

Nature School India PARAMARTH AWADHAWAN

Review 2022

To dare to look back is like the "harvest thanks" in a garden.
Often the earth gives a lot of food and in the course of the year it is often forgotten.

So this review of the school year 2022 in the nature school wants to remember on the one hand the valuable harvest we had on different levels and the review shows as well where life has asked us or called us to work the soil better for more fullness.

Whatever this year has brought us, how much the life has moved us all, it has always been helpful to lift our own inner treasures and to come closer to the ESSENTIAL.

The whole school family thanks each of you from the bottom of our hearts for any support, financial or otherwise. It is only through you and with you that we have been able to accompany, build and take care of this future project for all these years.

Every financial contribution, every moral and other support and the enormous engagement of the teachers has made it possible that the Nature School could develop to what it is already today for the benefit of the future of our children and following generations.

Heartfelt thanks to all friends of this school.



January 2022

Finally, Covid is increasingly releasing people from its bondage.
The school is open again and the children warmly welcome the year 2022.
Slowly, in the months of January-February-March, school life begins to recover after another short-time Covid shutdown.





The last section of the access road to the school is being repaired as best we can in a cost-effective manner.

Because Covid has also torn financial holes in the school's budget.

April 2022

Two children are awarded a scholarship to a higher school based on their excellent education.

A great success for the children and the work of the teachers.



For a long time and more and more Bhagin R. Kellenberger and Susanne Ganns feel a sad and troubled atmosphere in the school and that the flow of information has been stagnating for a long time.

Bhagin travels to India in April 2022 and then visits the school with Virendra and Dilbar to have a clarifying talk with the teachers.



In the following weeks, many things come up to light that were never talked about and that urgently call for a new communication and for changes and mutual confidence.

The language barrier German - English - Hindi is certainly a significant cause that seemed insurmountable for the teachers as well as for us, as well as the different way of life of the cultures.

May 2022

We start a new communication with video conferencing, which works amazingly well even with the long distance and the location of the school in the mountains. Tenderly and slowly, a new kind of exchange begins. It takes a lot of mutual empathy with our so different cultures.



Virendra and Manju from Delhi, Birgid Rau from Germany and Suneel our new teacher come to support.

Virendra and Manju strengthen the teaching team through Hindi translation and as well as with friendly guidance, therefore the understanding barrier can be better overcome.



The children are winning back their joy more and more and the teachers and staff of the school together with Rohit and Dilbar decide to plant 1000 trees this year.



June 2022

Sonali, the daughter of Virendra and Manju, comes to the nature school together with her parents and brings new impulses to the school and also much joy to the children and teachers.

July 2022

The planting activities begin and teachers and children are active. Many planting holes have to be dug by the school team to be able to plant the 1000 trees. A lot of work is done by the school team and children.



In the middle of July comes a shocking news:

Deepak the principal resigns by the end of August 2022.

This was a difficult situation for all of us and also for the other teachers. Deepak has been a very good leader, warm-hearted teacher and guardian of the school all these years.



In many conversations between Susanne and Deepak, it suddenly became clear that the teachers could no longer manage the very low salaries in the past, that they were afraid for their jobs and whether the school could continue to exist in the future.

And again, during the various conversations, experiences came to light that demanded a new cooperation from all of us. It was necessary to overcome the great distance India-Europe, to build new trust, to form friendship and a sense of family, and also to increase the salaries.

The teachers and children had long list of unfulfilled wishes:

- Salary increases
- Music equipment for the cultural events
- Instruments and also a music teacher
- School trips with the children
- Teaching materials from SHIN
- Visits from guest teachers

Through the sale of Susanne's book, at least the problem of salary increases was softened.

Deepak was offered 5 months of unpaid leave for reorientation. He took back his resignation and wants to stay at the school and will return in mid-January 2023.



Shortly after, another occurrence overshadows everything.

Because of various misunderstandings, Rohit decides to go away from the school organization and to focus more on the temple work and the Anand Lok Resort in Bhairava Nagar.

Dilbar feels responsible only for organizational things with authorities and brings his skills in the temple construction mainly.

This was very painful, because we always had great trust in true friendship with each other through our many years of working together.

August / September 2022

The co-operation is going forward well, it is becoming more and more familiar and trusting. The video conferences and phone calls help a lot.



