

**BODHI News archives, July-September, 2011**

**September**

Global population, income inequality, the real costs of climate change & more.

BODHI Times Nos. 20-40 are now available here.



Nurse/educator Laboni Chakma needs transport to remote villages if she is to continue nursing women (who prefer her to a male doctor) and providing health education to families. Moanoghar Mobile Medical Clinics in the Chittagong Hill Tracts, Bangladesh, need a motorcycle. BODHI will provide matching funds. Read more.

Learning English, driving taxis: the latest Mitini Nepal report is in.

Congratulations to the SNEHA school at Diuyn, AP, India, which is receiving a grant for constructing a new school to replace the bamboo one they've used since inception in

2004. This grant is due to the hard work and dedication of Mr Susanta Chakma and his staff and the generosity of the Shamdasani Foundation. For more please [click here](#). Details and photos as they arrive. Stay tuned!

19 September. In addition to medical checkups, medicine and deworming medication for the children, Karunadeepa writes from Pune that 'We arranged one lecture on family planning, cleanliness, the importance of nutrition in our diet, etc. Around 36 women were present. We distributed bananas and some nutritious supplements to both the children and their mothers and other women who were present for the programme. I think education, and awareness is most important. These women need continuous hammering on the mind about cleanliness, hygiene, education, self-dignity and women's empowerment, so that they wake up.' [Click here](#) for more.

In the search of early project photographs for Krish's PowerPoint presentation, I've come across some great visuals that you've got to see. This has led to the web page [Early BODHIana, the First Ten Years or So](#). It's currently in a maze of ColorBox, FireWorks Batching, uploading and coding (thanks, Charles) ... but there's enough for a sneak preview. G'wan!

14 September. Two weeks ago 64 women in the slums of Pune, India attended an anaemia detection camp. Results were so low that next week a doctor will teach the women about anaemia and a healthy diet. Food provided. [Click here](#) for more.

Doctors for the Environment Australia (<http://dea.org.au/>) members Drs Nick Towle and Nick Cooling recently presented a workshop on the role of Tasmanian doctors in

inspiring public health advocacy and activism to all 120 first-year medical students at the University of Tasmania. The three people featured were BODHI's medical director, Associate Professor Colin Butler (who worked for many years in Tasmania in clinical medicine) before gaining full-time work in public health), Dr Alison Bleaney (whose does much to highlight the risk of environmental toxins to health)

<http://www.abc.net.au/austory/specials/somethingwater/default.htm> and Dr Jim Markos, a respiratory physician who has done much to raise awareness of air pollution in Launceston, in the Tamar Valley <http://www.abc.net.au/7.30/content/2004/s1128403.htm>. Over the years, both Alison and Jim have been supportive of BODHI.



It's official: BODHI has a Program Coordinator South Asia. We asked ourselves, How can we be of more benefit to our local partners and the communities they serve? Answer: hire a professional social worker for a year and see what happens. Mr Krish Chakma (right) has worked with Actionaid India, sSTEP and the Lotus Flower Trust UK. Welcome aboard, Krish! [Click here for more.](#)

Want to know about the 6-monthly report from the mobile medical clinics in the CHT, Bangladesh? Visit Moanoghar Mobile Medical Clinics for news and new photographs.

### **July-August 2011**

An independent evaluation done in August 2011 shows that more girls are enrolled in the SNEHA school at Diyun, AP, India as parents develop an understanding of the importance of educating their daughters. Diarrhoea & dysentery are down as the development of health awareness and habits of cleanliness are increasing among the students. There's much, much more. Thanks to Mr Krishan Chakma for his superb evaluation. Please [click here](#) to read it. Your comments are welcome.

Ambedkar: breaking chains of caste is now available online, as is the rest of BODHI Times 29. We will be adding old BODHI Times newsletters to the website, so please check back regularly.

Have a trawl through this website. It's been revamped and spiffed up to better fit your needs.

See new webpages You Give, Your Gift Lasts and Donate in Memory. You'll notice that some pages have been updated. More to come!

We've just received new photos from SNEHA school, which stresses compassionate education for its students in Arunachal Pradesh, India. Click here to see four of the photographs. We'll be adding to and changing them, so please check back.

Dr Monica Bannerji of National Foundation of India with SNEHA students, 2011

We're adding an Animals section under Projects & Activities, to which we've moved The Pig Page and The Bear Page. More to come.

Capacity building in action in Kathmandu, Nepal: computer, English and vocational training for lesbians.

BODHI's Environmental Adviser in action:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wwYyd2FEHP0>

Please see updated Moanoghar webpages at

<http://www.bodhi.net.au/html/moanogharmedical.html> and

<http://www.bodhi.net.au/html/moanoghar.html>

Some good news: Moanoghar School & Orphanage in the Chittagong Hill Tracts, Bangladesh, has now received approval for funds clearance from the Bangladeshi government, so they can now accept BODHI's donation of BDT500,000 (about A\$6300/US\$6800). This will fund mobile medical clinics and the salary of a new nurse/educator, as well as other items such as the Denis Wright Memorial Scholarships. We

are continuing partial funding of the medical officer's salary and full funding for a community mobiliser.

The Denis Wright Memorial Scholarship webpage has been updated to include our latest scholarship to Moanoghar in the Chittagong Hill Tracts of Bangladesh. Thanks to Kabita Chakma for requesting that we add this scholarship, which we are happy to do. The recipient is Shovarani Chakma, a 12-year-old girl who wants to be a doctor and is already studying science. Congratulations, Shovarani!

Minutes from BODHI Australia's recent annual general meeting are available. For reports and photographs, please click [here](#).

The Over 40 Women's Health Project in the mountains near Pune, India, does more than its name implies. In addition to its objective of decreasing women's cancer morbidity rate, the project aims to create AIDS awareness and cure and prevent addiction, particularly to alcohol.

Dr Manda Mune finally has been granted FCRA approval by the Indian government, so our support will resume (she's been supporting the project with her own funds).