

HERE'S THE NEWS from Shikshangram!

Sahaja and I were very fortunate to visit the shelter in August.. and we spirited Yogita away for three nights in Udaipur.. a rare break for her.. and a treat for us to spend some uninterrupted time with her.

It was so great to be there.. after a long time away. The kids all looked well and healthy but the shelter had sustained quite some water damage during a long and exceptionally

heavy monsoon. Much painting and repairs were needed. But the trees we planted so long ago had grown so much and the fruit trees have been producing nicely.

Yogita had started the electrical repair work and done the essentials but they had to wait until the continuing rain finished to safely do the whole rewiring.



We danced and sang with the kids in the newly completed hall above the girls dining room. It was so much fun.



Fast forward to yesterday - sometimes the synchronicity between Yogita and I amazes me.. having not talked for a couple of weeks.. I messaged her.. and immediately she called.. "I was just thinking to call you" she said!! Our wavelengths were intercepting nicely!

The gift of WhatsApp Video calling is wonderful - Yogita took for a visual tour! Starting from the playground where they have **installed new flood lights**- both for security and for light to play by in the evening..



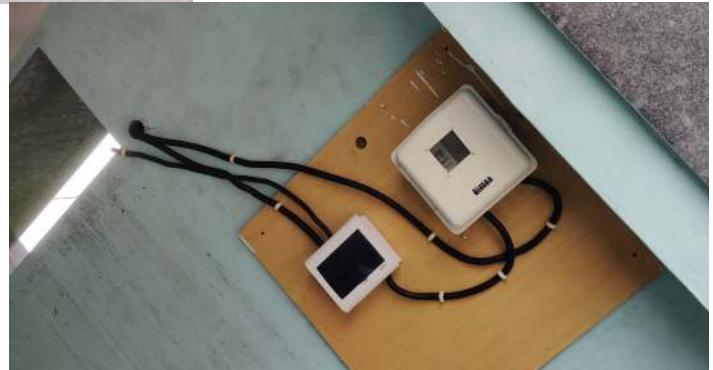
Then we walked up to the top of the **boys hostel** and she toured me around where they are painting and closing off unnecessary open doorways and windows.

Yogita has been worried that there were too many exits and entries.. So this will make the boys hostel much more secure and safe for them.





We also inspected the fresh **wiring work**.. that had to wait until the heavy rains were finally over to be done - as it was dangerous in the wet. Great to see that a professional job has been done. Thank you all who helped this to happen.



Painting the Girls Hostel: Viewing from the top.. we saw the **girls hostel is all fresh and painted..**



it looks so great .. the monsoon was extremely heavy this year and the the whole place was water damaged and looked dreadful. Now it is fresh and bright.

Before the work



Shot on OnePlus
By Datta

Precarious job!



Shot on OnePlus
By Datta

Looking good



Shot on OnePlus
By Datta

the Back side completed.

The Cow Family: Work is always on going - the family is big .. there is much to be done every day. **The cow family** is also doing well and giving a nice amount of milk each day.. they boys take great care.. and the cows clearly love them back!!



The vegie garden is growing SO well.. this has been a dream of mine for a very long time.. way back in the day we made a huge compost pile - but as we all know.. things happen in their own divine timing .. and NOW is the time for the garden to flourish!!



Shot on OnePlus
2018





And of course fund raising is going on .. Yogita has an indomitable spirit.. she never gives up.. now painting - now repairing roofs, now plumbing .. now windows - now gardening, now celebrating - always celebrating - once again someone is going to manage to scale the Christmas tree that has been growing for more than 11 years now.. and put a star on top.. just because its Christmas !! I cried the first year I was there.. and they took me down to see the tree that they had faithfully decorated specially for me.. the foreigner who of course celebrated Christmas!!

So .. what are the major needs right now:

The BUS!! I was a bit horrified when I saw it this last trip.. it has had a hard life - over loaded on incredibly horrible roads, slushing through mud all the rainy seasons, bumping and dusty all dry season - with a variety of drivers who have not always treated it well.. to say nothing of the load of kids ... well its time it was retired and replaced. Yogita has her heart set on this one..



A Tata 17 seater.. and the cost - 15 lacs.. that's about \$26,000. Thats the bad news..

BUT the good news is that through an appeal she has already made, she has a promise of 12 lacs. \$21,300. so that leaves \$4700 ...

A quick Christmas whip around and we should be able to make a good dent in that?

(mm dents.. yes the old one has plenty of those!!)

Check our the video we made at Juhu Beach on my last day in India - here..

<https://vimeo.com/shazar/newbusshikshangram>

If you can help please here is the spot to donate:

If you are donating USD please deposit here:

Here are my USD account details.

Account holder: Shazar Robinson

ACH and Wire routing number: 084009519

Account number: 9600000000316547

Account type: Checking

Wise's address: 30 W. 26th Street, Sixth Floor

New York NY 10010

United States

Please mark clearly BUS SHIKSHANGRAM

IF AUD FROM WITHIN AUSTRALIA:

Here are my AUD account details.

Account holder: Shazar Robinson

BSB code: 802-985

Account number: 710533205

Wise's address: 36-38 Gipps Street

Collingwood 3066 Australia

again please mark clearly **BUS SHIKSHANGRAM**.

You can also use Paypal if that works better for you - My PayPal profile name is:
@shazarrobinson

All funds raised will be sent directly to Yogita - to pay for the bus.

Beloved Friends.. again.. thank you from the bottom of my heart .. and from all the kids at the Shelter and last but absolutely not least from the incredible Yogita Moon.
She continues to do her work day in day out.. and her heart is full for the children.

Anytime you would like to visit.. let me know .. lets go!!!

Happy Christmas and have a wonderful 2023. May peace joy love and understanding reign in our beautiful world.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Shazar Robinson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with "Shazar" on the top line and "Robinson" on the bottom line.

Shazar - for Yogita and all the children.