The pictures of the children become more and more cheerful.

All children and teachers celebrate Independence Day in honor of Ghandi and Dilbar and Rohit are came to visit the school.

They bring a music system as a gift for the cultural programs. Rohit said a friend of his donated this equipment. The teachers are very grateful for it and again a wish has come true.



Bhagin and Virendra and Dilbar visit the school again in September, celebrate a peace festival together with the children. Bhagin brings the teachers valuable training materials and writings from SHIN and we promise that in the future we will also do lessons together via video conferencing. The teachers are grateful and looking forward to it.



Because of Bhagin's visit we know for the first time that the children of the teacher Kuldeep and the teacher Ritu also go to the nature school and we are very happy about it.



October 2022

Sebastian David - builder of the wind harps for the temple - is coming to India for the installation work of the harps and finally wants to combine this with a school visit.

Together with his son Jesua they came to the school and brought a firework of good humor and made juggling/ balancing games, played music with the children, sang songs and mantras, made small animal figures/sculptures out of materials from nature and told and played stories. The children and teachers were enthusiastic.



November 2022

In order not to overburden the donation fund too much and still make possible the long-awaited wishes of the children for school trips for the small and big children, Susanne donated these trips.

The children were blissful and very happy about these trips.



The school bus needed some repairs and a monitoring system prescribed by the authorities for the safety of the children.

A bigger repair is still to be done and we hope that we have the financial resources for it.

Furthermore, warm sweaters and pants for the children were bought again, since the cold season is approaching in India as well.



Another 35,000 INR (approx. 400 CHF) were invested, for women from the surrounding villages, who remove the high grass and weeds around the planted trees, so that the trees can develop well.

At the same time, this action serves as a protection against forest fires, because the cut dry grass is used as food for the cows.



In November, Bhagin, Deepak, Dinesh and Virendra formed a financial group.



Already in the spring of 2022 Rohit had talked about the fact that it would be good if a sub-account of the Shin Shiva Charitable Trust - SSCT - would be established for the Nature School. This would relieve him of work and strengthen the teachers in their personal responsibility.

This idea has now been implemented, the account has been opened and Deepak and Dinesh together with Bhagin will manage this account and Virendra will help with translation and advise.

A large screen and laptop for the principal Deepak were financed, so that the video conferences can be better organized and training materials can be optimally prepared.

Furthermore, a large screen can also be used to watch learning videos together with the children.

This complete and honest reflection shows how important every step, whether difficult or joyful, was for any further development this year.

We were all able to learn a lot in this process, we have now come together very well, we can laugh together again and in the end everything served the well-being of the children, who always delight us with their pure children's hearts and lovingly support us in their own way.



Now the year 2022 is slowly coming to an end and we dare a small

Looking ahead to 2023.

- We will use video conferencing to continue to cultivate the school family
- as well as continue to advance training on SHIN's teachings.
- It is our goal to strengthen the young teachers' independence and personal responsibility for the school to an increasing level. This gives them a say and no longer the feeling that a "management" administers the school and rules over them.
- In the very near future we want to find a music teacher to finally promote the musical aspects and to be able to implement SHIN's ideas in this aspect.
- We also want to buy musical instruments for this purpose. Partial financing is already possible due to existing donations.
- The new school brochure will also be published in English and printed in India before the end of December 2022. A Hindi version is planned and in preparation so that the surrounding population, the parents of the children can also be better informed about the contents of the school.
- This brochure is a first step to make it possible to advertise and talk to companies and authorities in the future, so that sponsorship can also be advanced in India.
- Birgid Rau plans to combine her group yoga trip to Bhairava Nagar in spring 2023 with a visit to the school and would like to teach there for 1-2 days..

- **And above all, we never want to lose focus on something:**

To begin at least one phase of construction of the high school in the near future,

1. so that teachers can finally be offered adequate accommodation.
2. so that we can expand the school to 8th or 12th grade to allow all children to graduate from the Nature School without having to transfer back to government schools.
3. with this class expansion we also open the doors for a state subsidy or the admission of children of rich parents, who can financially support the school with a school fee.
4. the school could then be self-supporting as soon as possible and we would finally come closer to the vision of SHIN, a school of integral learning from kindergarten to high school diploma.

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