged 14, both live with her at Nitya Seva.

Work history: First job at Vivekananda School as teacher's assistant. Main job was to keep a tally of the kids as they arrived at the school gates and later when they left. Also ran errands for the teacher as needed.

Current job: Dorm mother at Nitya Seva Children's home in Chandbad. Has been with Nitya Seva for four years. It is her second job. She heard about Nitya Seva while working at Vivekananda School. Like the other dorm mother's, she lives in the dorm with the children in her care. In addition to her salary, boarding, and lodging, Nitya Seva also takes care of her boys and their education.

I asked her to take me into 'A day of her life at Nitya Seva.'

"Out of bed 6:30 AM. 7:00 AM to 8:30 AM: wake up the kids, take them to their yoga session followed by breakfast. 9:00 AM to 10:00 AM back to the dorms, supervises as the kids make their beds and get ready. There is always some small need which must be met. And it is time for online classes. While kids are attending online classes, she finds time to shower and ready herself then run the laundry for the children. 1:00 PM: Lunch time, serve, supervise, and make sure that the kids clean their dishes. Back to online classes. Afternoon snack. Perhaps it eases up a bit during the free play in the evening but then there is more supervision during homework and special activities. Dinner at 8:00 followed by some quiet time for kids and her. Finally, bedtime at 10:00 PM. A hectic day indeed!"

So how does she like her job? Would she do something different in the future?

"I am very happy in my job; I have a deep satisfaction" she replied. "There could be nothing more satisfying than service to children." She continued. "I don't know where my time goes." And then "I also have the satisfaction of knowing that my own kids are going to school." She paused and then added proudly "to English medium school." "Their lives will be made." Then she said categorically "This is where I want to be, I am going to be here."

SeEMA, a big note of Thanks to you for all you do for the kids.



MEET MANOJ, A SUCCESS STORY!

Joined Nitya Seva in 1999.

Graduated from Nitya Seva 2008.

Manoj Kumar Dawar is amongst the children who joined Nitya Seva back in 1999 when it was merely a shelter providing hot food and a bed. He was 7 or 8 yrs. Old, he liked it and stayed.

At Nitya Seva he attended school up to 9th grade after which he opted for the vocational track with carpentry as his chosen trade. At Nitya Seva he was seen as sincere and diligent youngster working away tirelessly at carpentry equipment donated to Nitya Seva.

Recently he told us his full story. He lost his mother when he was quite young. He was forced into child labor at age 5 by his father, working long hours for a storekeeper. He suffered physical and verbal abuse at the hands of his father and stepmother. Anguished, he ran away from home. He remembers thinking that "death would be better." He boarded a bus because children did not need a ticket to get on the bus. Buses to trains and so on, he was itinerant for some time. He finally ended up on the platform at Bhopal railway station. Finding work was hard, it remained sporadic at best for him. He remembers going hungry often. When he made some money, it was not enough to buy a wholesome meal. He lived on biscuits instead. It was around this time that he heard about "free food" at Nitya Seva and decided to give it a try.

Today, he lives in Indore in an apartment he rents. He has married, his wife is going to college! He is a contractor with a small company of his own installing modular kitchens and modular furniture! He dreams of growing his company and becoming a big businessman.

Manoj, we are so proud of you! You have achieved more than we could have hoped for! We wish you continued success in life!



Posing in the kitchen he installed.

More of his work: Ceiling By Manoj



[A few notes worthy of your attention!](#)

Corporate Matching Donations

Many corporations match employee donations. If the corporation you work for has such a program, we urge you to use it. You may not know that some corporations match as much as three times your donation.

We also want to let our donors know that we are on the Benevity platform which manages corporate giving for companies such as Google, Microsoft, Apple and many more.

For donors who work for Google and need help with setting up matching donation, Aditi Bhargava at Google has volunteered to help. Please contact her at: aditibhargava7@gmail.com

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